



NEWSLETTER

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The Storytellers Of Central Ohio was founded in 1990 to promote the art of storytelling, and to foster the growth and development of storytellers.

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Funny Stories by Funny People

SOCO is starting a summer storytelling event, which starts at 8:00PM on Wednesday, August 11 at The Wild Geese Creative. The tellers for this event are Lyn Ford, Adele Browne, Emily Bailey, Sally Crandall, Julie McGhee and Emil McVeigh and Jerry Smith. The theme is "Funny Stories" Come and hear some great tales!! Admission is a \$5.00 donation to WGC.

Jim Flanagan



What I Did On my Summer Vacation

by Cathy Jo Smith.



It's been a chock-full summer for me, mostly with family matters. Two graduations (one high school, one college), a trip to Florida (two days with the mother-in-law, two with the Mouse and two with Harry Potter! Yes, Universal got Hogwarts right and butterbeer is awesome!), several tours and other presentations for visitors to Dublin and my daughter Marita got engaged (not marrying until after two more years of college, tho). And here comes the

Dublin Irish Festival, August 6-8 at Coffman Park in Dublin.

Several SOCO members will be telling there (Frank McGarvey, Julie McGhee, Melanie Pratt, John Locke and Michael O'Malley, besides myself) as well as others from all over--come on out and join the fun! Don't forget to stop by and say hello to me at the Wake Tent, too! Schedules available on-line at

www.dublinirishfestival.org



Strong Social Life Can Lengthen Life

A new study suggests relationships may be the key to a longer life. NBC's Erika Edwards reports. (but this study found the opposite is true for people who only socialize via electronic gadgets and interfaces--) A MUST SEE SHORT REPORT.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21134540/vp/38436064#38436064>

Wendy Gleich

Another good reason to belong to OOPS

OOPS has a new service to offer. Check out the the website listed below. You can now get photos on the OOPS website.

Ohio Order for the Preservation of Storytelling. For Storytellers from throughout Ohio. <http://oopstorytellers.ning.com/photo/photo>

Larry Staats

Sally and Jack and the Beanstalk?

Earlier this summer, I took a really dirty area rug into Borchers on Front Street to be cleaned and, while I was there, I met Jack....of Jack and the Beanstalk. I did. If you go there, don't tell him I said that or I'll be embarrassed. I even took Jessica, my youngest, over so she could meet him too because I thought he was such a sweetie. He and I had several visits, the second of which was about an Oriental

rug I found at the used furniture store on Third St.

The rug was so beautiful that I couldn't get it out of my heart. They let me take it home for a trial run, and I took it right over to Jack. Even though Jack's real trade is as a landscape architect and his real name is Brian, not Jack, he gave the rug a thumbs up and I bought it. That purchase has led me to lots of reading about handmade rugs and some great stories of mystery and intrigue. Here's the book I'm reading now. I highly recommend it. *The Wild Root of Madder: Chasing the History, Mystery and Lore of the Persian Carpet* by Brian Murphy. It's a travel story with carpets at the center.

Sally Crandall

The National Storytelling Conference

The National Storytelling Conference took place this year in sunny, southern California - in LA. The weather was 10 to 15 degrees cooler than here in Ohio. The first few days I was there I spent with an old friend who took me on a tour of LA and other parts. We, of course, went to the La Brea Tar Pits, where I snagged my 500th geocache (one of my goals for the trip!). He took me down to San Juan Capistrano to the old mission - awesome, I do so love old ruins and to nearby Crystal Cove State Historic Park. It runs along the Pacific Coast Highway for several miles. I am so grateful for Dan - he maneuvered the LA freeway system like a driver at Le Mans! He hauled me up to the hotel in Woodland Hills from Whittier where he lives on Thursday morning for the conference. Upon entering the hotel the 1st person I saw was our own Kevin Cordi! As the conference proceeded, I was quickly overcome with sensory overload. The workshops I attended

were great - although after attending Roth Stotter's workshop on string stories, I realized I need to take "Remedial Stringing"!! I attended 2 showcases of Pacific tellers (those tellers who live in CA, OR or WA) - these folks are awesome.

Throughout the entire conference, the chair - Michael D. McCarty - could be seen helping or checking on things. I went to the Storytell StorySwap hosted by Mary Garrett - for those of you who attended the O.O.P.S! conference this year, one and the same.

I hosted the "Bars, Cars, and Dating Scares" storyswap on Saturday night - one of the tellers was David LeBarron, who had written his story at 3am the night before while tending bar - great story. The next day he was one of the Pacific tellers I heard - even better!

I attended one of the fringe sessions - Priscilla Howe on the tale of Queen Birta and King Pippin. She had translated from the old French this wonderful tale of murder and betrayal.

I would give you more but I am still trying to assimilate everything I heard and saw - as I stated earlier it was true sensory overload.

Sláinte,
Melanie D. Pratt

Spooky Tales

In addition to our annual evening of Spooky tales at Blendon Woods, several members of SOCO will have a night of **spooky tales** at the Wild Goose Creative at 8:00PM on October 30th. Come and bring a friend to hold your hand.

Keep an eye on your newsletter for more details on both events.

Frank McGarvey

The Effect of Books

A recent article forwarded to me by Emil McVeigh from the July 9, 2010 New York Times, written by David Brooks gives us evidence of the value of what we are doing through Columbus Story Adventures.

"Recently, book publishers gave 852 disadvantaged students 112 books (of their own choosing) to take home with them at the end of the school year. They did this for three successive years.

Then the researchers, led by Richard Allington of the University of Tennessee, looked at those students' test scores. They found that those students who brought the books home had significantly higher test scores than other students. These students were less affected by 'summer slide' - the decline that especially afflicts lower-income students during vacation months. In fact, just having those twelve books seemed to have as much positive effect as attending summer school."

For those of you who don't know, one of the projects that we as members have developed and supported, The Columbus Story Adventures, provides six weeks of storytelling, and story development to disadvantaged students. Each week that we go to the Dowd, or Run the Race or St. Stephen's Community Center, or any of the other places we have presented our program, we give the children their choice of books to take home and keep. So, each child at the end of those six weeks will have six books that they have been given to keep.

Over the past several years we have given away thousands of books. The students always seem happy to be able to have books they can call their own.

Story Soup is our main fund raiser for this project. We also get funds from Speak Easy, so please support both.

Frank McGarvey

Westerville Arts Festival

Once again SOCO made our presence known to the public by having our tent at the Westerville Arts Festival. We were able to talk to many people about storytelling and demonstrate storytelling as well.

Jim Flanagan, Julie McGhee, Larry Staats, Connie Pottle and I staffed the tent and told stories on the North Stage. We received free booth space in exchange for telling.

It is a lot of fun to interact with the people and we meet many wonderful folks, some of whom express interest in SOCO. We are getting our name out there.

(file photo from an earlier event)



(This is an extra edition of our newsletter. We usually don't publish during August but I thought it worth doing since we had some things to share with you.

I wish to thank the contributors.)

Storytelling Promotes...

