

GATEWAY GRAPEVINE -- June 2010
St. Louis Gateway Storytellers
www.stlouisgatewaystorytellers.org

Picnic 6:30 June 22 at Stacy Park

Next Gateway Meeting 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 27

Please mark your calendar for both these meetings.

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

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

July 27, September 28, November 23

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

News from May 25 Meeting (Early "July" Newsletter, so mark calendar for 7/27)

Lucy Grondahl is home from the hospital!

Picnic 6:30 June 22 at Stacy Park (Olive and Old Bonhomme). Marion Cohen will reserve a spot. Decision on an August (24?) picnic will be made later.

Storyteller Grants Gateway members unanimously approved offering ten grants @ \$50 each for ten members to take storytelling to places that might now otherwise afford a teller -- application form attached. Return to me and I'll get them to Lucy and her committee.

Kevin Cordi July 21 workshop Permission2Play -- Kevin will be in St. Louis for another event, and is therefore able to offer to do a workshop at reduced cost (\$45.00 for a 3 ½ to 4 hour workshop) on July 21. We will need to find out if enough people are interested, and find a place to meet. Perhaps a room at UMSL as we did before? Please let me know if you think you might be interested, and feel free to call Kevin with questions. 614-272-6153 home 559-213-0161 cell

Permission2Play is a form of story mediation that helps storytellers and writers improve their work. I demonstrate how a group can help shape a story. This is not for stories that are polished but stories that the storyteller or writer agrees to "play" with by using story mediation. You can see more at www.permission2play.com I have been invited to share this intensive at the National Storytelling Conference in LA this summer. This is a method of story shaping that can be used with any guild or story-based organization.

Larry Brown June 13 in Columbia Larry will be recording a live storytelling concert on the MU campus, Sunday, June 13, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. This will be a program for Adults and kids, Middle School or older. There is limited seating, so if you would like to be in the audience, please let Larry know, and he will give you more details. Reservations should be made by June 10. Refreshments will be provided, and each family in attendance will receive a free copy of the resulting CD or DVD. Contact Larry at brownstory@hotmail.com

Sharon Thompson will coordinate a committee to recruit officers for next year. Thanks, Sharon!

Oracle Awards -- Sue Hinkel informed Gateway that there will be two 2010 NSN Regional Oracle Awards for Leadership and Service given at the conference in Los Angeles, one to the St. Louis Festival and another to Becky Walstrom -- double honors to St. Louis!

Festival Raffle: Jackie Wright sold the most raffle tickets and organized sales for Gateway, the first organization to sell all 100 Raffle Tickets. MO-TELL and Riverwind turned in tickets that were sold the last week before the drawing. The final total from sales and donations was \$5050.00. After the prize was deducted, the Festival made \$4050. (Thanks to Karen Potts for sending this information).

Renaissance Faire is coming to a successful conclusion for another year. Thanks, Flavia, for so ably taking my place as coordinator and for finding short time periods for me to still participate. It's a fun place to tell stories, wander, make friends. . . adieu until next year. (I donated my passes as a door prize for the meeting -- have fun!)

Gladys sent news of the passing of Denver storyteller **Opalanga Pugh** on Saturday June 5. "A positive message of belief in self tinged Pugh's stories," Lloyd Pugh said, "as did an expectation that people would slow down and listen to one another."

<http://www.opalangastoryteller.com/> http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_15236623

Story Swap a wonderful set of stories capped off the evening -- **M.C. Rosie Willis!!**

Joy Nack, mesmerizing and humorous excerpt from Mark Twain's autobiography

Michael Bennett, "The Catapult" -- smelly poetic justice at its best! (Don't mess with Mike!)

Guy Mott "Gesar the Traveler and Ratna the Evil Magician" -- clever and good outwits evil!

Yasmine Blaque, Rakugo Noodle story, told with fan and napkin. . elegant and funny.

Marion Cohen shared more poetic justice with "Dancing Between the Raindrops" from the book The Rabbi And The Twenty Nine Witches by Marilyn Hirsh

Liz Lippa "OMI" shared her own story of Smoked Whitefish, more delicious poetic justice (much food in this night's storytelling).

Cathy Gregory "Dragon King"

Linda Bennett, "Skull Gum," her own variant of the Black Bubble Gum story, with a caution about those strange teachers . . .

Mary Lou Bretsch and Carole Shelton did a tandem telling of "The Magic Orange Tree" based

on Diane Wolkstein's version -- more poetic justice, with singing, dancing, and caring. . .

Mary Garrett shared Elizabeth Ellis' shortest story from South America, with one word added for justice's sake -- Boy Bird Threw Flew Poo!

Rosie Willis shared a Wisdom Tale of the rivalry between water, fire, truth and falsehood.

Membership List Additions

Bill & Mary Faith Russell

1104 E. Broadway, Apt. 204
Columbia, MO 65201-5119

Frances Grindler Anstett
162 Ameren Way Apt. 311
Ballwin, Mo. 63021-3320

Jenne Crews
1154 A. Kingbolt Circle Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63129
314-845-1588
314-667-4650 cell

Judy Cortner
1815 Pottery Rd.
Washington, MO 63090
636-239-9123

Karen Potts (1 yr.)
3136 La Baron Ln.
St. Charles, Mo. 63303-6319
MINN66@EARthLink.Net

Upcoming Storytelling Events

Storytelling Classes

University Missouri St. Louis, June 23 – July 2, 2010
“Storytelling” Three credit hours, Summer of 2010. For information call 314-516-5948

St. Charles Community College Fall 2010, semesters, Tuesday, 7:00 – 9:50 pm
“Teaching Literary through Storytelling” EDU-125, 3 Credit hours (\$80 Per Credit Hour)

June 9 Riverwind Meeting 6:00 p.m., at Ponderosa, 5 Eastport Plaza, Collinsville, IL
Contact -- Lynne Beetner 618-655-5296 (2nd Wed. each month)

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 and click on the Wild Week button.

July 29-August 1 National Storytelling Network National Conference Los Angeles, CA
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://mckkc.edu/storytelling/>

Tellabration -- Weekend of Nov. 20, 2010

GATEWAY OFFICERS

President Mary Garrett 636-447-6760
Vice Pres. Marion Cohen 314-997-0250
Secretary Carol Watkins 636-922-7133
Treasurer Coisetta Wright 314-962-6502
Grapevine Newsletter Editor Mary Garrett 636-447-6760 mgarrett@mail.win.org

Story Swap M.C. Rosie Lee Willis 314-535-6485 willis2650@sbcglobal.net

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.

St. Louis Gateway Storytellers
www.stlouisgatewaystorytellers.org
REQUEST FOR A GATEWAY STORYTELLER GRANT

Name of Storyteller _____ Address _____

Phone # _____ e-Mail _____

Facility Name _____ Contact Person _____

Type of Facility _____ Address _____

Phone # _____ e-Mail _____

Date of Performance _____ Type of Event _____

Number of attendees expected _____ (goal is at least 20)

Accessible by ADA standards? _____ Safe for those with latex allergy (no balloons)? _____

Projected Benefits From Storytelling Program _____

Outline of Program _____

Will there be matching funds from receiving organization? _____ (not required, but appreciated)

Storyteller applicant must be a member of Gateway Storytellers. Each member and each location will be eligible to receive only one grant. Applicant will be notified of approval of the grant by Gateway grant committee and officers. Gateway will provide a \$50 grant to the storyteller upon storyteller's report to Gateway on the completion of the event.

Send completed proposal to mgarrett@mail.win.org
or mail to Mary Garrett, 447 Newport Dr., St. Peters, MO 63376

***** Kevin Cordi July 21 workshop Permission2Play**

My name is Kevin Cordi and I am writing to let you know that I will be around the Missouri area and be available for reduced rates for performance and/or coaching on July 21.

I will be available during this time for workshops and/or performance.

A little about me:

For the last 24 years, I have been a professional storyteller and presenter performing in over 40 states, England, Japan, Scotland, and Singapore. Most notably I have worked with youth but most recently in my doctoral work at The Ohio State University I have designed new methods for coaching and creating performances with adults.

With Youth:

I hold the honor of being "the first full time high school storytelling teacher in the country."

For over 11 years, storytelling was my curriculum. As a credentialed teacher, I taught

storytelling every day. I witnessed firsthand how teachers can impact students using narrative. I have also watched what happens when students share stories in performance venues. I have served as the Executive Director for the National Youth Storytelling Showcase for three years. Because of my need to share the value of storytelling as an educational and viable tool, I founded Y.E.S. (Youth, Educators, and Storytellers SIG with the National Storytelling Network. This special interest group serves to outreach to others about the value and use of story in the classroom. I too have extended my work in the classroom to classrooms worldwide and been selected to create curriculum for other organizations, schools, and centers of learning. My story work has been commissioned by The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Newsweek, and Highlights for Children.

I captured some of this work in the award-winning book, *Raising Voices: Youth Storytelling Groups and Troupes*, co-authored with Judy Sima. As a Fulbright scholar studying in Japan, I was able to learn and apply the use of storytelling in international classrooms and communities.

With adults:

I recently secured a doctorate addressing the significance of process drama and storytelling. However, this work is not what some refer to as “dry academics” but instead advancing proven methods to improve storytelling as an educational tool and artistic practice. For me this study has changed my direction in storytelling. In addition to performances, I would like to offer for adults (It works for youth as well):

New form of Story Coaching for Writers and Tellers

Permission2Play is a form of story mediation that helps storytellers and writers improve their work. I demonstrate how a group can help shape a story. This is not for stories that are polished but stories that the storyteller or writer agrees to “play” with by using story mediation. You can see more at www.permission2play.com I have been invited to share this intensive at the National Storytelling Conference in LA this summer. This is a method of story shaping that can be used with any guild or story-based organization.

A Dynamic Ensemble Way to Work

As tellers, we are always searching for ways to include more of our audience in the telling process. Why not have them also serve as tellers? With Ensemble Storytelling, up to twenty tellers can be involved in one story. This can be adapted for kids and adults of any age.

Drawing upon improvisation and process drama, this method invites others in the telling experience. Check out www.kevincordi.com for a more detailed explanation.

Since I am in the area already, my airfare would already be covered. I would be willing to work with you on my rates.

In addition to this, I also would love to simply gather with storytellers and share some time swapping tales and ideas. I invite you

to www.kevincordi.com and www.youthstorytelling.com for more information.

If you are interested, feel free to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you soon and discovering ways we could partner together with story.

I have included some additional information and an updated biography of my work.

A link to an interview I did on National Public Radio on Ensemble Storytelling. It might help.
<http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/wosu/arts.artsmain.action=viewArticle&id=1607884&pid=210&sid=12>

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“Together we make a difference with story.”

A New Approach to Teaching

What is Ensemble Story Teaching?

Designed by Kevin Cordi as a tool for those who work closely with youth, Ensemble Story Teaching is both a unique and effective method to teach standards-based curriculum. As an inquiry based approach, ES borrows from educational drama or process drama and narrative (story) inquiry to engage learners through story. Students help design and enter the world of the curriculum by using dramatic conventions and narrative to construct meaning. Kevin’s approach is rooted in his 20 years experience and scholarship both as a classroom teacher, storyteller and college instructor.

Kevin respects youth voices. In fact, Kevin was named, the first full-time storytelling teacher in the country by the National Storytelling Network and for 11 years, and has always used story-based curriculum in his lesson planning. He has also co-authored an award-winning book, with Judy Sima, called *Raising Voices: Creating Youth Storytelling Groups and Troupes*.

Why is this Drama not the same as Drama Performance?

Although ensemble story teaching borrows from theater conventions, it inspires inquiry from students, not necessarily stage performance. In fact, this learning concentrates on the process of creating and understanding and is rarely performed. The drama is in the building of the story-based inquiry. Students are not expected to perform, but only engage and experience story. A stage is not necessary; classroom space is all that is needed.

What is Story Process Learning?

At The Ohio State University, Kevin studied process drama with both Dr. Brian Edmiston, author of *Imagining to Learn*, and world renowned educator Dorothy Heathcote to form the foundation of his Ensemble Story Teaching.

In process drama, students use their imaginations to design and enter the lesson, and expand to question, extend, and/or re-experience it. For example, instead of reading about the Civil War, students use drama and story to engage in the war as a soldier or nurse so that they can experience the Civil War from a personal vantage point. Students can enter *The Hungry Caterpillar* as the caterpillar. Kevin can serve as a mediator for this type of learning and can help students explore stories.

Why is it used for teaching?

This ensemble story teaching encourages students to use story and drama to further their learning. Stories can take many forms, such as writing, drawing, telling, and role play. As an ensemble classroom, students share their story using these many, different drama conventions. Ideas are explored concurrently in some dramatic way by all participants. As a class, the student and Kevin share stories, however the stories can be diverse and contrasting, as an ensemble.

Why use story and dramatic roles?

When students become authors, story listeners, and storytellers, it is the standards of composition in action. As students compose their own work, their inquiry aligns with teaching standards. Imagine all of your students involved in role, not as students, but as coal miners, fairy tale helpers, or members of Congress. The learning is endless; it is left to the imaginations of the teacher and the student.

Be involved in an innovative method of teaching using story and drama and watch your students' curiosity and action grow!

www.KevinCordi.com

Bring Kids to Your Stage, Community, Festival, or Classroom with PERFORMANCE

ENSEMBLE STORYTELLING: "Where Students Learn and Tell Together!"

<image004.jpg>

What is Performance Ensemble Storytelling?

Ensemble Storytelling is a program designed by Kevin that enables children of all ages to be empowered by telling stories with other kids often on a public stage. Kevin draws from his masters in storytelling and education, his PhD work, as well as his experience as a full time storytelling teacher, both at high school and college levels, to create and implement storytelling connections that are student driven. He travels across the country providing instruction on story curriculum. From these unique experiences Kevin has designed methods to help boost a student's confidence and in a short time provide for the student the tools to not only perform on stage but to invite further storytelling connections in their lives. This ensemble teaching provides the much needed voice of kids and young adults a place on a storytelling stage to share their work. Under Kevin's skillful mediation and coaching, students collaboratively create stories that incorporate their collective voices through ensemble storytelling. As an ensemble, they invest in the stories. Stories are not written down, but instead composed by the students. The direction of the story is not solely on telling, but instead on sharing the whole story. Each student invests in story contributing both physically and vocally. Both organic and planned story construction is encouraged and developed in each performance. Stories are not realized from scripts, but instead actualized together each time a tale is shared.

Why Does "Ensemble Storytelling" Work?

Kevin has discovered that when kids tell with other kids and an adult shares the stage with them; group confidence builds as well as individual assurance from the experience. Basically, kids feel comfortable when others kids tell together. Their comfort level is increased by having a trained storytelling coach telling with the students. Kevin not only provides workshops on training kids to tell in ensemble training but coaches adults how to be an "Ensemble Teller."

Why Should A Festival or School Bring Ensemble Storytelling To Their Program?

Put simply, it works! Every festival or school program wants to encourage kids to see the value that comes from storytelling. In addition to this storytelling organizers would like parents and grandparents to know the value of story. Ensemble Storytelling compliments these goals. When parents know their own child or a friend of their son or daughter from their hometown is on stage and will be telling with a professional storyteller, the attendance often rises in the audience. Grandparents, neighbors, and others will come to see their community is a telling format. This sends a message that storytelling is a coveted art but it is one that every community can be involved in.

Be involved in an innovative program that celebrates youth and adults telling together. It works!

Are you a writer, storyteller, teacher, salesperson, animator, or someone who simply wants to find the best way to share your story? Are you looking for a supportive environment where you can explore new choices with the story that you have to tell? Do you think you have the words, but just need some time and space to play around with the words to develop and deliver them? Are you looking for that direct guidance to develop your ideas? If so, I am honored to be able to offer a coaching intensive designed specifically for you and /or your organization entitled:

Permission 2 Play

Over the years I have coached hundreds and thousands of adults and students in finding their story. I have traveled to over 40 states, and as far as England, Scotland, and Japan to help present coaching and telling programs and intensives. I hold a Masters in "Storytelling and Education" and am a PhD candidate studying the significance of "dramatic inquiry and narrative development" at The Ohio State University where I serve as the first ever "Academic Storyteller-in-Residence" for the university. My recent work is with the Multicultural Center coaching and assisting programs that promote equity and cultural understanding. For over 20 years as a professional storyteller and coach of stories I have seen a need in all fields to be able to tell your story. Your individual or company's effort of telling a story can help promote your success. Whether you are full time writer or simply someone who needs to speak to your company on a daily basis, story coaching or mediation will help improve not only your story, but your ability to compose and deliver additional addresses. After all, if you can't tell your story or your business's story, how can others speak to your work?

I have a diverse background in working with story and after twenty years I have found two elements in working with story to be essential: a willingness to take risks and a supportive community.

Drawing on my experience as a storytelling teacher, drama teacher, and most recently my doctoral work at The Ohio State University, we will employ a playful approach to working with story development. According to Vivian Paley (1990) play is the real work in children's lives. This is the point where we shape, reshape, evaluate, and represent our stories. This is true in story development for adults. It is in our play where we experiment and refine our stories. In over 20 years I have found ways to play with our story that are not traditionally found in storytelling circles. We will work with each participant in new ways to see and experience their story. The story they choose will be one that they feel "needs work" or is not complete. The goal is to help participants fashion their story in new ways and directions that can be used for telling. The methods can not only be employed for the story you chose to work with, but can be used in your speech and storytelling growth. We will learn from the supportive community.

My approach to coaching involves myself as a mediator of the coaching session but incorporates the supportive community in helping the development. As a mediator I work to create an environment that allows this voice and ensures the risk taking in a safe cooperative manner with the teller. However, each participant does not serve as an audience, but learns how to encourage and support with comments and welcomed suggestions. This community approach equips tellers to continue to support each other in advanced work together. This approach can transfer to your organization, business, or school.

I look forward to developing and shaping with you.

Be sure to contact early so we can ensure that you have a place at the next intensive. We look forward to working with you and watching "Permission2Play" work for you.