



NEWSLETTER

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Our Next Meeting Dec. 10, 2011

Our next meeting will be at the Main Library 96 S. Grant St. starting at 10:00. The topic will be "Holiday Stories" Come and bring a story and a friend and a plate of goodies or something to drink.

TELLABRATION

What a great evening we had. We had a paid attendance of 93 people. Of those, 82 filled out door prize tickets, and of those, 49 said they heard our event through friends, 11 learned about it through the postcards we sent out. Ten were members, (where was everyone else?) Others heard about it through the internet and the TV websites.

Veronica Fenney-Okafor brought her drum group, Akwaaba. Akwaaba was a big hit, receiving a boisterous ovation. AKWAABA is a Columbus based all Women's Drum Ensemble. Educators through rhythm. We inspire others to learn about African culture through percussion, dance, song, poetry and storytelling. Founded by BabaaRita Clark. Our members are BabaaRita Clark, Freda Abbott-Ayodele, Veronica Fenney-Okafor, Freedom Minter, Yvonne Mumin, Tracy Ross, Kristen Trotter.

The tellers were grand, as were their stories. In talking to the people as they were leaving, they were very pleased and said they would come to our next event.

Donna Wilson's Tellabration

We had a great Tellabration here in Middleport. Granny Sue, Bob Welsh, Marj Cornell, Tom Burnett, Curtis Spencer and myself. Curtis is my son and he told his first story at the Tellabration about his addiction to "Hot Wheels". It was funny. Everyone did a fantastic job and the audience enjoyed the program.

Susanna and I are finishing up the Stories on the River's Edge. It has been good and we've traveled from Gallipolis, Oh to Sistersville, WV and many sites in between, thanks to the Ohio River Border Initiative and local sponsors. We'll have to start on the proposal for a new grant soon.

Donna Wilson

"Christmas is what folks Feel"

One Christmas evening, while folks hustled and bustled in my great-grandparents' kitchen, I sat on Great-Grandpop's lap and read the "funny papers". The house was filled with sounds and smells of the season, laughter and reminiscences, leftover turkey and still-warm pies. But there were no lights on the outside of his home.

I asked my great-grandfather why there were only lights on the tree and inside the windows. He said he was too old for ladders and outside lights. Then Great-grandpop softly said, "Christmas isn't lights; it isn't what folks see. Christmas is what folks feel."

Lynette Ford

“Black HILLS,” by Dan Simmons

I just finished this book and found it to be worth passing on to you. It takes you from Custer’s Last Stand to the Chicago World Fair and to the construction of Mt. Rushmore Memorial through the eyes of Paha Sapa, a Sioux who, at ten years of age, counted coup on Custer as he lay dying on the battlefield.

Mr. Simmons took so much information and so many facts and turned them into a marvelous story.

We could all benefit from his example. If only I had his talent and work ethic.

Frank Mcgarvey

Ruth Sawyer, Storyteller and Author
We storytellers often say to others, “be sure to tell your family stories” and we also say “listen and you’ll be sure to hear some good stories”.

Once there was a young girl who listened, learned and became a good storyteller and I would like our membership to become acquainted or reacquainted with an American author, Ruth Sawyer. Ruth was from a well-to-do Boston family with no Irish in their background but Ruth as a young girl had an Irish nursemaid by the name of Johanna. Ruth listened to Johanna tell her stories. Ruth must have loved Johanna very much because as a grown woman she wrote a good many stories with an Irish theme. My Ruth Sawyer favorites are *The Way of the Storyteller* (a biography with stories at the end), *The Long Christmas* or *The Wee Christmas Cabin of Carr-Na Ween*, *The enchanted Schoolhouse*,

Old Con and Patrick , *The Voyage of the Wee Red Cap* and *Joy to the World; Christmas Legends*. Johanna's Irish influence inspired a wonderful group of Irish-themed stories that deserve to be enjoyed again and again.

Ruth extended the skills and taste for storytelling acquired from Johanna to embrace beyond her love for the Irish and stretched her love of good stories to include the stories from other places around the world some of which which can be found in a collection of Christmas legends entitled *Joy to the World and The Way of the Storyteller*. The lady practiced what we storytellers often preach.

Julie O’Keefe McGhee

Jim Flanagan on the road again

Jim Flanagan traveled to Kentucky to present a workshop to The Kentucky Storytelling Association yearly meeting. He met many Kentucky tellers, ate frog legs for the first time (it tastes like chicken) and had a great time. Very nice people those KSAers.

I got a great source from Buck Creacy "Story" by Robert McKee. I recommend it.
Jim Flanagan

