



Storyteller Biographies

Lt. Colonel William C. Brooks: Army Air Corps/Air Force (Ret.); piloted B-26s on 54 missions over Europe in World War II; POW in Stalag Luft III (in Sagan, Germany/Poland) and Stalag Luft VIIA (Moosburg, Germany), August 1944 to April 1945.

Master Sergeant William M. Burgin: Marine Corps (Ret.); served in World War II in the Pacific and in the Korean War; fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima, February-April 1945 and in Korea in 1952-54.

Cathleen Chilcote Wallace: Cathleen is Luseno and part of the San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians. As Native Talk, Cathleen and brother Chaz Chilcote share traditional Native American stories at a variety of venues. www.nativetalk.org

Patti Christensen: Patti creates a magical program for all ages, enjoying the enthusiasm of rollicking fun stories and songs with plenty of participation. From fun to serious, inspirational to instructional, Patti brings her whole self to sharing stories. www.pattistory.com

Rajan Dharni: Rajan is a stand-up comic, actor, percussionist, and burrito connoisseur. He has worked with many of comedy's best known performers. Currently, he performs on two very successful, long-running weekly comedy shows and a podcast Comedy on the Porch and blogs for www.CoolPartyGuys.com.

Jim Dieckmann: Involved with the Storytellers of San Diego since the early 1980's, Jim enjoys the wonders of the natural world and tells folk tales and original stories about the sea, the sky, the Earth and the creatures that live there.

Karen Dietz: Folklorist, trainer and storyteller (past director of the National Storytelling Network). For more than 20 years, she has helped individuals and organizations improve performance by propelling their leadership, culture, and communications to higher effectiveness.

Mindy Donner: Mindy has been spinning yarns for all ages with her group, Spinning Wheel Players; blending music, sometimes puppets, and encouraging audience participation with rhythm instruments. Together with musician Eduardo Parra, they perform bilingually.

Stacy Dyson: Poet, acapella vocalist, and playwright specializing in the life and times of the Black woman. Poet laureate for Imagination Celebration (Colorado Springs), and creator/CEO/lead poet for DragonsWing, an arts consortium, she has done live performance and workshops all over the United States, and is currently working on her fifth album San Diego Style.

Cynthia Griffin: Naturally drawn to merriment and the unexpected, Cynthia travels everywhere armed with her Tales with a Twist and a Grin, to rescue weary spirits in need of wonder and delight.

Harlynn Geisler: A professional storyteller since 1980, Harlynn entertains in schools, libraries, museums, parties, and festivals nationwide. Her monthly storytelling programs at the Timken Art Museum draw enthusiastic crowds of both children and adults.

<http://storyteller.swiftsite.com>

Justin Hudnall: Justin graduated from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts by way of the Department of Dramatic Writing. He found employment with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) where he served in New York and Southern Sudan and currently acts as Executive Director of So Say We All, an advocacy and production non-profit.

Charles Johnson: After twenty years as a software engineer, Charles Johnson decided there must be more to life, so he taught himself to play the ukulele and put out a single as a musical storyteller. www.PaperBagCowboy.com

Fred Laskowski: Fred is a Marriage and Family Therapist currently working in the public schools, where his storytelling abilities enliven and enrich his interactions with the students.

Marilyn McPhie: Marilyn McPhie became a storyteller by choice—when her son's preschool gave her a choice of cleaning bathrooms or telling stories. A professional teller since 1985, she has a fondness for old stories with new twists. www.marilynmcphie.com

James Nelson-Lucas: James is a storyteller, actor, public speaker, workshop leader, improvisational performer, magician, chef, musician, dancer, clown, writer, producer, and director. He tells tales from historic to humorous, folk to fantastic, educational to entertaining. <http://jamesstorymagic.com>

Captain Victoria C. Nenner: Air Force Nurse served from 1968 to 1972 during the Vietnam War; received and treated several thousand casualties at the Tachikawa Air Force Base Hospital in Japan.

Patchwork Players: Patti Christensen & James Nelson-Lucas join forces as the Patchwork Players. This STORY THEATRE duo combines the best of storytelling, improvisational theatre, and audience participation. www.patchworkplayers.com

Vicky Reed: A former librarian and Media Services Specialist for the San Diego County Office of Education, Vicky has many years experience in not only storytelling herself, but teaching storytelling on a college level and organizing an acclaimed adult storytelling concert series.

Sarah Saulter: The magic in Sarah's storytelling is in the absolute feeling that you're there; you've gone to some other time or place and you're swept away by the adventure. She brings the most fanciful characters vividly to life.

Perry Vasquez: Perry is a multimedia artist who has studied Political Science, Visual Art and Taoism. He is the co-director of the Southwestern College Art Gallery. His works combine music, poetry, film and visual art.

Linda Whiteside: Linda Whiteside is a Storyteller in the Healing Arts Department at Rady Children's Hospital. Her bilingual style, fluidly weaving English and Spanish, delights audiences of all ages.