



Talespinner

January – February 2014

The Newsletter of the Story Circle of the Capital District

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Visit our web site at www.story-circle.org

*“I long to hear the story of your life,
which must captivate the ear strangely.”*

∞ William Shakespeare

Story Circle Business News

Meetings - Open to the Public - from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the **William K. Sanford Public Library** (Colonie) and from 6:15 to 9:00 p.m. at the **Pine Hills Library**. At the Pine Hills Library, we will have a party or a topic for panel/roundtable discussion.

Upcoming Meeting: Tuesday **January 21** at Colonie Library 6:30 - 8:30 pm Facilitator - *Sandy Schuman*

Wednesday February **19** at Pine Hills Branch of the Albany Public Library 6:15 - 9:00 pm.

Recent Meetings:

Tuesday **September 17** *Annual Dinner Meeting at the Blu Stone Bistro*. Facilitator, *Joe Doolittle*

Stories Told:

Bonnie Mior: Even Dragons Need Love...folk/historic

Nancy Payne: Ruslan and the Giant...Russian Folktale

Karen Pillworth: The Card at the Top of the Pile....personal

Micki Groper: Abiyoyo....folktale

Eileen Mack: The Kiss...personal

Gil Payette: The Talking Stick & the Storyteller...folktale

Joe Doolittle: 50th Reunion Reprise...personal

Sandy Schuman: Take Turns...non-fiction

Kate Dudding: Jewish Rosary Beads....historical

Listeners: *Howard and Fran Bisner, Carol Connolly, Don darmer, Barbara Haverly, Adam Hoffman and Dave Ross*

Wednesday October 16 Halloween Party at the Pine Hills Library. Facilitator: *Sandy Schuman*

Stories Told:

Bonnie Mion "Carved in Stone" (original, based on Egyptian Mythology"

Eliud Nieves "The Red Cat and the 12 Black Cats" (literary)

Merideth Nieves "The Story to Tell" (Irish folktale)

Gil Payette "Bats are Alone" (Modoc)

Eric Randall "Dare" (e-card)

Adam Hoffman "Jack's Tale" (original)

Listener: *Sandy Schuman*

Tuesday November 19 at Colonie Town Library *Bonnie Mion* - facilitator

Stories Told

Carol Connolly and Don darmer gave us a great song/story called "Little Orphan Annie" from James Whitcomb Riley.

Gil Payette told "Twisted Hair", a Toltec story.

Bonnie Mion told "Captured", a true story from family

Kate Dudding did "Sweetest Sound", a Persian Folktale

Adam Hoffman told "The Golden Twig", a French folktale

and *Sandy Schuman* gave us a personal story about the Jew's Harp

Wednesday December 18 Annual Holiday Meeting at Pine Hills Library Facilitator, *Sandy Schuman*

Stories Told

Bonnie Mion, "Dad's X-mas," personal

Eliud Nieves, "The Story of Ruth," personal

Gil Payette, "Walk in Beauty," Navajo

Adam Hoffman, "The Rosy Story," Folklore from the Schoharie Hills

Sandor Schuman, "Queenie and Evie," Folktale (updated)

Listener: *Merideth Nieves*

Did you Know?

2014 dues are NOW due and are a bargain at \$10.00 per year.

Please use the form on Page 7.

Story Circle Meeting Cancellation Policy: Use the following guidelines to cancel a meeting or to check on a scheduled meeting: It is up to the facilitator to decide to cancel a meeting. The facilitator may consult with *Carol Connolly* or *Kate Dudding*. If the facilitator decides to cancel a meeting: 1) Send out an e-mail message via the Story Circle listserv (or ask *Carol Connolly* or *Kate Dudding* to do it) and 2) notify the library. Story Circle members who are planning to attend a meeting may call or e-mail either the facilitator or the library to determine if a meeting is being held.

Ongoing Events

Wednesday, January 8, 2014 7:00 pm Open Mic at Caffè Lena, 47 Phila St. Saratoga Springs. The Featured teller will be *Joe Doolittle*. Sign up to tell at 6:45 pm. \$3 (Refreshments \$1) New tellers *always* welcome. Once a month from 7:00-9:00 p.m., storytellers have their own open mic, to try their voices for the first time, to hone their skills in front of a live responsive audience, to work on their presentation, or to try new ideas in a supportive atmosphere. For others, it's a cheap night of entertainment. No reservations are necessary or taken. The organizers and MCs for this storytelling open mic are storytellers *Margaret French, Christie Keegan and Jeannine Laverty*. Doors open for sign up at 6:45 p.m. There is a 10-minute limit on story length. The MC will weave the evening together and there will be no feedback. No reading of stories, just telling, please. To reimburse the Caffè for use of the space, admission is \$3, and \$1 each for the coffee and goodies. Hope to see AND hear you there! Questions? (518) 587-4536

Wednesday, February 12, 2014 Open Mic at Woodlawn Commons (The Harkness building), in Saratoga Springs at 7:00 pm. Sign up to tell at 6:45 pm. Free. New tellers always welcome. Directions: From Broadway, turn right on Clinton & left on Clement. Turn left at the Hospice sign. The Harkness building is the yellow building straight ahead.

Sunday January 19 2:00 - 4:00 Interfaith Story Circle of the Tri-City Area Winter Lights Festival 2014 at the Mosque at the Islamic Cultural Center in Schenectady located at 21 North Lansing Rd. Schenectady NY 12304. Performers include the *Schenectady High School Choir, Kent Busman, Janet Carter and Bill Cliff* and **Children at the Well Tellers, Macaela Rourke, Shadeh Din and Anam Mehta**. We will also have music from the *An Nur School Choir*. For more information call 518 209 6477 or e-mail cbnolou@yahoo.com.

Adirondack Storytelling Guild - Contact Fran Yardley at franstory@gmail.com.

Eighth Step Open Mic on First Thursdays 7-9:30 p.m. at Proctors in Robb Alley - All welcome.

Family Programs

December 31 Tuesday 5:00 pm - Midnight *Saratoga First Night* <http://www.saratoga-arts.org>. 518 584-4132. Free

January 4 Saturday 2:00 pm Storytelling at Thacher Nature Center. Storyteller *Claire Nolan* can usually be found telling stories at **The Nature Center** camp fire in the summer. Today, she will tell stories to warm your heart in winter. Come and hear "Stories for a New Year - Beginnings and (Mostly) Happy Endings." Stories are appropriate for all ages, so bring the family! Call 872-0800 for more information. Thacher Nature Center 87 Nature Center Way Voorheesville, NY 12186. Free.

January 10, 17, 24 at 7:00 pm and **January 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26** at 3:00 pm and **January 20** MLK Day at 10:00 am & 1:00 pm - Rumpelstiltskin *Steamer No.10's* almost traditional tale of a Miller's Daughter who gets caught up in a tale about spinning straw into gold. Steamer No.10 was dubbed "The Mad Scientists of children's theatre for our production of Rumpelstiltskin." We use three actors to portray all twelve characters with two of them playing Rumpelstiltskin at the same time - one brain, two bodies - the physical embodiment of a magical, maniacal, schizophrenic wood gnome. Steamer No.10 (518) 438-5503; info@steamer10theatre.org. 500 Western Ave; Albany, NY

12203. Advance Purchase tickets: \$13; Online: \$13 + \$1/ticket handling fee; At the Door: \$15. Lapsitters are free.

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Adult Programs

January 5 Sunday 2:00 pm Proctors Word Play: "Betrayal and Beyond"; *Ralph Waldo Emerson* defined success as, among other things, to have endured the betrayal of false friends. Come hear stories that Ralph would have appreciated told by: *Siri Allison*, *Betty Cassidy*, *Alden (Joe) Doolittle*, *Kate Dudding*, *Margaret French* and *Sandy Schuman*.

January 9 Thursday 7:00 pm Pre-Show Spoken Word at Proctors; Ghost Stories with *Kelvin Keraga* before Ghost Whisperer (on the mainstage at 8:00 pm). Acclaimed storyteller Kelvin will get us in the mood with some spooky stories in Robb Alley at Proctors Theater, State Street Schenectady, NY. Free.

January 26 Sunday 5:00 pm **The Glen Sanders Mansion The 107th Story Sunday** "Home, Hearth and All That Jazz" with *Three Spirits* *Kent Busman*, *Alden (Joe) Doolittle* and *Harlan Rateyer*. Three of the region's most whimsical and irrepressible storytellers will spin tales of the "bustle and magic" of home, the "Jazz" in life and the music of community. Special Guests: The Hamilton Hill Arts Center Jazz Ensemble! A Benefit for the Hamilton Hill Arts Center. Entrees: Chicken Cutlet, Roasted Primavera Vegetables, Mashed Sweet Potatoes; Pork Chop with Sage & Apple Chutney, Roasted Primavera Vegetables, Mashed Sweet Potatoes; Pasta Primavera with Fresh Vegetables 1 Glen Avenue, Scotia, NY, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. **"Best entertainment value in the Capital District."** \$33 per person (entertainment, 3 course dinner, coffee/tea, tax AND tip) Pay at the door using cash or checks made out to "Story Circle". Sponsor Level: \$50+ additional support welcomed and appreciated. Send sponsor support by check to: Hamilton Hill Arts Center, c/o 112 Maplewood Drive, Scotia, NY 12302. **Reservations:** (518) 384-1700 Kate@KateDudding.com Please indicate how many of each entree is desired.

Opportunity for Story Listeners (But Hurry!)*

Without the listeners - there would be no need for stories!!

Dear *Story Circle Friends*,

Several times each season, *new listeners* tell us, "This is the first storytelling program I've ever been to. It was wonderful! The storyteller really connected with my imagination. I'll be coming to more programs." Here's a comment from a frequent listener about **Tellabration 2013**: "The stories were great. I would be hard pressed to name a favorite, all touched me deeply."

That's the magic of storytelling.

Thank you for supporting Story Circle and these productions by attending, by telling friends and family and bringing them as guests. Your interest and enthusiasm have been more than welcome.

As is true for most arts organizations, ticket sales do not cover all our expenses. As a resident Company at Proctors, while we receive visibility, guidance and encouragement, we receive no direct support via grants or gifts to Proctors, unless they are specifically earmarked to Story Circle. We also reimburse Proctors for theater space, technical direction and box office costs from our performance income. In order to expand our outreach efforts, leverage partnerships at Proctors and the community, and offer workshops for youth and older tellers, we need modest assistance from friends and supporting organizations. We are storytellers, not magicians - we spin a tale, we can't spin money. In the midst of Story Circle's 17th Season, we are turning to you as well as our frequent listeners for support.

We invite you to become a Patron of Story Circle at Proctors for the 2013-2014 season. Last season, our generous patrons donated over \$2000 which paid for 98% of our expenses at Proctors. In return for your much needed and greatly appreciated generosity, you will receive the following benefits at the patron levels listed on our web site:

<http://storycircleatproctors.org/how-you-can-help.shtml>

Our goal for the 2013-2014 season is to raise **\$3,000 by *December 31, 2013**. Please help us expand the magic of storytelling in our region.

To become a patron of Story Circle at Proctors, make a check payable to "Proctors" and mail it to:
Story Circle at Proctors c/o Kate Dudding, Treasurer
8 Sandalwood Drive
Clifton Park, NY 12065-2700

If you prefer to remain anonymous, please note that on your check. The entire value of your check is tax deductible at both the state and federal levels.

Thank you for your generosity.

With best regards and much good cheer,

Joe and Kate

Alden (Joe) Doolittle, Producer
aldenjoe@nycap.rr.com
(518) 384-1700

Kate Dudding, Producer
kate@katedudding.com
(518) 383-4620

Upcoming Events

March 9 Sunday 2:15 pm *Tales 'n Tunes* perform a "Carnival of the Animals" program for families in the conference room next to the Fenimore Gallery of Proctors Theater in conjunction with the Schenectady Symphony performance. Free program is at 2:15 p.m.

Story Sundays at Glens Sanders in Scotia **March 16** with *Mary Murphy* and *Nancy Marie Payne*: "Across the Sea to Ireland"

and *Word Plays* at the Proctors Theater in Schenectady **March 23** Sunday 2:00 "Second Chances" featuring *Jane Ainslie, Claire Beetlestone, Carol Connolly, Alden (Joe) Doolittle, Four Stories High, Margaret French, Marni Gillard, Eliud Nieves, Barbara Palumbo* and *Sandy Schuman*. Sunday,

Louise Koenig Remembered

We are so sad to learn of the recent death (December 11, 2013) of our beloved friend and Story Circle member, *Louise Koenig*.

Louise was a welcome addition to Story Circle. Her enthusiasm for writing and telling was obvious.

We will miss her. - *Carol Connolly*

Louise was a wonderful storytelling friend to so many of us, always encouraging and supportive. We will miss her. - *Margaret French*

Louise was one for the treasures of our Capital District Storytelling Community. We will miss her stories and her indomitable energy. I consider her a heroine for the zest with which she lived her senior years. I'll never forget her. A sweet friend to me and to storytelling in general. She really spread the word about this art. - *Marni Gillard*

Do YOU have a memory of Louise or perhaps a copy of one of her wonderful poems? I would very much like to publish your memories or Louise's poetry in future editions of the *Talespinner*. (Ed.)

Let the Stories Begin!

All meetings are held from 6:30 to 8:30 pm on the 3rd Tuesday or Wednesday of the month alternating between Tuesdays in odd numbered months at the William K. Sanford Library and Wednesdays in even numbered months at the Pine Hills Branch of the Albany Public Library.

Addresses and DIRECTIONS: **January 21 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm at The William K. Sanford Library** located at 629 Albany Shaker Road, just off Northway Exit 4, and 1/4 mile east of the intersection of Wolf Road and Albany Shaker Road on the left side.

February 19 from 6:15 pm - 9:00 at the Pine Hills Branch of the Albany Public Library. 517 Western Avenue Albany, NY 12203 near North Allen Street at "the Point".

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

() I want to be a member of Story Circle, enclosed is a check for \$10.00 for the newsletter and a roster of members. Renewal is in **January** of each year.

() List my name among performing storytellers for referral.

() Send my newsletters via US mail. () Send my newsletters via E-mail.

Membership renewals are due each January and are good for one year. Please make checks payable to "Story Circle" and send to *Carol Connolly*, 1100 Niskayuna Road, Niskayuna, NY 12309