



Where Story Bridges Community

Central NH Storytelling Guild

Seacoast Storytelling Guild

Monadnock Storytelling Circle

Southern NH Storytelling Guild

Souhegan Storytelling Guild

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025



HELLO STORYTELLERS!

We are entering my favorite time of year for story. The additional hours of darkness force us to slow down a little earlier in the day, to read, research and craft stories.

When the year leans toward its end, when the sun lingers less and the night comes early, people have always turned to stories. The fields lie quiet, the harvest is done, and the world itself seems to rest. In that pause, we gather close around the hearth, around the lamp, around one another, and the oldest human instinct stirs: the telling of tales.

Long ago, in darkened halls and by open fires, words became more than words. They were warmth against the cold, light against the shadow, memory against forgetting. The Norse told sagas while the snow pressed against their doors. Celtic bards sang of heroes and spirits as the wind carried whispers through the trees. In villages of Africa, griots spoke the lives of ancestors, weaving lineages that outlasted the night. Everywhere, in every people, when the year grew thin and the nights grew long, the stories rose up to meet the darkness.

The night gives them power. In the quiet, the flicker of flame makes shadows dance, and imagination leaps. Monsters are born there, and heroes too. Myths of death and rebirth, endings that promise beginnings, bindings between animals and mankind. For as the year fades, we are reminded of our own passing, and stories become our defiance, memory spoken aloud, hope set free in words.

And so it has always been, late in the year, storytelling is not pastime but ritual. It binds us together, it steadies us, it carries us through the longest night toward the returning dawn.

-Quinn Golden
President NHSA

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

TAMWORTH 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/)

Storytelling Doesn't Always Involve Words

Written by Vicky Dworkin



When I retired from Hawaii in 2016 to move to Sandwich, NH, I thought I was going to become a freelance storyteller. I told all my coworkers I was “retiring to, not retiring from.” I knew I wanted to work on family stories to supplement the world folktales I had been telling.

That vision of myself never developed. Caring for my elderly mother, being executor of her estate, managing a major restoration project for our 100+ year old family summer camp, and then – COVID. Maybe I simply don't have the entrepreneurial personality to be a freelance teller.

I do occasional storytelling when it comes my way: at the Central New Hampshire Storytelling Guild, hosting story potlucks, founding the Tamwich Performers Circle, at local libraries, donating storytelling certificates to community fundraisers – keeping storytelling in my life without it being the focus of my life.

Instead, I have fallen into something unexpected – fallen passionately into creating and selling fabric collage artwork, mostly landscapes, almost entirely devoted to the place I now call home, the place that I have always considered the home of my heart. I take photographs, I collect fabric from thrift shops, and I piece together images that I call “fabrications.” I describe it as painting with fabric. I always thought I couldn't “do” art. I never guessed that I would become an artist and that people would pay for my creations.

It hadn't occurred to me to describe my fabrications as storytelling, but a storyteller friend of mine looked at my pieces and perceptively remarked that I am using scraps of fabric to tell the stories of the places that are important to me. As soon as she said that, I recalled one of my earliest sales. I had created an image of a local farmhouse that has been in my mother's family since 1893. At a craft fair, a stranger asked me to tell him the story of this farm. I launched into the account of this building being the core of my family's embedded roots as multigenerational summer people, a large extended family whose members know that wherever we may live, Squam Lake is *home*. That stranger now owns a piece of my heart.



COOLIDGE FARM. ©VICKY DWORWIN



IN MEMORIAM: CHEVIÈRES, FRANCE.
©VICKY DWORWIN

I recently completed a fabrication of a solitary grave in a remote field in France. Since 2018, I have been working on a story about my great-uncle, Hamilton Coolidge, a World War I flying ace who was killed just before Armistice Day. In 2018, my husband and I joined several of my extended family members to visit Chevières, France, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of his death. While we were there, the villagers persuaded us that we needed to move his grave to their village cemetery, or it would be washed away by the spring floods of the river Aire, which had recently changed its course. In 2024, we attended another ceremony as his body, along with scraps of metal from his crashed biplane, and his tombstone made from New Hampshire granite, was relocated to the heart of the village. My fabrication shows the gravestone as it was, threatened by the river, on the site the villagers had tended for over a century. Next month, I will debut my story, “He Wanted to Fly,” in a program at my local library, a building designed by my great-grandfather, Hamilton's father.

Are my fabrications storytelling? I know some tellers might argue that they are not, that storytelling is the oral transmission of words from speaker's mouth to listeners' ears, and that is one important definition of storytelling. I do know that now, the fabrications are a part of who I am and what I do, creating both visual and verbal stories of my place in the world.



SAMUEL H. WENTWORTH LIBRARY
©VICKY DWORWIN

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...



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.



Story : Oni Lasana Artwork : Rachael Heusner

With peace, love, and laughter, the Palm and the Poui remind us that we're all part of one big family—just the way we are! Listen to the story here: <https://podcasts.apple.com/.../the-palm.../id1561364172...> Purchase the art/booklet direct : OniLasana@gmail.com

Celebrate AMERICA 250

A TAPESTRY OF TALES

1776-2026

STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

Let's all celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence, 1776 . . . and 250 years of Stories, Stories, Stories!

- Over 30 STORYTELLERS: Renee Angel, Mike Agranoff, Vicki Bryan, Kim Daly, John Ferrara, Patricia Flores, Ken Galpeau, Sabina Wasongo-Gita, Denise Higgins, Shirley Johnson, Ken Karnas, Oni Lasana, Carol Simon Levin, Maria Loblondo, Judy MacLaury, Judy England-McCarthy, Denise McCormack, Edith McGowan, Mike Maguire, Helen Peterson, Jane Politi, Juniper Politi, Carol Saitz, Rochelle Stern, Sharon Takler, Valerie Young, Eric Wiener, Alise Warshaw, Jenyn Wheeler, Michele Washington Wilson . . .
- STORY SAMPLER: John Fitz's steamboat, Tompa Wind, One Judge and George Washington, Battle of Trenton, Abigail Adams' Stone Soup, General William Howe's Dog, Harriet Tubman, Great Migration, African-American Diaspora, Abraham Lincoln's whiskers, Edgar Allan Poe, Norman Rockwell, Jackson Pollock, Cherokee legends, Heritage Folktales, Personal Narratives (and music), World War II on the American Homefront, Horace Mann, Statue of Liberty, Amelia Bloomer . . . more, more, more
- SINGALONG with Tam Chéla, vocalist, and George Stekler on the keyboard: American Musical Theatre Story Songs (Featuring the songs of Oscar Hammerstein)
- STORY SLAM: "Crossing the Line" - Facilitated by Denise McCormack, President of Patchwork Storytelling Guild
- LIGHTNING ROUND: 2 minute stories - Facilitated by Ken Galpeau, Treasurer, NJST

OCTOBER 4, SATURDAY 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 1719 William Trent House Museum
 15 Market Street, Trenton, NJ 08611
Free Admission - Free Parking
 Large parking lot - main entrance
 PRESENTED BY NJ STORYTELLING NETWORK
www.njstorynet.org
 (609) 890-3378

Rain or Shine

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.