



NEWSLETTER

JAN-FEB 2024

STORYNOOK



1998-2023



Kathalaya celebrated 25 years of its Storytelling Legacy by bringing her Alumni students from around the World to the School of Ancient Wisdom, Bangalore India on December 9th and 10th 2023 Saturday and Sunday.

If India is on the Map of the World of Storytelling today then Kathalaya takes the credit for having established Storytelling as a Certified course and has trained over one million people in the art. It is the first time an organization of professionally trained tellers have come together as Alumni to celebrate this grand event.

Jyoti Kunjoor introducing the legend Geeta Ramanujam said,

“You have not just touched thousands of us as storytellers but you do not know that there are thousands of other people in different careers too whose lives you have touched and whom you do not know.”

The day was marked by workshops from Michael Harvey, an International storyteller from Wales, treasure hunt, photoshoots, campfire, games, and songs. The day ended with a mesmerizing performance by Shereen Saif, an international artist, storyteller, and dancer from Dubai on ‘Ahalya’- a woman’s mind, premiered at Kathotsava 25.

Kathotsava25 will go down the annals in the History of Storytelling.

As Linda Williamson says “Geeta is the Goddess of Storytelling and Kathalaya is her heart beating at its centre”.

glimpses of Kat 25 : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xCXHBRyScwg>



PAST EVENTS

January - February

TALK AT CHRIST (deemed to be University)

A talk was organised for undergraduate students of Media Studies, Journalism, and English Literature to talk about the importance of Oral literature in Communication. Geeta Ramanujam highlighted the key elements of storytelling. It was an interactive session followed by many qns from the students.



THE 169th JANUARY BEGINNERS COURSE IN STORYTELLING

Kathalaya had its first 3-day beginners course in January from the 19th to 21st of 2024 to mark the beginning of yet another new era in Storytelling with 16 vibrant and energetic participants-teachers, entrepreneurs, and corporate trainers.



"This place is magical and helped me to understand the legacy of storytelling. Maam has a positive aura round her and I could feel it resonating with the entire space and batch."

Shruthi Bojamma corporate communication professional

AT THE SADHU VASWANI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, BANGALORE

"Geeta all our teachers need to be trained in Storytelling and please conduct the same course for my 35 teachers" said Jaimala the coordinator and consultant of the school.

So over 2 weekends between January 6th to 13th over two weekends Geeta Ramanujam trained the enthusiastic and eager teachers who are now certified story educators from kindergarten to class 10.



JUNIOR KOLKATA LITERARY MEET

The TATA STEEL KOLKATA LITERARY meet January 23-27, Witnessed stalwarts speakers authors and artists from across the field of Literature and books from around the World.

Geeta Ramanujam author of 'Tales from the World' by Puffin was one of the speakers and panelists with two other authors for children Nitin Kushalappa and Somi Roy on the importance of oral Storytelling.

The event was held at Victoria Hall in Kolkata. There were many questions from the audience about how to keep the reading habits live and how Storytelling styles could be used as a tool.

Word of Mouth – Oral Storytelling

Nitin Kushalappa MP, L Somi Roy and Geeta Ramanujam discuss the preservation of diverse cultures through folktales



Nitin Kushalappa MP



L Somi Roy



Geeta Ramanujam

ZIVA SENIOR CITIZEN ACTIVE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY



At Ziva Geeta Ramanujam regaled the Story of the evolution of Storytelling in the Indian tradition for a group of 40 women to acknowledge the presence and to note that Storytelling was a precious skill and treasure. " You are gifted by the Almighty" they said tapping her warmly and leaving the room touched by her stories.



The Mathrubhumi International festival of letters at Trivandrum witnessed authors panelists and regional Malayalam authors at the Kannakunam palace Trivandrum. Geeta Ramanujam along with Bjorn Dahlman inaugurated the Alpha verse the Children's festival. She did a workshop for grownups and 3 story sessions for children. There was a special podcast How did you? Organised By the Mathrubhumi channel.

MATHRUBHUMI LITERATURE FESTIVAL,TRIVANDRUM,KERALA



Much awaited online Storytelling session for Children and tips on book reading and Storytelling for parents in collaboration with online children's library Toolo. Our professional tellers Nivedita and Neha facilitated the sessions

FEB 10 & 24

ONLINE SESSION FOR CHILDREN WITH TOOLO

Feb 15th ,24th annual day celebrations of Samakruthi Ladies association.

Feb 17th, Chief Guest at St. Francis School Pre Primary Annual Day celebration themed 'The Raconteur' addressing 500 kids and parents.



PRARTHANA WORLD SCHOOL

Storytelling workshop for over 50 students and Teachers on 24th February at Prarthana World School,Bangalore and Geeta Ramanujam was felicitated by Mr.Karna Belagare and Mrs.Lakshmi Belagare



FEB 24 KATHASANGAMA

Our monthly event "Kathasangama" - Where you listen to theme based stories from the professional tellers .An opportunity to spend time with your family and like minded people and where you get immersed in the world of stories. This month we had Storytelling session followed by a clay activity at Kathalaya by Priya Muthukumar .Children and Parents enthusiastically participated





UPCOMING EVENTS

March - April

- **23rd March, 5.30-7 pm - SPECIAL KATHASANGAMA FOR WORLD STORYTELLING DAY**
Theme Building Bridges, by Master storyteller Geeta Ramanujam and Ms. Sarita Nair from Heritage Stories and Performing Arts, Mumbai. Stories with activities
Age group above 5 yrs, at Kathalaya center [register here](#)
- **20th April, 4.30-5.30pm - Kathasangama for Katha Corner**
By Geeta Ramanujam with Rohini Chidambaran with drums and music,
at Kappana Angala, JP Nagar
- **11th - 16th April, 10.30-12.30pm - "Aaa - Zee" – THE ART AND CRAFT OF STORYTELLING**
Certified Summer Workshop for Children by Kathalaya's professionally trained tellers
Age group 9-13 yrs, at Kathalaya center
- **22nd- 26th April, 10.30-12.30pm - STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD**
Certified Summer Workshop for Children by Kathalaya's professionally trained tellers
Age group 4-8 yrs, at Kathalaya center
- **19-21, April 9:00-2.30 pm 170th batch Accredited Certified Beginners course in Storytelling** affiliated to USA For Grown ups above 12yrs, at Kathalaya center [register here](#)
- **25th -28th April - 4 days Kathalaya's Residential Diploma in storytelling retreat** followed by 6months project work, at Fireflies Intercultural center, Kanakapura Road [register here](#)
- **6th-9th June - 171st batch Accredited Certified Beginners course in Storytelling** affiliated to USA For Grown ups above 12yrs, at Himalayan Writing Retreat, Satkhol, Uttarakhand
For details <https://www.himalayanwritingretreat.com/event/storytelling-course-kathalaya/>

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OUR COURSES



KATHALAYA'S CERTIFIED COURSE IN STORYTELLING



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Discover the unique skills from the master trainers- Geeta Ramanujam, Vipin Ravindranath and Manjusha Nair.



25-28 | APRIL 2024



FIREFLIES INTERCULTURAL CENTER,
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www.kathalaya.org

 [Geeta Ramanujam](https://www.linkedin.com/in/Geeta Ramanujam)

A Remembrance

THAMARAI SELVI was a very ardent and passionate storyteller who believed that Stories healed and transformed hearts. She had begun her research for the doctorate in Storytelling.

A humble and wonderful student of Kathalaya she sent her entire family to be trained by our Academy. At the Alumni she created a group for she was very keen that I Geeta Ramanujam bring out a coffee table book of my journey.

Her demise is a great shock to us and the Storytelling world. She was also a fine professor and educator. I have determined to write this book now and dedicate it to my living friend Thamarai Selvi. She will forever be etched in my heart as a compassionate and encouraging soul.

You will be TRULY MISSED.

