



# NEWSLETTER

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## Our Next SOCO Meeting

Our next SOCO meeting will be on **Dec 9, 2017** at **09:30a.m.** in St. Matthias' Reading Enrichment Room. St. Matthias is located at 1582 Ferris Rd. in Columbus. Bring your favorite stories and your favorite cookies to share. No business meeting!

### "Ode to Thanksgiving"

Even though Thanksgiving will be over by the time you read this newsletter, you can save this for next year!

"Ode to Thanksgiving" (poet unknown)

May your stuffing be tasty.

May your turkey be plump.

May your potatoes and gravy have nary a lump.

May your yams be delicious and your pies take the prize.

And, may your Thanksgiving dinner stay off of your thighs!

Here is a fall short story that usually gets a chuckle, even from non hunters:

### A Turkey Hunters Tale

(author unknown)

Tommy and Billy were discussing their latest turkey shoot. Tommy said emphatically, "I am NEVER taking my wife, Laura, shooting with me again!" "That bad, huh?" replied Billy. Tommy responded, "Yep, she did everything wrong! She chattered away, she disturbed the undergrowth, she loaded the wrong gauge of shot, she used the wrong luring whistle..." "Wow!" said Billy, "that sounds awful." "Oh you haven't heard the worst of it," said Tommy. "She shot more turkeys than me!"

**Teri Lott**

# A Christmas Blues Vespers and Storytelling Event Hope, Peace, Joy, Love

Sunday, December 10, 4-6pm,  
at Java Central Café

20 S. State St., Westerville OH 43081

Father Joseph Kovitch, bluesman Charles Sealy, and storyteller Lyn Ford, share a spiritual gift of music and stories that shines a light and touches the heart for the season of joy, hope, peace, and love.

All are welcome! Join us



## Greetings Good Tellers!

The season is upon us, I look out the window at 5:30pm each day and watch the lights on my neighbors' roofs and trees blink on and shine.

I feel as if we just took down the wreaths and finery a few months ago, the year is ending fast. As always I worked at number of artistic pursuits this year. These are the highlights- I told stories in schools via the ArtsBridge Program in West Virginia in the spring. I taught creative drama workshops and directed The Little Mermaid at the Abbey Theater in the summer. I had the rare opportunity to take on the role of a once famous woman poet from Ohio at the end of the

summer. Her name is Sarah Piatt and she wrote and published during the Civil War and long after that as well. I shared her poems at a gathering celebrating her work in at The Piatt Castles in West Liberty. Of all the projects I took on this year that was the most engrossing and challenging. Playing a woman who struggled to develop her art during a time when women where considered the intellectual inferiors of their male peers touched me and invigorated my interest in women's literature of the period. On this topic I will have more to say in up coming communications. I see the year out with two drama/ theater residencies in Central Ohio.

I just ended a project that focused on The Underground Railroad at The Oestelen Center for Youth, residential treatment center in Springfield. These high school students did a wonderful job of stepping into the shoes of men and woman who took their freedom in spite of awesome forces that worked against them. And in December I will lead a drama residency at The Arts Castle in Delaware.

After that I'll share the holidays with family and friends and then I will hibernate a while. I am truly looking foreword to the hibernation part!

Much Joy to you good tellers and all sweet blessings in the New Year!

**Michelle Cornell**



## Things and More Things

‘Tis the season to buy gifts, write/mail Christmas Cards, decorate the house, bake Christmas Cookies and all these seasonal activities both time consuming and possibly expensive fill/clutter our lives right now. But maybe that won't happen if you can take a step back and look at all you are doing and give yourself a minute or two to examine all of your past holidays in what you are doing or plan to do.

It will work this way: when you decorate the house look at a specific item and remember how you acquired it, who gave it to you and how it became meaningful for you...in my case I have a faded, paper Father Christmas figure that is part of a collage and every time I see this figure I remember my Swiss grandmother with whom I had a loving nurturing relationship. She loved her Christmas decorations and so do I.

When I bake the Springerle cookies each year I remember the cookies that were baked at Foersters, a bakery, candy and restaurant establishment that was important to my family. We all loved those anise-flavored cookies and so that bring back all those memories. So I'll munch this year's batch with gusto.

When I go shopping to purchase my Christmas gifts I remember the Christmas Eve as we closed the store and my father came rushing up saying rather breathlessly that he hadn't bought anything bought anything for Mom and we had to rush a block up the street to Lazarus to find something...it was 6:00 p.m. and as we ran into Lazarus seeing the weary clerks beginning to straighten shelves and counters and quickly perusing their depleted stocks we had to look and make fast decisions. We succeeded and I'll always remember Dad and I laughing and having a fun time on that shopping trip...so shopping isn't always so bad.

After we've shopped then we have to wrap those presents well on that Christmas Eve I just recounted we discovered...BAGS, a good way to cover a present in a hurry. Something I must admit I still do but once in a while I'll try for the old-fashioned box, wrapping paper ribbon and bow. Keeps the seasonal traditions alive.

Now for the Christmas Cards I always liked getting those cards and connecting with friends and family that we didn't see enough and those card did and still do reminding me of the circle of love that those cards gave keeping that wrapping of love as

part of my life because those who sent those cards are letting me know that they want me as part of their life.

So when I do my Christmas have-to activities this year I'll take a second or two to remember all the Christmases past with those seasonal activities and this year I'll add another layer on my Christmas cake. It won't feel like clutter it'll feel richly fulfilling. Merry Christmas Everyone!

**Julie O'Keefe McGhee 2017**



Anyone know this  
Gentleman?



You better Watch out.  
Don't get on his  
naughty list