

### A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



"Storytelling captures an aspect of childhood experience when being told a story was a common ritual. It's a warm place for most of us and in some ways represents our first listening experience in really listening."

- Paul Lansky

Hello my friends,

March 1st was a sunny, mild day. Not an "in like a lion out like a lamb" day at all. The crocus and daffodils were peeking their heads above the ground, the sky was blue, and Spring is just around the corner. How glorious is that!

Last weekend I was part of the Winter Winds Storyfest sponsored by the Story Center, Mid-Continent Public Library in Kansas City, MO and River and Prairie Storyweavers.

This was the inaugural year for Winter Winds and the Story Center. There was a workshop, a lunch with a story swap, a panel of storytellers and a concert. I was part of the panel. My part was to speak about the early childhood storytelling applications. I was grateful to have my voice heard. Most of my work is with young people. Although I love telling stories to all ages, it is vital to tell stories to young listeners. The first years of their lives are the most important in brain development. Storytelling helps develop listening skills, enhances imagination, teaches problem solving and introduces children to literature, just to name a few. It is a big responsibility for the storyteller to aid in this development. Storytelling is not just entertainment for the little ones; it has an influence on their future.

You should give preschool storytelling a try. You just might love it. Look for the Winter Winds Storyfest next year. February 22, 2025.

Keep telling your tales,

Joyce Slater

President, MO-TELL



# Contributed \$868M to St. Louis Economy in 2022

As seen in the St. Louis Business Journal recently, the arts spark economic development, bring millions of tourists to the region and have put St. Louis on the map as a leading arts and culture destination.

As St. Louis positions itself as a great place to work, live and play, the arts and culture sector plays a vital role. According to the recent Americans for the Arts – **Arts and Economic Prosperity 6** study (AEP6), the sector contributes nearly \$868 million in economic impact in St. Louis City and St. Louis County. The study was conducted in partnership with the **Regional Arts Commission of St. Louis** (RACSTL), the largest public funder of art and culture in the region.

"The economic and social impact the arts and culture sector has on St. Louis is undeniable," said Vanessa Cooksey, RACSTL president and CEO. "Our nonprofit organizations contribute the local economy every day – employing thousands of people, creating unique and high-quality experiences for millions of attendees, and through daily operational expenditures."

CLICK HERE to read the St. Louis Business Journal article for free and learn more about how the arts and culture sector is big business in St. Louis.



## For Your Fridge



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

## RAPS MARCH 2024

**Thursday March 7**, 2024, 7:00 pm First Thursday Meeting In-person ONLY at Trailside Center Story Theme: "**March Madness**"

Saturday March 16, 2024, 10:30 am Third Sat. Meeting Hybrid\* meeting at Woodneath AND on Zoom

**Thursday April 4**, 2024, 7:00 pm First Thursday Meeting Hybrid meeting at Trailside Center AND on Zoom Workshop: **Pre-K Storytelling: Asia** 

Starr

Story Theme: "Tricksters around the World"

\*Hybrid meetings will be held in-person at:

Trailside Center Woodneath Library Center
99<sup>th</sup> & Holmes Rd. 8900 NE Flintlock Road
Kansas City, MO 64131 Kansas City, MO 64157

If not on RAPS Mailing List, Contact: <u>RAPS.Secretary@gmail.com</u> for additional info and Zoom links.

# GATEWAY MARCH 2024

# Happy Continuing New Year from Gateway Storytellers!

# Sue Hinkel's Tips for Telling

RESPECT

- 1. RESPECT YOURSELF AS A TELLER. RESPECT YOUR STORY. RESPECT OTHER TELLERS AND THEIR STORY.
- 2. WHEN TELLING STORIES WITH A PARTNER, BE A GOOD LISTENER WHEN THEY ARE TELLING THEIR STORY. LEAD THE LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE FOR THEM.
- 3. THE AMOUNT OF TIME GIVEN TO EACH TELLER IS IMPORTANT TO THE ENTIRETY OF THE PROGRAM. STAY WITHIN YOUR TIME LIMIT AND RESPECT THE TIME OF THE OTHER TELLERS.

# 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



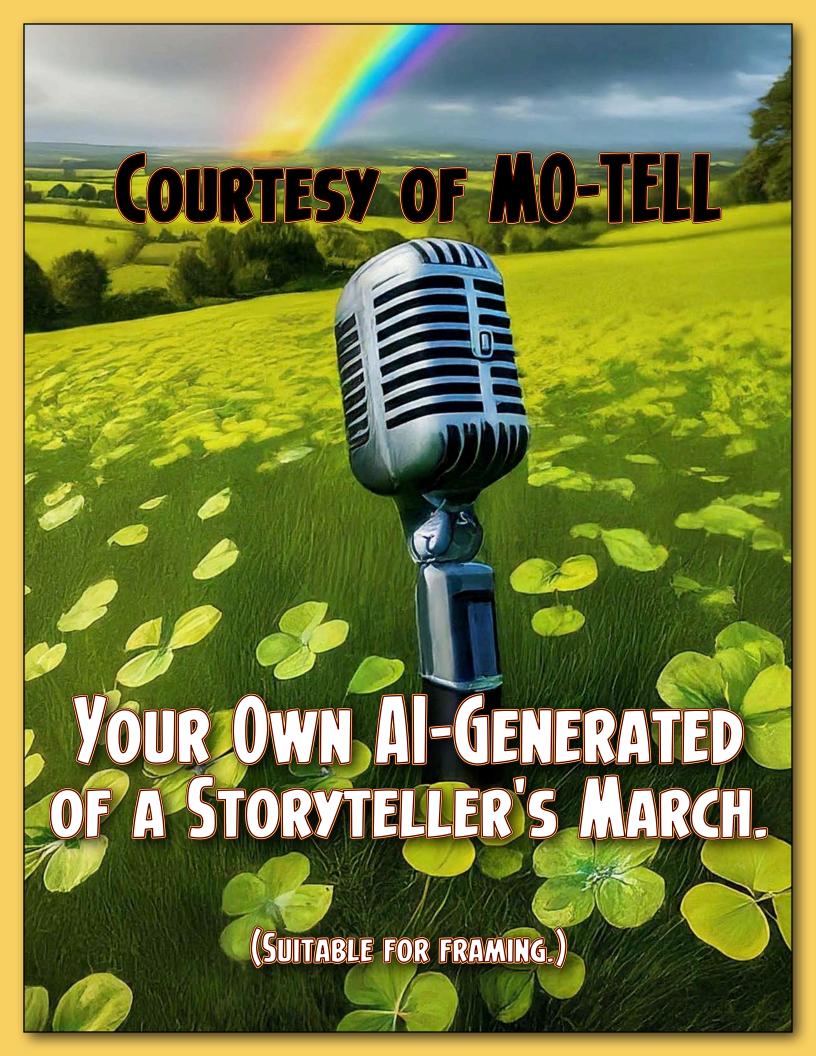




## NSN NEWSLETTER VOL.

6.3

MAR 2024





InterUrban ArtHouse has its storytelling night set for Wednesday, March 20th, at 6pm They'll start off with an intro and a story, poem, or whatever feels right to them, then a storyteller will take the stage for a 10 minute story.

If this works for you, please send a headshot and brief bio or statement for Nettie with an intro. Please also fill out this form and upload a W9 HERE.

Each person chosen will receive a \$100 stipend.

Learn more about becoming a Member of the InterUrban ArtHouse today!

INTERURBAN ARTHOUSE

8001 NEWTON STREET,

OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS 66204 913.283.7091 INFO@INTERURBANARTHOUSE.ORG

# Story Telling FESTIVAL

March 7-10, 2024

Denten Civic Center · Denten, Texas www.tejasstorytelling.com

Donald Davis



**Nestor Gomez** 

Kathy Culmer





Fran Stallings

Personal Stories

Chost Stories

Sacred Tales

Folktales

Liars Contest

Story Slam Poetry Slam

Story Swaps

Kids Activities

Music

Workshops

ARTS

















#### MORE ABOUT THE TEXAS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

HEAR PERSONAL STORIES, GHOST STORIES, A LIARS CONTEST, SACRED TALES, YOUTH ACTIVITIES, A STORY SLAM, POETRY SLAM, MUSIC, AND SO MUCH MORE. IN ADDITION, PARTICIPANTS CAN ATTEND WORKSHOPS TO HONE THEIR OWN STORYTELLING SKILLS.

#### A WEEKEND PASS INCLUDES:

15 STORYTELLING EVENTS INCLUDING: GHOST TALES, LIARS CONTEST, FRINGE, AND STORY SLAM

9 WORKSHOPS

1 MUSIC CONCERT

1 POETRY SLAM

4 YOUTH ACTIVITIES

AND OVER 50 STORYTELLERS!

#### EARLY BIRD DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 29.

INDIVIDUAL EVENT TICKETS ARE \$15 PAID AT THE DOOR.

SEE OUR WEBSITE TICKET SECTION FOR A LIST OF FREE EVENTS.

#### OUR FEATURED TELLERS









FRAN STALLINGS IS INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN ON STAGE & ZOOM FOR HER ENVIRONMENTAL STORIES, TRADITIONAL FOLKTALES, AND HER QUIRKY ORIGINALS.

DONALD DAVIS IS A NATIONAL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL FAVORITE, TELLING PERSONAL STORIES THAT ARE HILARIOUS AND UNPREDICTABLE AS WELL AS EMOTIONALLY ELEVATING.

NESTOR GOMEZ, A 65-TIME MOTH SLAM WINNER, IS A NATIONALLY KNOWN TELLER OF DEEPLY PERSONAL STORIES.

KATHY CULMER TELLS FOLKTALES, BIBLICAL STORIES, FAITH NARRATIVES, HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS, AND ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS.

# A BIT OF MO-TELL HISTORY



### AO-TELL AEMORIES LARRY BROWN

I GREW UP LISTENING TO STORIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF MY GRANDFATHER AND MOTHER, AND EARLY IN MY CHILDHOOD ENJOYED LISTENING TO RADIO PROGRAMS. I ALWAYS APPRECIATED HEARING TEACHERS, PREACHERS, AND OTHER LEADERS USE STORIES. THEN IN 1980 I HEARD MY FIRST "PROFESSIONAL" STORYTELLER AT A CONFERENCE, AND BELIEVED I COULD DO THAT, AND BEGAN TO INTEGRATE STORYTELLING INTO MY MUSIC PERFORMANCES. IN 1981-82 I ATTENDED SOME STORYTELLING FESTIVALS AND WORKSHOPS AND WAS SOON "ON THE STAGE."

I TELL FOLK TALES, OZARK JACK TALES, PERSONAL MEMORIES, HISTORICAL NARRATIVES, CURRENT ISSUES, AND HAVE DEVELOPED THE SPECIALTIES OF CHICKEN STORIES, TALL TALES, AND SPOOKY STORIES. I DO BIBLICAL STORYTELLING (ACADEMY OF BIBLICAL STORYTELLING CERTIFICATE) AS WELL.

MY CURRENT GOALS IN STORYTELLING ARE TO GET MY 200+ ORIGINAL STORIES PRESERVED IN WRITTEN AND/OR RECORDED FORM; AND TO CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE FOR STORYTELLING GIGS FOR A VARIETY OF PRIMARILY ADULT AUDIENCES.

THERE ARE MANY EXPERIENCES THAT HAVE BEEN VERY POSITIVE AND MEMORABLE, SO IT IS DIFFICULT TO DESCRIBE JUST ONE, BUT TO OBSERVE THE BEHAVIOR OF PEOPLE IN THE AUDIENCE THAT REVEALS THE STORY HAS WELCOMED THEM INTO ITS NARRATIVE IS SO REWARDING, WHETHER THAT AUDIENCE WAS A GROUP OF 6 OR 600, OR THE AGES FROM 4 TO 99.

I HAVE BEEN HONORED TO SHARE THE STAGE WITH SOME OF THE BEST KNOWN AND BEST LOVED TELLERS. I JOINED MO-TELL AT LEAST 30 YEARS AGO. I WAS MO-TELL PRESIDENT AROUND 2014-2017. IT WAS A TIME WHEN WE HAD 7-8 ACTIVE STORYTELLING GROUPS/GUILDS IN THE STATE, AND 5-6 ANNUAL STORYTELLING FESTIVALS. IT WAS GOOD TO BE IN COMMUNICATION WITH SO MANY TELLERS AND STORYTELLING ORGANIZATIONS, AND TO COLLABORATE IN THE FOSTERING OF STORYTELLING.

MO-TELL, ALONG WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS HAVE CONSISTENTLY HELPED ME WITH SKILL DEVELOPMENT, FIND NEW VENUES, AND STRENGTHEN COLLEGIALITY. FRIENDSHIPS FOUND HERE HAVE ENDURED OVER THE YEARS. I WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT WHILE I ENJOY TELLING TO ALL AGES AND STAGES, MY PREFERENCE IS ADULTS; AND THAT I THOROUGHLY ENJOY HELPING PEOPLE EXPERIENCE HUMOR, WONDER, AWE, INSPIRATION, AND MOTIVATION TO BE ONE WITH ALL PEOPLE AND THE EARTH. I ADVISE NEW TELLERS TO TELL WHAT THEY MOST APPRECIATE, DO NOT BE AFRAID OF CHALLENGES IN LEARNING A STORY, FOCUS ON THE NARRATIVE PLOT, AND ALWAYS FOSTER INTERACTION WITH THE LISTENERS. A STORY IS A PROCESS OF CONNECTING AND THE MUTUAL INFLUENCE OF THE TELLER, THE STORY, AND THE LISTENERS.

CONTACT LARRY G. BROWN AT 10 HOURIGAN CIRCLE, COLUMBIA, MO 65201; BROWNSTORY@HOTMAIL.COM; OR 573-256-0091.



# AO-TELL HISTORY PROJECT INVITES YOU! See John

We are gathering any and all history of Missouri Storytelling, Inc. from the very beginning in the mid 1980s to the present. We, the Board, are asking you to be a part of that history. Send a memory and a take a moment to tell about you and MO-TELL!

Send any and all memories in writing to Perrin Stifel, 636 Elmwood Ave., St. Louis, MO 63119. Old-fashioned handwriting is fine. Or send an attachment (Word document) or email to pstifelstl@earthlink.net or call Perrin at 314-413-2858 to set up a verbal interview with him or another board member. Some of us like to write, others like to share verbally. Text is also fine! Please consider the 5 W's--Who, What, When, Where, Why--as you write a memory. That will help us the most. Please send any old photos, programs, tickets, or MO-TELL Register newsletters (printed only). We will compile this history for folks to read and reminisce.

#### Your current information is very important!

Name, address, phone, email

Here are some questions to jog a memory. The most important thing is to share a memory and have fun with it!

Were you there when MO-TELL began? David Schlamb and I gathered at my home to propose a state-wide organization. Ruthilde Kronberg was there from the start to support the idea of MO-TELL. Lynn Rubright and Annette Harrison mentored many of us. We have the names of all the charter members. There were 35 people included as Charter Members.

Were or are you an officer?

Title – Years

Were or are you on the board? Years

What was your first MO-TELL experience?

Did you attend any Workshop Weekends? Who was featured? Did you tell? They were at Cuivre River State Park and Lake of the Ozarks State Park. Remember Nora Gilman? Jackie Torrence? Richard Renner? Pleasant de Spain? Kevin Locke? Etc., etc.

What Missouri River Storytelling Festivals do you remember? Was it on the Goldenrod Showboat or elsewhere in St. Charles? Do you remember the tent on the shore? Depot?

Most vivid memory ever

Funniest memory ever

An AHA! Memory

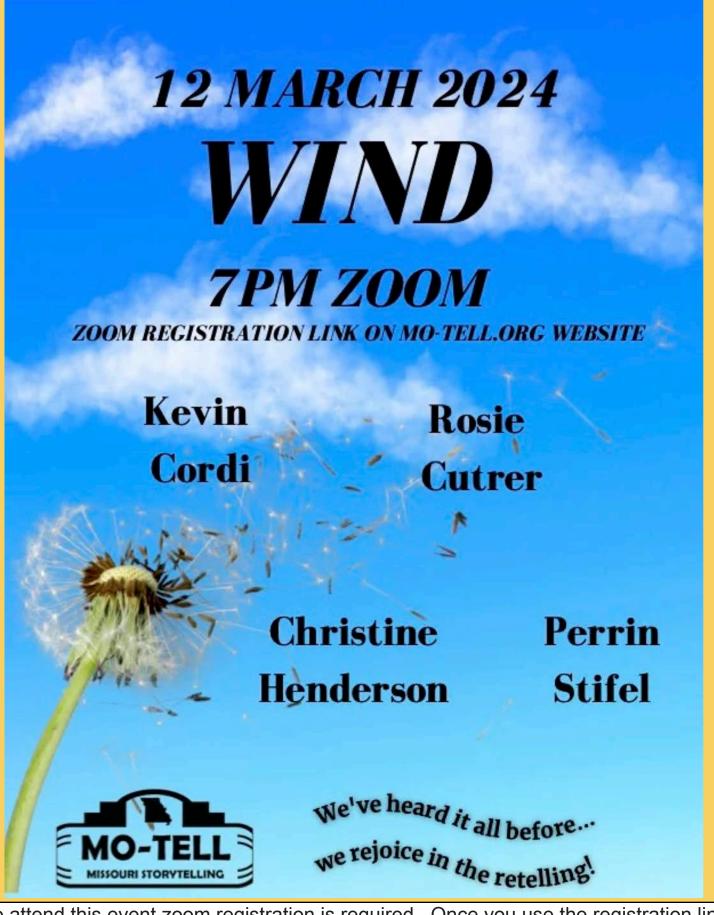
Tellabration: What year did you attend? Did you tell? Where? At one of the churches?

Did you ever tell at one of the Missouri State Park Storytelling Series events? Or attend and hear someone tell for the first time?

Above all, we want to hear from you...

Thanks, Perrin and the MO-TELL board.

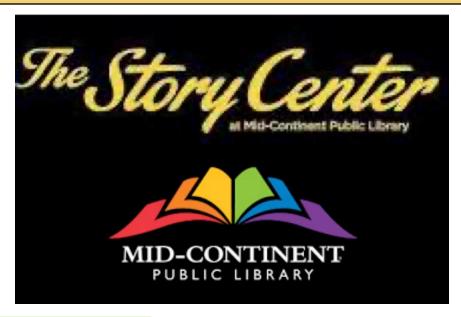




To attend this event zoom registration is required. Once you use the registration link below Zoom will send you your personal link to attend the program.

The zoom registration link for this meeting is:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqf-2gqjlqHde-aPX\_OKweegClZsVj8In



#### Performance Options and Opportunities (Zoom)

Wed, Mar 6 2024 6:30pm - 8:00pm Central Story Center Event Virtual Event Learn from Lisa Overholser, the Field Specialist in Community Development for MU Extension, about matching venues, gigs, and audiences to your storytelling content and style.

#### **EVENT DETAILS REGISTER NOW**

Performance Showcase and Masterclass (Zoom)

Wed, Mar 13 2024 6:30pm - 8:00pm Central Story Center Event Virtual Event Bring your best seven-minute story to perform and get feedback from expert storyteller Angela J. Williams. This class is part of the Oral Storytelling Certification Program.

#### **EVENT DETAILS REGISTER NOW**

What To Do When Storytelling Goes Wrong

Thu, Mar 14 2024 6:30pm - 8:00pm Story Center Programming Room Story Center Event Registration Required

Join professional storytellers Jim "Two Crows" Wallen and Joyce Slater as they discuss how to prevent, plan for, and navigate unexpected issues that arise during an oral storytelling program, such as

#### **EVENT DETAILS REGISTER NOW**

Marketing for Storytellers (Zoom)

Mon, Mar 18 2024 6:30pm - 8:00pm Central Story Center Event Virtual Event
Learn from entrepreneurial expert Kimberly Beer how to cultivate a brand that speaks to your
audience as a writer or storyteller, and then explore effective marketing tactics, including
networking, so

#### **EVENT DETAILS REGISTER NOW**

Story Swap (Hybrid)

Thu, Mar 21 2024 6:30pm - 8:00pm Story Center Programming Room Story Center Event Registration Required

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.

#### **EVENT DETAILS REGISTER NOW**

# ORGANIZATIONS' COMMUNICATION, PRE-INTERNET TECHNOLOGY



# LET'S NEVER GO BACK. JOIN MO-TELL TODAY AND ENJOY!

DETAILS BELOW. CHECK 'EM OUT!

LITTLE BOY ON LEFT IS YOURS TRULY WITH MY SISTERS LONG AGO. - k

## THE MO-TELL BILL OF FARE

OFTEN IMITATED, NEVER DUPLICATED

#### MEMBERSHIP DUES

FISCAL YEAR, FEBRUARY 1-JANUARY 31

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 PLUS 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:

MO-TELL c/o Jackie Wright, PO Box 28994, St. Louis, MO 63132-8994

Olivette Branch Post Office, 9621 Olive Blvd. 63132-9998.



#### 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





BY FRAN STALLINGS

A country boy had a girlfriend who lived on the other side of a lake that was surrounded by marsh land. Usually he walked the long way around the lake when he wanted to visit her. But one lovely full moon night in summer, he was in a hurry and decided to take a short cut by going directly through the marsh.

He heard the smallest frogs calling, "Wade in! Wade in!" So he took off his boots and socks and stepped into the marsh, carrying his boots to keep them dry.

As he waded further, he heard "Ankle deep! Ankle deep!" Yes, the water was welling up over his feet.

Middle sized frogs called "Knee deep! Knee deep!" He rolled up his pants legs. The muddy bottom sucked at his bare feet. The water got deeper and deeper as he went across. Pretty soon he was up to his waist, struggling to keep his boots dry overhead!

The bull frogs started calling, "Better go round. Better go round."

Not knowing how much deeper it might get, he followed the bull frogs' advice and struggled back out of the marsh, covered with malodorous mud. He headed home for a bath and didn't see his girfriend until the next evening. "I just wish the bull frogs had started calling before I stepped into that marsh!"

###

It's fun to tell this story with help from the audience to create a chorus of frog calls. Then you can explain the difference between a marsh (herbaceous, often adjacent to lakes) and a swamp (forested, often along rivers). Both are wetlands but have different vegetation and therefore offer different animal habitats.

Story by Fran Stallings

## A MAN WALKS INTO A BAR

A MAN WALKS INTO A BAR AND SAYS TOUCH."

A PRIEST, A MINISTER AND A RABBIT WALK IN A BAR. THE BARTENDER ASKS THE RABBIT, "WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DRINK?" THE RABBIT SAYS, "I DON'T KNOW, I'M JUST HERE BECAUSE OF AUTOCORRECT."

A GRASSHOPPER WALKS INTO A BAR. THE BARTENDER SAYS, "HEY, WE HAVE A DRINK NAMED AFTER YOU!"
THE GRASSHOPPER SAYS, "YOU HAVE A DRINK NAMED STEVE?!"

A DYSLECTIC MAN WALKS INTO A BRA...

CHARLES DICKENS WALKS INTO A BAR AND ORDERS A MARTINI. BARTENDER SAYS, "OLIVE OR TWIST?"

THREE VAMPIRES WALK INTO A BAR AND ORDER TWO BLOODS AND A BLOOD LITE.

A GORILLA WALKS INTO A BAR AND ORDERS A SCOTCH ON THE ROCKS. THE BARTENDER SAYS, "WE DON'T GET MANY GORILLAS IN HERE." THE GORILLA SAYS, "WELL, AT \$13 A DRINK, I'M NOT SURPRISED!"

A MAN WALKS INTO A BAR AND SEES A HORSE BEHIND THE BAR. THE MAN SAYS, "I'M SHOCKED." THEHORSE SAYS, "WHY, CAN'T YOU BELIEVE A HORSE CAN BE A BARTENDER?" THE MAN SAYS, "NO, I THOUGHT THE COW WAS WORKING TODAY."

A TERMITE WALKS INTO A BAR AND SAYS, "IS YOUR BAR TENDER HERE."

A DUCK WALKS INTO A BAR, ORDERS A DRINK. THE DUCK SAYS, "JUST PUT IN ON MY BILL."

A SNAIL WALKS INTO A BAR AND THE BARTENDER THROWS HIM OUT. THE SNAIL COMES BACK TWO DAYS LATERAND SAYS, "WHY DID YOU THROW ME OUT?"

THE PAST, THE PRESENT, AND THE FUTURE WALKED IN A BAR. IT WAS TENSE!

## 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.

### USION STATEMENT

President: Joyce Slater, joyceslater20@gmail.com

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

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

Secretary: Linda Kuntz, iharilag@gmail.com

At Large:

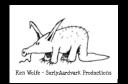
Gary Kuntz, galirahi@aol.com Nancee Walker Micham, walkermicham@gmail.com Glen "Papa" Wright, jpapawright@sbcglobal.net

Emeritus: Perrin Stifel, pstifelstl@earthlink.net

www.mo-tell.org

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



THE MO-TELL BOARD