

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello my friends,

In a little over a month, MO-TELL will sponsor its ninth liars contest. It will be held in St. Louis for the second year in a row, thanks to our board members Perrin Stifel, Jackie Wright and Sue Hinkel. I helped a little. It is open to the public and you can listen for free but if you want to attend the workshop or lunch or both, you will need to register at least a day in advance. That will help in our planning. If you want to enter the contest, you still have time. The deadline has been extended to June 10, 2023. Thank you.

"Trust the story ... the storyteller may dissemble and deceive, the story can't: the story can only ever be itself."

— James Robertson, And the Land Lay Still Some of you know that St. Louis is the birthplace of MO-TELL. It is great to have an in-person event there. Our history is so important to us, and we want to share it with all of you. In this newsletter we begin our tale. If you have a memory of MO-TELL, please contact us at joyceslater20@gmail.com . It takes a village you know. Think about what MO-TELL has meant to you and share it with us. Tell us your tale.

Love to you all, Joyce Slater President of MO-TELL

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



MO-TELL.ORG

Summer



13 June 2023











Register in advance for this event

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ wrceCprz8pHdO1L6IuQJ16xLLzgccFvCJl

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting

WE'VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE...WE REJOICE IN THE RETELLING!





FOR YOUR FRIDGE

MAGNET HERE

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

RAPS

JUNE 2023

Thursday June 1, 2023, 7:00 pm First Thursday Meeting Hybrid* meeting at Trailside Center AND on Zoom

Workshop: "From Page to Story" Story Theme: "Surprise!!"

Saturday June 17, 2023, 10:30 am Third Sat. Meeting
Hybrid* meeting at Woodneath AND on
Zoom

Saturday June 17, 2023, 7:00 pm Fractured Fairytales Concert Hybrid* concert at Trailside Center AND on Zoom

Thursday July 6, 2023, 7:00 pm First Thursday Meeting Hybrid* meeting at Trailside Center AND on Zoom

Teller Spotlight: Sara Tucker-Poff Story Theme: "My Country"

*Hybrid meetings will be held in-person at:
Trailside Center

99th & Holmes Rd.
Kansas City, MO 64131

Woodneath Library Center
8900 NE Flintlock Road
Kansas City, MO 64157

If not on RAPS Mailing List, Contact: <u>RAPS.Secretary@gmail.com</u> for additional info and Zoom links.

LOOK! IT'S A VERY RARE CLOSE-UP VIEW OF LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE'S LEFT EYEBALL!

GATEWAY

No Events Scheduled
Stay tuned!



IT'S ALL TRUE, THIS CONTEST. AS FAR AS YOU KNOW...



ENTRY DEADLINE, JUNE 10, 2023

MISSOURI LIARS CONTEST SCHEDULE OF SATURDAY, JULY 8, 2023

8:30 - Registration

9:15-10:45 - Storytelling Workshop for Beginning & Skilled Tellers - "Find Your Voice(s)" with Master Storyteller, Sherry Norfork

11:00-11:30 - Story Swap (Stories 5 minutes or less.)

11:30-3:30 - Silent Auction Begins

11:30-12:30 - Lunch \$15 - food and a beverage

1:00-3:30 - 2023 9th Annual Liars Contest

- Winner of the Written Contest reads story aloud.
- Awards presented to champion liars.

4:00 - Silent Auction Ends

• Quilt Raffle winner announced.

4:00-5:00 Pay up and cleanup

Find Your Voice(s)

a workshop with Sherry Norfolk

An actor typically develops a voice for one character whom s/he plays throughout the performance. But a STORYTELLER is responsible for portraying all the characters plus the narrator – and needs to move between them smoothly and consistently throughout the story!

In this highly interactive workshop, we'll explore how to develop distinctive voices for each of the characters in your stories using pitch, tone, rhythm, tempo and texture. We'll also practice using visualization to maintain those voices faithfully throughout the story. Please come prepared with a story that has a minimum of three characters that you can learn to bring to life through character voices. A simple well-known folk tale is fine. If you don't have one we can give you one!

ENTRY DEADLINE. JUNE 10, 2023



AS A PART OF OUR FUNDRAISING, MO-TELL HAS A WONDERFUL QUILT TO RAFFLE. IT IS BRAND NEW.
THE QUILT IS A HAND-PIECED QUILT WITH MACHINE QUILTING.
MO-TELL MEMBER MARSHA STIFEL MELLENDORF MADE THE QUILT AND IS DONATING IT FOR THE RAFFLE.

- · THE QUILT MEASURES 56" BY 72".
- COLORS ARE EARTH TONES WITH A LIGHT BROWN FIELD AND BLACK BORDER.
- THE TICKETS FOR THE RAFFLE ARE AS FOLLOWS: ONE TICKET FOR \$5, THREE TICKETS FOR \$10, FIVE TICKETS FOR \$15 AND TEN TICKETS FOR \$20.
- TICKETS ARE FOR SALE NOW THROUGH THE LIARS CONTEST ON JULY 8,2023. YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN.
- · MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A MAILING REGARDING THE RAFFLE.
- · THE DRAWING FOR THE QUILTS WILL BE AT THE END OF THE

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Silent Auction Event 2023 Annual Fundraising

Missouri Storytelling, Inc., MO-TELL, is a 501C3 storytelling organization dedicated to spreading the joy and art of storytelling throughout the state of Missouri.

On July 8, 2023, MO-TELL will celebrate the 9th Annual Missouri LIARS CONTEST in Webster Groves, MO. Contestants come from all over the state and beyond. Listeners come to hear the wonderful stories! The event is free and open to the public.

This will be a grand event with storytelling, swapping ground, story workshop, as well as the LIARS CONTEST. There will be a Silent Auction to support the MO-TELL mission.

We are asking for donations to the auction. The funds support storytelling in Missouri State Parks and Historic Sites as well as festivals. Our goal for 2023 is to raise \$2,023. We can then bring storytelling to people throughout Missouri. We are asking for a donation valued at just \$20 or more. Last year we had auction items valued up to \$100. If you donate, your name will be listed in the program. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is a partner in this mission. Our board and MO-TELL members donate as well. Your donation is tax-deductible.

Thank you for your donation! Call or text Perrin Stifel at 314-413-2858 with any questions. Keep this copy for your donated item.

Donor name	Date of donation
Item donated	Value
Item donated	Value
Donation accepted by	(signature of member)
Thanks for your support of storytelling in Missouri	

Joyce Slater, President, Missouri Storytelling, Inc. 7338 Belleview, Kansas City, MO 64114



Our interview with co-founder Perrin Stifel

As many of you know or are just learning MO-TELL has embarked on our history project. We are in search of those who were there in the beginning to help with the memories of how MO-TELL got started and contacting you our current members to share their personal relationship with MO-TELL. Without going into much detail many memories, newsletters, photos, and memorabilia were lost so as not to lose sight of our "story" we begin. Of course, the perfect place to begin is the person who helped start it all and continues to be an integral part of our being, Perrin Stifel.

Perrin was already telling stories and a member of Gateway in the early 1980's. He remembers attending a workshop weekend with EARS (Kentucky's storytelling organization led by Lee Pennington) at the Pennyrile State Park in Kentucky. Perrin and David Schlamb, our cofounder, drove back and a conversation ensued. David and Perrin wondered if it was possible to have a similar statewide organization and tell in Missouri State Parks. At that time Gateway stayed pretty close to home and was really a local St. Louis entity. The Gateway folks did not feel it was something they wanted to do at the time. Enter Perrin and David stage right, well really, they got together in Perrin's house and MO-TELL began.

They knew they wanted programs in State Parks, that was clear, which led Perrin on a trip to Jefferson City to meet with the Department of Natural Resources, the branch of our state government over State Parks. At that time, the directors were Steve Powell and Nonie McClammer. The meeting was a huge success and both directors were eager and excited to open the parks to storytellers. MO-TELL began with a summer series and a fall ghost stories series and a workshop and telling at Cuivre River State Park near Troy, MO. That first weekend attracted twelve folks and they cleared \$75. Two hundred folks came to the state park telling in the large dining hall. MO-TELL grew into two workshop weekends a year adding Lake of The Ozarks State Park. Bobby Norfolk, Nora Gilman, Annette Harrison, Jackie Torrence, Hope Varner, Dan Keding, Lynn Rubright, Pleasant de Spain, and many, many others were featured at the weekends.

Back then and now MO-TELL's purpose was to gather, find and nurture storytellers from all over Missouri, giving them a place to meet and connect. The St. Louis tellers, Kansas City tellers, and points beyond and between supported each other to follow the mission of spreading the joy and art of telling throughout the state. This is the time when MO-TELL began close working relationships with our KC gang, Joyce Slater, and Jim 2 Crows Wallen and of course others. It was working!

Perrin also remembers Jimmy Neil Smith of NAPPS giving him the great advice of quickly becoming 501c3 so MO-TELL could accept donations and other tax-exempt advantages, one of which was free law services from the Lawyers for the Arts, helping those early years documents.

In the meantime, Steve Powell, you remember, one of the Directors of Natural Resources, left that position and took a position with St. Charles Tourism. He was responsible for bringing the 1909 Goldenrod Showboat to the St. Charles riverfront. Steve thought it would be a great place for a storytelling festival. Thus began the Missouri River Storytelling Festival. This festival was so successful they had attendees from sixteen states right from the beginning with full-page advertising in the NAPPS (National Association for the Preservation and Perpetuation of Storytelling). MO-TELL became a part of the renaissance of storytelling back in the 1980's. The featured presenters that first year were Jackson Gillman and Michael Parent. There was also a dinner theater with over one hundred folks attending and a tent on the riverbank which could hold three hundred on the shore for more festivities. Coming on to the 1909 showboat was truly a magical experience! And the telling through the years was magical as well!

Those early years of the state parks, the showboat and other events gave Perrin some great memories. He went to Troy, MO for supplies and bought forty-eight rolls of toilet paper for the dozen people attending. Later T.P. became an attendance prize at events! At the Burger King, a young man had on a shirt that read "We've heard it all before" and Perrin thought of the end of the quote "We rejoice in the retelling." Then as he returned to the park an owl flew right above his head and he felt the silent breeze giving him shivers and a sign that the future of MO-TELL would be exciting. When Jackie Torrence gave her workshop at Lake of the Ozarks, she gave the listeners exactly what they needed so they could "capture an audience." She was the BEST! They all loved Kevin Locke share his Native American Hoop Dance on the showboat, Ed Stivender talking about the fifth wall, Dan Keding's voice and music, and Pleasant De Spain working with them on a simple but powerful four-square breathing exercise. The workshops were the best. Attendees got to know these "best-of-the-best tellers personally as they shared their stories and shared themselves.

The Goldenrod left St. Charles. MO-TELL moved the festival to The Depot on the St. Charles riverfront and other locations and continued the festival for a number of years.

In 1989, while at a Texas conference for NAPPS, Perrin attended a workshop about Connecticut's Tellabration. In 1988, Paw-Paw Pinkerton began a night of storytelling for adults. So, Missouri joined the states of Connecticut and Texas as a part of the second annual Tellabration. MO-TELL sent five tellers to five locations that night of November 17,1989. We continue to be a part of Tellabration to this day. This was one of the ways, in the early days, MO-TELL would raise money for its endeavors. For donation of \$3 one could hear storytelling for adults! MO-TELL had dinners and auctions at Sue Hinkel's church and other locations to raise money also. What fun!

After 6 years of creating MO-TELL it was time to pass the baton so Sue Hinkel. She became the new Executive Director, but Perrin has always been a part in one way or the other.

Perrin worked as a school counselor for his "day job" and the Assembly Director! It was a perfect way to bring in storytelling and tellers. As the counselor, he went in every classroom every month and told different stories which just "happened" to be themed around the character word of the month. The children would sometime remark, "Mr. Stifel, that story was about our word of the month!" Imagine that! He became known to the students and loved as the storytelling counselor. "People know us by the stories we tell."

Perrin believes in not taking ourselves too seriously. In other words, "don't be scared to share a story. Just tell it! Yes, do as good a job as you can, and be the vehicle to carry on the spoken tradition of storytelling. Diversity is important also. Listen to as many tellers as you can. We are all unique and share our talents in our own way. We learn about diverse cultures that way too. MO-TELL's saving grace is the belief in the telling as well as the teller while sharing good messages." He hopes we can continue to do that and share our love of stories in our parks and historic sites and more places in Missouri.

Thank you, Perrin, we are proud to be a part of your legacy and we are so honored you are a part of our future. Let someone else oversee the purchase of toilet paper though!







Friday, May 19, 2023

Yesterday, I went to one of my favorite garden nurseries, Rolling Ridge, for begonias, marigolds, and impatiens. I also went with my request in hand for a donation to our silent auction. I had the request in hand and took it immediately to the cashier with my usual "spiel".

First I say, "you can always say no". Second I say that we are having a "LIARS" contest. I then explain MO-TELL's mission and how our state funds our State Parks Storytelling. Following that I ask for a donation to help MO-TELL fund its part of the funding. I had been to Garden Heights, May-Pop, and Sugar Creek and had purchased lots of plants. Each of them gave me a generous gift certificate! And they were very quick to do so. Back to the serendipity! As I made the request, the woman behind me waited until I had given the "spiel". Then she walked up to pay for her plants and said, "I can vouch for MO-TELL. I love their storytelling. I always took my daughters to hear the stories downtown at the "Arch". I would hold them in my arms when they were young. Now my oldest is 38 years old. Perrin the storyteller launched into 20 seconds of the "Three Pigs Rap" and received a thunderous applause from the five people in line plus the cashier!

I am sure Rolling Ridge will help MO-TELL. They did last year! They can always say NO...Or YES!



Silent Auction Donations, Page 2 MO-TELL LIARS CONTEST 2023

This page is to be returned with donated item (s) to Perrin Stifel in the St. Louis area or Joyce Slater in the Kansas City area for Silent Auction. Please mail any gift certificates to Perrin at 636 Elmwood Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119. We will set up the auction the morning of July 8, 2023, at the event at the Webster Groves Masonic Temple, 12 E. Lockwood Ave. 63119.

Donation to Missouri Storytelling, Inc., MO-TELL.

Dear Friend of Storytelling,

Thank you for your generous donation to MO-TELL. MO-TELL is a 501C3 organization devoted to spreading the art and joy of storytelling throughout the state of Missouri. Your gift helps to continue this mission in Missouri State Parks and Historic Sites.

Please list the value of your donation here for tax purposes.

Item	Value	
Item	Value	
Donor name	Date of donation	
Donation(s) accepted by	(signature of member)	
Again, thanks.		
Missouri Storytelling, Inc.		

Call Perrin at 314-413-2858 for questions or email at pstifelstl@earthlink.net

IET MO-IEL GING

THOSE LOVABLE MUCKITY-MUCKS AT MO-TELL ARE BEGINNING A HISTORY PROJECT.

THEY'RE BEGINNING TO CONTACT CURRENT, FORMER, AND CHARTER MEMBERS TO "PICK THEIR BRAINS" FOR INPUT AND IDEAS. YOUR BRAINS MAY JUST BE THE MOST PICKABLE OF ALL!

WE NEED YOUR THOUGHTS!

SEE BELOW ON ITS OWN PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION!

N 2023 MO-TELL MANUEL M

IN 2023 MO-TELL WILL HOST FOUR ZOOM EVENTS. ALL OF THESE EVENTS WILL BE AT 7:00 PM (CENTRAL) AND ONLY ON ZOOM.

MARCH 14 LUCK OF THE IRISH
JUNE 13 CRAZY DAYS OF SUMMER
SEPTEMBER 12 A NEW MOON - NEW BEGINNINGS
DECEMBER 12 HELPING HANDS

YOUR CHARGE FOR JUNE HUMOR

HAVE FUN WITH IT!

PLEASE ASK FOR A DONATION

FOR OUR SILENT AUCTION!

IT CAN BE FUN!

AND THE DONOR USUALLY WANTS TO HELP!

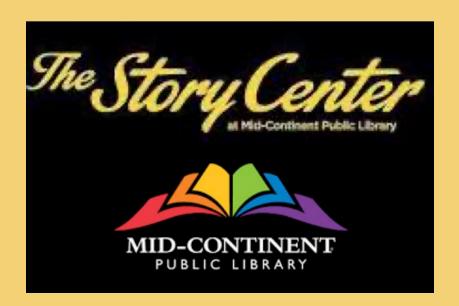
JOKE ABOUT THE LIARS CONTEST AND

HOW POLITICIANS CAN'T PARTICIPATE!

OFTEN THE PERSON I'M ASKING SAYS POLITICIANS WOULD WIN THE MINUTE I MENTION A LIARS CONTEST!

SO, HAVE FUN WITH IT, AND ASK YOUR FAVORITE MISSOURI BUSINESS FOR A SMALL DONATION OF ANYTHING VALUED AT \$20. RESTAURANTS AND SMALL MOM AND POP BUSINESSES ARE THE MOST LIKELY TO DONATE.

MENTION THAT THE EVENTS ARE FREE TO THE PUBLIC.
YOU MAY BE SURPRISED BY WHAT YOU
RECEIVE WHEN YOU SAY, "YOU CAN
ALWAYS SAY NO". IT'S FUN!



Story Swap (Hybrid)

Thu, May 18 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

Resources for Storytellers (Hybrid)

Thu, May 25 2023 6:30pm - 8:00pm Story Center Programming Room Story Center Event Registration Required It takes various tools to become a seasoned storyteller, including books, websites, organizations, and more.

EVENT DETAILS REGISTER NOW



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IN THE COMING MONTHS WE WILL BEGIN INTERVIEWS FOR THE MO-TELL HISTORY PROJECT.

ALL MEMBERS OF MO-TELL WILL BE ASKED FOR MEMORIES OF MISSOURI STORYTELLING, INC. FROM ITS BEGINNING UNTIL TODAY. WE LOST MUCH OF OUR HISTORY YEARS AGO AND ARE TRYING TO RECOVER IT THROUGH THE MTHP.

THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR INPUT! WE NEED YOU!!

CURRENT MEMBERS WILL BE PHONED OR EMAILED BY A BOARD MEMBER. YOU MAY CHOOSE TO RESPOND ORALLY OR BY EMAIL, BY ANSWERING SOME QUESTIONS, OR BY USPS MAIL TOO. WE WILL ALSO INTERVIEW PAST MEMBERS AND TELLERS INVOLVED WITH MO-TELL.

WE WANT ALL MEMORIES AND WILL COMPILE THEM. WE NEED ANY PAPERS: NEWSLETTERS FROM THE PAST, TICKETS, ADS, PHOTOGRAPHS, ETC.

EVERY QUESTION COULD BE ANSWERED WITH THE 5 W'S. WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY WILL GIVE US A FULL PICTURE. THANKS!

--PERRIN STIFEL

PERRIN STIFEL 636 ELMWOOD AVE. WEBSTER GROVES, MO 63119

314-413-2858 PSTIFELSTL@EARTHLINK.NET





THE MO-TELL BILL OF FARE

OFTEN IMITATED, NEVER DUPLICATED

MEMBERSHIP DUES

FISCAL YEAR, FEBRUARY 1-JANUARY 31

MEMBERSHIP	ANNUAL DUES	COMES WITH
SINGLE MEMBERSHIP 1 YEAR	\$25	MO-TELL PRESTIGE
SINGLE MEMBERSHIP 2 YEARS	\$40	MO-TELL PRESTIGE
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP 1 YEAR	\$35	FAMILY-WIDE MO-TELL PRESTIGE
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP 2 YEARS	\$50	TWICE AS MUCH OF THE SAME!!
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP -60	\$250	LOGO BAG PLUS MEMBER'S CHOICE OF ONE: (CAP) (T-SHIRT) (LOGO MUG)
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP 60+	\$200	LOGO BAG <i>PLUS</i> MEMBER'S CHOICE OF ONE: (CAP) (T-SHIRT) (LOGO MUG)

SEND CHECK PAYABLE TO:

MO-TELL c/o Jackie Wright, PO Box 28994, St. Louis, MO 63132-8994

Olivette Branch Post Office, 9621 Olive Blvd. 63132-9998.



THE BENEFITS YOU RECEIVE FOR YOUR ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP:

- 1. MISSOURI STATE PARKS STORYTELLING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE
- 2. MISSOURI LIAR'S CONTEST
- 3. WEB SITE PRESENCE FOR STORYTELLERS
- 4. MONTHLY STORYTELLING PROGRAMS
- 5. LOADS OF MERCH (HATS, CAPS, CUPS, MUGS, BAGS, AND WHATNOT!)
- 6. NATIONAL STORYTELLING NETWORK AFFILIATION
- 7. A WORLD CLASS NEWSLETTER (HUZZAH!)
- 8. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (AND A VOICE THEREIN!)
- 9. CONNECTION TO THE OTHER STORYTELLING ORGANIZATIONS IN THE REGION



Story of the Month

ALONG CAME A SPIDER FROM THE BOOK "AFTER EVER AFTER" BY KAREN NELSON

They had called her "Miss Muffet" many years ago. They thought it funny, her running away and crying behind the pump house, sucking on a swollen finger that would soon show the spider's angry sting.

No one had considered her since. Not a single child commented on her sudden affinity for arachnids. No concerned mother queried her parents about her odd, luminous eyes, her preference for the dark. She took to wearing large coats with wide sleeves. A wide brimmed hat disguised the increasing hunch of her back. Nothing could gloss over the increasing size of her belly, and the school expelled her for this evidence of loose morals.

When the children came, hundreds of them, she kept them close, whispering the names of those who had wronged her. They grew into magnificent versions of herself and at her command they left her arms to bring some friends home for their mother.

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

Missouri Storytelling, Inc (MO-TELL) is an organization of storytellers and other interested persons dedicated to spreading the joy and art of storytelling throughout Missouri.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

USION STATEMENT

President: Joyce Slater, joyceslater20@gmail.com

Vice-President Sue Hinkel, suehinkel1@gmail.com

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

Secretary: Linda Kuntz, iharilag@gmail.com

At Large:

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

Emeritus: Perrin Stifel, pstifelstl@earthlink.net

www.mo-tell.org

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



THE MO-TELL BOARD