

# TELLABRATION!™ 2024

## DO TELL STORY SWAP SONOMA COUNTY

**We are pleased to welcome our accomplished storytellers from different backgrounds and perspectives**

**Alicia Retes** resides in the unceded lands of the Coast Miwok in Marin County, CA. She is a captivating storyteller and visual arts performer of original and Indigenous stories for all ages. Alicia thrives on exploring Trickster Shape-Shifter characters who embody a wide range of human emotions and reactions while providing opportunities to transform preconceived ideas and to unite audiences in laughter.

**Ben Tucker**, known as “Brother Ben,” is a storyteller, singer, and author. His stories are of historical figures, personal stories, and folktales. He is a board member of the Storytelling Association of California and the Prescott Circus Theatre. To find out more about Brother Ben visit his website at: [iambentucker.com](http://iambentucker.com) and his podcast at: Storytelling Time With Brother Ben on Spotify for Podcasters.

**Vicky Ness** was a San Francisco storyteller and storytelling teacher prior to moving to the North Bay community of Sebastopol. She specializes in creating and telling “New Folk Tales” – gentle, slightly magical stories for adults. She is a regular teller with the Do Tell Story Swap of Santa Rosa.

Teaching in California public schools for many years gave **Sharon Elwell** a wealth of stories. When she discovered the Do Tell Story Swap in 2015, she found a home for them, and has been with Do Tell Swap ever since. Sharon often participates in a variety of storytelling venues and is enjoyed by a wide audience. Her combination of humor, honesty and observation of the people she has met and influenced has made Sharon a master storyteller who entertains and enlightens us with her stories.

In 2013, **Meg Brown** attended her first storytelling festival and fell in love with storytelling as a listener. She immediately looked up a group in Santa Rosa. What she found was Do Tell Story Swap. Telling stories in this friendly venue, she began to enjoy telling folk tales, fairy stories and stories of her family history gleaned from old letters and her parent’s memories. Meg has used stories to teach children and in her work as a consultant. Meg has helped produce several Tellabration! events and she manages outreach to the community for Do Tell Story Swap.

**Brandon Spars** will be our host for TELLABRATION!™ this year. Brandon is a master storyteller and weaves in his own story as he welcomes the other tellers. As a high school humanities teacher, Brandon tells folktales from around the world, especially Indonesia. Brandon is a five-time winner of the Bay Area Moth StorySLAM competition, including two GrandSLAMS. He was an Exchange Place teller at the National Storytelling Festival 2022 in Jonesborough. Brandon just returned from the Federation of Asian Storytellers 2024 Conference in Suwon, South Korea. where he presented a workshop and met tellers from around the world. He is the author of four books on storytelling.

