

**WE'VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE...WE REJOICE IN THE RETELLING.**



# **THE REGISTER**

## **OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER**

### **A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

How do you define yourself as a storyteller? Are you a stage performer? Do you share stories one on one with your family or friends? Are your stories told around the kitchen table? Do you like to tell tales of fantasy, heroism and make believe? What about that Liar's contest; can you tell a lie and make us all follow along? Do you do all of that and more? Storytelling encompasses many forms, including the storytelling for business, personal storytelling, such as the Moth and stories told to music, ballads. Stories can be happy and they can be sad. It can take us to other worlds and it can bring us home. I have even been to an impromptu storytelling event, where the teller told stories from words that were shouted out by audience members.

We are free to choose our own style and we all have a place in it. Storytelling is a great community builder. Every time we listen to another person's story, we not only gain insight into their lives but into our own lives as well.

It is our duty to tell stories. Thank goodness, because I love it.



*A THOUGHT FOR YOUR DAY:*

“There’s always room for a story that can transport people to another place.”

- J.K. Rowling,  
novelist, screenwriter and  
film producer

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**SAVE THE DATE!**

January 24, 25, 26, 2020

River and Prairie Storyweavers will host its 27th Annual Chicken Festival at the Paola Community Center (905 E. Wea Street, Paola, KS, 66071). The Chicken Festival is a combination of community outreach & storyteller retreat. Attendees are those who love stories, whether you are a storyteller or a story listener, all are welcome. Instead of one or a few featured tellers, YOU are the featured storyteller when you tell your story.

As part of the community outreach, we will tell stories in the local schools, libraries, and senior centers on Friday, January 24, and present a community storytelling concert on Saturday, January 25. Those interested in volunteering their talents to tell in the community should contact Gary Kuntz as 816-896-8611.

Friday evening, all day Saturday, and Sunday morning storyteller will share their favorite stories and music. Yes, there is a time slot for chicken stories. Keep checking [www.riverandprairiestoryweavers.org](http://www.riverandprairiestoryweavers.org) for updates on The Chicken Festival.

The Nitty Gritty: Chicken Festival registration is \$30 for RAPS members or \$60 for non-RAPS members. RAPS annual member is \$25, \$35 for a family. Contact the Paola Inn and Suites (1600 E. Hedges Ln. Ct., Paola, KS, 66071) At (913) 294-3700 by 12/24/19 for the fabulous RAPS room discount rate of \$70 (plus taxes). Don't delay! Don't call too late for reservations to the Chicken Festival only to find yourself completely plucked.



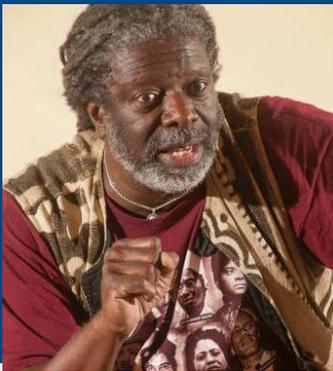
**THREE GREAT ORGANIZATIONS  
BRINGING STORYTELLING  
TO OUR GREAT STATE!**



# SAVE THE DATE!

**November 13-16, 2019**

## THIS YEAR'S FEATURED TELLERS



Michael D. McCarty



Laura Packer



Dovie Thomason



Andy Offutt Irwin



Musical Storytelling  
Performance by  
Mike and Nancee Micham

**MCC**

816.604.3011

**KCSTORYTELLING.MCCKC.EDU**

Metropolitan  
Community College



MAPLE WOODS



# The **SIXTH ANNUAL** Missouri State Liar's Contest



The 2020 Missouri State Liar's Contest, sponsored by MO-Tell (Missouri Storytelling) will take place at the Spencer Road Library in St. Peters, MO, on July 11th, 2020.



Regional judges of honor and renown (at least in the hearts of their mothers) will rank worthy contestants and you, too, in two arenas on that day: **Oral Storytelling** (up to a ten minute story) and **Written Storytelling** (up to 3,000 words).



Tellers from far & wide, from all corners of Missouri (and then some), will clash in a cloud of contrivances to fight in a field of fabrications, wielding whoppers! Join them in sanctioned deceit! Compete for the kind of notoriety that flirts with the notorious!



Plus, earlier in the day veteran storytellers will offer **FREE** workshops, open to **ALL** who love telling stories!



## For details, submission regulations & contest rules visit [MO-TELL.org](http://MO-TELL.org)



Whether or not you intend to personally compete in either or both of the contests, please be sure to attend on July 11th, 2020!



It's one of the most creative storytelling events in our fair state and, most importantly of all, we need witnesses.



# STATE PARK STORYTELLING

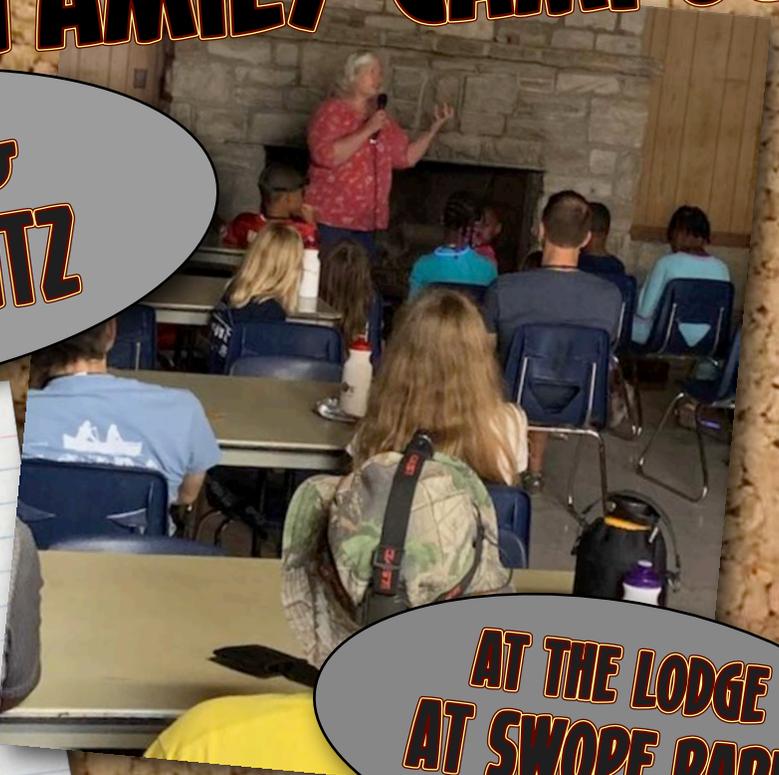
Funded and sponsored by the good folks at the Missouri Arts Council and the Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources, MO-TELL is pleased to provide musical, educational, and storytelling performances in parks facilities across our fair state.



## WONDERS OF WILDLIFE FAMILY CAMPOUT

STORIES BY

LINDA &  
GARY KUNTZ



AT THE LODGE  
AT SWOPE PARK

# MO-TELL'S MEMBER PROFILE

GREAT PEOPLE COMPOSE THIS GREAT ORGANIZATION!  
EACH MONTH'S MO-TELL REGISTER FEATURES ANOTHER TO THE MEMBERS.

## MIKE & NANCEE MICHAM



**Tell a little about yourself and your family? What is your vocation and your hobby?**

Mike and Nancee Micham are touring musicians, storytellers, entertainers. Professional touring artists who also own a farm in Missouri believing in heirloom vegetables and heritage farm animals our pioneer ancestors grew and raised. They believe in educating our future and present generations in traditional music and practices is important and also having fun along the way.

**What is your interest in storytelling? How did it begin?**

Storytelling thru song began early for both Mike and Nancee. Mike began learning the guitar at age 12 and right away knew it just wasn't about the fancy licks, it was about the songs that spoke to him, that painted a picture of human lives, that told a sometimes not-so-pretty picture of our human condition. Nancee, coming from a theater background, didn't realize until later she was already a storyteller just through monologues and characters. Both came to formal storytelling thru Richard and Judy Young, storytellers at Silver Dollar City. Their mesmerizing performances influenced them to get involved with formal storytelling and then Steve Otto came along!

**Why did you decide it was important to be a member of Missouri Storytelling? How can Mo-Tell improve?**

We are afraid that storytelling is not dying but less important in this fast paced world. We are trying to do our part to keep it alive, viable and important. We wish there were more venues and places that support the art form. Improvement? More outreach somehow. Maybe a workshop on writing grants for those who want to help and are just not sure how.

**What tellers have been influential in your life?**

As said before, Richard and Judy Young were the first tellers we heard telling traditional stories. Then we were gifted in hearing Steve tell WOW. And then Steve saw Nancee tell on the porch of McHaffie's Homestead and The Ozark Celebration Festival in Springfield and then invited her and Mike to the Kansas City Celebration as Regional Tellers and we were hooked. When seeing for the first time National Tellers in 2005 and being exposed to great stories and spellbinding tellers we have not stopped in our learning of the art and sharing it in our way

**What is your favorite story, song, film, joke?**

**Story:** Nancee & Mike, both: The Golden Arm

**Song:** Nancee: On My Father's Side; Mike: Christmas in the Trenches

**Film:** Nancee: West Side Story; Mike: Little Big Man

**Joke:** the next one

# JIM "TWO CROWS" WALLEN LANDS IN THE OZARKS



## The Association of Missouri Interpreters

Hey Guys,  
The conference at Roaring River State Park went great. 85 people in attendance. 25 were in the 45 minute workshop that I presented, only two that worked for DNR. I started with the explanation of MO-TELL, only a few had ever heard of us. I went on to explain our relationship with DNR since the 1980's mentioning the names Perrin had given me. I also told to Missouri History. Next I got them telling stories with pictures I handed out and they had to relate it to their site or venue. Then they had to tell their partners the craziest or most unusual thing that had ever happened at their site. All this in 45 minutes. Everyone in the workshop took MO-TELL postcards. I finished with telling them the importance of the work they are doing keeping our history alive. Lots of positive comments afterwards.

I spoke to some of their officers and found out the breakdown of their membership is a 1/3 is DNR employees, 1/3 museum, historical organizations, arboretums, nature centers, etc., and 1/3 individuals who are interested in history, authors, free-lance interpreters not associated with any specific site. They were very excited to have us there and would like for us to return. I joined their group and I would suggest it might be good for MO-TELL to join as well. Their membership fee is \$15.00 per year or \$125.00 for lifetime. It might be worth trying it for a year or two.

I'll share more at the next board meeting.



# **ALWAYS REMEMBER, NEVER FORGET**

**"WHATEVER STORY  
YOU'RE TELLING,  
IT WILL BE MORE  
INTERESTING IF,  
AT THE END,  
YOU ADD, "AND  
THEN EVERYTHING  
BURST INTO  
FLAMES."**

**— BRIAN P. CLEARY**

# RIVER AND PRAIRIE STORYWEAVERS

## October 2019 Calendar

Thursday October 3, 2019, 7:00 pm - RAPS Main Meeting  
Theme for Stories: Bring your favorite candy to share, and a story about it  
Trailside Center

Saturday October 12, 2019, 2:00 pm - RAPS North Meeting  
Theme for Stories: Terror  
Woodneath Library Center / Storytime Barn

Contact: [RAPS.Secretary@gmail.com](mailto:RAPS.Secretary@gmail.com) for more information

If you give a tiger a pickle,  
He's going to want a story.

If you offer him a story,  
He's going to want it twice.

If you tell it again,  
He's going to ask for once  
more.

If you tell once more,  
He's going to ask if you're a  
professional in Missouri.

If you are a professional in  
Missouri,  
He'll ask if you belong to MO-  
TELL.

If you say, "Why, no. I'm not a  
member of MO-TELL."  
He'll set down the pickle and  
stare at you intently,  
hungrily, and with no mercy.

Leave the tigers to enjoy their  
pickles.  
Contact Sue Hinkel and join  
MO-TELL, for heaven's sake.

## THE TIGER AND THE PICKLE

A BRAND-NEW FABLE FOR YOU  
TO CUT OUT AND GIVE TO OTHER STORYTELLERS.



# STORYTELLERS OF THE OZARKS

Oct. 5, Saturday, 9:30 a.m., Snacks & Swap

Brentwood Library Community Room

**A week of Halloween stories:**

Oct. 29 - Morning tell @ GED class at OTC College

Oct. 30 - Morning Assisted Living in Rogersville, MO

Oct. 31 - Morning tell at Lakewood Assisted Living

Afternoon @ at Montclair Independent Living

Contact Nancy Shelton at 417-848-5859; [storytellersoftheozarks@gmail.com](mailto:storytellersoftheozarks@gmail.com)

## RIVERWINDS STORYTELLERS

**Bubble Bubble, Toil and Trouble**  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2019 at**  
**7:00 PM**

**Edwardsville Public Library**

112 South Kansas St. Edwardsville, IL

**Parental Discretion is advised :**

**These stories may be too horrible for children's ears**

Riverwind Storytellers will meet on October 14th at the Jensen's House, 3413 Rand Lane, Swansea, IL to practice their scary stories and prepare for their "Bubble, Bubble, Toil and Trouble" performance to be held on October 28th at Edwardsville Public Library.

Those who want to come to watch and listen and offer support are welcome to join us on Oct. 14th. We hop to get Started by 4:30, giving each teller a change to practice their story and we'll also share a light supper.

Call Jan at 262-894-6580 to let her know you are coming. Bring a spouse or friend if you wish.

## GATEWAY STORYTELLERS

GATEWAY STORYTELLERS WILL BE HOSTING  
**TELLABRATION**

Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>

St Louis County Library Headquarters on Lindbergh  
Blvd.

Mark your calendars now. This will be an afternoon event.

MAGNET  
HERE

# FOR YOUR FRIDGE

MAGNET  
HERE

STORIES, GATHERINGS, AND STORY GATHERINGS  
AROUND OUR FAIR STATE.

## RAPS

### October 2019 Calendar

Thursday October 3, 2019, 7:00 pm -  
RAPS Main Meeting

Theme for Stories: Bring your  
favorite candy to share, and a story  
about it

Trailside Center

Saturday October 12, 2019, 2:00 pm -  
RAPS North Meeting

Theme for Stories: Terror

Woodneath Library Center /  
Storytime Barn

Saturday September 28, 2019, 10:00  
am - RAPS John Knox Meeting  
John Knox Village, Missouri  
Room (Inside Lakeside Grille)

Contact: [RAPS.Secretary@gmail.com](mailto:RAPS.Secretary@gmail.com)  
for more information

## SOTO

Oct. 5, Saturday, 9:30 a.m., Snacks & Swap  
Brentwood Library Community Room  
A week of Halloween stories:

Oct. 29 - Morning tell @ GED class at  
OTC College

Oct. 30 - Morning Assisted Living in  
Rogersville, MO

Oct. 31 - Morning tell at Lakewood  
Assisted Living

Afternoon @ at Montclair  
Independent Living

Contact Nancy Shelton at 417-848-5859  
[storytellersoftheozarks@gmail.com](mailto:storytellersoftheozarks@gmail.com)

## RIVERWINDS

Bubble Bubble, Toil and Trouble

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2019 at

7:00 PM

Edwardsville Public Library

112 South Kansas St. Edwardsville, IL

Parental Discretion is Advised :

These stories may be too horrible for children's ears

## GATEWAY

No events listed.

# MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE WOODNEATH...

CLASSES FOR STORYTELLING CERTIFICATION!

## OCTOBER 2019 CALENDAR

### Story Swap!

Thu, Oct 17 2019 6:30pm - 8:30pm Woodneath Storytime Barn Story Center  
Event **Registration Required**

An open-mic storytelling event that's open to anyone! Put your name in the hat for a chance to share a seven-minute story or just come to enjoy the show.

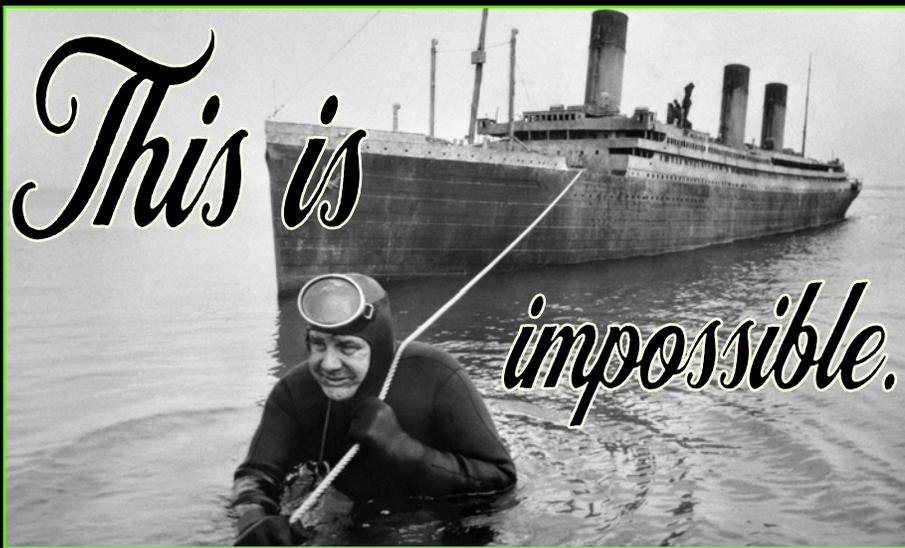
**EVENT DETAILS REGISTER NOW**

### Performance Basics

Sat, Oct 26 2019 10:30am - 12:30pm Woodneath Storytime Barn Story Center  
Event **Registration Required**

Join award-winning storyteller Laura Packer and learn how to better connect with your audience. Practice vocal projection, movement, and pacing as well as get tips for combatting stage fright.

**EVENT DETAILS REGISTER NOW**



**ONE  
CAN'T.**

No matter how mythic.

**MANY  
CAN.**

No matter how human.

**MO-TELL NEEDS YOU TO PULL.  
WHICH COMFY HARNESS FITS YOU?**

Serve on the Board of Directors?  
Represent MO-TELL from other Missouri areas?  
Coordinate, plan, and manage events?  
Write grants? Help with accounting?  
Contact any existing Board Member with your ideas.

# THE 2020 NATIONAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The National Storytelling Network is pleased to announce its Call for Proposals for the 2020 National Storytelling Conference. **All those interested are invited to submit a proposal** for presentation. Note: The majority of conference workshops will be presented by NSN members. If you would like to become an NSN member [click here](#).

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: NOVEMBER 1, 2019**

**THE 2020 NATIONAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE WILL TAKE PLACE  
JULY 23-26 IN DECATUR, GEORGIA.**

---

**The theme for the 2020 National Storytelling Conference is... Engagement Through Empathy:  
An alternative approach to addressing our differences**

The socio-political polarization of America is epidemic. Many have reverted to offensive tactics aimed simply at enlisting others so their viewpoint prevails. Stories enable an alternative approach. By thoughtfully telling our stories and respecting the rights of others to tell their stories, we will demonstrate how empathy can be nurtured and how it can become a force for resolution – even for unexpected outcomes. To acknowledge the humanity of one with whom we disagree is the beginning of a process in which creative, constructive solutions can be surfaced, considered, refined, and agreed upon – all beginning with a willingness to listen respectfully.

*A note from the Conference Program Committee: The wording of the theme may change before October 15, but the sentiment will remain the same.*

**If you are interested in sharing your thought-provoking, innovative and practical presentations with the storytelling community don't hesitate, submit your proposal today! For more information on submitting proposals or to view the submission guidelines please visit the link that follows:**

**[HTTPS://STORYNET.ORG/NSNEVENTS/CONFERENCE/CFP/](https://storynet.org/nsnevents/conference/cfp/)**



Selected applicants will receive notification by January 30th, 2020.

# THE FIRST

By Gary Kuntz

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The first people were Adam and Eve. We all know the story of their relationship, but recently a new archeological site dug up some new information that throws a new light on their relationship.

Adam and Eve were walking down that dusty dirt road toward their house and Eve was giving Adam an earful.

"Why do we always have to walk everywhere? Can't you come up with an idea? And are you listening to me?"

This was after that unfortunate forbidden fruit business, so Adam had learned it was best to do, as all men do. He occasionally said "uh-huh," just to keep up his end of the conversation.

Up in heaven two angels, brothers, saw all this and decided to do something about it.

They looked in the back shed and picked out some parts . . . then some more parts . . . and just a few more, sent them down to earth and began putting them together.

This was a bit difficult as not all the parts fit exactly together, but they made them fit anyway. When it was done, they looked upon it and said it was okay. They put it on the road on other side of the hill from where Adam and Eve were walking, she was still talking and he was still saying uh-huh, and they waited.

When Adam and Eve came upon it they were astounded - they had never seen anything like it before! Eve wanted to know: "What could it be?"

But Adam knew instantly what it was. It was that most useful and utilitarian type of vehicle. It was the First Pickup Truck.

Imagine their disappointment when they opened the door and there were no keys!

The angels pointed to each other and said, "You were supposed to put them in the truck!" They then sent the keys down from heaven in a fiery package, nearly beaming Adam and causing him to jump to one side.

Adam put the keys in the ignition and cranked that engine. When it started, he knew his walking days were over. He decided to name this new creation, and since he had to "dodge" the keys . . . he called it Dodge.

Dodge was a mostly trusty vehicle. Sure, it rattled and bounced around on those country roads, and sometimes it wouldn't start, but for the most part it beat walking.

Then one day it happened.

Driving at a very moderate pace down the road Dodge suddenly let out a large BANG and shuddered to a stop with wisps of steam and black smoke pouring from the engine compartment. The engine had blown, and since this was before AAA, Adam and Eve had to leave Dodge by the side of the road, dead.

When they started walking, Eve started talking and Adam went back to saying uh-huh.

After they had gone, Henry came along.

Now this all happened after Adam and Eve had done some begetting, and their begetting had begatted and so forth.

Anyway Henry, who was mechanically inclined, unlike Adam (who was more a humanities-type person), saw Dodge dead by the side of the road and said, "I can fix that!"

# STORY OF THE MONTH

He hitched up his horse and towed Dodge back to his workshop where he worked and worked and worked on it. After he got the engine rebuilt, he decided to tackle some of the parts fitting issues. By the time he got it back together it was better than "okay" - it was pretty good!  
Then he decided it needed a new name, and since he had Found it On the Road Dead . . . he named it Ford.

One day, Henry was driving down the road in Ford and passed Adam and Eve walking. Well Eve started talking so much that Adam couldn't even get in an "uh-huh."

"Why does Henry get to drive around and not us, Adam? I'm sick and tired of walking. And you better do something about it - right away!"  
When Adam explained that that was Henry's Ford, Eve took matters into her own hands.

The next time Henry drove by, she stuck out her thumb, showed a bit of ankle, and Ford came to screeching stop. Without a word, Eve climbed into Ford and there they went down the road, off into the sunset, leaving Adam in the dust.

This made Adam sad, really, really sad. So sad that when he got home he got out his guitar and created right then and there, on the spot, the very first country song.

All day long he would sit on his front porch and sing his song. Sometimes, in the evening, when the sun was just going down behind the trees, the dogs under the porch would howl in harmony.

It was a sad song.

Well, word soon got back to God about the situation and after thinking about it he snapped his fingers and said "I know just what to do!"

God went to the back shed and looked over all of those parts and thought "these won't do", so he started creating parts one by one - making sure they fit together just so perfectly.

As perfectly as the parts fit together, his ultimate creation was the new short-block engine. He knew when he created it that it would be an instant classic. Then he did some customizing: big tires, great graphics, and a custom exhaust. And it was done.

The only problem was he had built it up there and had to get it down here, so he hollowed out a meteor, fit that truck snugly inside and sent it down to earth. It fit so perfectly that he didn't even need to use packing peanuts, which was good because, as you know, God is an environmentalist.

Adam, sadly sitting on his porch, had just finished another sad verse to his sad song when he looked up and saw this fiery rock (astronomy hadn't been invented yet) headed straight toward him and sadly figured it was all over. Then at the last second it veered and hit the pasture about 60 yards from the house. Adam, taking this as a sign that maybe it wasn't over yet, decided to investigate and saw this big rock in the middle of his pasture, split wide open. When he saw what was inside his eyes got real wide.

He opened the door he saw a note on the seat saying "Adam, this truck is for you, drive long and prosper." Plus, the keys were already in the ignition!  
Adam started that truck and to the sound of that custom exhaust burbling away eased it out of that rock. He figured he needed a name - a special name - for this and said, "Well, since it came from the inside of a rock and was like a rock, I name you . . . Chevy."

Well, the way it wound up:

Eve never did stop talking to Henry, asking why Ford couldn't be more like Chevy.

Henry went out to his shop every day to tinker with Ford and to get some peace and quiet. As for Adam, he drove that truck everywhere and it inspired him. He wound up with 6 gold records and another 4 platinum ones for a "perfect 10" - the genre going from country, country-western, and into true crossover hits.

And God? He looked down and said, "I done good."

# It's H-h-h-haunted!

"The oldest and strongest emotion of mankind is fear." - H. P. Lovecraft.

Story Lounge: Hauntings features chilling, spine-tingling storytelling performances based on literary works. Held at the Kranzberg Arts Center, prepare to revel in the fiendish delights of the season - and a few surprise tricks and treats!

MC: [Beverly Brennan](#).

Performers include [Ken Wolfe](#), Barney Bradshaw, Anne-Louise Williams, and [Rockette Fox](#)  
\$10, tickets available at MetroTix.



## OCTOBER 24TH

### KRANZBERG ARTS CENTER

501 NORTH GRAND BOULEVARD, SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103

## SEVEN O'CLOCK AFTER DARK



# WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

Missouri Storytelling, Inc (MO-TELL) is an organization of storytellers and other interested person dedicated to spreading the joy and art of storytelling throughout Missouri.

## MISSION STATEMENT

We envision that every Missourian will hear and share stories and keep the oral tradition alive.

## VISION STATEMENT

President: Joyce Slater, joyceslater20@gmail.com

Treasurer: Sue Hinkel, shinkel@mail.win.org (Membership)

Secretary: Jim "Two Crows" Wallen, jimtwocrows@att.net

At Large: Gary Kuntz, galirahi@aol.com

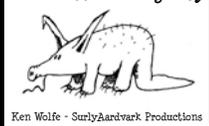
Emeritus: Perrin Stifel, pstifelstl@earthlink.net

[www.mo-tell.org](http://www.mo-tell.org)

Copyright © 2019 MO-TELL, All rights reserved  
Volume 2, Newsletter 10

Our mailing address: 7338 Belleview Ave, Kansas City, MO 64114

Newsletter design by



# THE MO-TELL BOARD