

President's Message

Howdy and a heartfelt thank you to all Territory Teller members who attended our festival this spring in Seminole! A round of applause goes out to our past president, Liz Parker for facilitating a fantastic festival this past June. Now that summer is here, I am looking forward to the cooler temperatures of September, therefore I would like to invite you all to attend the Oklahoma City Storytelling Festival the weekend of Sept. 7-8!

Our board has contributed more than most of you all would realize for the past several years to our Tellabration events, festivals and other storytelling

activities. This organization would not exist if not for the tireless efforts of these volunteer tellers and listeners. We welcome this year a few new board members into the fold and some tried and true past board members are back with us again!

We are currently planning activities for the Oklahoma City storytelling festival and when those are put in place, the information will be on our website and facebook page for your information. Soon you will be receiving via email, a survey (survey monkey) request for your ideas for this year of storytelling

activities, festival thoughts and retreat suggestions. In closing, I have one last request to our members: we are looking for a member to fill our treasurer slot for this year, if this appeals to you please contact me via our web page.

Storytelling, the age old tradition of family, friendship and folly!



Darla L'Allier

taking a short survey to get input from members.

If you are on our group email list, you received an email with a link to the survey. If you did not receive the email and would like to take the 6-question survey, please email Shaun Perkins at territorytellers@hotmail.com, and she will send you the link. Or you can complete the survey below and mail it in to the address on the back page.

We encourage your input about the festival. Storytelling is all about the audience and we want to create an event that audience members will love.

- 1- Would you volunteer to help organize the festival?
Yes
No
Maybe
2. If you can help plan the festival, could you attend meetings on Saturdays during the planning process?
Yes
No
Not applicable
3. Which location for the festival do you prefer?
Oklahoma City Area
Shawnee
Seminole
Tulsa Area
4. Which time of year do you prefer for the festival?
Spring (March, April, May)
Summer (June)
Fall (September, October)
5. How long should the festival be?
Friday and Saturday
Saturday only
6. Which national teller would you like to see at the festival, who has not been a teller at our past festivals?

2013 Festival Survey

In order to plan the best Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival possible for 2013, Territory Tellers is

**2012-2013
Executive Board**

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TT Annual Meeting: **Membership okays bylaw change**

The annual meeting of the Territory Tellers took place in Seminole, OK at the Enoch Kelly Haney Center at Seminole State College on Saturday, June 2, 2011 at 2:45 pm. Besides hearing a report on the past year's activities, attending members voted to approve an amendment to the bylaws.

Article III, Section 1 of the bylaws now reads:

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

This change more accurately reflects the way the board meets, especially after the previous year's bylaw change to have our membership meeting at our Festival.

New officers and directors were also approved. The new list of board members is listed on page two of this newsletter, along with email contact information.

Sept 6-8, 2012 Oklahoma City Storytelling Festival

Featured tellers for the 2012 Oklahoma City Storytelling Festival have been announced. They are Dolores Hydock, Antonio Sacre, Steve Poltz and Clare Murphy.

Territory Tellers will host the Friday noon story swap. Our board Vice President Tony Hardman will be the host and MC for the Friday event. If you cannot attend the festival on Friday, be sure and check out the Oklahoma Olio on Saturday September 8 at noon. Four Territory Tellers will tell along with our host/MC Valerie Kimble. Featured tellers for the 2012 Olio are: Peggy Kaney, Tahlequah; Shawn Perkins, Locust Grove; Tony Hardman, Goodwell and Teresa Vail, LeQuire.

You can keep on top of the latest news regarding the OKC Festival by checking their website (www.artscouncilokc.com/content/oklahoma-city-storytelling-festival) periodically.

Territory Tellers: By the numbers

Website & Social Media

Facebook: 721 friends

Twitter: 57 followers

Webmaster Shaun Perkins continue to post updates about TT and storytelling events whenever she is able.

Membership: 71 currently paid-up members

Member news, notes and events

Sam McMichael reported that opportunities for an audience continue to grow in Southwest Oklahoma. Saturday night June the 16th there was an open mic for poetry and short prose in Lawton. Each reader was encouraged to keep his/her presentation to about 10 minutes. Admission was free. Coffee was free. Quite often, the verse was free.

Molly Lemmons performed an original interpretation from *Gone with the Wind* (a parody), at the Ms. Senior Oklahoma Pageant on Saturday, July 14th. Unfortunately the outcome was not available at press time. Molly did state that "As first-runner up for this honor in 2011, I learned that win or lose, senior ladies of Oklahoma are the finest anywhere, and the joy of "connecting with them" is as great as the joy of winning would be."

Several of our members celebrated story as a part of the Charles Page Library Summer Reading program on Saturday, June 23. **Liz Parker** was MC and **Steve Kardaleff, Molly Lemmons, Bonnie Smith and Tony Hardman** told stories.

Marilyn Hudson was included in Doug Dawgz blog about Oklahoma City history. The blog, posted June 29, 2012, dubs her with a new moniker: *Marilyn Hudson, Bizarre History Genie*. The blog entry concludes, "Thanks, Marilyn Hudson, for the contribution you have made, are making and will make, to the fascinating study of the history of our city and state! Hats off to you!"

If you would like to read the blog in it's entirety, log on to <http://www.dougdawgz.blogspot.com/>

Upcoming dates

Any TT member or potential member is welcome to attend board meetings and the retreat.

Festival Special Board Meeting

Sat, Aug 11, 11:30 am
Best Western, Stroud

TT Board Meeting

Sat, Sept 8, 3 pm
OKC Storytelling Festival

TT Board Meeting (Tentative)

Sat, Nov 3
Robbers Cave, Wilburton

TT Winter Retreat

January 25-26, 2013
WesternHills (Sequoyah State Park), Wagoner
\$50 special Lodge rate until Oct. 29 for TT guests
918-772-2545

Missing your name in this column? So are we! Please send your storytelling event, recent past or future, to *Tattler* editor Tina Saner at twosaners@aol.com. Other TT members want to know what you've been up to!



Darla L'Allier

Due to weather concerns, Ghost Tales was brought inside the Haney Center. Host Kathryn Thurman is seen here with the special campfire made just for the occasion.



Tina Saner

Table Telling sessions on both days of the Festival were well received. Table Telling is more informal than a Story Swap and can be used to help beginning tellers learn how to craft a story.

So many books

***The New Book of Plots: Constructing Engaging Narratives for Oral and Written Storytelling* by Loren Niemi. Parkhurst Brothers 2012. ISBN 10: 1935166-63-8.**

This is NOT your usual handbook of “master plots.” The writers’ guides you can probably find in your library tend to list X number of plot types commonly found in the western world such as hero’s journey, who dunnit and other riddles, boy meets girl/boy loses girl/boy gets girl. Although Niemi covers the hero’s journey type, his focus is different. He’s not interested in the content so much as the sequence of plot elements. How many ways can you scramble that linear ABCD and still bring your listeners safely home?

It’s not a uniquely modern idea --Homer used flash-back (DABCD) in the Odyssey. But Niemi gives a post-modern twist to everything he touches, including “Jack and the Beanstalk” which he morphs to illustrate each of his scrambled sequences. Each section cites novels and movies that Niemi has found illustrating a variant line, vis “Chicago” (ACE concurrent with BDF), and he provides one or more examples of his own original fictions for each. Best of all, each section ends with Exercises challenging the reader to compose (or recompose) a story along altered lines.

This book could be useful to retellers of traditional tales who want to add their own fresh, creative spin. It would be even more useful to composers of original tales, not just fiction and personal stories but also history and other factual narratives. Who says they have to be linear? Just so’s you know what you’re doing...

Highly recommended (but not for beginners).
--reviewed by Fran Stallings

***Kentucky Folktales: Revealing Stories, Truths, and Outright Lies* by Mary Hamilton. University Press of Kentucky 2012. ISBN 978-0-8131-3600-4.**

A good folktale collection has source citations in the back. In even better collections, the reteller’s Notes explain what changes may have been made so that the story fits today’s listeners and settings, or the reteller’s heart. A conscientious reader will flip back to these sections in order to understand better what they’re being given in the retold tale.

Mary Hamilton has taken this transparency several steps further. She places her notes and citations up front, immediately after each story, where even the casual reader can’t miss them. She provides archival transcripts of many of the original folk tellings, making charts to compare/contrast elements where many variants were collected. She carefully explains changes she has made, crediting listeners’ suggestions and documenting

how the stories have evolved in the telling.

You’ll enjoy the ghost stories, tall tales, European folktales that made themselves at home in the Kentucky hills, and even some family stories from the Hamilton front porch. But this book is more than a collection of entertaining tales, wonderfully retold. I think it qualifies as a textbook of Best Practice, illustrating how a conscientious artist finds, researches, and develops good stories. I highly recommend it to all my storytelling colleagues!

(NOTE: Hamilton expects that we can develop our own versions of these stories, working from the transcripts and other sources she provides. If on the other hand we want to tell HER retold version, she’ll give permission if we contact her at <hiddenspring@earthlink.net>.)

--reviewed by Fran Stallings



Teresa Black and her banjo welcome a tour group to the Saturday afternoon concert.

Chester Weems



David Titus took a break during the Festival by sitting down in the lobby and teaching some string figures to some eager young students.

Darla L'Allier

Territory Tellers Joins the Blogging World

A blog is a website designed for short, timely posts that people can comment on. Some people use blogs as a version of an online journal or diary. Others use them to start discussions on various topics. The Territory Tellers has initiated a new blog.

It will be a companion site to our main one. On it, we encourage you to interact by commenting on posts and sharing your insights about events, tellers, resources, and other storytelling news.

The blog can be reached through a link to our main site—territorytellers.org. You can also go directly to it by simply replacing the top level domain (org). The blog address is territorytellers.com.

Online Storytelling Festival features racial justice stories

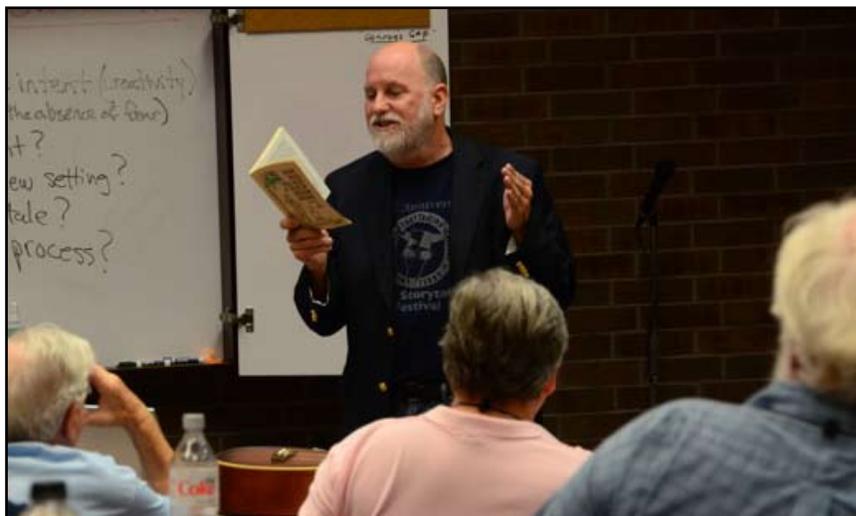
On August 1, 2 and 3rd there will be the first online storytelling festival devoted to racial justice stories. This will be a free Facebook event. During those three days, every hour on the hour from 8 am to midnight (CDT), a story video by a professional storyteller dealing with their multicultural experiences will be posted on the JustStories Storytelling Festival Facebook Page (www.Facebook.com/JustStories).

For the last nine years, the JustStories Storytelling Festival has been a live storytelling event in the Chicago area. But this year for its 10th anniversary the festival is going to the web in hopes of reaching an even bigger audience with stories that can heal our racial and ethnic divides. Think of it – on the internet there are no geographic boundaries or time limitations. This storytelling festival about inclusivity can now include everyone!

If you are home and around a computer and want to hear a great story in a festival with a healing mission, I recommend it! Just log onto their Facebook page to learn more.
—Shaun Perkins

The blog will have pictures, information and events of interest to the TT storytelling world. It will also contain storytelling-related book, CD, and DVD reviews from past Territorial Tattler issues. Additionally, bios of members will be added to the blog as a benefit of membership.

Storyteller and TT board member Marilyn A. Hudson will be maintaining the site. If you have information for the site, you can contact her at marilynahudson@yahoo.com.



Chester Weems

Jay Stailey, Regional Featured Teller from Texas, reads one of his “old stories made new” during his Saturday morning workshop.



Chester Weems

Jim May, National Featured Teller, almost lost the spotlight when he invited a young volunteer to join him on stage and she stole the show.



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 Locust Grove OK 74352

Address Correction Requested

Tattler Deadlines
 We want to include the information you are interested in! Please have information in by the following dates for inclusion in the Tattler:
 October 1, 2012 • January 18, 2013
 March 8, 2013 • July 7, 2013

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 _____ Work 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:
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