



NEWSLETTER

May 2009

Volume 13 Issue 5

Frank McGarvey, Co-chair

614-268-0532

frankmgarvey@sbcglobal.net

Cathy Jo Smith, Co-chair

614-875-3304

Storyteller@dublin.com

Joyce Geary, Treasurer

614-885-3164

jgeary@columbus.rr.com

BOARD MEMBERS

Adele Brown

740-385-9761

st0ry4m@ohiohills.com

Beverly Comer

614-527-0430

storygardej@columbus.rr.com

Sally Crandall

614-445-8016

scrandall@Earthlink.net

Jim Flanagan

740-474-7474

jirish@Ohiohills.com

Lyn Ford

614-237-7605

Friedtales@aol.com

Julie McGhee

614-891-6731

jmghce@wideopenwest.com

Mark Myers

614-868-5354

mmyers4@insight.rr.com

Melanie Pratt

614-481-9674

seanachiemelanie@sbcglobal.net

Larry Staats

614-891-6293

Cfmsstaats@aol.com

Natalie Wittmann

614-523-2178

wittmannfamily@wowway.com



OUR NEXT MEETING IS MAY 9, 2009.

Bring whatever books you have found helpful in your storytelling efforts, and be prepared to share them with your fellow storytellers. The meeting will begin at 10:30 in the Aeropagetica Bookstore, 3510 N. High St.

★ Free Pizza ★

Our June 13th meeting will be held in the party room downstairs at the Donato's Pizza Restaurant at 1815 Brice Rd., immediately north of Livingston Ave. We've reserved the room from 11:30 to 1:30

FREE PIZZA OR SALAD for all members. The reason the board is doing this is to bring as many members together as possible. Member's guests would be \$5.00. This is our last meeting of the SOCO year and we would really like to see everyone there.

Our April Meeting

We began by discussing Fireside Tales. It was believed by all who attended that we had a great line up of outstanding tellers. This was brought out by the exit comments from our audience. However we had a very small audience.



The place was hard to find. It was suggested that a map be included on the flyers. Although the press that we received was as good as we could hope for, we still need to do more along those lines.

Some suggestions were made to increase our audience. We should more aggressively pursue our auxiliary list by sending out postcards and flyers to all of them. We should tell more

often as SOCO. We have an opportunity to tell at the WaterFire events downtown this summer. To tell at these events contact Jim Flanagan.

It was stated that the Columbus Underground might find an audience for us. The use of Twitter might be good for us as well.

Columbus Arts Festival is held on June 5 & 6, 2009. This gives us a chance to get the name of Storytellers Of Central Ohio out there. It also

gives individual tellers a chance to promote themselves as well. We need more volunteers!

We should also investigate telling at the Cafe Kerouac on the first Saturday of the month, the Folk Music Society on the last Saturday of the month and an upcoming Folk Festival that will be held at Battelle Darby Metro Park.

We finished the meeting by unveiling our (SOCO's) story box. It was a grand time with Kevin Cordi urging us to tell our favorite food story not necessarily story about food from our family histories. He gave out index cards and asked us to put down our stories so that they might be included in our storybox.

The story box is still there, prominently displayed at the bookstore, accepting stories. Bring your stories to the meeting



April's Speak Easy

Adele Brown sent this letter:

Yes, it was a grand night. It felt so good to be back among the storytellers, seeing all the familiar faces I have missed. And Mary Hamilton, what wonderful stories.

Betty Altfater was worried about telling that story with "that word" in it because her mom and dad were there...I'm so glad she did. She had shared a little of it, just as mothers talk, while we were taking a walk here in the woods one time a while back. All the folks around that big table right at the back came



with Betty. Her friend Robin has been doing stand up comedy, and she was almost persuaded to stand up for us last night. Next time. Quite a few folks said that, and it will be fun to see them come back to tell. You, Frank, were no slouch either at bringing in folks to the show.

And Julie McGhee's story about her son Tim struck a chord in mothers and fathers, who have those memories stashed at the ready.

Yours, Frank, was beautiful. And the way you didn't end it works perfectly. What truth and love and humor you share in that story, Frank, along with your heart.

It was so good to see Lynny and Bruce.

We had some good music, too, with Larry Staats' story about the last public hanging in Sandyville. (did you know he's a Captain in the Armed Forces?)

Hank Arbaugh recognized the song immediately. And Hank's two child ballads, the one about the Devil and the Little Girl only 7 years old and Lord Randall in the Scots dialect were wonderfully done. And our Cathy Jo Smith. And Melanie, about the dancing highlanders on the roof of the prisoner-of-war hospital.

What an assortment of individual talents we all witnessed last night at the Maennerchor.

Jim Flanagan's little red rocking chair story was a treat to hear after reading it on email. I have to say that telling stories and being included in the performances is great. Another great thing is being included in the process of developing stories--and the storytellers as well.

Sally and Nelson were excellent hosts to our guest teller, Mary Hamilton and Charles.

Have you ever gone to one of the WOW workshops? I have been wanting to do that for years. It would be swell if she would do one for SOCO here in the Hocking Hills.

Well, that's a wild idea. We could do that, though, just with the folks we have. The weather is getting better every day. We have been out in the garden and harvested the first batch of asparagus.

I forgot Kenny is waiting for his lunch, so that is my signal to sign off.

Your friend, Adele

(note from Frank- It was certainly great to have Adele back with us.)

WENDY'S BACK!!! FOR SURE THIS TIME

My recovery is going so well! 3 weeks ago I had my left knee replaced and I'm walking unaided and driving. I am now moving into Storytelling full time and my specialty is in Digitally Transforming Tradition-Urban Appalachian Style. As of March 31, 2009---I am no longer committed to working at or for St Andrew. However, I am welcome and approved by the diocese as you are to work as an Artist in the Schools (volunteer now but we are now also grant eligible). I would like to be at St. Pius X on May 12th. I emailed Anne Yeary to let her know. I am also available to travel with the storybox to the different schools in the Diocese next year.

I'm serious. I've got all of my time and some brand new state of the art electronic equipment available to help us and SOCO if you'd like. I am at home and you can phone me if you have time and I'll do whatever you think I should to assist you with storybox and with SOCO activities.

A note from Melanie Pratt

I had a busy April weekend that involved storytelling, opening our Bog building and Toad Tuning! On the 17th I went to McArthur to participate in a Celtic Festival. I did almost an hour of storytelling of tales from the Celtic lands (I told Scottish, Irish, Welsh and Breton tales). I then participated in a Calling of the Clans. I had never done anything like this before and it was quite a moving experience. By the VFW Hall a bonfire had been started. There was a gentleman in full Scottish regalia (kilt and all) standing nearby with a lit torch in his hand. One by one, we picked up a paint stirstick that had fabric wrapped around one end and doused in kerosene. We then approached him and he lit the torches. As each of us neared the fire, we called out for our clan and threw the burning torch into the bonfire. I could call for Grant, McKay and MacInnes. As I was wearing the MacInnes plaid, I called for MacInnes. As all of this was happening, two bagpipes were playing pibrochs in the background.



Melanie and Terry Jaworski's Daughter, Anna
The next day, Saturday the 18th, was the Open House for the new Education Center at Cedar Bog. We had almost 700 folks visit that day (including Frank McGarvey and grandchild). The weather was perfect and many of us who knew the late Terry Jaworski attributed the good weather to him. (He had always stated that he was a UMD - unemployed major deity - guess he is employed now!) I felt blitzed most of the day because of all the people in attendance. At one point I was sitting down taking a breather and a very tall, handsome man came through the door. I leaned toward the volunteer sitting next to me and said something about the fact that he looked really familiar to me. Then I realized it was my brother from West Virginia! On Sunday, the weather was not as good, but it had evidently triggered the male American toads who were in

the pond trilling for mates. So at 5.30 PM Sunday evening, in a pouring rain, we did our Annual Toad Tuning event, which basically consists of an explanation of toad sex. We were quite pleased that we had a large quantity of toads (male and female in the pond). One of our volunteers did the program itself, while I "trilled" to get the male toads to sound off whenever they quieted down.

Sláinte, Melanie

Notes from Jim Flanagan

I want to thank the tellers for such great stories at The Ohio Historical Society. You were the hit of the events; So Thanks to Larry Staats, Frank McGarvey, Sally Crandall, Julie McGhee, and Cathy Jo Smith

Why should you re-up with the National storytelling Network?

NSN is the only nation-wide organization for storytellers, giving storytelling credibility at the national level. Librarians have the American Library Association, teachers have the National Education Association, storytellers have the National Storytelling Network.

Storytelling Magazine, published 5 times a year by NSN, is filled with information every storyteller needs to know

NSN helps kindred spirits find each other via our five special interest groups (Healing Story Alliance, Producers and Organizers, Storytelling in Higher Education, Storytelling in Organizations, Youth, Educators and Storytelling Alliance) NSN sponsors an annual conference where information, inspiring presentations and fascinating storytellers mingle – a place to share ideas and get revved up. AND members receive a conference discount.

We are storytellers. We are NSN!

In the last issue I thanked you for my plague (The plaque was very thoughtful and beautiful.) Now keeping with the plague, do not use the school pens or pencils to sign in, They are loaded with germs; use your own; you do not have school employees immunity.

I am always amazed at the power of storytelling. Last Friday at an event sponsored by the Wild Goose Creative, Frank told his "When I Was 12 Bob was My Best Friend." The college students, on the edge of their seats, were spellbound just as if they were years younger. (*Remember Jim is Irish and he must have kissed the Blarney Stone and got a bit of it stuck in his teeth*)

Notes from Frank McGarvey:

Wild Ghost Creative

Wild Goose Creative is an unconventional arts company that promotes all forms of art from painting, writing, photography, film, music, theatre, culinary, and more including storytelling. We were invited to tell last Friday. Kevin Cordi, Jim Flanagan and myself accepted the invitation. They had a storybox. People told stories and put stories into the box.

This organization is a project of several college age folks who are taking a risk to bring a variety of arts related events to the neighborhood. It is located at 2491 Summit St.

It was a delightful evening, even though I was definitely out of place there, being 120 years old and all. I was very happy to be one small part of this venture.

They are funded by donations and by small admission fees. It was \$5.00 that night for the open mic. for storytelling. If you would like to learn more about this worthwhile project you can find them at www.wildgoosecreative.com.

Olga Loya

On May 12th and 13th 2009, internationally known storyteller Olga Loya will perform and present for the Columbus community and The Ohio Sate University. Kevin is inviting SOCO members to come and have a cup of coffee on the 13th with Olga.

She is a nationally recognized bilingual storyteller of singular talents. We should take advantage of the opportunity to meet her and enjoy her stories.

One last reminder-Come to our next two meetings. Especially the one on June 13,2009. Come join your friends from SOCO for our Pizza Party.