



# TEJASTeller

TEJAS STORYTELLING ASSOCIATION

[www.tejasstorytelling.com](http://www.tejasstorytelling.com)

Vol. 32, Issue 3

Summer 2017

## Story in the World

By Rebba Raine Teller

In the last Teller I wrote about story in the world. Well, it continues, actually I think it is growing. My dear friend, Nick Stellino, on KLRU, public television here in Austin, has a new show. And his tag line is delightful. He smiles into the camera and says, "Come for the recipes, stay for the stories!" And his stories of growing up in Sicily are always delightful.

Another KLRU favorite of mine is John Folse, of Hooks, Lies and Alabis. He comes to us from Grande Island, Louisiana, and has many stories of growing up on the waterfronts. His show is underwritten by the Louisiana Tourist Board whose sole purpose is to tell the stories of Louisiana as a way of introducing and inducing folks to come and visit.

Recently I was reading the magazine I get from Costco and there was yet another story and another example of stories in the workplace. I recently heard from a seminary student of mine who was applying for a job as the head Rabbi in a small community in the mid-west. She said the first question she was asked by the



Committee interviewing her was to tell them a story. They put no parameters on her story. She told of the weekend a few years past when she was up in Riverdale, NY at a retreat house for ordination. That was the weekend that the lights went out all over the Eastern Coast. She told of our adventures in the dark, without air conditioning. She told about her ordination in the church up on Amsterdam and 86th in NYC without lights and without air conditioning. She mentioned how it brought us all to a simpler time, how we all pulled together that weekend, how the story brought us back together even now when we gathered to remember those times.

I think we, as storytellers, should be aware that the world is opening up to us. Story is everywhere. While we treasure story, we need to understand that there is an entire world out there, not as entrenched in the idea of story, yet. It's coming.

I leave you with the world of Muriel Ruksmeyer, famous American writer, who wrote, "the world is not made up of atoms, it is made up of stories." Carry on, carry forth and keep telling.

# National Storytelling Network Conference

For the last three years **The Geezer Race** has been held annually at the National Storytelling Conference. The purpose of the event is for the “older generation” to raise money for the New Generation Scholarship Fund. The race was originally open to any participant who uses a cane or walker. This year a second category was added for those in wheelchairs.

There is no entry fee, but those who watch are asked to donate a dollar.

Most people are more generous than that. This year the race raised \$500 for the Scholarship Fund!

This year’s first place winner was Steve Otto. In past races, Elizabeth Ellis had come in last. Not this year! We at TSA are proud to announce that this year Elizabeth finished second! Apparently she had trained long and hard for this race. Elizabeth says, “I would have done better if the carpet at the Marriott was not so thick. Honest!”



Rex Ellis congratulating Elizabeth Ellis for her 2nd place win in the Geezer Race

NSN Lifetime Achievement Award is certainly fitting for MaryGay who has been deeply involved with storytelling since the beginning of N.A.P.P.S. She has chaired and served on the board of the National Association for the Preservation and Perpetuation of Storytelling. She’s been featured in the Jonesborough Festival. She has given keynote addresses for the National Storytelling Conferences. She co-founded and co-directed the Bay Area Storytelling Festival and has served continually as chair or artistic director.



Besides telling twice in Jonesborough, MaryGay has been featured in Ireland; several times at the Forest Storytelling Festival at Peninsula College in Port Angeles, Washington; The Texas Storytelling Festival, Wintertales in OKC, Timpanogos Storytelling Festival in Utah; Mariposa (California) Storytelling Festival (2016) the Sierra Story Winds Regional Retreat (2016) in Murphys, California, to name a few. She was featured on television in Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood. She will be featured soon in the PowellsWood Garden Storytelling Festival (2017) in Federal Way, outside of Seattle.

MaryGay shares her skills and love of storytelling by training volunteer Head Start readers, teaching storytelling at the University of Berkley, and leading as a requested workshop presenter.

Drawing from her life experiences MaryGay’s insightful stories mix personal and historical, literary and folk. Her stories are “elegant, witty, and deeply moving.” She tells with both humor and empathy—all to the audience’s delight. Through her stories MaryGay Ducey transmits joy, wisdom, and hope.

In 2001 MaryGay received the NSN Oracle Award for Distinguished National Service in Storytelling. Then in 2007 MaryGay was awarded the NSN Circle

## NSN Lifetime Achievement Award 2017

by Nancy Simpson, TSA Board Member and Guilds Liaison Committee Chair

### MaryGay Ducey - Librarian, Teacher, Classy Lady, and Storyteller extraordinaire!

MaryGay grew up in the segregated, southern culture of New Orleans. She moved to Berkley during the social unrest of the ‘60’s and began to raise her family. She was Children’s Librarian at the Oakland Public Library for many years until her own adult children intervened and “encouraged” her to retire.

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of Excellence Award, given to “artists recognized by their peers to be master storytellers...and to have demonstrated over a significant period of time, a commitment and dedication to the art of storytelling.” She was named one of the “Outstanding Women of Berkeley” by the Berkeley Commission on the Status of Women.

Milbre Burch describes MaryGay Ducey this way: “MaryGay Ducey embodies ... American Storytelling. ... She is an invaluable and abundantly generous resource as a teacher, teller, and community builder. Her intelligence, talents, wit, skills, and service have enlivened our community nationwide.”

## 2017 NSN ORACLE Awards



left to right:

Rives Collins - Distinguished National Service Award  
MaryGay Ducey - Lifetime Achievement Award  
Sarah Malone - Western Region Service and Leadership Award  
Jeff Doyle - North Central Region Service & Leadership Award  
Motoko - Circle of Excellence Award  
Doug Lipman - Lifetime Achievement Award

## My First National Storytelling Conference

by Sue Kuentz, Executive Board Member of TSA

I didn’t know what to expect attending the 2017 National Storytelling Conference “All Our Voices: Stories of Immigration & Migration” for the first time but was certainly looking forward to the adventure while meeting up with sweet friend Jiaan Powers and rooming with sweet friend Nancy Simpson and hopefully connecting with many more tellers from Facebook and the Storytelling Listserv. Thursday evening was like attending the Academy Awards of Storytellers - I tried to meet everyone - Susan O’Halloran, Jim May, Heather Forest, Noa Baum, Pam Faro, Lyn Ford, Robin Bady, Judy Sima, and Karen Chace, and on and on. It was wonderful to see so many Texas tellers there such as Elizabeth Ellis, Donna Ingham, Lynn Moroney, Eldrena Douma, Reba and Granville Ott, Paul Porter, and Libby Tipton. I wanted to express my thanks to all of them for all the wisdom shared to many of us through the years! Susan O’Halloran spoke and made sure we all knew about [RaceBridgesStudio.com](http://RaceBridgesStudio.com) Project. This is a website that contains a collection of free resources. Over 200 short storyteller videos with transcripts. There were many stories about immigration and migration, lesson plans, activities, program possibilities for group, team and personal reflection and action - High School through adult. Check them out! It was also great to see Ted Parkhurst there representing Parkhurst Brothers Publishing Company and being one of the sponsors of this conference!



Ted Parkhurst

The workshop presenters were amazing and each brought unique, thought-provoking tools, strategies, and ideas for all of us to try out! One of my favorite workshops was presented by Susan Stone ([susan@susstone-storyteller.com](mailto:susan@susstone-storyteller.com)) called “You Don’t Have to be Jewish to tell Jewish Stories.” I’m not Jewish but LOVE the wit and wisdom in Jewish tales. We all

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left her workshop with more knowledge and resources of Jewish stories and how to produce a Festival of Chelm Stories. I can't wait to introduce the activities to my middle school storytelling club this fall! Karen Chace also offered invaluable information on storytelling troupe activities using her new book *Story by Story*.

Judy Sima presented "History Alive! - Capturing the "Story" Behind the Facts" which was so much fun because it involved drawing and our senses



*Karen Chace*

and a historical figure in our personal history or history in general. We actually imagined ourselves walking into the setting where the story takes place and visualizing the small details that are often overlooked. This was a powerful workshop to develop our stories into rich tales!

I left inspired, heart filled with passion for the journeys of all people, and the hope for bridges to be built so stories can be shared! Please visit NSN's website - you'll be impressed with all of the resources available to members! <http://www.storynet.org/>

*Editor's note: TSA had a number of people who presented at the conference. Thank you Elizabeth Ellis, Mary Grace Ketner, Eldrena Douma, and Ted Parkhurst for representing us with your energy and excellence. So sorry if we missed anyone! Thank you to Sue Kuentz and Donna Ingham for sharing the photos.*



*Susan Stone*

## TSA Information

### Raise Your Hand and Be Counted

Volunteers are crucial to the success of the Texas Storytelling Festival. Interested in lending a hand? Getting to know other TSA members? Becoming more involved? We need you! Contact me. I can't wait to talk with you!

Kay Tobola [Tejasstories2tell@gmail.com](mailto:Tejasstories2tell@gmail.com)

Managing Director Texas Storytelling Festival and TSA Board Member

### Festival Workshops and Fringe

Keep your eyes open for an upcoming e-mail this fall about workshop and fringe applications for the 2018 Texas Storytelling Festival.

### Storytellers in the Schools

The Tejas Storytelling Association offers storytelling programs with professional storytellers from the TSA membership to pre-K through 12th grades in the Denton area through the Tellers in the Schools program. Founded by Elizabeth Ellis and administered for several years by Betsy Mosier, Genie Hammel is the current project manager. Periodic assistance from Jiaan Powers, and grant writing help from Valerie Kimble ensure that the all-volunteer administration of the program is covered.

Recently, Valerie, Elizabeth and Betsy worked on a handout to share with teachers to extend the storytelling experience for students. They drew ideas from their own experiences and adapted activities from the research-based article "Why Storytelling Matters: Unveiling the Literacy Benefits of Storytelling" by Denise E. Agosto.

Take a moment to read what they have created.  
<http://www.tejasstorytelling.com/downloads/TSA-SchoolExtensionActivities.pdf>

# Mark Your Calendar

**33RD ANNUAL  
TEXAS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL**

A TEJAS STORYTELLING PRODUCTION

# Storytelling

THE TALK OF THE TOWN

-FEATURING-

ADAM BOOTH  
BETH HORNER  
LAURA PACKER  
TIM TINGLE

Storytelling Concerts  
Music • Ghost Stories  
Kids' Activities • Story Slam  
Sacred Tales Concert  
Story Swaps • Liars Contest  
Workshops

DENTON CIVIC CENTER | DENTON, TX  
**MARCH 8-11, 2018**

Registration & More Information: [www.tejasstorytelling.com](http://www.tejasstorytelling.com)  
940.380.9320 | [tsa@tejasstorytelling.com](mailto:tsa@tejasstorytelling.com)

## SPREAD THE WORD!

**North Texas Giving Day is September 14, 2017!**

North Texas Giving Day is an online giving event for people across the nation (and the world!) to come together to raise as much money as possible for North Texas nonprofits on one day: September 14, 2017. Last year, TSA was honored to be one of the non-profit organizations that could benefit from donations made during the North Texas Giving Day. We received \$1,400 in donations.

In eight years, North Texas Giving Day has pumped more than \$ \$156 million into the North Texas community. In 2016, \$37 million was raised through more than 142,000 gifts benefiting 2,518 nonprofits.

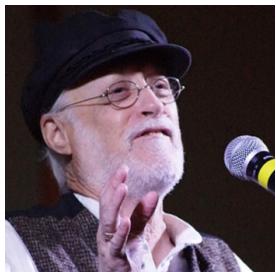
Stay tuned for more information. Please share this opportunity with all of your story-loving friends, too! Tejas Storytelling Association is dedicated to fostering the appreciation of storytelling as an oral tradition, a performing art, and an educational tool. Mark your calendars for September 14, 2017 as the day to get up and give!

For more information go to [www.northtexsgivingday.org](http://www.northtexsgivingday.org)

# Introducing Our New Board Members

## Gary Whitaker

Gary discovered his love for storytelling in 1993 when he told a ghost story at a Boy Scout camp out.



In 1997 he joined the Tarrant Area Guild of Storytellers in Fort Worth. In 1999 he joined the TSA in Denton and has been a member ever since.

Gary has presented a variety of storytelling programs over the years but his main focus has always been history. He has performed hundreds of times in schools, libraries and even festivals. He has also performed at the Fringe concert several times having been the very first to ever perform on the TSA fringe stage.

Gary has also presented workshops at the TSA festival and recently presented a storytelling workshop for kids at the Southlake public library where he will continue with a storytelling club for youths starting this September.

Gary and his wife of 42 years (Paula) are both retired and love to travel. They have two grown kids, a daughter with three kids (live in Fort Worth) and a son and his wife who live in Tucson AZ.

Gary has decided to make his focus on the board with Storytelling for youths.

## Nancy Simpson

Nancy Simpson grew up in Wichita Falls, Texas, and has now returned to her Texas roots in Austin. Actually it's her son Matt, Krystal, and precious grandsons Will and Henry that drew her back. (Nancy and husband Gary have another son, Mark and granddaughter, Veta in Kansas). After 15 visits from Hiroko Fujita, Japanese storyteller, Nancy enjoys building bridges between cultures by telling Fujita san's wonderful stories. As a former teacher for deaf children, Nancy enjoys telling Stories in Sign to young children. After 35 years north



of the Red River (Stillwater, Oklahoma) this retired elementary teacher remembers with joy attending the very first Texas Storytelling Festival and is happy to be back in the fold of the Tejas Storytelling Association.

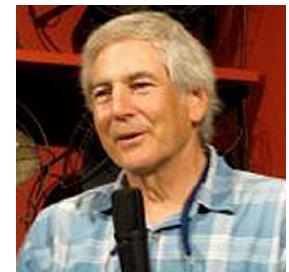
## Carolina Quiroga-Stultz

Carolina Quiroga-Stultz's is a Colombian communicator with a Masters in Storytelling from East Tennessee State University. Her large repertoire

of bilingual stories explores the Native Latin American and Hispanic myths, legends and mysteries ranging from El Río Bravo to La Patagonia. She was recognized as "Outstanding Performer of the Year" by ETSU in 2014; and is a recipient of the NSN J.J. Reneaux Emerging Artist Grant. Currently she is a teacher artist with the Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning.

## Tom Yeager

Steeped in stoicism from start via his South Texas cotton farm childhood, Tom Yeager eventually degenerated into an urban bohemian raconteur-in-training, word mechanic, and aspirant to the quality arts of a sober society: yodeling, tap dancing, and storytelling. He confesses his personal narratives with poetic potholes yielding surprising turns and conclusions.



When not practicing his arts, Tom, an early leader in the national house concert movement and the impresario behind Houston's Songbird Sanctuary has, since 1976, hosted over 100 sell-out concerts for the nation's finest folk musicians (from traditional Appalachian banjists to contemporary finger-style balladeers) in his century-old Montrose mansionette near downtown Houston, (and that foolishness informs his fables). Occasionally a teller is slipped onto the stage.

# The TSA Board working for you!

The board hard at work at the home of Rebba Raine Teller in July. Thank you to Gary Whitaker who was taking the photos. Check out his photo as a new board member. Not pictured: Reba Ott



Kay Tobola, Granville Ott, Kim Lehman,  
Larry Thompson, Tom Yeager



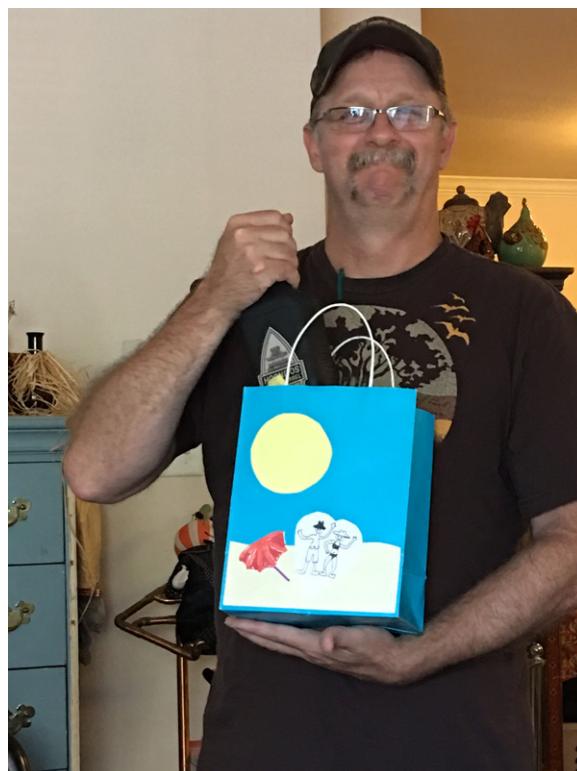
Carolina Quiroga-Stultz



James West, Sue Kuentz, Nancy Simpson



Raine Teller, Beverly Benbow



The Board presented Larry Thompson with a  
thank you gift for serving two terms as president



#### 2017-2018 TSA Governing Board

Rebba Raine Teller, President  
[TSABoardPresident1@gmail.com](mailto:TSABoardPresident1@gmail.com)

Richard Nash, Vice-President  
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Larry Thompson, President Emeritus  
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Sue Kuentz, Secretary  
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Reba Ott, Doc Moore Fund Committee  
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Carolina Quiroga-Stultz, Publications and  
Media Relations Chair  
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Tom Yeager, Financial Affairs Committee  
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Nancy Simpson, Guilds Liaison  
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Beverly Benbow, Administrative Director  
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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

# Ramblin' With Rebba Raine...

Dear TSA, this is my first message to you since I became President in June. Let me tell you a story. We, the TSA Board and I were having a very worthy Board Meeting here in my apartment in Austin last weekend. We had worked extremely hard on all kinds of TSA issues and had the wonderful guidance of our President Emeritus, Larry Thompson, who also brought us River City donuts.

At six o'clock we broke for dinner with Tom Yeager, a new Board Member, suggesting we reconvene after dinner to tell stories. So it was decided. I stayed back, knowing already that something was not right with my body. I had been unusually tired all week but I chalked that up to getting ready for the Board Meeting. By 8 o'clock I knew I was in trouble. I texted the crew, who had gone up the road to Maudie's for supper, to return to my apartment. I sat them all down and said I had something serious to talk to them about. I explained that I was not feeling well, really not feeling well at all. I told them that in a minute or so I was going to hit my Medical Alert button and the ambulance was going to come and get me. I instructed them to complete their stories tonight and return to the apartment in the morning. Actually a couple of members were staying here so it was not problematic. I had already put breakfast stuff in the frig. I gave someone money to go get bagels in the morning. I asked them to continue our work until about noon on Sunday. I gave them my daughter's number so she could be called to come and lock up.

Here's what happened...I went to the hospital...really sick. I had been bleeding internally from a bleeding ulcer I knew nothing about. I required a blood transfusion of some 3 units. The doctors did all sorts of tests, found the ulcer and worked on getting it all sorted out.

In the meantime, back at the Ranch, as we might say, Your Board carried on. Using my notes and agenda for the meeting, they worked on. My daughter said when she showed up after noon they were just finishing up, cleaning up and getting ready to call it a day.

Do you know how unusual this is in my world? We have selected a Board of true worker bees and I will be eternally grateful to them for the work they've already done and the work they are planning to do in the future.

So two last items. First I know some of you are confused by the fact that in another part of my life I am not only clergy but I hold several ordinations. I am an interfaith minister, a rabbi, a maggid (spiritual storyteller) and since this past May I am a Master Maggid, which means I can teach and ordain other Maggids. You don't know what to call me. I am actually M'Rabbi-Rev. Dr. Raine Teller. The word Rebba is my word with a nod to the fact that Orthodox Rabbis don't accept women as Rabbis. So I took the word Rebbe, a term for a beloved Rabbi and

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changed it to Rebba, the feminine. As far as I know there are only three Maggidic Rebbas in the world, myself and the two other women I have ordained. We are also the only female Bet Din (high Jewish Court) in the world to my knowledge. But you are not to worry. I will answer to any name. Rebba Raine is not necessary. You may just call me Raine. I don't know if we've ever had a clergy as President of TSA...does anyone know? It will be interesting.

Secondly, my main goals as President are to bring diversity to our membership and to bring more interplay with the Guilds. I will be at the opening of the Doc Moore Guild in Bulverde this week as Granville and Reba Ott are driving me there. I'd like this to be the start of my visiting with more of you over the next twelve months.

We've got hard work ahead, but since 2008 I have watched, sometimes in awe, as we have marched forward into our future. Who can forget dear Holy Sister Elizabeth, wearing a hard hat and telling us, "we've got work to do!" And we do. But we are up to the task.

Here's to a year of great stories, great friends and great progress.

With many blessings and very great love for all of us,

Rebba Raine

[TSABoardPresident1@gmail.com](mailto:TSABoardPresident1@gmail.com)

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## Jerry Young's CD Available

Jerry Young's "Texas Ghosts and Mysteries" CDs are available for sale through the TSA office. Get one for yourself or have your guild get several copies for your members. All proceeds benefit the Doc Moore Education Outreach Fund at TSA. Call 940-380-9320 or email [tsa@tejasstorytelling.com](mailto:tsa@tejasstorytelling.com) to order the CD's. Thank you to Barbara Young and the Young family for their generous donation to TSA.

## TSA Financials

### ASSETS

#### Checking/Savings - Cash in Bank

General Fund	28,789.91
HOT Grant Account	1,768.74
Reserve Account	10,622.36
Doc Moore Outreach Fund	2,139.90
Total Checking/Savings	43,320.91
Total Current Assets	43,320.91

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

#### Equity

Opening Bal Equity	-1,290.39
Fund Balance-Unrestricted	53,807.92
Prior Year Adjustment	1,088.39
Net Income	-10,285.01
Total Equity	43,320.91
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>43,320.91</b>

## In Honor or In Memory of Donations

TSA would like to recognize these donations for the second quarter of 2017. Thank you to the generous people for your support.

- In Memory of Dan Gibson
- Support for the Doc Moore Educational Outreach Fund in memory of Doc Moore.
- Support for the Doc Moore Educational Outreach Fund in memory of Dan Gibson.

# Guild News

## Tarrant Area Guild of Storytellers

April 27-29 2017 the Tarrant Area Guild of Storytellers participated in the Salado Texas Art Attack program. TAGS was invited to participate by Jackie Mills who wrote the Salado Legends play for the Tablerock Theater and is a driving force in Salado's art world and manages the Tablerock Theater. TAGS Members, DeCee Cornish, Nancy Worcester, Fred Peters and Gary Whitaker were led by President Jaye McLaughlin on this exciting new adventure in storytelling.

On the morning of April 28 Jaye McLaughlin, Fred Peters, Nancy Worcester and Gary Whitaker presented a variety of storytelling programs at a local Salado elementary school for Kindergarten and 5th grade. Nancy and Waco advertised the coming Saturday night program for each new group. Kindergarten Classes rotated and all 4 of the storytellers remained stationary. And we all took turns storytelling to the kids. When it came to the 5th graders the storytellers all worked separate rooms at the same time. We had been asked to tell Texas history. The teachers and students were mesmerized by the storyteller's tales.

On Saturday the 29th during the day, a storytelling 101 class was presented by DeCee Cornish and Fred Peters to all comers in Salado. Unfortunately only one came but he also came that night for our main



program. The main program that night was supposed to take place on the Tablerock stage but storms drove us inside the stage to the back rooms.

There Jackie Mills served Spaghetti to all comers while they listened to our stories. All TAGS members (noted) told a variety of stories to an audience of about 20 listeners. Our Emcee was the charming Nancy Worcester and her friend Waco. Who set the mood with laughter and fun. Nancy and Waco were enchanting.

Each storyteller presented a variety of tales from ghost stories to stories of eagles and space. The audience, which included 5 kids, were enthralled with the magic we created that night on that small stage.

The program was so well received immediate plans were made to bring TAGS back in 2018. Jackie provided TAGS Members a place to stay, food and friendship at no cost to us. She even took us out to eat. It was a incredible experience for all involved. Not one we will forget soon. Salado and Jackie Mills were awesome!

## Dallas Storytelling Guild

In the last few months the Dallas Storytelling Guild has been sent reeling with the loss of two long-time and beloved members—Jerry Young and Dan Gibson. Both of these popular storytellers are sorely missed!

At his funeral, Elizabeth Ellis learned that Jerry Young had been scheduled to do a storytelling concert for a performance art series at his church, Wilshire Baptist in Dallas, on Thursday, May 25. After a phone call to the guild, she had the group signed up to do this concert as a tribute to Jerry. That evening Eric Barnes, Tim Couch, Jiaan Powers, Gene and Peggy Helmick-Richardson, and Elizabeth Ellis shared sacred stories in a performance Elizabeth aptly titled “Branches from a Burning Bush: A Storytelling Concert in Memory of Jerry Young.”

Now the Guild is getting ready for several fall events including a casual country weekend retreat and its 14th Annual Ghost Tales at the Bath House, with two evening concerts for adults and a Saturday afternoon show for elementary age listeners.

## San Antonio Storytellers Association

On Saturday, September 16, in what has become an annual event, SASA will host a fall workshop. This year, Tim Tingle will help us take our stories "From the Mic to the Page." Whether you are a performing storyteller or a booming rose with stories to tell, Tim will take you through the process of a picture book, a short story, or a novel. Writer's block, revisions, target audiences - bring questions and leave with confidence. Expect a fun-filled day surrounded by future writers and books-to-be.

For more information or to register, check out SASA's Web site.

<http://www.sanantoniostorytellers.com/register-for-september-workshop/>



Among Doc Moore's numerous accomplishments and gifts to storytelling, he was also an early president of SASA. In May, SASA members and friends said their goodbyes to Doc. Row 1, L-R: MaryAnn Blue, Doc, Sue Kuentz. Rows 2-3: Jane McDaniel, Mary Grace Ketner, Veronica Gard, Larry Thompson, Tabatha Thompson, Mark Babino, Terry Palin, (musician), Granville Ott, Reba Ott, Tim Tingle. On May 15, Doc quietly proceeded to live happily ever after.

## Mesquite Storytellers of Abilene

The Mesquite Story Tellers of Abilene will be telling Ghost Stories the last three week-ends of October at the Taylor County Historical Village at Buffalo Gap. In November the Mesquite Storytellers will hold a workshop for the Home School students of the Abilene Area on a Saturday morning (date to be decided) and will have a concert that evening inviting the public.

## North 40

During 2017 the guild has taken a different approach to the monthly meeting by adding themes. Each month we have a word or phrase that the tellers play off of in many different ways. Some stories naturally fit the theme or some need a little change such as the setting or a change to a few details to help the story fit with the theme. The point is to show how flexible stories are. After the theme stories are shared other "general" stories are shared as time permits. It's been a great way to make us look at stories in a different way. Some of the themes have been: End of the rainbow, Puddles, Blooms, Lifesavers, Reunions, Sizzle, Schoolyard, Spooked, Gratitude, Gluttony, Sparkle, Tradition, Wild at Heart, and Scissors. Did any of those themes make you think of a story?

Three of our tellers, Gwen Caldwell, Jiaan Powers, and Ann Marie Newman have been featured tellers at the Richardson Public Library's Lunchtime Lectures program. They all did an outstanding job and we hope that this has opened a door for more tellers at the library. Four tellers Regina Matthews, Maryann Clarke, Ann Marie Newman and Minetta Smith will be presenting a program titled "Sowing Seeds of Unease" to a garden club in October.



## Houston Storytellers' Guild

The Houston Storytellers' Guild had a very successful event at Hickory Hollow Barbeque in the Heights featuring Larry Thompson in June. In fact, it was so successful we have decided to do it again. On November 15th, Donna Ingham will be the Guest Teller on our show "What's Your Story" hosted by Hank Roubicek and the following Saturday Donna will be featured at Hickory Hollow. If you are in the area you will not want to miss it.

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Halloween is a special time of year and once again the Guild will be telling stories at Marmion Park. This event is offered to the Heights neighborhood and is free. Sally Goodroe will again produce the concert. If you are ever in Houston on the 4th Tuesday of the month around 7 p.m. join us for our regular monthly meeting in our new venue Congregation Emanuel, right across the street from Rice University.

## Doc Moore Storytelling Guild

The first meeting, on July 20, of the Doc Moore Storytelling Guild, was a winner, and far beyond expectations. In the words of newcomer Cindy Patterson, “The first meeting of the Doc Moore Storytelling Guild was awesome....It was my first experience w/ storytelling. I am hooked. What a blessed, quiet, peaceful sharing of intellectual gifts. See all of you on third Thursdays.”

Held on the main floor of the beautiful Bulverde/Spring Branch Library, with giant glass windows overlooking a tree-covered hill, the vast majority of guests had never attended a storytelling guild. They were attracted by the promise of entertaining and moving narratives delivered by professional performers and others.

Texas storytellers travelled several hours to both honor Doc Moore, a long-time teller and leader in the TSA community, and to insure a successful beginning for the new guild. TSA board President, Rebba Raine Teller, and board members Granville and Reba Ott added to an enthusiastic audience—and Rebba Raine told a beautiful Jewish tale ending with a softly delivered song, a classic “whisper moment.”



Another highlight of the evening was Consuelo Samauripa’s bilingual folktale, as the audience of beginners witnessed for the first time the depth and power of storytelling. Francis Carroll, a long-time friend of Doc’s and local teller, shared a folktale of the hummingbird, and children giggled as the bird fluttered over the room. Ryan McPherson spread his joy of telling next, drawing future members into our circle. To further engage the children, Tim Tingle created a Native American flute, rattle, and drum band, with eager elementary girls playing the Indian rattles.

Forms were passed out to enroll members and—of the 30 in attendance—most expressed an interest in becoming active members. During a brief business meeting, Tingle agreed to a six-month tour as president, with Carroll as vice-president. Faith Harper and Joe Green, owners of a San Antonio-based small press, agreed to handle publicity, and hope to have a guild website within two weeks.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 17, the third Thursday of the month, with future meetings accordingly. The Doc Moore Storytelling Guild welcomes the support of all Tejas Storytelling Association members, and as you travel our way, stop and share a tale. Workshops will be offered in the Fall, both writing and storytelling, and special events are planned for Halloween and Christmas.

Write a quick note expressing your interest in receiving notice: [timtingle@hotmail.com](mailto:timtingle@hotmail.com)

And do let Doc Moore know, “We’re alive and well and going strong!”

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

# Storytelling Resources

## Storytelling Radio

A New Storytelling Radio Show Talking Stories on East London Radio! If you have a story and want it heard, email [totocranston@hotmail.com](mailto:totocranston@hotmail.com). <https://www.facebook.com/groups/478671415478926/>

## Online Class - The Art of Storytelling

Khan Academy has a free storytelling class online. "With our new lesson from *Pixar in a Box*, your students can unlock their storytelling potential. They'll learn from the storytellers behind Toy Story, Monsters Inc., Up, Inside Out, and more.

Through interactive exercises, your students will analyze the plot, world, and characters in their favorite films, and start developing storytelling superpowers. We'll release new lessons in this series throughout the year, each covering a key aspect of storytelling. We hope you and your students enjoy the lessons!

<https://www.khanacademy.org/partner-content/pixar/>

Thank you to Reagin Hults for sharing this information with us!

## Seed Stories – Free Interactive Book for Children

Bill Zimmerman has teamed up with storyteller Laura Simms to create a free, interactive book for children. Laura contributed stories about seeds from around the world. This book, Plant Your Dream Seeds! Writing to Grow Hope in Your Life, can be used by students to express in writing their deepest and hopes and dreams. This book of writing prompts is the latest addition to the interactive books section of [MakeBeliefsComix.com](http://www.makebeliefscomix.com) and can be downloaded at <http://www.makebeliefscomix.com/eBooks/>

This book is formatted as an interactive digital journal diary. It allows students to write directly on their computer/tablet screens into the areas with lines on the book's pages. When they are done typing, they can simply save the document until the next time they are inspired to make new entries.

## Resources for Professional Storytellers and Performers

Dave Ruch, a performer and teaching artist out of New York, put together a list of 26 Professional Development Resources for Performing Artists. These valuable resources will benefit storytellers, musicians, actors, mimes, puppeteers, and other performers who are making their own way in the arts and entertainment worlds. Dave also offers workshops and webinars for professional performers.

<http://daveruch.com/advice/professional-development-for-performing-artists/>

## Eclipse Tales from Around the World

These multi-cultural eclipse folktales were researched and recorded by professional storytellers Cassandra Wye and Fran Stallings at the request of the Lunar and Planetary Institute, to engage a variety of audiences, particularly in preparation for the August 21, 2017 Total Solar Eclipse. The storytellers learned these stories from a variety of people and obtained their permission to tell these stories, sometimes traveling great distances to do so. Although the stories may have humorous elements, our intent is to respect the cultures of origin and their traditions. We ask that discussions of the stories incorporate this respect.

Join International Storytellers, Cassandra Wye (UK) and Fran Stallings (USA) as they bring you the finest of folktales of the eclipse from around the globe to answer these questions - and many more!

### The Vanishing Sun

- Includes one video tale produced with both ASL sign and subtitles
- Eleven audio tales - from Africa, Asia, Europe, Central, North and South America
- Contains stories designed for children and young people from 4 - 14 years
- Provides links to creative activities for use in formal and informal science education - to enable educators and students to learn more about an eclipse

For more information: <http://www.lpi.usra.edu/education/explore/eclipse/>

# Storytelling Events

## Austin Storytelling – 24 locations!

Storytelling is very much alive and well in Austin! Roman Gonzalez has put together a list of 24 storytelling groups and venues in the Austin area and posted on the Austin Storytelling Facebook page. The Central Texas Storytelling Guild is not on the list but will be now since we are aware of this very cool resource.

To see the list of storytelling venues and descriptions:

[https://drive.google.com/  
open?id=OBPECIIF5kRWjRIMlpLUTFyLVU](https://drive.google.com/open?id=OBPECIIF5kRWjRIMlpLUTFyLVU)

To go to the Austin Storytelling Facebook Page:  
[https://www.facebook.com/  
groups/1296409480385600/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1296409480385600/)

## 39th Annual Houston Puppetry Festival

Saturday, Sept 16, 2017

8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Location: Cypress Creek Community Center, 6823 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, TX 77379  
Educators and Librarians: Earn 7 Clock Hours

PUPPET WORKSHOPS: Make puppets and learn to use them! Make a Flannelboard Puppet Set, Make Animal Finger Puppets, Story Telling with Puppet Pals, Make a Water Cycle Science Puppet Show, Make The Very Hungry Caterpillar Slinky Puppets, Make Itsy Bitsy Spider Puppet in a Cup, Make Old Lady Who Swallowed A Fly Puppets, Top Ten Reasons to Use Puppets in the Classroom, Make Five Little Ducks and Mother Duck Finger Puppets, Hand Puppet Manipulation, Make Sock Puppets, Magnet and Flannelboard Puppets, Puppets in Early Childhood, Make Black Light Science and Math Glove Puppets. Additional Workshops will be added.

PUPPET PERFORMANCE: “Friendship Black Light Puppet Show” by Jean Kuecher, Marionette Playhouse, Spring, TX.

PUPPET PARADE: See many types of puppets and ideas!

PUPPET STORE: Buy Puppets and Puppetry Books! (Cash or Checks Only)

Adults: \$65. Youth: \$45. Group Rate: Bring 5 staff: get \$10 off each! Includes Lunch and Lots of Fun!

For Info: call 281-655-5347 or email: [jkpuppet@aol.com](mailto:jkpuppet@aol.com) [www.marionetteplayhouse.com](http://www.marionetteplayhouse.com)

To register go to [http://www.marionetteplayhouse.com/html/puppet\\_festival.html](http://www.marionetteplayhouse.com/html/puppet_festival.html)

## ArtSpace

July 31-August 5 – Clinton, OK

Join us for a week of arts, history, and food for students entering 2nd through 5th grade in Clinton Oklahoma. The daily activities are based at the First Presbyterian Church, on Gary Avenue.

Lunch and snacks, selected around the cultural focus for this year, and with dietary concerns in mind, are served to participants and staff each day. It meets from about noon until 5:00 Monday through Friday, with a closing presentation on Saturday at 4:30. This organization was launched in 2014 to provide a full arts experience, incorporating storytelling, visual arts and music, and focusing on specific ethnic or cultural heritages of central Oklahoma.

This year, the cultural focus is on Spanish, French and Chickasaw traditions, and with that, two storytellers will be featured. Stephanie Scott of the Chickasaw nation, and Loralee Cooley will be presenting story material based on the theme of “heros.” Our Chickasaw Master Artists also include mother-daughter team, Donna Welch and Trinity Welch. In addition, several visual artists will be working with the students with painting, beadwork, papier-mache masques, and other media.

For more information on this offering, contact the director, Donelle Ratheal at 405-657-6804, or [donelleratheal@gmail.com](mailto:donelleratheal@gmail.com).

# Storytelling Calendar

## September 7-9 - Lehi, UT

28th Annual Timpanogos Storytelling Conference  
and Festival

<http://timpfest.org/>

## September 16 - Bulverde, TX

Workshop: From the Mic to the Page-A Writing

Workshop presented by Tim Tingle

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

\$35 San Antonio Storytelling Association members,

\$50 guests - lunch included

<http://www.sanantoniostorytellers.com/>

## September 16 - Spring, Texas

Houston Puppetry Festival (39th Annual)

8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Adults: \$65. Youth: \$45. Group Rate: Bring 5 staff: get \$10 off each! Includes Lunch and Lots of Fun!

(For more information see a longer article in  
storytelling events section.)

For Info: call 281-655-5347 or email: [jkpuppet@aol.com](mailto:jkpuppet@aol.com)

[http://www.marionetteplayhouse.com/html/puppet\\_festival.html](http://www.marionetteplayhouse.com/html/puppet_festival.html)

## October 13 and 14 - Frisco, TX

Lone Star Storytelling Festival

Featuring Don White, Kevin Kling, and Lone Star  
Storytellers

<http://www.lonestarstories.org/>

## October 20-22 - Port Angeles, WA

Forest Storytelling Festival

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

## November 3-5 - George West, TX

29th Annual George West Storyfest

Featuring Mary Ann Blue, Darci Tucker, and Andy  
Hedges

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

2018

## March 8-11 - Denton, TX

Texas Storytelling Festival (33rd Annual)

Featuring Tim Tingle, Adam Booth, Beth Horner,  
Laura Packer

## June - Fort Worth

Texas Storytelling Conference

Details to come!

## Ongoing Storytelling Events

“What’s Your Story” radio show on KPFT, 90.1 FM

Wednesday nights at 8 pm - Houston, TX

Sponsored by the Houston Storytelling Guild

<https://www.facebook.com/SoWhatsYourStory>

## First Saturday of the month - Austin, TX

Living Room: Storytime for Grown-Ups

Scottish Rite Theater at 207 W. 18th

7:30 pm

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Living-Room-Storytime-for-Grownups-107681119259738/>

We want to know about your storytelling events  
but first you need to tell us!

Please send your event announcements to

[kim.lehman@sbcglobal.net.](mailto:kim.lehman@sbcglobal.net)

# Memorials

## Doc Moore

From 1990 until his retirement on the beautiful shores of Canyon Lake, Doc performed stories at theaters and schools throughout Texas, and made numerous award-winning recordings. Co-author, along with Tim Tingle, of three still popular and widely-read Texas ghost story books, Doc inspired thousands with his teachings and his stories.

Former President of the Tejas Storytelling Association and board member of the National Storytelling Network, Doc was a strong and supportive voice in the state and national oral performance communities. As a performer, Doc was known for breaking the boundaries between audience and stage, often tossing casual asides to audience members during impromptu

"intermissions" of a story. He credits Donald Davis for his storytelling style and—like Davis—led listeners down a welcoming road before sharing his serious message.

## Dan Gibson

Dan Howard Gibson was born May 2, 1946, in Columbia South Carolina. He was the son of Howard Benjamin Gibson and Mary Frances (Frankie) Askins Gibson. He passed away on June 8, 2017, in DeSoto, Texas, after a short illness. Dan grew up in Burlington, N. C. and graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1968 with a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism. The same year he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force. From 1968 to 1975, he served on active duty at Los Angeles Air Force Station, California; Clark Air Base, Republic of the Philippines, and Hill Air Force Base, Utah. He continued as a reservist, retiring in 2006 with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Dan married Julia Brown on January 15, 1972, in Redondo Beach, California. They became the parents of 3 daughters.

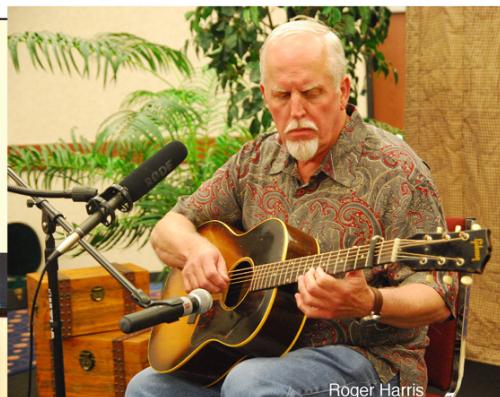
Dan was a writer, specializing in public relations. In his spare time he taught himself to play the claw hammer banjo and later on the fiddle. He loved to jam with other old time musicians and was a member of the Dallas Folk Music Society and the North Texas Traditional Dance Society. His other passion was oral storytelling and he often crafted his own clever tall tales, ghost stories and cowboy poetry. He was a member of the Texas Storytelling Association, serving a term on the board, and several local guilds, including the Dallas Storytelling Guild. He combined his love of music and stories to present programs in schools and libraries, leaving behind a legacy of music and story for thousands of children and adults.

Dan is survived by his wife Julia of 45 years.

[www.turrentinejacksonmorrow.com/  
obituaries/dan-howard-gibson](http://www.turrentinejacksonmorrow.com/obituaries/dan-howard-gibson)

### In Memorium

Territory Teller Members  
& Great Storytellers



Spirit of Oklahoma  
Storytelling Festival  
June 2-3, 2017



Susie Beasley



In the end all you  
are is your story.

Jerry Young

# TSA Accessible Website Fund

Dear Tejas Storytelling Association and Friends of TSA,

We looking for 70 dedicated and techno-savvy folks to step forward and pledge \$10 a month for 10 months to help get the new TSA Accessible Website up and running. Can you be one of those 70 folks? That is about 25% of our current membership. Of course, we will welcome more! But, at this moment, 70 pledges of \$100 over the next 10 months will get us to our goal of having an accessible website up and running for all to see. (Your pledge may be paid in one payment if you choose.)

Accessibility on websites is not automatic. For people with visual, auditory and physical issues, it can be quite challenging to access information about TSA from our present website. And, accessibility does not come cheap. However, after careful consideration and research, we have come to a decision about the folks who can accomplish this for us. Now, all we need are the funds.

And why is accessibility so important? Think about this. TSA prides itself on the fact that we have always provided American Sign Language (ASL) signers to assist those who cannot hear to still fully enjoy our festival events. This is not true of our present website, but that can be fixed by the building and launching of an accessible website. And, that is our final aim in this fund raising effort.

So, will you not please consider becoming a TSA Techie? Support our efforts. Pledge 10-4-10!

In return for your support, we pledge to each of you who donate to this fundraiser a fully accessible business card ad on our new website for the first two years that it is up and running. Think of it: a business card-sized ad that runs for 24 months at a cost of \$100. That is only \$50 a year. Now, that is a bargain. Plus, you get a tax write-off and the joy of knowing that you have contributed to such a worthy cause.

The Officers and Board of TSA

## Be a Part of TSA Every Day on Social Media

Do you love being on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram? Do you enjoy connecting with people and telling them about storytelling? Use your skills and knowledge! Come and join TSA on social media! Help us to grow in this ever changing world of technology and reach more people for storytelling! We are looking for volunteers for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. We need you!! If you are interested, please contact us at [tsa@tejasstorytelling.com](mailto:tsa@tejasstorytelling.com)



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The Tejas Teller is the quarterly newsletter published by the Tejas Storytelling Association.

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Elizabeth Ellis, columnist

**Thank you to all the folks who contributed to this edition of the Texas Teller:**  
Elizabeth Ellis, Nancy Simpson, Sue Kuentz,  
Beverly Benbow, Kay Tabola, Valerie Kimball,  
Sheila Phillips, Mary Grace Ketner, Peggy  
Helmich-Richardson, Carolina Quiroga-Stultz,  
Tom Yeager, Donna Ingham, Minetta Smith,

Loralee Cooley, Gary Whitaker, Tim Tingle, and Rick Davis. Sorry if we missed anyone!

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 [zoolady@airmail.net](mailto:zoolady@airmail.net)

Currently the Tejas Teller is being distributed electronically to email addresses stored with TSA records. If you would like a printed copy of the newsletter, please notify Beverly at [tsa@tejasstorytelling.com](mailto:tsa@tejasstorytelling.com)