



GATEWAY GRAPEVINE -- May 2009
St. Louis Gateway Storytellers
www.stlouisgatewaystorytellers.org

Next Gateway Meeting 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 26, 2009
Story Swap 7-8:30 p.m. **Sign up -- Joy Nack 314-317-9061**
Crown Center, 8350 Delcrest, St. Louis, MO 63124.
(Some of us eat at 4:30 or so, at Mai Lee, 8440 Delmar Blvd.)

*Gateway meets the Fourth Tuesday of odd-numbered months, July 22, Sept. 22, Nov. 24
For info or to have items on agenda, call Mary (636)447-6760 or Marion (314)997-0250
Bring ideas for picnics in June and August

30th Annual St. Louis Storytelling Festival Success

(from Sue H. please bring the Festival plastic name tags to the next meeting to recycle for next year).

Beautiful, meaningful, satisfying. There was a kaleidoscope of movement and color, laughter and love, and wisdom. Attendance was good. The quilt by Edna J. Patterson-Petty was stunning, and the smaller ones presented to Nan and Becky were lovely. Everything I saw at Blanchette, the Arch, the Courthouse, and UMSL looked great. I heard that Shaw's Garden and the new venues in Illinois were also wonderful. **We did good work! (more attached)**

Bring Them Home Safely

A few resources on finding good stories for different ages -- From Marilyn Kinsella http://www.marilynkinsella.org/Workshop%20papers/Perfect%20story%20Papers/perfect_story.htm
From Karen Chace's site <http://www.storybug.net/> a link to find stories by age group at <http://www.storiestogrowby.com/choose.php> Stories are grouped by age on Jackie Baldwin's site <http://www.story-lovers.com/>

A "safe" ending is a basic rule of telling to the very young. Annette, as my mentor my first year of Festival telling, questioned my Iguana story because the very young would be afraid of the robbers coming to the house, so I save it for slightly older children. (She also very generously told me not to worry about time, as she would adjust to whatever time was left when I finished, a wonderful gesture so that I could just concentrate on the story instead of the clock). I've had to learn how to add participation, something I couldn't have used with my high school students, but the little ones love.

Report on Gateway Meeting 3/24

Treasurer's Report Coisetta Wright reported a beginning balance in March of \$3,146.71. We made one (1) disbursement of \$600. to the Storytelling Festival, leaving a balance of \$2,546.71. Dues!!! Payment date for \$20/annual dues was extended from January because of "snow day."

Basket for Festival--Motion made by Marion Nichols to give \$150 toward basket. Becky Walstrom seconded the motion, which passed.

Java G's on 2/24 was fun and successful with 40+ people attending, including Sue's students from SCCC

Trivia Night on 3/14 was a great event!! Becky reported that \$600 was earned.

Lucy entered "Chicken Lickin' Dog" in a **VSA writing contest**, which won and will be published in the anthology Blindness Isn't Black.

Telling in Schools was well-received and provided a chance to promote Festival.

Mary G. told at Jefferson Middle and Coverdell -- several Coverdell classes made reservations for Festival. Becky asked to have Jefferson reminded, which I did.

Marion Cohen said Clark School gladly received Festival materials.

Stories! We had 'em!

Cosy Wright shared the story of the rivalry between men and women, created equal, having to work things out when man received extra strength. Thank goodness for those three little keys!

David Grondahl (Lucy's grandson) shared the story of bear proving his ability by catching a grouse . . . if he could only learn to keep his mouth shut.

Joy Nack told the story of the Old Hen's Kittens at the general store (from Dockery-Young)

Sharon Thompson shared "The Chalk Genie" from The Classroom at the End of the Hall, a wonderful lesson about seeing oneself as others see us . . .

Rosie Willis told of those wonderful days when "Man Used to Not Have to Work" from a Julius Lester book, ending with the sad truth that "if you don't work, you don't eat."

Marion Nichols brought shivers with the story of "The Bag Man at the City Museum."

Karen Young brought tears and shivers with "Lost Little Boy" and the importance of one little needle to settlers of earlier times.

Mary Garrett shared three Hoja tales (supposed to be told in threes) of the Hoja's neighbors' reports of his "wandering wife," free seeds in the marketplace, and the Hoja's unassisted attempt to return the Tamerlane's gift of an elephant.

Upcoming Storytelling Events

May 16-June 7 Renaissance Faire, Rotary Park, Wentzville <http://www.stlrenfaire.com/>

Flavia Everman (636) 456-3550 has organized storytellers. Look for them in the Kids' Kingdom and at the Queen's Command Performance. May 16: Joy Nack May 17: Gale Portman May 23: Cathy Gregory May 24: Flavia May 25: John Foster May 30: Howie Hirshfield May 31: Mary Garrett June 6: Cathy Gregory June 7: Flavia

May 15 Bobby Norfolk in Sullivan at 7 p.m.

Sullivan Performing Arts Theater on Friday night, May 15 storytelling concert at 7pm. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the door, or online at <http://sullivan.macaa.net> For more information, contact Laura Friz at 573-245-6817.

Saturday, May 23, 2009 Elizabeth Ellis in Aurora, IL ME, MYSELF AND I: the Art of Personal Narrative The Fox Valley Storytelling Guild is organizing this workshop. Please call or email Donna Dettman, 630-879-6891 donnatell@comcast.net with questions or concerns. Check for \$50.00, payable to 'Elizabeth Ellis' mailed to Donna Dettman, 1032 Towne Ave., Batavia, IL 60510 will confirm your reservation.

June 6 Ron Adams at 2009 Collinsville Horseradish Festival
Festival Stage on Saturday, June 6th from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM.

June 4- 6 National Youth Storytelling Showcase Pigeon Forge, TN 1-800-792-4308
Workshops & concerts with Donald Davis, Andy Offut Irwin, Doug and Todd Elliott, Elizabeth Rose. Only \$25, age 17 and under free. Reg. by 5/25 for \$61.50 hotel rate.

June 18 – 27 University of Missouri St. Louis, Continuing Ed. “Storytelling” Three credit hours. 314-516-5948

Eth-Noh-Tec June 12-14, 2009 Summer Story Institute 2009 Get Ready in San Francisco Sept 10-26, 2009 “Nu Wa Rising”: China 2009 Storytelling Delegation to China
415-282-8705 <http://www.ethnohtec.org/>

2009 ETSU (Johnson City, TN) STORYTELLING INSTITUTES and CLASSES

June 7-10 Diane Wolkstein [Sacred Storytelling](#)
June 11-14 Bill Harley [Storytelling and the Art of Performance](#)
Aug. 2-6 Judith Black [Storytelling for Children](#).
Aug. 7-10. Linda Goss & others [Storytelling in the African-American Tradition](#).
June 15-July 2. Elizabeth Ellis Basic Storytelling and Telling History Stories
July 13-31. David Novak Advanced Storytelling and Linguistics of Reading <http://www.etsu.edu/stories>> 423-439-7606 Delanna Reed, M.A.

Christian Storytelling Conference in Bloomington IL. June 19 and 20
http://www.christianstorytelling.com/2009_Conference.html

July 16 - 19 Talk Story Pacific Regional Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii, featuring Jim May, Bobby Norfolk, Eth-Noh-Tec, Diane Ferlatte, Margaret Read MacDonald, and Anne Glover. <http://www.nsntalkstoryconference.com>

Saturday, July 18 First Annual African Festival (details to come) United African Presbyterian Church 9407 Manchester Road Rock Hill, MO Manchester and McKnight

May 30, 8/22, & 9/26 Spirit of Peoria riverboat cruises with Brian Fox Ellis 1-800-676-8988 or www.spiritofpeoria.com See [Post-D](#) May 10 article

Fall Semester St. Charles Community College Sue Hinkel EDU-125, 3 Credit hours (\$80. Per Credit Hour) "Teaching Literary through Storytelling"

Oct. 2-4 37th National Storytelling Festival Jonesborough ,TN
<http://www.storytellingcenter.com/festival/festival.htm> 800-952-8392

Oct. 15- 18 Storytelling Celebration Kansas City, MO,
<http://mckkc.edu/storytelling/>

October 23, 24 MISSOURI RIVER STORYTELLING FESTIVAL
Katy Depot in St. Charles, MO, Workshop (\$30) <http://www.motell.org/>

November 20, 2009, 7:30 Tellabration "RHYTHM OF STORYTELLING"
Featuring Larry Brown, Kathy Schottel, Jackie and "Papa" Glen Wright, and Ambassadors of Harmony Quartet For more information call Joy Nack,

Cape Girardeau -- Next year April 9, 10, 11

This year's Festival was wonderful! Andy Offutt Irwin, Bobby Norfolk, Barbara McBride-Smith, Bil Lepp, Sue Hinkel, Rosie Cutrer, Kim Weitkamp, and Joyce Slater were fantastic! Swapping ground was fun. The radio station recorded stories and gave tellers CDs. The Festival was well organized and laid-back, with long breaks for lunch and supper (probably very beneficial to local businesses). It was a beautiful drive, and Cape Girardeau is a very pretty little river town. Even the sunset and the luminaria along the paths were perfect. Plan to go next year to hear Donald Davis, Minton Sparks, Kevin Kling, and Syd Lieberman.
<http://www.capestorytelling.com/schedule.html>

2010 NSN conference July 29 - August 1, 2010 Los Angeles

Conference proposals guidelines can be found at www.storynet.org.

The deadline for workshop proposals is June 15, 2009. . for fringe September 15, 2009.

All is being done to make the 2010 NSN conference in Los Angeles the best ever with the goal that attendance will be the best ever. The theme is "Many Stories, One World."

Applications for the J.J. Reneaux Emerging Artist Grant are due August 3, 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

Story Swap M.C. Joy Nack 314-317-9061

Grapevine Newsletter Editor Mary Garrett 636-447-6760

30th Annual St. Louis Storytelling Festival Success (continued) and Proposal

Gay Ducey's tiger by the tail story, "we need less enlightenment and more compassion."

Eth-Noh-Tec's story about people seeing people as cows, until they learned to eat onions. (I also loved Nancy's encouragement of the children to ask their parents for stories -- what a great idea!) Kevin's lesson from his circle of hoops -- can't leave any one out, or it falls apart.

Kevin also stated, as we were seeing if the stage was big enough for his hoop dance (Arch stage wasn't, but the Touhill was!) "Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape." We certainly were flexible, as last minute changes in tellers and venues sent us scurrying to make sure all spots were filled and as many as possible were happy. At Blanchette, a couple of extra school groups arrived, quite certain that they had made reservations. They were made welcome after the rest were seated, and all had fun!

At the courthouse, room numbers changed as needed for accessibility and numbers. I had begun introductions as MC with one group when Carol came in, having also been assigned to the room. I told the children, "I'm a good MC, but she's my ride home . . . and an even better MC," and withdrew. I realized at the end of the day that Carol could have used the time for a lunch break, but, honest, I was just trying to be courteous.

Volunteers and Good Feelings

I wish to commend all the volunteers who helped make this Festival happen. There were rewards for this giving spirit, most especially the joy of being involved in such a wonderful gift to the community.

I received the gift of a wonderful column in the Post, which honored my father's gift of story. Gina at UMSL told me that the Festival website's "hits" "spiked" that day. This was an accidental result (if there is such a thing as an accident) of the Festival information in my e-mail address (something Rosemary originally suggested for our Conference). Karen Young, Annette Harrison and Kathy Schottel were featured in an article in the *Suburban Journal*, and Bobby Norfolk was in the April *St. Louis Magazine*.

Lucy was chosen to receive the Christine Eveland Award for the outstanding volunteer, in honor of all her work on the Trivia Night for the quilt. Lucy went straight from the hospital to organize a successful and fun event. Lucy was further honored by the inclusion of her "Chicken-Lickin' Dog" story in the Blindness Isn't Black book published by VSA Arts. At the reading, Lucy's story captivated the audience! Rosemary had told her about this writing contest. Lucy continued her giving ways. Inspired by a story about "the man in the white Panama hat" on a recent PHC* show, she gave Ron a new chapeau. Even though Lucy couldn't go to Ron's ghost stories at the inaccessible Lemp Mansion, she was there in spirit (and hat) for Ron!

Poetry Connections!

Ashley Bryan read the poem “Things” by Eloise Greenfield which ends --
Went to the kitchen/Lay down on the floor/Made me a poem/Still got it Still got it Later a charming and delightful young poet named Annie told us her poem about spring, which ends with “kisses of happy butterflies.” She was such fun! (as were all the delightful children and their loving parents).

One of the loveliest moments of the Festival -- On Saturday at the Arch, Ashely Bryan had finished his 45 minute set and was chatting with a few little fans and their parents, when an out-of-breath mother and her daughters came rushing up to the Pilot’s Wheel. “Is he finished? Is it over? We got here as fast as we could! Will he have another set?” Well, he was finished and he didn’t have another scheduled performance until the evening at UMSL, but he was still there. I guided the shy children and their parents over and introduced them, explaining that they had come late and were disappointed.

“Why were you late?” he smiled, then opened a book and began reciting “Things” and then another poem and another, and soon there were 25 people gathered around, no microphone, just grandfatherly Ashley Bryan sharing literature with the little ones. Oh yeah, he’s “still got it.”