

PRESS RELEASE: Riverway Storytelling Festival, May 1-7

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FURTHER INFORMATION AND PRESS PHOTOS:
www.riverwaystorytellingfestival.org



What has 30 storytellers and 26 great storytelling events?

The fourth annual Riverway Storytelling Festival – Where Stories Come Alive!

The festival takes place at locations in Albany and Rensselaer Counties. Twenty-six separate events are planned, including sixteen concerts, workshops for librarians, educators and storytelling aficionados, student performances and school performances.

Riverway Storytelling Festival kicks off on Monday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m. with four evenings of free family storytelling programs at seven public libraries around Albany and Rensselaer Counties.

One hundred twenty area third-graders travel to the New York State Museum on Thursday, May 4 to enjoy storytelling throughout the Museum. On Friday, May 5, librarians, educators and other interested adults learn about storytelling in two workshops at Upper Hudson Library System in Albany.

Friday evening festivities, held at Guilderland Public Library, begin at 7:00 p.m. with "Things That Go Bump in the Night: A Ghost Story Concert for Families" with tales told by three storytellers. At 8:30 p.m., the lights are turned down for "Tales to Keep You Up All Night: A Ghost Story Concert." The stories, told by the five tellers, will be scary stuff, intended for ages 12 and up.

The festival kicks into high gear on Saturday, with various events during the day and two performances in the evening. The site for Saturday morning and afternoon events is Albany Public Library. Two concurrent workshops are offered in the morning. Later, six regional tellers tell stories. Story swaps, where anyone can tell a story, happen during lunch. In the afternoon, there is a family storytelling concert and two additional concurrent workshops.

"Laughin' Night," a funny stories double-header, begins with "Stories that Make You Giggle and Grin," a storytelling concert for families from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. The concert, held at the William K. Sanford Town Library in Colonie, features renowned storytellers Judith Black, Eshu Bumpus, Dan Keding, Mary Murphy, and Bob Reiser. At 8:30, the tellers take the stage for "You Might As Well Laugh: Comical Tales of Being A Grown-up," a storytelling concert for adults.

Sunday starts with two storytelling performances at Albany Visitors Center: a program at 1:00 for families, and another at 1:30 for adults. A storytelling concert for families concludes the festival on Sunday afternoon. The performance, held at the Bethlehem Public Library in Bethlehem, begins at 3:00 p.m. and features Judith Black, Eshu Bumpus, Dan Keding, Mary Murphy, and Bob Reiser.

Riverway Storytelling Festival is a project of Upper Hudson Library System, one of 23 New York State public library systems providing fundamental services to make local libraries better.