TEJAS Teller

TEJAS STORYTELLING ASSOCIATION

www.tejasstorytelling.com Vol. 33, Issue 3 Summer 2018

A Sneak Peek

DENTON, TX | MARCH 7-10, 2019

Hop On Board For The

34TH ANNUAL

TEXAS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

ONE WORLD: MANY VOICES, MANY TALES

Three Great Venues

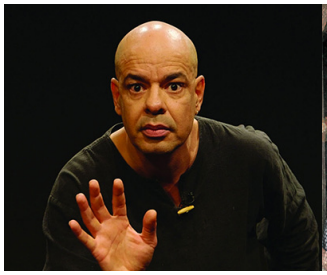
Denton Woman's Club

Emily Fowler Library

Denton Senior Center

PLEASE NOTE: The Denton Civic Center will not be used this year. For those in need of assistance, story carts will be available for rides between venues.

Six Amazing Featured Tellers



Antonio Rocha

Twice Upon a Time

Josh Goforth

In The Spirit

Drum Talk with Oba William King

Plus lots of favorites will be returning

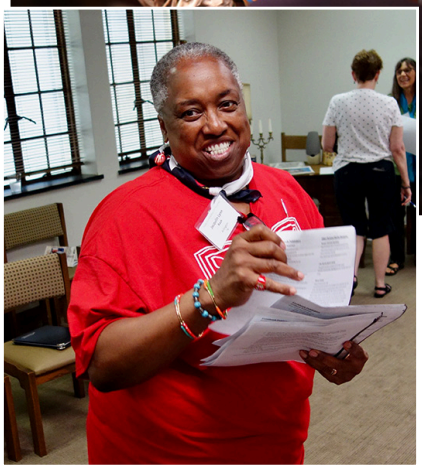
13 Useful Workshops • Exciting Story Slam • Two Chair Telling with Loren Niemi

Ghost Stories • Story Swaps • Sacred Tales • Whopper of a Liars Contest

Rising Star Concert • Fringe Concerts • Kids Day Activities

The Summer Tejas Storytelling Conference

by Jaye McLaughlin, President of TAGS



The last weekend in June seemed like a family reunion and that is what the Tarrant Area Guild of Storytellers (TAGS) was shooting for in the planning of the 2018 TSA Conference. Our two highly respected featured tellers Donald Davis and Pippa White were outstanding in their presentations and their presence. We had some great workshops (I heard this from folks, I never went to the third floor) with some very competent facilitators introducing the masterful presenters. Deb Ann Allison set the scene for family stories with her stage set up and table decorations. Fred Peters as the Mad Hatter introduced our Conference souvenir t-shirts with some fun, levity and snacks! Our Texas TSA family got a good preview of how the family began with stories from Gary Whitaker, Fran Stallings, Elizabeth Ellis and Rosanna Herndon. Thank you all! We had representatives from so many guilds join our concerts to tell stories. So all attendees had the fun of meeting many Texas-wide Tellers. Behind the scenes, Tom McDermott set the stage in our beautiful location, First United Methodist Church, accommodating our many workshops, meals, and concerts in an atmosphere that said "Family Reunion." The catered meals and the luncheon gatherings also added to a real family reunion as time to talk, eat and meet was accomplished.

Thanks to the so many TSA members who joined us as well as the new members who came. Without you, there would be no family to celebrate! Big thanks to Beverly Benbow for helping things run so smoothly and to Sharon Manning who ran the Story Store with Beverly's help. I wish I could name all the workshops and the leaders, but instead, you all could write Peggy Helmick-Richardson twiceuponatime@sbcglobal.net with your best memories, and they could be put in the next Teller. (Of course, I know we will be getting ready for the Festival 2019 by then. But it is good to look back and remember the Family and the good times!)

Check out http://www.tarrantguild.org to see more of Chester Weems pictures.

Continued...

The Summer Tejas Storytelling Conference

Personal Tales of Triumph

By Jiaan Powers

After the final bows of "Our Stories, Bridging Communities and Building Trust Through Storytelling," seven Dallas residents had shared their own soul-searching stories to over 300 audience members. Remarkably these seven were also new to the storytelling stage! I was honored to have been a part of this amazing project. Here is how it came to be.

David Lozano, the Executive Artistic Director of Cara Mia Theatre, called in late January inviting me to co-direct a storytelling project with Dr. Njoki McElroy. I knew this superb storyteller from her visit to my elementary classroom in the 90s.

Dr. Njoki McElroy recalls, "Over a year ago my daughter, Marian, and I were discussing the polarization among racial groups and genders. As a performer and professor at Northwestern University and then at Southern Methodist University I had witnessed what stories can do. Last year my daughter and I conducted a storytelling workshop at Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy with a student performance; the response was encouraging. We brainstormed about extending the project into the community. I was impressed with the work being done at Cara Mia Theatre. We worked with David Lozano on a format of having non-professionals write and then perform their stories."

"For the past three years, I have been advocating cultivating arts experiences throughout Dallas," David explains. "I felt that if communities could cultivate a cultural hub in neighborhoods throughout the city, then communities could also gather to discuss neighborhood needs and civic action."

David emphasizes, "More than half of the funding from the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) goes to Council District 14 where the Dallas Arts District resides which leaves the rest of OCA funding for the remaining 13 council districts. Considering the financial and personnel demands on taking the arts to different neighborhoods outside of the Dallas Arts District, I always felt storytelling was a great way to begin cultivating a cultural hub. Everyone has a story and sharing one's personal stories inevitably leads to discussions on shared humanity, historical challenges and present issues that individuals and communities face. When Dr. McElroy approached Cara Mía Theatre about creating a storytelling performance, I had a plan ready in my back pocket, and simply needed partners to help execute the vision."

Grants were awarded from Mid-America Arts Alliance and the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs. The directors, seven tellers, two musicians, event coordinator, and stage manager all received compensation for their work. Additional monies from The Communities Foundation of Texas, Embrey Family Foundation, Domingo Garcia P.C. Attorneys and Counselors-at-Law, and the Dallas Storytelling Guild supported office expenses, outreach, and refreshments.

Ernest McMillan, Curator of Community Action for Cara Mia Theater, worked diligently and found free venues across Dallas for our ten rehearsals and our six performances.

Continued...

Non-professional tellers were selected from online nomination forms that recruited Dallas residents who felt they had a story to tell. Gut-wrenching tales of sexual abuse, immigration, drugs, depression, near-death, and sex work emerged. The tellers were incredible; each one willing to trust and be coached. Rita Joye Gray and Kristian Craige-El Bey of Never Give Up lent heart-felt support to the performance with their beautiful voices and music.

Stage manager, Gary Patton, (my husband), recollects, "I witnessed the tellers working through many issues during the rehearsals with their stories as each story was profoundly personal. Other issues were performance related: learning literally to be heard, learning to hold the room as they told, learning how to communicate the strength and depth of a story that covered months to years in a life but had to be told in 6-12 minutes.

"Logistically six performances at six different venues across Dallas presented different problems: no air conditioning, no chairs until performance time,

way too little parking, creative tensions, too much background noise …." Gary continues. "Despite the complications, the stories and their messages came through to the audience and affected them deeply."

And our tellers weathered a decision to make a major program change after the first performance.

Gary recalls, "Rather than end the performance by thanking the audience, sponsors and making an announcement of the next performance, a short question and answer session was added for 15 minutes with one of the tellers being the facilitator. To conclude this section, the audience was dismissed and encouraged to meet and speak to at least one person in the audience they did not know. From the back of the room I can only describe the response of the audience upon dismissal as a sound explosion of talking and sharing before leaving."

I conclude with a reflection from each of our tellers on their experience.

Alice Robinson: I thought I would write my story and give it to someone to act or tell it and no one would see my face or hear my voice. I was really surprised when I had to tell! I was able to complete this journey and remain standing and not hide from the world in a state of depression. You forgive but you don't forget.

Julie Hagood: I confirmed my belief that we humans grow through connection with others. My mind has stretched from collaborating with other performing artists and with audience members during our Q & A sessions. I'm grateful for a mind stretched will never return to its original shape!

Ghazwan Abdullah: The great storytelling team taught me what it means to be a human that has brothers and sisters regardless of religion and background. The people that joined the performances showed their love to immigrants through the feedback and comments after every performance.

Lucy Bocanegra: After being nervous about telling my story, I learned that we all share one thing in common. We had that urge to inspire and influence others to lend an ear and listen to the differences that makes us the same.

River Ribas: I experienced sharing truth frees up a space inside and around you for more truth to arise, either from yourself or from others. This reactionary truth radiates freedom and positivity, changing people and environments for the better.

Gayle Bell: I was grateful to find a community of people who have become dear friends to me. Our stories are powerful. The storytellers are empowering. This has been a wonderful adventure.

Xxavier Edward Carter: I heard about it and was curious what kind of stories were going to come out of the project. I'm from Dallas but after 12 years in California I felt disconnected to here. I made some lifelong friends and was able to reconnect with my community and emerge with new bonds to it.

Let The Sign-Ups Begin!

Liar's Contest

Do you have an 8-to-10-minute whopper to share?

Come be a part of this year's Texas Storytelling Festival Liars Contest on Saturday, March 9, 2019.

The first eight people to email contest producer, liar extraordinaire Sheila Phillips at zoolady@airmail.net will be the participants. Subsequent applications will be retained in the order received and will be called upon to fill any vacancies that may occur. What we need from you:

- Name, Email, Phone, Hometown, 45-word bio
- High-resolution photo (300 dpi. jpg preferred) for our festival program, website, social media

Questions? Contact Sheila Phillips, contest producer, at zoolady@airmail.net

Workshop and Fringe Performances

Deadlines: Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Two outstanding parts of the Festival are the Workshops and the Fringe Performances.

Thinking about a workshop you would like to present? Interested in challenging your muse by creating a fringe performance? The time is now to let us know you would like to participate in the Texas Storytelling Festival. Don't miss this great personal and professional opportunity!

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 20 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! Don't let the opportunity pass you by.

More Details

You may submit a workshop proposal and a fringe performance proposal, but you may present only one (if both are selected). Please indicate your preference on the forms. Storytellers chosen will need to register and pay for the full festival or a full day admission. After the workshop presenters will be mailed a check.

Submit forms to Beverly at tsa@tejasstorytelling.com or mail to: Tejas Storytelling Association, P.O. Box 2806, Denton, TX 76202-2806 or FAX to 940-380-9329

Questions? Contacts

Workshops - Tim Couch at Timothy7774@att.net
Fringe - Fran Stallings at fran.stallings@icloud.com

Deadline for Workshop and Fringe proposals is Tuesday, October 23, 2018

- **Workshop Word Doc**: https://www.dropbox.com/s/9jxpr1tpaeayitj/2019%20Workshop%20Proposals.docx?dl=0
- **Workshop PDF**: https://www.dropbox.com/s/8v74js6gd6me9up/2019%20Workshop%20Proposals.pdf?dl=0
- **Fringe Word Doc**: https://www.dropbox.com/s/r02ucmnx51n7a3d/2019%20%20Fringe%20Proposals.doc?dl=0
- **Fringe PDF**: https://www.dropbox.com/s/8bjmz63ff7clp06/2019%20%20Fringe%20Proposals.pdf?dl=0

If you would prefer having the information pages and application forms mailed to you, please call Beverly at the TSA office: 940-380-9320

Thanks To Our Volunteers!

A great big tip of the hat to all our Texas Storytelling Festival volunteers. You came and gave your time, energy and equipment - and you made your Festival a success. 74 of you gave 1011.75 hours of your time, talents, skills and muscle – and I'm certain there are more volunteers and hours that were not reported.

Know that without you it would not have worked. Once again you proved the power and success that volunteers bring. A simple thank you seems so inadequate, but I know of no better way to express my appreciation than a great big THANK YOU for being there.

Congratulations To Our Winning Volunteers!

Olivia Wood and Coel Wagner were the winners of the free one-year Youth and Adult memberships. Their names were randomly drawn from those volunteers that entered the drawing.

The two memberships were donated by an anonymous donor in memory of "Doc" Moore (youth membership) and William Phillip Harjo (adult membership).

- submitted by Leslie Buie

2018-2019 TSA Governing Board

Richard Nash, President
thedigitalcoyote@gmail.com

Rebba Raine Teller, Vice-president
rebbaraine@gmail.com

Brooke Pillifant, Secretary
brookepillifant@gmail.com

Tim Couch, Treasurer
Timothy7774@att.net

Gary Whitaker, Youth Storytelling Committee Chair
storyman@flash.net

Carolina Quiroga, Technology Outreach Director, Workshops Chair
work.carolina@yandex.com

Peggy Helmick-Richardson, Marketing Chair
twiceuponatime@sbcglobal.net

Gene Helmick-Richardson, Awards Chair
ghelmickrichardson@gmail.com

David Claunch, Membership Committee Chair, Volunteer Chair
dr.dilly.dally@gmail.com

Robert Samples, Affiliate Guild Liaison
rjsam@sbcglobal.net

Philip Drexler, Doc Moore Committee Chair
philip.drexler@gmail.com

Beverly Benbow, Administrative Director
tsa@tejasstorytelling.com

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

From the TSA President

As summer starts to fade and I recover from being an active granddad of a seven-year-old girl (who, when she gets excited, jumps like Tigger), I sit down reflectively to write this piece for the newsletter.

Our new board—with an incredible lineup of members who bring a depth of knowledge about storytelling and business, and their humanity, to help steer the Tejas Storytelling Association this next year—began with an active meeting in June. From the summer of record heat, to the cooler weather we are being teased with now, the Board has continued to work for our growth.

There are issues that the board is actively addressing including website design, attracting new members, meeting with and starting new guilds, working to develop more youth storytellers, as well as working closely with the Festival directors to insure a fantastic festival in March of 2019.

Financially we ended the year well, and are not in the red, which was better than we had expected. We continue to pinch pennies and have grown accustomed to their screams.

I wished I could have been at this summer's conference, however I had a long-standing previous commitment which took precedent. I have been told by everyone who attended that the conference was fantastic, that TAGS pulled together and worked as one for a great event. I do believe that Jaye and the team demonstrated what can be done if we work together and share the load. Kudos to everyone and a special thanks to Jaye McLaughlin for taking the helm.

Due to changes in management in the City of Denton, the cost for rental of the Civic Center for the Festival has increased to $18,000. In addition, for unknown reasons, our reservations for the festival weekend were not recorded and the Civic Center had booked the Saturday of the Festival for a wedding. We were blessed to have Elizabeth Ellis and Kanute Rarey as Festival Directors. They pulled a rabbit out of a hat, rented the Senior Center behind the Civic Center as well as the Women's Building and the Library at a savings to us. We will have several golf carts to shuttle those who need assistance from building to building, as we experience the 34th Annual Tejas Storytelling Festival: One World, Many Voices, Many Tales. Looking forward to the festival, see you there.

Richard W Nash

Guild News

Red River Storytellers Outfit

A big welcome to our newest (as well as returning) Affiliate Guild serving the Denison, Sherman, Whitesboro, Honey Grove, Van Alstyne, and Bonham Area. First founded in 2001, but discontinuing after a few years, the group's founders Waynetta Ausmus, Lanny Joe Burnett and Edward Southerland recently decided to re-establish the group. Their first meeting was hosted at Denison Public Library on Thursday, August 9 at 5:30 pm in Eisenhower Room. The next meeting will be 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, at Pottsboro Place. The group will also be at the Davy Crockett Festival in Honey Grove on September 15.

For more information on the group, contact Edward Southerland at ems24tx@gmail.com

Doc Moore Storytelling Guild

The Doc Moore Storytelling Guild will be telling and representing Tejas at the Boerne Book and Arts Festival on Saturday, October 6 in Boerne, Texas.

The Houston Storytellers Guild

Workshop: Building your Personal Story
When: September 22, 2018
Workshop Leaders: Dr. Michael Winters and Dr. Hank Roubicek
Where: Houston (see web site for details)
Target: Beginning Storytellers
For Whom: Family, Friends, Teachers, and more… For anyone who wants their stories to mean more

The Power of Personal Stories: The Houston Storytellers Guild understands the clout of personal storytelling as a method to stretch the boundaries of the human heart and agrees with this essential point made by Christina Baldwin in *Storycatcher: Making Sense of Our Lives through the Power and Practice of Story.*

"Something is happening in the moment. Something is happening in our story and we don't yet know it. We are just in it. We live in story like fish lives in water. We swim through words and images siphoning story through our minds the way a fish siphons water through its gills."

This workshop for beginning storytellers will help participants document story ideas, find the right pieces to their stories, learn to sequence stories, create imagery, read listeners, and locate their signature styles.

Go to http://www.houstonstorytellers.org for all the details.

Submitted by Sheila Phillips

North 40 Storytellers

Beginning June, North 40 member Jiaan Powers and Dr. Njoiki McElroy directed 6 summer concerts titled Bridging Communities and Building Trust Through Storytelling. New tellers from various backgrounds shared their stories.

Two of our members presented at this summer's Tejas Storytelling Conference in Ft. Worth. Ann Marie Newman presented a Story Building Blocks workshop and provided participants with a variety of supplies to help them illustrate their own stories with the blocks. Michael Brundy was the teller in one of the concerts.

On Monday, July 9th, the North 40 Storytellers were the main attraction for the Heritage Farmstead Museum's 55+ Program. Six of our members participated as tellers: Regina Matthews, Michael Brundy, Shiny Wu, Ann Marie Newman, Mark Ayers and Beth Ayers. They told personal stories to a

full room of about 40 attendees in the historic Young House. The audience was encouraged (with the inspiration, a notebook, and an instructional pamphlet) to find their own story and share it.

Minetta Smith was featured at the Evening of Entertainment at the South Central Regional Conference of Alpha Delta Kappa on July 14th at the Westin Galleria in Dallas. She told folktales highlighting the World Understanding projects from Vietnam, Peru, and Haiti.

Submitted by Minetta Smith

East Texas Storytellers

HELLLLLOOOOO! East Texas Storytellers are partnering with the Tyler Public Library to present programs of folk tales, myths, legends, and Texas Tales. Each month will feature a collection from different parts of the world. The program, TELLING TALES, will be held on the second Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Please come and visit if you are in the area.

Submitted by Dru Woods

San Antonio Storytellers Association

Workshop and Concert with Elizabeth Ellis

$45 includes lunch with the 4-hour workshop

"Building Stronger Stories" America's most beloved storyteller Elizabeth Ellis will walk us through her book of secrets, where each chapter represents a rung on the ladder of dynamic narrative development. Come and join us in "storying," using exercises and discussion of elements that build into memorable listening experiences.

Saturday, Sept. 15, 10 am-3 pm
In Bulverde, TX
The evening concert will be 7:30 -9 p.m. p.m.
Franklin Park/Sonterra,
18323 Sonterra Place, San Antonio, 78258
A $15 donation at the door would be appreciated

For more information on the workshop and concert, go to: http://www.sanantoniostorytellers.com

Dallas Storytelling Guild

After a busy spring and early summer, the members of the Dallas Storytelling have rested up and are now getting in gear for a busy fall. Last September's retreat at the Episcopal School of Dallas's Wolf Run Ranch in Anna, Texas, was such a hit, the board voted to do it again. This year's retreat will be September 21-23, and return to Wolf Run. The weekend will include workshops and story circles, meals together including one catered barbecue dinner, walks on nature trails, and getting to know each other better. We are also hoping that once again an impromptu music and story circle pops up again around the fire pit on the back porch.

Then in October, Halloween and Ghost Tales at the Bath House once again jump out from underneath the basement steps. This will be the Guild's 15th year of hosting this concert of two evenings of frightening tales with adult themes at this cultural arts center on the shore of White Rock Lake. For the last few years, we have also hosted a free afternoon of spooky tales for kids here as well. Because of the popularity of the two adult concerts, this event has become the Guild's biggest fund-raiser for the year.

Ghost Tales at the Bath House
Tickets are $10
7-9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 26 and 27
Spooky Tales for Kids
Free
2-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 27
Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E Lawther Dr, Dallas 75218

facebook

Don't miss any of the Facebook and Twitter posts highlighting storytellers, concerts and activities at the Tejas Storytelling Association.

Like us! Become a friend! Share the posts! Spread the love!

www.facebook.com/tejasstorytelling

https://twitter.com/@tejastales

TSA News and Information

Jeff Ketner

It is with deep sadness that we report that Jeff Ketner passed away due to complications from a fall. His family appreciates your thoughts and prayers.

Cards of condolence may be sent to Jeff's wife, Mary Grace, at 109 Fir Street, San Antonio, TX 78210.

Don Sanders

We are sorry to report that storyteller, singer and author Don Sanders passed away in his home on July 21, 2018. Don had been a featured teller at the Festival and a longtime supporter of and past board member of the Tejas Storytelling Association.

Thanks to Richard Nash for finding these links for those who would like to know more about Don:

http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/houstonchronicle/obituary.aspx?n=donald-joseph-sanders&pid=189685763&fhid=17874

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_5lF_v1lH4

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TStIjnUBtYs

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eGsw-_mpMcc

Acres of Diamonds

This April, Tejas Storytelling Association was a Community Partner for the Thin Line Festival. We sponsored a wonderful filmmaker and storyteller, Shawn Small and his film, *Acres of Diamonds*. (You may remember hearing him share stories at the festival's Sacred Tales and Ghost Tales concerts.) Take a look at this beautiful and moving documentary as well as his first documentary, *Ru: Water is Life*, that garnered a number of awards at film festivals.

Acres of Diamonds http://shawnsmallstories.com/film/acres-of-diamonds

Ru: Water is Life http://shawnsmallstories.com/film/ru-water-is-life

In Honor or In Memory of Donations

TSA would like to recognize these donations for the first half of 2018. Thank you for your support.

- In Honor of Donna Ingham
- In Memory of Katheryn Aleen Johnson Jones, Kay Tobola's Mother
- In Memory of Dan Gibson
- In Memory of Kate Lauder
- In Memory of Beth Collins, Gayle Ross's Mother
- In Memory of William Philip Harjo

Doc Moore Educational Outreach Fund:

- In Memory of Kate Lauder
- In Memory of William Philip Harjo

Adult TSA Membership:

- In Memory of Dan Gibson

Youth TSA Membership:

- In Memory of Scooter Ollis

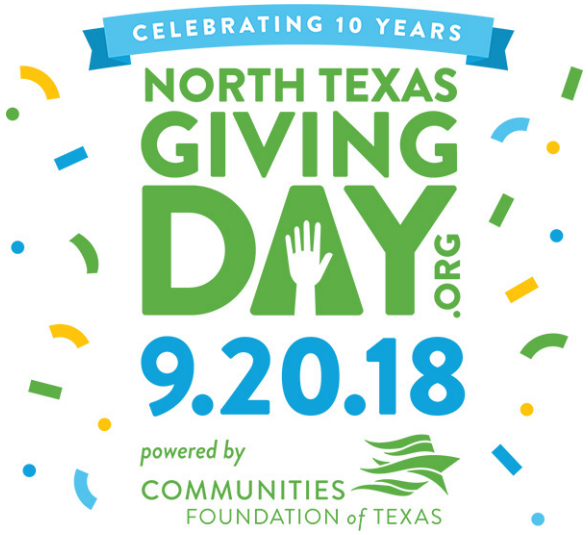
Seeking an audio or video of Lucille Culbertson or Harriet Lewis

Hi!! My sister, Harriet Lewis, and my mother, Lucille Culbertson, were members of your group. My sister died about 15 years ago, and my mother 6 years ago. I was wondering if you have any old video, audio, or story transcripts of either of them? I know it is a very long shot, but it never hurts to try. Thanks for your time.

Jamie Culbertson Pastor

If anyone can help Jamie please email us at tsa@tejasstorytelling.com or Facebook Messenger her directly at https://www.facebook.com/jamie.c.pastor

TSA News and Information



North Texas Giving Day

Communities Foundation of Texas' North Texas giving Day is an 18-hour online giving event designed to empower every person to give back to their community by supporting local nonprofits and causes they care about in one easy-to-use platform.

The events helps build awareness and support for nonprofits like nothing else. In 2017, $39 million was raised through more than 137,000 gifts benefiting 2,723 local nonprofits, bringing the nine year total to $195 million for our community. North Texas Giving Day is the largest community-wide giving event in the nation.

In ten years, this online event has transformed from an idea to help raise awareness of nonprofits, to a movement that has ignited a broad culture of community-side giving. During North Texas Giving Day, everyone has the opportunity to be a philanthropist to build a strong and more vibrant community.

Current plans for using these donation would be to support our Tellers in the Schools program. Please check out their website and our page at https://www.northtexasgivingday.org/tejas-storytelling-association. Remember TSA when September 20 comes around.

News from the National Storytelling Network

Greetings fellow Texas members of NSN,

The NSN Summit in Kansas City was hosted from July 25-28. The classes, workshops, showcases and fringes were, as usual, the very best. NSN is the best place to go to meet and hear diverse storytellers and learn from the best teachers, as well as to connect tellers and producers.

This year, Elizabeth Ellis competed in the Old Geezers Race to raise money for scholarships. I also want to highlight our El Paso member Sandra Aguirre-Magana who was featured in a showcase - she was wonderful, I loved her graceful gestures.

--Judy Allton, Texas liaison for NSN

TSA Calendar at a Glance

Sept. 22. 2018 – Building Your Personal Story (See Houston Storytellers Guild report for more information.)

Oct. 23, 2018 – Deadline to submit Workshop and Fringe Performance applications for the 34th Annual Texas Storytelling Festival

Oct. 26-27, 2018 – 15th Annual Ghost Tales at the Bath House and Spooky Tales for Kids (See Dallas Storytelling Guild report for more information.)

March 7-10, 2019 – 34th Annual Texas Storytelling Festival

TSA Accessible Website Fund

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

MEMBERSHIP

If you are not a member, come and join our storytelling family and friends in our region. We can spread the tradition and the power of storytelling. All are welcome; every member is important, whether story listener, storyteller, or story lover.

TSA's mission is to foster an appreciation of storytelling as an oral tradition, a performing art, and an educational tool. Our members are a vital part is making this mission succeed. We need you!

Even you took some time off or been a member in the past, we would love have you back!

Membership Categories: (Yearly)

Individual: $35
Family: $60
Organization: $75
Youth (age 18 and younger):.....$10

» CHECK: Print the TSA Membership Application found on our website http://tejasstorytelling.com/membership.html and mail with your check or credit card information to TSA, P.O. Box 2806, Denton, TX 76202.
» PHONE: Phone the TSA office any time: 940-380-9320. Beverly will return your call, answer your questions, and record your credit card information for billing.
» ONLINE: http://tsa23.wildapricot.org/Membership

DONATIONS

We need your support in our mission of storytelling. Please send your tax deductible donation in support of storytelling and our mission in this region. Thank you!

CHECK: Mail your donation check to TSA, P.O. Box 2806, Denton, TX 76202.

ONLINE: http://tsa23.wildapricot.org/Donations

Free Advertising for Your Storytelling Event

Submit your event on our webpage for all to see!

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

Simply go to http://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.

If you submit early enough, it will go into our next newsletter. This is just one of the services offered by the Tejas Storytelling Association.

http://www.tejasstorytelling.com/calendar.html

P.O.Box 2806
Denton, TX 76202

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

Peggy Helmick-Richardson, editor
Beverly Benbow, co-editor and contributor
Karen Wollscheid, production
Sheila Phillips, Guild News editor
Judy Allton, NSN News contributor

Thank you to all the folks who contributed to this edition of the Texas Teller:
Leslie Buie, Elizabeth Ellis, Jaye McLaughlin, Richard Nash, Jiaan Powers, Edward Southerland, Minetta Smith, Dru Woods. We apologize if anyone was missed!

The deadline for submissions to the next edition of the Tejas Teller is Friday, Sept. 28, 2018. Anyone with general storytelling news items, article queries or questions, should email Peggy at twiceuponatime@sbcglobal.net

Guild News items should be sent to Sheila Phillips at 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