

STORYLINE



Newsletter of the STORYTELLING ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
Volume 27 No. 3 Summer 2010
www.StorySAC.org

The 25th Annual Bay Area Storytelling Festival: Tales and Traditions Delight!

Twenty five festivals in twenty-eight years, more than 200 tellers from around the world, tens of thousands of attendees, all united through story.

On the weekend of May 22-23, 2010, in enchanting Kennedy Grove, cherished memories were recalled and new ones minted at the 25th Bay Area Storytelling Festival. Under clear skies in our favorite part of the East Bay Regional Park District in El Sobrante, stories rang out from the amphitheater and tents for all to experience.

With featured guest tellers from the past and emerging voices joining together, our silver anniversary festival was one for the ages. **Connie Regan-Blake**, who told at the inaugural BASF, returned from Asheville, North Carolina. From across the Pond, **Ben Haggarty** returned with power and passion. **Syd Lieberman** journeyed from Chicago and local favorites **Willie Claffin** (with **Maynard Moose** and **Gorf**) and **Diane Ferlatte** were joined by Hawaiian poet, **Kealoha**, making his first appearance at our festival.

There were games, dancing, picnics and music provided by **The Angel Band**, **Banda des Gaidas**,

Pinole Valley High Jazz Band and **Larry Hanks**. **Uncle Dave** and his **Old Time String**

Band played for the anniversary celebration and **Erik Hoffman** called the dancing.

Festival director **Linda Yemoto** was delighted. "It's hard to believe we've actually presented 25 storytelling festivals. When I recall all the wonderful tellers

we've shared with Bay Area audiences, all the remarkable

stories we've heard, all the community we've created, I am truly proud of what this group of dedicated volunteers has accomplished.

"You would think that after 24 festivals, the 25th would be pretty easy to plan. This one proved to be the most-complicated, labor-intensive festival ever. Yet, also one of our best. The entire line-up of featured and guest tellers, the anniversary celebrations, music, popcorn, balloons...all made for an outstanding weekend of storytelling. I want to particularly thank **Gay Ducey**, our artistic director; **Mark Wilson**, our production manager; and **Robin Wilson**, our Study Trip and student volunteer coordinator. They always put their heart and soul into making the festival happen. This year was no exception."

More festival coverage found inside!



Sunday's Closing Festivities. (Photo: Tom Ferlatte)

From the Chair



Tell It On
TUESDAY Turns 5!
A New Solo Performance Series

Greetings from the SAC Board. We hope your summer is unfolding nicely, with lots of stories and outdoors celebrations.

At the SAC meeting during the Bay Area Storytelling Festival, we took our annual vote for board members. Returning are **Ellen Augustine, Jeff Byers, and Shags Shagrin**. We welcome **Courtney Good** to our board.



Photo: Bob Bishop

The recent Juneteenth celebration went very well, and we thank **Marijo** once more for stepping in for **Awele Makeba**, who was stranded out of state. Watch for our third annual Juneteenth next year!

We hope you are all attending the National Storytelling Network's conference in Los Angeles at month's end (see page 3). It's unusual for the national conference to be held in California, and many wonderful speakers, workshops, sessions—and lots of stories—are on the schedule.

Our **next board meeting** will be held on **Saturday, July 17**, where we will elect officers and plan for next year.

If you have a project you'd like considered, please let us know (e-mail me: saarmst@telis.org). We'll share what we've come up with in the next *Storyline*.

— Sara Armstrong, SAC Board Chair

The News from NSN

Calling All Members: The National Storytelling Network seeks members in California who are willing to take a more active role in NSN. We're looking for people who are willing to share their expertise on NSN committees. Send names and contact information to Caren Neile: carenina@bellsouth.net or Judy Sima: Judy@JudySima.com

NSN's Vision: Connecting people to and through storytelling

NSN's Mission: NSN brings together and supports individuals and organizations that use the power of story in all its forms. We advocate for the preservation and the growth of the art of storytelling.

— Erica Lann-Clark, NSN Liaison
for the nine
Bay Area Counties, California

TELL IT ON TUESDAY celebrated its 5th anniversary on June 29. This celebration performance was also our last performance at Berkeley's Julia Morgan Theater (JMCA). This spring, Stephanie Weisman, artistic director of **THE MARSH**, invited us to bring **TELL IT ON TUESDAY (TIOT)** to the new **MARSH BERKELEY** (2120 Allston Way). The timing was perfect. Preparing to sign a new contract with the JMCA, we found that, due to larger stage productions planned, there was less availability for small productions like ours.

While it's difficult to leave our home of the last five years, our move brings partnership with **THE MARSH**, and also the possibility of expanding. Over time we are confident **THE MARSH BERKELEY** will feel like home as much as the JMCA did.

Over the years, our commitment to inviting a variety of performers with a vast array of performance styles has kept us focused on expanding our understanding of what storytelling is. Fostering and nurturing collaboration with other storytelling and solo performance groups has kept us grounded in our art form. To date, we've worked with **THE MARSH's Performance Initiative, Stagebridge Theater Company, Nina Wise's Motion Theater, Watchword Press, and the San Francisco Theater Festival**.

We love the history developing between TIOT and previous performers and love inviting new performers who keep expanding the diversity of our storytelling evenings. These relationships, as well as our commitment to fostering new relationships with performers, are part of the TIOT tradition. We have hosted more than 250 performers over the last five years. Auditions will be held the last weekend in August. If you are interested, please get in touch with us: www.TellItOnTuesday.org.

Attend a performance, become a part of a growing community of artists and audience members and understand the uniting power of a good story. We look forward to seeing you in our new space on August 31. (We're taking July off.)

— Bridget Frederick, Co-Producer, Co-Creator

NSN Conference Coming to Los Angeles July 29-August 1!

It's almost here!

**Many Stories, One World:
The National Storytelling
Conference** in Los Angeles,
California — July 29-August 1,
2010.

Singing, dancing, laughing,
hugging...STORIES.

Calling all storytellers, story
listeners, story lovers, teachers,
librarians, clergy, trainers,
business people, professional
tellers, producers, parents,
students — join us.

It's *not* too late to register.

Call the office at
800.525.4514 with any
questions or concerns.

And don't forget, if you and/
or a friend/family member
traveling with you is a story
listener and just wishes to attend
all the performances throughout

the conference (no workshops),
there is a less-expensive package
of showcases, concerts, fringes,
and swaps throughout the
weekend.



Or come for a specialized pre-
conference and/or master class
with amazing presenters such

as **Willy Claflin**, **Rafe Martin**,
Antonio Rocha and more.

Come support SAC members
who are receiving NSN Oracle
Awards at the conference:

Ruth Stotter — Lifetime
Achievement; **Willy Claflin** —
Circle of Excellence; **Linda
Yemoto** — Pacific Leadership;
and **Kirk Waller** — J.J.
Reneaux Emerging Artist.

Join your tribe of more than
300 storytellers and story
lovers for an uplifting and
unforgettable time together,
celebrating our world through
many stories! We can't wait to
see you in mere weeks.

Explore all the amazing
details here (including a
downloadable program
brochure):

[www.storynet.org/conference/
index.html](http://www.storynet.org/conference/index.html)



All Aboard...To China Sept. 10-26



**The Nu Wa
Storytelling
and Cultural
Delegation**
is making its
last call for

all interested storytellers, story
lovers and story adventurers to
join us for the journey to China.

It will be 16 days of taking
in the sights and sounds of
China, including the multi-day
visit, story swap and cultural
celebration in Gengcun Village,
a traditional storytelling

community nicknamed "The
Ocean of Stories." With
the intention of bringing the
diversity of our American
cultures, we welcome storytellers
who can share folk tales and
myths, as well as music, song
and dances reflecting the richness
of their ethnic heritage.

The land price is \$2,600 for a
shared room (\$400 extra for
single room). Delegates are
required to pay their own way
over and rendezvous at the
designated hotel by Sept 10. The

full program
runs from
Sept 10-26,
2010. The
last day to
sign up fully
paid is Aug
1 (advisable
to register by

mid-July to avoid cost increases
by airlines and to meet passport
and visa requirements).

For registration call:
415.282.8705 or online visit:
www.ethnohtec.org/tours for
application and details.



Second Annual SAC Juneteenth Celebration Soars! *Hometown Hero Shares Stirring Stories & Songs*

Juneteenth 2010 was one to remember, as SAC hosted an evening of music, food and stories commemorating the emancipation of slaves in America.

A half hour of inspirational jazz and gospel music began the evening, followed by a wonderful feast of stories at Oakland's Bay Area Christian Connection Church.



Our scheduled June 19 performer **Awele Makeba** ran into unexpected weather and travel delays and was unable to appear. Not to fear,

Marijo — a talented and celebrated storyteller in her own right — took center stage and treated the receptive audience to African and African-American stories of struggle, mystery, magic and, most of all, strength, hope and change.

Listeners were enthralled with stories punctuated with singing and rhythm, such as *Jalani and the Lock*, *The Singing Geese*, *The People Could Fly* and *The Lost Woman of Lake Victoria*.



A special thanks to board member Ann Riley for assisting with this year's celebration.

— Kirk Waller, SAC Board Member

Mary Gay Ducey Reflects on 25 Festivals

It is a joke among our committee members. During the year of planning, the six months of hard work, the last month, called The Festival Death Spiral, we ask each other, "Why am I doing this exactly?" Then we walk to the amphitheater for the opening show on Saturday morning and I say, "Now I remember."

Twenty-five years encompasses a great deal of collective history. We have celebrated new children and grandchildren, mourned the loss of friends and family members; we have seen one another acquire a few more lines, maybe a little wisdom. Our children have been born, grown up



within our festival's rich traditions, and they are much the better for it. I am too. Our lives have become interlaced with memories and our first meeting each fall is a family reunion.

I treasure every story, every trial, every song, every folly of our 25 festivals. I want to believe that we will always be able to walk into that lovely amphitheater and watch the hawks as the stories spill out. Perhaps we can, but we will need to change to do so. Our committee members, so smart, so tireless, so creative, cannot do this forever. We need folks to join us. If you do, then we can continue. **So please, join our team!**

Contact Linda Yemoto: 510.544-3260; lyemoto@sbcglobal.net.

The Times They Are A Changin' At

This may sound like the end of a story, but it's only another beginning.

Internationally recognized leader in creative healthy aging Stuart Kandell, Ph.D., founder and director of Stagebridge, symbolically passed the torch at a recent Stagebridge Awards luncheon celebrating 31 years of excellence. He is looking forward to a six-month sabbatical.

"After 31 years of steering the ship and keeping it afloat, I realized it's time for a change," said Kandell.

Kandell is one of eight recipients of The California Wellness Foundation Sabbatical Program Award for lifetime achievement. July 1 he turned management of the company over to Managing Director Gary Osteraas, Ph.D. (left,



with baton) and Artistic Director Josiah Polhemus, (right, kneeling).

From A Class to A Company

Under Kandell's leadership the non-profit company has grown from a handful of acting students to one of the most respected and honored senior theatre companies in the nation, with class offerings in all the performing arts and storytelling.

In addition to full time curriculum and the only summer camp for adults over 50, the company has many community outreach programs for elders and youth that are federally, state and locally supported. Stagebridge also produces new musicals and student showcases, and has several touring groups.

SAC + Stagebridge

"Both SAC and Stagebridge have grown together with the increasing awareness and interest in storytelling," Kandell said. "We have a symbiotic relationship which is a win-win for everybody."

Storytelling connects families, neighbors, cultures and brings people together to share their common experiences. Stagebridge and SAC have shared this common ground for over 25 years.

"Josiah and I look forward to continuing the close collaboration between Stagebridge and SAC developed under Stuart's leadership," said Osteraas. "We are proud to now have (SAC board member) Kirk Waller as Director of Storytelling Programs. Kirk is an effective and passionate promoter of quality storytelling. Working together we will carry on Stuart's inspiring legacy."

Taking it Nationally

As a member of the National Center for Creative Aging board, Kandell travels around the country and sees the importance of storytelling in the lives of seniors.

"With the aging of the Baby Boomers, we are seeing a society that is looking for meaningful activity and ways of giving back," he said. "Storytelling is one of the most basic connections between generations and a gift to future generations."

This intergenerational connection has been recognized in both local and national storytelling publications where Stagebridge tellers and programs have been featured.

"During my sabbatical I plan to take a long car ride, go backpacking, dance, bike, learn Spanish, return to Buenos Aires for tango, and travel to Patagonia."

On his return in 2011, Kandell will continue to serve on Stagebridge's board of directors and hopes to develop national projects for the company.

— Maryann Maslan, Marketing Director, Stagebridge

Northern California Story Swaps & Ongoing Venues

Story Swaps are gatherings of storytellers and story listeners. All are open to you. Call first to confirm the swap is meeting as listed... and tell your stories.

Alameda

Alameda Swap 3rd Thurs 7-9pm hosted by **Cathy Dana** at **Frank Bette Center for the Arts**, 1601 Paru St at Lincoln. 510.523.6957 www.frankbettecenter.org cathydana@gmail.com

Antioch

Delta Wordweavers Swap 2nd Monday 7-8:30pm **Antioch Public Library**, 501 W 18th St. (Not in July.) **Marian Ferrante** 925.437.1360 deltawordweavers@att.net

Auburn

Foothills Storytelling Guild Call for location. **Joan Stockbringe** 530.823.3282 **Linda Kennedy** 530.478.1604 www.foothillstorytelling.com

Berkeley (2)

Mixed Bag Storytellers of Berkeley-Oakland 1st Thurs 6-8pm **Claremont Branch Public Library**, 2940 Benvenue at Ashby. **Kate Frankel** 510.525.1533 kateline@earthlink.net for email reminder

Tell It On Tuesday **NEW venue!**
Last Tues Music 7pm. Solo Performances 7:30pm **The Marsh Berkeley**, 2120 Alston Way. 510.845.8542 www.tellitontuesday.org bridget.frederick@gmail.com

Danville

Tales and Tellers: A specialty Toastmasters Club 1st Sat 8:30-11am, **Sycamore Homes Annex**, 635 Old Orchard Drive. **Lonnie Sanders** 510.428.0384 **Tevis Thompson** 925.228.0120 www.toastmastersd57.com/findclubdocs/tales_tellers1a.pdf

El Sobrante

El Sobrante Swap, 6-8pm 3rd Thr, Library, 4191 Appian Way, **Michael Baefsky** 925.254.7950, mbaefsky@gmail.com

Eureka

North Coast Storytellers 3rd Thurs 7pm at **The Ink People Center** for the Arts, 12th & E. Call to verify: **Dan O'Gara** 707.677.3840

Hayward

Hayward Storytellers 2nd Thurs 7-9pm **Hayward Arts Council**, 22654 Main St. **Gina Rose** 510.205.8606 ginarose@sbcglobal.net

Livermore

Saturday Salons at 4th Street Studio 3rd Sat 7:30pm at **4th Street Studio**, 2235 4th St., Karen Hogan 925.456.3100 4thstreetstudio@pacbell.net

Los Altos

Southbay Storytellers and Listeners 2nd Sun 7pm **United Methodist Church**, Garden Room, 655 Magdalena. **Joy Swift** 650.494.1383 joy.swift@sbcglobal.net

Monterey

Monterey Bay Talespinners 1st Mon 7pm at **Monterey Public Library**, 625 Pacific. Info: **Phil Hawthorne** 831.655.1741 or **Carol Collin** 831.646.8584

Oakland (1) / E. Bay (1)

LaughLovers — The Cantu Comedy Toastmasters Club 3rd Sun 6-8pm: St. Paul's Towers, 100 Bay Pl., **Chris Pon** 510.703.6021 www.laughlovers.us or President@laughlovers.us.

Sing Say or Play, **NEW**, 3rd Sat 7pm at Private homes in E. Bay. Bring your own piece to perform. Contact **Ed Silberman**: 510.655.7087 edsilberman@hotmail.com

Orinda

Contra Costa Tale Spinners 4th Thurs 7-9pm **The Gallery Room, Orinda Public Library**, 24 Orinda Way, Orinda Village (near BART) **Sally Holzman** 925.372.7036 or **Bobbie Kinhead** 510.655.5608 bobbiekin@mindspring.com

Placerville

El Dorado Storytellers 2nd Mon 1pm at the home of a member in the Placerville area. Call **Brenda Miller** 530.677.2624 or **Leslie Rose** 530.677.7693

Redding

Traveling Bohemians Open Mic 2nd Wed 7pm **Sue's Java Cafe**, 1712 Churn Creek Rd. Host **Nadia Hava-Robbins** 530.229.7818 bohemitian@snowcrest.net

Sacramento (2)

Aesop's Fables a Toastmasters storytelling club 1st Thurs 7-8:30pm **Sacramento County Admin, Building**, 700 H St., 3rd fl break room. **Arne Sampe** 916.362.9013

Sacramento Storytellers Guild 3rd Sat 2-4pm **Eskaton Monroe Lodge** (Senior Citizen's Residence), 3225 Freeport Blvd. **Lawrence Crason** 916.399.1999

San Francisco (5)

Storytelling at the Meetinghouse 1st Sun 6:30-8:30pm. **Quaker Center**, 65 Ninth St, btwn Market & Mission Sts. All welcome. Bring a story and a snack to share. **Ruth Fraser** 415.626.3757 mellowstory@juno.com

Sing Sea Chanteys 1st Sat 8pm-midnight on the **Balclutha** Hyde St Pier, **SF Maritime National Park**. **FREE!** Bring songs & mug for hot apple cider. **Peter Kasin** reservations: 415.561.7171 peter_kasin@nps.gov

San Francisco Story League 2nd Thurs 10am-Noon **Golden Gate Park Senior Ctr**, 6101 Fulton St. **Pat Langdell** to verify: 415.564.8451

Farley's 3rd Tues Storytelling, spoken word, poetry, music & song. **Open Mic** 7-9pm 1315 18th /Texas, SF, **Susan Ford** 415.474.5580 suford@earthlink.net www.farleyscoffee.com

Salon! You're On! 7pm sliding scale \$5-15 hosted by **Eth-Noh-Tec**: Kinetic Story Theater, 977 So. Van Ness Ave., SF 415.282.8705 contact@ethnohtec.org www.ethnohtec.org.

*Is your Swap listing correct? Send updates to:
Editor@HackinBoo.com & suford@earthlink.net.*

Southern California and Hawaii Story Swaps

Antelope Valley (2)

Antelope Valley Storytellers 1st Sat 4pm
Heart'n Soul Coffee House,
39804 San Francisquito Canyon Rd,
Green Valley. 661.270.1627

Antelope Valley Allied Arts Association
1st Sat 6pm **Cedar Center Hall**
44845 North Cedar Ave., Lancaster
661.726.0655

Claremont

Inland Valley Story Swap 2nd Tues
7:30pm (8-10 Min stories) \$5 donation
Claremont Forum, 586 West First Street,
John St. Clair 909.983.8501
www.inlandstorytellers.org

Costa Mesa

South Coast Storytellers Guild 3rd Thurs
7pm **Guild House**, 2845 Mesa Verde East.
949.496.1960 www.storyguild.com

Culver City

Community Storytellers 2nd Thr,
7:30 pm Culver Palms United Methodist
Church 4464 Sepulveda Blvd., Room 11.
Audrey Kopp 310.823.7482
communitystorytellers@gmail.com
www.communitystorytellers.org

Dramamasters Storytelling
Toastmasters Club, last Sat 9am
5909 Blairstone Dr. 318.284.0656

Los Angeles

Sophia Tellers Network of Biblica
Storytellers 323.938.1556
lindamcknight49@hotmail.com

Inglewood

The Griot* Workshop 2nd Tues
7pm **KAOS Network**, 3335 43rd Place,
Leimert Park, L.A. \$3 donation. **Michael**
D. McCarty agriot@earthlink.net
310.677.8099 ***Griot**=from the West
African tradition. One who keeps the
history & stories of the people.

Long Beach

Long Beach Storytellers 1st Wed 7pm
Los Altos United Methodist Church,
5950 E Willow St. **Laura Bosworth**
idbozwolfe@aol 562.716.3461
www.longbeachstorytellers.com

Orange

Storytelling Toastmasters Club 192
meets on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Thurs at
Pavilion conference room of **St. Joseph's**
Hospital 7pm Guests always welcome.
Call **David Chittenden** for directions
714.921.3776

Pasadena

Pasadena San Gabriel Storytellers
3rd Tues 7:30 pm **Hill Branch Library**,

55 S. Hill Ave, **Wanna Zinsmaster**
626.792.8512 qinzhu@earthlink.net

San Diego (2)

Black Storytellers of San Diego, Inc.
4th Sun 3:30 to 4:30pm **Valencia Park /**
Malcolm X Public Library 5148 Market
St. 619.271.4134 mcfarlin@cox.net

San Deigo County Story Swap
4th Wed 7-9 pm, Barnes & Noble,
10775 Westview Pkwy. 858.484.1325
mcphie@cts.com

Ventura New Date & Time!!

Ventura County Storytelling Guild
1st Thurs 7:30-9:30pm, Bell Arts Factory,
432 N. Ventura Ave, Elaine Muray
805.407.2538
elaine@embodiedvoicestoryarts.com

West Los Angeles

West Los Angeles Community Storytellers
2nd Thurs 7:30pm **Culver-Palms United**
Methodist Church 4464 Sepulveda Blvd.,
Culver City. Audrey Kopp 310.823.7482
audreystory@verizon.net

HAWAII

Moonlight Storytellers Honolulu
2nd Friday, various changing locations
Vicky Dworkin dworkin@hawaii.edu.



TELLERS OF TALES



Cathryn Fairlee has a new CD out: **Kateryn Parr tells All**. This one-woman show about Kateryn, the sixth wife of Henry VIII, telling the stories of all six wives with Tudor history, wit and song. It was inspired by the play *Wives*, directed by Ruth Stotter, in which Cathryn played Kateryn Parr.

This year's BASF and Study Trip featured a familiar cast of emcees: **Gay Ducey, Olga Loya, Clara Yen, Joel Ben-Izzy, Michael Baefsky, Virginia Cunningham, Cathryn Fairlee, Erica Lann-Clark, Ruth Halpern, Kirk Waller, Steve Henegar, Tim Ereneta,**

Sara Armstrong, Olive Shaughnessy-Hackett, Tim Mautz and Hackin' 'Boo Harrison.

This year's **Book Swap**, under **Cathryn Fairlee's** direction, raised more than \$1,000. Thanks to all who donated and/or bought books.

The Friday **Study Trip** at the Festival featured **Connie Regan-Blake, Kealoha and Diane Ferlatte**. Seven hundred fifty kids, grades 3-6, from 22 classes, 17 of whom were from six West Contra Costa Unified School District schools, participated under the tents at Kennedy Grove. Thanks to **Sally Holzman** and **Linda Walls** for again assisting.

Postcards from the Silver Anniversary, May 22-23, 2010:



Willie Claflin's Grof



Ben Haggarty



Ben Haggarty meets a new fan



Diane Ferlatte (r) with Erik Pearson



BASF Artistic Director Gay Ducey



BASF's Silver Anniversary



Syd Lieberman



Willie Claflin with Maynard Moose

The 25th Bay Area Storytelling Festival in El Sobrante



Ruth Halpern Performs at Kids Show



Sunshine and Stories at Kennedy Grove



Anniversary Quilt



The Cake Tells Our Story!



Kealoha raps on the ampitheatre stage



Connie Regan-Blake Tells at Friday Study Trip



Friday Night Volunteers Concert mingling

How To Tell Long Stories: A Review of Ben Haggarty's *Master and Daemon: Bringing Frankenstein's Monster to Life*

On Friday, May 21, Ben Haggarty took two hours to perform the whole of Mary Shelley's epic *Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus* to a full house at the First Congregational Church in Oakland, and then spent another 90 minutes talking about telling long stories.

The spirited discussion, including a wide-reaching Q&A, gave fascinating insights into long-form storytelling.

Without his usual musical accompaniment, (Sianed Jones a funky, punky lady musician playing electronic violin and bass), Haggarty nevertheless created drama, suspense and surprise, only mentioning the name Frankenstein at the end of conclusion of the piece.

In the dialog that followed this powerful performance, Haggarty unabashedly confessed, "I can't remember lines at all."

He feels storytellers are very different creatures from actors. "Most professional storytellers are improvisers. Born into the oral tradition of mother tongue, we don't recite writing; we are spontaneous creators of genuinely spoken word. You don't write before you speak, do you?"

Referencing his teaching at the University of Berlin, Haggarty delineated several differences between storytellers and theatre performers.

"Storytellers compose in the moment. One time they might say 'a door opened and a man walked in.' The next time they say 'A man walked through the open door.' Actors have to recreate identical performances night after night. The story in theatre happens externally on the stage. The story in storytelling happens inside the audience."

Haggarty made several other contrasts between the storyteller and the actor. Storytellers suggest character; actors show character.

Haggarty gave various pieces of advice for telling long or epic tales, including:

1. The story is not the words. You need to know what happens very well. Knowing that, the words will come according to all the variables of the moment: mood, audience, time of day, etc.

2. You must know where the entertainment lies

within the story. You need to be able to really play with it to sustain an audience's attention for two hours.

3. You need to know your piece — where it is comedic, where it is epic, where it is laborious, where it is erotic, where it shocks, etc.

4. Use audience contact to develop pieces rather than work on them in isolation. Sooner, rather than later, try your long piece with an audience, so that the composition fully



includes the audience in its development:

- First, try informally with a small circle of friends
- Next, more formally with strangers
- Then, with middle schoolers, who are tough and honest audiences

Haggarty is director of the Crick Crack Club (www.crickcrackclub.com), the oldest of 50 storytelling clubs in the UK. They promote performance events in state-funded theatres and art centers. Like most UK storytellers, he hones his stories acoustically, without microphones, calling on the full creative dynamic of performance adrenaline. He believes stories are alive and viral; infected with them, tellers shape them into contagious forms and then spread them.

In response to a question about the challenge of memorizing so much material for epic stories like *Gilgamesh*, *Midir and Etain*, *Frankenstein*, *Mr. Sandmann* and his many *Fairytales for Grown-ups*, Haggarty reiterated, "The story is not the words; the story is what happens. The mastery is to be able to find the words and the dramaturgy in the moment."

— Craig Harrison

Calendar

Northern California

Southern California

July

10 Jean Ellisen, will be telling stories around the campfire, 8pm at Olema Ranch Campground, Hwy 1, Olema: Bring a stick for roasting marshmallows after the stories (marshmallows provided).
jellisen@sbcglobal.net

19-23 Stagebridge presents **4th Annual Performing Arts Camp for Adults 50+** 9:30-4pm 510.444.4755 www.stagebridge.org

19 Megumi ~International Storytelling Festival, 7pm San Ramon Public Library, 100 Montgomery St., San Ramon **FREE** 925.973.2850

22 Megumi tells **Japanese Folktales** for ages 5 & up. **Santa Maria Public Library**, 421 S. McClelland St., Santa Maria 805.925.0994 Call to reserve **FREE** tickets.

22 Megumi tells **Japanese American "Detention" Stories of Strength and Hope** followed by a panel discussion with former internees. **Santa Maria Public Library** (See 7/22 for **FREE** tickets)

28 Erica Lann-Clark tells stories at **Livermore Public Library**, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore 925.449.4905

28 Erica Lann-Clark tells **Ghost and Scary Stories** at **Pleasanton Public Library**, 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton 925.931.3400

August

28 Jean Ellisen, will be telling stories around the campfire at 8pm at Olema Ranch Campground, Hwy 1, Olema: Bring a stick for roasting marshmallows afterwards (marshmallows provided).
jellisen@sbcglobal.net.

July

7, 14, 21, (Weds) 7-8:30 p.m, Heritage Hill Park, 25151 Serrano Road (by Bagels and Brew), **Lake Forest** 92630: \$5 Per Person (Group rates available) Adrienne McMillan (714) 280.0925 or email Adrienne McMillan:
adriennestory@prodigy.net

11 Sunday Adult Storytelling Series: Kirk Waller 7:30 pm – 9 pm **The Found Theatre**, 599 Long Beach Blvd. (at 6th St.), Long Beach Stories for adults by adults. \$10, refreshments included. 562.433.3363 / www.foundtheatre.org

29-August 1, 2010 the **National Storytelling Conference "Many Stories, One World"** will be held in **Los Angeles** at the **Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills**. www.storynet.org (See article page 3)

August

5 Leon Leyson at **Storytelling at The Muck**, 1201 West Malvern Avenue Fullerton 7PM. Free. As one of the survivors of the Holocaust and part of the legendary Schindler's List, Leon Leyson describes his gruesome and extraordinary experiences as a young boy during the Nazi occupancy in World War II. Contact *info@TheMuck.org* or 866-411-1212.

September

2 Zoot Velasco Storytelling at The Muck, 1201 West Malvern Ave. Fullerton. 7PM, Free. Our executive director takes the stage for a mix of folk tales and personal stories (guess which!) *Info@TheMuck.org* or 866.411.1212.



Let's celebrate the **BASF committee** that made the latest of our 25 festivals happen:

Linda Yemoto - Chair

Gay Ducey - Artistic Director

Mark Wilson - Logistics Director

Robin Wilson - Friday Study Trip/
Student Volunteer Coordinator

Bobbie Kinhead - Publicity

Cathryn Fairlee - Book Swap

Craig Harrison - Publicity

Ed Silberman - Musicians

Elaine Stanley - Vendors

Genie Barry - Registration

Gini Cunningham - Beverage
Czarina

Guma - Stage Manager

Joyce Scotlan - Fern Foodie

Liz Nichols - Registration

Martha Shogren - Scribe, Quilt,
Friday Reception

Michael Baefsky - Beverage Czar

Morgan Evans - Fern Foodie

Norman Eisley - Stage Manager

Orna Pascal - Stage Manager

Pam Brown - Quilt, Friday
Reception

Pauline Hale - Volunteers

Sara Armstrong - Hospitality

Steven Henegar - Logistics Asst,
Brochure Wrangler

Steven Shagrin - Treasurer

Susan Ford - Storyline

Tim Ereneta - Publicity, BASF &
SAC Website Master

Tim Mautz - Fern Manager

Tim Ray - Stage Manager,
Program, Mailing List

THANK YOU ALL!

Workshop

August

14-19 Like Fireflies, The Art of Creative Storytelling w/**Jay O'Callahan**, storyteller, author & workshop facilitator. 6-day workshop with **Mandi Kujawa**, co-facilitator, songwriter, singer, storyteller, librettist of Banff, Canada at **Hollyhock Retreat Center, Cortes Island, BC, Canada \$565 CDN**. 800.626.5356
www.ocallahan.com
https://www.hollyhock.ca/cms/index.fm?Group_ID=4577

Calling ALL Festival-Lovers: *Write A Letter in Support!*

We encourage all festival supporters to write or e-mail the EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT (EBRPD) Board of Directors and encourage them to continue their support of this special community event.

Next Year

BASF will be negotiating with the EBRPD again for the use of Kennedy Grove in 2011.

Last Year

After 19 years of co-sponsorship, the district determined that it would no longer co-sponsor the festival in 2010, but did agree to continue the fee waivers for use of Kennedy Grove facilities and other support items. The district's Board of Directors generously donated \$2,000 to help with additional expenses due to the rescinding of co-sponsorship.

Our Contribution

While the district, like all public agencies, is anticipating a drop in funding for the next two to three years, the storytelling festival uses very little of the district's budget beyond in-kind services. The festival's budget of approximately \$40,000 covers all

teller expenses, including honoraria, transportation and housing; all technical systems, including sound and lighting; rental of tents and chairs; the design, printing and mailing of 10,000 brochures; and park staff overtime.

In return for in-kind donations, the district is able to be a vital part of a community event that has served more than 6,000 local school children and well over 20,000 storylovers these past 19 years. It would be a shame if the district decides that's more than it can afford.

Tell Your Story!

The board president is **Doug Siden**.

E-mail: dsiden@ebparks.org;

Letters sent to him c/o: EAST BAY

REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2950 Peralta Oaks Ct.,

Oakland, CA 94605



Thank you for your support.

— Linda Yemoto,
Director, BASF

July

Festivals and Conferences

September cont.

23-25 25th Sierra Storytelling Festival in Nevada City, w/Steve Sanfield, Bob Jenkins, Dovie Thomason, Jackson Gillman, Diane Ferlatte, Gay Ducey, Charlie Chan & Susan Klein. 530.265.2826 ncscc@nccn.net sierrastorytellingfestival.org

August

2 Malibu, 7pm: Monday night following NSN's LA Conference, a **House Concert** featuring **Susan Kline**, **Alton Chung**, **Lyn Ford**, and **Jeff Gere**, hosted by **Ann Buxie**, 6190 La Gloria Drive. ann.buxie1@verizon.net.

September

2-4 21st ann. Timpanogos Storytelling Fest., Orem UT, w/Eshu Bumpus, Elizabeth Ellis, Lyn For, Dolores Hydock, Andy Offutt Irwin, Bill Lepp, Motoko, Jennifer Munro, Debi Richan, Antonio Sacre, Ed Stivender, Tim Tingle & Kim Weitkamp. timpfest.org 801-229-7436

8-19 The 18th Annual SF Fringe Festival at the Exit Theatre and other sites. 415.931.1094 www.sffringe.org

10-11 The 11th Annual Storytelling Festival by the Sea featuring **Charlie Chin**, **Greg O'Rourke**, **Elizabeth Lara-O'Rourke**, along with the **North Coast Storytellers**. 707.677.3840 www.inkpeople.org

23-26 The Power of Word ~ Liberation, Transformation & Celebration through the Spoken, Written & Sung Word, **Goddard College**, **Plainfield, VT** Explore how words make community, deepen healing, witness one another, foster empowerment and transformation. **Nancy Mellon**, **Kim Rosen**, **Katherine Towler**, **Yvette Hyater-Adams**, **Vanita Leatherwood**, **Gregory Orr**, **Greg Greenway**, **S. Pearl Sharp**. www.tlanetwork.org/conference/current Callid and Kristina Keefe-Perry 877.303.8526 coordinator@tlanetwork.org.

October

15-17 22nd ann. Talk Story Festival, Honolulu: **Lopaka Kapanui**, **'Tita' Kathy Collins**, **Nyla Fujii-Babb**, **Sandra MacLees**, **Jeff Gere**. Guests: **Cathryn Fairlee & Rev. Dr. Margie Brown**, **Ben Nind & Jim Green** from Yellowknife, Canada. **Jeff & Kathy Collins**. www.honolulu.gov/parks/programs/talkstory/index.htm. **Jeff Gere**: jgere@honolulu.gov, 808.768.3032

Joe Armstrong RIP: A Change in Lifestyle By Bill Amatneek

Joe Armstrong and I met at Jim Cooke's story swap group a dozen years ago where he told *Hog Killing*, a story from his Arkansas childhood. Most recently I saw him at Jim's swap on May 9. It was the last time Joe told a story in public, at the group's final meeting. After 21 years, Jim was giving it up and had asked us all to bring in an old chestnut, a favorite story to tell.

Joe told *Hog Killing*, a story of being "given the knife" at age 13 in a country boy's initiation into manhood, one of killing a hog so your family could eat pork through the winter. He had one shot at the penned pig with a .22-calibre rifle, and aimed for the dime-sized area between the eyes that if hit cleanly meant an immediate kill. Joe missed by a fraction, and was handed "the knife" as he vaulted into the pen to do mortal combat with the pissed-off hog. Joe, at 125 pounds, took down the 225-pound, razor-tusked swine by sticking it in the jugular, the preferred line of attack that allowed for quick blood drainage.

Having heard this tale many times, and read and edited it for "The Men's Issue" of Storytelling Magazine, I knew this story well. But I had never heard Joe tell it with the depth and insight with which he delivered it that afternoon, six days before he passed. He revealed minutiae I had not heard before, and emphasized certain details that made for a more suspenseful tale.

His telling of it was the mark of an insightful teller who was re-discovering the story as he told it. He was also, I sensed, learning about himself. It was an ear-opener to hear the story and the storyteller evolve right in front of me.

Joe was also an electrical engineer, college professor, former Navy pilot, and book author who was critically compared to Eudora Welty. He loved folk dancing, winemaking, fishing, and organic farming, and was the world's foremost authority

on Egyptian water clocks. He bought 12 acres in the country outside Healdsburg, cleared the land by hand, and built a passive-solar house where he hosted salons and harvest festivals. Joe founded and edited an award-winning literary magazine, *Hard Row To Hoe*, which featured rural prose and poetry. He loved it all, and in 2007 famously said, "I have lived an exciting, charmed life and have no intention of changing that lifestyle until forced to."

Joe had an outsized personality and if you entered his domain, you were going to be influenced by him. His mind was razor sharp and held terabytes of data on wildly diverse subjects. He was so full of information that sometimes his speech could not keep up with his thoughts.

He could be a tad willful at times, but that is a hallmark of the highly intelligent, and Joe certainly was.

I looked up to him as an older, wiser friend, and sometimes called on him for advice. His counsel was Socratic; he'd ask me questions until, by my answers, I'd figure out the score.

Joe called the spread he lived on with his wife, Karen, "The Homestead." Much of it was forest land, and he would begin every day with four hours of hard physical labor, clearing brush and chopping trees for firewood. Owning no chainsaw, every tree he felled and cut for firewood he did with the sweat of his brow and the blade of his axe.

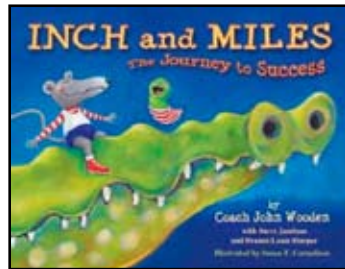
On the last day of his life, May 13, after such a day splitting wood, he came into the kitchen, sat down at the table with Karen, and said, "I might have done a little too much today." Then he collapsed. By the time paramedics arrived, he had passed. Joe was 82, and is sorely missed by all whose lives he touched.



Bill Amatneek's book, "Acoustic Stories," won the BAIPA award for Best Music Book in 2004. It can be found at www.Vineyardspress.com

Book Reviews

**Inch and Miles:
The Journey to
Success**, by Coach
John Wooden, with
Steve Jamison and
Peanut Louie
Harper, 40 pages.
Perfection Learning Corporation.



Inch and Miles is a delightful children's book whose primary characters, students Inch (an inchworm) and Miles (a mouse), address their teacher's question, "What is success?"

Their teacher, is legendary UCLA basketball coach John R. Wooden, who passed away on June 4 at 99. Universally regarded as the greatest college basketball coach of all time, Wooden's teams' 10 championships in 12 years is unparalleled. In four of those seasons his teams went undefeated. Indeed he created his own definition of "success."

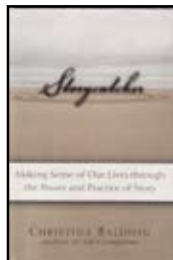
Coach Wooden was also known, throughout sports and beyond, for his PYRAMID OF SUCCESS. coachwooden.com/pyramidpdf.pdf

This beautifully drawn book, better for older kids, breaks down Wooden's 15 building blocks to success into terms young people can understand. In this story, Inch and Miles consult with an ant, a robin, a monkey, a sheepdog and many more animals as they piece together their definitions of success. They examine hard work, friendship, loyalty, cooperation, enthusiasm, self-control, alertness, action, determination, fitness, skill, team spirit, poise, confidence and personal best — the building blocks of Coach Wooden's Pyramid.

In 2008, when I interviewed Coach Wooden, I asked how kids could understand his adult concept of "peace of mind." Ever the teacher, he explained it simply, "Why Craig, it's happiness in one's heart."

— Craig Harrison

**Storycatcher: Making Sense of
our Lives through the Power
and Practice of Story**, by
Christina Baldwin. 252 pages.
New World Library.



If I had to keep only one of my dozens of books on story and storytelling, *Storycatcher* would be that book.

Having seen her speak and taken her workshops, I have experienced her depth of insight and richness of expression.

These qualities give *Storycatcher* its uniqueness and clear superiority. I love the book's organization that puts the importance of story in many different contexts, from organizations to families. Thus, we understand how story has a history of healing and inspiring through the ages.

Not only does Baldwin demonstrate her own power to write and use stories to clarify, she also

gives many exercises and suggestions that guide us into choosing and developing our own stories.

When she makes a point, expresses a belief or takes a stance, Baldwin artfully uses a story to support her position. In other words, she models what she teaches.

Angeles Arrien commented on *Storycatcher*, calling it "a timely and important contribution that can be used in practical and inspirational ways by anyone, anywhere in the world." I agree.

In *Storycatcher*, Baldwin knits the wisdom of her experience into the poetic artistry of her words to give us at once a handbook for guidance and a timeless source for inspiration.

It's a great read, too. Get it.

— Max Dixon, *Storyteller, Seattle WA*
maxwdixon@gmail.com

Welcome to Our Newest SAC Members

Jacquie Allen, Karen Dawn Baker, Helen Bean, Cecilia Berber, Carol Bernstein, Trudy Brutsche, David Carlson, Sheila M. Chan, Bonnie Charyn, Marilyn J. Church, Sherry Cohen, Marien Coss, Rebecca Dawson, Kathleen Graham, Jim Hamano, Beverly Harris, Kate Jennings, Rikke Joergensen, Vicky Julian, Lois Kincy, Mitch Landy, Bea Lieberman, Gloria Martine, Norm Milstein, Freeman Ng, Ruth Oats, Sue Overstreet, Sarah Rea, Renee Sawazaki, Robyn Siebenthall, Majida Thalji, Catherine Valentine, Deborah Walker, Patrick Watters, Ralph Wheeler, and Karen Wiggins-Dowler

Welcome Back to Our Renewing Members

Steven T. Abell, Genie Barry, Susan Billings, Leta Bushyhead, Willy Clafin, Nanu Clark, Doris Feyling, Ruth Fraser, Ellen Galena, Courtney Good, Karen Guma, Joy Haggart, Ruth Halpern, Debi Ham, Bonnie Janssen, Erica Lann-Clark, Barbara Lodman, Melissa Meris, Miriam Mills, Dolores Nice-Siegenthaler, Barbara Nicoara, Sandy Reeve, Barbara Shaw, Rachel Spalding, Beth Wakelee, Vicki Takeuchi Wynne.

From Your New Storyline Editor

Storyline welcomes writers, editors, proofreaders, reviewers, photographers and correspondents throughout the state. To join the team, contact: **Craig Harrison** (Editor@HackinBoo.com) 510.547.0664

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Receive our quarterly newsletter *Storyline*, a listing in SAC's Directory, website link, free & discounted tickets for story concerts, workshops, and the Bay Area Storytelling Festival. Complete form and mail to: SAC, P. O. Box 11891, Berkeley, CA 94712 or online at: www.acteva.com/go/storytelling

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In Memoriam: Opalanga Pugh and Ray Hunold

Internationally known storyteller and Denver native **Opalanga Pugh** died of bone cancer June 5, 2010 at her home, with family and friends at her side. She was 57.

When Opalanga Pugh called for storytime, she didn't just share a single thread, but rather wove together the strands of history and shared experience to form an intricate community tapestry.

Opalanga Pugh discovered the flavor of storytelling while traveling in Nigeria, and studied traditional African storytelling in Gambia. Beginning in 1986, she traveled the world sharing stories and hosting ceremonies.

You may wish to visit the journal at CaringBridge (www.caringbridge.org/visit/opalanga) to see how one storyteller touched so many in her too short time here on this earthly plane. This link should take you to her journal but, if not, you can register with CaringBridge (free) and log in that way.

We received this information from CaringBridge:

Opalanga's family is accepting donations to help cover the cost of medical and homecare expenses incurred during her illness and to assist with the following memorial services. Please make checks out to Opalanga's mother: Mary Edmonson, 298 S. Newark Circle, Aurora, CO 80012. Opalanga's site: www.opalangastoryteller.com

Ray Hunold, freelance photographer and nature lover, died from Parkinson's disease May 29, 2010 at the Jewish Home in San Francisco. He was 76.

Hunold was a professional photographer and took pictures at the Bay Area Storytelling Festival and Sierra Storytelling Festival. He also took photographs at Tellabration, concerts, workshops and other events throughout the Bay Area and around the country.

There is a wonderful biography of **Hunold** and an online exhibit of his storytelling and nature photos from the collection he donated to the UC Davis Library at:

www.lib.ucdavis.edu/dept/specoll/exhibits/hunold/

He will be buried in a veterans cemetery in the California Central Valley.

You may call or send condolence messages to his wife, storyteller Bernice Hunold, Jewish Home of San Francisco, Koret K-1, Rm 617, 302 Silver Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94112. Her telephone number is 415.841.0788 for those who would like to call Bernice. She would love to hear from you.



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