

Storytellers of San Diego
President's Report – 10-17-16

We have continued our monthly performances at Rebecca's Coffee House in South Park. Different tellers have coordinated and participated. Audiences have varied, but all in all, this has been a positive experience. February's show was distracted a little by a group having some kind of meeting at the restaurant.

We have posted regularly on facebook, and have received "likes" and membership from the social media. We currently have 533 page likes on facebook and 1,150 followers on Instagram.

We have had growing traffic to our website. Jim Dieckmann keeps it current and adds new features to enhance the usability and attractiveness.

Jim Dieckmann sends out monthly news and events to subscribers through Mail Chimp. He monitors the response. We currently have 525 subscribers to the newsletter.

There are continued regular performances by Patti Christensen, James Nelson-Lucas and Linda Whiteside at the Rady Children's Hospital. Li-Anne tells weekly at a local pre-school.

We did a "Haunting Tales" concert at Old Poway Park in October in conjunction with San Diego Folk Heritage. Aunt Li-Anne, Linda Whiteside, David Schmidt, Patti Christensen, James Nelson-Lucas and Marilyn McPhie told stories and fiddler Rachel Amov added spooky tunes and eerie atmosphere.

We had a successful Tellabration concert in November. It was at a new venue, Bethany Lutheran Church in Ocean Beach, and the consensus was that it was great. Performers were Mindy Donner, Linda Whiteside, David Schmidt, Leo Baggerly, Fred Laskowski, Patti Christensen, Jim Dieckmann, and singer Jim Hinton.

We collaborated with Arts 4 Learning San Diego to host a master class with David Novak in January. It was free to participants and was well received by attendees.

We included information on the Storytellers of San Diego in the AERO mailing to county schools. Li-Anne and Michael Mufson designed and produced a card promoting our school programs. These have been made available at educator events.

Marilyn attended a La Jolla Kiwanis meeting to receive a check for \$1,000 for our student outreach programs.

Marilyn McPhie has attended meetings of the San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture to become familiar with the programs and processes it supports.

We are finalizing preparations for the 2017 storytelling festival, including out-of-town tellers Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo from San Francisco, Marianne Christensen from Vordingborg, Denmark, and John St. Clair from Ontario, potter Jason Brady, veterans from So Say We All and refugees from the New Americans Museum.

We are hoping to offer house concerts for visiting storytellers.