

*Toronto Storytelling Festival 2012*

## 1,001 Friday Nights at the Festival

Friends House was the perfect location for this year's 1,001 Festival Friday night. The 200-seat hall gave an intimacy to the proceedings which was lacking in some of the Festival's earlier, more cavernous venues. And space



Ivan Coyote

was filled, right to the doors. Almost everyone had a seat; having an SRO house helped fuel the lively mood of the audience. Hosts Anna Kerz and Howard Kaplan were ready .

Ivan Coyote was a good choice to begin the evening. She sent us into fits of laughter with her tale of a particular plane voyage—"I don't use a camera to remember a trip, I make a story out of it"--- and her encounter with a

snow-globe salesman, a fundamentalist Christian. It was a matter of mistaken identity, gender identity in this case. While the dialogue between Ivan and her seat-mate was truly funny, she presented the character of the well-meaning salesman with respect, even fondness.

We had two storyteller guests sur-named Martin at the Festival; Richard Martin, British-born but dwelling in Germany, came first. His selkie story from the Orkney Island of Westrey was beautifully told, a sombre tale of revenge and forgiveness. Then we had the other Martin, Rafe Martin, who lives in Rochester but has visited Canada to tell Buddhist stories and lead meditation workshops. He treated us to an episode from the great epic of India, the Mahabharata, in which Prince Yudisthira meets a river spirit and

*A Note From the Editor*

### ***"Still charmed..."***



After more than three decades of doing classroom workshops on music, drama and storytelling I am still charmed by the desire that children have to tell me something about their own lives. When I ask if there are any

must answer three riddles to keep his life. A dramatic teller, Rafe shot the riddles out to the audience. Most of us did not do as well as Yudisthira with the responses!

We had a welcome change of pace when B.J. McCabe was announced as the winner of the Alice Kane/Anne Smythe scholarships presented by Storytelling Toronto. She spoke briefly about her plans for encouraging storytelling in high-need community settings and then told, with charm and humour, an episode from her childhood involving the noisy rats behind the walls of her bedroom and her grandfather's unusual solution to the problem.

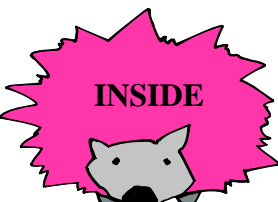
The second half of the evening began with Seung Ah Kim introducing two members of her Pansori storytelling group from Korea, singer Seo

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questions more often than not the little hands fly up in the air and they tell me something like, "My Dad has a guitar just like yours." Or "My Aunt's name is Deborah." Or "We just had baby kittens at our house." I then suggest that they start by asking the why, when, where, how come questions which sometimes works.

But really what is fun here is that they each child has a story to tell. And by telling a story the child feels

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## A World Full of Stories — cont'd

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a sense of belonging or fitting in.

When I look for stories to tell I think I am doing much the same thing as the children do. I want a story to help me understand my place in the world, to enlighten my present situation, to sometimes tickle my funny bone and to inspire me or reinforce what it is I believe in. Sometimes the story is a mirror to understanding one's journey, a warning, or a reminder of what really is important.

With stories for children we as tellers are able to invite them to see through that looking glass, to learn lessons, to celebrate the wonders of the world and to help them cope with day to day carousel of ups and downs. With stories for adults we entertain, challenge, and engage the imaginations of those who desire step into the magical realm of wonder and awe as much as we desire to tell it.

Dear readers happy journeys as you tell on and on and on.....



**\*\*NOTA BENE\*\***



## AT THE CANOE CLUB DANCE

### An Announcement from Deborah Dunleavy

Following the presentation on the "Telling Hands" project that I made to my associates at the AGM of Storytelling Toronto last October I realized that there was so much more to do with the thirty plus hours of stories I had collected from the seniors in Gananoque, Ontario. I put together an application for the Word of Mouth program at the Ontario Arts Council. I proposed that I create "At The Canoe Club Dance", a one-woman storytelling performance that recounts the lives of the people living in the village between 1930 and 1945. And the good news is that I was awarded \$5000 to get to work. Now I know what I am doing this summer. My goal is to have the piece ready for touring by next summer.



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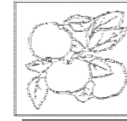
Every Friday night since 1978 storytellers and listeners have been gathering in downtown Toronto. Each evening is hosted by an accomplished storyteller. Anyone is welcome to tell a story. Every Friday night is unique.

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PIPPIN is the newsletter of  
Storytelling Toronto



**The Storytellers School of Toronto** is a registered, non-profit organization that provides a creative home for a community of storytellers, listeners, and story-explorers. Our mission is to inspire, encourage and support storytelling for listeners, tellers and those who have not yet heard. Since 1979 we have been providing courses and workshops; holding gatherings, festivals and events to celebrate and present the art of storytelling; supporting the creative work of storytellers; and producing publications about storytelling and storytellers.

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# A String of Simple Joys

*I attended four storytelling sessions on the last Saturday of the festival. What follows are partial overviews, or in some cases, glimpses of intimate moments supplied by four grand storytellers. — John Bohusz, Alumni of The 1000 Islands Yarnspinners*



**Rafe Martin** intentionally paused his telling of the Grimm's fairy tale, *The Six Swans*, just one sentence into the tale, after speaking the words, "the king was lost (in the forest)". He told the audience that too often phrases in fairy tales like "the king was lost" are spoken in an matter-of-fact manner, and that, if we each recalled our own childhood, we would remember that high emotion that accompanied us when 'getting lost'. Like when we lost the hand and sight of your mother in a grocery store. **THAT**, he emphasised, is being **LOST**. He then resumed the tale, but this time loudly emphasising the panic of the king: **THE KING WAS LOST! "HELP! HELP! SOMEONE HELP ME!"**

If Rafe was encouraging us, to get more from the rest of the story by more intimately identifying with its

characters, I know that it worked on me!

**Bernice Gei-Ying Hune** told a very uplifting set of stories that collectively gave an honest portrayal of what, thankfully, appears to be a beautiful and indomitable Chinese spirit. She also provided an important glimpse at the struggles of Chinese Canadians up until the recent past.

*One story spanned several generations of a family and it showed why strong cultural values were important to the Chinese people who faced up to the hardship and despair imposed by the infamous Chinese Head Tax, and the bias that lay behind it.*

Bernice told a number of truly heart-warming and equally amusing story segments, one of which concerned a daughter learning a 'Chinese' version of the *Three Little Pigs* story from her mother. Soon afterwards I delighted my own mother with it.

**Aubrey Davis** could have been telling me his series of *Eastern Teaching Stories* as a welcome visitor in my own living room. Such was his warmth and my comfort level during his session. As storyteller, he was equally adept and entertaining whether voicing the words of wise men or fools.

Aubrey's stories varied in length and complexity. Some were serious, and others less so. Some of the story 'teachings' were awesome others were enigmatic, still others were seen through laughter, and all of them delivered without preaching or pretentiousness.

He made several observations about accessing the wisdom within teaching stories, saying that stories can

contain the most important things that there are to know about life. Adding that teaching stories can be a framework for a larger understanding, and that we don't have to believe them, we can just "try them out".

**Robert Seven Crows** impressed me with his inspiring enthusiasm throughout his very entertaining storytelling session. He took obvious delight in sharing his stories.

In the central story a somewhat reluctant teenager takes his turn at providing some home care to his Mi'kmaq grandfather in his shack by the lake. The good-natured grandfather uses some delightful deception and trickery to introduce the grandson to important old stories of their first nation. And so, the audience heard this sample of stories also.

As I heard the grandfather doing what he could to pass on stories of his culture to his grandson, I was really hoping that the young man would "get it". He did get it. He was singing a song to his sleepy grandfather at story's end.



# The Battle of York and Other Ballads and Tales of the War of 1812

The Market Gallery, Saturday, March 31, 2012

Reviewed by Phyllis [Broom] Walker

We look around today and see names that have a history but until we hear from a storyteller or read a book we don't really know the past. Lorne Brown and Pat Bisset enlightened us and told us stories in the Market Gallery of the battle of York and tales of the War of 1812.

Storytelling without a ballad or two from Lorne does not happen, and so we heard "Come All ye Bold Canadians", "Upon the Heights of Queenston", and a ballad about Battersby's horses. I used to think of Windsor as the home of salt, but now thanks to the power of storytelling I know that it had another name: the town of Sandwich, although Lorne explained to us that it wasn't really a town but [wink, wink, nod] – it was a hamlet.

In June 1812 the Americans declared war on Canada. What could Canada do but defend itself? General Brock, Commander of the Canadian troops, called on the York volunteers to sail with him to Sandwich and defended the town from the attack of General Hull. The Americans surrendered. Lorne then sang "Come All Ye Bold Canadians", the first ballad that ever mentioned the word Toronto, actually York as it was called then, a tale that tells of the famous Battle of Detroit and the resolve of the army to: "Fight those proud Yankee boys with neither dread nor fear."

With one lucky shot the battle was over and as the American soldiers

looked on at the gaping hole in Fort Detroit, the resolve to continue fighting passed and they surrendered.

Pat Bisset shared stories of Tecum-



Here are Pat Bisset and Lorne Brown telling tales and singing songs about York and the War of 1812 in the Market Gallery. Photo by Rowan Hall.

seh and his soldiers who supported the British as they battled the Americans to keep that part of Canada British. Tecumseh was a great leader, orator and a well-respected warrior by both his people and the British. His friendship with Brock allowed them both to be successful as they battled side by side for sovereignty of the land. Pat gave an account of the shrewd decision by Tecumseh to weave his men in and out of the forest, thereby giving the illusion that there were thousands of natives. This helped them to win. The Americans believing that they were outnumbered soon lost their morale and were defeated. There were many Native warriors who fought to preserve their land as they realized that they were being absorbed with foreigners; as Tecumseh stated: "We are made miserable by the white people who are never satisfied and are always encroaching on our land."

Without Tecumseh as an ally to General Brock there is no doubt that the history of these battles would have ended differently. As Lorne tells us of the splendid figure of General Brock and the famous quote, "Push on brave York volunteers", we could see the men climbing up the heights at Queenston, we could see General Brock leading his men and being so visible in his red jacket that the Americans could identify him with ease.

Brock was mortally wounded with one shot through the heart. This rather minor skirmish is now well-remembered because of the death of General Brock; he was a suitable and respected ally for Tecumseh. Memories of the battle were recounted in the poem "Upon the Heights of Queenston" - the author apparently unknown. However, Lorne discovered in the Osborne Collection the missing author - James L. Hughes [1846 - 1935] - a legend in the Toronto Board of Education. It is wonderful that this mystery has now been solved and that more facts have been unearthed around this poem, now a ballad set to music by Alan Mills.

Toronto's monument to the War of 1812 stands in the Old Military Burying Ground. Now part of Victoria Memorial Square, this is York's first cemetery and the resting place for some of the Battle of York's fallen. Pat Bisset told us wonderful stories about this hidden Toronto gem, where some say the ghostly sound of horses' hooves can still be heard in the stillness of the night.

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# Common Threads

Review of two workshops at the Festival  
**By Dawne McFarlane**

This article began as a review of Ivan Coyote's workshop at the Toronto Storytelling Festival, and turned into a reflection on the common threads that wove through both Ivan's and Richard Martin's workshops.

Like the magic of connection that unfolds, all unplanned between stories told on a Friday at 1001 Nights, so these unexpected connections emerged as I drank deeply of the nectar of the two separate workshops. Both were held in the beautiful Dodem Kanonhsa' Elder's Cultural Facility, so conducive to transporting us to a time out of time.

Ivan and Richard are very different tellers and spoke in very different voices, yet landed on similar notes. They encouraged participants to find their own way in learning, shaping, and telling stories.

Ivan boldly stated, "F\*#! genre- it's your story- tell it the way you want!",

while Richard put it more politely; "The first golden rule of storytelling is there are no rules." Both began with laughter before moving into more serious territory. Ivan; "humor is a release, it opens the heart- if you're serious first it meets defense." Richard; "Start with hahaha moment then move to ah!, and end with ahhh when building a program." They then moved into stories of great depth, each telling about intense wounds and forgiveness.

Ivan and Richard both spoke of the bones of story, each separating flesh from bones. Ivan invited us to look at elements of personal story and articulated bones as "facts" (birth, death, appearance) and flesh as such things as dreams, doubts, fears and hopes are made of. Richard offered five lines of a story skeleton as a tool for learning a story, giving us the opportunity to flesh it out with our own embellishments of character and landscape.

Then there was the message of the importance of practicing your story. Ivan gave a stern warning about the



possible dangers of telling to a "support group"- sound advice. Constructive feedback can be a delicate thing, which gave me yet another opportunity to appreciate our own Celia Lottridge, whose skills in teaching the art and craft of giving and receiving constructive storytelling feedback surpass those of anyone else I know.

And so the gifts of these generous and skilled tellers from afar both broadened my horizons and illuminated the gifts in my own back yard!

## With a Little Help from Our Friends

**Submitted gratefully by Dinny Biggs**

With a team of 41 volunteers this year, the Festival tasks with book sales, information tables, ticket sales, volunteer hosts, stewards and room monitors went smoothly, with only a few hiccups, during the 4 day Festival. If you could have watched behind the scenes, you would also



have seen Festival Volunteers setting up chairs, placing signage, biking as an emergency courier, creating nametags, stapling workshop handouts and counting attendance at each performance. Enormous thanks to all the Festival Volunteers for jobs well done!

The last three years have proven to be an exciting and stimulating relationship with the

storytelling community in my capacity as the Festival Volunteer Coordinator. It was my pleasure to work with the Volunteer Team again this year and a special shout out to Hildy Stollery, Paul Robert and Bob Sherman for assisting me at the Volunteer Orientation sessions, and to Andy Morro on the festival production work he did with the volunteer team. My hat is also off to Festival Executive Director, Debra Baptiste, for her continued support, leadership and friendship throughout these last three years

# End of an Era in Baden

It will be the end of an era when The Story Barn in Baden closes its doors for the last time in June. Now in its twenty-fifth year, the storytelling centre was known for many years as The Second Story Workshop. About six years ago the name was changed. Maybe the word Barn in the new name was what brought it to the attention of Township officials who have been checking into outbuildings being used for something other than their original purpose, then enforcing provincial fire regulations and township building codes as they apply to "assembly occupancy."

The decision to shut down was precipitated, but not dictated, by the changes which would be required to comply with various codes. Township officials were courteous and professional, and have been both helpful and accommodating as we reached the decision to close. Storytelling will continue, perhaps even under the Story Barn name, in another yet-to-be determined location.

What we lose in leaving the barn is a designated storytelling space, a room that was home to all who came out to listen and tell stories. The quirky assortment of chairs and cushions, the wood stove and candles, the bookshelves with hundreds of storytelling books available for loan, the chair on the wall providing space for the listening spirits of tellers and listeners who are no longer with us... these and other things, each with a story, even the very walls themselves which are imbued with story and song are the things we will not be able to replicate.

What we hope to gain in moving to a new location is a space that will be accessible rather than having stairs; that will allow for growth so that we will never again have to put up our "Sorry, Full House" sign. What we have already gained is great deal of publicity. Two local newspapers have had stories and photographs, a local magazine (for women over forty!) is doing an article next month. We had standing room only at storytelling this month and still had to turn people away after we had squeezed chairs into every possible corner.

With the news of the closing has come a flood of emails from across Canada, the U.S. and even one from Mexico. I have received loving and lovely testaments of what the Barn has meant to people, reminding me of how many have been touched by what existed here. One totally unexpected message was from Globe and Mail foreign correspondent Graeme Smith whose multi-media interviews Talking to the Taliban, won an Emmy for the G&M.

In the nineties, Graeme was one of a group of teens who came out to the teen storytelling nights I ran for a couple of years. In his email he said, "It's sad to hear that the Story Barn will close its doors. I can still remember the smell of the old wood, and the way you taught us to shape narratives. Your work left a lasting impression. Some of what I learned in that barn about cadence, voice, rhythm, and the sweet mysterious power of storytelling has translated into my newspaper work -- and, now, my recent struggle to write a book about southern Af-

ghanistan. Anyway, just wanted to say thanks."

I have always attributed the longevity and success of The Second Story Workshop / Story Barn to the wonderful space my husband created for us, but I now realize that there is something else that has kept us so vital for 25 years. It is the people: the people who come and create a new community each month, who support each other, who welcome old friends and newcomers alike into their midst; the people who may move away, but who plan visits to coincide with the first Friday of the month, or who stay on the mailing list so that they can read, in Mexico, about what we are doing; the people who carry the stories with them at the end of each gathering and who take the skills they have learned in workshops out into their families, workplaces, and neighbourhoods. These are the tellers and listeners who never considered for a moment that the storytelling would stop with the closing of the Barn, but immediately said, "Where will we go?"

The Barn is closing, but Story will carry on. It always does.

Mary-Eileen McClear, a freelance storyteller for 29 years, is the founder of The Story Barn and the Baden Storytellers' Guild. Watch for news about the new location for storytelling in Waterloo Region, and for news of a book sale as the Baden Storytelling Collection is dispersed.

[www.thestorybarn.ca](http://www.thestorybarn.ca)

# ***New Beginnings for Story Barn***

This Just In from Mary-Eileen McClear!!!

It's official. The new home of The Story Barn, which won't be the Story Barn any more I guess, will be in The Button Factory in Waterloo. Starting in September we'll be partnering with the Waterloo Community Arts Centre (WCAC) which is housed in an old button factory. It's a perfect fit for us. The space has character. WCAC Executive Director Heather Franklin is delighted to have us and has made us so welcome. She has found a shelf in a cupboard, and a locker for us so that we can keep things there and not have to lug everything there each month. She found space for the storytelling collection! We will build bookshelves which will house much of our collection plus provide space for some of the WCAC books. We will take the

quilted hanging made by one of our Guild members, a painting of the Story Barn done for me by one of our members and those two bits of memorabilia will remind us of where we were for 25 years.

The space will be good for us. It's near a bus stop. It will hold 50 people easily so we won't have to be turning

people away as we did when we set the Barn up for 36 (and squeezed in 40). It's accessible. It even has a train track that runs past it. I don't think it's used much, but it will be a reminder of the 8:45 train that always interrupted the stories in Baden. We will be included in the WCAC online and hard copy catalogue of events.

We are already partnering with WCAC on a Culture Days event in the fall and I'm sure there will be many other opportunities for cooperation as well. Plus, we have made some neat connections with other spaces which were willing to host us but which weren't quite the right match. Hopefully we'll be working with them as storytelling venues in the future.

The Button Factory is located at 25 Regina Street South, Waterloo and the website is <http://www.buttonfactoryarts.ca/index.html>



## **1,001 Friday Nights at the Festival con't**

*(Continued from page 1)*

Yoon Jang and drummer Insoo Kim. Although we could not understand the words of the song, there was no mistaking the intensity of the singer and the purity of her voice. It was a pleasure to see Seung Ah again; she has maintained contact with the Toronto storytelling community for several years and continues to tell stories in Seoul.

From Robert Seven Crows we heard a story of a loon, an expensive

watch and an ungrateful man. The modern touches did not detract from the folk quality of the tale, told with vigour. Seven Crows was followed by the mother-daughter duo of Donna Stewart and Ruth Stewart-Verger. They told the true story of a group of plucky Vancouver women joining forces to give their children a safe and convenient passage to school. I still have a mental image from that story of the mothers filing over the railroad tracks, forcing the oncoming train to stop. When Donna and Ruth finished

by saying, "And the bridge was put in," the applause resounded for both the justice of the ending and the skill of the two storytellers.

The evening came to a close with Newfoundland storyteller Andy Jones with his wildly funny version of "The White Cat", sending us home with the warm sensation of time well spent, stories well told, and the expectation of more stories to come at the Festival!

# Parent Child Mother Goose Concert and More

By Joan Bailey

I was feeling out of sorts, not at all enthusiastic about the hour-long drive into Toronto so I nearly didn't go. But in the end I did and I am so glad because it was a wonderful evening. The rich variety of stories, the atmospheric musical interludes and the general feeling of camaraderie turned my mood right around and I went home feeling like a much nicer person. Such is the power of Parent-Child Mother Goose.

The concert/fund-raiser on April 17<sup>th</sup> which was organized and hosted by Lynda Howes took place at The Inner Garden, 401 Richmond Street. It seems to me that the venue is just right for a storytelling gathering – not too big, with a cozy, intimate atmosphere.

Before the concert started as well as in-between stories Tom Melville played keyboard improvisations around nursery rhyme tunes. This added to the warm atmosphere and was also a good way to give the audience time to absorb one story before shifting gears to listen to the next one. Lynda has been involved with PCMG for many years and her passion for, and intimate knowledge of the organization showed through every detail of the event.

The concert also illustrated very well what PCMG is all about. Lynda opened the concert with a few words and in typical Lynda style asked the audience a riddle about the moon which set the mood for the stories which followed. The first half of the

concert gave us a chance to listen to stories well told by experienced tellers Ruth Danziger, Glenna Janzen and Celia Lottridge, each of whom have been directors of the program. There could be no better illustration of the power of stories than ancient tales told by these talented tellers. Homemade goodies were lavishly provided for the intermission again underlining that the PCMG project is really a community endeavor.

The second half of the concert treated us to more stories rhymes and anecdotes but this time from the



rhyme from India which has been used in the project since early days. It clearly conveyed the importance of the program both at a personal and a community level.

Lynda told the final story "The Picaro Bird" from Spain, so that the evening ended as it had begun – with the Moon. Then she asked Lorne Brown to lead us all in singing "All my Life's a Circle" which reinforced the community feeling.

Everyone who attended enjoyed traditional tales well told and I for one was reminded what an invaluable service PCMG provides to the community by helping new immigrants and making deep connections between parents and children.

Everyone is in for a real treat when the **Legless Stocking** presents "**An Evening with Chaucer and Boccaccio**" on Saturday, June 2, 2012 @ 7:30pm at the Christie Studio at Artscape

Wychwood Barns.

The Italian author and poet Giovanni Boccaccio was born in 1313 and is remembered for his bawdy tales of love which gave us a good understanding of 14th century life in Italy. Geof-

*(Continued on page 10)*



teachers in the program – Velrina Alexander, Harriet Xanthakos, Jody James and Maria Ordonez. I appreciated that they gave us a context for how the program works in the community, especially Jody James and Seema Walia who demonstrated a



## ***Norman Perrin: Lord of the Four Winds***

### **Submitted by Marylyn Peringer**

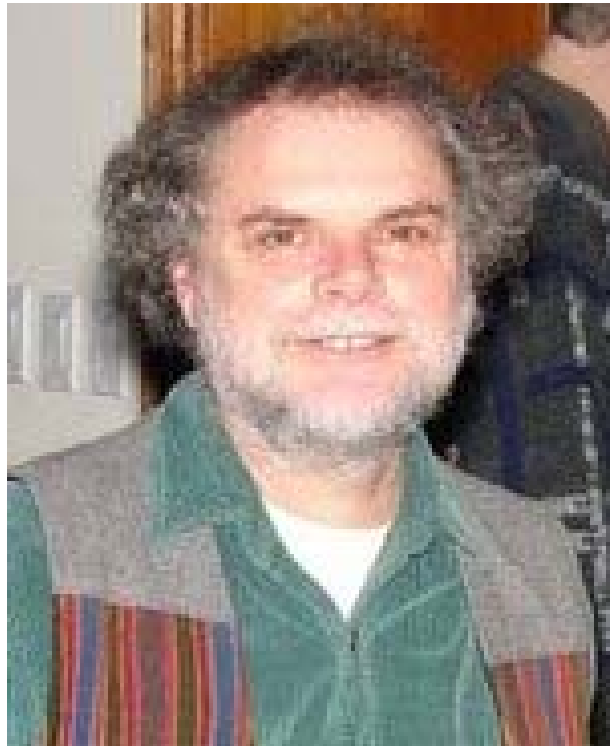
The recent threat of public library closings in Toronto made many of us realize how often we take precious resources for granted. In the storytelling community as well, sometimes equally precious things are overlooked, such as the 5,000 volume storytelling collection owned, operated and lovingly cared for by storyteller Norman Perrin.

At present the Four Winds Library (named in 1990, from the song made popular by Ian and Sylvia), overflows the ceiling-high shelves lining the walls of Norm's third-floor apartment in the Junction. The books are the result of the more than thirty years that Norm spent at garage sales, second-hand book stores, and the annual University of Toronto book sales where he still works as a volunteer. Some are gifts from fellow storytellers, others are public library discards. There are volumes richly bound and beautifully illustrated shelved next to stapled typewritten manuscripts. Many of the books are duplicates, and Norm will offer them for sale at events like the Toronto Festival of Storytelling. He has started using the Internet as well for a good number of his acquisitions.

And then there are the books in cartons, still waiting to be unpacked. Norm and his library moved into their present elevator-free home less than a year ago. Lugging countless boxes of books up to the third floor (Norm did get help from his friends) must be considered a labour of love.

Norm has shelved his storybooks by theme, as well as country of origin.

World collections, books about storytelling, publishers' series, "minute" stories (short tales for special situations), all have their place on his shelves. Just ask, and you'll get the



World Tour: folklore of India, and China on upper shelves, lore of Ireland, Scotland below. Over by Norm's statue of Ganesh, the elephant god, you'll find (incongruously) the Jewish section, neighbouring with Korean folklore. Stories from Canada, of course - not only First Nations tales, but stories collected here from the many cultures which make up our country. There is even a section from the islands of the Pacific which is expanding nicely.

Then come over to the theme shelves. Are you researching stories about trees, tricksters, trumpeters? Norm will help you find what you're looking for. Norm's love of books has been a constant in his life. As an Ot-

tawa Valley nine year-old, he hitchhiked ten miles every week to the Pembroke library. Years later, after his studies at Brock University, he discovered the 1,001 Friday Nights of

Storytelling. It precipitated his move from St. Catharines to Toronto and started his passion for storybook collecting. Norm is still a regular attendee at Friday nights, telling stories, occasionally hosting, and playing his pennywhistle to gather the audience when the tales begin.

The Four Winds is not simply a private collection of folklore volumes. Norm has always intended it to operate as a lending library for storytellers and others interested in storytelling. "There are no regular hours," says Norm. "It's open whenever people phone".

Most of the books may be borrowed for as long as needed. "Are they always returned?" I ask. "Usually," Norm says.

Besides the never-ending goal of more acquisitions, cataloguing his library is now one of Norm's major projects. He's also making lists of theme-related tales as an aid to storytellers.

How many other storytelling communities have such a resource in their midst? How many groups can claim such a generous bibliophile as one of their own? On appointment, story lovers may come to browse, read and do research. The library is free, but donations are welcome. Norm can be contacted at 416-763-4146 or [talewind@web.net](mailto:talewind@web.net).

# Stories Going Round

On Saturday May 19 Ariel Balevi told stories from Rumi at the Rustic Owl, an art cafe that recently opened at 993 Bloor Street West near Dovercourt.

Dawne McFarlane performed Psyche and Eros on May 3 & 5 at the Richmond Hill United Church.

## Parent Child Mother Goose Concert and More

*(Continued from page 8)*

frey Chaucer (1343-1499) has been called the Father of English Literature. He too painted a picture of 14th century life in England in tales, some bawdy, that are still popular today.

The Toy Theatre was very popular in 19th century England. Children could make their own 'toy theatre' from books and kits and put on their own puppet plays. The Toy Theatre tradition will be used to present the stories of Boccaccio, while Chaucer will be presented in the storytelling tradition.

We have assembled a stellar cast for this special evening. Storyteller Dan Yashinsky needs no introduction. Chaucer has long been a favourite of his, and he will be telling a selection of these tales, some in the original Middle English. Storytellers Mariella Bertelli and Mary Anne Cree have presented their Toy Theatre Boccaccio tales in many different settings; this is their Legless Stocking debut. The ethnomusicologist and performer Dr. Judith Cohen will be providing music appropriate to both the age and the spirit of the tales in her Legless Stocking debut.

Because we're using the Toy Theatre, the location of this Legless Stocking has been moved to the Christie Studio so that the puppet stage can be seen better. Don't be misled by the fact there is a puppet show in this production; the evening is definitely for adults and is not suitable for young children.

Tickets are \$17 if purchased before May 24 / \$22 regular price. Order online at <http://www.storytellingtoronto.org/site/legless-stocking/>. Or call the Storytelling Toronto office at 416-656-2445 (cash or cheque payments only).

### LOOKING AHEAD: TORONTO STORYTELLING FESTIVAL 2013

Please stop by [www.torontostorytellingfestival.ca](http://www.torontostorytellingfestival.ca) to see a short video of the 2012 festival. There are so many good memories of music, storytelling, friendship, and creativity. Also lets give 1001 thanks to Debra Baptiste, Festival Director, the volunteers and to all the performers who made 2012 a memorable experience. Next year's festival will take place March 21 - 24, 2013, at the new Regent Park Arts and Cultural Centre.

### The Battle of York cont'd

*(Continued from page 4)*

That the Americans declared war in 1812 allowed Canada to define itself by keeping to her British roots. Storytellers like Lorne and Pat are able to inform us of our history. Learning more facts about this exciting topic has lead me to do my own research on aspects of this war that defined our heritage and our links to England. I'll end with the last verse of the last song we all sang in this Market Gallery presentation:

*"Here's to the tales that we still love to tell  
Of how the Yankees came to town, and how we gave them hell;  
Tecumseh, Brock and Strachan we never will forget,  
For we loved our country dearly, and sae will we yet!  
And sae will we yet, and sae will we yet,  
For we loved our country dearly, and sae will we yet!"*

# Listings — Spring/Summer 2012

Every effort has been made to present current information. Sometimes the completion and delivery of Pippin is subject to the volunteer hours available to produce it.

## GATHERINGS



\* NEW LISTING June Brown and Brenda Byers, Ontario coordinators for Storytellers of Canada/Conteurs du Canada, are hosting a no-frills Ontario gathering (brown bag lunch and potluck supper) on Saturday, June 9 in Grafton, Ontario (near Cobourg). There are additional pre- and post- events Friday night and Sunday morning. Info: [brenda@storywyse.com](mailto:brenda@storywyse.com)

**Storytellers All** is the monthly storytelling gathering hosted by Micki Beck at the main branch of the Belleville Public Library on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month, at 3:00pm. Training workshops will be combined with story sharing. Info: Micki Beck, [bumbleberry@sympatico.ca](mailto:bumbleberry@sympatico.ca)

**Dan Yashinsky**, Storytelling Toronto's storyteller-in-residence, and a roster of other storytellers host **Bread and Stories** most Saturday mornings 10-12am at the Artscape Wychwood Barns, 601 Christie St. In winter the gatherings are indoors at the Storytelling Toronto office, Suite 173.. Open to storytellers, listeners and those who like to "talk" story. Come and be mentored as you try out new or familiar stories.

Info: [dan\\_yashinsky@hotmail.com](mailto:dan_yashinsky@hotmail.com)

**1,000 Friday Nights of Storytelling** continues every Friday evening at 8pm at the Innis College Café, Sussex Ave. and St. George St., Toronto. Suggested donation: \$5. Open to all who wish to listen or tell. (416) 656-2445, [www.1001fridays.org](http://www.1001fridays.org)

**Stories Aloud** meets the 1st Friday of the month, September through June, 8:00pm, at The Story Barn, in Baden, 89 Snyders Rd. W. <http://thestorybarn.ca>. Mary-Eileen McClear, <mailto:maryeileen@thestorybarn.ca> [maryeileen@thestorybarn.ca](mailto:maryeileen@thestorybarn.ca) Open storytelling. Suggested donation: \$5

**The Baden Storytelling Guild** meets on the third Friday of the month, 7:30-10pm at The Story Barn, 89 Snyders Rd W. Info: Mary-

Eileen McClear, [maryeileen@thestorybarn.ca](mailto:maryeileen@thestorybarn.ca) - <http://thestorybarn.ca>

**The Ottawa Storytellers** meet for their Story Swap on the first Thursday of the month, 7pm at Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington St, Room 156, free admission. Info: [info@ottawastorytellers.ca](mailto:info@ottawastorytellers.ca)

**The Ottawa Storytellers** also sponsor Stories and Tea every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at The Tea Party, 119 York St., Ottawa, 7pm. Suggested donation: \$8 or pay what you can. Info: [info@ottawastorytellers.ca](mailto:info@ottawastorytellers.ca)

**The Dufferin Circle of Storytellers** meets the 1st Thursday of the month, 7:30pm. Info: Nancy Woods, (519)925-0966.

**The Brant Tale Tellers Guild**, welcomes tellers and listeners to its monthly gatherings September to June, 7 – 8:45pm, on the first Wednesday at the Station Coffee House and Gallery, beside the Brantford VIA Station. Visitors welcome. Fair Trade coffee, Steam Whistle beer, wine and snacks can be purchased during meetings. Info: Barbara Sisson, email [taletellers@bizbrant.com](mailto:taletellers@bizbrant.com) or phone (519) 756-0727

**The Durham Folklore Storytellers (formerly Durham Folklore Society)** meet every 3rd Thursday, 7:30-9:30pm in the Seniors Day Activity Room, Northview Community Centre, 150 Beatrice St. E., Oshawa. Info: Dianne Chandler, (905) 985-3424, [storyteller@xplornet.com](mailto:storyteller@xplornet.com) or on website [www.durhamstorytellers.ca](http://www.durhamstorytellers.ca)

**Cercle de conteurs de l'Est de l'Ontario (CCEO)** se réunit aux soirées de contes libres une fois par mois dans diverses communautés de l'Est ontarien. Renseignements: Guy Thibodeau: [guythibodeau@rogers.com](mailto:guythibodeau@rogers.com), or [www.cceo.ca](http://www.cceo.ca)

**The Hamilton Storytelling Circle** will meet on June 18, 7:30-9pm at Temple Anshe Sholom, 221 Cline Ave N., Hamilton and break for the summer. Info: Barry Rosen, [barrythestoryteller@gmail.com](mailto:barrythestoryteller@gmail.com)

**The Guelph Guild of Storytellers** meet the 1st Wednesday of each month, 7:30pm at the Co-operators Building, MacDonnel St., and the 2nd Wednesday at 8pm for Stories at the Boat-house, a tea room on the river, Gordon St. Info: Sandy, (519) 767-0017

**The Montreal Storytellers Guild** meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Westmount Library. Info: Christine Mayr, [christine-mayr36@yahoo.ca](mailto:christine-mayr36@yahoo.ca)

**The 1000 Islands Yarnspinners** meet the third Monday of the month from September to June at 7 pm at the Brockville Museum, 5 Henry Street, Brockville. May 21 theme: "Stories Our Mother's Told Us"; June 18 theme: "Where the Road Leads Us". Good will donation appreciated. Contact Deborah Dunleavy at [teller2go@gmail.com](mailto:teller2go@gmail.com) or 613-342-3463.

## PERFORMANCES



**Storytellers for Children** offers its eighth annual concert, The Great Big Enormous Storytelling Afternoon, Saturday, June 2, 1-3pm at Riverdale Farm, Toronto. Info: Carol, 416-699-2608, [www.storytellersforchildren.ca](http://www.storytellersforchildren.ca)

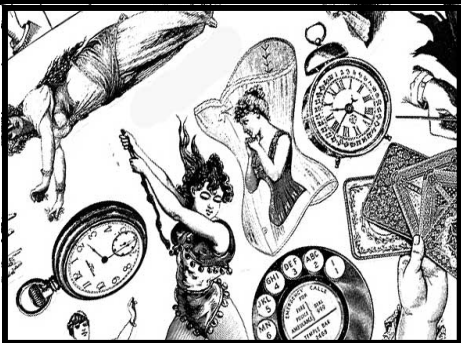
**Ottawa Storytellers and 2 Women Productions** present Homer's Odyssey: 12 hours, 18 storytellers, 1 timeless epic. Saturday, June 16, 10am-10pm (with breaks) at The Fourth Stage, National Arts Centre, Ottawa. Tickets: \$60 from the NAC box office. A limited number of evening-only tickets are also available. Info: [www.ottawastorytellers.ca](http://www.ottawastorytellers.ca)

**Backseat Balladeers** perform "Ring around Our Country – Rhymes, Rounds and Chants of Canadian Youth" on Saturday, June 30 at 3:30 pm at the Wychwood Artscape Barns. Admission by donation. Joining host Heather Whaley are Meryl Arbing, Joan Bailey, Pat Bisset, Greg Davis, Donna Dudinsky and Ruth Danziger. All proceeds go to Parent-Child Mother Goose Program. Info: [heather@heatherwhaley.ca](mailto:heather@heatherwhaley.ca)



Here is Ruth Danziger skipping rope at the Backseat Balladeer's Sunday morning concert of childhood rhymes. All you can see is a blur because she was skipping as never so! Elsie Piddock lives! Photo by Lorne Brown

## WORKSHOPS



**The Parent-Child Mother Goose Program** offers a Teacher Training workshop Friday, June 8 (9:30-4:30) and Saturday, June 9 (9:30-3:30) covering the program's philosophy and objectives as well as its materials: rhymes, songs and storytelling. How to run a program is also included. Facilitator: Megan Williams. At The Centre for Social Innovation Annex, 720 Bathurst St., Floor 2, meeting room 1. Light snacks will be offered. Fee: \$320, including training manual and rhymes and songs booklet. Info: [mgoose@web.net](mailto:mgoose@web.net), or [www.nald.ca/mothergooseprogram](http://www.nald.ca/mothergooseprogram)

### Storytelling Stepping Stones

Enjoy a storytelling getaway in the heart of the 1000 Islands with instructor: Deborah Dunleavy at St. Lawrence College, Brockville Campus, July 16 – 20, 2012.

Discover the magic and power of your own storytelling voice, manner and way of spinning a good yarn. From fairytales to personal experiences the group supports each other in their journey to tell stories. At the end of the week participants may choose to tell their stories to invited guests at a local café. Material fee: \$5 to the instructor. Cost for five days: \$279.90. Senior (65 and up) discount: 25%. Bursaries are available.

To register: 1-866-276-6601 (press 3) or [www.stlawrencecollege.ca/summerarts](http://www.stlawrencecollege.ca/summerarts)

## WHATS UP?

What's new with you?  
Where are you telling stories?  
What new books have you read?  
Who did you hear telling stories?  
Send your submissions to Deborah at [kqp@ripnet.com](mailto:kqp@ripnet.com)

Accommodation is available at the college. To reserve: 1-877-225-8664 or email: [presidence@sl.on.ca](mailto:presidence@sl.on.ca) or visit: [www.stayrcc.com/brockville](http://www.stayrcc.com/brockville). The course code is ARTS 6007 540. Deborah can be reached at 613-342-3463 and [teller2go@gmail.com](mailto:teller2go@gmail.com) and [www.deborahdunleavy.com](http://www.deborahdunleavy.com)

**Jan Andrews and Jennifer Cayley** lead *Towards More Powerful Telling*, a two-day workshop prior to the SC-CC conference for storytellers with prior performance experience. July 30-31, at Collège Brébeuf, Montreal. Pre-registration necessary. Fee: \$262.50. Info: [jandrews@magma.ca](mailto:jandrews@magma.ca), <http://storystreams2012.wordpress.com>

### STORYTELLING TORONTO COURSES

**Fashion Statements in Life and in Fairy Tales**, led by Michelle Tocher. Explore the significance of the clothes we wear (or don't wear) in life and in fairy tales. June 2-3, Saturday 10 – 4, Sunday 1 – 4. At The Inner Garden, 401 Richmond St. W, Toronto (at Spadina), Suite 384. Fee: \$120. Info: [www.michelletocher.com](http://www.michelletocher.com) To register: [admin@storytellingtoronto.org](mailto:admin@storytellingtoronto.org) or 416-656-2445.

**Summer School Intensive**, led by Marylyn Peringer, open to beginners and experienced tellers. July 5 – 8 at The Church of St. George the Martyr, 250 John St., Toronto. Fee: \$375. Info: 416-656-2445 or [admin@storytellingtoronto.org](mailto:admin@storytellingtoronto.org)

## CONFERENCES

### CONFERENCES STORYTELLERS OF CANADA / CONTEURS DU CANADA

20<sup>th</sup> annual National Conference, August 1-5, Collège Brébeuf, Montreal. Conference

email: [sccc2012@gmail.com](mailto:sccc2012@gmail.com)  
Info: <http://story-streams2012.wordpress.com>

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## FESTIVALS

Storytellers for Children presents **The Three Wishes Storytelling Festival**, June 8 and 9, at Pegasus Studios, 361 Glebeholme Blvd., Toronto. Friday, June 8 at 10am: Tickles and Tunes, featuring Kathy Reid-Naiman, for primary grades. Tickets \$5. At 1:30pm: Village of Storytellers, featuring Dan Yashinsky, for JK-6. Open to all. Schools must pre-register. Saturday June 9, 10-11:30am, workshop of circle games led by Kathy Reid-Naiman and Hannah Naiman, for adults. \$25. Info and reservations: Carol, 416-699-2608, [www.storytellersforchildren.ca](http://www.storytellersforchildren.ca)

**St. Marys Storytelling Festival**, presented by the St. Mary's Public Library, Friday and Saturday June 15-16, at the library and other town locations. Friday features Nancy Vermont and La'Ron Williams telling stories to children and teens. Saturday, 10-noon, family storytelling with La'Ron Williams. Admission by donation. 7-9pm, "Voices of the Trees" featuring the Baden Storytelling Guild, for audiences 12 years and up. Tickets: \$10. Info: Yunmi Hwang, 519-284-3346, x723. [yhwang@town.stmarys.on.ca](mailto:yhwang@town.stmarys.on.ca) - [www.stmarys.library.on.ca](http://www.stmarys.library.on.ca)

**FOS – The Festival of Storytelling** in Brockville is taking a year off after several very successful years.



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