



Kentucky Storytelling Association

April 2007 Support and Appreciation for the Art of Storytelling In Kentucky Volume 3 Issue 2

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Useful Links:

KSA Website

www.kystory.org

National Storytelling Network Website

www.storynet.org

Contact your Board

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Quadrant 1, Ann Roseberry

From our President Don "Buck" Creacy

I just got back from the neatest place on the internet—our website—www.kystory.org. Have you seen it lately? It is really neat. Now I hope that you are taking advantage of our website. Post your events on the Calendar Page, advertise your skills in the Directory, network with other tellers in their efforts to promote storytelling in Kentucky, contact the Committees with your concerns or desire to help. Our website is growing and getting better all the time. Soon the Youth Teller page will be up and running and the Links page will become a very useful tool for you and anyone interested in stories.

I am happy to report that the Youth Teller Committee is truly making in-roads. This week, I understand that the Kentucky Department of Education assigned a point person to assist us in our efforts to hold the first ever Kentucky Division Competition of the National Youth Storytelling Showcase. The Mountain Arts Center, the Kentucky State Fair, and the Glema Mahr Center for the Arts have agreed to provide facilities free of charge. Octavia Sexton and Pamela Holcomb have been busy making preparations for the success of this program. See the news release in this issue.

I hear that our Annual Storytelling Conference is going to be fantastic this year and you can now make your reservations for November 2 & 3 at Dale Hollow State Park. Mention our KSA Conference to get a discounted room rate.

Natasha's Café has turned into a great deal of fun. Paschal Baute will be telling on Monday, April 30 at 9 pm. I know that 9 pm is past some folk's bedtime, including mine, but I risked it and had a wonderful time. I can't wait to go back. So far, the place has been full with just a few seats open each and every time. Reservations are recommended; call 859-259-2754.

There is a lot going on and a place for you all to get involved. Call a Committee Chair, make a mark for storytelling. Everything we do is done by Member Volunteers full of passion.

Youth Storytelling

KSA promotes KY Division Competition of the National Youth Storytelling Showcase

The Kentucky Storytelling Association is proud to announce the first annual Kentucky Division Competition of the National Youth Storytelling Showcase. This will be a statewide competition with entrants invited to participate from all counties, the elementary, middle and high school age levels are included in the Kentucky portion of the National Showcase. Each school/organization must submit an "intent to participate" form to the KSA prior to May 31, 2007. This

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Announcements

Trena Cornett, KSA member from Loyal, Kentucky has been appointed to fill the Quadrant 2 Director vacancy on the KSA Board. Her appointment was effective beginning March 3, 2007.

All members are eligible to serve on the KSA Board. Elections will take place in September, so it's not too early to consider Board service. To learn more about the duties and responsibilities of Board members and which positions will be open in the coming election cycle, please contact Mary

form will soon be available electronically on the website. Schools will hold their own in-organization Story Swap contests to choose one solo storyteller. Also they must choose one tandem team of two-four tellers to be their representatives at the state semi-final competition in August, 2007.

The semi-final competitions are set for three separate venues: The Kentucky State Fair, on August 24th, 2007, the Glema Mahr Center for the Arts, Madisonville, KY, on September 14th, 2007, and the Mountain Arts Center, on October 9th, 2007. The student(s) may only participate in the one semi-final venue that their school selected on the "intent to participate" form. Each venue will have the following Torchbearer winners, Elementary Age, Middle School Age, High School Age, and Tandem Storytelling Teams. For entry details, go to www.kystory.org, click "Projects and Activities," and then click "Youth Teller Competition" for complete rules, forms and guidelines. We are in the process of updating and automating the information & forms on the webpage. Please be patient, and we will have it updated in a few days.

We are hopefully recommending that at least one person from each school or organization join the Kentucky Storytelling Association; to expedite timely updates, the latest schedules, judging criteria, performance tips and other support for your students. We will do our best to keep all groups informed of the latest developments and schedules. The best way to receive current information is through the KSA Communication Website and Member Services Email Alerts.

Growing support for the statewide competition is evident in the number of organizations who have already committed to helping the KSA be successful in conducting our portion of this national competition. Let me thank them now in advance. They include:

- Mountain Arts Center, Prestonsburg, KY
- Glema Mahr Center for the Arts, Madisonville, KY
- 4-H Clubs of Kentucky
- Kentucky State Fair, Louisville, August 24
- The Knowledge Center on Deafness
- The Kentucky Department of Education
- The KSA Board
- The Schools and Teachers who have already tried to sign up

Please check the website often for updates and Project Schedule.

KSA Fundraising Committee Pilots Mail Campaign

On January 20, 2007, our current Board of Directors, Officers, & Committee Chairs gathered around a table and discussed our KSA goals, projects, and our fiscal responsibilities in order to meet them. All Committees weighed in with their budgets and concerns, some were visionary, and all were realistic. At the end of that meeting, the Fundraising Committee accepted the mandate. "Raise \$14,000 to meet the fiscal needs of the each Committee and Project for the KSA during 2007."

Raising money for our non-profit organization is a responsibility our Committee does not take lightly. We have all seen poor examples of fund-raising. We have all seen negative appeal techniques used to manipulate funds from supporters. The Fund-raising Committee has pledged to work with honor and

Hamilton, nominating committee chair, at 502-223-4523 or mary@maryhamilton.info

You may now find the event Calendar posted on the KSA website. Thank you, KSA Members, for your submissions to KSA website Storytelling Event Calendar. Visit the calendar at www.kystory.org and you'll see the once empty Event Calendar is now filled with storytelling events. Please keep those event submissions coming. All **open to the public** storytelling events (performances, workshops, swaps, etc.) in Kentucky and adjoining states are eligible. To be sure your submission will be included, send it in by the first day of the preceding month. For example, June events must be received by May 1 to guarantee placement on the website calendar. As you'll see when you visit, you are welcome to submit events months and month ahead to help folks plan their participation. Thanks for helping your Kentucky Storytelling Association succeed in providing this online service.

Alison Cheek will make a presentation at the Kentucky Storyteller's Association at the Kentucky Public Library Association Conference on April 26, 2007. If you would like your business cards, flyers, etc,

dignity in our fund-raising efforts.

You also need to know that every single one of your KSA Board Members donates cash and countless hours of volunteer services to your KSA and the projects we all enjoy. We agreed unanimously that we could not ask you to give, if we—the Board—did not already all give our own money. We believe that storytelling and its promotion holds a significant place in the great list of important works. Some of your KSA Officers make an electronic monthly donation through their banking services. Odds are that your bank can also help you with this method of giving.

The Fund-raising Committee wants no bad images to attach themselves to the KSA as an organization or as the Committee. Therefore, we have been very careful about our planning and selection of fund-raising techniques. We have done a lot of research and feel our efforts will be a tiered approach including several methods. Our mail campaign pilot is for KSA MEMBERS ONLY. This is to gauge our effectiveness and public response to our mailed appeals. We need your feedback and help. Here is how you can do it...

Soon you will receive a letter from the Fundraising Committee in the mail. Take a moment and look at the envelope. Does it look neat, professional? On the inside, you will find a cover letter from the Committee Chair asking you to vote for your preference on the wording of three brief letters of appeal, the three candidate letters, and a self-addressed, stamped return envelope. Please select the best letter and vote your rate of approval with a bill between one and five dollars. Return the letter with your vote, comments, and/or letter edits.

Yes we will give you tax receipt for your voted cash. Yes, it is a little tiny fundraiser but actually, it is just a bit of insurance to cover the postage costs. More importantly, we will have a better idea of which letter has the best appeal. That vital piece of information is what we need, before we send out 2000 letters to story-loving individuals. I hope I can count on your vote, support, and commitment to spreading the art of storytelling in Kentucky. Thank you! Fundraising Committee Chair Buck P. Creacy

Member Spotlight

March 25, 2007 interview with Dee Smith

Dee is a resident of Breckenridge County, KY. She lives near Irvington. She works at Irvington Elementary School as a speech pathologist. When we talked on the phone, she reported that her pygmy goat, which is black with white on one side, was eating the honeysuckle.

Why did you join KSA?

I met Cynthia Changaris years ago at a preschool conference. So I attended some workshops and I got the opportunity to have contact with storytellers. I guess I got involved for selfish reasons. I have a love of storytellers. I did storytelling with my school classes a couple of years ago. Storytelling is good to help children with their oral/language development. Children are able to listen and I found storytelling was a good way to accomplish that. I was raised up in a family of storytellers; storytelling was a way of learning. I learned a lot of stuff. My family traveled around country. Some of the better tellers were mostly drunk; there wasn't much truth to it but it was good storytelling.

displayed during the presentation, please contact Alison at acheek@insightbb.com by April 12th.

On Saturday, April 14, 11:00 a.m. Fiona Page will perform at the Bards and Storytellers Series, at the American Printing House for the Blind Callahan Museum, 1839 Frankfort Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky. Fiona tells stories rooted in her southern heritage—stories about tricksters, ghosts, swamp tales and tales from her unique experiences and the dynamics of everyday life. Fiona is a member of the National Storytelling Network and a member and past president of the Southern Order of Storytellers in Atlanta, Georgia. Learn more at www.fionapage.com. Bards & Storytellers is a folklore, arts, and performance series that explores the history of blind entertainers. More than a performance, each event includes a discussion with the performers about life events that influenced their careers. Admission: Free, but space is limited. Contact: Mike Hudson to make a reservation by April 12 at 502-899-2365.

Bluegrass Guild for Healing Stories will meet on Sunday, May 13, 2-4 pm at the Eagle Creek Library, Lexington. This meeting will include story-swaps. KSA members and Spellbinders are

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

I have enjoyed knowing that there are workshops in the area. I've also enjoyed newsletters and the bulletins with jobs for storytellers. I enjoy knowing that the storytelling events are happening and I look forward to meeting other storytellers. I joined KSA about six months ago.

What kind of stories do you enjoy?

I like jack stories; I'm intrigued by jack stories. I have heard some of the prince and princess stories that Mary Hamilton has told. My grandpa was a good storyteller.

I've heard some good tellers. I like coyote stories, tales by Pleasant DeSpain.

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

It's made my life! I was raised up with stories. It is easier to make something funnier with stories, to entertain people. Storytelling keeps me balanced, better to offset stress, and that way I don't bore people to death when I get too serious about life. It's helped me to look at the funny side things.

Scary Stories of Storytelling

By Ann Roseberry, aroseberry@charter.net

The first session at a middle school in Tennessee went great. The audience was warm and responsive. The middle school students who participated in the program left the stage to a loud round of applause. I took a bow as they cheered and clapped for me. Some of the teachers and students took time to tell me how they enjoyed my stories. I had just finished organizing the stage and my props when the second group started to arrive.

Immediately I was full of a terrible dread at the sight of them as they slouched down the aisles of the auditorium. You could see the sullen expressions on their faces as they regarded me with a sneer on their lips. Some of them were talking loudly on their cell phone. A few were smacking gum or slurping down a soft drink as they made rude comments to each other. And they were the teachers! I shuddered to think what the students that followed them were like. But what could I do?

Well, I did the best I could. I thought about the stories that I loved to tell and hoped they would love them like I did. I didn't completely succeed. Some of the teachers maintained their bad attitudes and tuned me out. But some of the students quietly came up to me and thanked me for the stories. Ah, the joys and dangers of storytelling!

We all have stories about telling stories. At a local bookstore I was wearing a beautiful new dress with colorful scarves, bright beads, and dangling ear-rings that I thought was just perfect for my folktale program. A darling red-headed boy about five years old came in the store with his mother, took one look at me, and raced out screaming. I found out his story. He had been "naughty" that day and his mother had told him that the gypsies were coming to kidnap him. The boy truly believed that I was a child-snatching gypsy woman. The show went on. By the time I was Mrs. Santa Claus in December, the little boy and I had become friends.

Campfire stories are fun but can be hazardous. The other storyteller was late so I was asked to do two more stories until he arrived. The smoke from the fire seemed to follow me as I told "In the Graveyard" and "The Ghost of Windy Willow Woods." I was red-eyed and coughing by the end of the session. Never mind! We had a spooky time together and some sticky marshmallow hugs from the kids.

The old pros know all the perils and risks of the storytelling life. Beginners will learn to deal with ringing cell phones, intercom announcements, dead microphones, unexpected appearances of wildlife, and sorry, but I must say it—projectile vomiting—during those magical times that you are telling your

welcome. For more information contact Paschal Baute at 859-293-5302.

The deadline for submitting a workshop proposal for our November 3 Kentucky Storytelling Conference is Monday, April 30. There will be a couple of 90-minute sessions and several 45 minute sessions. In your workshop proposal, include the title and topic, describe what your session will be like (lecture, demonstration, hands-on, etc.) and tell whether or not there will be handouts. Please email or postal mail your proposal to: Betsy Fleischer 305 Cole Lane, Harrodsburg, KY 40330-7715 betsycat2@yahoo.com

Two Wolves

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between two "wolves" inside us all. One wolf is Evil. It brings anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego. The other wolf is good. It teaches joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith." The grandson thought about it for a minute and

stories. William Butler Yeats once asked how to tell the dancer from the dance. I will ask you. How can you tell the story from the storyteller? Or the storyteller from the story? Think on it and keep telling your tales.

A sampling of events from KSA's webpage:

(This list is NOT comprehensive; it is included here to inspire reader to look to the webpage for much more information).

Tuesday, April 10, Scott County Storytelling Guild, 7:00 p.m. Admission: Free. Scott County Public Library, 104 South Bradford, Georgetown, KY. Contact: Buck P. Creacy, 859-402-0756.

Friday, April 13, 7:30 to 9:30 PM "If It Ain't True, It Otta Be! Tall Tales" Tellers and Listeners Story Study Group: Shane Dickey, Eric Wolf, Jonatha and Harold Wright. Clifton Opera House, Clifton, OH. Contact info@cliftonohiohistory.org Pam Adams 937-767-9823

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, April 13, 14, 15. Working on our Work Storytelling Weekend, Storyteller's Riverhouse Bed & Breakfast, Bethlehem, IN. Registration required. Cost: \$150 includes all food and lodging. Learn more at www.maryhamilton.info/Programs/WOWretreats.htm

Friday and Saturday, April 20 and 21. Northern Kentucky Storytelling Festival, Kenton County, Erlanger Branch, Public Library, 401 Kenton Lands Road, Erlanger, Kentucky. Tellers include Willy Clafin, Donna Washington, Lyn Ford, and KSA Member Bill Watson. Stories told: Friday 6 – 9:00 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Admission full festival – Adult \$10 (\$8 with a library card), Children \$8 (free with a library card), Family \$20 (up to six people) To learn more, call 859-962-4000 extension 4377, or visit www.kentonlibrary.org/storytelling where you can learn about tellers, parking, directions, daily fees, and more.

Saturday, April 28, 10:30 a.m. Opening Celebration: Stories for the Family, Nelson County Public Library, Bardstown, KY. Admission: Free. Contact: Carol Elliott, 502-348-3714.

Monday, April 30, Wandering Storytellers at Natasha's Café features Paschal Baute. 9:00 p.m. Admission: \$5.00. Natasha's Café, 112 Esplanade, Lexington, KY. Contact: 859-259-2754 or www.beetnik.com. This is a KSA fundraising event.

Thursday May 3, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Owen County Storytellers, Owen County Public Library, 118 North Main Street, Owenton, Kentucky (across street from First Christian Church). Owen County Storytellers meet the first Thursday of each month for story sharing and planning events. All ages welcome. Contact: Bill Watson, 502-514-1061. Admission: Free.

Saturday, May 19, 9:00 a.m. Kentucky Storytelling Association Board Meeting. Georgetown, Kentucky. All KSA Board meetings are free and open to the public. Contact: Don Creacy, 859-402-0756 for specific meeting location.

Monday, May 28, Wandering Storytellers at Natasha's Café features Bill Watson. 9:00 p.m. Admission: \$5.00. Natasha's Café, 112 Esplanade, Lexington, KY. Contact: 859-259-2754 or www.beetnik.com This is a KSA

then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf wins?" The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

fundraising event.

Saturday, June 16, Scott County Storytelling Guild, 7:00 p.m. Admission: Free. Scott County Public Library, 104 South Bradford, Georgetown, KY. Contact: Buck P. Creacy, 859-402-0756.

Monday, June 25, Wandering Storytellers at Natasha's Café features Betsy Fleischer. 9:00 p.m. Admission: \$5.00. Natasha's Café, 112 Esplanade, Lexington, KY. Contact: 859-259-2754 or www.beetnik.com. This is a KSA fundraising event.