



**NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER**

# A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



“If a storyteller worried about the facts - my dear Lucian, how could he ever get at the truth?”

— Lloyd Alexander, *The Arkadians*

Hello friends,

November is here and it brings with it the colors of Autumn, colder weather, Central Standard Time and stories of the Day of the Dead, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving.

The year end draws us close to family and friends and special days to remember.

This is also the time of year for Tellabration! A night of storytelling for adults. There will be Tellabration celebrations in KC and in St. Louis. I hope you join us for one of the events. Stories are not just for children.

Our stories are important. Keep sharing your tales.

Joyce Slater  
President, MO-TELL

MAGNET  
HERE

# FOR YOUR FRIDGE

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

MAGNET  
HERE

## RAPS

### November 2025 Calendar

**November 6:** Stories of Sharing

Trailside Center , 9901 Holmes, Kansas City MO  
64131

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87505310168?  
pwd=MmhrM2NHSE1VaHZaVG1MMTZjNIVKQ  
T09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87505310168?pwd=MmhrM2NHSE1VaHZaVG1MMTZjNIVKQT09)

[i

Meeting ID: 875 0531 0168

Passcode: 301275

November 15: **Zoom Only**

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87505310168?  
pwd=MmhrM2NHSE1VaHZaVG1MMTZjNIVKQ  
T09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87505310168?pwd=MmhrM2NHSE1VaHZaVG1MMTZjNIVKQT09)

[i

Meeting ID: 875 0531 0168

Passcode: 301275

**November 22:** Tellabration Programs (**check with Gary**)

Trailside Center , 9901 Holmes, Kansas City MO  
64131

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87505310168?  
pwd=MmhrM2NHSE1VaHZaVG1MMTZjNIVKQ  
T09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87505310168?pwd=MmhrM2NHSE1VaHZaVG1MMTZjNIVKQT09)

[i

Meeting ID: 875 0531 0168

Passcode: 301275

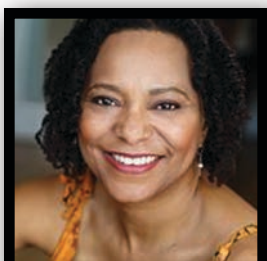
## SOTO

## RIVERWINDS

## GATEWAY

St. Louis  
**STORY**  
**TELL!NG**  
Festival  
November  
**10-16**





April Armstrong, an award-winning storyteller and performer, has performed at US regional theatres, on Broadway National Tours, on television and in films. April was a featured storyteller at the 2024 Timpanogos Storytelling Festival in Utah and at the 2023 National Storytelling Festival's Exchange Place in Jonesboro, TN. Additionally, she has presented her one-woman show, *Two Wings to Heaven: The Bessie Coleman Story*, at prestigious venues, including the Kravis Center (FL), The Apollo Theater (NYC), and the Rhode Island Black Storytellers' FUNDA FEST 2024. Her debut CD, *The Cat Came Back: Stories and Songs with a Jazzy Twist* won a Parent's Choice Award (Silver). More Information: [www.aprilarmstrong.com](http://www.aprilarmstrong.com)



Peter S. Cook is an internationally reputed Deaf performing artist whose works incorporate American Sign Language, pantomime, storytelling, acting, and movement. He has traveled extensively around the country and abroad with Flying Words Project to promote ASL Literature with Kenny Lerner since 1986. Peter has appeared in *Live from Off Center's "Words on Mouth"* (PBS) and *"United States of Poetry"* (PBS), produced by Emmy-winner Bob Holman. He was featured at the National Storytelling festival in Jonesborough, Tenn., and at the *Tales of Graz* in Graz, Austria, *The Deaf Way II*, and the Millennium Stage. More Information: [www.deafpetercook.com](http://www.deafpetercook.com)



Author and poet Lynette (Lyn) Ford is a fourth-generation Affrilachian storyteller and Ohio teaching artist with 35 years of experience sharing stories and workshops across the country and beyond. Lyn is also a certified laughter yoga teacher and laughter wellness ambassador, as well as the recipient of the National Association of Black Storytellers' 2023 Black Appalachian Storytellers Fellowship and the 2023 Zora Neale Hurston Award. More Information: [www.storytellerlynford.com](http://www.storytellerlynford.com)



Andy Offutt Irwin is an award-winning storyteller, including the NSN Circle of Excellence and a Special Congressional Recognition – for outstanding and invaluable service to the community – from Rep. John Lewis. Andy has been a Featured Teller at the National Storytelling Festival for over a decade and has appeared 16 times as a Teller in Residence at the International Storytelling Center. He has been a Guest Artist at La Guardia High School of Art, Music, and Performing Arts in New York (The "FAME!" School); a Keynote Speaker at the Library of Congress-Virburnum Foundation Conference on Family Literacy, and an Artist-In-Residence in Theatre at Emory University's Oxford College. More Information: [www.andyirwin.com](http://www.andyirwin.com)



Kevin Kling is a writer/performer/storyteller from Minneapolis, Minnesota. He has performed his stories in libraries, school gymnasiums, The Kennedy Center, Off-Broadway, regional theaters and storytelling festivals around the US. His international tours have included Australia, Europe and Thailand. He has been a commentator for National Public Radio's "All Things Considered," is a frequent contributor on PBS/TPT's "Almanac," and was featured in the Emmy Award-winning PBS documentary "Kevin Kling: Lost & Found". He was named Minneapolis' Story Laureate in 2014. Kevin has authored five books and produced seven CDs. More Information: [www.kevinkling.com](http://www.kevinkling.com)



Mo Reynolds tours the country telling stories to all ages in libraries, schools, and on festival stages. She has been a featured storyteller at the National Storytelling Festival in Tennessee, as well as in festivals across the country. Mo refuses to be put in a specific box as a storyteller; however, she is best known for her unique approach to braiding together personal narratives and folk and fairy tales. Her book, *That Makes Sense: Finding Grace in Our Stories*, is a collection of these types of tales. More Information: [www.moreynolds.com](http://www.moreynolds.com)



Devan Sandiford is a Caribbean-American writer, community organizer, and award-winning storyteller. His stories have been featured in *The Washington Post*, TEDx, *The Moth Radio Hour* and Podcast, *Speak Up Storytelling*, *Taking Off the Mask*, and *Start Talking Podcast*. His writing has been published in the anthologies *Excitement* and *Talisman* (2023) and *Bodies of Stories* (2022). He was a writer in residence at the Voices of Our Nations Arts Foundation, a finalist for the Kenyon Review Developmental Editing Fellowship, and a recipient of the Corporeal Writing Scholarship for Writing Trauma Toward Healing and Joy. He has contributed his opinions on masculinity, grief, parenting, and storytelling for articles in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *Slate Magazine*. More Information: [www.devansandiford.com](http://www.devansandiford.com)



Gene Tagaban, "One Crazy Raven," has 40 years of experience as a cultural teacher, spiritual consultant, influential storyteller, mentor, speaker, performer and facilitator of healing. Gene is of the Takdeintaan clan, the Raven, Freshwater Sockeye clan from Hoonah, AK. He is the Child of the Wooshkeetaan, the Eagle, Shark clan from Juneau, AK. He is of the wolf clan from his Cherokee heritage and his last name, Tagaban, comes from his Filipino heritage. Gene has a passion for Nature Connection, tracking, sharing stories, teaching, entertaining and healing. Believing that learning and laughter go hand-in-hand, he educates and entertains through a skillful blend of knowledge, humor, examples, stories, discussion, and activities. Gene was honored to perform with the Dalai Lama at the "Seeds of Compassion" gathering in Seattle, WA and the Nature Conservancy's 50th anniversary with Jane Goodall. More Information: [www.storytellingraven.com](http://www.storytellingraven.com)



Kim Weitkamp is an award-winning storyteller, author, singer-songwriter and humorist. She grew up in Amish Country as the middle child of exhausted parents. Labeled by teachers as high-spirited, uncooperative and too talkative, Kim took those comments and channeled them into a lifetime of high-energy, heartfelt and hilarious artistry. She performs regularly at festivals and theaters around the country, has written a well-received folk operetta, and has been a guest editor and contributor for various publications. She has eight award-winning albums, has produced and/or designed 32 albums for other performers, and has hosted a morning show for a DOVE, an award-winning radio network. More Information: [www.kimweitkamp.com](http://www.kimweitkamp.com)



Nationally known drummer and storyteller, Kenya Ajanaku, has captivated audiences for over 25 years combining storytelling, drumming and dance in unique, unforgettable performances. More Information: [www.folktaleartists.com/](http://www.folktaleartists.com/)



Mike Anderson is a musician, singer, mountain dulcimer player, storyteller, writer, author, workshop leader, educator, and emcee. He has performed across the country at storytelling festivals. More Information: [www.dulcimerguy.com](http://www.dulcimerguy.com)



Inspired by the movie "Patch Adams," Yasu Ishida came to the United States to become a professional hospital clown. Earning a Master of Fine Arts in Theatre for Young Audiences, he also graduated from the Chavez Studio of Magic, the world's most prestigious magic school. He beautifully imbues the essence of traditional Japanese culture into his magic and storytelling. Yasu has enthralled family audiences all over the United States, including performances at the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C. (the world's largest festival of Japanese culture outside of Japan), the Florida Storytelling Festival, the Hawaii Book & Music Festival, and the Tryon Super Tuesday Children Festival in North Carolina. More Information: [www.yasutheatre.com](http://www.yasutheatre.com)



Janice Lesane Katambwa travels the country telling stories and engaging audiences with interactive audience-participation stories, props, puppets, costumes, musical instruments, songs, and dance. She is originally from Mayesville, SC, the birthplace of Mary McCloud Bethune, but currently resides in Belleville, IL. She is a former English teacher who has taught in both the U.S. and Africa.



Errol McLendon has taught storytelling workshops in Chicago, Dallas, Houston and at retirement communities around Illinois and Wisconsin. He has told stories in Kansas City, Bloomington, MN and at National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, TN. He has performed his longer storytelling concerts at Fringe Festivals in Indianapolis, Atlanta, Orlando and Edinburgh. Errol runs a storytelling open mic, hosts a monthly storytelling show and teaches an ongoing drop-in workshop in Chicago. Errol is a two time Moth winner. Errol is grateful to be returning to the St. Louis Festival for the second year. More Information: [www.innerstatestories.com](http://www.innerstatestories.com)



Award-winning storyteller Bobby Norfolk has traveled nationally and internationally, performing in schools, theatres, libraries, and universities. He has won national awards for several audio recordings and books. In 2018, he was given an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from The University of Missouri St. Louis, where he gave the Commencement Address to the College of Arts and Sciences. More Information: [www.bobbynorfolk.com](http://www.bobbynorfolk.com)

# St. Louis STORYTELLING Festival

**VALUED SPONSORS AND PARTNERS**
















# St. Louis STORYTELLING Festival PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Visit [slcl.org/storytelling](http://slcl.org/storytelling) for detailed descriptions. Schedule is subject to change.

\*Registration required. \*\*Program has ASL interpretation.

## Performances

## Meet and Greet

## Workshops

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

|                |                          |                                                                                                                                |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6:00-6:45 p.m. | Florissant Valley Branch | <b>Music Mondays Unplugged</b> – Funk/Afro/Jazz with The Dhrouba Collective<br><i>Presenter: The Kranzberg Arts Foundation</i> |
| 6:30-8:30 p.m. | Work and Leisure         | <b>Workshop: Giving Voice to Your Story*</b> – <i>Presenter: Campfire</i>                                                      |
| 7:00-8:00 p.m. | Florissant Valley Branch | <b>Spoken Word</b> – <i>Presenter: Saint Louis Story Stitchers</i>                                                             |

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

|                |                                     |                                                                              |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5:30-7:30 p.m. | Clark Family Branch<br>Creative Lab | <b>Podcast Plug In: Storytelling*</b> – <i>Presenter: Creative Lab Staff</i> |
| 6:30-7:15 p.m. | Clark Family Branch<br>Event Room C | <b>Cirque du Weiner Dog</b> – <i>Presenter: What if Puppets</i>              |

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

|                  |                                         |                                                                                                              |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:00-11:00 a.m. | Clark Family Branch<br>Event Room A & B | <b>Writing Workshop: Clothing Tells a Story*</b><br><i>Presenter: Deanna Benjamin</i>                        |
| 2:00-2:45 p.m.   | Daniel Boone Branch                     | <b>Cirque du Weiner Dog</b> – <i>Presenter: What if Puppets</i>                                              |
| 6:00-6:45 p.m.   | Florissant Valley Branch                | <b>Cirque du Weiner Dog</b> – <i>Presenter: What if Puppets</i>                                              |
| 6:30-7:30 p.m.   | Virtual                                 | <b>Oral History: Memories, Methods, &amp; Technologies*</b><br><i>Presenter: History and Genealogy Staff</i> |
| 7:00-8:30 p.m.   | Clark Family Branch<br>Event Room C     | <b>Jazz Storytelling</b> – <i>Presenter: Harvey Lockhart</i>                                                 |

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

|                |                                                            |                                                                                                                 |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1:00-2:00 p.m. | Clark Family Branch<br>Hybrid: Event Room A<br>and Virtual | <b>Legacy in Print: Crafting Obituaries with Purpose*</b><br><i>Presenter: History and Genealogy Staff</i>      |
| 5:00-6:30 p.m. | Missouri History Museum                                    | <b>Thursday Nights at the Museum</b> – Food and drinks will be available for purchase                           |
| 6:30-8:00 p.m. | Missouri History Museum                                    | <b>Voices of America</b> – <i>Storytellers: Devan Sandiford, Kevin Kling, April Armstrong, and Gene Tagaban</i> |

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

|                  |                                     |                                                                                                                                |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11:00-11:45 a.m. | Saint Louis Art Museum              | <b>The Art of Storytelling</b> – <i>Storyteller: Bobby Norfolk</i>                                                             |
| 1:00-1:45 p.m.   | Mirowitz Center                     | <b>Funny Because It's True*</b> – <i>Storyteller: Kevin Kling</i>                                                              |
| 6:00-7:30 p.m.   | Clark Family Branch<br>Event Room C | <b>Five Tellers, Five Tales**</b> – <i>Storytellers: Lyn Ford, Andy Offutt Irwin, Peter Cook, Mo Reynolds and Kim Weitkamp</i> |

CONTINUED ON REVERSE



St. Louis County Library

Program sites are accessible. With at least two weeks' notice, accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities. Call 314-994-3300 or visit [www.slcl.org](http://www.slcl.org).



## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

|                       |                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00-10:30 a.m.       | Clark Family Branch<br>Event Room A & B        | <b>Workshop: In the Spirit of Story*</b> – <i>Presenter: Gene Tagaban</i>                                                                                                                     |
| 9:00-10:30 a.m.       | Clark Family Branch<br>Event Room D            | <b>Workshop: Storytelling is a Circle: How to Connect an Audience*</b> – <i>Presenter: Mo Reynolds</i>                                                                                        |
| 10:30-11:00 a.m.      |                                                | <b>Break</b>                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. | Clark Family Branch<br>Event Room C            | <b>A Kaleidoscope of Stories –</b><br><i>Storytellers: Janice Katambwa, Errol McLendon, Yasu Ishida and Bobby Norfolk</i>                                                                     |
| 12:00-12:30 p.m.      | Clark Family Branch<br>Post Event Center Lobby | <b>Meet &amp; Greet – Storytellers:</b><br><i>Janice Katambwa, Errol McLendon, Yasu Ishida and Bobby Norfolk</i>                                                                              |
| 12:30-1:30 p.m.       | Clark Family Branch<br>Event Room C            | <b>Amateur Story Hour</b>                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 2:00-4:00 p.m.        | Clark Family Branch<br>Event Room C            | <b>Storytelling Grand Showcase*</b> – <i>Storytellers: Mo Reynolds, Kevin Kling, Peter Cook, April Armstrong, Devan Sandiford, Gene Tagaban, Lyn Ford, Kim Weitkamp and Andy Offutt Irwin</i> |
| 4:00-4:30 p.m.        | Clark Family Branch<br>Post Event Center Lobby | <b>Meet &amp; Greet**</b> – <i>Storytellers: Mo Reynolds, Kevin Kling, Peter Cook, April Armstrong, Devan Sandiford, Gene Tagaban, Lyn Ford, Kim Weitkamp and Andy Offutt Irwin</i>           |

**FOODTRUCK**  
**11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.**  
**Doughboy's Wood**  
**Fired Pizza**

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

|                      |                                     |                                                                                       |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:00-11:30 a.m.     | Clark Family Branch<br>Event Room D | <b>Workshop: Intro to Personal Storytelling*</b><br><i>Presenter: Devan Sandiford</i> |
| 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. |                                     | <b>Lunch Break</b>                                                                    |
| 1:00-2:30 p.m.       | Clark Family Branch<br>Event Room C | <b>Your Story on Stage</b><br><i>Presenter: The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis</i>    |

**TELL US ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE  
AT THE ST. LOUIS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL.**

SCAN HERE



*The 46th Annual St. Louis Storytelling Festival is sponsored by:*



46th Annual  
St. Louis  
**STORY  
TELLING**  
Festival

# WORKSHOPS

## 46th Annual St. Louis Storytelling Festival Workshops

Enhance your storytelling and writing skills while connecting with fellow storytellers and discovering the power of your own voice. Visit [www.slcl.org](http://www.slcl.org) for more information. For adults. Registration required.



### **Workshop: Giving Voice to Your Story**

[Work & Leisure](#)

Monday, November 10  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Presented by Campfire



### **Writing Workshop: Clothing Tells a Story**

[Clark Family Branch](#)

Wednesday, November 12  
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Presented by Deanna  
Benjamin, Senior Lecturer of  
College Writing at  
Washington University



### **Oral History - Memories, Methods & Technologies**

[Virtual Program](#)

Wednesday, November 12  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Presented by SLCL History  
and Genealogy Department



**Legacy in Print - Crafting  
Obituaries with Purpose**

[Clark Family Branch](#)  
& [Hybrid Program](#)

Thursday, November 13  
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Presented by SLCL History  
and Genealogy Department



**Workshop: In the Spirit of  
Story**

[Clark Family Branch](#)

Saturday, November 15  
9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Presented by storyteller  
Gene Tagaban



**Workshop: Storytelling is  
a Circle – How to Connect  
an Audience**

[Clark Family Branch](#)

Saturday, November 15  
9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Presented by storyteller Mo  
Reynolds



**Workshop: Intro to  
Personal Storytelling**

[Clark Family Branch](#)

Sunday, November 16  
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Presented by storyteller  
Devan Sandiford

# MO-TELL PRESENTS TELLABRATION

2025

FEATURING  
RENOWNED TELLERS

BOBBY NORFOLK  
SHERRY NORFOLK  
FLAVIA EVERMAN  
PERRIN STIFEL

NOVEMBER 20  
7PM

PERFORMANCES  
IN TRIBUTE OF  
THE LATE, GREAT  
ANNETTE HARRISON



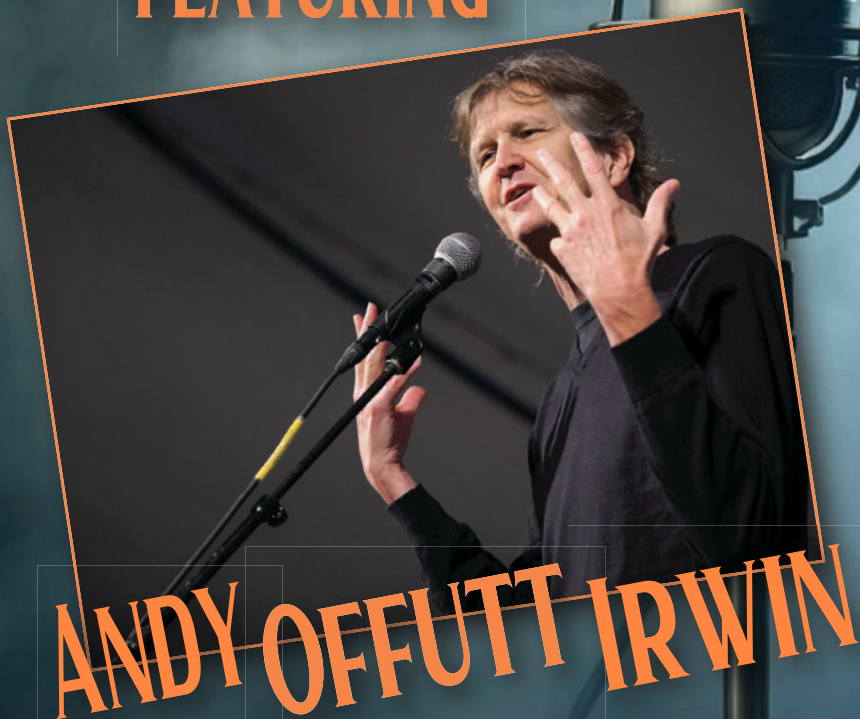
THE CHAPEL  
6238 ALEXANDER DRIVE  
ST. LOUIS, MO 63105



# MO-TELL PRESENTS TELLABRATION 2025

FEATURING

NOVEMBER 16  
6PM



With a silly putty voice, hilarious heart-filled stories, and amazing mouth noises (arguably, the greatest whistler in the world), one-person-showman Andy Offutt Irwin has been described as “Eudora Welty meets the Marx Brothers, peppered with a touch of the Southern balladeer.”



You are invited to a MO-TELL Tellabration - Andy Offutt Irwin on ZOOM

When: Nov 16, 2025  
6:00 PM Central Time

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/joining/register/VPaGH7ltSmS9MzlyKXIhDA>

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

# FOR YOUR STOREHOUSE OF USELESS INFO

NEVER GIVE YOURSELF  
A HAIRCUT AFTER THREE  
MARGARITAS.

TWO THINGS YOU MUST  
HAVE READY TO USE.  
WD-40 AND DUCT TAPE.  
IF IT DOESN'T MOVE  
AND SHOULD, USE  
WD-40.  
IF IT MOVES AND  
SHOULDN'T, USE DUCT  
TAPE.

EVERYONE SEEMS  
NORMAL UNTIL YOU  
GET TO KNOW THEM.

IF YOU WAKE UP  
BREATHING,  
CONGRATULATIONS!

YOU GET ANOTHER  
CHANCE...

IF YOU ARE GOING TO  
BE ABLE TO LOOK  
BACK ON SOMETHING  
LAUGH ABOUT IT, YOU  
MAY AS WELL LAUGH  
ABOUT IT NOW.  
THIS IS EASIER SAID  
THAN DONE.

6-YEAR-OLDS LAUGH  
AN AVERAGE OF 300  
TIMES A DAY.  
ADULTS LAUGH  
BETWEEN 15 AND 100  
TIMES A  
DAY. HMMMM.

HUMANS HAVE 639  
MUSCLES.  
CATERPILLARS HAVE  
4,000.

IN 1933 MICKEY  
MOUSE RECEIVED  
800,000 FAN  
LETTERS.

FEAR OF LONG WORDS  
IS CALLED  
HIPPOPOTOMONSTROS  
ESQUIPPEDALIOPHOBIA.



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

Wed, Nov 5 2025 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**

### [Hands On, Hands In: Using Puppets with Young Children](#)

Thu, Nov 13 2025 6:30pm - 8:00pm Story Center Programming Room Story Center Event Registration Required

Looking for a great way to engage young children? Want the help of a puppet to tell a specific story? Ready to add to your storytelling toolkit?

**REGISTER NOW**

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

Thu, Nov 20 2025 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**

# Endings

*Tuesday, December 9, 2025*

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: Dec 9, 2025 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/Xh94uMhGTp-ugRONRRrwbw>

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!"*

# TIPS FOR TELLERS

## BOO-TICKLE TO SPOOKY STORIES

Scary stories are intended to scare the audience but make sure it is something that is scary to you as well. The first important rule is you must love telling the “scary” or “not so scary story.”

Types of scary and not so scary stories

1. Ghosts, relate to the past, sometimes spiritual, can be real life ghosts, (Wornall house), literary ghosts, friendly and not so friendly
2. Monster, relate to the present and the future, folktales and fairytales
3. Witch, older women who are of no use to men, Grimm
4. Vampires, feed on people forever, supernatural
5. Urban legends, possible common fears that are relatable
6. Jump tales, surprise ending meant to scare
7. Not so scary tales, give a friendly essence of ghosts and monsters.

Different stories for different ages, understand your audience and their fears

1. Not so scary, funny songs, happy ghosts and monsters, ages two to eight
2. Not so scary with spooky monsters, ages eight to ten
3. Ghouls and monsters, ghosts, ages ten to twelve, middle school
4. Urban tales, Vampires, real ghosts, high school and older
5. Witches, let's discuss.
6. Jump tales, middle school and high school

# BOO-TICKLE TO SPOOKY STORIES

What is in your repertoire?

1. Make a list of each type
2. What do you like the most?

What makes a scary story good?

1. Catchy beginning
2. Character development
3. Problems
4. Resolution, Safe or not
5. How do you leave your audience?
6. Tell the stories that speak to you, the ones you love to tell
7. Be authentic
8. Create a mood
9. Build suspense
10. Tell from different points of view, tells Hansel and Gretel from the viewpoint of the oven.
11. Leave stuff to the imagination, telling goes further into the psyche than reading

Additions

1. Language
2. Voices
3. Screams and whispers
4. Costumes
5. Darkness
6. Campfire
7. Woods
8. Flashlight

Copyright laws still apply

1. Ask permission
2. Adapt
3. Read more than one version
4. Use Margaret Read MacDonald's Reference book to find other versions

Have fun



[www.MO-TELL.org](http://www.MO-TELL.org)

## MISSOURI STORYTELLING, INC (MO-TELL) ONLINE AUCTION

**[WWW.32AUCTIONS.COM/MO-TELL](http://WWW.32AUCTIONS.COM/MO-TELL)  
FEBRUARY 1 TO FEBRUARY 28, 2026**

This money raised will help MO-TELL continue to support storytelling in Missouri through storytelling at Missouri State Parks and Historic sites, Zoom events, workshops and festivals.

To donate an item or service please email [Lindakkuntz@yahoo.com](mailto:Lindakkuntz@yahoo.com) the following by January 15, 2026.

1. A picture of the item. If it's a service, perhaps your photo or business card.
2. Description of the donated item or service. Up to three sentences.
3. Approximate value (minimum of \$25)
4. Starting bid price
5. Name of donor, mailing address, email address and telephone number.

MO-TELL is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization and your donation is tax deductible. After the auction closes and payments are received, you will be notified who has won your item or service and their mailing address so you can ship it to them.

Thank you for supporting MO-TELL.

Joyce Slater, President  
Missouri Storytelling, Inc (MO-TELL)



# By NOW. IT'S SOONER!

# RAPS

REGISTRATION IS TAKEN AT THE EVENT. THE CHICKEN FESTIVAL REGISTRATION IS \$50.00 FOR RAPS MEMBERS AND \$75.00 FOR NON-RAPS MEMBERS.

RAPS MEMBERSHIP IS \$25.00 FOR AN INDIVIDUAL OR \$35.00 FOR A FAMILY.

RAPS ACCEPTS CASH, CHECKS AND CREDIT CARDS. FULL REGISTRATION INCLUDES LUNCH AND SUPPER ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026 SO PEOPLE DO NOT HAVE TO LEAVE THE HOTEL TO GET FOOD.



FULL REGISTRATION INCLUDES LUNCH AND SUPPER ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026

2026 MARKS THE 33RD ANNUAL RIVER AND PRAIRIE STORYWEAVERS CHICKEN FESTIVAL.

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE AS WE WEAR CHICKEN HATS, WEAR CHICKEN SOCKS, DANCE THE CHICKEN DANCE AND TELL STORIES. YES, THERE IS A CHICKEN STORY CATEGORY...

JANUARY 16, 17, 18, 2026  
RAMADA DOWNTOWN  
TOPEKA HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER  
420 SE SIXTH AVE.  
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66607  
(785) 215-8257

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
RAPS.EVENTS@GMAIL.COM

# Chicken Festival

# WISDOM GLEANED FROM INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL LIKE PERRIN JUST TOOK RECENTLY TO CANADA AND POINTS CONTINENTAL AND HE'S THE WISER FOR IT AND SHARES IT WITH US SO THAT WE CAN BE, TOO.



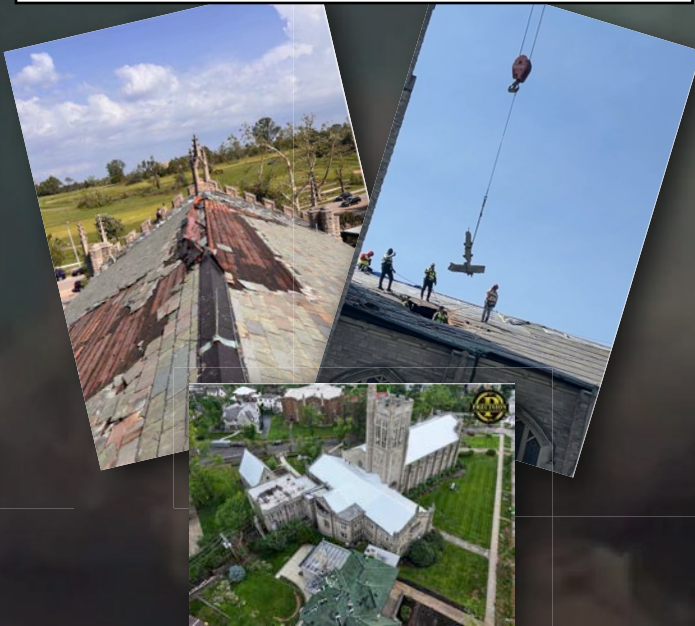
# HELP TORNADO VICTIMS

## HERE ARE A COUPLE OF WAYS

In our June newsletter we discussed the devastating tornado that occurred in St. Louis, MO. Some of our friends lost homes and businesses and churches. Here are two opportunities to consider in helping our neighbors.

### MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN

**THEY'VE HOSTED TWO TELLABRATIONS!**  
(AND KEN WOLFE IS AN ELDER THERE)



The congregation of St. Louis' historic Memorial Presbyterian Church grieves the devastation wrought by the May 16th EF-3 tornado. While our 1926 English gothic bell tower, sanctuary and arts venue, The Chapel, still anchor the western edge of Forest Park, and while our people still gather for weekly worship, millions of dollars and many months of work lie ahead to restore the structure to its historic glory. You can follow the progress being made below.

You can also financially partner with us to help ensure this historic building is restored and preserved for generations of St. Louisans to come.

For MUCH more information and ways to help:



### CENTENNIAL CHRISTIAN

which is instrumental in feeding and housing the poor, who were hit hard by this tornado. Some of the MO-TELL members have asked how they may donate to help people in St. Louis who are in need due to the tornado. This will be an opportunity to help victims of the May 16 tornado.

The Fountain Park neighborhood (just east of Kingshighway and north of Delmar) was hit hard by the tornado, in which 5,000 homes, churches, and businesses were destroyed or significantly damaged. The Centennial Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), which has served the community for more than 100 years, was damaged beyond repair. One woman died in the church during the tornado; she had just finished feeding the poor. Two other women in the church were rescued by first responders.

The congregation plans to rebuild within two years and establish a health clinic, food bank, and housing in its mission of "Health, Hunger, and Home." Donations will help the neighborhood now and in its future rebuilding.

#### There are several ways to donate to this cause:

--Send money in the form of a check made payable to Centennial Christian Church (Write "localtornado relief" in the memo section of the check). Mail to Perrin Stifel, 636 Elmwood Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63119.

--Use Venmo to Liz Lyons (Perrin's daughter) @Liz-Lyons-13; the last 4 digits of her phone number are 3162 (please note the funds are for the tornado victims relief).

--Donate directly to Centennial Christian Church's GoFundMe page at:

<https://gofund.me/387b4ee8>

We realize that you may have already contributed food, money, and/or your time to help the victims of this devastating tornado. And there are many other ways to give.

We thought this way might be easy for some folks.

# STORY OF THE MONTH

## The Story of **Truth and Parable**

Once, in a small village, there were two sisters named Truth and Parable. Truth was a formidable and unyielding figure. She went everywhere without a stitch of clothing, for she believed her raw, naked form was the only way to convey her message clearly. But when she tried to speak to the villagers, they recoiled in shock and embarrassment. They averted their eyes and shut their doors, unwilling to listen to her because of her stark appearance.

Dejected and shunned, Truth retreated to the outskirts of the village. Her sister, Parable, found Truth shivering and alone. Unlike Truth, Parable was always beautifully dressed in robes woven with the colors of everyday life. Her clothes were made from the stories of farmers and fields, merchants and markets, joys and sorrows.

Taking pity on her sister, Parable brought Truth into her home and gave her a beautiful, multifaceted robe to wear. She explained that while people love the essence of Truth, they are often uncomfortable with her nakedness. "You must clothe yourself in a story," Parable advised. "Only then will people be able to accept and understand you."

And so, Truth, now clothed in Parable's gentle and colorful story, returned to the village. This time, as she walked through the streets, people emerged from their houses, welcoming her warmly. They listened eagerly to hear stories, captivated by the rich details and relatable events. When they invited her to sit by their fire and share her message, they were finally able to see the profound truth hidden with the tale.

Our friend and fellow storyteller, Annette Harrison, often told this tale to share her belief in the power of story. Truth and Parable is an old Yiddish tale with a beautiful message. We already miss Annette, and have her stories to comfort us and warm us and nurture us for all time.

By the way, this version of the tale was found among many versions on the internet.

# 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

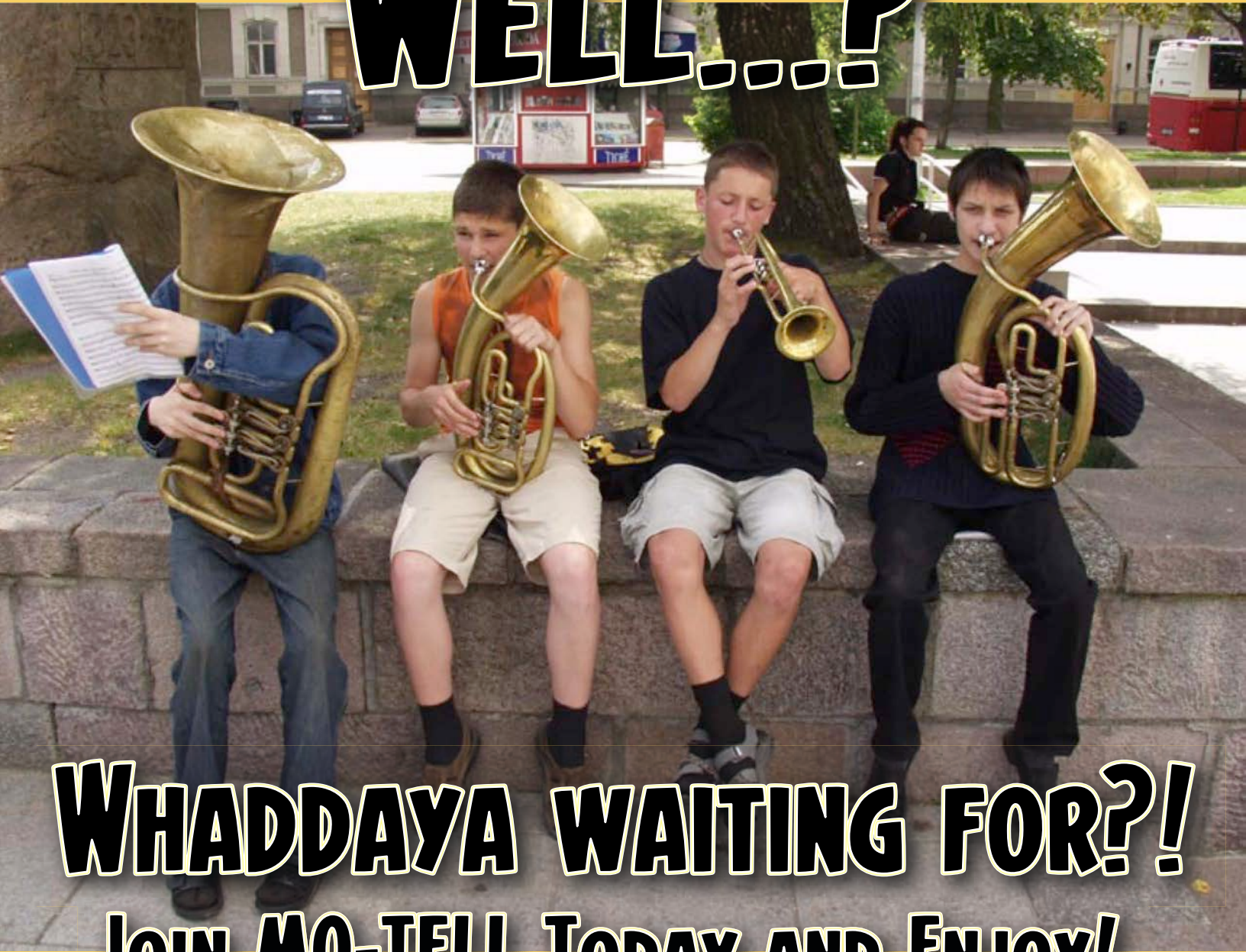
While you explore, consider submitting stories, articles, poems, and art.



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



**YOU SAID YOU'D RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
WHEN THERE WAS FANFARE.  
WELL...?**



**WHADDAYA WAITING FOR?!**

**JOIN MO-TELL TODAY AND ENJOY!  
OR RE-UP AND LET US SERENADE YA!**

**DETAILS BELOW. CHECK 'EM OUT!**

CURIOUS ABOUT THE EVENT ABOVE?  
USE THE LINK TO SEE IT (OR ONE LIKE IT).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHf05dXzdEQ>

# 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 PLUS<br>MEMBER'S CHOICE OF ONE:<br>(CAP) (T-SHIRT) (LOGO MUG) |
| LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP 60+   | \$200       | LOGO BAG PLUS<br>MEMBER'S CHOICE OF ONE:<br>(CAP) (T-SHIRT) (LOGO MUG) |

### 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, 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!**

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



# THE MO-TELL BOARD