

President's Message

The month of January ended with a very successful retreat at Roman Nose State Park. The lodge was comfortable and accommodating. The weather was warm and nice.

Shaun Perkins gave an incredible workshop on using words and pictures to find and create stories. During the evenings we had two successful storytelling concerts. We had a successful steering committee meeting and general board meeting as well and we were able to get a lot accomplished.

The first night we had a small audience. Stories were told by Barbara Jones, Lorelee Cooley, Liz Parker and Fran Stallings. The audience consisted mostly of Territory Teller members, but two of our audience members were a young boy and

his great grandmother. As our members told their stories, I watched this young man and could tell he was truly enjoying the program. His eyes seemed to twinkle and his smile seemed a mile wide. I remember thinking to myself; a young storyteller is being born.

My instinct proved correct. The next morning Steve and Pat

Kardaleff told me he wanted to tell a story. As I was acting as emcee, I made a spot for him. That night came and we had a lot more people from the lodge join us. Stories were told by Fran Stallings,

Lorelee Cooley, Steve and Pat, and a newcomer to me, Nikki Austin. About half-way through the program, I introduced the young man. His name was Brian Buchanan. The story he told was very brief. It ended so soon, it is difficult to remember the story he told or what it was about.

I am not going to tell you that it was a stellar storytelling performance. That would be a lie. It was obvious that Brian was nervous and that it was his first attempt at any type of public speaking. He shifted from one foot to the other. Even though he showed a good vocal pattern, it cracked from stage fright. He had good eye contact, but one felt he really wanted to be looking at the floor.

However, every eye in that audience was on him. What's more, they were with him. When he finished his story, which ended almost as quickly as it began, there was a pause, then a huge round of applause. His shyness overtook him as he returned to his seat, but the twinkle in his eyes and the mile wide smile was there.

At the end of the program, I told my version of the story of the eagle who lived with chickens and then learned to fly. I told that story just for him. When the eagle in my story soared, I made sure I was looking straight at him. I talked to him afterward and told him to keep telling stories, because that's how storytellers get better. He smiled at my encouragement and I knew then he was hooked to storytelling and we had a future member in him.

We all join Territory Tellers for various reasons. Some of us join to tell stories; some of us join to listen. All of us are here to plant the seed for the love of storytelling in others and we all work hard to achieve that aim. Well, seeing that young man and seeing the seed of storytelling take root within him, for me, that's what it's really all about.

Tony Hardman



**2013-2014
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Texas Storytelling Festival to Feature Territory Tellers Members

The 29th Annual Texas Storytelling Festival is coming up March 6, 7, 8, and 9th at the Civic Center in Denton. Angela Lloyd, Janice Del Negro, Peninnah Schram, and Territory Tellers member **Tim Couch** are the featured tellers. Angela combines music—washboard, ukulele, autoharp and bells-- and personal stories, poetry and folktales; Janice is a folklorist and a master of the ghost story, being an award-winning author of a supernatural collection and the co-author of the current edition of *Storytelling—Art and Technique*; Peninnah Schram's specialty is Jewish folklore, which she has performed internationally and teaches as a faculty member of Yeshiva University in New York. All three have performed at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, TN. Tim is a Texan and well-known to Spirit of Oklahoma audiences as a wonderful storyteller of personal and Bible stories, and a gifted emcee. Featured concerts, as always, will be interpreted for the hearing impaired.



Other talented Territory Tellers will be showcased, including **Fran Stallings, Jeanette and Phillip Harjo** who are featured in the Fringe Concert, **Chester Weems** who is entered in the Liars' Contest, and **Loralee Cooley and Fran Stallings**, who are each presenting workshops. TT member **Elizabeth Ellis** is Artistic Director of the festival, and she has some personal recommendations. So, visit the Tejas Storytelling Association website at www.tejasstorytelling.com to hear Elizabeth's comments, get more details, find out about free events—Ghost Stories, Fringe Performances & Sacred Tales concerts--hotel information, and registration. Other questions? Contact **Valerie Kimble**, TT member and Oklahoma member on the TSA Board of Directors, at kimblevalerie@yahoo.com.

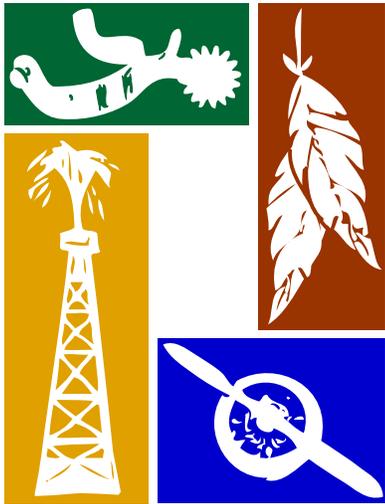
See all y'all in Texas—

Submitted by Valerie Kimble

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, 2014 • July 15, 2014
October 1, 2014 • January 15, 2015**



Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival

June 13-14, 2014

Festival plans taking shape

As many of you may know, the 2014 Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival location has been changed to Southern Nazarene University on Rt 66 (now known as NW 39th Expressway) in Bethany, OK. The university is between MacArthur Blvd and Rockwell Ave.

This is one of several changes that was made as a result of the survey members were asked to participate in a little over a year ago.

Kent Rollins, Hollis, OK, a cowboy storyteller and poet, will be our featured teller. He might be familiar from his appearances on the Food Network and Chopped. Seems like for this cowboy a good story deserves a good meal, or maybe it's the other way 'round?

Several Territory Tellers will serve as spotlight tellers. You will have a chance to spin a yarn at one of the swaps. New this year is a coaching session where you can hone your skills. Never fear, the ever popular Ghost Tales will have a spot in the program. Saturday afternoon will be the Territory Teller's General Membership meeting where one of the agenda items will be changes to our bylaws.

Later in February the festival schedule and registration form will be

posted on the Territory Tellers web page. The next issue of the Tattler will also have more information on the festival.

Make plans now to come and join with others to promote the oral tradition of storytelling.



Member news *Continued from page 3*

The **WayWord Whoppers Festival** will be on Sat March 22- 9:30 am--1:30. For more information contact Susie Beasley at the Choctaw Library 405-390-8418 x 3.

Tony Hardman has been very busy these last months. He was a storyteller for the No Man's Land History Museum Halloween Gala and told ghost stories. Last November, he also told stories at the Guymon Public Library Grand Opening. Last September, he traveled to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where he presented at the South Dakota Library Association/North Dakota Library Association/Mountain Plains Library Association Tri-Conference. His workshop was on cultural commonality through storytelling. He has also been very active in community theatre where he just finished directing a stage version of "A Christmas Carol." In addition to directing he played the character of Old Joe.

Jan 16 and 18 **Fran Stallings** was a panelist and a concert teller at the "Chicken Festival" (River and Prairie Storyweavers) in Bethany, MO. Jan 17 she told in Bethany schools.

Fran presented a solo evening of Japanese folktales Friday Jan 31, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bartlesville. The stories were ones she had edited from rough translations of Hiroko Fujita's telling (working toward publication of another book)--tales unique to Fukushima Prefecture--and most of them have never appeared in English translation before.

Feb 12, 19, 26 and Mar 12, 19, 26 **Fran** will be

Have you encountered a storytelling resource you'd like to review?

If so, please send your 200-300 word review to Fran Stallings at fran@franstallings.com. Many Tattler readers have commented that the review section is valuable to them in determining what materials to purchase. Your thoughts on a work could help someone finalize a purchase decision!

teaching a 6-session course "Topics in StoryTELLING" for OSU's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. All sessions are 10am-noon, at the Bartlesville Public Library. Topics covered retelling folk/literary tales as well as finding and grooming personal tales. Hiroko Fujita will be the guest star at the March 26 session.

March 6 Fran will teach a 2-session storytelling course at University of North Texas' Emeritus College (Denton TX). At TSA's festival Mar 7-8, she will present a workshop and doing a short fringe program of "Below the Obi: naughty tales from Japan" (ones that probably won't be in the book...)

After doing a Tellabration! at the Tom Mix Museum in Dewey, Tallgrass Tellers were invited back. They will do Cowboy Love Stories on Feb 14. **Nancy Matthews, Nikki Austin, Dianne Fallis, Deborah Langley, Connie Fisher and Fran Stallings.**

Art of Storytelling was Saturday Feb 1, 2014 at the Choctaw Library. Tips and techniques of storytelling were the nexus of this informal gathering of storytellers. **Liz Parker and Susie Beasley** with WayWord Tellers and Oklahoma Territory Tellers led this session.

Two workshops were offered for both the beginner and the more experienced storyteller the afternoon of Saturday, February 8th at the Wesley United Methodist Church in Oklahoma City. Chara Watson, Edmond, shared tips and methods to begin your storytelling journey. She holds a masters in storytelling from East Tennessee University. Kathryn Thurman, Del City, shared skills for those who have some experience but wish to fine tune skills in stage presence and use of microphones, etc.

Check out the Territory Tellers Store!

You can get there via our website or direct at

<http://www.cafepress.com/territorytellers>



Need practice? Want to try out something new?

Saturday, May 17 from 10-3 there will be a "Car Show" at Wesley UMC in Oklahoma City. It is a fundraiser for the faith-based literacy program, WhizKids, that works with children from schools around the city to mentor and tutor them in reading.

There will be a live band (probably), some food vendors etc. Marilyn Hudson has approached the planners to set up a space for storytellers to share stories with kids, adults, and families.

If anyone is interested in participating, let Marilyn know at marilynahudson@yahoo.com

Have you thought about an expanded profile?

As a benefit of TT membership, you can have an expanded profile on our website. When people click on our FIND A MEMBER page, they see a list of current members and can click on your name to read your profile.

If you would like a brief description and photo of yourself on your page, please email it to Shaun Perkins (okiestoryteller@gmail.com).

Some members already have profiles on the website. You can look at these pages to see some samples: Barbara Jones, Darla L'Allier, Molly Lemmons and Stella Long

Please email Shaun if you have questions or comments. She looks forward to receiving your information!

History of Storytelling in Oklahoma

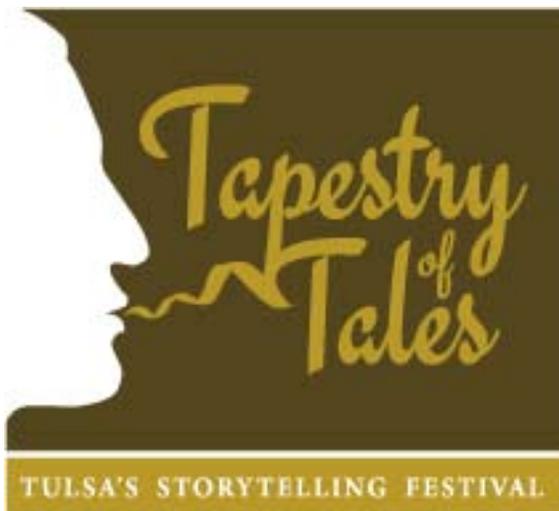
Marilyn Hudson is trying to complete the short history of storytelling 20th century Oklahoma and needs your help. If you were a resident of Oklahoma and told stories (in schools, libraries, churches and communities) in Oklahoma 2012 or earlier, please submit consider submitting a short bio (500 words or less) noting where you told, people who helped or encouraged you and accomplishments during your career as a teller.

Please include:

- ◆ Your name and where you live(or lived)
- ◆ Years or time range of active performing/ story sharing
- ◆ Nature of your storytelling: Job related (school, library, etc.), professional touring, etc.
- ◆ Type of storytelling: Traditional, cowboy, humorous, puppets, etc.
- ◆ Places you shared stories:
- ◆ Something special you would want people to know about your storytelling career
- ◆ Any sage advice to up and coming tellers?

Please submit back to Marilyn by March 1, 2014. Her contact information is: marilynahudson@yahoo.com

Tulsa to Host Storytelling Festival in 2014



Tulsa's Storytelling Festival, Tapestry of Tales, will take place April 25 - 26 at iconic Boston Avenue United Methodist Church, Jubilee Center, in the heart of downtown.

This event will feature some of the best national tellers in America. The tellers include: Donald Davis, world renowned Appalachian storyteller from North Carolina; Corinne Stavish, a Jewish teller; Tim Tingle, a Native American teller; and Charlotte Blake Alston, an African-American teller.

This two-day event includes evening performances as well as family day event on Saturday, open for children of all ages.

For more information, including registration, schedule and teller's bios visit www.tulsastorytellingfestival.com. You can also find them on facebook.



Address Correction Requested

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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 _____

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Are you a storyteller? _____ a story listener? _____

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