



TEJAS Teller

TEJAS STORYTELLING ASSOCIATION

WWW.TEJASSTORYTELLING.COM

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JAN/FEB, 2010

Martha Len Nelson Classic to feature Donald Davis

If you haven't yet, don't forget to reserve your seat for *An Evening With Donald Davis* on February 12, 2010, at the annual **Martha Len Nelson Classic** dinner in Denton. Seating is limited and everyone will want to hear Donald Davis, one of America's favorite storytellers.

Davis has regaled audiences all over the world and the United States with his tales. He grew up in the Southern Appalachian Mountain tradition of storytelling, in a family that has lived in the same Western North Carolina land since 1781. From his family and neighbors, he heard fairy tales, Jack tales, scary mountain lore, ancient Welsh and Scottish folktales, and he learned to see the stories in his own modern world. He is the father of four sons.

"His stories often left listeners limp with laughter at the same time they struggled with a lump in the throat," wrote Wilma Dykeman in the *New York Times*, reprinted on Davis' web page.

Another critic, Michael Williams writing in the *Nashville Banner*, said, "Davis is not simply one of the finest storytellers practicing his craft today, he is also one of the master teachers of other storytellers."

Davis will share that masterly talent on February 13, Saturday morning, following the Friday night dinner, when he teaches a **storytelling workshop** from 9 a.m. to noon.

Donald Davis has worn many hats. He is a retired Methodist minister, former chairperson of the Board of Directors for the National Storytelling Association, has been guest host for the National Public Radio program "Good Evening," and is a prolific author. He has been a featured teller at the Smithsonian Institution, the World's Fair, and festivals and concerts throughout the United States and the world.

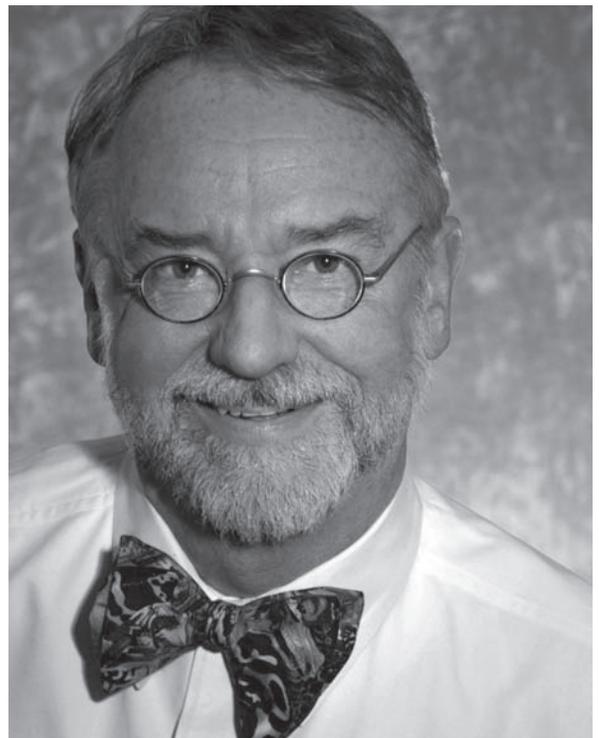
Tickets for the dinner are \$45 for individuals or \$80 a couple. For \$400, you can sponsor a table for eight with special sponsor recognition. Fee for the workshop is \$50.

The Martha Len Nelson Classic dinner is named for Martha Len Nelson -- with a tongue-in-cheek nod to the golfing world -- whose recipes are always special treats at the annual event. Mrs. Nelson also writes a food and recipe column for the *Denton Record Chronicle*.

In addition to the best of storytelling and scrumptious food, there will be beer and wine, a silent auction, and a live auction.

The dinner, a fund-raiser for the storytelling festival to be held in Denton March 11-13, will be at Fremaux's Metropolitan Catering at 932 W. University Drive in Denton beginning at 6:30 p.m.

by Nita Thurman, Chair, Denton Task Force



Donald Davis to appear in Denton for the MLN Classic and a storytelling workshop

TEJAS STORYTELLING ASSOCIATION



*The Tejas Teller
is a bimonthly
publication of the Tejas
Storytelling Association.*

the Prez's Piece

Elizabeth Ellis, President, Tejas Storytelling Association

2010—it has a great ring to it, don't you think? We are now a decade into the new century. With the coming of a new year, it is customary to make some New Year's Resolutions. Oh, I know you've probably already thought of some. Many of them, like not eating chocolate and exercising every single day, you may have already broken by the time this newsletter reaches your mailbox. So, let's think together for a moment about New Year's Resolutions you are really going to keep.

I am talking about your Storytelling New Year's Resolutions. If you have not thought of making some, now is the time. I will wait while you get a pen and your journal. You are gonna want to keep track of them, I promise.

Reflect for a minute about what you need most as a storyteller. Oh, I know you are going to say right off that you need more opportunities to tell. If so, write that down. Make a decision to be more pro-active about helping that happen in your life.

But, what about your goals as a teller? Do you need a larger variety of stories in your repertoire? Write down what you think you need. Are you ready to try something new and different? Is this the year to tell your first personal story? Or perhaps you have lots of those, but have never tackled a folktale or a literary story. It's a great time to decide this is the year to stretch your wings.

What about new audiences? If you are comfortable telling to children, now would be a great time to learn some stories for adults and look for places to tell them. More tellers than you might imagine are uncomfortable telling to children. Gird up your courage. Most of them don't bite! You may find a sweet joy in an experience that previously made your palms sweat.

Maybe there is a project you have long thought about, but never tackled. Or, perhaps there is one you started and put on the back burner because Life intervened. This may be just the right year to interview Great Uncle Spoolley or get your Father's memories of the war taped at last. Drag out that box from the bottom of the closet and revisit that project you began. Is it still relevant? Are you still passionate about it? Renew your efforts and bring your project to a grand conclusion!

Whatever you decide to list as your Resolutions, remember that storytelling is no different than the rest of life. You are only gonna get out of it what you are willing to put into it! Now, where did I put *my* pen?

TEJAS STORYTELLING ASSOCIATION

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MISSION STATEMENT
Tejas Storytelling Association
is a non-profit organization
that is dedicated to fostering
the appreciation
of storytelling as an
oral tradition
and a performing art.

My First Festival: What a Blessing!

by Anne McCrady

Over a decade ago, I attended my first Texas Storytelling Festival.

New to the idea of storytelling as a vocation or even an avocation, but a wordsmith and public speaker since childhood, I arrived at my first festival not knowing what to expect. In those days, the weekend event was held at Texas Women's University, and after driving to Denton from my home in East Texas, I made my way to the lecture hall of my first workshop.

At the front of the room, a gregarious woman with a Yankee accent and twinkling eyes welcomed each of us with her hearty laughter. Yes, Susan Klein was about to introduce me to her Ruby Window, her wonderful island and the power of story. I took a seat front and center, noticing the warm smiles of the women entering the room.

The workshop was actually titled something like: Strong Women, Strong Stories. Susan asked us to choose a partner and talk about the women who had influenced our lives. I turned to the woman sitting next to me and introduced myself. She had the kindest face I had ever seen and a cloud of white hair as soft as spun cotton. As we spoke, my East Texas accent found a friend in her Appalachian drawl. With the gentlest of voices, she told me about her Mama, and I began to talk about mine.

When Susan called us back together, she talked about the powerful narratives we live, and she helped us see our own stories. Memories were flooding my heart, and I couldn't make notes fast enough. All I could think about was how very much I felt I had come home. This storytelling was something I was born to do!

I was hooked! I joined the Tejas Storytelling Association, became a storyteller myself, served as a Texas Touring Artist and even told and led workshops at later Texas Storytelling Festivals. Over the years, I would hear Susan Klein again in other venues and be just as enchanted by her characters and places as that very first time.

And my partner at Susan's Women's Stories workshop those many years ago? The woman who first shared with me the sacred art of telling the stories about people we love? Yes, you guessed it-- Elizabeth Ellis, our lovely mother spirit of Texas Storytelling, my personal inspiration and a sweet friend in the years that followed!



More Festival Memories...

by Donna Ingham,

Interview at TSA Conference, July, 2009

"I've been coming to the festival since around 1997. My memories are tied to the people that have come over the years, especially the tellers that I've had the opportunity to meet. I'm recalling the people that we will never see at the festival again for one reason or another. One is J.J. Reneaux, the late J.J. Reneaux, who must have been there in the late 90's. What I remember of her is not so much of her on the stage, although she is a marvelous teller and musician and wonderful keeper of those wonderful Cajun stories.

"I was sitting at one of those cement picnic tables. J.J. came out and sat on the bench opposite of me. We exchanged pleasantries. I got the sense that maybe she was there not to visit but to center herself before the evening performance or to practice on her guitar. So I got quiet and she just sort of grinned and said, 'You know I'm just kind of feeling bluesy. I just thought I'd get out here and take a little break.'

"I said, 'Yeah, I know how that goes.' Then we both were quiet. It was not an uncomfortable silence. It was a shared moment of being quiet in the midst of a big festival. Then at some point she went in to perform and I went in to listen to her perform. For some reason that image had stayed with me all those years. I got to know her better later and we had long conversations but that was my first real together moment with J.J."



Remembering Festival
... 25 years of Texas Storytelling Festival

...and now the story is yours! Membership News

by Mary Grace Ketner, mgk@talesandlegends.net

I was able to talk with some of our Affiliate Guild reps about recent activities of their guilds, and I think you'll be as amazed as I was at what all goes on and how different we each are in our approach to spreading the art and joy of storytelling.

The Bush Museum Storytelling Guild, College Station, puts on storytelling programs for local school children who are bussed in as many as 900 at a time for two sessions each day. Programs might be actors portraying historical figures or fictional characters. Instead of holding regular monthly meetings, members meet as needed to discuss programs. In 2010, they will present programs by **Wayne Edwards**, the Family Poet; musical storytelling with **Bobbee Pennington**; and a program of Texas History stories in May. They have also scheduled a portrayal of historical figures such as Theodore Roosevelt and programs on Buffalo Soldiers and vaqueros. A storytelling outreach program visits schools and clubs to increase local awareness of the Presidential Library. Learn more from Wayne, wayne@familypoet.com or <http://bushlibrary.tamu.edu/education/storytellers.php>.

On December 4, **Storytellers of the High Plains** guild members were featured tellers at the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum's Christmas Open House in Canyon, Texas. Performers include **Paula Schlegel** and her son **Aiden Schlegel**, **Carol Glover**, **Rex Martin**, **Joe Weaver**, and **Trudy Hanson**. The guild holds regular meetings September through April on the Second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at Amarillo Public Library, Southwest Branch located on 45th Street in Amarillo. Trudy can tell you more about this guild: thanson@mail.wtamu.edu.

The San Antonio Storytellers Association is now meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 at the Brookhollow Library, 530 Heimer Rd, San Antonio. Meetings often begin with a 20-minute "mini-workshop" presented by a member such as the November presentation about using props by **Pat Shieffer**. Members learn a lot and some gain experience in giving workshops.

SASA sets up ollo performances at local events so that guild members may learn from each other while performing together, such as at the October National Public Radio "AccessAbility Fair" where visitors were regaled with stories from **Elder Stone**, **Ruth Murphy**, **Lucinda Wise**, and

Mary Grace Ketner. At this year's George West StoryFest, guild members **Veronica Gard**, **Ruth Murphy**, and **Lucinda Wise** appeared in a "SASA Showcase." You can learn more about SASA at www.sanantoniostorytellers.org.

The Mesquite Storytellers of Abilene welcomes visitors every month and they were especially glad to welcome a new member **Beverly Priddy** at their meeting in November. Beverly seemed to be everywhere at the Tumbleweed Storytelling Festival so we're glad they were able to tie her down! The Mesquite Storytellers meet at the Cockerell Art Building in Abilene at 7:00 p.m. on third Tuesdays. They are all looking forward to 2010 with good programs and the 2nd annual Tumbleweed Festival in October. For more about storytelling in Abilene, get in touch with **Gail McMillan**, gmcml5382@aol.com.

The Heart of Texas Guild, Waco, Texas, held their third *TELLABRATION!* in the Fellowship Hall of the Austin Avenue Methodist Church. Featured Teller **Mel Davenport** of Diane, Texas, headed a lineup of **Beulah Barksdale**, **Leslie Collier**, and **Tom Taylor**. The small but enthusiastic crowd showered the tellers with appreciation and compliments, and KWBU FM covered the event.

Historic Oakwood Cemetery was the site of another recent Heart of Texas Guild event, which narrated the stories of some of the cemetery's residents. McLennan Community College History Instructor **Vince Clark** gave a historical overview of the cemetery and some of the famous people buried there, then **Tom Taylor**, **Vivian Rutherford**, **Beulah Barksdale**, **Leslie Collier**, **Marian Fleischmann**, and **Charlotte Siegmund** each stationed themselves near a grave and told the story of the person buried there. Guest tellers included **Brad Turner**, **Rick Fair**, **Jeannie Fair**, **Robert Smith**, and **Gilbert Montmayor**. Plans are already in the works to repeat this popular event next year. **Carmen Seinz** and **Julia Bugh** greeted 100 listeners.

On Dec. 5th, the guild participated in *Christmas on the Square* in downtown Waco, telling stories in a tent near the center of the square.

This busy guild meets on the fourth Saturday of each month in the downstairs meeting room at the Waco Public Library, **Marian Fleischmann** marianf44@gmail.com can tell you more about the Heart of Texas Guild.

Jeannine Pasini Beekman

Ask Your Omsbuddie. . .

Dear Omsbuddie -

In the *Tejas Teller*, the Treasurer reports that affiliate guilds are sending in past years' dues. So, if all the affiliates paid all their past years' unpaid dues, how much money would that bring in? When are they due next? What period do they cover? What happens if we do not pay dues? Keep up the good work.

North Texas Knowledge Seeker

Dear Questor,

Glad to know that the membership (or at least ONE member) feels our work is good enough and is willing to say so in print! Thanks for the feedback.

As with so much else involved in our return to an all-volunteer organization, we are slowly but surely straightening out the minutiae involved with our pretty complex organization. The issue of "unpaid" Affiliate dues seems to stem from a misunderstanding about when the dues were/are... well... due. The official date is December 31 of each year and covers membership for the subsequent year. So, every guild that coughs up this month is covered for 2010.

Affiliate dues are \$1 per guild member with a minimum of \$10 and a maximum of \$50. All the annual dues for this year, for example, would add up to somewhere between \$160 and \$800. TSA currently boasts 16 affiliate guilds several of which have fewer than ten members. Most have between ten and twenty members. The actual revenue when the remainder of unpaid dues are paid will probably be under \$400.

Though these figures seem low in our overall budget, they are a way for local guilds to let TSA know that they want to be a part of the larger picture

of storytelling in Texas and beyond. Guilds help TSA carry out our common mission in several important ways. For example, a guild meeting or guild sponsored TELLABRATION! concert is often the first place many people ever see storytellers in action; it is definitely the first place many folks get to try out public telling for themselves. Guilds are major communication conduits and help TSA in its outreach to non-members. TSA members who are active in their local guild can utilize the benefits of the larger Association and do a great deal to help newcomers and neighbors. An example of this would be to request a free workshop through the Doc Moore Educational Outreach Fund.

Many guilds are extremely active in their communities. Some have nurtured affiliations at their city's zoo, local museums, and other civic organizations as well as their community public radio affiliate. Guild members often perform "free" at these locations, giving new storytellers a place to learn the ropes by working with "old" pros. This provides both individuals and the guild some public exposure that feels like a party with friends. Some guilds "adopt a school" or service organization and others have just put on their annual TELLABRATION!, an event that further extends the reach of storytelling within local communities around Texas and beyond and links the local tellers to their national and international counterparts.

All in all, it comes down to fulfilling our mission while filling our coffers, even if that fill-up is ever so slight.

*Yours in guildship,
Omsbuddie*

ASK YOUR TSA OMSBUDDIE provides an opportunity for the membership to receive specific information regarding any and all aspects of your organization. Concerns may be directed to TSA Board member Jeannine Pasini Beekman at j9pb@juno.com. She will not rest - okay, she might take a latte break now and then - until she finds the facts. Your questions will be handled confidentially and every one will receive a response. Those deemed of interest to the entire membership will be published in the *Tejas Teller*.

Changes . . .

TSA Directory Additions and Corrections

Priddy, Beverly (*new*)
2133 Rosewood
Abilene, Tx 79603
(325) 603-0156
beverly.priddy@cisco.edu

Rhodes, Betty-Erle (*new*)
3849 Aviator Drive
Abilene, Tx 796-1831
(325) 692-4943

Shaefer, Marjorie (*new*)
407 Highland Ave.
Johnson City, TN
(313) 570-0726
mogoose2@earthlink.net

Weems, Chester & Velma (*new*)
801 Whitetail Trail
Yukon, OK 73099
(405) 831-1176
cjweems@cox.net

Capps, Peggy (*correction*)
peggycapps@gmail.com

Davenport, Mel (*addition*)
Home phone: (903) 068-2483

McLaughlin, Jaye (*change*)
4115 Wild Azalea Ave
Fort Worth, Tx 76116
Cell: (817) 320-5046
No home phone

Note: If you have changes to make in Directory information, please contact Jaye McLaughlin: jayemclaughlin@hotmail.com or (817) 320-5046.

Thanks to those of you who have recently renewed your membership.



Gayle Ross, one of the 25 Tejas Tellers scheduled to appear at the 25th Texas Storytelling Festival.
photo by Paul Porter

Jaye's Juicy Juncture

Changes, changes

You must change your calendar, change the year when writing the date, change your clothes each day! Change is coming to TSA also! Bylaws are being re-written, committees are being set up, you can register, renew or join on-line. Turn around and something else new will come.

With all these changes and being an all volunteer organization, we need help! YOURS! With an email blast, you will be getting an announcement of a survey for members. The survey will also be on the TSA website. Please fill it out and return it to the TSA office quickly.

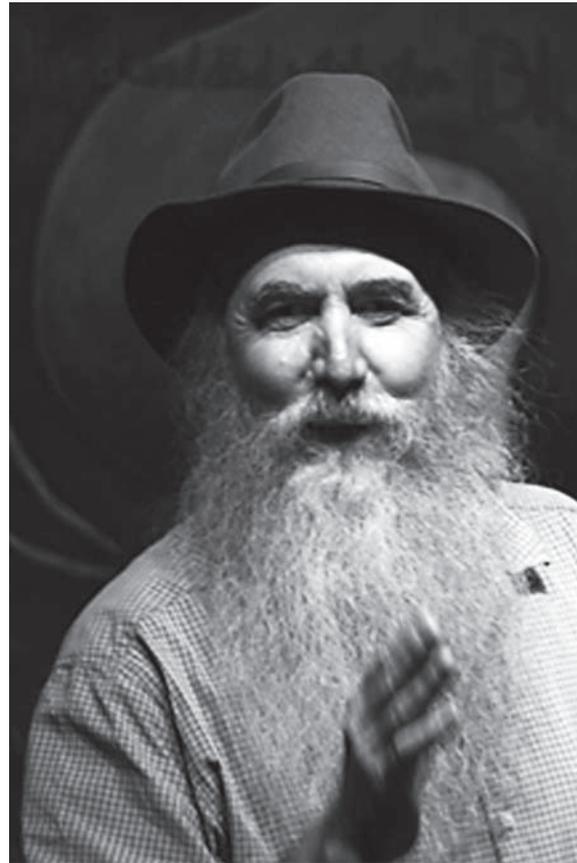
Our annual Festival is coming up and it is going to be a great one. 25 Tellers are coming. It is like a homecoming for all those who have been to the Festival over the years. We will be in the Denton Civic Center adjacent to Quakertown Park, and we want to fill it to capacity.

Come on and join the fun, youth storytellers, remembering and planning what it is we want TSA to be in the future.

by Jaye McLaughlin, jayemclaughlin@hotmail.com



*DeCee Cornish captured on the grounds of a past Festival. DeCee will be telling during the Friday Evening Concert at the 25th Festival.
photo by Paul Porter*



*Site manager of the Festival for years, Gene Helmick-Richardson will be telling on stage during the 25th celebration.
photo by Paul Porter*

Big Plans for 25th Anniversary Festival

You'll want to be in Denton for the Silver Anniversary homecoming reunion and storytelling celebration, **March 11-14, 2010**; showcasing 25 past Tejas featured tellers. For starters, you'll hear the likes of Jeannine Pasini Beekman, DeCee Cornish, Elizabeth Ellis, Tom McDermott, Gayle Ross, Barbara McBride Smith, and Tim Tingle.

The weekend will be a non-stop round of story concerts, story swaps, workshops, social and professional networking, and shopping opportunities in the gift shop.

Kicking off the festival will be a nostalgic look back in story and song at some of the truly sterling moments in the 25-year history of the event. Remembering those who have gone before and recollecting bits of the festival's own oral history seems a fitting way to launch the 2010 celebration of the spoken word.

Recognizing that the youth are the future for the art form, a special youth strand will be an option for Saturday at the festival, starting with a youth concert that morning, followed by a youth teller workshop. In addition, a concert designed especially for families is in the Saturday line-up. Puppets and stories and songs, oh my! Opposite those will be programs such as "conversations" with some of the nationally recognized tellers and other sessions for grown-ups. There will be something for everyone!

On both Friday and Saturday, a number of workshops will cover a range of topics for those who want to learn more about the art and craft of storytelling.

New Location: The 25th Anniversary Festival will be held at a new site, the Denton Civic Center, part of Denton's Quakertown Park complex, among whose trees the Festival's tents were spread for many years. The Civic Center is just south of the Senior Center, where the Talespinner Party has often been held.

Out of the Past, Into the Future

Storytellers and Librarians join Forces at Texas Library Association Conference

by Janet Latham, TLA Storytelling Roundtable Chair, jlatham@dentonisd.org

Pack your bags! Ask for time off if need be! Come to San Antonio for the 2010 Texas Library Association Convention April 14-17! What's that got to do with storytelling, you may ask. It has everything in the world to do with storytelling and in a very BIG way. The San Antonio convention is one of the most popular TLA venues *and* the Storytelling Round Table, which is composed of librarians, storytellers, and librarian/storytellers, has a program of great breadth and depth for all. Here's what you need to do:

April 14 (Wednesday) 1:00-4:00 Attend the Preconference program presented by Kendall Haven, West Point graduate, oceanographer, and storyteller. Kendall spent eight years with the Department of Energy "before finding his true passion for storytelling and a very different kind of 'truth.'" Kendall will show you how to **Filter Nonfiction through Storytelling**, demonstrating how to connect listeners to the past, present, and future. (Preregistration required by Wednesday, March 31, \$45)

Take a break. Drop by the Welcome Party for a bite to eat and then attend the **Storytelling Swap and Showcase 7:00-9:30** Be amazed by both professional and librarian tellers as they weave stories for you. Spin a yarn yourself if you would like, but you must be signed up by 7:30 if you want to make it into the schedule. Show your skills or learn from the pros

April 16 (Friday) Packed with stories, storytellers, even youth tellers!

8:00-9:20 Storytelling with Magic, Puppets, Props, and Humor - Professional entertainer/storyteller Margaret Clauder will share her secrets for capturing the hearts of children.

10:15-11:50 Rounding Up Texas Tales, Fractured and Otherwise - Author/storyteller Eric Kimmel, author Helen Ketteman, and teacher/storyteller Sue Kuentz team up to show "how folklore provides insight into customs and traditions and can be creatively adapted."

2:00-3:20 - Youth Storytelling: Getting Them to Tell the Tale Youth Storytelling Coaches MaryAnn Blue and Sharon Moa tell all you need to know about coaching kids. Youth tellers from San Antonio will give you a glimpse of the next generation of tellers as they charm you with their tales.

8:00-9:50 - Storytelling Concert Round out a full day of how-to's with the ones who do! San Antonio's own Mary Grace Ketner will MC an evening with MaryAnn Blue, bi-lingual teller from San Antonio; Amy Bluemel, Native American teller from Godley ISD; Kendall Haven, author/storyteller; and Eric Kimmel, author/storyteller. What a way to end an evening!

Last, but never least, we would love for you to come by the Storytelling Round Table business meeting on **Saturday, April 17** from 8:00-9:50.

North Texas Region: Story Launch Successful

Story Launch, held November 14, did just what it was developed to do --improve youth storytelling. Students from the North Texas area gathered at W.S. Ryan Elementary in Denton to go through their paces. Each student performed his or her story before a supportive audience and nurturing coaches. Two concerts ran simultaneously. Students came away with a better idea of what to expect at TSYC and learned many ways to improve on the stories they told. Thank you to all who volunteered to help and everyone who participated. We all had a great time. ☆

Youth Audition Deadline for Texas Storytelling Festival

January 23 is the postmark deadline for audition tapes/DVDs for the **Texas Storytelling Festival**. The Texas Storytelling Festival is scheduled for March 11-14, 2010, at the Civic Center in Denton, Texas. Send audition tapes/DVDs to Shelby Smith, PO Box 101, Spurger, TX 77660. Do not send VHS-C, miniDV, Hi8 or 8mm; audition videos in those formats will be automatically disqualified. Storytelling coaches may submit one master video for a group, or individual video for each student. However, a completed application form for each student must accompany the submitted group video. Additional information may be obtained from Shelby at shelby@tipitellers.org. ☆

Texas Storytelling Youth Challenge Rescheduled for May 1, 2010

The Texas Storytelling Youth Challenge, originally set for mid-January, has been rescheduled for Saturday, May 1, 2010, because of a change of date for the next National Youth Storytelling Showcase. Any Texas Youth, grades 2 through 12, may enter in either challenge. Both regions will hold their challenges on the same day.

The event for the **South Central** area will be held in San Antonio at Stone Oak Elementary, 21045 Crescent Oak. Registration information is available from Sue Kuentz, skuentz@gvtc.com, (210) 497-6200, or on the internet at <http://tw.neisd.net/webpages/skuent/storytelling.cfm>.

In **North Central** Texas, the event will be held at W.S. Ryan Elementary, 201 W. Ryan Road, in Denton. For registration information, email Shelby Smith at shelby@tipitellers.org or telephone Shelby at (214) 212-1771.

Students may enter individually or through a school or club. The registration deadline for both events is April 22, 2010. Stories must be five to ten minutes in length. The winners of both events will be invited to tell onstage at the Texas Youth Storytelling Showcase during the Tejas Storytelling Conference in Austin in July. In addition, five youth tellers will be selected from the regional winners to enter the National Youth Storytelling Showcase. More information on the NYSS can be found at <http://www.nationalyouthstorytellingshowcase.org>.



Tejas Storytelling Conference to host Texas Youth Storytelling Showcase

The National Youth Storytelling Showcase (NYSS), in which youth from all over the country are invited to perform, has been postponed. The January TSYC was originally scheduled to meet a February deadline in order for Texas youth to have a chance to tell in Pigeon Forge at NYSS. This showcase has been held in conjunction with the Smoky Mountain Storytelling Festival in June for the past few years, however, the National Youth Storytelling Showcase has changed plans and will not be conducting their event until February of 2011. This means Texas youth tellers will have a chance to slow down, as well as to present our own Texas Youth Storytelling Showcase. The TSA Youth Committee is planning an event similar to the showcase in Pigeon Forge. Youth chosen from South Central and North Central Texas Challenge events will be invited to perform at the TSA summer conference. From there, five students will be selected to enter their storytelling videos/DVDs at the national level. Coaches and students will have a little more time to prepare.

Treasurer's Report

by Jerry Young, jdymesquite@yahoo.com

It's time to reflect on where the Association has been and what has been accomplished. Let me start back in June when I took on the role of TSA Treasurer.

It was a sad weekend when the Board eliminated the executive director's position at the end of June. As the board took this action, I sensed a large question mark hung over every member of the board. I think each member asked: "Did we do the right thing?"

Looking back half a year later, the answer is clear. Yes! The board did the right thing. It is sad for the person whose position is axed, but with the executive director's position gone, the board was able to direct monies to more critical needs.

I feel strongly that TSA's financial affairs are sound and healthy as the organization prepares for 2010. I also feel that TSA's financial wellness was achieved because the organization was no longer burdened with an executive director's salary.

Two artistically and financially successful events brought in significant income. The 2009 Conference in Austin added \$8,900 to the TSA bank account, and the Tumbleweed Festival in Abilene brought in \$3,900. These two events came off because some people did tremendously hard work securing free sites, grants, sponsorships, and advertisements. Admission sales, resource sales, and a raffle added to the final tally. Attendees generously contributed gifts and donations. People signed on as new members.

The financial success of these two events was brought off through the united energy of board members. Also, local folks jumped in with committed energy to pull off these memorable events.

During the past seven months, TSA members made a real assault against the Line of Credit debt. At the end of June, the debt totaled \$28,000. In previous months, the organization had paid only the minimum monthly payment. Often those payments were offset by the added-on financial charges. Once TSA members became aware of this issue, some folks pledged money for debt retirement. Others made cash gifts to apply to the debt. It is encouraging to note that with members' gifts and regular monthly payments, at the end of November, the Line of Credit debt has been paid down to \$24,624.37.

When the last 2009 HOT fund check came in, TSA's attorney was able to negotiate a settlement to close out a disputed marketing invoice.

As I accepted the treasurer's responsibility, I found that unpaid invoices had been allowed to stack up, sometimes for several months. But during the past six months, monies from grants, memberships, raffles, sponsorships, gifts, and donations, in addition to the Conference and Festival proceeds, made it possible for TSA to pay



Jerry Young

off those outstanding invoices and maintain monthly payments for housekeeping and other expenses.

As of December 2, TSA has no outstanding account payable.

Some months ago, Board President Elizabeth Ellis proposed to create the Doc Moore Educational Outreach Fund followed by a generous gift to honor her mother. However, the Doc Moore Fund was never firmed up, and the designated money evaporated to cover outstanding bills.

At the November Board meeting, the Fund was officially established by authorizing the Treasurer to set up the Fund with an initial deposit of \$1,170. The special savings account is restricted for the Doc More Fund.

I feel this action is an indicator of TSA's financial health as we move into 2010. TSA members are encouraged to add to the Doc Moore Fund with generous gifts. This is an appropriated fund for folks to remember family and special friends with a memorial gift.

November Summary of TSA Accounts

submitted December 2, by Jerry Young, TSA Treasurer

General Operating Account

Balance October 31, 2009	\$4,676.47
Deposits	\$5,847.62
Withdrawals	\$5,793.72
Balance November 30, 2009	\$4,730.72

Business Line of Credit

Balance October 31, 2009	\$26,722.96
Payment	\$ 2,212.00
Finance Charge	\$ 113.04
Balance November 30, 2009	\$24,624.37

HOT Fund Account

Balance October 31, 2009	\$16,581.32
Deposits	0.00
Withdrawals, debits	\$14,687.50
Balance, November 30, 2009	\$ 1,893.82

Doc Moore Educational Outreach Fund

New Account	
Deposit	\$1,170.00
Withdrawals	\$ 0.00
Balance November 30, 2009	\$1,170.00

calendar of storytelling events

january

January 23, 2010
Deadline for Youth Audition Tapes
for 25th Texas Storytelling Festival
More information in Youth Yarns

february

February 12, 2010
Martha Len Nelson Classic
featuring Donald Davis
 Banquet with silent and live auctions
www.tejasstorytelling.org

February 13, 2010
Workshop with Donald Davis
Tejas Sponsored
 Workshop fee: \$50.⁰⁰
 Denton, TX
www.tejassstorytelling.org

February 21, 2010
Stories Galore
Stellar Teller Rosemary Davis
 followed by open mic storytelling
 Commander's House, San Antonio
bob78227@yahoo.com

march

March 6, 2010
UTSA Storytelling Festival
 University of Texas at San Antonio

March 11-14, 2010
25th Anniversary
Texas Storytelling Festival
& Membership Meeting
 Denton Civic Center
 Denton, TX
www.tejasstorytelling.org

March 21, 2010
Stories Galore
Stellar Teller Donna Ingham
 followed by open mic storytelling
 Commander's House, San Antonio, TX
bob78227@yahoo.com

april

April 14-17, 2010
Texas Library Association Conference
 San Antonio, TX
http://www.txla.org/conference/conf.htm

may

May 1, 2010
Texas Storytelling Youth Challenge
Regional Events
 San Antonio and Denton
 Further info in Youth Yarns article

june

June 4-5, 2010
Spirit of Oklahoma
2010 Storytelling Festival
 Seminole, Oklahoma
http://www.territorytellers.org/SpiritOfOklahoma/StorytellingFestival

June 11-13, 2010
Texas Folklife Festival
Storytelling Stage
 Institute of Texan Cultures
 Hemisfair Plaza, San Antonio, TX

july

July 29-31, 2010
National Storytelling Network
Conference,
"Many Stories, One World."
 Los Angeles, California
 Early registration discounts available
 until January 15, 2010
http://www.storynet.org/conference/index.html



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Twenty Five Tellers for the 25th Texas Storytelling Festival March 11-14, 2010

It's All Tejas All the Time!

TEJAS *Teller*

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Submission dates:

February 1, 2010 - deadline for March/April issue

April 1, 2010 - deadline for May/June issue

All submissions must be sent to jayemclaughlin@hotmail.com