

# Grapevine



©Editor: Rosemary Wilson 2003

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*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.



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 \$15 January-December and checks can be mailed to Al Cohen, 9761 Hastings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63132-3322, (Phone 314 997 0250).

NOTE: Updated membership roster with current contact info enclosed with newsletters in Mar & Sept.

## FROM THE EDITOR

This edition of the newsletter is arriving later than usual due to my attendance at the NSN National Storytelling Pre-Conference and Conference in Chicago July 8-13, 2003. I wanted to include information about that event in this edition.

Please note two (2) inserts:

- .Tee shirt ordering form—DEADLINE Aug 1, 2003
- .Website storytellers' directory listing information form

Finally, please note that we have very few members signing up in advance to tell stories at our monthly meetings. Tellers have been volunteering on the spot.

*Rosemary Wilson, Editor*

## NOW ST. LOUIS GATEWAY STORYTELLERS' MEETINGS— 4th TUESDAYS MONTHLY

6:00-9:00 pm  
(**\$5 Dutch treat meal minimum**)

**Salad Bowl Restaurant**  
3949 Lindell Boulevard  
St. Louis, MO 63108  
Phone 314 535 4274

TELLERS (to date) July 22:  
**Mr Kay**

TELLERS (to date) Aug 26:

**NOTE: Stories should be 10 minutes or less.**  
**To volunteer to tell call Lucy 314 962 6412 ASAP**



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

**COMPLIMENTARY COPY**

Address Correction Requested  
Please Forward

[www.stlouisgatewaystorytellers.org](http://www.stlouisgatewaystorytellers.org)

**Local Calendar of Upcoming Event**  
([www.storynet.org](http://www.storynet.org)—for national event list)

**\*\*JULY\*\***

22—Gateway Storytellers Meeting  
Salad Bowl 6-9 pm Info 314 997 3474

**\*\*AUGUST\*\***

2-3 Prairie Tales ST Festival Lincoln Village  
Petersburg, IL Info 217 632 4000  
3-6 Intl. ST Institute ETSU Donald Davis  
Johnson City, TN Info fjjoy@preferred.com  
3-13 Literary Rambles through Enchanted  
Places (England & Scotland) with Carol Birch &  
visit Jane Yolen at home in Scotland  
Southern CT State Univ Info 203 392 5711  
7-10 Intl. ST Institute ETSU Willy Clafin  
Johnson City, TN Info fjjoy@preferred.com  
11-14 Intl. ST Institute ETSU Odds Bodkin  
Johnson City, TN Info fjjoy@preferred.com  
15-23 John Campbell Folk School  
Brasstown, NC Info 1 800 FOLK SCHOOL

26—Gateway Storytellers Meeting  
Salad Bowl 6-9 pm Info 314 997 3474

**\*\*SEPTEMBER\*\***

18-20 28th Corn Island Storytelling Festival  
Louisville, KY Info 502 245 0643

23—Gateway Storytellers Meeting  
Salad Bowl 6-9 pm Info 314 997 3474

**\*\*OCTOBER\*\***

3-5 National ST Festival (Discount if by 3/31/03)  
Jonesborough, TN Info 1 800 952 8392

28—Gateway Storytellers Meeting  
Salad Bowl 6-9 pm Info 314 997 3474

**\*\*NOVEMBER\*\***

22 Tellebration in St Louis—more info later  
25-Gateway Storytellers Meeting  
Salad Bowl 6-9 pm Info 314 997 3474

**\*\*DECEMBER\*\***

23—Gateway Storytellers Meeting  
Salad Bowl 6-9 pm Info 314 997 3474

**July 11-15, 2007**

**NSN Storytelling**

**Conference St Louis!!!**

**MEMBER ARTICLE IN NSN**  
**July-Aug, 2003**  
**STORYTELLING MAGAZINE**

“Everything Old is New Again”  
(on page 46) shares some of  
Barbara Zucker’s research on  
museum storytellers 1910-1930s.

**NSN AWARDS GRANT IN MO:**

Jim “Two Crows” Wallen in the  
Kansas City area has received  
A \$1000 grant to set up a club for  
elementary age children to bring  
to life the Lewis and Clark  
experience through storytelling.

**STORYTELLING MAGAZINE**  
**FEATURES BOARD MEMBER**  
**JOYCE SLATER:**

MO is now represented on the  
NSN Board of Directors by  
two state storytellers—Bobby  
Norfolk from St Louis and Joyce  
Slater from the Kansas City.

**STORYTELLING**  
**COURSE ST LOUIS:**

Becky Walstrom  
reports that there were  
15 students!

NSN membership has many  
advantages for YOU—call Rosemary  
for an application. (314 997 3474)

**ST LOUIS ARTS**  
**CALENDAR 2004:**

Gateway’s organizational  
information and meetings  
will be included in this sec-  
ond annual St Louis Re-  
gional Arts Commission  
calendar which will go to  
40,000 St Louis City school  
children and their fami-

**RCGA SENDS THANKS:**

Gateway received a 6/2003  
thank you letter for par-  
ticipating in the RCGA  
Arts, Business & Cultural  
Committee Economic Im-  
pact Survey as well as our  
contributions to the St  
Louis area.

**NSN 2004 NATIONAL**  
**STORYTELLING CON-**  
**FERENCE IN BELLING-**  
**HAM, WASHINGTON:**

Call for proposals for  
workshops, presentations,  
showcase & intensives.  
Deadline 8/15/2003  
Info 1 800 525 4514

**NSN REQUESTS TRUE STORIES**  
**BY ADVOCATES FOR**  
**STORYTELLING**

Challenges, obstacles overcome, etc  
with event planners, arts councils...  
Info <http://storynet-advocacy.org/>

**TIP:** Karen Chace Webligraphy  
pc based—see Mary Garrett

**OBITUARIES**

P.T. Minner—4 yr old  
son of Prentice Minner

Zane Thompson—  
husband of Sharon  
Thompson

Anthony Wright—  
husband of La Rita

Our condolences.....

**KEEPERS:**

MO-TELL Meetings Info %636 271 7914  
Riverwind Meetings Info%618 234 9698  
M.I.S.T. Meetings Info%314 867 0489  
ST Events Nationwide [www.storynet.org](http://www.storynet.org)

**BOBBY NORFOLK WILL HIRE**

part-time clerical help in the home  
office of this agent, Jan Dolan.  
Duties include answering phone,  
mass mailings, and computer web  
searches, flyer design etc.  
Hours flexible. Info 314 968 2606.

**ARTS AND CRAFTS**  
**EXPERTISE NEEDED:**

Sue Hinkel is chairing a committee  
to design and place in HQ STL  
County Library a display case full  
of storytelling memorabilia & info  
in recognition of Tellebration Nov,  
2003. Call Sue ASAP 636 271 7914

**OFFICERS & CHAIRS**  
(until 12/31/03)

.Pres.	Sharon Thompson 314 894 8703
.Vice Pres.	Fran Grindler-Anstett 314 997 0283
.Past Pres.	Catherine Gregory 314 966 3153
.Secretary	Linda Cluney 314 569 1563
.Treasurer	Al Cohen 314 997 0250
.Editor/Publicity	Rosemary Wilson 314 997 3474
.Program Dir.	Lucy Grondahl 314 962 6412

**MEMBER CORNER**

**WELCOME NEW**  
**MEMBERS!**

Coleman Bank  
Ruth Muskopf  
**VOLUNTEERED!**  
Roger Rose as  
our website ST  
Directory Coordinator



**NOTABLE & QUOTABLE:**

“In addition to the power of our  
spiritual values, I believe it is im-  
portant to realize that the power of  
our work in the arts is much  
greater that we are. Our treasure  
is simply being our best in the  
many roles we play, sharing our  
talents, & motivating others to do  
the same. That is our purpose.  
That will make a difference. That is  
enough.” Don Doyle (*Storytelling*  
*Magazine* July/August, 2003)

St. Louis Gateway Storytellers Meeting May 27, 2003

Attendance: 27

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**DECISIONS:** 1. Send \$50 to NSN National Storytelling Conference Chicago July, 2003 to support conference plus our website will be listed. 2. Page 4 of *Grapevine* will not be used for paid advertisement in the newsletter. 3. Task Force set up to investigate issues/policies related to Gateway setting up a member storytellers' directory for event planners & the public looking for tellers—Lucy Grondahl, Roger Rose, Sharon Thompson, Rosemary Wilson.

**STORY SWAP**

**MARY GARRETT:** (“The Stolen Child” from Fearless Girls, Wise Women, & Beloved Sisters) This is a Scottish story of mother love and courage.

**DIANN BANK:** (“May There Always Be a Song of Peace”—a song by a 10 year old using sign language combined with “The Story” a Jewish Folktale) This story deals with the question of why tell “story” and pass it on for peace to save humankind.

**DANIEL ROMANO:** ( Very short stories by Nasrudin in “Stories of the Middle East” collected by Indries Shah) In “The Sermon” Nasrudin befuddles the congregation at the mosque. In “Who Am I?” Nasrudin loses himself in Baghdad. In “Feeding His Clothes” Nasrudin mystifies the rich guests at the banquet table. A “Nasrudin Story Adaptation” recounts a boy discovering the fact that happiness is not where you look for it.

**CHERYL GUNNELL** (“Anansi Gets What He Discovers” from “101 Africa-American Read Aloud Stories”) Anansi’s tricks backfire on him as usual.

**MR KAY:** A song about Affton Sunday School incorporating many Bible stories.

**LUCY GRONDAHL:** (“Vernon Tales”—personal life stories) As Vernon’s wife, she tells anecdotes from the their honeymoon, a flood, and his obituary.

St. Louis Gateway Storytellers Meeting June 24, 2003

Attendance: 24

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**DECISIONS:** 1. Reimburse expenses to Rosemary for setting up a display at NSN NSC Chicago 7/2003 for the NSN NSC St. Louis 2007. 2. Publish office help wanted ad for Bobby Norfolk in next *Grapevine* at no cost & continue policy of not accepting paid advertisement.

**QUESTION:** Do members want to have a presentation at a future Gateway meeting on the ethics of storytelling? Let Fran Anstett-Grindler know what you think.

**STORY SWAP**

**LARRY HAMILTON:** Interpretive reading of Patrick Henry’s 1775 speech before the Virginia House of Commons in support of colonial independence—“Give Me Liberty or Give me Death”

**CAROL WATKINS:** (“A Pocketful of Peanuts”—a personally adapted version of historical facts about George Washington Carver) Part artful telling & interpretive reading of his life story and the many obstacles he overcame to get an education and help his people.

**MARY GARRETT:** (“Rainbows” an original story published in 2003 NILAS newsletter (Nature in Legend and Story) The difference between facts of science and the truth of imagination was illustrated.

**FRAN ANSTETT-GRINDLER:** (“White Wave” a traditional ancient Chinese tale) This is a story of a simple farmer solving the mysterious appearances of luxuries in his life and a shrine he built in honor of beautiful lady in shimmering white. The farmer dies and the shrine crumbles. We all live and we all die. What remains is our story.

**JANUARY KIEFER:** Snippets of stories illustrating the universal truths in stories were told. Storytellers must be aware of the message within a story & be careful what we tell to whom.

**SYLVIA DUNCAN:** She told a personal story honoring the trustful nature her father.

**MARY KAY MENEES:** (“Pat & Mike” by J.J. Renault) Irish immigrants out West mistakenly thought lightning bugs were for the convenience of mosquitoes to locate their human host.

**JUDY MC CARTHY:** (“The Celtic Spirit” an ancient tale) A farmer breaks his word not to look in a special basket of his wife. She departs based on his typical human response in pronouncing the basket empty when he could not see the invisible and eternal Celtic spirit contained therein.

**MARY GARRETT:** She told a Renaissance tale.

**PRENTICE MINNER:** He told the story of his recently deceased son, P.T., and the failed efforts to persuade the pharmaceutical company to give him a potentially life-prolonging drug.

**CATHY GREGORY:** Personal story of a transformational fishing trip with her dad.

**LUCY GRONDAHL:** Personal story of an Outward Bound experience in the bear’s domain.

National Storytelling Network (NSN)  
National Storytelling Conference (NSC)

July 8-13, 2003  
Sheraton Hotel Northwest  
Arlington Heights, IL (NW of Chicago)

The NSN National Storytelling Conference (not to be confused with the annual NSN National Storytelling Festival the first weekend in October in Jonesborough, TN) is an annual event which brings over 300 amateur and professional storytellers from across this nation as well as from foreign countries. For us it is especially noteworthy that the first such conference was held in St. Louis in 1987 at Fontbonne College. Each year a different city in the United States is chosen to hold the event and an effort is made to rotate the site from coast to coast and states in between. In 2007, the NSC will be held here in St. Louis and co-hosted by MO-TELL, Riverwind, and St. Louis Gateway Storytellers.

The best way I can describe my conference experience is with personal word snapshots:

**.Familiar faces:** Mary Lu Bretsch (Riverwind in IL), Mary Garrett, Dan Keding, Marilyn Kinsella, Bobby and Sherry Norfolk, Becky Walstrom, my husband & son

**.Bookstore:** myriad resources on storytelling from books to CDs, jewelry, clothing, portable amplifier systems in a ballroom with all the nooks & crannies full

**.Insights gleaned:** storyteller who tells to children and adults will need to have a larger repertoire of stories than a teller who has a more limited range of audiences; good customer service is always in order (e.g. be on time, dress neatly and appropriately, follow-up calls before and after the event, be flexible and gracious as the unexpected will surely occur); a storyteller can be very successful and never qualify for or aspire to be on the festival circuit; a storyteller has two customers—the audience and the event planner; do all rehearsal of stories before you arrive for the event and not in the stage wings; storytelling entrée in the corporate world is by the practice of stealthy labeling of the craft in the business linguistic templates; it's perfectly OK to call yourself an "entertainer" if you are a storyteller; storytelling is one of the best hopes for our planet and global society in the near and distant future

**.Storytellers' uniforms:** ranged from a pastel Fortune 500 cashmere knit pantsuit with expensive accessories to bright basic color palette ethnic garbs to casual preppy to everyman/woman everyday USA

**.Storyteller stars:** in abundance and comfortable with their unique artistic expression and never in competition with each other but rather in complementary mode

**.Unforgettable:** the keynote on diversity; luggage with stuffed animal props overflowing at the hotel reception desk; the seamless flow and conduct of the conference by many, many volunteers; the camaraderie of story tellers despite a wide range of ages and geographic/demographic differences and who had never met before; the depth and breadth of expertise in storytelling from performing art to applied storytelling from all conference presenters

**.Story swaps:** available after 9 pm if you had any energy left from full days

**.Advice from previous NSC Host Chairs:** start early on fundraising grant applications; clearly express your need for assistance and confidently expect that it will materialize from volunteers; the NSN staff are most helpful

**.Fiscal note:** plan on spending around \$1000 to attend an out of St Louis NSC—NSC 2004 — Bellingham Washington—start saving now—\$ WELL SPENT!

P.S. I put up our display for NSC STL 2007 *Rosemary Wilson, Editor and First Time Conference Attendee*