

Kentucky Storytelling Association Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 4 – Fall issue



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President's column

“Tell me a story”. I seriously doubt there is a more honorable request of a person. Stories are special and can be used in so many different ways. Several of us are telling ghost stories on weekends right now. I use storytelling in the classroom nearly every day. Politicians use stories to try to convince us to vote for them. Ok, bad example, but we do have whoppers and liars contests in the storytelling world, so it might fit.

The other night as I put a 7 year old and a 2 year old to bed, they asked me to tell them about the *Ghost with the one black eye*. I was tired and worn out from an extremely long day and was in no mood to talk, let alone tell a story. Then the 2 year old said, “Peeeez.” I stopped for a second and thought about what a jerk I was being. All they wanted was a story and an extra 5 minutes of my time. Then I ripped into the *Ghost with the one black eye* with enthusiasm and excitement. Their giggles and laughter was a salve for my tired old soul. I left their rooms with a spring in my step and I slept great that night. So did they. It is an honor to be asked to tell a story and you should never pass up the opportunity to do so. I would venture to guess you will get as much out of it as your audience. Let's keep tellin'.

I want to thank everyone for their hard work during my term as President of the Kentucky Storytellers Association. I am always delighted to meet new people and serving on the board the past two years has been enjoyable. As I depart I wish continued success to the KSA, its board and all of the members. Keep up the good work of continuing and promoting storytelling in and around our great state of Kentucky

Kentucky Storytelling Conference

Come to the 2012 Kentucky Storytelling Conference, October 19 and 20 at Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park, near Carlisle, KY (on US 68 just 40 miles north of Lexington). The Kentucky Storytelling Conference is held in a fully accessible location, and ASL interpreters are provided at all sessions. KSA produces this annual event to help us reach our goal of providing education about the art of storytelling for everyone.

The conference opens on Friday evening October 19th with an open mic storytelling concert from 8:00 – 9:30 p.m. Anyone may sign up to tell a story up to ten minutes long. The concert will be followed by a Late Night Story Slam from 10 – 11:30. The Story Slam features competitive storytelling with a five-minute time limit. Anyone may enter. Volunteer judges are also needed (Family member of entrants not allowed to judge!) The Story Slam includes prizes, and ties are broken with run-off tellings of shorter and shorter stories to determine the Story Slam winner.

On Saturday morning, events get underway with a Silent Story Bingo Game at 8:30 a.m. This game provides a fun way for folks to get to know one another. The official welcome happens at 9:00 a.m. to kick off a day of storytelling workshops and open mic sessions running until 6:15 p.m. After a dinner break, participants can enjoy a final evening of open mic storytelling from 8 – 10 p.m.

The call for Workshop Proposals went out and folks responded! Here are the workshops selected for the 2012 Kentucky Storytelling Conference.

Thomas Freese, a KSA member from Louisville, KY, will present two sessions, *Ghostly Tales* and *Story Maps*. Thomas is an author, storyteller, and visual artist. He has authored eight books, most of them related to ghosts and other haunting appearances. In his *Ghostly Tales* workshop he will be discussing ghost story themes, matching ghostly tales with appropriate audiences, and more. Drawing upon his visual arts background, Thomas will help participants learn about story maps and how to use them in his *Story Maps* session. Thomas has presented at the Kentucky Storytelling Conference in the past and his workshops have always been well-received.

Paschal Baute, another KSA member, will co-present the session *Skin in the Game: Response of Repeat Addictive Offenders to Storytelling in a Rehab Setting* with **Charles W. Taylor**. Paschal Baute is a pastoral psychologist who has presented at several Kentucky Storytelling Conferences. Charles W. Taylor is a graduate of the Fayette County Drug Court and is the first ex-felon approved for volunteer service by the Fayette County Detention Center. Charles writes short essays about his journey into addiction and back to healthy living. Both Paschal and Charles frequently tell stories at KSA's Wandering Storytellers events in Lexington, KY where both reside.

Otto and Katie Ross, KSA members from West Virginia, return this year with two new workshops. Kentucky Storytelling Conference attendees may remember them from the 2011 conference when they presented on incorporating music into storytelling. This year they will draw upon Katie's experience teaching Spanish plus Otto's musical talents for *Stories, Spanish, Songs Olé*, a session where they will

share ways of incorporating Spanish and music into storytelling for language acquisition and cultural understanding. They will also lead *So You Want to Tell a Whopper?* a session on tall tales.

Brenda Pritchett, of Columbus, Mississippi will draw upon her thirty plus years as a children's librarian to present *The Magical World of Storytelling for Young Children*. This participation based workshop will be filled with numerous ways to engage children in storytelling, including using call and response, musical choruses, chants, and more.

Chris King, active member of O.O. P. S. (Ohio Order for the Preservation of Storytelling) and Cleveland resident, will present two sessions for us. In *How to Use the Power of Story for Healing*, Chris will address the why, who, what, when, where, and how of using the power of story and storytelling for healing. In *How to Bring History to Life through Storytelling*, Chris will lead an interactive session on taking history, a subject she dreaded in school, and enlivening it through storytelling.

Pat Nease from Panama City, Florida, brings her experience telling funny stories throughout Florida and beyond to her workshop session, *What's So Funny? The Bare Bones of Rib-tickling Tales*. The exploratory, participatory workshop examines the benefits of humor and specific strategies for adding humor to stories, storytelling, and just about anything else you might be called upon to present.

Full Conference registrations, which include all events from Friday evening through the close of the Saturday night concert, are \$50 per person or \$120 for a family of three or more at the door.

Do you love storytelling, but have little interest in workshops? Then plan to attend just the evening concerts at a cost of \$5 per person or \$10 per family. Concert- only admissions are paid at the door, and concerts begin at 8:00 p.m. both Friday and Saturday nights.

Lodging is available at the Blue Licks Battlefield State Park Lodge, and there is a restaurant on site. For park lodging information call 800-443-7008. The park offers cottages and camping too. Lodging and food at a variety of prices can also found in nearby Maysville, Kentucky.

Thanks go out to our 2012 Conference partner, the Knowledge Center on Deafness. Their partnership helps us maintain high quality ASL interpreters at the Kentucky Storytelling Conference and assists us in making sure storytelling is indeed an art form that communicates with everyone.

Your job as a KSA Member? Tell everyone you know about this event and encourage them to come. If you'd like to receive some postcards to help you spread the word about the 2012 Kentucky Storytelling Conference, contact Betsy Fleischer, Conference Chair at 859-734-3194 or conference@kystory.org. Your help spreading the word is both needed and greatly appreciated. Let's make this our best Kentucky Storytelling Conference yet!

KSA BOARD ELECTIONS

Normally we would have sent the ballot out by now but we do not have a full slate yet -

This is YOUR chance to serve on the board and help KSA continue to promote and share storytelling.

Nominations for 2012-13 so far are:

Donna F. Slaton for President-Elect

Mary Ann Zoll for Treasurer

Jerry B Young for Quadrant 4 Director

We still need volunteers to run for Quadrant 1 (Western Kentucky - Bowling Green, Leitchfield - west etc.)

and

an At Large Director (can be from any area of the state or one of our out of state members).

If you are interested, please contact Donna F. Slaton, nominating committee 270-871-3719 by October 10. Board members are expected to attend 4 board meetings a year including the one Sunday morning after the conference and also serve on one active committee such as membership, audit, programs etc. (other board meetings are Saturdays - Feb, May & August chosen by current board)

Due to time constraints, we expect to hold election at the Conference with an email ballot available to anyone who cannot attend. *(Bylaws plan for mailed ballots were set with November conference dates and that has changed due to circumstances beyond our control)*

Please contact President Jeff Jones, if you cannot reach me 270-993-6693
President@kystory.org

Donna F. Slaton (Nominating committee, and past president)
270-871-3719
donna@misspockets3.com

"Sevens" and Ways to Use the Magic of Numbers for Storytelling

By *Chris King* www.creativekeys.net

Previously, I wrote about the prevalence of the number "three" in stories and story structure. Because this article received a great deal of attention, I decided it was time to investigate another number that crops up in titles, how-to's and stories - the number *seven*. After several hours of research about the number seven, I not only learned more than you and I would ever need or want to know about the number *seven*, but also found that this investigation sparked many other ideas about using numbers to enhance our storytelling and our story choosing. In this article, I will share some interesting facts and superstitions about the number *seven*, refer to stories with seven characters, and also some other thoughts about numbers in general.



Why *seven*? A brief overview of the history.

The number *seven* was considered sacred not only by all the cultured nations of antiquity and the East, but was held in the greatest reverence even by the later nations of the West. The astronomical origin of this number is established beyond any doubt. Man, feeling himself time out of mind dependent upon the heavenly powers, ever and everywhere made earth subject to heaven. The largest and brightest of the luminaries thus became in his sight the most important and highest of powers; such were the planets which the whole antiquity numbered as *seven*.

In course of time these were transformed into seven deities. The Egyptians had *seven* original and higher gods; the Phœnicians *seven* kabiris; the Persians, *seven* sacred horses of Mithra; the Parsees, *seven* angels opposed by *seven* demons, and *seven* celestial abodes paralleled by *seven* lower regions. To represent the more clearly this idea in its concrete form, the *seven* gods were often represented as one *seven*-headed deity. The whole heaven was subjected to the *seven* planets; hence, in nearly all the religious systems we find *seven* heavens.

Other seven facts and uses:

- Considered a number that signifies both perfection and luck, *seven* pops up in many places. One of the best and most recommended self improvement books to be written during the past 25 years is Stephen R. Covey's ***The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*** (by all means, a spiritual approach to living).
- There are a plethora of important "Sevens" all of which include related stories that in themselves could become a storytelling program with a theme. For example, can you imagine a program that includes a story from each of the **Seven Deadly Sins** (pride, covetousness, lust, envy, gluttony, anger and sloth)? Right away I can think of a great story that would fit each of these. And, just think of the crowds you would interest with the title, *Stories from the Seven Deadly Sins*.
- Or, maybe the **Seven Natural Wonders of the World** (Mt. Everest, Victoria Falls, The Grand Canyon, The Great Barrier Reef, The Northern Lights, Paricutin and the Harbor at Rio de Janeiro). Besides stories surrounding their history and formation, there are many true life stories that have taken place in their presence. For example, I just finished a book about those who have tackled Mt. Everest - some who made it and some who didn't.
- Did you know that the **Seven Senses** include animation, feeling, speech, taste, sight, hearing and smelling? A current belief about the number *seven* is that if you include it in the price of a product you are selling (especially over the Internet), you will sell more. It is truly a magic number in that sense, because it works.

Have you ever heard of Seventh Son of a Seventh Son? *Seven* is the most mystical and magical of numbers, and in the lore of folk magic, the seventh son of a seventh son is believed to be born with formidable magical and healing powers: he is clairvoyant, capable of casting powerful spells, and possesses the ability to heal by a laying on of hands. This reminded me of a rather unusual story called ***The Seventh Father of the House***. A folktale from Norway, this story tells of a traveler who asks permission to stay the night and is directed to a series of fathers until he finds the oldest and seventh ("the true father of the house"). For some reason, this has always been an unsettling story for me, but one I remember. You can find a copy of it included in Jane Yolen's *Favorite Folktales from around the World*.

A few other stories with sevens include *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, *The Seven Ravens* and *The Seven Swabians*. I wonder what stories with *sevens* you know or have heard. Please send me names and sources. This whole quest has become fascinating.

Additional thoughts about numbers and storytelling. As I was searching for stories that included seven in the title, or *seven* objects and/or characters within the story, I was struck with how many stories and story titles include a number. Of course, there are a huge number with "three" and there are a range of stories with "twelve," "six," "four," and "two." As I pursued this number project, I began to get ideas for storytelling programs: *Seven Scintillating Stories of Sins*, *Understanding the Meaning of the Numbers Found in Stories* (workshop), *Why Don't We Find Stories with Fives or Eights?*

Final thoughts about this project. I hope by working through this different approach to my articles and storytelling, I have sparked a new interest in your thinking about how to plan a completely different program or workshop. Or, at least, to take an afternoon to research a topic that holds some interest for you. We are so fortunate in this day and age to have the tremendous amount of information easily available on the Internet.

Fringe Performance Opportunity

**NSN Conference – August 1 – 4, 2013
Richmond, Virginia**

The Fringe @ the NSN is back for its 7th Season!

Explore the limits of storytelling at the National Storytelling Conference.

Want to present 55 minutes of your most compelling, riskiest, experimental or work in progress storytelling? How about a mini-fringe event with you and a friend in a pair of shorter performances? Just think of the possibilities: 55 minutes of folktales, autobiography, performance art, stand-up, puppetry, dance or your favorite long form story!

What is the Fringe? The NSN Conference Fringe follows the Fringe Festival model giving artists freedom to create and audiences "the ability to decide for themselves the truly great productions from the good, the bad and the gloriously disastrous." In keeping with the Fringe principle of an un-juried selection process, Fringe performers for the 2013 National Storytelling Network Conference will be selected by public lottery.

Growing networks of performance venues all over the world have adopted this model and many storytellers are taking advantage of these venues to reach new audiences. The Conference Fringe encourages more storytellers to participate in

American and Canadian Fringe Festivals by providing the opportunity for you to experience many aspects of a typical Fringe Festival including the selection process and performance framework.

Deadline: October 31, 2012

NSN Fringe Lottery and Eligibility Information at: <http://www.storynet.org/conference/fringe.html>

Or contact Barbara Schutzgruber at barb@weavestory.com

UPCOMING STORYTELLING EVENTS OF INTEREST

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

October 2012

October 19-20 - Kentucky Storytelling Conference at Blue Licks State Resort Park, Carlisle, KY. The Conference includes workshops, performances, a story slam contest, open mic opportunities, and more. To reserve your park lodge room, call (800) 443-7008 and ask for a room on hold for the Kentucky Storytelling Conference. More information at [KY Storytelling Conference](#)

Sunday, October 21 – Kentucky Storytelling Association Board Meeting, Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park, Carlisle, KY. For specific meeting location and time details, contact Russ Conrad, president-elect@kystory.org

Friday, October 26 – Festival of Ghost Stories, 7 - 8:30 p.m. Bryan Park, Bloomington, IN (Rain location: Monroe Co. Public Library Auditorium) A free outside concert of ghastly tales told in the dark at Bryan Park. Dress for the cold. Join the crowd for this 30-year Bloomington tradition presented the Friday before Halloween. Adults, Teens, OLDER school age children; NOT appropriate for young children. Information contact Ginny Richey btownstorytellers@gmail.com or Stephanie Holman libyq@yahoo.com

Friday, October 26 – Feed your Nightmares, 7:00 p.m. Chilling and haunting tales for teens and adults told by Mary Hamilton, Gallatin County Public Library, 209 West Market Street, Warsaw, KY 41095. Learn more: 859-567-2786.

Saturday, October 27 – Halloween Tales at Blackacre, is a State nature preserve and historic homestead at 3200 Tucker Station Rd. Louisville, KY. (Near the Taylorsville and Gene Snyder intersection) Tellers include: Graham Shelby, Bob Thompson, Mary Hamilton, John Gage, and Nana Yaa Asantewaa. Tickets can be purchased at the gate - \$4 per adult, \$10 per car load, kids under 10 are free.

Monday, October 29 - Wandering Storytellers, featuring Octavia Sexton who loves telling scary tales, plus time for open mic storytelling, so come to listen and/or to tell. 7:00 p.m. **Because of location problems, this event is currently on hold. To learn if a new location has been found, contact Charles Wright at-large1@kystory.org or Maryann Zoll quad4@kystory.org** This event raises funds to support Kentucky Storytelling Association programs and projects. Admission: \$5 donation suggested. Information: [KSA Wandering Storytellers](#)

Tuesday, October 30, The Moth Louisville Story Slam. 7:00 Doors open, 8:00 Stories begin. Headliners Music Hall, 1386 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY. Theme: The Finish Line. Admission: \$8.00. Media Sponsor: WFPL. This venue is 21+ only.

November 2012

Saturday, November 3, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Lou Ann Homan, presents Amazing Grace, a Frank Basile Emerging Stories event. Frank and Katrina Basile Theater, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, 450 W. Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202. Advance Tickets - Tickets \$10, Door \$15. To buy tickets, call 317-232-1882 or buy online at www.storytellingarts.org

Monday, November 12 - As I Recall Storytelling Guild, 1:00 – 3:00, Hancock County Public Library, 900 West McKenzie, Greenfield, IN 46140. 317-462-5141. Come try out a story or just listen at this free and open to the public monthly event, a partnership with Storytelling Arts of Indiana and the Hancock County Public Library. For more information call Storytelling Arts of Indiana, 317-576-9848 or Ellen@storytellingarts.org.

Wednesday, November 21 - As I Recall Storytelling Guild, 2:00 – 4:00, Glendale Branch Public Library, 6101 N. Keystone Avenue, Indianapolis, IN Come try out a story or just listen at this free and open to the public monthly event, a partnership with Storytelling Arts of Indiana and the Indianapolis Marion County Public Library. For more information call Storytelling Arts of Indiana, 317-576-9848 or Ellen@storytellingarts.org.

Monday, November 26 - Wandering Storytellers, featured tellers, plus time for open mic storytelling, so come to listen and/or to tell. 7:00 p.m. Location: To be announced. This event raises funds to support Kentucky Storytelling Association programs and projects. Admission Free; \$5 donation suggested. For more information, visit [KSA Wandering Storytellers](#)

Tuesday, November 27, The Moth Louisville Story Slam. 7:00 Doors open, 8:00 Stories begin. Headliners Music Hall, 1386 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY. Theme: Taking Sides. Admission: \$8.00. Media Sponsor: WFPL. This venue is 21+ only.

December 2012

Saturday, December 1, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Christmas in the Trenches featuring John McCutcheon, sponsored by the Storytelling Arts of Indiana Endowment. Frank and Katrina Basile Theater, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, 450 W. Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202. Advance Tickets - Tickets \$20, Door \$25. To buy tickets, call 317-232-1882 or buy online at www.storytellingarts.org

Wednesday, December 5, River Town Storytellers, Ohio Township Central Public Library, 411 Lake Shore Drive, Newburgh, IN 47630. 6:00pm Business, 7:00pm Storytelling & Story Listening. Coordinators/Tellers: Mary Jo Huff & Jeff Jones. Learn more at 1-800-213-0527.

Monday, December 10 - As I Recall Storytelling Guild, 1:00 – 3:00, Hancock County Public Library, 900 West McKenzie, Greenfield, IN 46140. 317-462-5141. Come try out a story or just listen at this free and open to the public monthly event, a partnership with Storytelling Arts of Indiana and the Hancock County Public Library. For more information call Storytelling Arts of Indiana, 317-576-9848 or Ellen@storytellingarts.org.

Wednesday, December 19 - As I Recall Storytelling Guild, 2:00 – 4:00, Glendale Branch Public Library, 6101 N. Keystone Avenue, Indianapolis, IN Come try out a story or just listen at this free and open to the public monthly event, a partnership with Storytelling Arts of Indiana and the Indianapolis Marion County Public Library. For more information call Storytelling Arts of Indiana, 317-576-9848 or Ellen@storytellingarts.org.

Tuesday, December 18, The Moth Louisville Story Slam. 7:00 Doors open, 8:00 Stories begin. Headliners Music Hall, 1386 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY. Theme: Aftermath. Admission: \$8.00. Media Sponsor: WFPL. This venue is 21+ only.

Monday, December 31 - Wandering Storytellers, featured tellers, plus time for open mic storytelling, so come to listen and/or to tell. 7:00 p.m. Location: To be announced. This event raises funds to support Kentucky Storytelling Association programs and projects. Admission: \$5 donation suggested. Information: KSA Wandering Storytellers

January 2013

Saturday, January 19, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Hello Ricky Nelson, Goodbye Heart, told by Barbara McBride Smith, sponsored by Beth Millett. Frank and Katrina Basile Theater, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, 450 W. Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202. Advance Tickets - Tickets \$20, Door \$25. To buy tickets, call 317-232-1882 or buy online at www.storytellingarts.org

Friday, January 25, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. John Dillinger, told by Sally Perkins. This program is part of the *Sharing Hoosier History through Stories* collaboration between the Indiana Historical Society and Storytelling Arts of Indiana. Frank and Katrina Basile Theater, Eugene and Marilyn

Glick Indiana History Center, 450 W. Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202. Advance Tickets - Tickets \$20, Door \$25. To buy tickets, call 317-232-1882 or buy online at www.storytellingarts.org

Monday, January 28 - Wandering Storytellers, 7:00 p.m. Location: To be announced.- 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:

President, Jeff Jones (Term ends 10/21/12)

612 Maple Avenue, Owensboro, KY 42301

270-993-6693

President@kystory.org

President-elect, Russ Conrad

226 W Shelby Street, Falmouth, KY 41040-1140

Day: 859-654-3358 Cell: 859-462-1567 Night: 859-654-8226

President-Elect@kystory.org

Secretary, Mary Hamilton

65 Springhill Road, Frankfort, KY 40601-9211

502-223-4523

Secretary@kystory.org

Treasurer- vacant

Quadrant 1 Board Member-Vacant

Quad1@kystory.org

Quadrant 2 Board Member, Millicent Bond

284 Maple Grove Road, Orlando, KY 40460

Quad2@kystory.org

Quadrant 3 Board Member, Gwenda Johnson

P.O. Box 709, Sandy Hook, KY 41171

Quad3@kystory.org

Quadrant 4 Board Member, Maryann Zoll

386 Hurt Lane, Lancaster, KY 40444

(859)339-8009

Quad4@kystory.org

At-Large 1 Board Member, Charles Wright

65 Springhill Road, Frankfort, KY 40601-9211

502-223-4523

At-large1@kystory.org

At-Large 2 Board Member, (Term ends 10/21/12)

874 Big Cave Road, Orlando, KY 40460

Home: 606-256-9796 Cell: 606-308-4203

At-large2@kystory.org

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:

Fundraising: Octavia Sexton, fundraising@kystory.org or 606-308-4203

Membership: Russ Conrad, membership@kystory.org or 859-654-3358

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