



Where Story Bridges Community

Central NH Storytelling Guild
Seacoast Storytelling Guild
Monadnock Storytelling Circle
Southern NH Storytelling Guild
Souhegan Storytelling Guild

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026



CIRCLES OF STORY

Long before microphones, stages, or printed books, stories lived in circles. People gathered around campfires, hearths, and lantern light. The circle itself mattered. No stage separated teller from listener—only faces lit by flame and the quiet understanding that one voice would carry the night for a while.

Across cultures and centuries, these gatherings took many forms. Travelers in desert camps traded tales of long roads and distant cities. In northern winters, families filled dark halls with sagas of heroes and ancestors. In villages and forest clearings, elders passed along the memories of a people so they would not be lost.

The stories were as varied as those who told them—legends, jokes, histories, warnings, and wonders. Some explained the world. Some simply helped people endure it. But all of them did something powerful: they brought listeners together and reminded them they belonged to one another.

Storytelling has always been more than entertainment. It is how communities remember who they are. When we gather today—in libraries, living rooms, festivals, and events like the Granite State Story Swap—we are continuing that ancient tradition. The fire may now be electric light, and the circle may be made of chairs instead of stones, but the purpose remains the same.

We gather.
Someone begins a story.
And for a little while, we share the same fire.

Quinn Golden
President, NH Storytellers Alliance

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/)



FATE STEPPED IN



BY SHARON WOOD

Everyone's life is full of chance encounters, but only rarely does one lead to a lasting friendship or memorable relationship. When such a happenstance does occur, one can't help but feel that the hand of God, or Fate, or a guardian angel, must have played a part. Just such a meeting happened to me almost thirty years ago.

I had driven to Concord for a conference sponsored by the New Hampshire Council on the Arts. After parking my car, I remember consciously deciding to put my keys into my purse, instead of my coat pocket, as is my habit.

I got out of the car, slammed the door shut behind me, and groaned when I saw my purse still inside. Then began a series of chance encounters that helped me through the next few hours. The woman who parked beside me, upon hearing my tale of woe, suggested I contact campus security. Someone behind the counter in the cafeteria made the SOS call for me. The security guard on duty tried to unlock the door himself but couldn't because of the car's lock style. He then let me use his office phone and waited with me for the locksmith to arrive. By the time the car was unlocked and my purse in hand, I had missed the opening of the conference. But the rest of the day went well. I visited exhibits by visual and performing artists on the NHCA roster, attended workshops, and ate lunch to a background of Latin music played by a group from Boston.

The final workshop I attended was taught by Len Cabral, a storyteller from Rhode Island. This was before I had embarked on professional storytelling myself and was the first time I'd heard him. After telling a few stories, he asked us each to think of a time when someone performed an act of kindness for us, and to tell that story to the person seated beside us.

I was paired with a young man seated several seats away from me and I began the story of my locked car and the people who had helped rescue me. The event was fresh in my mind and I was bursting to talk about it. When I finished, my partner, who had introduced himself as Gary, said that the "act of kindness" that came to his mind involved a fellow musician he met while in California. The elderly man allowed him to photocopy his collection of traditional Yiddish folk music. When Gary phoned two weeks later to thank him again, he was told that the old man had died. Thus, a stranger's gift had become a priceless legacy. That story prompted me to ask questions. What kind of music did he play? Polish, I was told, on the accordion. He had hosted his weekly Polish radio show in Durham that morning, arriving late to the conference, in time for just this one storytelling workshop.

Anyone who knows me can appreciate my excitement and amazement at meeting Gary this way. I'm Polish too, I said, and I've been wanting to learn to play the accordion but can't find a teacher! I've hosted Polish radio shows in Claremont during October when our church celebrates Polish American Heritage Month! We also discovered that both of us are from Connecticut and share similar memories of growing up in a strong ethnic community. When the workshop leader interrupted our conversations and invited us to share our stories with the entire group, I was excited to tell, not the story of my earlier lock-out, but the story of the incredible experience Gary and I had just had.

Later on that year our church hired Gary, whose last name is Sredzienski, to give an accordion performance in October and we invited him back for several years afterward. He has many fans here in Claremont and was a featured performer for the city's first celebration of First Night.

We both marvel at our chance meeting. Once Gary wrote to me, "I feel like I'm visiting family when I go to your town. Coming to Claremont has been like bread--giving me spiritual strength to continue. Please let everyone know that they are the biggest supporters of my art form." Whether it happened by chance or by design, I'm grateful for our friendship and the story that goes with it.

Update: I wrote this story in 1999, and I had no idea then how this friendship would proceed. Our oldest son Steve, a fifer, connected with Gary and they exchanged sheet music and stories over the years. In 2020, in the middle of the Covid pandemic, Steve arranged for Gary to entertain us in a backyard party he and his wife hosted to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. Our group of 7, including our younger son who came from NYC and our daughter and son-in-law on Zoom from Seattle, enjoyed a full length accordion concert on that beautiful August evening, under the stars in Portsmouth.

And to think it all began with a story...

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...



NATIONAL
STORYTELLING
NETWORK

MEMBER

GRANTS

\$1000



Apply Online



storynet.org/member-awards/



Deadline: April 30

Info@storynet.org



The Granite State Story Swap featuring **Kim Weitkamp**



If we are talking rock and roll, Tina Turner was a national treasure; country has Dolly Parton and in the world of storytelling, we have Kim Weitkamp."

-Steve Perry, "Highway 89," Sirius XM

**Saturday, May 2
8am to 4:30pm**

**Benz Community Center
18 Heard Rd.
Center Sandwich, NH**



Granite State Story Swap

Saturday May 2, 2026

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Benz Community Center

18 Heard Rd Center Sandwich, NH 03227

\$20 members

\$30 for non-members

[Register Here](#)



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.