Storytelling Workshop & Spring Classes

On Saturday, March 24th we'll be offering a full day of exciting workshops with master storytellers. This workshop is part of the E.P.I.C. Storytelling Program but we have a few spots remaining for storytellers not enrolled in E.P.I.C. These workshops will cover personal storytelling, storytelling & movement, and storytelling & voice.

And don't forget to mark your calendar for Spring Registration, which opens on Thursday, February 22nd at 9:30am. Make sure to visit our website or stop by our office to ensure that you get a spot in classes such as Singing, Improv, Playwriting, Storytelling, Acting, Dance, and more!

In This Newsletter

Mark your calendars for a few upcoming events in February: Stagebridge favorite Michael French directs Silent Sky, opening at the Piedmont Center for the Arts on February 22nd. We will host another Elder Salon on Wednesday, February 21st. And our lunchtime storytelling series continues on Thursday, March 1st with Eleanor Clement Glass and Bill Zarchy.

Willy Claflin: The Warthog and the Valley Girl: An Exploration (And Celebration) of Voice
Saturday, March 24, 2:30pm-4:30pm

To register, CLICK HERE!

As storytellers, our voice is our

Tell It! Move It! Storytelling Workshop with Nancy Wang of Eth-no-tec
Saturday, March 24, 12pm-2pm

To register, CLICK HERE!

Telling a story is more than speaking. In this participatory workshop, you will have fun with creative exercises, choreographic elements, movement and gesture, learn the trick of body confidence on stage and story dynamics to help make your story move and capture its essence while capturing your audience!

Nancy Wang has lived out many roles in her life: social
instrument. But how well do we know our instrument? Do we know how it sounds, what its limits are, have we experimented to find the full range of what it can do? Do we practice every day? Do we care for it properly? Is every spoken word as clear as it can be? Is the foundation of our breath "strong enough to stand on?"

As storytellers, each one of us has the job of giving voice to everything, speaking worlds into being; giving life to everything that dwells in those worlds. What a big job! We must be the voice of the wizard, the woman by the side of the road, the troll, the fox and the goose and the moose, our mothers, our grandfathers, birds and beasts and rivers and rocks and stars! In this workshop we'll discover our voice(s) together. We'll shout and whisper and growl and yodel and morph into droids. We'll give a voice to the falling rain and the waves washing up on the shore. We'll also experiment with timing and tone; figure out when to pause and when to rush ahead, when to beckon and when to confide, when to threaten and when to cajole, when to lecture and when to listen in silence. We'll learn to speak in nonsense tongues, make realistic sound effects, and howl together at the moon. In short, let us make a joyful noise!

Willy Claflin is a one-man festival. Spanning historical sagas, intergalactic yarns, Mother Moose Tales, and counter culture misadventures, he covers the full spectrum of spoken word entertainment. A headliner and master of ceremonies at the National Storytelling Festival, Willy is a worker (MSW), psychotherapist (LCSW), dancer, choreographer, dance teacher (Performing Arts Workshop, Asian American Dance Workshop, Kalilang Kulintang), playwright (Asian American Theater Workshop, Eth-Noh-Tec), and founding co-director and principal performer of Eth-Noh-Tec, an Asian American kinetic storytelling non-profit organization. The common thread in all these roles is her commitment to serving community with compassion and a vision for justice and equality, for self-acceptance and a consciousness that benefits the whole through the arts and in her personal and professional relationships.

Through storytelling, dance, music, art, writing and performance, she expresses many issues both ancient and contemporary with themes of forgiveness, the courage to tell the truth, compassion and wisdom, man's foolishness, contemporary issues and more. Her latest focus is on immigration and racism through the multimedia performance 'Red Altar', book 'New Pair of Wings', cd 'Red Altar', live events, panels, workshops, and the 'ImmiGratitude®' (sharing your immigration story and collage art) workshops. 'Red Altar' has been performed eight times to full houses and standing ovations in Tennessee, Utah, Washington State, Connecticut and California. A book of Red Altar is in the editing phase and will be published soon.

As Eth-Noh-Tec, Nancy has produced multiple events over the last 35 years: monthly 'Salon! You're On!' presenting community, national and international artists; workshops in storytelling, identity, cultural appropriation vs. innovation; apprenticeship program; special events; concert length Asian American stories; 'Tales of Terror' - annual ghost tales; storytelling festivals; 'Nu Wa Cultural Exchange Tours' bringing storytellers and artists to India and China; and more. Visit me at www.ethnohtec.org
February Elder Salons, Co-Sponsored by Stagebridge and the Conscious Elders Network

Wednesday February 21, 1:30 - 3:30 PM. FREE!

The Elder Salon is about creating community and exploring the awesome and difficult dynamics of living into elder years. Initiating facilitators Molly Arthur and Rev. Kurt Kuhwald are guiding the first few meetings with the opportunity for members to facilitate in the future.

Contact Kurt Kuhwald, Initiating Co-Facilitator, with questions at 415-971-2351 or revkurtak@gmail.com

The Elder Salons take place at the First Congregational Church of Oakland, 2501 Harrison St. For questions about the space and accessibility, please contact

YOU WON’T WANT TO MISS PCT’s PRODUCTION OF "Silent Sky", an important contemporary play written by a woman about the women working in the year 1900 at the Harvard Observatory. The outstanding small cast bring these early 20th century women to life, showing us their frustrations, aspirations, laughter and passions.

Directed by friend of Stagebridge and former Acting Instructor Michael French, the resident Artistic Director of Piedmont Center Theatre.

Seating is limited to 55 guests per show so patrons are advised to reserve tickets early. For tickets, visit https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3065894

Lunchtime Storytelling Schedule

The lunch counter at Rogers Restaurant in Albany, Oregon, photo by Visitor7
Stagebridge was founded in 1978 by Dr. Stuart Kandell.

Twice a month through May, join Stagebridge Storytellers for an hour of folktales, myths, legends, and personal stories that will make you laugh, cry, and everything in between! Our next Lunchtime Storytelling, featuring Melissa Hobbs & Agnes Riedmann, will take place on Thursday, February 1st. All Lunchtime Storytelling Performances take place between 12pm-1pm at the First Congregational Church of Oakland, 2501 Harrison St. Contact Stagebridge Storytelling Director Kirk Waller at kirk@stagebridge.org or call 510-444-4755 for more information. The rest of the schedule is as follows:

March 1: Eleanor Clement Glass & Bill Zarchy
March 15: Jeanne Pimentel & Kiran Rana
April 5: Ann Riley & Linda Pulliam
April 19: Gerry Keenan & Terry Stokes
May 3: Lois Kincy & Naomi Puro

We are supported by:

Our Community Partners:
AgeSong, Alameda County Libraries, Albany Senior Center, Aurora Theatre Company, Alzheimer's Association of Northern California and Northern Nevada, Brookdale San Pablo, Center for Elders' Independence, Cornerstone Theater Company, Creative Aging SF, Delta Wordweavers, Department of Health and Human Services Brain Health Campaign, Elder Care Alliance, FICTILIS, First Congregational Church of Oakland, The Flight Deck, Institute on Aging, Jack London Improvement District, Kindred Medical Hill, Lakeside Park, The Marsh, McClure Rehabilitation Center, Mercy Retirement and Care Center, Northern California Presbyterian Homes, Oakland Unified School District, Piedmont Center for the Arts, Piedmont Players, Piedmont Post, Piedmont Seniors, Ragged Wing Ensemble, Re: Imagine End of Life, St. Mary's Center, Satellite Affordable Housing Associates, Senior Center Without Walls, Shields Nursing Center, Shotgun Players, Silk Road House, South Berkeley Senior Center, StoryCorps, Storytelling Association of California, Strawberry Creek Lodge, Tell It On Tuesday, Theatre Aluminous, Timeslips, UCSF Memory & Aging Center, Wee Poets, West Contra Costa School District, West Oakland Senior Center

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Thank You:
Edmund Au Yeung, Dee Bell and Nicki Chapman, The Berkeley Group (consulting), CCA SF, Ronnie Casey, B. Avalon and everyone at FCCO, Creative Aging Collective SF, Gray Cathrall and Nancy Kurkjian, Sue Dichter, Keye Liu, Denise Pate and Roberto Bedoya at the City of Oakland, Alana Ross and the Oakland Chamber of Commerce, Mayor of Alameda Trish Herrera Spencer, Neda Thiele at Knoll, Jean Philippe Vine at Pixar