



Your Thoughts & Prayers

Appreciated

The husband of Performing Member Madge Rohrer, your JSG corresponding secretary, has recently had open heart surgery. He is home, recovering, as of Feb 10th, despite many complications.

Also Performing Member Kathy Blair's mother is scheduled for open heart surgery. Kathy is traveling to be with her mother.

Keep your JSG family in your thoughts and prayers.

JSG ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements Made at Feb, 4, 2008 Meeting

1. GENERAL MEETINGS will be held on 1st Tuesdays NOT 1st Mondays

Note Time Change

- 5:45—6:45 p.m.
• Central Christian church
Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 4, 2008
Note: Starting earlier may help relieve rushed meetings. Bring a brown bag dinner if you'd like, or save your dinner need for the Cranberry Thistle after the meeting while our Tuesday evening performances are taking place.

Discussed: Any meeting could extend beyond the 6:45 time due to an agenda need. If this occurs, those performing at the Cranberry Thistle can excuse themselves as needed.

2. BOARD MEETINGS

- 3rd Tuesdays
• 5:30 –6:30
• Cranberry Thistle
• Open to all
• Meet & Eat

3. FUTURE GENERAL MEETINGS

- Next four meetings:
• Tuesday, March 4
• Tuesday, April 1st,
• Tuesday, May 6, Swappin' Ground Emcee Training,
• Tuesday, June 3rd, Swappin' Ground Emcee Training

4. POSTCARD REMINDERS WILL BE SENT TO EMCEES ONE WEEK BEFORE THEIR SCHEDULED TUESDAY PERFORMANCE.

Emcees are asked to contact their roster of performing members. Thank you Kate Agmann for volunteering to send the weekly postcards.

5. MINUTES of the latest meeting will be printed in the monthly newsletters so at the next month's meeting, they can be approved if no corrections needed. (time saver)

As President, I apologize for the meeting confusion; but after listening to much member input, the Guild will return to the 1st -Tuesday meetings, prior to the Tuesday evening storytelling Performances. 5:45—6:45

Connie Gill

Fiddlers Grove Storytelling Festival April 11-12, 2008 Lebanon, TN

Hosted by Tennessee Storytelling Association and Wilson Country Promotions

JSG's very own Gayleen and Larry Kelly; and Gary Varner will be performing at the evening concert on Friday night with Donald Davis; Tennessee Youth Teller, Hannah Smythe; Two Sarahs —Tandem Tellers, and Millie Sieber.

The weekend also includes four workshops: "Storytelling Close to Home and Far Away: Making Connections through Folk Stories and Oral History".

Other features of the festival include: Story Swap/Open Mikes, a Brown Bag Lunch Storytelling, Q&A session with Doc McConnell and individual mentoring sessions.

For more details about the festival and TSA, check out the website: www.tnstorytelling.org or contact the Eastern Director of TSA, Molly Catron at 1-423-234-1452.

Make your plans to attend and .....Come join in on the celebration of Tennessee's rich oral history.

# CALL FOR STORYTELLERS - Greeneville Iris Festival

Call for Storytellers Iris Festival  
May 17-18, 2008, Greeneville, TN

You are invited to apply as a teller for this year's festival. The title for the event is "Tales of the Tailor - The Life and Times of President Andrew Johnson".

Stories can focus on his life before, during, or after his presidency or on time period issues that would have impacted his life.

Each teller must prepare a 30 minute set that will be presented two times on either May 17th or May 18th. An honorarium of \$100 will be provided for the two 30 minute sets.

Guidelines for Submission

Apply via email to Larry & Gayleen Kelley at [storytell@comcast.net](mailto:storytell@comcast.net)

Please indicate your interest and provide a brief story synopsis.

The deadline for submission is March 24, 2008.

Selected tellers will be notified by March 31st.

Please call 423-257-3307 if you have questions.  
Larry & Gayleen Kelley



## Hawaii's Storyteller, Jeff Gere Cometh to Jonesborough in March

\*\*\*1\*\*\*

### NSN Storytelling Concert

Featuring Jeff Gere

#### *Tales from the Deep Pacific*

March 20, 2008

Evening

Cost: TBA

Jonesborough Repertory Theatre

About Jeff: Jeff blends talents as painter, puppeteer, and mime, into his story performances which have electrified Hawaii and mainland audiences of every age for twenty years. His animated physical energy, wide range of voices, morphing elastic face and clear characterizations make his shows unforgettable events. Jeff becomes his stories! **Check out:**

[www.jeffgere.com](http://www.jeffgere.com)

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### Workshop with Jeff Gere:

Sponsored by:

#### Jonesborough Storytellers Guild

**TITLE: "Expand Your Tells"**

***Beyond The Surface of the Face of Things: Methods, Thoughts, & Explorations***

March 20, 2008

Thursday Afternoon

2-5 pm

Open to all

Cost: \$10

Central Christian Church  
(side door)

Workshop Sign up with Connie @  
[info@storytel.org](mailto:info@storytel.org)

\*\*\*1 & 2\*\*\*

Attend both the concert and workshop and receive \$5 off the workshop fee.

Please, if your daytime work schedule conflicts with the 2-5 workshop time frame, arrive anytime . . . Even if just for one hour!

Workshop attendees are already planning to eat dinner with Jeff Gere, somewhere, together in Jonesborough after the workshop and before the concert.

### STORYTELLING TIP

Smokey Mountain Storytelling Festival was energizing. Those who attended came back "storied" with having heard many good stories, having swapped a few stories of their own at the Swappin' Grounds run by Jan and Cuz Headrick, as well as having learned a lot from the workshops offered.

Connie shares with permission one tip learned from Carmen Agra Deedy's workshop.

#### Story Gesture Idea to Try

- 1) When telling, if you are going to make a gesture, try doing the

- gesture first, perhaps while pausing in voice,
- 2) Then explain or say it .

*For example:*

**DO:** Teller says: "Once upon a time, a witch who lived in the deep dark forest, stood in her kitchen" . . . (2-3 second voice pause while teller makes gesture of stirring in a big cauldron with a big spoon) after pause, stirring then continues, and teller says, "and she stirred, stirred, and stirred the brew in her cauldron."

#### **DON'T:**

Say what happened first and then make the motion.

*For example:*

Teller says: "Once upon a time, a witch who lived in the deep dark forest, stood in her kitchen stirring her cauldron." At the end of sentence, Teller then makes a stirring motion (while saying nothing more) Carmen Agra Deedy points out that "after" is just not effective. The audience is already wanting the next part of the story. They have moved on. However when the motion is made first, the audience watches, waits, anticipates. . . Wonders. . .

### National Storytelling Network

**2008 National Storytelling Conference**  
**When: August 7th-10th**  
**Where: Gatlinburg, TN**

More information coming soon, but mark you calendars now to attend!

### Florida Story Camp

Molly Catron will be a workshop presenter and feature teller at this years **Florida Story Camp, March 27-30** in Leesburg, FL. Other featured tellers include: Michael McCarty, Kuniko Yamamoto, Michael Parent, and Sandy Walker. To get more information and to register for this camp got to <http://www.flstory.org>. Molly will also be presenting a workshop at **Sharing the Fire Conference, April 4-6** in New Hampshire sponsored by League for the Advancement of New England Storytelling (LANES). The theme for the conference is **Story at Work**. For more information about the conference and registration see <http://www.LANES.org>.

### Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will contain the contact information of our Supporting and Performing Members. This list will be sent out ONLY to our members. If you do not wish for your name to be sent out, then please contact Connie Gill before March 1st. Only performing member's information is placed on our website.

### Swappin' Grounds

JSG is still in the process of renewing our Swappin' Grounds Contract for the National Storytelling Festival through ISC. We anticipate a May date for this renewal. However, due to busy summer schedules of our members, we are holding emcee workshops early this year.

Two general meetings will be dedicated workshop agendas. Mark your calendars to attend either May 6, or June 4 if you wish to be given the opportunity to be an emcee at the swappin' grounds. Contact Gayleen Kelley regarding your emcee workshop interest. Workshops will be lead by members Jim Kevin and Larry Kelley.

[storytell@comcast.net](mailto:storytell@comcast.net)

Minutes of the Jonesborough Storytellers Guild - General Meeting- Feb. 4, 2008

Meeting was called to order by President Connie Gill at 7pm

Introduction of NSN event coordinator Karen Hensley - she spoke about coming events.

1 -Jeff Gere- NSN sponsored Concert and JSG sponsored workshop- March 20,2008

2 -National Storytelling Conference info will be up on website ( storynet.org) soon. Conference to be held in Gatlinburg, TN

3 -Regional nominations for regional concert due by Feb. 15, 2008 ( more information available at website)

Connie Gill Announced: -

Board meeting to be held 5:30 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month

MC workshops to be held on May 6<sup>th</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 pm at Central Christian Church.

General meeting to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm at Central Christian Church.

Next general meeting to be March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Question from the floor. Do we have to be performing members to be MC?

Kate Agman will be sending reminders to MC's for Tuesday night venues to help eliminate absentee problems.

The Tennessee Storytellers Association will be having their annual conference the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in April. Gary Varner as well as Larry and Gayleen Kelly will be featured tellers.

Storytelling for Iris Festival will be 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of May. Deadline for prospective tellers is March 24<sup>th</sup>. They are needing stories about Andrew Johnson or stories pertaining to him and his time in history.

Minutes from Dec. 2007 read and accepted as read.

Committee reports.

Gayleen Kelly - information about MC workshops May 6<sup>th</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Remember to sign up early.

Treasurer Report by Dick Wike- JSG has \$2,959 in bank account.

Lynn Dutro is currently working on website. Question asked by Jim Kevin: Could the website have place for members to sell their products?

Unfinished Business

Membership guidelines- Members were asked if they had any questions.

New Business

Hawaii's Storyteller Jeff Gere to have Concert for NSN Thursday March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Repertory Theatre at 7pm and a workshop that same day from 2pm to 5pm ( place to be named at a later time) information will be sent out. JSG will give \$300 towards workshop. Individual cost will be \$15 for concert and \$10 for workshop. Package deal for both for \$20

For more information about Jeff Gere go to [www.jeffgere.com](http://www.jeffgere.com)

Graveyard tales at Rocky Mount July 12<sup>th</sup>. We need tellers to reciprocate to Rocky Mount for Oct.18<sup>th</sup> Spirit Of The Harvest.

April 24<sup>th</sup> will be storytelling at Westminster Pres. Church. Tellers will be Larry Kelly and Molly Catron. tellers to be paid mileage fee of \$15. All are invited to potluck dinner at 5:45pm and Telling at 6:45.

Question from Jim Kevin. Can our calendar up on the website? Answer to be looked into.

Question from Molly Catron. Can we bring a guest storyteller? Yes, if prior arrangements are made and if approved by the board.

Discussion about open mike on Tuesday nights. No decision made.

Announcement by Delanna Reed- Storytelling at ETSU on Feb 6<sup>th</sup> by Joseph Sobol

Motion to adjourn the meeting made and seconded. Meeting adjourned 8:20.

## **ANOTHER WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITY:**

**May 18-25, 2008, Doc McConnell's "Medicine Show Institute" - learn how to build your own medicine show from the best pitchman in the business!**

[www.tales-tonics.com](http://www.tales-tonics.com) for all the details