



10th Anniversary SOOSF Is Just Around the Corner

The tenth annual 2016 Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival welcomes Barbara McBride-Smith back to Oklahoma as featured teller.

No stranger to Oklahoma story lovers, Barbara will transport you from the ancient world of the Greek gods and goddesses to the post-modern experiences of her Baby Boomer generation, narrate the lives of shady ladies and bad boys of the Bible, navigate



literature with the heart and soul of a librarian, all with a Texas-born cheerleader's perspective. Entertainer, historian, preacher, and storyteller all rolled into one, Barbara McBride-Smith serves up sweet truth with a side of southern grit. Through her stories, she takes you on a journey through your life as it intersects with hers and brings you back home to yourself! Although she grew up in Waco, Texas, she

found her way to Oklahoma and settled down for three decades, serving more than 25,000 students as a school librarian and was named the Oklahoma School Librarian of the Year in 2007. Simultaneously she held the position of adjunct instructor at Phillips Theological Seminary, mentoring pastors in the art of storytelling for ministry. In the fall of 2014, Barbara made her way back to Texas, becoming once again a bonafide Texan living on Galveston Island. As a performing storyteller, Barbara has entertained audiences across the U.S. and is a frequent headliner

at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee. Her stories have been featured on Sirius XM and National Public Radio. She is a member of the National Storytelling Circle of Excellence and a recipient of the John Henry Faulk Award for Outstanding Contributions to Storytelling.

In addition to Friday and Saturday evening performances and a workshop for librarians and teachers on Saturday morning, Barbara will be offering a Master Class Friday morning at the LaQuinta Inn, our host hotel. More information on how to register for the Master Class will be posted on our website and in the next Tattler as it will be outside of the festival registration.

All you tall tale aficionados need to start getting ready now for a Whopper Contest on Saturday afternoon.

Several "fringe events" are being scheduled. For any early arrivals on Thursday night there will be a StorySlam at Stables Cafe in downtown Guthrie. And for those that like all things that go bump in the night, you will have a chance to sign up for Guthrie's own Ghost Walk.

The tentative schedule for our weekend in Guthrie is shaping up to have something for everyone:

Thursday -6/9 (Pre-festival events)

6 pm Pre-Registration Social at LaQuinta Inn
7:30 pm Story Slam

Friday - 6/10

9 am Registration
10 am Silent Auction opens
Master Class with Barbara McBride Smith
(there will be a separate charge for this class outside of your festival registration)
1:15 pm StorySlam Workshop with Ryan Howell
2:45 pm Mini Concert
4 pm Story Swap
6:15 pm Pre-concert music
6:45 pm Evening Performance with TT tellers and Barbara McBride-Smith
9:30 pm Ghost Stories

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Opportunities to Support the Festival

Of course we want you to attend! What would a storytelling festival be without participants? And we always love folks who volunteer their time to help out. But if you are itching to help out more, we've got several ways you can.

Individuals, groups and businesses can choose to become Sponsors of a specific session/event at the Festival. This not only assists with operational expenses, but it will provide the Sponsor with some recognition.

\$50 per Story Swap

\$50 per Mini Concert

\$50 per Workshop

\$50 for Ghost Stories

\$200 per Evening Concert

In January we received our first sponsorship. Sheron Rodgers has sponsored the Biggest Whopper Contest in memory of her husband

Al and her son Greg.

"They both loved to tell a whopper," Sheron commented before offering to sponsor the event. We couldn't agree more.

You can also be a sponsor/donor for a specific cause. Valarie Kimble has stepped to the plate and has paid for advertising in the Tejas Festival program.

Do you have an item or two that could find a new home? Are you looking for venues to promote a new book, item or program? Do you want to make a monetary impact on this year's Festival?

If you answered yes to at least one of the following questions, look no further, the answer is here, the SOOSF Silent Auction! We get some wonderful items to display on those tables. In the past we've had items such as jewelry, books, pottery and gift certificates. Clothing and framed art have also found their way to the tables of our silent auction. 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. Last year's auction brought in \$600 to help with festival expenses.



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:

March 1, 2016 • July 15, 2016

October 1, 2016 • January 15, 2017



President's Message

Help Wanted!

1) Territory Tellers Members! Please make sure your membership is current! We have about 50 current paid members out of the registered 100 members. We need all members to be current on dues to support our membership organization. An individual membership is only \$25 per year

but you can bring in all your family members or organization for only \$40 per year. Family members or your organization do not have to perform. Our 10th Storytelling Festival will need listeners, helpers and supporters of all kinds.

We also need:

- 2) Sponsors and Donors to help with funding for the best 10th Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival ever!
- 3) Storytellers, young and old, new and mature, professional and amateur, beginners and advanced, hobby and adventurers.
- 4) Workshop leaders in all areas.
- 5) Festival Workers.
- 6) Youth and Children Storytelling instructors and leaders.
- 7) Mini-concert and Olio performers.
- 8) Photos of TT's past Festivals, and writers for the Souvenir program.
- 9) Storytelling Slammers.

Diversity still reigns true for Territory Tellers in all areas. Re-

member everyone and all kinds of storytelling are appreciated and encouraged.

I hope that as you read this issue of the Tattler that you get excited to see what we have planned for this very special tenth festival anniversary. I hope that those courageous ladies that planned and knitted together the very first one in Seminole will be pleased to see their baby at ten.

Let us hear from you. To join or renew membership go to <http://territorytellers.com> and use PayPal for payment or use the form on page 6 and send it and your check to 6619 S. 4382, Locust Grove, OK 74352

To help with the Festival, please send your name with a description of what you would like to do for our 10th Anniversary Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival to our Festival Steering Committee chair, Anita Baker, anita.a.baker@gmail.com.



Several Territory Tellers gathered at the 2015 SOOSF to welcome you to attend the 2016 festival.

10th Anniversary SOOSF...

Saturday - 6/11

- 9 am Registration, Table Telling, Silent Auction and networking
- 10:15 am Childrens' Storytelling Workshop
- Barbara McBride Smith Workshop for Librarians and Teachers
- 10:45 am Family Story Hour
- 1 pm Ethnic Storytelling
- 2:30 pm Mini Concert
- 4 pm Silent Auction ends
- General Membership meeting

- 6:15 pm Story Swap for any non-TT members
- 6:15 pm Pre-concert music
- 6:45 pm Biggest Whopper Contest
- 8 pm Featured Teller - Barbara McBride Smith
- 9:15 pm Reception

Sunday - 6/12 (post-festival events)

- 9am Stories from the Bible

Most events will take place at either LaQuinta Inn or the Guthrie Junior High School.

News, notes and events

Don't forget to share what you've been up to with the rest of us! Email Tina Saner at twosaners@aol.com with your activities to be included in the next issue of the *Tattler*.

Fran Stallings told stories to her grandson's 5th grade class and two more in Pittsburgh PA, with great follow up from teachers: students wrote prequels and plays based on the stories. In January she did a week-long residency at Law Ting Pong Secondary School in Hong Kong, including a day of teacher training; then two primary schools in Macau.

Shaun Perkins, TT webmaster, has been working on a new website for the Territory Tellers. territorytellers.com. Do you want a bio page on this site? Would you like your books, services, CDs, etc. promoted on the site? We can make it happen--that's a benefit of TT membership. Here's what you need to do to help this site look great and have the information that people need when they are looking for storytellers and storytelling information in Oklahoma:

1. Check the Tellers page to see if you are

listed. If you are listed, that means your dues are current. To pay membership dues (which will be good for one year from the day you pay them), please go here: <http://territorytellers.com/membership/>

2. If your dues are current and you had a bio page on our old website or you have a website that Shaun is aware of, your name will have a link to that page. If you want anything changed on the page (photo, information, links, etc.), please email Shaun.

3. Look at the Resources Page: This is a page that will include books, CDs and videos by TT members. Please send Shaun links to any of these that you would like her to list.

Any questions or comments/feedback? You can email Shaun at okiestoryteller@gmail.com.

Upcoming Storytelling Events

March 10-13

Tejas Storytelling Festival - Denton, TX

Stirring the Pot: A Tantalizing Taste of Storytelling Stew, features TT member Eldrena Douma, along with Robert Jones, Minton Sparks, and Antonio Sacre.

March 18, 2016

Territory Tellers in Story- 7-8 pm Locust Grove

The Locust Grove Arts Alliances hosts this family storytelling hour featuring Elaine Childers, Connie Fischer and Fran Stallings. Free and open to the public. Refreshments provided. A silent auction whose proceeds will be split between the LGAA and the VFW Hall, will take bids between 6:00 and 6:45. Bidding closes at 6:45 and winners will be announced and can claim with items at 8 pm.

March 19, 2016

TT Board Meeting - 10 am - noon, Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry, Locust Grove

All TT members are invited to attend any of the board meetings

April 9

ROMPfest: Your Poetry Autograph - 2-5 pm, Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry, Locust Grove

Celebrate National Poetry Month with this annual festival devoted to writing, reading and sharing poetry. The special theme is *Your Poetry Autograph*, and all attendees will receive a free autograph book. Special guests include Leslie Hannah, Jessica Isaacs and Roxanne Yates. Go to ROMPoetry.com for more information.

April 29-24

Oklahoma 89er Day Celebration

A celebration of the historic Oklahoma Territory Land Run of April 22, 1889. This year marks the Official 87th Annual '89er Celebration in Guthrie, Oklahoma. The Celebration includes a huge Carnival, Chuck Wagon Feed & Auction, Rodeo and a Rodeo Queen, Country Dance, Food and Craft Vendors and the largest and oldest Parade in the State.

May 2016 TBA

TT Board Meeting - Guthrie

All TT members are invited to attend any of the board meetings

June 10-11

Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival - Guthrie



Our host hotel for the festival is the
La Quinta Inns and Suites
406 Heather Road, Guthrie, OK

They have set aside 20+ rooms for us and a meeting room for 50 that they are allowing us to use for free!

The special rate is \$99/night + tax for all rooms. Call the hotel (405-293-6000) and just identify yourself as a "Territory Tellers" before April 30, 2016.

<http://www.laquintaguthrie.com/en/room-features.html>

March 10–13, 2016 • Civic Center in Denton, Texas

Our Southern Cousins Put On A Pretty Good Shindig Too

The 31st Annual Texas Storytelling Festival “Stirring the Pot: A Tantalizing Taste of Storytelling Stew” produced by the Tejas Storytelling Association will serve up stories from these amazing featured tellers: Rev. Robert Jones, Minton Sparks, Antonio Sacre, Eldrena Douma on March 10–13, 2016 at the Civic Center in Denton, Texas. Check their website for registration and additional details: <http://www.tejasstorytelling.com/index.html>.

The right Reverend Robert Jones, blues teller and singer from Detroit, Michigan, is a nationally known and featured storyteller whose resume includes performances at the National Storytelling Festival (Jonesborough, TN), the late Kathryn Windham’s Tale Tellin’ Festival (Selma, AL) and The Ark Storytelling Festival (Ann Arbor, MI). Robert’s stories combine elements of music and humor, along with emotion, fact and fiction to convey the truths found in our shared culture. Sometimes he tells personal and family stories and at other times he tells stories drawn from the lives and legends of blues and gospel performers that he grew up listening to and learning about. Many of his tales center around struggles of race and faith. He will certainly “sweeten the pot”.

Minton Sparks fuses music, poetry and her intoxicating gift for storytelling to paint word pictures of the rural South that put you square in the middle of the people and the places she knows like the back of her hand. During her recent first foray into Texas, Minton cooked up tales for a full house at the Mucky Duck in Houston, accompanied by guitarist John Jackson. Musician Marshall Chapman proclaims, “I have seen Minton Sparks. And if she’s not the ghost child of Flannery O’Connor and Hank Williams, then cotton doesn’t grow in a cotton field.” Minton is excited to make her first appearance at the Texas Storytelling Festival.

Antonio Sacre, born in Boston to a Cuban father and Irish-American mother, brings his own “special sauce” to the TSA community’s recipe

for Storytelling Stew. Antonio is one of America’s preeminent bilingual storytellers. Based in Los Angeles, he shares his stories, books and talents with school children throughout Southern California and beyond. He has appeared at the National Book Festival at the Library of Congress, the National Storytelling Festival, and numerous museums, libraries and festivals throughout

the country and the world. His first of four books, *The Barking Mouse*, reinforces his belief in the richness of our multi-lingual culture. Antonio teaches children and adults about the power of story (in any language) and works as the storyteller-in-residence at the UCLA Lab School. He will be providing the Sunday Master class at this year’s festival.

The Tejas Storytelling Association is thrilled to welcome back the rich voice of Texas sto-

ryteller Eldrena Douma. Storytelling and Pueblo singing were a way of life in Eldrena’s childhood. During everyday activities family and friends shared pueblo stories, songs, and family history. Reflecting back, Eldrena realizes that listening to story allowed her to strengthen and stimulate the use of her imagination and creativity. Now living in Canyon, Texas, Eldrena is on the Texas Touring Roster for the Texas Commission on the Arts. As a professional storyteller and educator, Eldrena offers captivating stories of American Indian folklore, music, and history, including a savory selection of family and personal tales.

Besides story concerts, workshops and a children’s concert, the Texas Storytelling Festival sponsors a Liars’ Contest! If you are a truth stretcher, fabricator, fibber, or even a prevaricator come share your whopper. Only members of the State Legislature are barred from entering. This is an amateur competition. Rules are:

Eight to ten minute time limit.

Family friendly material.

Points for originality and presentation.

Questions? Contact Donna Ingham, contest producer, at tell.write@gmail.com.



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:

Territory Tellers · 6619 S 4382 · Locust Grove OK 74352

