



Jeff Gere is the creator of the Talk Story Festival and has previously produced it for 26-years. Jeff returns as a 'retired' storyteller in the 28th year of Talk Story. In 2015, he toured Thailand, India, Romania and Taiwan telling his tales. He is eager to share his stories of journey as it relates to this year's theme "Ka Huaka'i" or "The Voyage."



Kathy "Tita" Collins is an actress, storyteller, broadcaster and freelance writer who began performing on-stage at the age of 13. Raised on Maui, her pidgin-speaking alter ego, "Tita", tells stories weekly at Makena Resort. She is also a columnist for *The Maui News* and *Maui Nō Ka 'Oi*, award-winning comedy album artist and frequent emcee for a variety of events. Additionally, she has acted in plays, one-woman shows and feature-length films from the islands to New York City.



Kahu Jonathan Kuahiwi Moniz is a Kupa o ka `āina o Wai`anae, meaning his family can trace their genealogy to Wai`anae for multiple generations. He has been a Hawaiian Studies Cultural Educator for over 23-years, teaching at several levels including at Kapi`olani Community College. When he is not teaching, Moniz is the Hawaiian Resources Cultural Manager for Kualoa Ranch and a wedding officiant for `Ae `Ike Hawaiian Weddings. The list of his accomplishments and volunteer work perpetuating the Hawaiian culture is lengthy to say the least. This year he will present "Ka Wā Kahiko", *In the Days of Old Hawai`i*, Hawaiian ancestral stories passed from one generation to another.



Kevin Won was born on O`ahu and has also lived on Maui and in Japan, where his stories stem from a varied exposures to changing cultures. A graduate of the Creative Writing program at UH Mānoa, Kevin's passion for storytelling was evident as he was hired as a story consultant and writer for several narrative films and an award-winning documentary. On the performance-side, Kevin has acted in local theater productions as well as choreographed and executed fight scenes for both local films and Hollywood features.



Bruce Black is an elementary school teacher, ocean enthusiast, long-time member of the Polynesian Voyaging Society, and crewmate aboard the Hōkūle‘a. While serving on the famed canoe, he acts as an Education Specialist. This allows him to realize his goal of educating future generations about the amazing Polynesian voyagers, their knowledge, and their respect for the ocean. He has been part of the canoe’s current world-wide voyage, aiding in passages around Australia and across the Atlantic Ocean from Africa to Brazil.



Dr. M. Puakea Nogelmeier is a Professor and researcher at UH Mānoa who focuses on Hawaiian language, literature, and history. He maintains an archive of published and non-published literature that illuminates Hawaiian knowledge, historical literacy, agency, and worldviews. This involves translating these resources, recruiting & training translators, and making the resources accessible in modern formats. He is active in community education, offering language classes for parents and teachers, and is often invited to give public presentations on Hawaiian history, literature, and language.



Adela “The Star Lady” Chu is a Panamanian Samba-Salsa extraordinaire. She is also a founder of the San Francisco Carnival and leader of the band, *Espiritu Libre*. Adela remains a vibrant pillar of Honolulu’s Latin music scene.