

Kentucky Storytelling Association Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 2 – Spring issue



Inside this issue

- President's column
- How to find stories
- Quotes on storytelling
- Feature events
- Upcoming events
- KSA Board members
- KSA committee chairpersons

President's column

Several years ago, I had the opportunity to meet Dr. Jane Goodall, the world famous primatologist and humanitarian. We met in St. Louis where she was meeting school children at the St. Louis Science Center and then later in the evening she was giving a speech at the St. Louis Symphony Hall. I was invited by her intern, a former student of mine, to meet in her hotel room to discuss a project we were collaborating on. It was an amazing experience. She makes eye contact the entire time you are speaking with her, which is a little unsettling. She also casually mentions her friends like Colin and Kofi, as in former Secretary of State Colin Powell and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Even though she is famous, she made me feel like the most important person in her world.

Later in the evening, she opened her talk with a story. She told the well known tale about the birds having a contest about who could fly the highest. All of the different birds attempted but as they flew higher and higher, several different types had to fall out of the contest. The eagle flew the highest of all the birds and proclaimed he was the greatest of all. Just at that moment, just as he was getting fatigued, a little jenny wren, who had been nestled in his feathers, flew out and above the eagle. This made her fly the highest and she was the greatest of all the birds.

This short story set up the main point of her talk which was we are all feathers in each other's wings and we need to support, care for, inspire and encourage each other. She even mentioned me by name in her opening as a feather in her wings because I had driven all the way from Kentucky just to speak with her. I was floored! It was well over two weeks before my feet touched the ground. The world would be such a better place if we followed Dr. Jane's example. She demonstrated the power of stories and storytellers. Keep in mind this awesome power you have and use it to make our world a better place. Keep tellin'.

How to Find Stories to Tell

By Mary Hamilton

If you are among those very fortunate people whose older relatives handed down a complete repertoire of family stories, folktales, and more, lucky you – you can stop reading this article right now.

However, if you are more like me – a lover of stories who was not raised on an oral diet of retold folktales, it's time to visit your public library. In the mid-1870s Melvil Dewey created a classification system for organizing the books and catalog of the library at Amherst College. The Dewey Decimal System, now used in libraries worldwide, organizes books by subject. However, this does not mean books of interest to storytellers will all show up side-by-side on library shelves. Why? Because storytellers have broad interests and because storytelling is useful in many fields.

Here's a list to help you browse the nonfiction section of your public library. Just as car sales stickers state, "your mileage may vary," your library may not have made these exact decisions, so if you aren't finding something, ask your librarians.

027.6 In this section are books about libraries for children, so some storytelling resources may be found here.

133.1 Ghosts and other hauntings

220 Bibles and Bible Stories

282 My public library shelves stories about the saints in this section on Roman Catholicism. Your library may use **922.22**, in the collected biographies section.

290s This is where you will find information on religions, other than Christianity. You'll find Greek and Roman mythology in **292**. You'll also find the faith stories of many, many religions. (Yes, the Dewey Decimal system is a bit biased with **201–289** allocated to Christianity and all other religions in the **290s**.)

372.642 Books on storytelling can be found here amidst books about elementary education.

398 Folklore -- If you go nowhere else, go here. **398.2** for folktales, fairy tales, and other narratives. **398.6** for riddles. **398.8** for rhymes. **398.9** for proverbs.

649.58 Books on storytelling can be found here with books on child rearing.

782.1 Opera, including books with the plots/stories told in operas.

792.8 Ballet, including books with the plots/stories told in ballets.

808.543 Books on storytelling can be found here with books on creating speeches.

808.83 Ghost and horror stories.

817 & 818 In my public library, these sections include such diverse literary offerings as short stories by Mark Twain and Saki and collections of Appalachian humor by Billy Edd Wheeler and Loyal Jones.

920s Biographies. Your library may shelve biographies with other nonfiction books or in a separate location. Biographies are arranged by the last name of the person whose life is the subject of the biography. Collected biographies, biographies containing information about more than one person, are shelved according to Dewey Decimal number.

Don't forget to use these same Dewey Decimal numbers to explore the reference section and the children's and young adult sections of your library. Enjoy your library tour. Good luck with your browsing.

By Mary Hamilton – used with permission. For more information visit her website. Learn more about her work at <http://www.maryhamilton.info>

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Quotes About Storytelling From Around the World

"It's very important to instill a [sense of] pride in young people for their indigenous language, their mother tongue, the culture that comes around that language. Every language has got its own way of introducing a story."

- Phyllis Klotz, artistic director of the Sibikwa Community Theatre, **South Africa**
[Once Upon a Time...](#)

"As a boy, I remember sitting by the fireplace listening to my grandfather tell tales. The things he instilled in me were priceless. Morals of honesty, fairness, compassion, treating people fairly. Things that really, really matter."

- Jerry Harmon, storyteller, **North Carolina**
[From Appalachia to the Coastside](#)

"A 9-year-old Salvadoran girl explained to us that she chose a plant as her story's main character because her country had been destroyed by war. She told a story about a plant cutting looking for a place to grow. The metaphor of the plant allowed her to express safely, in an indirect way, her feeling of having lost her roots and the uncertainty about her family's future because their refugee claim had been rejected."

- Cecile Rousseau, M.D., **Montreal, Quebec, Canada**
[Creative Expression Workshops for Immigrant and Refugee Children](#)

"Problems are not going to get solved until we sit down with somebody else and really listen to their stories, so we can get to understand each other rather than blowing each other up. The more we put labels on people, the more we're destined not to know them. When you really know somebody else's story, you can't hate them anymore. It's a wonderful tool for peace."

- Nancy Duncan, storyteller, **Omaha, Nebraska**

[Her Final Story](#)

"We need people to be motivated about coming to work, and storytelling helps us do that. Having a strong team is your competitive advantage. And if we lose that, we lose our business."

- Doug Walker, Chief Executive Officer of WRQ, **Seattle, Washington**

[Moral of Story is that Stories Build Morale](#)

"Almost every other country considers storytelling part of their adult entertainment. Storytelling is the way they perpetuate the culture. We don't have that kind of history of culture in storytelling. Storytelling has sort of been taken over by Disney, and that's why we consider them for children. ... Some of the best stories are adult stories you would never want children to hear."

- Gwen Caldwell, a founding member of the Richardson/Plano Storytelling Guild, **Texas**

[Using Their Words to Paint Pictures](#)

Found at www.storynet-advocacy.org/news/ .

Kentucky Clown Derby

<http://kentuckyclownderby.com>

Clarksville, Indiana - November 1-3 2012

**Calling All Clowns, Magicians, Puppeteers,
Jugglers, Mimes & Storytellers!**

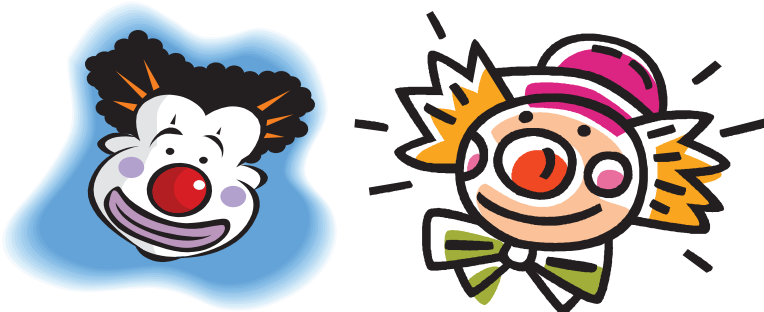
Bringing Excellence to the Performing Arts!

*Come Celebrate, Laugh, and Learn at KCD on our
21st Birthday with our special theme:*

Tribute to the Wizard of OZ!

Please contact me for more information!!

David Claunch 757-340-8972 - or - storyteller@DavidClaunch.com



Spin-A-Yarn Storytelling Festival

We are presenting the 4th annual Spin-A-Yarn Storytelling Festival on Saturday, June 2, 2012 from 11:00-3:00. We are very excited to present storytelling from eleven talented Kentuckiana residents, including Cynthia Changaris and Mandy Dick, who have appeared at the festival all four years. Dawn Gee of WAVE 3 News will also attend the festival again this year. There will be stories appropriate for audiences of all ages, including traditional folk tales and original stories told by their authors. The festival will also feature bluegrass music from The Shuttle Winders, weaving and spinning demonstrations, authentic Cherokee crafts, and historic cabin tours. There will also be a raffle for ten pounds of Kentucky-raised beef.

The first 200 visitors to the Spin-A-Yarn Storytelling Festival will receive a free Little Loomhouse t-shirt. General Admission is \$2.00 per person. Seniors 65 and older will be admitted for \$1.00, and children six and under are free. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. All proceeds benefit The Little Loomhouse. There will be free parking behind DeSales High School at 425 West Kenwood Drive and free TARC Trolley transportation between DeSales and The Little Loomhouse. Please be advised that the Little Loomhouse is in a rustic setting on a steep hill. Access to the storytelling area is via a sloped gravel pathway.

Home of the Happy Birthday Song and founded in 1939 by Master Weaver Lou Tate Bousman, The Little Loomhouse is one of the few organizations devoted to keeping the ancient art of handweaving and its history alive. Since 1979, it has been operated by the nonprofit Lou Tate Foundation, Inc. The Little Loomhouse consists of three restored, century-old, board and batten cabins listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is designated as a Kentucky State Historic Site, and a Louisville Landmark. Volunteers provide tours, demonstrations, classes and special programs on spinning and weaving to persons of all ages. You can learn more about The Little Loomhouse by visiting our website at www.littleloomhouse.org.

UPCOMING STORYTELLING EVENTS OF INTEREST

For more events visit the KSA website calendar@kystory.org

May 2012

Saturday, May 19 – Storytelling in the Mountains, Harlan Depot, 110 River Street, Harlan, KY. A full evening of storytelling from some of Kentucky's finest storytellers. 6:00 p.m. Free.

Contact: Pam Holcomb, 606-573-4376 or pbholcomb@msn.com This event is a fundraiser for KSA and is co-sponsored by the Harlan County Cooperative Extension.

Saturday, May 26 – Indiana Storyteller’s Workshop and Retreat, 10 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. The Artist’s Colony Inn, 105 South Van Buren Street, Nashville, IN Cost: \$95 includes lunch. To register and learn more, contact Addie Hirschten at www.fantasticfables.net or email fantasticfables@gmail.com

Monday, May 28 - Wandering Storytellers, featuring Mary Hamilton from Frankfort, Kentucky, who will be telling stories from her new book “Kentucky Folktales”, and Seth Tuska from Lexington, Kentucky. 8:00 p.m. Tuska House, 147 Old Park Avenue (corner of Old Park and Central), Lexington, KY. This event raises funds to support Kentucky Storytelling Association programs and projects. Admission: \$5 donation suggested. Information: [KSA Wandering Storytellers](#)

JUNE 2012

June 2 Louisville, KY 4th annual Spin-A-Yarn Storytelling Festival on Saturday, June 2, 2012 from 11:00-3:00. www.littleloomhouse.org.

June 21-23, 2012 Georgetown, KY. Sixth annual CSN (Christian Storytelling Network) Storytelling-In-Ministry Conference. Harmony Christian Church. Ministry focused workshops on the finer mechanics of using storytelling in your ministry. For ministry leaders, lay workers, and anyone desiring to communicate their faith more effectively through story. Registration and information soon to be available at www.thechristianstoryteller.com.

Monday, June 25 - Wandering Storytellers, 8:00 p.m. Tuska House, 147 Old Park Avenue (corner of Old Park and Central), Lexington, KY - - This event raises funds to support Kentucky Storytelling Association programs and projects. Admission: \$5 donation suggested. Information: [KSA Wandering Storytellers](#)

June 27, 2012 Cincinnati, OH. The Healing Story Alliance Pre-Conference; The Healing Process of Storytelling: A Kaleidoscope of our Experiences, featuring keynotes Deena Metzger and Laura Simms. Focus: Clarifying the essence of healing storytelling and continuing to illumine its meaning for tellers as well as for listeners and partners as we discover the who, what, where and how healing storytelling is being used for individuals and groups including families, medical and mental health, educational and community settings. For more information, contact Lani Peterson, Lani@lanipeterson.com.

June 28 – July 1. National Storytelling Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio (actually held in Covington, KY) Learn more at www.storynet.org or call 800-525-4514.

JULY 2012

Friday, July 6 – “Adventures in the Night” stories for families, told by Mary Hamilton, Midway Branch Library 400 Northside Drive, Midway, KY at 4:00 p.m.; Woodford County Library, 115 North Main Street, Versailles, KY at 7:00 p.m. Free. Contact the library 859-873-5191 to learn if pre-registration is needed.

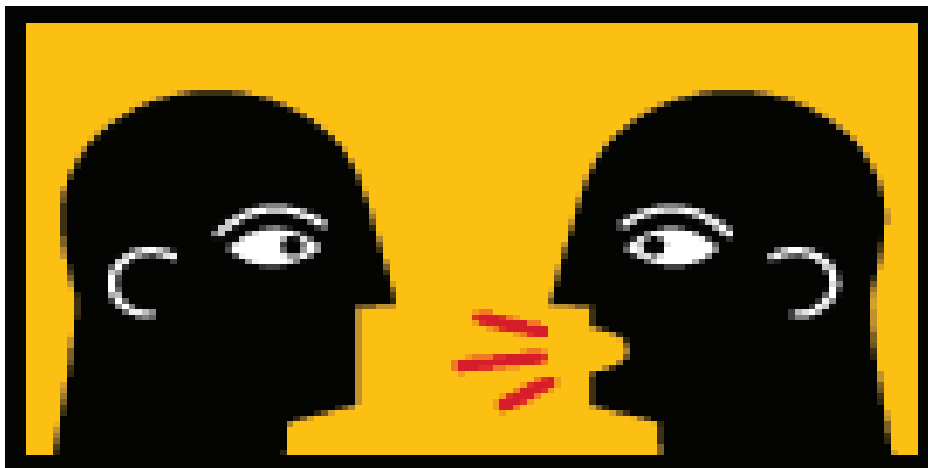
Monday, July 9 - “Adventures in the Night” stories for families, told by Mary Hamilton, Green County Public Library, 112 West Court Street, Greensburg, KY. 5:00 p.m. Free. Contact the library 270-932-7081 to learn if pre-registration is needed.

Tuesday, July 10 - “Adventures in the Night” stories for families, told by Mary Hamilton, Estill County Public Library, 246 Main Street, Irvine, KY. 1:00 p.m. Free. Contact the library 606-723-3030 to learn if pre-registration is needed.

Thursday, July 12 - “Tales to Feed Your Nightmares” stories for teens and adults, Scott County Public Library, 104 S. Bradford Lane, Georgetown, KY. Free. Contact the library 502-863-3566 to learn if pre-registration is needed.

Monday, July 30 - Wandering Storytellers Story Slam, 8:00 p.m. Tuska House, 147 Old Park Avenue (corner of Old Park and Central), Lexington, KY – Story Slam contestants compete for cash prizes by telling five-minute stories. This event raises funds to support Kentucky Storytelling Association programs and projects. Admission: \$5 donation suggested. Information: KSA Wandering Storytellers

Do you know of an open-to-the-public storytelling event happening in Kentucky or the adjoining states — Missouri, Illinois, West Virginia, Virginia, Indiana, or Tennessee? Send event details to calendar@kystory.org or mail to: KSA, P O Box 4148, Frankfort, KY 40604-4148. Events are posted on the KSA Website Event Calendar at www.kystory.org. Selected events are also printed in the KSA newsletter



Your KSA Board Members are:

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President@kystory.org

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At-Large 2 Board Member, Octavia Sexton

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KSA has no paid employees, so all work is done by Board Members and Committee Members and additional volunteers. Want to help? Volunteer to work with a committee. Learn more about any KSA Committee by contacting the Committee Chair below:

Conference:

Betsy Fleischer, conference@kystory.org
or 859-734-3194

Kentucky Youth Storytelling Showcase:

Pam Holcomb, kyss@kystory.org
or 606-573-4367

Wandering Storytellers:

Charles Wright, 502-223-4523 or
wanderingtellers@kystory.org

Website & KSA Facebook Page:

Laura Seaman, website@kystory.org
or 270-543-8127

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Octavia Sexton, fundraising@kystory.org
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Membership:

Russ Conrad, membership@kystory.org
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Nominating:

Donna Slaton, nominating@kystory.org
270-871-3719 (This is the committee to contact
if you are interested in Board service.)