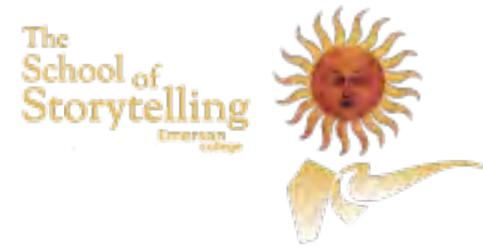




Storytelling Beyond Words 2020

WE WARMLY INVITE YOU TO JOIN
THIS YEAR'S STUDENTS
FOR THEIR

Online Course
Presentations



Dear Friends,

You can often get a glimpse into how journeys will turn out from the way they begin. We cannot say as much about this particular journey...

During our first day in the hut, we asked everyone to create an imaginary world map in the room by standing on the spot representing the country they came from. We then interviewed each other about our respective home-lands. Forest Row, with Emerson College and the storytelling hut at the centre, Australia, China, Taiwan and Israel to the East, Seattle, Chicago and New York to the West, Norway, France, Slovakia and Spain huddling near the UK. Little did we know that within two weeks we would all be heading back to these countries. The reality that the UK was heading towards a lockdown, and that the college would have to shut down, slowly seeped into the hut. Story sustained us during those days of deep uncertainty, and our bonds were forged. The circle was cast.

Lockdown, shelter in place, isolation, quarantine, confinamiento, estado de alarma... a global pandemic interrupted our time together at Emerson College. Like many other people in the world, we felt shocked in the face of the unfolding events. Letting go of our dreams was painful. But some of the students chose to continue our learning journey together from home, and we soon began a part time online course, which has evolved into a deep companionship, a tender and soulful quest for adaptation; overcoming the grief of separation and responding creatively to the calling of these strange circumstances.

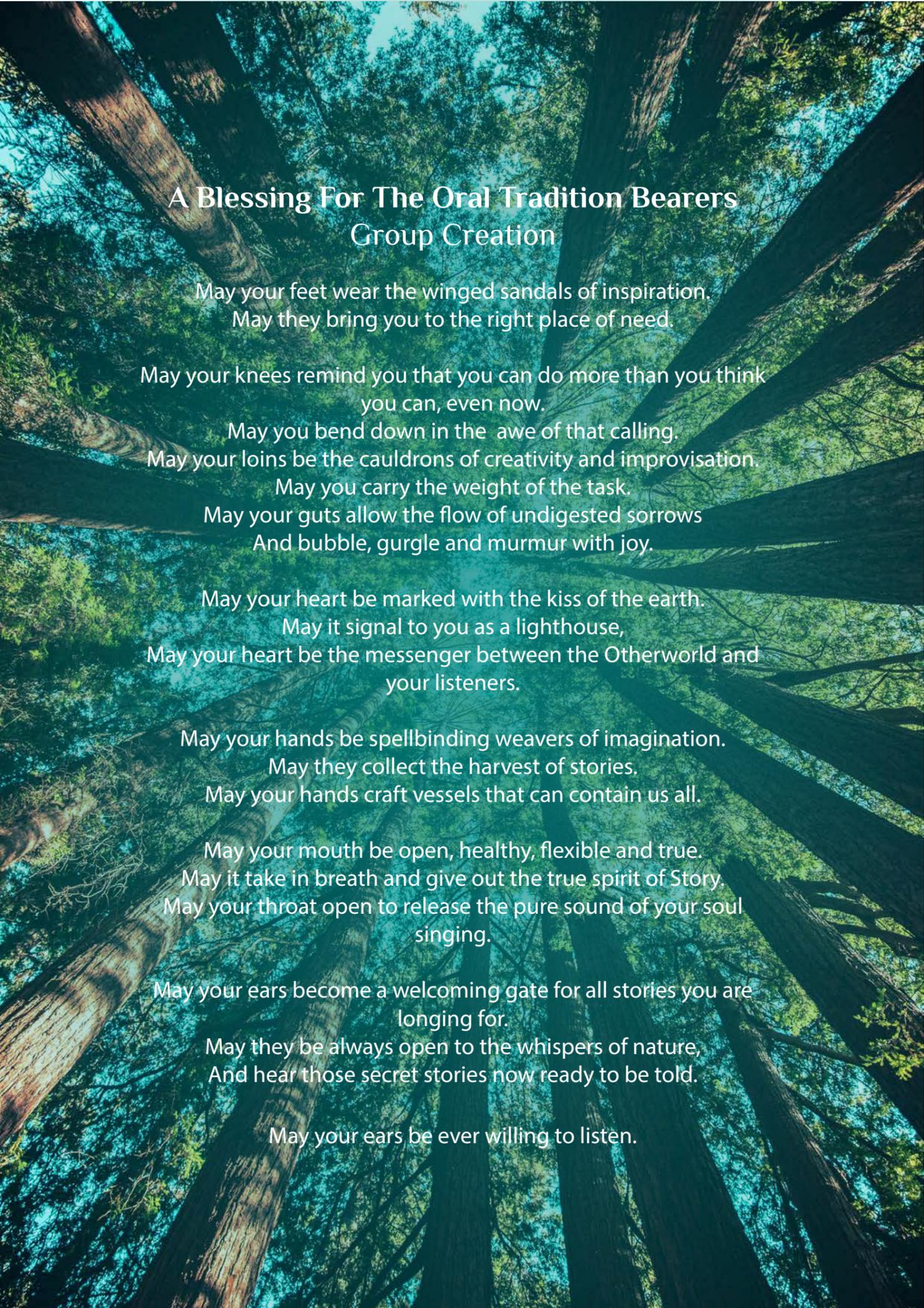
As part of the work, each storyteller chose to journey with an intentional storytelling research project. Being back at home, the projects had the chance to become more rooted in everyday life, allowing the land and the local culture to inform and give shape to their explorations. When so much in our world seemed to come to a standstill, we found we could still connect and immerse ourselves in the nourishing and healing qualities of the Imagination.

Thank you for joining us for the online harvest of this work. We pray that the collective learning from this experience will continue to unfold and will serve the healing of our ailing world.

With love, Karmit and Roi

We extend our love to our Storytelling Beyond Words 2020 circle, which was cast during our brief time together in the hut. We look forward to welcoming back those who chose to wait and return next year to the storytelling hut.





A Blessing For The Oral Tradition Bearers Group Creation

May your feet wear the winged sandals of inspiration.
May they bring you to the right place of need.

May your knees remind you that you can do more than you think
you can, even now.

May you bend down in the awe of that calling.

May your loins be the cauldrons of creativity and improvisation.

May you carry the weight of the task.

May your guts allow the flow of undigested sorrows

And bubble, gurgle and murmur with joy.

May your heart be marked with the kiss of the earth.

May it signal to you as a lighthouse,

May your heart be the messenger between the Otherworld and
your listeners.

May your hands be spellbinding weavers of imagination.

May they collect the harvest of stories.

May your hands craft vessels that can contain us all.

May your mouth be open, healthy, flexible and true.

May it take in breath and give out the true spirit of Story.

May your throat open to release the pure sound of your soul
singing.

May your ears become a welcoming gate for all stories you are
longing for.

May they be always open to the whispers of nature,

And hear those secret stories now ready to be told.

May your ears be ever willing to listen.

STORYTELLING BEYOND WORDS

Storytelling Beyond Words (SBW) is a 13 week training in the art and craft of storytelling, aiming to prepare students to carry the spoken word and a lively imagination into their communities and places of work. To entertain, educate, counsel, inspire or advocate change.

Long before television was ever imagined storytellers and bards, prophets and poets were called upon to tell their visions and, through a live encounter, provide images that could direct, entertain, provoke, heal and reconcile the communities in which they lived and worked.

The presentations you will see today, will open a window to the individual research projects, on personal, social or environmental themes the students chose to focus on. These projects were developed alongside journeying with the following modules:

The Oral Tradition: Building a repertoire as a storyteller, working with folk tales, teaching stories, wonder tales and ancient myths. As a group, we explored the relationship between stories old and new, their relevance to our lives, and which of them are asking us to be told today.

The Skills of the Storyteller: In-depth work on story structure, voice, gesture, movement, audience awareness, spontaneity and improvisation, authenticity and presence.

Autobiographical Storytelling: Working with meaningful experiences of our lives and shaping them into stories to inspire individuals and communities.

Visionary activism: Imagination, activated through work with stories, ritual, performance art and games, to enhance our potential to inspire, foster hope and bring into public consciousness the new narratives and visions we wish to share.

Coaching: In a supportive atmosphere with individual tutorials, feedback and work in small groups. Developing our own unique style of telling and finding what stories we individually wish to tell.

Social action: Learning to use story, strategy and structure to put a vision into action. Developing 'out of the box' solutions to issues and challenges we wish to address.

Deep listening in nature: Practices to tune in to the inter-relationships between all living systems and our evolving planet as a conscious entity full of life and stories.

Performances: Throughout the course there were plenty of opportunities for practicing our stories, including the weekly opportunity to share them with a variety of audiences.

Supporting subjects included: social entrepreneurship, marketing, singing, movement, games and improvisation, connecting with nature, writing creatively and artistic craft work.



The Storytelling Oasis

Removing my shoes in the vestibule to The Storytelling Hut, I step into a darkened hall, lit only by pockets of candlelight. I am met by Karmit Evenzur, co-leader of Storytelling Beyond Words. In mellifluous tones, she greets me: “Welcome, traveller, old friend. It has been too long... many lifetimes. I remember you. Come into the Oasis. Quench your thirst. Rest your weary bones.”

Swept into the poetry of the moment, I feel myself return to some long lost place within, to a community of forgotten friends, and perhaps to a secret buried treasure. I am here to learn about stories, to discover how to tell stories, and to understand how stories can serve a cause when shaped, crafted and delivered with heart and authenticity.

We gather in small groups of three or four. After sharing a little about the landscapes we have come from, Roi Gal-Or invites us to ask our companions for the kind of story we would like to hear. I ask for a story of transformation. On this journey through Storyland, I long to transform from a shy, would-be storyteller into a free-flying, jewel-winged creature of the air—one who can easily pass into the ‘Otherworld’ and back again, returning with stories, poems and blessings that serve the healing of the Earth and her children.

I have crossed the seven seas to find this Storytelling Oasis, so that I might rebirth the natural storyteller I remember being as a child—before Fate squeezed me in its limiting grasp, muffled my voice and bound my wings so tightly I forgot they existed. Cocooned in darkness and fear, self-doubt and obligation pulled me along pathways I was ill-shaped for. Only in my early forties did the strands of those wrappings began to unravel and reveal my forgotten gifts and passions.

Liz, an American herbalist tells us of a time she dived into a pond to harvest a type of lily root that heals the female reproductive area. She was not a strong swimmer and had a terror of dark waters, so this was not easy for her. Tracing the stem of the lily to its roots in the mud at the bottom of the pond, she discovered it was tightly bound to other roots and could not easily be pulled free from the mud.

Returning to the surface for air, then diving again and again, she became aware that the pond was full of water snakes, brushing against her—not unlike the slimy stems and roots of the lily she was attempting to harvest. Frightened but determined not to give up, Liz began to pray, speaking to the spirits of the plants and the snakes, explaining her purpose and requesting their help. The next time she tugged on a slippery lily root, it pulled free easily. She returned to the surface with a medicine that has served her for many years since, all the more potent for the trouble she faced and overcame to receive it.

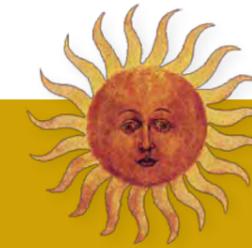
“Were the water snakes poisonous?” I asked after she had finished her tale. “I don’t know,” she said, her dark brown eyes luminous in the candlelight. I felt a wave of deep respect for this medicine woman washing over and through me.

What deep, dark waters must I dive into on my storytelling journey? What snakes or creatures must I face and embrace, recognising that they too have a sacred role in this world? And will I remember to pray and ask for help, and only to take what is needed for my own journey? Will I remember to be grateful, and to imbibe the medicine I need for my own healing first, before dispensing story medicine to others in need? Healer, heal thyself!

Nicola-Jane le Breton (Perth, Australia)



Grass trees and Banksia at sunset, Perth Australia



Storytelling Beyond Words 2020 Online Course Presentations Programme

* All times are BST UK time zone *

Saturday 13th

13:00

Opening circle & blessings from SBW alumni

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 14:00 Don't Panic! | Tim Leeney |
| 15:00 Blessed Are The Cracked | Claire Kaplan |
| 16:00 Lost Voices Come Home | Martina Janosikova |
| 17:00 Blessing Birch Bones:
mapping medicinal stories
of plants & place | Liz Migliorelli |
| 18:00 The Longing (private session) | Melissa Munden |

Sunday 14th

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 09:00 The Lost Slippers | Caroline Cumming |
| 10:00 The Wonder Makers | Nicola-Jane Le Breton |
| 11:00 The Girl Who Wanted to
Heal the World | Olga Leeney |
| 12:00 A Journey with the Stones,
the Trees and the Phones | Michael Nique |

[Click on the Zoom Link here to join](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89138865221?pwd=aEZZQjRPL-0RoRUxxMU1oRWtSdVJ0QT09)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89138865221?pwd=aEZZQjRPL-0RoRUxxMU1oRWtSdVJ0QT09>

The
School of
Storytelling
Emerson
college

DON'T PANIC

LOVE THE WARMTH



Tim Leeney

Don't Panic!

Tim Leeney, UK

"Scepticism is the highest of duties; blind faith the one unpardonable sin." Thomas Huxley

I am a scientist, and a technical translator, which keeps me up to date in a wide range of technical fields. The essence of the true scientist is passion for truth: the result of any experiment must be observed and reported, most especially when it is surprising and unexpected. This is where discoveries are made, often by individuals with the honesty and passionate curiosity to investigate further.

Consensus is necessary for political decisions, but extremely unlikely among scientists. "The science is settled" is a fine political slogan, but almost never true. Scientists normally fight like cats, especially in their own field. So why is there no debate about the very complex factors determining climate?

Current extremely costly decarbonisation policies risk diverting attention and resources from other problems causing suffering in much of the world right now: in particular depriving people in Africa and elsewhere of cheap, reliable and abundant energy that would enable them to enjoy clean water, refrigerated food, adequately powered hospitals, and, just one example, freedom from lung diseases and early death due to smoke from cooking fires.

In the developed world, the cost of electricity from renewable sources is steadily rising, and fuel poverty a deadly reality among the poor and disadvantaged, who have to choose between food and heating in winter.

My purpose is to use storytelling to highlight some of the issues, to raise some questions, and of course to hear and discuss your questions.



My early years in the Sussex countryside gave me a deep love of nature, the clouds, the changing seasons, and the plant, animal and bird life, as well as a sense of being cared for in some mysterious manner. Perhaps because of this, I have spent much of my leisure time outside, especially mountaineering, skiing, sailing, and even distance swimming and gliding. My tendency if something new comes up is simply to have a whirl at it and see what happens.

With my love of nature, I soon discovered science, especially astronomy, and then chemistry with its exciting colours, smells, flashes and bangs, although mathematics also attracted me greatly. Eventually, at Cambridge, I had to choose: so chemistry it was, with physics, biochemistry, mathematics and metallurgy as half subjects.

Being half Swiss, I often heard my mother speaking French or German, and this together with visits to relatives there gave me a keen interest in languages, later enhanced by work in chemistry laboratories in Paris, Lausanne and Moscow.

Having a rich dream life, I also became fascinated with mystery, sacred music and meditation, reading many of the works of Jung, and attending workshops at Findhorn and elsewhere. From there, it was a short step to teaching (chemistry) at Michael Hall, and enjoying many storytelling workshops organised at or through Emerson College, notably in Crete where I first began to know Hermes, the trickster Greek god, inventor of astronomy, the musical scale and much else.

Blessed Are The Cracked

Blessed Are The Cracked

Claire Kaplan, USA/UK

I've had my Humpty Dumpty moments and wondered if I could ever be put back together again. A few years ago, I cracked up laughing when I walked past a place called Goodenough College. It's a real place (a post-graduate residential community) named after a real person (the chairman of Barclays Bank from 1917 to 1934). But I loved the idea of a place you could go and learn how to be good enough. To feel good enough. To say you've tried enough and had enough. To stop feeling too much this or not enough that. So maybe it's not about being fully together. Maybe it's about bringing my cracks out into the light. Telling my story in all its broken glory, and (I can't resist) cracking a few jokes along the way to a passing grade from Goodenough College.



Claire is from Chicago. She loves Chicago. Claire came to London for a year...fifteen years ago. (Sometimes Claire doesn't really have a plan.) In non-pandemic times, she goes to different cities to do her same favorite things -- shop for vintage clothes, eat vegan gluten-free treats, and sing karaoke with her people. In non-pandemic times, she crosses the street to see cute dogs and tell them in a high-pitched voice that they are very, very cute. Claire writes emails with exclamation points and emojis. She likes drag queens, books, and naps. She loves reading and hearing the personal stories of others, and the rewarding challenge of writing and telling her own. She is very grateful this storytelling group crossed her path and found a way to keep going.

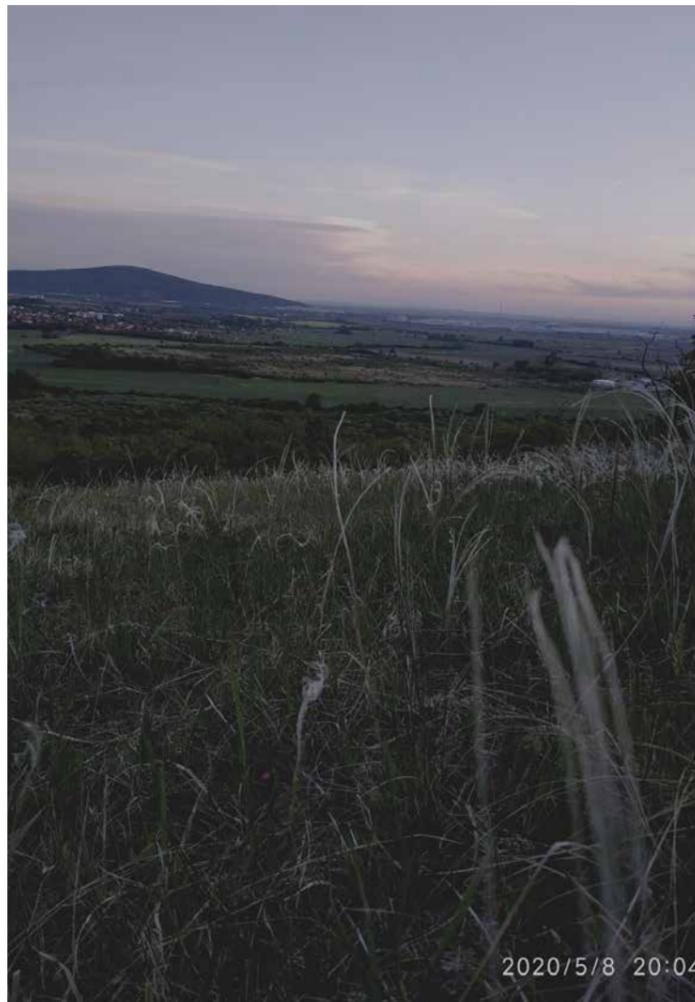
Claire
Kaplan

Saturday
June 13th
3pm BST

FEAST YOUR
FAMILY ON STORIES
AND GAMES

The Lost Voices Come Home

JUN 13TH 2020
4 PM GMT VIA ZOOM
MARTINA JANOSIKOVA
SLOVAKIA



Lost Voices Come Home

Martina Janosikova, Slovakia

Once I dreamt I was listening to a circle of elders share their stories and their shadows. I came to Storytelling Beyond Words meaning to prepare a workshop inspired by that dream—an offering for our grandparents.

I feel we have lost their voices in our society. But why? Is it because we are so busy? Are they afraid to speak out? Are they ashamed of our recent communist history? I was on my storytelling course for less than two weeks when the coronavirus struck... I had to return home to Slovakia immediately.

For two weeks I was quarantined in our empty house. My parents, who live close, left food for me each day. I felt like one of the wild birds they feed. I realized how much we loved each other and yet how unable we were to share our stories.

My new journey began—gathering stories and games for families. I long to create safe spaces where families can share memories and play in an atmosphere of love and fun.

Together we will track where we come from, where we are rooted, and where we belong. Join me for an exploration of how to bring family stories to life. Why do we tell stories? What can they offer us?

The Creation of The World in The Slavic Mythology

Once there was neither heaven nor earth,
Heaven nor earth, but only blue sea,
And in the midst of the sea two oaks.
There sat there two pigeons,
Two pigeons on the two oaks,
And began to take counsel among themselves,
To take counsel and to say,
“How can we create the world?”



I remember when I was ten, I spent the whole summer in our street with my best friend Belinka. She was the one who brought out the best in me. She taught me to be selfless, to enjoy playing in a group and sharing ideas. We spent long hours imagining new games. Our enthusiasm for play attracted other kids in the street. Often there were ten or more of us playing in front of my family's house.

Every morning we disappeared and visited the generous willow by a nearby stream where we built a shelter. Our conversation revolved around the word “like”. I am like a pirate and this is like a ship and this is like an attack on another ship...

Our imagination supplied everything we needed. Most of the time we draped ourselves over the branches of our patient willow, and we talked. We never tired of each other or of spending our days this way. Our repertoire of ideas, games, plays, expeditions, conversations and experiments was unending.

This way of being is the source of my joy, my perpetual motion.

blessing birch bones

mapping medicinal
stories of
plants & place

with liz migliorelli

saturday, june 13 ~ 17:00

Blessing Birch Bones

Liz Migliorelli, USA

At the edge of the forest, a constellation of birch trees shines under the moon. Peeling from the bark, we find pages of story, the sounds of tree language. The sap medicine spills forth, creating movement.

What do we offer to the one with the most silver of skin? What stardust-infused blessing is whispered here?

*Ghost birch dances a bone dance
Ghost birch dances a star dance
Ghost birch dances the threshold*

** bring a glass bowl full of water if you desire **



Liz Migliorelli belongs to a lineage of spinsters, hedge witches, bee maidens, apple romancers and herb cunning-folk. She is a herbalist, animist and educator. Liz's storytelling is inspired by the old folkways, the emerging folkways and the deep enchantment of the plant realm. She roots her work in the stories and practices of her ancestors. She lives on unceded Lenape territory (also known as the Hudson River Valley in New York), at the foot of the Catskill Mountains.

Some of her favorite divination tools are beeswax, murky waters and chickens. Liz wears rosemary amulets and whispers prayers while peeling garlic in her kitchen. Liz weaves together and facilitates classes on plant medicine, ancestral remembrance, earth rhythms, folk magic, hearth culture, poetry and social justice movements. You can learn more about her work at www.sisterspinner.net



The Longing

Stories in Search of Real Love

Melissa Munden

Saturday 13 June 2020
18:00 (BST)

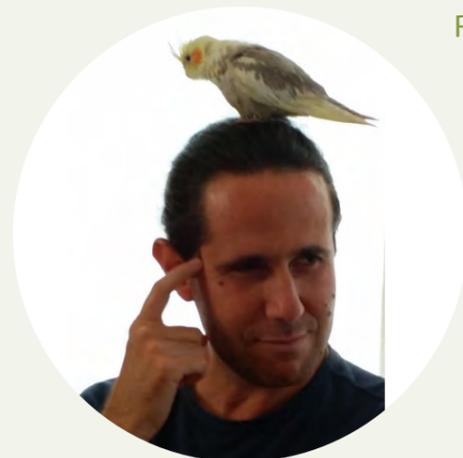


The Longing

Melissa Munden, USA

I have known longing for as long as I can remember. I have placed faith and hope in so many people who were neither able to see nor hear me. I kept hoping to find love in others, always finding disappointment in those I wanted it most from. And even when I first became aware long ago that our human experience of love is filled with so much change, loss, moods, attachments, and aversions, I still kept insisting all these years that someone out there could fill this longing in me. My story is not a new story, but my desire to finally make a change is. Join me as I explore stories of love, longing, loss, and what it means to finally make a commitment to finding real love.

I currently live in the Seattle area of the Pacific Northwest and have been here for about five years now. I've changed paths many times in life – living in various cities in California, the panhandle of Texas, New York City, and Findhorn, Scotland. I think I'm what Elizabeth Gilbert dubbed 'a hummingbird'. I've dreamed of becoming an actress, a priest within the Christian Community, an outreach consultant, and even a flight attendant. I currently work as a legal assistant but know the moment is coming when I will find my way into a vocation that utilizes my spiritual and creative interests more fully. I suspect this will come with my commitment to finding real love.



Roi Gal-Or (co-founder of the School of Storytelling, Emerson College), has taught over the last 18 years the art and craft of the storyteller to thousands of people around the world. His focus is on how stories can be of service of the environment, education, healing, peace and reconciliation, and on working with the imagination to inspire connection and social transformation, foster vision, possibility and personal development. www.roigalor.com

We wish to send our heartfelt gratitude to all our colleagues and friends at Emerson College...



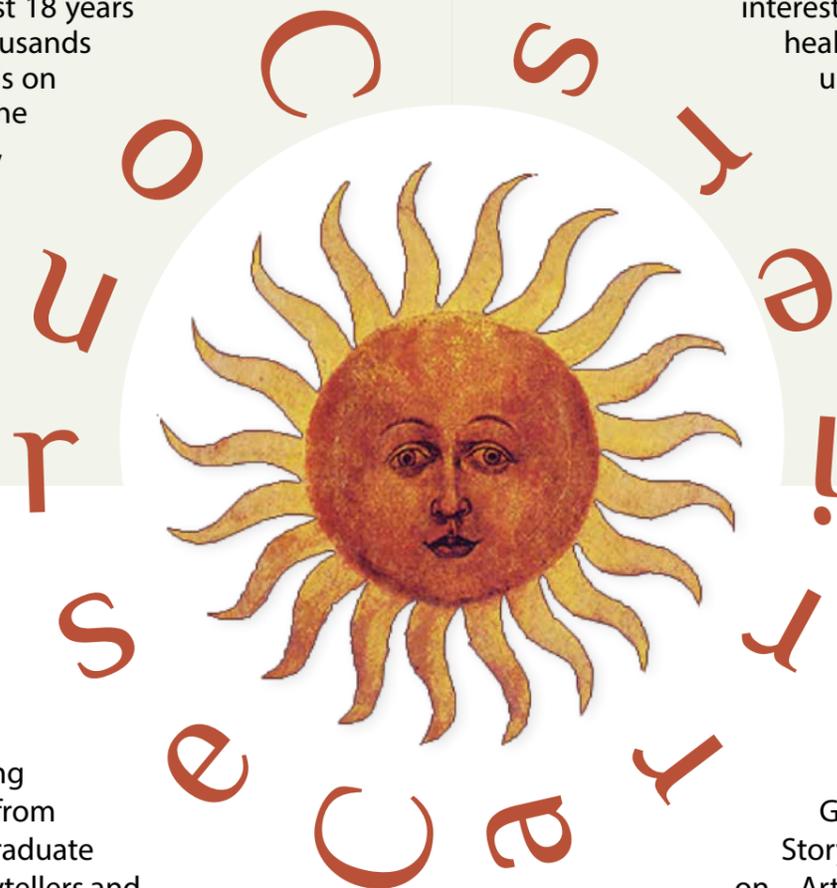
Olivia Olsen (Voice and movement/Mentoring) has worked for many years at Canada's National Voice Intensive where in depth study of movement and voice focused into performance of Shakespeare. This underpins many of the processes she now works with in helping people open and use their voice. She holds an MA in Voice from Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and a Postgraduate Degree in Voice from York University Toronto. As well as storytellers and actors, Olivia teaches business professionals at Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto and performs internationally.



Paul Matthews (Writing creatively/Mentoring) is a published poet, internationally acclaimed both for his poetry readings and for the joyful and interactive workshops in Creative Writing that he offers. His two books on the creative process, 'Sing Me the Creation' and 'Words in Place' have proved inspirational to teachers of children and adults alike, and to all who seek to develop their powers of imagination. He has travelled widely with his work and now, after stepping back from his full time work as lecturer, poet and gymnast at Emerson College he continues to expand his activities in the UK and elsewhere. (www.paulmatthewspoetry.co.uk)



Stella Kassimati (Mythology/Coaching) is skilled in facilitating workshops that help people of all ages connect with the origins of modern life through Ancient Greece as the cradle of Western Civilisation, using her deep knowledge of Greek Myths, Gods and Goddesses. Stella is the founding Director of Friends of Amari, an international association contributing to the revival of the Valley and Village of Amari in Crete, through the art of storytelling. (www.friends-of-amari.org)



Karmit Even Zur's work history spans diverse experiences, interests and competences from human ecology, the healing arts, and the arts & crafts world. Her unique skill-set provides a deep perspective for transformational work, and in working with soul searching questions. Her work is deeply informed and nurtured by a European shamanic tradition. She is passionate about creating new narratives that combine ancient, nature based thinking with contemporary forms and needs. www.earth-speaks.net

...and a special thank you to the dream team of our dedicated and inspiring contributing teachers:



Giovana Conforto (Coaching/Mentoring) is the creative director of the Italian Storytelling Center. Giovanna is a world-known storyteller. She has taught, performed and consulted in Italy and abroad. Her collaborations include Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok and the Global Science Opera. As well as teaching at the School of Storytelling-Emerson College – UK she also teaches at the Master's on Arts Management at the IED University in Rome. (www.italianstorytellingcenter.it/en)



Ashley Ramsden (Mentoring) established the School of Storytelling in 1994 under the umbrella of Emerson College. Ashley's unique methods of teaching voice and the skills of the storyteller have received international acclaim. He runs workshops, tours with his one-man-shows and is a speaker of sacred poetry. He has been touring recently with his wife Flora, focussing on T.S. Eliot's Four Quartets. (www.ashleyramsden.com)



Naamah Pinkerfeld Gal-Or (Singing) has been singing with our students and leading the Singing Forest Choir at Emerson College since 2008. She has led the Heart of the City Community Choir in London since 2010. She has taught singing to many groups and led choirs in inspiring venues including St Paul's Cathedral, the British Museum, London Zoo, and Chartres Cathedral in France.



Marisa Guthrie (Business coaching/Social entrepreneurship skills) - works as a coach and mentor with entrepreneurs who run independent businesses / partnerships - to help them develop confidence in their brand so they can communicate what they do with authenticity. (www.businesscoachingsussex.co.uk)



The Lost Slippers

Join me for a poetic stitching and weaving of the longing to belong

Caroline Cumming
Sunday, 14 June ~ 9am



The Lost Slippers

Caroline Cumming, Australia/UK

Stick a "pin in the map" – anywhere. Start there. In a world rapidly imploding and re-creating itself; as life shifts increasingly online, and "hot topics" and global agendas spark alarm and breed division.... how, and where, and to what do we find ourselves experiencing belonging or not? Especially with COVID's dehumanising language, and isolating mandates, and where our "intrinsic movement nature" as humans has been curtailed, borders closed, people unable to get home. If humanity is to thrive, it is critical we deeply belong to each other, to our true selves, to the natural world, and... to the 'story elders' - the stories themselves, that can help us navigate our passage.

Through the lens of story, poem, and song I have been exploring questions such as:

- How can we better belong to each other when dark times trigger fear, mistrust, and hate of others?
- How could circular societies create a world of belonging? What might they look like?
- What is the gift in longing to belong?

Belonging is for us all – including the scapegoats, the orphans, the marginalised, the estranged, the traumatised, those living in adopted countries, the uprooted ones and drifters and "unconventional" ones, the leaders of communities, and social entrepreneurs.

"The Lost Slippers" is a poetic stitching, weaving, and circling sample of my quest. Come be a part of it. And bring a candle, to light.



"You won't get anywhere in life with the arts". My father's words to me, when I was 13. He didn't see me, value my voice and creativity, he didn't want my wonder and imagination. As a child I'd devoured stories; stuffed entire exercise books with my adventure tales. Yet, in his dismissal and disdain I felt no place for me in the world. So, I began unbelonging to my true self.

In 2012 my husband was in a coma with 0.5% chance of survival. His crisis opened my heart, and birthed a memoir. That set a place for me back at the table as storyteller, after 30 years foraging for sustenance elsewhere. On the eve of my book launch, I discovered my estranged father had likely died some months earlier. Later that year, lost at sea in complicated grief, and feeling alone and soul-sick with the ways of the publishing industry, I dumped storytelling.

It was Martin Shaw, genius oral teller, who finally called me back into the fold, via a dream: "You are a storyteller," he said, handing me an ancient key to a tiny door in a hillside. I began my apprenticeship, held and championed by Emerson, my tribe, and the oral lineage. My vision, ignited: to build many circular Storytelling Huts for our urgent, homecoming times.

The Wonder Makers



The Cailleach's Southern Sister by Christina Cairns

amermaidintheatic.blogspot.com

The Wonder Makers

Nicola-Jane le Breton, Australia

Falling into Wonder

*As a child, I gathered star-flowers in my mother's garden,
and my heart grew bright with stories...
until our family's kingdom fell under a grim enchantment
taking us from our mother and dividing us from our father.
As a teenager, I tumbled into the Underworld
and tangled with hungry demons.
As a young woman, I served in a Temple of the Arts
and found a shining star to guide me home.
In my late twenties, I married my true beloved,
and gave birth to two princes, jewels of my heart.
In my thirties, I healed my relationship with my mother and
found the land of my belonging—
learning to speak with flowers, trees and rocks.
In my forties, I opened my heart to my community,
and found sisterhood beyond envy or competition.
In my fifties, I forgave and was blessed by my dying father.
Now I am here to reclaim the once-lost,
almost forgotten magic brocade of storytelling—
and, at last, I know my soul's calling.*

*Join me for an exploration of the healing power of the 'wonder tale' (or fairytale)
as a way of finding meaning, beauty and purpose in our lives.
I will share my story weaving around a Chinese wonder tale about
a mother's sacrifices to realise her vision, embroidered with
biographical threads in search of family healing and personal
fulfilment..*



In my life, I've had many mentors, guides and helpers who each played a part in showing me how to let go of stories that hurt and to embrace stories that heal. In 2018, I rediscovered the art of oral storytelling during a visit to the Orkneys. As I listened to the traditional stories and songs of my ancestors, I recognised a calling I had known as a child but given up on. I asked hyperspace, "How do I become a storyteller?" and found Storytelling Beyond Words at Emerson College with Roi Gal-Or and Karmit Evenzur.

write2unravel@gmail.com
www.storyweavers.net.au

A Magic Brocade of Stories

Nicola-Jane le Breton – Sun 14 June – 10am BST, 5pm Perth

The Girl who wanted to heal the World

Olga Leeney, Russia/UK

Humanity got The Virus.

I saw a picture in the news. An incredible blue - turquoise ocean, a stretch of sandy beach and maybe some palm trees. Paradise. And in between the beach and the horizon there was that ocean liner, big white creature. But something was strange about it. I felt a pang in my soul.

When I was about nine years old, my grandmother used to sing to my little brother a lullaby. It was a very beautiful song. It was about loneliness and isolation. A lonely ship is sailing across the blue waters of the ocean. I could not stand that song.

And now, this ocean liner! Nobody, not a single country allowed it to dock for fear that there might be coronavirus. That ship was full of elderly people who went on a once in a lifetime journey. Now they were abandoned by the World, they were lonely, they were lost. It made me think about the beginning of Time. We love building. As children, we build with our imagination. Everything to us was alive. And as we grew our small sandpit grew as well. Eventually we started building over forests, deserts, mountains, oceans. Look, smell, taste, sound, touch, everything changed. There is one space we didn't manage to build over, though we look up to that space and dream of building there as well. Sometimes it even seems possible to touch Stars, Planets, Constellations, Milky Way. They are all there, Gods, Goddesses, some mortals, Satyrs, Centaurs, Heroes. And if we listen, they talk to us. That is how my story came to me like an old Myth reborn.

How many of you want to Heal the World?

I know a little Girl who wanted just that. To help a tribe of People which was stricken by an unknown disease to find their healing power to overcome it.



I was born at least 3 times: the first time physically, by the Black Sea, in Sevastopol, Soviet Union. In the land of the ancient Greeks. Sea, mountains and so much blue, I see it as if through their eyes. The second time, I was born by the river Moskva in Moscow. Lakes, rivers, forests and huge spaces and so much green, I lived most of my life there. The third time, near the river Thames in England. Long, straight Roman roads, and a different sea. I live here now. Education and the importance of connection between generations to serve children, parents and elders are themes that have been near and dear to me through my professional work and my longing for unity, compassion, harmony and trust.

The Girl
who
Wanted
to Heal
the World



Olga Leeney 14th June 11am

A JOURNEY WITH THE STONES, THE TREES AND THE PHONES



A Journey with the Stones, the Trees and the Phones

Michael Nique, France

Interweaving the natural, the analog and the digital worlds.

Where has our presence gone when we can be everywhere in tenths of a second?

Every second, millions of emails, pictures are shared, millions of searches happen on the world wide web with such fluidity that the internet has become omnipresent. Super-powered from the palm of our hands, our digital selves travel at the speed of light around the globe, yet we barely notice the speed of words flashing on screens.

Off screen, words and voices travel at a different speed, but are we listening?

Welcome to this personal journey into the invisible, the unseen, the unheard.

Looking at our hands off screen, we will seek the stories behind the electronic products and networks we use everyday, by travelling to mineral places, high in the mountains and low below the seas. We will surf the wood wide web in the forest, putting our fists in the soil where fungi grow and connect the trees. There will be conversations in wild and synthetic places, with those who speak in a different way, those we call "others".

You are invited to have a glass of water and some salt at hand for the presentation.



Bonjour, I grew up during the eighties in a small town in the south of the French Alps. Climbing trees and rocks, going on day hikes with the family on mineral trails, studying the patterns of nature, trying to make sense of the very small and the (almost) invisible.

There was no Internet back then, but cool video games. When you didn't know something, well you didn't know something, unless you asked someone, or looked into a book.

I slowly moved out of the mountains, to go to university and come to the city, looking for a bigger crown in concrete kingdoms. The offline became online, the online became the norm.

Over the past twenty years, I have travelled far and wide, lived in several countries, worked to improve access to the digital world for those living in poverty around the world. Yet in the back of my cave, as the world becomes increasingly digitised and connected, there is a voice whispering, go climb those trees and those rocks, switch off your phone, come back to the body and the voice, look at the invisible, listen to the silence.

**SUNDAY 14TH
JUNE 2020 12PM**

**BY MICHAEL
NIQUE**



“ Three months is a long time to be subjected to creative rehab conditions with a biggish group of lovely people from almost all over the world. And it is a very short time to be subjected to the process of extracting memory bubbles from your life which were not always rainbow colours, immersing in wonder tales and making peace with Gods and Goddesses, asking their permission to journey with them.

There were so many unbelievable coincidences between personal events and stories we worked with. That is how it was for me. For which I am eternally grateful.

Olga Leeney,
Russia/UK ”

“ In regrouping online, we gained a new student: Stryder, the black brumby horse with whom I’ve been sharing an open farm shed on a magical hill.

Stryder showed interest in story right from the start, licking and nibbling me as I drew storyboards. He was soon offering creative input by munching my homework, and whispering ideas into my ears.

As we crafted our wonder tales, Stryder sank into these worlds too - one morning, even lying on the grass with his horsey-pal, Bodhi, fast asleep.

Snoring and twitching, he was dreaming our stories. Our circle promptly awarded him “honorary storyteller” status.

Caroline Cumming,
Australia ”





STORYTELLING Beyond Words 2021

Led by Roi Gal-Or and
Karmit Even-Zur

7th to 26th March 2021,
12th April to 18th June
2021

13-WEEK
STORYTELLING
TRAINING TO MEET
THE CHALLENGES OF
THE 21ST CENTURY

For more information contact : registrar@emerson.org.uk
www.emerson.org.uk/storytelling-beyond-words



A collage by Marcus Pibworth

Do you have a storytelling
vision you would like to
develop?

SBW creative lab is a residency program that offers storytellers and activists an ideal environment, nourishment and encouragement to work on developing their creative projects. Open by application to storytellers who are working on a specific performance or storytelling related project.

We will be offering creative input, mentoring, and coaching as well as guidance in developing strategy for publicity and promotion of the work. With Roi, Karmit and guest teachers.

For more information contact : registrar@emerson.org.uk

SBW Creative Lab

One place left for 2020
2021 dates to be confirmed

A THREE-WEEK CREATIVE
RESIDENCY PROGRAMME
FOR PROFESSIONAL
STORYTELLERS



We would like to thank all of those
who have supported our collective and individual
Storytelling Journeys.

You are all invited to join us via zoom for
our last storytelling sharing circle on Thursday 18th June 1 - 2.30 pm BST.

[Zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87666447102?
pwd=WkhhQmY0Q2dXTSsyVXpRTmh3UVBaUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87666447102?pwd=WkhhQmY0Q2dXTSsyVXpRTmh3UVBaUT09)

Warm Wishes

Tim, Claire, Martina, Liz, Melissa, Caroline,
Nicola, Olga, Michael,
Roi & Karmit

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