

## Short Bio

From fairies to ghosts to historical women, Storyteller Joanna Demarest will take you on an adventure as she spins tales old and new. Joanna delights, enchants, touches, inspires, and motivates her audiences as she takes them on journeys to fascinating places, helping them to understand what has gone before, and seeing what the future may hold.

Joanna has been telling stories to children and adults for over 30 years. It all started when after reading every book on her daughter's bookshelf, multiple times, her daughter wanted something new, so Joanna started creating fresh stories of her own. This passion for sharing her stories has been fueled by her nineteen moves within the US and overseas as well as her seven years traveling the country living full-time in her RV home on wheels. Joanna specializes in Liar's Tales, Historical, Traditional, Nature, and Southern Tales, Ghost Stories, Personal Narrative, her own unique Ladybug Stories<sup>®</sup> and Storytelling Workshops.

Joanna is the Northwest Folklife Festival's Storytelling Community Coordinator, an at-large board member of the Seattle Storyteller's Guild, a member of the National Storytelling Network, & NSN's Special Interest Group - YES! The Youth, Educators and Storytellers Alliance.

## Long Bio

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In describing her performances, Joanna states, "I love watching an audience be enveloped by a story watching them travel with me through the landscape of words that create the images of the tale. It is so much fun to hold the listeners in my hands, watching them use their imagination to "see" the events unfolding. My audiences have enjoyed wonderful tales of the past, present, and future, having moments of laughter, times when they might sigh, learned a moral, or even jumped in fright."

Joanna is dedicated to providing quality entertainment that is delivered in a personalized and highly interactive environment. She has performed and facilitated storytelling workshops from Seattle to Boston to Florida. She performed at the 2025 Northwest Folklife Festival and won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Liar's Contest and at the 2023 Florida Storytelling Festival where she also won 2nd place in their Liar's Contest. She has performed at The National Storytelling Network's National Conference Regional Showcase, and numerous libraries, tea shops, open mics, summer camps, concerts, and for senior groups across the country, especially in Washington, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and New England.

For four years, Joanna was the resident storyteller at the Barberville Pioneer Settlement performing, not only historical stories and for special events for the patrons, but also 1<sup>st</sup> person character performances as the scandalized Lucretia Byrd Underhill. While living in Pennsylvania she appeared frequently at the Depreciation Lands Museum in Allison Park, PA as a historical character interpreter, in personally hand-made period attire, bringing history alive and telling the stories of what life was like for a woman on the frontier in the late 1700's.

Joanna has performed and/or presented workshops at the Northwest Folklife Festival, Florida Storytelling Festival, the Kentucky Storytelling Festival, Northlands Storytelling Festival, Sharing the Fire, at The Three Rivers Storytelling Festival, The Pittsburgh International Children's Festival, Pittsburgh Fringe Festival, Beaver Tales Storytelling Festival, The Ellwood City

Storytelling Festival, The National Storytelling Network's National Conference Regional Showcase, and numerous libraries, tea shops, open mics, summer camps, concerts, and for senior groups around Pennsylvania, West Virginia, New England, Florida, & Washington.

Joanna is the Storytelling Community Coordinator for the Northwest Folklife Festival and an at-large board member of the Seattle Storyteller's Guild. She is also a member of the National Storytelling Association, NSN's Special Interest Group - YES! The Youth, Educators and Storytellers Alliance. She was the producer of the 2013 & 2014 Three Rivers Storytelling Festivals in Pittsburgh, PA, and past member of the Florida Storytelling Association, the Pittsburgh Storytelling Group, the West Virginia Storytelling Guild, LANES -The League for the Advancement of New England Storytelling, and the Western Pennsylvania's StoryWorks Storytelling Guild in Murrysville, PA.

Currently, Joanna is living in the Seattle area. She is available for programs at festivals, concerts, open mics, museums, libraries, schools, and private engagements.

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