



Where Story Bridges Community

Central NH Storytelling Guild

Seacoast Storytelling Guild

Monadnock Storytelling Circle

Southern NH Storytelling Guild

Souhegan Storytelling Guild

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025



Storytellers do more than entertain, they shape the way we see ourselves, each other, and the world. A well-told tale can preserve history, spark empathy, and bridge divides between cultures and generations. Stories breathe life into facts, giving them heartbeats and faces, turning abstract ideas into lived experiences.

In times of uncertainty, storytellers remind us of resilience. In moments of division, they create common ground. By sharing personal truths or ancient legends, they give listeners a mirror for self-reflection and a window into lives they might never otherwise know. The right story at the right time can change a mind, open a heart, or ignite action.

For words are like seeds in the soil we tend,
They root in the heart and the mind of a friend.

We are the tellers, with fire to awake,
And this — this is the difference we make.

Keep the fire alive, the fire of words, of wonder, of connection. Tell the tales you love to tell, the ones that make your eyes shine and your hands move as you speak. Let them be the sparks that leap from your heart to your listener's.

Most importantly never stop searching for the tales you want to tell, the stories that challenge you, that whisper from the shadows, that call you to give them voice. For every story told keeps the flame burning, and every flame shared lights the way for another.

Keeping the Fires lit and the Stones warm
-Quinn

STORYTELLING OPPORTUNITIES

SOUHEGAN STORYTELLING GUILD

1ST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH 7-8:30PM

AMHERST TOWN LIBRARY

CONTACT: RICHARD HART RICHHART49@GMAIL.COM

CENTRAL NH STORYTELLING GUILD

2ND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH 1:00-3:00PM

HORSESHOE POND PLACE SENIOR CENTER,

CONTACT: RUTH NIVEN -RUTHNIVEN@HOTMAIL.COM

KITTERY CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS

2ND MONDAY OF THE MONTH 6:30 - 8:30 PM

KITTERY COMMUNITY CENTER

CONTACT: TERE KIPP- THERESAKIPP@CNTRES.COM

TAMWICH PERFORMERS CIRCLE

2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH 7PM

TAMWICH TOWN HOUSE

CONTACT: VICKY DWORKIN-VICKY.DWORKIN@GMAIL.COM

SOUTHERN NH STORYTELLING GUILD

3RD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH 7:00PM - 8:50PM

NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY (LOWER LEVEL),

CONTACT: KELLI WHITE- DRUMERAH@YAHOO.COM

MONADNOCK STORY CIRCLE

CONTACT SEBASTIAN LOCKWOOD

SEBASTIANLOCKWOOD88@GMAIL.COM

SEACOAST STORYTELLERS GUILD

4TH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH OF

EXETER LIBRARY 6:30 - 8PM

CONTACT BARBARA PASTER -

FRONTSTREETMAMA9@GMAIL.COM

TRUE TALES LIVE

1ST AND 4TH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH 6:30 - 8:30 PM

FIRST TUESDAY - WORKSHOP, FORTH TUESDAY PERFORMANCE

CONTACT: [HTTP://TRUETALESLIVENH.ORG](http://TRUETALESLIVENH.ORG)

NEW HAMPSHIRE STORYTELLING ALLIANCE

PO BOX 202 FRANKLIN, NH 03235

[HTTP://NHSTORYTELLING.ORG/](http://NHSTORYTELLING.ORG/)



Voices in the Valley: A Celebration of Storytelling in Jackson, NH

Mount Wahington Valley Storytelling Festival

September 19 & 20, 2025



As September arrives in Jackson, New Hampshire, the atmosphere begins to shift. The air sharpens slightly, and the surrounding hills start showing hints of seasonal change. With this transition comes something timeless—the Mount Washington Valley Storytelling Festival, taking place September 19 and 20, 2025. Held at the Whitney Community Center, this two-day festival honors storytelling not as performance alone, but as a deeply human way of connecting, remembering, and imagining.

The festival opens Friday evening. The Whitney Community Center fills gradually—neighbors greeting neighbors, newcomers scanning the program, volunteers offering directions. As the room settles, the first voice cuts through the quiet: it belongs to Bill Harley, a two-time Grammy-winning storyteller known for his vivid portrayals of childhood, family, and the surprising richness of ordinary life. Harley doesn't command attention through volume or spectacle; instead, he invites listeners in. He's funny without being flashy, thoughtful without being sentimental. His stories evoke knowing glances, laughter, and sometimes, a pause to think.

A Weekend of Voices from Many Traditions

The storytelling continues through Saturday with a lineup that spans cultures and storytelling styles. Charlotte Blake Alston brings her deep knowledge and commanding presence to African and African American folktales. Her stories are precise and rooted, carrying with them both the weight of history and the warmth of lived experience. Motoko, originally from Japan, brings a different rhythm—gentle, expressive, and layered. She mixes traditional myths with contemporary themes, creating space for both reflection and wonder. Rounding out the festival's featured performers is Simon Brooks, whose theatrical delivery and deep love for folklore give new life to Celtic tales and European fairy stories. He doesn't simply tell a story—he embodies it, often shifting voice, posture, and tone in ways that fully draw the listener in.

Saturday morning features a special performance for families, hosted by Bill Harley and Charlotte Blake Alston. It's not just a "children's show"—it's a shared space where people of all ages can laugh, learn, and imagine together. Parents often find as much meaning in these stories as their children, and the blend of music, movement, and narrative creates a sense of shared experience that lingers long after the session ends.

From Listening to Telling

One of the most powerful aspects of the festival is its encouragement not just to listen, but to participate. On Saturday afternoon, the focus shifts to workshops, offering attendees a chance to explore storytelling from the inside out. Whether you've never told a story aloud or you've been holding onto one for years, these sessions offer a welcoming and thoughtful entry point.

Simon Brooks leads one workshop focused on voice, pacing, and presence. He invites participants to let go of perfection and instead focus on authenticity. "Don't worry about being perfect," he says. "Worry about being real." In another session, Motoko draws on movement, breath, and deep listening to help people connect more fully with their stories. Her approach emphasizes the physicality of storytelling—how our bodies carry memory and meaning—and how becoming more aware of those connections can bring stories to life in surprising ways

Closing the Circle

Saturday night marks the final performances of the weekend. The Whitney Community Center once again fills with anticipation. There's a sense of continuity—faces that were curious on Friday are now fully engaged, leaning forward, sharing in the experience. The final stories are powerful, not because they are grand or dramatic, but because they feel honest. They reveal something about what it means to be human, to struggle and hope and wonder.

When the last story ends, the room doesn't empty quickly. Conversations continue. Some people linger, others exchange contact info, and a few sit quietly, absorbing what they've heard. The weekend may be over, but something meaningful remains.

Festival Information

All performances are free, but sign up helps for better planning. Workshops are \$25 each and require registration. Events take place at the Whitney Community Center, 16 Black Mountain Road in Jackson, NH. Visitors are encouraged to explore the town's local shops, hiking trails, and scenic landmarks while they're here.

To view the full schedule, sign up performances, register for workshops, and get lodging recommendations, visit <https://whitneyccprograms.com/storytelling-festival>.

NHSA FEATURE ARTICLE

**IF YOU HAVE A WRITTEN PIECE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE CONSIDERED AS THE MONTHLY
FEATURED ARTICLE IN THE NHSA NEWSLETTER, SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS**

(650 +/- WORDS WITH PHOTO)

TO: THERESAKIPP@CNTRES.COM

Storytelling News...



ARTISTS STANDING STRONG TOGETHER



Notification of Open Granting Cycle

Applications for the 2026 J.J. Reneaux Emerging Artist Award are currently being accepted, now through September 29, 2025. The Emerging Artist Award honors a storyteller of major and unique talent who has yet to be recognized on a national scale. By providing a one-time grant of \$2,000, the J.J. Reneaux Committee seeks to advance the award winner as a storyteller by funding activities designed to increase storytelling skill. The J.J. Reneaux Emerging Artist Award both supports the field of storytelling and celebrates its namesake.

Details about the application process as well as the application itself can be found on the ASST website at www.asst.art/jjreneaux. Questions may be directed to Sue Kessler, ASST Executive Director at execd@asst.art.

PERMA TOURS

THE NORTHEAST ECO-COMMUNITIES CONVERGENCE

**PAPA JOE
GAUDET**

FEATURED
STORYTELLER

From Papa Joe Gaudet:
"Put your thoughts into
my words, your heart in
my melody. Awaken the
Elusive Dragon and let our
souls fly free."

@PAPAJOEGAUDET

**AUGUST
21 - 24, 2025**

A BIOREGIONAL ACTIVATION AT
COMMON GROUND FAIRGROUNDS
UNITY, ME



The Art of Creative Expression group in Kittery Maine, is thrilled to announce an exciting new chapter in our journey. We are launching a quarterly anthology that will highlight the artistic endeavors of our group members and showcase additional local talents.

Stay tuned coming soon...



ANNUAL STORYTELLING EVENTS

ALL DAY 1ST SAT IN MAY GRANITE STATE STORY SWAP

A FEATURED STORYTELLER'S KEYNOTE PLUS CONCERT AND STORYTELLERS SITTING AROUND AND SWAPPING STORIES ALL DAY.

SOMETIME BEFORE THANKSGIVING TELLABRATION!™

A CELEBRATION OF STORYTELLING HELD ALL OVER THE US AND MUCH OF THE WORLD. LOCALLY IN CONCORD, NH AND ON THE SEACOAST

LAST WEEKEND IN MARCH - SHARING THE FIRE

A THREE-DAY FESTIVAL OF STORYTELLING WORKSHOPS, STORY SWAPS, CONCERTS AND CONTESTS FEATURING A WELL-KNOWN STORYTELLER'S KEYNOTE AND CONCERT. SEE [HTTPS://WWW.NESTORYTELLING.ORG/](https://www.nestorytelling.org/) FOR DETAILS.