

TEJAS Teller

TEJAS STORYTELLING ASSOCIATION

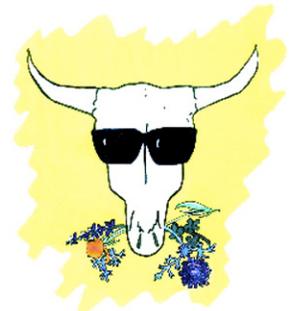
www.tejasstorytelling.com Vol. 28, Issue 3 May/June 2014

TSA Summer Conference

Oblate Renewal Center, San Antonio

*Tales In and Out of School:
Children, Imagination, and Learning*

June 27-29



We often say “Stories are not just for children,” but the fact is, stories are also for children, and for many storytellers, programs for children provide a good portion of our income. Let’s address this topic at our conference this summer!

Featured Conference Teller and Keynoter - Megan Hicks



San Antonio and TSA welcome storyteller and origamist Megan Hicks to the beautiful Oblate Renewal Center. She has a definite way with words and paper - add in her warm sense of humor and deep respect for anybody who is now or ever was a kid, and you’ve got an award-winning

performer who captivates audiences of all ages and from all walks of life. www.meganhicks.com

Conference Schedule

Our Friday and Saturday will consist of breakfast at the hotel, transport to the Renewal Center, a 9:00

morning keynote or plenary followed by a workshop selection, lunch with storyswap/networking, two afternoon workshops or fringe sessions, shuttle to the hotel for a light meal or have dinner elsewhere on your own, then return to the Center for an evening concert. Sunday morning is reserved for Sacred Tales at 9:00 a.m. at the Renewal Center.

On Thursday evening early arrivals are invited to dine together, Dutch treat, at EZs near our hotel. Sunday morning we will have Sacred Stories at the Renewal Center, finishing by 11:00. If you are flying out, select a return flight at about 1:00 or later.

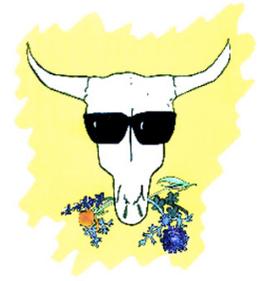
Conference Hotel

The Drury Inn will be the host hotel for the Conference – just minutes from the venue, and a group rate – make this your destination for relaxing after a long conference day, reconnecting with old friends, and reviewing all that amazing information from the sessions.

Check the TSA Website for up to date Conference Information

TSA Summer Conference

Workshops & Fringe Performances



Workshops

- Megan Hicks
Furthermore . . .
- Loren McHutcheon Stilwell
Calling the Ancestors: Family Tradition through Folktales and Historical Narrative
- Donna Ingham
Finding the Story: Beginning, Middle End
- Kaye Byrnes
Classics Alive: Literature through Storytelling for the Teen Audience
- Fran Stallings
Autoharp Clinic: Get that 'Harp out of the Closet!
- Peggy Helmick-Richardson
Getting the Word Out: A Conversation on Growing Audiences
- Paul Porter
Speak Up! Bump up your Microphone Skills
- Susan Morales Guerra
Story Laboratory
- Kay Tobola
Using Stories to Foster Scientific Wonder and Beyond
- Jay Stailey and Tom McDermott
Oh, Yes You Can: Integrating Music into Children's Storytelling
- Les Schaffer and Judith Onesty
It Takes Two: Adventures in Tandem Telling
- David H. Claunch
Balloon Story Theatre: A New Twist on Old Tales
- Delanna Reed
The Exotic Other: Multiculturalism and Storytelling
- Megan Hicks
Folding under Pressure with the Origami Swami
- Bernadette Nason
Writing a Memoir: Tell your own Tale
- Pat Nease
Imagine That! Activities to Enhance Creativity and Presentation Skills

Fringe Performances

- Judy Alton
The Day the Parachute Failed
- Ann Marie Newman
Playing the Fringe



MaryAnn Blue's storytelling students draw names from the hat to select our Fringe Performers for the conference.

Top Ten Reasons to Attend the Conference:

- #10 – Pet Grotto Kitty, Oblate's divine feline.
- #9 – Reconnect with a few of your favorite liars.
- #8 – Make new friends but keep the old--wait! That's a Girl Scout conference!
- #7 – Buy a new story hat in the story store. (Yes. Another one.)
- #6 – Freak out at the fringiest Fringes ever!
- #5 – Travel to the Lourdes Grotto and the Tepayac Shrine. By foot. During the lunch hour.
- #4 – Add your voice to a workshop's outcome.
- #3 – The hotel breakfast; the Center's buffet lunch; the hotel's lite supper.
- #2 – Learn a new story. (And swap it for another right away.)
- #1 – Share your experiences! We're all better when you're there.

Grants for Storytelling

by Valerie Kimble, TSA Grants Committee

Have you ever thought about applying for a grant to support your storytelling? Here are some things to consider before you do:

- Become a member of storytelling groups and organizations to find out what funding is available to individuals. For example, NSN provides these.
- Become a member of local arts councils. They write grants and support the arts. Work on their projects and they will work on yours.
- Associate yourself with 501(c)3 non-profit organizations. They are eligible to apply for grant funding.
- Qualify as a touring artist with state and regional arts councils and commissions. This makes you eligible for their grants and others.
- Assist schools and libraries that hire you with grant information.
- Match your program, project, or event to the grantor's mission.

Once you have found an appropriate grant - Read the application, instructions, guidelines and evaluation information before you start! If the grant requires matching funds, determine where they will come from. If you have questions, contact the grantor before you turn in the application. Follow all the instructions and make sure your budget balances. Turn the application in on time.

Be sure to write clearly and concisely and answer the questions completely. Start early so you have plenty of time to gather all the required attachments. Use the Word Count feature in your word processing program, if you have a word limit. Include research in your narrative. This demonstrates the benefit of what you are doing. Don't assume the grantor knows or understands storytelling - convey the importance. And be prepared to include letter(s) of support.

If you are not successful, try again.

If they provide a critique or scoring, analyze it carefully, so you can improve your score next time.

If you are successful, spend the money as you have specified in the grant contract. Make sure you fulfill all the terms of the contract. For example, many grantors want their logo and credit line in all advertising. If you signed the contract, then you are responsible. Check with anyone helping you with the grant requirements to make sure they are fulfilled correctly.

If you must make changes in the project, notify the grantor in writing asking for their permission. For example, the venue has a microphone so you do not have to rent one, so you want to spend that money on a prop. Ask before you do it if props were not in the grant budget you submitted. Or, you were working with a partner who gets sick and you want a substitute. Let the grantor know about the substitution and submit whatever additional paperwork they request.

Keep detailed records, take photos, keep invoices and receipts, get testimonials, completed evaluation forms, newspaper clippings, programs or other advertising, whatever documents your project for the grant report.

Make sure the grant money is carefully and completely accounted for. These records are subject to audit by the grantor in most cases. Complete the grant report according to the directions and turn it in on time. Late reports affect future funding.

Grants are work. But if you can follow directions, keep to deadlines and maintain good records, then they are a source of income for your storytelling. That makes it all worth it.

Full Contact Storytelling

By Mike Miller

Nearly every storyteller has experienced the frustration of telling to these audience members: the clock-watcher, the doodler, the hair-twister, the squirmer, the talker, the bored acting, the heckler, etc. But these characters are reminders that sometimes we all forget the most important ingredients in our storytelling program - personal contact and meaningful interaction.

Grabbing an audience's attention is critical to increase listeners' retention and decreasing your frustration. I've often seen storytellers complete a program without ever making their audience members a part of their lives. They offered no warmth, no one-on-one interaction and no full-contact relationships. All they did was tell stories! There is more to it. You are the entertainer! To avoid that mistake, you can use these four ideas to keep even the hardest audience on their toes while you tell.

Say Their Names

In small groups, storytellers have the power to use the most beautiful word ever heard by an audience member - his or her name. Before you start your program go around the room if possible introducing yourself to people. Don't be afraid to write down a name and repeating it after each person speaks. Now when you work the room, you can add people's names to your storytelling program! Not only will you be able to associate a face and name but the audience members will likely loosen up because they are no longer strangers. A big plus is that they will wonder if you will use their name next! If you don't know how to add someone's name to your storytelling program, you might want to work on it! It's not hard! For big groups possibly using a name or two of someone well known locally always works. Note: Don't make fun of people! If you make fun of anyone, let it be you.

Ask For Background

Find out as much as you can about the group you're telling to if possible. If it's a school, maybe a little history, if it is in a certain town, that is even easier, get the information! Never go into a program

without any sense of to whom you're telling. Even their age makes a difference.

Get the Audience to Participate

As you delve into your program, don't let much time pass before you involve the audience. You can even start right away by singing a song or by using a "repeat after me" opener. This starts the ball rolling. The audience will do what you want them to if you are willing to lead them along! Remember: It is your storytelling program; let them be a part of it on your terms. When you do this all of the weird stuff and noise that can happen at a program is under your control.

The Purpose of Your Program

Why are you telling? Is there a theme? (I.e. holiday, birthday, ghost stories, folk tales, Cajun festival) The event you're telling at is important! I saw a teller at a Halloween program tell a baseball story that wasn't even scary! It just happened to be his favorite story! You can imagine how the audience responded. Stick with the theme! It's not that hard. If you don't have any stories to tell within certain themes, learn some! When you discover that the purpose of the program is a foundation to your stories, you will be successful!

Discovering the secrets to full contact storytelling isn't hard. You must act as a professional if you want to get up in front of people and say, "I'm a storyteller". There are too many tellers in the world that only tell stories; they don't get the crowd involved. That is sad. I do believe that is why some audiences don't want to hear "a Storyteller"; they had a bad experience before.

Go out and make the next audience you tell in front of "your" special audience. Get involved. Let them know you were there. They will have the time of their lives!



Mike Miller is a Full Contact, Free Range Storyteller and Humorist based in Charleston, SC. He was the 2002 National Storyteller of the Year, First Runner Up: He lost to a puppet, but he's not bitter. You can find Mike at www.greatstoryteller.com



2013-2014 TSA Governing Board

Waynetta Ausmus, President
waynetta@luckymeranch.com

Richard Nash, Vice President
thedigitalcoyote@gmail.com

Nancy Self, Secretary
nself42@gmail.com

Abbie Ryan Randolph, Treasurer
abbie.randolph@yahoo.com

Judy Berry
jmberry44@hotmail.com

Reagin Hults
rfhults@hultsgroup.com

Valerie Kimble
kimblevalerie@yahoo.com

Sharon Manning
books2921@aol.com

Gary Patton
garypattonlaw@sbcglobal.net

Consuelo Samarripa
asconsuelo@hotmail.com

Paula Schlegel
paula.schlegel@yahoo.com

Larry Thompson
larrythompson@ureach.com

Dru Woods
druwoods@yahoo.com

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 Column

From the Lucky Me Ranch

Happy spring, Y'all! There are signs of spring out here at the Lucky Me Ranch...wind, Bluebonnets, Red Bud trees and lots of birds. Nice!

The Tejas Storytelling Festival in March was a good opener to springtime in Texas. Congratulations to the Festival Committee for all the hard work they did in producing the 29th TSA Storytelling Festival in Denton, TX. Hard work and lots of love...Also, so many board members and volunteers put heart felt time and effort in making this festival another memory maker. Hats off to ALL!

Congratulations to Eldrena Douma on receiving the John Henry Faulk Award and Barbara and Connie Neil Fisher on receiving the Marvin Brown Volunteer Service Award. A dandy line-up of storytellers and workshops made for a fun festival. And there's more to come...the summer TSA Conference in June is just around the corner. Visit the Tejas Storytelling website and Facebook page to learn more about this storytelling event in June.

Along with the new growth of plants and the new crop of foals, calves, and baby goats out around here comes the inspiration to grow family and personal stories. There are stories all around us from Texas tall tales that put a grin on our face that tellers like Donna Ingham, Doc Moore, Sheila Phillips and many others tell to personal stories of Elizabeth Ellis and Tim Couch and other fine storytellers. There are just so many good storytellers! I enjoy going to the local café in the mornings, having coffee and listening to some of the 'ol regulars telling their stories to each other which they've told more than once or twice. It's springtime in Texas, time to birth and grow some stories. What will yours be and who will you be telling to?

Go to the TSA Facebook page and let us know your storytelling plans to grow your stories or a guild, maybe. Storytellers are good listeners, too.

Happy tales from the Lucky Me Ranch,

Waynetta Ausmus

President, TSA

March/April 2014

Guild News

What's Happening Around Texas?

San Antonio Storytellers Association

San Antonio Storytellers Association (SASA) guild members have been capitalizing on several local opportunities to advertise for the Texas Storytelling Association's Festivals and Conferences.

SASA guild members Mary Grace Ketner, Sue Kuentz, and Ryan McPherson presented a storytelling workshop to the Northside Independent School District librarian conference. They told stories, played with story, and invited audience members to become participants in the storytelling process.

SASA guild members Veronica Gard and Jane McDaniel presented separate workshops for the University of Texas at San Antonio's annual communication week. Each workshop drew so many students, they ran out of seats! Veronica gave practical advice on how to improve storytelling. She showed students how to apply basic strategies for improved storytelling. She provided sage wisdom in applied storytelling. Jane shared some Irish tales and Texas tales and then told stories in the form of her experiences in public relations working for General Schwarzkopf. She discussed practical ways to use storytelling in public relations. Both Veronica and Jane received fantastic reviews!



SASA guild member Ryan McPherson presented an early childhood education classroom storytelling teaching methodology workshop at UTSA's 4th Annual Early Childhood Education Conference: Learning With the Spirit In Mind: Learning Through The Arts.

SASA guild members Veronica Gard, Mary Grace Ketner, Sue Kuentz, Pat Schieffer, and Ryan McPherson served as judges and storytellers in the 2nd annual UTSA Student Storytelling Open Mic and Professional Concert. Students were awarded prizes for the best stories told, and then treated to a free professional concert.

On May 3, SASA hosted a special story crafting workshop by our Texas treasure, Donna Ingham (<http://www.donnaingham.com>). She discussed "Crafting Better Beginnings, Middles, and Endings" with an audience of engaged storytellers.

Houston Storytellers' Guild

For the 26th year the Houston Storytellers' Guild hosted their world famous LIARS' CONTEST.

Eight tellers from around the world vied for the coveted Solid Gold Trophy.



This year's winner, Oel Castner, regaled the audience with a story about hay bales. Second place went to Sheila Phillips and third place to a ringer from Dallas Skip Skipworth.

It was a wonderful evening with the audience wanting more but they'll have to wait until next year's contest, which will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2015.

Continued...

Guild News

What's Happening Around Texas?

Tarrant Area Guild Of Storytellers

Fred E. Peters and Jaye McLaughlin will be at the NSN Conference in July performing in the Fringe Concert. A grant has been received from Grapevine enabling TAGS to do several programs there.

May 17th will be Grapevine Main Street Days in the Cotton Gin Building. Keller Family Camp-Out at the Bear Creek Camp grounds

June 11th – Flower Mound Tales at Twilight

June 21st – Keller Library Tales at Twilight

For more information on these and other TAGS events – email LizTales@hotmail.com

Cornish Coronation!

April 14th – The 21st annual Live Theatre League Awards Ceremony presented the 2014 Outstanding Service Award in Theatre Design and Technical Excellence to Decee Cornish for his portrayal as “Doll” in A Thorn in the Thicket and Puck in A Mid-Summers Night Dream in Texas. As a Playwright and actor in the productions To Love the Earth a one-man two act play about the life of George Washington Carver for the stage and an adaptation that toured FWISD for the Fort Worth Arts Council, Cook, Philosopher, Milam Thompson in Milam’s Revelations Tarrant CO College’s Celebrating Strides and The Life and Times of Gator Bill, Buffalo Soldier, Negro Seminole Indian Scout and Outlaw for the Pantagleize Theatre Company and ESC Region.

Mesquite Storytellers

A mini concert was held at Mesquite Storytellers of Abilene’s last meeting. Guests were invited. Abbie Ryan-Randolph, Beverly Priddy, Blu Cooksey, Carol Dupree and Mark Young told personal stories. All of them had a good amount of humor in them. Gail McMillan was emcee. The guests were well entertained by the stories and their presence was enjoyed by Mesquite Storytellers.



Contact Sheila Phillips to get your Guild Happenings into a future Tejas Teller!

Master Class Opportunities lead in to the National Storytelling Conference

Master classes are 5 hours of intensive learning with an expert on the topic and a limited class size for maximum learning opportunity. Classes will be held on Thu., July 24 from 1:00-6:00 in Phoenix/ Mesa, AZ; separate fee required - \$100 each. Register now before they sell out! <http://www.storynet.org/conference/master-classes.html>

- Plucking Some Fruit from our Neighbor’s Tree: Telling Tales from Cultures Other than Our Own, with Joe Hayes
- Taking Your Story to the Stage, with Connie Regan-Blake
- Speak Ye and the Page Appears!, with Tim Tingle
- Crafting for Your Bread and Butter: Rocking School Assemblies with the Perfect Stories, with Donna Washington



P.O. Box 2806
Denton, TX 76202
940-380-9320
tejasstorytelling.com

Tejas Teller Newsletter

The *Tejas Teller* is published by the Tejas Storytelling Association and distributed to TSA members on a bi-monthly basis.

Larry Thompson, Editor
Karen Wollscheid, Production/Graphics
Rosemary Davis, Graphics
Paul Porter, Photographer
Sheila Phillips, Guild News Editor
Mary Grace Ketner, NSN News Contributor
Kim Lehman, Festival Contributor
Waynetta Ausmus, Columnist
Elizabeth Ellis, Columnist

General news items or inquiries can be sent to the Editor at larrythompson@ureach.com. Submission deadline is the last day of the month that precedes the next print cycle.

Guild News items should be sent to Sheila Phillips at zoolady@airmail.net.

Submission deadline is the last day of the month that precedes the next print cycle.

The *Tejas Teller* is distributed electronically to TSA Members. If you want a printed copy of the newsletter mailed to you, please send a request to Karen Wollscheid, newsletter production, at membership@tsastorytelling.com.