



Kentucky Storytelling Association

January 2011 Support and Appreciation for the Art of Storytelling In Kentucky Volume 7 Issue 1

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Useful Links:

KSA Website

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

National Storytelling Network Website:

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

Contact your Board:

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Quadrant 1, Emilee

Message from our new President

It is exciting to be your new president for the Kentucky Storytelling Association. Our association enjoyed its Annual Conference at KY Dam Village in mid November. It was a truly good weekend of storytelling, fellowship and a really good opportunity to learn about storytelling.

At this year's conference, Octavia Sexton was our Featured Storyteller and also a Seminar Presenter. Two weeks before conference, Octavia fell ten feet to a concrete floor landing flat on her back. As she told her stories, and shared information in her Jack Tales Seminar, Octavia provided not a hint of the pain and discomfort she endured. With broken vertebrae and after only a few days in the hospital Octavia was a trouper.

During our conference I attended three seminars and came away from each with new and valuable information. Each of the presenters provided information to help me in writing, preparing and performing my stories. I have a better understanding now how important it is to know each of the characters in my story. As I understand more about each story character, their interactions within the story become more real.

I appreciate the warm welcome KSA has provided me during the past two years. Through my tenure as president I intend to accept the offers of help that have been extended. I want KSA to continue spreading the storytelling gospel across our state and throughout the region.

Please accept my offer to help every KSA member. When I have knowledge that may make success more likely, I want to provide it. When the most help I can provide is to be out of the way – that is where I want to be. If I am too dense to recognize a gentle nudge toward the sideline, go for the full body slam. When success is more likely with me out of the picture, please help me see the whole picture.

At my first KSA Conference in November of 2009 I was impressed with the quality of people I met and the way every KSA member is anxious and willing to help a newcomer to storytelling. The ease of making friends in the storytelling community is a special treat. I anticipated storytelling enthusiasts to be a special group of people and you have proven me right. Every interaction I have with KSA Members reinforces my respect for the people and the art.

We all need to keep in mind that while KSA membership is important and valuable to storytellers, our organization also welcomes the general public as members. We need to offer a membership opportunity to anyone who enjoys stories and may wish to support the art. My guess is that there are a lot of interested story listeners who think KSA membership is only for storytellers. Two years ago I held that opinion. Let us work together, bringing people who enjoy stories into the fold.

What do I call someone who likes stories: A Friend!

Russ Conrad

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The other At-large Board
member position is
vacant.

Contact Us:

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Newsletter Editor
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News and Announcements:

The Kentucky
Storytelling Association
in partnership with the
Harlan County
Cooperative Extension
Service will present the
4th annual "Storytelling in
the Mountains"
storytelling evening
concert, May 21st, 2011.

The Cooperative
Extension has sponsored
this event for the past 2
years and it has been a
tremendous success.

This year's event will be
held in the Harlan Depot,
Harlan, Kentucky
beginning at 6:30 p.m.
This is a fund-raiser for
KSA. All storytellers

Message from our outgoing KSA President

Thank each of you for allowing me the privilege to have been a part of KSA and to have served on the KSA Board for four years. This past year I have been your president. I would like to publicly thank those board members who so diligently served with me this past year: President Elect - Russ Conrad, Secretary - Maggie Beville, Treasurer - Nina Coyer, Quadrant 1 - Laura Seaman, Quadrant 2 - Octavia Sexton, Quadrant 2 - Charlie Hardy, Quadrant 4 - Mike Beville, and At-Large-Board Member Charles Wright.

Please know that these dear folks gave much of themselves to the servitude of KSA this past year. I am extremely grateful for their dedication. When family illness prevented me from performing many of the necessary tasks toward the end of my term, Russ so capably stepped in and KSA business continued to be conducted as needed. Many of the other members of KSA also helped out when it was needed in this and other situations. This has once again reassured me of what an outstanding group of people make up the Kentucky Storytelling Association.

I am confident that KSA is in very capable hands under the excellent leadership of Russ Conrad and the new 2011 KSA Board. My best to these fine folks as they lead KSA during the upcoming year.

Pam Holcomb

Wandering Storytellers

Hi Folks,

If you would like to volunteer for Wandering Storytellers, instead of having me call you and beg, PLEASE get in touch with me, or Charles Wright, and sign up for the month that you would prefer.

We are usually at Natasha's on the last Monday of the month.

My KSA email has changed and it is: chardyksa@yahoo.com

Charles' email is: hiddenspring@earthlink.net

Please let either of us know ASAP and we will put you on the schedule. To those who have participated in WS for the past years, thank you so much for your willingness to showcase the talents of KSA!!!

Take care,

Charlie Hardy

Thanks from Octavia

Even though I was the featured storyteller at the KSA conference in November, I considered staying at home and lying in bed all weekend. Why was I considering such an unimaginable idea you are probably thinking. Didn't I know the KSA conferences are a 'must do' for anyone who loves stories? Didn't I know there would be great stories told by awesome storytellers? Didn't I know there would be educational and entertaining workshops? Didn't I know there would be friendly conversation during meals? Didn't I know there would be catching up with old friends and making of new ones?

Well, of course I knew all those things. However, I fell 9 feet from an open loft onto a concrete floor 10 days before the conference. I had broken my back and split my head open. Therefore, yes, I admit I did consider not attending the conference even though I was the featured teller. Then my Appalachian stubbornness took over and I said to myself, "This little set-back won't keep me down!"

I did go to the conference and it was absolutely worth the effort! It was everything I knew it would be and more. I always knew storytellers and story lovers are great people, but I never knew just how generous and eager to help they *really* are. I want to give a special thanks to Mary Hamilton, Cynthia Changaris, Russ Conrad, and Charlie Hardy for doing the great things they did to help me! I have been blessed beyond measure to have such caring friends.

donate their talents to this performance. In turn, the Cooperative Extension Office gives KSA a generous donation. So go ahead and make your plans to join us this Concert evening in Harlan County. You will certainly see a beautiful part of Kentucky and will be treated to some of that old fashioned southern hospitality. If you are interested in participating in this event as a teller, please let Pam Holcomb know: pfholcomb@msn.com. She will then in turn send you a short form to fill out. These will be presented to the selection committee for review. Plans are to have this finalized by February 1st in order to properly advertise.

After a hiatus, the **WOW** (Working on Our Work) **Storytelling Weekends are back**. Yippee!! Cynthia and I are offering the following two WOW Weekends: December 3-5, 2010, and, February 18 – 20, 2011. This is also President's Day Weekend, which may make travel easier. Prices remain the same as before: \$50 non-refundable deposit to hold your space; \$100 balance due at the Weekend. Price includes lodging (shared rooms), meals from light supper on Friday night through lunch on Sunday, and a minimum of a one hour turn to work on your storytelling or storytelling-related work

I may not have been at my best as the featured teller but I certainly received the best. Hope to see you all at the next KSA conference in November 2011! Erick Wolf also interviewed me for a podcast on the Art of Storytelling with Brother Wolf Show - please take a listen... Interview #113 Octavia Sexton – The Jack Story a Traditional Tale for Everyone. | The Art of Storytelling http://www.facebook.com/l/e8e819FWwB-Ijl7vt_OX3J9JH1g; www.artofstorytellingshow.com/2010/11/30/octavia-sexton-jack-story-traditional-tale/

National Youth Storytelling Showcase

The National Youth Storytelling Showcase has found a new home. Timpanogos Storytelling Institute is bringing the NYSS to Utah! The 2011 NYSS will be held in conjunction with the Timpanogos Storytelling Conference, February 3-5, 2011 in Lehi, Utah. In keeping with these projected dates, the Kentucky Youth Storytelling Showcase committee agreed to have all mail-in entries this year. It was hard making the choices as it is evident with this year's winners that the young storytellers of Kentucky just keep getting better and better. The following are the 2010 - 2011 State Kentucky Youth Storytelling Showcase winners.

Elementary Division:

1st Place: Carlie Robinette - Cannonsburg Elem. - Ashland, KY

2nd Place: David Benning - Homeschooled - Harlan, KY

3rd Place: Sarah Cahill - Burlington Elem. - Burlington, KY

Middle School:

1st Place: Allison Sherman - Ockeman Middle School, Florence, KY

2nd Place: Samantha McMillian - Ockeman Middle School, Florence, KY

3rd Place: Bethany Crouch - Bath County Middle - Sharpsburg, KY

High School:

1st Place: Jacob Craiger - Homeschooled - Partridge, KY

The five youth storytellers with the highest scores were chosen from Kentucky State Youth Storytelling Showcase Torchbearers for 2011. They are Carlie Robinette, David Benning, Allison Sherman, Samantha McMillian, and Jacob Craiger. The youth tellers chosen to participate in the National Youth Storytelling Showcase in Utah will be notified by December 19th.

These youth tellers were spotlighted at the KSA Conference in November and will be invited to participate in the Kentucky State Fair in August. Our thanks and congratulations are extended to each of these outstanding young people, their parents and teachers!

A Story

The "Funny" Turkey Who Could Not Stop Dreaming

By Paschal Baute

Once upon a time there was a young turkey that was different. She was a girl turkey whose name was Henrietta and she had questions about everything. Some said she thought too much.

What we are sure of is that Henrietta was a different and a very curious young turkey, always wondering, with endless questions. "Why is the sky blue?" "Where do clouds come from?"

Henrietta noticed one day that there was not much new to do in the place where they all lived. It seemed like most turkeys were just walking around. Henrietta also noticed that they got fed on a regular basis, morning and evening and that water was always available.

Playing with the other young turkeys was boring. All they did was run races and pretend to fight and then make up. Henrietta did not care for the pretend face offs where they would play at who could flare out their tail feathers the furthest.

with help from the group including assistance and group facilitation from Mary and Cynthia. Yes, space is still limited to a total of eight participants, including Mary and Cynthia.

To learn more about WOW Weekends, visit: <http://www.maryhamilton.info/Programs/WOWretreats.htm>

Pay no attention to the part that reads: "No Wow weekends are currently scheduled". As you just learned above, that's changed!!

Or, you can call us – Reach Cynthia at 502-645-2930. Call Mary at 502-223-4523. We'll be happy to answer your questions to help you decide if a WOW Weekend would be right for you.

Hope to see you in December or February. And please, help spread the word. Thanks! Mary Hamilton

Weekly:

A Time for Tales,

Sundays – from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m., heard on

Morehead State Public Radio, 90.3 FM.

(Morehead, KY), and hosted by Carolyn Franzini. Each week the

stories relate to a theme... "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

Henrietta began to realize that she was more than a little different from the other turkeys. Some looked away when she was near. She had one friend whose name was Henry. He was a young tom and liked to hang out and chat with Henrietta. Henry liked to brag and was a kind of know it all, which Henrietta thought was to be expected among the young boy turkeys.

One day Henrietta notice there was a large fence around the yard where they lived, ate, slept and played. Since life had become boring, the fence became the most interesting thing to her. It seemed to be very high. Henrietta asked Henry about the fence. "Everyone knows the fence is there to protect us from the wild things who want to hurt us," Henry announced. Henrietta was skeptical. "I have never seen any such critters," she said.

"Silly," said Henry. "They don't come in the daytime but at night. This is why we fly up to roost at night, in case one gets over the fence and creeps up on us. This is what our ancestors taught us and how we simply do it now by habit." Henrietta remained skeptical and kept wondering what was on the other side.

"Okay," she murmured, "so I am a different kind of turkey. So what? "What is wrong with being different? When Henrietta asked the older turkeys about the fence, they pretended not to hear the question. No one wanted to give her an answer. Henrietta wondered why no one wanted to talk about THE FENCE.

Then she noticed something else. There were no old turkeys in the yard, no grandfathers or grandmother turkeys. Why was this so? Then one day when the leaves started to turn to color, Henrietta noticed that the flock of turkeys got smaller. Where did the adult turkeys go? Did they go outside the fence? Was there another world somewhere? Henrietta wondered what was on the other side of the fence. One night, while all the other turkeys were sleeping,

Henrietta got up to walk in the yard alone. Henrietta decided to run as fast as possible to see if her small wings could give enough rise to get over the fence. The first time, the run and flapping reached only a few feet off the ground. But the second try was better. Tired, Henrietta went back to fly up to a favorite roost. Her little wings had to be for more than simply to fly up to sleep. Maybe she had a wild grandmother whose wings were strong enough to let her fly anywhere. The next night, when the rest of the turkeys were roosting, she tried again. One day she told Henry that she was going to test her wings to see if she could fly over the fence. "You are a crazy turkey," he said. "I never heard of such a thing." But the next night and the following night for many nights,

Henrietta would run flapping wings. Henrietta found that wings got stronger. She began to think about the fence and what was on the other side all day long, and worst still, dream about it. Soon Henrietta was almost clearing the fence. And Henrietta could not stop dreaming about adventure on the other side. But Henry told another turkey about Henrietta's wild plans. Soon the news was all over the yard. Then some young turkeys made up a chant. "Henrietta, sing operetta, Not like us, some violetta. Wants to fly, high aviata, We betcha crash, like Julietta."

Henrietta was mad at Henry for telling others. But what could she do? She pretended not to hear. She knew she was a "funny" turkey. Inside she thought, "Hah, I will show you." She became even more determined. "Just watch me," she reminded herself, and the teasing became for her a helpful spur. Maybe she did not a wild grandmother whose strong wings helped her have a life of great adventure. Soon the fence became her private enemy, the singular roadblock to the rest of life, a monster that was holding Henrietta back from many adventures. Practice in the middle of the night, over and over became the night's work. But her beak and neck got really sore from hitting the fence so often but Henrietta would not be deterred from the Dream which became the passion of her young life. Occasionally there was music played in the yard. It seemed to make everything go smoother in the yard. Most turkeys paid no attention. But some listened with one ear as they scratched around and did other things. One day she heard a song and was taken by the words, which

with children. It is recorded as a conference call biweekly, Tuesdays at 7 or 8 p.m. 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>. You can also learn details on upcoming shows on the website.

Paschal Baute, KSA member and Spellbinder is collecting storyteller's favorite movies highlighting the art and craft of storytelling. Such a list would be useful for study and fun, and helpful references for others. Which movies illustrate the art, craft and power of storytelling? Email Paschal with your nominations for favorite movies on storytelling. He will publish the results later. Contact him at paschal.baute@insightbb.com

Going into 2011 Events:

Jan 21 - Jungle Tales happens from 7-8 pm at the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, in Indianapolis, IN. Take a wild trip into the jungles of Brazil and Africa with Antonio Rocha. This Parent's Choice Gold Award winner draws from his repertoire of animal tales which evoke the sights and sounds of the

seemed to speak to her heart. She decided that was her song and she tried to hum and sing it to herself.

The song is "I have a dream" from the movie Mama Mia and teller can play or sing it here. Play the music if possible, but at least read the lyrics, which helps younger children catch the dream.

But her wings were not strong enough to lift her over the fence. One day Henrietta's left wing dropped just before hitting the fence, causing a turn to the left. Wondering whether a turn just before the fence was possible, Henrietta began to drop that wing and try to turn. Within a few nights practice, Henrietta had learned to turn which gave a new height in the air while Henrietta was already airborne.

"What a dumb turkey you are" Henrietta thought, "to take so long to figure that out." But now Henrietta could turn just before hitting the fence and continue to rise as wings grew stronger and stronger. Henrietta was also learning to use the tail feathers as a back wing with lots of trail and error and sore muscles. Finally, one night, when the moon was full and everything was still, she decided it was the night for her great flight, her adventure into the unknown. She whispered to Henry, "Come with me," and sleepily, he followed. "Sit over there and just watch me," she said. Henry, half asleep, did. Then Henry watched in amazement as Henrietta flew down the length of the yard, then turned slowly and flew right over him and the fence. She was gone, simply gone. He wondered if he would ever see her again. Henrietta was delighted when she cleared the fence. Even after all the practice, she could hardly believe what she had just done. She quickly landed in some bushes and was suddenly afraid. What now? Maybe there were wild and dangerous things around her. What a combination to have—both thrill and fear. Where was she now? And what would she do next? She had no idea.

Henrietta was tired and sleepy. Then suddenly she heard strange night noises she had never heard before. There was enough moonlight, thankfully, for her to find and fly up to a nearby tree branch to roost and try to sleep. But the strange noises kept her awake.

Now she was surrounded by a strange and different world. Getting over the fence had been her total world. She had no plans of what to do next. Maybe she just had to figure it out as she went along, and hope the wild things would not get her. She briefly thought about Henry. He was such a stick in the mud, but she had enjoyed his company.

Henrietta slept almost all day and got up near sundown, hungry and began to look for food. Finding some berries and seeds in the woods nearby—the surroundings were so different. Henrietta decided to stay in the woods where there was plenty of brush. One day Henrietta heard some gobbling, strange gobbling. Carefully peeking from a bushy hide-out, Henrietta saw a strange sight. Large dark turkeys walking close together. Such a sight Henrietta had never seen! Finally Henrietta risked making a squeaky gobble. The flock of wild turkeys stopped, all heads turning and looking about, wondering about the different but familiar turkey sound came from. Henrietta was scared but excited when the big birds came looking for the young turkey noise. They seemed much taller than Henrietta had ever seen, bigger than even the biggest back in the yard. They came and surrounded Henrietta, clucking and eyeing her, staring at her still half grown body. Then, to Henrietta surprise, they seemed to become accepting and friendly.

"Come", they said, "and we will introduce you to the wonderful world of the Great Forest. You are a brave young turkey to have flown the coop, jumped the fence and risked finding out what was outside.

Maybe these turkeys were her tribe of grandmothers.

Henrietta did not realize until later that she had just been adopted. A whole new world of adventure was ready to open to her. She would now live on the wild side. She was happy.

Later she thought the combination of the thrill of clearing the fence and the

rainforest and its wildly entertaining inhabitants. For family audiences, \$5 for children (ages 5 - 12), \$10 for adults. For more information visit <http://www.storytellingarts.org>.

January 22 - 7:30-9:30pm at the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, Indianapolis, IN.

Brazilian Extravaganza! Combining the elements of storytelling, mime and physical comedy, Antonio Rocha, a native of Brazil, leaves audiences spellbound by the myths, the absurd and the poetic. For adult audiences, \$20 advance, \$25 at the door. For more information visit <http://www.storytellingarts.org>.

January 24 - If you love stories, hearing them and telling them, then you'll want to join us at Natasha's Bistro, 112 Esplanade, in Lexington, Kentucky. Stories begin at 8:00 p.m. 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.

February 3-5, - Timpanogos Storytelling Conference in Lehi, UT will be hosting the NYSS this year. More details to follow.

immediate scare might have been the best moment of young life. She was glad she had practiced so hard and ignored the teasing of the other turkeys. She thought she had made the hardest, scariest, but best decision of her life. Henrietta had FOUND HER OWN SONG, BY BELIEVING IN HER DREAM. Yes, she was a Funny turkey. She loved her new exciting life. Then, to her great surprise, she found she had stories to tell, and before long was regarded as the best motivational speaker in the region and had many invitations to speak to young turkeys.

Later in her life, when she became famous as a teacher who used story, she received a letter from a Benjamin Franklin. It said simply. "You were the one. Your unbridled spirit was the reason I wanted the turkey as our national symbol." Henrietta never found out what that meant, although it sounded like a compliment. Since she became a famous teacher, I wonder what she told them.

This story is offered as a parable for growth and development for children of any age, including mid-lifers challenged by an encore career.

Benjamin Franklin preferred the Turkey as our national symbol. He wrote "For the Truth the Turkey is in Comparison a much more respectable Bird, and withal a true original Native of America."

If you are lucky and are outdoors enough and in the right place, you might see a wild turkey in Kentucky but you will always find them in a brood. The children and grandchildren of Henrietta may be there. Paschal and Janette are lucky that they occasionally show up close to where they feed the wild deer.

Pictures from our November 2010 Conference!



Interpreter with Octavia Sexton



Conference Chair Betsy Fleischer



Torchbearers (L to R): Carli Robinette, Allison Sherman, Samantha McMillian



Russ Conrad and happy listeners