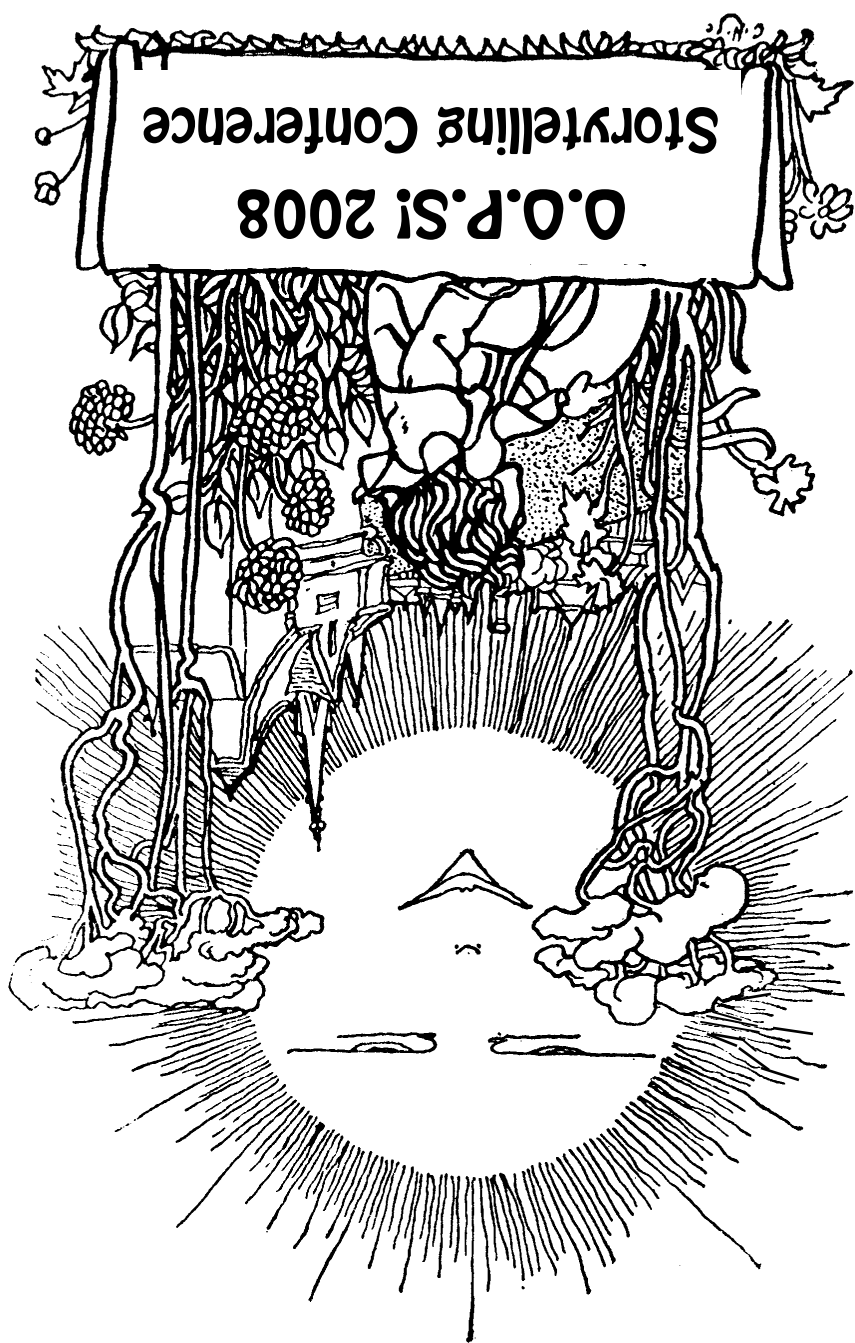


May 2, 3 and 4



O.O.P.S.I - 2006

The emerald green of grass  
And newly-plowed fields' aroma  
Gave way to the subtle scent  
And tint of lilac

As we wended our way to Mount Vernon,  
For our 20-year celebration!

We came to hear KATHRYN  
A month short of her 88th birthday.  
An historian who began collecting  
Ghost tales

And ended up telling the stories  
of her "peculiar" relations  
(mostly dead so they couldn't talk back)  
Or the lovingly hand-made coffin now filled with a rose point  
service for 12?

Or 93-year old Aunt Bett counting up  
the unescorted men visiting her bedside?

We were also gifted by Lyn Ford's story strings,  
Jenny and Cindy's tips for telling to seniors,  
And Lynn Ruelhmann's exercises  
demonstrating the connection between voice and body  
language.

Loren Neimi revealed layers of racism  
and sexism and class hidden in our stories.

Kevin Cordi's search for stories about his dog, Jack,  
Donna Feizer's mother's blue Easter hat,  
And Michael Kasony O-Malley's story of the fairy well spread  
their enchantment.

The level and intimacy of exchanges  
sent us warmly home with minds a-whirlin'  
with stories yet untold.

We were richly blessed  
And knew it!

—Judy Riggle—

Chris King  
O.O.P.S.I Membership Chair

P.O. Box 221255  
Beachwood, OH 44122

Please recycle this brochure!

If you can't attend, give it to a friend!!!

**Join us in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, for the twenty-second annual O.O.P.S.I Spring Storytelling Conference!** *It promises to be better than ever — entertaining, enlightening, loaded with creativity and how-tos and, most of all, FUN!*

Entertainment will include stories presented by many of the finest storytellers in Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Florida. Enlightenment will be rampant in six different workshops and extra storytelling swaps.

Socializing will include a story swap and reception on Friday; breakfast and lunch on Saturday provided by the famous First Congregational United Church of Christ; and a breakfast get-together on Sunday.

Come prepared to listen, to participate and to ENJOY!

### FEATURED TELLER: Mary Hamilton

Mary's early adventures in the storytelling spotlight led to a note on her report card, trips to the confessional, and smiles of delight on the faces of her 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classmates. When it was Mary's turn to stand in front of her class and tell what she had done over the weekend she did not hesitate to describe how she rode her horse bareback. Carefully, she used her hands to demonstrate how she slid off the rump of her galloping horse, barely grabbing the tail. She showed them how she struggled to climb the tail, then held tight to the mane to finish her ride.

The story was most convincing, especially from a girl who owned no horse. While her classmates were thrilled, her teacher recognized a disturbing lack of truth in need of correction instead of talent in need of encouragement and direction. A note to Mary's parents resulted in reminders that telling stories was sinful. For years Mary confessed her sins and struggled to overcome her talent. Thank goodness, she failed.

After a brief career as a high school English teacher and a children's librarian, Mary embraced professional storytelling. With her ever expanding repertoire, she delights audiences throughout the U.S.A. She tells tales in a straightforward "just talking" style, Mary uses her voice and her body to tell stories. Her audiences watch, listen, imagine, and create worlds.

The Kentucky School Media Association presented Mary with the 1999-2000 Jesse Stuart Media Award. Her recording of "Sisters All...and One Troll" won an iParenting Media Award and a Parents' Choice Gold Award and a Storytelling World Winner Award for her storytelling recordings.

Events will take place at the First Congregational United Church of Christ and the Holiday Inn Express, Mt. Vernon, Ohio (both handicapped accessible)

### Friday, May 2, 2008

noon

Volunteer tellers for schools gather at the Holiday Inn Express, 11555 Upper Gilcrest Rd., Mt. Vernon

7:00-9:30 p.m.

Registration, story swap and reception at the Holiday Inn Express

### Saturday, May 3, 2008

Morning, afternoon and evening activities (including lunch) will take place in the First Congregational United Church of Christ

8:00-8:45 a.m.

Registration, Coffee & Donuts, Sale of books, tapes, etc.

9:00-9:30 a.m.

Opening welcome

9:30-10:15 a.m.

"OLIO," brief stories by workshop presenters and Featured Teller, Mary Hamilton

10:30-12:00 p.m.

"Evolution of Tale Retellings" workshop by featured teller, Mary Hamilton

12:00-1:00 p.m.

Lunch (included) and Swap

### Afternoon workshops and swaps

1:00-2:00 p.m.

Workshop Session I

2:15-3:15 p.m.

Workshop Session II

3:30-4:30 p.m.

Workshop Session III and Swap

4:45-5:15 p.m.

Closing wrap-up exercise

5:30-6:30 p.m.

Dinner in the Mt. Vernon restaurant of your choice, or at the Church dinner hosted by the Congregational Church youth

### Evening activities will take place at the Congregational Church

6:45-7:15 p.m.

Open mike

7:30-9:30 p.m.

Storytelling Concert featuring: Ohio storytellers, Omope Daboiku, Eric Wolf, and Featured Storyteller, Mary Hamilton; emceed by Jim Flanagan

### Sunday, May 4, 2008

8:30- ? a.m.

Those who wish will meet for breakfast at (to be announced) for a lively get-together and storyteller discussion before hitting the road for home.

# WORKSHOPS

## Evolution of Tale Retellings

### Featured Teller, Mary Hamilton

Using stories from her repertoire, Mary will contrast the tale as she found it with the tale as she currently retells it and will talk about what happened as the retelling evolved.

Mary entertains audiences with Kentucky tales, world folk & fairy tales, plus a few myths, legends, true stories, and original fiction. Her work has been featured at storytelling festivals including the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesboro, TN; the Hosier Storytelling Festival, Indianapolis, IN; the Storytelling Festival of Nebraska, and many more.

This workshop will take place from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

## Community Coaching Workshop

### Kevin Cordi

You don't have to be a full time teller, but we ask that you have some telling experience. This is geared for beginning to advanced work. Coaching is the background to improvement and having a supportive community is essential to developing as a storyteller. This is not a "How To Tell Stories" workshop it is a "How To Improve on Your Story or Telling." We will work intensively on your story and how to build a community coaching approach.

For over twenty years, Kevin has told stories in over forty states, England and Japan. His story work has been commissioned by the National Youth Storytelling Hall of Fame, Newsweek, and The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. As a story teacher he is considered one of the "nation's primary advocates for youth storytelling." Kevin believes, "communities are only as strong as the stories they tell."

This workshop will be given in Sessions I and III ( Chapel)

## What's So Funny?

### Pat Nease

Laughter IS the best medicine, so learn how to cook it up, dish it out, and serve it with a smile! This exploratory, tickle-your-funny bones, participatory workshop examines the benefits of humor – for both mind and body – as well as specific strategies for adding humor to stories and storytelling. As easy as picking ticks off a bald dog – and a lot more fun.

As a two-time winner of Florida's Liars' Contest, Pat Nease is surely blessed with an enlarged funny bone. Her sense of humor and lively style coupled with her array of folk, family, original, and bone-chilling tales have delighted audiences across the south – and even cured a few since laughter is such good medicine. A retired educator, Pat is a past president of the Florida Storytelling Assoc., and remains active with Youthful Voices, StoryLabs, StoryCamp, workshops and festivals.

This workshop will take place in Sessions I and II (Choir)

## Once Upon a Time: Timeless Tales from the Mountains

### JoAnn Dadisman and June Riffle (Mountain Echoes)

This workshop will focus on the Appalachian Fairy Tale and show how the familiar European tales have become an inherent part of mountain culture. There will be interactive participation in the telling of Asphet, one mountain version of Cinderella. Together the class will 'tell' the story and analyze it. Small groups will create versions of other tales. Participants will leave understanding many characteristics of the Appalachian tale and how to 'create' their own version for telling, writing or sketching.

June Riffle and Jo Ann Dadisman have been performing for more than a decade as a team of tandem tellers throughout their native state and beyond. Both trained as secondary school educators (with nearly 50 years of combined experience in the classroom), have degrees in English, Social Studies, Speech, Reading, and English Education, In addition, June holds a minor in Folklore while Jo Ann has taught American Folklore at the college level

This workshop will be given in Session II and III (Drama)

## Telling Stories, Sending Invoices, and Paying Taxes: The Business End of Storytelling

### David Austin Sky

How do you set up a fee schedule? How do you keep records? Did you pay your taxes on time? Do you love to tell stories and hate the business that goes with it? This workshop will: Describe ways to set fees, negotiate deals and be ethical; identify how to keep information for taxes, record keeping and organizing for additional storytelling gigs; suggest ways to keep it all simple and useful; simple marketing ideas that fit you.

For over two decades, David Austin Sky has enjoyed life as a full time speaker, trainer, and storyteller. He tells stories to share life's wisdom. His daughter says that he puts wings on simple words. Audiences say he is a child in a bald man suit.

This workshop will be given in Sessions II (Chapel)

## Double Your Fun! Telling in Tandem

### Jonatha and Harold Wright

This workshop combines an explanation and exploration of tandem telling with learning by example and learning by doing. The group will use their "Lucky 13 Essentials of Tandem Storytelling." These 'essentials' have been gleaned from their two decades of telling in tandem; and from observing numerous successful tandem tellers.

Jonatha and Harold specialize in Ohio Appalachian and Japanese stories. They tell folk, historical and fairy tales, legends, myths and personal stories, many from their frequent work through the years in Japan. They have a current project of Saving Stories from this generation of elders in Ohio Appalachia. They are currently editing a book on tandem telling.

This workshop will be given in Session I (Drama)

## Storytelling Swap Jim Flanagan, leader Session III (Choir)

Share your stories with other storytellers and listeners.

# SATURDAY EVENING CONCERT TELLERS

Jim Flanagan, Emcee, from Circleville, Ohio, is an author and storyteller. He teaches writing at The Thurber House in Columbus.

Omope Daboiku, from Cincinnati, a professional teller since 1990 when added to the Ohio Arts Council's Arts in Education program.

Eric Wolf, from Yellow Springs, Ohio, a charter member of Yellow Springs Tale Spinners and President of Miami Valley Storytellers.

Mary Hamilton, Featured Teller, hails from Frankfort, Kentucky. In "just talking" style, she will share, "Telling Stories...Creating Worlds."

## GENERAL INFORMATION

O.O.P.S! (The Ohio Order for the Preservation of Storytelling) was founded in 1986. Its goals are to perpetuate the art of storytelling, to host an annual conference, to identify and promote storytellers and serve as a networking agent for various state storytelling guilds / groups.

Books, tapes and other storytelling artifacts will be available for sale at the conference. O.O.P.S! accepts cash and checks only.

A single workshop session may be attended for \$25. Friday night festivities may be attended for free.

Directions: Mt. Vernon in Knox County, Ohio can be found at the intersection of St. Rt. 36 and OH 13-229. The First Congregational Church is located at 200 N. Main St. You may park on the street or in the Living Center parking lot. The building and spaces we will be using for the Conference are handicapped accessible!

Lodging: NEW! Holiday Inn Express, 11555 Upper Gilcrest Rd., Mt. Vernon, 740-392-1900. When making your reservation, please mention you are with O.O.P.S! for a discount. Room booking deadline is April 2, 2008.

Other questions? Contact Donna Wilson, Conference Chair, at 740-992-7830, or any other Board member: Janelle Reardon, Cordelia Burpee, Cathy Jo Smith, Beverly Comer, Jim Flanagan, Cristie Merce, Jonatha Wright, Sandy Messerle, Omope Daboiku, Jonathan Fairman or Chris King

For additional information and extra registration forms, visit our website at: <http://www.OOPStorytelling.org>

Note: you will also find a link to the church's location on a Yahoo map that can give you driving directions from anywhere.

## O.O.P.S! 2008 Spring Storytelling Conference Registration Form

(all mailed registrations must be received by April 25, 2008)  
Conference registration at the door will be increased by \$10.  
If you join O.O.P.S! when you register, pay the fee for members.

- I am willing to come at noon on Friday to tell stories in local schools (Deadline: April 8, 2008. Be sure to include your phone number)

Please register me for the O.O.P.S! 2008 Spring Storytelling Conference as follows:

- \$55 for entire conference (pre-registered O.O.P.S! members)  
 \$65 for entire conference (pre-registered non-members)  
 \$15 for youth (18 and under)
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ dinner ticket(s) @ \$8 to be hosted by Church youth
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ additional Saturday night concert tickets @ \$7 each (one is included in conference fee)  
**Concert tickets will be at the door on a space-available basis.**
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ O.O.P.S! membership (May 2008 to May 2009), Regular: \$15; Senior: \$8; and Family: \$20

(Friday evening festivities, Saturday continental breakfast and lunch included in conference fee)

Enclosed is my check/money order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Make checks payable to O.O.P.S!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

- This will be my first O.O.P.S! Spring Storytelling Conference

Send completed form and full payment to:  
Jenny Carson, Registrar, 166 East Fairway Dr., Hamilton, OH 45013  
(513) 867-1525; [jrcarson@fuse.net](mailto:jrcarson@fuse.net)  
For a written confirmation, include a SASE with your registration