

Sandy Schuman

Another Side to the Story

www.tothestory.com

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Biographical sketch

Sandy Schuman's father was a storyteller. It was his father's everyday way of communicating important values and ideas. One of his favorite sayings was, "There is always another side to the story."

Sandy followed his father's example but didn't realize it until, after leading a three-day workshop at the Pentagon, he read the attendees' evaluation forms. In response to the question, "What did you like best about the program?" several people responded, "Sandy's stories." He didn't understand what they were talking about, so he asked his co-trainer.

He looked at Sandy, puzzled, and said, "Don't you remember? You told that story about the Adirondack conference where they insisted they couldn't agree on anything, and the one about the trustee who arrived late to the board meeting wearing a T-shirt, shorts, and a hangover, and the story about the time the chairman threw you out of the meeting ..." Indeed, Sandy had told many stories. They came so naturally, he didn't even notice.

Since then, and especially since retiring from the University at Albany and his consulting work with federal and state agencies, Sandy has told stories in public performances for audiences large and small - stories about songs and songwriters, personal adventures, historical sagas, folk tales, tall tales, and stories in the Jewish storytelling tradition.

He's been featured at Sharing the Fire: The Northeast Storytelling Conference and Festival, Caffè Lena, Proctors Theatre, Tellabration, Limmud Boston, and many conference, senior community, interfaith, radio, and television programs. He won the 2015 St. Louis Jewish Storytelling Contest.

In addition to his academic publications, his stories have been published in *Tablet*, *Memoir Magazine*, *Distressing Damsels*, *Stories We Tell*, *Story Club Magazine*, *Storytelling Magazine*, *New Mitzvah Stories*, and in his book, *Welcome to Chelm's Pond* (where the ridiculous stories of Chelm meet the preposterous tall tales of the Adirondacks). He edited the anthology, *Stories We Tell: Tales from the Story Circle of the Capital District*.

Sandy is a member of the Story Circle of the Capital District, Northeast Storytelling, National Storytelling Network, Jewish Storytelling Coalition, and Lifetime Arts Creative Aging Roster, and the International Jew's Harp Society.

Education

Ph.D. 1995, University at Albany
M.P.A. 1979, University at Albany
B.S. 1973, Cornell University

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Performances - Large Audiences

[Sharing the Fire: The Northeast Storytelling Conference and Festival](#) – Olio: 2013, 2018;
Stories Galore: 2019.
Tellabration!™, [Story Circle at Proctors](#): 2001, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2016,
2017, 2018.
Word Plays, [Story Circle at Proctors](#): 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019.
Saratoga Jewish Community Arts Storytelling Festival: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019.
Story Sundays, [Story Circle at Proctors](#), 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2014, 2015.
Riverway Storytelling Festival, 2012.

Repertoire (For details see www.tothestory.com/programs.html)

The following illustrate Sandy's storytelling. Each category has two- to six-hours of stories.

[Familiar Songs & their Unfamiliar Stories](#)

A wealth of history, conflict, transformation, and humor in the little-known stories behind some of the best-known songs – including the “Song of the Century.”

[Huddie William Ledbetter – aka “Lead Belly”](#)

Singer, Songwriter, Murderer; “King of the 12-String Guitar Players of the World.”

[New York Tales: Tall & True](#)

Some of New York's folklore is truly unbelievable. Some of its history is even more so.

[My Father was a Storyteller](#)

Songwriter, musician, poet, storyteller, electrician – the stories of a lifetime.

[Welcome to Chelm's Pond](#)

Where the preposterous tall tales of the Adirondacks meet the foolish stories of Chelm.

[Jewish Stories Every Person Should Know](#)

Stories, old and new, that reveal Jewish humor, tradition, and values.

[How to Tell a Story](#)

Workshops for teenagers, educators, grandparents, managers, and leaders who want to learn or sharpen their storytelling skills.

Published Stories

Three Wishes. *Storytelling Magazine*, 31:1, Feb, 2019, p. 29.

[The Silcox Decision, the Living Wage, & the Grand Prize Slogan](#). *Memoir Magazine*, Jan. 31, 2018.

[Betting on the Bible](#). *Tablet*, June 13, 2017.

Unfriended. *Distressing Damsels*, M. L. Stout, ed. Dalton, GA: Fantasia Divinity, 2017, pp. 162-171.

[Same and Different: The Never-ending Story of Chanukah](#). *Story Club Magazine*, Dec. 21, 2016.

You Know You're a Storyteller If *Storytelling Magazine*, 27:5, Oct.-Dec. 2015, p. 7.

Three Wishes. *New Mitzvah Stories for the Whole Family*, G. Milgram and E. Frankel, eds. New Rochelle NY: Reclaiming Judaism Press, 2014, pp. 255-256.

It's Hard to Tell a Hug. *Stories We Tell: Tales from the Story Circle of the Capital District*. Albany, NY: This Too Shall Pass Press, 2014, pp. 137-142.

[Welcome to Chelm's Pond](#). Albany, NY: This Too Shall Pass Press, 2012, 119 pp.

Sandy Schuman
Original Stories – Audio, Video, and Written Examples

Title 3 Stories & 2 Songs in 5 Minutes

Type Various
 Presented at Various
 Venue Various
 Audio/ Video bit.ly/3stories2songs
 Time 5:37

Title George Had Chutzpah, Ira Didn't

Type Historical
 Presented at Sharing the Fire 2018: The Northeast
 Storytelling Conference - Olio
 Venue Hotel 1620, Plymouth MA
 Audio/ Video bit.ly/Gershwin-chutzpah
 Time 17:55

Title Same and Different: The Never-Ending Story of Chanukah

Type Historical
 Presented at Sharing the Fire 2013: The Northeast
 Storytelling Conference - Olio
 Venue Marriott Sable Oaks,
 South Portland ME
 Audio/ Video bit.ly/samediffstory-a
 Time 14:58
 Written As it appears in *Club Magazine*:
bit.ly/samediffstory

Title The Silcox Decision, the Living Wage, and the Grand Prize Slogan

Type Personal, Historical
 Presented at Occupy Caffè Lena, 2012
 Venue Caffè Lena, Saratoga Springs NY
 Audio/ Video bit.ly/silcox-v
 Time 10:05
 Written As it appears in *Memoir Magazine*:
bit.ly/silcox

Title The Fly Fishing Contest at Chelm's Pond

Type Tall Tale
 Presented at Story by Story, 2011
 Venue Colonie TV, Colonie NY
 Audio/ Video bit.ly/chelm-fly
 Time 6:04

Written As it appears in *Welcome to Chelm's Pond* (www.chelmspond.com):
bit.ly/chelm-fly-w

Title The Prize Inside

Type Personal
 Presented at Tellabration 2018
 Venue Proctor's Theatre, Schenectady NY
 Audio/ Video bit.ly/prizeinside-v
 Time 10:51
 Written As it appears in *Another Side to the Story*: bit.ly/prizeinside-w

Title It's Hard to Tell a Hug

Type Personal
 Presented at Story by Story, 2011
 Venue Colonie TV, Colonie NY
 Audio/ Video bit.ly/tellahug
 Time 11:14
 Written As it appears in *Stories We Tell* (storytellersanthology.com):
bit.ly/mothersdaystory

Title Lucky Numbers

Type Personal
 Presented at Tellabration 2001
 Venue The Egg - Empire State Center for
 the Performing Arts, Albany NY
 Audio/ Video bit.ly/luckynos
 Time 9:46
 Written As it appears in *Tablet*, entitled
 "Betting on the Bible":
bit.ly/bettingonthebible