



SANDY SCHUMAN
Storyteller, Musician, Educator

Sandy Schuman is a storyteller, musician, and educator. He tells stories about songs and song-writers, personal adventures, historical sagas, folk tales, and stories in the Jewish storytelling tradition. His programs include:

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.

Singer, Songwriter, Murderer; “King of the 12-String Guitar”

Was Huddie “Lead Belly” Ledbetter 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: Tall & True

Some of New York State’s folklore is truly unbelievable. Some of its history is even more so. “The Great American Hoax,” “The Goldarndest Liar,” “How New York State Got its Western Border,” “The Curse of Mamie O’Rourke,” ...

My Father Was a Storyteller

From help wanted ads to front page headlines, beaches to skyscrapers, my father’s longed for saxophone to my sister’s required piano, this personal and historical saga stretches across “the stories of a lifetime.”

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.

Welcome to Chelm’s Pond ...

... where the ridiculous stories of Chelm meet the preposterous tall tales of the Adirondacks, where “every acre is two acres, you can till the soil with a teaspoon, and there are not only four seasons, there are five.”

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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ANOTHER SIDE TO THE STORY



My Father was a Storyteller

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.



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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. How Did You Get Your First Job?

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.

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 ...