



MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello friends,



A blue moon only happens once in a “blue moon,” when there are two full moons in one month. The month of May brings us a blue moon this year. There will be two full moons, one on May 1 and another on May 31. Peek at the celestial body on those days to see for yourself.

Spring is also a time of the year when spring fever occurs probably because there is more sunlight to brighten our days. Attitudes change and often so does our mental and physical wellbeing. Hurray for Spring.

Some people observe NO MOW MAY so that insects and bees can flourish. However, May is a growing period too and the grass in my yard will be very tall by June if there is no mowing.

May is the month we celebrate mothers. Think of a story about your mother and share it with a friend. My own mother died over 20 years ago. I miss her always. When I see you next, ask me to tell you a story about her. It might make you laugh.

The newsletter contains the rules and regulations for the Missouri Liars Contest. Consider which lie you will tell.

See you on June 9 at the Summer Surprise concert.

Keep growing your stories.

Joyce Slater
President, MO-TELL

“That’s what we storytellers do. We restore order with imagination. We instill hope again and again and again.”

—
Kelly Marcel & Sue Smith

PRAIRIE VOICES

HONORING HERITAGE, INSPIRING TOMORROW

National Storytelling Conference
West Texas A&M University

JULY 23-26
CANYON, TX



NATIONAL
STORYTELLING
NETWORK

ATTENTION, TELLERS!

Hello, Missouri Folklore Society and friends, we have started planning our 2026 conference in the Queen City of the Ozarks... **Springfield, Missouri.**

We will be returning to the **Mansion at Elfindale, Nov. 5-7** with the plan for programming from afternoon Thursday to Saturday evening.

Our conference theme: **"What are y'all doing?"**

We are sending out this email as a "save-the-date" and rollout of our 2026 Call for Participation.

Submit your proposal [online](#).

We will have a flyer / mailer with Call for Participation information later this spring.

Thanks! Reach out if you have any questions!

-MFS 2026 Planners Chris & Jahni

<http://missourifolkloresociety.org>

MO-TELL CONQUERS KANSAS ONCE AGAIN!



Results from Downs, KS April 24, 2026

Left to right

Gary Kuntz, Larry Brown, Alice Nathan and Rich White

All of these Missourians have won the
Kansas Tall Tale Contest in Downs, KS.

Larry Brown is the WINNER of this year's tall tale contest.

Rich White has won the contest three times
making him one of the master storytellers of Downs, Kansas.

Huzzah for Missouri!

And, naturally, they are all MO-TELL members and Raps members.



HERE'S WHERE & WHEN

- **R.A.W. Storytelling at [The Black Box](#)**
 - **Details:** A recurring open-mic night where tellers share **7-minute true, personal stories** based on real-life experiences. It's a "relaxed, authentic, and sometimes wily" environment where both first-time tellers and seasoned pros are welcome.
 - **Schedule:** Typically held on **Mondays**, with doors opening at 5:30 PM and stories starting at 6:00 PM.
 - **Cost:** Donation-based (suggested \$10) or purchase a beverage at the bar.
 - **Location:** 1060 Union Ave, Kansas City, MO.
- **Kansas City StorySLAM with [The Moth](#)**
 - **Upcoming Event:** Monday, May 11, 2026, at 6:30 PM.
 - **Theme:** "I GOT IT FROM MY MAMA" — stories about family traits and maternal influences.
 - **Venue:** Knuckleheads, a live music venue that hosts this competitive open-mic series.

**MO-TELL Second Tuesdays
Quarterly Concerts on Zoom**



June 9, 7 pm

Theme: Summer Surprises

Live & in person

**Liars Contest,
July 10 & 11, Joplin, MO**

September 8, 7 pm

Theme: School Yarns

December 8, 7 pm

Theme: Peace and Joy

Tellabration!

**Tuesday, November 17,
on Zoom**

Live & in person

**Tellabration!
in St. Louis, Nov. 20th**



**IT'S THE END OF AN ERA.
IT'S THE LAST OF THESE PERFORMANCES.
NEVER AGAIN WILL UMSL HOST STORYTELLING LIKE THIS.
COME, HEAR, APPLAUD, & LET HISTORY RECORD YOUR PRESENCE!**

OFTEN IMITATED, NEVER DUPLICATED!

**THE FINAL
2026 TELL-A-THON**

ONE NIGHT ONLY! ARISING FROM THE PIERRE LACLEDE HONORS COLLEGE'S LEGENDARY STORYTELLING COURSE COME SEVERAL YOUNG & AMBITIOUS NEW TALENTS WITH STORIES TO THRILL, INSPIRE, AND AMUSE YOU!

**MAY 12, 2026, 7PM
THE CHAPEL ARTS VENUE**

6238 ALEXANDER DRIVE.
ST. LOUIS, MO 63105



**THIS IS THE VERY FINEST EVENING EVENT OF
MAY 12TH, 2026, AT 7PM
AT THE CHAPEL, 6238 ALEXANDER DRIVE, CLAYTON, MO 63105**

MAGNET
HERE

FOR YOUR FRIDGE

MAGNET
HERE

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

RAPS MAY 2026

[May meeting, May 7, 2026, 7 pm](#)
[Topic: Graduations](#)

Trailside Center , 9901 Holmes, Kansas City MO
64131

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87505310168?
pwd=MmhrM2NHSE1VaHZaVG1MMTZjNlVKQT
09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87505310168?pwd=MmhrM2NHSE1VaHZaVG1MMTZjNlVKQT09)

[i
Meeting ID: 875 0531 0168
Passcode: 301275

Third Saturday meeting:
May 16, 2026 10:30 am

The meeting will be held at:
MidContinent Public Library
Story Center, Woodneath
Library. [8900 NE Flintlock Rd,
Liberty MO](#)

Join Zoom Meet [Keb.zoom.us/j/
87505310168?
pwd=MmhrM2NHSE1VaHZaVG1
MMTZjNlVKQT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87505310168?pwd=MmhrM2NHSE1VaHZaVG1MMTZjNlVKQT09)

Meeting ID: 875 0531 0168
Passcode: 301275

MO-TELL

MO-TELL Calendar 2025/2026

Board meetings – First Monday of the
month, 2 pm Central time, Zoom
December 9, 2025 – Online concert (see
flier)

The Annual Membership Meeting –
January 13, 2026, 7:00 pm, Central time

Quarterly online concerts for 2026
March 10, June 9, September 8,
December 8, 7:00 pm, Central time

The 12 th Annual Liars Contest in
Joplin, MO, 2026
July 10/11

RIVERWINDS

GATEWAY

**M
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OUR MOUNTAINS IN MISSOURI AREN'T JUST FUNNY, THEY'RE HILL-AREAS.

IRONY IS THE OPPOSITE OF WRINKLY.

BE THE FUN IN DYSFUNCTIONAL!

LIFE IS SHORT. IF YOU CAN'T LAUGH AT YOURSELF, CALL ME, I WILL.

TO THE THIEF WHO TOOK MY ANTI-DEPRESSANTS. I HOPE YOU'RE HAPPY!

I WONDERED WHY THE BASEBALL KEPT GETTING BIGGER. THEN IT HIT ME.

ENGLAND DOESN'T HAVE A KIDNEY BANK. BUT IT DOES HAVE A LIVERPOOL.

I USED TO BE INDECISIVE BUT NOW I'M NOT SO SURE.

I KNOW A GUY WHO'S ADDICTED TO BRAKE FLUID. HE SAYS HE CAN STOP ANYTIME.

PEOPLE TELL ME I'M TOO SKEPTICAL, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE THEM.

IF YOU ASKED A PLASTIC SURGEON TO MAKE YOU LOOK LIKE A PELICAN, WOULD YOU GET A BIG BILL??

P.S. GET READY FOR DAD JOKES NEXT MONTH!

MO-TELL'S

ANNUAL LIARS CONTEST

JULY 10-11, 2026



And Much More!
Silent Auction!
Lunch & Story Swap!
Tales for Kids!

Friday Night Concert, 7-9pm
Stories from the Heartland & Live Music
featuring Elizabeth Ellis, Joyce Slater, & Perrin Stifel

Don't Miss It!

Storytelling Workshop w/ Elizabeth Ellis: "Courage for Storytellers"
Saturday, 9:30am - Noon

12th Annual Missouri Liars Contest - Spoken Competition, 2pm
For more information: www.mo-tell.org

Joplin Ave. Coffee Company

506 S. Joplin Ave., Joplin, MO 64801



THE MISSOURI STATE LIARS CONTEST

2026 OFFICIAL RULES – WRITTEN CATEGORY

The following rules pertain to the Written Category of the 2026 Missouri State Liars Contest, sponsored by MO-TELL (Missouri Storytelling).

Each entrant in the **Written Category** of 2026 Missouri State Liars contest must:

- Submit a story in a Word document
- Submit a completed registration form with a **\$15 entry fee for MO-TELL members**, or a **\$30 entry fee for non-MO-TELL members** to:

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

Entries:

- Each entrant may submit up to two (2) stories. Each story submitted must be accompanied by a separate registration form and \$15 entry fee.
- Note that each entrant may submit up to two (2) stories in each category, the Spoken Category and the Written Category. The same story may be submitted in both categories, i.e., as an entry in the Spoken Category and the Written Category (separate fee for each). **If both stories are selected in one category, entrant must choose which one is for the competition. If the same story is selected in both categories, entrant must decide in which category the story would remain for competition.**

Deadline for Entering:

- Story entries will be accepted until **June 26, 2026**.
- A panel of judges will choose the winners from among the entrants in the Written Category. Finalists will be notified on or around **July 03, 2026**.
- The 1st place winner in the Written category will be invited to read their story after the Spoken contest on **July 11, 2026**, in person.
- There will be a cash prize for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each contest.

Eligible Stories:

- Eligible entries for the Written Category of the 2026 contest include any story that's not completely true.
- **Written entries must be original compositions**, but they may be inspired by folklore or other material from the public domain.
- **Written entries must be 1500 words or less with a 100-word grace amount. Stories longer than 1600 hundred words will be disqualified.** Stories will be judged on content.

- Stories must also be PG-rated—i.e., appropriate for an all-ages audience. Any story entered in the contest which fails to meet these requirements, as deemed by the judges, will be disqualified.

Judging:

- Judging will be done by a panel of three storytelling experts who will score each contestant on the 4 criteria listed below:
 - a. Writing - Structure and mechanics
 - b. Story Development - Good development of the tale (beginning, middle and end)
 - c. Originality - New material or fresh handling of a familiar yarn
 - d. Effectiveness of the story as a lie - In the judges' opinions
- The three judges will score each of the four categories on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the best. There will be a maximum of 20 points per competitor.
- **If an individual wins first place in the Liars Contest (written) 5 times, then they are no longer eligible to compete (in the written category) and are elevated to the rank of Most Accomplished Written Liar in Missouri rank. The individual would still be eligible to compete in the oral category.**
- Any individual involved in collecting entries or arranging judges will be deemed a contest director and will be ineligible from entering the 2026 contest. Immediate family members of contest directors or contest judges are also ineligible. **Additionally, professional politicians (defined as individuals who earn the majority of their income from elected office) are ineligible from entering the contest while in office.**

Judges' Guidelines for Written Liar's Contest 2026

1. The “lies” should be short stories (humorous, dramatic, supernatural, etc.) with a maximum length of 1500 words with a 100-word allowance. Stories exceeding 1600 words will be disqualified.
2. All contestants may register as a member or a non-member of MO-TELL, send a fee for each written story. A maximum of 10 people will be chosen to compete. In the case of 11 people competing, all will be considered. Three winners (1st, 2nd and 3rd places) to be chosen from all competitors.
3. The number one winner of the written entries will be read by the entrant unless he/she is not able to be present. In that case someone will be appointed to read the story.
4. Awards ceremony will take place following the judging of the oral contest.
5. Judging will be done by a panel of three storytelling experts who will score each contestant on the following 4 criteria:
 - a. Writing - Structure and mechanics.
 - b. Story Development - Good development of the tale (beginning, conflicts and resolution)
 - c. Originality - New material or fresh handling of a familiar yarn
 - d. Effectiveness of the story as a lie – In the judges’ opinions

The three judges will score each of the four categories on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the best. There will be a maximum of 20 points per competitor.

Final scores will not be given to contestants.

6. The decision of the judges will be final. The Liars Contest Committee will be notified of the decision by **July 03, 2026**.

Winners will receive award checks and medals.



THE MISSOURI STATE LIARS CONTEST

2026 OFFICIAL RULES – SPOKEN CATEGORY

The following rules pertain to the Spoken Category of the 2026 Missouri State Liars Contest, sponsored by MO-TELL (Missouri Storytelling).

Each entrant in the **Spoken Category** of 2026 Missouri State Liars contest must:

- Submit a video or audio file (or web link to such) of the complete story being entered to Joyce Slater at joyceslater20@gmail.com.
- Submit a completed registration form with a **\$15 entry fee for MO-TELL members**, or a **\$30 entry fee for non-MO-TELL members** to:

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

Entries:

- Each entrant may submit up to two (2) stories. Each story submitted must be accompanied by a separate registration form and \$15 entry fee.
- Note that each entrant may submit up to two (2) stories in each category, the Spoken Category and the Written Category. The same story may be submitted in both categories, i.e., as an entry in the Spoken Category and the Written Category (separate fee for each). **If both stories are selected in one category, entrant must choose which one is for the competition. If the same story is selected in both categories, entrant must decide in which category the story would remain for competition.**

Entries:

- Each entrant may submit up to two (2) stories. Each story submitted must be accompanied by a separate registration form and \$15 entry fee.
- Note that each entrant may submit up to two (2) stories in each category, the Spoken Category and the Written Category. The same story may be submitted in both categories, i.e., as an entry in the Spoken Category and the Written Category (separate fee for each). **If both stories are selected in one category, entrant must choose which**

- one is for the competition. If the same story is selected in both categories, entrant must decide in which category the story would remain for competition.

Deadline for Entering:

- Story entries will be accepted until **June 26, 2026**.
- A panel of judges will choose the winners from among the entrants in the Written Category. Finalists will be notified on or around **July 03, 2026**.
- Finalists in the Spoken Category will be invited to compete in person at the final round on **July 11, 2026**.
- A panel of judges will select the winner of the Spoken Category, and the winner will be announced at the event that day.
- Cash prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in both the spoken and written categories.

Eligible Stories:

- Eligible entries for the Spoken Category of the 2026 contest include any story that's *not completely true*.
- Entries may be original compositions, or they may be based partially or wholly on folklore or other material from the public domain.
 - Copyrighted stories are not allowed in the contest unless the contest entrant is the copyright holder.
- **Stories must be 10 minutes or less with a one minute allowance.**
- **Stories must also be PG-rated—i.e., appropriate for an all-ages audience.**
- **Any story entered in the contest which fails to meet these requirements, as deemed by the judges, will be disqualified.**

Judging:

- Although the performance of each entrant will be evaluated, the technical quality of the video or audio recording will not be a factor in the judging, if the story can be clearly heard and/or seen by the judges.
 - a. Judging will be done by a panel of three storytelling experts who will score each contestant in the following categories:
 - b. Technique - Delivery, confidence, general stagecraft
 - c. Story Development - Good development of the tale (beginning, middle and end) in time available
 - d. Originality - New material or fresh handling of a familiar yarn
 - e. Effectiveness of the story as a lie - In judges' opinion, taking audience response into consideration
- The three judges will score each of the four categories on a scale of 1 to 5, with a maximum of 20 points per competitor.
- **If an individual wins first place in the Liars Contest (Spoken) 5 times, they are no longer eligible to compete (in the Spoken category) and are elevated to the rank of Most Accomplished Liar in Missouri rank.**

- Any individual involved in collecting entries or arranging judges will be deemed a contest director and will be ineligible from entering the 2026 contest. Immediate family members of contest directors or contest judges are also ineligible.
 - Additionally, professional politicians (defined as individuals who earn the majority of their income from elected office) are ineligible from entering the contest while in office.
-

Judges' Guidelines for Spoken Liar's Contest 2026

1. The “lies” should be short stories (humorous, dramatic, supernatural, etc.) with a maximum length of 10 minutes with one minute grace period. Stories exceeding 11 minutes will be disqualified.

2. All contestants may register as a member or a non-member of MO-TELL, send the fee and the audition in video or audio format either by email or tape for each story. A maximum of 10 people will be chosen to compete based on the audition audio. In the case of 11 people and no more competing, whose story is judged as eligible, all will compete. Three winners (1st, 2nd and 3rd places) to be chosen from all competitors. There will be no ties.

3. Awards ceremony will take place following the contest and the judges’ decisions.

4. Judging will be done by a panel of three storytelling experts who will score each contestant on the following 4 criteria:

- a. Technique - Delivery, confidence, general stagecraft
- b. Story Development - Good development of the tale (beginning, conflicts and resolution)
- c. Originality - New material or fresh handling of a familiar yarn
- d. Effectiveness of the story as a lie - In judges’ opinion, taking audience response into consideration

Judges will not indicate favoritism in their demeanor for any story while the stories are being told.

The three judges will score each of the four categories on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the best. There will be a maximum of 20 points per competitor.

Final scores will not be given to contestants.

5. The judges will confer at the end of the contest to decide the winners.

6. The decision of the judges will be final.

Winners will receive award checks and medals on the day of the contest.



THE MISSOURI STATE LIARS CONTEST 2026 REGISTRATION FORM (WRITTEN CATEGORY)

Please return this completed form with the contest entry fee payable to "MO-TELL" the following address by **June 26, 2026**:

Missouri Storytelling Inc
PO Box 28994
Olivette, MO 63132-9998

NOTE: The contest entry fee is \$30 for non-MO-TELL members, or \$15 for MO-TELL members.

After returning your registration, submit your story as a WORD Document attached to an email to joyceslater20@gmail.com.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name of Parent or Guardian for entrants under 18: _____

Phone #: _____ **Email:** _____

Title of Story: _____

Approximate length of story: _____ words

How did you hear about the contest? _____

PLEASE NOTE: Performances at the July 11, 2026, event may be photographed and recorded (audio and video) and used by MO-TELL to promote future contests or Missouri storytelling in general.

For questions about the contest, email joyceslater20@gmail.com.



THE MISSOURI STATE LIARS CONTEST

2026 REGISTRATION FORM (SPOKEN CATEGORY)

Please return this completed form with the contest entry fee payable to "MO-TELL" the following address by **June 26, 2026**:

Missouri Storytelling Inc
PO Box 28994
Olivette, MO 63132-9998

NOTE: The contest entry fee is \$30 for non-MO-TELL members, or \$15 for MO-TELL members.

After returning your registration, submit your story in a standard audio or video format (or a link to your story) to joyceslater20@gmail.com.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name of Parent or Guardian for entrants under 18: _____

Phone #: _____ **Email:** _____

Title of Story: _____

Approximate length of story: _____ minutes

How did you hear about the contest? _____

PLEASE NOTE: Performances at the July 11, 2026, event may be photographed and recorded (audio and video) and used by MO-TELL to promote future contests or Missouri storytelling in general.

For questions about the contest, email joyceslater20@gmail.com.

AND DON'T FORGET TO REMEMBER MO-TELL'S ANNUAL QUILT RAFFLE



RAFFLE DETAILS
SOON TO COME!

The 2026 quilt for our raffle is suitable for a double or queen bed, or even as an accent for any bed. Marsha Stifel Mellendorf created the quilt for the 250th anniversary of the United States.

The pattern is stars with nine patches in patriotic colors. The numerous individual pieces of fabric are hand sewn and then machine stitched having a field of navy blue and a red backing.

All who have seen this gorgeous quilt agree it is one of the best ever. The quilt measures 66" by 81". This promises to be a great raffle!

The winner will be announced at the 2026 Liars Contest in Joplin.

You do not have to be present to win.

INTRIGUED ABOUT RAFFLED HANDICRAFTS? WANNA KNOW MORE?

As a part of our fundraising, MO-TELL has a wonderful quilt to raffle. The 2026 MO-TELL raffle quilt measures 66" x 81" and is suitable for a double or queen bed, or even as an accent for any bed.

Marsha Stifel Mellendorf created the quilt for the 250th anniversary of the United States. The pattern is stars with nine patches in patriotic colors. The numerous individual pieces of fabric are hand sewn and then machine stitched having a field of navy blue and a red backing. All who have seen this gorgeous quilt agree it is one of her best ever.

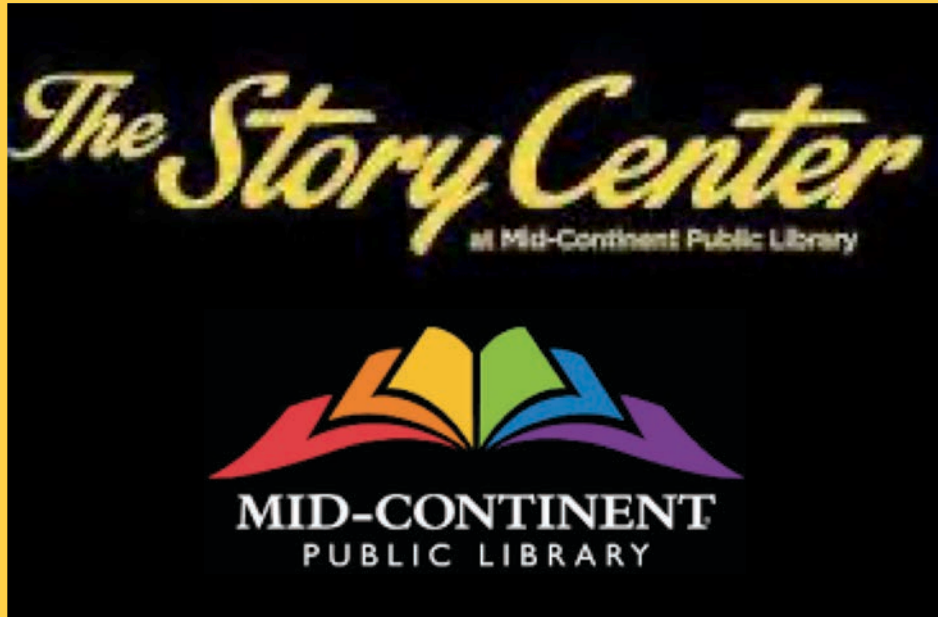
Tickets for the raffle are as follows: one ticket for \$5, three tickets for \$10, five tickets for \$15 and ten tickets for \$20. Members will receive a mailing regarding the raffle.

Email Linda Kuntz at iharilag@gmail.com if you need more raffle tickets.

Please help in this endeavor to fulfill the MO-TELL mission as we partner with the Missouri State Parks and Historic Sites. Tickets are for sale now through July 11, 2026. You DO NOT need to be present to win.

Please return your check made out to Missouri Storytelling, Inc., 9621 Olive Blvd #28994, St. Louis, MO 63132-9998 and ticket stubs in the enclosed stamped addressed envelope. The drawing or the quilt will be at the Missouri Liars Contest on July 11, 2026, in Joplin, Missouri. The winner will be notified through email.

WINTER'S COMING!
JULY IS THE PERFECT TIME TO WIN!
ENTER RIGHT AWAY!



[Storm Stories](#)

Wed, May 13 2026 6:30pm - 7:30pm Story Center
Outside Story Center Event Registration Required
Join The Story Center for an evening of family-friendly stories about storms and other wild spring weather at the outdoor amphitheater at Woodneath Library Center.

REGISTER NOW

[Performance Showcase & Masterclass \(Zoom\)](#)

Mon, May 18 2026 6:30pm - 8:00pm Central Story Center
Event MCPL Online

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 Certificate Program.

REGISTER NOW

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

Thu, May 21 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

TIPS FOR TELLERS

By Alton Chung

You have a story about a character, such as a family member, but how do you make that character and story come alive? How do you make that character interesting and your story engaging?

I. Important elements make the story come alive

- a) Voice
- b) Gestures
- c) Facial Expression
- d) Physicality

II. Differentiation of Characters

- a) Who are the characters in your story?
- b) What do they sound like?
- c) Find the gestures unique to each character
- d) Facial Expressions

III. Suggestions when telling new stories

- a) Be kind and gentle to yourself
- b) Tell story to small group of trusted friends
- c) Remember that you and your story are two different entities



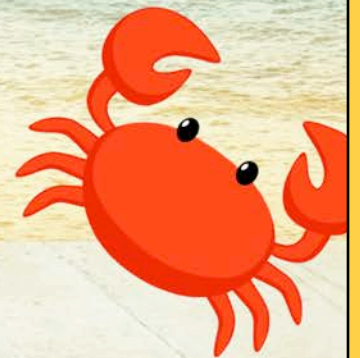
Presents

Summer
Surprises

Tuesday, June 9, 2026
7:00 PM Central
on Zoom

featuring

Ken Wolfe Perrin Stiefel
Lisa Costello Mary T. Nord



KEN WOLFE'S LONGEST LIE

NOW AVAILABLE ON AMAZON AND BOOKBABY

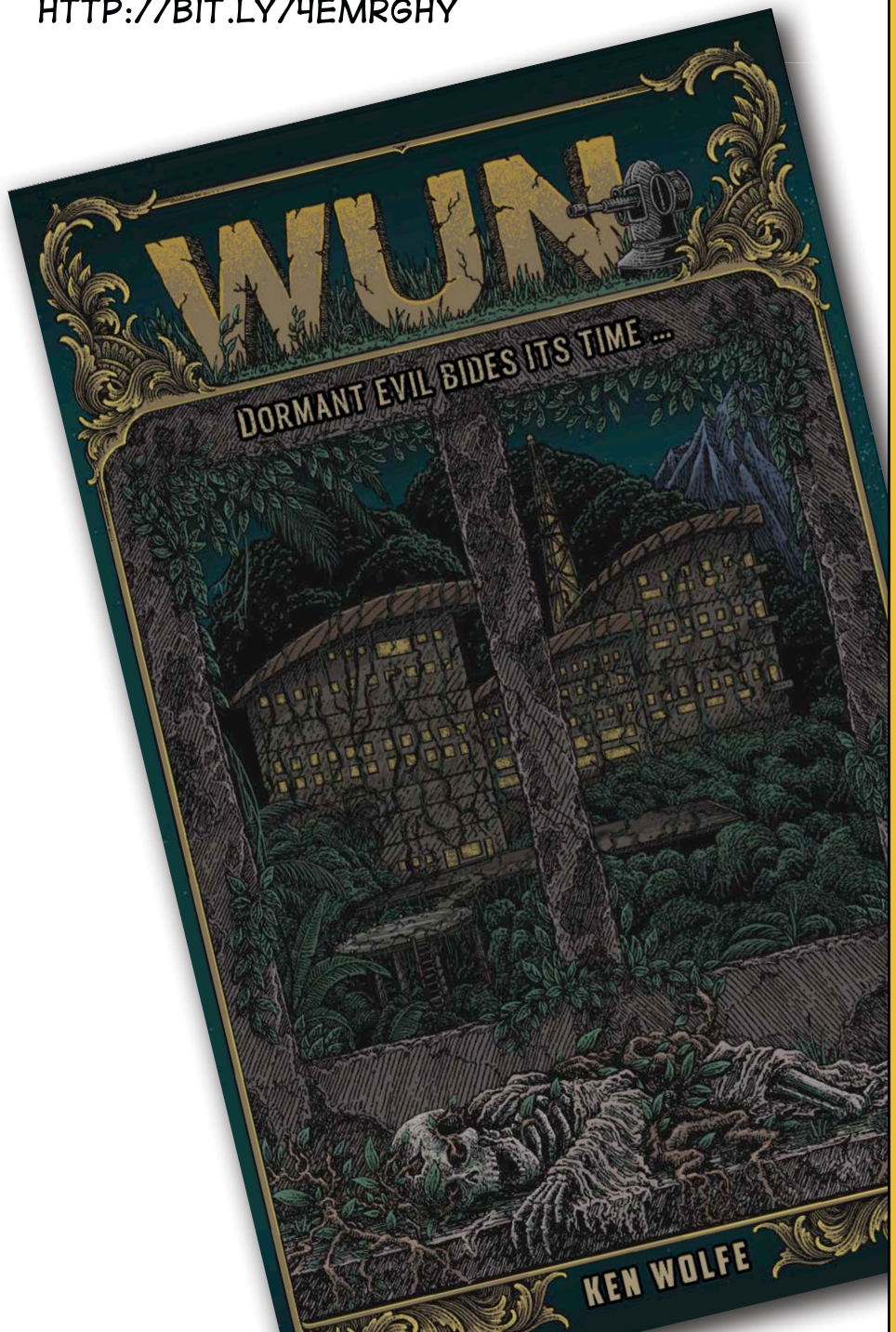
Dormant evil bides its time. In 1968, British spy Charles Morgner infiltrates a hidden Amazonian R&D complex run by the nefarious industrialist Gustavus Zetcher, uncovering a world-altering plan that could eradicate humanity. After a narrow escape, Morgner leaves behind a self-destruct mechanism that glitches at "One, one, one . . ."

Fast forward to 2007: fringe high school student Stuart Gorovich and his friends on a youth mission trip accidentally unearth the overgrown complex still caught in time. As secrets unravel and hidden dangers emerge, Stuart must confront the seductive allure of Zetcher's mesmerizing legacy which still looms large, crouching in wait, ready to be stirred. With Zetcher's hypnotic influences whispering promises of power, can Stuart resist the allure of an insidious darkness that promises peace through unimaginable means? Will they awaken a sleeping evil or dismantle a deadly legacy before it spells doom for humanity?

Wun is a thrilling odyssey where espionage meets the uncanny, perfect for readers who crave adventure with a darkly droll twist. This story is a masterwork for readers who crave a blend of classic 1960s espionage and modern psychological suspense. If you are a fan of the calculated tension found in vintage spy thrillers, you will find the 1968 chapters a thrilling tribute to the genre. For those who enjoy the atmospheric mystery of stories where teenagers must survive both the elements and the remnants of a madman's dream, the 2007 timeline offers a gripping perspective. It is perfect for readers of adolescent fiction who prefer their stories with a darker, more intellectual edge, and for anyone who has ever wondered if the "peace" offered by technology is worth the cost of freedom, autonomy, or worse. Those who enjoy intricate world-building, where history and myth collide, will find themselves lost in the Amazonian valley of Zetcher's making. It appeals to fans of dark, droll humor, loads of intricate dramatic irony, and high-stakes survival who want to see characters pushed to their absolute limits. Wun will leave you breathless and questioning the true nature of free will.

BOOKBABY BOOKSHOP:
[HTTPS://STORE.BOOKBABY.COM/BOOK/WUN](https://store.bookbaby.com/book/wun)
(15% OFF FOR A LIMITED TIME)

AMAZON:
[HTTP://BIT.LY/4EMRGHY](http://bit.ly/4EMRGHY)



STORY OF THE MONTH

Heads or Tails

from the book
"Once Upon a Time" Storytelling to Teach Character and Prevent Bullying
by Elisa Davy Pearmain

Once upon a time a herd of wild horses roamed the plains of the Midwest. Their numbers were strong, but over time, more and more wolves were forced into their area, as settlers moved west, and they had been attacking their numbers. The horses decided to stick together to minimize the number of strays that could be picked off. They knew that they were strong and that they could fight the wolves if they had to. But they were not used to fighting, and it frightened them.

One evening just as the sun was setting, there came a cry from a horse that a pack of wolves was heading their way. "Quickly, circle together. Protect yourselves!" the elder horses cried. The horses made a circle with their heads facing out to see the wolves coming. But as the wolves began to attack, the horses panicked, kicking out their hooves. Who do you think they hit except each other? This was better than nothing, though some of the horses were hurt by the other horses, and several horses were still killed by the wolves.

When the fighting was over and the wolves had been chased off, the horses gathered. "We must do something differently," said one. "Putting our behinds together only made us kick one another. Let us try to put our heads together next time. Perhaps we will kick the wolves"

The next time the wolves were sighted, the horses put their heads together in a circle. They found that not only did they not kick one another, but they could talk about what to do as the wolves were approaching. They could see the situation from all angles and easily report to one another what to do. There were no casualties, and the wolves left without a meal.

"From now on we will put our heads, instead of our tails together," they said and laughed.

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



Meet MO-TELL Membership

MO-TELL would like to introduce one of our newest members,
Deborah White Sanchez.

A Kansas City, MO. native, honed her eavesdropping skills in her basement where her mother owned and operated a beauty shop. Oh, wouldn't we all have loved those childhood memories! There she learned the simplicity and complexity of conversations.

She says she grew up in a family of natural comedians and great storytellers. She remembers performing at all the family reunions where everyone performed and shared their own skills. Deborah wrote her own pieces and that led to her being involved in theater in high school.

She has continued to be a thespian throughout her life, involved with many community theaters. She even helped co-found the theatre company 'Theatre of Praise' where the goal was to entertain while giving God's Praise for his goodness. Giving Him praise is still her goal. She carries that on working for The Freedom Fire Ministries.

As a way of improving her memory, she joined the Toastmasters for 5 years and met some amazingly supportive people all the while still honing her storytelling skills.

As fate or spirit would lead the way, she found out about RAPS and MO-TELL story telling groups while using the printing machine for books available at Mid-Continent's Woodneath Library (Through the nudging of her daughter she is writing a book about tales she heard her grandfather tell and tales that she has written through personal experience, Demons, Haints, Portals and more).



So while standing there at the copy machine she saw a notice about Mid-Continent Story Center's Oral and Written Storytelling Certification programs and decided to sign up! She finished her certifications in 2022. And that my friend is where paths converged and she is now within our family.

Her desire is to focus on writing and telling good stories. There is no better way to connect with people than to hear or tell an interesting story.



**PERMISSION
TO COME ABOARD
GRANTED!**

SEE DETAILS BELOW

THE MO-TELL BILL OF FARE

OFTEN IMITATED, NEVER DUPLICATED

MEMBERSHIP DUES

FISCAL YEAR, FEBRUARY 1-JANUARY 31

RENEW TODAY!

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	
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP 60+	\$200	

MEMORIAL DONATIONS HUMBLLY ACCEPTED!
IMMORTALIZE YOUR LOVED ONE'S MEMORY WITH YOUR GENEROSITY.

SEND CHECK PAYABLE TO:

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



A BARGAIN AT TWICE THE PRICE!

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

RENEW TODAY!

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

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THE MO-TELL BOARD