



**JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER**

# A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



“Fairy tales are more than true: not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten.”

– G. K. Chesterton

Hello my friends,

We begin a brand-new year, with 365 days of sunrises and sunsets, 365 days of tasting new foods, of making new friends and remembering our old friends and of telling our stories. It gives us hope, doesn't it? It gives me hope. 2021 has been a rough year for all of us. We have been separated from the people we love. There have been ups and downs of all sorts and learning new ins and outs of working and connecting. We have made new friends and we have lost some very dear friends. How lucky we are to be storytellers!

There have been tales of happiness, sadness and courage, some with laughter and others with tears.

MO-TELL has brought us together with concerts online and in the Missouri State Parks. We have stayed connected through the monthly newsletter and internet shout outs about other events put on by many organizations around the country and around the world.

I am anxious to step into 2022. Let us do it together. See you at the Annual Meeting this month during the River and Prairie Storyweavers' Chicken Festival. January 15, 2022, 5 pm on Zoom. Registration will be on the flyer.

See you there.

Happy New Year!

As always,

Joyce Slater, President of MO-TELL



**THE EIGHTH ANNUAL  
MISSOURI STATE**

**LIARS CONTEST**

**IN THE 1904 SPLENDOR OF THE HISTORIC PACIFIC OPERA HOUSE  
FURTHER EVENT DETAILS AND ENTRY RULES ARE FORTHCOMING.**

**THE LYING LIARS WILL LIE THEIR LIES.  
COME HEAR THEIR FABRICATIONS.  
WITNESS THEIR CHICANERY.  
JUDGES WILL SURELY JUDGE THEM FOR IT.  
OH! WHAT MERRY LOADS OF FUN IT WILL BE!**

**JULY 9TH, 2022**

**ONE O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON.**





## River and Prairie Storyweavers 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicken Festival

Virtual on Zoom

January 13-14-15, 2022

YOU are the featured teller

Opportunities to tell your stories from the comfort of your own home surrounded by Storytellers on Zoom. \$35 registration, \$25 registration for RAPS members.

Go to [www.riverandpraiestoryweavers.org](http://www.riverandpraiestoryweavers.org) for directions on how to submit your registration form via email and payment via PayPal.me/RAPS4Stories

Chicken Festival Registration/RAPS Membership form

Chicken Festival Schedule

Elizabeth Ellis Workshop "From Plot to Narrative" details

MO-TELL Annual Membership Meeting

Thursday, January 13, 2022 (7:00 – 10:00 pm),

Friday, January 14, 2022 (6:00 - ??:?? pm)

Saturday January 15, 2022 (9:00 am – 10:00 pm)

(Find the schedule here: <https://www.riverandpraiestoryweavers.org/chicken-festival-1>)

The Chicken Festival will be on Zoom again this year and will feature a workshop ("From Plot to Narrative") by Elizabeth Ellis (yes, that Elizabeth Ellis). (See workshop description below – includes materials list.)

If you have been having trouble with registration, here are some new options:

1. Send in your registration information:

a. Send via email to [RAPS.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:RAPS.secretary@gmail.com)

(If you think time is short, use email.)

OR

b. Mail via USPS to: RAPS Treasurer

840 NW North Ridge Ct

Blue Springs, MO 64015

Include: Your Name (required), Address (optional), Telephone (optional)  
and Email address (required)

Also Include: RAPS Membership: None / Individual / Family

And: Number attending Chicken Festival (with names of other attendees)

2. Send your money (see fee schedule below)

a. Via PayPal at: [www.PayPal.me/RAPS4Stories](http://www.PayPal.me/RAPS4Stories)

(Please, include a description in the Note area.)

OR

b. Mail a check via USPS to: RAPS Treasurer

840 NW North Ridge Ct

Blue Springs, MO 64015

3. Zoom links will be sent, via email before the Chicken Festival, to



**DON'T MISS THIS!**  
**IT'LL BE LIKE**  
**GOLD IN YOUR HAND!**

## **Elizabeth Ellis Workshop** **“From Plot to Narrative”**

Elizabeth Ellis will present her workshop “From Plot to Narrative” on Saturday, January 15, 2022 from 9:15 am (CST) to 12:00 noon (CST) at the River and Prairie Storyweavers Chicken Festival on Zoom.

Elizabeth Ellis grew up in the Appalachian Mountains and was a children’s librarian at the Dallas Public Library before becoming a professional storyteller. The “Divine Miss E” is a versatile and riveting teller of Appalachian and Texas tales and stories of heroic American women, though her personal stories are arguably her best. Invariably hilarious and poignant, she is a repeated favorite at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee. A mother and a grandmother, she makes her home in Dallas, Texas.

**Workshop participants will need a bunch of paper, a pen, some bright colored fine line markers and some document tabs (like where they mark where you are to sign your name) OR some post it notes.**

They should choose a story they would like to work on during the workshop.

Workshops participants may want to read Elizabeth Ellis’ book *From Plot to Narrative* before the January 15, 2022 workshop.

Her website is [www.elizabethellis.com](http://www.elizabethellis.com).

# MO-TELL MEMBER OF THE MONTH

## Steve Otto



Steve Otto has been involved with storytelling for many years. He credits Joyce Slater for getting him into storytelling when she told him she found this class in storytelling and he should take it. Since Steve was engaged in community theatre at the time his reply was "Joyce, I am an actor. I don't tell stories to little kids." To which Joyce said "Steve, I really think you should take the class." So, he took the class and discovered he liked storytelling because he could use his own words and imagination in telling a story vs. trying (emphasis on trying) to remember and recite lines written for the character he was playing on stage.

He took storytelling classes for about a year then came his big break. Jim "Two Crows" Wallen had taken the leap to become a full-time storyteller and invited Steve and another teller to join him in telling stories at a local park. Steve said this was the first time he told stories to a non-storyteller audience. This experience was what firmly set the hook and led Steve to continue to learn about storytelling. Over the next several years he worked on learning stories and how to tell them. He attended the NSN Festival and Conferences where he studied the tellers and learned how they used their voices to captivate audiences.

Then his employer, The Federal Government, offered an early retirement option and Steve, after a long discussion with Virginia, his wife, decided to take the option. He has been telling stories as his only job since then.

If you know anything about Steve you know that he loves, absolutely loves with a passion, telling scary stories. He says for him the quickest and easiest way to get the audience's attention is to start with a scary story.

He has two pieces of advice for beginning or experienced storytellers.

1. You must have a large enough repertoire of stories to satisfy a wide range of audiences.
2. The most important thing is to tell your version of the story. Many people may tell the same stories from literature or folktales. You, as the storyteller, must tell the story your way and not the way someone else tells the story.

As you can guess there are so many it is hard to pick a favorite, but one sticks out in his mind. He was hired to tell stories to a group of middle schoolers but there was an issue. A group of parents had pre-filed a motion prohibiting the telling of ghost stories in the school. It cut out his favorite type of story to open a program, but he had other stories that would work. He walked into school that morning and met the literature teacher who asked about his Edgar Allen Poe stories. When Steve replied that he thought he could not tell them at the school because they were prohibited, the teacher replied that Poe was literature, and he could tell literature stories. So, Steve led off with one of his favorite stories, The Tell Tale Heart. Nobody complained, even though it is one of the scariest stories he tells. As Steve put it "It's amazing what a difference in perspective there is when the story is "literature."

Steve Otto loves storytelling so much; he has promoted it since the first moment he told a story. He has helped other groups get started all over the state of Missouri and Kansas. He has taken his stories all over the United States and beyond. Because of all his work with storytelling he was awarded the National Storytelling Network's Oracle Award for Leadership and Service.

Steve retired from the Federal Government (where I am sure he told many tales) and joined the ranks of excellent storytellers all over the land. He is one of the charter members of River and Prairie Storyweavers. He organized festivals and events for RAPS while he traveled and told stories at least two hundred days out of the year. He always has great ideas and tales to tell.

He and his wife, Virginia, live at John Knox Village, where he started the Eastern branch of RAPS.

MAGNET  
HERE

# FOR YOUR FRIDGE

MAGNET  
HERE

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

## READ THIS! NEWS FROM RAPS:

If you made the first RAPS Hybrid meeting in December, I think you will agree having an in-person component to the meeting adds something whether you are attending in-person or on Zoom. If you missed that first meeting, here's your next opportunity to join in.

If you don't already have a story to share at the meeting, consider a story to fit the **Meeting Theme: \_\_\_\_\_ is the greatest invention since sliced bread**

Once again, RAPS will have a hybrid meeting on Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 7:00 pm (CST). The meeting will be held at:  
**Trailside Center**  
**99<sup>th</sup> & Holmes Rd.**  
**Kansas City, MO 64131**

**AND**  
\*\*\*\*\*

On Zoom (See link below)

### Zoom Link for the Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82206904304?pwd=ZWkyVWWhyZTM0WjF4NHdNVmRvem1sdz09>

**Reminder on Feedback:** *RAPS meetings are to provide a safe and friendly opportunity for all storytellers to share and practice the art of oral storytelling. Feedback (beyond a comment on how good or how enjoyable a story was) should only be given when requested by the teller. Tellers may request public feedback (from the floor after the story) or private feedback (given by experienced tellers during breaks or after a meeting).*

## RAPS

JANUARY 2022

### RAPS Meetings for December 2021 for MO-TELL Newsletter.

Thursday December 2, 2021 7:00 pm –  
First Thursday Meeting

**If all goes well, RAPS first hybrid meeting**

(In person AND on Zoom)

Saturday December 11, 2021, 2:00 pm –  
Second Saturday Meeting

Featured Teller: Linda Kuntz

Story Theme: The Smallest Package.

Saturday December 25, 2021  
Meeting Cancelled for Christmas

Thursday January 6, 2022 7:00 pm – First  
Thursday Meeting

If not on RAPS Mailing List,  
Contact: [RAPS.Secretary@gmail.com](mailto:RAPS.Secretary@gmail.com) for  
additional info and Zoom links.

## GATEWAY

JANUARY 2022

Time: January 11, 2022 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5697508785?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5697508785?pwd=dG9xdVZzNmFVSXU3V0tJMm8zMmx5QT09)

[pwd=dG9xdVZzNmFVSXU3V0tJMm8zMmx5QT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5697508785?pwd=dG9xdVZzNmFVSXU3V0tJMm8zMmx5QT09)

Meeting ID: 569 750 8785

Passcode: gateway

# NATIONAL STORYTELLING NETWORK LONG-TERM EVENT CALENDAR

## THE NATIONAL STORYTELLING NETWORK CALENDAR

- **January 2, 2022 6:00 PM** – HSA January Kind Stories in Concert, Location: Zoom
- **January 4, 2022 5:45 PM** – Judith Black Featured at The Story Space online, Tue 01/04/2022, Location: Zoom
- **January 8, 2022 6:00 PM** – Free the Imprisoned Lightning told by Andy Offutt Irwin, Location: Zoom
- **January 13, 2022 7:00 PM** – Revolutionary War Double Agent, James Armistead Lafayette with Colonial Williamsburg's Stephen Seals (Virtual interactive show) Free, Location: Zoom
- **January 15, 2022 5:00 PM** – Fringe Performance: Xiaoyi Zeng, Location: Zoom
- **January 15, 2022 7:00 PM** – Fringe Performance: Priscilla Howe, Location: Zoom
- **January 20, 2022 7:00 PM** – YES January Story Lab, Location: Zoom
- **January 27, 2022 5:00 PM** – Florida Storytelling Festival, 38th annual, Location: Lakeside Inn
- **January 28, 2022 4:30 PM** – Oklahoma Territory Tellers Annual Retreat, Location: Lake Murray State Lodge
- **February 11, 2022 11:00 AM** – Julia Child, Bon Appetit! Free live show portrayed by Karen Vuranch, Location: Wade Hampton HS Auditorium
- **February 12, 2022 6:00 PM** – My Stories Life featuring Carol Birch and Ray Christian, Location: Zoom
- **February 16, 2022 8:30 PM** – Hidden Memory: An American World War II Story, Location: Zoom
- **February 19, 2022 5:00 PM** – Fringe Performance: Nick Baskerville, Location: Zoom
- **February 19, 2022 7:00 PM** – Fringe Performance: Aunt Li-Anne, Location: Zoom
- **March 10, 2022 7:00 PM** – Texas Storytelling Festival, Location: Denton Civic Center
- **March 19, 2022 5:00 PM** – Fringe Performance: Flora Le, Location: Zoom
- **March 19, 2022 6:00 PM** – Minton Sparks and Manón Voice: Bold Lineage, Location: Zoom
- **March 19, 2022 7:00 PM** – Fringe Performance: Katie Green, Location: Zoom
- **April 9, 2022 6:00 PM** – The Ninth Best Storyteller told by Antonio Sacre, Location: Zoom
- **April 9, 2022 6:00 PM** – The Ninth Best Storyteller told by Antonio Sacre, Location: Zoom
- **April 16, 2022 5:00 PM** – Fringe Performance: Emil Guillermo, Location: Zoom
- **April 16, 2022 7:00 PM** – Fringe Performance: Sandra Measels, Location: Zoom

# MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE STORY CENTER...

## [Performance Basics \(ZOOM\)](#)

Mon, Jan 10 2022 6:30pm - 8:00pm Central Story Center Event **Virtual Event**  
In this interactive workshop, discover how to unleash your potential and connect with your audience. Attendees will practice vocal projection, movement, pacing, and tips for combating stage fright.

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

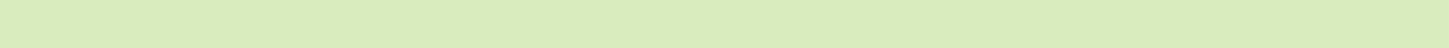
Thu, Jan 20 2022 6:30pm - 8:00pm Central Story Center Event **Virtual Event**  
An open-mic storytelling event that's open to anyone! Put your name in the hat for a chance to share a seven-minute story, or just come to enjoy the show.

## [Storycrafting Fundamentals Part One \(ZOOM\) \(L Packer\)](#)

Wed, Jan 26 2022 6:30pm - 8:00pm Central Story Center Event **Virtual Event**  
Writer and storyteller Laura Packer explores character development, story structure, point of view, understanding your audience, and other story crafting techniques.

## [Storycrafting Fundamentals Part Two \(ZOOM\) \(L Packer\)](#)

Thu, Jan 27 2022 6:30pm - 8:00pm Central Story Center Event **Virtual Event**  
Writer and storyteller Laura Packer explores character development, story structure, point of view, understanding your audience, and other story crafting techniques.



# SET ASIDE THE TIME FOR THESE!

- **RAPS Deb Wallen Memorial Story Slam**  
**7:00 pm February 12, 2022**

In memory of Deb Wallen, RAPS will host the Deb Wallen Story Slam. First place prize is \$100. Second place prize is \$75. Third place prize is \$50.

Deb enjoyed Inspirational and Nature stories, but all PG-rated stories are welcome. Stories are limited to seven (7) minutes.

Attendance is FREE

Entry Fee to Compete - \$10

**Where:**

**Trailside Center**

**99<sup>th</sup> & Holmes Rd.**

**Kansas City, MO 64131**

**AND**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**On Zoom (attendance is free, but registration is required)**  
(See link below to register to attend on Zoom)

**Zoom Link to register to attend Story Slam on Zoom:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81950390132?pwd=SG5ZNFR6Y1JOam9TQ3k2eUizamZZZz09>

**Contact: [rapsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:rapsecretary@gmail.com) for additional information or to enter the Story Slam.**

- **MCPL Story Swap!**  
**6:30pm, Thursday, January 20, 2022 on Zoom**

An open-mic storytelling event that's 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. This event is a part of the Oral Storytelling Certificate Program from Mid-Continent Public Library and MCC-Maple Woods. Program registration will close 30 minutes prior to the start of the program. Participants will be emailed a Zoom access code 30 minutes before the start of the program, so please include your email in the registration. Please note: You must sign into the room prior to the start of the program. Admittance to the classroom will



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Learn more at [Storynet.org/Events](http://Storynet.org/Events)



## Folktales Translation

January 15th | 5 pm Central

Featuring Fringe Performer Xiaoyi Zeng



## Clever Like A Fox

January 15th | 7 pm Central

Featuring Fringe Performer Priscilla Howe



## Once I Learned The History

February 19th | 5 pm Central

Featuring Fringe Performer Nick Baskerville



## Ladies Of The Ballads

February 19th | 7 pm Central

Featuring Fringe Performer Aunt Li-Anne



## SadeC 1965

March 19th | 5 pm Central

Featuring Fringe Performer Flora Le



## Sweetful & The Magic Circus

March 19th | 7 pm Central

Featuring Fringe Performer Katie Green



## Earth Up Conference

April 8th - 10th

Learn More at [Storynet.org/Earth-Up](http://Storynet.org/Earth-Up)

YOUR LONG-AWAITED  
ENGRAVED INVITATION  
FROM MO-TELL TO

# Renew Your Membership

SEND CHECK PAYABLE TO:

MO-TELL  
C/O  
SUE HINKEL  
2236 HIGHWAY N  
PACIFIC, MO 63069

OR PAY VIA MO-TELL'S PAYPAL ACCOUNT:  
SUEHINKEL1@GMAIL.COM

# THE MO-TELL BILL OF FARE

**MEMBERSHIP DUES** OFTEN IMITATED, NEVER DUPLICATED

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 <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)

**RENEW TODAY!**

**RENEW TODAY!**

**SEND CHECK PAYABLE TO:**

MO-TELL  
C/O  
SUE HINKEL  
2236 HIGHWAY N  
PACIFIC, MO 63069



OR PAY VIA MO-TELL'S PAYPAL ACCOUNT: [SUEHINKEL1@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SUEHINKEL1@GMAIL.COM)

**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

**THIS YEAR WE ARE ALSO OFFERING:**

A MO-TELL LOGO BAG FOR ALL NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS, YOU LUCKY LUCKSTERS, YOU!

JANUARY-ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

FEBRUARY-JUNE, AUGUST-DECEMBER- MONTHLY PROGRAMS

JULY-THE ANNUAL MISSOURI STATE LIAR'S CONTEST

**RENEW TODAY!**

# Story of the Month

## THE TALE OF TWO PLUCKERS

A middle-aged man, whose hair had begun to turn gray, courted two women at the same time. One of them was young, and the other well advanced in years.

The elder woman, ashamed to be courted by a man younger than herself, made a point, whenever her admirer visited her, to pull out some portion of his black hairs.

The younger, on the contrary, not wishing to become the wife of an old man, was equally zealous in removing every gray hair she could find.

Thus it came to pass that between them both he very soon found that he had not a hair left on his head.

### Moral

*Those who seek to please everybody please nobody.*

# MO-TELL SWAG CAUGHT IN THE WILD!

WANNA BE IN THE NEWSLETTER?  
WEAR YOUR MO-TELL GEAR OUT IN THE WORLD!



TAKE A SNAP AND SEND TO:

**MOTELLNEWS@GMAIL.COM**

AND THE SUBJECT LINE: SWAGTRAVELS

# JOIN & THRIVE!



HERE'S HOW...

## RAPS

River and Prairie Storyweavers (RAPS)  
Dues: \$25 per year for Individual (\$35 per year for Family - any number)

Membership gives you access to a supportive audience for gaining storytelling experience, and makes you part of a group of really nice storytelling supporters. Requests to RAPS for storytellers are only shared with RAPS Members. Membership also gives you the opportunity to serve on the RAPS board and set the direction of future RAPS endeavors.

Contact: [RAPS.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:RAPS.secretary@gmail.com)  
Mail dues to: RAPS Treasurer  
c/o Alice Nathan  
840 NW North Ridge Ct.  
Blue Springs, MO 64015  
Website: <https://www.riverandprairiestoryweavers.org/>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/raps.storyweavers>

Meeting times: 1st Thursday of each month - 7:00 pm  
2nd Saturday of each month - 2:00 pm

## GATEWAY

**Website:** [gatewaystorytellers.wordpress.com](http://gatewaystorytellers.wordpress.com)

*Membership, February 1- January 31*  
*Annual dues-\$25*

*Send to:*  
*Robert Jensen,*  
*3413 Rand Ln.,*  
*Belleville, IL 62226*

*[rmjensen1016@gmail.com](mailto:rmjensen1016@gmail.com)*

*Monthly meeting-Third Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM*  
*Bi-monthly mini workshops and feature teller slots*  
*Membership includes participating in and telling on our monthly Story Slams*

# 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

Treasurer: Sue Hinkel, suehinkel1@gmail.com, (Membership)

Secretary: Linda Kuntz, iharilag@gmail.com

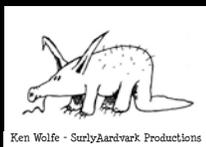
At Large: Gary Kuntz, galirahi@aol.com  
Jim "Two Crows" Wallen, jimtwocrows@att.net

Emeritus: Perrin Stifel, pstifelstl@earthlink.net

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

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



## THE MO-TELL BOARD