



# TEJAS Teller

TEJAS STORYTELLING ASSOCIATION

[www.tejasstorytelling.com](http://www.tejasstorytelling.com)

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## Two New TSA Board Members Elected

*Richard Nash and Consuelo Samarripa have joined the Tejas Storytelling Association Board of Directors effective June 1. They were elected by TSA members in recent balloting from a field of five candidates.*

**Richard Nash**, from Dallas, is an experienced storyteller himself as well as a consultant, facilitator, and instructor. He enjoys developing new ideas and outcomes with over 30 years of goal-oriented and outcome-driven field experience. He says he has honed his skills in his roles as a father of five and grandfather of six and as an adjunct faculty member for Dallas Community Colleges, and he has a life time of experience with social service and other non-profit programs as well as 30 years in private practice. He has served as president of two non-profits: the Dallas Storytelling Guild and the Dallas Chapter of Texas Association of Addiction Professionals (TAAP). He has a B.S. degree in psychology/sociology and an M.S. degree in human relations. "Storytelling," Nash says, "is not about the person telling; it is about the story. Stories have floated in our collected minds since we were born. Stories have been handed down from grandparents, aunts and uncles, parents, teachers, spiritual leaders and our own experiences and will be passed to the next generations, until there is no one left to hear."



**Consuelo Samarripa**, from Harker Heights, brings to the board a history of prior service and experience that includes leadership roles in various associations and affiliations related to her profession and to special interest groups. For seven years she produced and directed the Hispanic Storytelling Festival—the first of its kind in Texas—in Austin. During that time three representatives from Spain came to review the process so they could produce a similar festival in their country. She first developed her public speaking skills through Toastmasters International and discovered her love of and talent for storytelling. She achieved the highest designation as a Distinguished Toastmaster and served in a number of officer roles at the club, area, division, and district levels, including district lieutenant governor of marketing/membership and district lieutenant governor of education and training. As a storyteller, she is currently a touring artist on the roster of the Texas Commission for the Arts. She says she is prepared and will be "proud to serve and represent you, the TSA members, on the upcoming 2013-2016 Tejas Storytelling Association (TSA) Board."



Elizabeth Ellis and Donna Ingham rotated off the board at the end of May. Larry Thompson, whose

*Continued...*

first appointed partial term ended May 31, will stay on the board as a full-term appointed member. At least one additional member is being sought from the Denton community and will be appointed. Elizabeth will continue as co-artistic director of the 2014 Texas Storytelling Festival, along with Jeannine Pasini

Beekman. Jeannine will then be artistic director for the 30th festival in 2015. New and returning board members met in Denton for the annual planning retreat June 1-3. June 1 marks the beginning of TSA's fiscal year. ♡

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# I Wanna Be a Better Teller!

by Elizabeth Ellis

I bet you've got a whole list of things you are planning to get done this summer. It might not be a "Bucket List." Maybe it's more of a "Sand Pail List," but I bet there's a list none the same.

Summer gives many of us needed time off from the daily grind. And, if not actual time off, a less hectic schedule is in the cards for many of us.

Well, before you head for the hammock with your lemonade--or whatever you are taking to the backyard in that glass, let's talk for a minute about what you may want to accomplish this summer with your storytelling. I bet one of the items on your "Sand Pail List" is "I wanna be a better storyteller." That is probably true of each and every one of us. But, the truth is that is an amazingly effective piece of self sabotage. Why? Because you would never be able to decide if you had accomplished it or not.

You want some definite goals. "I wanna be a better teller" is not a goal; it is a wish. The trouble with wishes is you can never tell if you have accomplished them or not. But a goal is easy to evaluate. You can tell if you accomplished it or not because a goal is--

- measurable--Unlike a wish, a goal is definite and concrete. "This summer I am going to develop a story about my childhood on an ostrich farm." or "I will find and learn two Japanese ghost stories this

summer." It is easy to see whether you did these or not because they are measurable.

- attainable--Unlike a wish, a goal takes reality into consideration. If you have aging parents that require a lot of your attention or are doing graduate work this summer, you probably will not have time to research and memorize that ancient Icelandic epic poem. Break the task into pieces. Set your goals in terms of the other demands on your time. Be realistic, but don't use that as an excuse to be lazy.

- your very own--Someone else may be making wishes for you. "I really wish you would tell some stories by Carl Sandburg. You would do such a good job of that." No matter what someone else wants you to do, a goal needs to be your own. No one knows the secret desires of your storytelling heart as well as you do. Trust it. A goal should represent your passion and your vision for your artistic development.

So put some storytelling goals on your "Sand Pail List." Me, I've decided folks have heard so many stories about Jack, they are probably ready to hear some of the Appalachian folktales that have female main characters. I'm gonna put together a program of them. Sounds like fun.

Now, where did I put my "lemonade"? ♡



## 2013-2014 TSA Governing Board

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### **Mission Statement:**

*Tejas Storytelling Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering the appreciation of storytelling as an oral tradition, a performing art, and an educational tool.*

**PHONE: 940-380-9320**

# President's Letter

*By Waynetta Ausmus*

From the Lucky Me Ranch...

The other day when my horse farrier came out to trim my horses' feet, I asked him if he would tell me the story of how he got started working as a farrier and told him that I'd like to interview him for a radio segment on "Everyday Cowboy." He laughed and said that he didn't have a story. I said, "Sure you do; you've got lots of dandy stories about horses and mules that you worked with." He said that he just had some "little 'ol stories," nothing big. I assured him that those little stories are big deals; you can learn a lot about a person by their "little" stories.

That is about the same thing with Tejas. We all have a lot of "little" stories about Tejas Storytelling Association: when we came to our first festival, when we took our first workshop, when we decided to tell stories or join a guild. Lots of little stories that are really a big deal, because they tell a lot about our Association. Those stories tell about Tejas' culture, it's brand. I think we are a very friendly group. I have personally been blessed with friendships from many of the storytellers and have been helped by their guidance and words. I have lots of little stories about folks in this Association that demonstrate the kind of culture that it is...warm and encouraging and fun!

Share your stories about Tejas; those stories can encourage others to enjoy the pleasure of storytelling and coming to the festivals, workshops and guild meetings.

We've got a dedicated and hard working board, interested in your comments. So help us get to know you. Visit the website and facebook page of Tejas Storytelling Association.

Lastly, thanks to Gary Patton, Elizabeth Ellis, and Donna Ingham, as they officially go off the board, for all they've done in their support and dedication to TSA. It is impressive and amazing the time and commitment they have put in to TSA. A big Tejas welcome to our new board members.

Please note that the main telephone number for the TSA office is now 940-380-9320 (no longer will it take 45 seconds to get to us); the fax number remains the same at 940-380-9329 You can also communicate by email directly to me, Waynetta Ausmus, at [tejasprez@gmail.com](mailto:tejasprez@gmail.com).

We really do want to hear your story. Looking forward to visiting with you. 🐾

## 29th Annual Texas Storytelling Festival



*Wit, Wisdom, and Whimsey . . .*

*Peninnah Schram  
Tim Couch  
Janice del Negro  
Angela Lloyd*

March 6 - 9, 2014

Denton Civic Center, Denton, Texas

[www.tejasstorytelling.com](http://www.tejasstorytelling.com)

The nation's premier Jewish teller Peninnah Schram, the elegant and eloquent Janice del Negro, and the free-spirited Angela Lloyd will join Texas' own Tim Couch for the 2014 Texas Storytelling Festival on March 6th through the 9th at the Denton Civic Center.

Each of these tellers will enchant and inspire you...and in Janice's case scare the tar out of you, too.

Mark your calendars now for an event too amazing to miss!

### Networking with Storynet.org

## Tejas is coming to NSN conference

*By Mary Grace Ketner, NSN liaison for Texas*

Congratulations to Tejas members who are participating in the NSN Conference, August 1-4 in Richmond, VA ([www.storynet.org/conference/](http://www.storynet.org/conference/)). Presenting Fringe performances are Judy Allton of Houston, telling "True Moon Stories," and Bernadette Nason of Austin sipping "Tea in Tripoli." Darci Tucker, TSA member from Williamsburg Virginia, will present the workshop, "Stepping into Story through Character Interpretation." You can come, too. Cheer on your colleagues and join in splendid plenaries, worthy workshops, fresh fringes, and satisfying story swaps. Network night and day, and find the storied items you've been looking for at the conference gift shop.

Here's a special incentive from NSN: For those of you already attending, if you know someone who would love to be with us, tell them to call Kit at the NSN office (800-525-4514, ext. 306) and give your

name as their 'buddy' who invited them, and we will give them a \$50 discount from the regular full conference price (adult or senior/student rate) via phone with credit card or mailed check payment. NSN will also mail a free "Live & Thriving" double CD of 18 stories to you, the buddy, as a thank you.

Need a roommate or a ride from the airport? No problem. NSN is posting room share and ride share offers at [www.storynet.org/share](http://www.storynet.org/share). Special Interest Groups are offering one-day pre-conference programs, too; see what's happening with the Youth, Educators and Storytellers Alliance & Storytelling in Higher Education, the Healing Story Alliance, and the Producers and Organizers Sig.

Details on these and other conference activities and offerings may be found online at [www.storynet.org/conference/](http://www.storynet.org/conference/). 🐶

# Affiliate Guild News

## What's Happening Around Texas?

*Compiled by Sheila Phillips*

Guild News editor for the Tejas Teller is Sheila Phillips ([zoolady@airmail.net](mailto:zoolady@airmail.net)). Please submit announcements of upcoming events, reviews of past events, and other articles to her by or before the published deadline.

- » For 25 years (yeah...25), the Houston Storytellers' Guild has held its annual Liars' Contest, arguably the best Liars' Contest in the State of Texas, the Southwest or perhaps the World. That's the ticket! On April 13th they did it again with a contingent of eight tellers, three hard-working and conscientious judges and a theater filled with 105 eager story/liar listeners. A ringer from Dallas, Leslie Buie, walked away with the Solid Gold Trophy with Judy Allton coming in second and Dan Gordon third. It was a grand night for all.
- » Additionally, under the direction of Hank Roubecsek, past President of HSG, the Guild's radio show on KPFT has been expanded and is drawing quite an audience.
- » The San Antonio Storytellers Association is primed to return to their spiffy, nicer-than-ever Brookhollow Branch Library meeting venue after being away for several months as the update and repairs were going on. They will be taking their newly revised bylaws and new Executive Council with them. New leaders include: Ryan McPherson, President, Mary Grace Ketner, Treasurer, Veronica Gard, Secretary, and Members-at-Large Jose Sanchez, Pat Schieffer, and Larry Thompson. Keep up with SASA by visiting their Facebook page, "SanAntonioStorytellers" and like them.
- » Storytellers of the High Plains will suspend monthly meeting during the summer and resume meetings in September.

# TSA Presenter Takes Workshop to Sharing the Fire

Jacqui Rash, from Fort Worth, presented her “Step by Step Guide to Collecting History” workshop in April at the Sharing the Fire 2013 Northeast Storytelling Conference in Maine ([www.lanes.org](http://www.lanes.org)). She presented this same workshop at the 2012 Texas Storytelling Festival.

Jacqui’s report from the Maine gathering includes a bit of history: “The conference started about 35 years ago and continues to have an awesome line-up of featured tellers. Brother Blue and Sister Ruth were among those who founded the conference.”

The 2013 keynote speakers were Joseph Bruchac and Jo Radner. “Joseph explained traditions,” she said, “and had us engaged in song. He played his drum and briefly played his flute. I was hypnotized by his voice as he spoke words with such meaning that they touched my soul.”

Jo “used her voice, voices, to take us to another land. Our spirits left the conference and traveled to an age long ago. People we didn’t know until Jo introduced us. It was magical. I listened to Jo and Joseph and didn’t worry about remembering details, which was not my purpose. I was to be a good listener.”

When she arrived on a Friday night, she said, Simon Brooks asked her to join his group for dinner where she sat with Simon, Karen Chace, and Karen Wollscheid. “Soon the table was full of tellers, so we joined another table and it filled up as well. I was no longer a newcomer but a member of the group of storytellers at the conference.”

Her most memorable moment came when Sister Ruth came to her workshop and sat on her left. Sister Ruth nodded at some points, Jacqui said, and interjected to provide other resources and information. Jo Radner also made suggestions to help

make the workshop the best it could be for each one present. “Several of the younger attendees showed emotional relief at finding ways to connect to their lost or unknown family members,” Jacqui added. “They want to hear more of their story and share in the telling.” ♡

## Newsletter deadlines

The *Tejas Teller* is published and distributed to TSA members on a bi-monthly basis. Although this issue of the newsletter is still under the editorship of Donna Ingham, Larry Thompson will be taking over as Publications Committee chair as of June 1. **The next deadline for submissions to the newsletter is June 30 for the July/August issue.**

General news items or inquiries can be sent to Larry at [larrythompson@ureach.com](mailto:larrythompson@ureach.com). Larry is also the administrator for TSA’s Facebook page, and he welcomes guild news there as well. Promote and/or report your guild activities through social networking by funneling announcements to Larry.

Guild News items should be sent to Sheila Phillips at [zoolady@airmail.net](mailto:zoolady@airmail.net).

Currently the *Tejas Teller* is being distributed electronically. If you want a printed copy of the newsletter mailed to you, please notify Karen Wollscheid at [membership@tejasstorytelling.com](mailto:membership@tejasstorytelling.com).

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