

AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello friends,



Summer always seems like it will last forever when you're looking at it in April and May. There are so many things to do, gardens to be planted, yards to be landscaped, trips to be taken, stories to be told. Even in June, August just seems so far away. Remember when you were a kid. School was out around the 1st of June, and you didn't have to go back until after Labor Day. Summer stretched out forever. It feels shorter now that I am older.

Here it is August already. Schools will open in a few weeks, and we will leave Summer behind.

Oh, but we had a good time telling stories this summer. There was the Liars Contest in July in Hannibal. Those memories will stay with us for a long time.

Check out the Missouri State Parks in August, September and October for storytelling. November brings the St. Louis Storytelling Festival and Tellabration!. River and Prairie Storyweavers will have monthly gatherings for storytellers and story listeners.

We take a break from the newsletter in September. We have a September event to keep you connected to us though. Check out the flyer for September 9th. The board will regale you with stories about storytelling.

Keep telling your tales and stay in touch.
Joyce Slater
President, MO-TELL

"Stories can conquer fear, you know. They can make the heart bigger." — Ben Okri



PROUDLY PRESENTS

THE

MISSOURI LIARS CONTEST

RESULTS





MO-TELL Liars Contest - July 12, 2025 - Hannibal, MO

MANY THANKS TO VELMA WEEMS FOR THIS LOVELY SNAP!

BACK ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT)

RICH WHITE
JIM "TWO CROWS" WALLEN
RIC VICE
RAMONA CRAWFORD
TIMOTHY SALLEE
HEATHER HARLAN
AMY PRATER
ANTHONY CLARK, FOUNDER

FRONT ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT):

JOYCE SLATER, PRES.
CHESTER WEEMS
KEN WOLFE
LARRY BROWN

SPOKEN CATEGORY

KEN WOLFE - 1ST PLACE
"MAGICIAN FOR THE MOB"

LARRY BROWN - 2ND PLACE
"BLACK SNAKE"

CHESTER WEEMS - 3RD PLACE
"THE CHICKEN LOVER"

WRITTEN CATEGORY

CHESTER WEEMS, 1ST PLACE
"THE SKUNK HERDER"

LARRY BROWN, 2ND PLACE
"MUSHROOMS"

DARREL (SKIP) SKIPWORTH, 3RD PLACE
"NAME CALLING"

GRATEFUL GRATITUDES GIVEN: (IN SHORT)

The Riedel Foundation
Hannibal Arts Council
Hannibal Music Academy
Java Jive Restaurant

The Mark Twain Boyhood Home &
Museum
The Best Western on the River Hotel

The Liars Contest Committee Members,
Sue Hinkel, Gale Rublee, Joyce Slater,
Perrin Stifel, Angela Williams and
Karen Young

The Judges for the Written & Spoken
Liars Contests

The MO-TELL Board of Directors:
Joyce Slater, Sue Hinkel, Gary
Kuntz, Linda Kuntz, Nancee
Walker Micham, Perrin Stifel,
Jackie Wright, Papa Wright

Ken Wolfe
Marsha Stifel Mellendorf
January Kiefer
Hilary Kuntz
Alice Stifel

All donors to the silent auction

and, of course, the tremendous support
of our MO-TELL members.



GRATEFUL GRATITUDES GIVEN: (LONG FORM)

The 11th Annual Missouri Liars Contest 2025 Hannibal, MO

The Liars Contest was an enormous success in Hannibal, and we owe that success to all the wonderful people who were there before, during and after the event. We had a wonderful team working hard to make it happen.

The Hannibal Music Academy hosted the Friday, July 11th event. The free concert of stories and songs from Evie Rodenbaugh, Angela Williams, Karen Young, January Kiefer, Brian Fox Ellis, Jim Two Crows Wallen and Gladys Coggsell inspired the crowd of over 120 listeners. We are grateful to Gale Rublee for putting the concert together and for the grant from the Riedel Foundation in Hannibal.

On Saturday July 12th we began the day with a free workshop by January Kiefer. "From the Page to the Stage" captivated the workshop which was well attended. People are still talking about how helpful the workshop was. The Hannibal Arts Council was a good fit for the MO-TELL for the entire day.

The Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum sponsored a concert with Ric Vice telling stories by Mark Twain and other tales to an audience of 22. Later in the afternoon, ten people lined up to compete in the Spoken Missouri Liars Contest. It was all held together by Anthony Clark, our delightful emcee and the creator of the MO-TELL Liars Contest many years ago. This year, as always, the judges had a tough time deciding a winner. An audience of around 45-50 cheered them on.

Three winners were chosen by the three Hannibal based judges, 1st place: Ken Wolfe, 2nd place: Larry Brown, and 3rd place, Chester Weems. Ken is now a 5-time champion liar!

There were many entries for the Written Liars Contest. We were lucky to have the 1st and 2nd place winners in the audience on the 12th. The 1st place winner, Chester Weems, read his story.

Hannibal was a fun place to have the liars contest. But all the people involved made it much more fun. Many, many thanks to the Liars Contest committee who worked so hard with me on this, Gale Rublee, Angela Williams, Karen Young, Sue Hinkel and Perrin Stifel. the MO-TELL board works so hard at these events. Thank you, Jackie Wright, Papa Wright, Linda Kuntz, Gary Kuntz, Nancee Walker-Micham, Sue Hinkel and Perrin Stifel.

Thank you to the town of Hannibal who welcomed us with open arms with special thanks to:

The Riedel Foundation	The Hannibal Arts Council	The Hannibal Music Academy
The Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum	The Best Western on the River Hotel.	Java Jive

The judges for the written and the spoken Liars Contests,
Ken Wolfe – creative designer of the newsletter and the fliers
Marsha Stifel Mellendorf – creator of the quilt for the raffle
January Kiefer – workshop leader
Hilary Kuntz – webmaster
Alice Stifel – silent auction help

The 12th Annual Missouri Liars Contest weekend will be July 10th and 11th in Joplin, MO.

St. Louis
STORY
TELL!NG
Festival
November
10-16



WORK IT, BABY!
HONE, CRAFT, PERFORM!

**YOUR
STORY
ON
STAGE**
2 Workshop



St. Louis County **Library**

Presented by **The Rep**
REPERTORY
THEATRE
ST. LOUIS

St. Louis
STORYTELLING
Festival

Grand Glaize Branch

Saturday, August 9
9:30–11:30 a.m.

Florissant Valley Branch

Saturday, August 16
2:00–4:00 p.m.

Adults. Registration required.

WARNING

HARD RIGHT SCREEN TURN

AHEAD



YOUR STORY ON STAGE

Presented by
The Rep.
REPERTORY
THEATRE OF
ST. LOUIS

AUGUST 16 – SEPTEMBER 15

Adults ages 18+

For more information and official guidelines,
please see the reverse side or visit
www.slcl.org/your-story-on-stage.



St. Louis County **Library**

Program sites are accessible. With at least two weeks' notice, accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities. Call 314-994-3300 or visit www.slcl.org.



YOUR STORY ON STAGE

Everyone has a unique story to tell! Adults are invited to share their most captivating stories in audio or text format for a chance to see them brought to life on stage by The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis during the 46th annual St. Louis Storytelling Festival, Sunday, November 16.

HOW TO ENTER:

1. Think of a story using ONE of these options below:

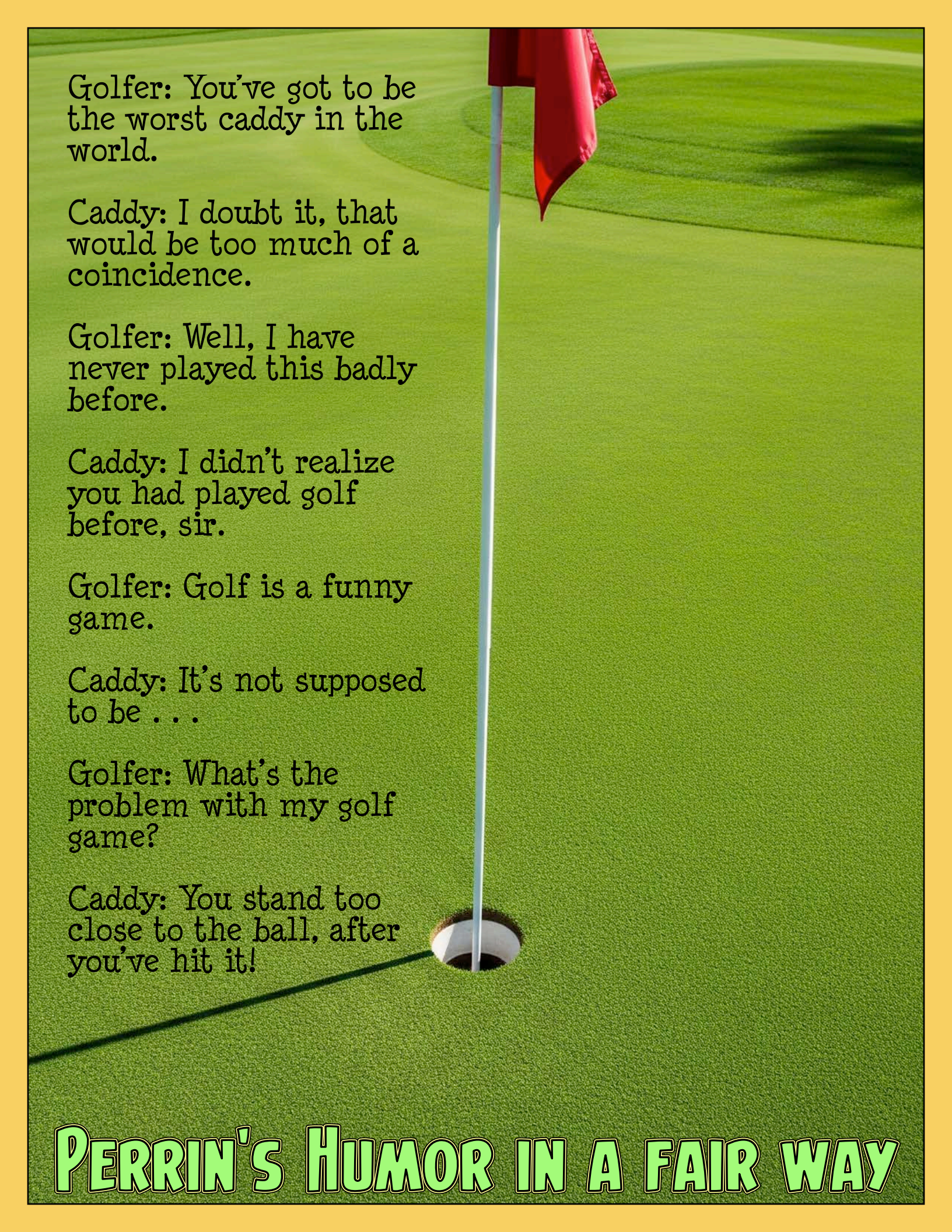
- A story about *reshaping your narrative*.
- A story about *coming of age*.
- A story about *finding community and friendship*.
- A story about *facing childhood fears*.
- A story about *how you made the biggest mistake of your life*.
- A story about *a time when you won your own personal Superbowl*.

2. Create either an audio recording (preferred) or a written version of your story.

3. Complete the online entry form at www.slcl.org/your-story-on-stage with your original story between August 16 – September 15, 2025.

OFFICIAL RULES AND GUIDELINES:

- Adults 18 and up are encouraged to enter.
- Entries must be received between August 16 – September 15, 2025.
- Your story must pertain to one of the options listed above.
- All submissions will be reviewed, selected, and adapted for the stage by The Repertory Theater of St. Louis.
- You may submit multiple stories, but only one may be chosen.
- If your story is selected, St. Louis County Library will notify you by October 6, 2025.
- The story should be told in the first person.
- You may submit either an audio recording (preferred) or a written version of your story.
- The selected stories will be performed by The Repertory Theater of St. Louis during the 46th Annual St. Louis Storytelling Festival on Sunday, November 16, 1:00 p.m. at the Clark Family Branch.
- Audio recording between 5-10 minutes in length. File types accepted are m4a, mp3, mp4, wma, wav.
- Written story between 750-1000 words. File types accepted are pdf, doc, docx, txt, rtf.
- Video recording of the performances is prohibited.

A photograph of a golf green. In the foreground, a white flagstick with a red flag is positioned next to a golf hole. The green is a vibrant green, and the background shows a rolling golf course under bright sunlight.

Golfer: You've got to be the worst caddy in the world.

Caddy: I doubt it, that would be too much of a coincidence.

Golfer: Well, I have never played this badly before.

Caddy: I didn't realize you had played golf before, sir.

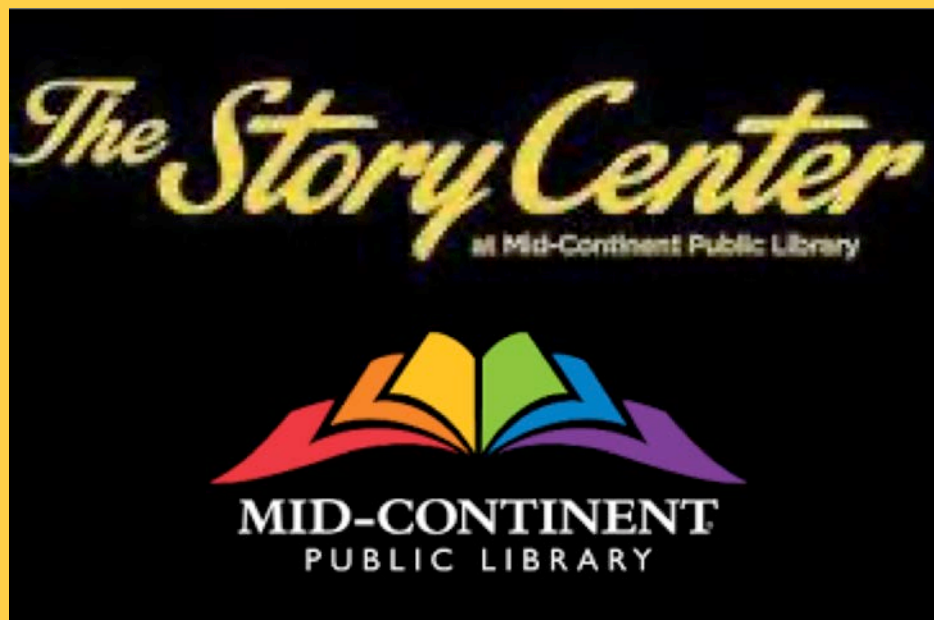
Golfer: Golf is a funny game.

Caddy: It's not supposed to be . . .

Golfer: What's the problem with my golf game?

Caddy: You stand too close to the ball, after you've hit it!

PERRIN'S HUMOR IN A FAIR WAY



The MCPL Story Center Storytelling Certificate Program

For more information about the Storytelling Certificate Program at the Story Center, contact:

Story Center Program Manager
Woodneath Library Center
Mid-Continent Public Library
816.883.4780

mystorycenter.org

[Introduction to Storytelling Varieties \(Zoom\)](#)

Wed, Aug 6 2025 6:30pm - 8:00pm Central Story Center Event **MCPL Online**

Learn from nationally known storyteller and Grammy-nominated recording artist Milbre Burch about storytelling varieties.

REGISTER NOW

[Braided, Fractured, and Re-imagined Stories \(Zoom\)](#)

Thu, Aug 14 2025 6:30pm - 8:00pm Central Story Center Event **MCPL Online**

In this interactive workshop with Jessica Robinson, participants will take stories they know well and twist them, reshaping them into something new and different.

REGISTER NOW

[Story Swap \(Hybrid\)](#)

Thu, Aug 21 2025 6:30pm - 8:00pm Central Story Center Programming Room and Online Story Center Event **MCPL Online**

This open-mic storytelling event is open to anyone! Put your name in the hat for a chance to share a seven-minute story, or just come to enjoy the show.

REGISTER NOW

[Marketing for Storytellers](#)

Mon, Aug 25 2025 6:30pm - 8:00pm Story Center Programming Room Story Center Event **Full (waiting list)**

Entrepreneurial expert Kimberly Beer will teach you how to cultivate a brand that speaks to your audience as a writer or storyteller.

REGISTER NOW

MORE RAPS NEWS!

August 7: Annual RAPS Meeting and Election of Officers (Asst Director, Treasurer, and Membership) - Stories of Service
Trailside Center , 9901 Holmes, Kansas City MO 64131

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87505310168?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87505310168?pwd=MmhrM2NHSE1VaHZaVG1MMTZjNlVKQT09)

[pwd=MmhrM2NHSE1VaHZaVG1MMTZjNlVKQT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87505310168?pwd=MmhrM2NHSE1VaHZaVG1MMTZjNlVKQT09)

[i

Meeting ID: 875 0531 0168

Passcode: 301275

August 16: Story Center Open mic, Mid-Continent Public Library, 8900
NE Flintlock Road
Kansas City, MO 64157

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87505310168?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87505310168?pwd=MmhrM2NHSE1VaHZaVG1MMTZjNlVKQT09)

[pwd=MmhrM2NHSE1VaHZaVG1MMTZjNlVKQT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87505310168?pwd=MmhrM2NHSE1VaHZaVG1MMTZjNlVKQT09)

[i

Meeting ID: 875 0531 0168

Passcode: 301275

September 4: Stories of Enchantment - Featured Teller Cynthia Orr
Trailside Center , 9901 Holmes, Kansas City MO 64131

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87505310168?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87505310168?pwd=MmhrM2NHSE1VaHZaVG1MMTZjNlVKQT09)

[pwd=MmhrM2NHSE1VaHZaVG1MMTZjNlVKQT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87505310168?pwd=MmhrM2NHSE1VaHZaVG1MMTZjNlVKQT09)

[i

Meeting ID: 875 0531 0168

Passcode: 301275

September 20: Zoom Only Open mic Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87505310168?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87505310168?pwd=MmhrM2NHSE1VaHZaVG1MMTZjNlVKQT09)

[pwd=MmhrM2NHSE1VaHZaVG1MMTZjNlVKQT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87505310168?pwd=MmhrM2NHSE1VaHZaVG1MMTZjNlVKQT09)

[i

Meeting ID: 875 0531 0168

Passcode: 301275

What Could Go Wrong

...with Storytelling???

September 9, 2025
7:00 PM on Zoom

Featuring:
The MO-TELL Board





The Autumn of 2025 brings storytellers to various locations across our beloved state.

(BONUS: The staff of the MO-TELL Register will send you a candy bar of your choice if you can prove that you went and saw them all!)

Missouri State Parks and Historic Sites

PARK / SITE		APPROVED STORYTELLER
Bruce R Watkins*		Bro. John Anderson
10/04 Mark Twain Birthplace SHS*		Heather Harlan
08/29 Robertsville SP		Flavia Everman
10/25 Crowder SP		Joyce Slater
09/20 St. Francois SP		Eric Haynes
08/09 Washington SP		Linda Kuntz
09/18 Arrow Rock SP		Ramona Crawford
10/25 Roaring River SP		Alex Primm
10/18 Nathan Olive Boone SHS		Robert Daniels

GO HERE! GO HEAR!

AND NOW A BIT OF MO-TELL HISTORY

The Ballad of Hilary Kuntz

Hilary has been the webmaster for the MO-TELL.org website since 2018. During that time, she created a new website, making it more usable, while keeping elements of the old website. When asked what she liked about being the webmaster she said it gave her an opportunity to organize things and to showcase storytellers and their content.

The downside she said was that getting information and content from storytellers can be like herding cats: “the type of cat that stays out all night and has a glorious time, climbing trees, exploring the town, then cheerfully bringing you a half-dead mouse as a souvenir of its’ conquests.

In her day job she is the English Language Training Program Coordinator for Catholic Charities of NE Kansas. She likes to read, cook, and weave (which explains the loom setup in the living room). Her eventual goal is to get a PhD in Linguistics focusing on Second Language Acquisition for Pre-literate Adults and Language Deprived Students.

She wants to explore the effects of storytelling on language learning.

Her favorite story was told at an early Kansas City Storytelling Celebration when she was 9 or 10 years old. A local teller shared a story about the Spanish bringing horses to the New World. She has only heard that story one time and doesn’t know the name of the teller, but she said, “I still remember how I felt and the hush of the audience as the teller spoke.”

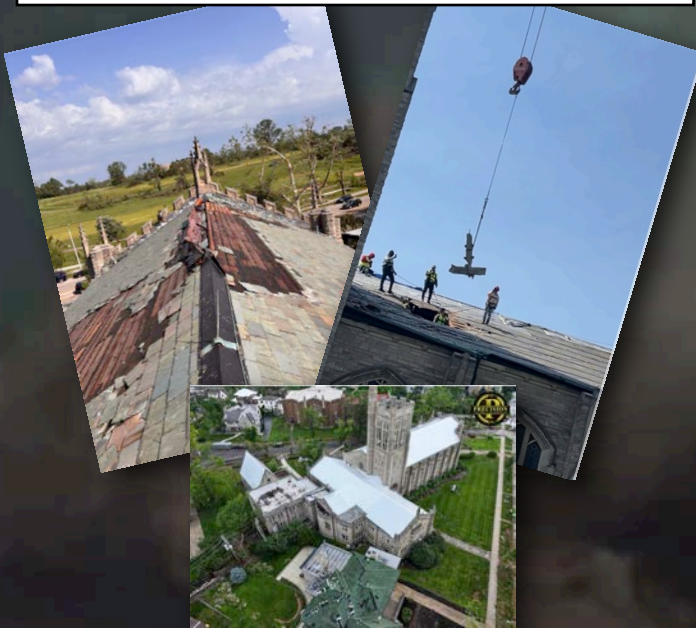
HELP **TORNADO** VICTIMS

HERE ARE A COUPLE OF WAYS

In our June newsletter we discussed the devastating tornado that occurred in St. Louis, MO. Some of our friends lost homes and businesses and churches. Here are two opportunities to consider in helping our neighbors.

MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN

THEY'VE HOSTED TWO TELLABRATIONS!
(AND KEN WOLFE IS AN ELDER THERE)



The congregation of St. Louis' historic Memorial Presbyterian Church grieves the devastation wrought by the May 16th EF-3 tornado. While our 1926 English gothic bell tower, sanctuary and arts venue, The Chapel, still anchor the western edge of Forest Park, and while our people still gather for weekly worship, millions of dollars and many months of work lie ahead to restore the structure to its historic glory. You can follow the progress being made below.

You can also financially partner with us to help ensure this historic building is restored and preserved for generations of St. Louisans to come.

For MUCH more information and ways to help:



CENTENNIAL CHRISTIAN

which is instrumental in feeding and housing the poor, who were hit hard by this tornado. Some of the MO-TELL members have asked how they may donate to help people in St. Louis who are in need due to the tornado. This will be an opportunity to help victims of the May 16 tornado.

The Fountain Park neighborhood (just east of Kingshighway and north of Delmar) was hit hard by the tornado, in which 5,000 homes, churches, and businesses were destroyed or significantly damaged. The Centennial Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), which has served the community for more than 100 years, was damaged beyond repair. One woman died in the church during the tornado; she had just finished feeding the poor. Two other women in the church were rescued by first responders.

The congregation plans to rebuild within two years and establish a health clinic, food bank, and housing in its mission of "Health, Hunger, and Home." Donations will help the neighborhood now and in its future rebuilding.

There are several ways to donate to this cause:

--Send money in the form of a check made payable to Centennial Christian Church (Write "localtornado relief" in the memo section of the check). Mail to Perrin Stifel, 636 Elmwood Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63119.

--Use Venmo to Liz Lyons (Perrin's daughter) @Liz-Lyons-13; the last 4 digits of her phone number are 3162 (please note the funds are for the tornado victims relief).

--Donate directly to Centennial Christian Church's GoFundMe page at:

<https://gofund.me/387b4ee8>

We realize that you may have already contributed food, money, and/or your time to help the victims of this devastating tornado. And there are many other ways to give.

We thought this way might be easy for some folks.

STORY OF THE MONTH

Crack Shot

There were these two good-ole-boys who had some trouble with each other, but they couldn't get it settled no matter what.

Since they were both crack shots with their rifles, about the best in the whole country, they figured the only way to take care of the problem was to have a duel. So they went off into the woods all by themselves, turned back-to-back, stepped off 20 paces and turned around. Then they counted to three, raised their rifles, and fired. But darned if they both didn't miss, neither one got so much as a crease.

At first, they felt sort of ashamed at missing such an easy shot and they imagined what people would say if they found out. They just stood there brooding about it all but after a while they got to remembering the trouble between them and how much they hated each other, so they tried the duel again. Counted to 3 and shot, but they didn't have any luck that time either.

Well, they were so determined to kill each other they just kept trying. They just stood 40 paces apart, counted to 3 and fired. Over and over again, they counted, shot, and missed. Finally, they just gave up. Naturally it kind of bothered them to call it off that way, but there wasn't much they could do about it, seeing their rifles must be witched when aimed at each other.

They decided to shake hands and walked toward each other. When they met in the middle, just before shaking hands, they each stepped on something red-hot which caused them to jump and let out a holler. When they looked down, they saw big lumps of sizzling lead. They had shot so straight and true at each other that each time they fired their bullets met in the middle and melted from the heat and dropped to the ground.

They still didn't like each other but figured they would have to find another way to settle the problem.

THE STORY BEAST

For Story Artists, Listeners, and Dreamers

Sink your teeth and claws into our monthly publication now



A new free E-Publication the 15th of each month

While you explore, consider submitting stories, articles, poems, and art.



STORYBEAST.ORG/ARCHIVE



**IT ONLY WORKS WHEN
WE ALL PULL TOGETHER!**



**LET'S KEEP THIS THING ROLLING!
JOIN MO-TELL TODAY AND ENJOY!**

DETAILS BELOW. CHECK 'EM OUT!

CURIOUS ABOUT THE EVENT ABOVE?
USE THE LINK TO SEE IT (OR ONE LIKE IT).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHf05dXzdeQ>

THE MO-TELL BILL OF FARE

OFTEN IMITATED, NEVER DUPLICATED

MEMBERSHIP DUES

FISCAL YEAR, FEBRUARY 1-JANUARY 31

RENEW TODAY!

MEMBERSHIP	ANNUAL DUES	COMES WITH
SINGLE MEMBERSHIP 1 YEAR	\$25	MO-TELL PRESTIGE
SINGLE MEMBERSHIP 2 YEARS	\$40	MO-TELL PRESTIGE
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP 1 YEAR	\$35	FAMILY-WIDE MO-TELL PRESTIGE
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP 2 YEARS	\$50	TWICE AS MUCH OF THE SAME!!
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP -60	\$250	LOGO BAG <i>PLUS</i> MEMBER'S CHOICE OF ONE: (CAP) (T-SHIRT) (LOGO MUG)
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP 60+	\$200	LOGO BAG <i>PLUS</i> MEMBER'S CHOICE OF ONE: (CAP) (T-SHIRT) (LOGO MUG)

SEND CHECK PAYABLE TO:

Missouri Storytelling, Inc.
9621 Olive Blvd. #28994
St. Louis, MO 63132-9998



WHY WAIT?

THE BENEFITS YOU RECEIVE FOR YOUR ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP:

1. MISSOURI STATE PARKS STORYTELLING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE
2. MISSOURI LIAR'S CONTEST
3. WEB SITE PRESENCE FOR STORYTELLERS
4. MONTHLY STORYTELLING PROGRAMS
5. LOADS OF MERCH (HATS, CAPS, CUPS, MUGS, BAGS, AND WHATNOT!)
6. NATIONAL STORYTELLING NETWORK AFFILIATION
7. A WORLD CLASS NEWSLETTER (HUZZAH!)
8. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (AND A VOICE THEREIN!)
9. CONNECTION TO THE OTHER STORYTELLING ORGANIZATIONS IN THE REGION

RENEW TODAY!

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

Missouri Storytelling, Inc (MO-TELL) is an organization of storytellers and other interested persons dedicated to spreading the joy and art of storytelling throughout Missouri.

MISSION STATEMENT

We envision that every Missourian will hear and share stories and keep the oral tradition alive.

VISION STATEMENT

President: Joyce Slater, joyceslater20@gmail.com

Vice-President: Sue Hinkel, suehinkel1@gmail.com

Treasurer: Jackie Wright, jpapawright@sbcglobal.net (Membership)

Secretary: Linda Kuntz, iharilag@gmail.com

At Large: Gary Kuntz, galirahi@aol.com
Nancee Walker Micham, walkermicham@gmail.com
Glen "Papa" Wright, jpapawright@sbcglobal.net

Emeritus: Perrin Stifel, pstifelstl@earthlink.net

www.mo-tell.org

Copyright © 2025 MO-TELL, All rights reserved
Volume 9, Newsletter 8

Our mailing address: 7338 Belleview Ave, Kansas City, MO 64114



THE MO-TELL BOARD