

# THE CLASSIC ART OF STORYTELLING

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UNLV– Fall Semester, 2019

Tuesdays, 11:00am-12:45pm

Instructor: Binnie Tate Wilkin

Explore traditions and developments in oral storytelling as a presentation art. Receive practical instruction about methodologies and skills involved in using stories to communicate. Purposes of the course are to emphasize the importance of storytelling in our lives, to support storytelling as an art and to provide “tools of the trade” for beginning storytellers. The coordinator will demonstrate her unique presentation style - stories with movement and dance.

**Instructor:** Throughout her multifaceted career, Binnie Tate Wilkin has been a storyteller. After completing a Master’s in Library Science at the State University of New York in Albany, Wilkin worked in schools and public libraries. As children’s specialist for the Los Angeles City Library, she received national attention for creative participation in that library’s federally funded outreach project. Later, Ms. Wilkin became a full and part-time lecturer at library schools around the nation including UCLA, UC Berkeley, and Columbia University. She has told stories nationally and internationally. Binnie Wilkin continues to write, lead workshops, lecture and present story programs. Yearly she fulfills a standing invitation to entertain the public at the Los Angeles County Library’s *Juneteenth* celebration held at the A. C. Bilbrew Branch Library. Currently, she is on the roster for The Nevada Arts Council.

# COURSE OUTLINE

## September 17

-INSTRUCTOR STORY (Instructor will begin each day presenting a storytelling sample to demonstrate the variety of stories available for telling and ways they can be used)

-Introduction to course and course materials

Break 11: 45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

-Participant Introductions:

Participants are asked to state their expectations of this course and answer the following question briefly:

How has storytelling been important in your life?

Assignment: Choose an Aesop fable to read aloud or tell at the next session. (Samples provided)

## September 24

-INSTRUCTOR STORY

-Sharing of Aesop fables

Break 11: 45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

-Discussion - How to Select and Learn a Story.

For the next session, please select a story you would like to learn and practice during the rest of the course. This course is designed for learning traditional folk tales and modern literary tales but presentation of a personal story is permitted. Categories of folk tales include fairy tales, tall tales, trickster tales, and more. SOME PARTICIPANTS MAY CHOOSE TO CONCENTRATE ON READING ALOUD MORE EFFECTIVELY.

## October 1

-INSTRUCTOR STORY

-Sharing and reading aloud stories chosen, with comments on the learning process by the instructor.

Break 11: 45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

-Sharing and reading aloud of stories chosen, with comments on the learning process by the instructor.

Assignment: Review and outline story selections on paper, paying attention the SEQUENCE OF ACTION for the October 15<sup>th</sup> session. This is the beginning of the learning process. (Sample outline provided)

## October 8

**\*\*\* TODAYS SESSIONS WILL BE COMPRISED OF *TED TALKS ON STORYTELLING*, WITH BRIEF DISCUSSION\*\*\***

**Jan Blake                    18 minutes**

**Donald Davis 18 minutes**

**Response discussion**

**Break 11: 45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Bill Harley                13 minutes**

**Vanessa Woolf        13 minutes**

**Response discussion**

## October 15

-INSTRUCTOR STORY

-Qualities and techniques of the storyteller developed over time.

**Break 11: 45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m**

-An exercise, using the outlines prepared, which will help participants move forward with learning their story.

Assignment: Prepare to present the FIRST telling of your outlined story at the next session. Notes may be used. Instructor guidance will be given to each individual as needed. FROM THIS SESSION FORWARD, WE WILL LEARN BY TELLING. THE GOAL IS THAT EACH PERSON WILL HAVE LEARNED AT LEAST ONE STORY WELL. IF STORIES ARE SHORT, TWO MAY BE READY FOR PRESENTATION.

## October 22

-INSTRUCTOR STORY

-Final discussion of techniques with emphasis on developing personal STYLE

-Begin storytelling

**Break 11: 45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

-Storytelling

-Storytelling will continue at the next session

### **October 29**

\*\*\*Visiting professional storyteller presenting stories, discussing style and experience  
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Break 11: 45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

-Class storytelling continues

### **November 5**

-INSTRUCTOR STORY

-Modern EMPHASIS on personal storytelling

-**Ted Talk**, followed by discussion of modern and personal storytelling

Break 11: 45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**THIS TIME IS ALLOWED FOR ANYONE WISHING TO TRY TELLING A PERSONAL STORY.**

### **November 12**

-Final story presentations – \*\*\*All stories presented in OUR LAST TWO SESSIONS will be given WRITTEN constructive critiques from the instructor by email.\*\*\*

Break 11: 45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

-Final story presentations.

### **November 19**

-Final story presentations.

**(FAREWELL - REFRESHMENTS AND SOCIAL GATHERING TO BE DISCUSSED)**