



Welcome to the 2021 Festival!

What's happening:

- 21 videos of stories recorded by our storytellers
These can be watched on demand, anytime during the April 16-17 festival and for 30 days after.
- Live (Zoom) workshops taught by our storytellers
Come learn from the best! The workshops will occur at the times indicated in the schedule. Recordings will be posted afterward and can be viewed for up to 30 days after the festival, so if you miss something, you can catch up.
- Live (Zoom) storytelling with our storytellers
These performances will occur at the times indicated in the schedule. Recordings will be posted afterward and can be viewed for up to 30 days after the festival, so if you miss something, you can catch up.

See the following pages for details.

All of this is included with your festival ticket (\$10 per household general admission; free for students and teachers) and can be viewed through the festival's platform on ExpoPass. Registrants will be emailed a "magic link" to access the festival on April 16-17 and for 30 days afterward.

To register, go to [2021 Georgia Mountain Storytelling Festival-new-format | RegForm.com](https://2021.GeorgiaMountainStorytellingFestival-new-format.RegForm.com).

Questions? Email info@gamountainstoryfest.org

Videos for Students



Antonio Rocha: “Chicken and Crocodile”

15 minutes

Adapted here by Antonio Rocha, this African animal tale is fun and full of antics and surprises. It teaches profound lessons that will help you turn your day into a beautiful living experience. This video is appropriate for all ages but is especially suited for younger viewers.

Antonio Rocha: “Party in the Sky”

20 minutes

Adapted by Antonio Rocha, this Brazilian animal tale is fun, sweet, and kind, and it teaches us the power of persevering while trying to overcome obstacles. This video is appropriate for all ages but is especially suited for younger viewers.

Diane Ferlatte: “Bully Boy” and “Donkey & the Lion Skin”

20 minutes

This pair of stories is especially for students in upper elementary and middle school grades. "Bully Boy" is about a boy who finds himself in a desperate and dangerous situation and needs help fast. Who should come along but the boy he has been mercilessly bullying at school? The "Donkey & the Lion Skin" story is an Aesop Fable about a donkey who puts on a lion skin and scares other animals, until he tries too hard. Diane connects this story to her son who, when a teenager, tried to be someone else.

Diane Ferlatte: “Molly Mouse” and “Crocodile and Hen”

20 minutes

This set of stories by Diane Ferlatte is especially for younger elementary grades, K-3. The first story, "Molly Mouse," is an Aesop Fable (The Lion & The Mouse), which contains some American Sign Language, music, and song. It teaches that small animals (or people) can do big things. The second story, "Crocodile and Hen," is a folktale from Africa in which a hungry croc can't bring himself to eat a plump hen. When he realizes why, we realize why we should all treat each other better.

Elizabeth Ellis: “Elizabeth Cady Stanton”

15 minutes

Elizabeth Ellis tells the story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. This video is appropriate for students in the 4th grade and up.

Elizabeth Ellis: Appalachian Folktales--“The Magic Box” and “The Peddler’s Dream”

20 minutes

Elizabeth Ellis tells the Appalachian folktales "The Magic Box" and "The Peddler's Dream." This video is appropriate for students in 3rd grade and up.

**Megan Hicks: "Davy and the Devil"****20 minutes**

"Davy and the Devil" is a wonder tale from Britain that is about striking bargains without weighing all of the ramifications. This video is aimed for high school students but will be enjoyable for others too.

Megan Hicks: "The Diviner in the Desert"**15 minutes**

"The Diviner in the Desert" is a story from Iraq that was collected by Dr. Yoel Perez of Ben Gurion University of the Negev. Like "Davy and the Devil," it's a wonder tale that is about striking bargains without weighing all the ramifications. It's a good conversation starter about ethics and honesty. There is so much in this story that remains unanswered. This video is aimed at middle/high school students but can be enjoyed by others as well.

Megan Hicks: "High School on the Home Front"**30 minutes**

This series of short stories composes a longer piece called "High School on the Home Front":

- "Military Convoy -- US Hwy 66 -- 1942"
- "A Little Ray of Sunshine"
- "Gold Star"
- "Cimarron Field"
- "War Bride"

These pieces present a social history concerning World War II. This video is aimed for middle/high school students, but others will enjoy it too.

Tim Lowry: "Toilet Paper and a Troubled Teen"**20 minutes**

Generally, it's the student who is getting up to mischief. This time, it was the teacher who got into trouble with the principal, and the student helped! This video is appropriate for students in grades 6-12 but will be enjoyable to others too.

Tim Lowry: "American Folktales"**45 minutes**

Take a walk through American Folk Culture with stories from Native tribes, enslaved Africans, European settlers, frontier pioneers, and Western cowboys. This video of American folktales told by Tim Lowry is appropriate for students in all elementary grades, especially students of American history, and was made with 4th and 5th graders in mind. Other audiences will find it enjoyable too.



Videos for a General Audience

Diane Ferlatte: A Trio of Uplifting Tales

30 minutes

- "Blind Man & the Bird"--A folktale about underestimating those who have disabilities
- "Walk Off People"--A humorous folktale about Adam & Eve and the creation
- "All About Angels"--Do you believe in Angels? Have you ever seen one? Listen to this story to find out about angels.

Diane Ferlatte: "Bundle of Worries" and "My Day"

30 minutes

- "Bundle of Worries"--We all have things we worry about sometimes, but after hearing this story you may have a different outlook about worrying.
- "My Day"--A humorous personal story about feeling out of place and somewhat insecure as we all do sometimes

Elizabeth Ellis: Ghost Stories

30 minutes

- One true Texas ghost story and one Scottish folktale: "The Dream That Saved Wilbarger" and "The Peddler's Dream"
- If you're interested in ghost stories, you may also wish to attend Elizabeth Ellis's Zoom workshop on telling ghost stories.

Elizabeth Ellis: "Mama Wasn't a Traveller" and "The Right Kind of Eyes"

30 minutes

Two stories about Elizabeth Ellis's mother, one funny and one more serious: "Mama Wasn't a Traveller" and "The Right Kind of Eyes" (sometimes called "The Quilt Story")

Megan Hicks: A Pair of Fairy Tales

30 minutes

"The Shoemaker and the Elves" is a short fairy tale. "Twelve Dancing Princesses" is about a lot of things, including shoes (like "The Elves and the Shoemaker"), but foremost to Megan is that it speaks to the issue of heavy-handed parenting. Both stories are appropriate for all ages.

Megan Hicks: "Honky Tonk" and "Miss Lady"

30 minutes

"Honky Tonk" is about artistic aspirations and embracing whatever form of creativity is visited upon you by your Muse. It's for all the artists in the world who doubt that they are "authentic" artists. It's about owning your dreams. "Miss Lady" is the follow-up story to "Honky Tonk." They are both about Megan and her mother and also about making art and being artists.

Tim Lowry: "My Trip to Disney World"

25 minutes

Most people travel to the Magic Kingdom in a few hours. It took Tim twenty-two years. This is the story of a very long road trip!

Tim Lowry: "Out 'n No Book"

25 minutes

Tim's library contains over 1,000 books, and yet, books aren't everything. You also need a grandfather who can teach you things that didn't come "out 'n no book."

For General
Audience



Showcase of Tellers from our Region

60 minutes

We hope you enjoy these talented storytellers from our neck of the woods:

- Judy Baker: "Four Pounds of Teeth and Toenails"
- David Petty: "Mary and Tom"
- Kanute Rarey: "Aunt Arline's Five Rules"
- The Pressley Girls: "Ginseng Sullivan"
- Matthew Tooni: "A Story about Groundhog" and "How Partridge Got His Whistle"
- Jess Willis: "The Fisherman and His Wife"

Stories for the Young and Young-at-Heart

30 minutes

Judy Baker, Cayce Terrell, and Jess Willis share enchanting children's stories:

- Judy Baker: "Gallymanders"
- Cayce Terrell: "How the Pleiades Got into the Air" and "The Cat on the Dovrefell"
- Jess Willis: "Mama Chicken and Ella Gator"

John C. Campbell Folk School: Tribute to David Brose

30 minutes

David Brose, long-time folklorist at the John C. Campbell Folk School and a tireless and influential chronicler of the musical roots of Appalachian culture, passed away on January 22, 2021. We hope you enjoy this moving tribute to his life and work.



Live Events

All of these events are in Eastern time and will have a sign language interpreter.

Friday, April 16

11:00 AM-12:00 PM Workshop by Megan Hicks: “Stories (un)Folding with the Origami Swami”

Stories (un)Folding with the Origami Swami Is it . . . a.) a workshop? b.) a play date? c.) professional development? d.) all of the above! Megan Hicks, Origami Swami, demystifies this ancient folk art for children and adults--for recreation, as STEM curriculum enhancement, as professional development for librarians, teachers, and entertainers. This workshop is a happy marriage of storytelling and paperfolding. Participants learn simple stories whose plots provide cues to the folding sequences of equally simple--but very cool--origami models. What's that you say? You have no eye/hand coordination? No patience? No problem! Self-avowed klutzes have amazed themselves in this workshop. No experience--telling or folding--is required. What is required will be a few sheets of square paper and a few sheets of copy paper. Origami paper is fun, but not necessary. Right angles, however, are important. **MATERIALS:** Participants will need about a dozen sheets of square paper. Suggested size: 5 to 8 inches. It can be junk mail trimmed down to a square or actual origami paper. What matters is that the paper will take a crease and that your squares are accurately cut. This workshop will cap at 12 people; please come on time, if not early, to get a seat.

1:00-2:00 PM Workshop by Diane Ferlatte: “Combining Story & Song”

This workshop with Diane Ferlatte will look for the songs, the chants, and the rhymes in stories. We will be discussing and looking at different ways to combine singing with storytelling, creating songs that fit the story, add spirit, enrichment, and audience participation. Do you have to be a good singer? No, but be willing to have fun with singing and join in a playful experience with storytelling. This is a participatory workshop that will benefit anyone looking to add a little zest to his or her storytelling.

3:00-4:00 PM Workshop by Tim Lowry: “A Ladder to the Moon: Stories Build Community”

True connection requires deeply meaningful communication. All too often in our current society, we talk about one another, over one another, at one another, but never WITH one another. Communication is an exchange of ideas, a two-way street with stories being told and stories being heard. The very strongest connections are built when the stories are told and heard with heart and soul. This deeply meaningful use of stories is called a “Ladder to the Moon” and has been used by great leaders for millennia to foster communication, strengthen relationships, and bind people together in community. Learn about this ancient tradition with Tim Lowry and begin building stronger relationships today!

7:00-8:30 PM Immigrant Stories by Antonio Rocha followed by brief Q&A

Motivated by the increasing numbers of the dispossessed and by turmoil at the Mexican and U.S. border, Antonio Rocha decided to share his own story of leaving Brazil and becoming an American citizen so that he could “bring humanity to the fear of the unknown.” He will tell about his experiences as an immigrant and then participate in a Q&A so that attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions about both the content and form of his presentation: immigration and the process of using stories to build bridges between cultures by creating awareness of and empathy with the often arduous journey of the immigrant.

All of these events are in Eastern time and will have a sign language interpreter.

A red speech bubble icon containing the word "LIVE" in white, bold, uppercase letters.

Saturday, April 17

9:30-10:30 AM Workshop by Antonio Rocha: “Hidden Gems”

Hidden Gems. The power of the eyes, tone of voice, and posture—the moments in a story where we shift between one thought and the next, one character and the other, from one scene to the next—are hidden gems tucked away in a story well told. Whether you’re your family’s unofficial historian or a professional teller, learning to master these moments will give your stories extra polish and finesse. This workshop will teach you how to identify and develop the transitions within your stories by practicing techniques with voice and body.

11:00 AM-12:30 PM Workshop by Elizabeth Ellis: “Prepare to Scare”

Why tell scary stories? What do they do for us as human beings? Maybe you weren't born with "the ghoully gene," but you can learn to increase "the fear factor" in your stories by sharing them more effectively.

1:30-3:30 PM Workshop by Megan Hicks: “Tell Us about It: Creating Stories to Heal”

If you are reading this workshop description, you are a survivor. You have lived through the worst pandemic in 100 years. Surviving hardship exacts a toll—loss, grief, depression, confusion, social isolation. Survivors have a story to tell. “Nah. I don’t think I’m special.” “It’s all been such a blur.” “Words cannot express...” “I wouldn’t know where to start.” We start, together in this workshop, by tying our memories, thoughts, and feelings to things that the senses can see, smell, taste, hear, and touch. We identify places associated with those things—a room in the house, an off-ramp on the interstate, another continent, your favorite chair. We start putting words on a page, with no consideration about whether or not, at this point, it’s making any sense at all. And then we share. As much or as little as we feel like sharing. The sharing sparks more memories, and stories emerge. When you create a story about surviving a global disaster, you have created a bit of order out of chaos. You have listened, you have been heard. Together, through our stories, we create a community of healing. This workshop is for teens and adults and will cap at 25 attendees. The first 25 people to log into the Zoom session will be admitted, so if you'd like to attend, please be on time, if not a few minutes early.

4:00-5:00 PM Q&A with featured tellers

If you have questions for our featured tellers or would just like to listen in to get to know them a bit better, come to the Q&A session. Elizabeth Ellis, Diane Ferlatte, Megan Hicks, Tim Lowry, and Antonio Rocha will join us for a chat via Zoom. To learn more about our featured tellers and to find their videos and live (Zoom) appearances during the festival, click on their names.

7:00-8:30 PM Olio: one story from each of our featured tellers

Each of our featured tellers will share one story live via Zoom. Join in the fun as we close out the festival with everyone together on the virtual stage.