

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

Next Gateway Meeting 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 25  
Crown Center, 8350 Delcrest, St. Louis, MO 63124.

Some of us eat at 4:30 or so, at Guo Bin (gwo bin) 8600 Delmar  
(Crown Center cafeteria serves kosher meals for \$3-- call them in advance 314-991-2055)

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:  
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

Membership benefits include newsletters, membership roster, listing on the web site, and the good feeling of supporting storytelling in St. Louis. **Dues \$20 in January, send to Coisetta Wright, 8901 Wrenwood Lane, St. Louis, MO 63144-1704.** Please include all contact information for membership roster.

**Lucy Grondahl** is somewhat better, but still in the hospital, enjoying her new Elaine Viets book\* and craving phone calls from friends: 314-542-4778

From Jane on Saturday -- Lucy is much better and out of intensive care. She is at St. Luke's West Hospital, in room 6716. Thank you to all who visited or called or wrote to her!

Lucy's home address is: 629 Country Hills Court; Rock Hill, MO 63119.

\*From Elaine's blog -- <http://thelipstickchronicles.typepad.com>

Lucy showed up at Barnes & Noble in her chariot, a motorized wheelchair. It was a pro to pro meeting. Lucy is a storyteller who goes by Lucy Locket. After I talked, Lucy's friend asked, "Can you sign her book first? She has to go to the emergency room. Lucy is having trouble breathing." "What?!"

"She insisted on hearing you before she went to the hospital."

I panicked, signed "Half-Price Homicide" and said, "Go! Right now. I can't afford to lose readers."

Lucy rode off to the hospital. Last I heard, she's still in the ICU. At least she has a book to read.

**Change Is Good (My friends who perform for tips always add, "Dollars are even better").**

For anyone who needs to "mellow out," a reminder of the larger scheme of things.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oT7bAuOz8ao>

**Second Tuesday Storytelling -- on hold for right now . . . updates as we know more .**

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Java G's reorganization and shorter summer hours have put us on hold for now. They appreciate our presence and will let us know when they have decided what their new hours will be.

It might be time right now to focus on picnics!!

**Picnics** -- for the last few summers, we have enjoyed picnics on the 4th Tuesdays of even months (months with no formal Gateway meeting), which would be **June 22 and August 24**. How about Tilles Park for June? Someone would need to get there early to claim a spot -- volunteers? -- alternate proposal? Any suggestions for August? We'll discuss this at the meeting.

**Renaissance Faire May 15 - June 6** <http://www.renstl.org/main/>

Flavia Everman [flavia@centurytel.net](mailto:flavia@centurytel.net) 636-456-3550 is coordinating tellers.

There have been changes at Faire also, and tellers will be performing in the Scottish Quarter and the Place Bellecour, before the knighting/princessing ceremony, and at the Queen's Command Performance. Flavia Everman has been organizing this (thanks, Flavia for stepping up to take my place as coordinator). Everywhere I went on Saturday, even the gyro stand (yummy!), people were singing her praises. (I'll paste in a longer report at the end). I'm grateful to Maria of Swords & Roses for getting me and then Gateway involved in this. It's fun, even in the mud!

**OOPS!** was a wonderful conference. Dovie Thomason was outstanding (and said she would gladly come back to St. Louis sometime). Workshops and storytelling, CD sales (and the giving of apple hats) were all fun and appreciated . . . worth the long drive. I just received this from the Holiday Inn manager, "Don't ever stop telling stories! I love reading, but hearing someone tell the story brings it to life. If only I had the time, I would go on the road with you!" Life is good!

## **Festival Reports --**

### **Oracle Award**

**Becky Walstrom** will receive the 2010 NSN Regional Oracle Award for Leadership and Service! (info from Saturday night's program that my sweet neighbor brought me) from Becky, "What an honor to receive the ORACLE award. After 20 years, I am amazed at the impact the St. Louis Festival has had on my personal and profession life. It has been both rewarding and fun to work with so many gifted and giving storytellers. It is a privilege to work with so many people who are supportive of my role and committed to the mission of the Festival".

Since I was in Ohio (and am not twins), I asked others to report on the Festival. Renee at "my" YMCA saw Loretta on television and was impressed, and my neighbors saw her at the Touhill and said was a wonderful event! Flavia's wonderful reflections are below, along with a few comments from others (arranged shortest to longest).

**From Gale Portman:** Festival went well. I enjoy being at the Garden so I can hear several of the top tellers.

**From Lynne Beetner:** The Festival was one of the best we have had.

**From Lynn Rubright:** Mary - My mother always used to say about me: You should have been twins. Festival was very nice...good balance of tellers. Lynn

**From Roger Rose:** Gene Tagaban's Raven Dance at the conclusion of the Saturday night program was the highlight of the Festival for me. Peter Cook is probably the best deaf teller I have ever seen. I heard some good performances by regional tellers, notably Steve Otto, Flavia Everman, and Greg Weiss.

Fittingly, the winner of the raffle was Annette Travis, the widow of storyteller Blake Travis. I heard they sold around 400 tickets and so made about \$3000 for the Festival. It seems it was popular and they will probably do it again next year.

**From Lawanda Brewer at Becky-David in St. Charles:**

I thought I'd pass this along, in case you were interested! I have planned this event for the past 5 years and amazingly, this is the first year that the district or local newspaper has taken a true interest in covering it! This newspaper article will appear in tomorrow's paper. I got word after school today that news of this event and the article link was published in a national special education newsletter today.

Here is the link to the story on the District

website:<http://www.fhdschools.org/NewsCelebrations/tabid/62/ctl/Details/mid/378/ItemID/262/Default.aspx>

The article is also already posted on the Suburban Journals

site:[http://suburbanjournals.stltoday.com/articles/2010/05/04/stcharles/special\\_feature/0505stc-deaf0.txt](http://suburbanjournals.stltoday.com/articles/2010/05/04/stcharles/special_feature/0505stc-deaf0.txt)

From two years ago... Here is the link to one of the stories on the old

website: <http://204.184.37.100/news/news0708/bddeaf.asp>

**From Flavia Everman:** We missed you at the Touhill Saturday, but I'll try to fill you in.

I told at Blanchette Park with Annette Harrison and had a blast. We only told twice as the schools cancelled for the third telling. It is a shame that many schools could not come because of budget cutbacks. What a waste.

I told my stories of my travels to Africa and an Indian (from India) story "The Monkey and the Crocodile" complete with puppets.

Annette Harrison told "The Princess and the Pea" and the "Whitewashing" scene from Mark Twain. The kids learned some history and just had a grand time. Everyone thanked us and told us it was a trip well worth the time.

Thursday afternoon class with Leeny was wonderful! She worked directly with several people (including me) on different voices and giving distinct personality and attitude to our story characters. I think this class has inspired me to really work on my story personalities. My stories are good, but I just found out how I can make them better. What a blessing these classes are, especially since they are free!

Thursday evening I attended Brentwood Borders with Gene and Leeny and had a blast. Gene embarrassed one poor lady when she did not raise her hand with the rest of us when he wanted us to announce we were all storytellers. He then had her play the drum and she got so tickled that she could not concentrate and got them both tickled and he could barely finish the song. He then told of his grandmother which really hit home for me as my grandmother and his were very similar and I lost mine just last year. That's what stories are all about, connecting with others even though our paths are along

different lines. We are really all the same in our differences. What a lovely evening. I hope everyone else's was wonderful as well.

Friday I told at the Courthouse in St. Louis with Kathy Schottel and Ken Wolfe. I was able to wander in between and catch a story by Marcia Olinger "The Star Stealer". Kathy sang some early American songs with the kids and Ken told a tall tale about Mike Fink. I told "Nine For California" and then "Why Monkeys Eat Bananas". A couple of people from the Missouri Arts Council attended my second session and I think they really enjoyed themselves. That may help with grant funding for next year.

I walked over to the arch after my session and found a couple of people telling, but 2 of the three sessions had been cancelled due to lack of schools. Maybe we should be adding extra money to the grant to give schools "scholarships" for bussing to this event??????

Saturday evening the tellers all told stories about their childhood or memories of their life. I was a little disappointed as I usually use this festival to collect more stories from other areas of the world, but since most of the stories I heard were about individual lives (not mine) it would be hard for me to retell them. Their stories were GREAT, don't get me wrong, I just wasn't able to add to my repertoire. (No new stories for the Ren Faire.) Peter Cook was a hoot telling us about his "first" dance and "first" kiss episode. Gene inspired us to go out into the world and tell our stories. Rita took us on a trip to the town dump with her father, Leeny made us all dance to a Latin song and Larry Brown told us a very funny tale of his first childhood flying lesson using bamboo fishing poles and feathers. Bil Lepp told us a story about how Skeeter and he helped put the Easter bunnies out of their misery and Lorreta told us of the time she and her cousin ate so many beets and onions that they became quite ill and how her grandmother "cured" them. Watching the signer during this story was especially entertaining.

Bil made a bet with Rita that she wouldn't run across the stage and then slide in on her knees. She wanted to know if anyone else wanted to bet with Bill. She then did it to much applause. Later Gene ran and slid in slow motion. It was VERY comical. Gene finished up with the Raven Dance and encouraged us to go out and TELL. What a great festival. Can't wait until next year.

-- Flavia Everman

## **Upcoming Storytelling Events**

**June 9 Riverwind Meeting** 6:00 p.m., at Ponderosa, 5 Eastport Plaza, Collinsville, IL  
Contact -- Lynne Beetner 618-655-5296

**June 11 & 12 Big Spring, MO Ozark Life Festival**

<http://www.nps.gov/ozar/index.htm>

**July 3-9 Storytellers Wild Week**, with Mary Hamilton presenting, in the mountains of North Carolina off the Blue Ridge Parkway near Little Switzerland. Cost is \$490 and includes all sessions, story swaps, concerts, food and lodging.

[www.diannehackworth.com](http://www.diannehackworth.com) and click on the Wild Week button.

**July 29-August 1 National Storytelling Network National Conference** Los Angeles, CA [www.storynet.org](http://www.storynet.org) "Many Stories...One World" Mary Garrett will be telling Sheherazade at the All-Regions Concert.

**October 1-3 National Storytelling Festival, Jonesborough, TN**

**OCTOBER 22 - 23, 2010 MISSOURI RIVER STORYTELLING FESTIVAL**

**WILLIE CLAFLIN AND MAYNARD**

Friday night 7 - 9 Family Concert, Entrance Fee - One canned good per person\*

Saturday 9 - 12 Workshop with Willie and Maynard -- Early registration by Sept. 15, \$45 for MO-TELL members, \$55 for non members. After Sept. 15, \$50 members/\$60 non members.

Saturday 1-3, Missouri Mule (and Moose) Storytelling Marathon, Come and tell stories for all.

Saturday 7 - 9 Ghost Storytelling, Entrance Fee - One canned good per person\*

\*The canned goods will go to a local food pantry. -- from Sue Hinkel

**November 3-6, 2010, Kansas City Storytelling Celebration MCC-MAPLE WOODS**

Bobby Norfolk, Olga Loya, Thom and Sarah Howard, and Elizabeth Ellis

<http://mccckc.edu/storytelling/>

#### **GATEWAY OFFICERS**

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**Renaissance Faire** -- opening day -- Light rain and much mud, but we didn't drown and didn't need to call the water rescue squad this time. I had to park far away because of soggy parking below, and the shuttle wasn't available at the end of the day. Fortunately, I hitched a ride with pirates about halfway there, and they took me right to my car. Chivalry is alive and well! Arrrrrr! Attendance was low, so I told stories to children one at a time. A sweet young lady shared several stories with me, but kept wondering about "Friendship Flies the Sun," a unique story of beetles and the sun. When it was past time for their show, I walked her over to their main teller and drummer whose shop was nearby. I explained how sad she was to be missing his show, and the two of them stayed in his dry, clean shop to read the story together. She came back so happy because, besides the story, he had also given her a piece of FREE CANDY!!!

At the Queen's Command Performance I told "Smell of the Bread" (with help from a sweet little girl, a young boy judge, and a fairy as the greedy baker) and enjoyed

the wonderful music and dancing. I had earlier traded CDs with Vince Conaway so I have some of his dulcimer music to keep with me. So ends another odd day in the Renaissance . . . grateful that Flavia has taken over the organizing of the tellers and that she and Gale are so sweet about finding half-days for me to attend ;-)