

The 41st Annual

Florida Storytelling Festival



January 23—26, 2025

Lakeside Inn, Mount Dora, Florida

**“Celebrating the art and
craft of oral storytelling
through community
and connection.”**




**Florida
Storytelling
Association**

flstory.com

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Honoring Voices Lost in 2024...

May your stories live on...

Phyllis NeSmith and Ray Gant

WELCOME!

President's Message

On behalf of the Florida Storytelling Association, welcome to the 41st annual Florida Storytelling Festival!



Yes, the Florida Storytelling Festival has been serving the state of Florida with quality storytelling events and the festival for 41 years! This festival started as a camp where storytellers gathered to share stories. The Florida Storytelling Association was formed as a non profit by Florida storytellers to create a legacy.

This festival celebrates oral tradition storytelling as a communal experience to increase connection and to encourage listening, learning and telling.

We reach out to the youth in Florida by inviting them to participate in telling stories on the stage in Youthful Voices. FSA member storytellers perform at various venues throughout the state. Florida Storytelling guilds are supported in their events. This festival welcomes the diversity of our stories. Now let the stories begin!

With sincerity and gratitude,
Debra Weller
FSA President



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Florida Storytelling Association

Board of Directors

Debra Weller, President
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Joel Ying, Festival Director
Louise O'Leary, Logistics
Robin Schulte, Story Store
Kaye Byrnes, Tellers In Schools

Glossary

Storytelling. We celebrate **stories told in the oral tradition**, person-to-person, as a live performance art and community art. A diversity of cultures, styles, and genres comes to our stages with folk tales, personal stories, historical stories, and more.

Banquet. Saturday dinner event with our annual award ceremony. (Additional Ticket.)

Concert. In the world of storytelling performance, we call our events “concerts.” Come listen to our storytellers perform in concerts.

Featured Tellers. Professional Storytellers invited to the Festival as our main tellers and workshop leaders. Each year, we feature National Tellers and local Florida Tellers. (Page 6)

Fringe Tellers. Late-night Fringe Concerts offer our members a chance to tell a 45-minute set of stories. Members submit their application, and 3 lucky winners are chosen at random. (Page 10)

Member Showcase. Florida Storytelling Association Members submit stories for their chance to share the stage with our Featured Tellers. (Page 8)

Guild. Storytelling Groups or “Circles” meet to swap stories and support the art of storytelling in their local areas. (Page 27) Visit the Guild Networking meeting Friday at 11am. (Page 23)

Story Slam. It’s a contest, Saturday night. Win prizes. Tell a 5-minute story in any genre and include “Easier said than done.” Put your name in the hat. Cash Prizes! Saturday at 10:15pm.

Story Swap. This is your opportunity to share a 5 to 7 minute story. Names are drawn at random. Show up to get on the list.

Youthful Voices. Students submit applications and are chosen for our Saturday evening performance. Join us to listen to the future voices of storytelling. (Page 12)

Mission & Vision

The **Florida Storytelling Association** is a non-profit membership organization that supports the art and craft of oral storytelling through community and connection.

Our annual festival brings members together for listening, learning, telling, fellowship, diversity, and encouraging our youth.

Board Members & Volunteers... we need you!

Attend our Membership Meeting & Elections on Saturday at 11am.

Learn about the work of our non-profit organization.

Consider joining the Board of Directors.

We are a member organization that relies on volunteers to expand the art and craft of oral storytelling across the state of Florida.

Storytelling Etiquette

Turn OFF or SILENCE phones and devices during storytelling programs. Please do not text or make phone calls or other activity that would distract the storyteller.

Please do not leave or enter while a story is in progress unless there is an emergency.

No flash photography or any activity that will distract the teller. We encourage pictures on social media, but please do not record or post video without express permission of tellers and FSA.

It is unethical and illegal to perform another person's original stories without permission of the storyteller/author. A storyteller's original stories (including original versions of folklore) are often copyrighted property. While the sharing of stories is encouraged, respect for the storytellers and their work is expected.

Ensure that you have proper permissions to tell a story that is not your original work. Published stories and poetry are often copyrighted, but stories and poetry in the Public Domain may be told by anyone. In certain settings (e.g., schools, libraries), copyrighted works may be shared under Fair Use.

Featured Tellers



Carol Birch believes stories undo the damage of haste. Renowned for a conversational style that is eloquent but never scripted, dramatic but never overtly theatrical, she received an Oracle Circle of Excellence Award from the National Storytelling Network. Since she began 52 years ago, she also received National Endowment for the Humanities grants to develop a storytelling program for television. She's toured nationwide with multiple appearances at both the National Storytelling Festival in Tennessee and Timpanogos in Utah, as well as performances in Australia, Europe, and Singapore. Her two books and eight recordings earned multiple awards; and she's taught storytelling on both coasts, including Wesleyan and Southern Ct Universities. Media appearances include ABC's Nightline, CBS' Morning Show and National Public Radio. NUVO Weekly says, "[Her] voice is a magnet for ears and the tales she tells make the heart beat with a little more confidence ... a warm and enchanting style." www.carolbirchstoryteller.com



Johnny Thomas Fowler from the foothills of upcountry South Carolina is a captivating storyteller, award-winning musician, and author. He is the recipient of the coveted Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Award in 2013, the pinnacle of recognition for folk artists in South Carolina. He is also one of seventeen national storytellers featured in the book *Southern Appalachian Storytellers* (McFarland Press) and co-hosts a weekly old-time radio show on North Carolina public radio station. His storytelling weaves a mesmerizing tapestry of Appalachian folk tales, whimsical fairy tales, towering tall tales, and modern yarns, all embellished with the soul-stirring melodies of traditional songs and ballads. His enchanting narratives have graced the grand stages of prestigious storytelling festivals, from the Stone Soup Storytelling Festival to the International Storytelling Festival Exchange Place, Madison County Florida Storytelling Festival and The Old North State Storytelling Festival. He is also host-teller-in-residence – at the Hagood Mill Storytelling Festival. His performances are a delightful blend of southern charm, theatricality, and humor, leaving audiences both entertained and informed. He is a true treasure in the storytelling and music scene.



Paul Strickland is a multi-award-winning storyteller and theatre artist from Kentucky. His stories are always a touch surreal but always find a way to touch your heart. Adept at adapting to whatever listeners are in front of him, Paul has told stories Off-Broadway, with Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra, on Sirius/XM Radio and has been a Featured Teller at the

National Storytelling Festival, but perhaps even more importantly he performs at elementary schools, libraries, living rooms and even two prisons – where he was NOT an inmate at the time. "... an expert raconteur who spins hilariously entertaining stories..." says the St. Paul Pioneer Press. "... touches the heart and excites the imagination" writes the Orlando Weekly. www.aintrue.com



Tamara Green is a retired educator with over 30 years of teaching experience. She is a graduate from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville where she received a B.S. degree in English Education and a Master of Fine Arts in Performing Arts. Tamara is an award-winning storyteller, workshop presenter, author, and producer. She was the 2014 Hillsborough County

Ida S. Baker Diversity Educator of the Year. Tamara is a member of the Florida Storytelling Association and served as Youthful Voices Director from 2011-2015. After completing her years of service with F.S.A., she received the Distinguished Service Award in 2015. Tamara was the 2023 featured storyteller at the 43rd Tampa- Hillsborough County Storytelling Festival. She now serves as an artist in residence with the Hillsborough County Arts-in-Education Program.



Linda Chancey Guice is a retired Children's Librarian and Library Director. She was introduced to the wonderful world of storytelling when she attended college. She grew up in a tiny town called Homeland, Florida, and loves to tell tales of growing up as a phosphate miner's daughter. Linda attended the very first Florida Storytelling Festival (formerly called the

Florida Storytellers Guild) at Camp Moon and has only missed a handful of Florida Storytelling festivals throughout the years. She was honored to serve as President of the Florida Storytelling Association in 1993 (then called the Florida Storyteller's Guild.) Linda is on the Committee that produces the Cracker Storytelling Festival at the Homeland Heritage Park held in November-each year. She loves to tell funny tongue twister stories, folk tales and tales that touch the heart. Linda has 2 daughters and 6 grandchildren and at the age of 70 married her childhood sweetheart adding a whole new wonderful family to her life.

FSA Member Showcase Tellers

Each year our talented members apply to represent us on stage.

Thursday, January 23rd, 7pm



Lona Bartlett is a professional storyteller, puppeteer and educator who has delighted audiences throughout the U.S. and internationally for over 30 years. Degrees in education and a small-town upbringing in the Catskill Mountains provide inspiration for a long list of programs and presentations that bring excitement and insight to audiences.



Bobby Wesley is a curator of dumb jokes, nerdy obsessions and embarrassingly true stories. Bobby has performed nationally at festivals and the Moth, and co-hosts the Orlando Story Club. This summer he's launching his first solo-show tour across the US and

Canada, starting in May at the Orlando Fringe Festival.



Robin Schulte is former high school English teacher with an MFA in Creative Nonfiction. She has spent over 30 years sharing stories with audiences throughout central Florida and is past president of Florida Storytelling Association. She and her husband, Randy, have three

grown children, Ansley, Tyler and Jack.



Whittier Mikkelsen, raised in a household of artists/storytellers, was gifted a natural way of connecting. She earned her M.A. and served in emergency mental health for decades. With pain secondary to cerebral palsy, she slowed and listened to her own stories. Whittier shares

perspectives on disability on stage.

Sunday, January 26th, 9am—“Stories from the Heart”



Robyn A. Rennick is a life-long Floridian with roots in Virginia where many of her grandmother-summer vacation stories originate. She has run the Liar’s Challenge in Port St. Joe for over 15 years and can spin a lie or two herself. Her more serious bent is a group of WWII stories that she tells that come from interviews with WWII Veterans.



Janel Woodland is an award-winning storyteller who draws upon her love of theater, music, and nature to create a unique story experience for her audience. She specializes in ancient allegories from original cultures, tall tales, and personal stories of her blended family that are often hilarious and always heartwarming.



Wanda Violet, native Floridian and veteran teacher, entered the professional storytelling world in 2014, quickly gaining recognition as an engaging teller of real-life stories and liars' tales. Wanda has won numerous awards including Stone Soup’s Liars’ People’s Choice and First Place in the International Storytelling Festival’s Story Slam.

“STORIES CAN CONQUER FEAR...
THEY CAN MAKE THE HEART BIGGER.” — *Ben Okri*

Florida Fringe Tellers

Friday, January 24th, 9:15pm - 10pm

In the Florida Fringe, members submit their applications for a 45-minute set of stories. Three lucky winners are **chosen at random** in a live drawing.

Alexander Room



Walt Belcher — *Bone Mizell:*

Florida's Most Notorious Cowboy

Stories about the life, adventures, and times of Morgan Bonaparte “Bone” Mizell. He herded Florida cattle in the 1800s and could outride, outshoot, outdrink, and outlie anyone.

Grandview Room



Eric “Tellemtall” Hoppener — *That's as true as it gets*

Tellemtall weaves erratically through the minds of a 7th-grade science teacher, a lost pirate, a kid growing up in 1960s Florida, a handyman MacGyver-ing his way through life.

Donnelly Room (Above Gift Shop)



Sandra Measels — *She Called Him Mister; But She Did*

Not Mean It; The story of Annie McDonald Jacksonville

Wife, sister, mother, a complicated woman with strong opinions and a stronger spirit. She drove a

Model T and used her egg money to buy oysters for

breakfast. She lived with her husband for 47 years and

called him Mr. Tom...but never once meant it.

The original Fringe Festival started in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1947 on the “fringe” of the performing arts festival. The annual Fringe is now even bigger than the actual festival. From classical to avant-garde, anything goes! Fringe festivals are now all over the world to support up-and-coming artists.

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Tejas Storytelling Association

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THIS PROJECT IS SUPPORTED IN PART BY AN AWARD FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.

Youthful Voices

Our Youthful Voices program supports the next generation of storytellers. We reach out to the community and schools for video submissions. Winners share the main stage with our Featured Tellers. Students receive scholarships to attend the festival through generous donors like you. Thank you!

Saturday, January 25, at 7pm



Aleyo Bermudez



Charlie Harris



Mia Longshore



Victoriia Osipova



Arlo Sloan



JuneElyse Willingham



In Memory of James "Jim" Glaser, Madison County Florida Storytelling is **sponsoring the 2025 Youthful Voices Program**. A decorated Vietnam veteran, Jim had remarkable stories from his service as a Marine, a disabled veteran, a father, a husband, and a highly respected artist, not only in his home state of Minnesota but across the country. Jim was passionate in his support of young storytellers and strove to offer opportunities for them to tell. That passion led him to produce Madison County Florida Storytelling which ran for six years before his death. It is our honor to remember Jim, his stories, his delight in young tellers, and the impact he had on so many lives.



The Tampa-Hillsborough
County Storytelling Festival

Congratulates

Virginia Rivers Youthful Voices
Scholarship Winners

Aleyo Bermudez

Viktoriiia Osipova

JuneElyse Willingham

Storytelling workshops and mini-festivals at
libraries and schools throughout
Hillsborough County

www.HCPLC.org/storytelling

Front Porch Tellers

Free to the local community, storytellers donate their time on the
Front Porch of the Lakeside Inn.

Sit a spell in one of the iconic rocking chairs.

Friday, Jan 24

10:00am Louise O'Leary
10:30am Katie Green
11:00am Robin Schulte
11:30am Pete Abdalla
12:00pm Carrie Sue Avyar
12:30pm Chris Kastle

Saturday, Jan 25

10:00am Monica Ladd
10:30am Andy Russell
11:00am Mary Lou Williams
11:30am Katie Adams
12:00pm Cheryl Floyd
12:30pm Maureen Belote



Oct 3 - 5, 2025

Jonesborough, Tennessee

www.storytellingcenter.net

Enter the FSA Raffle!

Win a free ticket to the
National Storytelling
Festival...
and other items!



Visit our archive of photos at

fistory.com/about-us/

Gratitude to the official photographer
for the Florida Storytelling Festival.

malcolmyawn.com



Thank you to the Audio/Video Production
Company that keeps the sound and lights
running behind the scenes. Special thanks
to Ronn Redd. Accent-AV.com

Tell Your Story

(Look for § symbol on schedule)

Thu, 10pm. Ghost Stories Swap. Alexander Room.

Fri, 3pm—4pm. Liars Contest / Tall Tales. Concert Tent.
5—7 min tale tales. The stories might not be true, but the prizes are real.

Fri, 4pm—5:30pm. Swapping Grounds. Concert Tent.
5—7 min stories. Put your name in the hat.

Fri, 10:15pm. Story Camp Revival: Music & Song. Alexander Rm.
Bring your instruments & songs to the late night revival of old Story Camp days! Hosted by Robin Schulte & Pat Nease.

Sat, 3pm—4:30pm. Swapping Grounds. Concert Tent.
5—7 min stories. Put your name in the hat.

Sat, 10:15pm—11:30pm. Story Slam “Easier Said Than Done”
Alexander Room. 5 min stories. Win \$\$\$ cash prizes!

“We are all storytellers.
We all live in a
network of stories.
There isn’t a
stronger connection
between people
than storytelling.”
— Jimmy Neil Smith

Florida Gulf Coast
University

FGCU
Storytelling




“Spoken Stories
Creating Community”

fgcustorytelling.com





produced by
Dr. Joel Ying, MD
Physician-Educator-
Storyteller
JoelYing.com

2025 Festival Schedule of Events



Symbol Key: § Tell Your Story, ± Additional Cost,  ASL Interpreters

Yellow Highlights = Free Admission	Green Highlights = Listener's Pass
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025	
9:30 - 3:30	Pre-Festival Intensive Workshop—Susan O’Halloran—Grandview Rm
4:00—5:00	Meet the Tellers Welcome Reception — Alexander Rm
5:00	Festival Registration & Story Store Open — Concert Tent
7:00 - 7:45	 Opening Welcome — Concert Tent Emcee Pat Nease Member Showcase Lona Bartlett, Bobby Wesley, Robin Schulte, Whittier Mikkelsen
8:00 - 10:00	 Featured Tellers Concert — Concert Tent Carol Birch, Paul Strickland, Linda Chancey Guice, Tamara Green, Johnny Thomas Fowler
10:15	§ Ghost Stories Swap — Alexander Room Open Mic Story Swap — Emcee Bobby Wesley

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2025								
	Alexander Room	Grandview Room	Donnelly Room	Concert Tent	Front Porch			
9:00 - 10:30	Workshop Birch—It’s In the Details	Workshop Guice — Beginner’s Storytelling	Tell & Talk — Fowler, Strickland, Green	10—11:30 School Field Trip: K-5	10am - 1pm Front Porch Tellers			
11:00-Noon	Guild Networking Event —Alexander Rm							
1:00 – 2:30	Workshop Fowler— Historical Narratives	Workshop Strickland— Performance Techniques	Tell & Talk — Birch, Green, Guice	12—1:30 School Field Trip: 6-12				
3:00—4:00	§ Tall Tales Liar’s Contest —Concert Tent, Emcee Pat Nease							
4:00 – 5:30	§ Swapping Grounds — Concert Tent, Emcee Walt Belcher							
7:00 – 9:00	 Featured Tellers Concert — Concert Tent Emcee Wanda Violet Paul Strickland, Tamara Green, Johnny Thomas Fowler, Linda Chancey Guice, Carol Birch							
9:15 - 10:00	Florida Fringe Program <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; width: 33%;">Alexander Room Walt Belcher</td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 33%;">Grandview Room Eric Hoppener</td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 33%;">Donnelly Room Sandra Measels</td> </tr> </table>					Alexander Room Walt Belcher	Grandview Room Eric Hoppener	Donnelly Room Sandra Measels
Alexander Room Walt Belcher	Grandview Room Eric Hoppener	Donnelly Room Sandra Measels						
10:15	§ Story Camp Revival: Music & StorySong Swap — Alexander Rm							

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2025

	Alexander Room	Grandview Room	Donnelly Room	Concert Tent	Front Porch
7:00 – 8:30	± On Your Own / Breakfast Social — Beauclaire Dining Rm				
9:00 – 10:30	Workshop Fowler—Art of Story: Memory to Imagination	Workshop Strickland —Creative Craft of Humor		9—10 Showcase: Birch, Green, Guice	10am— 1pm Front Porch Tellers
11:00 - Noon	Membership Meeting — Alexander Rm				
1:00 – 2:30	Workshop Birch— It’s How We Say It	Workshop Green— Writing Tools for Story...	Workshop for Youthful Voices	1—2 Showcase: Fowler, Guice, Strickland	
3:00 – 4:30	§ Swapping Grounds — Concert Tent Emcee Walt Belcher				
5:00 – 6:30	± Banquet & Awards — Beauclaire Dining Rm				
7:00 – 7:45	 Youthful Voices Concert — Concert Tent Emcee Sue O’Halloran JuneElyse Willingham, Aleyo Bermudez, Viktoriia Osipova, Arlo Sloan, Mia Longshore, Charlie Harris,				
8:00 – 10:00	 Family Night, Featured Tellers Concert — Concert Tent Johnny Thomas Fowler, Tamara Green, Carol Birch, Paul Strickland, Linda Chancey Guice				
10:15 - 11:30	§ Florida StorySlam — Alexander Room “Easier Said Than Done” - Emcee Wanda Violet				

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025

9:00 – 11:30	 Stories from the Heart Concert — Concert Tent Member Showcase Emcee Sue O’Halloran Robyn Rennick, Janel Woodland, Wanda Violet Featured Tellers — Concert Tent Emcee Janel Woodland Linda Chancey Guice, Carol Birch, Paul Strickland,				
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FRIDAY WORKSHOP

FRIDAY 9am

Carol Birch (Alexander Room)

It's in the Details – Listeners often ask: "How do you remember all that?" Vivid details in concert with personal perspectives shape our stories while animating events, setting, and character. This workshop opens doors into all that. Step through the doors onto innumerable paths that emerge from responses to "Where I'm From" prompts, which poet George Ella Lyon created. Our responses lead right into a story - though the process is too rich and too much fun to stop with just one! This workshop is for everyone, even folks who don't know how much and how precious what they know is.

Linda Chancey Guice (Grandview Room)

Beginner's Storytelling Workshop – This workshop will give the new storyteller the tools to find and learn a good tellable tale. You will gain confidence in finding your own voice and explore all the different types of stories to choose from. The group will learn the parts of a story and the importance of the beginning and end of a story. We will explore techniques for learning a story and talk about where you can find places to tell your stories. Each person will leave with a good bibliography of titles and inspiration for their new story journey.

Tell & Talk (Donnelly Room)

Johnny Thomas Fowler, Paul Strickland, and Tamara Green

Listen to a story and learn the art and craft of storytelling from these master storytellers. Meet the tellers. Bring your questions.

DESCRIPTIONS

FRIDAY 1pm

Johnny Thomas Fowler (Alexander Room)

Unearthing the Legend: Crafting Historical Narratives

Discover the remarkable story of South Carolina folk hero, George Washington Mullins, known as Trotting Sally, and the 25-year journey of uncovering Mullins' life through extensive research—from newspaper clippings to family genealogies and field interviews. Participants will explore the art of crafting historically accurate and engaging narratives, learning how to weave facts into compelling stories that resonate with today's audiences. This workshop is perfect for storytellers interested in history, family heritage, or enhancing their storytelling skills.

Paul Strickland (Grandview Room)

More Than Words: Performance Techniques in Storytelling

Most everyone can "talk with their hands." But physicality and movement in storytelling can be an incredibly effective tool if done with intentionality and a little practice. In this workshop we'll examine how to determine what parts of your story benefit from a more intentional approach to movement/physicality, and how to apply those concepts to YOUR BODY RIGHT NOW. It's your story. Tell it with YOUR BODY. We've all heard the old saying, "Show, don't tell." In this workshop you'll learn how to show better WHEN you tell. Supporting the story you're telling with a seasoning of the performance techniques you'll learn in this workshop will elevate your listeners' experience while deepening your connection to the story itself.

Tell & Talk (Donnelly Room)

Carol Birch, Tamara Green, and Linda Chance Guice

Listen to a story and learn the art and craft of storytelling from these master storytellers. Meet the tellers. Bring your questions.

SATURDAY WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 9am

Johnny Thomas Fowler (Alexander Room)

The Art of Storytelling: From Memory to Imagination

Explore the transformative power of storytelling in this interactive workshop. Participants will engage in memory-based exercises, retelling stories to uncover how narratives evolve with each telling. Through group discussions, we'll delve into various learning styles, the role of memory, and how personal interpretation shapes storytelling. This session is designed to help participants understand the fluid nature of stories, encouraging them to craft, adapt, and share their own narratives in creative and impactful ways.

Paul Strickland (Grandview Room)

The Creative Craft of Humor: A Storytelling Workshop

Many people think comedy is a gift, but it's actually a craft. Learn the nuts and bolts of how to MAKE stories funnier, but, even more importantly, how to use comedic techniques as more than simply a way to entertain. Jokes and other comedic structures are a valuable tool to widen and deepen the potential paths of communication between you and your listeners. In this workshop we will cover joke construction, comedic imagery, performance techniques and other fundamentals of humorous writing and performance.

Showcase Performance (Concert Tent)

Carol Birch, Tamara Green, and Linda Chance Guice – stories, stories, stories! Join our featured tellers in the concert tent.

DESCRIPTIONS

SATURDAY 1pm

Carol Birch (Alexander Room)

It's How We Say It!

As music lives when played, stories resonate differently when shared out loud. We acknowledge the power of aural cues, when we say, “It’s not what s/he said, it’s how s/he said it!” Yet all too often tellers offer stories without bringing the words, and the worlds, of a story to life. Art is process, not product. This workshop invites us to explore the suppleness of the process from subtlety to boldness – in short, life force or chi - in what we tell. The workshop is based on Birch’s award-winning book, *THE WHOLE STORY: USING THE IMAGINATION TO BUILD STORIES*.

“Every sentence should be tested on the tongue, to make sure that the sound of it has the hardness or softness, the swiftness or languor, which the meaning of it calls for.” ~ C. S. Lewis

Tamara Green (Grandview Room)

Writing Tools for Story Writers

Every story has a birthday. Learn how to trigger a story idea. Amazing ideas for a story can be born from a situation or a character who was or is either a part of your life or outside of your personal space. Learn how to draw upon events, places, and vivid imagery created by words. Writers can learn how to readily draw upon actual events in order to spin a story. Let’s initiate personal history, revisit past places, and enlarge persistent memory. Come and collect tools that will help you to express and polish your story like a shiny new nickel.

Showcase Performance (Concert Tent)

Johnny Thomas Fowler, Linda Chancey Guice, and Paul Strickland – stories, stories, stories! Join our featured tellers in the concert tent.

Georgia Mountain Storytelling Festival



**Featuring Dovie Thomason,
Ray Christian, Mo Reynolds,
Bil Lepp, and Paul Strickland**

**April 4-5, 2025
The Ridges Resort on Lake Chatuge
Hiawassee, GA**

This event will also be viewable online.

gamountainstoryfest.org

Networking Events

Thu, 4pm—5pm. Welcome Reception “Meet the Tellers.”

Alexander Room. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres with the Featured Tellers.

Fri, 11am—noon. Guild Networking Event, Alexander Room.

Share ideas about supporting your own local storytelling group.

Sat, 7:00am-8:30am. Breakfast Social. Beauclair Dining Room.

All welcome. Pay on your own.

Sat, 11am—noon. FSA Membership Meeting, Alexander Room.

President’s report, Board Member election, and sharing of ideas. We want to hear from you.



NSN Membership Benefits

- ⇒ Storytelling Directory
- ⇒ Special Interest Groups
- ⇒ Access to Greenwood’s World Folklore & Folklife Database
- ⇒ Storytelling Conferences
- ⇒ and more ...

Florida Storytelling Association is a member of NSN.

Get your FSA member discount.

Join the national storytelling community at storynet.org.



Florida Storytelling Association

Become a member today!

flstory.com



Monthly Meetings
1st Tuesday of the month 7 pm
Winter Park Public Library
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COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Storytellers in Schools

Around the week of the festival and in conjunction with Florida Literacy Week, we bring professional storytellers into Lake County public schools through a generous grant from the **Charles B and Mary M McLin Foundation**.

School Field Trips

On Friday of the festival, local schools bring their students on a field trip to our concert tent to experience the festival and our storytellers.

Storytellers in Universities

This initiative brings professional storytellers as teaching artists to Florida universities and colleges to showcase the art and craft of oral storytelling in classroom visits, workshops, and performance.

Grants We Award

The Florida Storytelling Association (FSA) awards grants to individual members and groups. Details and application online: flstory.com/apply

Join FSA... volunteer, donate, lead a project, start a group, produce an event, join the board, and expand storytelling into your local communities.

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Jim Kissane

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CONTACT:
(813) 765-4225
StoryTeller@JimKissane.com



**Artists Standing Strong
Together (ASST, "assist")**

is a nonprofit artist support
organization whose mission is to
connect artists with resources.

We believe that by serving
our community of artists,
we serve our art.

Website: asst.art

430 N. Donnelly St.
Mount Dora, FL 32757
352-735-4302



**20% off
any one item**

Valid Jan 23—26, 2025
May not be combined
With any other sale or offer

hgtreasures@gmail.com



St. Petersburg, FL

SuncoastStorytellers.org

Florida Storytelling Groups

FSA Member Groups, Guilds, and Circles meet to support the art and craft of storytelling in their local areas by swapping stories and hosting events.

Orlando Story Club

Orlando, FL
Danielle Ziss, 321-247-1930
danielleziss@gmail.com
OrlandoStoryClub.com

Sandcastle Storytellers

Lake Helen, FL
Sherril/Peter Giachetti
386-789-4259, gia184@aol.com

Storytellers of Central Florida

Winter Park, FL
Louise O'Leary, 407-715-8129
lgoleary@yahoo.com

Storytellers of Lake County

Mount Dora, FL
Louise O'Leary, 407-715-8129
lgoleary@yahoo.com

Suncoast Storytellers

St. Petersburg, FL
Ross Tarr, 727-418-5578
rosstarr@aol.com

Tale Tellers of St. Augustine

St. Augustine, FL
Kathy Kniery, 386-385-3600
kkniery@gmail.com
www.taletellers.org

Tamiami Tale Tellers

Fort Myers, FL
Marilyn Graham
Marilyn@tttellers.org
tttellers.org

Tampa Bay Storytellers Guild

Tampa, FL
Maureen Belote, 727-736-6466
genimo@verizon.net

Write To Be Scene, Inc.

Orlando, FL
Pamela Belitch 407-917-8110
pamela.belitch@writetobescene.org
writetobescene.org

Start your own group...

Each group, guild, or circle in the Florida Storytelling Association gets a scholarship for a Full Festival Pass to send someone who has not been to the festival before, a listing on our website, grant opportunities to support events, and a community to celebrate stories locally.

Attend the **Guild Networking Meeting** at the festival, Friday at 11am in the Alexander Room.

“GREAT STORIES HAPPEN TO THOSE WHO CAN TELL THEM.” — *Ira Glass*



January 30- February 2, 2025



**A full weekend of exciting events
for storytelling fans of all ages!**



Bil Lepp



Connie Regan-Blake



Kevin Kling



April Armstrong

Story & Song
CENTER FOR ARTS & CULTURE

Amelia Island, Florida
www.storyandsongarts.org/festival



Places to EAT in Mt Dora

*Mention the Florida Storytelling Festival to restaurants!
Stories are food for the soul. Enjoy our festival full of stories,
but don't forget to feed the body...*

AT THE LAKESIDE INN:

Beauclaire Dining Room & Verandah at Lakeside Inn. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner right at the site of the festival events.

Tremain's Tavern at Lakeside Inn (Hotel Lobby). Grab a drink and a casual meal.

WALK TO DOWNTOWN:

Cody's on 4th

Coffee, baked goods, salads, sandwiches. Breakfast & lunch.
111 E 4th Ave

Copacabana Cuban Cafe

Homestyle Cuban cuisine and vegetarian options
320 Dora Drawdy Way

Foxtail Coffee Company

Drinks and light eats
138 E 5th Ave

JK Thai & Sushi

Traditional Thai food including vegetarian options
116 E 5th Avenue

Let's Do Lunch Restaurant

Lobster rolls, chicken or egg salad sandwiches.
426 N Donnelly St

Magical Meat Boutique

British Pub, Restaurant, Live Music. Catch the Storytelling Performance every third Monday at 1pm.
322 N Alexander St

Magic Tea Market

Boba teas & milk teas. Asian market and cafe.
118 E 4th Avenue

Mount Dora Marketplace

Multiple food vendors including BBQ, Beirut Bites, Shadrach's Pizza
100 E 4th Ave & 334 N Donnelly

One Flight Up Cafe

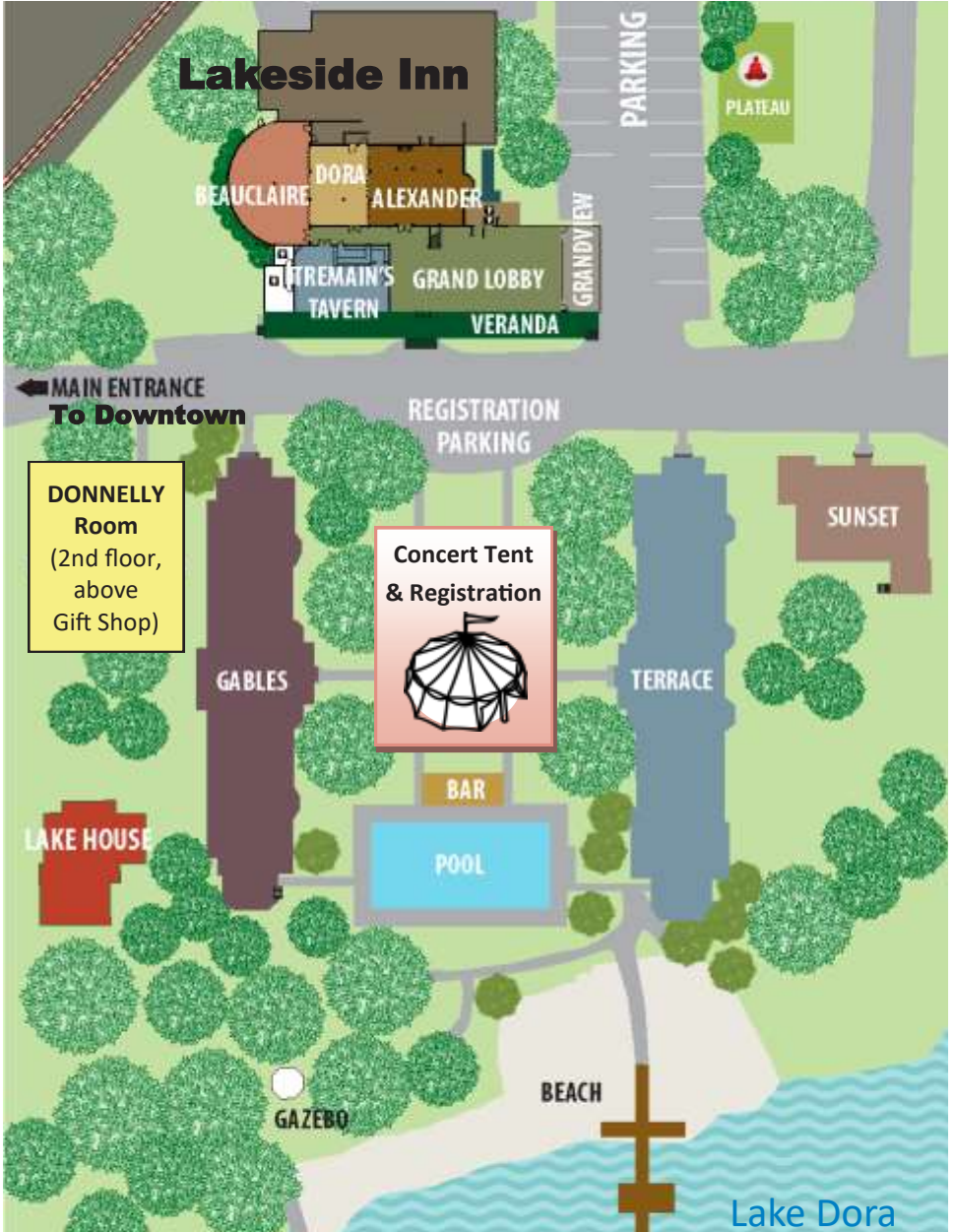
Soups, salads, sandwiches
Coffee, tea, wine/beer
440 N Donnelly St

The Salted Fry

100% Gluten Free restaurant
Sandwiches, salads, fries
342 Dora Drawdy Way

THE FESTIVAL GROUNDS

It's all here, on the grounds of lovely Lakeside Inn. Please don't hesitate to contact the Front Desk if you encounter any issues with lodging. Mount Dora welcomes you! The downtown shops and establishments are within easy walking distance.... enjoy your stay.



We're Back Next Year!

Florida Storytelling Festival

January 22-25, 2026

Featured Tellers



Megan Wells



Michael Reno Harrell



Mij Byram



Janel Woodland



George Otieno

(Fishmonger Stories)



Florida Storytelling Association

Become a member and support
storytelling across Florida!

flstory.com



Florida Storytelling Festival
celebrates 41 years!



- The First National Bank of Mount Dora as Trustee -



Lakeside Inn

Mount Dora, Florida
Since 1880



Mount Dora
Area Chamber Of Commerce



LAKE
COUNTY, FL
REAL FLORIDA - REAL GLOBE



Florida
ARTS & CULTURE



Thank you for joining our community.

flstory.com