

Newsletter Returns

With the start of a new year, the JSG Newsletter has returned. This first issue is information coming to you from your President. It is however, a goal of the 2008 Board to communicate effectively and efficiently with JSG Members through consistent future Newsletters. Of course your input and submissions are valued and expected. Thanks to Madge Rohrer, Corresponding Secretary who has volunteered to head up and organize the next JSG Newsletter.

NOTICE: YOUR GENERAL MEETING DATE HAS CHANGED TO 1ST-MONDAYS, 7:00 PM, CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Dear JSG Members:

Your 2008 Board of Directors has recently discussed our monthly general meeting date. We gave it very serious and thorough, thought. We make the following recommendation starting immediately.

Return to:

1st-Monday General Meetings at 7:00 p.m.

(as originally held in first decade of the Guild.)

(informational note)...

The recent bylaw change which took us from our long standing 1st-Monday

meetings to 1st-Tuesday meetings was voted and accepted by the general membership in spring of 2006. At that time, we decided to have general meetings one hour before the 1st-Tuesday evening, public 7 pm storytelling in order to help members with mileage and travel time.

The results as reviewed by the Board of Directors, from this date change, have been rushed meetings with many agenda items left undone and tabled.

The board is recommending a change back to our

original 1st-Monday meetings for the better of the Guild.

This however, will once again need another general membership discussion and vote. We will discuss this at the February 04 meeting. We can vote on the issue in March.

Yes, we will see you.....

Monday, February 04, 2008

7:00 pm,

Central Christian Church.

Tea and cookies will be served.

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I am excited to be elected as your new President. Mostly, I am fortunate to be a member of the Guild because I am thankful for the beautiful and talented JSG friends I have made since joining the Guild.

As your President, I look forward to many successful meetings (that include tea and cookies) and many successful special events. I also look forward to friendly socials, fun and informative workshops, and listening

your old and new stories.

Yes, I do look forward to working on my own new stories, as you do I am sure. For me that time will be found between my presidency chores and the chores of my 38 acre farm. After all, my love of telling and listening to stories is what brought me to the Guild just two years ago.

Life is busy for us all, but together, when everyone pitches in to work on com-

mittees and events the work load will be lighter for all. Together we can help the Guild continue to meet its Mission:

The purpose of the JSG is the preservation and perpetuation of storytelling, and to promote the art and craft of storytelling.

Wishing You Peace and Happiness In The New Year

Smokey Mountain Storytelling Festival February 7,8, & 9, 2008

STORYTELLERS FROM ACROSS THE NATION GATHER IN
PIGEON FORGE

Professional storytellers from across America will gather in Pigeon Forge for the 17th Annual Smoky Mountains Storytelling Festival™, Feb. 7-9, 2008, to share their talents on stage and in workshops.

Hailing from West Virginia, California, New York and points between, the list of performers showcases a variety of storytelling styles. Tellers scheduled to perform include **Waddie Mitchell**, a cowboy poet and storyteller from Nevada; **Bil Lepp**, five-time champion of the West Virginia Liars Contest.

Carmen Agra Deedy, an author and storyteller born in Havana, Cuba, shares stories steeped in the riches of both Latin American and Southern culture. **Mitch Weiss and Martha Hamilton**, an award-winning husband and wife team, are known for their work in teaching the art of storytelling.

Willy Claflin has a number of award-winning recordings and has been featured at storytelling festivals around the world.

The festival also features the National Youth Storytelling Showcase presented in partnership with the **National Storytelling Network**. The Showcase will feature performers age 17 and younger from across the nation, vying for the title of Grand Torchbearer.

Old Mill Haunts 'n' Haints Tales return with evening offerings of family-friendly ghost stories.

Storytelling concerts and workshops will take place at American Jukebox Theater. Day passes for Storytelling activities (excluding Haunts 'n' Haints) are \$10 for ages 18 and older, free to ages 17 and younger. Weekend passes are \$25. Haunts 'n' Haints tickets are \$5 per person. All tickets will be available at 1-866-430-8422. www.mypigeonforge.com

Report on the 2nd Annual Storytelling Round Up—2007

Sunday, November 11, 2008 was Veterans Day and the 2nd Annual Round Up Meeting for the Guild. Not as many participated in the round up this year, but for those who did, their stomachs were filled with plenty of good food and their hearts with fun fellowship.

Invited Guest Storyteller, Ruth Bailey warmed our hearts with an absolutely wonderful Veterans Story. If you weren't there to hear her story, you missed a good one.

This year's silent auction raised nearly \$100. This money has al-

ready been donated towards the Jack and Carole Ann Huebner NSN Grants Program.

President Mary Grace Walrath held a short annual meeting in order to elect a new Board of officers for the 2008 year.

Elected were: Connie Gill-president, Gayleen Kelley-vice president, Dick Wike-treasurer, Judy Farlow-recording secretary, and Madge Rohrer-corresponding secretary.

Beautiful seasonal centerpieces were given away, but not before recognition was given to talented Judy "Butterfly" who donated her time to make them.

Members also brought cans of food to donate to the local food bank in Jonesborough. We collected nearly two full grocery bags. This was taken to the food bank before Thanksgiving.

It is never too early to start thinking about the 3rd Annual Storytelling Round Up. An event coordinator and committee is needed. This event has real potential to "round up" story friends both old and new, from all walks of the storytelling community.

How can we make it bigger and better next year?

January 2008

Emcee Pointers for Tuesday Nights at the Cranberry Thistle

The following items are often overlooked by our Tuesday evening Emcees.

- 1) House keeping announcements:
 - a) No audio or video taping, or flash photography without prior Permission.
 - b) Location of restrooms and exits.
Did you know that the fire exit adjacent to the stage leads to a rock wall that must be climbed? Emcees need to point this out to our story listeners? Yes! Take a look next time you are emcee!
 - c) Turn off your cell phones

2) CD Sale Promotion

Our CD's are on sale on shelves at the Cranberry Thistle, but each Tuesday emcees are asked to borrow a copy of each from the Thistle shelves for advertisement use on stage. Just make sure you return them when you are finished. If there are any sales after the show, direct the sales through the Cranberry Thistle cash register. The Thistle receives invoices from us, and then pays us for the CD's monthly.

3) Admission charge

Announce the admission/"exit" fee. And pre arrange which Member will be collecting this at the door so you can point them out at the end of the show.

\$5.00 Adults

\$3.00 Students of all ages

Free—children 11 and under

Note: Treasurer, Dick Wike will be issuing Membership Cards especially for supporting members. There will also be Friend of JSG cards issued.

(There has been some discussion among members to start collecting admission

QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

First Quarter Schedule

By now you have received your performing member schedule. This first schedule of the year runs through April!

Thank you Janet Wike!

Please Note: The dates listed on the schedule for the general meetings have been changed. This meeting change came about after the schedule had been mailed. Take a minute to pencil in on your schedule 1st-Monday meetings, 7 pm, instead of 1st-Tuesdays.

Featured Tellers

Notice that we will be having a *featured teller each week*, who tells for 30 minutes. The other three performing members should plan to tell from 15-17 minutes, leaving around 10 minutes for emcee time.

We will continue having a 10-12 minute break in which listeners can use the necessary room or get some wonderful evening snack that the Cranberry Thistle Crew cooked up!

CD Baby

Our CD sales have really declined. Both of the Guild's CD's are now available on cdbaby.com website, but there are only two places in Jonesborough which have our CD's for sale. They are The Cranberry Thistle and The Storytelling Store. Remember to promote our CD's when you emcee. The upcoming year is sure to have many birthdays on your list; give them a JSG CD!

CD Baby is also a wonderful opportunity for members to sell their own CD's.

If you haven't taken advantage of that, you might want to get all the details from their website.

Agenda - February 04, 2008 General Meeting

NSN Visitor—Karin Hensley

Introduction of Supporting Members

Old Business:

Membership Guidelines Review

New Business

1) 1st-Monday meetings—Discuss change

(Motion needed so that March vote can be taken)

2) Featured Tellers and publicity for Tuesday Storytelling

3) Hawaiian Teller, Jeff Gere, Jonesborough, in March

4) Committees

National Storytelling

Network

The Guild has renewed our group membership with NSN.

We'll soon be sending NSN our Membership roster. They offer a 10% discount on NSN membership dues if you are a member of our Guild! There are many reasons to join NSN; just check out their website! And don't forget that the National Conference is in NE Tennessee this summer!

Jonesborough Storytellers Guild has a

new email address:

Info@storytellersguild.org

Jonesborough Storytellers Guild

PO Box 996

Jonesborough TN 37659-0996

Performing Member Bio Books

Performing Members! Dig out that Bio Book we updated in 2006, as you'll soon be receiving new pages to insert into it. Last year we brought on two new Performing Members, Pam Miller and Madge Rohrer. Their pages will soon be ready. We also brought back past, Performing Member Dava Lee Russell. She'll soon be adding her page to the bio book too. These Bio Books really do come in handy for adding something new to your introductions as emcee.

Web site Updates Continue: Thank you to Supporting Member, Lynn Dutro for working on our website. Over the next few months you'll see several changes and updates. Remember that your Performing Member schedule is posted quarterly on our website,