

POUND RIDGE LIBRARY FOUNDATION HOSTS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

Pound Ridge Library will be the setting for the first Pound Ridge Storytelling Festival on Saturday, October 10th and Sunday, October 11th. The weekend celebration, sponsored by the Pound Ridge Library Foundation, promises to be an annual event and the start of a new community tradition. Storytellers Jennifer Munro and Matthew Dicks will be the featured artists for the Saturday performance scheduled for 7 PM. This evening event, which is intended for an adult audience, will include refreshments and a complimentary glass of wine. The following day between 1pm and 4pm, Tom Lee will present stories to delight families and listeners of all ages. This afternoon event, which is intended for families, will include additional activities and special events for children.

The timing for a local storytelling festival coincides with the popularity of such broadcasts as StoryCorps, This American Life, and The Moth Radio Hour. Unlike actors or authors giving literary readings, storytellers perform extemporaneously, exploring a wide range of topics and varied styles of delivery. While the art form has natural appeal for children, organizations such as the International Storytelling Center in Jonesborough, Tennessee have helped to focus on the lifelong power of stories to inspire cultural awareness, spread ideas, and provide knowledge and pleasure. The Connecticut Storytelling Center in New London, Connecticut has served as a resource for selecting the three professional tellers who will visit Pound Ridge Library.

The Pound Ridge Storytelling Festival's featured artists are celebrated professional storytellers who will capture audience attention. Jennifer Munro has been noted for her ability to captivate audiences, taking them on a roller coaster ride of emotions. Her personal narratives are populated with memorable characters like her Aunt Lily, the subject of the winning adult story in a competition sponsored by *Storytelling World*. Matthew Dicks, an 18-time Moth Story Slam Champion and contributor to The Moth Radio Hour, is also well known throughout New England as a humorous newspaper columnist, a comic book writer, novelist, and elementary school teacher. Tom Lee's voracious appetite for folklore led him to The Metropolitan Museum of Art where he was invited to connect stories to their broader artistic heritage. Schooled in classical theater, he decided to "unlearn" much of his training in order to engage his listeners in authentic and unique renditions of traditional tales from many different cultures.

The Pound Ridge Library Foundation works to promote the key role of the library in the life of the town and surrounding communities. The daytime festival activities on Sunday will be offered free of charge. Advance tickets for the Saturday evening event are \$40 and are available at the library and online at the Pound Ridge Library Foundation website, www.poundridgelibraryfoundation.org. For more information, call the Library at 914.764.5085 or visit the Library Foundation website.