

SANDY SCHUMAN

Storyteller, Musician, Educator

Familiar Songs and their Unfamiliar Stories

Learn how some of the best-known American songs came to be written. This program features songs from the *Great American Songbook* and stories about the people who wrote them. Sing along, if you like, with Sandy Schuman and his 6- and 12-string guitars.

Huddie William Ledbetter: Singer, Songwriter, Murderer; “King of the 12-String Guitar Players of the World”

“Lead Belly” got a bum deal. Was he justly sentenced to prison for murder? Twice? Was he exploited by the man who discovered him? Did he have to share credit for writing the #1 hit song of 1950!

New York Tales: True & Tall

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

My Father Was a Storyteller

This personal and historical saga stretches across the 20th century from the help wanted ads of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* to the front page of the *New York Times*, from the pleasant beaches of Atlantic City to the hectic skyscrapers of Manhattan, and from my father’s longed-for saxophone to my sister’s studio-upright piano.

Jewish Stories Every Person Should Know

A Rabbi, a Prophet, and a King Walk into a Bar – and other stories, old and new, that reveal Jewish humor, tradition, and values.

How to Tell a Story

A workshop for beginners – teenagers, educators, grandparents – who want to learn or sharpen their storytelling skills.

There is always
another side to the
story.



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My Father was a Storyteller



The *Spinney*
at Van Dyke
Home to a New Generation

Wednesday,
June 13, 2018
7:00 pm

My Father was a Storyteller

Samuel Schuman was a songwriter, musician, poet, and storyteller who made his living as an electrician. This personal and historical saga stretches across the 20th Century from the help wanted ads of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* to the front page of the *New York Times*, from the pleasant beaches of Atlantic City to the hectic skyscrapers of Manhattan, and from his longed-for saxophone to my sister's studio-upright piano.



Sandy Schuman is a storyteller, musician, and educator. He tells stories about songs and songwriters, personal adventures, historical sagas, folk tales, and stories in the Jewish storytelling tradition.



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There is always another side to the story.

1. Prologue

Origins of my interest in storytelling.

2. My Father was a Songwriter

I desperately wanted to know how they write songs. So, I snuck into the stairwell and, undetected, listened in.

3. Why He Became an Electrician

He searched for a job. All day long he was “too young,” “too small,” “too inexperienced,” until ...

4. The Silcox Decision, the Living Wage, and the Grand Prize Slogan

Contests were an irresistible context for his word play. The stakes were never higher.

5. The Swim of My Life, Which I Shall Never Forget

Two young boys selling newspapers all day long on the Atlantic City Boardwalk. How could they resist going for a swim on their one day off?

6. My Father was a Songwriter

Join me to hear how they write songs.

❖ Intermission ❖

7. Lucky Numbers

My father told me his unique method for selecting his lottery numbers. Years later I began to wonder about their significance.

8. It's Hard to Tell a Hug

What about my mother? Doesn't she deserve to have a story told about her?

9. Epilogue

When I go to sleep tonight ...