

Grapevine



©Editor: Rosemary Wilson 2006

1163 Crockett Drive
Telephone: 314 997 3474

St. Louis, MO 63132-2109
E mail: tell2u@mindspring.com

Volume 24 Number 2
Mar-Apr 2006

Grapevine is published Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept & Nov by St. Louis Gateway Storytellers—a not-for-profit organization of storytellers and story listeners (founded in 1980) and dedicated to promoting the enjoyment of storytelling. Gateway is 2004 Oracle Award Winner in South Central Region of National Storytelling Network (NSN) for Leadership and Community Service.



Organization recognized by IRS in 1988 as a 501 (c) (4) group.
(NOTE: Donations to this group NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

St. Louis Gateway Storytellers membership is \$20 January-December (dues are NOT pro-rated)

Mail Dues check to: Treasurer Sidney Wolff, 8932 Chickasaw Dr, St Louis, MO 63132-2311

NOTE: Updated membership roster with current contact info enclosed with newsletters in March.

Next St. Louis Gateway Storytellers Meeting

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Kirkwood Library

BOARD ROOM

140 East Jefferson

Kirkwood, MO 63122

6:00 pm Brown Bag Dinner (self-catered)

6:30 pm Meeting

7:00 pm Storytelling

**Tellers so far: Diann Bank, Annette Harrison, Howie Hirshfeld,
Kathy Schottel, Marilyn "Sue" Warren**

Do YOU want to tell? Call Warren Wyman 636.527.5542



St. Louis Gateway Storytellers
www.stlouisgatewaystorytellers.org
% 1163 Crockett Drive
St. Louis, MO 63132-2109

Address Correction Requested
Please Forward

Calendar of Upcoming Events

MARCH

28 Gateway Meeting & Story Swap 7-9 pm
Kirkwood Library BOARD ROOM ←
Info 314.997.3474

APRIL

27-30 Northlands 23rd Storytelling Conference
Madison, Wisconsin
"Benefits anyone with an interest
in storytelling" Info 815.344.6435

MAY

3-6 St Louis 27th Annual Storytelling Festival
Info www.umsl.edu/storytelling

23 Gateway Meeting & Story Swap 7-9 pm
Location to be announced

JUNE

22-23 & 26-30 Storytelling Course
Univ. MO St. Louis Info 314.516.5948

JULY

20-23 NSN National Storytelling Conference
Pittsburgh, PA Info 1.800.525.4514
"The Storytelling Community: What is it? Who's
part of it? What are the limits?"
At the Hilton Reservations: 1.800.445.8667
Preconferences, master classes, workshops,
keynotes, award ceremony, story concerts +++++

OCTOBER

6-8 National Storytelling Festival
Jonesborough, TN Info 1 800 525 4574

**JULY 12-15, 2007 NSN National
Storytelling Conference St. Louis**

ONCE UPON A TIME—NEW DVD SERIES
A charming new StoryWatchers Club
Adventures in Storytelling DVD series from
Sax Media Group was published 2/14/06.
Initial titles in the launch "Keys to
Imagination" and "Good Character" are
\$19.95 each. Programs are 45 minutes each
and recommended for ages 5-12. Story-
Watchers Club brings together a collection of
the nation's most talented storytellers to im-
part to children the importance of developing
and using their imaginations. Featured tellers
in the "Good Character" DVD include Mary
Jo Huff, Judy Sima, and Yvonne Healy.
Info at 847.933.9884 (Release on PRWeb)

DISCOUNTS!!!!

1) NATIONAL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL
Jonesborough, TN Oct 6-8, 2006
*Special discounts expire March 31, 2006!
Info 1.800.952.8392 Intl. Storytelling Center
2) NATIONAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE
Pittsburgh, PA July 20-23, 2006
*Discount expires April 30, 2006
Info 1.800.525.4514 Natl. Storytelling Network

**EASY WAY TO HAVE MUSIC IN
PERFORMANCES.....**

Virtual Soundman (<http://www.handsfreemusic.com> or 530.246.7043) is a device that hooks up to an iPod and allows you to play music or sound effects on cue at anytime during your performance. Hook the iPod (with the music/sound effects you want to use on it) up to the device, plug it into the same system that your microphone is using (house system or a sound board) and you are ready to go. A very small remote fits in your pocket that will start, stop, fade, skip etc. You have total control!

THE TRUTH ABOUT STORIES by Thomas King (2003)

What happens when one cultures stories are taken over by another, reshaped and retold? King says that stories are who we Are & key to human understanding.

STORYTELLING GUILDS/ORGS. OF NOTE:

Joplin Area Info godsey@hotmail.com
MAST (Mineral area) Info % (needed)
MO-TELL Meetings Info %636 271 7914
M.I.S.T. Meetings Info%314 867 0489
MOST (Columbia area) Info%573 449 1822
RAPS (KC area) www.StoryRAPS.org
Riverwind Meetings Info%618 234 9698
SOTO (Ozarks) shelnan62@aol.com
ST Events Nationwide www.storynet.org
Springfield Area Info mdgryphons@yahoo.com

OTHER:

NSN Liaison MO Steve Otto 1-888-29 I TELL
NSN website www.storynet.org

MEMBER CORNER MEMBERS-56

Gateway Board Meeting held 3/11/06 and business to be discussed with members at 3/28/06 meeting:

- .Membership & annual budget
- .Donation to 2006 STL ST Festival
- .More volunteers for STL Festival
- .Update on 2007 Natl ST Conference
- .Memorial donations for Irene Eveland and Mr Kay Williamson
- .Cost saving initiatives
- .New Gateway meeting location beginning with May 23 meeting

Annual membership roster published in March and attached to this newsletter.

FAREWELL TO "Mr. K" J. WILLIAMSON
Gateway's master of the long-form personal story died 1/25/06. He loved people and he loved to tell them stories!



**OFFICERS & COMMITTEE
CHAIRS thru 12/31/2006**

- .Pres. Cathy Gregory 314.966.3153
- .Vice Pres. Lucy Grondahl 314.962.6412
- .Past Pres. Fran Grindler 636.529.0040
- .Secretary Sharon Thompson 314.894.8703
- .Treasurer Sidney Wolff 314.993.6189
- .Editor Rosemary Wilson 314.997.3474
- .Program Chair Warren Wyman 636.527.5542
- .Membership Chair _____
- .Publicity Chair _____
- .Webpage Roger Rose 314.961.6251
- Storytelling Directory rogerros@earthlink.net
- .Webmaster Tim Butler tbutler@uninetsolutions.com

Meeting Jan 24, 2006

Attendance: 25 members
25 residents

**The Crown Center Senior Living Center
8350 Delcrest, St. Louis, MO 63124**

BUSINESS MEETING SUMMARY :

Cathy Gregory, President Presiding

- Thank you to Arlene Citerman, Crown Center Staffer and Member of Gateway, who hosted meeting (Salad Bowl Cafeteria closed in December, 2005)
- Next meeting to be held at the Kirkwood Library March 28, 2006 6:00-8:45pm
Room charge will be \$20/meeting (March, May, July, Sept, and Nov, 2006)
- Gateway dues \$20 for 2006 payable before Feb 28, 2006
- Sue Hinkel reported on the recent Chicken Storytelling Festival held near Kansas
- City and suggested Gateway consider producing a similar fund raising event
- Announcements made of upcoming storytelling events in St. Louis area as well as noting Gladys Coggsell again doing her storytelling
- Treasurer's report Balance on hand \$382.89 and \$300 bill to be paid for website charges Jul-Dec, 2005 (will be paid in installments)
- Donation to May, 2006 St Louis Storytelling Festival discussed—amount ?

STORY SWAP

Master of Ceremonies Warren Wyman

SHARON THOMPSON told a story about the mysterious source of a less than tasty liquid leaking from a child's brown paper bag as the kindergartners shared gifts.

FRAN ANSTETT-GRINDLER told a personal story about her mother-in-law.

RON ADAMS retold the myths of Midas, Narcissus, and Echo.

MARY GARRETT told a Tolstoy story about Shoemaker Martin.

WARREN WYMAN wove two poems about spring and creation together.



**The Tuesday May 23, 2006 7-9 pm Gateway meeting location
will be announced in the May-June, 2006 Grapevine.**

“Like it or not, running a (storytelling) business requires certain skills.... It takes a lot to be successful. As storytellers we wear many hats: writer, editor, resume designer, promotion and advertising expert, investment planner, trade show coordinator, contract negotiator, grant writer, story researcher, office administrator, tax planner, workshop leader, calendar manager ...and of course, performer!” (Excerpted with permission by Dianne de Las Casas from her Story Biz Handbook). There will be snippets of byte/bite-size bits of wisdom from her handbook in future Grapevines which this editor will insert.

Basic business suggestions heard from her at the recent River Wind March workshop Dianne conducted, “Do at least the following as a foundation for your storytelling business

- .Identify what makes YOU unique among other storytellers—PR this!**
- .Set up a website (‘It’s an electronic brochure & easily updated.’)**
- .Get a set of business cards.”**

In a parody of that famous song lyric: "Goodbye Irene, goodbye Irene...."



Irene Eveland died suddenly at her St. Louis home at the age of 76 on February 25, 2006.

The first question anyone from St. Louis asks, "What high school did she attend?" "The answer is Roosevelt High Class of 1947."

The most important question anyone from anywhere asks, "What is the legacy by which she will be remembered?" "The answer is storytelling and puppetry in this community."

The back story to this story contains her 45 year career as a librarian with the St. Louis Public Library. During her employment she was a part-time book shelfer till she earned her librarian's certificate and then children's librarian, head librarian in the children's department, coordinator for children's services at the library, children's librarian trainer, children's book buyer for the library, head of the community services department for the library, and finally working in the library's promotion department. Her career location assignments included the Wellston Branch, Crunden Branch, Carpenter Branch, and Main Branch. She retired as a valued employee with the library in 1992.

Irene's legacy story began with her 1980 promotion at the library. Irene and fellow librarian, Sylvia Duncan, immediately began to 'grieve' over their favorite duty which had been removed from their managerial job descriptions—storytelling. "We like to tell stories! Let's go out to dinner and tell each other stories." Six other librarians were invited to that dinner and accompanied Irene and Sylvia back to the Buder Branch for an evening of stories. There were no rules, officers, bylaws, or dues. The story devotees grew in number over time and finally settled on the Salad Bowl Cafeteria on Lindell as the place for their fellowship meal followed by storytelling. When members of this group were "hired" by Missouri Botanical Garden to tell stories to children waiting to see Santa, the organizational tools had to be assembled to receive the money they were paid for their services. In 1981, Gateway Storytellers was founded and continues to this day with the same mission: "To promote the enjoyment of storytelling as an art form."

The story of Irene's relationships are summarized by these brief solicited comments from those who knew her longest and the best:

"Irene was my very best friend and my travel companion. I first met her when I worked across the hall from her at the 16th & Locust library building." Rita Broughton

"Irene's talents were many and her energy boundless. She gave of herselfwith a sense of a larger world to be healed and helped. ...Yet when she laughed uproariously about her experiences, it was contagious. As a performer, who can forget her expressive hands and voice as she told 'Brown Bear Brown Bear', 'Tailyo', or add puppets to a story from her enormous store of legends and family stories. She persuaded her mother, Christine, to volunteer with her annually at the St. Louis Storytelling Festival—they were quite a team. Irene was also a featured teller at the Festival." Sylvia Duncan

"Irene and I would eat lunch together weekly. We were very close." Bob Eveland, Bro
"Irene would do anything for you. We had a special relationship but other people felt the same way about her." Eileen Franke

"Irene was a loyal friend who always had time for you and accommodate any plans that you had. She was full of life. She never held back." Julanne Good

"Irene was a very caring person. Children were her favorite thing. Stories and puppets were also dear to her heart. She loved to fish from a pontoon boat on the Lake of the Ozarks—she caught them but never cleaned them! She did a lot of traveling when younger—Alaska, Hawaii, Canada and Russia." Jean Kell, Sis

"Irene hired me to tell stories at the library. I had been a guitar player and singer. This was my first gig as a storyteller. She was a good boss." Kathy Schottel

It seems just as recently as yesterday that Irene sat in her chair at the Gateway, MO-TELL, & River Wind meetings or at the 2007 NSN National Storytelling Festival volunteer briefing or at the St. Louis Storytelling Festival Planning Committee meeting at University of Missouri St. Louis. And it also seems reasonable to expect that the special spirit she shared at each and every one of her story endeavors will continue as a result of us having known her as we each live out our storytelling 'ever afters'.

