

Andrew Feldstein



Maestro

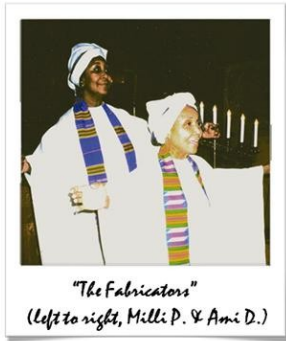
Performers Celebrate the Art of Storytelling



Judy Sima



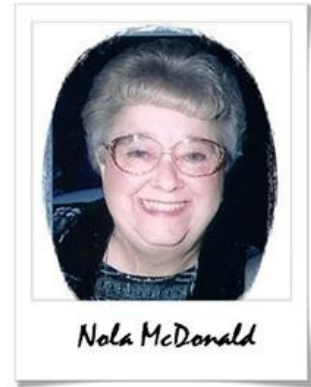
Loretta Vitek



"The Fabricators"
(left to right, Milli P. & Ami D.)



Barbara Schutzgruber



Nola McDonald

The Detroit Story League's annual fall performance in Livonia is part of a worldwide event for adults — and that's no tall tale. When the organization's six storytellers take the stage Friday, Nov. 18 in the Livonia Civic Center Library, performers around the globe will be doing the same in their own locales with the same purpose in mind: to foster and preserve the oral tradition of storytelling and build community support for storytelling.

"Tellabration," launched 23 years ago in Connecticut, bonds storytellers in spirit as they weave their yarns the same day, generally the Saturday closest to Thanksgiving Day.

Detroit Story League's event will start with a silent auction at 6 p.m., followed by storytelling at 7 p.m. and refresh-

ments served at 8:45 p.m. All proceeds from the \$5 admission will benefit the Detroit Story League's scholarship fund.

Storytellers this year will include Judy Sima, Barbara Schutzgruber, Nola McDonald, Loretta Vitek, and a duo, The Fabricators. Andrew Feldstein serves as story concert maestro. "Our group is diverse and that's what we pride ourselves on," said Barbara Shapiro, who co-chairs the event. "Loretta tells dragon stories and she's an expert in Italian stories.

Barbara is a weaver. She has a strong background in education and does Scottish and English folk tales, and string stories. Judy is very well-rounded. She has written a book on storytelling." McDonald is known for poetic stories and The Fabricators,

known individually as "Milli P." and "Ami D.," bring stories of famous African Americans to life. As maestro, Feldstein will introduce the storytellers and keep the program moving.

Shapiro hopes Tellabration will inspire attendees to learn more about storytelling by attending a Detroit Story League meeting. The group meets the third Saturday of the month and will gather for stories and a workshop at noon the day after Tellabration, Saturday, Nov. 19, at the Redford Township Library, 25320 West Six Mile, between Beech Daly and Telegraph.

Participants bring their own lunch and the organization supplies dessert. Sima will lead a workshop on feedback and critiques. The Fabricators and Jean Gruenwald will tell stories.

The Detroit Story League allows potential members to attend three meetings before joining the group. Mentors are available to help them hone their storytelling skills and monthly workshops offer advice on a variety of topics.

"You don't read stories, you tell them. It can be scary," Shapiro noted. "We give them tips." New members aren't required to tell a story until after they've logged their first year with the group. The organization offers lots of opportunities for public performance. "Our organization is a service organization and we are available to tell in nursing homes," Shapiro said. "Many of us go to schools and tell in classrooms. We also tell in libraries and at camp sites. We go wherever we're needed."