



DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello my friends,

I love storytelling. It has introduced me to so many wonderful people, people with great passions, people with great courage and people with great love. I was surprised by the joy I found in storytelling. It continues to bring me joy and understanding of the world and the people in it. And so, in the closing month of 2023 I celebrate with stories, love, laughter and yes, with joy.

Thank you for your friendship and support this year for me and for storytelling and for MO-TELL. Through our passion for this art, we will move forward to 2024 sharing our old stories and creating new ones.

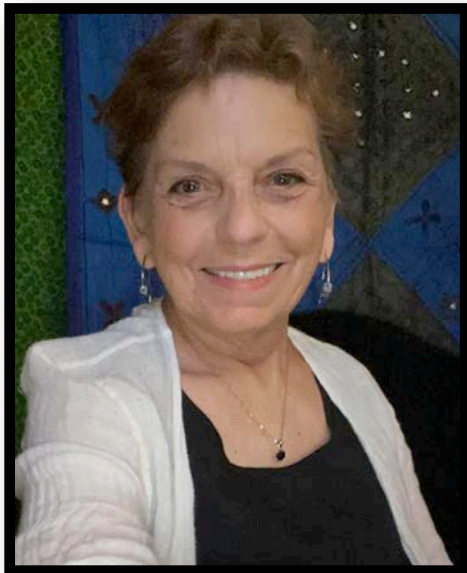
Blessings to all of you in this season of many holidays. I hope to see you at the Annual

Membership Meeting on Zoom, January 23, 2024, at 7 pm.

Love to you all,

Joyce Slater

President of MO-TELL



“Tell the story that’s been growing in your heart, the characters you can’t keep out of your head, the tale that speaks to you, that pops into your head during your daily commute, that wakes you up in the morning.”

– Jennifer Weiner
writer, television producer,
and journalist

MAGNET
HERE

FOR YOUR FRIDGE

MAGNET
HERE

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

RAPS DECEMBER 2023

Thursday December 7, 2023, 7:00 pm First
Thursday Meeting
In-person **ONLY** meeting at Trailside Center
Story Theme: “**Winter Blues**”
Dessert Bar & White-Elephant gift exchange

Saturday December 16, 2023, 10:30 am Third Sat.
Meeting Hybrid* meeting at Woodneath AND on
Zoom

Thursday January 4, 2024, 7:00 pm First Thursday
Meeting Hybrid meetings return to Trailside Center
AND on Zoom

**Friday, January 19, 2024 thru Sunday, January
21, 2024**
River and Prairie Storyweavers’ Chicken Festival
2024 Henry County Museum, Clinton, MO

*Hybrid meetings will be held in-person at:
Trailside Center Woodneath Library Center
99th & Holmes Rd. 8900 NE Flintlock Road
Kansas City, MO 64131 Kansas City, MO 64157

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

GATEWAY DECEMBER 2023

**Nothing planned
this month!**
Merry Christmas and
Hippo Holidays!



Fun and education found at Missouri's state parks and historic sites in December

JEFFERSON CITY, MO, NOV 16, 2023 – Fun and education go hand in hand, so check out these events planned at Missouri state parks and historic sites.

- **Friday, Dec. 1: Downtown Living Windows at Jefferson Landing State Historic Site**
Are you visiting downtown Jefferson City for the annual Living Windows event? Stop inside Jefferson Landing State Historic Site for some holiday cheer! Enjoy making crafts, creating your own “Nutcracker” puppet theater production, or just warming up on a chilly evening. There will also be a pop-up store selling Capitol- and Missouri-themed Christmas ornaments and other gifts. Activities take place from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Lohman Building of the Jefferson Landing State Historic Site located at 100 Jefferson St. in Jefferson City.
- **Wednesday, Dec. 6: Landing After Hours: What our Rocks Carry – How Fossils Inform our Past, Present and Future at Jefferson Landing State Historic Site**
Did you know that Missouri’s rocks record a crinoid-littered sea that once covered central North America in the Carboniferous Period, around 350 million years ago? Almost 300 million years later, our state dinosaur, *Hypsibema missouriensis*, roamed the Earth after the sea dried up. About 12,000 years ago, mastodons grazed in the forests near what is now St. Louis alongside Clovis people. Missouri’s rich natural history helps us understand modern animals, plants and people through what it tells us of our past. Join Delaney Ryan, curator of exhibits at the Missouri State Museum, to learn about what is within our reach – and under our feet! The Missouri State Museum’s “Landing After Hours” program is located at the Lohman Building at 100 Jefferson St. in Jefferson City, starting at 7 p.m. Parking is available in the lot next to the Lohman Building. In addition to being held in person, this program will also be livestreamed on the [Missouri State Museum’s Facebook page](#).
- **Saturday, Dec. 9: Old-Fashioned Christmas in the Village at Arrow Rock State Historic Site**
Join the state historic site team, friends and family as they open up the site buildings for a Christmas from long ago. You are invited to tour the buildings, which will be decorated for the holidays, and visit with interpreters. As guests wander through the site, they may stumble upon the judge and lawyer in the Old Courthouse as they prepare to end the year. Stopping by the tavern’s tap room, visitors can visit with travelers from the trail and in the academy, they will see the young ladies preparing for Christmas while the schoolmarm takes a break. Up the hill, a family will be preparing for Christmas dinner at the George Caleb Bingham home. At the very end of the tour, visitors can reflect on the holiday season. The event begins at 5 p.m. and while the pathway will be lit, guests are encouraged to bring a flashlight. That night there will be music and dance as well, starting at 4 p.m., and guests are invited to the Yuletide Dance presented by Mid-Missouri Traditional Dancers at 6:30 p.m. Arrow Rock State Historic Site is located at 39521 Visitor Center Drive in Arrow Rock.

For detailed information on any of these activities, please visit mostateparks.com/events. For more information on state parks and historic sites, visit mostateparks.com. Missouri State Parks is a division of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.



THE GREAT 2023 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!

DECEMBER 12, 2023, 7PM

UPSTAIRS AT O'CONNELL'S PUB

4652 SHAW AVENUE
ST. LOUIS, MO 63110

DINNER & A SHOW!
IN WHATEVER ORDER YOU'D LIKE!
COME FOR ONE, STAY FOR THE OTHER.

MAKE A NIGHT OF IT!

**FREE
STORIES**



**SUPERB
BURGERS
& PINTS**



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



A BIT OF MO-TELL HISTORY

MO-TELL MEMORIES

BOBBY NORFOLK



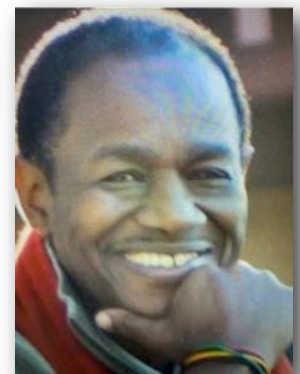
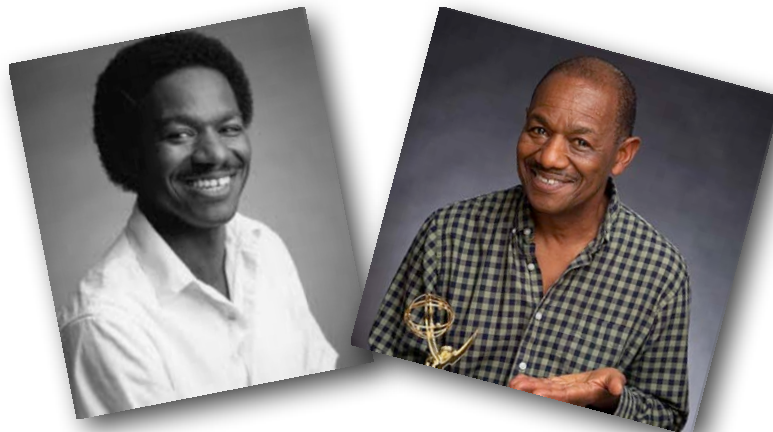
I was a National Park Service ranger at the Gateway Arch and Old Court House in 1976. In 1979 Ron Turner and Lynn Rubright decided to have a storytelling festival “coincidentally” at my work site. I did not seek storytelling—it sought me!

I knew nothing about storytelling being an ancient art form until people like Sue Hinkel, Annette Harrison, Perrin Stifel, Marilyn Kinsella, Ruthilde Kronberg, Leigh McGee, Irene Eveland, Roger Rose, Janet (January) Kiefer, Nan Kammann, and others showed me how to work with their organization, called MO-TELL, to find, learn, and perform STORY!

I had been involved in live theater with the Black Repertory Company and stand-up comedy at the Funny Bone Comedy Club, but knew nothing about the power of story. MO-TELL members showed me the difference between fairy tales, folktales, myths, legends, tall tales, poetry, prose, personal stories, and sagas.

Storytelling sent me to the library and bookstores to hone and craft my skill sets so that I would feel comfortable with what seemed to be so easy for these other MO-TELL members. I was a willing student, and went on a regular basis to meetings at Perrin’s home. What a treat to sit and listen to these people discuss story! Then there was the added treat when they had an olio (not to be confused with margarine)! I learned that an olio was a round robin of tellers sharing their work. Gateway and Riverwind guilds came later, but it is the memory of MO-TELL that resonated with me the most. I asked the chief ranger at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (“the Arch”) if I could have Mondays and Tuesdays off, to practice stories in schools, and then work for him Wednesdays through Sundays. To my delight, he agreed!

In early 1987 I resigned from the National Park Service and took on professional storytelling full time. The rest, as they say, is “His-Story”!



MO-TELL'S ST. LOUIS TELLABRATION 2023

What a wonderful time we had at O'Connell's Pub in St. Louis, MO on November 15th at 7 pm for Tellabration! We were upstairs on the second floor in Jack's Joint. The room was filled to capacity. Our dynamic emcee, who set the mood, was Ken Wolfe. Everyone felt comfortable and relaxed. Ken surveyed the audience and discovered there were at least a dozen first time story listeners among us.

Our tellers were Perrin Stifel of Webster Grove, MO, Sue Hinkel of Pacific, MO, Jackie and "Papa" Wright of University City, MO, and Ken Wolfe of St. Louis, MO.

Perrin told the cowboy poem "Reincarnation" by McRae. He also told two estate sales stories. They were both stories about wonderful "finds." The first story was called "The Discovery", which was made by his 16-year-old grandson, Blake, who is now 24 years old and was in the audience. Perrin's second story was "Some Day You'll Know the Value." The setting was in the very room where we were, Jack's Joint. Jack Parker, the deceased owner of O'Connell's Pub and Jack Parker Antiques, was present in spirit. Perrin said, "I felt like we were in front of an audience in Jonesborough, Tennessee when you knew the audience was in the teller's palm of their hand. And not only as I told, but also when I was in the audience. It was a great feeling!"

Sue told "The \$100 Bill" It is a story that was passed down from her husband John's grandfather, then to John's father, to John, and then, he told the story to Sue. It seems that everyone in that story owed somebody a hundred dollars. Sue also told "It Came in the Night," a children's story she adapted for adults. The story tells you to think twice about what you ignore. Sue said, "I thought the evening went very, very well, loved the diverse tellers, and the variety of the stories.

Jackie told "Stop the Coffin," which had the audience wondering just how that lone rider was

going to get rid of that "coffin." Her next story was "Heaven and Hell." Do you know the difference between heaven and hell? Well, we all found out at MO-TELL's Tellabration 2023. "Papa" added color and texture to both stories. He even demonstrated a couple of his percussion instruments to the audience. Jackie & "Papa" said, "What a wonderful evening of storytelling!"

Ken told "Gearshift," a story about nicknames and a childhood friend who made sounds like he was driving a race car. For his second story, Ken did one round of "Stories & Lies While-U-Wait." He asked a young man from the audience to create a drawing on a dry erase board and then Ken created and told a story based on the drawing. When Ken finished the story, he erased the drawing with a pad and gave the pad to the young man and told him he could take the story home with him. To close the program, Ken sang "The Scotsman." Ken said, "It was a good night, to be sure."

Comments Perrin heard from audience members:

"We loved the tellings and music by Jackie and Papa. Delightful!"

"I love Sue's voice, her delivery, and timing."

"Ken was the perfect host. And he is so funny. I laughed so hard which I haven't done in ages."

"It was the best Tellabration ever."

A \$20 gift card to Board Walk Café in Webster Groves, MO was taped under one of the seats in the audience as a door prize. Aaron Donavon of Spanish Lake, MO was the lucky winner. He happens to be an aspiring storyteller and former student of Jackie Wright.





FROM THE MO-TELL ANNALS OF STORYTELLING

A DATE OF IMPORT

SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

ERIC HAYNES

MISSOURI MINES HISTORIC SITE



Eric told "Tommyknockers and Other Tales of the Miners" at an open house for retired miners and members of the local community.



Kevin Smith promotes Missouri State Parks at the Kirkwood Greentree Festival and tells about The Iron Riders: The Story of the 25th Infantry Bicycle Corp. He is a fantastic storyteller!

KEVIN SMITH
KIRKWOOD GREENTREE FESTIVAL



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 a 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 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...

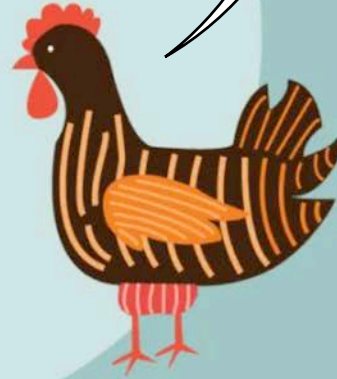
Thanks, Perrin and the MO-TELL board.

FROM PERRIN'S HUMOR TROVE

Why did you
cross the road?



Why do folks
always think I need a
reason?



MO-TELL wishes you
the merriest of merriment
during the holy days you celebrate!



Here's to the building & telling of your story.



River and Prairie Storyweavers

Chicken Festival 2024

**Coming Friday, January 19, 2024
Through Sunday, January 21, 2024.**

The Chicken Festival will be held at:

**Henry County Museum
Clinton, MO.**

For more information contact: RAPS.events@gmail.com

[Storytelling Certificate Celebration: Oral Storytelling \(Hybrid\)](#)

Sat, Dec 2 2023 10:30am - 12:00pm Woodneath Auditorium Story Center Event Registration Required
Join The Story Center as we recognize the participants who have earned their certificate from the Oral Storytelling Certificate Program.

EVENT DETAILS REGISTER NOW

[Storytelling Certificate Celebration: Written Storytelling \(Hybrid\)](#)

Sat, Dec 2 2023 1:30pm - 3:00pm Woodneath Auditorium Story Center Event Registration Required
Join The Story Center as we recognize the participants who have earned their certificate from the Written Storytelling Certificate Program.

EVENT DETAILS REGISTER NOW

[Story Center Critique Group \(Hybrid\)](#)

Mon, Dec 4 2023 6:30pm - 8:00pm Story Center Programming Room Story Center Event Registration Required

Join a community of your writing peers to provide supportive and constructive critique of each other's work.

EVENT DETAILS REGISTER NOW

[Holiday Stories for the Family](#)

Wed, Dec 6 2023 6:30pm - 8:30pm Woodneath Auditorium Story Center Event Registration Required
Join us for an evening of holiday tales for the family performed by storytellers who have graduated from the Storytelling Certificate Program at The Story Center.

EVENT DETAILS REGISTER NOW

[Turning a Written Story into an Oral Story](#)

Thu, Dec 14 2023 6:30pm - 8:00pm Story Center Programming Room Story Center Event Registration Required

Join author and oral storyteller Alice Nathan in this interactive workshop that fuses written and oral storytelling.

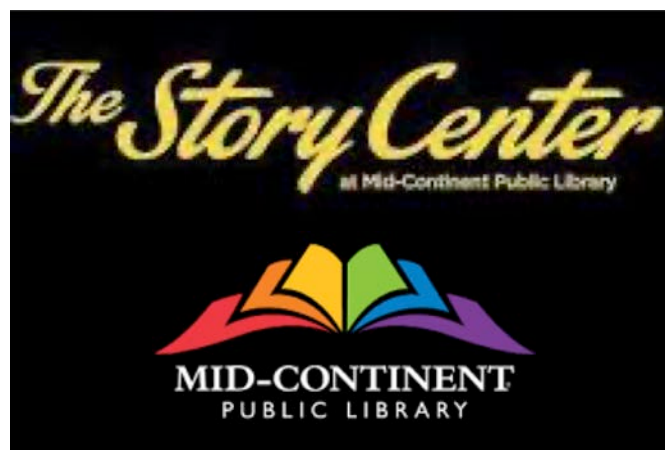
EVENT DETAILS REGISTER NOW

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

Thu, Dec 21 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



NO-TELL

ANNUAL

MEMBERSHIP

MEETING

TUESDAY

JANUARY 23, 2024

SEVEN O'CLOCK PM

VIA ZOOM

ZOOM LINK WILL

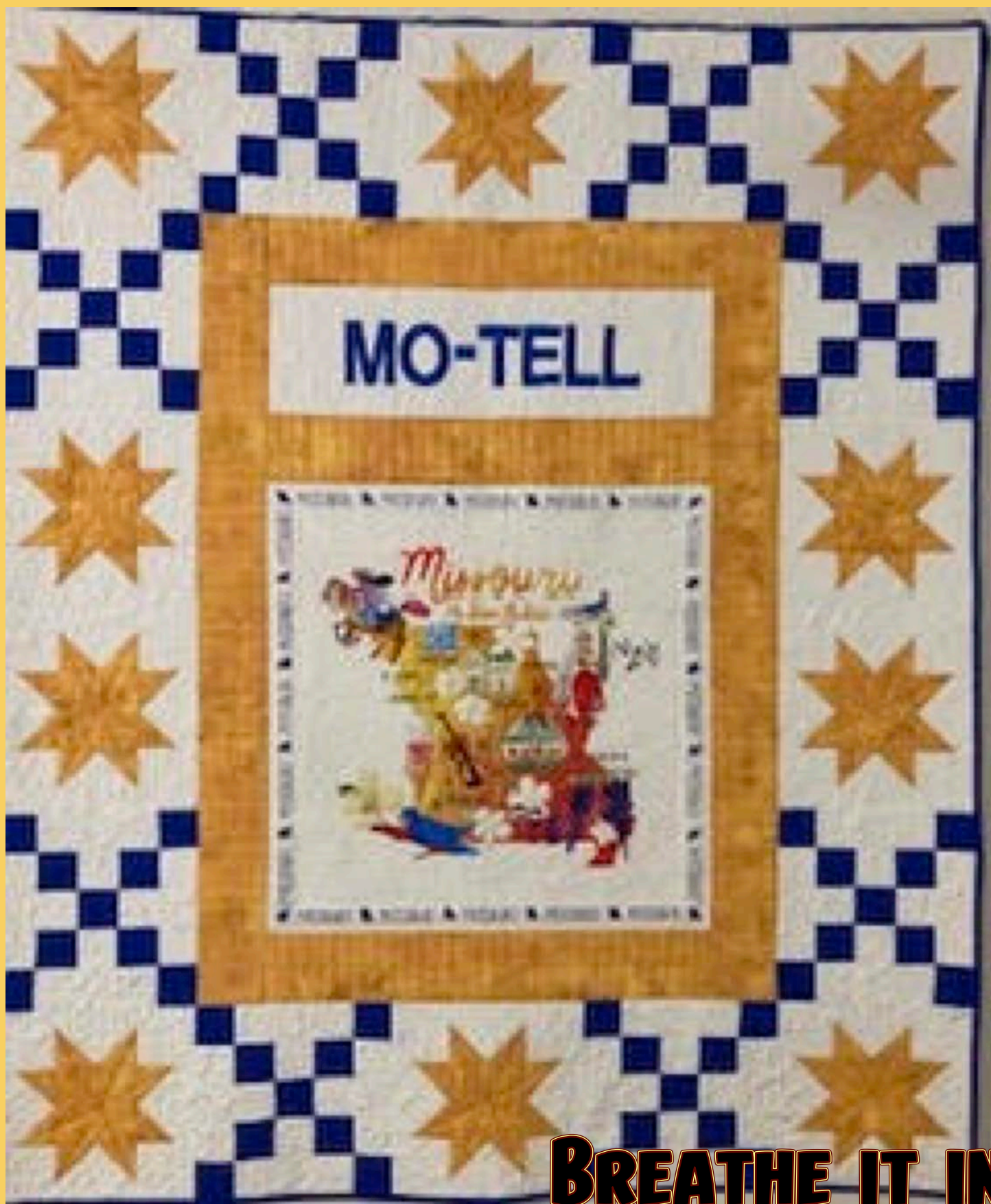
BE SENT IN JANUARY

DON'T MISS IT!

BE PART OF THE PROCESS & HAVE A STORY TO TELL!

AND NOW...

A MOMENT OF MO-TELL HERITAGE...



BREATHE IT IN.

MO-TELL ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**MO-TELL WILL HOLD THE
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN JANUARY
(DATE TO BE DETERMINED) ON ZOOM THIS YEAR.**

**LOOK FOR THE NOTICE
IN THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER.**

**IN THE MEANTIME, ANYONE INTERESTED
IN JOINING THE BOARD IN ANY CAPACITY
SHOULD CONTACT**

JOYCE SLATER, JOYCESLATER20@GMAIL.COM.

**YOU CAN RUN FOR A POSITION OR JOIN AT
LARGE. WE ARE OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS.**

**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 MO-TELL PRESTIGE
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP 2 YEARS	\$50	TWICE AS MUCH OF THE SAME!!
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP -60	\$250	LOGO BAG <i>PLUS</i> 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, 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!

Story of the Month

THE ELVES AND THE SHOEMAKER

There was once a shoemaker, who worked very hard and was very honest; but still he could not earn enough to live upon; and at last all he had in the world was gone, save just leather enough to make one pair of shoes. Then he cut his leather out, all ready to make up the next day, meaning to rise early in the morning to his work. His conscience was clear and his heart light amidst all his troubles; so he went peaceably to bed, left all his cares to Heaven, and soon fell asleep. In the morning after he had said his prayers, he sat himself down to his work; when, to his great wonder, there stood the shoes all ready made, upon the table. The good man knew not what to say or think at such an odd thing happening. He looked at the workmanship; there was not one false stitch in the whole job; all was so neat and true, that it was quite a masterpiece.

The same day a customer came in, and the shoes suited him so well that he willingly paid a price higher than usual for them; and the poor shoemaker, with the money, bought leather enough to make two pairs more. In the evening he cut out the work, and went to bed early, that he might get up and begin betimes next day; but he was saved all the trouble, for when he got up in the morning the work was done ready to his hand. Soon in came buyers, who paid him handsomely for his goods, so that he bought leather enough for four pair more. He cut out the work again overnight and found it done in the morning, as before; and so it went on for some time: what was got ready in the evening was always done by daybreak, and the good man soon became thriving and well off again.

One evening, about Christmas-time, as he and his wife were sitting over the fire chatting together, he said to her, 'I should like to sit up and watch tonight, that we may see who it is that comes and does my work for me.' The wife liked the thought; so they left a light burning, and hid themselves in a corner of the room, behind a curtain that was hung up there, and watched what would happen.

As soon as it was midnight, there came in two little naked elves; and they sat themselves upon the shoemaker's bench, took up all the work that was cut out, and began to ply with their little fingers, stitching and rapping and tapping away at such a rate, that the shoemaker was all wonder, and could not take his eyes off them. And on they went, till the job was quite done, and the shoes stood ready for use upon the table. This was long before daybreak; and then they bustled away as quick as lightning.

The next day the wife said to the shoemaker. 'These little wights have made us rich, and we ought to be thankful to them, and do them a good turn if we can. I am quite sorry to see them run about as they do; and indeed it is not very decent, for they have nothing upon their backs to keep off the cold. I'll tell you what, I will make each of them a shirt, and a coat and waistcoat, and a pair of pantaloons into the bargain; and do you make each of them a little pair of shoes.'

The thought pleased the good cobbler very much; and one evening, when all the things were ready, they laid them on the table, instead of the work that they used to cut out, and then went and hid themselves, to watch what the little elves would do.

About midnight in they came, dancing and skipping, hopped round the room, and then went to sit down to their work as usual; but when they saw the clothes lying for them, they laughed and chuckled, and seemed mightily delighted. Then they dressed themselves in the twinkling of an eye, and danced and capered and sprang about, as merry as could be; till at last they danced out at the door, and away over the green.

The good couple saw them no more; but everything went well with them from that time forward, as long as they lived.

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

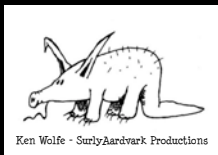
At Large: Gary Kuntz, galirahi@aol.com
Nancee Walker Micham, walkermicham@gmail.com
Glen "Papa" Wright, jpapawright@sbcglobal.net

Emeritus: Perrin Stifel, pstifelstl@earthlink.net

www.mo-tell.org

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



THE MO-TELL BOARD