



Catch the Storybug!



Volume 2, Issue 1

March 2009

Latha math dhuibh, (Good day to you)

We have almost parted ways with old man winter and I am ready to welcome Mother Nature, and the many beautiful gifts she will bring. The earth will awaken at the end of the month with the first day of spring, and soon, vibrant flowers will shower the landscape.

Although we are long past the holiday season, March is full of magnificent moments to celebrate: Dolls' Day in Japan, the first day of spring, Women's History Month and of course, my favorite, St. Patrick's Day, when my Irish eyes will be smiling for sure! I offer you some resources to celebrate these days, as well as some additional treasures to give you a head start for Earth Day on April 22.

February offered some lovely storytelling venues for me that ran the gamut from schools to zoos! During winter vacation I shared some stories at the amazing Springfield Museums in Springfield, MA. They offered "A Night at the Museum," where the children were encouraged to explore the fun-packed facilities in their pajamas, then settle in to listen to my program of Spooktacular Tales. We had a ton of fun! Later in the week I shared Tales From the Treasure Chest with a very enthusiastic audience at the beautiful Buttonwood Park Zoo in New Bedford, MA. It is listed as one of the 12 best small zoos in America. Both the museum and zoo are lovely jewels. If you are ever in either area, be sure to stop in.

I ended the month with the spectacular Story Café at ArtWorks last night. We were treated to the funny, thoughtful and warm performance of our featured storyteller Meg Gilman of New Hampshire. Our open mic portion offered the talents of storytellers Carolyn Stearns and Tim Brilliant, singer Sarah Chouinard and the poetry of E. Sparrow. It was an eclectic, invigorating evening, the perfect way to finish February with a flourish!

I hope you can join us on March 14 when we will be regaled with Irish Tales and Music by storyteller Norah Dooley and harpist Susan Miron. Please come for a visit and get your Irish on!

Erin Go Braugh! (Ireland forever!)
Karen Chace
Storyteller/Teaching Artist

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STORY SITES

The flowers will soon be in bloom and that calls for some stories about spring and the sun!

Sun Folklore <http://tinyurl.com/34blrj>

How the Sun Was Rescued <http://tinyurl.com/2uk5sw>

Saving Spring <http://tinyurl.com/yqu9c7>

The Spring Beauty <http://tinyurl.com/2tkbl2>

Why Cats Sit on the Doorstep in the Sun

<http://tinyurl.com/2xga8h>

Kids Web Japan - A number of Japanese folktales for you students to read. Later, they can explore the culture of Japan using different links. <http://tinyurl.com/bqjbur>

Japanese Folk Stories and Fairy Tales Thirty-three folktales collected by Mary F. Nixon-Roulet and published in 1908. You can download the book for your own files. <http://tinyurl.com/ckvg49>

Folk and Fairy Tales of the Irish Peasantry by W.B. Yeats circa 1890. <http://tinyurl.com/bmtw6o>

The Irish Storyteller - Did you ever wonder how Eire got its name? Come read this Celtic legend, meet Irish Chieftains, Queens and more! <http://tinyurl.com/c70xe3>

Women in American Folklore - Heroines, strong women, witches, ghosts and curious girls are ready to welcome you. <http://tinyurl.com/cvur4k>

Celebrate Earth Day on April 22 with these interesting stories.

Earth Cakes, Sky Cakes – Folktale from Cambodia
<http://tinyurl.com/dy6dsv>

When The Earth and Sky Were Married - Folktale from India <http://tinyurl.com/cw34y8>

Earth Care – World Folktales to Talk About

A limited preview of this excellent book by Margaret Read MacDonald. You can read some of the folktales online but I bet you will want a copy of your own.

<http://tinyurl.com/aap7ug>

"The key to wisdom is knowing all the right questions."
John A. Simone Sr.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

St. Patrick's Day Activities - Elementary
<http://teachers.net/lessons/posts/325.html>

Leap into spring with ABC Teach.com Counting games, math facts, printables, word searches and more.
<http://tinyurl.com/bqmmvc>

All About Japanese Hina Dolls <http://tinyurl.com/cxow9f>

Japanese Folktales Lesson Plans for K-8
<http://tinyurl.com/btzck2>

Teacher's Resource Guide: Japanese Art and Culture Outreach Kit - Although you may not be able to borrow the actual kit, there are many helpful curriculum ideas in this guide you may duplicate on your own.
<http://tinyurl.com/cby5p6>

The Month of March: Preschool – K - To teach children about alphabet letters, the weather in March, spatial concepts, opposites and St. Patrick's Day.
<http://tinyurl.com/de3blu>

Distinguished Women of Past and Present - This is truly an amazing site! The stories and additional links offer new insights into the remarkable contributions women have made throughout history categorized by subject matter or name. You could spend a century here and not finish!
<http://www.distinguishedwomen.com/>

Field Trip Earth - A global resource for teachers, students and wildlife proponents offering folktales, educator resources, essays and information on conservation projects around the world.
<http://tinyurl.com/cnmfwk>

GET CREATIVE WITH CRAFTS

St. Patrick's Day Crafts and Printables
<http://tinyurl.com/cxfe9a>

St. Patrick's Day Coloring Pages
<http://tinyurl.com/cy9pwd>

Celebrate Doll Day in Japan!
Japanese Kokeshi Doll <http://tinyurl.com/cscr76>
Origami Doll <http://tinyurl.com/ddo8w2>

Earth Day Crafts - Dig around; there are plenty of crafts here to help you celebrate. <http://tinyurl.com/ba67fb>

Ladybug Rocks - Of course, my favorite!
<http://crafts.kaboose.com/earth-ladybug-rocks.html>

Earth Day Litterbug - Using recycled items help your students make their Earth Day litterbug.
<http://tinyurl.com/d6mpxq>

"Life itself is the most wonderful fairytale of all." - Hans Christian Andersen

BUSINESS NOTES

How to Become Fearless Business Owners in Uncertain Times

Seven great tips from author Robin Fisher-Roffer.
<http://tinyurl.com/dgeovq>

Seven Tax Tips for Businesses and the Self Employed
<http://tinyurl.com/b8pvd4>

Slideshare - Upload your presentations and share them with others. There are thousands of presentations to download, and edit for your use. <http://www.slideshare.net/>

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the things you did. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. . . . Explore. Dream."
- Mark Twain

EDUCATION HIGHWAY

March 1-3 Spiritual Storytelling at Camp Fowler, Speculator, NY with storyteller Marni Gillard: for teachers, ministers, youth leaders. <http://tinyurl.com/aabpy3>

March 20: Sharing the Fire Educational Preconference – Two Workshops:

Story by Story – Building a Student Storytelling Troupe with Karen Chace. Inspire and mentor the next generation of storytellers while building rapport with teachers and administration.

Teacher Tales – Weaving Stories into your Curriculum with Abigail Jefferson. Explore how stories can be used to enrich curriculum, increase literacy, celebrate diversity, and meet curriculum goals. For more information go to: <http://tinyurl.com/bz4lpl>

March 20 -22 Sharing the Fire/The Northeast Storytelling Conference Workshops focused on using storytelling in a wide variety of settings. A preconference on Therapeutic Storytelling and Storytelling in Education is offered as well. <http://www.lanes.org/>

April 24-26 Northlands Storytelling Network Conference - Come to the Midwest for a weekend filled with workshops, swaps, concerts and fringe performances all in a beautiful, rural setting. <http://www.northlands.net/conference.html>

June 22-25 Telling Stories to Children with Judith Black in Marblehead, MA. Morning workshops, afternoon coaching, telling to authentic children, good food and informal gatherings shape these days. Massachusetts PDPs offered. For more information contact Judith Black at jb@storiesalive.com or phone: 781-631-4417 www.tellingstoriestochildren.com

June 28–July 2 Summer Storytelling Institute Retreat in the

Apples 4 the Teacher - Spring Crafts
<http://tinyurl.com/adaz63>

Flowered Hat <http://tinyurl.com/b36hnx>

KinderArt - A Bulletin Board of Spring Flowers - Ages K -
6 <http://tinyurl.com/b9w58r>

Rolling Hills of Western Massachusetts. Go to
www.ronatales.com or call 413-586-0624 for info and Early
Bird Specials! Limited to 14 people; 34 PDP's for
Massachusetts Teachers.

SOMETHING EXTRA

"Neither genius, fame, nor love show the greatness of the soul. Only kindness can do that."
-Jean Baptiste Henri Lacordaire, preacher, journalist and activist (1802-1861)

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This simple yet brilliant idea was started by a teacher. It is an easy way to provide students in need with resources that our public schools often lack. Teachers submit project proposals for materials or experiences their students need to learn and concerned individuals, whom we call Citizen Philanthropists, choose the projects to fund. This is a non-profit agency.
<http://www.donorschoose.org/about/about.html>

Catch the Storybug Newsletter • Karen Chace, Editor • www.storybug.net • storybug@aol.com