



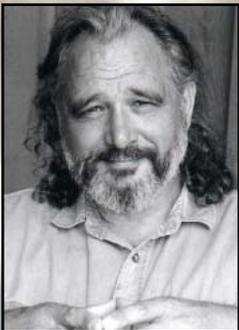
Festival provides workshops to hone skills



The Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival is more than just a great place to hear a story. It's also a great place to start learning a new skill or sharpening one that might be a bit rusty. As in previous years enrollment in the National Featured Teller Workshop A has an additional fee outside of the Festival Pass price. However, attendance to two of the other workshops is included in the Festival Pass. A snapshot of the festival schedule is included inside this *Tattler* issue. For a more detailed schedule, see our website at www.territorytellers.org.

National Featured Teller Workshop A **Jim May - Personal Narrative, Culture and Myth**

For storytellers, memoir writers, teachers, artists, people in transition and those interested in personal narrative, family stories and mythology. This workshop will encourage participants to examine their own individual and family experiences as sources for stories that instill a profound sense of integration, understanding and pride in family and culture. Our own life stories can also be seen in relationship to mythology, a compendium of the life stories of millions of people and groups who have lived through the ages and who were able to artistically transmit their reality, dreams, imagining and spiritual experience and longings through the oral tradition. We can see our own lives and journeys ahead in mythological terms, providing spiritual depth, strength and vision to our own lives.



Workshop B **Panel - So You Want To Be Published**

If you have a story lying around waiting to be published because you don't know what to do, this work-

shop is for you. A panel of Territory Teller members who are published authors will share their knowledge with you. Come and learn about the different methods of publishing. Included will be some of the publishing pitfalls to avoid. Audience members will have time to ask questions and pick the brains of the panel members. Come prepared to get information specific to your situation.

Workshop C **Jim May - Finding Your Storytelling Voice**

This workshop will explore ways of presenting stories in an authentic voice that is "true" to the life and character of the storyteller as narrator. Bring a story for which you are having trouble finding a voice, or one that you want to tell but feels uncomfortable in the delivery. We'll discuss different styles and there will be an opportunity to be critiqued by the class and by the leader.

Workshop D **Jay Stailey - Making Old Stories New: Resetting Tales For New Times**

During three years of monthly gigs at the River Cafe in Houston, Jay found himself telling tales from his island home in North Galveston County. When his neighbors didn't provide material, he used old material (sometimes hundreds of years old!) and refreshed it with an island spin. As the author of *Think Rather of Zebra: Dealing with Aspects of Poverty through Story*, Jay turned his new found skill into a book of 43 re-told tales, selling over 10,000 copies. In this workshop he will share some of these tales and the processes he has used to adapt them.



**2010-2011
Executive Board**

President

Liz Parker
eparker1964@yahoo.com

Vice-President

Darla L'Allier
djtelz@hotmail.com

Secretary

Molly Lemmons
mollyloubelle@cox.net

Treasurer

Steve Kardaleff
skardaleff@aol.com

Board Members

Loralee Cooley
storyspinning@sbcglobal.net

Tony Hardman
realchapman@yahoo.com

Sam McMichael
mcmichael@wichitaonline.net

Alvin Rodgers
alrodgers1@hotmail.com

Sam McMichael
mcmichael@wichitaonline.net

Sheron Rodgers
sheronrodgers@cox.net

Teresa Vail
san_bois@fullnet.net

Liaison Director

Shaun Perkins
okieload@sstelco.com

Parliamentarian

Kathryn Thurman
KMThurman@aol.com

Past-President

Bonnie Smith
bonnieduane@windstream.net

NSN Representative

Nancy Lenhart Matthews
larkielady@sbcglobal.net

Webmaster

Shaun Perkins
okiestoryteller@gmail.com

Tattler Editor

Tina Saner
twosaners@aol.com

President's Message

It is hard for me to believe that I have been involved with Territory Tellers since 1998. Fourteen years whiz by fast when you are having fun. After I retired from fulltime teaching, I was reading the newspaper one morning and came across a small article about a storytelling event at Midwest City Library. I thought this might be fun to attend since I had taught speech, drama and debate for 33 years.



I thought, "This could be an opportunity to perform again." I attended the event at Midwest City Library and met Rosemary Czarski. I was hooked immediately! I began to attend the monthly meetings on a regular basis. Before I knew it, Rosemary had me involved in presentations at those meetings. Then she encouraged me to join Territory Tellers. She got me involved in Territory Teller activities and introduced me to many fun, talented members. Storytelling opportunities began to open up for me. Next, I was asked to serve on the board for Territory Tellers. Over the years, I have served as a board member, treasurer, vice president and president. I have seen Territory Tellers grow and change over the past 14 years. It has been a joy to be involved in the process. Today I want to thank Rosemary Czarski for being my mentor into the storytelling world. She is a wonderful role model. I have watched her over the years give tirelessly to Territory Tellers. She is always willing to encourage new tellers and to share knowledge with them. When Rosemary does a storytelling presentation, she gives the same energy if there are 20 people present or 1 person present. Rosemary was one of the charter members of Territory Tellers and her mark will always be on the organization. Rosemary, thank you for opening up the wonderful world of storytelling to me and many others, and for being a mentor, but most of all, thank you for being a dear friend.

Member Challenge – Everyone Bring Someone

As the date of the festival draws near, I am thinking about how we need to grow our audience numbers. I have a challenge for every Territory Teller member. First, we need each member to attend the festival. Next, we need each member to bring someone new. If every member would come and bring one new person, our audience size would be great. There are activities that will appeal to every level of storyteller or listener. Listeners will have two story packed days with major concerts, mini concerts, ghost tales, and story swaps.

Beginning tellers can tell stories at one of two table telling opportunities. Table telling offers a very relaxed atmosphere for telling stories. Workshops will have information that will help beginning tellers and experienced tellers.

Continued on page 3

Member news, notes and events

Monday evening, April 23, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the Sarkey's Performing Arts Center adjoining the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art on the St. Gregory's University campus in Shawnee, **Elizabeth Ellis** will tell mother-daughter stories. A member of Territory Tellers, and a recipient of NSN's Circle of Excellence Award, Elizabeth will present these personal stories in keeping with one of the themes of The Joy Luck Club as part of the Pioneer Library System's Big Read. Adults and teens are welcome; admission is free, but come early as seating is limited. For more information, contact Anne Harris at anne@pls.lib.ok.us or visit the Big Read web site at <http://bigreadok.com>.

A Spring Series, hosted by the Library of Southwestern Christian University to connect readers and authors, encourage emerging local authors and bring campus and community together, included **Molly Lemmons** on February 18th.

Fran Stallings was in Tucson, AZ this March. Her days were full of school performances plus she spent a weekend at the Tucson Festival of the Book (attended by at least 100,000 people, at least 400 of them authors/illustrators). The storytelling stage was busy and well attended.

Producers Patsy Nixon, **Sam McMichael**, and **Steve Kardaleff** are happy to report that the 4th Annual Duncan Storytelling Festival increased its audience size to 123 listeners! Tellers new to the Duncan audience were Charlie Kriss, Gale McRay, and Ed Foley. Kriss did some cowboy poetry and told humorous stories about his experiences as a school teacher and church pastor. McRay did a serious and wistful monologue about his experiences as a championship high school baseball player, observer of the arc of a professional ball player career, using the game of baseball as a metaphor of life. Foley, a musician and teller, used the Kingston Trio's cel-

President's Message *from page 2*

There is something for everyone. Everyone bring one. Let's share the mission statement of Territory Tellers, preserve and promote the oral tradition of storytelling.

Silent Auction

Recently, I baked a cool cake for my grandchildren. It was star shaped. I bought the cake pan at the silent auction last year. Fred Peters donated the cake pan. We need items for the auction this year. Clean out your closets and garages. Find something to donate to the auction and bring it to the festival. This is a way for each member to contribute to the financial support of the festival. On June 1 and 2, I'll be ready to bid on something to bring home. I hope you will be ready to bid also.

Liz Parker

ebred "Ballad of Tom Doolin" as his performance piece, alternating telling parts and singing parts while accompanying himself on a dulcimer. Annually-anchoring teller Sam McMichael concluded the evening at the Duncan Senior Citizen Center with his insightful and hilarious "Legend of the Killer Chickens". Steve Kardaleff MC-ed..

Five members of Territory Tellers were participants in the Texas Storytelling Festival last March 8-11. **Tony Hardman** told a ghost story for Ghost Stories and **Loralee Cooley** performed in a fringe performance. **David Titus** presented a workshop on string figures. **Connie and Barbara Fisher** helped with the Silent Auction. During the membership meeting, Tony promoted the Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival which was also highly praised by the Tejas Stortelling Association Board.

Tony Hardman continues to be active in theatre at his new home. Last April he served as the Assistant Director for the OPSU musical, CLUE. He is also working with the Guymon Community Theatre to plan a storytelling concert that will be part of their regular season. The storytelling performance will be at the end of August and will feature from 4-8 storytellers.

Hear 19 Territory Tellers at 2012 Festival

Six years ago when plans were made for the first festival, one of the goals was to give Territory Teller members opportunities to tell their stories. This year 19 members will be featured in different venues. We want other members to come prepared to share a story at the two table telling events or at the four story swaps. We have many talented members. Come and hear them.

Oklahoma Voices

Tony Hardman
Molly Lemmons
Gary Parent
Bonnie Smith

Spirit of Oklahoma

Tim Couch
Loralee Cooley
Kyle Dalhem

Friday, Mini Concert

Lynn Moroney
David Titus
Al Rodgers
Paulette Geeslin

Ghost Tales

Darla L'Allier
Loralee Cooley
Tim Couch
Marilyn Hudson
Greg Rodgers

Saturday Mini Concert

Barbara Jones
Phillip Harjo
Teresa Vale
Jerry Young
Fred Peters

So many books

***Urban Legends: A collection of international tall tales and terrors* edited by Gillian Bennet & Paul Smith. Libraries Unlimited 2007. ISBN 0-313-33952-7**

Just as Jan Harold Brunvand is the guru of urban legends in the U.S., in the United Kingdom that title belongs to the trio of Rodney Dale, Gillian Bennet, and Paul Smith. Now Bennet and Smith have collaborated on an impressive volume of urban legends which will contribute to the field on both sides of the Atlantic. More than a reference book, this very readable collection covers the subject as few recent volumes have done.

After a brief introduction defining the genre, Bennet and Smith divide their survey into broad categories: city life, accidents, chance and fate, horrors, human body & diseases, animals, sex & nudity, merchandise, murder & death, and the supernatural. Each section covers dozens of legends including their history with citations of published examples and field work done by storytellers and collectors.

While the legends are primarily British, references to worldwide examples are cited from as recently as two years ago. The book provides numerous indexes, and an appendix of urban legends found in films and literature. The authors are keen to relate these contemporary belief tales to much older traditional stories, fables, and myths. Urban legends aren't everyone's cup of tea, but as someone who does enjoy them, this book comes highly recommended.

--reviewed by Robert Rodriguez

***Ghostly Gals and Spirited Women: Tales Old and New of Women who Transgress, Transform, or Transfix--and Transcend!* CD by Mary Grace Ketner © 2009. Order through <http://talesandlegends.net/> or CDBaby.**

STORYTELLING WORLD winner.

I love ghost stories so this collection was right on target for me. The tales are gathered from around the world, from Ketner's own beloved Southwest to China, Scandinavia and points between. "Pretty Maid Ibronka" sounds like a pretty little story but the malevolent force in the tale is anything but pretty--and yet who can stop listening as Ibronka seeks to be free of the dreadful acquaintance she made? The repetitive chant becomes more and more sinister as the story progresses and had the listener bending forward to listen intensely to this driving tale. "La Llorona," a story from the Southwest US that has several variations, reminds us that promises may not always be kept, and the even death may not end the suffering of some poor souls.

Ketner does not leave us in dark places to dwell, however. The CD offers a ghostly riddle story from China as well as a love story and a humorous yet thoughtful personal story that explores Ketner's own journey of transformation. This is a well-balanced collection of stories attractively packaged and professionally performed by Mary Grace Ketner, a lady who knows how to transcend distance so that the listener feels her presence as the stories unfold.

***1001 Years of 1001 Nights: Tales from Scheherazade* retold by Mary Grace Ketner, CD © 2011. Order through**

<http://talesandlegends.net/> or CDBaby.

It has been centuries since Scheherazade wove her magical tales to prevent the loss of her head. Yet these tales continue to captivate us with their mystery, humor and underlying messages. We meet Scheherazade as she makes her proposal that she tell a new story each night to the King in exchange for her life--if he enjoys the story, he will not behead her, allowing her to live yet one more day and weave yet one more tale. For 1001 nights Scheherazade spun her stories; Ketner includes the story of Scheherazade and one of her tales, "Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves," on this recording along with two other classic tales from world folklore that have their roots in stories from the 1001 Nights.

Many people only know Ali Baba through the Disney version of the story, but of course there is so much more to it than that! Ketner unravels this long, intricate story layer by layer and we follow Ali Baba's fortunes and misfortunes through bloodshed, mischief, love and cleverness for almost forty minutes of this CD, and yet never does the tale become stale, confusing or boring. It's a spellbinder of the first order, filled with characters both lovable and laughable, clever and conniving.

"The Peddler of Swaffham" is both funny and poignant as a poor man follows his dream, to the derision of his neighbor. Ketner gives the tale what it needs: humor, pathos and celebration in a fine telling. She follows this with a romping rendition of one of my favorite American folktales, "Old Dry Frye." I was surprised to read on her liner notes that this tale too has roots in one of Scheherazade's stories--a sign of the kind of attention to detail Ketner gives her research and her stories.

I listened to both CD's while on a road trip with my 13-year-old granddaughter Hannah. Hannah was as spellbound as I was; these CD's scored big time with her, and if a storyteller can win the praise of a teenager, well, that's high praise indeed.

--reviewed by Susanna "Granny Sue" Holstein.



The Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival Official Hotel will be the **Best Western Seminole Inn and Suites** in Seminole.

The rate for Festival participants will be \$80.00, \$91.00 with tax. The hotel contact number is 405-382-3139. Tell them you are with Territory Tellers for the Storytelling Festival. Last year the hotel did fill up so we suggest early reservations.

TT Annual Meeting: Membership vote on several issues

The annual meeting of the Territory Tellers will be held in Seminole, OK at the Enoch Kelly Haney Center at Seminole State College on Saturday, June 2, 2011 at 2:45 pm. Be sure to attend and register your vote on several key issues.

The following amendment has been proposed for the Territory Tellers Bylaws and will be up for vote:

“Board meetings shall be held in June, September, November, January and March at a time and place designated by the board.”

At present the Bylaws, Article III, Section 1 states that board meetings includes a date in February. Prior

to having our own Festival, we used Wintertales in February as the venue for our Annual Meeting. Previous changes to the by-laws allow us to have our Annual Meeting at our Festival. The order of the remaining months the board meets have also been reordered to reflect the current membership year.

Proposed Slate of Officers

Another item of business at the Annual Meeting in June is the presentation of the proposed slate of officers and board members for the next year. The Nominating Committee has contacted the following TT members and has gotten their agreement to serve in the following capacities, if elected:

President - Darla L'Allier

Vice President - Tony Hardman

Secretary - Molly Lemmons

Treasurer - *remains open*

Board Members

Bonnie Smith

Barbara Jones

Steve Kardaleff

Marilyn Hudson

Sheron Rodgers and Teresa Vail have one year remaining on their two year term

Elizabeth Parker will serve on the board as Past-President. Appointed positions round out the board membership: Shaun Perkins (Liaison Director and Webmaster), Kathryn Thurman (Parliamentarian) Nancy Lenhart Matthews (NSN Representative) and Tina Saner (*Tattler* Editor).

TT Winter Retreat

When storytellers gather, tales just seem to flow around the room. That was the situation in January when the Territory Tellers gathered at Oklahoma's Lake Murray Lodge at Ardmore for a wintertime storytelling retreat and board meeting. From the moment of check-in until check-out time the next day, tellers from around the state and Texas sat around the lobby telling a few informal tales, catching up with old friends and meeting new people who had joined the organization.

The weather cooperated perfectly. Members spent Friday evening sitting around the fireplace and offering a storyteller's showcase for members and other lodge guests. On Saturday, the Festival steering committee and then the board of directors dealt with their regular business meetings. At the same time, others in the group held a story swap—because that is what storytellers do when they get together. Later in the afternoon, the group hosted another fireside gathering in the lobby of the lodge. In the evening, lodge visitors and residents of the community congregated around the fireplace again for another session of stories presented by TT members.

The outing drew 26 tellers and from all appearances and comments, everyone had a great time at the retreat. Our hope is that the group will meet again in 2012 or 2013 for another retreat at one of our state's beautiful state lodges to share stories. It was a great way to learn and share the joys of storytelling.

Sheron Rodgers



Greg Rodgers welcomes those gathered around the fireplace at Lake Murray Lodge in Ardmore this past January to hear stories.

Sponsors signing up for individual Festival events

Slots are filling up on sponsoring an individual event at the Festival. Sponsorship means at a minimum that a sign will be posted at each event naming the event and listing your name, or the name of your business. The sign will be approximately 8 1/2 x 11. If you prefer to provide your own signage, you can do so. Please make your checks payable to "Territory Tellers Storytelling Festival."

Friday

Table Telling 1	\$75 ⁰⁰	.....
Lunch Story Swap 1..	\$75 ⁰⁰	.....
Snack Area	\$60 ⁰⁰	..... Colony Tellabration
Oklahoma Voices	\$150 ⁰⁰	.....
Story Swap 2	\$75 ⁰⁰	.....
Jim May 90 m wksp ..	\$100 ⁰⁰	..... Velma & Chester Weems
Mini Concert "West"	\$75 ⁰⁰	.....
Evening Performance	\$250 ⁰⁰	..... Kimble / Saner Families
Ghost Tales	\$100 ⁰⁰	.....

Saturday

Publishing Panel	\$75 ⁰⁰	.....
Story Swap 3	\$75 ⁰⁰	.....

Jim May 60 m wksp ...	\$75 ⁰⁰	.....	Seminole Wind Farms
Jay Stailey 90 m wksp	\$100 ⁰⁰	.....	Watonga Comm Theatre
Mini Concert "East" ...	\$75 ⁰⁰	.....	Elizabeth Parker
Lunch Story Swap 4...	\$75 ⁰⁰	.....
Snack Area	\$60 ⁰⁰	.....
Table Telling 2	\$75 ⁰⁰	.....
Spirit of Oklahoma	\$150 ⁰⁰	.....
Story Swap 5	\$75 ⁰⁰	.....
Evening Performance.	\$250 ⁰⁰	.....	Pryor Petroleum, Inc.
Closing Reception	\$200 ⁰⁰	.....	Nuts & More, Gose OK

Silent Auction items donated by members

Members are beginning to respond to the need for items for the silent auction at the festival.

Teresa Vale is donating a quilt, Liz Parker is donating a silk shawl, Pat and Steve Kardaleff are donating several books, Lorelee Cooley is donating some special mugs. Tina Saner is bringing an afghan. Sounds like the beginning of our own version of *Stone Soup*.

Please, everyone check your closets and storage areas. Find an item that would appeal to someone else and donate it for the auction. The silent auction has been a great fundraiser at the festival. This is a way for each member to contribute to the festival. While you are at the festival, don't forget to check out the items and add your bid to the list. Each year we have a few items that develop a good-natured bidding war.

Tony Hardman, realchapman@yahoo.com, and Lorelee Cooley, storyspinning@sbcglobal.net, are in charge of the silent auction this year. If you have something to donate, please let them know about the item. At the latest, items need to be brought to the festival by Friday morning. Bids on items will be accepted until 1:00 pm on Saturday. Winners of items will be announced at the end of the general membership meeting on Saturday afternoon.

Festival Schedule

Friday Snapshot

9 am	Registration Opens	
9:30 am		Table Telling
11:15 am		Lunch Swap 1
1 pm	Oklahoma Voices Concert	
2:15 pm	Workshop A	
2:30 pm		Swap 2
4:00 pm		Mini Concert
5:15 pm	Supper Break	
7 pm	Featured Tellers Evening Concert	
9:30 pm	FREE Ghost Stories <i>Campus Pavilion, bring your lawn chairs</i>	

Saturday Snapshot

8 am	Registration opens	
8:30 am	Workshop B <i>Publishing</i>	
9:00 am		Swap 3
10 am		
10:30 am	Workshop D <i>Jay Stailey</i>	Mini Concert
12 pm		
12:30 pm	Lunch Swap 4	Lunch Table Telling
2:30 pm	Spirit of Oklahoma Concert	
3:45 pm	Territory Tellers Annual Meeting	
4 pm		Swap 5
5:00 pm	Supper Break	
7 pm	Featured Tellers Evening Concert	
9:30 pm	Closing Reception	

Music begins 30 minutes prior to each concert. Tellers perform different stories at each Evening Concert. Bring a sweater or light wrap. Temperatures vary from room to room. A full, detailed schedule is available on-line at www.territorytellers.com.



6619 S 4382
 Locust Grove OK 74352

Address Correction Requested

Is your membership current? Send in your renewal today!

Territory Tellers is a growing network of individual tellers, listeners and local storytelling circles. Get connected by joining our statewide organization! Dues are \$25 for individual and \$40 for family membership per year.

Full Name _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Country _____

Home Phone _____

e-mail address _____

Web site (optional) _____

Are you a storyteller? _____ a story listener? _____

\$25 individual \$40 family \$40 organizational

Please complete this form and mail it with a check payable to Territory Tellers to:
 Territory Tellers • 6619 S 4382 • Locust Grove OK 74352