

TEJAS Teller

TEJAS STORYTELLING ASSOCIATION

FESTIVAL 2015

It's the 30th Anniversary!

It's getting closer to "Timeless Tales and Treasured Tellers" – March 12-15, 2015! We'll gather in the Denton Civic Center in historic downtown Denton, Texas for stories, workshops, fun, food, and a genuine good time. Gather with friends, new and old, to remember past festivals, see the sparkle of the 30th Festival, and be reenergized to take stories and telling into our 31st year. You'll want to see everything from the opening spooky tales on Thursday to final moments of the sacred tales on Sunday.

Workshop info can be found on the TSA website – as well as schedule info, food choices, registration plans, and so much more! Check out the website at <http://www.tejasstorytelling.com> and of course you can always call the home office at 940-380-9320,

Our featured tellers this year are some of the best we've had – returning this year to make the 30th as good as it can be.



30th ANNUAL
TEXAS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL
Timeless Tales, Treasured Tellers

Line up for a great tale.

March 12-15, 2015 * Denton Civic Center * Denton, Texas
tejasstorytelling.com

Elizabeth Ellis
James Ford
Gayle Ross
Barbara McBride Smith

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It's the 30th Anniversary!



A favorite with fans across the United States, including the National Storytelling Festival and International Storytelling Center, **Elizabeth Ellis** shares stories overflowing with hilarity as well as poignant honesty. A recipient of both the Lifetime Achievement

Award and Circle of Excellence Award from the National Storytelling Network, Elizabeth delivers Appalachian-style down-home wisdom with a voice that touches the heart and tickles the funny bone.



Travel from Mt. Olympus in ancient Greece to the post-modern world of the Baby Boomers as **Barbara McBride-Smith** narrates the lives of shady ladies and bad boys of the Bible, navigates literature with the heart and soul of a librarian, and identifies with both country

music and rock'n'roll. Interpreting with a Texas-born cheerleader's perspective, this frequent headliner at the National Storytelling Festival offers a serving of sweet truth with a side of grit.



An enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation raised in a rich storytelling tradition, **Gayle Ross** has toured twice with the prestigious National Council of Traditional Arts. In addition to telling for events hosted by Vice-president Al Gore, President Bill Clinton, and First Lady Laura Bush,

Gayle has shared the stage with Maya Angelou, Alice Walker, and distinguished Native American artists M. Scott Momaday, Rita Coolidge, Wes Studi, Kevin Locke and John Trudell.



Seasoning his personal and family stories with a pinch of pathos and a large helping of humor, **James Ford** has delighted storytelling audiences for over 25 years. Stages where he has shared stories include the Texas Storytelling Festival, National Storytelling Conference, the

National Storytelling Festival's Exchange Place, and Haunting in the Hills in Big South Fork National Park. He also appeared on Fox TV's "Texas Ghost Stories" and "Son of Texas Ghost Stories."

Silent Auction at the Festival!

March seems a long time away, but now is a good time to start thinking about what items you might bring to donate for the Tejas Storytelling Festival Silent Auction. All sorts of items are offered at the auction – quilts, framed art, books,

storytelling props, handmade crafts - to name a few. So here's a quick reminder: when you see or think of just the right thing, keep it back and bring it to the auction.

Sara Easter, Silent Auction Coordinator

Friday Nite Lite!

It's our 30th Anniversary!

- Say “YES!” to terrific tellers!
- Say “YES!” to wonderful workshops and fabulous fringe performances!
- Say “YES!” to reconnecting with old friends and making new ones!
- Say “YES!” to a total immersion storytelling experience!
- Say “YES!” to Friday Nite Lite!

Over the past three decades, we of the Tejas Storytelling Association have worked with many folks in the Denton area and some have become good friends and supporters of TSA.

One of the best is Mike Zampino, owner of El Guapo's restaurant. Most Festival participants know Mike and El Guapo's only because he is the man behind the line at the Talespinner Dinner. For those of us fortunate enough to live in the area and be able to visit the restaurant, we know that the fajitas he serves at Talespinner Dinner don't tell the whole story! This year we are excited to give Mike a new opportunity to cook for us and he promises to bring his best!

This year you'll be able to catch all of the action on the main stage, you'll be able to keep that wonderful parking space close to the front door of the Civic Center, you'll know ahead of time what you're going to enjoy for dinner AND you'll be able to do all of this while enjoying the company of your storytelling friends!

We have a plan to create a wonderful, weather-resistant space on the Civic Center patio and it's there that Mike will set up his Friday night supper for us. Rest assured that Mike's menu will include plenty of options for those of you who have dietary restrictions. More information will come soon – you'll have it in time to order your plate when you pre-register for the Festival.



Hampton Inn Festival Group Rate



Wanna reserve a room for your festival weekend at the same hotel as other attendees? Use this link to find the best rate at the Hampton Inn in Denton this year! We've been using this Hampton as the group hotel for nearly as many years as Baskin has flavors. Follow the link to get your room reserved – some rooms are large and can accommodate more than one party – so if you're thinking about making festival a road trip with the gals, or a boys' weekend – book it as group to save some money. In any case – book soon – the group rate expires February 18 or as soon as the block is used up – whichever comes first!

<http://hamptoninn.hilton.com/en/hp/groups/personalized/D/DTNTXHX-TST-20150312/index.jhtml>

If you prefer to call the hotel directly – the number is 1-940-891-4900 and the Festival Group code is TST.

Donna Lively's words live on through a new novel

by Peggy Helmick-Richardson

Donna Lively's stories were always a delight. A gifted storyteller with an amazing talent for creating tales—both traditional and her own, Donna captured her audiences with fascinating twists and turns of phrase. And the stories she told were always carefully selected to reflect her strong sense of fairness and justice, along with a respect for her listeners.

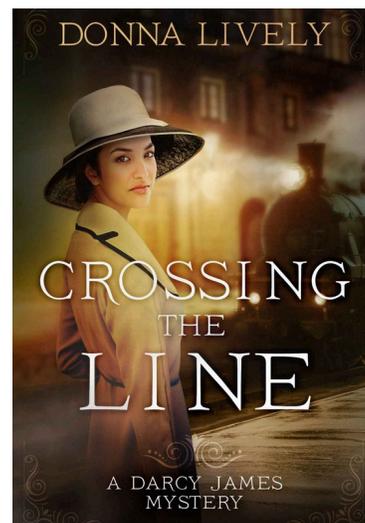
Although I had long admired Donna as a storyteller, it wasn't until about a year before she passed away that I discovered she also had a passion for poetry. It was two years after her death that I learned she had also written fiction.

This September, an email arrived from Donna's sister Diana Padgett announcing that she had left behind several novels and the first was now released. Wanting to preserve Donna's creativity and

efforts, Diana had published her older sister's first novel via Kindle.

Since then, I've spent more than one late night huddled under blankets hoping the light wouldn't wake Gene because I couldn't put down Donna's *Crossing the Line: A Darcy James Mystery*. Donna's voice and ever-strong longing for equality and social integrity ring through this compelling and beautifully crafted story.

The protagonist Darcy James, the orphaned daughter of a French prostitute and a black jazz musician living in Chicago in 1913, agrees to travel to a small town in Oklahoma in hopes of uncovering the truth behind a murder and the mysteries that shroud it. In order to do this, Darcy is forced to put her own safety at stake because she will be passing as white in a town and a time where racial divisions are strictly enforced. All the while, Darcy is also on her own personal mission to discover the



whos and whys behind her lover's suicide.

In true Donna Lively style, this mystery presents those surprising twists and turns of phrase her storytelling fans came to expect in a carefully constructed and impeccably written tale. If you loved Donna's storytelling, you'll also be a fan of her fiction. If you weren't lucky enough to have heard her from the stage or her CD "Onions in the Stew," then I'd recommend you get to know her through her new novel.

Crossing the Line: A Darcy James Mystery by Donna Lively is available at <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00M4UJB6S>

Keep Your Strength up During Festival

By popular demand, Jason's Deli will once again provide box lunches for Festival participants. It doesn't get much easier than this! Choose and pay for your lunches when you pre-register and your order will be delivered and ready during lunch hour at the Festival

There are 3 choices this year and they include both vegan/vegetarian and gluten-free options.

Lunches are \$10 each, including a drink furnished from the Festival concession stand.

Choices for 2015

- Nutty Mixed-Up Salad (with all toppings served on the side)
- Deluxe Box with Roast Beef
- Deluxe Box with Ham

(Both sandwiches are offered with a gluten-free option.)





2014-2015 TSA Governing Board

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Mission Statement:

Tejas Storytelling Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering the appreciation of storytelling as an oral tradition, a performing art, and an educational tool.

PHONE: 940-380-9320

President's Column

Stories Will Be Told

We are entering a time of stories, when families will gather and stories will be told, these collective stories from the family's personal history. Stories from grandparents, aunts, uncles, and family friends who in remembering their grandparents and parents, aunts and uncles and those who influenced their life, those who made them laugh or cry, changed history or did small things were special. Yes, these stories will be told, heard, and retold in the future when we are gone.

This has gone on since the dawn of language, from people sitting around the open fire, or the stove in the kitchen where there is food and heat is available. Stories will be told around holiday tables and before or after religious services, some will go to cemeteries or mausoleums and stories will be told. Happy, sad, humorous, inspirational, it does not matter, stories will be told.

Stories will be told in distant lands by active military away from their families, but with bands of brothers and sisters brought together by circumstances beyond their control, people will share and stories will be told. Can you imagine the stories that were told by those British and German Troops when they returned home and remembered about Christmas Eve, 1914, when the fighting stopped, as both sides sang Christmas carols, entered "no-man's land" exchanged food and souvenirs, and even played football with each other? Stories were told.

In our workshops, we learn to tell stories, practice our craft, and we become quality storytellers. If we are lucky, we have people come to see us and sometimes we are paid. However, let us not forget, that everyone this time of year has their priceless stories and it is from those stories that our craft began. As we go to our different festivities this year, I urge us not to be the tellers, but the listeners, as we encourage and facilitate the sharing of stories, so no one is ever forgotten.

May you and yours have a safe and story-filled Holiday Season, after all you to will become a story.

Richard Nash
President, TSA

Report on the North Texas Day of Giving

The North Texas Day of Giving has netted \$1,450.52 for the Tejas Storytelling Association!



Thanks to our donors, our volunteers, the dedicated nonprofits who joined with us for the big event in Denton, the businesses and foundations who provide the bonus funds, and the Communities Foundation of Texas for their administration of this great effort!

NSN Membership Benefits

Speaking personally, I have noticed that a number of TSA members are “Off-and-On” members of NSN as well. I wonder if you meant to be “always on” members of NSN and just don’t get around to renewing your membership as often as you’d like?

As a member of NSN, you are connected with storytelling on the national scene, networked with storytellers who share your interests across the country, and supported in many ways on your storytelling journey. Your membership strengthens the national movement of advocacy for wider recognition of storytelling as a diverse and independent performing art.

In addition, as a member of TSA, you get a 10% discount on your NSN membership! Just apply for membership by calling 1-800-525-4514 or online at storynet.org. You can either print out the form and mail it with a check or complete your membership renewal online. Pick the level of membership that is right for you. To get your discount online, use the coupon code for TSA: 114406.

At the same time, you may join one of NSN’s very strong and active SIGs, Special Interest Groups: Healing Story Alliance, Producers and Organizers, Storytelling in Higher Education, Storytelling in Organizations, or Youth, Educators and Storytellers.

One last thing: if you join before December 31, you may select a free product from August House Publisher’s online catalog (www.augusthouse.com). And if ten of us join, I get to select a school to receive complimentary books from August House! I’m open to suggestions on that, so join right away, and then let me know which is your favorite school to receive this gift!

Mary Grace Ketner, TSA NSN Liaison

Guild news

The Mesquite Storytellers of Abilene

MSA will be hosting their second MSTYC (Mesquite Story Telling Yarn Competition) competition for college and university students in November. Each school will host their own competition and the winners of those contests will compete against each other for the MSTYC on November 14th in Abilene.

The Houston Storytellers’ Guild

HSG is hosting Tellabration on November 22nd. This event will be held at the Black Lab on Montrose and is open to the public. There is no charge... just your dinner if you choose to eat and the fun will begin at 6 p.m.

Looking ahead, the best Liars’ Contest in the universe will be held on Saturday, April 18th at Houston Baptist University. An array of the doggone finest liars you ever heard will be presenting their almost true stories. Now this is what is known as a barrel of fun. Everyone wants that solid gold trophy. If you have interest in telling give Sheila Phillips a call (281/491-4723)

San Antonio Storytellers Association

SASA Tellebration is on Friday, Nov 14, 7-9 pm, intermission with refreshments in the middle. SASA tellers will be joined by Richard and Judy Young from Missouri! The event is at Franklin Park 18232 Sonterra Place, San Antonio Texas. See you there!

Contact Sheila Phillips to get your Guild Happenings into Tejas Teller!



**CALL FOR FRINGE PERFORMANCE SUBMISSIONS
TEXAS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL
MARCH 12-15, 2015
DENTON CIVIC CENTER
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: JANUARY 1, 2015**

Fringe Performances for the 30th Annual Texas Storytelling Festival will be selected by a random drawing for 25 minute slots scheduled for Friday and Saturday during the Festival. Complete this form and email to Festival@tejasstorytelling.com – make sure you put “Fringe 2015” in the subject line of your email.

Personal Information:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

E-MAIL:

Performance Information:

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 January 10th, 2015.

You may submit a Fringe proposal and a Workshop proposal, however, please be aware that you will only be chosen to present one or the other.

Fringe Performances will be listed in the program and on the TSA website. Keep in mind that all set up and breakdown for the presentation must be included in the 25 minute time slot allowed. All Fringe Performances will take place in the Denton Public Library and the Denton community. Those chosen will need to register for the Festival and pay admission. They will receive a check equal to the amount of Early Bird Registration for TSA members.