



STORYTELLING
ASSOCIATION
OF ALTA CALIFORNIA

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The Gala... honoring Kate Frankel ... and others ...

The **Gala Convergence of Storytellers** drew storytellers from all over the Bay Area. It took place on sunny warm Sunday the 2nd of September with the busy farmers' market going on outside the windows of the Loft at Barnes and Nobles Bookstore in Jack London Square. It was an exceptional afternoon. Only the Bay Area Storytelling Festival brings together such a festive gathering of the storytelling community. **Jean Ellisen** and **Bobbie Kinkead** decided to honor the people who run the swaps, venues and teach in our community. These people quietly work behind the scenes adding to the community.

Jean and **Bobbie** warmly welcomed the audience and introduced the guests. Each person shared a bit of the history of their swap, monthly venue, tradition storytelling, telling at a museum, how things started and changes made. And all told stories: some personal, folk tales, part of an epic, one with a touch of music.

Those being honored were **Contra Costa Tale Spinners**, **Sally Holzman**, **Hayward Storytellers**, **Lloyd Dirk**, **Tell it on Tuesday**, **Bridget Frederick**. She spoke of how **Rebecca Fisher** and her started **Tell It On Tuesday**. **Cathryn Fairlee** provided a short taste of a long enchanted tale. **Ruth Stotter** and **Sandra Niman** reminded us of the impact of the **Dominican University Storytelling Program**.

An email from **Jackie Baldwin** gave us the news of her new radio program, **Story-Lovers World!** which meant she would be unable to make it. Southbay Storytellers, **Sandy and Tom Farley** read a note from **Joy Swift**, who was also unable to make it. They spoke about their upcoming Tellabration. **Ashley Harkness** from the **Toastmaster Tales and Tellers in Danville** spoke of how much his group treasures their storytelling experience.

From San Francisco we heard about storytelling at the Asian Art Museum from **Emily Papert**, and **Ruth Fraser**, founder, invited us all to **First Sunday at the Meeting House**, Delta Wordweavers' **Marian Ferrante** continues to build the storytelling community in the Antioch area. **Jim Cooke** from the **Marin SSSSH Swap** stood up and took a bow, this past spring at the **BASF**, he was honored for his service to the storytelling community.

Stagebridge Director Liz Nichols told of the work the elders and the elementary children do together through stories,

and how **SAAC** and six other swaps will join with Stagebridge in this years' **Tellabration**. **Jim Parson** was awarded a **SAAC** membership for diligently coming to so many of the different storywaps in the Bay Area.

One of the highlights of the day was **Sara Armstrong** presenting Kate with her **NSN Pacific Region Leadership and Service Award**. Kate was unable to attend the conference in July. It was a joyous occasion as each one of us can relay a story of how knowing **Kate** has changed our life. One of the first members of Mixed bag, she is our historian of this wonderful community. **Kate Frankel** thanked **Jean** and **Bobbie** for bringing the storytelling community together. "An event that needed to be done for a long time." **Jean** and **Bobbie** thanked **Jerry Thompson**, Events Manager for Barnes & Noble, for the space and time, posters, and wonderful support he gave to Story Tells.

Everyone, storytellers and listeners, all had a merry, happy, fun convergence of storytelling, A GALA!

Co-Producers **Jean Ellisen** and **Bobbie Kinkead**