

Evening Story Concerts

There is nothing like listening to a good story, to hear firsthand about a personal experience or a tale passed down through generations in a community. On two nights, storytellers from the Upper Midwest will share their stories of contact and community, of life-changing events and humorous encounters.

Friday Night - *Stories of Cultural Contact*

Moderator: Rick March

The Minnesota Frontier: Elaine Wynne grew up in Minnesota, but her mother spoke only German with her until Elaine started school. Elaine will share stories from her family's immigrant experience and from her own childhood in a community of Scandinavian, German and Croatian immigrants on the edge of an Ojibwe reservation (Red Lake).

African-American Internal Migration: Jeffrey Lewis will tell stories of his parents and grandparents who participated in the largest internal migration in the US of Blacks from the South to the North, and of his own experiences living with Mexican immigrants both in California and Oaxaca/Mexico.

Growing Up Amish-Mennonite: Growing up in an Amish-Mennonite household with Deutsch (Pennsylvania German) as his first language, Mark Wagler learned stories from his parents, other relatives and his surrounding community. He will share these stories and stories of his own experiences.

Hmong Adapting to a New World: Mai Zong Vue will share stories about Hmong culture and her own family who came to Wisconsin from a refugee camp in Thailand. Hmong who were the first to come to this state in 1976 are now welcoming a new group of Hmong immigrants.

Saturday Night - *Community and Humor in Stories*

Moderator: Mark Wagler

Ballads from the Minnesota Iron Range: Having his roots in northern Minnesota, John Berquist shares dialect songs and stories from this region's pan-Scandinavian mining communities.

Ojibwe Stories: Earl Otchingwanigan (Nyholm) will tell stories from his community, the Keeweenaw Bay reservation at Baraga/L'Anse, Michigan. His stories range from moral tales to Indian jokes, including many traditional tales he learned from his relatives.

Milwaukee in the 1930s and 40s: Elfriede Haese grew up in the 1930s in one of

Milwaukee's "mixed" neighborhoods of Germans, Italians and Greeks. Her stories describe a vibrant city of cultural interaction and exchange and the role of Milwaukee's famous taverns in bringing families and communities together.

Country and Suburbia: Larry Johnson was born into a small rural community of Swedish American immigrants outside Minneapolis. He tells stories of encounters and changes as he witnesses the transformation of his home "in the jungle" into "a freeway to the mall."

From the Ozarks to Wisconsin: August Rubrecht grew up in the Ozarks and now lives in northern Wisconsin. His stories about trading life stock and dogs reflect a typical give-and-take found in rural communities.