

What is the Mountain State Storytelling Institute?

The Institute is a two-day conference featuring scholars and storytelling professionals. Fairmont State University, Frank and Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center and the WV Storytelling Guild are committed to the use of storytelling to preserve Appalachian culture. The intent of this institute is to provide academic, professional and personal development for those interested in storytelling as scholarship, art, a teaching tool, and a profession or an avocation. Workshops will feature members of the West Virginia Storytelling Guild, and FSU and WVU Faculty.

How can I participate?

Registration

Participation is limited to 100. You may return the enclosed registration form to Susan Bailey or contact her at Susan.Bailey@fairmontstate.edu or 304.367.4203. Deadline for registration is March 12, 2010.

For student scholarship information contact Dr. Kirk: fkirk@fairmontstate.edu.

Fees

\$50 for adults/\$20 for students

**The Storytelling Presentation on
Friday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m., in the
Turley Center Ballroom, is
FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

For more information contact:
Dr. Francene Kirk
304.367.4170
fkirk@fairmontstate.edu

Tentative Schedule

Friday, March 26

8:00 – 8:45	Registration
9:00	Institute Welcome and Opening
9:30 – 10:30	Concurrent Sessions
10:45 - 11:45	Concurrent Sessions
Noon	Lunch
1:00 – 2:00	Keynote Speaker - Bil Lepp
2:15 - 3:15	Special presentation with FSU Music Faculty Members Dr. Mary Lynne Bennett and Dr. Sam Spears
3:30 - 4:30	Tea with Tellers
7:30 - 9:00	Storytelling Presentation with Bil Lepp, Caren Neile and members of the WVSG (Free and open to the public)

Saturday, March 27

8:30	Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:15	Welcome and Announcements
9:30 -10:30	Visiting Scholar - Caren Neile
10: 45 – 11:45	Concurrent Sessions
Noon	Lunch
1:00 – 2:00	Concurrent Sessions
2:15 - 3:15	Story Swap
3:45 - 4:45	Concurrent Sessions
5:00 - 5:30	Closing



This project is being presented by Fairmont State University with financial assistance from The West Virginia Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this brochure do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Fairmont State University

and

WV Storytelling Guild

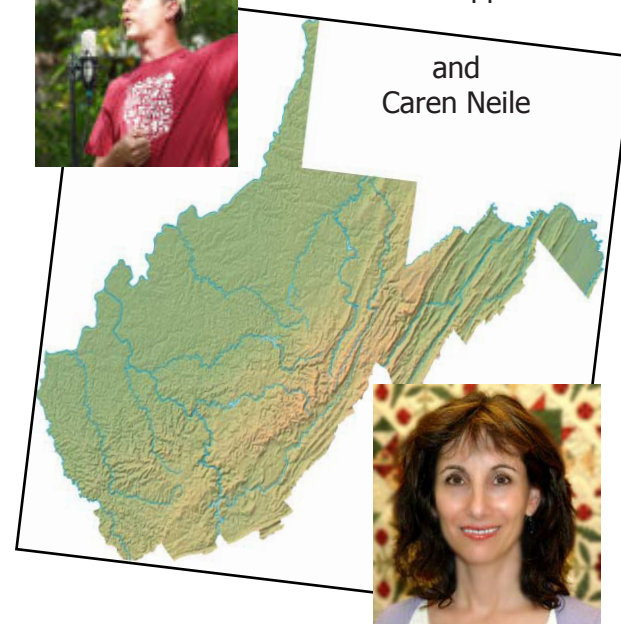
present the

Mountain State Storytelling Institute



Featuring
Bil Lepp

and
Caren Neile



*Story Expeditions:
West Virginia
and the
World*



Fairmont State University
Falcon Center
March 26-27, 2010

What will I learn?

Keynote Scholar

Caren Schnur Neile will build a case for story, with its ability to create bridges between individuals and connect both generations and cultures, as an invaluable component of peace- and community-building and conflict resolution. Dr. Neile directs the South Florida Storytelling Project at Florida Atlantic University, where she teaches classes in storytelling studies for the School of Communication & Multimedia Studies and School of the Arts. She is incoming chair of the National Storytelling Network and a former board member of the Florida Storytelling Association and the Healing Story Alliance. She is also a co-founding editor of the international academic journal *Storytelling, Self, Society* (Taylor & Francis) and has published numerous articles and books.

Keynote Speaker

Bil Lepp will discuss the storytelling influences of Grosspapa (his grandfather) who was a young boy from a wealthy family who owned a large tractor manufacturing plant in eastern Russia during the Russian Revolution. The communists came in and took everything; Bil's pacifist Mennonite grandfather fought with the White Army, was captured, survived, and made it to America by very creative means. Grosspapa Lepp settled in the Appalachian region and made a life for himself and his family, knowing very little of the language or culture.

West Virginia Storytelling Guild Presenters

Jason Burns, who will discuss WV ghost stories, is the driving force behind the West Virginia Spectral Heritage Project, which is involved in researching, preserving, and performing ghost and monster stories from around the state of West Virginia.

Jo Ann Dadisman will discuss story in Appalachian culture. Jo Ann holds a bachelor's degree from Shippensburg State College (PA) in Secondary Education. She holds a Master's Degree in English Education from West Virginia University and has done post-graduate work there, with an emphasis on Appalachian Studies.

Ilene Evans will discuss African American stories, games and songs. Ms. Evans is an inventive storyteller who uses movement, music and sound. Ms. Evans has taught, lectured, and performed throughout the United States and Europe.

Gail Herman will discuss how her stories grow with each audience in different ways by presenting "Organic Storytelling". Herman holds a Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut.

Rich Knoblich will give insight into how storytelling evolved from leisurely entertainment to staged performance art. He holds a B.A. in Education from West Liberty State College and an M.A. of Humanities Literature from California State University, CA. Rich is the recipient of a WV Humanities Council Fellowship for his project, *Appalachian Culture: Texture, Text, and Context*.

Kate Long has worked as a media writing coach for 22 years. Her fiction, songwriting, video editing, radio production and newspaper stories have won national awards including the 2007 WV Press Association's Best Enterprise Reporting and the 2003 Gabriel Award.

June Riffle graduated from Fairmont State with a bachelor's degree in secondary education, major: English, minor: social studies. She then earned a master's degree in Reading from WVU. A student of folklore, she also acquired a folklore minor from Fairmont State. June performs with JoAnn Dadisman as "Mountain Echoes."

Katie and Otto Ross will discuss weaving together story and music. Katie Ross graduated from Cal Western University with degrees in Spanish and French. Otto Ross spent the first eleven years of his life growing up in Austria. In high school Otto started playing the accordion and from there he went on to learn the guitar and the banjo. He graduated from Frostburg State University in Frostburg, Maryland with a teaching degree in math.

Ellouise Schoettler will discuss turning family genealogy into story. Ms. Schoettler (MFA, American University) is a professional storyteller and presents programs of original stories and folktales for adult and young audiences across the country.

Joy Gilchrist Stalnaker will discuss local family history resources. Joy served as the executive director of Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants which operates the Central West Virginia Genealogy and History Library. She is currently on the Board of Directors and edits the Hacker's Creek Journal.

Suzi Whaples, known professionally as "Mama", is a national storyteller, humorist, and conference speaker. She has 30 years of experience in public speaking, teaching and entertainment. A natural born mountaineer, Suzi has lived in West Virginia all of her life.

Cheryl Ware attended West Virginia University, earning a B.A. in English and a B.S. in secondary education in 1988 and an M.A. in English in 1992. She taught as an instructor at Fairmont State College and Alderson-Broaddus College. She has published four books for young readers, *Flea Circus Summer*, *Catty Cornered*, *Venola in Love*, *Roberta Price Has Head Lice* and her newest novel, *Venola the Vegetarian*.

Registration Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email address _____

Fees for the weekend:

_____ Adult(s)-\$30 per person Friday only

_____ Adult(s)-\$35 per person Saturday only

_____ Adult(s)-\$50 per person Friday and Saturday

_____ Student(s)-\$10 per person Friday only

_____ Student(s)-\$15 per person Saturday only

_____ Student(s)-\$20 Friday and Saturday

_____ Total

(Registration fee includes Continental breakfast on Saturday and afternoon refreshments.)

Make check payable to Fairmont State University and send to: Fairmont State University, School of Fine Arts, ATTN: Susan Bailey, 1201 Locust Ave., Fairmont WV 26554