



The Resident Storytelling Company

STORY CIRCLE
at PROCTORS

Presents

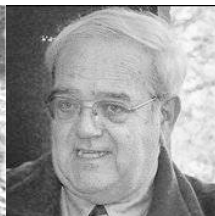
Tellabration!™ 2025

Laughing Matters

28th Annual Benefit Performance for Capital District Storytelling
Sunday, November 2, 4:00 p.m. The GE Theatre at Proctors



Fran Combs Berger



Alden (Joe) Doolittle



Kate Dudding



Margaret French



Maria Immediato



Eileen Egan Mack



Bonnie Mion



Claire Nolan



Nancy Marie Payne



Sandy Schuman



Beverly Schwartz

Tellabration!™ is a trademark of the National Storytelling Network storynet.org





The Resident Storytelling Company

Our 18th Season 2024/25

Stories Celebrating the Human Spirit

StoryCircleAtProctors.org

Word Plays at PROCTORS

Sundays at 2 pm

Jan. 11 Resplendent

Feb. 8 Spellbinding

Mar. 15 Shenanigans

At each Word Play, a different group of performers tell rarely heard contemporary and traditional stories which celebrate the human spirit. You will discover that Word Plays is a shared experience between the audience and the performer, combining the intensity of a solo performer with the intimacy of a face-to-face conversation.

Delack Room at PROCTORS

432 State Street, Schenectady, NY 12305

Tickets \$12

Proctors Box Office (518) 346-6204

Caffè Lena Storytelling Open Mic



Every First Tuesday

Doors at 6:30 pm, Stories at 7:00 pm Eastern

Nov. 4, 2026 Featured Teller: Lâle Davidson

Come enjoy an evening of storytelling! In the first part of the evening, the featured teller tells a 30-minute set. (This will be live streamed.) Then storytellers of all styles and levels of experience tell true stories for 90 minutes: traditional tales, myths, fables, family stories and more. (These will not be streamed.) Just remember: no notes!

Caffè Lena's full menu is available.

Lâle Davidson learned storytelling at her mother's knee as they traversed continents in a Dodge camping van. "There is nothing so desolate as a farm that lies fallow." So begins the ghost story Lâle will be telling about a little girl left out in the cold, based on her family's past in Pittsburgh, PA..

A professor of fiction writing and public speaking at SUNY ADK for 33 years, Lâle has published four books. She also co-hosts the Caffè Lena Storytelling Open Mic with Jeannine Laverty. For more information, visit laledavidson.com

In Person
\$5/person

No pre-sale tickets. Seating is first come, first served.
Students free.

Live streaming **Via CaffèLena.TV**
\$5/person

47 Phila Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Information 518-587-4536

caffelena.org/event/storytelling-open-mic-featuring-lale-davidson/



Interfaith Story Network

Interfaith Story Network is an international group of people who believe in the spiritual, moral, and healing power of story. Our goal is to welcome and engage people of all cultural, ethical, spiritual/faith traditions in order to:

- Rejoice in our diversity
- Break down the stereotypes that divide us
- Recognize what we have in common
- Work together for peace and understanding

Learn more about us on our website **InterfaithStory.org**, including our Zoom storytelling meetings (the next ones are on 11/16 and 1/18), and the other work that we do. Or contact Gert Johnson grsjohnson@aol.com.



Join us SATURDAY DECEMBER 13th, 3-4pm

47 Phila Street, Saratoga Springs, NY

for a Children at the Well storytelling concert
part of Caffè Lena's Little Folks Series

Connecting tomorrow's leaders through storytelling
withourvoice.org

Thank you, Tellabration, for reminding us that Laughing Matters!

Winter Storyteller Series 2026

Presented by



The Academy for Lifelong Learning Saratoga Region is a nonprofit membership organization offering educational and social opportunities for adults as we age.

More information about
A.L.L. : (518) 290-6988
www.ALLsaratoga.org

Sponsored by



Wednesdays, January 7 – February 11 *
12:00 – 1:00 pm

Free and open to the public

No reservations needed

Congress Hall at Prestwick Chase

100 Saratoga Boulevard, Saratoga Springs, NY

*If Saratoga Springs city schools are closed due to weather, the program is postponed until Feb. 18.



Story Circle of the Capital District

A group of people who love stories

Albany/Schenectady/Troy, New York

Grants available to Members of Story Circle of the Capital District to Promote Tellabration! 2026

Tellabration! is not just for laughs! Proceeds from Tellabration! go towards The Story Circle of the Capital District Storytelling Grants. Any member of SCCD is eligible to apply for one of the five \$300 grants available for 2026.

In the spring, be on the lookout for an email from the SCCD Grant Committee inviting members to apply for one of the Grants.



Next Oars in the Water: Changes

Nov. 12th 7-8:30 pm ET via Zoom

Hosted by Heather Forest and Lee-Ellen Marvin

Find the link to join the Zoom meeting here:

HealingStoryAlliance.org

The Healing Story Alliance (HSA) supports storytelling as a healing art. HSA provides dynamic programming and online resources to promote the healing of self, community, society, and the Earth. We welcome anyone into our circle who is interested in the healing power of story to bring about positive change. We foster collaborations with other groups and organizations who share our mission.

Visit our website HealingStoryAlliance.org to review our resources and programs including our bi-weekly community building program Oars in the Water (free), or our paid programming including Kind Stories, featuring tellers from around the world. Recordings of the later as well as special programs are available on our website.

Get connected - join our email list bit.ly/hsa-sign-up



OUR 2026 SEASON

RIPCORD

March 6–15, 2026



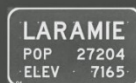
THE
BRIDGES
OF
MADISON
COUNTY

April 24–May 3, 2026



THE
LARAMIE
PROJECT

June 12–21, 2026



jagged
little pill

July 17–August 2, 2026



THE
SPONGEBOB
MUSICAL
YOUTH EDITION

August 7–9, 2026



HARPER LEE'S TO KILL A
MOCKINGBIRD

September 18–27, 2026



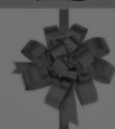
LIZZIE
THE MUSICAL

October 23–Nov 1, 2026



SNOW
BUSINESS

December 11–13, 2026



For More Information, visit
FortSalem.com | 518-854-9200



Laughing Matters

Sweet Violets

A personal story

Nancy Marie Payne

My Granddaughter's Adventures

A personal story

Alden (Joe) Doolittle

Do You See What I See?

A personal story

Maria Immediato

Roadside Attractions

A personal story

Margaret French

The Birth of Paul Bunyan

An American folktale

Bonnie Mion

Teen Trouper Blues

A personal story

Fran Combs Berger

Intermission

Mrs. Davy Crockett

A tall tale

Eileen Egan Mack

Snakebite

A personal story

Claire Nolan

They Got Me

A personal story

Beverly Schwartz

He Was A Mensch!

A Jewish folktale

Sandy Schuman

Laughing Matters

A personal story

Kate Dudding

Emcee: Sandy Schuman

Before and after the program, as well as during intermission, the audience is cordially invited to browse and shop at the Artists' Table and to meet the storytellers.

Featured Tellers

Fran Combs Berger was born in Oklahoma, in the heart of Tornado Alley, in a town where the major employer was a smelter. She and her twin sister were born into a family of ten in the 1950s. Surviving killer twisters and the environmental havoc wrought by the smelter, she has since lived in California and Colorado, eventually settling in New York. She tells stories, and has a Massage Therapy and Reiki practice. She has performed on land and water, at parties, schools, libraries and festivals. Her specialties include folk tales, stories of the rural west, and personal recollections.

Alden (Joe) Doolittle began storytelling when his children were young (a long time ago) and realized it was also good method to motivate and teach staff. Joe is a retired healthcare executive and volunteer chaplain at Albany Med. He listens for stories in all aspects of his life and collects those he believes will entertain and teach others. Joe has a particular interest in local historical stories. He uses storytelling with clients, students, and audiences regionally. He is also a producer of Word Plays, and Tellabration.

Kate Dudding creates entertaining and heartwarming stories, both personal stories as well as stories about real people who made a difference. Kate loves being a storyteller because, as the old Scottish Traveler proverb says, "The power of story connects people eye to eye, mind to mind, heart to heart." Many of her five CDs received national storytelling awards. She won the 2010 National Storytelling Conference story slam in Los Angeles. She is also a producer of Word Plays, and Tellabration. KateDudding.com KateDudding.com/jokes

Margaret French tells personal and family stories with their roots in Canada, where she grew up, and in upstate New York, where she now lives. Her stories are unexpected, humorous, touching tales about our all-too-human condition. She often includes traditional folktales and myths or local history. Margaret also enjoys leading storytelling and writing workshops. (The Academy for Lifelong Learning in Saratoga has honored her as a Master Leader.) You can find many of her stories on her blog at MargaretFrench.com.

Maria Immediato is a retired Medical Technologist and Special Education and Reading teacher. She has 2 adult children, 8 granddaughters and lives with her partner, David. She enjoys photography, genealogy, digital art, the paranormal, decorating for the holidays, and now, the wonderful world of Storytelling.

(over)

Eileen Egan Mack is proud to be a member of the Story Circle of the Capital District, the local storytelling guild. She grew up on stories her mother, the librarian, shared around the kitchen table. During Eileen's career as an educator in northern New York, she used storytelling to promote listening and speaking skills. While she has two one-person programs, her storytelling for general audiences often focuses on Irish stories and stories celebrating the blessings of trees, earth and sky. She has done programs at the Adirondack Folk School, the Experience at ADKX, Wiawaka, the Rensselaerville Institute, Union College, and SCCD's Word Plays, among other places.

Bonnie J. Mion, MSW, CSW, Studied acting at the Stella Adler acting studio and the Raphael Kelly acting studio in NYC. She enjoys telling stories of history, health, cell phone safety, food, Egypt, the mysteries of the world and anything that catches her fancy. She is also a performer and teacher of belly dance for over 20 years.

Claire Nolan enjoys telling myths, literary tales, and folktales. As the seventh of ten children, she has a wealth of personal stories. Claire can be found telling tales locally at Caffè Lena in Saratoga, Proctors in Schenectady, the Performing Arts Center at UAlbany, and Thacher Park. Claire's love of history has sparked her interest in learning about women who have changed the world. She tells their stories in personae.

Nancy Marie Payne has been performing professionally for over 40 years. She loves the challenges of researching old stories and creating new ones. Living close to the Hudson River is her joy. "Places of beauty are always inspiring; the moods of a large river are enchanting and awaken the muses." NancyMariePayne.blogspot.com

Beverly Schwartz was an elementary teacher in Troy, NY. She received the 1990 Christa McAuliffe Fellowship Award for NY State for creating the program STEM. On May 9, 2025 Beverly received two awards: a commendation from Congressman Paul Tonko from the US Congress for coining the term STEM and creating the first STEM program in the US: and from NY Assemblyman Phil Steck, a citation from NY State for creating the first not-for-profit corporation in NY State named STEM. Beverly enjoys storytelling and is a keynote speaker about STEM globally. To learn more, google Beverly Schwartz STEM.

Sandy Schuman is fascinated by familiar things and their unfamiliar stories. He brings folk tales and historical sagas to life ("some of our folklore is truly unbelievable, some of our history is even more so") and reveals the little-known stories behind some of our best-known songs. When you hear him play the guitar and sing, you'll know why he calls himself a storyteller. tothestory.com

Production Staff

Tellabration! 2025 would not have been possible without the help of the many members of Story Circle, in addition to the tellers, who gave generously of their time, energy and talents behind the scenes. To all, our most heartfelt thanks.

Producers	Kate Dudding, Siri Allison, Joe Doolittle
Artists' Table	Mary Murphy
Door Prizes	Kate Dudding
Emcee	Sandy Schuman
House Manager	Kate Dudding
Program Design & Ads	Kate Dudding
Publicity	Kate Dudding, Joe Doolittle, Siri Allison & tellers
Refreshments	Bonnie Mion, Claire Nolan Siri Allison, Joe Doolittle, Kate Dudding, Margaret French, Maria Immediato, Eileen Egan Mack, Anne Marie McLaughlin, Nancy Marie Payne, Beverly Schwartz, Sandy Schuman

WATCH US [YouTube.com/storybystory](https://www.youtube.com/storybystory)

More than 100,000 stories viewed

Children's Safety in a Wireless World

Programs for parents, teachers, students, and anyone who is concerned about health and wireless technology.

Storyteller Bonnie J. Mion, MSW, CSW

518-756-8091

bjmion@gmail.com

Story Circle of the Capital District



story-circle.org (518) 383-4620

A group of people who love stories

Story Circle of the Capital District was founded in 1983 to provide storytellers with a monthly forum for works in progress and to bring the art of storytelling to the public eye and ear. Currently there are 50 members who come from the Capital District, Washington County, and the Adirondacks. Members are available to tell their tales in parks, museums, nursing homes, libraries, classrooms, and coffeehouses and at community events -- wherever people gather to enjoy a spellbinding tale.

In 2007, **Story Circle** became one of the first resident storytelling companies at a performing arts center in the U.S. through a partnership with Proctors in Schenectady. StoryCircleAtProctors.org

Story Circle meets the third Monday of the month to share works in progress at a public library in Albany. Newcomers and listeners welcomed! Next meetings:

Nov. 18, 5:00 – 7:45 pm

Pine Hills Library, 17 Western Ave, Albany

Dec, 15, 5:00 – 7:45 pm

Colonie Town Library, 629 Albany Shaker Rd, Loudonville

Tellabration!™ (storynet.org/events/tellabration/) was started in 1988 in Connecticut to encourage and support storytelling for adults in local communities. This benefit evening of storytelling is sponsored by The National Storytelling Network.

Tellabration!™ will be celebrated in many sites across the United States and online this year.

Locally, we have used the proceeds from previous Tellabration!™ to fund over 100 storytelling programs at libraries, museums and other locations in the Capital District through The Story Circle of the Capital District Storytelling Grants, Story Circle Productions, Ltd. (our not-for-profit sister organization.)

Just the Right Note
 Music/Stories/Voiceovers
 Weddings/Special Occasions/Fundraisers/Schools

Eileen Egan Mack

Vocalist-Jazz, Pop, Broadway
 Storyteller-Children and Adults

Latham, NY 12110

leenie151@gmail.com 518-225-1031



Karen Sangaline Pillsworth
Storyteller

kpstories@aol.com 914-388-6212



136 Foxhall Ave.
 Kingston, NY 12401

www.karenpillsworth.com

Sandy Schuman
Storyteller, Musician, Educator

518-229-8345
 www.tothestory.com
 sschuman@exedes.com

historical sagas
 folk tales, tall tales
 personal adventures
 musical stories

Claire Nolan Storyteller

518-209-6477
cbnolou@gmail.com

Myths
Literary Tales
Folktales
Personal Stories

STORYTELLER

Nancy Marie Payne

*89A Barent Winne Rd
Selkirk, NY 12158
518 505 0619*

nancymariepayne@gmail.com
www.nancymariepayne.blogspot.com

*Schoharie
Crossing
presents...*

Not Just for Kids

storytelling series

Free

34th Annual

2026

Start time is 6pm

Sunday, Aug. 30th

Sunday, Sept. 13th

Sunday, Sept. 27th

For More Than 30 Years, the Not Just for Kids Storytelling Series has been bringing great performances of storytellers to the community. Join us for evenings of amazing tales, dazzling stories, and wonderful smiles!

Schoharie Crossing - 129 Schoharie St. - Ft. Hunter, NY 12069



(518) 829-7516 - SchoharieCrossing@parks.ny.gov

Kate Dudding, Storyteller



8 Sandalwood Drive
Clifton Park, NY 12065

(518) 383-4620 Kate@KateDudding.com

Videos on KateDudding.com : *Watch Kate Tell*

Kate says,

"I have many storytelling programs including: Julia Child, Laughing Matters, Georgia O'Keeffe, Chocolate, and Peace Stories.

As an award-winning author and storyteller, I specialize in telling true stories about people who made a difference. Since 1995, I've told stories at many venues in the Northeastern USA. I won the Story Slam at the 2010 National Storytelling Conference in Los Angeles. Many of my five CDs have won national storytelling awards.

"Watching Kate Dudding develop her voice has been a joy for me for over twenty years. She has focused her work on the stories of individuals who have made a difference in our world. More recently she has directed her considerable talents into the creation of a CD titled "Learning About Muslims." It is the culmination of long community work and much research. It is a valuable and unique contribution to our world at large."

Elizabeth Ellis
Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient
National Storytelling Network



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In person and live streaming

CaffeLena.org