



# Kentucky Storytelling Association

October 2006

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

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## Useful Links

### KSA Website

[www.kystory.org](http://www.kystory.org)

### National Storytelling Network Website

[www.storynet.org](http://www.storynet.org)

## Contact your Board

President, Betsy Fleischer  
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## From our President Betsy Fleischer

Dear Story Folk,

At the last Board meeting held in Frankfort we found out that KSA has members in 16 counties. That means only 104 more to go to accomplish statewide membership!

Donna Slaton, the Assistant Treasurer, is the Keeper of the KSA Membership Roster. If you have any announcements to be made to members of KSA then send Donna the announcement in ready-to-go form. Discussion on the issue of terminology brought us to the following conclusions. Any KSA member may announce their membership status in KSA in their promotional materials (e.g.: "proud member of the Kentucky Storytelling Association). And any event promoted as being "sponsored by, affiliated with, and associated with, in partnership with" or similar terminology must have prior approval from the KSA Board so that it is very clear who is responsible for what and when.

We have a National Youth Storytelling Coordinator—Octavia Sexton. Thank you, Octavia.

Everyone should have received their ballots in the mail by now. Thank you very much to all who have accepted a nomination to serve. Since KSA is an organization of people we need people to pitch in! And you all are doing just that. Please vote and mail in the ballots.

We are all getting ready for our 3rd Annual KSA Conference!! Some of you have volunteered your time, energy, and smiles in order to make it happen-- a great BIG THANK YOU!! Guess what—we need some more volunteers:

1 person for Saturday registration

1 person for Saturday greeter

2 people for the story store

1 person as site controller—liaison between the hotel & KSA

1 person to be the troubleshooter—you'll get a clipboard of pertinent information

2 people for room monitors –2 sessions each monitor

OR

7 more people for room monitors at 1 session each monitor

That's it!! See you in November in Owensboro - home of western Kentucky barbecue and temporary home of KSA in partnership with the Knowledge Center on Deafness and the Owensboro Area Museum of Science and History.

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## From Don Creacy, Communications Committee

You are going to love our new Website! As you may know, we have been working hard on our new website. The website committee, after receiving the go ahead from your Board, took the task to heart. We had lots of meetings, emails, discussions and plans and revisions. We made a little change here, a

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## Contact Us

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## Announcements

The National Youth Storytelling Showcase is a wonderful opportunity for youth tellers, ages 6 – 18 years old, to share the stage with some of the nations most stellar youth tellers and take home the experience of a lifetime! If you are a youth storyteller and enjoy the thrill of sharing your talent on stage, then this event is for you! Be a part of an AMAZING event! To enter, submit a video or DVD of you telling a favorite tale by November 3 to Octavia Sexton, 874 Big Cave Road, Orlando, KY 40460. If your story is selected as a National finalist, then you will receive an invitation to

big change there and then we began to get closer to what we had in mind. We knew that the website had to be more than a postcard from across the cyber-sea. It had to be a tool to help us move the mission and goals of the Kentucky Storytelling Association forward. It had to be part promotional, part informational. We needed a place to find tellers and we wanted a directory. We wanted to tell the story of our birth and growth over the past five years, and we needed a calendar and a place for people to sign up to join KSA. The task seemed to be very large. We wanted a place for people to easily navigate around our pages, submit their local activities, buy resources to help them with their telling, or even add their name to our membership by joining online. The website committee was naïve about workings of the internet from the developer side of the sea. We enlisted Kate Dudding, website developer and storyteller to assist us in our efforts. There were more emails, discussions, revisions and little change here and a big change there. Then ooh my goodness, it started to look good. Soon we will launch our site, so I will try to describe the web pages. Better yet let me show you the homepage. Obviously, this is a shrunken image but here...



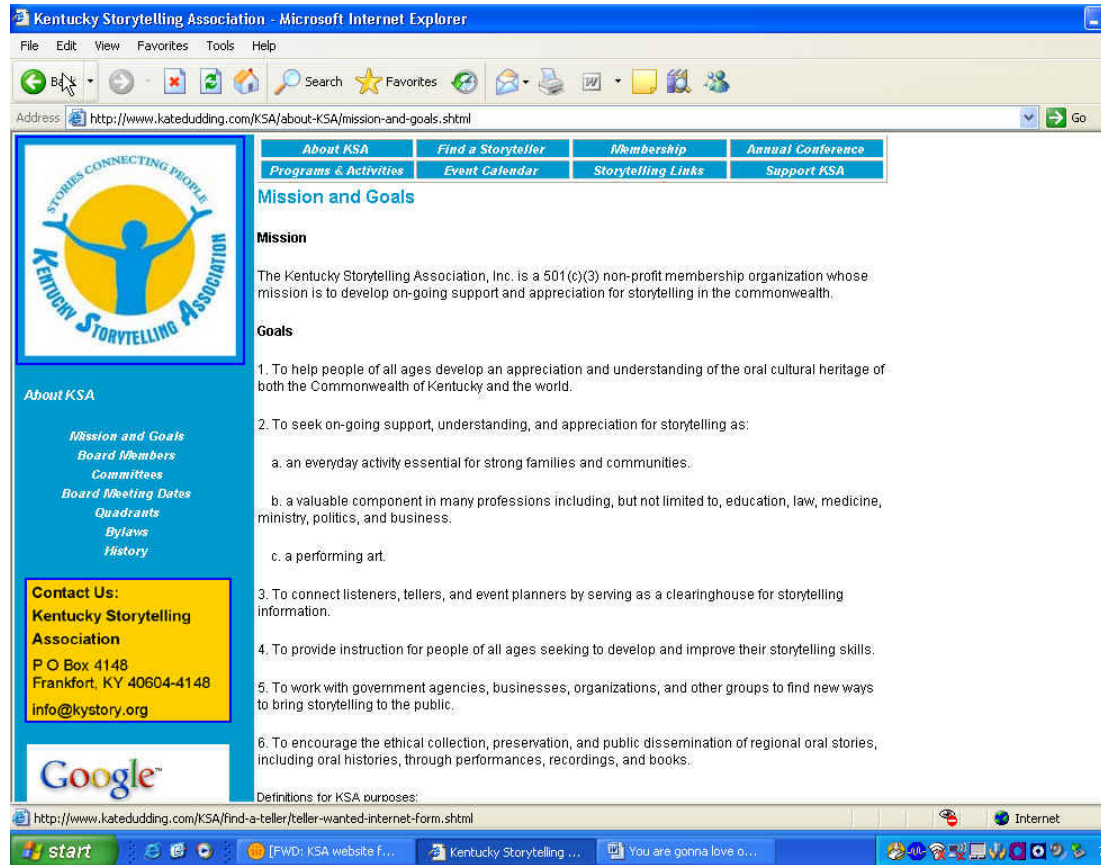
We have our logo and contact information on the left hand side. If you click the logo from any of your pages, it returns you to the homepage. Another useful tool is our very own Google Search engine to allow you to quickly find something or someone on our website. Just type, for example Mary Hamilton or anything 'membership' for that matter in the search box, make certain the search is for 'site,' click search and every place that Mary Hamilton's name is in the site will be listed. You can also search the web from this same search engine, just select 'web.'

As you can see our Mission Statement and notice of our 501(c)(3) status is listed at the top of the page. Just below that are our major navigation buttons, About KSA, Find a Storyteller, Membership, Annual Conference, Programs & Activities, Event Calendar, Storytelling Links, and Support KSA. Let me show you how we designed the navigation and then I will let you wait until we launch the site to explore the rest of it for yourself.

showcase your story as a finalist at the National Youth Storytelling Showcase in Pigeon Forge, TN, February 1 – 3, 2007. Cash prizes and trophies are awarded to all finalists and the opportunity to sit at the feet of and learn from national storytellers! For more information and complete entry rules, please visit the website [www.nationalyouthstorytellingshowcase.org](http://www.nationalyouthstorytellingshowcase.org).

Click on the links below to download the required forms. Entry form: [http://www.mypigeonforge.com/americas\\_story-entryform.asp](http://www.mypigeonforge.com/americas_story-entryform.asp). Story Permission Form (required only if subject is living): [http://www.mypigeonforge.com/americas\\_story-permission.asp](http://www.mypigeonforge.com/americas_story-permission.asp). Permission for Videotaping and Web Page Information (required): [http://www.mypigeonforge.com/americas\\_story-video\\_permission.asp](http://www.mypigeonforge.com/americas_story-video_permission.asp). And the Interview Release Form (required only if story was developed from interview): [http://www.mypigeonforge.com/americas\\_story-interview\\_release.asp](http://www.mypigeonforge.com/americas_story-interview_release.asp).

I am going to click on "About KSA." I apologize again for the small pictures.



On every page across the top you will see the major navigation buttons, "About KSA, Find a Storyteller, Membership," and so forth. Those buttons will be on every page for your convenience, allowing you to easily move around the site. On the left hand side of the page the navigation is a little different. Your current location is listed just below the logo. Every other topic on this page is listed just below that heading. Click on "Quadrants" and you are whisked away to that section of this page. Ah, enjoy the magic of electricity. The navigation is consistent across all the pages and deliberately not flashy. We resisted the urge to have memory hunger rolling, blinking graphics and as a result I think we have a world class website. I invite you to take a look at it. Hopefully by the time you get this email we will have launched it. Here is that address— [www.kystory.org](http://www.kystory.org).

The most wonderful part of the whole thing is that there is supporting software built in this site to assist the whole organization and its members. I am proud of the work we did, proud of the deep thinking and positive attitude of all the committee membership and especially proud of the desire to serve you, the Members of the Kentucky Storytelling Association. See you in Owensboro on November 3 and 4. Did you know you can register for the 2006 Annual Conference on your website? Try it! I think you will love it.

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## New Storytelling Guild in Central Kentucky

## Spellbinders

Storytelling for children, information from Paschal Baute:

This is an invitation to consider joining us in a wonder-filled activity in Lexington. We received three days of training this past summer with Mary Hamilton. She is a marvelous and talented storytelling performer from Frankfort. A new training program is scheduled for this November with Cynthia Changaris. She is also a gifted and talented storyteller. Both are active in the Kentucky Storytelling Association and are welcomed presenters at many festivals. Spellbinders—If you love children and enjoy being with them, and if you love stories, and have a few hours per month to share, then you will love being part of this group. Sponsored by the Lexington Public Library, Spellbinders was created in order to help provide an inter-generational bridge between the youth and seniors. See the web site at <http://www.spellbinders.org/>. Spellbinders are dedicated to spreading the magic of storytelling by training volunteers to become storytellers for their communities.

The Bluegrass Guild for Storytelling and Healing Stories will have its first meeting Tuesday, October 3, Eagle Creek Library, 7 to 9 p.m., East Lexington. The group plans to study the art of designing stories for healing, learn to access stories of overcoming obstacles, and laugh at the human predicament. Each program will have story sharing and will be an adventure for fun-loving storytellers who enjoy taking risks. Two beginning references are : *Once Upon a Time* (Storytelling to Teach Character and Prevent Bullying, by Elisa Davy Pearmain, Lessons from 99 Multi-cultural Folk Tales for Grades K-8 (Character Development Group, ISBN 1-892056-44-5, 2006). Pearmain presented a workshop on Healing Stories at the recent NSN conference in Pittsburg. Another reference is *The Story Factor* (Inspiration, influence, and persuasion through the art of storytelling, by Annette Simmons, Basic Books, Perseus, 2002). This is the book used in the first Storytelling workshop in Lexington in February. Members of the Kentucky Storytelling Association and the Lexington Spellbinders are especially invited. This is also open to the public, as no particular training or expertise is required. Listeners are future tellers. Future meeting dates for this Bluegrass Guild will be held at the Eagle Creek branch of the Lexington Public Library, (just off Richmond Road across from St. Joseph East, one stoplight east of Man O War), and are scheduled for Sunday, November 12, 2-4 p.m., and Tuesday, December 5, 7-9 p.m. Contact Paschal Baute at 859-293-5302, or [pbbaute@paschalbaute.com](mailto:pbbaute@paschalbaute.com).

## Member Spotlight

Dr. Judy Pierce is a professor of Teacher Education at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green. She taught at Western K.U. for over 17 years, and she also shares her stories in many, many schools. Judy does living history presentations. This Saturday, (October 7), she will be telling stories about the Shakers at the restored village of South Union, outside of Bowling Green. She dresses in period-like clothing and describes the challenges of life for nineteenth century women. She tells her stories to all ages.

*Why did you join KSA?* I am a storyteller and I wanted to belong to an organization of people with the same interests. I'm not a professional storyteller but I enjoy being around those who are, and when we get together we can learn a lot from each other!

*What so far have you liked about being a member of KSA?* I really like the emails from Mary Hamilton; she advises us of possible storytelling needs from people across the state. Back in August, there was a teacher in Meade County whose school needed a storyteller for writing and storytelling. I find the Teller Wanted announcements very helpful.

*What kind of stories do you enjoy?* I love stories about the Civil War. I share battle tales, stories about female soldiers, and tales of Kentucky's Underground Railroad. I also love Appalachian folk tales and ghost stories.

*How has your life been affected by stories from family and friends?* My family now is just my mother, who is 95 years old, and my sister in Pennsylvania. But as a child, since we had no television or radio, our only source of entertainment was the storytelling done by my grandmother. I am happy that my mother has attended several of my living history presentations—she loved it!

*Judy also expressed an interest in joining the Pleasant Hill Singers. She attended the annual seminar at South Union this year. While there, she heard author James W. Hooper discuss his new book "The Shaker Communities of*

Since ancient times storytellers have told tales to pass along wisdom, engage the imagination of each listener and foster community. Our storytelling program recreates this age-old tradition. Spellbinders bring together young and old to create connections, advance literacy and enrich the lives of children and volunteers alike. The next Spellbinders workshop will be in Lexington in November. Call Greg Davis, Lexington Public Library, for information or registration at (859) 231-5554.

*Kentucky: Pleasant Hill and South Union". James Hooper is a professor at Marshall University in Huntington, WV, which is one of Judy's Alma Maters.*

## On Telling a Holiday Tale

BY ANN ROSEBERRY

Were you exiled to the rickety kid's table at Christmas even after you got your law degree? Or maybe you ate your holiday meal on a plate on the living room floor if you belonged to one of those over-populated extended families of the 1950s? Did your cousin Jerry Joe stomp on your mashed potatoes every year and no one listened when you whined about it? Do you remember the newly-wed aunt who forgot to turn on the oven and the turkey did not appear until late that Thanksgiving night long after the main meal was eaten and the hostility of the family members that lingered long after Easter? Did your family have strict rules to turn in all guns, knives, and weapons at the door before any kind of family event began? If they didn't, in retrospect, would it have saved some trips to the emergency room if they had? Can you fondly recall the time that the local police enjoyed your grandmother's famous caramel Christmas pie before they arrested your two cousins for the crops they were growing in the old greenhouse?

Who hasn't had a holiday defined by domestic disasters and surreal scenes? Who among you has ever spent a Thanksgiving and Christmas with a sane, well-adjusted family? I know I haven't and I bet a bottle of good Christmas cheer that none of my dear readers have had a calm, serene holiday with family and friends without some incident capable of producing a great story that will go down as a classic tale of family insanity.

Storytellers should spin some amusing stories of a chaotic day of family togetherness to bring a sense of reality to our idealized holiday season. All you need are a few crazy relatives, vivid accounts of cooking catastrophes, a poetic memory of times past, and the perilous practice of celebrating the yearly rituals with over-eating and forced fellowship with family and friends.

One of my favorite Thanksgiving books is Thanksgiving at the Tappletons' by Judith Hannant and Eileen Spinelli. This children's book tells about a series of funny disasters that leaves the Tappletons without a traditional Thanksgiving meal. Instead they have a very different menu but still appreciate having a meal together as a family.

Yes, when I was a little girl in Dawson Springs, Kentucky my cousin Larry Lyle did throw the entire turkey away when he was only supposed to dispose of the poor bird's meatless carcass at Thanksgiving. Still we had a good time and I have a silly story to tell when we get together as a family.

So, storytellers tell the tales of the holidays past and create more memories for your family to tell the future generations. And please, don't throw away the Thanksgiving Turkey!