



**GATEWAY GRAPEVINE -- January 2010**  
**St. Louis Gateway Storytellers**  
**[www.stlouisgatewaystorytellers.org](http://www.stlouisgatewaystorytellers.org)**

**Next Gateway Meeting 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2010**  
**Crown Center, 8350 Delcrest, St. Louis, MO 63124.**

(Some of us eat at 4:30 or so, at Mai Lee, 8440 Delmar Blvd.)

Story Swap 7-8:30 p.m. **Sign up** -- Rosie Lee Willis 314-535-6485 [willis2650@sbcglobal.net](mailto:willis2650@sbcglobal.net)

\*Gateway meets the Fourth Tuesday of odd-numbered months:

**Jan. 26, March 23, May 25, July 27, September 28, November 23**

**For info or to have items on agenda, call Mary (636)447-6760 or Marion (314)997-0250**

**Second Tuesday Storytelling 6:00 - 8 p.m. Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 9, April 13,**  
**May 11, June 8, July 13, Aug. 10, Sept. 14,, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14**

Java G's Coffeeshouse 2031 Old Highway 94 South St. Charles, MO 63303

(Between Muegge and Pralle -- near Sonic) 636-940-2430 [www.javags.com](http://www.javags.com)

This is a regular event on the second Tuesday of each month.

**DUES are due in January** -- only \$20! Membership entitles you to newsletters, listing on the web site, and the good feeling of supporting storytelling in St. Louis. You may bring dues to the January meeting or mail them to Coisetta Wright, 8901 Wrenwood Lane, St. Louis, MO 63144-1704. Please include all contact information for membership roster.

Please give website information to Roger Rose <[rogerros@earthlink.net](mailto:rogerros@earthlink.net)> or 314-961-6251.

## **January Meeting Agenda**

### **Dues (see above)**

**\*Secretary Needed:** Carol Watkins would like to have someone else become secretary. Could anyone "step up" to help with this? Pretty please?

### **Festival Funds**

1) In November Gateway made a substantial donation of \$1200 to the Festival. A proposal was made at that time that we consider an additional donation in January. Several members spoke of other projects that Gateway might take on (a weekend retreat, tellers to schools, the CD project) and the need to have adequate funds available for Gateway's financial stability and continued existence to nourish the goal of supporting storytelling throughout the year.

2) Instead of baskets this year, there is a plan to offer raffle tickets at \$10 each with a \$1000 prize, selling 500 would produce a \$4000 profit to the Festival.

**National and Oracle Award Nominations** (plus three letters of support) due in the NSN office by **February 1, 2010**. <http://www.storynet.org/programs/awards> for categories and instructions. It might be wise to coordinate efforts so that support can be given to one Missouri nomination -- gentle reminder: our rep, Jackie Wright has only one vote and can only do her best . . .

## November Meeting

Lucy made the wonderful suggestion that we tie storytelling in with the Toys for Tots collection, so we agreed at the meeting that we would invite people to bring a toy or two to the next Java G's event (which we did. Many wonderful toys were collected, and wonderful stories were shared!)

### Story Swap

The November meeting is often small because of Thanksgiving preparations, but this time we had a record number of tellers -- all excellent! This report cannot do them justice; you had to be there!

Thanks, **Rosie Willis**, for coordinating and encouraging tellers, in your very lively and upbeat way. We are so lucky that you agreed to take on this responsibility.

**Sidney Wolff** told us the consequences of "A Song Not Sung and a Story Not Told." It was great to see him back again!

**Lee Giezantanner** shared (with great timing!) David Holt's "The First Motorcycle on Black Mountain." I will NOT give away the punchline; you'll have to hear it yourself!

**Carol Shelton**'s "Br'er Rabbit and the Pumpkin Soup" a perfect fit for almost-Thanksgiving!

**Yasmine Ruiz-San** beautifully modeled and shared her original "Story of the Kimono."

**Becky Struckel** took us on a perfectly delicious "Candy Cane Journey."

**Alex Primm** shared a true (!!) Ozark story of "Doyle Faubus and the 12 Railroad Ties."

**Liz Lippa** served up "Omi" -- a personal story, past meets present in Austrian apple strudel.

**Lucy Grondahl** sang and told the travails of "Max the Delinquent Dog."

**Sharon Thompson** brought "Turkey for Thanksgiving" by Eve Bunting.

**Daniel Romano** gave a new slant to "La Llorona," a haunting tale of the Southwest.

**Rosie Willis AKA Felix the Storyteller** told "The Blessed Goat," a Russian Folktale adapted by Amy Friedman.

**Mary Garrett** told an original story about facing fear, "Brave Princess Joy"

### Tellabratations

I cannot give a first-person account of MO-TELL's Tellabration on Friday Nov. 20. I found the location but could not go in because of the latex\* balloons in the lobby. I did see Larry Brown to wish him happy telling. I heard that it was good, though a bit less well-attended than hoped. If I receive a more detailed report, I'll share it.

**Riverwinds Saturday Nov. 21** at the Collinsville Library "Stories from Hearth and Home ... for the Adult Heart" was wonderful! Great stories, great fellowship, great door prizes! Attendance was lower than we would have wished, but spirits were high! Discussions have begun on how to get the word out and increase attendance.

### ... and More Fun ...

The **Riverwinds potluck December 9** at Lynn's house was also wonderful! David pointed out a storytelling theme of gifts to the Christ child ... who smiled! David sang "Little Drummer

Boy,” Marilyn told "The Christmas Apple" and I added Chuck Larkin's "The First Christmas Gift." Lucy told of "The Candy Cane War" and Sharon told Pearl Buck's story of a Christmas gift of pure love (and work!) There may have been more . . . I was having too much fun to take notes.

### **\*Latex Allergy and Balloons**

Several people asked for information on allergies and the reason for avoiding latex balloons in particular. My allergist recommends avoidance as the only real treatment for latex allergy. I have been told to stay away from latex as much as possible and especially to stay away from balloons, which put latex molecules into the air as they are inflated, as they deflate, and when they POP! Many people and organizations have responded to this allergy problem by deciding that if balloons are not essential to an activity, they will simply find other ways to decorate. My friends in daycare have already banned them because of potential choking hazard for children. Latex allergy affects about 1% of the population and is covered under the ADA.

A few medical web sites follow (many more available):

<http://www.latexallergyresources.org/ResourceManual/Section7/samplerestaurantletter.cfm>

“Direct physical contact with latex products is not needed to trigger an allergic reaction.

Anaphylaxis has resulted from inhaling latex proteins in the air.” <http://www.acaai.org/public/advice/latex.htm>

## **Upcoming Storytelling Events**

**The Chicken Festival, Sedalia, MO**, on the weekend of **January 15-17**. \$25 plus \$20 RAPS membership dues. All events at the Best Western Hotel on Hwy 65 south, 3120 S. Limit Ave., Sedalia, MO 65301 1-877-826-6101 Chicken Festival rate = \$69 + taxes.

Food, meetings and sleeping arrangements will all be at the same location. Sedalia is having their sesquicentennial next year, and they are very excited about bringing the local population in to learn how to tell their own stories of old time Sedalia.

**January 22** (8 p.m.) and **23** (2 p.m.) Kuniko Magical Mask Mime and Music of Japan -- \$18 at the Touhill 314-516-4949 or 866-516-4949 <http://www.cfis-umsl.com/> Calendar of Events

**7-9 p.m. Monday, February 22 VOICES OF PEACE:** Interfaith Storytelling Concert. Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows Contact Sheila Grace Wellspring at [gracewellspring@charter.net](mailto:gracewellspring@charter.net)

**March 5-7 Riverwinds Whirlwind Weekend with Bil Lepp** at Our Lady of the Snows -- “Getting Folks to Lie Well” (Workshop details to come later or contact Mary Lu Bretsch at 618/234-9698).

**APRIL 9, 10, 11 CAPE GIRARDEAU 2010** <http://www.capestorytelling.com/>

Donald Davis, Minton Sparks, Kevin Kling, and Syd Lieberman.

**April 23-25 Northlands Conference “The Tale’s the Thing” Green Lake, Wisconsin**

\*\* Leanne Johnson Memorial Scholarship --Through the generous gift of an anonymous donor, Northlands Storytelling Network is offering a conference scholarship to an adult interested in moving their storytelling beyond novice to professional. <http://www.northlands.net/conference.html>

**April 28 - May 1, 2010 ST LOUIS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL** with Bil Lepp, Leeny Del Seamonds, Gene Tagaban, Regi Carpenter, Peter Cook, Larry Brown, and Loretta Washington! <http://www.stlstorytellingfestival.org/> To volunteer call Sharon Thompson 314-894-8703.

**April 28 - May 1, 2010 O.O.P.S. conference in Mt. Vernon, Ohio**  
<http://www.oopstorytelling.org/> Mary Garrett will be telling stories and presenting "Frog Goes to High School," a workshop on "stealth storytelling" in middle and high school.

**July 29-August 1 National Storytelling Network National Conference** Los Angeles, CA  
[www.storynet.org](http://www.storynet.org) "Many Stories...One World"

### **Storytelling Resources -- CD Reviews**

**"Bunches of Beasts"** earned **Carol Connolly & Don Darmer** a 2007 Honors recommendation from NAPPA, the National Parenting Publications Association. The lively duo mix original songs into tried and true tales. If you've got an itty-bitty, you'd like to win over to storytelling, this CD has plenty of earworms to get them singing along. Soon enough, children aged 3-6 will start telling the story, too! For a sneaky way to increase oral literacy, buy the CD from [www.talesantunes.net](http://www.talesantunes.net) or <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/talesntunes2>

**"Frog and Friends"** by **Mary Garrett** took me through 12 stories, songs, and fun frog facts. Framed by Mary's adventures with the foundling amphibian aptly named "Prince," it made me wish I could be a kid in Mary's classroom. She teaches with story as she blends scientific information with the tales. A good pick for a nature lover aged 6-10. Available through [www.storytellermary.com](http://www.storytellermary.com) and online CD or MP3 <http://www.cdbaby.com/Artist/MaryGarrett>.

-- Go raibh míle maith agat! May you have a thousand good things!

--**Yvonne Healy, storyteller** [www.MichiganStoryteller.com](http://www.MichiganStoryteller.com) - 810-813-3000

-- **Reviews written by Mary Garrett** --

### **Carol Connolly and Don Darmer -- Tales 'n Tunes "Bunches of Beasts"**

([www.talesntunes.net](http://www.talesntunes.net)) The blending of songs and stories makes it all just too much fun! There's a whole different take on that Red Hen, "Magic Beans," and the unlikely partnership of "Poule and Roach." Their "Drakestail" has a lovely tune, and the clever defense in "The Lion's at the Door" was so satisfying!

**Yvonne Healy "Blarney"** ([www.YHealy.com](http://www.YHealy.com)) -- what a lovely sharing of music and stories, in Yvonne's lovely voice and masterful accents. Tall tales, scary stories, family love, legends, and sad truths and blarney from history. It's a varied journey -- to Ireland and back!

**Granny Sue Holstein “Beyond the Grave: Ghost Stories and Ballads from the Mountains”** ([www.grannysu.blogspot.com](http://www.grannysu.blogspot.com)) Ballads and old stories of West Virginia, full of mystery, sadness, and beauty. (from e-mail to Susanna Wed. eve.) You kept me company on the drive back from storytelling in Jerseyville, IL this evening. . . . I loved the stories, and the wonder they inspired -- and I love to hear you sing ballads. Protect that voice of yours; it's a treasure! . . . I realized I had been in the prison in Moundsville that you mentioned in “The Cruel Blacksmith” (on a tour from the Delta Queen ;-).

**Mary Grace Ketner “Ghostly Gals & Spirited Women”** ([www.talesandlegends.net](http://www.talesandlegends.net)) (this is from the e-mail I sent her) Your voices on La Llorona -- so scary! It's truly a cautionary tale about rivers -- and men who "don't put a ring on it." I love the song you made for "The Lute Player," I could feel the tug of conflicting duties in "Chien Nang, and I was fascinated with the story of Miss Annie -- what a life!

**Tim Jennings and Leanne Ponder “The King and the Thrush: Tales of goodness and greed”** ([www.folktale.net](http://www.folktale.net)) Excellent tandem telling, the synergy of two voices becoming so much more, with music between, so lovely that it makes you want to dance. Justice comes in many ways, with the help of “The Wonderful Pot” or the tenacity of a little thrush or the intervention of “Imps of Misfortune” . . . and the artwork is especially beautiful.

"Over and over again, . . . nothing is ever lost." When old stories are told anew, it's the perfect recycling. **Fran Stallings' new CD, Stories and Songs for a Green Earth**, shares the message of caring for the planet that nurtures us all. From the colorful rain forest beetles to the beavers that help make our rivers good habitation, to Asian Vultures, "everybody has a Place to Be." Stories from many cultures remind us that everywhere is someone's backyard, and from King Midas' gold to the Japanese "Melting Herb," every choice has consequences.  
[www.franstallings.com/greenearthCD](http://www.franstallings.com/greenearthCD)

I just finished listening to **Elloise Schoettler's "Second Hand Rose" CD** -- great fun -- warm, touching, and funny stories. She also described narcissus gift plants in thrift store containers <http://www.ellouisestory.blogspot.com/> The best recycling -- re-using and making new beauty to brighten this world!

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#### **GATEWAY OFFICERS**

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