



NEWSLETTER

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President:
Rebecca Coleman
740-407-6824
rebecca.coleman653@yahoo.com

Treasurer:
Joyce Geary,
614-885-3164 jgeary@columbus.rr.com

BOARD MEMBERS

Adele Browne
740-385-9761
adele@rosetrace.com
Michelle Cornell
614-784-0538
csmithberger@yahoo.com

Sally Crandall
614-445-8016
scrandal@earthlink.net
Veronica Fenney-Okafor
614-258-8884
vfennyokafor@sbcglobal.net

Julie McGhee
614-891-6731
julie_mcgee@att.net

Roy Nichols
(614)339-9880
nicholsworth1946@Hotmail.co

Melanie Pratt
614-481-9674
storyteller@gmail.com

Cathy Jo Smith
614-875-3304
Storyteller@dublin.com

Larry Staats
614-891-6293
cfsstaats@gmail.com

Bizzie Vunderink
419-922-1499
omabv@yahoo.com

Editor
Frank McGarvey
frankmcgarvey@gmail.com



Our Next SOCO Meeting

Our next SOCO meeting will be on **Sept. 23, 2017** at **09:30a.m.** in St. Matthias' Reading Enrichment Room. St. Matthias is located at 1582 Ferris Rd. in Columbus. ***This is a new time (see page 4)*** This will be a busy meeting. Old friends getting back together, ballots for Tellabration, preparing for Tellabration. Come early and get a good seat.

As Always Lyn is Quite Busy

Announcing! AFFRILACHIAN STORYTELLING with Instructor Lyn Ford, at the Joseph C. Campbell Folk School, Brasstown, North Carolina

Date: Sunday, Sep 3 - Friday, Sep 8, 2017

Within the Appalachian hills and valleys lies a transcultural tradition of folktales, folklore, food and healing folkways, sweetened by and stirred into an age-old heritage of African-American narratives. From this Affrilachian tradition and culture, we explore motifs, characters, story models, "writing" styles, and personal connections to the historical, humorous, haunting, and heartfelt common ground we all share. Everyone is welcome to discover and rediscover, talk, write, and play. Concert Monday evening.

Info at: https://classes.folkschool.org/class_details.aspx?pk=19881

Lyn Ford is also Storyteller-in-Residence at the International Storytelling Center in Jonesborough, Tennessee, September 19 - 23.

More information is available at: <http://www.storytellingcenter.net/events/storytelling-live/tir-schedule/lyn-ford/>

And

Lyn will be a featured teller at the 26th Annual Black Master Storytelling Festival, "SIGNIFYIN' & TESTIFYIN'", September 28 - 30 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Fellow featured tellers are Valerie Tutson from Rhode Island, Oba William King from Illinois, Mother Minter and Gran'Daddy Junebug both from North Carolina, Mama Koku of Georgia, Toni Simmons from Texas, and Beverly Cottman from Minnesota. This is a great honor for me. More information is available at:

<https://www.blackstorytellers.com/2017--signifyin---testifyin---festival.html>

Spring on Medical School Campus

I think Spring has finally arrived. Echoes of ancient jokes occasionally flit through my mind and one of those was from Medical School days. During my freshman year, Spring Quarter, I had bacteriology class right after lunch. The 1 PM slot was dreaded by all the professors because many of the medical students actually studied a lot, even into the night, most of the students did eat lunch, the lecture hall was crowded with 150 students and would become very warm by the end of an hour of lecturing, and significant snoring would compete with the speaker by the end of class. In fact, we regularly had a noon time touch-football game on the lawn beside hallowed old Hamilton Hall, our "home" during the first two years of school, and so some of us were winded and sweaty from the exercise when we entered the class room. To make matters worse, if you can think it could be worse, the bacteriology professor was terribly dull; he spoke in a monotone, his lectures were done by reading his notes from behind his dais, and everyone knew that his tests were taken directly out of the text book.

This has been a very long set-up for a very short joke: the bacteriology professor, in spite of shortcomings, had a dry sense of humor and would drop in a pun occasionally for the benefit of those who were still awake. On this particular day he opened his lecture by saying, "I think Spring is here, I saw a purple turban as I came across campus."

I am sure that such an ethnic joke would get him fired today in our atmosphere of hyper-spookiness, but that was in the days of tolerance (1961) and we all knew that he was slyly commenting on the increasing numbers of Indian students drawn to Ohio State.

Bill Myers, MD

WE CRE8 CBUS EVENT!

Sunday, September 17: you won't want to miss this one! Our featured poet is Westerville's own **Amit Majmudar**, who is currently Ohio's Poet Laureate! The September show will also feature **Lyn Ford**, who has performed at the National Storytelling Festival and was the first storyteller to be nominated for a Governor's Award for the Arts!

Host: **Chris Minton**

Location: Java Central Café in Westerville

Time: 3 – 5 PM

September 10 is "Swap Ideas Day".

No one seems to know how it got started, but the day is meant to remind us to share and trade ideas and concepts. Sounds like storytelling to me!

September 28, is "Ask a Stupid Question Day". This one has an interesting origin: In the 1980's, there was a movement by teachers to encourage their students to ask ore questions. "Kids sometimes hold back, fearing their question is stupid, and asking it will result in ridicule."* Teachers actually created this day, marking its celebration on September 28. If that day is on a weekend, the celebration of boldly spoken interrogative sentences is on the last day of the month.

*Info from holidayinsights.com

Lyn Ford

Santa Roy is looking forward to Christmas.

A couple of years ago at one of my Santa gigs, a little boy asked, "How come they call you Kris Kringle sometimes?"

I replied, "Well, in Germany I'm Kris Kringle. In England I'm Father Christmas. In France I'm Pere Noel. In Holland, I'm SinterKlaas."

"But what's your REAL name?" he asked.

"Well... a lot of folks just call me by my NICK name," I said.

"What's your Nick name?" he asked.

"Nick!" I replied.

His mother whispered "I'm so glad you had an answer for him - he just loves to stump people!"

Well, now I'm getting the role of a lifetime for me: I'll be **Kris Kringle** in Westerville North High School's production of **A Miracle on 34th Street** December 14, 15, 16 & 17. They wanted a Real Bearded Santa. The director had me read three pages of dialog with her, then listened to me sing 3 songs, and picked one to use in the show. Her enthusiasm is contagious; she effused that I would be "a perfect fit" in the role. The rest of the cast will be students of varying ages - elementary & high school.

I got part of the script, will have it all later this month. Rehearsals begin November 2.

I'm pumped!

Roy Nichols

Dues Are Due!

That's right! It's time to pay your annual dues to SOCO for 2017-2018. It's still \$15.00 to support Storytellers of Central Ohio, to be part of a great support group to yourself, to be able to tell stories as a member of SOCO at places like the Columbus Arts Festival, Tellabration, Fireside Tales, Columbus Storytelling Adventures, and lots more. If you paid for more than one year the last time you paid dues you may NOT have to pay this year. Check your listing on the SOCO website - the year written at the end of your listing is when your membership expires. If it says 2017, it's time to pay. And soon it will be time for the SOCO monthly meetings (friendship, business, programs, telling) will start again - like in September. And, though you can join SOCO any time of the year, you must be a paid dues member by SEPTEMBER 30 if you want to be considered for telling at Tellabration 2017.

Joyce Geary, Tres.

OSN (Ohio Storytelling Network) Meeting Coming Up!

OHIO STORYTELLERS REUNION for Ohio Storytellers Network [formerly known as O.O.P.S!] Current and former members as well as 'wanna join' people interested in storytelling are welcome to attend!

The Reunion will be held at:

Agents Realty & Auction Service Rental Facility,
23024 County Rd. 621, Coshocton, OH 43812 (off State Route 36)

SATURDAY, SEPT. 16, 2017, 11:00AM - 5:00PM

Casual, open mike event! Reunion chairs: Cristie Merce and [Janelle Reardon](#). We will be meeting old friends and making new ones also, as well as telling stories, and planning for a 2018 OSN conference. NO preregistration, \$10 at door. Lunch, beverages, and snacks provided.

Joyce Geary

What is an NSN Ohio Liaison?

As NSN Ohio Liaison, I am supposed to collect information about what is going on in Ohio related to storytelling - groups, festivals, individuals.... for instance, I will tell NSN about the meeting with OSN (Ohio Storytelling Network - formerly OOPS) in September (see article) although I will be out of the country then and rely on YOU to tell me what happened so I can tell NSN! I also rely on Larry Staats' wonderful mailings of storytelling activities sent out each month. I talk to or e-mail other storytellers

from other parts of Ohio. And I rely on YOU to call or e-mail me any news you have. For instance, I may be able to tell some Norse folktales/ stories on the mailboat/ ship my husband and I will be traveling on along the western Norway fjords/ coastal towns as I miss the September SOCO meeting!

Julie's Summer.

Looking back on the summer I did some programs but mostly I remember working to restore the flexibility to my right arm which is now back to 75% and I'll keep working on it. My son got married and their beautiful wedding with its **pre** and **after** activities was fun and engrossing. Had good opportunities to connect with some of the grandchildren who are rapidly approaching adulthood, which is good for both age groups.

However my most intensive intellectual experience in the last several months was the developing of two programs for the young and not-so-young focusing on Fionn mac Cool.

Now Fionn, a legendary, mythical personage of the 3rd Century was the most celebrated hero in Irish literature and folklore. Stories concerning him are continuous in the literature for over 1,000 years. Fionn mac Cumhail the person was known as a seer, a poet, warrior and a chieftain. He was the central figure in a group of stories/ legend entitled the Fenian Cycle. He became the leader of the Fianna; a mobile national militia recruited from the war bands from the war bands of the many local chieftains and kings of Ireland during the time of Cormac mac Art. This militia was entrusted with the securing of Ireland's coast from invasion as well as maintaining the stability of the king's law and order.

Fionn's temperament was widely praised as a wise and just leader. Yet in the legend of Diarmuid and Grainne he is portrayed as somewhat of a vengeful tyrant, which is unusual to show the hero in an unflattering way. Yet I liked that because it made the strong wise leader of men more human. In short he was loved in spite of being a very real human with human frailties.

The Fionn Cycle takes place in two worlds: the real Ireland and that of the otherworld and between those worlds the Fianna passed freely enjoying all sorts of adventures. I think we need to remember Fionn's stories to keep alive in our consciousness the echoes of a time that is no more.

Modern Ireland is now resurrecting Fionn's story, a group is planning to put together a modern illustrated book of his life and stories. It may turn out to be as farfetched and as exciting as all the adventure stories on our media today.

Julie McGhee August 2017

Laborday Telling at Ohio Village

Hi Folks, Just thought I'd send a reminder about our telling on Labor Day weekend;
Saturday Sept 2- 1:30 Cathy Jo...2:30 Bizzie Vunderink...3:30 Frank McGarvey
Sunday Sept.3 - 1:30 Roy Nichols...2:30 Julie McGhee...Larry Staats.

Thank you so much for sharing your time and talents.

Julie O'Keefe McGhee

Facebook page

We Have a Facebook page for members.

Please go to

Storytellers of Central Ohio and request to join. We will let you in!

Member, you can post pictures of your events, tips, comments, techniques, whatever you want to share.

Our meeting for September will be the 23rd at **9:30 am. THIS IS A NEW TIME.** Please note. And this is a really late meeting because many of you did not want to miss the other Teller events on the 9th and 16th. We want you to go to as many events that will give you a chance to tell, learn, share, network, so for this September, we are meeting on the 23rd. Our meeting time has shifted because I have a long standing Saturday morning training call and you guys were so gracious to accommodate my schedule.

I'm looking for suggestions and recommendations for meeting topics. Please email me at rebecca.coleman653@yahoo.com with your ideas. I want to make sure these meetings will continue to serve your interests and fire you up to have more fun telling and listening.

Looking forward to seeing you all on the 23rd.

Rebecca Coleman

The Southern Ohio Storytelling Festival

We have an opportunity to enjoy some fine storytellers close to home. Chillicothe has been hosting this festival for a dozen years. Come and get to know these fine tellers up close.

You can also enjoy the Grand Old Theater, The Majestic Theater.

And don't forget Friday night's Scary Stories. They will start at 9:30 in the Majestic.



Southern Ohio
Storytelling
Festival



Kevin Coleman.

Mike Anderson

Tim Tingle

Andy Offutt Irwin



Geraldine Buckley

Joe Herrington

Frank McGarvey

September 7-9, 2017
Friday and Saturday at the Majestic Theatre
Scary Stories Friday Night 9:30PM