

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# Sanctuary: **PRESENT TENSE**



In this dynamic performance, Northstar Storytelling combines founders of the nationwide storytelling renaissance movement with tellers initiating new forms of spoken word – from Slam to Fringe and the fringes of Fringe and points in between. We are excited to explore, using traditional forms of storytelling itself, the notion of safety, refuge, sacred and profane space and the notion of sanctuary as it relates to tension.

Each performance will be anchored by three tellers, Howard Lieberman, Diego Vázquez and Elaine Wynne, and will include a different guest teller.

## **CAST/BIOS AND STORY THEMES:**

**Howard Lieberman** is a poet, storyteller, spoken word performance artist and traditional Irish ceili dancer. He promises he won't sing on stage. He will tell his story in a voice nuanced by New York and Chicago accents. A power outage leads to a connection with another kind of power. You'll see.....

**Diego Vázquez, Jr.** founded the MN Poetry Slam and is the author of *Growing Through the Ugly* (WW. Norton), co-author of *Twelve Branches: St. Paul Stories* (Coffee House Press) and the editor of two COMPAS anthologies. His next novel, *The Fat-Brush Painter*, is forthcoming. His story, "From the Silence of Immigrant Angels" breaks this silence.

**Elaine Wynne** is a founding mother of the storytelling renaissance in the Midwest. Her gifted teaching shaped and continues to shape generations of storytellers. She currently teaches storytelling for parents, grandparents and other activists. Her Vision Quest story takes listeners from terror to awe.

## GUEST TELLERS:

**Katie Knutson** (Saturday, May 24 @ 2:30) – [www.ripplingstories.com](http://www.ripplingstories.com)  
MN Rep to Northlands Storytelling Network, Past President of Northstar, dynamic new voice and presence in the performing arts community, this playwright, poet, actress will take us through the dangers of teen years, offer a crash course in shoplifting and make us laugh.

**Duke Addicks** ( Tuesday, May 27 @ 5:30) – [www.dukeaddicksstoryteller.com](http://www.dukeaddicksstoryteller.com)  
Beloved Son of the Euharlee Cherokee of the mountains of Northwest Georgia, Duke is a lifelong resident of the Twin Cities and a founder of Northstar. His family connection with Thunderbird is personal and he will bring his story and his 40” drum to tell his Thunderbird story.

**Andre Heuer** (Thursday, May 29 @ 8:30): One of Northstar’s founders, Andre brought our yearly celebration of storytelling, Tellabration!<sup>TM</sup> to *The Open Book*. Andre conducts workshops in the healing power of story and he recently worked with refugees from the terrors of the Liberian Civil War in Liberia. “I Come and Go: A Story of Tragedy and Hope” will combine first and second hand experiences in a powerful story.

**Maren Hinderlie** (Saturday, May 31 @5:30): A theatre and storytelling teacher, Maren’s dynamic work created an awareness of performance art as a combination of narrative and staging. Maren’s story of sacred space and sexuality will be memorable – as befits a telling on Memorial Day. She likes the way a story turns reality inside out and upside down.

**Larry Johnson** (Sunday, June 1 @ 7:00): Storyteller, activist, educator, founder – and gardener – Larry promises to bring our adventure in storytelling to a close with a story to help children of all ages compost various devils and find their own tree houses where they can be safe.

**Northstar Storytelling League** is a group of storytellers and story listeners who joined together to form a nonprofit organization after the Seward Café and the Bethany Storyfront ceased to be our gathering spots. We promote storytelling events and storytellers in the metro area in a variety of ways – most of which can be seen on our website: [www.northstarstorytelling.org](http://www.northstarstorytelling.org).



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