

Broward Storytellers Guild

“Just kind of doing it” probably describes the Broward Storytellers Guild. A mixture of tellers, hobbyists and listeners, this group maintains a busy schedule of events each year. The members show up for magical nights of “Moonlight Tales” at the Main Broward Library every April, drawing over three hundred children and adults. The Broward Storytellers were the first group to tell at “Moonlight Tales”. The “Teddy Bear Picnic” at the Helen B. Hoffman City of Plantation Library, where audiences of up to seventy-five people have enjoyed the stories, is also on their agenda. They can also be found at the City of Oakland Park Library each year, offering a Tellabration concert on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. If you visit them in January, you won’t want to miss their annual “Telling Around the Fire”, with a bonfire on the beach serving as the focus for some “warm” tales.

The Broward guild members enjoy FSA StoryLabs around the state and hope that FSA will continue to sponsor more. They love learning from the professionals and would also like to see more StoryGroups posting their events on the state website. The Broward Storytellers enjoy watching and helping new comers evolve into great storytellers. They have not applied for any grants, but may consider it in the future.

Jo Ellen Bridges founded the Broward Storytellers in 1990. Currently, their e-mail information letter goes out to over eighty people. Meetings usually draw between twelve and twenty attendees, with no formal membership required and no dues being charged. Meetings rotate among houses or sometimes are held in a public area. The contact for the group is Debbie Helmlinger. She can be reached at: 954-966-6084. Meetings are on the second or third Thursday of each month, starting at 7:30 p.m. Mailing address for the group is 4505 SW 24th Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL. 33312.