The right Reverend Robert Jones, blues teller and singer from Detroit, Michigan, is a nationally known and featured storyteller whose resume includes performances at the National Storytelling Festival (Jonesborough, TN, the late Kathryn Windham’s Tale Tellin’ Festival (Selma, AL), The Ark Storytelling Festival (Ann Arbor, MI), and many others. Robert’s stories combine elements of music and humor, along with emotion, fact and fiction to convey the truths found in our shared culture. Sometimes he tells personal and family stories and at other times he tells stories drawn from the lives and legends of blues and gospel performers that he grew up listening to and learning about. Many of his tales center around struggles of race and faith. We are looking forward to him “sweetening the pot” during his visit with us in March. http://www.revrobertjones.com/

Minton Sparks fuses music, poetry and her intoxicating gift for storytelling to paint word pictures of the rural South that put you square in the middle of the people and the places she knows like the back of her hand. During her recent first foray into Texas, Minton cooked up tales for a full house at the Mucky Duck in Houston, accompanied by guitarist John Jackson. Musician Marshall Chapman proclaims, “I have seen Minton Sparks. And if she’s not the ghost child of Flannery O’Connor and Hank Williams, then cotton doesn’t grow in a cotton field. Minton is excited to make her first appearance at the Texas Storytelling Festival this coming March. http://mintonsparks.com/

Continued on next page
Antonio Sacre, born in Boston to a Cuban father and Irish-American mother, brings his own “special sauce” to our community’s recipe for Storytelling Stew. Antonio is one of America’s preeminent bilingual storytellers. Based in Los Angeles, he shares his stories, books and talents with school children throughout Southern California and beyond. He has appeared at the National Book Festival at the Library of Congress, the National Storytelling Festival, and numerous museums, libraries and festivals throughout the country and the world. His first of four books, The Barking Mouse, reinforces his belief in the richness of our multi-lingual culture. Antonio teaches children and adults about the power of story (in any language) and works as the storyteller-in-residence at the UCLA Lab School. He will be providing the Sunday Master class at this year’s festival. http://antoniosacre.com/

Eldrena Douma, to our 31st Annual Texas Storytelling Festival. Storytelling and Pueblo singing were a way of life in Eldrena’s childhood. During everyday activities family and friends shared pueblo stories, songs, and family history. Reflecting back, Eldrena realizes that listening to story allowed her to strengthen and stimulate the use of her imagination and creativity. Now living in Canyon, Texas, Eldrena is on the Texas Touring Roster for the Texas Commission on the Arts. As a professional storyteller and educator, Eldrena offers captivating stories of American Indian folklore, music, and history, including a savory selection of family and personal tales. http://nastoryteller.blogspot.com/

EXTENDED Workshop and Fringe Performance Deadline: October 18th

Applications on the next three pages, and also at http://www.tejasstorytelling.com/festival/

Workshop Proposals

Workshops at the Festival are 90 minutes in length and cover a wide range of topics that help our participants grow as storytellers and listeners. If you have a great idea for a presentation, be sure to submit a proposal. Remember that many of the people that attend the Festival are storytellers, but there are also educators and librarians, clergy, and therapists. The Workshop Selection Committee is eager to hear from you.

Fringe Performance Proposals

The maximum length of any story in the Fringe Performance is 25 minutes. Performances can be on any imaginable topic from edgy to enlightening. The storytellers are selected by a random drawing to fill slots in the Fringe Fest block. This is your big chance to strut your stuff! So, don’t let the opportunity pass you by.

Those chosen to present either a Workshop or a Fringe Performance will need to register for the Festival like all other participants. However, at the end of the Festival, TSA will present them with a check equal to the Early Bird Registration for the event.
CALL FOR FRINGE PERFORMANCE SUBMISSIONS
TEXAS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL
DENTON CIVIC CENTER
Festival dates – March 10-13, 2016

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: October 18, 2015

Fringe Performances for the 31st Annual Texas Storytelling Festival will be selected by a random drawing to fill slots in the Fringe Fest block. Maximum length of any story, 25 minutes.

Please indicate that you will be attending:
   _____ The entire Festival
   _____ Saturday only

NAME: __________________________
ADDRESS: ________________________
PHONE: ___________________________
E-MAIL: ____________________________

TITLE OF FRINGE PERFORMANCE: ________________________________

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

AUDIO/VISUAL AND SPECIAL NEEDS FOR THE PROGRAM:

CONTENT WARNING:
(Please note if the material is recommended for adults only because of language, violence, sexual content or subject matter, for example.)

All those who submit will be notified if they were chosen by October 30, 2015

• You can submit a Fringe proposal and a workshop proposal – however, if selected for both, festival staff will contact you to determine which proposal you would like to do.
• Fringe Performances will be listed in the program and on the TSA website.
• Keep in mind that all set up and break down for the presentation must be included in the 25 minute max time.
• All Fringe Performances will take place in the Denton Public Library and/or the Denton Community Center.
• Storytellers chosen will need to register for the Festival and pay admission.
• After the Fringe performance tellers will receive a check equal to the amount of Early Bird Registration for TSA members.

Submit forms to TSA using email workshops@tejasstorytelling.com or mail to:
Tejas Storytelling Association, PO Box 2806, Denton, TX 76202
CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS
Tejas Storytelling Association
TEXAS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL
March 10-13, 2016
Denton Civic Center, Denton, Texas

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: October 18, 2015

Section 1 Presenter Contact Information
Name (as you wish it to appear in the program):
Address:

Daytime Phone: Email:

Co-Presenter(s):
Name (as you wish it to appear in the program):
Address:

Daytime Phone: Email:

Section 2 Workshop Title (10 words or less)

Section 3 Workshop Category
☐ Workshop ☐ Showcase ☐ Intensive (2 sessions)

Section 4 Intended Audiences
Check up to 3 boxes to indicate the main groups/interests you think would find this program particularly useful.
All sessions are assumed to be appropriate for storytellers as well.
☐ Educators Preschool ☐ Social service, Healthcare, Mental healthcare
☐ Educators K-5 ☐ History tellers, Museum and Park Interpreters
☐ Educators 6-12 ☐ Event producers
☐ Higher Education ☐ Technology
☐ Librarians ☐ Business/practical (PR, equipment, voice care, marketing, websites, intellectual property, etc.)
☐ Clergy ☐ Business consultants/Organizational development
☐ Lawyers

Section 5 Audience Level
☐ Beginner ☐ Intermediate ☐ Advanced

Section 6 Synopsis (60 words or less!)

Section 7 Bio (40 words or less!)
Section 8 Audio-Visual/Room set-up

Section 9 References

Name: 
Address: 
Daytime Phone: Email: 
Basis for reference: 

Name: 
Address: 
Daytime Phone: Email: 
Basis for reference: 

Name: 
Address: 
Daytime Phone: Email: 
Basis for reference: 

Section 10 Description/Outline (400 words or less)

Please address these points:
- Methodology: what, how, percentage of discussion, activity, and lecture
- Specific learning objectives (at least 3)
- Relation to conference/festival theme (if applicable)

If you want to post your handouts online after Festival, be sure to bring us an electronic version or upload to online storage and provide us with the link.

You may submit a workshop proposal and a fringe performance proposal, however, if both are selected festival staff will contact you to determine which you would prefer.

Email submissions to workshops@tejasstorytelling.com or mail to:
Tejas Storytelling Association, PO Box 2806, Denton, TX 76202
President’s Column

From the Lake House,

I love Fall! Who wouldn’t – less grass to mow, the high temperatures only reaching the 80s, the stores decorated in those fine Fall colors, the Oakland Raiders struggling to put disappointment in the rearview mirror again this season. Did I already mention less mowing?

But my all-time favorite thing about Fall – building a fire in the backyard! Tabatha and I love to head out back to the patio in the evening, stoke up a good fire, and sip a beverage with our feet up.

I didn’t invent this practice – it’s a ritual passed down to me directly from my father. As a teenager, Fall evenings would likely find the Thompson clan out behind our mid-west parsonage in a circle of chairs around a fire build right on the ground. My father was the storyteller on these occasions – pulling out a yarn from somewhere in his past – or inventing something right on the spot – we never knew what we would hear. We didn’t crowd around with marshmallows or s’mores or hot cocoa. There wasn’t any elaborate plan in place. It was a fire and we were watching it. And listening. That was the plan. At some point in the evening, Mother would say she was getting chilly and it was time for her and my younger brother to go in. Then it would just be me and dad – and we sat there and let to fire talk to us until it finally died out.

These days, when I build a fire, I watch the flames for glimpses of those evenings long ago. The crackling and popping helps me reach back in time for those memories. The warmth builds and flows out over me like warm arms from the past. The smoke in my eyes is good cover for why my eyes are red and watery.

Enjoy your fall.

Larry Thompson
Calling all Truth Stretcher, Fabricators, and Fibbers... and Prevaricators

Do you have a whopper to share?
Come be a part of this year’s Texas Storytelling Festival Liars Contest.

The first eight people to email contest producer, Donna Ingham, at tell.write@gmail.com with their name, email, phone and show of interest will be the participants. Deadline for entries is Oct. 26, 2015.

More about the Event
The Texas Liars Contest will be held Saturday, March 12, 2016, during the Texas Storytelling Festival in Denton, Texas.

Join us as some of the most ambitious liars in the state gather for a verbal slap down.
This is an amateur competition. Members of the State Legislature are barred from entering.
• Eight to ten minute time limit.
• Family friendly material.
• Points for originality and presentation.

Questions? Contact Donna Ingham, contest producer, at tell.write@gmail.com.

Lying Around in George West

A few spots remain open for the 11th annual Texas State Liars’ Contest©and the Texas State Youth Liars’ Contest©. Contest Date: Saturday, November 7, 2015. Entry Deadline—Monday, October 19, 2015.

This contest is part of George West Storyfest, scheduled for Saturday, November 7. Entry forms and contest guidelines may be downloaded from the Storyfest website at http://www.georgeweststoryfest.org/events/2015/texas-state-liars-contest or via email from info@georgeweststoryfest.org.
Tejas Storytelling Association’s
Award Nominations

It’s time to recognize our exceptional TSA members by nominating them for one of the following awards. The deadline is November 15. Go to http://www.tejasstorytelling.com/awards.html for the nomination form and information.

Brief Description of Awards:

**John Henry Faulk Award**
This award is presented to someone whose devotion to storytelling over a significant period of time has made a major impact upon the advancement of the profession within the state.

It is the most prestigious award given in the Southwest in the name of storytelling and is given in honor of John Henry Faulk, a master storyteller and major defender of the First Amendment.

**Marvin Brown Volunteer Service Award**
This award recognizes an individual or group whose contributions of time and talents to TSA have enhanced the reputation of TSA in the greater Denton area and beyond.

This award is in honor of Marvin Brown for his work in the TSA office, at the annual festival, and with youth tellers.

**Finley Stewart Trailblazing Award**
This award may be presented to an individual, group, or business that pioneered and created an outstanding organization, festival or business that promotes storytelling and utilizes the membership of the Tejas Storytelling Association.

This award honors Finley Stewart, the man who founded both the Festival and the organization through his trail blazing spirit.

**Colson-Herndon Educator’s Award**
This award honors an educator, who has given of his/her time and talent to mentor an individual or group in storytelling or has been instrumental in promoting storytelling in their field.

This award is given in honor of Ted Colson and Rosanna Herndon who promoted the integration of storytelling in their respective fields.

**Special Services Award**
This award is given occasionally to recognize the above-and-beyond kind of service to TSA and the storytelling community within the state and nation.

The services of this person have made a notable impact upon the profession of storytelling as well as the visibility and contributions of the Tejas Storytelling Association.
Whew! We survived our second Day of Giving and it was a great success! In the course of 18 hours (6 a.m. to midnight), Tejas Storytelling Association received 22 gifts totaling $2100! Gifts ranged in amount from $25 to $500.

Janet Latham represented TSA for the event. Once again, we were among the 50 Non-Profit Organizations represented on the Courthouse Square on Thursday afternoon (5:00-7:30). Our primary purposes during that time were to meet and greet, hand out mini-Cow Tales, and make Mr. Peepers!

MANY thanks to our stalwart Denton volunteers:

Janet Latham – attending many meetings; providing tables and chairs and helping with the set-up of the area; wrangling Elizabeth Beamon into helping out with Mr. Peepers. Thanks, too, to Beverly for assisting Janet with her preparations.

Elizabeth Beamon – bringing her creative mind and her signature finger puppet, Mr. Peepers, as a craft for the kids.

Betsy Mosier – helping with the meet and greet; being available for storytelling, although no one asked.

Marian Fleischmann – helping with the meet and greet.

Sid Curless – providing muscle and moral support for the crew!

The afternoon, although very warm (97 degrees by the bank sign), was also potentially very helpful. I made several contacts that may result in additional volunteers for TSA. In addition, we talked up future programs and suggested that folks “keep their ears open” for new programs in the near future.

Editors Note: Thank you to Reagin Hults for helping with the flyers, meeting and greeting at the booth, and providing her driving energy to keep things moving forward.
Veteran’s Day Events

This is just a Teller Reminder: Veteran’s Day, November 11, 2015. This is a Wednesday but you can hold your event any day that week. And why should you do this. Let me share a true, personal story with you.

My former husband served in Vietnam from 1976 until 1971. He came home doubly addicted to both drugs and alcohol, plus a serious case of PTSD/Agent Orange Poisoning. He shared the Agent Orange problems with his twin sons, now 37 and stable. He himself, died at the age of 64 of multiple complications from both maladies. What wasn’t very evident was that I his wife, although afflicted with some residual effects of the Agent Orange, also shared his PTSD and yet that never came to light until recently.

His disorders sent us into therapy, to no avail, and in 1988 we divorced. It wasn’t until a Central Texas Storyteller’s Guild meeting for Veteran’s Day that I finally came to grips with and even admitted to anyone, that I too had served during the Vietnam era and I too was suffering from PTSD.

I taught English at Zama American High School at Camp Zama, Japan from 1968-1970. And I also worked for USAFI as a teacher of men of our Armed Forces who had been drafted off the streets of some of America’s ghettos after dropping out of school. If they reached the age of 18 and had dropped out of school they were drafted into the Army, sent mostly to Fort Lewis in Washington State and then sent to Vietnam. Some of them sustained incredible injuries in the way of Napalm burns and Agent Orange poisoning. Some wound up at Kishini Burn Center in Yokohama. My job was to help them get their GEDs while they were being treated and recuperating from their burns before coming home to the US. Yes, not only was I suffering from PTSD but I couldn’t speak about it. It was locked up inside me.

And then, about four years ago, as I listened to other veterans share their stories, I realized that I had stories locked inside me and that if I shared them I might heal from the memories and feelings that had tortured me for over 40 years. I slowly ventured out when our Veterans Day event chairperson asked those in the audience who had served to please rise. It had been over 40 years since I had left my GS 15 service code behind in Japan. As I rose to take my place that evening among other veterans I knew my life was going to change.

And change it has. I have at last dealt with my PTSD and my memories and feelings left over from that war. So, don’t ask if these Veteran’s Day Events are necessary. Not only are they necessary, they can be as springboards for health and healing. I know. It happened to me.

Blessings, Rebba Raine
A score or more of TSA members followed the theme of “Pathways” and beat a path to the 2015 National Storytelling Conference in Kansas City, MO, July 30-August 2.

They include Charles Allton, David Claunch, Elizabeth Ellis, Catherine Ezzell, Regina Holmes, Jerry Ingham, Jaye McLaughlin, Bernadette Nason, Reba and Granville Ott, Nancy Self, and Nancy Simpson.

Attending and also appearing in a Regional Showcase were Judy Allton, DeCee Cornish, Rosie Cutrer, Donna Ingham, Mary Grace Ketner, Jiaan Powers, Carolina Quiroga-Stultz, and Fran Stallings.

On Friday night of the conference, DeCee Cornish brought it on to win the Baseball-themed Story Slam.

At Saturday’s ORACLE Awards Ceremony, Donna Ingham received the Regional Excellence Award for NSN’s South Central Region.

Paul Porter served as NSN photographer throughout the weekend.

Next Year’s Conference will also be held in NSN’s new centrally located home town of Kansas City on July 21-24, 2016. You come and join us! You can see that you’ll have lots of friends there!

Mary Grace Ketner, TSA NSN Liaison
Heart of Texas Storytelling Guild

“Walking Tales” Bringing Historic Stories To Life
October 17, 2015
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 pm
Oakwood Cemetery’s at 2124 S. 5th Street, Waco
Interpreters stationed throughout this historic cemetery will share stories about the life and times of renowned, legendary and infamous people laid to rest there.
Free to the public.
For more information:
Vivian Rutherford (254) 717-1763 or vivian.rutherford@thestorylady.org
www.hotstorytellingguild.org

Dallas Storytelling Guild

In preparation for its popular Ghost Tales at the Bath House, the Dallas Storytelling Guild offered a free 5-hour Prepare to Scare workshop presented by its very own Elizabeth Ellis for members as well as members of other TSA affiliate guild members. The Guild’s biggest fundraiser, Ghost Tales at the Bath House has been hosted at the cultural art center on White Rock Lake for so long no one remembers when it started there. This year’s Ghost Tales for teens and adults will be 7-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 30-31, and tickets are $10. In addition, the Guild offers a free Ghost Tales for Kids that Saturday from 2-3 pm at the Bath House. Then in December, Dallas Storytelling Guild members will share holiday stories for Dallas Heritage Village’s annual Candlelight event, Dec. 12-13. The Village is the City of Dallas’s historical park and the event draws folks from around North Texas.

East Texas Storytellers

The East Texas Storytellers are anticipating tellin’ at the Syrup Festival in Henderson on the second weekend in November. We have shared stories there for several years. The first Saturday in December we will be telling Christmas stories at the Oil Museum in Kilgore. Anyone who is in the area is invited to come and join us for some delightful story listening.

Houston Storytellers’ Guild

The Houston Storytellers’ Guild will be performing scary stories at the Houston Nature Center on October 30th. What a perfect place to tell stories surrounded by beautiful woods in a rustic environment and yet you are right in the heart of Houston. It is an amazing place! This will be the second time the Guild has joined with the Nature Center in presenting a program for the general public.

San Antonio Storytelling Association

In July, SASAs mourned the loss of Bob Blackstone, AKA Elder Stone, ace storyteller and founder of San Antonio’s long-running Stories Galore open mic.

Telling moon-themed stories at the Lunar Eclipse and Art Extravaganza at San Antonio’s Scobee Planetarium on September 27 were SASAns John Hale, Mary Grace Ketner, Sue Kuentz, Jane McDaniel, Carolina Quiroga-Stultz, Pat Scheiffer and Larry Thompson. Other fall plans include participating in the grand opening of Hemisfair Park’s Yanaguana Gardens on October 3, Northside ISD StoryFest on October 10, a program for the San Antonio Low Vision Club on October 17 and Tellabration!™ on November 14.

Continued on next page
SASA members and friends from around the state were delighted with the workshop presented by Donna Ingham on September 26. We retreated to Sue Kuentz’s Hill Country home in Bulverde to learn how to “Start with the Truth and Stretch It” from the master liar. Our new goal is to beat Donna in a liar’s contest, and that’s the truth!

Liars-to-be learn to stretch the truth at SASA’s workshop with Donna Ingham. Front row: Charlie and Susan Whipple, (Boerne), Jane McDaniel (San Antonio), Kim Lehman (Austin), Nancy Simpson (Austin), Pat Schieffer (San Antonio), Judy Allton (Houston). Back: Janie Speed (Lubbock), Connie Stockelman (Greenville), Jeanie Murphy (Brownfield), Theresa Brader (Leon Valley) and Veronica Gard (San Antonio). Not shown: Betty Berkey and Debra Wilder of Austin, Consuelo Samarripa of Harker Heights, and Mary Grace Ketner and Sue Kuentz of San Antonio.

Debra Wilder (Austin) giggles as Veronica Gard (San Antonio) responds to a prompt at SASA’s “Start with the Truth: Then Stretch It” workshop with Donna Ingham. Shown are Debra, Donna, Nancy Simpson (Austin), Kim Lehman (Austin), Jane McDaniel (San Antonio), Veronica, Pat Schieffer (San Antonio) and Susan Whipple (Boerne). Also present were Judy Allton (Houston), Betty Berkey (Austin), Theresa Brader (Leon Valley), Jeanie Murphy (Brownfield), Consuelo Samarripa (Harker Heights), Janie Speed (Lubbock), Connie Stockelman (Greenville), Mary Grace Ketner (San Antonio), Sue Kuentz (San Antonio) and Charlie Whipple (Boerne).

Free Advertising for Your Storytelling Events

Did you know that you could list your Affiliate Guild’s events on the Tejas Storytelling Association’s website yourself?

Simply go www.tejasstorytelling.com and click on the Event Calendar. On the top right hand of the page, click Submit an event and follow the directions.

This is just one of the services offered by the Tejas Storytelling Association.

Storytelling Calendar at a Glance

October 18 – Workshop and Fringe Application Deadline

October 26 – Call for Liars for the Texas Storytelling Festival. First eight people that respond will get in.

November 7 – George West Storyfest, George West, Texas

November 15 – TSA Award Nominations


June 17-19, 2016 - TSA Conference: Bridging Our Diversity, Embracing Our Differences with Speaker Charles Temple, Ph.D. in Waco, Texas.
Tellabration!™

Before we all get caught up in the holiday season that seems to start right after Halloween in late October, this is a great time to plan for your Guild celebrations for TELLEBRATION 2015.

We would like to remind all Guilds to plan for and select your Tellers now so no one is left out. Remember, it doesn’t have to be a great big event, but each guild should plan to have some sort of storytelling event for their members and other listeners. This is a great time to build membership and let folks in your area know who we are, where we are and what we do.

Plan a great Tellebration. Have a great Tellebration. You’ll be glad you did. Let us know what you are planning for Tellabration.

Blessings, Rebba Raine

Texas Library Association Conference

The TLA Conference is in Houston in April and will feature Antonio Rocha doing a preconference and headlining the FREE concert. We will also have a history stories panel with DeCee Cornish, Donna Ingham and Bernadette Nason. Elizabeth Ellis will do a workshop on how to tie storytelling into the language arts, Vivian Rutherford is doing one on taking picture books and making told stories, and Lucas Miller is doing one on science activities for librarians. The dates are April 19-22. You do not have to be a librarian to attend. You can join TLA if you like and get member discount for the paid events but nonmembers are very welcome. All of this is sponsored by the Storytelling Round Table of the Texas Library Association, which has many TSA members.

Other Storytelling News

Guild Sponsored Tellabulations

The Heart of Texas Storytelling Guild
November 14, 2015
Where: Austin Avenue United Methodist Church,
1300 Austin Avenue, Waco, TX
Time: 6:00-8:30 p.m.
Cost: adults $12.00, kids 4-11 $5.00
Enjoy a concert of stories with an evening dinner featuring Donna Ingham. Other tellers will include students and adult members of The Heart of Texas Storytelling Guild. For more information contact Vivian Rutherford at 254-717-1763.

San Antonio Storytelling Association
November 14

Central Texas Storytelling Guild
November 22, 3:00 p.m.
Where: a private home
Contact: Rebba Raine at 512-829-4950

TSA Summer Conference

Save the Date! Mark your calendar for the TSA Summer Conference.

Dates: June 17-19, 2016

Conference Theme: Bridging Our Diversity, Embracing Our Differences

Speaker: Charles Temple, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of Education, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY. He is also a director of Critical Thinking International, Inc. He has done a workshop at the Texas Storytelling Festival on using storytelling in conflict transformation/resolution. His message and methods are incredible. They have been adopted by UNESCO. For more information on Charles Temple go to http://www.zoominfo.com/p/Charles-Temple/112889199

Location: Waco, Texas at the SpringHill Suites.
The Tejas Teller

The Tejas Teller is the bi-monthly newsletter published by the Tejas Storytelling Association.

Kim Lehman, editor
Raine Teller, co-editor
Karen Wollscheid, production supervisor
Sheila Phillips, Guild News editor
Mary Grace Ketner, NSN News contributor
Larry Thompson, contributor
Elizabeth Ellis, columnist

Tejas Teller submission deadline is the last Friday of the month that precedes the next print cycle: January, April, July, October.

General news items or inquiries can be sent to the editor.

Guild News items should be sent to Sheila Phillips at zooladyairmail.net

Currently the Tejas Teller is being distributed first electronically to email addresses stored with TSA membership records. If you would like a printed copy of the newsletter, please notify the production supervisor at storybizkaren@gmail.com