**STORYTELLING WORKSHOPS 2021**

**with Bobbie Pell**

**BALLADS - SCOTTISH AND ENGLISH POPULAR NARRATIVES**

Delve into the ancient stories of honor, betrayal, mystery, comedy, and true love sprinkled throughout the literary legacy of the British Isles. The class will focus on the European ballads collected by Dr. Frances Child and American variations collected by Cecil Sharpe and Dame Olive Campbell. Poetic form and structure of balladry will be taught so students may create their own narrative ballads. Classes will involve song, storytelling, and poetry.

**EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN IN CELTIC FOLKLORE**

Meet Bloudewedd, the Welsh Bride of Flowers, whose discovery of passion released her soul, then the Irish immortal Macha who bestowed healing on the broken yet cursed the men of Ulster. Swim into the secrets of Pearl, the Seal-Maiden, off the coast of Scotland! Discover the timeless truths brought to light by these and other stories surrounding legendary women in the Celtic culture. Group discussions will focus on issues handled by these women such as true beauty, the power of transformation, love relationships, and woman’s divinity; all which are still prevalent for women today.

**NORTH CAROLINA LEGENDS AND GHOSTLY APPARITIONS**

Learn about some of North Carolina’s unusual residents and regional mysteries. Discover the curiosity of the Brown Mountain Lights, the vanishing lady of Jamestown, and the couple from the Outer Banks whose love transcended death! Bring a legend from your area or learn to write on of your own as we examine the makings of these marvelous tales.

**WINTER TALES: RETELLINGS AND PERSONAL NARRATIVES**

Come sit by the fire and tell some warming adventures - from tall tales with mountains of snow to quiet, introspective stories of the heart. We will delve into the metaphor of winter with all its complexities, in addition to the use of winter as a setting in traditional folklore. Bring suitable tales, create original ones during the week, or choose from folklore provided. Storytelling techniques include story-boarding (plotting), characterization, physicality (voice, gestures), and uses of drama. All levels welcome.

**TALES OF MAGIC, FAERIES, AND ENCHANTMENTS**

Delve into the depths of your imagination as we explore the treasury of World Folk and Faerie Tales! With the current fame of fantasy fiction, storytellers are returning to traditional tales filled with mysticism, spells of enchantment, and old favorite fairy tale retellings. This course will focus on using folklore motifs for intricate plots, creating believable characters in magical situations, and heightening imagery for vivid Otherworld settings. Come with collections from your own ancestry or read Appalachian, Celtic, and World tales available in class. All you need is a ready heart and open mind - All levels welcome!

**MUSICAL STORYTELLING**

When listening to tales, ever wish you could hear the Wolf running through the woods? Perhaps feel a lover’s pain through their song? By adding simple musical elements (percussions, string instruments, woodwinds), emotion, suspense, and drama can be heightened for the listener. One doesn’t have to be a musician to use such additions, and we’ll explore options in traditional folklore/songs, learning to merge the two forms. All levels welcomed.

**READER’S THEATER: FOLK LORE STYLE**

Come create exciting folklore retellings for the dramatic Reader’s Theater, suitable for all ages. This scripting format allows storytellers and writers alike to produce vibrant, original works through storytelling alchemy: transforming traditional oral/written tales into dramatic read-aloud performances. This class will take you through the steps of choosing a world folk/fairy tale then infusing the story with fictional techniques: dramatic irony, clever humor, sensory imagery, twisting plot lines, and intriguing dialogues. Instructor will provide folklore collections, but students are encouraged to bring their personal favorites. All levels welcome!

**CELTIC LOVE STORIES**

Come sit by St. Valentine’s fire and discover the passion, the heartache, the surrender, the angst of the many faces of love. Using Celtic Love (by Caitlin Matthews) as text, we will examine classic love stories by uncovering their qualifying elements (tasks, quests, riddles) then tell our own stories, either in prose, ballad poems, or as original tales. The course will review basic storytelling techniques (plotting, story boards, characterization) then layer our tellings with vivid imagery. All levels welcomed.

**STORYTELLING IN THE ELEMENTARTY SCHOOL CLASSROOM**

Looking for ways to enliven your literacy program, emphasizing world folklore? Create imaginative activities to engage students in literature units while fostering various learning modes and multiple intelligences. Students will experience first-hand how to add “play” into stories: group role play, character imagery, puppetry (sock/ paper bag/ commercial puppets), chants, music/songs, and even felt creations to show a story in layers. Creative writing exercises allow students to create original scripts and deepen characterizations. Bring your scrap fabrics, old socks, buttons, and favorite folk tales to create dynamic stories for your students All levels

welcome!

**THE LEGENDS OF KING ARTHUR**

King Arthur, the legendary hero, is surrounded by literary epics trailing from Sir Geoffrey of Monmounth’s battle records in the History of the Kings of Britain, Chretien de Troyes French romances of Lancelot and quest for the Holy Grail, Malory’s Morte D’Arthur tales of courtly love and brotherhood, and the prose of T.H. White’s Once and Future King, where we see Merlin’s impact on an impressionable young lad. This course will focus on the many layers of the King Arthur ideals, expressed in poetry, ballads, prose, and contemporary fiction. Themes such as chivalry, epic heroism, courtly love, and impossible quests will be explored, along with the archetypes who play out these roles, drawing parallels to contemporary life.

**Wisdom Tales from Around the World**

Join storyteller and writer Bobbie Pell in this fun-filled expedition into world cultures! This course will focus on tales collected by leading anthologists in the realm of “story” such as Jane Yolen, Jack Zipes, and Heather Forest. Wisdom tales offer strands of truth that we can weave into the fabric of our lives. We will examine not only the themes but also the fictional elements and structure so that any participants may create wisdom tales from their own experiences, leaving a living legacy for their loved ones. The writing factor will be completely optional. Come laugh, cry, and sigh with us as we deepen our understanding of others and ourselves.

**TEXTS:** Forest, Heather, ed. Wisdom Tales from Around the World. Little Rock, AK: 1996.

Yolen, Jane, ed. Favorite Tales from Around the World. Pantheon Fairy Tale and Folklore Library Series. New York: Pantheon, 1986.

Zipes, Jack, ed. Spells of Enchantment: The Wondrous Fairy Tales of Western Culture. New York: Penguin, 1991.

**FOLKTALES FOR THE MIDDLE-AGED AND GREY-HAIRED**

Are folktales just for the young or merely the young at heart? Enjoy these fanciful tales that weave life lessons into every story. The focus will be on tales that specifically address issues for maturing adults such as family relationships, life/death concerns, living without regret, and love. Enjoy the interaction of storytelling at it finest!

**FOLKSONG EXTRAVAGANZA!!**

Bring your guitar, fiddle, dulcimer, wooden spoons, voice, or just a good sense of humor to this workshop on traditional Appalachian folksongs. Songs of betrayal, comedy, love, and romance will fill the air. Students will be exposed to the popular tunes and learn to compose narrative lyrics in ballad form and its variations. No musical background is necessary to enjoy this delightful journey into our Appalachian heritage.