



HEALING STORY ALLIANCE, INC. ANNUAL REPORT 2024

OVERVIEW OF OUR YEAR

This past year, 2024, was the Healing Story Alliance's second full year of nonprofit status. HSA has increased its outreach, collaborations, and mission driven programming. Importantly HSA is attracting both consistent financial support through ticket sales and donations and a growing audience for its programs in support of storytelling as a healing art.

Organizational Structure

With Not-for-Profit Corporate Status in New York State and Federal Recognition of 501(c) 3 status now in place, the HSA Board of Directors met every few months in 2024 to oversee HSA's fiscal, programmatic, technology, and policy affairs. The Board oversees that all HSA's initiatives are in keeping with HSA's vision as a service organization and its purpose to educate the general public about the applied use of storytelling in the healing arts and professions through live and virtual public cultural programs and online literary resources.

HSA is dedicated to storytelling as a healing art and its programs promote the healing of self, community, society, and the Earth. We aspire to collaborate with other like-minded organizations.

The Board has evolved in 2024 to these current officers:

- President of Board: Heather Forest
- Vice President: Jo Radner
- Secretary: Lani Peterson
- Treasurer: Jim Brulé

Our first annual 990N was filed in a timely fashion with the IRS and a Charities Registration form (CHAR 500) was filed with the NY State Dept of State.

The HSA Board met four times over the course of 2024 and sought to address, clarify, and act on those topics, issues, and concerns raised or discussed in monthly Advisory/Programming Meetings. The HSA Board discussions focused on

- Exploring ways to expand and energize board leadership with a view to lead HSA sustainably into the future.
- Exploring ways to expand HSA's audience and outreach with events and offerings that address current relevant needs and concerns of larger and more diverse populations.

- Exploring ways to expand offerings without increasing burnout of Advisory/Program Committee, staff, and other volunteers.
- Expanding our reach and impact by identifying other organizations which relate to our mission and with whom we could collaborate.



HSA Advisory/Programming Committee 2024

Co~chairs

Heather Forest & Elisa Pearmain

Advisory/Programming Committee Members

Lani Peterson	Penny Post
Elisa Pearmain	Jim Brulé
Sara deBeer	Mike Seliger
Heather Forest	Jo Radner
Galen Brandt	Laura Simms
Karianna Rosenberg	Noa Baum
Joe Doolittle	

The 2024 Advisory/Program Committee was co-led by Elisa Pearmain and Heather Forest. Elisa Pearmain, as programming coordinator, oversaw the smooth functioning of HSA project sub-committees and Heather Forest implemented and marketed HSA programs and, as a liaison to the HSA Board, oversaw HSA's administrative, mission, and policy concerns.

HSA Project Sub~Committee Leadership

- Chair of OARS in the Water: Galen Brandt
- Chair of Kind Stories in Concert: Sara deBeer
 - Kind Story in Concert Curators:
 - Elisa Pearmain
 - Lani Peterson
 - Sara deBeer
- Chair of Special Events: Lani Peterson
- Marketing and Graphic Arts Design Manager: Heather Forest
- 2024 Tech Team: Heather Forest, Jim Brulé, Lani Peterson, Elisa Pearmain, Noa Baum

Healing Story Alliance's Advisory/Program committee currently meets on the third Wednesday of the month from 7:00pm – 9:00pm to design and devise practical ways to implement mission driven programs aligned with HSA's purpose to *educate the general public about the applied use of storytelling in the healing arts and professions through live and virtual public cultural programs and online literary resources*. HSA's mission driven programming promotes the use of storytelling to heal the self, community, society, and the Earth.

To this end thirty-seven cultural programs were produced in 2024 including:

- 23 free OARS in the Water Programs
- 7 free Kind Stories Concerts
- 4 Special Ticketed Events
- 3 Author Interviews

The HSA Website was maintained by Heather Forest and Dot Cleveland. Media content was expanded to include an archive of *Kind Stories in Concert* and an array of available viewing tickets for past programs

The Sustainability Committee: Heather Forest and Lani Peterson worked to assure there is sufficient financial support for the needs of the organization through ticketed events, volunteerism, and the cultivation of donations.

- Special Ticketed Events Curator: Lani Peterson
- Marketing Manager: Heather Forest

Administrative Staff: In 2024 Dot Cleveland continued as the HSA administrator managing bookkeeping and assisting Heather Forest with program marketing tasks. Since her hiring, Dot has accurately maintained HSA's bookkeeping on Quicken, produced monthly fiscal reports, maintained a monthly Mailchimp newsletter, and contributed to overall program promotional outreach to listserves and Facebook pages.

Collaborative Partner with NSN

In keeping with HSA's new initiative to collaborate with other like-minded organizations, HSA served as a collaborative partner to NSN and was included as such on the NSN Website:

NSN Collaborative Network

Organizations that work with NSN to Promote Storytelling



- As part of its commitment to supporting the mission of NSN through collaborative efforts, HSA Board members Lani Peterson and Jo Radner designed the *Healing Story* track for the NSN National Conference in Seattle in July, 2024.

- HSA Board President, Heather Forest, utilized HSA's experience with virtual programming to design and coordinate the 2024 NSN Virtual Conference which was successfully produced as part of the 2024 live National Conference
- HSA board members Elisa Pearmain and Jim Brulé facilitated a virtual Zoom meeting during the conference to build community between virtual attendees.

Our mission as stated on our website has been updated

Healing Story Alliance supports storytelling as a healing art. We provide dynamic programming and online resources to promote the healing of self, community, society, and the Earth. We welcome anyone into our circle who is interested in the healing power of story to bring about positive change. We foster collaborations with other groups and organizations who share our mission.

Keeping our mission central to all decision-making has distinguished the Healing Story Alliance from other storytelling organizations through our mission-driven programming and resource offerings.

Expanded Outreach

In order to provide access, education, and resources to the general public on the topic of healing story, HSA throughout 2024, has worked to expand its outreach through multiple channels including:

The HSA Website: (www.healingstoryalliance.org)

- We have 60-80 visitors per day according to our website statistics program
- Dot Cleveland and Heather Forest have continually updated the website archives with Kind Stories programs as an ongoing community service to our followers.
- Dot Cleveland and Heather Forest have continually updated the website with upcoming program information and easy access links to register for them.

The Mailing List

- Through repeated outreach and reminders, HSA has been growing its mailing list to now include 705 registered followers by the end of 2024. Our registered followers in 2023 were 575. We have increased our followers by 130 in 2024.

HSA Facebook Page

- As manager of the HSA Facebook page, Sara deBeer regularly updates our FB information and maintains outreach with eight other relevant FB pages. We currently have 1.2k followers.



Please join our mailing list
to continue learning about HSA events!

Founded over 25 years ago, Healing Story Alliance is an alliance of artists and practitioners who view storytelling as a healing art. HSA currently offers dynamic programming and online resources that promote healing of the self, community, society, and the earth. We are no longer a member-based organization requiring dues. We welcome anyone into our circle who is interested in the healing power of story to bring about positive change. Join our mailing list to keep abreast of our offerings!

To Join our Mailing List Click Here:

<https://tinyurl.com/yu8btktv>

Oars in the Water 2024

Chair: Galen Brandt

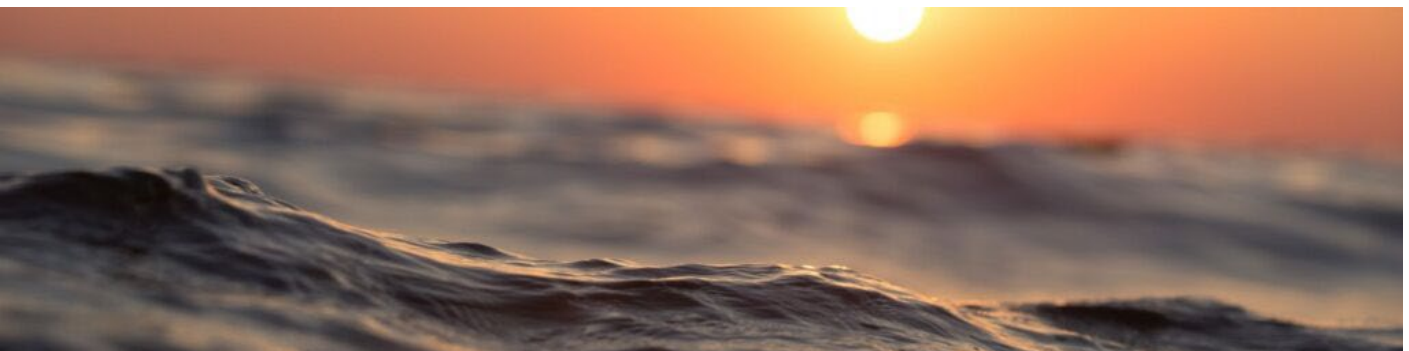
Fostering Global Community and Strengthening Attendee Participation

The Oars in The Water program was conceived in March 2020, a time of global and personal isolation, anxiety, grief and uncertainty, in response to a felt and perceived need among a group of HSA storytellers for a place of comfort, connection, consolation and community. In the intervening five years, as world turbulence persists, HSA has sensed the increasing importance of creating and being in community – especially a safe, welcoming, inspiring community of shared needs, concerns, hopes and values.

In response, OARS in 2024 has strengthened its commitment to offer our attendees an even deeper, richer experience of community, one that invites open, honest communication and participation by all. As a result, our OARS community is flourishing, stronger and more connected than ever. A nationwide and international family of 30 – 50 devoted regular attendees, a steadily increasing number of new attendees and a growing roster of gifted co-hosts participate in online OARS sessions year-round from 7 – 8:30pm EST on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month.

This year, OARS has also committed to and succeeded in increasing the number and variety of attendees who have served as session co-hosts. In 23 sessions, OARS hosts have offered themes that underscore the solace and resilience to be found in journeys, callings, collaborations, gratitude for the wonder and beauty of the natural world, and above all, in the sacred space of story listening and storytelling. Gentle theme-related prompts have inspired meaningful reflection and engagement by attendees in break-out rooms, followed by heartfelt community conversation.

OARS attendees describe OARS as beautiful, meaningful, comforting, poignant, inspirational, affirming, enlightening, powerful, joyful, heart-opening, and renewing – a truly welcoming, participatory community space that offers needed refuge, connection and hope in life's ongoing storms.



OARS Themes and Hosts 2024

Jan. 10: Heather Forest & Lani Peterson (Tech: Elisa)

Journeys

Jan. 24: Karianna Rosenberg & Kristin Pedemonti
(Tech Elisa)

Fire's Magic & Metaphor

Feb. 14: Joe Doolittle & Elisa Pearmain (Tech:
Heather)

Celebrating Love

Feb. 28: Sara deBeer & Anabelle Castano (Tech:
Karianna)

Interpersonnal Translation

March 13: Bob Kanegis & Liz Mangual (Tech: Elisa)

All together Now!

March 27: Jim Brule & Laura Simms (Tech: Noa)

Needed Monsters: The Heart of Transformation

April 10: Kristin Pedemonti & Robin Reichert (Tech
Joe)

Joy in Challenging Times

April 24: Heather Forest & Noa Baum (Tech: Elisa)

Nature's Way

May 8: Elisa Pearmain & Joel Ying (Tech: Jim)

Creating a Safe Space for Story

May 22: Lani Peterson & Jim Brule (Tech: Heather)

Nagi: We are a Swarm of Stories

June 12: Sara deBeer & Renee Emanuel (Tech:
Heather)

Surrounded by Angels

June 26: Penny Post & Carol Ribner (Tech: Jim)

What Bubble are You In?

July 10: Sara deBeer & Sonia Bareja (Tech: Elisa)

Chaos to Clarity

July 24: Karianna Rosenberg & Erin Johnston (Tech:
Heather)

Gratitude for Water

August 14: Heather Forest & Laura Packer (Tech:
Lani)

Resilience

August 28: Lani Peterson & Christine Carlton (Tech:
Heather)

Story's Sacred Space

September 11: Elisa Pearmain & Yvonne Young
(Tech: Jim)

What Calls to You?

September 25: Sara deBeer & Jim Brule (Tech:
Heather)

Welcoming Peace

October 9: Joe Doolittle & Claire Nolan (Tech:
Heather)

Shoulders: Comfort & Solace

October 23: Mike Seliger & Michael D. McCarty (Tech:
Elisa)

Empowering Others Through Our Stories

November 13: Jim Brule & Hears Crow (Tech: Elisa)


Legacy Storytelling

November 27 Heather Forest & Megan Wells (Tech:
Elisa)

Collaboration

December 11 Penny Post & Galen Brandt (Tech: Jim)



Looking to Your North Star



OARS in the Water
Jan. 10th
7 - 8:30pm EST

Journeys



Hosted by
Heather Forest &
Lani Peterson

OARS in the Water
Jan. 24th
7 - 8:30pm EST

*Fire's Magic &
Metaphor*

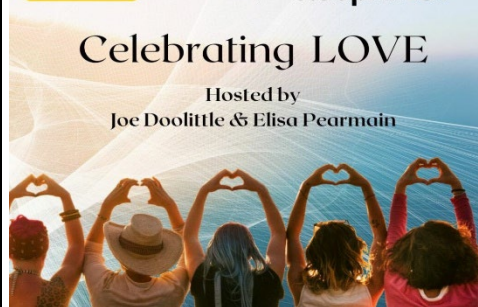
Hosted by
Karianna Rosenberg
Kristin Pedemonti

OARS in the Water
Feb. 14th
7 - 8:30pm EST

Celebrating LOVE

Hosted by
Joe Doolittle & Elisa Pearmain




OARS in the Water
Feb. 28th
7 - 8:30pm EST

Interpersonal Translation

Hosted by
Sara deBeer & Anabelle Castaño




OARS in the Water
March 13th
7 - 8:30pm EST

*All Together Now!
Collaboration*


Hosted by
Bob Kanegis &
Liz Mangual




OARS in the Water
March 27th
7 - 8:30pm EST

*Needed Monsters:
The Heart of
Transformation*


Hosted by
Laura Simms & Jim Brulé

OARS in the Water
April 10th
7 - 8:30pm EDT

*Joy in
Challenging
Times*


Hosted by
Kristin Pedemonti
& Robin Reichert




OARS in the Water
April 24th
7 - 8:30pm EDT

Nature's Way


Hosted by
Heather Forest
& Noa Baum

OARS in the Water
May 8th
7 - 8:30pm EDT

*Creating Safe Space
for Story*


Hosted by
Elisa Pearmain & Joel Ying




OARS in the Water
May 22nd
7 - 8:30pm EDT

*Nagi: We are a
swarm of stories*



Hosted by
Lani Peterson & Jim Brulé

OARS in the Water
June 12th
7 - 8:30pm EDT

*Surrounded
by
Angels*

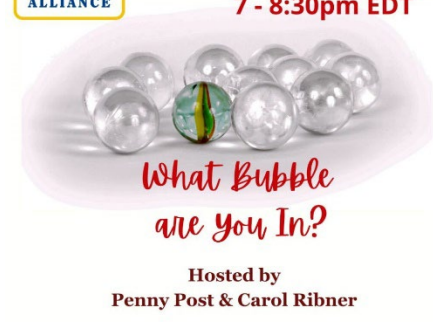
Hosted by
Sara deBeer
& Renee Emanuel





OARS in the Water
June 26th
7 - 8:30pm EDT

*What Bubble
are you In?*

Hosted by
Penny Post & Carol Ribner





OARS in the Water
July 10th
 7 - 8:30pm EDT

Chaos to Clarity

Hosted by
 Sara deBeer
 & Sonia Bareja



OARS in the Water
July 24th
 7 - 8:30pm EDT

**Gratitude
 for
 Water**

Hosted by
 Karianna Rosenberg
 & Erin Johnston



OARS in the Water
August 10th
 7 - 8:30pm EDT

Resilience


Hosted by
 Heather Forest
 & Laura Packer



OARS in the Water
August 28th
 7 - 8:30pm EDT

Story's Sacred Space

Hosted by
 Lani Peterson
 & Christine Carlton



OARS in the Water
September 11th
 7 - 8:30pm EDT

What Calls to You?

Hosted by
 Elisa Pearmain
 &
 Yvonne Young



OARS in the Water
September 25th
 7 - 8:30pm EDT

**Welcoming
 Peace**

Hosted by
 Sara deBeer
 & Jennifer Zunikoff



OARS in the Water
October 9th
 7 - 8:30pm EDT

**Shoulders:
 Comfort and Solace**

Hosted by
 Joe Doolittle & Claire Nolan



OARS in the Water
October 23th
 7 - 8:30pm EDT

**EMPOWERING
 OTHERS
 THROUGH
 (OUR) STORIES**

Hosted by
 Mike Seliger and Michael D. McCarty



OARS in the Water
November 13th
 7 - 8:30pm EST

**Legacy
 Storytelling**

Hosted by Jim Brulé & Hears Crow



OARS in the Water
November 27th
 7 - 8:30pm EST

Collaboration

Hosted by
 Heather Forest & Megan Wells



OARS in the Water
December 11th
 7 - 8:30pm EST

**Looking to Your
 North Star**

Hosted by
 Penny Post & Galen Brandt

OARS graphics have been designed by Heather Forest in support of each session's themes.

Kind Stories in Concert Report 2024

Chair: Sara deBeer

“Kind Stories in Concert” is a monthly program offered by HSA, a special gathering to share and explore stories of kindness in its many facets and forms. Through folk tales and personal stories, we dive deeply into multiple experiences of kindness. During the year of 2024, we presented 7 programs. An average of 144 people registered for each free concert. The 42 presenters included both men and women; 18 of the presenters were POC. I'd like to quote the responses of audience members to capture the nature of Kind Stories in Concert; here are some of their words.

Thank you all for such heart-expanding stories of such kindness, humanity, generosity and love shared.

BEAUTIFUL heartwarming stories! Thank-you for reminding us there is good in the world!

Thanks so much everyone, for feeding head, heart and soul.

What an EXQUISITE evening!!! Thank you beautiful generous tellers for connecting us with our humanity in these dark times. Thank you for such amazing stories of kindness offered and received... I needed this. Thank you!

My heart is so full, my eyes have tears, and I don't have words to express all that I feel. Thank you. So powerful,

As well as providing attendees with these powerful and heart-warming concerts, we maintain an archive on our website of all the Kind Stories concerts we have produced since 2021. These uplifting programs are all free and open to the public. We are currently exploring ways to share this rich archive of *Kind Stories in Concert* programs with community organizations.

The curators and managers of these programs are Elisa Pearmain, Lani Peterson, and Sara DeBeer. All performers, both seasoned and community, have graciously donated their services to this community service effort.

KIND STORIES IN CONCERT 2024

THE HEALING STORY ALLIANCE PRESENTS

KIND STORIES IN CONCERT

LISTEN, SHARE, AND REFLECT ON STORIES OF KINDNESS GIVEN, KINDNESS RECEIVED

Emcee



MEGAN WELLS

**SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 4TH
7-8:30PM EST**

Community Tellers



COMPASSION ARTS



ANDY OFFUTT IRWIN



CONNIE REGAN-BLAKE



GAURI RAJE



**Free: Registration Required
Donations Welcome!**

THE HEALING STORY ALLIANCE PRESENTS

KIND STORIES IN CONCERT

LISTEN, SHARE, AND REFLECT ON STORIES OF KINDNESS GIVEN, KINDNESS RECEIVED

Emcee



SHIELA ARNOLD

**SUNDAY
MARCH 3RD
7-8:30PM EST**

Community Tellers



JUDY MROCZKA



MURIEL CADET



LAURA PACKER



GALEN BRANDT



STEVEN HOBBS



**Free: Registration Required
Donations Welcome!**

THE HEALING STORY ALLIANCE PRESENTS

KIND STORIES IN CONCERT

LISTEN, SHARE, AND REFLECT ON STORIES OF KINDNESS GIVEN, KINDNESS RECEIVED

Emcee



REGI CARPENTER

**SUNDAY
APRIL 7TH
7-8:30PM EST**

Community Tellers



MONA SEERVAI



DIANE ANDREWS



ROBIN MOORE



AI-LIN CHUAH



ONI LASANA



**Free: Registration Required
Donations Welcome!**

THE HEALING STORY ALLIANCE PRESENTS

KIND STORIES IN CONCERT

LISTEN, SHARE, AND REFLECT ON STORIES OF KINDNESS GIVEN, KINDNESS RECEIVED



Emcee



USHA VENKATRAMAN

**SUNDAY
MAY 5TH
7-8:30PM EST**

Community Tellers



MARY BROMLEY



KEONA LEWIS



DONALD DAVIS



JOY KELLY




LEE-ELLEN MARVIN

**Free: Registration Required
Donations Welcome!**


THE HEALING STORY ALLIANCE PRESENTS

KIND STORIES IN CONCERT

LISTEN, SHARE, AND REFLECT ON STORIES OF KINDNESS GIVEN, KINDNESS RECEIVED



Emcee




LEE-ELLEN MARVIN

**SUNDAY
OCTOBER 6TH
7-8:30PM EDT**


Community Tellers




NESTOR GOMEZ




EVA ABRAM



NITIN THILAGAN



ANNE SHROEDER



BOWEN LEE

**Free: Registration Required
Donations Welcome!**

THE HEALING STORY ALLIANCE PRESENTS

KIND STORIES IN CONCERT

LISTEN, SHARE, AND REFLECT ON STORIES OF KINDNESS GIVEN, KINDNESS RECEIVED



Emcee



BOB KANEGIS

**SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 3
7-8:30PM EST**

Community Tellers



ADAM BOOTH



CINDY RIVKA MARSHALL



STU ERVIN



WHITTIER MIKKELSEN



LISA WILLIAMS

**Free: Registration Required
Donations Welcome!**

THE HEALING STORY ALLIANCE PRESENTS

KIND STORIES IN CONCERT



LISTEN, SHARE, AND REFLECT ON STORIES
OF KINDNESS GIVEN, KINDNESS RECEIVED

Emcee



VALENTINA ORTIZ

SUNDAY

DECEMBER 1

7-8:30PM EST

Community Tellers



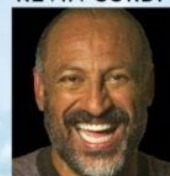
MAXWELL WASHINGTON



ANA AREVALO



KEVIN CORDI



DEREK BURROWS



JANICE DEL NEGRO

**Free: Registration Required
Donations Welcome!**

SPECIAL EVENTS OVERVIEW 2024

Chair: Lani Peterson

In its full second year of being a non-profit, HSA has continued to remain solvent through offering fee-based specially curated Special Event Programming to its followers. Each special event was carefully chosen to meet our mission of providing programming and resources to promote the healing of self, community, society, and the Earth. All events are priced with a sliding fee scale to ensure accessibility to people of all levels and means. Need-based scholarships are also available.

Simultaneously, presenters and facilitators are consulted prior to their engagement in a discussion of fair compensation, leading each special event to result in income for both the facilitator as well as for HSA. Over the course of 2024, 397 people purchased tickets to participate in one of The Healing Story Alliance's Special Events.

Lastly, several presenters in 2024 agreed to have their event recorded, resulting in a secondary viewing ticket, allowing followers to view the special event at their leisure at any point in the future. These viewing tickets have provided an ongoing income source for both HSA and the facilitators/presenters. Over the course of 2024, 59 viewing tickets were sold.

Types of Events

Special events can include concerts, workshops, lectures, interviews, panels, or webinars in the healing story areas of applied health and healing for the mind, body, spirit, social justice, community building, environmental/nature connections, and creativity and healing. Within the 2024 time period, seven special events occurred, including one concert, three workshops, and three author interviews. Below are summaries of the events and their impact.

2024 Lineup of Special Events

January 7, 2024
Women's Concert

HSA
HEALING
STORY
ALLIANCE

Women's Voices:
Healing Stories Concert

Tickets:
\$15-\$40

A Fundraiser for HSA
January 7, 2024
7:00pm-8:30pm EST

EMCEE

Laura Simms

Penny Post

Karianna Rosenberg

Elisa Pearmain

Heather Forest

Noa Baum

Lani Peterson

Sara deBeer

On the evening of January 7th, HSA hosted a fundraising women's concert with Laura Simms as the emcee. Female members of HSA's Advisory Committee shared a variety of personal narratives and folk tales on the theme of strong

women. Storytellers for the evening included: Noa Baum, Sara deBeer, Heather Forest, Elisa Pearmain, Lani Peterson, Penny Post, and Karianna Rosenberg.

March 10, 2024
Navigating Controversial Conversations Workshop



As the political campaign heated up and divisive conversations continued along party lines, HSA offered a workshop based on the work of Braver Angels. Under the guidance of skilled facilitators Reena Bernards and Tom Smerling,

workshop participants were guided to learn and practice skills to manage controversial conversations in the family and beyond. As they promised, “if you want to preserve important relationships while still being true to your values and political beliefs, this workshop is for you!” Reena and Tom not only allowed us to create a viewing ticket for their workshop that others could continue to learn from it and also donated a valuable hands-on manual guide that can be used as a resource for all our followers.

Reena Bernards, works as a family therapist, specializing in relationship connections, inter-cultural families, and healing from trauma. She is certified in Emotionally Focused Therapy, as well as an AAMFT approved supervisor. She has lectured on “Responding Empathically to Survivors of Trauma” for the National Institutes of Health Office of Intramural Training and Education. Reena also works as a facilitator of inter-group dialogue and a trainer in diversity. She created the Common Ground Workshop for Braver Angels, which brings liberals and conservatives together for constructive dialogue. Reena brings the lens of attachment as a key human motivator to her therapy practice, as well as to her inter-group work.

Tom Smerling has had a long career in foreign and domestic policy. He was the founder of Project Nishma, a national organization that organized American Jewish leaders to advocate for more proactive U.S. peace diplomacy. He led several delegations of Jewish leaders to Jordan, Syria, Egypt, the West Bank and Gaza. After merging Nishma with Israel Policy Forum, he organized dialogues between Jewish leaders, Syrian-Americans, and Iranian academics. Tom subsequently worked in strategic planning for the Ocean Service of NOAA (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Agency). Most recently, Tom has held a variety of national volunteer positions with Braver Angels, which brings together liberals and conservatives for mutual understanding.

October 30. 2024

Persephone's Choice Workshop: A Sacred Story Journey into the power of choice, sovereignty and the mythic imagination



Persephone's Choice

**A Sacred Story Workshop
into the power of sovereignty
and the mythic imagination.**

with

Jacqui Bushell

October 30th

7pm - 9pm EDT

\$25-\$75 (pay what you are able)

In October, we were fortunate enough to have Australian storyteller and mythic explorer, Jacqui Bushell lead us into a deep exploration of the myth of Persephone. "Trace the heartline of this ancient myth

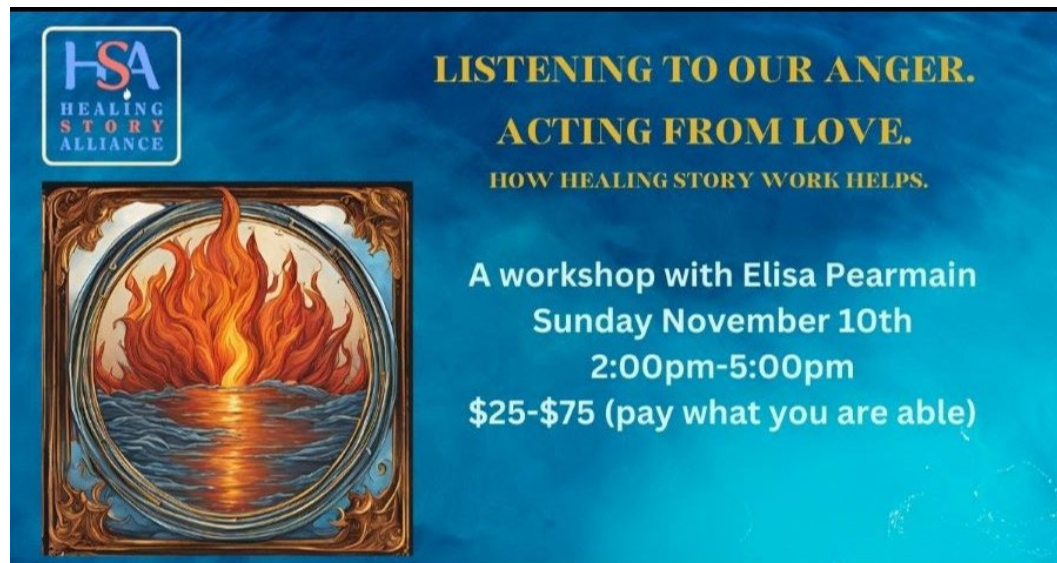
and what its metaphors and symbols inspire in your own life. Persephone's choice to eat the pomegranate seeds is a powerful pivotal moment within this ancient teaching story. Pulled in many directions by others, she must discover her powers of autonomy and sovereignty. Shedding naivety, she becomes a queen knowing the mysteries of life, death, and rebirth. When Persephone emerges in Spring's soft light, she carries with her the six seeds of new life. Her wisdom can also be your wisdom. To what will you say yes in life? What ripens for you in the hidden darkness of winter? This sacred story is a potent journey of claiming your innate authority, aligning yourself with your inner core of wise knowing and creative vision."

Jacqui Bushell has spent her life dancing with the mythic imagination, drawing on the wisdom of fairy tales and her work as a spiritual herbalist who listens to the voices and stories in the land. As a writer and speaker, she passionately encourages others to explore their own mythology at the borderlands of psyche, body, culture, and landscape. For 30 years, Jacqui has facilitated women's circles, ceremonies, retreats, workshops, and courses in Australia and internationally.

She guides people in awakening their creative soul essence through a deep connection with the mysteries of the earth, stories, and their own sacred nature. Bridging a broad range of skills—plant spirit alchemy, energetic healing, history and mythic philosophy, embodiment practices, and journey work—Jacqui inspires transformational shifts in how people see themselves and their world. Her empowering, experiential work invites you to come home to a profound sense of belonging and kinship with nature.

Nov 10.2024

Listening to our Anger Workshop



In November, just after the 2024 election, Elisa Pearmain offered a timely workshop on Listening to Our Anger. Here is her description of the workshop:

“Anger is an uncomfortable, often taboo, sometimes dangerous, and very necessary emotion. It informs us when our personal needs are not being met, when there is injustice, and when action is required. Anger often covers painful emotions, such as grief, powerlessness, shame, and fear. Understanding how our anger is trying to help us is a crucial step in the forgiveness/healing process. By listening to our anger’s stories with compassion and curiosity, we connect to what is important to us, and live more authentically.”

Elisa Pearmain: began her storytelling career by working for ten years as a Storyteller in Residence in the Boston Public Schools. There she came to appreciate and tell stories from the many diverse cultures that the children represented. Elisa completed her Master’s in Education in 1988 at Lesley University in the Creative Arts in Learning program with a concentration in Storytelling. She went on to teach for Lesley College through their national and local Creative Arts in Learning Master’s program for 11 years, helping teachers to become storytellers, and integrating story into every aspect of the curriculum and classroom culture. Elisa published her first book *Doorways to the Soul: 52 Wisdom Tales from around the World* in 1998. It won the Storytelling World Honor Award for Anthologies in 1999.

Elisa’s second book *Once Upon a Time: Storytelling to Teach Character and Prevent Bullying. Lessons from 99 multicultural folk tales for grades K-8.* (Character Development Group) was published in 2006, and won the Storytelling World Honor Award for Special Resources in 1997. Additionally, she recently recorded a double CD of stories and commentary on The Forgiveness Process.

Elisa also has a Master’s degree in counseling and is a licensed mental health counselor, with a private practice in Concord, MA.

AUTHOR INTERVIEW SERIES 2024

In July, HSA introduced a new author's interview series entitled: **"When Storytellers Write About Healing"**. Live on ZOOM, through interviews and audience Q and A, we invited interviewers with a background in healing to meet with different authors to explore together their insights into the unique and powerful relationship between storytelling and healing. In our initial season, we successfully presented three different author interviews, from different disciplines and perspectives, deepening our understanding of what healing means, how it functions, and how storytelling can play a central role in the healing process.

July 31.2024

Laura Simms Author Interview

We kicked off our author's interview series with Jim Brule interviewing noted storyteller and author Laura Simms about her book, "Our Secret Territory: The Essence of Storytelling." Laura shared the inspirations and experiences that shaped her book, offering valuable insights into storytelling as a transformative and healing art. The conversation explored the depths of creativity, the connection between storyteller and audience, and the therapeutic impact of sharing stories.

Laura Simms is an acclaimed storyteller who The New York Times has called a major force in the revival of storytelling in America. Laura's way of telling a story allows the mind of the listener to rest in a realm of imagination beyond thought, and stimulates its faculties of kindness and relationship. In this book she examines the spiritual and social aspects of storytelling, and its process of engagement.

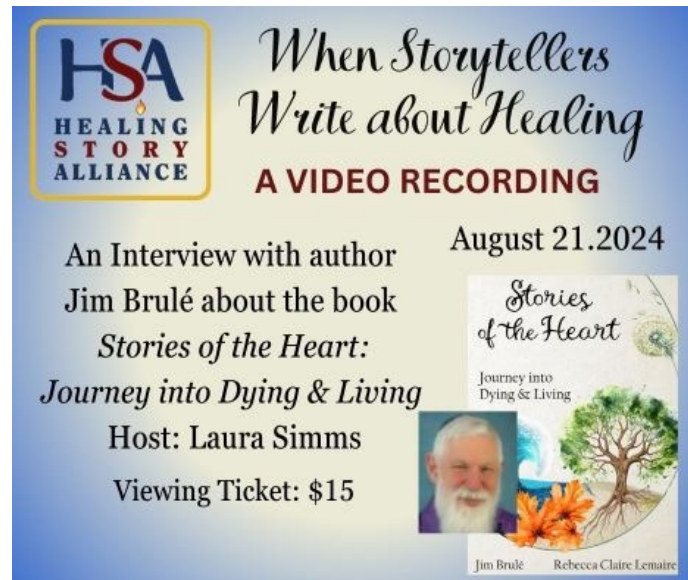


Aug. 21.2024

Jim Brule Author Interview

In August, we flipped roles, giving Laura Simms an opportunity to interview Jim Brule about his own book, "Stories of the Heart: Journey into Dying and Living". Co-authored with Rebecca Lemaire, this beautifully curated book of eighteen stories focuses on the dying and living, grief and healing.

Jim Brulé is a multifaceted individual whose life's work revolves around transformational storytelling, spiritual exploration, and end-of-life care. His life is a testament to the power of storytelling as a tool for healing, spiritual growth, and fostering understanding in a diverse world. His journey from a family therapist to a spiritual storyteller, death doula, and spiritual guide reflects a lifelong commitment to open-hearted healing and service. His motto, "The right story told in the right way with an open heart can heal wounds and change lives," encapsulates the essence of his life's work.



Dec 8. 2024

Noa Baum Author Interview

We finished out the year with Jo Radner interviewing Noa Baum about her book *"A Land Twice Promised: An Israeli Woman's Quest for Peace."*

A Land Twice Promised delves into the heart of one of the world's most enduring and complex conflicts. Baum's deeply personal memoir recounts her journey from girlhood in post-Holocaust Israel to her adult encounter with "the other." With honesty, compassion, and humor, she captures the drama of a nation at war and her discovery of humanity in the enemy. Winner of the 2017 Anne Izard Storytellers' Choice Award, among others, this compelling memoir demonstrates the transformative power of art and challenges each reader to take the first step toward peace.

Noa Baum grew up in Jerusalem in the shadow of the ancestral traumas of the holocaust and ongoing wars. Stories of the past and fear of annihilation in the wars of the '60s, '70s, and '80s shaped her perceptions and identity. In America, she met a Palestinian woman who had grown up under Israeli Occupation, and as they shared memories of war years in Jerusalem, an unlikely friendship blossomed.

Noa holds a BFA in theater from Tel Aviv University, was an actress with the Khan Repertory Theater of Jerusalem and studied with acclaimed acting teacher Uta Hagen in NY. She holds a Master of Arts in Educational Theater and Drama Therapy from New York University (NYU) and received a Graduate Fellowship working in inner city schools from C.A.T., (Creative Arts Team) the Theater in Education Company of NYU.

A sought-out performer, speaker, and trainer, Noa offers a unique approach to storytelling in communities and organizations. Since 1982, she has inspired and educated audiences of all ages with her performances, innovative keynotes, and transformative workshops.



*When Storytellers
Write about Healing*
An Author Interview Series
Video Recording

An Interview with
Noa Baum about her book
*A Land Twice Promised:
An Israeli Woman's Quest
for Peace*
Facilitator: Jo Radner



OUR 2024 FISCAL STORY

Dec 31, 2024 marks the end of HSA's first full year of operation as a 501 c 3 c not for profit cultural arts organization. We met our expenses with box office and donations. Total Income was \$13,503.87. Total Expense was \$10,010.58. Net for the year was a profit of \$3493.29. Total end of year assets in the bank are currently \$20,034.11

Healing Story Alliance, Inc. Financial Statement (January 1, 2024-December 31, 2024)

UNEARNED INCOME

Donations	5,679.87
• HSA Donations	5,679.87
Kind Stories in Concert	1,776.99
OARS in the Water	1,719.00
Special Events	141.00
Other Donations (General)	2,042.88

TOTAL UNEARNED INCOME 5,679.87

EARNED INCOME

Box Office	7,824.00
• Special Events	5,139.00
Women's Voices	1,083.00
Navigating Controversial Conversations	1,145.00
Persephone's Choice	1,631.00
Listening to Anger	560.00
Broken Mirror	720.00
• Interview Series	2,190.00
Simms	945.00
Brule	630.00
Baum	615.00
• Recording Sales	495.00
Social Action	60.00
Heroine's Journey	75.00
Bridging Racial Divides	40.00
Women's Voices	255.00
Simms Interview	30.00
Brule Interview	35.00

TOTAL EARNED INCOME 7,824

TOTAL EARNED & UNEARNED INCOME 13,503.87

EXPENSES

• Bank Fees & Service Charges	179.95
• Office	103.25
fees	3.25
Professional Memberships	100.00
• Payments to individuals	7,251.31
Administrative	5,649.75
Presenters	1,601.56
• Technology	2,476.07
Subscriptions	677.90
MailChimp	318.00
Zoom	359.90

Website	1,798.17
GoDaddy	23.17
Kinsta Hosting.....	350.00
Tadpole.....	1,425.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	10,010.58
OVERALL NET	3,493.29

2024 INCOME and EXPENSE TOTALS

Cash Income	
• HSA Donations	5,679.87
• Box Office	7,824
Total Cash income 2023	13,503.87
Total Cash Expenses	10,010.58
Net	3,493.29

2023-2024 Net Worth Cash Flow

Assets Dec. 31,2023	16,540.82
Assets Dec.312024	20,034.11
Net increase.....	3,493.29

OUR FUTURE STORY

As of Dec.31,2024 we have successfully completed our second full year as an IRS 501 c 3 cultural arts organization. With our dedicated team of volunteers and our small paid administrative staff to help with bookkeeping and promotion (Dot Cleveland), Healing Story Alliance is well positioned to continue its service work in 2025.

OARS in the Water and *Kind Stories in Concert* are to continue in 2025. Kind Stories will have a season from October to May. OARS in the Water will continue bi-monthly. New Special Ticketed Events are also on the horizon. As well as being mission aligned, these ticketed events contribute to our sustainability and produce additional income beyond our ongoing flow of small donations. Upcoming will be a solo concert by spoken word poet Anubis and a keynote by noted environmentalist Bill McKibben.

Aspirations for 2025 include:

- To continue the Author Interview Series in 2025. An interview with Dr. Annie Brewster and Dan Yashinsky are already in the planning stages.
- To continue to expand the base of co-hosts for OARS by drawing from the regularly attending community members.
- To continue to expand outreach to find more community tellers for Kind Stories in Concert.
- To look ahead and plan to expand our Special Ticketed Events to include a wide range of mission driven topics such as diversity, social justice, and the environment.

We are looking forward in 2025 to continuing and expanding the projects and programs we have already started. Plus, we are looking forward to exploring the possibility of utilizing the video archive of Kind Stories in new and creative ways.

Looking ahead to secure our sustainability, we aspire to explore funding opportunities such as grants.

