

PRESS RELEASE: Riverway Storytelling Festival, April 23-29, 2007

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**FURTHER INFORMATION AND PRESS PHOTOS:
www.riverwaystorytellingfestival.org**



What is five years old, includes 29 libraries, has 30 storytellers and presents 23 great storytelling events?

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

The festival, one of the over 200 storytelling festivals held each year in the US, takes place at locations in Albany and Rensselaer Counties. Twenty-three separate events are planned, including sixteen free concerts, workshops for librarians, educators and storytelling aficionados, student performances and school performances.

Riverway Storytelling Festival kicks off on Monday, April 23 at 4:00 p.m. with daily free family and adult storytelling programs presented by six public libraries around Albany and Rensselaer Counties.

One hundred eighty area third-graders travel to the New York State Museum on Thursday, April 26 to enjoy storytelling throughout the Museum. That evening, our festival revs up a notch when seven outstanding storytellers, **Peggy Cimino, Bairbre McCarthy, Queen Nur, Antonio Rocha, The Storycrafters, and Fran Yardley**, tell "Our Favorite Stories" at Voorheesville Public Library at 7:00 p.m. On Friday, April 27, librarians, educators and other interested adults learn about storytelling in two workshops at Guilderland Public Library.

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 our featured storytellers: **Len Cabral, Queen Nur, Antonio Rocha, The Storycrafters and Fran Yardley**. At 8:30 p.m., the lights are turned down for "Tales That Take You to the Edge: A Ghost Story Concert." The stories, told by our featured storytellers, 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, and a student performance happen also happen during midday. 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 Bush Memorial Center at Sage College in Troy, features **Len Cabral, Queen Nur, Antonio Rocha, The Storycrafters and Fran Yardley**. 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.

A storytelling concert for families concludes the festival on Sunday afternoon. The performance, held at the Bethlehem Public Library in Bethlehem, begins at 2:00 p.m. with **Len Cabral, Queen Nur, Antonio Rocha, The Storycrafters and Fran Yardley**.

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.

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