

Fall

Storytelling Saturdays









NATIONAL #ARTS







Dear friends,

Welcome! What a roller-coaster ride we've all been on since the spring! When we had to cancel our annual spring storytelling festival as part of local efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19, we immediately began dreaming up ways to bring the storytellers here in the fall when we thought life would be back to normal. After planning a wonderful series of Storytelling Saturdays that would provide the community with opportunities to reconnect in person after the long separation, we have had to shift gears once again and make these events online to keep everyone safe as COVID-19 continues to spread. Thankfully, the oral tradition is nothing if not flexible, and through technology, stories can be shared, heard, and enjoyed across the world, even when tellers and listeners are miles apart. We hope that no matter where you are or whatever else is going on in your world, you can spend some time with our storytellers and embrace this opportunity to share in the joy and wisdom that can come from a well-told tale.

All of us come from a rich tradition of stories, and all of us have our own stories to share. The festival's slogan—"Claim Your Voice"—celebrates the fact that whoever you are and wherever you come from, you have a powerful and valuable story to tell. We hope that you'll explore new ways to claim your voice by attending one of our online workshops. During this time of physical separation, learning to share stories with family and friends or joining an online storytelling group can be especially meaningful.

Our featured tellers for the fall storytelling series include some of the brightest stars in the storytelling world: Sheila Kay Adams, Charlotte Blake Alston, Noa Baum, Donald Davis, Josh Goforth, Carolina Quiroga, and Gene Tagaban. Each storyteller will teach a class online via Zoom and has recorded two sets of stories—one for general audiences and one especially for students.

The fall storytelling series has been made possible by contributions from area businesses and festival friends and by generous grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Georgia Council for the Arts, South Arts, the North Georgia Community Foundation, the Nora Roberts Foundation, Cornelia Walmart Supercenter #1403, and Dawsonville Walmart Supercenter #3874. We are deeply grateful for their investment in the arts and hope that you will take note of them in the program and share your thanks.

We're also deeply grateful to you, our audience! Thank you for sharing in the joy.

Amanda Lawrence, Ruth Looper, Jennifer Mahan, Bob Whitaker-Lea, and Tom Wilkerson, 2019-2020 GMSF Board

Saturday, August 22

10:00-11:30 AM	Zoom Workshop with Carolina Quiroga
Seating limited;	Mom, Dad, Tell Me a Story
pre-registration required	At times, parents feel that opening up to their children by sharing their personal stories will not be taken well, that they may lose respect or control. On the contrary, personal storytelling is a great way to connect on a deeper and more meaningful level with those we love. In this workshop, we will work on finding the stories in youth or present life that need to be shared with your children or students.
1:00-2:00 PM	Zoom Workshop with Gene Tagaban
Seating limited;	Life is a Story: Recovery, Strength and Healing
pre-registration required	Our life is a story; our story is made up of moments. What are those moments that make up our story? How have those moments influenced us? What is the story in that moment of recovery? What is the story in that moment of strength? In the moment when healing begins? Let's create this moment of sacred space to explore our sacred moments, our sacred story. Our life is a story.
Available starting	Storytelling with Carolina Quiroga
8/22/20	Enchanted forests and the underworld!
A link will be shared on the GMSF website and on Facebook	Come to listen to three Mayan stories, where you will meet the spirit of the forest, the twin heroes, the lords of the underworld, and some restless ghosts. All these characters come from the lore of the Maya people from Central America.
Available starting	Storytelling with Gene Tagaban
8/23/20	One Crazy Raven
A link will be shared on the GMSF website and on Facebook	
	Carolina Quiroga and Gene Tagaban have also generously created videos of stories especially for students that will be shared with area schools.

Carolina Quiroga

Carolina Quiroga is a Colombian bilingual storyteller, performer, podcaster and author with a Masters in Storytelling from East Tennessee State University. Her vast repertoire of bilingual stories explores the myths, legends, folktales, historical, and literary tales of Latin America.

She has performed at regional festivals and conferences in Texas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Colorado, and Kansas City and has told stories at numerous schools, libraries, universities, and colleges to culturally and socially diverse audiences.



Carolina has toured in Costa Rica with her shows *The Tatu's Night* and *Las Animas de Los Muertos* and was the featured storyteller at the Witte Museum (San Antonio) for the Mayan Exhibition *Hidden Worlds Revealed*. Early in 2017, she brought her show on *Maya Tales* to the Storytelling Festival at the American School in Tampico, Mexico. She has also been a Teller in Residence at The International Storytelling Center in Jonesborough, Tennessee and a featured teller at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee.

Carolina has been recognized for her skill as a teaching artist as part of the Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning through the Arts, a recognized national model for utilizing the performing arts to support young children's cognitive, emotional, and physical development and school readiness. She received the J.J. Reneaux Emerging Artist Grant from the National Storytelling Network in 2015 and published her first book on Aztec myths, *The Hungry Goddess and The Five Suns*, in 2019.

Carolina's bilingual literary podcast "Tres Cuentos Podcast," dedicated to the literary, historical and traditional narratives of Latin America, has been awarded grants by Alternate Roots and The National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures.

Carolina Quiroga's Storytelling Saturday performances and workshop are funded, in part, by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and Georgia Council for the Arts and by a generous donation from the Lawrence family.

To learn more, see https://www.carolinastoryteller.com.

Gene Tagaban

Gene Tagaban, "One Crazy Raven," is an influential storyteller, trainer, speaker, mentor, and performer. Gene is of the Takdeintaan clan, the Raven, Freshwater Sockeye clan from Hoonah, Alaska. He is the Child of the Wooshkeetaan clan, the Eagle, Shark clan from Juneau, Alaska. He is Cherokee, Tlingit, and Filipino. Tagaban is an inspirational speaker, performer, and storyteller. He is a board member and trainer for the Native Wellness Institute.



He has been a featured teller at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee; Kansas City Storytelling Festival in Kansas City, Missouri; Bay Area Storytelling Festival in Berkeley, California; St. Louis Storytelling Festival in St. Louis, Missouri; and Singapore International Storytelling Festival, among others.

He can be seen on Northwest Indian News and the Native Entertainment Network. He is also featured in the films *Shadow of the Salmon* and Sherman Alexie's *The Business of Fancydancing*.

He was honored to perform with the Dalai Lama in the presence of an audience of 16,000 children at the "Seeds of Compassion" gathering in Seattle, Washington and the Nature Conservancy's 50th anniversary with Jane Goodall.

Gene's foremost passion is teaching. Using his gifts of storytelling, dance, and music, he travels across the country performing, presenting, and facilitating workshops on suicide prevention, empowerment, leadership, communication, relationship-building, self-awareness, spirit, and honor to participants of all ages.

Gene Tagaban's Storytelling Saturday performances and workshop are funded, in part, by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and Georgia Council for the Arts and by a generous donation from the Lawrence family. He will also offer a workshop on healing for the recovery community, thanks to a grant from the North Georgia Community Foundation.

To learn more, see http://www.storytellingraven.com.

AUGUST 23

FREE WORKSHOP FOR THE RECOVERY COMMUNITY

LED BY GENE TAGABAN

Gene Tagaban is an influential storyteller, speaker, mentor, performer, and counselor of the spirit. He is of the Takdeintaan clan, the Raven, Freshwater



Sockeye clan from Hoonah, AK. He is the Child of the Wooshkeetaan, the Eagle, Shark clan from Juneau, AK. He is of the wolf clan from his Cherokee heritage, and his last name Tagaban comes from his Filipino heritage. Gene is a teller of stories that teach, entertain, and heal. He is a board member of the Native Wellness Institute, a mentor for a men's program, and an adult care case worker. His passion is teaching and working with the people by facilitating workshops on prevention, empowerment, leadership, relationship, communication, self-awareness, spirit, honor, and healing. He strongly believes in the power of stories to bring hope, encouragement, and healing. Having helped many people on their healing journey, Gene will join with Georgia Mountain Storytelling Festival on August 23 to offer a class for the recovery community. This will be a small, supportive, and confidential group experience. Please contact the festival to reserve your seat. Your name will be kept confidential, and you by first name only if you register prefer: info@gamountainstoryfest.org.

This workshop will be held online.

Participants who register in advance will be emailed a secure link.

2-5PM

Limited seating: please sign up in advance

Participants are also invited to hear Gene Tagaban and Carolina Quiroga tell stories. Links will be on the festival's website.

GEORGIA MOUNTAIN STORYTELLING FESTIVAL



www.gamountainstoryfest.org

Saturday, September 19

10:00-11:00 AM	Zoom Workshop with Josh Goforth
Seating limited;	Why (not who) are you?
pre-registration required	In this workshop, we will explore the idea of being yourself when telling stories. It's important to understand the "why" you are who you are. We will draw from the experiences in your development to help you unlock the authentic you. Listeners can immediately grasp insincerity so this workshop will help tap into the real you and how this acceptance is the key to audiences building trust and truly listening with an open heart and mind.
11:30 AM-12:30PM	Zoom Workshop with Sheila Kay Adams
Seating limited;	From the Page to the Stage
pre-registration required	Learn to breathe life into all those family stories you have carried in your mind and perhaps written down. I'll demonstrate how my book of stories, <i>Come Go Home With Me</i> , began with the telling, then the actual writing and publication, and then back to the stage. Bring something to write with, paper, and a willingness to share.
Available starting 9/19/20	Storytelling and Music with Josh Goforth Stories and Songs from Josh's Mountain Heritage
A link will be shared on the GMSF website and on Facebook	Ctorics and Congo nom Coon a Mountain Frontage
Available starting 9/19/20	Storytelling and Music with Sheila Kay Adams
A link will be shared on the GMSF website and on Facebook	Banjos, Ballads, and Bad Men
	Josh Goforth and Sheila Kay Adams have also generously created videos of stories especially for students that will be shared with area schools.

A sign language interpreter will join the Zoom workshops, and the recorded storytelling sessions will be closed-captioned.

Josh Goforth



Josh Goforth was already playing piano in church at the age of four—but it was an experience he had in the sixth grade that really lit the fuse of his precocious musical career. A performance at Goforth's middle school by Sheila Kay Adams caused him to start thinking about the musical heritage of his native Madison County. A couple of years later, he received his first guitar from one of his great-uncles and began to learn the instrument under the tutelage of another greatuncle. The great-great-great-grandson of Madison County fiddler Asbury McDevitt then launched on a career in traditional music. Over the next few years, he learned to play at least ten different instruments by ear.

Most famous for his fiddling, Goforth is a highly accomplished oldtime, bluegrass, and swing musician but is remarkably versatile, able to pick up any of a wide variety of instruments and make a solid contribution in almost any kind of band. He went to East Tennessee State University to study music education and to be a part of ETSU's famous Bluegrass and Country Music Program. In 2000, he played fiddle for the movie *Songcatcher*, both onscreen and on the soundtrack. He has toured extensively with a variety of ensembles, including the ETSU bluegrass band, with David Holt and Laura Boosinger, and with several bluegrass bands, including Appalachian Trail, the Josh Goforth Trio, and Josh Goforth and the New Direction. He has also shared stages with Ricky Skaggs, Bryan Sutton, The Yonder Mountain String Band, Open Road, and The Steep Canyon Rangers. He has performed in forty-nine US states, all over Europe, and in Japan. In 2000, 2003, and 2005, he was named Fiddler of the Festival at Fiddler's Grove and, after winning the third title, was designated "Master Fiddler" and retired from that competition. His first solo album is forthcoming.

He says that one of the main goals of his career is to get young people interested in traditional music: "In all the years I've been playing traditional and oldtime music, I've always said that if all people could really see and hear it live, they'd fall in love with it" (Mountain Express, December 10, 2003).

Josh Goforth's Storytelling Saturday performances and workshop are funded, in part, by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and Georgia Council for the Arts.

To learn more, see https://www.blueridgeheritage.com/artist/josh-goforth/

Sheila Kay Adams



A seventh-generation ballad singer, storyteller, and claw-hammer banjo player, Adams was born and raised in the Sodom Laurel community of Madison County, North Carolina, an area renowned for its unbroken tradition of unaccompanied singing of traditional southern Appalachian ballads that dates back to the early Scots/Irish and English Settlers in the mid-17th century. She began performing in her teens, and throughout her career, she has performed at festivals, music camps, and workshops across the country and in

the United Kingdom at venues including the International Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee, and the Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

Adams is the author of *Come Home With Me*, a 1997 collection of stories that won the North Carolina Historical Society's award for historical fiction, and *My Old True Love*, a novel published by Algonquin Books in 2004.

She has recorded several albums of ballads, songs, and stories, including *My Dearest Dear* (2000), *All The Other Fine Things* (2004), and *Live at the International Storytelling Festival* (2007). Adams appeared in the movies *Last of the Mohicans* (1992) and *Songcatcher* (2000), a movie for which she also served as technical advisor and singing coach.

Her devotion to preserving and perpetuating her heritage earned her the North Carolina Folklore Society's Brown-Hudson Award in recognition of her valuable contributions to the study of North Carolina Folklore. In a letter supporting her nomination as an NEA Heritage Fellow, George Holt, Director of Performing Arts and Film at the North Carolina Museum of Art wrote, "Sheila Kay Adams is the key figure in carrying forward to this day the tradition of unaccompanied ballad singing that has enriched her community for more than two centuries, promoting its beauty throughout our country and beyond, and insuring that it will be perpetuated by younger generations of singers well into the 21st century."

Sheila Kay Adams' performances and workshop are funded, in part, by a grant from South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and a grant from the Georgia Council for the Arts.

For more information on her work, see http://www.sheilakayadams.com/index.

Saturday, October 24

10:00-11:00 AM	Workshop with Charlotte Blake Alston
Seating limited;	Telling Stories to our Youngest Listeners
pre-registration required	Alston performs for adult audiences across the United States and abroad, but this former preschool, kindergarten, and second grade teacher is also in her 26th season as Host and Storyteller of the Philadelphia Orchestra's award-winning preschool concert series <i>Sound All Around</i> . What will get preschoolers' attention, hold it, and give them something substantive to take away? This workshop will explore immediately applicable techniques for successful storytelling with our youngest audiences.
11:30AM-12:30PM	Workshop with Noa Baum
Seating limited;	Beyond Labels: Bridging Differences through Storytelling
pre-registration required	Learn about the storytelling model developed by Baum to bridge differences in our communities. Discover how listening to and telling the story of the "other" can break through stereotypes and labels to the possibility of compassion and change. Participants will engage in an interactive activity demonstrating how storytelling can be an effective tool to open dialogue and foster peace and tolerance in our communities.
Available starting 10/24/20	Storytelling with Charlotte Blake Alston Ladies First
A link will be shared on the GMSF website and on Facebook	Traditional and contemporary stories where heroines lead the way
Available starting	Storytelling with Noa Baum
10/24/20	A Taste of the Garden of Eden
A link will be shared on the GMSF website and on Facebook	A taste of the Jewish tradition with uplifting tales of wonder, magic, and faith
	Charlotte Blake Alston and Noa Baum have also generously created videos of stories especially for students that will be shared with area schools.

A sign language interpreter will join the Zoom workshops, and the recorded storytelling sessions will be closed-captioned.

Charlotte Blake Alston



Photo by Deborah Boardman

Alston has performed in venues throughout North America and abroad, including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Smithsonian Institution, the Women of the World Festival in South Africa, prisons, detention centers, and a refugee camp in northern Senegal. She was one of four Americans selected to perform and present at the first International Storytelling Field Conference in Ghana and was a featured artist at the Second Int'l Festival in Cape Town, South Africa. In the summer of 2005, she was the sole American selected to perform on a main stage at the STIMMEN: Voices Festival in Basel, Switzerland and the Cape Clear Island Festival in Ireland. In the spring of 2018, she represented the U.S. at the Boca do Ceu International Storytelling Festival in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Alston has been a featured teller at The National Storytelling Festival, The National Festival of Black Storytelling, and countless regional festivals. She breathes life into traditional and contemporary stories from African and African American oral and cultural traditions. Her solo performances are often enhanced with traditional instruments such as djembe, mbira, shekere, and the 21-stringed kora.

In 1991, Alston became the first storyteller to perform with the Philadelphia Orchestra in both their family and student concert series. Since 1994, she has been the host of "Sound All Around," their preschool concert series. She has also been a featured artist in the Carnegie Hall Family Concert Series in New York since 1996.

Alston has received numerous honors, including the prestigious Pew Fellowship in the Arts. She was the recipient of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Artist of the Year Award (The Hazlett Memorial Award), which recognizes individual artists "for excellence in the Commonwealth." She holds two honorary PhDs and received the Circle of Excellence Award from the National Storytelling Association. She is a recipient of the Zora Neale Hurston Award, the highest award bestowed by the National Association of Black Storytellers.

Charlotte Blake Alston's performances and workshop are funded, in part, by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and Georgia Council for the Arts and by a generous donation from the Lawrence family.

To learn more, see her web site: http://www.charlotteblakealston.com.

Noa Baum

Noa Baum is an internationally acclaimed storyteller and author. She uses mesmerizing impeccable voices. timing, and authenticity to captivate audiences and confront important topics such as bullying and intolerance. Noa shares stories from diverse cultures and her own rich Jewish heritage to highlight our similarities and celebrate our She has told stories in diverse differences. settings ranging from the World Bank and prestigious universities and congregations to festivals, government agencies, schools, and detention centers. She has performed in Turkey, Sweden, Israel, the UK, and across the United States.



Trained in theater and education at New York University, she is a winner of a Parents' Choice Award, a Storytelling World Award, and numerous awards from the Maryland State Arts Council and the Montgomery County Arts Council. Noa's memoir, A Land Twice Promised—An Israeli Woman's Quest for Peace, is a Winner of the 2017 Anne Izard Storytellers' Choice Award, the 2018 Storytelling World Award, and the 2017 LDS Publishing Professionals Association Award.

As these comments show, her stories resonate with audiences wherever she goes:

"[She] transcends boundaries to entertain! Noa Baum spreads cultural truths that eclipse geopolitical boundaries ... her stories transcend their roots."

— The Washington Post

"I absolutely LOVED it!!!! I had tingles up my spine the whole time. There are no words to describe how much I love your storytelling!"

-Madison Rubenstein, age 12, MN

"When you tell a story, I forget I'm sitting in front of a person, I am completely engaged in the world you have created for me, and the kids shared this same experience." —Keren Smith, Principal, Shoreshim Hebrew School, VA

Noa Baum's performances and workshop are funded, in part, by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Georgia Council for the Arts, and Nora Roberts Foundation and by a generous donation from Gail and Greg Boots.

To learn more, find Noa online at https://noabaum.com.

Saturday, December 12

10:00-11:00 AM Seating limited; pre-registration required	Workshop with Donald Davis What's YOUR Story? In this workshop, we will be learning to discover stories that are already hiding inside us and exploring forgotten and hidden memories from our own lives. What we learn can also be used in gathering stories from family members or friends.
Available starting 12/12/20 A link will be shared on the GMSF website and on Facebook	Storytelling with Donald Davis Our Stories Tell Us Who We Are
	Donald Davis has also generously created a video of stories especially for students that will be shared with area schools.

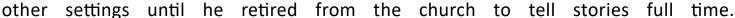
A sign language interpreter will join the Zoom workshop, and the recorded storytelling sessions will be closed-captioned.

Donald Davis

Donald Davis was born in a Southern Appalachian mountain world rich in stories. While he heard many traditional stories about Jack and other heroic characters, he was most attracted to the stories of his own family and places of origin.

Davis begin retelling the stories he heard and then adding his own new stories to them until he was repeatedly asked to "tell it again, on purpose."

During his twenty-five year career as a United Methodist Minister, Davis began to use stories more and more. He was also asked to begin performing at festivals and in





Featured at festivals throughout the United States and across the globe, Davis is also known as a prolific producer of books and CDs, having authored eighteen books and more than forty original recordings. He has been a guest host for NPR's *Good Evening*. Davis is a recipient of the National Storytelling Network's ORACLE Circle of Excellence and Lifetime Achievement awards.

His stories tickle the funny bone and warm the heart, as these comments show:

"Davis (is)...among the most popular figures on today's storytelling circuit." – Berkely Hudson, Los Angeles Times

"I could have listened all morning to Donald Davis ... his stories often left listeners limp with laughter at the same time they struggled with a lump in the throat."

- New York Times

"Absolutely hilarious and unpredictable as well as emotionally reviving." – Wilson Library Bulletin

Donald Davis's performances and workshop are funded, in part, by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and Georgia Council for the Arts and by a generous donation from Angela and Tom Wilkerson.

To learn more about him, go to https://www.ddavisstoryteller.com.

Sign Language Interpreting for the Workshops



Marti Slaughter currently serves as the Director of Disability Services at Young Harris College. She holds an Associate of Arts Degree from Georgia Perimeter College's Sign Language Interpreter Training Program, a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sign Language Interpreting from Maryville College, and a Masters of Social Work Degree from the University of Georgia. Marti has served in the Deaf community for 20 years as a professional interpreter, as a volunteer for Deaf and Deaf/Blind-centered camps, and for transition initiatives for Deaf students moving from high school to post-secondary life.



Debbielee Whelchel has been a Sign Language Interpreter for the past 30 years. During this time, she has interpreted in a variety of settings, including religious, theatrical, and educational interpreting. Debbielee has directed Sign Language clubs in Atlanta as well as in the elementary school in which she worked for many years, with the aim of bringing together deaf and hearing students to promote American Sign Language. Although Debbielee has recently retired, she will always have her "hands" involved as a deaf advocate and educator.

Mountain Area Storytellers "Catch the Buzz!"

Come join the fun!

Bringing stories to life in the mountains of North Georgia and Western North Carolina.

- For storytellers and story lovers
- Celebrating the storytelling revival
- Promoting, performing, practicing, and sharing stories as a means of entertainment, education, personal and family history, and cultural preservation
- Hosting open mic, story slam, and workshop events each month in NC and GA

For more information follow us on www.FaceBook.com/mountain area storytellers and/or contact Storytellers Kanute Rarey 502-525-7272 or kanutetells@gmail.com. Gayle Cox 239-250-6430 gayle_cox@hotmail.com. Melanie Knauff 561-236-4375 melknauff@gmail.com.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

Epic (\$2500 and up)

Georgia Council for the Arts
National Endowment for the Arts
The Lawrence Family
The Nora Roberts Foundation







This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. To find out more about how National Endowment for the Arts grants impact individuals and communities, visit www.arts.gov.

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Ruth Looper Shannon Turner

Barry Whittemore

SPECIAL THANKS

We are grateful for the assistance of the following folks, without whose help these events would not have been possible:

- Marti Slaughter and Debbielee Whelchel for sign language interpreting
- * Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce, Towns County Chamber of Commerce, Fannin County Chamber of Commerce, Clay County Chamber of Commerce, Jennifer Mahan and the Union County Commissioner's Office, Kanute and Kathy Rarey, Mountain Area Storytellers, Tom and Angela Wilkerson, Bob Whitaker-Lea, and many others for spreading the good word about our events
- * Our sponsors and grantors for enabling us to bring top-notch tellers to our audience
- * Our volunteers for donating their time and energy so generously
- * Our storytellers and musicians for sharing their craft
- * Our audience for sharing in the joy

We offer unending gratitude to everyone who has given of their time and talents to help the festival run smoothly since it began in 2015.

Thank you for believing in the power of stories and enabling us to share storytelling with our community for six years in a row!

Join us for the next Georgia Mountain Storytelling Festival

April 16-17, 2021 Blairsville, GA 30512



Elizabeth Ellis



Diane Ferlatte



Megan Hicks



Tim Lowry

Antonio Rocha

Facebook: Georgia Mountain Storytelling Festival

Georgia Mountain Storytelling Festival, Inc. is a volunteer-run 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing meaningful opportunities for an underserved audience to engage with the voices of Appalachia through hearing stories and attending workshops that will enable them to develop a cultural intelligence through the arts of listening and speaking.