

THE TEJAS TELLER

AUG/SEPT. 2011

newsletter of the Tejas Storytelling Association



THE SCIENCES AND STORYTELLING



- LUCINDA WISE

Ask yourself: Is there one all-encompassing science? Or are there many sciences of _____? What does storytelling and "science" mean to you?

To me, it is telling on a porch as the moon rises behind you seeing the awe and amazement on the faces of pre-schoolers, pre-teens, and the rest of the audience while you tell the ancient stories and lore told from the old ones' observations and new stories from new

experiences and observations of the moon. To me, it is laughing with the students as they create a story of the cycle of water from the perspective of a deer. The story itself will never be told on the Carnegie stage and yet the cycle of water and a deer's perspective has been explored and filed away in memories to be used later. to me, it is students listening and moving with the rhythms of my story making will calling out their observations until it is the class and not me telling together the story of their discovery. To me, it is reading about ancient catastrophes and how scientists have learned that the stories actually hold worthwhile information.

One of the interesting things to observe when in a classroom (formal or informal) is what appears to be the meaning of the term science. Is it a set of procedures requiring a specific result which can be duplicated? Is it a group of facts that must be memorized and used in different way to pass a test? Is it a study of cause and effect? Is it an ongoing process of observation, prediction, gathering of data and analysis? Is it pondering how things work? Is the scientific method a training tool for helping organize thoughts and disciplining the mind when considering processes?

As a storytelling teacher, it is useful to be asking yourself these questions. Get a sense of the perspective and goals that the teacher has for bringing you in to supplement their teaching or the biological or geological or whatever concept it is. It helps you process which style of storytelling you will have



(sciences and storytelling cont.)

the students work with or genre of tale you will tell to entice the learning process.

As a storytelling educator enhancing the learning process from the stage (or cafeteria), it is easy to skim along the surface of appropriateness. When preparing a program, how about going ten steps beyond where the teachers, students, and texts are spending their time? Deepen your understanding and through telling deepen their understanding. Then when they study and experiment, they have some understanding of what the problem was before someone asked the question and developed the experiment.

Give them the context of the world beyond the classroom and they have reason to truly consider the fragment of life they are asked to study.

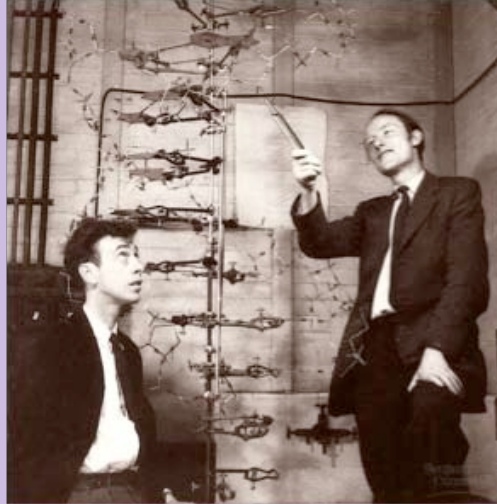
THE WORLD BEYOND

This brings me to a concern. What about the larger stories that inform, extend our knowledge, and hold the history and serve as our collective wisdom concerning events in our world?

The Gulf Spill - oil hemorrhaging

Japan and the moving earth

Haiti and the swirling water . . .



Watson and Crick have been given credit for the DNA research BUT . . . it was Dr. Rosalind Franklin who provided the information which enabled them to build the DNA model. Where's her story?

Who makes these stories as the Elders once did?

In the last couple of years, I have worked with several groups of adults for the specific purpose of considering information, data and storytelling. We were talking about how to use storytelling to teach scientific concepts and describe events or discoveries. The culmination of the workshops was to discuss and create an outline of a series of stories OR one great big story about the Gulf Spill. It did not go well.

The one style of storytelling that one group had in common was Dr. Seuss. We were so grateful that we came to this common understanding of story and quickly created an outline. That group was lucky. The challenge was, as a group, not having the experience of considering metaphor, character, and story. The challenge was the crippling concern of whatever was said someone would consider it inappropriate or just plain wrong. I think that, perhaps, it is too early and yet - who will remember and make the larger story?



The Prez' Piece

Donna Ingham, Pres. TSA

Let's look back a bit
before we look ahead.

The 2010-2011 Tejas Storytelling Association fiscal year ended May 31 not only out of debt but with money in the bank. Can you say hurrah? That happy fact, of course, is due in very large measure to the leadership of Elizabeth Ellis and to the commitment of TSA members willing to give of their time, their talent, and their money. Those are the marks of a thriving all-volunteer organization.

Nowhere was that more evident recently than at the Texas Storytelling Conference in San Antonio. Mary Grace Ketner splendidly planned the event and coordinated with the board and staff of the National Storytelling Network to include the annual presentation of the Oracle Awards during the conference. So a lot of folks outside our immediate ranks got to see our bunch of willing workers making sure everything and everyone were taken care of—even when the story store had to be moved. In short order goods were packed up, moved from the UTSA campus to the Doubletree across the street, and set up to be ready for business again. And a couple of people, hearing that there was an unanticipated rental fee for the space in the hotel, opened their wallets and offered to cover the cost. Those are just the kinds of members we've got.

Three new members joined the board in June: Tom McDermott, Lynn Moroney, and Nancy Self. And Elizabeth is staying on another year as president emeritus to provide guidance and counsel for us all. Your organization is in good hands.

So what's next? Be sure to mark your calendars for the Tumbleweed Storytelling Festival in Abilene, Oct. 21-22. The featured tellers are Barbara McBride-Smith and Dennis Gaines. Come prepared to laugh. Details about workshops will be announced soon. Meanwhile, make plans to register as an early bird and make your hotel reservations now (see information elsewhere in the Tejas Teller). Another October event is the annual Scare on the Square in Denton, set for Oct. 29.

The 27th annual Texas Storytelling Festival will be in Denton May 8-11, featuring Patrick Ball, Kevin Kling, Mary Ann Blue, and Kim Lehman. Note the call for workshop proposals in this issue of the Tejas Teller.

So we have lots to look forward to, yes? And we all say: Yes!



New members - update your directory folks!!! Welcome to the "fold," as they say where I'm from. Shout out and Hello to:

Judy Alton
351 Lakeside Lane H206
Houston TX 77058
281-483-5766

Tonya Fennell
PO Box 330068
Ft. Worth, TX 76163
tfennell@luminouspro.net

Susan Lewis
280 Edinburgh Rd
San Angelo, TX 76901
806-681-6681
snclewis@amaonline.com

Jim May
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Storytelling in Texas
Vanessa Potter, Exec. Dir.
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Roger Armstrong
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North Little Rock, AR 72118
501-771-1737
wordweaver@arkansas.net

Marilyn Kinsella
645 Pleasant Ridge Rd
Fairview Heights, IL 62208
markinsella19@hotmail.com

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4313 NW 22nd St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73107
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Jose Sanchez
208 South Winston Ln
San Antonio, TX 78213
joe@ichinggatos.com

ADDRESS CHANGE:

Elizabeth Ellis
6218 Wofford Ave.
Dallas, TX 75227

Charles Redding
1202 Lansdowne
817-713-2857



In 2010, Waco voted Ms. Vivian No. 15 as *Reasons to Love Waco*.

Meet the Board -

**Vivian Rutherford
(member at large)**

Since the summer of 2000, Vivian Rutherford has been a devoted Children’s Librarian for the Waco-McLennan County Library system. She conducts weekly story-times for toddlers and pre-k students at the East and Central Branch libraries.

Additionally she goes on outreaches to schools and daycares; she presents workshops to high school and university students, Head-Start Instructors, Librarians and various church and civic organizations throughout the McLennan County area.

During the summer, she hosts and moderates a Kids’ Book Discussion Club designed specifically for students in grades one through three. The Angel Paws Reading Buddies Program finds Ms. Vivian welcoming kids and dogs to sit and read together for fun. Vivian, native Houstonian and mother of three is a natural born yarn-spinner. She defies the joyless librarian bookworm stereotype. She is a storyteller who does not “hush” children - she positively incites and inspires kids about reading through vivid tales and commands attention and affection from rapt listeners of her stories.

She participates annually in the Nation of Readers program sponsored by Baylor University and has presented at both the Mayborn Museum and Texas Rangers’ Hall of Fame. When the Russian and Chinese Presidents visited Crawford, she again was honored to present a Russian and Chinese story-time at Crawford Elementary.

In March 2007, Vivian became a founding member and president of the Heart of Texas Storytelling Guild.

Vivian’s desire is to be used as an instrument in creating a life-long love of reading in the boys and girls she is fortunate to meet.

Follow her to a storytelling gig at a local school, daycare or university and see for yourself. You will find excitement and anticipation while awaiting her arrival and upon her departure, your life will have been changed.



One of the unseen faces of TSA

Karen Wollscheid, webmaster for TSA



I have wondered about our webmaster since I have communications with her. So, I asked that she introduce herself:

I have been a freelance graphic designer for 22 years, the last 13 of which I have worked almost exclusively with storytellers and storytelling organizations. I am married with two children, Andrea who is finishing her Environmental Education studies at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and Kevin who is studying Industrial Engineering at Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois. My husband is an electrical engineer at Motorola, making those little teeny tiny electronics in your cell phone. I work from my converted dining room with my four-legged workmates - the beagle, the golden doodle, and the two cats - keeping me company, and keeping Swiffer in business!
Thank you Karen. You’re doing a great job!!!!



Telling stories is not just the oldest form of entertainment, it's the highest form of consciousness. The need for narrative is embedded deep in our brains. Increasingly, success in the information age demands that we harness the hidden power of stories.

- Peter Guber, *The Inside Story*, [Psychology Today](#)



Diane Wolkstein visits Houston

- Jere Pfister

On June 4, with Houston's outside temperatures well over 100 degrees, storyteller Diane Wolkstein came to the Rothko Chapel to take its members and Houston's storytellers on a "Journey to the West: The Monkey King". Wolkstein embodied the ancient storyteller as she performed the story in song and sacred movement. The narrative and dialogue gave life to characters whose voices seemed channeled from faraway lands and distant time. The underlying accompaniment by musician Jeff Green brought the audience ever deeper into the story which captured the spiritual journey of all peoples and faiths.

By the time the members left the coolness of the chapel for a waiting reception under a tent, a cool breeze had softened the intense heat of a late spring afternoon reminding all who had come of the changing patterns of nature. Instead of hurrying off to their air-conditioned cars the audience stayed to talk about what had transpired during the preceding two hours. Strangers became fellow travelers sharing the excitement of what we had witnessed along the way.



To learn more about Diane Wolkstein and the epic "Journey to the West: The Monkey King" go to monkeykingepic.com and find an enormous wealth of information in the Taiwan links concerning Diane's interviews with fellow travelers and masters of theater and Buddhism.





Tumbleweed Storytelling Festival

Abilene, TX

Oct 21 - 22, 2011

Go west, you story lovers, go west! Plan now to attend the 3rd annual Tumbleweed Storytelling Festival at the Elks Art Center in Abilene.

Featured are a couple of tellers guaranteed to be slap-your-thighs funny. **Barbara McBride-Smith**, Texas-born but living in Oklahoma now, brings a national reputation and an impressive list of credits with her, including the Circle of Excellence award given by the National Storytelling Network. **Dennis Gaines** can match her drawl for drawl as a cowboy poet who has appeared at the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada, and as a first-rate liar who has won the Biggest Liar in Texas title three times. No telling what other tall tale tellers may show up to join the fun.

And workshops? Yes indeed, a half dozen of them plus a pre-concert panel on Friday evening talking about Social Media and Storytelling. Workshop topics and descriptions, as well as registration forms for the festival, will soon be posted on the Tejas Storytelling Association website: www.tejasstorytelling.com.

Meanwhile, here's the tentative schedule:

Friday, October 21

Tellers to area schools

1:00 Registration

2:00 – 3:30 Workshop – Board Room at Elks

2:00 – 3:30 Workshop – NCCIL Classroom

3:45 – 5:00 Story Swap – Ballroom at Elks

5:00-6:30 Supper on your own

6:30-7:15 Panel Discussion – Social Media and Storytelling- Ballroom at Elks

7:30-9:30 Evening concert with featured tellers – Ballroom at Elks

Saturday, October 22

9:00 Registration

10:00 – 11:30 Workshop – Board Room at Elks

10:00 – 11:30 Workshop – NCCIL Classroom

10:00 Tiny Tales for Tiny Tots – NCCIL Gallery

11:30 - 1:00 Lunch on your own

1:00 – 2:00 Youth Teller Concert – NCCIL Gallery

1:30 – 3:00 Workshop – Board Room at Elks

1:30 – 3:00 Workshop – NCCIL Classroom

3:15 – 4:15 Don't Wanna Drive After Dark Matinee – NCCIL Gallery

4:30 – 5:15 Social Hour - Ballroom at Elks

5:15 – 6:15 Supper-on-the-Grounds – Ballroom at Elks

6:45 – 7:30 Catclaw Creek

7:30-9:30 - Tall Tales followed by featured tellers – Ballroom at Elks

Full festival registration for early birds, through Oct. 6, is only \$55, less than it was last year. What a deal! After the early bird discount deadline or at the site, registration will be \$70. For those who can't take in the whole event, a one-day Saturday pass is available for \$30 early bird or \$40 on-site, and individual tickets are available for workshops at \$15 and for concerts at \$10 (\$12 and \$8 for seniors, military, and students). Saturday evening's Supper-on-the-Grounds is not included in the festival package and will require a separate ticket. See the TSA website for details and for information about reserving a motel room.

The Whitten Inn University, 1625 Hwy. 351, in Abilene, has a block of rooms for the festival. The rate is \$59 plus tax for rooms booked by Oct. 6. The phone number is 325-673-5271. **Don't wait! After Oct. 6 the rooms will no longer be blocked.**

What to do? What to do?

Sundays September 11, 18, 25, October 2

6:00-7:00 p.m. - Free

Twilight Tales

Main Plaza

San Antonio

www.mainplaza.org

Mondays October 17, 24, 31

7:00- 8:00 p.m. - Free

Scare on the Square/San Antonio

Main Plaza

San Antonio

www.mainplaza.org

Saturday, September 24, 2011

4:00 - 10:00 p.m.

North Texas Guilds of Storytellers Gathering

Elm Grove Pavilion in River Legacy Park, Arlington, TX

All Guild members and Members of TSA are invited to attend and participate as they are able.

4pm - meet, greet, swap stories informally

5:30 pm Eat (bring own food, table service and drinks)

6:30 pm Swapping of Guild information & upcoming events

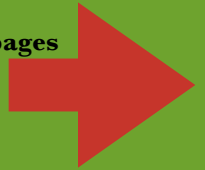
7:00 pm Swapping of Stories

Shelter can seat up to 65 and is close to play area and restrooms. Lawn chair or blankets, optional.

For directions: www.riverlegacy.org



There's still more on the next pages



HEY !
LOOKING FOR THIS?
IT'S FROM
CONFERENCE. CHECK
THIS OUT:

"TSA Conference attendees--or anyone--who would like to receive a copy of the *Growing Like a Read* rhyme collection should contact Valerie Kimble at kimblevalerie@yahoo.com. She will send the text by return email."

**THE DALLAS STORYTELLING
GUILD**

**PRESENTS THEIR FINEST TELLERS
IN TWO EVENINGS OF**

Ghost Tales

AT THE

BATH HOUSE

NOT RECOMMENDED FOR THE FAINT-OF-HEART OR PRETEENS

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29
7:00 P.M. BOTH EVENINGS
ADMISSION \$5. PAY AT THE DOOR**

**BATH HOUSE CULTURAL CENTER
WHITE ROCK LAKE
521 E. LAWTHER DRIVE, DALLAS**

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO WWW.DALLASSTORYTELLING.ORG.

PHOTO BY DOUG MCCLUER

FROM NORTH OF THE RED RIVER



Mark your calendars for this upcoming festival:

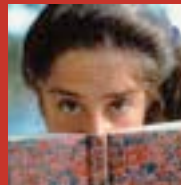
The Oklahoma City Storytelling Festival is Sept. 9 and 10, Friday and Saturday. All information about tellers, workshops and registration is on the Arts Council web page:

[Oklahoma City Storytelling Festival](#)

Donald Davis



Beth Horner



Bill Lepp



Onawumi Jean Moss



The Territory Tellers will host the story swap at noon on Friday. We will also present a noon Olio on Saturday Marilyn Hudson, Pat Kardaleff, Greg Rodgers, and Chester Weems will be our tellers on Sat. Tony Hardman will host the story swap on Fri. and Darla L'Allier will MC the Sat. Olio.



27th Texas Storytelling Festival
March 8-11, 2012
Denton Civic Center
Denton, Texas

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS
WORKSHOP PROPOSAL FORM—DUE OCTOBER 15, 2011

Section 1 Presenter Contact information

Name (as you wish it to appear in the program):

Address:

Daytime Phone:

Email:

Co-Presenter(s)

Name (as you wish it to appear in the program)

Address:

Daytime Phone:

Email:

Section 2. Workshop Title (10 words or less)

Section 3. Workshop Category

Workshop _____ *Showcase* _____ *Intensive (2 sessions)*

Section 4. Intended Audiences []

Put up to **3** code letters in the box above to indicate the main groups/interests you think would find this program particularly useful. All sessions will be appropriate for storytellers as well as:

- | | | |
|------------------------|--|---|
| A. Educators Preschool | H. Social service/Healthcare/Mental healthcare | L. Business/practical side of storytelling (PR, equipment, voice care, marketing, web sites, intellectual property, etc.) |
| B. Educators K-5 | I. History tellers/Museum & Park Interpreters | M. Business consultants/Organizational development |
| C. Educators 6-12 | J. Event producers | |
| D. Higher Education | K. Technology | |
| E. Librarians | | |
| F. Clergy | | |
| G. Lawyers | | |

Section 5. Audience Level []

1. Beginner 2. Intermediate 3. Advanced

NOTE: You may use additional pages for sections 6 – 12, please number your responses!

Section 6. Synopsis (60 words or less!)

Section 7. Bio (40 words or less!)

Section 8. Audio-Visual/Room set-up

Section 9. References

Name:

Address:

Daytime Phone:

Email:

Basis for reference:

Name:

Address:

Daytime Phone:

Email:

Basis for reference:

Section 10. Description/Outline (400 words or less). Please address the points below.

- A. Methodology: what, how, percentage of discussion, activity, and lecture**
- B. Specific learning objectives (at least 3)**
- C. Relation to conference/festival theme (if applicable)**

E-MAIL YOUR COMPLETE PROPOSAL BY DATES LISTED ABOVE TO: tse@tejasstorytelling.com

OR MAIL TO:

Tejas Storytelling Association, P.O. Box 2806, Denton, TX 76202

**Coming in
mid-September
special
conference
issue!!!!**

**pictures, comments,
celebrations**



Tejas Storytelling Association
PO Box 2806
Denton, TX 76202
www.tejasstorytelling.com