



Kentucky Storytelling Association

July 2006

Support and Appreciation for the Art of Storytelling In Kentucky Volume 2
Issue 1

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Useful Links

KSA Website

www.kystory.org

National Storytelling Network Website

www.storynet.org

Contact your Board

President, Betsy Fleischer
Bestycat2@yahoo.com
859-734-3194

President Elect, Don Creacy
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freshdeal@buckpcreacy.com
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mary@maryhamilton.info
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Quadrant 1, Ann Roseberry
aroseberry@charter.net
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From our President—Betsy Fleischer

Your Board of Directors met this past May 27th. All were present and had a lot to report as you will read in the committee reports. Octavia Sexton has a new email address, octavia53@alltel.net.

At the beginning of this year we identified four foci:

- #1 to create a first contact brochure about KSA,
- #2 get a website up, running, and fine tune,
- #3 participate in the spring fair of the KY Guild of Artists & Craftsmen,
- #4 put on the annual conference in November and plan for '07.

KSA had a presence at the recent spring fair in Berea. We now have the Cave Run Festival mailing list which should help us notify others in the state about KSA and events as well as and hopefully raise money.

KSA is in need of fundraising in order to continue and encompass its mission. Since more heads are better than one, carefully consider this issue and then contact the committee chairs, Don Creacy and Carolyn Franzini, with any ideas you might offer. Thank you.

On the topic of officialdom, KSA is registering its logo with the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Also we are up to 51 paid members! The latest news is that WUKY is developing a radio show called "State of the Arts" to be nationally syndicated. This is a potential storytellers' outlet. Please notify me, (the Program Chair Betsy Fleischer), if you have any interest in this project. Another project taking place slowly is the development of county-wide storytelling guilds. Perhaps you or someone in your county would like to begin one?

As you read the committee reports imagine yourself participating in one of them. Perhaps you have an idea or two or three, or you have an hour to give. Maybe you have enthusiasm with no place to put it—consider jumping in. All the committees would love to have more participants. As the saying goes, "Many hands make light work." Oh, and did I tell you that these people are fun to be with? You might even hear a story once in awhile in the middle of the work. What it all boils down to is that we – that's you and me and all those others – are KSA. KSA is not an abstraction but a whole herd of people being heard.

I leave you now with the wise words of Bill and Ted, "Be excellent."

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Announcements: KSA Board Meetings (open to the public)

Saturday, July 15
Frankfort, KY
For more information
and directions,
contact Mary Hamilton
502-223-4523
or mary@maryhamilton.info

Saturday, September 23
Bowling Green, KY
For more information
and directions,
contact Cynthia Changaris
502-541-7144
or cchangaris@aol.com

The Youth Storytelling Committee is seeking contact information of schools, organizations and individuals who are interested in youth storytelling. The committee is building an email contact list in order to send out information on how to become involved in youth



Pictures of Betsy Fleischer and Don Creacy and (below) Mary Hamilton

On May 20 & 21, KSA had an information booth at the Berea Kentucky Artist and Craftsmen Spring Festival. We set up a schedule of storytellers for both days and gave out KSA brochures. Don Creacy reports: "Thank you to every single one of you who volunteered to work either on the stage or in the tent during the festival. The Guild and our project team planned for an audience of thousands. It was not to be, attendance was down from previously reported numbers. I was so proud of you—Mary, Martha, Harold, Jonatha, Bill, Thomas, Paschal plus many others drove a very long way to be there early. And what amazing performances they gave, speaking as if they were key speakers at the NSN Annual Conference. Tender stories, funny stories, traditional tales came rolling off their tongues and hearts with grace and beauty. Octavia scared the goose bumps off me and Miss Pockets made me tear up over the Dog stories. Thanks to all the volunteers who worked in the tent—Carolyn, Betsy, Mary Kane, Debbie, and Heather."

Don: "Some came early in the morning and stayed all day, the rest came before their shift and pitched in long after their shift was through. They spent their time visiting, minding the story store, engaging people, answering questions. Our volunteers handled questions with a grace and skill that would make any telephone operator beam with pride. We learned a lot about our capabilities at Berea. The artists and Festival visitors loved us! Pre-eminent story scholar, Loyal Jones, was there on Saturday and drew a crowd.

I personally confirmed for myself how much I like being around all of you. Thank you again for volunteering, I know it cost you something. We were able to add to our Membership numbers, sell a few books, and I have to say that a very real benefit was to get to know everyone better. I have said before and I mean it still. I am so glad to be associated with you and our KSA—you are a terrific group!"

Whazzup? KSA Committees report:

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

"What we have here is a failure to co-municate." Who could forget that incredible movie line repeated countless times to Cool Hand Luke, otherwise known as that blue-eyed future salad dressing king, Paul Newman? Communication is a big deal. At least our Committee thinks it is and we want to make sure that you as a Member of the KSA get the accurate information you need, when you need it and how you need it.

Don Creacy, Communications Committee Chair



storytelling. There are many opportunities nationally for the youth of Kentucky to compete and/or share stories. There are also opportunities for seasoned storytellers to coach and/or mentor young storytellers. We envision having a youth storytelling group in every school in Kentucky. Please email contact information to: Octavia Sexton at octavia53@alltel.net

Hello fellow Kentucky storytellers.

Mary Hamilton and I will be attending the NSN **(National Storytelling Network) Conference** on July 19-23. If you are interested in attending, you can go to www.storynet.org. You will find information about the conference. If you decide to go, I can donate \$50 to help you pay for the conference fee. I also attend the **National Storytelling Network Festival in Jonesborough** every year. The Festival is in Jonesborough, Tennessee, on the first full weekend in October. I always stay at Buffalo Mountain Camp, a Methodist Retreat Center about 20 minutes from Jonesborough. The fee for overnight stay is \$12.00 a night which also includes a good breakfast each morning. We stay in a cabin with three large rooms, and ten sets of bunk beds. The cabin is situated beside a loud mountain stream. Male and females, married couples, children, all are welcome. It is heated. We walk down a trail for about 3 to 5 minutes to a bathroom, sink and hot water for a shower, which we share

1. KSA Newsletter—it is new! If you have something you want to share with all of us then please send it to Thomas Freese before the 15th of June, September, December and March for the July, October, January and April distributions. That does not mean that everything sent is going to be printed. That is why we have given Thomas Freese the “Editor hat” and a few guidelines to keep things focused on the missions, goals and news related to our Members. If you own a copyright free story and you want to share it, great. How do you like the newsletter so far? I hope that this newsletter will become a welcomed quarterly visitor, full of good news and happenings in KSA.

2. We are working on our webpage. www.kystory.org is our domain name and soon we will be jumping over to our brand new site named...Drum roll please... www.kystory.org!!! Isn't that the most convenient thing you have ever seen? Here are just some of the new features of our new website.

- Storyteller Directory
- Conference Registration online or use the printed version
- Automated Find a Teller form with printed version. Those of us who need posted mail notices will receive their Teller Wanted announcements regularly.
- Automated Membership Process Yes you can join online and pay conveniently using PayPal or you can print out the form and mail us a check.

3. If you want to participate in the KSA's overall mission to bring stories to everyone, we need you. Volunteers are needed for each Committee. Work is in progress, things are happening. Jump in—the water is fine and the fellowship is rewarding!

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

This committee is now consumed with the annual conference to be held in Owensboro this November. Mary Hamilton got the final version of the Arts Build Communities finished and handed in on time. She sat in on the Grants Panel discussion meeting. She and Betsy Fleischer attended the quarterly meeting of the Kentucky Arts Council to see what our grant status would be. KSA got the grant!!!! (Everyone do the dance of joy now!)

Now the detail work begins. There is already a conference schedule posted on the website. Workshop presenters have been chosen. The Owensboro Area Museum of Science and History is the organization applicant for the conference. We are excited about Friday night's pre-conference event at the museum. The Knowledge Center on Deafness will again be involved. Heather Dotson is the “Hospitality Coordinator” for this year's conference, that is, she will be the person to contact if you want to carpool and/or want to share the room expenses. Yes, we will have the story store again. Next year's conference site has yet to be finalized although we do know it will be in Quadrant 2

A list of volunteer jobs that need to be filled will be sent at a later date to the membership soliciting help. Please do not be afraid. It will be fun and only for a pre-determined length of time. Remember! We are a member-driven organization—let's all think about rowing together to get this boat moving ahead.

with other cabins. You must bring towels, bedding, flashlight, pillows, and other personal toiletries. Having a bottle or two of your own personal water is good too. Some bring their camping chairs to put on the porch. I sometimes take a small lamp because I like to read into the night. It's the least expensive place to stay, and we always have a great group of people gathered at our cabin. Come to the Festival! It is so much fun and you hear so many wonderful stories. Look on the web site above. Festival tickets are now a bargain. I hope you can join us. Contact me if you want space in the cabin: Cynthia Changaris, cchangaris@aol.com, or 502-451-7144 or cell 502-645-2930.

Bluegrass Healing Story

Guild-KSA members are invited to be part of an ongoing seminar with workshops beginning July and September. We shall focus on learning, designing and telling stories for healing and change in regular monthly meetings. Ministers, social workers, psychologists, drug counselors, correctional volunteers, attorneys, educators, storytellers, nurses, special Ed teachers and care-givers of all types are invited. This Guild is intended to be a venue for learning, practice and sharing among all storytellers and story-lovers. It is open to those who aim to understand the power of story to influence and change perspective. We begin with two workshops this summer, July 15, Saturday and September

Member spotlight:

One of our 51 KSA members is Rita Durbin of Louisville, KY. Rita teaches as a Para-educator at the Binet School. Rita has twice been past President of the Jefferson County Association of Educational Support Personnel—American Federation of State and County Municipal Employees.

Why did you join KSA? "I've been a member of Corn Island Storytelling Organization for 25 years. I couldn't bear the thought of not being a part of Corn Island; I've only missed two events in those 25 years. I used to take my children to Corn Island. I can sit and listen to stories forever.

What so far have you liked about being a member of KSA? I like getting all the news about events, hearing where the events are happening. KSA keeps me in touch with Mary Hamilton and Cynthia Changaris. I haven't gone to a KSA Conference yet, but I'm considering going to the next Conference in Owensboro.

What kind of stories do you enjoy? I most enjoy the ghost tales. I like Roberta Simpson Brown's Locker Room story. Her book of ghost stories is a great book. I would love to be a storyteller. I always have to tell stories to my grandchildren. I tell them stories about their grandfather living in the country, about the country ways where I grew up. Grandfather was an old grouch. He wouldn't let us pull apples off the tree, so Grandmother would wait and pull off apples for us when he was away. I have written stories in one of my granddaughter's memory books.

How has your life been affected by stories from family or friends? Goodness, storytelling has improved my social life immensely! I've enjoyed hearing stories from international people. I've learned about their history and culture. I've heard storytellers from India and from England. One storyteller from India tells a lot of really good stories. Also Bobby Norfolk is one of my top favorites. One time I was a chauffer and I picked up a centenarian. While I drove her to the hotel, I heard her stories. My mother would tell stories and read books around the fireplace. I grew up in Sunfish, KY, in Edmondson County. That was between Brownsville, Leitchfield, and Caneyville. I've thought about writing down my stories—when I retire I'd love to do that. There are a lot of labor stories that need to be told.

Article:

SUPPER IN THE CEMETERY—A DATE WITH THE LIVING DEAD
If you stop by Riverside Cemetery in Hopkinsville, Kentucky on a Friday night in June, don't be surprised if you see the Dearly Departed seated by their gravestones waiting to tell you about their former lives here in Christian County. Fear not! These are not real ghost and ghoulies but local storytellers, teachers, historians, and community workers wanting to tell you about the history of our little piece of Western Kentucky. The Pennyroyal Area Museum, the Christian County Historical Society along with other sponsors organize a Supper in the Cemetery in the summer and in the fall.

At other Suppers in the Cemetery from previous years, you may have heard Edgar Cayce-The Sleeping Prophet-tell you about his early years growing up in our community. Generals and soldiers from the

16, Storytelling 101 and 102. We look forward to the involvement of KSA members to share their talents. We plan to meet on the first Tuesday of each month starting in October, from 7-9 p.m. This is a not for profit educational undertaking. Much recent literature and national activity supports these objectives. Please email Paschal Baute, pbbaute@paschalbaute.com, or call (859) 293-5302 for more information. We invite the interest and participation of all KSA members. Workshop registration fee for the July 15 workshop is \$5.00, if received by July 7. After July 7, it is \$10.00. Directions to workshop and further information will be sent to participants. The second workshop is on September 16, Saturday. Registration is limited to 20 participants.

Going Deep—The Long Traditional Story Festival
Sponsored by
Scheherazade's Legacy
August 24-27, 2006 at Bethlehem, Indiana, on the beautiful Ohio River

Are you hungry for depth, substance, and a rich, filling storytelling experience? Long traditional stories are the equivalent of a hearty feast in a fast-food world. During Going Deep three epic tellers will place a great story banquet before you. Each evening you will hear one long story. The morning following each story, you will have the opportunity to "go deep" and further explore the story's themes, symbols, and meanings with the

Revolutionary War to the present day have told of their battles and beliefs. You might have heard some life stories of farmers, bankers, politicians, doctors, lawyers, artists, teachers, blacksmiths, mothers, fathers, small children, babies, a few household pets, and so many others resting under the dogwoods, willows, oaks, maples, and many other kinds of trees at Riverside Cemetery or at the other historical graveyards in our county. Every Supper in the Cemetery has a new cast of Dead Folks that have something to say about life, love, and death in Western Kentucky.

The cemetery guests are provided with a tasty box supper which usually includes country ham and biscuits, potato salad, dressed eggs, and a slice of pecan pie as they are told the general history of the cemetery. Then the guests are guided through the cemetery by members of the historical society to meet with Those Who Rest In Peace but want to tell their story. The Dearly Departed are dressed in the costume of the period when they lived. The historical society aids the storytellers with the information of the character they portray. The Living Dead also do some research on their own and some embellishment has been added by some actors. The guests to the funerary grounds include Yankee visitors from Land Between the Lakes, history buffs, families having fun and educational night out, Japanese and German industrial representatives, Red Hatted Ladies, members from the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Episcopal churches, ancestor worshipers, the press, and the friends and relatives of the Living Dead actors and actresses.

To KSA members and those interested in stories and history, you can create your own social event with the residents of your lovely local necropolis. You could have your own Supper in the Cemetery, Dinner With the Dearly Departed, or Grits and Gravy in the Graveyard. Storytelling is a medium that connects us all in the past, present, and the future. Happy Trails to you all.

Ann Roseberry
KSA member-Area 1

Note: Please e-mail me if you would like to comment on "Supper in the Cemetery" at aroseberry@charter.net. How about Breakfast with the _____? Or Brunch with the _____? Or midnight snack with the _____? Please drop me a line if you have any suggestions.

A Short Story...

Green Feet in Church by Kristy Cox

All that summer, I ran. I was a little country boy; feet flying through pastures and thickets that dotted our place.

Of the mornings, I rose before the rooster chanced to crow and pulled on my favorite pair of overalls – the kind washed so many times they felt like that fancy silk stuff Mamma sighed after in Robertson's store.

After a private milking session with Gertie, and a quick feel for eggs, I'd start. I set off past the oak stand and scooted down the hill – my bare feet blazed trails Daniel Boone never even traveled. I waded Crooked Creek, caught tad poles and crayfish, passing on through to the next field. Kentucky Blue Grass, gone to seed, slapped against my denim-clad legs. I trailed spider webs, helping them to fly.

I stopped only under the great sycamore in the back pasture, pressing my back up against the scaly bark, chewing slowly on a strand of

teller. Featured stories and tellers will include Liz Warren, Olga Loya, and Priscilla Howe. To register, please contact Cynthia Changaris, cchangaris@aol.com, or call 502-451-7144 or mail to 2109 Wrocklage Ave., Louisville, KY, 40205.

KSA Newsletter submission guidelines:

Please write KSA Newsletter in the subject heading of your email to the Editor. Please submit in Microsoft word attachment, or in the body of the email message. (If you know how), please make your text "Verdana" and type size "10".

Editor reserves discretion for cutting, editing or not publishing any material. If time allows, Editor will try to check with you if material might need clarification or delayed posting. Opinion pieces that are brief and oriented toward positive suggestions will be considered. Digital photos are preferred, jpg. They must be saved with a file name that begins KSA and specifically notes the persons or event.

The following items are generally accepted for the Newsletter: Committee and board member reports, short announcements and important dates, articles which are informative in nature, and not self-promotional, member spotlight, copyright-free story, Knowledge Swap (submitted questions, topical things to know) Please help save my time and facilitate timely release of the Newsletter by correcting your grammar and spelling.

sweet grass. I pretended it was chewing tobacco and spat green juice onto the bare dirt beside me. The green spittle with unexploded bubbles matched the color on the bottom of my feet.

After a time, a screeching blue jay pulled me from my running dreams and the sun directly above warned me of Mamma's wrath if I missed dinner again. I took my time – as much as I dared – and returned the way I came.

"Thomas Charles Hendricks, you better come when I call you boy!"

I was late, but not as late as the day before – Mamma and I both knew it. The dinner table was set with cold biscuits, fried fat back and a mess of sweet peas pulled off the vine this morning. Mamma stood at the stove, left hand on her hip, right hand stirring soup beans in a big old cast iron pot.

"After you finish your dinner, you take some up to your Pa in the North pasture, you hear?"

"Yes, Mamma."

"And Thomas, I need your help more around the house. I just can't have you gallivanting off whenever you want. There are responsibilities and chores, and it's a sight more than I can handle by myself. I can use you until you're old enough to help your Pa next year."

I bowed my head lower toward the table, "Yes, Mamma."

Mamma meant what she said about me learning more chores and responsibilities and she helped me in the only way she knew how: the next Sunday, she found God for me. Mamma had inspected every inch of my neck and dug her nails into my ears. She smoothed down my hair with a little bit of lard and reminded me to sit up straight.

We entered through the big, rough-hewn door and found our places two rows from the front. Everyone was already sweating inside and the preacher's face turned two shades of red when he commenced to talking. For an hour, we sat on hard wooden boards. The women offered "Hallelujah! Tell us, brother!" and lifted up their hands. When the men dropped chins to chests, the women used their funeral fans to help get them into the Holy Spirit.

At the last, while everyone was singing "the shores of the sweet by and by", Mamma pushed me right out past Pa and into the aisle.

The preacher beamed and clapped his meaty hands around mine.

"My boy here, my Thomas, he needs to be baptized," Mamma said. "Want to calm him down, make him respectable."

The preacher just smiled and shook his head as if that was exactly what a twelve year old boy needed.

The singing ended and the entire congregation pushed outside to the banks of the Kentucky River. I took off my too tight shoes under my Mamma's scowling face. I guess she saw what I missed scrubbing and wished to heaven she had not decided on today to bring me to God.

The preachers' hands went to my forehead and after a few words I just did not understand, he pushed me under that cool water. I guess he must have forgot clean about me, because I opened my eyes and saw he was still talking up there – really wavy-like because I was under water and all. When I thought my lungs might come close to bursting, I kicked, turning around so that both my feet planted square on that preacher's white shirt. When I pushed off, I was free, staggering up the slippery bank.

The preacher followed, the perfect imprint of two green feet placed square against his chest.

The next day Mamma allowed me to run, and the day after that ... and the day after that.

I did say I ran all that summer, didn't I?

Kristy Cox is a writer, native to Bourbon County, KY. She now lives in Indiana but her heart is in the Bluegrass. Readers may contact Kristy at ekcwriteone@adelphia.net.