

# Chatauqua storyteller at the library

Submitted to El Defensor Chieftain

On Saturday, Jan. 12, at 2 p.m., the Socorro Public Library will present a Chatauqua program featuring "Storytelling Theater with Live Music" in the second floor meeting room. The performance is free and open to the public. Homemade refreshments will be served.

Johanna Hongell-Darsee, storyteller, dancer and mime — accompanied by Scott Darsee, guitarist, and composer — will take the audience on a journey of stories. The journey interweaves bits and pieces of different cultures and landscapes using music, song, masks, dance and mime.

The program will feature stories from far away islands, deep forests and magical gardens.

A princess who marries a wolf; an old hag who steals the sun and the moon; the first singer of stories; a magic rosemary plant; sea-ladies; dragons and air daughters are some of the characters you will meet in the performances. There are stories for the very young to the very old.

Hongell-Darsee gives performances and workshops on Storytelling Theater with Live Music, together with her musician husband.

Since they moved here to New Mexico from Scandinavia in 2001, they have had the opportunity to give more than 100 performances in New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and the Midwest —

including Santa Fe Festival of the Book, Taos Storytelling Festival, Albuquerque Folk Festival, Santa Fe Summer Band Stand, the Renaissance Fairs of Farmington and Las Cruces, New Mexico University, and the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology as well as many libraries and schools.

Hongell-Darsee has been performing theater, dance, mime and storytelling for about 25 years. She got her education from the Lecoq School in Paris, France, and also studied East Indian dance and mime for many years with teachers in Chennai, India. She has performed at festivals throughout Europe. She also led her own dance and theater company for 10 years in Sweden before moving here.

Darsee is a poet, painter, song writer and composer. Parallel to his artistic work he also worked from 1981 as a therapist for many dance companies including Dance Theater of Harlem, N.Y., Royal Danish Ballet, Hamburg Ballet, English National Ballet, and taught at Denmark's State School for Theater and Dance. He returned to the United States in 2000 and has since performed at many venues with his compositions and songs.

The annual Friends of the Library's business meeting will follow the program including election of new officers.



Johanna Hogell-Darsee and her husband, Scott Darsee, will spin their tales of imagination through music, song, masks, dance and mime. There will be stories and refreshments for all ages before the annual Friends of the Library meeting.

Courtesy of Socorro Public Lib