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# THE STORYTELLING CHRONICLE

A PUBLICATION OF THE ASHEVILLE STORYTELLING CIRCLE

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## ASC Meeting Time

The Asheville Storytelling Circle meets at **7:00 pm** on the **third Monday** of each month except August and December at **Asheville Terrace**, 200 Tunnel Rd. in Asheville.

## Mission Statement

To affirm our various cultures, nourish the development of emerging and established artists, and promote excellence in the oral traditions.

## Visit Our Website

[www.ashevillestorycircle.org](http://www.ashevillestorycircle.org)

## Storytelling and Technology

Here's a link to an interesting article on the Internet:  
[The Lasting Power of Oral Traditions by Joseph Bruchac](#)

*If you have a website you feel is beneficial to the art of storytelling, please submit it for the Storytelling Chronicle.*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 *The Little New Year* by Robena Field
- 2 *Story in a Eulogy* by Sherry Lovett and *The Little New Year* continued
- 3 Calendar Items, *Black Box Storytelling Theater News & Story Assignment*
- 4 Calendar continued & Board Information
- 5 Member Recipe
- 5 Storytelling Extras & New Feature - **ASC Member's News**

## The Little New Year

By Ellen Robena Field 1894

One cold morning Maurice awoke from his dreams and sat up in bed and listened. He thought he heard a knock at his window; but though the moon was shining brightly, Jack Frost had been so busily at work that Maurice could not see through the thickly painted panes. So he crept sleepily out of bed, and opened the window, and whispered: "Who is there?"

"I am," replied a tinkling voice. "I am the little New Year, ho! ho! And I've promised to bring a blessing to everyone. But I am such a little fellow I need somebody to help me distribute them. Won't you please come out and help?"

"Oh, it's so cold!" said Maurice; "I'd rather go back to my warm bed; "and he shivered as Jack Frost, who was passing, tickled him under the chin with one of the frosty paint brushes.

"Never mind the cold," urged the New Year; "please help me."

So Maurice hurried into his clothes, and was soon out in the yard. There he found a rosy-cheeked boy a little smaller than himself, pulling a large cart which seemed to be loaded with good things. On one side of this cart was painted the word "Love," and on the other "Kindness." As soon as the New Year saw Maurice he said, "Now please take hold and help me pull;" and down the driveway and up the hill they traveled until they came to an old shanty.

"Here is where I make my first call," said the New Year.

Maurice looked wonderingly at him. "Why, nobody lives here but an old colored man who works for us; and he hasn't any children!"

"He needs my help," said the New Year; "for grown people like to be thought of just as much as children do. You shovel out a path to his door, while I unload some of my blessings; and the little hands went busily at work, piling up warm clothing, wood, and a new year's dinner, the New Year singing as he worked:—

"Oh, I am the little New Year; ho! ho!  
Here I come tripping it over the snow,  
Shaking my bells with a merry din;  
So open your door and let me in."

Old Joe, hearing some noise outside, came to the door, and when he saw all the nice gifts the tears ran down his cheeks for gladness; and as he carried them into the house, he whispered: "The dear Lord has been here to-night."

Continued on page 2

## Story in a Eulogy (Spoken at Evelyn's Memorial by daughter Sherry Lovett)

How do you represent a person's full life with a few words? You can't. It can only be captured through the collective experience of everyone who knew Evelyn. But there are a few qualities that I believe are common to all who knew her.



Mama laughed easy, flew mad when she needed to, and had faith stronger than steel. Her family often said she had a direct line to God. And no one could give comfort like my mama. No matter the worry or sorrow, mama's voice and her enveloping embrace made a heart feel at ease.

Evelyn birthed three children, Glenn, Tim, and me, but she was a mama to anyone who needed her. You just felt loved around her. One way she showed love was through food. Oh my, how she could cook! Her fried chicken, potato salad, and lemon pie, to name a few, were fit for a king.

She took pride in her home and everyone who visited got the same line, "I'm sorry it's so messy." But everyone who knew mama knows her house was always spotless - clean enough to eat off the floors! And her yard was just as neat. She loved her flowers and she could make a stick grow.

Mama was fun; she loved to cut-up and she got tickled easy. You never knew what she was going to say and, if you made her mad, watch out!

She loved babies and was a second mama to all the neighborhood kids. She taught us all to swim, carted us all over creation, and would help us with anything in her power to do.

I learned about helping people by her example. She cared for her family and neighbors with an energy only given to angels. She was all of this and more.

For the last three years mama suffered from Alzheimer's, trapped in a body with a mind that no longer worked. It was a long, sad walk together as mom disappeared before us. But one of her cherished gifts **came** just a couple of months ago. A message she gave me that I now give to you because she loved us all.

On one of our visits I looked into her eyes and with all of the feeling in my heart, I said, "Mama, I love you." She said, "Well, Sherry, I love you too." I said, "Mama, that makes me so happy." And she said, "Well, you better carry that with you."

Evelyn Allred King was born July 7, 1928 to Dewey and Emily Allred. She was the oldest of eleven children. She was wife to Lespie King and mother to Glenn, Tim, and Sherry. Grandmother to Kelly and SeAnna and Great Grandmother to Chase and Peyton. But she was so much more, and her stories will be remembered by us all.

## The Little New Year *continued*

"Where are we going now?" asked Maurice, as they ran down the hill.

"To take some flowers to a poor sick girl," answered the New Year. Soon they came to a small white house, where the New Year stopped.

"Why, Bessie, our sewing girl lives, here," said Maurice. "I didn't know she was sick."

"See," said the New Year, "this window is open a little; let us throw this bunch of pinks into the room. They will please her when she wakes, and will make her happy for several days."

Then they hurried to other places, leaving some blessing behind them.

"What a wonderful cart you have," said Maurice; "though you have taken so much out, it never seems to get empty."

"You are right, Maurice, there is never any end to love and kindness. As long as I find people to love and be kind to, my cart is full of blessings for them; and it will never grow empty until I can no longer find people to help. If you will go with me every day and help me scatter my blessings, you will see how happy you will be all the long year."

"A happy New Year!" called someone; and Maurice found himself in bed, and his sister standing in the doorway smiling at him. "Have you had a pleasant dream, dear?" she asked.

"Why, where is the little New Year?" said Maurice; "he was just here with me."

"Come into Mamma's room and see what he has brought you," answered his sister. There in a snowy white cradle he found a tiny baby brother, the gift of the New Year. How happy Maurice was then! But he did not forget his dream. Old Joe and Bessie had their gifts, too, and Maurice tried so hard to be helpful that he made all his friends glad because the happy New Year had come.



"Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see."

~Mark Twain

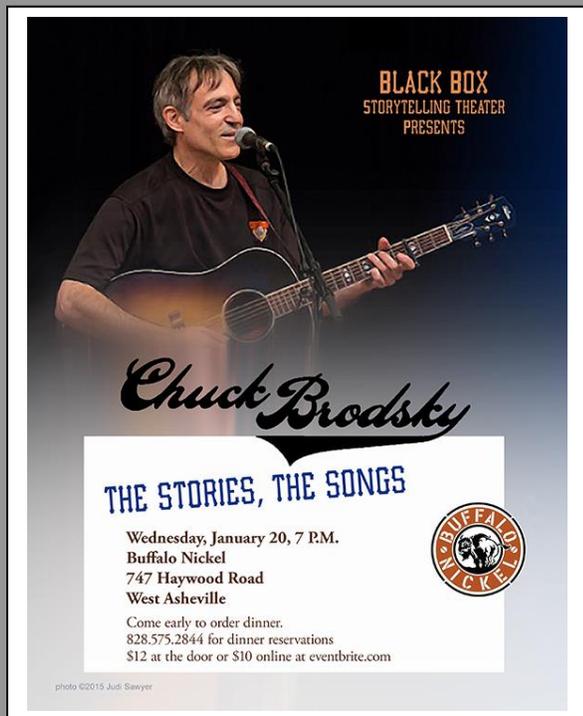
## Calendar of Storytelling Events and Happenings

**January 18th**

ASC membership meeting at 7 pm at Terrace Apartments.

**January 20th**

**David Joe Miller Presents:** An Evening with **Chuck Brodsky**, Buffalo Nickel, 747 Haywood Road in West Asheville. 12.00 at the door. Show begins at 7pm but please come early to order dinner. Reservations are requested by calling [828-575-2844](tel:828-575-2844)



**February 15th**

ASC monthly meetings, 7 pm, lobby of Asheville Terrace, 200 Tunnel Rd.

**February 17th**

**David Joe Miller Presents:** OPEN MIC! 7pm at Buffalo Nickel, 747 Haywood Road in West Asheville. Free event. Signup begins at 6:30. Please come early to order dinner.

**March 11-12**

Connie Regan-Blake is a featured teller at Charleston Tells storytelling Festival, Charleston, SC.

**April 9**

Connie Regan-Blake presents a one day workshop, Finding the Storyteller in You, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, Lenoir Rhyne University Center for Graduate Studies at Asheville (2nd floor of Visitors Center), 36 Montford Ave. [storywindow.com](http://storywindow.com) (See more about what Connie is offering on page 5.)

Continued on Page 4

## Black Box Storytelling Theater News

By David Joe Miller

Black Box Storytelling Theater celebrates it's FIRST YEAR! We'll be kicking off our second season with the incomparable CHUCK BRODSKY on January 20th at Buffalo Nickel, 747 Haywood Road in West Asheville. Come early for drinks and dinner. Show begins at 7pm and tickets are 12.00 at the door or 10.00 online at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-stories-the-songs-with-chuck-brodsky-tickets-20055874661>

Chucks show, "The Stories, The Songs," will help us to celebrate our first year of bringing quality storytelling shows to Asheville on a monthly basis. Chuck, who is very well known here in Asheville, by circle members and in both storytelling and folk music circuits across the country and abroad, has agreed to take time from his busy schedule of California and Alabama tours and create a "one of a kind" show for Black Box Storytelling Theater and we feel honored.

Please join us for this special show, enjoy some wonderful Buffalo Nickel food and drink then sit back and relax for about 90 minutes of stories and songs from Chuck Brodsky.

## A Story Assignment

Found at

<https://www.storyarts.org/lessonplans/lessonideas/index.html#circle>

**Proverbs: Wisdom Tales Without the Plot**

Choose a familiar proverb and develop a story that can surround and carry that thought. Multicultural proverbs offer interesting insights into the universality of wisdom. The following are some selected proverbs from **Wisdom Tales From Around the World** by Heather Forest, August House Publishers.

*"This evocative form of folklore sometimes stands in the stead of a wisdom tale. Thought-provoking proverbs can suggest a larger scenario. I invite readers to look at proverbs creatively and imagine the story the proverb suggests." -Heather Forest*

- One finger cannot lift a pebble. (Iranian)
- When elephants battle, the ants perish. (Cambodian)
- If you chase two hares, you will not catch either. (Russian)
- The pot calls the kettle black. (United States) The sieve says to the needle: You have a hole in your tail. (Pakistan)
- It is better to turn back than to get lost. (Russian)
- Handsome words don't butter cabbage. (German)
- Talk does not cook rice. (Chinese)
- After the rain, there is no need for an umbrella. (Bulgaria)
- When the kettle boils over, it overflows its own sides. (Yiddish)
- You can't chew with somebody else's teeth. (Yiddish)
- Mistrust is an axe at the tree of love. (Russian)
- If a farmer becomes a King, he will still carry a basket on his back. (Hebrew)
- Not all that is black is charcoal. (Philippine)
- Little brooks make great rivers. (French)

**"Give people a fact or an idea and you enlighten their minds; tell them a story and you touch their souls." Hasidic proverb**

Calendar of Storytelling Events and Happenings  
Continued

Do you have  
a calendar item?  
Be sure to share it  
with Sandra Gudger  
to be included  
in the newsletter.

Sandra Gudger  
gudgers@bellsouth.net

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More on Storytelling Extras Page 5

**ASC Officers for 2015**  
(For membership contact use only.)

Roy Harris, President  
[royrharris@gmail.com](mailto:royrharris@gmail.com)

Lori Pelaez, Vice President of Membership  
[dogsbest@hotmail.com](mailto:dogsbest@hotmail.com)

Zane Chait, Vice President of Events  
[zbc1399@gmail.com](mailto:zbc1399@gmail.com)

Elena Diana Miller, Secretary  
[elenamiller@bellsouth.net](mailto:elenamiller@bellsouth.net)

Connie Jones, Treasurer  
[conniejone28@yahoo.com](mailto:conniejone28@yahoo.com)

Sandra Gudger, Founder and Permanent Board  
Member  
[gudgers@bellsouth.net](mailto:gudgers@bellsouth.net)

Wallace Shealy, Past President  
[wshealy@wallaceshealy.com](mailto:wshealy@wallaceshealy.com)

**Thank you, Board!**

Stay Tuned for ASC's 20<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Newsletter

ASC will be issuing a special edition of the newsletter featuring the best of our previous newsletters, historical information about the circle, a recap of Tellabration with photos, and pictures from our holiday gathering on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

If you have something you would like included in our special anniversary edition, please send it to Sherry Lovett at [thelovetts3@gmail.com](mailto:thelovetts3@gmail.com).



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*"Stories have to be told or they die, and when they die, we can't remember who we are or why we are here."  
~Sue Monk Kidd*

# Storytelling Extras

## Member Recipe

Malke's Secret Recipe shared by Zane Chait

5 medium to large white potatoes  
6 scallions  
3 tbsp flour  
2 eggs  
1 tsp salt or more to taste  
1 tsp lemon juice  
1 tsp parsley flakes  
Vegetable oil or canola (lightly coat fry pan and add more as needed)

Scrub potatoes. Grate or shred in food processor. Add rest of ingredients and process until just mixed thoroughly. Heat oil in large skillet. Carefully drop latkes by tablespoon fulls into hot oil and brown on both sides. Drain on paper towels and serve immediately with apple sauce and/or sour cream.

## ASC Member's News!

### Coming up with...



Have you been thinking about taking a storytelling workshop and just haven't gotten around to it? Or maybe you are ready for your next big step in storytelling and want to dive in during 2016! My "[11th Annual StoryWindow Retreat & Adventure](http://storywindow.com/print_pages/workshop_desc_aug16.html)" – 7 days of practice and performance, feedback and discovery" is **August 7-13, 2016**. And if you register and pay in full by February 15, 2016 there is a sizable discount, and if you can house an out of town workshop participant, there are other payment options. A number of Circle members have taken it before, several for multiple times so you can ask Vixi, Kathy, Sandra and more to get the inside scoop. Here are the details: [http://storywindow.com/print\\_pages/workshop\\_desc\\_aug16.html](http://storywindow.com/print_pages/workshop_desc_aug16.html).

- **April 9, 2016** Asheville, NC. Visit "**Finding the Storyteller In You**" a day-long storytelling workshop for everyone
- **June 17-19, 2016** Asheville, NC. Visit "**Taking Your Story To The Stage**", Storytelling Intensive open to returning students
- **August 7-13, 2016** Asheville, NC. Visit "[11th Annual StoryWindow Retreat & Adventure](http://storywindow.com/print_pages/workshop_desc_aug16.html)", 7 days of telling, coaching, & fun.

I am also offering a day-long **Finding the Storyteller In You**" [http://storywindow.com/print\\_pages/workshop\\_desc\\_apr16.html](http://storywindow.com/print_pages/workshop_desc_apr16.html) **April 9, 2016** to explore memories, gain confidence and connect with your listeners. And then in June, a full weekend workshop, "**Taking Your Story To The Stage**" that focuses on performance and stage skills [http://storywindow.com/print\\_pages/workshop\\_desc\\_jun16.html](http://storywindow.com/print_pages/workshop_desc_jun16.html) That one is **June 17-19, 2016** and participants come with an 'almost stage ready' story. Please be in touch with any questions [Connie@storywindow.com](mailto:Connie@storywindow.com). And I appreciate your help in spreading the word to others that might enjoy and benefit from attending one or all of these workshops!

## Do you have news to share? Let us know!

### Membership Meetings Etiquette:

1. Keep your introduction short. Why keep it short? Because we want to make sure we have as much time as possible for stories.
2. Stories should be around ten minutes. Longer stories can be shared, if time permits. Even if you are working on a story, you should have some idea of how long it takes.
3. Time is precious, and we want as many people as possible to be able to share. If time runs out and not everyone who has signed-up is able to tell a story, they will go to the front of the line for the next month.

*"Storytelling is what lights my fire."  
~Hope Davis*



**Newsletter Made Possible by  
Contributions from Our Members**

### Newsletter Deadline

Please submit stories, news about upcoming events, and news about your activities by the end of each month to:

[Thelovetts3@gmail.com](mailto:Thelovetts3@gmail.com)

Calendar Items to:  
Sandra Gudger at

[gudgers@bellsouth.net](mailto:gudgers@bellsouth.net)