



MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



(NEVER FEAR! JOYCE IS UNMASKED IN THIS PHOTO, BUT SHE'S OUTSIDE, 12 FEET AWAY FROM OTHERS, AND SITTING BEHIND A VERY CLEAN SHEET OF PLEXIGLASS SHIELDING.)

Hello to everyone,

I have realized that I have developed a storytelling mindset. I think in story. It dominates everything I do, from the weather to my pets to my family and to my friends. I think of it all in story form. It is delightful.

We have stories and I am so grateful for them. They warm our hearts and our minds. We need that warmth because the weather has kept our bodies and our homes cold. I am looking forward to March and warmer temperatures, but I will carry the stories of these times with me.

Connecting with storytellers through Zoom is so gratifying. Of course, it is not the same as a face-to-face meeting, but it keeps us in touch. We can see and hear each other which is so much better than texting one another. It also makes the world a little smaller for me. I have made friends all over the world through Zoom.

MO-TELL is sharing stories through Zoom too. In February, we had "What's Love Got to Do with It?" I hope you were a witness to the wonderful stories told by Elizabeth Ellis, Alice Nathan, Ron Stewart and Karen Young. It was a fabulous night of tales of love, both fairy tale and personal. In March, we have March Madness, a night of stories told by the MO-TELL board members. I want you to come and meet the board. They are all storytellers who have been telling for years. Put March 9th on your calendar now. Our stories connect us.

The top stories in the news are the weather and the COVID-19 vaccines. I pray you are surviving both and may your top stories be those of warmth and healing.

Keep telling stories and I hope to see you soon.

Joyce Slater
President, MO-TELL

"The belly craves food, she thinks, the tongue craves water, the heart craves love, and the mind craves stories."

- A character in David Mitchell's novel The Thousand Autumns of Jacob De Zoet

**YA TWO-FISTED, HEART O' GOLD
TOO-RA-LOO-RA-LOO-RA ST'RYTELLER, YOO!
OUTFIT YER LEPRECHAUN WITH MO-TELL GOLD!**

**MERCH!
GEAR!**

**SWAG!
LOOT!**



CAPS - \$20

BAGS - \$5

**LONG-SLEEVED
T-SHIRTS - \$20**

MUG - \$20

**FAITH! BUT GET YER WHOLE FAMILY DECKED OUT IN
MO-TELL GEAR AND YOU'LL BE SITTIN' PRETTY
ON A VERITABLE POT O' GOLD.
THEY'RE MAGICALLY DELICIOUS!**

MAGNET
HERE

FOR YOUR FRIDGE

MAGNET
HERE

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

GATEWAY

MARCH 2021

March 16 th , 2021

7:00-8:30 P.M.

hosted by Ric Vice on Zoom

Gateway Storytellers are inviting you to their March Zoom meeting.

Topic: Gateway Storytellers Monthly Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

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

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

Meeting ID: 569 750 8785

Passcode: gateway

RAPS

MARCH 2021

Thursday March 4, 2021 7:00 pm – First Thursday Meeting
Workshop: Using Social Media by Christine Henderson
Story Theme: 4-Leaf Clover

Saturday March 13, 2021, 2:00 pm – Second Saturday Meeting
Featured Teller: Carol Kariotis
Story Theme: Leprechauns

Saturday March 27, 2021, 10:00 am – Fourth Saturday Meeting

Thursday April 1, 2021 7:00 pm – First Thursday Meeting
Workshop: Successful Virtual Storytelling by Ric Vice
Story Theme: What do April Showers Bring You?

Saturday April 10, 2021, 2:00 pm – Second Saturday Meeting
Featured Teller: Rich White
Story Theme: April Showers

If not on RAPS Mailing List,
Contact: RAPS.Secretary@gmail.com for Zoom links.

RIVERWINDS

RIVERWINDS IS CURRENTLY IN HIBERNATION.

SOTO

SOTO IS CURRENTLY IN RADIO SILENCE.

AT THE WOODNEATH -

MARCH 25TH JOYCE SLATER OFFERS
"STATE OF STORIES" STORY COACHING

SCAN THIS WITH YOUR PHONE FOR INFO AND REGISTRATION



Woodneath Library Center
8900 NE Flintlock Road
Kansas City, MO 64157
816.883.4780
sthompson@mymcpl.org

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
Mail dues to: RAPS Treasurer
c/o Alice Nathan
840 NW North Ridge Ct.
Blue Springs, MO 64015
Website: [https://
www.riverandpraiestoryweavers.org/](https://www.riverandpraiestoryweavers.org/)
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/
raps.storyweavers](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

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

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

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

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

MO-TELL MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Jan and Bob Jensen



I am currently living in Swansea, Illinois where my husband Bob and I moved when we retired in 2016. I was born in Dixon, Illinois and also lived in Sycamore, Illinois for five years. Bob and I met at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois and after Bob and I got married we lived in Chicago Heights, Rockford, Dubuque Iowa, Tulsa Oklahoma, Coal City, Illinois, and Delafield, Wisconsin before retirement.

We have two grown sons who are married and have gifted us with seven grandchildren.

I got my bachelor's degree in K-12 education and later my master's degree in Library Information Science.

Bob began his career in business, but sensed a calling and gave up his job with the Commonwealth Edison power company to go to seminary and then worked for a higher power as a Presbyterian Minister for 32 years.

When we lived in the small town of Coal City, Illinois I was hired as the village library's children's librarian. In August of 1990 I received a letter inviting me to join with other librarians from across northern and central Illinois to travel by bus to Jonesboro, TN for the National Storytelling Festival. I had no idea what it was about, but it intrigued me and I asked my boss, the library director, if she would send me. To my surprise and delight she talked the library board into paying for my travel, motel accommodations and registration. Little did they know what the consequences would be!

That trip to Jonesboro changed my life. I was in love with storytelling practically before I got off the bus. People were sharing folktales and fairytales, storybook tales and personal tales. The level of telling by the professional storytellers and the thrill of being a part of the community under the tents left me mesmerized. When I returned to my library I said to the boss, "I want to start a storytelling guild and I want to hold a storytelling festival". "O.K. You plan it and I'll get the board to pay for it," she replied.

Somehow it all happened and I was the organizer, promoter and artistic director of an annual festival that was repeated for five years. I realize now how utterly naive and downright ignorant I was, but the tellers and the audiences were so gracious and encouraging. We had fun! It would have gone on, but Bob was called to serve in a different state and we moved to Tulsa, OK. In Tulsa I joined up with the storytelling group there. When we moved to Wisconsin a few years later I joined the Milwaukee storytellers and WISGET which is similar in nature to MO-TELL. Moving to Swansea/Belleveille area I joined Riverwind and Gateway . . . now also RAPS (River and Prairie Storyweavers) and MO-TELL!

I enjoy telling, but my greatest joy is in listening to the stories of others. My goals at this stage of my life are to work with others who are writing and or telling their own personal and family stories. We listen to and encourage each other. The pandemic has accelerated my sense of urgency to leave stories of life experiences and not just names, dates of birth and death as the way my great-grandchildren will know their ancestors. Listening to stories by Donald Davis, Beth Horner, Elizabeth Ellis and several other well-known storytellers has been inspirational.

So far, I have failed to mention that Bob has become a far-better storyteller than I. I dragged him with me to Jonesboro in 1992 and he became hooked too. He took some storytelling workshops for pastors and began to include stories in many of his Sunday morning messages. His congregations have loved it! Together the two of us have done some tandem-telling for special events like the St. Louis Storytelling Festival when we've told at schools. We tell stories adapted from Children's Literature such as Cinder-Edna. We sometimes use costumes and props for those stories and since we both play guitar, music has also been added to a few stories. Since our grandchildren call us "Papa and Pippi" those are our storytelling stage names for children's audiences. I love to watch the children's faces and see their eyes, head movements and expressions as they listen to the stories.

During the past 30 years I have attended many storytelling conferences and festivals . . . Hoosier Storytelling Festival, Corn Island Storytelling Festival, Kansas Storytelling Festival, National Storytelling Festival, Illinois Storytelling Festival, Northlands Storytelling Conference, National Storytelling Conference, St. Louis Storytelling Festival, Chicago Onion Festival, Lititz, PA Storytelling Festival, Woodstock Storytelling Festival, Wisget storytelling Conference, Tejas Storytelling Festival, Fox Valley Storytelling Festival, and Coal City Storytelling Festival, Oklahoma City Storytelling Festival, and Tulsa Festival. This year I've Zoomed in for Timpanogos and many others that were available online.

I do not have a website but I do post fairly regularly on Facebook (Janet Jensen) Text and call: 262-894-6580.
email: jmjensen51@gmail.com

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

**MARCH 25TH JOYCE SLATER OFFERS
"STATE OF STORIES" STORY COACHING**

SCAN THIS WITH YOUR PHONE FOR INFO AND REGISTRATION



IN MEMORIAM

DEBORAH LYNN WALLEN (RICE)

JULY, 1950 - JANUARY, 2021



DEB WALLEN PASSED AWAY ON JANUARY 18.

CONDOLENCES MAY BE SENT TO:

JIM "TWO CROWS" WALLEN
4710 MAYVIEW TERRACE COURT,
BLUE SPRINGS, MO, 64015.

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT DEB...

Deb was always happy to see and hear everyone. All of us were treated like we were special, in person or on the phone.

And she brought joy and happiness to us. Love to Jim and the Wallen family.

May
God bless you all.

Perrin and Alice
Stifel

When I think of Deb, I can see her smiling face, the eyes that lit up the room, the busy hands always creating, and her words of joy. Where Deb was, the room was brighter and more joyful. The thing I marveled most was her talent. She was always creating something, a drawing, a painting, a basket or something for someone else.

Her devotion to her family was an example for all to admire. We have suffered a great loss here on earth, but heaven has gained, and someday we will meet again and be united in love and joy.

Rest Deb until we meet again.

Sue Hinkel

I first met Deb Wallen as she was sitting in the back of a River and Prairie Storyweavers' meeting, working on a craft project. She always welcomed everyone and made them seem like they were the reason she had come. She did not often tell a story herself, but she always supported the other storytellers. Deb understood the power of storytelling through words and art.

While Deb is gone, her influence will ripple through the generations of people she has touched.

Linda Kuntz

Deb Wallen was one of the most kindhearted and talented individuals I had the honor of knowing. She had a warm, soft spoken soul. However, she was steadfast firm in her made up mind and decisions. To me, she was like that old E.F. Hutton commercial. When she did speak up.

People perked up and listened. I met Jim and Deb when I first joined RAPS in the mid-90s. When she somehow found out I had a journalism/creative writing degree background, that at the time, I wasn't utilizing as much as I should. She called me up, challenged me and inspired me to employ it by contributing material to the old RAPS newsletter. Thanks to Deb, that little gesture jumped started my writing juices and feeling I had something that was worth sharing on paper. It's the little things that may seem insignificant or small that create a big difference in a life. Deb had a way of creating big differences with strategic, humble gestures!

John "Br. John" Anderson

Deb and Jim were part of my original storytelling family.

Deb was like a sister to me, a sweet sister. We often prayed together. Once she made me a cape that was stitched all the way around with her prayers.

She said a prayer for me with each stitch. She was so special. My very first storytelling conference was spent with Deb and Jim in San Antonio, TX.

We had a strong connection through art, story and prayer. I miss her dearly. I will always love her.

Joyce Slater

Here is my remembrance of Deb Wallen. I could write so much more, but these two things are the things I loved most about her. Thank you, for giving everyone an opportunity to share our memories! I always loved hearing her talk about Jim, her children and her grandchildren.... I met one, or two, of her family, but I felt like I knew them all because she was so proud of them and was always ready to visit with you about them. There was no doubt they were center of her joy. I will miss her beautiful, welcoming smile; you felt hugged every time she smiled at you!

Love you muchly!!

Deb Swanegan

Deb's artwork was a highlight of the silent auctions at Chicken Festival. She was always so generous with her talents! One year, she even gave me a beautifully framed pencil sketch of me+autoharp from a snapshot she had taken the previous year. It is a sweet reminder of her warmth and skill.

Fran Stallings

I remember Deb and Jim together. It is hard to imagine that team no longer together. I always felt it was a privilege to visit with her and hear about her adventures as a part of their storytelling team.

Many fond memories

Jim and Jo Ann
Stigall

We are not sure exactly when we met Deb, but immediately she made us feel like we were already old friends. A favorite memory is meeting Deb and Jim at a 1/2 way point between our towns for a long lunch and great conversation. We will miss her in our lives.

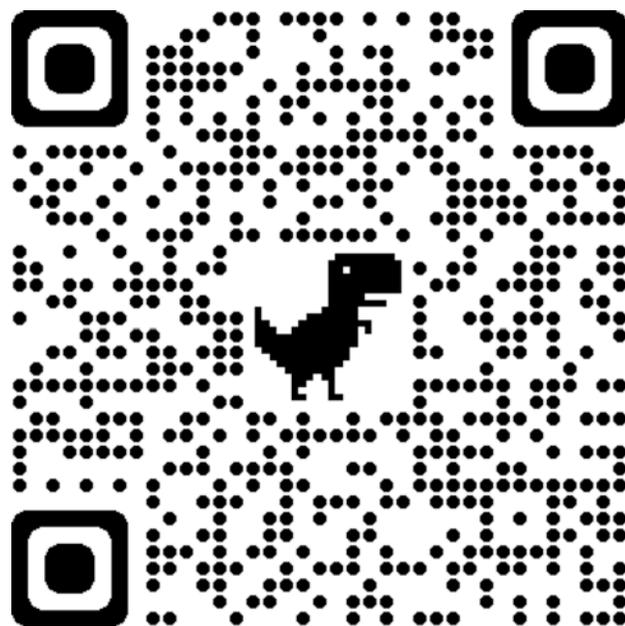
Sarah and Thom Howard



**WANNA LEARN MORE
ABOUT THIS FESTIVAL?**

**TRY
THE MAGIC!**

**POINT YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA
AT THE IMAGE BELOW
& YOUR BROWSER WILL OPEN
TO THE FESTIVAL'S PAGE.**



MO-TELL MARCH MADNESS!

MARCH 9TH, 7PM



Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82894785932?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82894785932?pwd=d2ozR0FVaTh6bHBVeGlmOEcrcdW1CUT09)
[pwd=d2ozR0FVaTh6bHBVeGlmOEcrcdW1CUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82894785932?pwd=d2ozR0FVaTh6bHBVeGlmOEcrcdW1CUT09)

Meeting ID: 828 9478 5932
Passcode: 002603

YOUR BOARD AT PLAY!

THE MO-TELL BOARD MEMBERS SHOW YOU THEIR HANDS WITH STORIES TO AMAZE, AMUSE, AND ENRICH!

NATIONAL STORYTELLING NETWORK LONG-TERM EVENT CALENDAR

- MARCH 19/20: **WOMEN'S STORYTELLING FESTIVAL** IN COLLABORATION WITH 'BETTER SAID THAN DONE.' SLAM THEME: FIERCE. REGISTRATION OPENING IN DECEMBER. MORE INFO AT: [BETTERS AidTHANDONE.COM/WOMENS-FESTIVAL/](https://bettersaidthandone.com/womens-festival/)
- APRIL 10: **EARTH UP** (WEEKEND: WORKSHOPS, PERFORMANCES, SLAM, FRINGE, MASTER CLASS, SOCIAL TIME, PANEL DISCUSSIONS, SHOWCASES & KID SCHOOL PROGRAM) APPLICATIONS OPEN JANUARY 2021
- MAY 15: **CAUGHT IN A BIND** (SLAM + FRINGE)
- JUNE 12: **AMPLIFY** (SLAM + FRINGE)
- **JULY 21-25, 2021 NSN'S 'CONNECTED' VIRTUAL CONFERENCE & FESTIVAL** - MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW! APPLICATIONS COMING SOON.
- AUGUST 21 - **HOT** (SLAM + FRINGE)
- SEPTEMBER 18 - **SCHOOLED** (SLAM + FRINGE)
- OCTOBER 22-24 - **SPOOKED** (WEEKEND)
- NOVEMBER 13 - **STUFFING** (SLAM + FRINGE)
- DECEMBER 11 - **LIGHT** (SLAM + FRINGE + FAMILY SHOW)

STORYTELLING FESTIVAL ST. LOUIS

The MU Extension Community Arts Program presents:
A Virtual Story Journey Across Missouri

****CALL FOR REGIONAL STORYTELLERS!****

Tentative Dates: April 28 - May 1, 2021

  Extension
University of Missouri

This year is the Missouri Bicentennial, and all storytellers on our roster will be sharing stories of Missouri's past, present, and future. Do you have a story based in Missouri that you've always wanted to share? Want to join our roster as a Regional Storyteller? Here's your chance to be part of our Festival!

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN to be considered for our Regional Storytelling Roster. We are looking for:

- Stories of ANY LENGTH, from 5 minutes to 45 minutes
- Stories from ANY chronological period of Missouri's past, or Missouri's present
- Stories representing ALL GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS in Missouri
- Stories representing a DIVERSE REPRESENTATION of Missouri communities
- Stories for ALL AGES - PreK, K-12, adult and 65+ audiences
- Must have a MISSOURI CONNECTION!
- Stories must be performed ORALLY AND WITHOUT NOTES (**There may be opportunities for written or digital stories later, stay tuned!*)

Interested? Fill out the application [HERE](#). Make sure to read thoroughly and **SUBMIT BY MARCH 8, 2021!**

MO-TELL'S BEEN TELLING!

YOU WERE THERE! (RIGHT?)

THE STORY SO FAR...

OCTOBER = HALLOWEEN

NOVEMBER = TELLABRATION

DECEMBER = HOLIDAY STUFF

JANUARY = MO-TELL MEETING

FEBRUARY = LOVE STORIES

AND THE STORY CONTINUES...

SAVE THESE DATES!

MARCH 9, 7 PM

(BOARD MEMBERS TELL)

APRIL 6, 7 PM

MAY 11, 7 PM

JUNE 8, 7 PM

JULY 10

(LIAR'S CONTEST)

AUGUST 10, 7 PM

TOPICS TO BE DETERMINED

TOPICS TO BE DETERMINED

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION



OCTOBER 24TH, 1901

ANNIE EDSON TAYLOR, AN AMERICAN SCHOOLTEACHER, CELEBRATED HER 63RD BIRTHDAY BY HURLING OVER THE NIAGARA FALLS IN A BARREL.

IMAGINE THE LEVEL OF DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT IT TOOK TO BE PUSHED AWAY FROM THE SAFE SHORES OF THE NIAGARA RIVER TOWARD THE WATERY, SILENT PRECIPICE INTO THE ROARING FALLS.

SHE MADE HER DECISION. SHE STUCK WITH IT IN THE BOBBING, DARK CONFINES OF A SEALED BARREL.

SHE WAS THE VERY FIRST PERSON TO EVER SURVIVE THE EXPERIENCE.

FAME WAS HERS (SADLY, FORTUNE DIDN'T QUITE FOLLOW.)

LET US ALL ADMIRE TAYLOR'S ABILITY TO COMMIT TO A CAUSE IN WHICH SHE BELIEVED.

YES, LET US ALL DWELL WITH ADMIRATION FOR A LONG, DWELLING, ADMIRING MOMENT...

AND NOW, QUITE DELIBERATELY, A SHORT MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT ABOUT A MUCH EASIER COMMITMENT:

WE MISS SEEING YOU IN PERSON. EVEN THOUGH WE ARE UNABLE TO GATHER IN PERSON, WE HAVE ENJOYED STORYTELLING OPPORTUNITIES VIRTUALLY. WE HOPE YOU WILL CONSIDER RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH US. SOME OF THE BENEFITS OFFERED TO OUR MEMBERS ARE AS FOLLOWS?

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. NATIONAL STORYTELLING NETWORK AFFILIATION
6. A WORLD CLASS NEWSLETTER
7. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

8. CONNECTION TO THE OTHER STORYTELLING ORGANIZATIONS IN THE REGION
THIS YEAR WE ARE ALSO OFFERING A MO-TELL BAG FOR ALL NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS. SOON WE WILL HAVE LONG SLEEVED T-SHIRTS, HATS AND BAGS FOR SALE.

SO, FALL TO THE NEXT PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS! (WHICH IS STILL EASIER THAN MS. TAYLOR'S FEAT.)

THE MO-TELL BILL OF FARE

OFTEN IMITATED, NEVER DUPLICATED

MEMBERSHIP DUES AND GIFTS

FISCAL YEAR, FEBRUARY 1-JANUARY 31

<i>MEMBERSHIP</i>	<i>ANNUAL DUES</i>	<i>GIFTS</i>
SINGLE MEMBERSHIP 1 YEAR	\$25	LOGO BAG (1)
SINGLE MEMBERSHIP 2 YEARS	\$40	LOGO BAG (2)
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP 1 YEAR	\$35	LOGO BAG (1)
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP 2 YEARS	\$50	LOGO BAG (2)
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:

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



OR PAY VIA MO-TELL'S PAYPAL ACCOUNT: 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

Earth Up

April 9-11, 2021

On-demand content
starting April 5



STORIES & SCIENCE ☉ TOGETHER WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD.
VIRTUAL STORYTELLING PERFORMANCES, WORKSHOPS, ECO-TOURS & MORE



MORE INFO & SIGN UP
STORYNET.ORG/EARTH-UP



THREE GREAT ORGANIZATIONS
BRINGING STORYTELLING
TO OUR GREAT STATE!

THE DUTCH POTATO PROJECT

STORY OF THE MONTH

After World War II, the people in the Netherlands faced the difficult challenge of rebuilding their lives. German occupation had damaged infrastructure, and food was scarce in some regions. Many communities were deeply divided, as some had resisted but others had cooperated with the German occupation. Feelings of anger and distrust were rampant. In 1947 Cornelius Zappey and other local church leaders organized a welfare project to address food shortages and to restore goodwill among residents.

The Dutch acquired seed potatoes and planted them in patches of dormant land. Praying for the Lord's blessing, they cultivated the crop, and by the end of summer they were anticipating an ample harvest.

While the crop matured, Walter Stover, a church leader from East Germany, visited Zappey and told him of the plight of the people in Germany. The war had been devastating on all Germans, who now faced the approaching winter without sufficient food supplies. Zappey resolved to donate the potatoes to the German church members but was unsure if the Dutch church members could be persuaded to give their crop to their former enemies.

Initially, church members were shocked. "We couldn't believe it," recalled Truus Allert. "How can they tell us that we had planted potatoes for them [the Germans]?" Zappey and Pieter Vlam visited the congregations of the church and urged them to remember that the German church members were their brothers and sisters. Though many were reluctant at first, the Dutch people prepared the harvested potatoes for shipment to Germany.

At the border, an official tried to prevent Zappey from leaving the country with such a large shipment of food. After Zappey told him the story of the church members' sacrifice, the official relented, and the potatoes were delivered to the people in Germany. "We were shown so much kindness and so much love," remembered Ruth Wittwer, a recipient. "It gave me hope for a better future." That shipment of potatoes meant the difference between life and death for so many people.

In 1948, as reconstruction continued in both countries, the Dutch people offered a second potato harvest to their German brothers and sisters and added a large shipment of pickled herring, a Dutch staple. These acts of kindness helped the people in both the Netherlands and Germany to recover from the effects of war and to restore unity and trust.

ONE LAST THING...
A NOTICE TO ALL MO-TELL MEMBERS:
BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH!



ON MARCH 15TH,
AVOID TELLING STORIES IN THE SENATE.

(AND, IF YOU SIMPLY MUST, DO NOT TURN YOUR BACK ON THE AUDIENCE!)

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

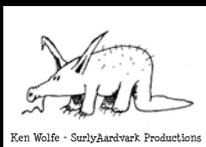
At Large: Gary Kuntz, galirahi@aol.com
Jim "Two Crows" Wallen, jimtwocrows@att.net

Emeritus: Perrin Stifel, pstifelstl@earthlink.net

www.mo-tell.org

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Volume 4, Newsletter 3

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



THE MO-TELL BOARD