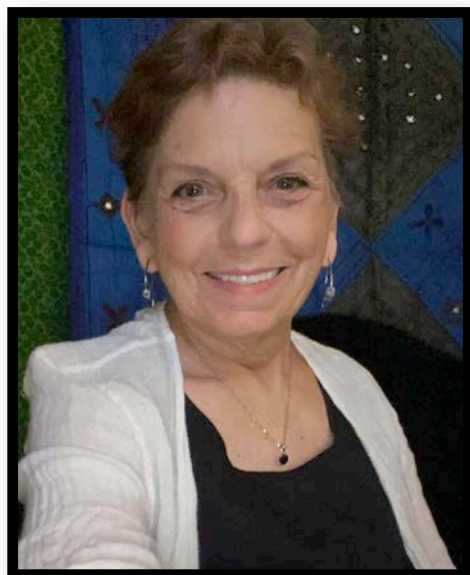




**OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER**

## **A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT**



Hello my friends,

Fall is here and soon we will be surrounded by trees bearing leaves of gold and red and orange. I love this time of year. The colors are beautiful and exciting. I will put summer away for now. I will miss it, but I welcome Fall. Mums are in bloom and pumpkins are decorating yards and front steps. I have even seen some Halloween decorations in place. This time of year, I like to tell the myth of Demeter and Persephone, the story explaining the season changes for Fall and Winter. I also love that I get to tell Ghost stories for all ages. They are so much fun.

“The world is shaped by two things – stories told and the memories they leave behind.”

— Vera Nazarian,  
Dreams of the Compass Rose

I am looking forward to Tellabration this year. River and Prairie Storyweavers and MO-TELL have great plans. Watch for that.

I hope you are enjoying the weather, the beauty and all the wonderful stories.

Love to you all,

Joyce Slater

President of MO-TELL

MAGNET  
HERE

# FOR YOUR FRIDGE

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

MAGNET  
HERE

## RAPS

OCTOBER 2023

### RAPS Meetings for October 2023

**Thursday October 5, 2023, 7:00 pm**

First Thursday Meeting

Hybrid\* meeting at Trailside Center

AND on Zoom

A time to tell longer stories.

Story Theme: “Spooky Not Scary”

**Saturday October 21, 2023, 10:30 am**

Third Sat. Meeting

Hybrid\* meeting at Woodneath AND

on Zoom

**Thursday November 2, 2023, 7:00 pm**

First Thursday Meeting

Hybrid\* meeting at Trailside Center

AND on Zoom

Workshop: “Komishibai Board

Storytelling” by Ric Vice

Story Theme: “Cooking Mishaps or  
Planned Poisoning?”

\*Hybrid meetings will be held in-person at:

TRAILSIDE CENTER

99<sup>TH</sup> & HOLMES RD.

KANSAS CITY, MO 64131

WOODNEATH LIBRARY CENTER

8900 NE FLINTLOCK ROAD

KANSAS CITY, MO 64157

If not on RAPS Mailing List,

Contact: [RAPS.Secretary@gmail.com](mailto:RAPS.Secretary@gmail.com) for additional  
info and Zoom links.

## SNAPSHOT FOUND ON THE SUMMIT OF EVEREST.



IN A WHITE-OUT SNOWSTORM.

## GATEWAY

No Events Posted



St. Louis County **Library**

St. Louis  
**STORYTELLING**  
Festival

October 18-28

**Save  
the  
Date**

Discover the extraordinary power of stories at the St. Louis Storytelling Festival! This free event takes place October 18-28.

The Festival includes a full line-up of free, interactive programs including writing workshops, dance performances, puppetry, songwriting tutorials, ghost stories, folklore and more!

All of the events are free, and will take place at St. Louis County Library branches and other venues around the St. Louis region.

Learn more at [www.slcl.org/storytelling](http://www.slcl.org/storytelling).



# The 44th St. Louis Storytelling Festival

## Welcome Reception

Please join us for appetizers and meet the featured storytellers from the 44th Annual St. Louis Storytelling Festival.

Wednesday, October 18  
6:00-6:30 p.m.

Grant's View Library Branch - Meeting Room 2  
9700 Musick Road  
St. Louis, MO 63123

[44th Annual St. Louis Storytelling Festival Program Schedule](#)

RSVP by September 29, 2023



# 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](http://STORYBEAST.ORG/ARCHIVE)





# A BIT OF MO-TELL HISTORY

## MO-TELL MEMORIES

NAN KAMMANN-JUDD



The first time I heard of the pending formation of this wacky, fun yet spiritual source for spreading and connecting the storytelling community around Missouri was through Sue Hinkel and Perrin.

They had a vision and the spunk and spirit to follow this idea in wonderfully creative, energizingly fun ways.

I was a fledging director of the St. Louis Storytelling Festival at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and passionate and deeply immersed in the wonder and community of that world. When I accepted the position a few years previous to this time, I was completely swept off my feet with this close, creative, evolving community and the underlying values and goals of storytelling. It energized and captivated me in ways I could never have imagined: an art form that created and nurtured community, inspired, delighted, soothed, challenged, and enriched lives. I was grateful for the gift of being a part of it. It was the most compelling, deeply satisfying, and creative work/play of my professional career.

Perrin invited me to join the founding board and I declined because I felt pulled in so many directions with my responsibilities and didn't think I had the time or energy to give, but I did support the expansive idea and what they might do in Missouri. Both Perrin and Sue are dynamos and once they decide on doing something, it takes powerful Life and Energy and Fun. They always make whatever they are doing FUN!

Actually, Mo-Tell was conceived in fun---ideas sparked---what could we do---connect with Missouri State Parks and offer workshops, storytelling performances, gigs, spread the word. And they did, still do, and will continue into the future!

I attended the workshop at Cuivre River State Park led by Kathy Gentry, Al Barton's therapy business partner. I can still remember being engaged in her Four Directions of the Medicine Wheel and we each had to find a place to sit before we knew what it meant. Bobby Norfolk and I each chose the Southwest/Yellow and learned later it is the Story Connection between heaven and earth.

I also remember how romantic Annette Harrison and Albert Barton seemed since they were about to be married. What a powerful place it was for such a gathering, deep in the forest and at the lodge of Cuivre River State Park, especially at night. Mo-Tell went on to initiate other programs around the state and in the parks.

Then there was the Missouri River Storytelling Festival in St. Charles aboard the 1909 Goldenrod showboat, with Jackson Gillman and Kevin Locke. I drove Jackson home and we talked a long time. He is an engaging, creative, energetic guy who left me with the impression he cycled from hunger to eating to performing to sleeping and then repeated it.

Kevin Locke was there, too, and I always greatly admired him both as an artist and as a dignified yet always good humored representative of the Lakotas. What a privilege to know him and to work with him over the years in St. Louis, in Jonesborough, and in Belleville, and eventually to nominate and see him inducted into NSN's Circle of Excellence. His daughter, I believe her name was Rose, was at the Mo-Tell Missouri River Storytelling Festival in St. Charles and sat across from us at the table. We all did our best to include her and to welcome her.

Sadly, Kevin passed this past year (2022) and what a loss to so many people and so many causes. He was known, welcomed, and respected worldwide.

One of the biggest things I remember about Mo-Tell is the ongoing support of the St. Louis Storytelling Festival and to its growth and development. The communities were so intertwined. One of the Festival's goals was to reach out into the community and to be involved in many cultural institutions. Mo-Tell envisioned a more expansive outreach into the whole state and then worked hard and faithfully to make it happen.

I do recall learning Becky Walstrom helped write grants for Mo-Tell, too, and I pay tribute and honor to the remarkably wonderful person, leader, and friend she was to all of us. I will always miss Becky, too, and how enthusiastically and happily she did whatever she could to enrich lives through storytelling.

Then there is Sue Hinkel and her endless creativity and good humor not only with organizing events, cajoling Perrin, getting us to buy every auction item until it was gone, creating and re-creating at every turn. I remember the first ever National Storytelling Conference outside Jonesborough, Tennessee, held at Fontbonne College in St. Louis. Sue was everywhere throughout the event and, at the end, Jimmy Neil Smith said Sue was the hardest working person he ever saw.

**THANK YOU, NAN!**



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**MO-TELLERS! MO-LISTENERS!  
HAVE YOU DONE YOUR HOMEWORK?  
SCROLL DOWN FOR THE REMINDER!**



# MO-TELL 2024 LC Homework

Now that the Liars Contest for 2023 is complete, MO-TELL has an assignment for you. These are the businesses that supported MO-TELL and the LC this year. Go forth now & patronize them, telling them how you appreciate their support of Missouri Storytelling, and spending some dough on them. Let 'em know what good kind of folks storytellers & listener are! Print out this list and check 'em off as you go! You have a year.

- [ ] Hodak's Restaurant, 2100 Gravois Ave., St. Louis, MO 63105
- [ ] Prison Brews, 305 Ash Street, Jefferson City, MO 65101
- [ ] Madison's Café, 216 Madison, Jefferson City, MO 65101
- [ ] The Great Frame Up, 31 Allen Ave., St. Louis, MO 63119
- [ ] The Grove Family Restaurant, 2130 N. Main Ave., Mountain Grove, MO 65711
- [ ] Garden Heights Nursery, 1605 Big Bend, St. Louis, MO 63117
- [ ] Hotel Frederick, Molly and Zach Simpson, 501 High Street, Boonville, MO 65233
- [ ] Big Sky Café, 47 S Old Orchard Ave, St. Louis, MO 63119
- [ ] Boardwalk Café, 600 Lockwood Ave, St. Louis, MO 63119
- [ ] Favazza's On the Hill, 5201 Southwest Ave, St. Louis, MO 63119
- [ ] May Pop Coffee & Garden Shop, 803 Marshall Ave, St. Louis, MO 63119
- [ ] Sugar Creek Gardens, 1101 N. Woodlawn Ave, St. Louis, MO 63122
- [ ] Central Dairy, 610 Madison St, Jefferson City, MO 65101
- [ ] O'Connell's Pub, John Parker, 4652 Shaw Ave., St. Louis MO 63110
- [ ] Schnarr's Hardware, 9800 Clayton Road, St. Louis MO 63124
- [ ] Straub's, 8282 Forsyth Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63105
- [ ] Campbell House Museum, 1508 Locust Ave, St. Louis, MO 63103
- [ ] LaFayette Square Chiropractic Center, 1013 S. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Louis, MO 63104
- [ ] Amighetti's, 9631 Manchester Rd, St. Louis, MO 63119

# FROM THE MO-TELL ANNALS OF STORYTELLING A DATE OF IMPORT

## MAY 21, 2023

### JIM "TWO CROWS" WALLEN CONQUERS FIRST MISSOURI STATE CAPITAL STATE HISTORIC SITE



Early Missouri History: set up artifacts on the grounds of First Capital State Park. Told four story sets, each between 20 to 30 minutes, and visited with attendees and let them examine, touch, and play Native American games that I brought, from 10am till 4pm.

Don't know final attendance numbers, but I saw well over a thousand people.

JTCW





# **MO-TELL HISTORY PROJECT INVITES YOU!**

## **YES, YOU!**

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 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](mailto: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.





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

Thu, Oct 19 2023 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**

[Performance Options and Opportunities \(Zoom\)](#)

Wed, Oct 25 2023 6:30pm - 8:00pm Central Story Center Event **Virtual Event**  
Learn from Lisa Overholser, the Field Specialist in Community Development for MU Extension, about matching venues, gigs, and audiences to your storytelling content and style.

**EVENT DETAILS REGISTER NOW**

# TELLABRATION 2023 IS COMING OUR WAY!

**Tellabration, Missouri Style**

**Stories for Mature Individuals And Childish Laughter!**

**All locations FREE but donations accepted.**

**Sunday November 12 at 6 PM Central Time!**

**ZOOM ONLY, but you MUST register ahead.**

**Fabulous Bil Lepp Live on Zoom!**

**Wednesday November 15 at 7 PM**

**Live at O'Connell's Pub**

**4652 Shaw Ave, St. Louis, 63110**

**Ken Wolfe, Sue Hinkel, Perrin Stifel, Jackie and Papa Wright**

**Friday, November 17 at 2 PM by River and Prairie Storyweavers**

**Live at John Knox Village, Pavillion Dining Hall**

**600 NW Pryor Road**

**Lee's Summit, 64081**

**Jim Two Crows Wallen, Geneva Greenfield, Gary Kuntz, Joyce Slater**

**Saturday, November 18 at 7 PM by River and Prairie Storyweavers**

**Live at Trailside Center**

**9901 Holmes**

**Kansas City, 64131**

**Bob Daniels, Connie Jones, Ramona Crawford, Ric Vice, Rich White**

**Donations for these events will be distributed to the respective organizations. RAPS and MO-TELL**

NOW THAT YOU'VE FOUND MO-TELL  
**DON'T LET GO!**



NORMALLY, WE'D SAY "DON'T LOOK DOWN" BUT, IN THIS  
INSTANCE, THE DETAILS FOR MEMBERSHIP ARE BELOW.

**LOOK DOWN &  
JOIN UP!**



# 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<br>MO-TELL PRESTIGE   |
| FAMILY MEMBERSHIP 2 YEARS | \$50        | TWICE AS MUCH OF<br>THE SAME!!  |
| LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP -60   | \$250       | LOGO BAG <i>PLUS</i><br>MEMBER'S CHOICE OF ONE:<br>(CAP) (T-SHIRT) (LOGO MUG) |
| LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP 60+   | \$200       | LOGO BAG <i>PLUS</i><br>MEMBER'S CHOICE OF ONE:<br>(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

**RENEW TODAY!**

# Story of the Month

## THE SCARECROW

BY LINDA KUNTZ

I live on a small farm, far out in the country. Every year, my dad puts out scarecrows in our fields because he thinks they're effective in not only keeping the crows out, but evil spirits as well. I guess he's a little superstitious. The scarecrows he sets out are the same ones, year after year. After so much wear and tear, they were showing their age.

This October started out just like any other October. The weather was turning cool, and the leaves were beginning to change into brilliant orange and yellow colors. One Saturday, us kids got together and decided to make a new scarecrow. Being creative, we gathered our supplies and got to work. This scarecrow was to be different. This was my special design. I wanted a creepy scarecrow, much scarier than the others. Hours later, we finished up. Indeed, he was the ugliest, most frightening scarecrow I've ever seen. I was so proud.

Mom called us for supper so we planted the scarecrow out in the cornfield, where I could see it from my bedroom window. Not giving it any more thought, we went in and ate. Soon, the wind picked up and it began lightning. No storm was forecasted but it looked like we were in for a rough night.

Light rain began falling as I went up to bed. I was worried about my new scarecrow, so I peeked out my window. What I saw shocked me. He was there alright, but not where we had placed him. It appeared to me that he was several feet to the right. Puzzled, I stood at the window and watched intently.

The lightning was bright and every time it flashed; I could see my scarecrow. The problem was, it looked as if he was moving when the sky was dark, only to turn up in another spot when the sky lit up. Thinking that I must be imagining things, I put my pajamas on and went to bed. Later on, a loud CRACK of thunder woke me up. By now, the rain was pounding down, making it difficult to see out my window. I slipped on my shoes and snuck outside to check on my scarecrow. Not sure where he was, I walked around in the thunderstorm, half blinded by the cold, stinging rain.

Clumsily, I stumbled over a fallen branch and fell face down in a patch of mud. When I looked up, there was my scarecrow glaring down at me. His eyes were huge and glowing red. I couldn't pick myself up fast enough. I ran screaming to the house and never looked back.

After tossing and turning the rest of the night, I woke up to bright sunshine and the smell of bacon. Not wanting to tell my parents what had happened, I sat quietly and ate breakfast. Anxious and apprehensive, I then went outside to look around. My dad was already looking for damage to the buildings, but I was looking for my scarecrow. I could see the other scarecrows, all in their usual places but my scarecrow was nowhere to be found.

Full of confusion, I began crying. Not because of losing the scarecrow, but because of pure, unadulterated fear. My father told me that he blew away and would be discovered in a field during harvest. I knew better. Somehow, some way, that scarecrow came alive. How, I don't know.

Years have passed and to this day, I have never seen my scarecrow again. What happened that stormy night? Do scarecrows really keep out evil spirits or can they be possessed by one? I don't live on that farm anymore, but I've never ventured outside during a thunderstorm again.

# 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

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

Treasurer: Jackie Wright, jpapawright@sbcglobal.net (Membership)

Secretary: Linda Kuntz, iharilag@gmail.com

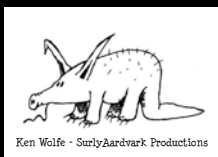
At Large: Gary Kuntz, galirahi@aol.com  
Nancee Walker Micham, walkermicham@gmail.com  
Glen "Papa" Wright, jpapawright@sbcglobal.net

Emeritus: Perrin Stifel, pstifelstl@earthlink.net

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

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Volume 6, Newsletter 10

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



## THE MO-TELL BOARD