



Kentucky Storytelling Association

April 2010 Support and Appreciation for the Art of Storytelling In Kentucky Volume 6 Issue 2

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Useful Links:

KSA Website

<http://www.kystory.org/>

National Storytelling Network Website

<http://www.storynet.org/>

Contact your Board

President, Pam Holcomb
President@kystory.org
606-573-4376

President Elect, Russ Conrad
President-Elect@kystory.org
859-654-3358

Treasurer, Nina Coyer
Treasurer@kystory.org
866-643-1829

Message from our President Pam Holcomb

Welcome Spring! After a long hard winter I'm sure you'll all agree that the Spring sunshine and the warmth it brings is a welcome reprieve! I've had enough snow to last me for quite some time. I am delighted to see my daffodils beginning to bloom.

The Kentucky Storytelling Association Board has been busy throughout these cold winter months. We met in February in Owensboro and had a wonderful meeting at the home of Laura Seaman. I am excited to work with this outstanding board. They have so many great ideas and are so willing to work hard to see KSA move forward. You'll hear more about the Board and the improvements they've made in the coming months. Our next KSA Board meeting will be in Harlan on May 29th. You are welcome to attend.

The Storytelling in the Mountains Festival in Harlan will begin at 7 p.m. on May 29th in the Harlan County Cooperative Extension Depot (110 River Street, Harlan, KY). This will be KSA's third year to host this fine storytelling festival. It is a fund-raiser for KSA and has been a big success in the past. If you would like to participate in this event, please contact me, at pfolcomb@msn.com, and it will be given consideration. Come and join us for a wonderful storytelling festival. This year's featured teller will be Emilee Seaman a two-time, KY State Torchbearer and last year's first place High School winner at the National Storytelling Showcase. Emilee has just recently recorded her first CD! Look for these to be released soon. This is one CD that I'm sure you'll want for your own collection.

Please make plans now to attend in our 7th annual Kentucky Storytelling Association Conference to be held at the Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park in Gilbertsville, KY - November 12-13, 2010. Our rates for the conference have had to be increased a small amount in order to keep up with costs of the rising economy. The Conference will now be \$30 per person or \$75 per family. We would like to have volunteers help make this our best Conference ever. If you would like to volunteer to help with our Conference, please contact Betsy Fleischer at betsycat2@yahoo.com and I'm sure she'll find a job for you to do!

If you have suggestions that would help to improve the Kentucky Storytelling Association, please contact me and I will be glad to present them to the Board on your behalf. We are always open to new ideas and suggestions! In the near future the nomination committee will be seeking folks to fill positions on the board. Please give some consideration to stepping up and joining the leadership of KSA by accepting a board position.

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Quadrant 4, Mike Beville
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At-large Board Member
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502-223-4523

The other At-large Board
member position is
vacant.

Contact Us

<http://www.kystory.org>

Newsletter Editor
Thomas Freese
thomasfreese@bellsouth.net

Welcome New Members!

News and Updates

A Time for Tales, happens **on Sundays**, 4-5 PM on Morehead State Public Radio, 90.3 FM. (Morehead, KY), hosted by Carolyn Franzini. Each week the stories relate to a theme... "Work" "School" "Ghost stories", "Lessons Learned" and more. Listen on the web

Wandering Storytellers

Thanks to everyone for supporting Wandering Storytellers this year. I am...excuse me...we are in need of tellers to finish out the year!!! Thanks to Octavia Sexton, Rebecca Henderson, Mary Ann Zoll, Mary Hamilton, Charlie Eyers and Paschal Baute for beginning the year by storytelling at the Wandering Storytellers. They have tickled our funny bones and told tales of fantasy, suspense and tradition. They have made us, KSA, look very good!!! Bill Watson and Pam Holcomb are going to be telling this month (March). Wandering Storytellers will be at Al's Bar for the month of March. Cynthia Changaris will be telling in April and we will be back at Natasha's. Her telling partner is Russ Conrad. Please send me or Charles Wright an email if you would like to volunteer for May-Dec. I will be calling and recruiting if I cannot get volunteers!! My email is: cehjr1948@yahoo.com and my cell phone is 859-533-3995. Thanks and take care, Charlie Hardy

Folktale Research

Mary Hamilton has received an Appalachian Sound Archives Fellowship at Berea College. The fellowship will support four weeks of research in the Berea College Sound Archives. The purpose of the fellowship program is to encourage scholarly use of Berea's non-commercial audio collections that document Appalachian history and culture, especially the areas of traditional music, religious expression, spoken lore, and radio programs.

Mary says, "I'm especially interested in working with the sound recordings in the Leonard Roberts collection. It will be a treat for me to compare and contrast different versions of the same folktale collected from a variety of children and adults. Being able to hear how people told the stories will give me an insight into the tales that is just not possible from reading printed text alone. As a storyteller I know power in the narrative comes not just from what is said, but from how it is said. I plan to identify stories that would be of interest to contemporary audiences, and then create outlines, story maps, and other memory aids for my use in studying the stories. Eventually, I hope to add tales to my telling repertoire."

The sound recordings of Kentucky folklorist, Leonard Ward Roberts (1912 - 1983) include reel-to-reel and cassette audio tape recordings of folklore narratives recorded by Roberts and his students beginning in 1949 and proceeding through the 1970s. Also included are audio and video recordings of Roberts' lectures, interviews, and storytelling 1973 - 1985.

Mary Hamilton, a professional storyteller, lives in Frankfort, Kentucky and grew up in Meade County, Kentucky. Storytelling has been her profession since 1983. Her work has been recognized with numerous awards including:

The 1999-2000 Jesse Stuart Award presented by the Kentucky School Media Association for her body of work telling stories in Kentucky schools.

A 2009 Circle of Excellence Oracle Award presented by the National Storytelling Network for exceptional commitment and exemplary contributions to the art of storytelling.

at www.msuradio.com.

Storytelling with Children Podcast and Blog

is a national conversation from all perspectives on the profession of storytelling for children. It is recorded as a conference call biweekly, Tuesdays at 7 or 8 PM. Hosted by Eric Wolf, Yellow Springs, OH. Each show features a specific guest and topic. You can join in the conference call conversation, subscribe to the podcast via iTunes or listen on the website: <http://www.artofstorytellingshow.com>. On the website, you can also learn details on upcoming shows.

Monday, April 12, Tale Talk, a storytelling group where stories are told, camaraderie developed, critiques are available, story news is shared, in the Louisville area, 7:30 PM. Contact Cynthia Changaris, at 502-451-7144, 502-645-2930 or cchangaris@aol.com.

April 9-11, Cape Girardeau Storytelling Festival—this is a great little festival, for minimum cost, in the mold of Jonesborough.

There is lots of storytelling in a small area with tents and great tellers. Featured tellers include Donald Davis, Syd Lieberman, Kevin Kling, Minton Sparks, Priscilla Howe and Marilyn Kinsella. For more information see [Cape Girardeau Storytelling Festival](#), [Cape Girardeau Convention and Visitors](#)

A 2006 Parents' Choice Gold Award and a 2007 Storytelling World Winner Award for her story recording, *Sisters All. . . and One Troll*.

Learn more about Mary's work on her website: www.maryhamilton.info

Learn more about the Appalachian Sound Archives at:

<http://www.berea.edu/hutchinslibrary/specialcollections/specialsound.aspx>

Learn more about the Appalachian Sound Archives Fellowship Program at:

<http://www.berea.edu/hutchinslibrary/specialcollections/amfp/amfp.asp>

Youth Storytelling

Nothing is ever final with the Kentucky State Storytelling Showcase! When we had the "finals" in Richmond in conjunction with the annual KSA conference, the 2009 Torchbearers were named. Then shortly afterward, we learned that the National Youth Storytelling Showcase had been changed and there would be no 2010 competition. The KYSS committee put everything on hold at that point.

At the end of December, we received the following update from Elizabeth Rose the chairman of the NYSS committee: "Thanks to everyone who responded to our recent announcement on our decision to move the NYSS event to a winter date (February 2011). The comments have reconfirmed this decision as many agree that winter is better for the students and understand the challenge it is for us to secure appropriate theaters in the spring. More importantly your response highlighted just how important this event is for many of the students, families and coaches."

After reviewing your comments I'm happy to announce that The City of Pigeon Forge has graciously agreed to go ahead and hold an event this June 2010 AND then again in February 2011. This means we won't be missing an entire year and those Juniors and Seniors won't miss out on the opportunity to participate. As many of you have experienced, this is a special weekend and we simply don't want to lose momentum and risk losing your confidence in the event.

So with that said, there will be two timelines for us to announce, one for the June 2010 event and another for February 2011, AND for all of you storytelling coaches and state reps, we have a lot to do to get our youth tellers out there ready for a fun filled year of telling!

The chosen finalists will receive an invitation to present their story at the National Youth Storytelling Showcase on June 10-12, 2010 in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

The KYSS also has a change to announce. The Tandem Team of Kelsey Ulrey and Haleigh Porter were not able to participate in the NYSS competition. The tandem team of David Benning and Jacob Craiger agreed to step up and fill this void at the last minute.

The final entries have been sent and we are now awaiting the announcement to see if any of our KY students will be asked to participate in the NYSS. We are very proud of these student and their accomplishments already!

Bureau

Friday April 23, Bill Harley storytelling performance for adults Friday April 23 rd at 7:30 p.m. Grand Theatre, 308 St. Clair Street, Frankfort, KY For tickets, contact The Grand Ticket Office, 312 West Main Street, Frankfort, KY. 502-352-7469. Prices are \$15, \$18, and \$20 depending on seating.

Saturday, April 24, "Creating and Performing"—a three-Hour storytelling workshop led by Bill Harley. This workshop is for storytellers who have some telling experience. Check-in at 9:30 AM. Workshop ends by 1:00 PM. Location is at the Grand Theatre, 308 St. Clair Street, Frankfort, KY. Cost: Workshop and Performance package (includes ticket for April 23 performance) – \$50.00. Workshop registration alone: \$40.00. To purchase your workshop registration, contact The Grand Ticket Office 502-352-7469. Workshop approved for Kentucky public librarians for .03 CRP.

Friday, April 30th is the **deadline** for artist application to the *Constitution Square Arts Fest*, in Danville, KY, from September 10-12. For more information visit

<http://www.constitutionsquareartsfest.org/>

Monday, April 26, check out the Wandering Storytellers at Natasha's Bistro. 8:00 PM.

What is Storytelling for You?

Kentucky Storytellers Talk About Their Art and Craft
An Interview with Cynthia Changaris by Paschal Baute

Cynthia Changaris is one of two founding members, with Mary Hamilton, of the Kentucky Storytelling Association. At the 2009 annual conference, Cynthia was the featured storyteller, as well as leading two workshops. She also leads W.O.W. workshops in storytelling and leads workshop including the Spellbinder training in 2007. Cynthia was interviewed by Paschal Baute, Lexington Spellbinder, in December of 2009 after the conference in Richmond.

Paschal: *"Why are we so ready to be captured by story?"*

Cynthia: "I do not believe people are ready to be captured by story. I believe they need to be lured into story listening, and once there, discover the delight, the fun, the humanity, the truth and often the light of listening. I believe the rhythm, vibration, action, emotions, and the narrative form all are genetically encoded in us humans so we can be a people of community and be with each other. I believe story is like a deeply dug well and we know how to return to story to drink and refresh ourselves."

Paschal: *"What makes a story a well told tale?"*

Cynthia: "The storyteller makes a point to be present with the audience at hand, fully present, authentic, and knows the story so well, image by image so that the storyteller creates worlds and the listeners can co-create their own worlds as they listen."

Paschal: *"What, in your opinion, are 'tricks of the trade' ways to 'prime the pump,' to get your audience attentive and engaged?"*

Cynthia: "I speak to people and I talk about what have they have been reading, what brought them there, what is going on in their community? What are their expectations? Have they ever been to a story telling program before? What is going on in the space?"

Cynthia continues: "I ask myself: What are potential space/listening/observing problems for the audience, can I fix any of them or must I just go with the flow. I make myself as much at ease as possible, by meeting all the needs I have as best I can. I breathe. I often start with a song, because that eases me. I start with a funny or human interest story that is light but touches most of the audience because that lets the audience know they will be on a good and fun ride. I tell them a little bit about myself. I be the best me I can be."

Paschal: *"When you have your audience 'caught,' spellbound or entranced, what is happening—both to them and to you and between you and them?"*

Cynthia: "They are listening raptly, eyes softened, mouths sometimes slack jawed, and they often breathe with one breath. All of them are listening. The room is still, quiet, and has holiness. Silence descends like sunshine. Community seems to be formed in front of me. I feel open, in the flow and neither too observant of my work, or too unobservant. I am simply letting the story flow through me. I am breathing easily. Not tense. I am open hearted."

Admission is \$5.00.

Natasha's Bistro is located at 112 Esplanade, Lexington, KY. Contact: 502-484-3359 or www.beetnik.com to make reservations. To learn more about Wandering Storytellers, visit the Wandering Storyteller page on this website, or contact Charlie Hardy via email wanderingtellers@kystory.org or phone 859-224-2352 or 859-533-3995.

Monday, May 10, Tale Talk, a storytelling group where stories are told, camaraderie developed, critiques are available, story news is shared. In the Louisville area, 7:30 PM. Contact: Cynthia Changaris, at 502-451-7144, 502-645-2930 or cchangaris@aol.com.

May 21-23 Uncalled For Tour Workshop - Jonesborough, TN.

Andy Offutt Irwin, Bil Lepp and Kim Weitkamp invite you to join them for three days of intense training, personal coaching, and story building in the heart of Jonesborough, TN. Your price includes accommodations at AmericAnn, all workshop activities at Quiet Meadows, all food, all materials and more. For more information see the Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=306811107656> or the website at www.uncalledfortour.blogspot.com

Thursday, June 10- Saturday, June 12,

Paschal: *"More than entertaining, what are the outcomes, in your opinion, that you are aiming for when you are really "in sync" with your audience. In other words what do you want them to leave with?"*

Cynthia: "I want them to have had the experience, the opportunity to create the story with me, to experience the feelings, the sights, sounds, the actions, much like one would in being at a movie, but by making the pictures in their own head. I want them to have had a touch of humanity, of common ground, of insight, or ah ha. I want them to have laughed, and exercised their laughter muscles and released endorphins. I want them to be refreshed, rejuvenated, and re-spirited. I want them to know we humans are an interesting, sometimes sorry, sometimes wonder filled lot, ain't we just grand?"

Paschal: *"Is there, in your opinion, a spiritual dimension to a story well told. If yes, please explain...Define spiritual in your own way."*

Cynthia: "Yes. I always pray that I will be an instrument of the story and of the spirit, so that I can be open to telling the story, to choosing the things to say that help me connect and I hope the spirit guides me in this way. Stories themselves feed the spirit, feed the intellect, the decision making parts of us. I believe spirit is a large part of this. I wish ultimately to make people feel at home, feel they can come home, and be there."

Paschal: *"What is it that is happening in a story well told between the teller and the engaged listener?"*

Cynthia: "Communion. It is simply a communion, or the sharing of the bread and the wine and the spirit of all that it means to be human."

Paschal: *"Where do you find your inspiration?"*

Cynthia: "I listen to storytellers, comedians, preachers, and speakers at every chance I get and get my inspiration from all sorts of places and all sorts of people, as I observe and listen to them through a storytellers eye/ear. I get my inspirations from reading, singing, playing, driving, quiet time, walking, touching. I receive inspiration also from church and from the profane. I keep my mind open and my thoughts active, as I drive, so stories often come to me then. I get my inspiration from listening, really listening to people. "

Cynthia continues: "I get my inspirations from the hard places I have been in my life, and from the things I have learned and noted. I get inspirations from my friends and from those who curiously make me uncomfortable."

Paschal: *"How have you come by your love of story, storytelling and the teaching of storytelling?"*

Cynthia: "I had three sons, two of whom were dyslexics. This caused me to think a lot about how to help them learn better, and to read a lot about learning techniques. I read, took workshops, watched, listened and grew from the experience.

"I have a life long and innate learning bias, since I was little. I have enjoyed

Smokey Mountain
Storytelling Festival,
Pigeon Forge, TN, see
http://www.mypigeonforge.com/events_winterfest_storytelling.aspx

**Thursday, June 10-
Saturday, June 12 -**

National Youth
Storytelling Showcase,
Pigeon Forge, TN
<http://www.nationalyouthstorytellingshowcase.org>

Monday, June 14, Tale
Talk, a storytelling group
where stories are told,
camaraderie developed,
critiques are available,
story news is shared.
Tale Talk is held in the
Louisville area, 7:30 PM.

Contact Cynthia
Changaris, 502-451-
7144, 502-645-2930 or
cchangaris@aol.com.

Saturday, June 26,
Emerging Teller - The
Lehigh Valley Story
Festival is a small but
growing festival currently
planning its seventh
year. The 2010 Festival
will feature Willy Claflin
and Arianna Ross. We
are looking for this year's
Emerging Teller, who will
open for Willy Claflin.
The Festival is held in
Bethlehem,
Pennsylvania, which is
only a 1- 1 ½ hour drive
from Philadelphia and
New York City. All we
need to make this
festival a big success is
YOU! If you have
questions, then email
cjkiernan@toast.net or
call 610-799-2742.

Check us out at
www.lvstorytellers.org

Monday, June 28,
Wandering Storytellers at
Natasha's Bistro, at 8:00

and remembered best the things I have learned by encountering materiel and discovering things. I want to create "ah ha experiences" for people whom I am teaching. I want them to encounter work and materiel and have a chance to discover on their own what works, and what theories are applicable. This is the type of learning situation I am very interested in.

"My mother was an extraordinary teacher. I watched and learned from her. I taught for 4 years at the College of Nursing at Medical University of SC, in community health. I learned a lot from doing this work, and from developing alternative learning techniques for older students, who were community and nursing leaders who came back for a baccalaureate.

"I have an innate desire to create community, and do so when I am teaching. I believe community, dialog, conversation, sharing observations is a strong learning aide, and makes life more interesting and sparkly."

Thank you, Cynthia Changaris for sharing these thought and feelings about your art. Hopefully you have both spurred and encouraged our understanding of the art of storytelling. We may look forward to hearing from other Kentucky storytellers. You can find out more about Cynthia by visiting her website at <http://www.storytellersriverhouse.com/>

Paschal has four interviews with KSA members. Look for future sharing of our Kentucky storytellers.

A Story to share

A wealthy man decided to go on a safari in Africa. He took his faithful pet dachshund along for company.

One day, the dachshund starts chasing butterflies and before long the dachshund discovers that he is lost.

So, wandering about, he notices a leopard heading rapidly in his direction with the obvious intention of having lunch. The dachshund thinks, "OK, I'm in deep trouble now!" Then he noticed some bones on the ground close by, and immediately settles down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat. Just as the leopard is about to leap, the dachshund exclaims loudly, "Boy, that was one delicious leopard. I wonder if there are any more around here."

Hearing this, the leopard halts his attack in mid-stride, as a look of terror comes over him, and slinks away into the trees. "Whew," says the leopard. "That was close. That dachshund nearly had me."

Meanwhile, a monkey who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree figures he can put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the leopard. So, off he goes. But the dachshund saw him heading after the leopard with great speed, and figured that something must be up. The monkey soon catches up with the leopard, spills the beans and strikes a deal for himself with the leopard. The leopard is furious at being made a fool of and says, "Here monkey, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine."

Now the dachshund sees the leopard coming with the monkey on his back, and thinks, "What am I going to do now?" But instead of running, the dog sits down

PM. Admission is \$5.00.
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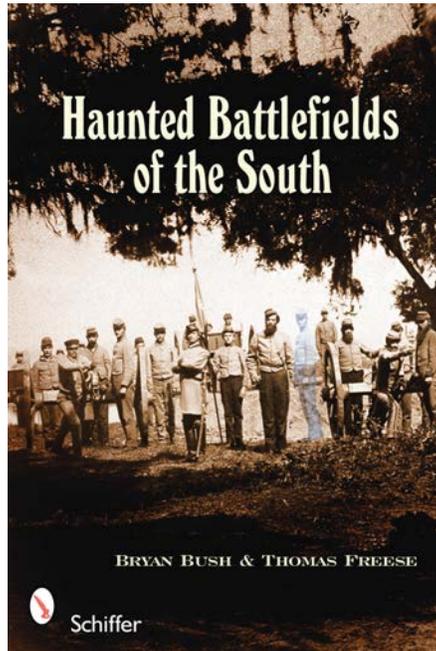
with his back to his attackers, pretending he hasn't seen them yet... and just when they get close enough to hear, the dachshund says, "Where's that monkey? I sent him off half an hour ago to bring me another leopard."

Book Review

Haunted Battlefields of the South by Thomas Freese and Bryan Bush, Schiffer Publishing, 2010, nonfiction, 72 black and white photos, 160 pages, ISBN # 978-0-7643-3385-9, \$14.99 retail.

Acclaimed author/storyteller Thomas Freese and Civil War historian/author Bryan Bush have combined their talents to give us new material and great reading about the Civil War and ghosts! I was impressed by the smooth transitions between the two authors' writing as they presented the history and the mystery of a fascinating, tragic time in our history. You will read firsthand accounts by re-enactors who encounter spirits of Confederate and Union soldiers and you will explore with them the battlefields to find invisible rifle volleys, a disappearing cemetery, and a variety of soldiers you can never forget. This book is perfect for ghost lovers and Civil War history buffs! I definitely give this a five star rating!

Review by Roberta Simpson Brown



Includes true tales from Perryville, KY Authors Freese and Bush

Why are we so ready to be caught by story?

Because...

the heart already recognizes its own journey for survival and love, the mind knows that the present reality is the beginning not the end, the soul knows it is destined for adventure and transcendence, the body knows that it craves excitement and ecstasy.

Because...

we know we are born with story, in the story of our parent's love, and their parents love, we are fascinated by our mother's love and its difference in our father's love,

I know that I am precious and I want to know how I got here,
we know others are different, brothers, sisters, neighbors, friends and
strangers and each has their own story.

Because...

our tribe and our nature was born out of blood and struggle, death and survival
and we are greatly indebted to them,
we want to believe we can take on the monster and win and there are rags t to
riches adventures waiting,
we know that our story, our own story will crate a new world,
we love and look for happy endings.

We live and move and have our being in story and stories remind us of our own
many-leveled stories.

"The easiest thing is to tell a story, the hardest is to become a fine storyteller."
Ruth Sawyer

If you desire the latter, be forewarned that God is likely to say "yes!" and you
may be caught... Indeed!

By Paschal Baute, Lexington, Kentucky Spellbinder