

24 January 2008

From: Jessie Goh
Sent: 24 January 2008 19:00
Subject: SAS January 2008 e-newsletter

Dear Members,

Welcome to 2008! I hope you took the opportunity to share lots of personal stories over the holiday period with your family and friends, reliving key moments of 2007. I also hope you heard lots of good stories too!

As of 1st January, when unrenewed memberships expired, our membership totaled 54 (Ordinary – 12, Associates – 31, Friends – 11) down from 119 at the end of 2007. While this is more than a halving in size, the Committee takes the long term view that, while many members were recruited on a personal-favour basis when the Association first started, we are now left with a committed core of people interested in storytelling. We shall continue to raise awareness of the SAS through our activities (see March event below) and try to recruit genuinely interested members in future.

The most important item for this newsletter regards our second ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Date: Friday 22nd February 2008
Venue: The Substation, Armenian St, (Level 2 classrooms)
Schedule: 6.30 – 7.15pm: Food and greetings
7.15 – 7.45pm: AGM
8.00pm onwards: SAS social

With only Ordinary Members eligible to vote, we realize the AGM may rate fairly low on your priorities. However, as last year, there will be an opportunity for all members to share their thoughts about what they'd like to see the Association doing this year. We plan to keep the meeting per se short and follow it with our first social event for 2008. As food will be provided, do let Jessie know if you plan to attend by the 15th February. You are invited to share (or simply to sit back and enjoy) **Stories of Love**. If you'd like to tell, please contact me (9176-1499) or at rogerstoryteller@gmail.com, so I can sort out the programme.

We are planning MASAK-MASAK, a **public storytelling performance** on March 8th at 7.30pm at the Republic Polytechnic (Woodlands) Laboratory (seats 120.) This will be targeted at family audiences and we're suggesting kids who come should be aged 7+. There will also be a charity performance that afternoon at the same venue as part of the Association's outreach programme. Details will be forwarded by Jessie as soon as we've confirmed them. If you'd like to volunteer in some capacity (front of house, marketing, telling) to either show, do let me know.

This month sadly marks the departure of founding member/inaugural President of the Association, **Kiran Shah**, who is re-locating to Australia with Edgar. While she will no doubt be returning on occasion to tell and train here, we shall surely miss her warmth, encouragement and commitment to propagating the art of storytelling. The Committee wishes to put on record its appreciation of the tremendous work she has done playing a pivotal role in getting the Association up and running.

This marks my last letter as President, as the committee has drawn up a new slate of Executive Officers for 2008. If you have any feedback about the format of future newsletters – do you want them kept chatty or more formal, for example? – I'm sure our President-elect, Kamini Ramachandran, would like to hear from you.

Yours truly,
Roger Jenkins

4 March 2008

From: Jessie Goh
Sent: 4 March 2008 20:17
Subject: SAS March 2008 e-newsletter

STORYTELLING ASSOCIATION (SINGAPORE)
NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2008

Dear Members and Friends,
Happy 2nd birthday to the Storytelling Association (Singapore)! We turned two last week! And what a great two years it has been for our stories to be heard and for our tellers to tell.

This is my first Newsletter to you as your President and after two years serving as the Secretary, I look forward to working with my Committee and keeping storytelling alive for all our members.

Allow me to introduce the new Executive Committee for the term 2008/9:

President: Kamini Ramachandran

Vice-President: Chuah Ai Lin

Secretary: Panna Kantilal

Assistant Secretary: Dolly Leow

Treasurer: Mabel Lee

Membership Secretary: Jessie Goh

Committee Members: Rosemarie Somaiah, Sheila Wee

I will be assisted by Roger Jenkins (our past President) in ongoing projects, and Verena Tay will continue as web mistress for the Association.

Each storyteller has their own style and voice. I have thought a lot about the newsletter and I have tried to make it informative as well as special with a small section at the end about my thoughts on Stories and Storytelling. I welcome feedback from you and please feel free to contact me at kaminibhugtiar@hotmail.com or on 92732383 with your ideas and suggestions.

STORYTELLING EVENTS

1. **“MASAK-MASAK”** – a potluck of delectable stories from around the world

Date: 8 Mar 2008, 7.30 pm (performance about 90 minutes plus interval)

Venue: The Lab, 2nd Floor, The Republic Cultural Centre, Republic Polytechnic, 9 Woodlands Ave, Singapore 738964

Tickets: \$10 (adult); \$6 (child aged 7-12 years; show not recommended for under 7 years)

Enquiries/bookings: 92732383 or email iwanttickets@storytellingsingapore.com

What to expect: Out of the pot of world stories comes a feast of tantalising tales told by six of Singapore's favourite tellers (Chuah Ai Lin, Roger Jenkins, Sheila Wee, Mabel Lee, Nancy Leppard and Verena Tay). Stories to participate in noisily, stories to savour as they long-after linger in the taste-buds of memory. A six-course celebration loosely linked to food at its healthiest: low in calories, high in nourishment for the soul!

2. **STORYTELLING ON RADIO**

Catch our Ordinary Members telling stories 'live' on Radio 938 Live! "The Living Room"

Date: Every Monday (11/2, 18/2, 25/2, 3/3, 10/3, 17/3, 24/3, 31/3)

Time: 10.00 – 11.00 am (repeat session from 10.00 – 11.00pm)

Radio: 93.8FM

WHATS BEEN HAPPENING?

1. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008**

We held our second AGM on Friday 22nd February 2008 at The Substation with elections for the new committee, appointment of new auditors as well as proposals for the amendments to the constitution. We decided not to increase Membership Fees.

2. **SAS SOCIAL**

Our first Social / Story Swap for the year was held right after the AGM celebrating "Stories of Love". Both Associate and Ordinary Members captivated the audience with their wonderful stories revolving around the theme of love. Sheila Wee took us on a royal Armenian journey with "Queen Anait" and Nancy Leppard held us captive with her rendering of "The Black Prince" and Kordial Kor filled the room with laughter with her version of "The Garden Woman". As always, there was much socialising, eating and drinking as well as storytelling!

3. SAS RESOURCES

The Association has become a member of the National Storytelling Network (USA) and their bi-monthly magazine 'The Storyteller' is available for loan to Ordinary and Associate Members. Please contact Sheila Wee at sheilamwee@yahoo.com if you would like to find out more about other materials available for loan.

4. SAS WEBSITE

Our website has up to date information on storytelling events, benefits offered by our partners as well as contact details for storytellers. Do visit www.storytellingsingapore.com for more information on your Association.

STORY VEIN

One of my favourite stories is the 'frame story' of the Thousand And One Nights, the story of Scheherazade and King Shahryar. Did you know that the original title of this collection of tales is *Alf Layla Wa Layla* which means The Thousand Nights and One Night? King Shahryar is deceived by his first wife and he resorts to taking a new bride each day and beheading her at dawn. The lovely Scheherazade agrees to marry the King, against her dear father's wishes, and she is not only a clever and resourceful lady, but she is well-versed in the art of storytelling! Storytelling saves her life. She keeps telling the King a story each night and stops telling at dawn just at a gripping or unresolved part of the story! The King wants to hear more, so he delays her death, night after night, and for three years she tells, and he listens; and in that time, they fall in love, he has learnt his lesson through the tales told, abandons his wicked resolve and they live happily ever after. Within this collection are favourite tales like Sinbad the Sailor, Aladdin and the Lamp, Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves. Scheherazade has become a universal symbol associated with storytellers all over the world. Every one of us is Scheherazade and she lives in our stories and our telling.

Happy telling!
Kamini Ramachandran,
President,
Storytelling Association (Singapore)

"It is easy to forget how mysterious and mighty stories are. They do their work in silence, invisibly. They work with all the internal materials of the mind and self. They become part of you while changing you. Beware the stories you read or tell: subtly, at night, beneath the waters of consciousness, they are altering your world."

(From *Birds of Heaven* by Ben Okri)

9 April 2008

From: Jessie Goh
Sent: 9 April 2008 20:45
Subject: SAS April 2008 e-newsletter

STORYTELLING ASSOCIATION (SINGAPORE) APRIL 2008 NEWSLETTER

Dear Members and Friends

It has been a busy month in March with our charity and public storytelling event, as well as submissions of annual reports and filing income taxes too! There is always so much administrative work to do in any organization and I must thank my team of responsible committee members for their consistent hard work, and for doing it all with a smile and a story to share.

What did you do on World Storytelling Day three weeks ago on 20th March 2008? Well, I was on the road to Kuala Lumpur travelling with my husband and two young boys braving the Easter long-weekend traffic and causeway delays! Needless to say most of the journey was filled with stories to amuse the children; stories from Malaysia, stories of my childhood, stories of the jungle, and stories of various animals and plants...

Long journeys are always a great time for families to get close and find out things about one another. Sharing stories of our childhood and where we come from and the things we used to do is one of the best ways for a child to understand and feel closer to their parents. We don't have to complain about the traffic or grumble about the slow crawl when we can escape into another world and time dictated by the stories we all have in our memories. The next time you are faced with a long journey, look on the bright side and get each person to share a story from their childhood, and see how one memory leads to another and soon you will have a suitcase full of tales to share!

I welcome feedback from you and please feel free to contact me at kaminibhugtiar@hotmail.com or on 92732383 with your ideas and suggestions.

STORYTELLING EVENTS

1. EXCLUSIVE STORYTELLING WORKSHOP FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

A special workshop especially for our Associate Members who have been telling for some time now and are wondering what the next step should be. This mentoring workshop will be conducted by Verena Tay. For more information on workshop details, please view:

http://www.storytellingsingapore.com/courses.htm#Beyond_Storytelling_101

2. STORYTELLING FOR FAMILIES

Free storytelling sessions conducted by Asian Storytelling Network on Sunday 13th April from 3.30 – 4.00pm at the Asian Civilizations Museum.

3. STORYTELLERS CIRCLE

The next meeting of the Storytellers Circle is on Friday 25th April at 7.00pm. For more details please view: http://storytellingsingapore.com/events.htm#Storytellers_Circle

4. SAS SOCIAL

Please make a date in your diaries for our next Social gathering on Friday 16th May 2008 at the upstairs classrooms of The Substation from 7.00pm onwards. Do let Dolly Leow, our Assistant Secretary know if you will be able to attend and if you have a story to share fengi@pacific.net.sg or call her on 96667937. For more details please view:

http://storytellingsingapore.com/events.htm#Future_Story_Swaps

5. STORYTELLING FOR ADULTS

MoonShadow Stories will be telling stories for adult audiences themed 'Charming...' on Friday 23rd & Saturday 24th May at 8.00pm at The Substation. 'Come listen to us and let us charm you with tales of charisma, tales of magic, tales of wonder and we guarantee an experience that will delight the senses and nourish the soul...' For more details please view: <http://moonshadowstories.org>

WHATS BEEN HAPPENING?

1. "MASAK-MASAK" – a potluck of delectable stories from around the world.

On the afternoon of Saturday 8th March, five of our tellers, Roger, Panna, Jessie, Dolly and Mabel entertained 110 children and volunteers from various children's charities sponsored by the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation at The Lab at Republic Polytechnic for almost two hours. We were fortunate to have with us the ever gracious and elegant First Lady of Singapore, Mrs. Urmilla Nathan as our guest in the audience. The children enjoyed themselves tremendously and it was an equally rewarding experience for all the tellers who told for free for this charity storytelling event.

Weeks of preparation and publicity exercises paid off when we had a full house of 120 people as audience for the public storytelling performance that same evening. Verena, Nancy, Roger, Mabel, Sheila and Ai Lin shared their stories.

2. STORYTELLING ON RADIO

How quickly eight weeks have flown by! Our tellers were on air each Monday in February and March telling stories 'live' on 93.8fm 'The Living Room' as guests of Stanley Leong for a one hour slot. It was a great involvement for the Association as we had some new members join the SAS after tuning in to our storytelling sessions and being inspired with the art of oral narrative for both children and adults.

3. SAS RESOURCES

The Association is a member of the National Storytelling Network (USA) and their bi-monthly magazine 'The Storyteller' is available for loan to Ordinary and Associate Members. Please contact Sheila Wee, our Resource Librarian at sheilamwee@yahoo.com if you would like to find out more about this magazine or any other materials available for loan.

4. SAS WEBSITE

Our website has up to date information on storytelling events, benefits offered by our partners as well as contact details for storytellers. Archived newsletters are also available for your perusal. Do visit www.storytellingsingapore.com for more information on your Association.

STORY VEIN

When I think of April I somehow always smile at the thought of the first day of this month, fondly known as April Fool's Day. A day where the tradition of playing pranks and practical jokes rule! The Fool or the Foolish One is a character much loved in traditional tales found in nearly all cultures. There is Jack, whose origins can be traced from the British Isles and how his stories travelled to the Ozarks and the Appalachian Mountains of the USA. Then we have Tenali Raman from South India who was actually a 16th century court-poet in the Vijayanagara Empire! My earliest memories of hilarious Fool-Stories relate to the well-known character in Malay folklore, Pak Pandir and tales of his blatant stupidity and the calamities he got into! He was followed by a posse of similar foolish characters such as Lebai Malang (the unfortunate priest), Pak Belalang (Father Grasshopper), Pak Kadok (Father Disaster) and the straight-laced Si Luncai.

These stories of fools and their foolish deeds are not just there for us to laugh at and double-up with tears flowing down our cheeks. They have always been a vehicle to convey caution and lessons to the listener. From the youngest to the eldest, everyone who listens to Jack and how he carried his cheese, milk and meat only to have it ruined in the end, or how Pak Pandir accidentally killed the Giant's child, will walk away knowing exactly what *not* to do!

Happy telling!
Kamini Ramachandran,
President,
Storytelling Association (Singapore)

The Storyteller's Creed
I believe that imagination is stronger than
knowledge,
That myth is more potent than history,
That dreams are more powerful than facts,
That hope always triumphs over experience,
That laughter is the only cure for grief,
And I believe that love is stronger than death.
– Robert Fulghum

7 May 2008

From: Jessie Goh
Sent: 7 May 2008 19:49
Subject: SAS May 2008 e-newsletter

STORYTELLING ASSOCIATION (SINGAPORE) NEWSLETTER MAY 2008

Dear Members and Friends,

It's that time of year when school going children (and their parents) spend weeks in May poring over books and notes and test papers to prepare for the dreaded Semestral Exams! To all of you parents and teachers reading this, I understand... I'm in the same boat! How do you make study time something they can look forward to? And how do you put across a point that they simply cannot

grasp? I have been telling them stories to break the monotony of doing worksheets; it's almost like a little bribe! Finish this piece of work, and we'll go through it together, and then Mummy will tell you what happened to the *Boy With No Name*.

My son has just been introduced to Science as a subject and remembering dozens of facts about classifications and life cycles is not coming naturally to him. So, for each topic I used the same method storytellers use to remember their longer stories, I used a *story map*. I drew it out on paper for him with various headings and to make it easier to recall, I made him draw out whatever symbol he wanted to attach to it. In the end we had worked out a set of colours and symbols for categories like 'outer-covering', 'reproduction' and 'habitat'.

This made recollection of facts simpler as all he had to do was think of his 'map'. Of course telling the story of the life of a seed and how it germinates and becomes a seedling and goes on to produce leaves, then in order to sustain itself and propagate its own kind it has to bear flowers, that turn into fruit and then the seeds burst out to start the cycle all over again, make the whole process much more fun to learn and recall.

Being a storyteller is also about the ability to recollect facts and details and make it alive and interesting for the audience. When the story of a seed is told in a graphic and interesting manner, it becomes a journey with predictable pit-stops that the child can always latch on to.

These pit-stops or 'indicators' also help us storytellers when we tell; the story itself has its own journey and as long as we know the various pit-stops along the way, we can string them together in our own words! I'm looking forward to the holidays already!

I welcome feedback from you and please feel free to contact me at president@storytellingsingapore.com or on 92732383 with your ideas and suggestions.

STORYTELLING EVENTS

1. SAS SOCIAL

Our next Social evening is just around the corner! Quickly make a date in your diaries for this storytelling gathering on Friday 16th May 2008 at the upstairs classrooms of The Substation from 7.00pm onwards. Do let Dolly Leow, our Assistant Secretary know if you will be able to attend and if you have a story to share. Email: fengi@pacific.net.sg or call her on 96667937. For more details please view: http://storytellingsingapore.com/events.htm#Future_Story_Swaps. Our Associate Members who are participating in the SMRT 'Tales On Trains' event are encouraged to practice their stories during the evening. Do come and share a story or just listen to the stories!

2. STORYTELLING AT DINNER THEATRE

Fancy having dinner and then listening to stories told as you enjoy your coffee and dessert in a special setting? MoonShadow Stories have been invited as the inaugural dinner-theatre storytellers for The Arts House's new venue, The Hall. For more details please view: http://storytellingsingapore.com/events.htm#Dinner_Storytelling

3. STORYTELLING FOR ADULTS

MoonShadow Stories will be telling stories for adult audiences themed '*Charming...*' on Friday 23rd & Saturday 24th May at 8.00pm at The Substation. 'Come listen to us and let us charm you with tales of charisma, tales of magick, tales of wonder and we guarantee an experience that will delight the senses and nourish the soul...' For more details please view: <http://moonshadowstories.org>

4. STORYTELLERS CIRCLE

The Storytellers Circle is a special interest group of the Society For Reading & Literacy. The next meeting of the Storytellers Circle is on Friday 30th May at 7.00pm. For more details please view: http://storytellingsingapore.com/events.htm#Storytellers_Circle

5. STORYTELLING WORKSHOP

Dr. Rebecca Isbell, Professor in Early Childhood, USA, and author of numerous books and articles including *Tell It Again* and *Tell It Again 2* will be conducting a workshop on how storytelling is a power literature technique that can positively impact literacy development. For more details please view: http://storytellingsingapore.com/courses.htm#Storytelling_Workshop

6. ASIAN CHILDREN'S WRITERS & ILLUSTRATORS CONFERENCE (ACWIC)

If you are interested in children's literature, writing for children or illustrating children's books, ACWIC is just a month away. For more details please view: <http://bookcouncil.sg> and click on ACWIC for this year's speakers.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

1. BEYOND STORYTELLING 101: EXCLUSIVE STORYTELLING WORKSHOP FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

This special workshop especially for our Associate Members kicked off on Monday 5th May with seven participants. The participants will go through a total of 14-hours of coaching and will participate in a storytelling performance organised by the SAS in November. Here's wishing all our participants the best of luck! This mentoring workshop is conducted by Verena Tay. For more information on workshop details, please view: http://www.storytellingsingapore.com/courses.htm#Beyond_Storytelling_101

2. SAS RESOURCES

The Association is a member of the National Storytelling Network (USA) and their bi-monthly magazine 'The Storyteller' is available for loan to Ordinary and Associate Members. Please contact Sheila Wee, our Resource Librarian at sheilamwee@yahoo.com if you would like to find out more about this magazine or any other materials available for loan.

3. SAS WEBSITE

Our website has up to date information on storytelling events, benefits offered by our partners as well as contact details for storytellers. Archived newsletters are also available for your perusal. Do visit www.storytellingsingapore.com for more information on your Association.

STORY VEIN

In the middle of May the world will be celebrating Lord Buddha's birth date. The Enlightened One's teachings have been told for ages through word of mouth, through simple stories. This collection of stories that feature animals and small creatures as protagonists is called *The Jataka Tales*. The Buddha is depicted in several of his births in the form of these animals. The stories can be universally appreciated by both children as well as adults, though they may seem simple at first glance, they are deeply profound in nature. A good site to introduce Jataka Tales to you and your family is: <http://www.jatakkatha.com/>. The word 'katha' of course, means 'story'.

Moving on to another katha, it will be Mother's Day very soon and mothers since the beginning of time have been telling stories to children. If you are a mother, why not ask your family to tell *you* stories this Sunday instead? My boys have been asking me what I want for Mother's Day, what do I want to do, what can they get for me etc... and I hinted that a story or some stories may be nice. This set them off writing their own little stories that I'm not allowed to see until Sunday! I wait with sheer excitement for my private storytelling session at home... Let us all tell our mothers stories and celebrate togetherness in a very different way.

Happy telling!
Kamini Ramachandran,
President,
Storytelling Association (Singapore)

"In unsettled times like these, when world cultures, countries and religions are facing off in violent confrontations, we could benefit from the reminder that storytelling is common to all civilizations. Whether in the form of a sprawling epic or a pointed ballad, the story is our most ancient method of making sense out of experience and of preserving the past."

—William Collins

4 June 2008

From: Jessie Goh
Sent: 4 June 2008 19:22
Subject: SAS June 2008 e-newsletter

STORYTELLING ASSOCIATION (SINGAPORE)
NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2008

It's the school holidays! With an entire month off school what do we do? How do we occupy the children? How lucky we are to have free storytelling sessions targeted at children this month! Scroll down for more details under Storytelling Events and we know you and your children will certainly enjoy these sessions conducted by our members.

June is also when we celebrate Father's Day and we have a special storytelling session on this day itself at the Woodlands Regional Library.

The middle of the year is here, and it's usually a good time to read that book you have always meant to but couldn't find the time to do so!

When I tell stories to my children or to others, I sometimes get asked a very common question: the same that Haroun asked his father in Salman Rushdie's 'Haroun And The Sea Of Stories', "What's the use of stories that aren't even true?"

Well, this is a fictional story book about a great storyteller and his son. All he has to do is open his mouth and out pour great sagas and plots! But, his gift comes from a genie and one day the genie decides to take back this gift. What will happen to the sea of stories that has already been told? What will Haroun do to save his father and the age old tradition of storytelling? And what is the use of telling stories that aren't even true...? I plan to read this book one more time this month and ponder the questions too...

I welcome feedback from you and please feel free to contact me at president@storytellingsingapore.com or on 92732383 with your ideas and suggestions.

STORYTELLING EVENTS

1. ASIAN CHILDREN'S WRITERS & ILLUSTRATORS CONFERENCE (ACWIC)

If you are interested in children's literature, writing for children or illustrating children's books, ACWIC is here! Rosemarie Somaiah of ASN will be presenting a workshop: 'Preparing for Lift-Off - Writing for Storytelling'. For more details please view: <http://bookcouncil.sg> and click on ACWIC for this year's speakers.

2. STORYTELLING WORKSHOP

Dr. Rebecca Isbell, Professor in Early Childhood, USA, and author of numerous books and articles including *Tell It Again* and *Tell It Again 2* will be conducting a workshop on Thursday 19th June on how storytelling is a power literature technique that can positively impact literacy development. For more details please view: [http://storytellingsingapore.com/courses.htm#Storytelling Workshop](http://storytellingsingapore.com/courses.htm#Storytelling_Workshop)

3. STORYTELLERS CIRCLE

The Storytellers Circle is a special interest group of the Society For Reading & Literacy. The next meeting of the Storytellers Circle is on Friday 27th June at 7.00pm. For more details please view: [http://storytellingsingapore.com/events.htm#Storytellers Circle](http://storytellingsingapore.com/events.htm#Storytellers_Circle)

4. FREE STORYTELLING FOR CHILDREN

Come to Kinokuniya Bookstore at Ngee Ann City to listen to Japanese stories told by Sheila Wee of ASN on Saturday 14th June from 3.30pm at the children's book section.

5. FREE STORYTELLING FOR CHILDREN

As part of the 10,000 Fathers event, Kiran Shah of ASN will telling stories suitable for children from pre-school to lower primary on Sunday 15th June from 1.00 – 1.30pm at the Woodlands Regional Library, Level 4, Everest Room.

6. FREE STORYTELLING FOR CHILDREN

Come to SAFRA Toa Payoh for free storytelling by tellers from ASN from 3.00 – 3.30pm held on the first Sunday of the month until Dec 2008. The next session is on Sunday 6th July by Sheila Wee.

7. STORYTELLING FOR ADULTS

MoonShadow Stories will be telling stories for adult audiences themed 'Fractured' on Friday 4th & Saturday 5th July at The Substation. Want an evening's diversion and gain an alternate perspective on life? Let MoonShadow Stories weave you tales of life where the threads seem more warped than weft, tales of twisted passion and desire, tales of things gone wrong and ultimately set right... We guarantee you will leave our realm of story enthralled and mesmerised... For more details please view: <http://moonshadowstories.org>

8. SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL 2008

The SISF 2008 is almost here! From late August to early September it covers Storytelling Showcases of both International and Asian tellers, the Asian Congress of Storytellers with inspiring keynote speakers and wonderful workshops, various Seminars and even Digital Storytelling! Please view <http://bookcouncil.sg/document/SISFADSF08Flyer.pdf> for more details on various storytelling performances and workshops.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

1. BEYOND STORYTELLING 101: EXCLUSIVE STORYTELLING WORKSHOP FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

This special workshop especially for our Associate Members has received rave reviews from current participants. There have been many enquiries about the possibility of conducting a second workshop later on in the year to allow for those who could not take part in May/June. If you are interested in signing up for a new session, please contact Verena Tay directly as places are limited. All current participants will go through a total of 14-hours of coaching and will participate in a storytelling performance organised by the SAS in November. For more information on workshop details: http://www.storytellingsingapore.com/courses.htm#Beyond_Storytelling_101

2. SAS SOCIAL

Our recent Social event was on Friday 16th May at The Substation and attended by Ordinary and Associate Members who not only shared stories but also played Story Card games! Do take a look at www.oh-cards.com to find out more about these beautifully crafted cards that can be used as an ice-breaking activity as well as a stimulus for storytelling for all ages. My favourite set is *1001* with images of The Arabian Nights. Our next Social event is scheduled for Friday 10th October and it will be the last for the year. Do try and come! We're planning an evening of sexy stories! Please view http://storytellingsingapore.com/events.htm#Future_Story_Swaps for more details.

3. SAS RESOURCES

The Association is a member of the National Storytelling Network (USA) and their bi-monthly magazine 'The Storyteller' is available for loan to Ordinary and Associate Members. The latest May/June edition is available for you to read. Sheila Wee's article on mentoring is published in the January/February edition. Please contact Sheila Wee, our Resource Librarian at sheilamwee@yahoo.com if you would like to find out more about this magazine or any other materials available for loan.

4. SAS WEBSITE

Our website has up to date information on storytelling events, benefits offered by our partners as well as contact details for storytellers. Archived newsletters are also available for your perusal. Do visit www.storytellingsingapore.com for more information on your Association.

STORY VEIN

Storytellers are a community. We may be a small community in Singapore, but we are made up of tellers as well as listeners. We have had some new members join us recently and they all ask 'Where do we start?'

All storytellers had to start somewhere, usually at the beginning! You begin by telling one, simple story to either one person or to a few people. Then you try and tell different types of stories in a safe environment that is able to guide you.

Verena Tay's workshop is an example of how an intimate group can provide a platform for aspiring tellers to hone their craft and be prepared for a public performance. Read Sheila Wee's article on

mentoring storytellers to find out how this art began in Singapore and how it has evolved. Attend our Socials to see how we are a very nurturing group that is encouraging to new and fellow tellers.

The Association works hard to provide opportunities for its Ordinary and Associate Members to tell stories to the public. Our little community of tellers and listeners is slowly growing and the art form is garnering a lot of interest.

Take a step back in time and imagine the first community of storytellers from various indigenous tribes sharing their tales, usually about Creation and making sense of the world we live in. Most stories from long, long ago tell us why the Moon is in the sky at night and the Sun at daytime. They tell us why the raven has black feathers while the peacock is multi-hued. Stories explain why might is not always better than wit. They show us how to be careful, they warn us, they pacify us, they assure us.... they do so much for the human soul that when Haroun asked his father, the greatest storyteller ever, "What's the use of stories that aren't even true?" I'm sure he was asking for his father to tell him another story to help him understand his own question.

Happy telling!
Kamini Ramachandran,
President,
Storytelling Association (Singapore)

"We no longer have the opportunity to sit in a group around the fire in the evenings and listen to the tales told by the village storytellers. In exchange we now have a world community that tells its stories by proxy. We can compare and learn about what all humans share, what holds us all together, and we can pass on this knowledge as we have done for centuries."

—Kathleen Ragan