



10 Years of Memories

Introduction by Dean Zatkowsky..... 1

Welcome by Brian Bemel..... 2

Storytelling: Art or Craft? by Diane Ferlatte..... 4

Haitian Skiing by Bill Harley..... 5

Spring in Ojai, Rain in Ireland by Niall de Búrca..... 6

The Storyteller Knows Us by Judith Black..... 7

Reflections on Life as an Amateur Storyteller by Donald Davis..... 8

Two Dreams From My Childhood by Andy Irwin..... 10

The Village of Tales by Elizabeth Ellis..... 11

Fire and Story by Hobey Ford..... 12

The Fourth Festival by Jim Cogan..... 13

Village Of Tales For The Fish And The Bird by Kuniko Yamamoto..... 14

Ode to Storytellers by Len Cabral..... 15

The Giant in Us All by Angela Lloyd..... 16

Native Stories & Legends: The Flute by Kevin Locke..... 16

Memory of Ojai by Kevin Cordi..... 17

How The Ojai Festival Got Its Own Story by Bil Lepp..... 18

Reflections on a Visit to Ojai by Ed Stivender.....21

Storying Around in Ojai by Baba Jamal Koram..... 22

Why I Tell Animal Stories by Dovie Thomason..... 23

Telling History by Syd Lieberman..... 24

Forsythia by Glenis Redmond..... 25

Ojai Festival Declared Safe for Herbivores by Willy Clafin..... 26

Reaching Teens by Phil Paddock..... 27

The Deer and The Jaguar Share a House by Antonio Rocha..... 28

Ode to Ojai by Carmen Deedy..... 30

Village of Tales Scrapbook by Dovie Thomason..... 31

The Ugly Chanter by Nyla Fujii-Babb..... 32

Ojai Storytelling Souvenir by Antonio Sacre..... 33

Beyond the Libbey Bowl by Charlotte Blake Alston..... 34

Ojai Reflections by Kalajojo..... 35

Stories of Ojai by Gayle Ross..... 36

Storytelling, the Gift that Keeps on Teaching by Angela Lloyd..... 37

The Little Storytelling Festival That Could by Norma Bennett..... 38



"we put the World on stage"

The Ojai Storytelling Festival is presented by Performances to Grow On
www.OjaiStoryFest.org :: www.PTGO.org :: (805) 646-8907

Welcome

by Brian Bemel, Founder of Performances to Grow On and the Ojai Storytelling Festival

It almost seems like yesterday when a handful of dedicated volunteers launched the very first Ojai Storytelling Festival. We began that festival filled with hope and a little bit of trepidation... none of us knew much about running a festival, but we carried on. Some of us even wondered: Would anyone come?

They came to the first festival and they have continued coming for 9 wonderful years. They came from Ojai and all over Ventura County, they came from all over our state and beyond, they came with children, with teachers, with friends and relatives... they came for the stories.

9 years of festivals, brimming with memories...

- Surviving a rainy weekend, our staff rising to the challenge of setting up new venues and shuttling tellers between them. The rains fell but the stories shined.
- The sounds of thousands of children totally captivated by the stories at our educational outreach performances.
- Strangers becoming friends brought together by stories.
- Solving problems and dreaming up new programs filled with stories.
- Losing one's self and being carried away to another place, another time, on the wings of stories.
- Staying up late and getting up early, all because of stories.

The stories brought us here and we remember...

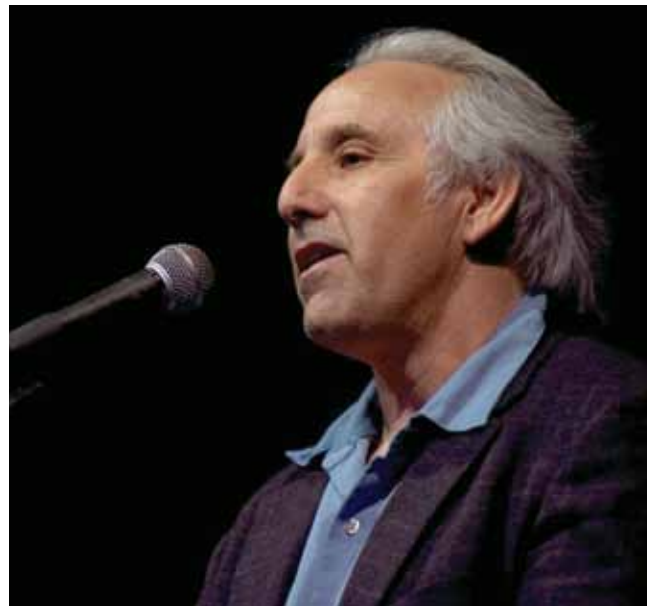
- baptizing a mountain lion in the Ojai Preserve.
- a trickster rabbit teaching us a little wisdom.
- how strawberries brought love to the world.
- what really happens in a school bathroom at recess.

We remember...

- how a thousand folded cranes brought peace to the world.
- what it feels like to ride a rocket ship to Mars and a poem to another world.
- how music can fill the heart with such joy.
- how outsmarting a leprechaun can lead to a great treasure.

We have heard...

- the crack of dawn,
- and a moose spinning yarns
- Greek myths with a Texas twang.



Our senses have danced over these 9 years,

All of us have been touched by the stories.

So here's to the volunteers,

The board members,

The coordinators,

The magnificent tellers

The dedicated listeners

The generous funders

Here's to us all and the Village of Tales we have created.

Here's to the 10th Annual Ojai Storytelling Festival!



Last summer, my husband and I were driving through the Provence region of southern France. It was warm, golden, lush, and fragrant. We stopped in a village to eat lunch. The atmosphere was so sweet; we sat at an outside table for two hours, sipping a glass of wine, basking in the beauty of the setting and the hospitality of our hosts.

"Does this place remind you of one of your favorite spots in the U.S.?" my husband asked.

"Yep," I answered.

And together we both said it: "OJAI, California!!"

Congratulations on your 10th Anniversary Festival!!

*Best wishes,
Barbara McBride-Smith, 2000, 2003, 2007*

I still remember working as a storyteller in Ojai about a dozen years ago when one day Brian Bemel asked, "Do you think we could have a Storytelling Festival here?" I felt my face smile before I realized what was happening.

A Storytelling Festival in Ojai? What could be a better and easier dream? Take a place that is pure delight to visit when nothing special at all is happening... add a fine group of storytellers chosen by Brian, a discerning and detailed organizer... put it all in a little park-contained amphitheater just designed for perfection... and... what do you have?

Ten years later the proof is in the audience! (And in the storytellers, who love to perform here as much as any venue in the country.)

A Storytelling Festival in Ojai? It is as good an event as I am ever a part of at any place in the world. As soon as one festival is over, I begin counting the days until I get to be back again.

*Donald Davis, 2000,
2003, 2005, 2007, 2009*

