

October/November 2011



THE TEJAS TELLER

NEWSLETTER OF THE TEJAS STORYTELLING ASSOCIATION

OCT/NOV 2011



In a galaxy far away

Captain, she's breaking up

The pilot knew there was a human aboard . . .

Science Fiction Storytelling

David Thompson

Orson Scott Card...Ray Bradbury...Isaac Asimov...C.J. Cherryh...Ursula K. LeGuinn...names which conjure exotic, alien, eerily familiar scenarios and tales which perch on the tip of the tongue and often embed themselves in our deepest memories. These are just five of the myriad authors who show us the efficiency and the efficacy of good wordsmithing. So why shouldn't the storyteller take the challenge? Shouldn't the teller stretch their words, their descriptive powers? Shouldn't the teller "go where no teller has gone before," or at least recently?

Being asked somewhat similar questions by a group of college students in a Children's Literature class recently, I did not feel that I had a satisfying answer. Pondering long, researching my collection of tales and wonders that can be classified as science fiction, it dawned on me that many in our craft, many of our tellers might . . .just might mind you. . . be a bit technophobic, maybe? Or is it that this whole genre of story doesn't appear all that accessible? Possibly the science depicted is too technical, or assumes the reader is techno-savvy enough to work out the standard accoutrements which accompany a spaceship. But . . .who doesn't love a good challenge.

I have had great success with the LeGuinn tales and even an Orson Scott Card story or two. And this is because I consciously chose stories that were not overly-scientific or technical. Not due to any hesitancy in using language unfamiliar, not due to the fact that the stories I chose could easily be "non-technified," but simply because the characters and events reflect the deep archetypes we storytellers utilize. Take Rod Serling's "Like a Lover in the Night." (You do remember Rod Serling don't you?) This comes directly from one of his television episodes in which death comes to take an older woman with him - appearing as a much handsome, dashing, and polite young man. Gentle science-fiction, yes; but powerful all the same.

One of my dearest friends is a great fan of the Chanur series by Cherryh. Just imagine how one would describe a female leonine starship pilot on a journey to deliver the last remaining human to his new home. Think about the stories Chanur could tell of her life on the home planet where the males, due to extreme territoriality, stay at home while the females carry on the economy. This is where the teller comes in; this is where the teller can go "beyond the page" to whole new areas of story.

Howsomever, one must be up for the challenge. There are so many great anthologies and one author compilations it's virtually impossible to list. The new genre of science fiction is best represented by

(cont. inside)

HEY EDITOR!!!! WHERE'S THE CONFERENCE EDITION?

Good question dear reader. The planned conference edition is so picture heavy that I've had to contact my IT department about means of digitizing the pics to smaller sizes. Hope to have this out by mid-October.

(Sci-Fi storytelling cont.)

Steampunk, VanderMeer and VanderMeer, eds., which has a wonderful selection of stories eager to be told. Some, though, will present a definite challenge. The story I'm working on is "Benediction: excerpt from *The Warlord of the Air* by Michael Moorcock.

"But . . .but . . .but . . .," some tellers would say, "we need to preserve the old tales." And we shall. Yet aren't these sci-fi stories modern reflections of the old ones? True, the characters, locales, scenarios may take place on worlds light-years and worm holes away, but if you look closely the old frames still hold strong. And it is these frames that the teller can hold on to while working on a science fiction piece. Seeing the connections is only half the work. Adapting our language to new tales is the quest.

Of course, there's all the copyright and permissions one has to get. Yet think about it. How many science fiction writers receive permission requests to tell one of their stories? And who knows? A great relationship could result.

By NOT assuming the audience is techno-savvy, by looking for that story or group of stories which obviously reflect archetypal characters/locales/quests, by working with our words, and definitely moving outside the comfort zone, the whole area of science fiction provides very fertile ground for us. Just remember, "to infinity and beyond."



The Golden Age of Science Fiction: An Anthology of 50 Short Stories

Arabian Nights and Days

Tales from the Drowned Lands

Thieves World

Steampunk

Night's Master, Tales from the Flat Earth

Twelve Worlds

Shine: An Anthology of Near-Future Optimistic Science Fiction

The Black Mirror and Other Stories: An Anthology of Science Fiction from Germany and Austria

MEET THE BOARD -



Nancy S. Self, Ph.D

I am originally from South Carolina and have lived in College Station, Texas for the past 28 years. Currently I am a Clinical Associate Professor at Texas A&M University in my 26th year in the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Culture where I teach pre-service teachers who will be certified in grades K-6. Tim Tingle's visit to TAMU in 2000 introduced me to the joys and passion of storytelling. Since then I have tried to generate enthusiasm for and appreciation of storytelling and storytellers through the courses that I teach, the Aggie Storytelling Association, Tellabration! events, a freshman seminar on the power of storytelling, and invitations extended to multiple professional tellers to share their talents on the TAMU campus and within public schools and community organizations. As a new member of the Tejas Board, I am becoming more knowledgeable about the inner work of the state organization.

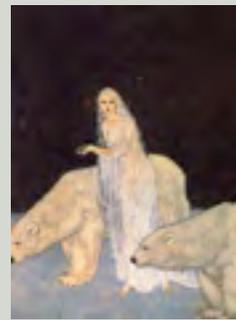
On a personal note, I have a son who is employed in the College Station library and is an actor and director in community theater productions. My daughter is a clinical psychologist at the Texas Children's hospital, and I have one three year old grandson who tells stories already. I plan to retire at the end of May so that I can engage in more volunteer storytelling in the community schools and organizations.

KNOW YOUR HISTORY

Queen Marie of Romania: Stories by Royal Writ



Queen Marie of Romania; b. Oct. 29, 1875 - d. July 18, 1938) néé Princess Marie of England; granddaughter of Queen Victoria and of Tsar Alexander II of Russia; Spouse of King Ferdinand I of Romania; Mother of King Carol II, Prince Nicolae, Princesses Marie (Mignon, Queen of Yugoslavia), Elisabeta (Queen of Greece), Ileana (Archduchess of Austria). Diplomatic Mission Negotiator, War-time Red Cross Officer, Writer, Patron of Charities.



from "The Dreamer of Dreams."
illus, Edmund DuLac

Queen Marie was one of the world's beauties who, along with her husband Ferdinand I House Hohenzollern, ruled the fairy-tale country of Romania spanning the Victorian and Edwardian years. Her life is one of utter fascination and eloquent service.

The upper-elite royal British upbringing merged with the "eastern" European attitudes towards children and their welfare. Children were very important to her and therefore her stories have been often relegated to the realm of young fantasy. However, the beauty, simplicity, and eloquently expressed stories she wrote encompass a deep maturity even when the subject matter seems light and puerile. Perhaps this was an expression of her fascination and study of the Baha'i religion.

Marie's *The Dreamer of Dreams* reaches towards the naturally recognized archetype. Longing, loneliness, love, and life permeate her stories and provide great morale lessons for all ages. *Conu Ilie's Rose Tree* brings to life a bittersweet love story. These, and her other tales, create almost the same emotional responses one has for . . . say . . . Oscar Wilde's *The Selfish Giant* or *The Stone Prince*, et al. Some will make you smile, some will break your heart.

Sadly, Queen Marie's books are hard to find and those that are available can require major cash, for most available are collector's editions. However, there is a wonderful website with information and a few of her stories. Check out <http://www.tkinter.org/QueenMarie/index.htm>. You'll be very *fericit* if you do.

SO ... What's Happening!!!

Sheila Phillips

Lots of stuff going on and coming up.

The **Dallas Storytelling Guild** is collaborating with **Richland Community College's Emeritus Program** to present two programs:

Do Tell – Wednesday, October 5th – 1:45-3:15 p.m. A story concert featured several Dallas Storytelling Guild tellers.

Storytelling Workshop – Thursday, October 27th-December 5th – 10:30 a.m.-noon. Participants will learn the basics and work up to developing their own storytelling skills.

Contact person: **Peggy Helmick-Richardson** twiceuponatime@sbcglobal.net 214/621-9791

Two nights of **GHOST TALES** presented by the **Dallas Storytelling Guild** on Friday, October 28th and Saturday, October 29th beginning at 7:00 p.m. Admission \$5. Pay at the door. Location: Bath House Cultural Center, White Rock Lake, 521 E. Lawther Drive, Dallas, TX.

For more information go to www.dallasstorytelling.org

MURDER AND MAYHEM...true stories of Jealousy, Revenge, Lust and Heartbreak: **The Heritage Farmstead Fall Festival.**

Are you tired of the same old ghost tales and haunted houses at Halloween? Is it too contrived for you? Then how about some of the real stuff? On **Friday, October 28th** at the **Heritage Farmstead** a most unique experience awaits you. The real stories of bank robbers, murderers, and other despicable characters in Collin County's inglorious and seldom mentioned past will be presented...tales scarier than fiction. Starting at 7 p.m., 8 small groups of people will be led by lantern light from one location to another on the dark and ominous farmstead. At each location they will hear the true tales of scoundrels and villains who were part of the County's colorful history from the 1860s to the 1930s. **Reservations are required.** Ages 13 and older. For more information contact Hillary Kidd, hkidd@heritagefarmstead.org, 972/881-0140 or check the web site www.north40storytellers.com



The Urban Griot visits Tyler County.

The hairs on the back of your neck prickle and a cold stone forms in the pit of your stomach as **Decee Cornish** captivates your imagination with his ghost tales. Step back in time as the "Urban Aesop" relates historical tales so real you'll think you were there. **Saturday, December 24th**, **Decee Cornish** will present a *how to* historical writing and storytelling workshop at Cherapa Retreat in Spurger. (Cost of the workshop: \$10/person). The workshop is from 9 a.m. 'til 2 p.m. with a potluck lunch. Bring a story in progress for Decee to help you improve. Then join us at the Pickett House Restaurant in Woodville at 6 p.m. for an old fashioned southern dinner. At 7 p.m. be fascinated, transported and enraptured by ghost tales and historical dramas from Decee, Annett Stagg and Tsagoi Jennings from the **Big Thicket Story Circle at Ghosts & Legends of Texas Past** at Heritage Village in Woodville. Cost: \$4/adults; \$2/children 5-12. For additional information contact **Shelby Smith** at **214/212-1771** Shelby.bumblebee@gmail.com or **Ofiera Gazzoway** at **409/283-2272**.

The **Heart of Texas Storytelling Guild** presents **Oakwood Cemetery's Walking Tales**, bringing stories to life. Storytellers stationed throughout this historic cemetery will tell stories about the life and times of renowned, legendary and infamous people laid to rest there. Free to public. Oakwood Cemetery is located at 2124 S. 5th Street, Waco, TX

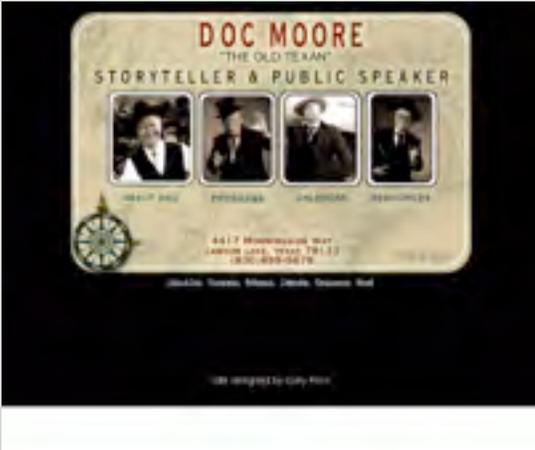
Tellabration 2011: Dinner & Stories featuring the renowned storyteller **Mel Davenport** presented by the Heart of Texas Storytelling Guild... There will be Guest Tellers and Youth Tellers as well. All the fun begins at 6:30 p.m. at Austin Avenue United Methodist Church, 1300 Austin Avenue, Waco, TX. \$10/adults, 12 & under \$5. (pre-sale only). For ticket and general information about both of these events call Vivian Rutherford 254/717-1763.

Houston Storytellers' Guild will be presenting a **Personal Stories Workshop** on **Saturday, September 17th from 1:00-4:00 p.m.** at the Freed-Montrose Library, 4100 Montrose Blvd. Based on Chitra Divakaruni's book **One Amazing Thing**, participants will receive tools to evoke stories, practice creating and refining some of their own stories and much more. Workshop facilitators will be Sally Bates Goodroe and Jay Stailey.

Other workshops in the planning stages: 1) Beginning Storytelling Workshop and, 2) a workshop with Willy Claflin.

SKYLINE SCREAMERS...spooky tales for the whole family on Saturday, October 29th, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Marmion Park, 1802 Heights Blvd., Houston, TX.

TELLABRATION, the International Day of Storytelling will be celebrated on Saturday, November 19th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Black Labrador, 4100 Montrose, Houston, TX. Reserve a spot by calling 713/981-0599.



DOC MOORE EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH



Jaye McLaughlin

[ed. note: this was supposed to have been in the Aug/Sept issue - but well . . . was left out. APOLOGIES!!!!!!]

Three good things to think about

There are several reasons for letting you know this. **First**, this fund was set up for outreach, for your guild and beyond, to spread the good news about storytelling and to add a bit of knowledge, how to, and expertise on how to do it. Outreach beyond what TSA does at the Denton Festival, the Tumbleweed Festival, the summer conference. Outreach to bring storytelling into your community, above and beyond what you do with your guild. **Second**, the Development Committee is going to be promoting the Tree of Life Campaign (now that TSA is out of debt), to build up our Doc Moore Educational Outreach Fund, so we can do moore! Some of you may remember that when Doc Moore was President of TSA, he traveled around and began Guilds in many places in Texas. The fund is named for him and his outreach. My **third** reason is that I am now the Chair of the Doc Moore Educational Outreach Committee and would like to see EACH Guild have a Workshop and perhaps a concert to go along with it during this last year of my term on the Board. So please email me, jayemclaughlin@hotmail.com. When would your guild like to do a workshop? What would you like for the topic of the workshop? What names do you have in mind? I look forward to hearing from you.

What's happened so far

April 1, Sheila Phillips traveled to Tyler Texas and told at the first Azalea Tales Liars Concert co-sponsored by the Tyler Public library and the **East Texas Storytelling Guild**. On Saturday, April 2 she conducted a workshop at which about 20 people attended. Then she told at another concert that Saturday night. All this as well as telling to students at the Caldwell Elementary Arts Academy on Friday.

June 25, Janet Latham journeyed to Waco and presented a workshop for Vivian Rutherford's Library Kids with help from the Heart of Texas Storytelling Guild. There were plenty of kids and stories flying on Saturday. Youth tellers from Waco may soon be found at the TSA Denton Festival. The potential is there!

On **September 23**, De Cee Cornish traveled to Southeast Texas to Woodville and Spurger to present a workshop on historical storytelling to the TYLER COUNTY Historical Society, The Big Thicket Storytelling Circle, and anyone who chose to be enlightened about Historical Storytelling on Saturday, SEPTEMBER 24 from 9-2pm. The workshop was held at Cherapa Retreat. Later Saturday night he was the featured teller at Woodville's Heritage Village Ghosts and Legends of Texas Past Concert.

All these concerts and workshops were under the auspices of the Doc Moore Educational Outreach Committee. And your guild too can have a visiting teller come conduct a workshop for your guild and a larger invited audience with the help of the Doc Moore Educational Outreach Committee. How? You ask. Let me tell you. Once a year your guild can bring a workshop leader from somewhere in Texas who will conduct a workshop. You can choose the topic and TSA will find a teller for you. Tejas Storytelling Association will foot the bill for the travel expenses. The teller will donate his/her time and talent to your guild and TSA. You can add on a concert if you wish. You can add on a visit to a school, if the teller agrees. **The guild is responsible for:** Providing the space for the workshop and a host home for the Teller. The Guild can negotiate with the Teller for pay for a concert. The school would be responsible for the school program. TSA will put your event up on the website and in the newsletter. You know that \$250 you get from TSA to advertise the Festival in your area with posters and fliers. You could put that to good use.





Tumbleweed Storytelling Festival

Abilene, Texas October 21 and 22

Barbara McBride Smith



Dennis Gaines



Festival Highlights include—

Friday & Saturday Night Concerts

Hear featured storytellers Barbara McBride-Smith and Dennis Gaines regale you with tales and maybe a cowboy poem or two—different stories each night from their entertaining repertoires.

Tall Tales & Outright Lies

An extra dose of fibbing and prevaricating will lead off the festivities before the featured tellers come on stage Saturday evening. Whoppers will abound.

Story Swap

Everyone has a story, and you can sign up to tell yours during the Friday afternoon Story Swap at 3:45. Family friendly, of course, and tales of 10 minutes or less.

Seven Special Workshops

Learn more about the art of storytelling from the pros. Sit in on a beginning session or focus on some particular aspect with a talented line-up of presenters.

Tiny Tales for Tiny Tots

Especially for the truly younger set will be a special event on Saturday morning at 10. Family and friends and other who are young at heart can come too. **FREE**

Youth Tellers

Talented young tellers will take the stage Saturday afternoon at 1 to share their own tales. Come celebrate the future of storytelling. **FREE**

Location:

Registration will be at the Elks Arts Center, 1174 N. First St. at Cedar, and all events will be there or at the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature (NCCIL), 102 Cedar, in downtown Abilene.

Hotel: Whitten Inn University, 1625 Hwy. 351 at I-20 325-673-5271



“I, too, Have a Story: Voices of Human Trafficking”

**Sept 22, 2011
St. Edward's University**

**in association with the Bernardo Kohler Center, Austin TX
and University Programs, St. Edward's University**

for more information about Storytellers
for Social Justice, to affiliate
yourself, to request similar programs,
contact David Thompson,
davidat@stedwards.edu or 512-448-8720

Storytellers for Social Justice

Many tellers have experienced the common misconception of storytelling being just for children and the only stories told are simple, sweet, and comfortably satisfying. We, Storytellers for Social Justice beg to differ. A teller should not shy away from a challenge, particularly much like the one one being presented this evening.

And so it was. The above is from the program put on by **Storytellers for Social Justice**, Tellers2 (Lucinda Wise and David Thompson) and TwiceUponaTimeTellers (Peggy & Gene Helmick-Richardson). Joined by the Hilltop tellers, this evening presented tales both old and new, hard hitting, and subtle. Stories about child slavery in Eastern Europe, illegally held Thai computer engineers in Iowa (yes the U.S.), an ancient tale of a captive king and the queen who saved him, Rapunzel as being born into slavery but not understanding what it was all about were told to a very receptive audience. When the three students from St. Edwards rose to tell of their work with former street kids in South Africa, when one student related how one of his kids was an escaped boy soldier from the DRC, when another student spoke passionately about the child soldiers of Sudan, the audience was “pin-drop” silent.

The powerful “My name is . . .” had some is tears while “She who makes hair” brought solemn faces and reflections. Anait the Armenian king who was enslaved proved that Peggy & Gene are masterful at tandem telling and bringing an ancient tale into the modern world showing relevance and hope.

The concert was a resounding success and many in the audience joined Stop Child Trafficking International, the Allies of Central Texas, and/or the Bernardo Kohler Center - all of which work themselves to the bone rescuing, re-introducing, or returning home those who have been kept in everything from sex slavery through enforced servitude in a tomato patch.

Victims cry out for someone to tell their story in hopes of rescue. We told some of their stories - now we hope and pray for their freedom.

NEAT STUFF HAPPENING

StoryCorps:

The National Day of Listening is November 25! Instead of getting lost in Black Friday's long shopping lines, get lost in a conversation with a loved one.

www.nationaldayoflistening.org



Scottish Storytelling Centre

Tell-a-Story Day, Oct. 28, 2011: Tell-a-Story Day is the national celebration of oral storytelling. All over Scotland on Tell-a-Story Day people will be making, sharing and listening to stories in schools, libraries, community centres, churches, hospitals, homes, gardens – and some more unusual venues!



www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk/festival/scottish_storytelling_tell_story_day.asp

TELLABRATION 2011

NOV. 19, 2011: TELLABRATION![™] is a worldwide benefit evening of storytelling. It creates a network of storytelling enthusiasts bonded together in spirit at the same time and on the same weekend. It is traditionally held on the Saturday night before [U.S.] Thanksgiving. Some events, however, may be at an alternate time during the same weekend.





Pssst! I heard that the Texas Storytelling Festival is coming up in March. Annnndddguess who I heard are going to be the featured tellers? mbmbm....psh.psh.psh....

2012 Texas Storytelling Festival

March 8 - 11, 2012 Denton, Texas



Patrick Ball



Mary Ann Blue



Kim Lehman



Kevin Kling



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

Application for the FRINGE stage performance

Name of teller(s) _____

Title/Subject of performance: _____

Primary Contact phone and email: _____

Age appropriateness: Family _____ 12 & up _____ Adult only _____

Length: (no more than 30 minutes, includes set up and take down) _____

Type of presentation: (multi-media, interactive, etc.) _____

Style: (serious, funny, upbeat, heavy, etc.) _____

Special needs: (microphone, lighting, sound system)* _____

Why should your FRINGE offering be presented at Festival?

***TSA will do its best to provide special needs to its ability. It is recommended that you be as self-sufficient as you can.**

FRINGE stage performers will be notified in February as to their selection.

Send your application to: David Thompson, 3001 S. Congress Ave. C/M 801, Austin TX 78704

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS – WORKSHOP PROPOSAL FORM—
DUE NOVEMBER 1, 2011

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

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

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:

Basis for reference:

Email:

Name:

Address:

Daytime Phone:

Basis for reference:

Email:

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(S) **BY DATES LISTED ABOVE** TO:

tsa@tejasstorytelling.com

or mail to

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

The Last Word – David Thompson, Editor



The heat is over (I think) but the drive towards Tumbleweed and Festival has just begun.

Tumbleweed is next week in Abilene and I'm sure it's going to be beyond grand. Wish I could go yet there are those of us who have to work and well . . . sometimes the vocation gets in the way (plus, too much month left at the end of the money).

Yet, I'd like to take this moment, this column to point out two specific features in this issue: *Know Your History* and *Storytellers For Social Justice*. Firstly, *Know Your History* is something I believe that we as tellers and folklorists need to know. And I have found this knowledge, this continuing thread to be sadly lacking in many people I encounter. I don't mean to say that we all have to know everything about Queen Marie of Romania, yet what we do need to know is her contribution to the telling corpus. In future issues, I hope to bring to you such luminaries as Marie Catherine le Jumel de Barneville, Comtess d'Aulnoy; Frank R. Stockton and L. Frank Baum (my two Franks as I lovingly call them); E.T.A. Hoffman, Herman Hesse (yes, he wrote fairy fables as he called them and not just angst ridden literature for adult reading, ref: *Steppenwolf*). And did you know that the Tsarina Catherine the Great also wrote fairy tales? Let us not forget the great fabulist Phaedrus of Rome who gave Aesop a run for his money.

As for *Storytellers for Social Justice*, we're a small group and hope to grow this into a network of tellers who are willing to attack modern dilemmas, both national and global, through the medium of telling. Bringing the voices of those in need, those who work for change, those who have been martyred for their work . . . this furthers one of the original tasks of the bard/teller, sharing news and information in addition to entertainment. Join us in this venture. It can be most satisfying.

One more thing, I'm producing the FRINGE stage again at Festival. Check out the app form inside the newsletter and get your FRINGE on. Later gang o' mine.

Preview next issue:

Winter Tales

Marie Catherine, Comtesse d'Aulnoy

More on Festival

Meet the Board - who? not sure yet

Guild news

TSA/NSN news

Pics from Abilene - hope so

Deadline for Dec/Jan issue - Dec. 4, 2011



Calliope, Clio, Erato, Euterpe, Melpomene, Polyhymnia, Terpsichore, Thalia, Urania



Tejas Storytelling Associaton

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