

## 2016 Toronto Storytelling Festival Director's Invitation

**Dan Yashinsky**

You're walking down the road in a folktale and a mouse says: "I'm hungry." What do you do? The old stories say: Break your journey, Traveller. Share your bread. Share your listening. Wisdom speaks to us from beyond our customary bandwidth. Maybe you'll hear a good story. Maybe that story is about you. Maybe that story will change everything.

Living in these clamorous times, I wonder sometimes if a word-of-mouth story can really make a difference. Isn't the modern storyteller a lot like that dusty mouse in the fairytale – easy to ignore as our fellow-citizens text and hustle their way along? But then I think: what would Alice say? Alice Kane was one of the pioneers of Canadian storytelling, and she lived by the belief that a headful of good stories is the very talisman we most need to navi-



gate our way through the chaos of twenty-first century life. I remember Alice's wisdom as we come together for the Toronto Storytelling Festival's thirty-eighth year. The right story told – and heard – at the right moment can, in its surprising way, transform both teller and listener.

This year we are joined by some of the world's finest storytellers, coming to our crossroads city from France, England, Egypt, Morocco, Isle de la Réunion, Haiti, and all across Canada. We are, as always, trying some new things in 2016, and the biggest is the TD Story Jam, a two-day celebration of family storytelling generously supported by TD.

Thanks for coming to the festival. And if you happen to meet a talking mouse, or a bird, a stranger, or even a dream ... don't hurry past, Traveller. Stay and listen. The story you hear just might change everything.



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## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

In this Festival issue, you will read about clamorous times and a story that might change everything. A dusty mouse, a middle aged bear, a blue butterfly. Diversity as strength, it takes a village, it doesn't take a village. Shout outs, screaming and hollering, karate chopping. The healing power of stories. Call and response. Memories. Seeing and being seen, hearing and being heard. The stories of our lives.

I listened to a story yesterday. About a boy who was lost in the forest. His father or his mother, I can't remember which, had given him a gift- a magic verse to sing when he needed help. He was alone and needed help- would it work? In the darkness of the forest, he tried it to see if it would. He sang. As he sang, the trees parted overhead so he could see

the stars. It worked! The stars shone their light and guided him safely home. Later, I heard the story- really heard it. I was walking home in the snowy bright darkness through the park, and a memory of my father came flooding into me. His words helping me through a difficult time- I heard them again. My father, Allan McFarlane, gave me a gift too- and it worked! In that moment, my heart lifted and so did my grief. My Dad died in February. At his funeral I asked people to keep telling the stories of his life. The stories of his life, of all of our lives, endure. And a story just might change everything.

Please send me your stories for the next issue of Pippin by May 31/16. Dawne McFarlane [hearth@sympatico.ca](mailto:hearth@sympatico.ca)



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



**STORYTELLING IN THE CITY**

**1,001**

**FRIDAY NIGHTS**

*of*

**STORYTELLING**

[www.1001fridays.org](http://www.1001fridays.org)

Suggested donation: \$5.00  
Innis College Café  
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Time: 8:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.  
2 Sussex Street, Toronto.  
[www.1001fridays.org](http://www.1001fridays.org)

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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Dawne McFarlane

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chris cavanagh

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# In The Middle of the Universe

## Ann Kerr-Linden

*Editor's Note: Ann told me some months ago that she came across a diary entry from a Friday night storytelling evening she attended 30 years ago. I asked if she would consider sharing it with me for Pippin. As her diary entry, she did not write it to be seen. With my encouragement, she agreed to share her poetic memories of this very special evening.*

Diary Entry, March 28, 1986.  
Last night I felt I was in the middle of the universe in a whirlpool of energy with wings beating at the outer edges.

This was the first time I was part of one of those especially magic tellings of stories at 1001 Friday Nights. We met at the Toronto School of Art, 225 Brunswick Avenue.

There was a rumour that Brother Blue, the African American storyteller, was in town. That was the first hint. I also heard that Joan Bodger was in Toronto for a week, on her way to Jordan. That was the second hint.

The room was almost full when Erica and I arrived. We had recently finished our first course in storytelling with Carol McGirr. Each small table was covered with a coloured cloth; red, green, gold tartan with pink stripes. In the centre of each table was a lighted candle in a pottery candle holder.

Dan Yashinsky was host, his dark hair thick and curly. He wore a short sleeved indigo blue shirt over a white sweat shirt. Did he wear blue in honour of our guest?

He opened the evening with a story about the creator and his loneliness and longing and his love for creation.

Then bop a de bop bop Brother Blue is introduced as passing through and dropping by.

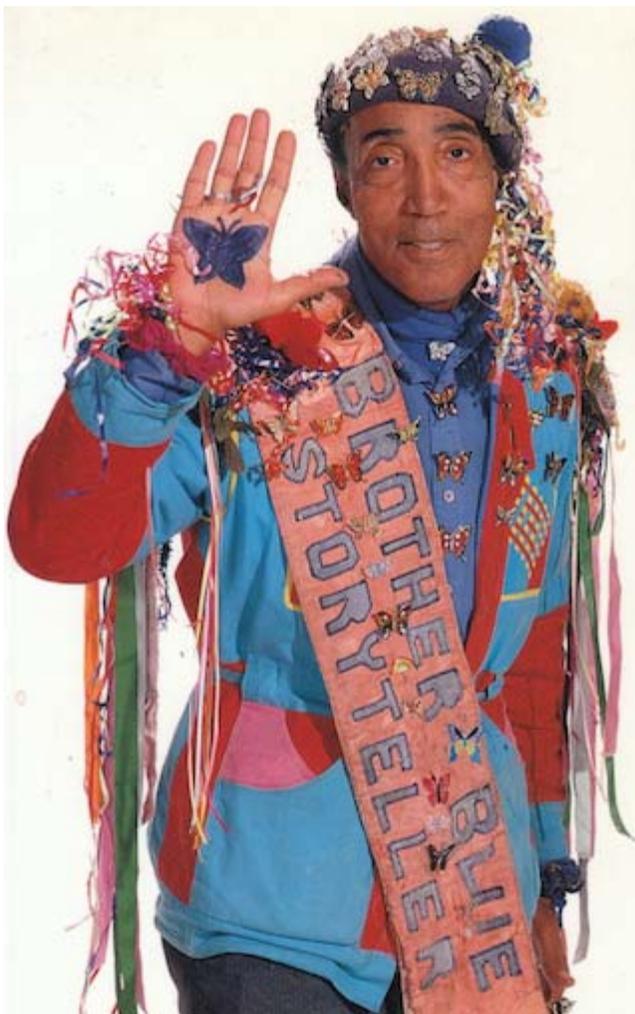
Ah what a long lean brown cat he is, sitting beside that sweet woman, his wife, his sweetheart. They have been married for many many years.

Oh, what a fine honed tall lean cat he is, with his loong thin face, carved cheek-

bones and over the bones his skin, shiny thin and stretched like brown onion skin.

Ah, Brother Blue, with your electric blue tam tight on your skull, your blue patchwork jacket, rainbow badge on your left shoulder.

A silver butterfly is pinned to the mid-



dle of your jacket, and when you open your left hand we see a blue butterfly, painted by your wife, on your palm.

Snapping your fingers and swaying to inner music you invoke the angels to join us this evening. You dance among us, playing peek-a-boo. Fluid bony fingers crossed in front of your closed eyes, then hands part in an arc, eyes open. "I see you! Peek-a-boo! I see you! You are beautiful! I love you! You are beautiful! You are beautiful inside!"

You tell us the story of the caterpillar turned butterfly and his friend Jesus.

"Jesus is the cool cat who loves children and heals people. He came out of his grave and dances with people in the night. He dances with Blue. He has eyes like stars."

Blue told us we all owe Dan a lot, because this man, he has such a feeling for storytelling. He says Dan is a prince, a young prince, a lion hearted prince.

Joan Bodger walked in late. We clapped, we cheered. She is tanned from her travels in the east. Welcome Joan.

Carol McGirr got up to tell a Jack Finny story. She wore a dark brown dress with muted patches of colour, hands folded over her stomach. Her brown hair short and straight, her grey-brown eyes glowing with energy. I wondered how her story would sound, so completely different in style and atmosphere from Dan's and Blue's.

She met the charged atmosphere with the energy of her story and the atmosphere changed in a swoop.

We in the audience swooped and flew with Carol, who played and danced with her story, reveling in the humour, the lightness.

After the break, Dan asked Joan Bodger to tell us about her travels.

Joan's grey hair was cut short. The glasses on her square face reflected light, so much light it was impossible to see her eyes.

She told us about her Gestalt therapy workshop in Japan in the Fox Temple with an interpreter.

She found that the Japanese language structure did not permit women to order, or direct. So Joan said to the interpreter, I am directing this workshop. Oh yes, Bodger san, said the interpreter, I noticed that problem and translate you in the masculine mode.

Joan talked about anger and expression of anger. One of the men said he did not feel anger. Joan stood in front of him. He looked bland. She moved closer, she moved between his legs and pressed against his balls, still no response.

*(Continued on page 10)*

# Village of Storytellers Project 2015-16



Delsa performing her story in Tagalog at CNH Village of Storytellers Project, Dec 10 2015

## Dinny Biggs, Coordinator, Village of Storytellers Project

In its 4<sup>th</sup> year, the Village of Storytellers (VOS) Project strives to build language learning and the oral tradition of storytelling within a community setting celebrating diversity as strength. Our project partner this year is Central Neighbourhood House serving residents of downtown east Toronto. A big shout out to staff members Safia, Pam and Philip who wholeheartedly

support storytelling and welcomed VOS back to CNH. (All photos in this article are credited to Pamela Gawn, Manager, Community Engagement and Programs at CNH.) The project was funded, with many thanks, through Toronto Arts Council Strategic Funding, City of Toronto, and in kind support of CNH, Storytelling Toronto, and as a component of the Toronto Storytelling Festival.

Meeting once a week this fall with a professional storyteller and interpreters of Somali, Swahili, Mandarin, Tamil, Tagalong and Bengali, the VOS group of women were encouraged to share stories told in their first language with cultural folktales and family stories. My thanks to Ruth Danziger leading the group with assistance from Rubena Sinha, Fatuma Hied, Afroza Sultana, Sherry Sui, Ditas Ibarra, Nimo Mohamoud and Calavathy Waithilingam. Each story was first told in first language, then interpreted in English, then retold simultaneously in the audience clustered into five lan-

guages grouping. The third retelling created a friendly buzz and hum of different languages spoken all at once!

As we have learned in each VOS project, storytelling is also a strong tool for community engagement and social inclusion when people are encouraged to hear each other's stories and themselves be heard. The interpreters were as actively involved as the participants wanting equal time to share their own stories! Personal stories, though particular to each teller, held similarities about resiliency to take on challenging experiences. Each traditional story shared taught us about different cultural backgrounds, yet the stories also had in common examples of human traits valued around the world, such as honesty and respect.

Within a welcoming group setting, VOS participants looked forward each week to contributing to the growing repertoire of stories shared. They would excitedly tell us which stories from the group they retold to others in their lives. "My son now asks me every night for a



Ruth Danziger, Professional Storyteller, VOS 2015-2016



Zeinab and Fatuma (Swahili language) VOS 2015-16



Sherry and Miss Lee (Mandarin language) with Anwara in background (Bengali language)

no agony like bearing an untold story inside you.”

The last phase of the VOS project will happen in early spring 2016, when youth of the same language

traditional story told instead of reading to him,” one mother shared.

And one of the elders revealed how she has now started telling family stories to her daughter that she'd never told anyone before about the severe hardships overcome by her own parents over 70 years ago. How remarkable to witness both pride and relief on this elder's face in that moment. It reminded me of a quote from Maya Angelou, an African American activist and author who said, “There is



Nimo and Dinia (Somali language)

backgrounds as the fall participants will be invited to join the women's group to learn

their stories to retell in English. The youth and elders will be introduced as emerging storytellers at a World Storytelling Day event in March and at the Toronto Storytelling Festival in April. I hope you can come out to hear the traditional stories the VOS participants are preparing for a family audience. (Details will be posted on the Festival website. Thank

you, Dan, for all your support. <http://www.torontostorytellingfestival.ca/site/>

And how is VOS valuable as a community based project? One member of the audience at our in-house concert in December 2015 told the Somali interpreter, “It makes me feel proud to hear a traditional story from my culture valued and shared with others in Toronto.”



Vadivampikai and Cala (Tamil language) VOS 2015-16



Multicultural Women's Club, Central Neighbourhood House, Dec 10 2015 — Village of Storytellers Project 2015-2016

# The Use of Folktales in Healing

## Carol Farkas

The telling of life stories in a support group is often used as a tool for healing. Listening to another tell their story about their illness or situation has been shown to be beneficially therapeutic for both the teller and the listener. However, this may or may not open channels for talk and discussion.

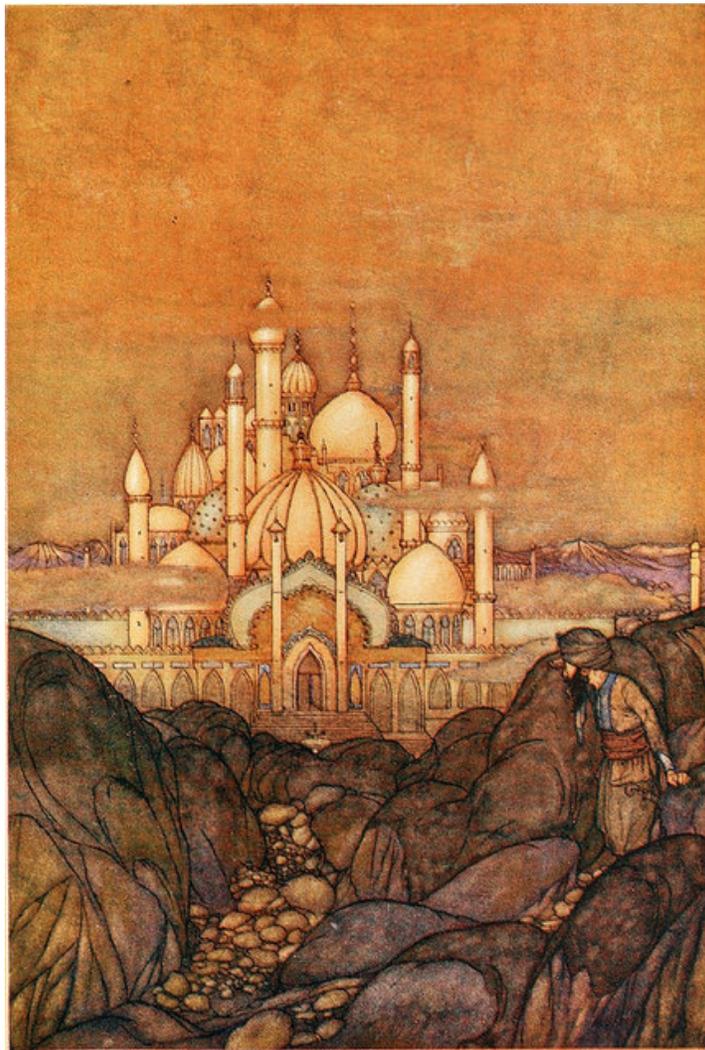
The use of folktales in a support group is an activity which is able to convey information in ways that few other forms of communication can. Folk tales have the ability to open the door to healing as they allow listeners to project into the story and identify and incorporate the characters and theme into their personal narrative. For some listeners, this allows for a safe, slower paced, receptive environment in which to reveal their feelings, respond to questions, and express concerns and needs.

Folktales carry timeless messages of ill-fated beginnings, mistakes that are survivable, obstacles that are overcome, and help that usually comes despite worst circumstances. Inherent in many tales is the listener's new understanding of their own situation.

The metaphors present in folktales have been used to give insight to personal stories related to sexual abuse, death and grieving, substance abuse, addiction, and to help cancer patients make meaning out of their illness experience.

For example, in the tale of Beauty and Beast, cancer can be identified as the beast. As if forced upon a person, it becomes a change agent which the patient can learn to accept and name, a prince in disguise that can help one realize the importance of living one day at a time and realizing what is important in life.

Hansel and Gretel, Cap of Rushes and Red Riding Hood have been used for reflecting what occurred in child and sexual abuse situations. The Nepalese tale of The Woodcutter and Death, Godfather Death (Grimm), and Papa God and General Death (Wolkstein's The Magic Orange Tree), can stimulate discussions of death and grieving.



In a group setting, after a tale is told a facilitator can pose such questions as; "what images stood out for you, did you identify with any of the characters or situations, and did the story relate to your experience?"

This spring, as a cancer patient, I will be offering a program at Gilda's Club in Toronto where fellow patients can hear the spoken word of folktales for just their general enjoyment and/or through discussion to allow them to identify and incorporate the characters and theme into their personal narrative. Members of the Toronto storytelling community will also share folktales with this "Telling of Tales" program. Pippin will be kept apprised as this program progresses.

Become involved by checking out these sources:

- The National Storytelling Network Healing Story Alliance
- Healing Change and Storytelling, Steve Banhegy (2013)
- **Journey Down the Healing Path Through Story**, Alison Cox (2000)
- **Healing Tales**, William Noonan (2002)
- **The Mystery and Magic of Metaphor**, Susan Perrow (2013)
- **Grief tales: The Therapeutic Power of Folktales to Heal**, Sunwolf (2003)
- The National Storytelling Network Healing Story Alliance: Diving in the Moon-Honoring Story Facilitating Healing
- **Letting Stories Breathe: A Socio-Narratology**, Arthur Frank (2010)
- **Spinning Gold Out of Straw; How Stories Heal**, Diane Rooks (2001)
- **Dying, Grieving, Healing: A Manual for Storytelling**, contact ottawastorytellers.com
- **The Healing Heart, Families** (storytelling to encourage caring and healthy families), Allison Cox and David Albert ed. (2003) (there are 5 copies in the Toronto Public Library)

# This Is a Story

## Sage Tyrrtle

I am standing in a long line at the subway.

In a stroller a three year old girl is screaming and her four year old brother is hollering in harmony while their mother soothes the baby she's carrying while taking apple slices out of a sandwich bag while lengthening the seatbelt on the stroller while explaining that apples are all they have while adults scowl and fidget and turn the music in their ears higher.

Clerks behind bulletproof glass drone in dialtones sorry sir those tickets are too old to turn in sorry sir well I know you saved them but they are not –

The girl twists in the stroller and her brother changes notes and achieves a perfect fifth, his shrieks soaring above hers

and I keep wanting to offer to help – to hold something – the quiet baby for preference, but I am paralyzed with shyness.

And suddenly – THIS is a STORY – a tall long haired woman pronounces, and the two children fall silent and look up in wonder. She leans over the stroller and points to her smartphone which is playing tinny music.

THIS is a STORY about a frog, she says. Once upon a time, there was a frog who was very hungry. I get hungry sometimes, do you get hungry?

The girl blinks eyelashes matted with tears and gives a tiny nod.

The boy peers over to see the story too. Freed, the mother finishes every task in moments and her face relaxes. Every hunched shoulder unhunches. (- transferable, now, if you have any tickets that have been purchased in the past six months sir -)

The tinny music fades. THE END, says the tall woman. Both children gaze at her with wide eyes and when she says, Another? they nod long and loudly.

And I don't really think it takes a village to raise a child. Just one person to take off their headphones. To lean over the stroller. To tell a story.



# Celebrating 35 Years of Mr. Bear Says Hello!

## Sally Jaeger

Once upon a time there was a little bear. His name was Mr. Bear. In February of 1981, Mr. Bear awoke from his long winter hibernation to tell stories with Sally and all the babies and toddlers who were too little for the 3 – 5 year old storytimes offered by Toronto Public Library.

Moms, Dads and caregivers brought their little ones, birth to 3 years old, to Riverdale Library to learn rhymes, songs, fingerplays and stories. And so began Mr. Bear Says Hello!

35 years later, Mr. Bear is still sharing stories with Sally and her storytelling daughter Erika! Erika celebrates 16 years of storytelling and sharing early literacy and



language skills with young listeners and their families.

Lullabies & LapRhymes, our class for newborn infants to 9 month olds, was born out of Mr. Bear Says Hello. Thank you to all of our participants for coming to our programs!

The Reunion: Calling all past participants!

Happy Birthday, Mr. Bear! Join us at Pegasus Studios, 361 Glebeholme Blvd.. Saturday, March 19, 2 – 3pm to celebrate with Mr. Bear and friends! Stories & music round out Mr. Bear's final birthday shindig! All ages \$5.00 at the door.

For more info about Sally and Erika's Storytelling Programs contact Sally Jaeger & Erika Jaeger 416-465-0551 sallyjaeger@gmail.com

www.erikajaeger.ca



# Teens Step Into Storytelling

On Saturday, November 7, 2015, St. Andrews United Church, Toledo, hosted a storytelling workshop with Deborah Dunleavy, internationally renowned storyteller, author, playwright and actor. The workshop was entitled 'Tell Me the Stories of Jesus'.

Deborah taught area youth how to begin to tell our Gospel stories from a first person narrative. Envisioned as the first in a series of storytelling workshops, Deborah began the session with an ice-breaker activity where she invited the teens to 'listen' to each other's stories. From this they were able to begin crafting their own stories, which eventually led to group storytelling.

Several of the exercises were very poignant. Deborah handed out pictures of people she had clipped from magazines. Each of the participants meditated on one picture as the group listened to the song 'What if God Was One of Us'. All were invited to envision the story of the person or persons in the picture. Then in a 'call and response' answer to the question "If God had a face, what would God look like", each partici-

pant was invited to tell the story of the face they had been given. Another exercise was that all participants were invited to tell the group one thing that they knew about Jesus, one after an-

formation, community building, and support for ministry.

- Lynne Gardiner, Pastor at St. Andrew's United Church, Toledo, Ontario



Leading storytelling workshops with teens is one of my favourite things to do, especially when they are there because they want to be there. Such was the case at St. Andrews United Church, Toledo, on November 7. At the beginning they presented themselves as polite, eager listeners and it wasn't long before their individual personalities shone through.

The young people were witty, sensitive, curious, and engaged. The insight that they brought to the workshop revealed to me that they possessed an open willingness to discover their relationship with God in ways that had meaning and purpose for them. Rather than being

told what to believe and how to express it, they were given the freedom to explore their own personal connectedness to God through storytelling.

It was a wonderful occasion with superb support by the team leaders. And my purpose under God's loving care was once again affirmed.

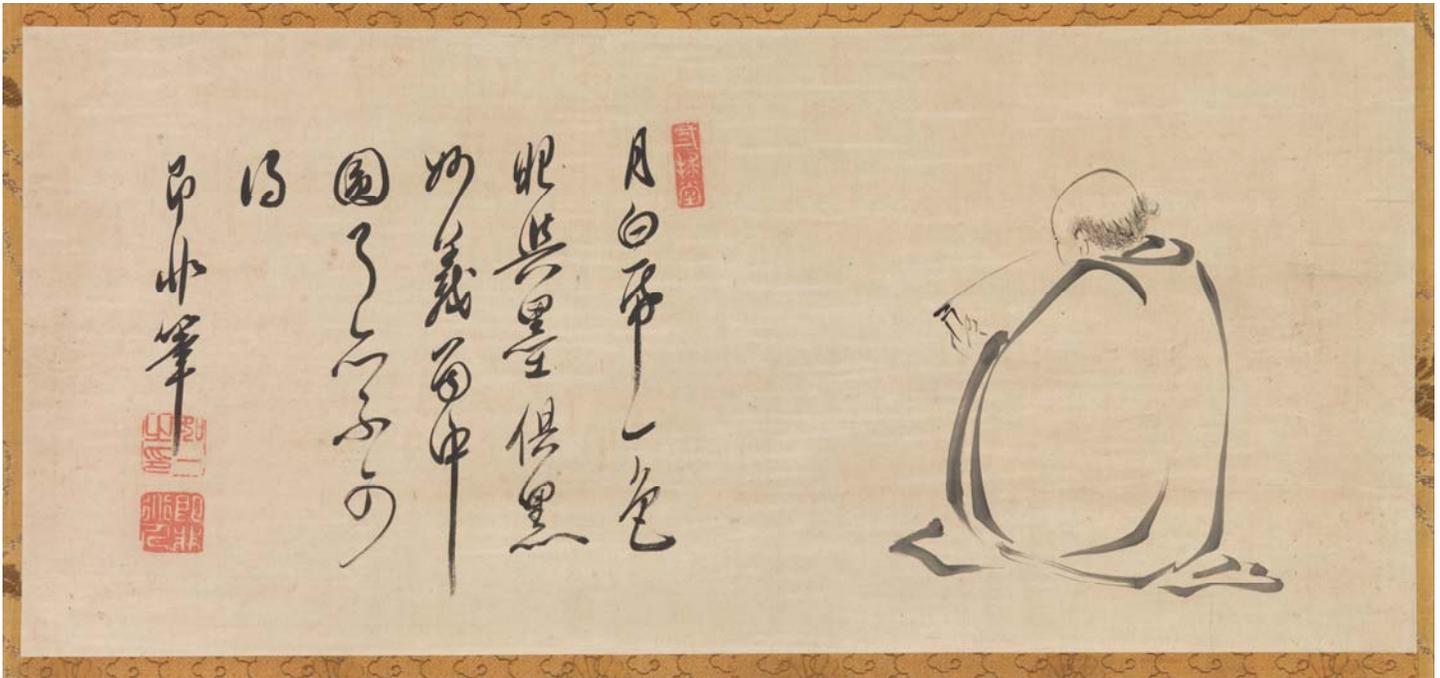
Deborah Dunleavy  
Word Artist

After the workshop was finished, the 16 youth participants and 7 leaders shared a spaghetti dinner together cooked by members of the St. Andrew's congregation. It was an incredible day of faith-



**A STORY**

# Without Fear



Once there was a general leading an army in a campaign to conquer Japan. After some months of war, such was the fear of this general and his army, that entire villages would simply evacuate before the army arrived. And so, the general, who was now accustomed to abandoned villages, was surprised when one of his captains came to report that the village was evacuated with the exception of an old monk who refused to leave the village's small temple. The general was intrigued and walked into the village to find this monk. The general found the monk, who was a Zen master, sitting outside the humble temple. The monk stood but did not otherwise acknowledge the general. The general walked up to the monk and said, "Do you not realize that you stand before a man who could run you through with a sword without blinking an eye." The monk looked calmly at the general and said, "And do you not realize that you are standing before a man who can be run through with a sword without blinking an eye?"

- retold by chris cavanagh

## In The Middle of the Universe cont'd

(Continued from page 3)

She slapped his face. He gave her a karate chop on the arm.

The people in the group were stunned, of course. A woman, a white woman, had struck a man!

She continued the workshop, talking about boundaries and signals.

Later she told them stories. Most people in the group were men and they liked the story of King Arthur and his samurai.

Joan's workshop was a success. She has been invited back to Japan.

Joan talked about storytelling, the calling, the depth it can reach.

Blue got up and we flew with him. He had us all up flapping our wings like butterflies and moving about the room, missing the paintings on the walls by inches, diving under the balcony.

Blue told us about his grade school teacher, Miss Wonderly, he said she saved him. He was the only black kid in the

school, he was teased. He did badly, he was bored, he thought he was dumb.

His father was busy, his Dad was a bricklayer, his mother was busy. He asked them to play peek-a-boo with him, he wanted to be seen.

They said, run away child you are eight years old, too old for such games.

At school he failed an arithmetic test. He was mortified and Miss Wonderly saw him crying. She of the "blue eyes, blond hair, skin white as snow."

She said, "I see you Blue, you are very beautiful and you are smart and I love you."

He felt seen to the core of his being. He fell in love with Miss Wonderly. He loved school, he was smart, he did well.

She changed his life around. He went through school and university and graduated with a PhD in Divinity and Pastoral Sacred Storytelling.

Our room was filled with people smiling and weeping. Alec Gelcer told a Doris Lessing tale from South Africa, a fine telling. Alec's story reminded Blue of the devastating prejudice he experienced as a black man in the southern U.S.

Blue told us that storytelling is a holy calling, it can change people, it can morph them into butterflies. We must all help in the great renaissance of storytelling.

After Dan closed the evening Joan and Carol and I went to The Other Cafe on Bloor Street for tea. We talked about the evening of course, especially Brother Blue.

Joan said she spent a week with him once in a boarding house. He wore balloons on his shoulders and bells around his ankles.

He is beyond categories she said, beyond male and female, black and white. He is becoming refined, transparent. I think he is a kind of genius.

# Storytelling Toronto

## Awards

Storytelling Toronto offers two annual storytelling awards. The **Alice Kane Award** and the **Anne Smythe Travel Award** are intended to advance the work of active storytellers. For application forms and additional information check out:

<http://storytellingtoronto.org/home/awards/>

Applications must be received by Storytelling Toronto by February 29, 2015.

### The Alice Kane Award

The Alice Kane Award is a \$1,000 award presented by Storytelling Toronto in memory of Alice Kane (1908 – 2003). One of the co-founders of The Storytellers School of Toronto, Alice was a much beloved storyteller whose mastery of the art of storytelling made her an inspiration to many.

The award is offered annually to a person or persons who wish to advance the art of storytelling through research, innovative projects, or through their own personal development as a storyteller.

### The Anne Smythe Travel Grant

The Anne Smythe Travel Grant was established to honour the memory of Anne Smythe, an active and well-loved member of the storytelling community. As a teller and author, she believed strongly in the value of travel and adventure in the development of a storyteller's art. The award is designed to support the work of an active storyteller through the provision of funding to support travel expenses related to a storytelling project.

# EVENTS — SPRING 2016

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\*** Ottawa Storytellers are hosting the **Spring Gathering** for the Ontario chapter of **Storytellers of Canada//Conteurs du Canada** (SC-CC, on Saturday afternoon, April 23. Info: Janet LeRoy, [j.leroy@xittel.ca](mailto:j.leroy@xittel.ca), or [info@ottawastorytellers.ca](mailto:info@ottawastorytellers.ca)

**\*NEW LISTING\*** The 1000 Islands Yarnspinners host **Stories** at the Spitfire Café on the second Tuesday of the month, 7pm, 10 Victoria Avenue, Brockville. Bring a story, song or poem. Excellent coffee and sweets. Info: Deborah Dunleavy, (613) 926-5510, or [teller2go@gmail.com](mailto:teller2go@gmail.com)

Due to long-term renovations in their usual venue, **The Peterborough Storytellers** are presently an itinerant band who still gather to share stories in meetings, workshops and house concerts. Special event planned for **World Storytelling Day** March 20. Info: consult their website, [www.facebook.com/peterboroughstorytellers](http://www.facebook.com/peterboroughstorytellers)

**The Guelph Guild of Storytellers** meets at 7pm on the second Wednesday of each month at the main branch of the Guelph Public Library, 100 Norfolk St. Open mike for 5-minute stories. Experienced tellers with longer stories are encouraged to contact us in advance for a spot on the program. Info: Sandy Schoen, (519) 767-0017, [guelphstory@gmail.com](mailto:guelphstory@gmail.com), [www.guelpharts.ca/storytellers](http://www.guelpharts.ca/storytellers)

**Belleville Storytellers** meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at the Belleville Public Library, 254 Pinnacle St, at 6:30 pm. Info: Micki Beck, [bumbleberry@sympatico.ca](mailto:bumbleberry@sympatico.ca)

A roster of Toronto storytellers host **Bread and Stories** alternate Saturday mornings 11am - 1pm at the Artscape Wychwood Barns, 601 Christie St. In winter we're indoors at the Storytelling Toronto office, Suite 173.. Open to story-

tellers, listeners and those who like to "talk" story. Come and be mentored as you try out new or familiar stories. Info: Donna Dudinsky, [ddudinsky2@gmail.com](mailto:ddudinsky2@gmail.com)

**1,001 Friday Nights of Storytelling** continues every Friday evening at 8pm at the Innis College Café, Sussex Ave. and St. George St., Toronto. Cost \$5. Open to all who wish to listen or tell. (416) 656-2445, [www.1001fridays.org](http://www.1001fridays.org)

**Storytelling Circle** meets every Tuesday at 2:15pm at #6 St. Joseph Street, an artistic resource centre for people at a crossroads in life. All are welcome. Info: Molly Sutkaitis, (416) 239-1345

**Stories Aloud** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at the Waterloo Community Arts Centre, 25 Regina St. S. Waterloo. 8pm. Info: Open storytelling, cost \$5. Info: Derek Brisland, [badenstorytellers1@gmail.com](mailto:badenstorytellers1@gmail.com), (519) 634-9128

**The Baden Storytellers Guild** meets on the 4th Friday of the month, at the Waterloo Community Centre, 25 Regina St. S., Waterloo. Info: Derek Brisland, (519) 634-9128. [badenstorytellers1@gmail.com](mailto:badenstorytellers1@gmail.com)

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

**The Brant Taletellers 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, besides the Brantford VIA Station. Visitors welcome. Fair Trade coffee, Steam Whistle beer, wine and snacks can be purchased during meetings. Info: [lmrutledge@sympatico.ca](mailto:lmrutledge@sympatico.ca)

**The Durham Folklore Storytellers** meets every 3rd Thursday, 7:30-9:30pm in the Seniors Day Activity Room, Northview Community Centre, 150 Beatrice St. E., Oshawa. Info: Kathleen Smyth, [Kathleen.Smyth@durham.ca](mailto:Kathleen.Smyth@durham.ca) or [www.durhamfolklorestorytellers.ca](http://www.durhamfolklorestorytellers.ca)

**Cercle de conteurs et conteuses de l'Est de l'Ontario** se réunit pour une soirée de contes décontractée style "Café" au Salon Richelieu du MIFO, 6600, rue Carrière, Orléans. Venez faire plaisir à vos oreilles en partageant et en écoutant contes, légendes et bonnes histoires. Entrée libre. Contribution volontaire suggérée. Informations: Laurent Glaude, (613) 859-1978, [laurent.glaude@gmail.com](mailto:laurent.glaude@gmail.com)

**The Hamilton Storytelling Circle** meets at Temple Anshe Sholom, 221 Cline Ave N., Hamilton. Info: Barry Rosen, [barrythestoryteller@gmail.com](mailto:barrythestoryteller@gmail.com)

**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)

## PERFORMANCES



**The Ottawa Storytellers** present **Mike Burns** at a St. Patrick's Day concert, Thursday March 17, 7:30pm at the 4th Stage of the National Arts Centre. Tickets at the NAC box office, 53 Elgin St., or online at [nac-cna.ca/en/community/packages/ottawastorytellers](http://nac-cna.ca/en/community/packages/ottawastorytellers)

**The Ottawa Storytellers** also sponsor **Stories and Tea** at The Tea Party, 119 York Street in Ottawa's Byward Market, at 7pm twice a month. Tuesday, May 8: **Tales to Make You Wonder**, with **Marta Singh** and **Mary Wiggin**. Tuesday, March 22: "Tea" (ching) stories from the here and now, with **Louise Profeit LeBlanc**. Info: [info@ottawastorytellers.ca](mailto:info@ottawastorytellers.ca)

For **World Storytelling Day**, **Bill Lalonde** and **Deborah Dunleavy** team up to celebrate with a concert entitled "She Who Dares", Wednesday March 23, 7pm at the Marianne van Silfhoutte Gallery, St. Lawrence College, 228 Parkdale Avenue, Brockville. Admission free. Refreshments to follow. Info: Deborah Dunleavy, 613-926-5510 or [teller2go@gmail.com](mailto:teller2go@gmail.com)

**The Durham Folklore Storytellers** (DFS) have decided to make March a **World Storytelling Month**. The following story-focused

events are open to the public: March 7, 2pm at Whitby Seniors Activity Centre, 801 Brock St., Whitby; evening of Friday March 18 at Port Perry Villa Retirement Residence, 15941 Simcoe St., Port Perry; Monday March 21, 1pm at Faith United Church, 1778 Nash Rd, Courtice; Thursday March 24, 9:30am, Ajax Public Library, 55 Harwood Ave, Ajax; Tuesday March 29, 10am at Northview Community Centre, 150 Beatrice St., Oshawa. April is busy, too; April 7, 7-9pm the DFS visits the Robert McLaughlin Gallery, 72 Queen St., Oshawa, and on Wednesday May 25, 2pm they're telling stories at the Traditions of Durham Retirement Community. On Saturday June 25, 10:30am to 4:30pm, they're trading tales during the Teddy Bears Picnic at the Pickering Village Museum, 2365 Concession Rd. 6, Greenwood.

**Up Yer Celt! A Storyfusion Ceilidh** features popular storytellers Hugh Cotton and Brian Walsh plus musical band Pagan's Folly. Saturday, May 14, 7:30pm at the YWCA Elm Centre, 87 Elm St., Toronto. Wheelchair accessible. Info: Storytelling Toronto, <http://storytellingtoronto.org/home/storyfusion-cabaret/>

## STORYTELLING FESTIVALS

The 2016 Toronto Storytelling Festival runs April 1 - 10. Performances take place at many venues around Toronto. Featured tellers include Ivan Coyote, Louis Bird, Chirine El Ansary, Mafane, and many other tellers from far and near. A three-day Storytellers Camp also runs during the festival. Led by Bob Barton and Nicole Fougère, with storytalks and workshops by many of our out-of-town guests, it will be an intensive three days of story exploration. The whole program can be found at [www.torontostorytellingfestival.ca](http://www.torontostorytellingfestival.ca).

## WORKSHOPS

The Parent-Child Mother Goose Program offers a **Teacher Training Workshop** dealing with its philosophy, objectives and material (rhymes, songs, storytelling) plus logistics on running the program. This two-day workshop is being offered on two occasions: Friday April 15, 9:30 – 4:30 and Saturday April 16, 9:30 – 3:30. Instructor Maria Ordonez Friday June 17, 9:30 - 4:30 and Saturday June 18, 9:30 – 3:30 Instructor: Megan Williams At the Centre for Social Innovation Annex, 720 Bathurst St., Toronto. \$330, \$290 if registered one month in advance. Cost includes training manual,

rhymes and songs booklet and other resources. Registration: (416) 588-5234, [mgoose@web.net](mailto:mgoose@web.net)

**Building on Your Experience in the Parent-Child Mother Goose Program** is a one-day workshop designed for experienced PCMG teachers who have completed Level One certification. Participants will share observations, methods, challenges and joys and receive feedback fresh ideas and new material to use in their programs. Friday May 13, 2016, 9:30 – 4:30 at The Centre for Social Innovation Annex, 720 Bathurst St., Toronto. Facilitator: Celia Lottridge. \$170, \$155 if registered by April 13. Info: (416) 588-5234, [mgoose@web.net](mailto:mgoose@web.net)

## STORYTELLING TORONTO COURSES

Info: (416) 656-2445 or [www.storytellingtoronto.org](http://www.storytellingtoronto.org)

**Threads: In-Depth Exploration of a Fairy Tale.** Saturday April 9, 10am – 4pm, and Sunday April 10, 2016, 1 – 4pm. At The Textile Museum of Canada, 55 Centre St., Toronto. Instructor: Michelle Tocher. Fee: \$150/\$134 early bird (by April 2).

**Storytelling I: First Steps Into the Art of Storytelling (Spring)** May 6,7,8, 2016 at the North York Central Branch of the Toronto Public Library. Instructor: Ruth Danziger. Fee: \$270/\$244 early bird (by April 29)

**Finding and Telling Family Stories**, four Thursday evenings, April 28 - May 19, at a private home in the Annex. Instructor: Celia Lottridge. Fee: \$165/\$150 early bird (by April 21)

**Summer Intensive**, open to beginner and veteran storytellers. July 14-17, 2016, at The Church of St. George the Martyr. Instructor: Marylyn Peringer. Fee: \$416/\$391 early bird (by July 7)



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