



**In Search of a Tale Well Told . . .**  
**26TH ANNUAL**  
**TEXAS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL**  
**MARCH 10 - 13, 2011**  
**DENTON CIVIC CENTER**

**FESTIVAL**  
**FIESTA**  
**ФЕСТИВАЛ**  
**祝祭**  
**ПРАЗДНЕСТВО**

**FEATURING:**

**DONALD DAVIS,**  
**JEANNINE PASINI BEEKMAN,**  
**LYN FORD**  
**JAY STAILEY**

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

**NETWORK OF BIBLICAL STORYTELLERS**  
**AND NOW THE STORY IS YOURS . . . .**

**FRINGE**

**TEXAS STORYTELLING YOUTH**

**PREZ' PIECE**

**ABILENE PICS - YAY!!**

**TSA AWARDEES**

**OMBUDDIE**

**CONFERENCE**

**WORLD STORYTELLING DAY**

**FESTIVAL**

**lots of other stuff too, so just look around!**

Newsletter of the Tejas Storytelling Association

**THE TEJAS TELLER**

**Feb/Mar 2011**

**NETWORK OF BIBLICAL STORYTELLERS**

**Sheila Phillips**

NBS, International formerly known as NOBS is still the

**NETWORK OF BIBLICAL STORYTELLERS, INTERNATIONAL**

...they just shortened their name. It is an international organization whose purpose is to communicate the sacred stories of the biblical tradition. Their Mission Statement reads

*To encourage everyone to learn and tell Biblical stories.*

It's as simple as that. In other words, get the words off the pages and into our hearts so they may be told and experienced today like they were when they were written.

I have been a member of NBS, International for many years and several times have attended their annual **Gathering**. It is a time of gathering with folks from every religious tradition, a truly ecumenical organization. Hands on workshops for every level of storyteller from beginning to master storyteller are offered. There is lots of opportunity for fellowship and worship as well as opportunity to *tell* if you so desire. An outstanding keynote speaker is there every year to share their faith and their wisdom. A highlight every year is the **Epic Telling** of one entire book of the Bible by dozens of tellers.

The first year I attended I went alone to the Gathering which was held at a lovely retreat center outside of Atlanta. From the moment I stepped through the door for registration I was welcomed with open arms. There was an immediate feeling of acceptance and of **family**. I found the featured tellers to be inspiring and the worship time uplifting. I was amazed at the wide variety of denominations that were represented. There was also plenty of time for fun and fellowship. It was a glorious few days and I returned home feeling refreshed and ready to expand the Biblical side of my own storytelling.

In the last few years the **Gathering** has been held at Ridgecrest Retreat Center outside of Asheville, North Carolina. The dates for next year's **Gathering** are August 10-August 13, 2011. Included with membership in NBS International is **The Biblical Storytelling Magazine**, chock full of interesting articles and news from around the country.



(cont. inside)



**(Biblical storytellers, cont.)**

The Keynote Speaker for 2011 is Kenneth E. Bailey, Th.D. whose area of specialty is the cultural background and literary forms of the New Testament and the Featured Storyteller will be Mei-Lin Po, an ABS Certified Biblical Storyteller.

Two of our TSA members, Jerre Roberts and Kathy Culmer have served on the Board at NBS, International. Take a look at the organization's web site at [nbs@nbsint.org](mailto:nbs@nbsint.org). I think you will find that your storytelling experience will be enriched by becoming involved in this fine organization. You'll never meet nicer people. It has been very gratifying for me to be part of NBS, International.



Storytelling trivia: Did you know that according to tradition, the first person to charge the troops of William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings in 1066 is believed to be King Harold the Fair's personal storyteller? Hmmmm . . . interesting. Never underestimate the power of a storyteller.

*And now the story is yours . . . .*

*Mary Grace Ketner*

Did you see **Toni Simmons** perform in Minneapolis as a Featured Storyteller at the Black Storytellers Alliance 19th Annual "Signifying and Testifying" celebration in September? Probably not; too far away, right? Maybe, like us, you were simply bustin' with pride from a distance!

**Dru Woods** and the East Texas Storytellers are busy organizing *Azalea Tales*, to take place April 1-2 in Tyler. **Sheila Phillips** provides a workshop and headlines a story-filled evening concert. *Azalea Tales* receives support from the Tyler Public Library and the Texas Commission on the Arts. For more information on their April Fools Day Liar's Contest, email [druwoods@yahoo.com](mailto:druwoods@yahoo.com).

And what about that **Tumbleweed Storytelling Festival!!?**

**The Mesquite Storytellers of Abilene** and TSA drew on the talents of many members and friends to make the Festival a real hit with attendees. **Betty-Erle Rhodes** was busy for weeks doing radio spots and making presentations in retirement homes. **Kim Lehman** did extra PR for us, too.

An array of artful workshops were presented by the featured storytellers as well as **Blu Cooksey**, **Vonda Hamilton**, **Judith Heineman** and **Julie Herrera**, **Rosanna Herndon**, **Terry Minami**, **Betty-Erle Rhodes**, and **Susi Wolf**. The lively workshops were facilitated by **Carol Dupree**, **Rosanna Herndon**, **Traphene Hickman**, **Lynette Livingston**, **Richard Nash** and **Beverly Priddy**.

**Gail McMillan** organized and prepared a great reception for this year's holiday card artists, and **Dr. Carol Dupree** brought even charm to service of hors d'oeuvres. **Carol** also organized the Mesquite Guild's delicious *Chow Time Barbecue Dinner*.

**Bob Caffey** brought local color to the *Merry Tales for Tiny Tots Concert*, emceed by **Betty-Erle Rhodes**, and to the *Don't Wanna Drive After Dark* concert, emceed by **Beverly Priddy**. Both of those performances were hosted by the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature. **Elizabeth Ellis** emceed the story-swap in the Elks Lodge.

Congratulations to **Eric Strong**, best liar in West Texas, as we all discovered at Tumbleweed's own *West Texas Liar's Contest*, emceed by **Tom Taylor**. **Tom** was also able to quell the waves of discord among the hilarious judges supplied by the Abilene Convention and Visitors' Bureau: **Brandon Polk**, **Tim Yandell**, and **Donna Albus**. They really "got it," y'all!

**Paul Porter** was there with camera in hand to record each workshop and concert for TSA. **Elizabeth Ellis**, **Donna Ingham**, and **Traphene** and **J.R. Hickman** picked up and delivered storytellers between the airport, the hotel and the festival site.

**Beverly Priddy** held the cash box tightly at evening concerts. **Elizabeth Ellis** emceed the Friday Evening concert and the Ghost Story Concert on Friday night, and **MaryAnn Blue** held the mic in that role for the Saturday Evening Concert. A fine and fervent musical foursome, **Catclaw Creek**, opened for us on Saturday night, masterfully performing an amazing range of music in a style all their own. (Thanks for getting them to come, **Rosanna**!) **Blu Cooksey's** students sold 180 tickets to the Friday and Saturday evening concerts, providing the extra oomph! to pack the house both nights!

**Jaye McLaughlin**, **Janet Bickle-Burton**, and **Alice Evergreen** saw to it that our gift shop was ringing up sales all weekend long, and I saved the most exciting job for last: Registration. **Elizabeth Ellis**, **Alice Evergreen**, **Marian Fleischmann**, **Mary Grace Ketner**, **Beverly Priddy**, and **Betty-Erle Rhodes** took shifts assisting **Hester Wood** of the Abilene CVB.

Thanks are certainly due to our durable and delightful featured tellers, who fought the rain and hail to give workshops, go to schools, and participate in concerts early and late: **Bobby Norfolk**, **Sherry Norfolk**, **Donna Ingham**, and **Don Sanders**.

And let's hear it for the Home Team; Local Festival Chair **Abbie Ryan-Randolph's** home that is. (Not to gossip, but I have it on good authority that that home hadn't been vacuumed in weeks!) Husband **Kevin Randolph** and son **Zack Ryan** along with Zack's friend **Chase** worked the spotlight at concerts, shored up an unsecure stage, created our outdoor signage; drove our storytellers to schools, hauled stages and chairs and carried and toted this and that all weekend starting before anyone else arrived and hanging around long after everyone else had left.

The folks at the Abilene Convention and Visitor's Bureau, **Jennilee Latimer** and **Hester Woods** made much of our job easy. Festival co-chairs **Elizabeth Ellis** and **Abbie Ryan Randolph** had attended to every detail and met the few surprises with humor and grace. We thank them all heartily!





WISE WORDS - Lucinda Wise

### WHAT IS FRINGE ANYWAY?

*A border made of hanging threads to decorate the edge of something; an area of activity that is related to but not part of whatever is central or most widely accepted; a group of people with extreme views or unpopular opinions; On the outer edge of something . . .*

When talking with a friend about Fringe, she spoke of Edinburgh where in the 1940's there was The Festival and then along the edges there were small and more intimate venues. A reporter (Robert Kemp) described them as "Round the fringe . . ." My friend has been going to Scotland for decades. She enjoys the chance to see performing artists from all over everywhere. Yet, most important to her is her interaction with the performing artists. She lives with them and meets them in the street and when eating. she hears their stories of how they came to be in the Festival and how their group creates.

Years ago, when I was googling the fringe movement, I came across a website (now extinct) that with pictures and words described a fringe festival as a temporary community (tents and all) that included comics, actors, acting troupes, musicians - performing artists of all kinds. Anyone could come and do what they do in traditional or innovative ways. These were groups of artists that wanted to be held - by their peers - to a higher standard of performance. New ideas, new ways were inspiring and encouraging to long time professionals and serious newbies. Incidentally, audiences were treated to amazing eye-opening performances at more than reasonable ticket prices. Fringe Festivals sprung and sprouted across the world.

Fringe productions tend to be shorter than Main Stage. The tech is [usually] minimal and performances usually are original and innovative. Innovative either for the audiences or the performers may be trying something different than what they are known for. Fringe Festivals tend to focus on the performing arts but production can include visual or film elements.

#### What about storytellers for Fringe?

In the last few years storyteller have appeared in Fringe Festivals, notably at Edinburgh and our own Capital Fringe Festival. In 2009, NPR's Rob Gifford reported: "Forget comedy on the Fringe, some of the hottest tickets at this year's Edinburgh Festival are for one-man or one-woman storytelling shows, offering anything from Homer's *Odyssey* to tales of St. Francis of Assisi, to folk tales and songs . . ."

#### What constitutes a Fringe Story on a Fringe Stage at a Storytelling Festival?

When it comes to fringe storytelling, there is a shift from "fringe" meaning many performances in shared venues where artists present an original production to "fringe" meaning the style and/or content of a story.

Some of my favorite storytelling moments have begun with someone saying, "Well here's one that will never get to the Festival stage. . ."

A fringe storytelling stage is where a teller may choose to tell a different type of story or one stronger in content than that for which they are known. Or, a teller may challenge themselves to learn a new skill, prop or visual elements to aid the telling. Perhaps pushing toward a theater performance yet, maintaining the basic differences between performance and storytelling - the story is not memorized and is not told in exactly the same way every telling and with every audience. The story breathes and responds with the teller and the audience.

Our Fringe Storytelling Stage will let us hear from folks who tell a tale ancient or bawdy or a tale charged with multi-media which has not fit in with the expectations of the type of story one tells at a festival. What is also welcome is the Fringe Stage is going to break the time barrier. We, the audience, will have the challenge and delight - if not the privilege - of listening to stories that are longer than 8 - 12 minutes.

AND NOW, FOR YOUR FRINGE PLEASURE . . .

COME AND HEAR THESE EXCELLENT "FRINGIES" AT FESTIVAL, SATURDAY 1:30 - 4:45 P.M.

JAY STAILEY



Jere Pfister



Lorene Stilwell



Anne Marie Newman



Gary Whitaker



Edinburgh, Scotland U.K. The mother of all Fringe Festivals <http://www.edfringe.com/>

# Texas Storytelling Youth



## Two from Texas Going to the 2011 National Youth Storytelling Showcase

The National Youth Storytelling Showcase has found a new home and will be held in conjunction with the Timpanagos Storytelling Midwinter Conference, in Orem Utah, February 3-5, 2011. Each state may submit only five entries to the National Committee. From the five Texas finalists, two were invited to perform and be named as Torchbearers at the NYSS. To earn the title of Torchbearer, the youth must come to Utah and participate in the event. While at the Showcase events, Torchbearers will perform in local schools, be professionally recorded, receive further training in storytelling and ambassadorship skills, and have fun with other storytelling youth, as well as perform in the National Storytelling Showcase.



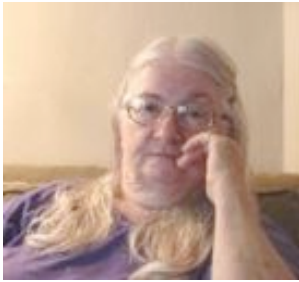
Benjamin Parrish, a sixth grade student at Saint Mary's Hall in San Antonio, writes, "I am 12 years old and have lived in San Antonio all my life. Storytelling was introduced to me back in kindergarten and I have enjoyed competing in it, in addition to prose and poetry, over the years. I love soccer, reading, hunting, milkshakes, and of course, a good story." He will be telling a story called, "A Conversation with Miss Hood," written by MaryAnn Blue which, in turn was inspired by Roald Dahl's poem, "The Three Little Pigs."



Another sixth grader, Alex Alford, son of Laura and Michael Alford of Frisco, Texas, was also invited to appear at NYSS. Alex has been telling stories for four years, entertaining at storytelling festivals, schools, church, and summer camps. His passion for the performing arts includes acting, playing guitar, and singing with his student rock band, *Feedback*, creating videos and singing with The Children's Chorus of Collin County. An honors student at Wester Middle School in Frisco, Alex is also an avid reader and especially enjoys action/adventure novels. His winning entry in NYSS was an Iroquois folktale, "Why Dogs Sniff Each Other's Tails."



# HEY!!!! Time to get down to some business .....



**Elizabeth Ellis, President**



## The Prez' Piece

First some great news! The Denton Parks and Recreation Department has become a co-sponsor for this year's Texas Storytelling Festival. We are grateful to them for this boost and look forward to working with them. They will provide half the cost of the rental of the Civic Center for our event, and we will be providing storytelling performances for them in support of their work throughout the coming year. We are excited about this partnership and hope to continue it for years to come. (This also makes possible further paying down the Line of Credit debt, which currently stands at \$5,692.96.)

Health concerns have caused the resignation of Jeannette and Phillip Harjo from the TSA Board of Directors. We are grateful to them for their service to us and wish them well in all their future endeavors. They will be greatly missed. We welcome to the Board Gary Patton, an attorney from Dallas, and Janet Latham, a school librarian from Denton. They have been appointed to serve the remainder of the terms created by the Harjos' resignations. Please show your appreciation to each of these wonderful people.

Watching the President's State of the Nation Address the other night, it occurred to me that our TSA Annual Membership Meeting, scheduled for Friday afternoon at the Texas Storytelling Festival, is our own State of the Nation Address. Well, perhaps it would better be called our own State of the Organization Address. I hope that all of you will make a special effort to be there.

For one thing, you are going to want the opportunity to meet the candidates who are running for the three seats on the TSA Board of Directors as Eldrena Douma, Mary Ann Blue and Mary Grace Ketner end their respective terms. These new folks will be representing you and are your voice in the organization. You will want to hear their ideas and ask them questions.

For another, you will want to hear about our reorganization of committees and their structure. We have been busy in the last few months designing an organization that spreads the workload over a larger number of members. You will also want to look at our amended bylaws. All of these changes in bylaws and policies and procedures are designed to create a strong and healthy all-volunteer TSA that can be run effectively with a minimum of the needed activity happening in Denton.

My term as President will end May 31<sup>st</sup>. It has been a great honor (and a great deal of work!) to lead such an extraordinary group of people. I am grateful to each of you for your support of time, talent and money. Donna Ingham will assume the duties of President on June 1<sup>st</sup> and I know she will lead TSA into a bright future, for you will continue to support her work as you have supported mine. (I won't be disappearing. The Bylaws call for the past president to continue for an additional year on the board to provide for continuity of leadership.)

I look forward to seeing each of you at the Texas Festival. I'll save a seat for you!

treasurer's report . . . . .marian fleischmann, treasurer

Jan. 1 - 31, 2011

General Account:	\$28,635.89
Doc Moore Outreach Fund	1,029.28
Youth storytelling	88.00

Line of Credit: <\$5,561.93>\*\*\*

\*\*\*this is just totally amazing considering we were discussing disbanding just over a year and a half ago. I don't know exactly where TSA began in debt, but I do know this . . . .you the tellers, guilds, supporters, sponsors, and even you well-wishers have helped reduce what TSA owed by some \$15,000+ since July 2009. Y'ALL ROCK!!

**Editor's  
choice:**

David  
Thompson



mmph . .  
.help  
I'm being  
squeezed out  
by Abilene  
See you  
at festival!  
mmph!!

Tumbleweed -



A **tumbleweed** is the above-ground part of a plant that, once mature and dry, disengages from the root and tumbles away in the wind.

## ABILENE PICTURES



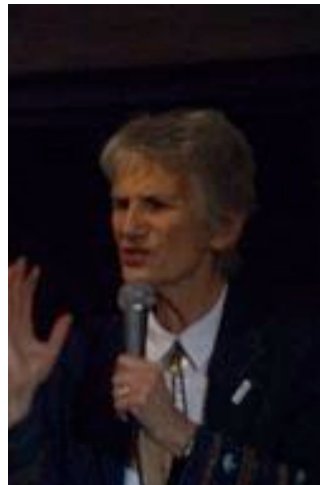
**BOBBY NORFOLK**



**SHERRY NORFOLK**



**ERIC STRONG**



**TUMBLEWEED FESTIVAL - The Tumbleweed Storytelling Festival, Oct. 22-23, 2010, was held in the Elks Arts Center, the T&P Events Center, and the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature. These repurposed buildings in the historic downtown are wonderful architectural gems and made a fitting encompassing backdrop for the second annual gathering of tellers, audiences, and wordsmiths.**



## The John Henry Faulk Award

### Rosemary and John Davis

John L. Davis is executive director of the Institute of Texan Cultures, the academic museum for the University of Texas at San Antonio. He has worked as Director of Research for the Institute and has taught college level courses at the University of Texas at Austin, The University of Texas at San Antonio, and San Antonio College. Understanding that the culture of a people was passed on through its stories, John has fostered an environment for storytelling in the state of Texas for many years, including the concept of a storytelling stage as part of the Texas Folklife Festival.

Rosemary organized that first Storytelling Stage at the Folklife Festival in 1981. Over the years, many of the best storytellers in Texas have been featured on that stage, which celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this past summer. Rosemary started storytelling guilds in both Seguin and Mason and organized Tellabtrations in both cities. She has twice served on

the board of the Tejas Storytelling Association, including serving as TSA president. Most recently, she has put her university art training to work doing graphic design for TSA, including brochures, posters, and programs. Additionally, Rosemary has worked with youth storytelling in Texas for many years, from the days of The Texas Youth Storytelling Olympics, through the change to the Texas Youth Storytelling Challenge, and is now the Texas representative for the National Youth Storytelling Showcase. John and Rosemary have appeared as storytellers at events around the state, have taught storytelling workshops, searched out traditional tellers, encouraged new tellers, and always say, “We are not a team.”

## The Marvin Brown Volunteer Service Award

What can be said about the indomitable Otts? Lots, if you ask people who know their dedication to storytelling. Reba has been a working teller with Camp Fire and the YMCA after-school program since 1984; Granville, Boy Scouts since 1978 as a troop leader and facilitator for campfire telling.

When you see them at guild meetings, festival, conference, you get a sense of commitment to storytelling in all its forms from performer to ticket taker to concessions. With Reba as the “involved” one presenting workshops at Festival and Squatty Pines, plus telling at Festival and Tellabtrations in Canyon Lake, Killeen, College Station, and Austin (Reba was Regional Teller in 1995), you have – on the other hand – the quiet grace of Granville. His presence shows his support and his willingness to do just about any task to insure a successful telling event. If you’ve never heard Granville tell, which he has at Festival and local Tellabtrations, you’re in for a unique experience. His matter-of-fact engineering personality makes the stories he tells shine.

The Otts are ever ready, willing, and able (our lips to God’s ear) to do what it takes to support storytelling locally, statewide, and nationally. No chore is too menial and no stage too intimidating for these too intrepid Texans.

### Reba and Granville Ott



## The Finley Stewart Trailblazer Award

### Jim Ohmart and Eileen Hatcher



The Houston Storytellers Guild immediately leaps to mind. HSG would not exist, however, if not for the initiative, tenacity and hard work of Jim Ohmart and Eileen Hatcher. In October of 1985, Jim and Eileen attended the National Storytelling Festival. On the flight home, they decided Houston needed to organize around “this storytelling thing” and a vision was born.

They set to work identifying area storytellers and arranging planning meetings. Because of his business background, Jim knew that an organization’s long term effectiveness depended upon a clear mission, articulated goals and definitive steps for reaching them. For six months, folks met weekly in order to determine what needed to be done and how.

From the outset, Jim and Eileen wanted to ensure an inclusive organization while setting the highest standards of artistry, expertise, and offerings. Monthly meetings and story swaps, Liar’s Contest, Festival and regular workshops brought new voices and ears to storytelling and set a standard to which many can only aspire. Because of this success, Jim and HSG were the first to whom J.G. Pinkerton turned when he decided to expand *Telebration!* nation-wide.

Jim and Eileen are among the unique few whose dedication to storytelling is dedication for storytelling’s sake. Neither one consider themselves tellers. One seldom sees them in any capacity other than listener or worker. As HSG celebrates a quarter century of existence, we have Jim and Eileen to thank for making a dream come true.

## Your Omsbuddie, Jeannine Pasini-Beekman

Omsbuddie January 2011

Dear Omsbuddie -

TSA gives out several awards both at festival and conference? I'm wondering, how are these awards presented? What are the qualifications of the recipients?

Signed:

Anxious in Austin



Dear Concerned in Capital City,

From its inception, TSA has made a point of recognizing the contributions of our members and supporters. Over the years, we've done this with varying levels of success; but, the last few years, we've gotten a whole lot better! For example, in the case of any and all donations acknowledgement is made in the Texas Teller, at Festival and Conference as well as a personal letter. We appreciate the support and want to make sure everyone knows it.

Now to answer your query. The biggest recognition is the bestowal of one of our coveted awards to a person, group or organization deemed to have made significant contributions to storytelling and/or our association. If you visit our website at [www.tejasstorytelling.com](http://www.tejasstorytelling.com), hit the About Us tab and then go to Awards, you can find a description and explanation of each of the four currently established. Some are made annually, others as deemed fitting.

The most significant fact about all of them is that they are not given because someone is an outstanding story artist (though many recipients are, indeed, amazing tellers) but because one's actions have had a significant impact on storytelling itself. This could be through years of outreach and service or substantial investments of time and energy. It might go to someone of extraordinary vision and the commitment to bring that vision to fruition, or an unsung (s)hero whose name is known to few but whose considerable efforts have ensured that quality storytelling reaches small communities as well as large cities.

Like the Congressional Medal of Honor, one does not win an award from TSA one receives it. A director, who compiles the nominations and presents them to the entire Board, chairs the Awards Committee. Although the ultimate choice of recipient is made by a confidential vote of the Board of Directors, TSA members are encouraged to submit names to any director at any time. Along with the name, please include the reasons for the submission. The Board takes its responsibility in this area so seriously that discussion has been known to stretch over several meetings. For folks committed to conducting board business in a timely fashion, that really speaks to how seriously this task is taken!

So let us know of folks worthy of recognition. We'll take it from there.

Yours for continued kudos,  
Omsbuddie

**When asked to write the most comprehensive shortest story ever, the professor was elated to give one student the only "A" he awarded. The story had to include religion, a statement of fact, and mystery.**

**The winner? "Oh my God, I'm pregnant. I wonder whose it is?"**





**TEJAS STORYTELLING CONFERENCE**  
*A National Storytelling Network Year-of-the-Regions Event*  
**July 8 - 10, 2011**  
**San Antonio, Texas**

SUSTAINING THE FLAME: Stories Fuel Life and Learning

*At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person.*

*Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.--Albert Schweitzer*

We storytellers, we teachers, we librarians, we ministers, we lovers of the oral tradition... we are blessed to be able to live passionately within our callings, but does this ever happen to you: your flame flickers and pales and almost goes out. Burnout, it is called. Whether for loss of the muse or the oppression of bureaucracy or the wavering of an organization that has lost its way, you are parched.

For some, it is deadly; for some, the danger passes but leaves the fear that it could return and, next time, smother our very beings. When that happens, can we re-ignite our creative powers? Can we keep the spark alive? How can we sustain the flame?

TSA decided to ask those questions to two storytellers who have been in the field for over three decades and who still feel passionate about their work: Elizabeth Ellis and Bill Harley. Both generate new stories, novel outlooks and fresh perspectives, with no end in sight and each creation richer than the one before. Do they have secrets to share? Can they rekindle our sparks? Can we rekindle each other's?

That is what the 2011 Tejas Storytelling Conference will be about. Just so you know.

**Our Featured Storytellers:** Both in great demand, both working almost daily at schools, libraries, conferences or unique gatherings somewhere, **Elizabeth Ellis** and **Bill Harley** live half a continent apart, but they have appeared together at such revered events as the National Storytelling Festival, "CelebrateStory: New York City's Storytelling Festival", and the Timpanogos Storytelling Festival. Each has also appeared separately at the most prestigious storytelling festivals, events, and venues in the nation and the world. Both are always at the top of their game...and both retain the passion and energy to seek yet greater heights. Besides that, both have entries in *Wikipedia*! We are thrilled that both said *Yes* to our invitation.

**Elizabeth Ellis:** Her feet planted firmly in the hardscrabble soils of Appalachia, Elizabeth pulls stories from a place of struggle and trial yet never fails to find springs of hope, a reason to rejoice. Humorist, philosopher, and keen observer of life, she has been called "One of America's finest storytellers" by *School Library Journal*. Her personal tales, intensives and keynotes celebrate generosity, perseverance, gratitude, ethical behavior, and the courage to face one's fears. Hailed as a master of story and meaning, Elizabeth's sessions build spirit and community; as one public defender said after Elizabeth's keynote to their Missouri group: "Who knew you would get them opening their hearts to one another?"

**Bill Harley:** With rubber-faced abandon, Bill examines human foibles, flaws and embarrassments, common fears, and simple pleasures. Grammy-Award-winning Storyteller, author, and musician, he often lends his voice to social justice, environmental and political causes. Once called "The Mark Twain of contemporary children's music," Bill also delivers to adults "an uninhibited performance with a wry sense of humor and a love of life we can all share." (*Los Angeles Times*) "As a rule, I have a hard time figuring out where I fit," Bill says of his multi-faceted career, "but I got into this because I'm trying to make the world a better place."

The Conference will take place in the heart of historic San Antonio with Sunday morning Sacred Tales at Mission San José.

This summer's TSA Conference is made possible in part by funding from the National Storytelling Network, Humanities Texas, Texas Commission on the Arts, and Gemini Ink.



# TSA SUMMER CONFERENCE WORKSHOP PROPOSAL FORM

*Tejas Storytelling Conference*  
**SUSTAINING THE FLAME: Stories Fuel Life and Learning**  
*An NSN Year-of-the-Regions Event*  
[www.tejasstorytelling.com](http://www.tejasstorytelling.com)  
July 8 - 10, 2011  
San Antonio, Texas



## **Workshop Application**

Presenters must be TSA members and must register for the conference by the early bird date of June 15.

***Please prepare your workshop proposal by responding in order to each of the ten sections below.***

Section 1: Workshop Title

Section 2: Contact Information for presenter(s).

*(Note: If more than one presenter, honorarium check, \$100, will be made out to the first name.)*

Section 3: Audience Level(s):  Beginner  Intermediate  Experienced Storytellers

Section 4: My session will be appropriate for storytellers as well as \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_ from the list below.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| A. Educators Preschool                                     | I. Historical Interest, Museum, Park Interpreters  |
| B. Educators K-5   | J. Event Producers   |
| C. Educators 6-12  | K. Technology  |
| D. Higher Education  | L. Business  |
| E. Librarian   | M. Storytelling Practice (marketing, professionalism, professionalism, record-keeping, etc.) |
| F. Clergy  | N. writers   |
| G. Lawyers   |  |
| H. Social Service, Healthcare; mental health professionals |  |

Section 5: Synopsis suitable for printing in program (60 words or less)

Section 6: Description (400 words or less), including

- A. Methodology (lecture, small group work, discussion, demonstration, practice...)
- B. Specific learning objectives for participants (at least 3)
- C. Relation to Conference Theme: Sustaining the Flame: Stories Fuel Life and Learning  
*(Note: not all workshops should be related to the theme, but if yours is, please explain.)*

Section 7: References (3 names with phone # and email address)

Section 8: Brief bio suitable for print in conference program (40 words or less)

Section 9: Room Set-up (classroom, boardroom, projection, etc.)

Section 10: Write in and sign (or email) this agreement:

I am a member of TSA. If my workshop is selected, I agree to register for the full conference at the early bird member discounted rate of \$96 by June 15.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ emailed from the contact address.

**Submit your application to [TSA/P.O.Box 2806/Denton, TX 76202](mailto:TSA@P.O.Box.2806/Denton,TX.76202) or email the information to [mgk@talesandlegends.net](mailto:mgk@talesandlegends.net) by Wednesday, March 15, 2011.**

**Workshops are scheduled for a 90 minute period**



# World Storytelling Day

## A global celebration of storytelling

**World Storytelling Day** is a global celebration of the art of oral storytelling. It is celebrated every year on the spring equinox in the northern hemisphere, the first day of autumn equinox in the southern. On World Storytelling Day, as many people as possible tell and listen to stories in as many languages and at as many places as possible, during the same day and night.



Johannesburg,  
South Africa



Beirut, Lebanon

World Storytelling Day has its roots in a national day for storytelling in Sweden, circa 1991-2. At that time, an event was organized for March 20 in Sweden called "*Alla berättares dag*" (All storytellers day). The Swedish national storytelling network passed out some time after, but the day stayed alive, celebrated around the country by different enthusiasts. In 1997, storytellers in Perth, Western Australia coordinated a five-week long Celebration of Story, commemorating March 20 as the International Day of Oral Narrators. At the same time, in Mexico and other South American countries, March 20 was already celebrated as the National Day of Storytellers.

When the Scandinavian storytelling web-network, Ratatosk, started around 2001, Scandinavian storytellers started talking, and in 2002, the event spread from Sweden to Norway, Denmark, Finland and Lithuania. In 2003, the idea spread to Canada and other countries, and the event has become known internationally as World Storytelling Day.



Amman, Jordan



Karachi, Pakistan



Austin, Texas

# The 26th Annual Texas Storytelling Festival

## March 10 – 13, 2011

### Denton Civic Center, Denton Texas



#### Featuring:

**Jeannine Pasini Beekman of Louisiana**

**Jay Stailey of Texas**

**Donald Davis of North Carolina**

**Lyn Ford of Ohio**

#### Festival Highlights include—

Thursday begin with the **Slightly Scary Stories** for the younger set at 6:30pm. Stay, if you dare, for the truly frightening **Ghost Stories** for adults at 7:30pm.

**Concerts** where you can hear all four Featured Tellers are the Opening, Closing and two Evening Concerts. Saturday evening, we take pride in recognizing some of the leaders of the Texas storytelling community with our [Awards Ceremony](#).

You'll want to buy a Box Lunch both Fri. and Sat., and listen or tell in the **Story Swaps**.

Friday will offer a full day of concerts and useful and inspiring workshops. The **Rising Star Concert** will showcase outstanding new voices from around the state. You'll want to stay for the Annual Membership Meeting to hear the good news about TSA and meet the candidates running for the Board of Directors.

Of course there will be more concerts and workshops on Saturday. The **Family Concert** will provide fun for folks of all ages. Light-hearted laughter continues at The **Believe It Or Not! Concert**. Listeners will vote on which of our tellers can be believed.

Youth Tellers will have their own lunch, story swap, workshop and coaching session.

New to our Festival this year are **Fringe Performances**. Offering something fresh and a little off the beaten track, you might hear a new take on ancient monsters or a personal account of a natural disaster or take a look at storytelling in the future. Check it out!

Be sure to get tickets for the **Talespinner Dinner on Saturday** from 5 to 7 pm. Instead of rushing out to find a place to eat, relax and stoke up on some great Mexican food and even greater conversation. This will be your chance to put in your last bids for the **Silent Auction**. Lots of great stuff you've just got to have!

**The Story Store** will provide a chance to stock up on books, CDs, puppets, musical instruments and other storytelling items to take home, either for yourself or for those who did not get to come with you.

And, you'll want to stay on till Sunday when Jay Stailey leads a **Labyrinth Walk**, a kind of moving meditation that opens us to think about our own life journey. The **Sacred Tales Concert** will offer stories from diverse spiritual traditions. The **Closing Concert** will give you a chance to bid a special farewell to each of our Featured Tellers.

Or join Master teller and teacher Donald Davis for a **Master Class** to help you develop your own story skills. Certainly an opportunity not to be missed.

# FESTIVAL REGISTRATION FORM



## Complete and mail with payment to:

Tejas Storytelling Association  
P.O.Box 2806, Denton, Texas 76202  
or fax to (940) 380-9329

Please include credit card information, if applicable.

**There will be no refunds after March 1, 2011.**

### TSA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual .....	\$35 ea.	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Family .....	\$60 ea.	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization.....	\$75 ea.	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth .....	\$10 ea.	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> TSA Web Directory Listing.....	\$20 ea.	\$ _____
Total Membership		\$ _____

### FULL FESTIVAL TICKETS

#### Early Bird (Before Feb. 28)

<input type="checkbox"/> TSA Member.....	\$60 ea.	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member.....	\$95 ea.	\$ _____

#### Regular (After Feb. 28)

<input type="checkbox"/> TSA Member.....	\$95 ea.	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member.....	\$130 ea.	\$ _____

Total Full Tickets \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Youth Activities are free for children. Parents who accompany Youth may attend youth activities at no cost or pay separately to attend any festival concerts or workshops.

### REGISTRATION OPTIONS

<input type="checkbox"/> One day ticket (either Fri. or Sat.) .....	\$40 ea.	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Concerts.....	\$10 ea.	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Workshops.....	\$15 ea.	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Master Class with Donald Davis.....	\$50 ea.	\$ _____

The following are not included in full weekend tickets:

<input type="checkbox"/> Talespinner Dinner.....	\$25 ea.	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Box Lunches .....	\$9 ea.	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Box Lunches .....	\$9 ea.	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetarian <input type="checkbox"/> Special Dietary Needs		

Total Options \$ \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to Tejas Storytelling Association.

Please charge my  Master Card     Visa     American Express     Discovery

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Backpage Trivia Question

What do these have in common? *The Epic of Gilgamesh, The Enuma Elish; The Iliad, The Theogony, The Catalogue of Women; The Argonautica; The Metamorphoses, Táin Bó Cúailnge, Beowulf, David of Sasun, Epic of King Gesar, The Lays of Marie de France, The Tale of Igor's Campaign, The Nibelungenlied, Epic of Sundiata, Book of DeDe Korkut; Orlando Furioso, The Mahabarata, Wojna Chocimska, The Faerie Queene, Harold the Dauntless, Pan Tadeusz, The Wanderings of Oisin, The Descent of Alette, Helen in Egypt, The Decameron?*

**answer:**

**They are all epic stories and ones that we as storytellers might just need to read.**

Tejas Storytelling Association  
PO Box 2806  
Denton, TX 76202  
[www.tejasstorytelling.com](http://www.tejasstorytelling.com)