

## HOW TO START A STORYTELLING GUILD

What's a Storytelling "Guild"? A group of people who meet on a regular basis to tell one another stories. Sometimes they are called "Story Circles" or "Storytelling Clubs" instead. If there isn't one in your area, you might want to start one. It isn't difficult.

\*Find a place to meet. Guilds often meet in libraries, bookstores, restaurants or community centers. People are more likely to attend a meeting in a public place than in the home of someone they do not know.

\*Set a time and place for the monthly meetings. Some Guilds meet in the evening, others on Saturday mornings or Sunday afternoons. There is no "perfect" time.

\*Get the word out. Plan the first meeting about six weeks ahead. Spread the word in every way you can. Invite all your friends. Send notices to the newspaper or radio stations in your area. Contact organizations that involve people who may have similar interests, such as historical societies, writers groups, arts organizations. Ask them to include information about your Guild and its meetings in their announcements and newsletters.

\*Begin and end the meeting on time. Welcome everyone and give each person an opportunity to tell their story. Be prepared with some "story starters" that may get the ball rolling. "Tell about a time you disobeyed your folks" or "Tell about a time you lost something important".

\*Collect contact information. Ask everyone to come back to the next meeting and to help spread the word. Keep sending out announcements about your meetings.

\*Questions? Contact TSA at [tsa@tejasstorytelling.com](mailto:tsa@tejasstorytelling.com). We are here to help!