



# DISTRICT ONE StoryMasters

## Stories at StoryMasters' Program

We had only 3 stories on our August program, but they were rich and satisfying!

### Stories on August 13, 2023

Jon White	Perfect Love, Part Duo
Margaret Mitchell	A Man of Very Few Words
Jill Vanderweit	Telling Our Own Story



StoryMasters is transitioning. We are evolving. It's a new and exciting beginning for us. Please read the message from our Club Chair, Jill, below. Join us, follow us, and support us! If you would like to sign up, [click here](#).

Our next program is Sunday, September 10, 2023 @ 3-5pm. [Please RSVP](#) and join us! (*Members do not need to RSVP*)

### NEW BEGINNING — Message from Our Club Chair

## Telling Our Own Story

by Jill Vanderweit

We StoryMasters are telling our own story now! As of July 9th, the club decided to leave Toastmasters. But many of us were not quite ready to leave the organization immediately, so we are starting the process by announcing our intentions to the District leaders through our Club Success Plan which explains that we are leaving and why.

Like many of you in StoryMasters, I have been a Toastmaster for many years – 20 as a matter of fact. I believe the program has served me well throughout my career and my retirement years. But I don't think Toastmasters is the right program for *this* club. The Pathways educational program, especially, provides very little guidance to those of us who want to tell stories. I think StoryMasters can do better on our own.

As most of you know, we currently remain in good standing with Toastmasters through September 30. While we had the chance to pay dues at the lesser rate, we asked members to volunteer to extend their membership in Toastmasters through March 31. The minimum to maintain the club's "good standing" status is 8 members, and we have signed up a total of 8 – and will not accept any new members as Toastmasters.

But we *will* accept new StoryMasters members! For the time being, there will be no fee for new and continuing StoryMasters membership. As we work out the details of being an independent club, we will calculate a reasonable, affordable fee for membership.

Over the next several months, we will have time to determine what changes we want to make with the club. Do we want to join another organization? Do we want to run the club informally like a book club? Do we want to adjust our agenda schedule, allowing for longer stories and fewer Toastmasters roles?

The Board is considering these questions, and we want *you* to participate in the decision – and so we'll be contacting you to participate in "fact-finding" committees. This will be Our Story to Tell.

[Watch her story video on YouTube!](#)



STORYMASTERS BOOK

## The Storytelling Bistro

Fifteen diverse StoryMasters offer true personal stories, fanciful fiction, poems, and thoughts in this captivating collection of short works, perfectly sized for tossing into your bag to read at the beach, park, waiting in a business lobby, or enjoying a few quiet moments at home. We hope you enjoy these stories as much as we do!

Copies are available on Amazon: <https://a.co/d/7XPoTcT>



STORYMASTERS WORKSHOP

## Can We Really Talk About That?



After a four-year, pandemic-induced hiatus, StoryMasters presented its 2023 summer workshop, in collaboration with famed storyteller **Barbara H. Clark**. Oh, the 4 hours flew by in a blink! She covered 4 difficult subjects; death, child abuse, domestic violence, and racism, with lectures, her personal stories, and discussions. In post-workshop feedback, comments from attendees included, “I loved the workshop. It was thought-provoking, moving and inspiring,” “Just what I was looking for,” and “I loved the venue and will definitely attend another Barbara Clark storytelling event.”

[Watch a clip on YouTube!](#)

UPCOMING STORYTELLING EVENTS

Many enchanting storytelling events keep coming up. Check them out on [our event page!](#)

Sep 3

Revealed

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/revealed-tickets-659932725547>

7:00 PM PT

Category: Storytelling Concert

Location: Glendale Room

Cost: \$5

The comedy, absurdity, and complexities of being human are revealed by seven storytellers who share true and personal stories hosted by our friend, **Erica Blumfield**.



Sep 10

Adults ONLY Stories

<https://www.artistsstandingstrongtogether.net/event-details/september-2023-adults-only-stories>

6:00 PM PT

Category: Storytelling Concert

Location: Online

Cost: Free

Adults ONLY Stories! Put the kids to bed and enjoy an evening of storytelling and poetry for adult ears! **Ashton Cynthia Clarke**, who did a beautiful job in their August show, will be a tech host in September!



Sep 20

SAC Genre Storytelling ~ Folktales

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sac-story-swap-genre-storytelling-series-folktales-tickets-636813565517>

7:30 PM PT

Category: Storytelling Concert

Location: Online

Cost: \$5-15

Seven or eight storytellers from Storytelling Association of California-affiliated swap groups (often including StoryMasters) come together to share stories. Each month features a different type, or “genre,” of story.



Check out more events at: <https://thestorymasters.org/events/>

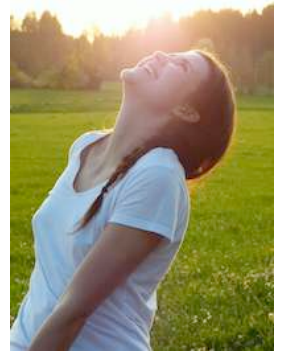
*Disclaimer: Events are posted as a service to our members, friends and the storytelling community. Posting is not an endorsement.*

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

# Got Funny Bones?

Recently, the University of Wurzburg conducted a study about how jokes are received by men and women.

- **neutral**  
*ex. How do you put an elephant into a refrigerator? You open the fridge door, put the elephant inside, and close the door.*
- **male-disparaging that refer to male stereotypes**  
*ex. Why do little boys whine? Because they're practicing to be men.*
- **male-disparaging without reference to male stereotypes**  
*ex. What do you call a man with half a brain? Gifted.*
- **female-disparaging jokes with reference to female stereotypes**  
*ex. Why was it a bad idea to ask Siri "What do women want?" Because she has been talking nonstop for the last two days.*
- **misogynistic jokes without reference to female stereotypes**  
*ex. What do you call a woman with an opinion? Wrong.*



Hey, did anybody laugh at them? Are any of these jokes funny? None of them tickled my funny bone. Is it because I'm a woman? According to the Wurzburg study, women tend to find jokes less funny than men. Also, it appears that some blokes out there are oddly cozy with sexist jokes.

Here's an intriguing twist: men seem to exhibit stronger devaluation tendencies, and more anger, when hearing male-disparaging jokes from a woman. Ah, the complexities of humor and gender dynamics!

The "women aren't funny" stereotype has been around a long time. Is this perception influenced by the long-standing dominance of men in the comedy world? Maybe what's-supposed-to-be-funny is molded by men's perspectives?

## EDITOR'S NOTE

## Newfound Freedom

Once upon a time, I was a nimble mover—light as a feather, going places without a care, no car needed! When I ventured into my current apartment, it was a solo, car-free expedition. Back then, I didn't have much stuff, and life was easy-breezy. But fast forward to now, and I find myself wondering how on earth I'll manage the next move. Even with my trusty Mini, the thought of relocating everything feels like a puzzle waiting to be solved. Does it mean I'm "aging"?

The Konmari method is a softer approach to minimalism from the Zen sect of Buddhism. In Buddhist teachings, equanimity, or peace of mind, is achieved by detaching oneself from the cycle of craving that produces dukkha. So by achieving a mental state where you can detach from all the passions, needs and wants of life, you free yourself and achieve a state of transcendent bliss and well-being.

We often say that we should let go the clothes we didn't wear in the past xx years. But how can I let them go if they're from my mother or grandmother?

My mother was a fashionista—oh, the fabulous array of clothes she owned! People of all ages took cues from her stylish choices. Boutiques even sought her opinion before the masses, for she was the ultimate trendsetter. Naturally, I imagined inheriting her marvelous collection someday.

Yet, when the unexpected blow of stage 4 pancreatic cancer struck last year, she did something unexpected. She let go of it all. Every. Thing. Her jewelry, purses, kimonos, coats, dresses, even her treasured china, collectable coins, and furniture. Everything vanished, like a swirling fashion whirlwind.

Feeling puzzled, I inquired, "Mom, didn't you save anything for me?"

Her response was as enigmatic as her style, "Of course, Miyo. I kept a mourning dress for you. Trends change, and casual is the new chic. You should wear this for my funeral." With a smile, she presented me a sleek, cool black dress.

As I stood there, emotions swirling, I couldn't help but wonder. Perhaps, in her own way, she had found liberation from material possessions. The black dress is the symbol of her newfound freedom.

Rest in peace, mom...

— Miyo Yamauchi