

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



"Stories have to be told or they die, and when they die, we can't remember who we are or why we're here."

-- Sue Monk Kidd, author

Hello my friends,

I met a storyteller long ago named Michael Lacapa. He was an artist, a writer and a storyteller of Hopi, Tewa and Apache descent. He died in 2005. He was featured at one of the St. Louis Storytelling Festivals and at one of the Spring weekends sponsored by MO-TELL. I think of him this time of year because he told us of the tradition of his tribes of only telling stories in the wintertime. The tribes could tell their tales after the first snow had fallen and before the last snow had melted. In a lot of tribes, it was really a practical reason for doing this. There was no planting or harvesting during the winter and the people needed to stay warm. The stories told of traditions, history, nature, creation, relationships and gossip. Of course, they told of much more. They acquainted the young ones with life. They learned to listen to and carry on traditions. The stories often entertained as well. The elders and the grandparents told the stories. Each generation handed down to the next generation these stories of community and they were told with love.

What a gift storytelling is! Share your gift this winter with as many friends and family as you can and keep the stories alive.

Blend your new stories with your old ones and share them all.

Keep telling your tales,

Joyce Slater

President, MO-TELL





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

JANUARY 2024

Thursday February 1, 2024, 7:00 pm First

Thursday Meeting

Hybrid meeting at Trailside Center AND on

Zoom

Workshop: Using Various Types of

Microphones: Jim Wallen

Story Theme: "There's Magic in the Air"

Saturday February 17, 2023, 10:30 am Third

Sat. Meeting

Hybrid* meeting at Woodneath AND on Zoom

Thursday March 7, 2024, 7:00 pm First

Thursday Meeting

In-person ONLY at Trailside Center

Story Theme: "March Madness"

*Hybrid meetings will be held in-person at:

Trailside Center Woodneath Library Center 99th & 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.

On Mon, Jan 29, 2024 at 7:41 PM Joyce Slater < joyceslater 20@gmail.com>

wrote: Please send as soon as you can

ΙΔΝΙΙΔΡΥ 2024

Happy Slightly-Less **New Year from Gateway** Storytellers!

Sue Hinkel's Tips for Telling

TAKE CARE OF YOUR VOICE. THE STORYTELLER NEEDS TO TAKE CARE OF HIS/HERS/THEIR VOICE. THE VOICE IS OUR MAIN TOOL. HERE ARE A FEW TIPS FROM JOYCE SLATER:

- 1. BREATHE, ALWAYS BREATHE. DO IT IN THIS WAY-IN THROUGH YOUR NOSE, OUT THROUGH YOUR MOUTH. STRETCH OUT YOUR ARMS TO THE SIDES OF YOUR BODY SO YOU EXPAND THE LUNGS. ALWAYS BREATHE FROM THE DIAPHRAGM. YOUR TUMMY MIGHT EXPAND BUT YOUR SHOULDERS SHOULDN'T RISE.
- 2. DRINK PLENTY OF WATER. LUBRICATE YOUR THROAT.
- 3 EXERCISE THE VOICE BY SAYING CERTAIN SOUNDS LIKE PA PA PA, DA DA DA, TA TA TA, ROLL YOUR TONGUE IF YOU CAN.
- 4. WARM UP THE VOCAL CORDS (HUMMING IS GOOD FOR THE RESONATORS) PRETEND YOU HAVE A HARD BOILED EGG IN YOUR MOUTH AND HUM IN YOUR NATURAL VOICE.
- 5. SINGING WILL ALSO WARM UP YOUR VOICE.
- 6. BREATHE! DID I SAY THAT TWICE? IT IS IMPORTANT.

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



HERE'S A WORKSHOP TO NOT MISS.

Unlocking the Power of Purposeful Play A Journey into Storytelling and Co-Creation

Stories are like seeds, waiting to sprout, grow, and flourish. Too often, we focus on stories when they are fully formed, neglecting the vibrant potential that exists during their gestation. This intensive program, "Unlocking the Power of Play," is designed for storytellers with unfinished tales, those who wish to explore and nurture the seeds of their narratives. Through the art of play and the support of a storytelling partner, we will embark on a transformative journey to breathe life into your stories like never before. Bring a story idea or a start of a story and we will use play to discover the many directions the stories can travel. Walk out with not only new ideas for the story, but new awareness for the story making process.

This intensive works for beginning story enthusiasts to advanced storytellers. It also appeals to educators, writers, and librarians who want to explore new ways to use stories in their work.

*A variation of this workshop will also be shared at the 2024 National Storytelling Network Conference in Washington State. We invite you to come and see here before

the conference.



Kevin Cordi, Assistant Professor in Education at Ohio University Lancaster.

Storytelling teacher Professional storyteller National Story/Storytelling Consultant www.kevincordi.com

"Together we make a difference with stories."

Workshop, In person only Date: February 6, 2024

Time: 4:30-7:00 pm

Place: Trailside Center, 99th & Holmes, KCMO

Fee: \$10 Space is limited

To secure a space in the workshop, contact Joyce Slater at <u>joyceslater20@gmail.com</u> or 816-804-2442 by February 1, 2024 Remit your check for \$10 to:

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

Story Telling FESTIVALE

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

Workshops

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT

ARTS

arts.gov















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 AC-TELL HISTORY AO-TELL AEMORIES LINDA KUNTZ

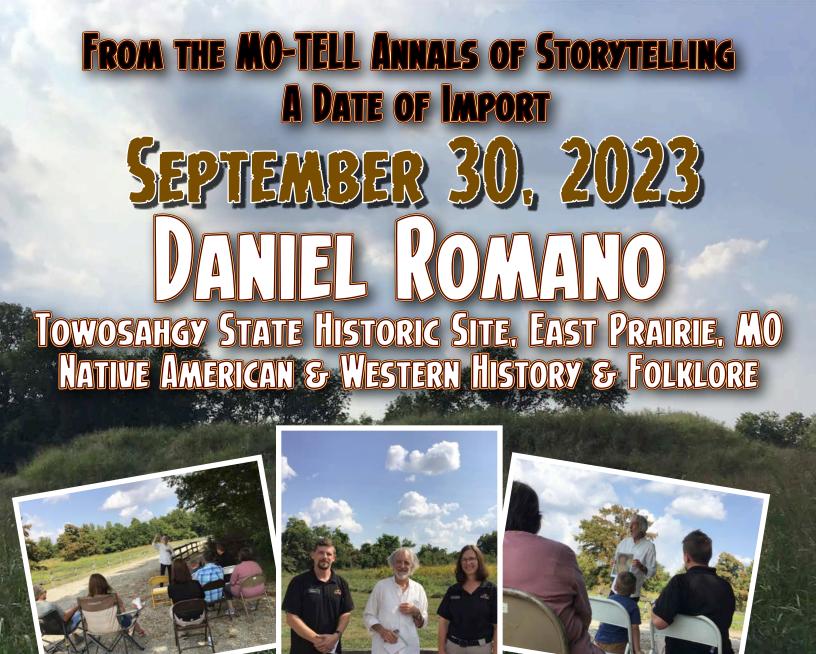
When Larry Brown was the president of MO-TELL he called Gary and me and asked if we would join MO-TELL and support Missouri Storytelling, Inc. Gary and I joined MO-TELL. I thoroughly enjoyed telling at Missouri State Parks. My first park was Knob Noster State Park for their Halloween Extravaganza. Campers decorated their sites and went trick or treating. At dusk, Gary and I started to tell stories. We started off with Not So Scary stories and as the little ones left, our stories became scarier.

I competed in the first *Missouri Liars Contest* at Woodneath Library, Kansas City, Missouri. Ken Wolfe blew the competition out of the water with his story and walked away with first place.

Jim Wallen had been the secretary for MO-TELL and had indicated he was ready to step down. He asked me if I was willing to step up and be a MO-TELL Board member. I agreed and was elected at the January 2020 Annual MO-TELL Membership meeting. The MO-TELL board meetings went onto Zoom as the Covid-19 pandemic changed where and when we told stories. Zoom allowed MO-TELL to reach out to tellers and listeners around the world.

It has been a real pleasure working with Joyce Slater, Sue Hinkel, Jackie Wright, Glen "Papa" Wright, Nancee Walker-Micham, Perrin Stifel and Gary Kuntz on the MO-TELL board. Currently I am the secretary and in charge of membership. I take minutes of the board meetings, send out letters as requested, and maintain the membership list.

Getting involved with MO-TELL has allowed me the opportunity to meet and listen to lovely storytellers.



A STORY OF ARTIST GEORGE CATLIN'S TRAVELS IN THE 1830S TO PAINT NATIVE PEOPLES AND THEIR LANDSCAPES FROM SOUTHERN MO TO THE UPPER PLAINS (WHERE MANY TRIBES HAD MINIMAL CONTACT WITH AMERICAN OR FRENCH PEOPLES). THIS HISTORICAL STORY WAS BOOKENDED BY AN OSAGE FOLKTALE AND A LAKOTA FOLKTALE. IT RAN APPROXIMATELY 50 MINS.

TOWOSAHGY IS A REMOTE MO HISTORICAL SITE IN THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE STATE WHERE MISSISSIPPIAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES LIVED FROM 400-1350 C.E. I WAS INVITED TO TELL HISTORICAL TALES AND FOLKLORE ABOUT NATIVE PEOPLEG#39;S LIVES BEFORE AMERICAS CONQUEST OF THE WEST. IT WAS A PUBLIC EVENT BUT THE WARM TEMPERATURES (90°) MAY HAVE AFFECTED ATTENDANCE.



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.



Winter Winds StoryFest

Saturday, February 24, 2024 Woodneath Auditorium 8900 NE Flintlock RD. Kansas City, MO 64157

For about 20 years, Kansas City had the annual Kansas City Storytelling Celebration. This year The Story Center at Mid-Continent Public Library in collaboration with River and Prairie Storyweavers is bringing **Winter Winds StoryFest** at Woodneath Auditorium.

Did I mention, "It's ALL FREE" (even lunch.)

As with any storytelling festival, success depends on attendance, so <u>PLEASE</u>, <u>COME</u> TO <u>Winter Winds StoryFest</u>, GET THE WORD OUT THERE, TELL YOUR FRIENDS, GIVE EVERYBODY THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME AND FIND OUT WHAT STORYTELLING IS ALL ABOUT.

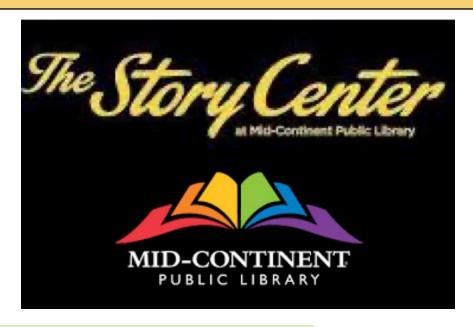
The Panel Discussion and Concert will be simultaneously live-streamed online, but all events will be presented in-person at Woodneath Auditorium. YOU MUST REGISTER FOR EACH Winter Winds

StoryFest EVENT SEPARATELY. Space is limited for some events (like lunch), so get your registrations in early.

For More Information and to Register: https://www.mymcpl.org/stor.../events/winter-winds-storyfest

What can you expect at Winter Winds StoryFest?

- Workshop: Using Improv and Play to Become a Better storyteller Led by Laura Packer
- Panel Discussion: Applications of Imagination
 Including Panelists Laura Packer and RAPS own Joyce Slater
- · Stories to Warm the Heart: Family-Friendly Storytelling
 With Laura Packer and RAPS own Alice Nathan and Emcee Joyce Slater
- (Re)Connecting Open Mic and Lunch
 Your Chance to tell a 5- to 6-minute story



Combining Stories with Story Weaving (Zoom)

Thu, Feb 1 2024 6:30pm - 8:00pm Central Story Center Event Virtual Event

Join Jessica Robinson - 2023 ORACLE Award recipient, storyteller, teaching artist, founder of Better Said Than Done and producer of the Women's Storytelling Festival - for this interactive workshop ab

EVENT DETAILS REGISTER NOW

Story Swap (Hybrid)

Thu, Feb 15 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

<u>Introduction to Storytelling Varieties (Zoom)</u>

Wed, Feb 21 2024 6:30pm - 8:00pm Central Story Center Event Virtual Event

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

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. -

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



Story of the Month LIZ HAS FUN & MARILYN SAVES THE DAY:

A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE STORY BY PERRIN STIFEL FROM ESTATE SALES STORIES

(I have conducted estate sales since 1976. My company, Mansion Sales, helps a family sell the contents of their home when someone dies or moves.)

At an estate sale in Ferguson, Missouri, I was babysitting our daughter Elizabeth (named after her grandmother) while getting a sale ready. Our daughter was rather advanced in reading and writing. She was reading at three years old. We never taught her. No one did or had to. Do you know someone like that? I do. She was reading cereal boxes and I said, "How did you do that?" She replied, "I don't know, that's just what it says." I gave her another one and she even read the ingredients. I couldn't argue. She could read. And she loved to write her name, anywhere and everywhere, seriously, anywhere! Might you guess where this is going?

While Marilyn Weeks (my Mansion Sales business partner) was working in the kitchen with Mary Guthrie, her best friend and estate sale helper, and I was in the living room, Liz, now 6 years old, who also referred to herself as Beth for a while, thought it would be a great idea to write, or rather carve, the long 9-letter version of her name Elizabeth with a large paper clip deep and clear into a rather nice antique walnut vanity (which was part of a bedroom set).

Marilyn happened to go into the bedroom to check on Liz and was understandably in shock as she saw the name Elizabeth carved into the top of the vanity. I don't believe Liz even denied it. After all, she probably thought it was a lovely place to carve her name. And Marilyn Weeks was a master at refinishing furniture and now the new art of hiding carved names carved into antique furniture. If it had said Martha Washington slept here, she might have left it alone! It took her awhile but Marilyn, along with denatured alcohol and Old English Scratch Remover hid, covered, and blended the inscribed name so it really became like invisible ink!

The bedroom set sold, and I can't remember if we told the new owner or not. We likely did. I'll have to ask Liz if she ever had any consequences other than "I probably shouldn't have done that." Or maybe she sat on a "thinking chair" for 10 minutes or so.

Liz's mother, Alice Caroland Stifel, my wife, at a very young age, once took Eagle Stamps, the kind given out at Famous-Barr and other stores so you could redeem them to purchase various items (remember them?), and covered her mother's dresser with dozens of stamps to help her mother, Elizabeth, decorate the room. The Eagle Stamps were perfectly licked and stuck tight. Eagle Stamps were backed with the best glue in the world. Alice's mother saved the day, like Marilyn, by carefully removing the stamps, but could never use those stamps to buy anything. Like mother, like daughter!

As for Liz, she still is an avid reader, as is her mother, and is a librarian, like her mother was, and as far as I know she hasn't carved her name Elizabeth or even Liz into any furniture lately.

LET'S ALL GO TO THE MOVIES! COURTESY OF PERRIN & ALICE

I THOUGHT, WHAT BETTER WAY TO SPICE UP THE WINTERTIME THAN TO SUGGEST SOME OF OUR FAVORITE FUNNY MOVIES? HERE ARE A FEW, WHICH YOU MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE SEEN. THEY CAN BE FOUND AT VARIOUS PLACES, INCLUDING LIBRARIES. I ALSO INCLUDED SOME SIMPLY FAVORITE MOVIES THAT ARE NOT COMEDIES.



RADIO DAYS - A DELIGHTFUL TALE OF A YOUNG BOY GROWING UP IN THE DAYS OF RADIO.

FUNNY FARM - I THINK IT IS ONE OF THE FUNNIEST MOVIES ABOUT EVERYTHING GOING SO WRONG THAT IT EVENTUALLY GOES RIGHT!

AUNTIE MAME - ROSALIND RUSSELL AS THE HYSTERICAL AUNT RAISING HER NEPHEW THROUGH DURING THE DEPRESSION AND BEYOND.

SOME LIKE IT HOT - MARILYN MONROE, JACK LEMMON, TONY CURTIS AND JOE E. BROWN STAR IN THIS ROMP WITH THE FAMOUS LAST LINE: "NOBODY'S PERFECT."

PINK PANTHER & THE PINK PANTHER
STRIKES AGAIN - PETER SELLERS STARS IN
BOTH AS THE BUMBLING FRENCH DETECTIVE.

MIDNIGHT IN PARIS - ROMANTIC COMEDY GOING BACK IN TIME IN THE "CITY OF LIGHT."

BEST IN SHOW - THE DOG OWNERS ARE WACKY! THIS MOVIE MIGHT BE THE FUNNIEST!

AND IF YOU'D RATHER WATCH SOMETHING THAT'S NOT A COMEDY, HERE ARE SOME OF OUR FAVORITE MOVIES TO CONSIDER:

TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL - GERALDINE PAGE'S MAGNIFICENT ACTING ROLE!

TEA WITH MUSSOLINI - ENGLISH LADIES LIVING IN ITALY AT THE BEGINNING OF WW2.

SOMEWHERE IN TIME - MACKINAC ISLAND IS THE SETTING FOR GOING BACK IN TIME!

BIG FISH - POIGNANT CIRCLE OF LIFE STORY ABOUT A FATHER AND SON.

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