



Tellabration!™ 2023  
**Best Laid Plans**

*26th Annual Benefit Performance for Capital District Storytelling*  
**Sunday, November 12, 4:00 p.m. The GE Theatre at Proctors**



**Kent Busman**



**Kate Dudding**



**Margaret French**



**Marni Gillard**



**Miss Julia**



**Bonnie Mion**



**Claire Nolan**



**Nancy Marie Payne**

Tellabration!™ is a trademark of the National Storytelling Network [storynet.org](http://storynet.org)





The Resident Storytelling Company

Our 17<sup>th</sup> Season 2022/23

Stories Celebrating the Human Spirit

[StoryCircleAtProctors.org](http://StoryCircleAtProctors.org)

# **Word Plays at PROCTORS**

**Sundays at 2 pm**

**Jan. 14 Persistence**

**Feb. 11 Polar Opposites**

**Mar. 24 Possibilities**

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

**Dec. 5, 2023    Featured Teller: Christie Keegan**

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.

**Christie Keegan's** personal stories weave together the wonders of childhood, questions of adolescence and stark realities of adulthood. No matter the topic of the tale, audiences often claim the rhythm of her stories echoes their own experience. In addition to being entertaining, her hope is that this common bond increases our tolerance and understanding of ourselves and each other. With the same intent, she tells folk tales, myths and tall tales from many cultures – hoping the audience will hear what is common to us all as well as what makes each of us unique.

<b>In Person</b>	<b>No pre-sale tickets. Seating is first come, first served.</b>
<b>\$5/person</b>	<b>Students free.</b>

<b>Live streaming</b>	<b>Via CaffèLena.TV</b>
<b>\$5/person</b>	

**47 Phila Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866**

Information 518-587-4536

[caffelena.org/storytelling-open-mic/](http://caffelena.org/storytelling-open-mic/)

# Stories Around the Steeple

A virtual open mic  
for storytelling, music & spoken word

**First Friday every month**  
**7:00 – 8:30 pm Eastern**  
*with a Featured Performer*

Zoom link      [www.frcschenectady.church/events](http://www.frcschenectady.church/events)

Sign-up            6:50 pm            (10 minute slots)  
Host/More Info   Joe Doolittle   [AldenJoe@nycap.rr.com](mailto:AldenJoe@nycap.rr.com)

**First Reformed Church**  
**Schenectady, NY 12305**



## Interfaith Story Circle of the Capital Region

A group of people who believe in  
the spiritual, moral, and healing power of story  
to work toward peace and understanding  
between people of different faiths and values

If you would like to learn more about us, write to  
[grsjohnson@aol.com](mailto:grsjohnson@aol.com)

We are a program of WithOurVoice, Inc.



# Winter Storyteller Series 2024



Series sponsored by



**Wednesdays**

**Jan. 3 – Feb. 7\***

**Noon-1:00 pm**

**Free and**

**Open to the Public**

No reservations needed

**Congress Hall at  
Prestwick Chase**

100 Saratoga Blvd.

Saratoga Springs, NY

- Jan. 3 Nancy Marie Payne**  
Ruslan and Ludmilla by Alexander Pushkin
- Jan. 10 Linda McKenney**  
You're Going To Be Surprised
- Jan. 17 Kelvin Keraga**  
Voices From the Shadows
- Jan. 24 Margaret French**  
Human.Kind
- Jan. 31 Kent Busman**  
Chasing the Light – Stories About Faith
- Feb. 7 Kate Dudding**  
Peace Stories

\*If Saratoga Springs city schools are closed due to weather, the program is postponed until Feb. 14.

For more information, contact the Academy at (518) 290-6988 or go to [www.allsaratoga.org](http://www.allsaratoga.org)

*Speakers and content subject to change*



Kent Busman

Kate Dudding

Margaret French

Kelvin Keraga

Linda McKenney

Nancy Marie Payne

# Green Tellabration!

**NSN** NATIONAL  
STORYTELLING  
NETWORK



**Tuesday**  
**November 14, 2023**  
**8:00 pm ET**

**Via Zoom**

**Register:**  
<http://bit.ly/greentell23>

**Learn more:**  
<https://bit.ly/ECO-SIG>

NSN's ECO Special Interest Group invites you to the  
**World Premiere Green Tellabration!**

Come listen to ECO-SIG members tell stories  
in honor of our Mother Earth.

A suggested \$15 donation will help fund additional  
ECO-SIG storytelling events.

Open to ALL

**Jackson Gillman, Host**



**Judith Black    Diane Edgecomb    Papa Joe Gaudet**



**Claire Nolan**

**Fran Stallings**

**Linda Yemoto**



## 2024 SEASON



**Agnes of God**

March 1-10, 2024



**Into The Woods**

April 5-14, 2024



**Godspell**

May 31-June 9, 2024



**Mary Poppins**

July 26-August 11, 2024



**Youth Musical TBA**

July/August 2024



**The Drowsy  
Chaperone**

September 27 - Oct 6, 2024



**Our Town**

November 8-10, 2024



**Snow Business**

December 13-15, 2024



learn more at

**WWW.FORTSALEM.COM**

# Best Laid Plans

## **Predicaments**

A personal story

**Kate Dudding**

## **The Miraculous Bird**

A folk tale from Hungary

**Miss Julia**

## **Uncle Cleosophus Stories, Retold**

A personal story

**Margaret French**

## **Brigid's Cloak**

An ancient Irish tale,  
adapted from the book by Bryce Milligan

**Marni Gillard**

## **Intermission**

## **The Ugly Ducking**

An adaptation of the story  
by Hans Christian Andersen

**Claire Nolan**

## **What Do We Do Now?**

A personal story

**Bonnie Mion**

## **Where Stories Come From**

A Zulu folk tale

**Nancy Marie Payne**

## **My Brother's Trees**

A personal story

**Kent Busman**

## **Emcee: Kent Busman**

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

**Kent Busman** has been the Executive Director of Camp Fowler for 37 years. During that time, he has had the opportunity to earn some of his storytelling stripes. While he favors folk and regional tales, Kent has also dabbled with telling stories of his adventures, sometimes even mixing them with older tales. When not in the Adirondacks he lives in Scotia with his patient wife, excited dog, busy bees, and slow growing trees.

**CampFowler.org**

**Kate Dudding** creates entertaining, heartwarming and memorable stories, both personal stories as well as stories about real people who made a difference. Kate loves being a storyteller because, as Liz Weir 's uncle said, "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.

**KateDudding.com**

**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**.

**Marni Gillard** discovered storytelling as a Niskayuna middle school teacher. Her book *Storyteller Storyteacher* (Stenhouse Publishers), available on Amazon, helps teachers and parents understand how valuable tale-telling and poem-telling are for students of all ages finding their voice.

Marni's double CD, *Without a Splash, Diving into Childhood Memories* shows how important life stories are for listeners and tellers as well. Reach Marni online at [marnigillard@earthlink.net](mailto:marnigillard@earthlink.net) or leave a message at 518-312-6095

**Miss Julia** is a former preschool teacher who puts her own twist on classic fairy and folk tales. She is inspired by nature, music, and faith. Her stories aim to inspire readers to use their imagination, love the little things, and be authentic. Her favorite writers are Hans Christian Anderson, Jules Verne, Soren Kierkegaard, Sam Endicott, and Ray Bradbury. She is proud to be the newest member of the Story Circle.

**Bonnie Mion** is a storyteller. She enjoys telling folktales, legends and historical stories from the history of food to women suffrage and beyond. Bonnie also teaches belly dance, astrology, and gives nutrition talks.

**Claire Nolan** tells folk tales and myths at various venues in and around the Capital District. Claire often appears at Word Plays at Proctors Theater in Schenectady and is proud to be appearing once again at **Tellabration** on November 12. At Wiawaka in Lake George, Claire performs in personae as various notable historic women. More recently, Claire has been working on stories in honor our Mother Earth.

**Nancy Marie Payne** has been creating stories for over 40 years. She performs in public and private venues including libraries, museums, Proctors, Caffè Lena, schools, churches, and historical societies. She enjoys new challenges and topics. Nancy resides in Selkirk and has a two-minute walk to the Hudson River. "Places of beauty are always inspiring when creating a story or learning a traditional one."  
[NancyMariePayne.blogspot.com](http://NancyMariePayne.blogspot.com)

## Production Staff

**Tellabration! 2023** 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.

<b>Producers</b>	Kate Dudding, Alden (Joe) Doolittle, Siri Allison
<b>Artists' Table</b>	Anne Marie McLaughlin, Maureen Taub
<b>Door Prizes</b>	Alden (Joe) Doolittle
<b>Emcee</b>	Kent Busman
<b>House Manager</b>	Kate Dudding
<b>Program Design &amp; Ads</b>	Kate Dudding
<b>Publicity</b>	Kate Dudding, Joe Doolittle, Siri Allison & tellers
<b>Refreshments</b>	Bonnie Mion, Claire Nolan Kate Dudding, Margaret French, Gert Johnson, Anne Marie McLaughlin, Nancy Marie Payne

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

*More than 100,000 stories viewed*



# 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](http://StoryCircleAtProctors.org)

Story Circle meets from 6:00-7:45 pm each third Wednesday of the month to share works in progress at:

Pine Hills Branch, Albany Public Library, 517 Western Ave.

Newcomers and listeners welcomed! Nov. 15 Dec. 20 Jan. 17 etc.

Tellabration ([storynet.org/events/tellabration/](http://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 Tellabratings to fund over 100 storytelling programs at libraries, museums and other locations in the Capital District through the Community Storytelling Program Fund, Story Circle Productions, Ltd. (our not-for-profit sister organization.)



*Storyteller*



**Nancy Marie Payne**

518 505 0619

[nmpmountaintop@juno.com](mailto:nmpmountaintop@juno.com)

[www.nancymariepayne.blogspot.com](http://www.nancymariepayne.blogspot.com)

**Karen Sangaline Pillsworth**  
*Storyteller*

[kpstories@aol.com](mailto:kpstories@aol.com)



914-388-6212

[www.karenpillsworth.com](http://www.karenpillsworth.com)

136 Foxhall Ave.  
Kingston, NY 12401



Nollaig  
Shona  
Duit



NOLLAIG NA MBAN  
SHONA  
DAOIBH

# Songs of Erin

Sunday, December 3, 2023, 2:00 pm

Celebrating Ireland's musical heritage and  
the blessed holiday season

Eileen Egan Mack, vocals

Michael Clement, pianist

**Irish American Heritage Museum**

21 Quackenbush Square, Albany, NY [Irish-us.org](http://Irish-us.org)

518-427-1916

**\$10 for members, \$15 for non-members**

This program is partially underwritten by the Albany Musicians Association, Local #14.

# Kate Dudding, Storyteller



8 Sandalwood Drive  
Clifton Park, NY 12065

(518) 383-4620    [Kate@KateDudding.com](mailto:Kate@KateDudding.com)

Videos on [KateDudding.com](http://KateDudding.com) : *Watch Kate Tell*

Kate says,

"I have many storytelling programs including:  
**Julia Child, Laughing Matters, Georgia O'Keeffe, 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**



# STORY CIRCLE at PROCTORS

The Resident Storytelling Company

Our 17<sup>th</sup> Season 2022/23

Stories Celebrating the Human Spirit

StoryCircleAtProctors.org

## Word Plays at PROCTORS

Sundays at 2 pm

Jan. 14 Persistence  
Feb. 11 Polar Opposites  
Mar. 24 Possibilities

## Caffè Lena Storytelling Open Mic

Every First Tuesday  
Doors at 6:30 pm, Stories at 7:00 pm Eastern

Dec. 5, 2023 Featured Teller: Christie Keegan



## Stories Around the Steeple

A live & virtual open mic  
for storytelling, music & spoken word

First Friday every month, 7:00 – 8:30 pm Eastern  
with a Featured Performer

First Reformed Church 8 N. Church St., Schenectady, NY  
Zoom link [www.frscschenectady.church/events](http://www.frscschenectady.church/events)

