



SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello friends,



Schools have started, Labor Day is here and it still feels like summer in KC. We're having a heat wave. Every day the temperature climbs to 100 + degrees or more. My plants are begging for water. The hummingbirds are drinking up the syrup, and the bees are sitting on the birdbath.

Everything is thirsty. And yet in all this heat, we are still managing to entertain each other with stories. That's the power of stories; we can be transported to another world and forget where we are and what is happening all around us. Forget the heat and listen to some tales.

"There is a rhythm to life that matches the steady pull of a crochet hook or the slow simmer of a Southern kitchen. It's the rhythm of stories waiting to be told." — Bell Ramos

Next Tuesday night we have another Zoom concert coming your way with the following storytellers, Gary Kuntz, Jim Two Crows Wallen, Diane Humphrey and Fran Stallings. That is quite a lineup, and you won't want to miss it. There is a flyer in this newsletter letting you know how to register for it. I will be there, I hope you will be too.

Keep telling your stories.

Joyce Slater
President, MO-TELL

TALL TALE QUALIFIER FOR THE KANSAS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

**Saturday, September 19, 2026
at the Tonganoxie Historical Society
201 W Washington Street
Tonganoxie, KS 66086**

Check the website for more details
<https://www.tonganoxieartscouncil.org/copy-of-story-telling-festival>

This year we welcome
nationally known storyteller
Bil Lepp
as our headliner for the
Tall Tale Qualifier!

Bil Lepp is an award-winning storyteller, author, and recording artist. Bil's humorous, family friendly tall tales and stories have earned the appreciation of listeners of all ages and from all walks of life. Though a five time champion of the WV Liars' Contest, Lepp's stories often contain morsels of truth which present universal themes in clever and witty ways. He is also the recipient of the Vandalia Award, West Virginia's highest folk honor. "Just as New Jersey has Bruce Springsteen, West Virginia has...Bil Lepp."
– Goldenseal Magazine



CONTACT US

512 E. 4TH ST. TONGANOXIE, KS 66086
TONGANOXIEARTSCOUNCIL@GMAIL.COM

For more information about competition/registration please visit:
<https://www.tonganoxieartscouncil.org/copy-of-story-telling-festival>

Save the Date

St. Louis
STORYTELLING
Festival

November 8-15

www.slcl.org/storytelling



PRESENTS

SCHOOL YARNS



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026
7:00 PM CENTRAL ON ZOOM



FEATURING

GARY KUNTZ

JIM TWO CROWS WALLEN

DIANE HUMPHREY

FRAN STALLINGS



You are invited to the MO-TELL School Yarns program via Zoom.
When: Sep 8, 2026 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/86156nBwQbGTkoxw64CiWw>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information



MO-TELL Calendar 2026/2027

Board meetings – First Monday of the month, 2 pm Central time, Zoom

Quarterly Zoom Concerts occur on the 2nd Tuesday of the designated month

September 8, 2026, 7 pm, Central Time, Zoom, Quarterly Concert-School Yarns

Sunday, November 15, 2026; 3:00-4:00 p.m., Tellabration! Clark Family Branch, [1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63131](#)

December 8, 2026, 7 pm, Central Time, Zoom, Quarterly Concert-Peace and Joy

The Annual Membership Meeting, Zoom
January 12, 2027, 7:00 pm, Central time

Quarterly online concerts for 2027
March 8, June 8, September 14,
December 14, 7:00 pm, Central time

The 13th Annual Liars Contest in
Kansas City, MO, July 9/10/2027

RIVER AND PRAIRIE STORYWEAVERS

SEPTEMBER 2026

The September RAPS monthly meeting will be on September 3, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

Presentation by Bob Daniels and the theme is "Leaves of a different color."

Trailside Center , 9901 Holmes,
Kansas City MO 64131

Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87505310168?pwd=MmhrM2NHSE1VaHZaVG1MMTZjNlVKT09j)

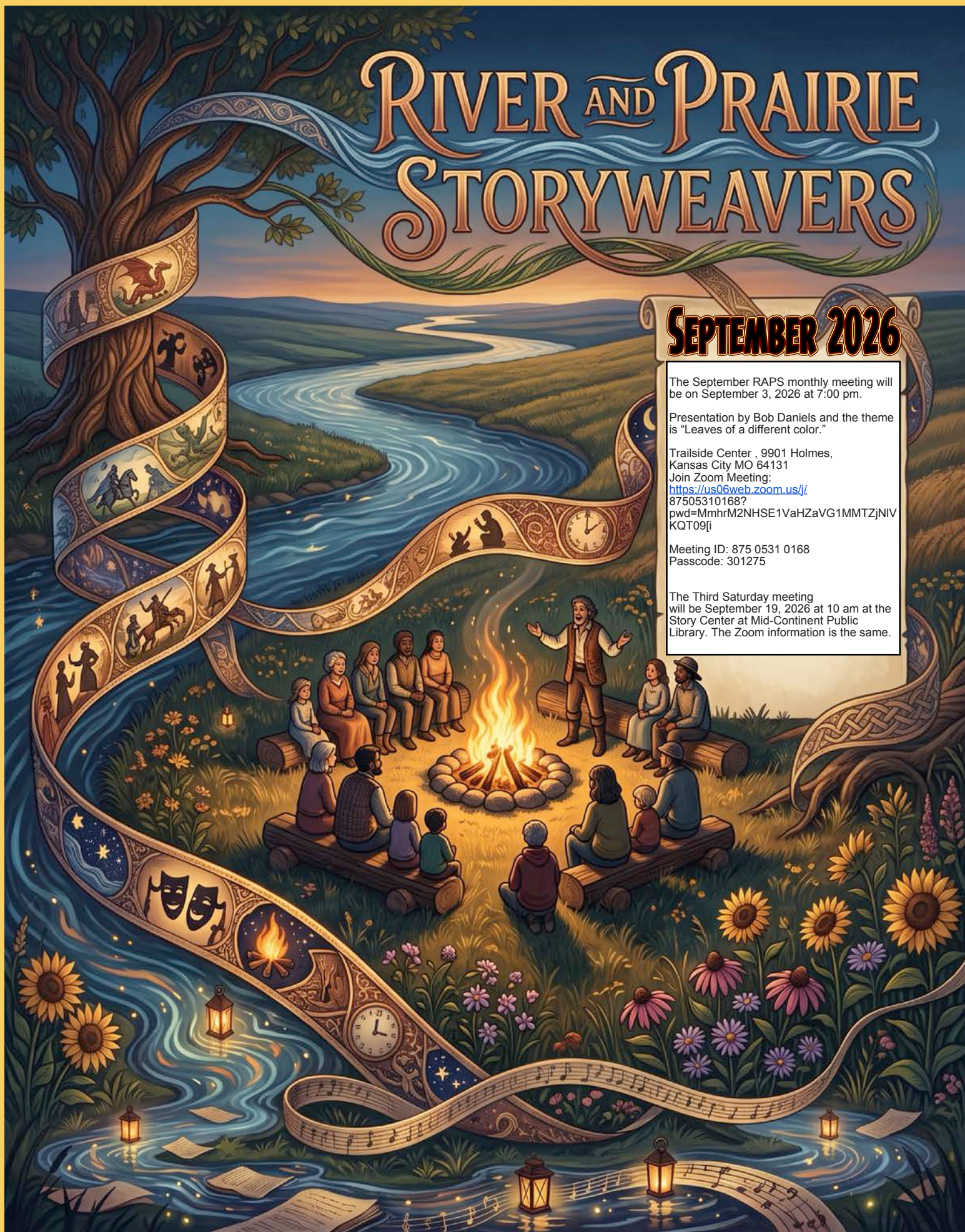
87505310168?

pwd=MmhrM2NHSE1VaHZaVG1MMTZjNlVKT09j

Meeting ID: 875 0531 0168

Passcode: 301275

The Third Saturday meeting will be September 19, 2026 at 10 am at the Story Center at Mid-Continent Public Library. The Zoom information is the same.





[Creating and Performing Tall Tales](#)

Thu, Sep 10 2026 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Story Center Programming Room

Story Center Event Registration Required

Join storyteller Rich White, winner of multiple state liars contests, for a lesson on tall tales.

REGISTER NOW

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

Thu, Sep 17 2026 6:30pm - 8:00pm Central

Story Center Programming Room and Online

Story Center Event **MCPL Online**

This open-mic storytelling event is open to anyone!

REGISTER NOW

[Introduction to Storytelling Varieties \(Zoom\)](#)

Thu, Sep 24 2026 6:30pm - 8:00pm Central Story Center Event **MCPL Online**

Curious about the many kinds of stories you can tell—but not sure where to begin? In this lively workshop, award-winning storyteller and educator Dr.

REGISTER NOW

[Copyright Basics \(Zoom\)](#)

Wed, Sep 30 2026 6:30pm - 8:00pm Central Story Center Event **MCPL Online**

Learn the basics of copyright law, what rights copyright holders have, the exceptions to those rights, and the proper application of fair use from Chris LeBeau, a member of the faculty for the Univers

REGISTER NOW

SO, THEY WANT YOU TO EMCEE...

Being an emcee is an extremely important part of any program or event!

Find out all information you need from whoever is in charge of the program.

Announce: Welcome the audience. They want to see your confidence for their comfort level.

Thanks to all the sponsors of the program, especially the event space and the person responsible for the space. There may be one organization or multiple sponsors to thank.

Announce location of restrooms and if any drinks or snacks are available.

Announce if there is an intermission or not.

The program:

Your purpose is to make the audience feel at ease, keep the program running smoothly, and to support the teller(s), their needs and their unique importance. Some tellers need help with getting on and off the stage. Or two mikes if available. Make sure tellers have water. One never knows when their throat gets dry or they have a slight cough.

Remember to never allow the stage to be empty. As a teller comes on after being introduced, you exit. And as they exit, you are on the stage. Remember to always say something about the teller or story as they finish before introducing the next teller. This is crucial. Otherwise, it's like nothing happened. It also concludes the previous teller's being on the stage and prepares the audience for the next teller.

If the mike needs adjusting, your help is needed. (Have someone in the back to make sure teller is heard easily.) If teller needs to be louder, take care of it in the beginning. If audience cannot hear, that's what they remember, that they couldn't hear the teller. What could be worse? A sound check is a great idea.

But remember, things can go wrong!

Make sure all tellers know the time constraints. If someone goes much over their time, the audience does not like it and it cheats the tellers that follow, especially the last teller. Remember that it takes two minutes simply to change from one teller to the next. So, in a program with 4 tellers, that's adding 8 minutes to the program plus the 4 to 6 minutes it takes for announcements, etc.

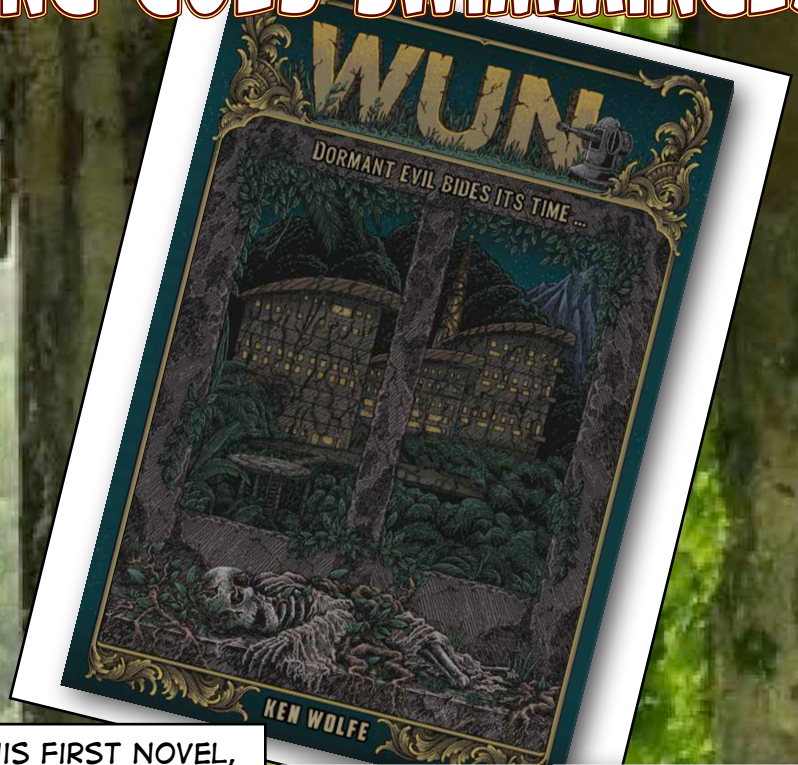
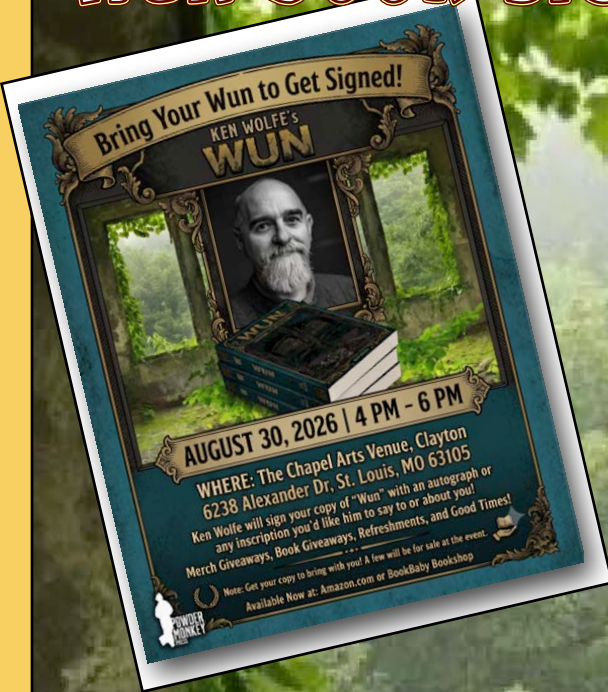
Each event is unique and the emcee must adapt:

The liars contest simply tells the name of the liar and where they are from. That's because it is a contest. For most events simply give the name of the teller (make sure you pronounce it correctly), where they are from, and one or two things about them or their telling. Giving a list of awards and too much information is not helpful to the audience. Maybe ask the tellers something they want the audience to know that most people don't know about them. That can be fun and keep the audience interested in each teller.

Remember that you are the person moving the program along. All introductions must be simple and short, period. Exception: Only one teller for entire program. Then the introduction can be longer and emphasize accolades of the teller.

Above all, **enjoy** the emcee experience.

WUN BOOK SIGNING GOES SWIMMINGLY



KEN WOLFE HOSTED A BOOK SIGNING FOR HIS FIRST NOVEL, **WUN**, A FEW DAYS AGO AND IT WENT WELL. IT'S HIS LONGEST CONTINUOUS LIE AND ALMOST 70 PEOPLE (DARE WE SAY, "FANS"?) CAME BY FOR A SIGNATURE AND A COUPLE OF READINGS FROM THE TEXT. IF YOU MISSED THE EVENT AND WANT AN INSCRIPTION, JUST SEND YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND WHAT YOU WANT INSCRIBED TO "MOTELLNEWS@GMAIL.COM" AND KEN WILL GLADLY SEND YOU A PERSONALIZED BOOKPLATE TO AFFIX TO YOUR COPY.

WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY? YOU HAVE NO COPY OF WUN?

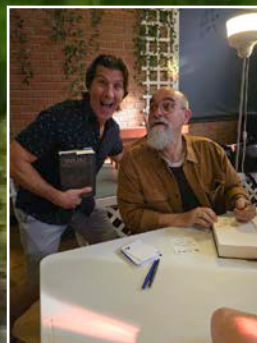
THAT'S AN EASY FIX. SEE BELOW.

Agent Charles Morgner thought his mission was a success. Deep in the Amazon, he barely escaped a villain's lair, leaving behind an R&D complex filled with sinister secrets counting down to self-destruct. But when a chilling message confirms his gravest fears, Charles must confront his past to prevent a global nightmare from awakening.

Decades later, high school student Stuart Gorovich finds himself adrift. Disillusioned with his small-town life, a mission trip to the very heart of the Amazon jungle offers an unexpected escape. But what begins as a search for purpose quickly transforms into a desperate fight for survival when he and two friends stumble upon a decaying complex echoing with an insistent, unearthly call: "Wun... Wun... Wun..."

As these two timelines collide, a terrifying truth emerges about a dormant power poised to reshape humanity. Can Charles outwit the forces aligned against him, and can Stuart resist the allure of a darkness that promises worldwide peace through unimaginable means?

Find **Wun** of your own on
BookBaby.com Amazon



SAY, GANG! LET'S MEET ANOTHER TELLER!

Katie Beth Kerr says her favorite thing in storytelling is when you look at your audience' eyes and can see that you got them. It is a great feeling for her that they are fully absorbed by the story they are hearing just as she was when she was a child listening to stories on cassette tapes. She continues to use stories in her job.

First as an elementary school teacher where she used stories in teaching Second Grade. Now with her current job as a librarian at the Livingston County Library. But most importantly, she is passing on that love of stories to her children who have crafted some interesting tales.

Some of her favorite stories are:

- Abiyoyo - Katie Beth said she got to hear Pete Seeger tell the story while playing a banjo.
- Folk Tales with a personal twist - such as Stone Soup
- Stories told to her daughter that she still asks to hear again.

When asked about what she would like to see MO-TELL doing to promote storytelling in Missouri she said:

- Continue with the Storytelling in the State Parks programs.
- Could MO-TELL sponsor small, in-person events where newer storytellers could get experience telling to audiences?

She is a graduate of the Mid-Continent Public Library, Story Center, Storytelling Certification program and continues to share her stories with audiences. Her email address is **Katie@livcolib.org**



STORY OF THE MONTH

These Two Monks Walk Into a River, See?

Two monks journeying home came to the banks of a fast-flowing river. There they met a young woman who was unable to cross because of the swiftness of the current. One of the monks picked her up in his arms and carried her across the river, setting her down safely on the other bank.

Then they resumed their journey. After they had walked a while the monk that had crossed alone could no longer restrain himself and began to rebuke his brother, "You know it is forbidden to touch a young woman, you have broken the holy vows."

The other monk answered, "I left that young woman on the bank of the river. Why are you still carrying her?"

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



TRIVIAL HUMOR FOR SEPTEMBER

TRIVIA WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE ON A TRIVIA NIGHT

URANOPHOBIA IS THE MORBID FEAR OF HEAVEN.

HADEPHOBIA IS THE FEAR OF HELL.

ONE OF THE MOST COMMON FEARS IN HUMANS IS **GLOSSOPHOBIA** OR THE FEAR OF PUBLIC SPEAKING! THANK HEAVEN FOR STORYTELLERS!

THE TIN MAN'S NAME IN THE WIZARD OF OZ IS NICK CHOPPER.

IN THE 8TH GRADE ELVIS PRESLEY GOT A "C" IN MUSIC.

JOHN DENVER'S REAL NAME WAS HENRY JOHN DEUTSCHENDORF, JR.

THE BANK OF AMERICA STARTED AS THE BANK OF ITALY. REALLY?

(IT'S TRUE! A. P. GIANNINI FOUNDED IT SO TO APPEAL TO ITALIANS' CULTURAL AVERSION TO CARRYING DEBT AND WAS VASTLY SUCCESSFUL. [*RACE AND CULTURE: A WORLD VIEW (1994), PG. 104, THOMAS SOWELL])

AUSTRALIA IS THE ONLY COUNTRY THAT IS ALSO A CONTINENT.

IN NEW YORK CITY, RATS BITE ABOUT 311 PEOPLE EACH YEAR. HOWEVER, ABOUT 1,519 NEW YORKERS ARE BITTEN BY OTHER NEW YORKERS EACH YEAR.

HUMANS SHARE ABOUT 60% OF THEIR DNA WITH BANANAS. (MAYBE THAT'S WHY PEOPLE WANT TO BITE THEM.)

HONEY NEVER SPOILS. ARCHEOLOGISTS HAVE FOUND EDIBLE HONEY IN ANCIENT TOMBS. (BANANAS SPOIL.)

BASKIN-ROBBINS MADE KETCHUP-FLAVORED ICE CREAM. HOWEVER, IT NEVER APPEARED IN RETAIL STORES. (I WONDER WHY?!) MAYBE BECAUSE NOBODY WANTED IT ON THEIR FROZEN CHEESEBURGER.

AND HERE'S A QUIZ:

TWICE EIGHT ARE TEN OF US, AND TEN BUT THREE.
THREE OF US ARE FIVE. WHAT CAN WE BE?

IF THIS IS NOT ENOUGH, I WILL TELL YOU MORE.
TWELVE OF US ARE SIX, AND NINE BUT FOUR.
WHAT ARE WE???

(IF YOU GET THE ANSWER, YOU MAY EMAIL PERRIN AT PSTIFELSTL@EARTHLINK.NET.
IF YOU WANT THE ANSWER DO THE SAME.)

**SOME PEOPLE ARE DETERMINED
TO NOT HAVE FUN.**



THE REST OF US JOIN MO-TELL!

**JOIN MO-TELL TODAY AND
GET INTO THE SWING OF THINGS!
DETAILS BELOW. CHECK 'EM OUT!**

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	A FANTASTIC, UNIQUE GLASS LOGO TUMBLER
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP 60+	\$200	A SPLENDID, UNIQUE GLASS LOGO TUMBLER

SEND CHECK PAYABLE TO:

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

RENEW TODAY!

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, CLIPS, 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

Why We Do What We Do

www.mo-tell.org

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

MO-TELL's Mission

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.

MO-TELL's Vision

We envision that every Missourian will hear and share stories and keep the oral tradition alive.

Your Fearless Leaders, The MO-Tell Board

President: Joyce Slater, joyceslater2o@gmail.com

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

Treasurer: Jackie Wright, jpapawright@sbcglobal.net

Secretary: Sue Godsey, sgodsey2@gmail.com

At Large: Gary Kuntz, galirahi@aol.com
Nancee Walker Micham, walkermicham@gmail.com
Glen "Papa" Wright, jpapawright@sbcglobal.net
Linda Kuntz, iharilag@gmail.com (Membership)

Emeritus: Perrin Stifel, pstifelstl@earthlink.net

Newsletter design:
Ken Wolfe and

