



# Spirit

## The teenage years

**O**ur baby, Spirit, is now a teenager. You know teenagers: bustin' at the seams; one day too big for their britches, the next day acting like some babblin' baby. Yes, our baby is a teenager.

Back in 2007, we were so proud to announce the birth of the new one and we named it Spirit of Oklahoma. We then watched as Spirit took the first faltering steps, then cheered the toddler on because little Spirit was off and running. Then came the awkward stage. Losing baby teeth, gangly, and not quite sure of the world. Spirit persevered as we all have done and with many "aunties, uncles, and kin" boosting the young one along, Spirit became a lovely creature looking toward a bright future.

However, sometimes the loveliest creatures can be rebellious. They can rebel and seek out their own agendas. Spirit has ventured down that path consuming all the energies of the family. We began to look to discipline for Spirit so that there would be guidelines and a norm for further growth. This was not just a job for the close committee of kin, but all those related ones who expected a productive future for Spirit.

**S T O P!**

Stop and reflect with me!  
Stop and be a part of the life of Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling!

This teenager needs guidance!  
This teenager needs support!  
Are you willing to do your part?

The Standing Festival Steering Commit-

tee spent HOURS developing guidelines for each sub-committee for festival planning. We sought advice from very reputable sources, taking much of the same agenda from the 2005 conference held in Oklahoma City. I sought counseling from board members of various other storytelling groups. We had our own members who were very proficient in this regard and the steering committee adapted these ideals to form our first festivals. Steve Kardalef contributed much time in preparing 5 three-ring binders for the committee. This allowed the Festival Steering Committee to disperse the work and provide for more people to become involved as each chairperson was to select a team for each sub-committee. This also provided a way for the festival, like a spoiled teenager, to not consume the whole entire business of the board meetings.

However, this teenager needs to "clean its room"! The three-ring binders are NOT to be found! It's rather like the "dog ate the homework" excuse. There have been successful festivals, however, it has come with some members reaching down into their memories and with constant diligence to produce a successful agenda. I, as president, will again select a committee to serve the purpose for the festival. Please, when you are asked, take up that request to continue to nurture Spirit. Volunteer your talents to bring forth the growth of this lovely creature. It does take a village! And, welcome to the Territory Tellers family!

*Bonnie Smith*  
President

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## **Tellabration! Events in November**

**November 16th** at 7:00 pm the Spanish Cover Retirement Community, 11 Palm Avenue, Yukon, OK, will be the site of a "Country Charm - Nostalgia" Tellabration! Tellers include Bonnie Smith, Liz Parker, Marilyn Hudson, Chester Weems, Sam McMichael and Molly Lemmons. In addition to the storytelling there will be a banjo player and a harmonica player starting at 6:30 pm. Cookies and lemonade will be served.

If you are in northeastern Oklahoma or feel like traveling there on **November 16th** the Wonder City Tellabration! will be held in Locust Grove at Wonder City Coffee, 118 E. Main.

Join Kituwah-Cherokee storyteller Choogie Kingfisher in an hour of stories old and new, mythic and real. This is a free celebration of the art and joy of telling stories. This event is sponsored by the Locust Grove Arts Alliance. Call 918-864-9152 for details.

Tellabration! is an annual international celebration of oral storytelling that takes place the weekend before Thanksgiving in most places. A Tellabration! has been staged in Locust Grove every year since 2006. Tellabration! is a registered trademark of the National Storytelling Network: More information is at [storynet.org](http://storynet.org).

On **November 17th** at 6:30 pm the Old Angus Barn Event & Storytelling Center will welcome Sky Shivers, western humorist and storyteller, and Jeanette Harjo, rancher's daughter and storyteller, to the stage of it's Tellabration! They will be drawing a name out of a hat for a member of the audience to also tell a story about the time of the past back on the farm. Meet at the barn for refreshments and gather at the fire pits at 6:00 pm. There will be limited seating, so you may want to throw a blanket or lawn chair in the car. The Old Angus Barn is located approximately 12 miles south of Seminole OK and 1 mile west (Hwy 99 to EW 134 turn West and go 1 mile). You can contact Jeanette Harjo for more information at: [jmharjo@hotmail.com](mailto:jmharjo@hotmail.com).

## **Festival Date Set**

Keep June 7 & 8, 2019 open so you can attend our next Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival in Oklahoma City. We will be at the same location as the last two years, at the Eastlake Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The Best Western Greentree Inn & Suites, 1811 N Moore Avenue, Moore OK (Phone 405-912-8882, Reservations 1 800-528-1234), will be the "official" hotel. There is a block of rooms already set aside at the same rate we had in 2018 - \$85 plus tax for regular king room

# January 25 & 26 Winter Retreat

The Territory Tellers continues its tradition of hosting a free winter retreat for fellowship between longtime members, to get acquainted with new and potential ones, to provide opportunities to advance learning, to practice storytelling skills and to entertain the community. Please join us, whether you are familiar with TT and storytelling or whether this is all new to you.

**Date: Jan. 25 & 26, 2019**

**Where: Sequoyah State Lodge in Wagner, OK**

**Room Rates: \$70.00 per night (Regular fee is \$90.00)**

**Call: 918-772-2545 - m Territory Tellers to get special rate.**

**Must reserve room by November 25 to get special rate.**

Events will start on Friday evening. Saturday will include special storytelling activities and a board meeting. There is a restaurant on site, so we

can share meals with all our storytelling friends. Friday and Saturday evening concerts will be in the lobby by the fireplace with hot chocolate and cookies.

Bring along a container of your favorite trail mix ingredient. We'll be making a big batch to share over the weekend!

Please help us know how many to plan for by registering at: [territorytellers.com/tt-winter-retreat/](http://territorytellers.com/tt-winter-retreat/)

## ***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*:**

**January 15, 2019 • March 1, 2019**

**July 15, 2019 • October 1, 2019**



*Sequoyah State Park, just 45 minutes southeast of Tulsa, is the site for our 2019 Winter Retreat. Pictured above is the two-mile paved trail in the park which is perfect for hiking, biking, walking and running.*

# News and notes of interest

**John Hinkle** was back in Oklahoma doing a program about WWI history at the Bartlesville library in October. During the program Hinkle took the audience step by step through the twists and turns of three cousins, the Kaiser of Germany, the Czar of Russia, and the King of England as they slipped into the quagmire of political alliances dragging France, the United States and others into situations, much as the world is experiencing today.

Join KOSU Public Radio for **The Moth Mainstage**, true stories, told live and without notes, on Thursday, November 15 at Cain's Ballroom in Tulsa. This curated event will feature five story tellers who develop and shape their stories with The Moth's Directors. Doors open at 6:30 pm with the show starting at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$50. This is a general admission, seated show Disclaimer: The Moth has no age minimum. That said, if you are thinking of bringing a young person to one of their events, they encourage you to first consider the following: some of the tellers share raw & explicit stories that are very much meant for a mature audience and might include the use of profanity. More information can be found at: [www.cainsballroom.com/event/1733976-moth-mainstage-tulsa/](http://www.cainsballroom.com/event/1733976-moth-mainstage-tulsa/)

**David Titus** did some school workshops in September in Texas and in Alaska in October. In November he'll be going to Australia and doing workshops with adults in Melbourne, Sydney and Newcastle. After that he plans to go to Singapore and South Korea to do weekend workshops. In January his plans include going to a convention in Madrid, Spain, following up with a string intensive with a man who lives there and wants to learn more string figures in stories. Before leaving Spain he will do an adult string workshop in Barcelona. He plans to spend part of February in Iceland before coming home.

**Fran Stallings** stated that she enjoyed the OLA showcase event Sept 9 in Stillwater, but was surprised to be the only Oklahoma storyteller other than Will Hill. However, one teller from MO and two from TX also presented. So next summer's libraries may have a more cosmopolitan roster, and we'll all have the chance to see some of our out-of-state colleagues.

Her weekly sessions with the inspired second grade teacher "Mr C" continued at Ranch Heights Elementary in Bartlesville (you can see her irregular posts on Storytell listserv). Fran told some ecostories to the Oklahoma Native Plant Society September 14 and entertained kids with more on

September 22 at the Prairie Festival in Salina KS. Tulsa Arts & Humanities (now calling itself "ahha") sponsored Fran's workshop on Personal/Family Storytelling September 8 and October 6 she did Toys from Trash (Fujita-san's inventions).

Fran departed for Japan October 30 to tour with Hiroko Fujita again. She and her followers have just published 5 collections of Fran's stories translated into Japanese with some notes by Fujita-san, and a bilingual "How To" handbook that Fran pulled together at their command. The pair will be doing some workshops this trip.

TT webmaster **Shaun Perkins** has recently published her second book in a series she calls *The Book With*. These books are detective stories in verse that are based on mysteries found in the written marginalia of old books.

Bookstore owner Perry Cassidy, proprietor of A Book a Day in fictional Shatubby, Oklahoma, has a hobby of exploring the story behind the notes that people have written in their books that wind up in her store. The first book *The Book with the Beacon Lights* was published by Indian University Press in 2017. The book follows amateur book sleuth Perry Cassidy as she investigates the mystery in an old *Beacon Lights of Literature* textbook. What she discovers leads her into the past where an unsolved crime was committed. It is illustrated by Ray Grass, with photographs by Betty Perkins.

The second book *The Book with the Broken Locket* continues Perry's adventures, as she becomes intrigued by a local case that comes to light when she finds a copy of Nancy Drew's *The Clue of the Broken Locket* from the late 1930's. As she explores the marginalia written in this book, she learns of the untimely and secretive death of a local girl, and she must discover the mystery of her life and death. The book is illustrated throughout by Ray Grass.

For more about the books and how to order a copy, visit [TheBookWith.com](http://TheBookWith.com). You can also contact Shaun at [okiestoryteller@gmail.com](mailto:okiestoryteller@gmail.com) or 918-864-9152.

## Texas Festival

The 34th Annual Texas Storytelling Festival will be in Denton TX March 7-10, 2019. One World: Many Voices, Many Tales, will feature Antonio Rocha, Twice Upon a Time, Josh Goforth and In The Spirit. Details can be found at: [www.tejasstorytelling.com](http://www.tejasstorytelling.com).

## **TT Board Meetings**

The Board Meeting dates have been set for the remaining organizational year. Remember that members are invited to attend any of the Board Meetings. Locations have not been finalized for all of the meetings at this time but they will be posted to the website once known. If you would like to host a meeting in your part of the state, please let Bonnie Smith, president, know of your interest! Our next board meeting will be on January 26, 2019, at the Winter Retreat.

## **TT T-shirts available**

We now have a stock of Territory Tellers t-shirts. They are short-sleeved, black, with the TT logo on the front in color. If you are interested in purchasing one, please contact Paulette Geeslin via email at [pdgeeslin4701@yahoo.com](mailto:pdgeeslin4701@yahoo.com)

## **Did you know?**

Your membership with Territory Tellers includes a posting on our website that includes your photo and bio? You just need to provide that information to our webmaster, Shawn Perkins, [okiestoryteller@gmail.com](mailto:okiestoryteller@gmail.com), and she will make it happen.

## **Oklahoma State Liaison**

### **Why Join NSN?**

One of my jobs as Oklahoma Liaison is to encourage Oklahoma storytellers to join NSN. But before I could ask someone else I had to ask myself the question “why would I want to join?” Of course there are some obvious items including a periodic magazine on storytelling, the chance to be listed in the NSN directory, the annual conference, now called the Summit, where a teller can meet some top pros, and workshops for skill building.

These are all possible factors in a cost-benefit analysis, but I think for me there was something more. I like being a small part of an organization promoting storytelling, giving a little structure to keep the traditions alive. I have been to a “Moth” concert and it was interesting but not the same. I know Story Slams are the rage, and good entertainment, but not traditional storytelling.

I have no expectations of my NSN membership

## **TT on Social Media**

Territory Tellers is in need of someone to help the organization with its presence on social media, specifically Facebook and Twitter.

The board at its October meeting discussed the need for someone to take over this aspect of promotion of storytelling in Oklahoma. As one member stated, we need the electronic footprint for our organization to grow and information to be shared in the now and the ever increasing social media driven future.

If this sounds like a job meant for you, please contact president Bonnie Smith at [bonnie-smith1943@outlook.com](mailto:bonnie-smith1943@outlook.com).

## **Chicken Festival**

Make your plans now for the Chicken Festival, January 18-20, 2019. In Sedalia, MO at a good motel. Everyone who attends IS the featured teller! The first day is spent in the community telling stories to schools, senior centers, community groups, and promoting storytelling as “Your Own History.” The rest of the weekend is filled with music and stories in a two day giant story swap! Great fun! It’s been going on for 25 years. — *Steve Otto*

getting me any storytelling opportunities. I just want to be part of something with a good purpose.

If you are interested in joining or renewing go to [storynet.org](http://storynet.org) and go to Membership. It costs \$75 to join, and if Territory Tellers has renewed

the organizational membership there will be a 10% discount, so the cost would be \$67.50.

Storytellers tend to be interesting and nice people. I like to be around them.



## **Regional Director**

Fran Stallings is the Regional Director for the states of Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. She has done a great job in this role and is well respected in the storytelling community. Her three year term is expiring, but she is eligible for another three year term. She is willing to run again.

*Chester Weems*  
[cjweems@cox.net](mailto:cjweems@cox.net)

# Is your membership current? Send in your renewal today!

**T**erritory 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

