

**WE'VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE...WE REJOICE IN THE RETELLING.**



# **THE REGISTER**

## **JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER**

### **A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT**



As the year of 2019 comes to a close, we remember our joys and our sorrows, our friendships and our stories. We have much for which to be thankful. MO-TELL has a hard-working board of directors, Sue Hinkel, our treasurer, Jim Two Crows Wallen, our secretary, Gary Kuntz, at large and Perrin Stifel, founder and emeritus director. Many thanks to our board members. We also have helpers who do so much for us. Thom Howard helps us review our financials every year. Ken Wolfe designs and creates the monthly newsletter. Hilary Kuntz works on our website with her father Gary Kuntz. Karen Potts, Sarah Howard and Ken Wolfe worked on the Liar's Contest. Thank you to Thom, Ken, Hilary, Karen, Sarah and Ken. We have a good working relationship with the Missouri State Parks and the Missouri Arts Council. Thank you. We maintain a good working relationship with the following organizations River and Prairie Storyweavers, Gateway Storytelling, Riverwinds Storytelling and Storytellers of the Ozarks, the St. Louis Storytelling Festival and the KC Storytelling Celebration, as well as numerous library systems in the state. Thank you one and all.

We were deeply saddened this year with the loss of Becky Walstrom, who was not only our board member but a wonderful friend. I miss her terribly as I know you do as well. She was a gift to storytelling who was full of joy and love.

We have added new members. We hope to add more this year and renew all our current members before January 31. (Check the newsletter for membership dues information.) We would love to hear what you think. The Annual Membership Meeting is January 25, 2020, in Paola, KS during the Chicken Festival. We would love to see you there. Come to the festival and stay for the meeting. You will have a great time.

Last year we were able to create a monthly newsletter, build a website, send storytellers to the Missouri State Parks, stage a Liar's Contest and hold an Annual Membership meeting. We also were awarded a grant from the Missouri Arts Council to help with the state park storytelling. Looking toward the future, we hope to accomplish some of the same things as last year. We will again have storytelling in the state parks, stage a Liar's contest, create a monthly newsletter, make the website better and hold an Annual Membership Meeting. We are also writing grants and brainstorming about future events. We want to add new board members from different parts of the state. We are planning a Missouri Bicentennial event. We would love to have your help and suggestions.

Thank you for your membership and support this past year. We are nothing without you.

**WHEN THE  
STORYTELLING  
GOES BAD IN  
SOCIETY, THE  
RESULT IS  
DECADENCE.**

**ARISTOTLE**

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## COMING SOON!

January 24, 25, 26, 2020

River and Prairie Storyweavers will host its 27th Annual Chicken Festival at the Paola Community Center (905 E. Wea Street, Paola, KS, 66071). The Chicken Festival is a combination of community outreach & storyteller retreat. Attendees are those who love stories, whether you are a storyteller or a story listener, all are welcome. Instead of one or a few featured tellers, YOU are the featured storyteller when you tell your story.

As part of the community outreach, we will tell stories in the local schools, libraries, and senior centers on Friday, January 24, and present a community storytelling concert on Saturday, January 25. Those interested in volunteering their talents to tell in the community should contact Gary Kuntz as 816-896-8611.

Friday evening, all day Saturday, and Sunday morning storyteller will share their favorite stories and music. Yes, there is a time slot for chicken stories. Keep checking [www.riverandprairiestoryweavers.org](http://www.riverandprairiestoryweavers.org) for updates on The Chicken Festival.

The Nitty Gritty: Chicken Festival registration is \$30 for RAPS members or \$60 for non-RAPS members. RAPS annual member is \$25, \$35 for a family. Contact the Paola Inn and Suites (1600 E. Hedges Ln. Ct., Paola, KS, 66071) At (913) 294-3700 by 12/24/19 for the fabulous RAPS room discount rate of \$70 (plus taxes). Don't delay! Don't call too late for reservations to the Chicken Festival only to find yourself completely plucked.



**M3 2020**  
THE MO-TELL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
JANUARY 25TH, PAOLA, KANSAS  
IT'LL BE EVERYTHING YOU HOPE FOR  
**AND MORE! ATTEND!**  
(OR WE'RE LIABLE TO TELL  
STORIES IN YOUR ABSENCE.)

SEND YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:  
MO-TELL  
C/O SUE HINKEL  
2236 HIGHWAY N  
PACIFIC, MO 63069

**DUES ARE DUE!**

**JAN. 31ST!**

Single Memberships -	Family Memberships -
\$25 for one year	\$35 for one year
\$40 for two years	\$50 for two years

**Robertsville  
State Park  
Robertsville, MO**



**Heather Harlan  
Storyteller/Musician  
“The Journey West:  
Stories  
Around the Campfire”**

**Friday, September 20, 2019; 7:00 PM**



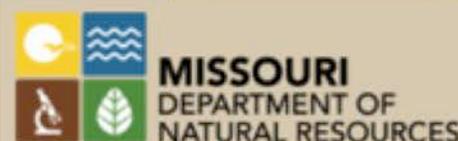
Robertsville  
State Park

**Location: Robertsville State Park  
Park Amphitheater  
902 State Park Drive  
Robertsville, MO 63072  
(636) 257-3788**

**ALL OUT FAMILY FUN!**  
Audiences of all ages.

Heather Harlan  
[heatherharlan.com](http://heatherharlan.com)

 [heatherharlan.stories.music/](https://www.facebook.com/heatherharlan.stories.music/)





# The SIXTH ANNUAL Missouri State Liar's Contest



The 2020 Missouri State Liar's Contest, sponsored by MO-Tell (Missouri Storytelling) will take place at the Spencer Road Library in St. Peters, MO, on July 11th, 2020.



Regional judges of honor and renown (at least in the hearts of their mothers) will rank worthy contestants and you, too, in two arenas on that day: **Oral Storytelling** (up to a ten minute story) and **Written Storytelling** (up to 3,000 words).



Tellers from far & wide, from all corners of Missouri (and then some), will clash in a cloud of contrivances to fight in a field of fabrications, wielding whoppers! Join them in sanctioned deceit! Compete for the kind of notoriety that flirts with the notorious!



Plus, earlier in the day veteran storytellers will offer FREE workshops, open to ALL who love telling stories!



## For details, submission regulations & contest rules visit [MO-TELL.org](http://MO-TELL.org)



Whether or not you intend to personally compete in either or both of the contests, please be sure to attend on July 11th, 2020!



It's one of the most creative storytelling events in our fair state and, most importantly of all, we need witnesses.



# STATE PARK STORYTELLING

Funded and sponsored by the good folks at the Missouri Arts Council and the Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources, MO-TELL is pleased to provide musical, educational, and storytelling performances in parks facilities across our fair state.

(PICTURE YOUR PICTURE HERE)



**Missouri Arts Council**  
The State of the Arts

MO-TELL  
members  
Can participate in  
this excellent  
program.

Are you qualified?  
You easily can be.  
Join today!

**STORIES BY**

**(YOUR NAME HERE)**



**MISSOURI**  
STATE PARKS

**WHICH  
STATE PARK?**

# ALWAYS REMEMBER, NEVER FORGET

“I’m obsessed  
with giving the  
audience  
something they  
don’t see  
coming.”

- Jordan Peele

# MO-TELL MEMBER OF THE MONTH



## *Marilyn Sue Warren*

### **A bit about myself:**

Here are a few of my favorite things- being a mom , and grandmother; nurse; storyteller, walking in the woods; yoga and tarot. I love doing storytelling tarot- lay out the cards for someone and then using the placement and pictures on the cards create a one of a kind story. Walking in the woods grounds and centers me as nothing else does; feel so lucky that there are so many walking trails around St. Louis. Love walking by the Mississippi and think about Mark Twain being on this same river.

### **Interest in Storytelling**

It began in my childhood-our family was very rich in stories, and had very little in material things, such as running water, indoor plumbing; radio or television. I grew up in rural Arkansas in a family where everyone told stories to entertain and to teach. My mother was very fact based teaching teller, and my father believed the truth should never get in the way of a good story.

Therefore as a child telling stories was my way of being seen and getting attention.

As an adult it was patient stories that captured me. I worked on the addiction/psych unit at the VA for 21 years and it was their stories and our collaboration to create new and different beginnings/endings to their complicated lives that let me know how much stories heal.

### **What tellers..**

I was a fan girl of January Keiffer when she did storytelling at COCA- tried to go to every performance. Took her techniques back to the VA to give to patients.

Lynn Rubright and the UMSL summer storytelling sessions. Learned there skills for crafting personal stories.

Sue Hinkel and her historical stories- my favorite being the 100 Dollar Bill

Cynthea Jones- her transforming Greek myths into the 21st century ethos.

### **MO-TELL -**

Want to keep the art form alive ; well and growing; And see this as a challenge . Would like to see young people be involved, and am unsure how to support that, and more diversity in our memberships and tellers in MO.

### **Favorites**

Favorite story - Retelling of Persephone. Begins with - We all know the story about her, and she is always told as Demeter's daughter. "How would your story be different if it was your mother who did the telling?"

# AND NOW, A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR..

SPOILER: TECHNICALLY, YOU'RE OUR SPONSOR.



## STORYTELLERS & STORY LISTENERS!

Missouri Storytelling, Inc. celebrates storytelling and Missouri history around the entire state of Missouri, with members from all over the region. Our membership includes storytellers, listeners, and enthusiasts alike.

We are proud of the benefits we offer our members: Missouri State Parks Storytelling, the Missouri Liars' Contest, website presence for storytellers, National Storytelling Network affiliation, and a world class newsletter replete with snazziness.

Our fiscal year runs from February 1st through January 31st. We're glad to offer flexibility in memberships as single or dual, the dues of which we collect annually or biennially by January 31st.

Once again, (ahem) members are to submit dues by January 31st.

Whether you're a...

- New member
- Current member whose 2019 dues are expiring
- Current member with dues expiring in 2020
- Former member with an eye to re-enlist

...we want to keep you as a member. We want to hear from you.

(Like it'd kill you to call every once in a while...)

## PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING OR REJOINING MO-TELL TODAY.

### WHAT HAVE YOU TO LOSE BUT YOUR ANONYMITY AND THAT VAGUE, HAUNTING SENSE OF NOT BELONGING?

# **STORYTELLERS OF THE OZARKS**

January, 2020 schedule

January 8, Wednesday, 2:00, Waterford Independent Living  
January 20, Monday, 9:30 a.m., Swap at Krimi's home

For more information contact Nancy at 417-848-4849  
[storytellersoftheozarks@gmail.com](mailto:storytellersoftheozarks@gmail.com)

# **RIVERWINDS STORYTELLERS**

Riverwind Storytellers will meet 6 PM at Denny's restaurant (522  
Boulevard, Collinsville, IL).

Please come for dinner followed by stories.

The theme is "Perks & Perils of Winter" Share your story!

# **GATEWAY STORYTELLERS**

We are meeting on Sunday January 19 at 1:15-3:00 at the St. Louis County  
Library headquarters 1640 South Lindbergh; St Louis, Missouri 63131.  
(Library doesn't open doors till 1:00)

Theme for January- Keeping Warm- or one of your own choosing!

To tell let Ric our MC know at [ricvice@att.net](mailto:ricvice@att.net). Looking forward to seeing  
you and hearing your stories in a story filled new year.

# RIVER & PRAIRIE STORYWEAVERS

- RAPS Board Planning Meeting - 10:00am, Saturday, January 4, 2020

Any RAPS member is welcome to join the board in planning RAPS meetings and events for the 2020 calendar year.

Woodneath Library Center / Storytime Barn

8900 NE Flintlock Road

Kansas City, MO 64157

- Story Swap! 6:30pm, Thursday, January 16, 2020 at the Woodneath Storytime Barn sponsored by Mid-Continent Public Library. Come support the library and Story Center and practice your stories. Not only is this a good place to practice, it is an excellent opportunity to meet new storytellers, provide them an audience and encourage RAPS membership.

- **No John Knox RAPS Meeting - Saturday January 25, 2020**

We hope to see you all at the chicken Festival.

- River and Prairie Storyweavers (RAPS) Chicken Festival

Friday, January 24 through Sunday, January 26, 2020

*(In case you missed it, I got the year wrong in the last email. Hope none of you showed up for the Chicken Festival a year early.)*

Only a few days left to get the festival price on hotel reservations.

Paola, KS - Hope to see you there.

(Don't forget to contact Gary Kuntz (phone: 816-896-8611) if you wish to tell in the community.)



THREE GREAT ORGANIZATIONS  
BRINGING STORYTELLING  
TO OUR GREAT STATE!

MAGNET  
HERE

# FOR YOUR FRIDGE

MAGNET  
HERE

STORIES, GATHERINGS, AND STORY GATHERINGS  
AROUND OUR FAIR STATE.

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# MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE WOODNEATH...

CLASSES FOR STORYTELLING CERTIFICATION!

## JANUARY & FEBRUARY, 2020 CALENDAR

SAT, JAN 4: RIVER AND PRAIRIE STORYWEAVERS: 2-4 PM

WED, JAN 15: INTERVIEWING SKILLS FOR ORAL HISTORY  
5:30-7:30 PM (PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT TAKES PLACE AT  
THE MIDWEST GENEALOGY CENTER)

SAT, FEB 1: WINTERY TALES FOR THE FAMILY: 6:30-8:30 PM

SAT, FEB 8: RIVER AND PRAIRIE STORYWEAVERS: 2-4 PM

WED, FEB 19: STORYTELLING AS A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS  
6:30-8:30 PM

THU, FEB 20: STORY SWAP!

MO, FEB 24: WOODNEATH WRITERS: POETRY OPEN MIC  
NIGHT 7-8PM

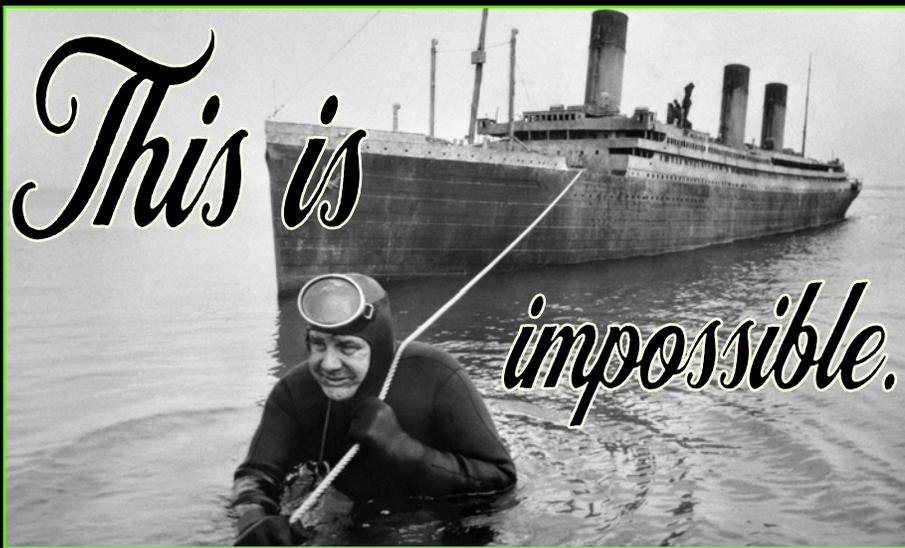
WED, MARCH 4: TELLING FOR TELLERS 6:30-6:30 PM



Well, I don't know about THAT . . .  
But I heard that she read this far into  
the newsletter and still hasn't become a  
member of MO-TELL!  
Can you IMAGINE?  
I mean to say . . .

You don't say!  
Well, I NEVER!

Better become a  
member today.  
Mildred's just awful!



**ONE  
CAN'T.**

No matter how mythic.

**MANY  
CAN.**

No matter how human.

**MO-TELL NEEDS YOU TO PULL.  
WHICH COMFY HARNESS FITS YOU?**

Serve on the Board of Directors?  
Represent MO-TELL from other Missouri areas?  
Coordinate, plan, and manage events?  
Write grants? Help with accounting?  
Contact any existing Board Member with your ideas.  
Really. You've seen this page for months now.

# THE CAT AND THE FOX

## STORY OF THE MONTH

It happened that the cat met the fox in a forest, and as she thought to herself: "He is clever and full of experience, and much esteemed in the world," she spoke to him in a friendly way.

"Good day, dear Mr Fox, how are you? How is all with you? How are you getting on in these hard times?"

The fox, full of all kinds of arrogance, looked at the cat from head to foot, and for a long time did not know whether he would give any answer or not.

At last he said: "Oh, you wretched beard-cleaner, you piebald fool, you hungry mouse-hunter, what can you be thinking of? Have you the cheek to ask how I am getting on? What have you learnt? How many arts do you understand?"

"I understand but one," replied the cat, modestly.

"What art is that?" asked the fox. "When the hounds are following me, I can spring into a tree and save myself."

"Is that all?" said the fox. "I am master of a hundred arts, and have into the bargain a sackful of cunning. You make me sorry for you; come with me, I will teach you how people get away from the hounds."

Just then came a hunter with four dogs. The cat sprang nimbly up a tree, and sat down at the top of it, where the branches and foliage quite concealed her.

"Open your sack, Mr Fox, open your sack," cried the cat to him, but the dogs had already seized him, and were holding him fast.

"Ah, Mr Fox," cried the cat. "You with your hundred arts are left in the lurch! Had you been able to climb like me, you would not have lost your life."

# WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

Missouri Storytelling, Inc (MO-TELL) is an organization of storytellers and other interested person 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

Treasurer: Sue Hinkel, shinkel@mail.win.org (Membership)

Secretary: Jim "Two Crows" Wallen, jimtwocrows@att.net

At Large: Gary Kuntz, galirahi@aol.com

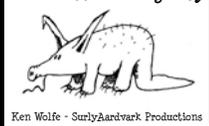
Emeritus: Perrin Stifel, pstifelstl@earthlink.net

[www.mo-tell.org](http://www.mo-tell.org)

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Newsletter design by



# THE MO-TELL BOARD