



Kentucky Storytelling Association

October 2010 Support and Appreciation for the Art of Storytelling In Kentucky Volume 6 Issue 4

In This Issue

- President's Message
 - Annual KSA Fall Conference
- Youth Storytelling
- Member Spotlight
 - Wandering Storytellers

Useful Links:

KSA Website

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

National Storytelling Network Website

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

Contact your Board

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November 2010 KSA Annual Conference

Do you have your room reserved for this year's conference in Gilbertsville at Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park yet?? Hurry! Hurry!! The cut off date for our block of rooms is October 3! Book your room by calling the park toll free at 800-325-0146.

Have you registered to attend the conference yet? Pre-register before October 30 and save \$20 on your conference registration!! Pre-registration fees for KSA member are \$30 single, \$75 family of three or more. Non-KSA Members are \$40 single, \$100 family of three or more. At the door, registration fees rise to \$50 single and \$120 family of three or more. So, register now and save! Visit the Registration page on our website:

<http://www.kystory.org/conference/2010-conf-registration-form.shtml> There you can fill out your registration form and submit it online. You can also pay online through PayPal or you can mail in your check. Do you need a paper registration form? Contact Mary Hamilton, 502-223-4523, mary@maryhamilton.info, and a paper form will be mailed to you.

You can also learn all the details on the Conference schedule, story swaps, workshops, and more on the KSA website: www.kystory.org

Do you need a paper Conference brochure? Let Mary Hamilton know 502-223-4523 or mary@maryhamilton.info, and she will mail you as many as you need to promote the Conference (available until supplies run out!)

We still need lots of volunteers so notify Betsy Fleischer, Conference Chair at betsycat2@yahoo.com or at 859-734-3194. See the previous newsletter for volunteer job listings or chat with Betsy.

Quote contest this year is: Who said "God made man because He loves stories?"

Kentucky Youth Storytelling Showcase News

The Entry Deadline is Friday, October 1 for the Kentucky Youth Storytelling Showcase. Encourage young tellers (ages 6 – 17 on February 3, 2011) to submit an 8 – 10 minute DVD/VHS of their storytelling plus an Entry & Permission Form to KYSS Entry, c/o Pam Holcomb, 83 Holcomb Road, Putney, KY 40865. Entries must be received by midnight Friday, Friday, October 1st.

For more information, visit the KYSS page on our website:

<http://www.kystory.org/progs-and-activs/youth-storytelling.shtml>

On October 18 Kentucky Youth Storytelling Torchbearers will be notified of their selection. These young tellers will be our guests at the KSA Conference.

KSA Member Spotlight

This month's spotlight shines on KSA member Octavia Sexton:

I am a storyteller and teaching artist. I was born into a storytelling tradition and have been telling traditional Appalachian stories all my life. My grandma and grandpa didn't have a formal education but were master storytellers. They told stories their parents and grandparents had been telling from the English/Irish and Cherokee traditions. I attended a one-room school in eastern

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The other At-large Board
member position is
vacant.

Contact Us

<http://www.kystory.org>

Newsletter Editor
Thomas Freese
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News and Updates

**A Time for Tales,
Sundays** Happens from
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Morehead State Public
Radio, 90.3 FM, in
Morehead, KY, and is
hosted by Carolyn
Franzini. Each week the
stories relate to a theme,
such as "Work",
"School", "Ghost stories",
"Lessons Learned" and
more. Listen on the web
at www.msuradio.com.

**The Art of Storytelling
Show Podcast and
Blog** Is a national
conversation from all
perspectives on the
profession of storytelling
with children. This show
is recorded as a
conference call biweekly,
Tuesdays at 7 or 8 p.m.
Hosted by Eric Wolf,
Yellow Springs, OH. Each

Kentucky through eighth grade. We were all just a bunch of poor country kids. We didn't have toys to play with at recess so we played a lot of imaginative games, told stories and made up a lot of songs. I guess I was always a 'show off' and loved being in front of a bunch of people telling stories. In 2000, I co-founded SpoonWood Productions along with my son. It is an educational performing/literary arts company. Together and separately, we present storytelling, drama, musical, literary, substance abuse prevention and other artistic teaching assembly/workshops. We average over 200 performances a year with many in 1 - 3 week residency settings. We work primarily in Kentucky schools, with 4th through 12th graders. We do several festivals a year but my heart is in teaching. I graduated from Berea College with a history/teaching degree and I have just combined that with my love of storytelling.

I try to give people a glimpse into an Appalachia past through my stories while entertaining them. I always tell in my natural dialect and I believe I am keeping our language alive in this way. Some of the words and euphuisms are remnants of Old English. I want to enable individuals to recognize the importance of their own and others heritages and cultures. I often tell Jack Tales (Jack Tales are stories about a trickster character named Jack. They originated on the British Isles over 900 years ago and came to this continent via our English ancestors). I also tell local ghost stories, folk tales and stories I have written myself.



Why did you join KSA?

In April 2004 Mary Hamilton organized the first meetings to create a statewide storytelling organization in Kentucky. I was privileged to be invited to be a part of making Mary's dreams a reality. From those early meetings to now, I have supported and enjoyed the benefits of this great organization. We have evolved from a handful of story lovers and tellers to an organization that includes people inside and outside of state of Kentucky.

What so far have you liked about being a member of KSA?

It is exciting being a part of the growing storytelling community. I have met so many story lovers and storytellers through KSA.

What kind of stories do you enjoy?

I like all kinds of stories, but I guess haint tales (scary stories) are my

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.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, October 1-3 Is the National Storytelling Festival, in Jonesborough, Tennessee. For more information, call 800-952-8392 or 800-952-8392. You can also call (423) 753-2171 or email to info@storytellingcenter.net.

Friday, October 8 Ghosts, ghouls and goblins – oh my! [Storytelling Arts of Indiana](#) will present *Scary Stories for Families on the Canal* from 7:30 – 9 PM. This not-too-scary family presentation will feature spooky tales that will give shivers of delight. Bundle up for this outdoor presentation along the canal as storytellers Cynthia Changaris, Lou Ann Homan, Sally Perkins and Khabir Shareef spin their scary tales. A snack bar will feature candy, popcorn and soft drinks. Chairs will be provided, but families may bring their own folding lawn chairs or blankets. The event is interpreted for the deaf and hearing impaired. Tickets are \$5 for children ages 5-12 and \$10 for adults. To order tickets, or for more

favorite. Grandpa used to tell us young-uns My Big Toe and Raw Head and Bloody Bones. Sometimes we would be so scared we would cry or pee on ourselves, but I loved being scared!

How has your life been affected by stories from family or friends?

I am who I am due to coming from a storytelling tradition. All of life is a story to me. I see everything that happens as another twist or turn to the story. I also believe in happy endings so I'm not afraid that my life story will end. However, like Jack in the Jack Tales, I know I will just be off on another wondrous adventure.

You'll be able to spend more time with Octavia and hear her storytelling at the upcoming Kentucky Storytelling Conference. Octavia is this year's featured artist so she will be telling stories on both Friday and Saturday nights at the story swaps. She is also leading a 90 minute conference workshop on creating Jack Tales.

Wandering Storytellers

Wandering Storytellers will be wandering again this month. We will be at Common Grounds Coffee House, 343 E. High Street in Lexington. The program will be on Tuesday, September 28 from 7-9 because those are the preferred hours of Common Grounds and they are already committed to another program on Monday. The program will be open mic night and everyone will be invited to come up and tell a story. I hope we can have lots of people there and that they all bring a friend!!

There will be no cover, but we will pass the hat as WS is a fundraiser for KSA. I hope to see you there.

Please look for more announcements in your email as Charles and Russ will send out info closer to September 28.

More news related to Wandering Storytellers. The Story Slam was fun and turned out well!! We were graced with several regulars (thank you very much, regulars!!!) and had the pleasure of having some UK and Transy students grace us with their presence!! They were a breath of fresh air and we were very glad to have them!! I know many people live too far away to come often, but I do hope you all try to come at least a couple of times a year anyway. Betsy did most of the work and thanks to Mary and Mike for their donations to the prizes. Congrats to Mary Hamilton for being the winner and edging out other great tellers, Ed Bryson and Maryann Zoll!!! The talent was excellent and the stories well presented by all of the entrants!!

Members, please brace yourselves, because I will be asking some of you to headline in November and December (all of 2011 for that matter). We are fortunate to have Octavia and Betsy to "spook it up" this October. I heard that they are making plans to decorate the stage in holiday motif!! I am looking forward to seeing and hearing them. Please write me if you would like to volunteer for November or December otherwise I will have to get the dialing finger revved up for action.

I have taken enough of your time. Thanks, always, for all you do to support your organization. A special thanks, to Charles Wright for doing the lion's share of WS work (he is doing a lot to help several people and his help is most appreciated!!).

Charlie Hardy, cehjr1948@yahoo.com

Storytellers Nurture the Spirituality of Children

I love the adventure that belonging to our Lexington Spellbinders chapter has opened to me. Here are the striking characteristics of the spirit of the child. 1) A sense of wonder, 2) They are open to new adventures, 3) Their right brain is more dominant, as the left brain is not so full of rules and reason, 4) Children

information, please call (317) 232-1637. Or visit www.storytellingarts.org/store/category/Tickets.

Saturday, October 9
Storytelling Arts of Indiana will present *Disquieting, Disturbing & Dreadful Tales* from 7:30 – 9:30 PM. This unique evening of storytelling under the stars will make attendees' skin crawl as they gasp in fright. Due to some mature material, this event is for adults only. Beware as favorite storytellers spin tales to frighten even the bravest. Advance adult tickets are \$15; tickets at the gate are \$20. To order tickets or for more information, please call (317) 232-1637 or visit www.storytellingarts.org/store/category/Tickets.

Monday, October 11, November 8, & December 13 Tale Talk is a storytelling group where stories are told, camaraderie developed, critiques are available and story news is shared. Louisville area, 7:30 p.m.
Contact Cynthia Changaris at 502-645-2930 or cchangaris@aol.com.

Thursday, October 14, November 11, & December 9 The Lexington **Storytellers Cafe'** Meetup and STORY SLAM happens at 7:00 PM at **Common Grounds Coffee House** 343 E High St., Lexington, KY 40507. Call 859-233-9761 for more information. Anyone can participate in telling stories at The Storytellers Cafe' on the

are naturally compassionate, 5) Children tend to be intensely competitive and they are easily jealous and quickly offended if they feel someone (particularly a brother or sister) is getting the bigger piece of whatever, 6) imagination rules, 7) Cross cultural evidence is that our human brains are hard-wired for story, so we look for content to satisfy our cravings, 8) Children are small and live in a large and somewhat scary, complex world, 9) Children love to laugh and laugh easily, and often at length, 10) enthusiasm ranks high as a characteristic. We might say that the language of children is play and playfulness, wonder and awe, finding delight in adventure and laughter. Children find all of these in story.

When we awaken children's minds, invite awareness into realms of possibility, to longings of the heart, overcoming the monster, believing in rags to riches, then great adventures of discovery and courage await them. Spellbinding storytellers nurtures these characteristics of children. Within a half hour, children "fall in love" with a good storyteller. They want to hug, touch, high five, and find out more about this wizard who tells stories so well that they are entranced. Their spirit is fed, nourished, enriched and delighted that someone, some ADULT, out of all the boring, rule bound adults they must deal with, can understand the world in which they live.

I think of spellbinding storytelling as a heart to heart exchange. My sense of wonder, of mystery, awe and gratitude reaches out to the hearts of children around me. I love the excitement of the art and craft. I love how they are nourished by being nourished in their hearts by me. By ME! What a privilege, what a blessing for this overgrown adult child!

Storytellers nurture the spirit and the spirituality of children. It is a great privilege and blessing to nurture the spirituality, the spirits of many children through the art and craft of my storytelling. I do it without talking about God or religion. Therefore I am politically correct and under the radar of un-named organizations seeking to keep any conversation about God or religion out of our tax supported domains.

I am a wizard, in truth. Not the kind that produces magic tricks, but the kind that imagines, creates, catches stories about far out adventures—such as the author of Harry Potter. Why? Her stories and all such stories nourish the human spirit of children. Ruth Sawyer said that a good storyteller will be "gloriously alive," full of amazement. This enthusiasm cannot be taught, only caught.

What is equally fascinating to me is that this process is not one way but a circle. My storytelling time with children is the best thing I do to keep myself that way. Whoever encourages the sense of mystery, wonder and awe of the child, nurtures their own spirit and spirituality.

Placing a child in their midst, He said, "Unless you become like one of these, you cannot enter the Kingdom." Could anyone anticipate a teacher of wisdom doing this? Excuse me folks, but that is stunning, or "awesome!" Maybe that was the point St. Gregory of Nyssa, centuries later, was reaching for when he said: "Concepts create idols; only wonder and awe understands anything." A thank you note from one second grader read: "Your wizard teacher taught you well."

If this mystery we call God loves stories enough to give humans the Bible, a library of many different kinds of stories, are we who continue the storytelling inside that Mystery still?

Paschal Baute

Sound system for sale!

Nady Ultra Portable Wireless PA/WA 120 + an excellent speaker stand. It has both a hand held wireless Microphone and a WLT Bodypack transmitter microphone that clips to shirt. The system is in excellent working order and has been used approximately 15 times at various venues. Here is a link to look at features <http://www.nady.com/wa120.html>

2nd Thursday of each month.

Friday, Saturday, October 15, 16 Illinois Storytelling Festival 2010 with the theme "Fabled, Flawed, and Frightening". This event features storytellers Dan Keding, Linda Gorham, Mary Hamilton, Jim May and additional Illinois storytellers. Location is the Dominican University, 7900 Division Street, River Forest, IL 60305-1099. See www.storytelling.org 630-877-0931 or email info@storytelling.org.

Monday, October 25, November 29 & December 27 If you love stories, hearing them and telling them, then you'll want to join us at Natasha's Bistro, 112 Esplanade, Lexington, Kentucky. Stories begin at 8:00 PM and run until 10-ish. Cover: \$5.00. This event raises funds to support Kentucky Storytelling Association programs and projects. For more information and reservations—not required, but helpful—visit KSA Wandering Storytellers.

September 29, University of Kentucky OLLI Life Long Learning course on the Power of Story begins. I invite any KSA storyteller to be my personal guest for this class. It is held at Temple Adath Israel, Ashland Ave., in Lexington. Paschal's cell # is (502) 293-5302. We meet at 6 PM on Wed. from 10 AM to noon.

Original Price: Nady Ultra Portable Wireless PA WA 120, [Nady WA 120 HT w/hand held wireless microphone](#), \$79.95, [DKW-1 Bodypack Transmitter](#), \$49.95, [SPST-1A Speaker Stand](#), \$44.99. Total: \$174.89. Asking: \$130 Contact Bill Watson at 502-514-1061, billwatson.storyteller1@gmail.com.

Spirituality of Children Online Discussion

I am offering an online study of the Spirituality of children, as a research project, with an online newsletter (blog), inviting others to participate and add their comments. We invite parents, teachers, librarians, storytellers and ministers too. If there is enough interest, we will plan a workshop on the Spirituality of children later this fall or perhaps by spring. If you have an interest in this subject, you may participate online by reading and commenting. Here is the link:

<http://healthyspiritualityblog.blogspot.com/>

I want to spur interests in the spirituality of children. I believe we can be more effective in parenting, education and storytelling by undertaking this discussion, which should also be fun. I am excited about this project and its possibilities. I have gathered additional resources from others who have written on the subject, such as Robert Coles, David Hall, Rebecca Nye, and Jerome Berryman. Allow me to suggest that the discussion begin with a reading of my paper, which begins by distinguishing between religion and spirituality. If you want to post a comment, please copy me at paschal.baute@insightbb.com. There may be an invitation process, to allow you to become a subscribed member for active participation. So, please email me if you desire to be an active member in this discussion, that is, more than just read the posts. Pascal the Rascal, Lexington Spellbinder Member, KSA

Stories in Books: A Review of Ghostly Tales



Just released by University Press of Kentucky

Roberta and Lonnie Brown bring us another wonderful collection of ghostly tales. Organized by the four seasons, readers will find a wide range of tales, from ghost hunter investigations, to rural Kentucky folklore and including the authors' personal experiences with the spirit realm. Roberta's written stories are carefully crafted with wording which is gained from decades of storytelling performances. Each title intrigues, with such phrases as "Unwanted Tenants", "Woman at the Spring", "Burn my Chair" and "Night Caller". Charming illustrations by J.D. Wilkes make this book a visual treat for Halloween or any mysterious season. The book is hardbound, 259 pages, nonfiction, and costs \$24.95.

