



2005

juststories
Using stories to...
connect to our common story



The JustStories Fellowship seeks to challenge and energize the professional storytelling community to develop, create and perform stories that deal with ethnic identity, race relations and valuing differences.

The Fellowship provides financial and creative support to a storyteller to find the time and space to create an original performance piece or pieces that deal with inclusive themes.

The JustStories Fellowship is an initiative of Angels Studio/Chicago in collaboration with O'Halloran Communications/Evanston, Illinois.

Gerald Fierst, 2005 JustStories Fellow

Gerry was supported in developing and writing a number of stories for the new, three-voiced storytelling piece, *More Alike Than Not: Stories from Three Americans – Catholic, Jewish and Muslim* with Susan O'Halloran and Arif Choudhury. Gerry revels in, treasures and tells Jewish stories in the USA and overseas.



Gerald Fierst: gerald@geraldfierst.com

Mama Edie Armstrong, Summer 2005 JustStories Fellow

Storyteller Mama Edie Armstrong was supported in exploring the development of a summer program for Pan African refugee youth in Chicago. The project is called *What About the Children? Storytelling in Action*.



Mama Edie Armstrong: mamaedie2@aol.com

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photos : firstlightcreative.com

! Northbrook juststories Storytelling Festival

The Festival was a day dedicated to helping us see and hear each other.

When we see and hear each other we can value each other.

When we know someone else's story, it's easier to accept, appreciate and understand them.

The 2005 Northbrook JustStories Storytelling Festival took place on April 30 at Techny, IL.

All Photography: FirstLightCreative.com



STORY & WORKSHOP : PUTTING A FACE ON INCLUSIVE HOUSING

The afternoon workshop called PUTTING A FACE ON INCLUSIVE HOUSING presented success stories about creating inclusive housing in Chicago's Northern suburbs as told by Storyteller Mama Edie Armstrong and by housing activists and community leaders. The Hosts for this session were the Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs and the Community Relations Commission of the Village of Northbrook, IL.



TECHNY-NORTHBROOK PEACE POLE DEDICATION

A special event during the Northbrook Festival was the dedication and "planting" of the Techny-Northbrook Peace Pole. Participants in this ceremony were from the local communities in and around Techny & Northbrook, IL. The Peace Pole bore the message: "Let Peace Prevail On Earth" in six languages. Among those dedicating the Peace Pole were local girl scouts, attendees at the Festival and the Northbrook Garden Club, who planted flowers and seeds in a special "planting" ritual. The date of this dedication was April 30th 2005, which was the 30th anniversary of the end of the war in Vietnam. A number of Vietnamese-Americans helped with this "planting" for peace.



THE BRIDGEBUILDER AWARD DINNER

The 2005 BridgeBuilder Award Dinner and Storytelling Presentation drew a diverse crowd that came together to honor Gail Schechter of the Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs as she received the 2005 BridgeBuilder Award. Gail Schechter was honored for her tireless work and energetic vision in bringing together diverse groups and peoples in the mission to create inclusive housing in Chicago's northern suburbs. The BridgeBuilder Award was given by the Justice & Peace Commission of the Chicago Province of the Society of the Divine Word.



THE JustStories EVENING STORYTELLING PERFORMANCE

The evening performance was in two parts:

TOWARDS A NEW LAND ... A COMMEMORATION OF THE VIETNAMESE DIASPORA

The first set of stories marked the 30th Anniversary of the end of the war in Vietnam. These moving stories of escaping, leaving and returning to Vietnam were presented by Storyteller Susan O'Halloran with four Vietnamese storytellers.

MORE ALIKE THAN NOT

The second story performance of the evening was MORE ALIKE THAN NOT : STORIES FROM THREE AMERICANS – CATHOLIC, JEWISH AND MUSLIM. This story was written and performed by professional storytellers Susan O'Halloran, Gerald Fierst and Arif Choudhury. MORE ALIKE THAN NOT is a real-life “story-tapestry” of traditional, personal and sacred stories that illuminate the experience of being American in a time of religious tension and change. Coach and creative director for this story was Nancy Donoval. Gerald Fierst developed and wrote his stories for this project sponsored by the Just Stories Fellowship.

Storyteller and MC Mama Edie Armstrong weaved the day together.

The Northbrook JustStories Storytelling Festival was presented by the Justice & Peace Commission of the Chicago Province of the Society of the Divine Word in collaboration with the Northbrook Community Relations Commission. Angels Studio/Chicago was the producer.

THE FESTIVAL PHOTO GALLERY

PUTTING A FACE ON INCLUSIVE HOUSING



TECHNY-NORTHBROOK PEACH POLE DEDICATION





BRIDGE BUILDER AWARD



EVENING STORYTELLING PERFORMANCE





MORE ALIKE THAN NOT





