Storytelling + Facebook = a worldwide, respectful and fun conversation about our differences and similarities.

Join us October 9, 10 & 11 on Facebook where, every half hour, entertaining and heart-warming video stories from professional storytellers will foster mutual respect and cultural understanding. After each story, join the tellers and other participants from around the world for a live, real-time international discussion.

Like us on Facebook to receive a free program for the festival including a curriculum and resource guide. Perfect for educators, Peace & Justice groups and for use in your own workshops! Live stream the festival in your school or workplace!

Currently seeking corporate and nonprofit sponsors! Contact us for details: StoriesConnect@susanohalloran.com
2013 Stories Connect Us All Online Storytelling Festival

It seems like you can’t pick up a newspaper or turn on the news without something involving race and the division between people these days. Schools, like all organizations, have huge hurdles to overcome…getting students with very diverse backgrounds to learn and achieve their highest potential PLUS interact with YOU and each other in meaningful ways.

A wonderful resource to help you facilitate discussions on race, ethnicity and religion comes your way on October 9-11. You and your students can participate in a free, public online storytelling festival on Facebook that is dedicated to bridging racial, ethnic and religious divides.

Every hour, personal video stories by professional storytellers will be shown on our Facebook page centering around the themes of: Americans Abroad, Multicultural Families, Valuing Different Religions plus Latino/Hispanic, Black/African American, White European, Asian American, First Nations and Historical Stories.

After each video is played, the storytellers will be online to answer your students’ questions. Imagine your students posting a comment and then watching people from all over the world respond. You can download a program plus a discussion and resource guide so that you can live stream the festival in your classroom or assign stories within various themes to your students.

It’s fun . . . and it’s free . . .
Live chat with tellers after their stories premiere . . .
Interact with people from around the world . . .
Anywhere you have access to Facebook!
Mark your calendars . . .
Then join us October 9-11, 2013.
Hope to “see” you there!
RaceBridges Fellowship 2013 Story Descriptions

My Father the Whiz
A Story by Carmen Deedy

In 1964, Carmen’s father, a Cuban refugee, went to work at a steel manufacturing plant near Atlanta, Georgia.

The year was 1964, a time of seismic change in the South. When on the first day of work, he asked to take a bathroom break, Carmen’s father was directed to a narrow hallway, just beyond a line of busy welders. When he reached the dimly lit corridor he found himself suddenly, and uncomfortably, faced with two choices: before him was a “white” bathroom . . . and a “colored” bathroom. He glanced behind him and saw that the line had grown oddly quiet, as a small band of black and white steel workers gathered to see which bathroom this first Latino worker was going to choose.

Carmen’s father’s solution would foreshadow how this inventive man would ultimately teach his Cuban-American daughters that, in matters of conscience, we need not accept the only choices placed before us.

Watch this story performance: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QK1X89CFw1o

A Voting Booth Built for Two
A Story by Carmen Deedy

The small Southern town where Carmen’s parents live is a-buzz with political acrimony. In this corner of the South, concern for national politics runs a remote second to this close-knit community’s interest in local issues. Even in what some might consider the most minor of elections, people take their right to vote seriously. None more so than Carmen’s mother, Esther, a spunky octogenarian—and Cuban refugee—who regards her right to vote a hard-won, American privilege.

Once inside the precinct, Esther, suddenly spry, decides to duck under the voting booth curtain behind her husband, Carlos, to remind him of “their views” on the new school superintendent. Carlos’ reaction is a hysterical and poignant civics lesson for all who were lucky enough to be casting their vote at Rocky Springs Elementary School that day.

Carmen Deedy : www.carmenagradeedy.com

Watch this story performance: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1K1UOaAiw8
**My Brother’s Keeper**

A Story by Jasmin Cardenas

What can one person do to affect change in society? Can they really do anything? As a teenager, Jasmin decides to work on a small performance project for an afterschool club that deals with a wrongly-accused, imprisoned Mexican-American man. The performance sheds light on moments of discrimination in Jasmin’s own life as a Latina. Jumping in to fight for someone else’s life makes her realize that even though her family is from Columbia her life is interwoven with this young Mexican stranger because of their shared “race”. The experience unleashes a question that haunts her for a long time: Am I or Am I not the Keeper of My Brother?

Watch this story performance: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndhUgI9F8mc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndhUgI9F8mc)

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**To Live or Not Live in La Villita, Chicago**

A Story by Jasmin Cardenas

What do you do when you’re scared of where you live? Pack up and move, right? But what if your life’s work has been in communities of need? Wouldn’t it be right to stick it out and fight the cause? But what if you like nice things? Poverty doesn’t look pretty and the violence is real. Growing up first generation Colombian-American in a blue-collar home on the north side of Chicago, Jasmin is surprised and disappointed by her feelings when she moves to the southwest side of the city to live in a Mexican community called La Villita. Political and Community Organizing demand authenticity and Jasmin is torn. She finds herself with more questions than answers as she struggles to be genuinely involved in making a difference.

Jasmin Cardenas : [www.facebook.com/jasmin.cardenas](http://www.facebook.com/jasmin.cardenas)

Watch this story performance: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l13MjCJjA0g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l13MjCJjA0g)
ABOUT STORIES CONNECT US ALL

Stories Connect Us All celebrates all the ways the human family is similar and different. It showcases professional story artists and everyday people who use the art of storytelling to create mutual respect and understanding. We present:

- Stories that comfort and inspire
- Stories that awaken and challenge
- Stories that unite the world’s many cultures

We also present resources, announcements, anniversaries, interviews and events that would be of interest to people of goodwill who care about living in a multicultural world where everyone feels seen, heard and valued. Stories Connect Us All is presented by O’Halloran Diversity Productions and is an outgrowth of the successful ten-year JustStories Festival, a co-production of O’Halloran Diversity Productions and Angels Studio, a communication ministry of the Chicago Province of the Society of the Divine Word, Father Derek Simons S.V.D., Executive Producer, and the JustStories Fellowship sponsored by Angels Studio. ([www.racebridges.net](http://www.racebridges.net))

While being informed by and intersecting with all the many diversity and inclusion dimensions, Stories Connect Us All focuses on the challenges and victories that center around that which we usually associate with “culture” such as ethnicity, nationality, “race”, religion, language and family backgrounds. We believe that storytelling is one of the most powerful ways to create heart-to-heart connection between people. We are devoted to creating a space where the empathy and understanding that hearing each other’s stories generates can contribute to our living in peace and creating a world that works for everyone.

ABOUT YOUR HOST

Stories Connect Us All is presented by O’Halloran Diversity Productions. Susan O’Halloran is a story artist, writer, television personality and keynote speaker. Her stories focus on family, a sense of place and how our past affects our present and future. She is author of several books and diversity curriculums plus a producer of multicultural performances and films including Black, White and Brown: Tribes & Bridges at the Steppenwolf Theatre and More Alike Than Not: Stories of Three Americans – Catholic, Jewish and Muslim.

For her films, O’Halloran is recipient of national and international video/film honors including awards of excellence in training films. In addition, Sue teaches diversity and inclusion seminars in Fortune 500 companies, Graduate Schools of Business, colleges and other schools. Sue also works with non-profits to capture more press, volunteer and fundraising attention through the
power of stories. Sue has been seen on such media programs as PBS and ABC Nightline and has been interviewed by The New York Times and the Chicago Tribune.

About her own storytelling skills, The Chicago Reader’s Critic Choice said, “O’Halloran has mastered the Irish art of telling stories that are funny and heart-wrenching at the same time.” O’Halloran has been featured at the International Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee and is a frequent keynote presenter and seminar leader for the National Storytelling Network’s annual conferences. Within her own profession, she has received the 2006 Leadership and Service Award and the 2011 Circle of Excellence Award.

One Fortune 100 company newsletter stated: “A brilliant and entertaining synthesis of information! Sue made us feel as though together we could do anything!” Sue lives in Evanston, IL and can be found at: www.SusanOHalloran.com.

HISTORY
2012 – The first ever JustStories Online Storytelling Festival. With 43 participating professional storytellers and over 75 stories, the festival ran from 8 am until midnight every day for three days. The online festival attracted over 3500 Facebook fans and an extended network of friends reaching over 395,000 with over 20,000 youtube video views. The stories focused on untold historical stories plus personal stories of racial and ethnic barriers and triumphs. The Facebook platform allowed the audience to comment on the videotaped stories and dialogue live with the tellers and each other.
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<tr>
<th>Time (Central Time)</th>
<th>Wednesday October 9, 2013</th>
<th>Thursday October 10, 2013</th>
<th>Friday October 11, 2013</th>
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<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Name Calling at Masonville Elementary: Hurtful Words Forgiven Sheila Arnold</td>
<td>Looking for Papito Antonio Sacre</td>
<td>Evacuation Anne Shimojima</td>
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<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Hot Chili and Crackers: A Racial Stew with Danger Mama Edie McLoud Armstrong</td>
<td>A Voting Booth Built for Two: Election Enthusiasm from a Cuban-American Mom Carmen Agra Deedy</td>
<td>A Twice Saved Life: The Solly Ganor Story Alton Takiyama-Chung</td>
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<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Unsung Hero: How My Uncle Was Saved from the KKK Sadarri Saskill</td>
<td>My Brother’s Keeper: A Teenager Works to Free Manuel Salazar from Death Row Jasmin Cardenas</td>
<td>Cost of Racism Motoko Dworkin</td>
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<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Connecting the Dots: Racism, Activism &amp; Creating a Life Michael D. McCarty</td>
<td>Between Worlds Olga Loya</td>
<td>Grandpa’s Story: No Apology Necessary Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo</td>
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<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>A Black American Son’s Survival Lessons Sheila Arnold</td>
<td>To Live or Not to Live in La Villita, Chicago: A Latina Struggles with Civic Responsibility Jasmin Cardenas</td>
<td>My Long Hair Motoko Dworkin</td>
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<td>11:30 AM</td>
<td>When Summer Came: Summer Vacations in the Segregated South Gwen Hilary</td>
<td>No Aguantará - It Will Never Last Carrie Sue Ayvar</td>
<td>Incarceration Anne Shimojima</td>
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<td>12:00 Noon</td>
<td>Mattie’s Story: From Darkness into the Light Earliana McLaurin</td>
<td>What’s a Mexican? Olga Loya</td>
<td>Onara Alton Takiyama-Chung</td>
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<td>12:30 PM</td>
<td>The School of Invisibility Charlotte Blake Alston</td>
<td>My Father the Whiz: A Cuban-American Man Outwits Jim Crow Carmen Agra Deedy</td>
<td>Chinese New Year’s Frogs: A Collision of Culture and Nature Linda Yemoto</td>
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<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Where Are You From?</td>
<td>Arif Choudhury</td>
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<td>Too Crazy to Know Better</td>
<td>Jay O'Callahan</td>
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<td>A Window of Beauty: A Story of Courage from the Holocaust</td>
<td>Nancy Shapiro-Pikelny</td>
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<td>2:30 PM</td>
<td>DIWALI – From Darkness to Light, Hindus in America - Happy New Year!</td>
<td>Archana Lal-Tabak</td>
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<td>Through the Eyes of York</td>
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<td>Syd Lieberman</td>
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<td>3:00 PM</td>
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<td>Gerald Fierst</td>
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<td>Mary McLeod Bethune: An American Educator and Civil Rights Leader</td>
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<td>My Father’s Race Against Discrimination: Anti-Semitism in the 1930s</td>
<td>Carol Kaufman-Kerman</td>
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<td>Track and Field</td>
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<td>My Faith Story: How I Became Baha’i</td>
<td>Gene Unterschuetz</td>
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<td>Rosie the Riveter Part III</td>
<td>Judith Black</td>
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<td>Ancient History?</td>
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<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Soul Food in a Southern Swamp: Bumming Fish and Crossing Boundaries</td>
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<td>One Righteous Man: The Story of Raoul Wallenberg</td>
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<td>The Spirit Survives (Part I – Gertrude Bonnin)</td>
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<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>The Promise: A Lesson in White Privilege</td>
<td>Phyllis Unterschuetz</td>
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<td>Miss No Name: Struggles for Justice</td>
<td>Jay O'Callahan</td>
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<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>Passing for WASP</td>
<td>Carol Birch</td>
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<td>Shadowball</td>
<td>Bobby Norfolk</td>
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<td>Another Way West</td>
<td>Jane Stenson</td>
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<td>Listening to My Neighborhood: A White Woman, Gentrification, and</td>
<td>Julie Ganey</td>
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<td>Taming the Fire: A Black Heritage Search</td>
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<td>I Wanted To Be an Indian</td>
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<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>Brush the Dirt from My Heart</strong></td>
<td><strong>Special Blends:</strong></td>
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<td>Connie Regan-Blake</td>
<td>A Youthful Perspective on Multi-Cultural, Multi-Ethnic Heritage</td>
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<td><strong>A Link in the Circle:</strong></td>
<td><strong>An African Native American Story</strong></td>
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<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>The Bus: Traveling from England to India, with the Hell’s Angels</strong></td>
<td><strong>Loving Someone Tall:</strong></td>
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<td>Geraldine Buckley</td>
<td>A Conversation With My Father About Race</td>
<td>How a Cantor and His Family Transformed a Klansman</td>
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<td><strong>Guatemala 1993:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>When Hope Is Rekindled</strong></td>
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<td>Sue O’Halloran</td>
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<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>Will You Please NOT Marry Me? - Adventures In Cross-Cultural Dating</strong></td>
<td><strong>You Never Know What the End’s Gonna Be</strong></td>
<td><strong>The Bridge Collapse</strong></td>
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<td>Csenge Zalka</td>
<td>Diane Ferlatte</td>
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<td>8:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>1966 Caracas, Venezuela:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Taylor Made Family:</strong></td>
<td><strong>The Story On Our Skin:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Day One of Junior High For An American Girl</strong></td>
<td>An Aunt’s Tale of Transracial Adoption</td>
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<td>Angela Lloyd</td>
<td>Nancy Donoval</td>
<td>Beyond Appearance</td>
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<td>Christopher Agostino</td>
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Name Calling at Masonville Elementary: Hurtful Words Forgiven
Sheila Arnold

As a 4th grader, Sheila was given a new nickname - the "N" word - and that nickname led to an unlikely friendship, and down the road, led to forgiveness and reconciliation.

Hamlet Goes to Jail: Life Changing Experiences in 1959
Gwen Hilary

The Chicago Public Schools were almost totally segregated in the 1950’s when Gwen’s participated in an accelerated English program and first integrated a South Side High School. She succeeded in getting an “A” in the class but had an encounter with the police that threatened to overshadow her academic accomplishments.

Hot Chili and Crackers: A Racial Stew with Danger
Mama Edie McLoud Armstrong

Mama Edie’s Black Theater Ensemble is invited to perform her original composition called “Metamorphosis” at a university in Iowa in 1970. After what had been a peaceful and joyful journey along the way, the ensemble members come to realize that Civil Rights had not yet fully taken root, not even in the north.

Unsung Hero: How My Uncle Was Saved from the KKK
Sadarri Saskill

Sadarri retells a story of heroism that her mother, Rose, remembered as a child. The story takes place in Holly Springs, Mississippi in the late 1920’s when Sadarri’s Uncle Carl was set to be lynched for “speaking out of turn”. This story is about the unlikely hero who saved the life of Carl Esko Lucas who was truly a Black man dead and resurrected from the dust.

Connecting the Dots: Racism, Activism & Creating a Life
Michael D. McCarty

The phrase ‘Never a dull moment’ is an apt description of Michael’s life: Science geek, Black Panther, acupuncturist, world traveler, and professional storyteller. As Michael likes to say, “I’ve been given a big mouth and a great deal to talk about.”
**Just Hair: Finding Out the Importance of Your True Roots**
Diane Macklin

A chance encounter is an unexpected blessing for a teenager, who discovers that true strength is rooted within, extending down into the roots of the ancestors.

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**A Black American Son's Survival Lessons**
Sheila Arnold

A frantic call from Sheila Arnold’s son during his freshmen year in college turns into a moment to remember all that she had to teach him about growing up black, and, in turn, all he had also learned about crossing bridges in spite of people’s perceptions.

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**When Summer Came: Summer Vacations in the Segregated South**
Gwen Hilary

During the 1950s, Gwen’s mother, like many African American parents, ritually sent their children down south for the summer. Gwen remembers the rich experiences with her grandparents on the farm but also many painful and dangerous racist encounters which greatly impacted her.

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**Mattie's Story: From Darkness into the Light**
Earlana McLaurin

After dreading spending the summer with her strong-willed grandmother, a young Earlana learns the true strength in “black beauty”. She finds that no matter how different we may look, we all have the capacity to feel and, more importantly, be kind to one another.

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**The School of Invisibility**
Charlotte Blake Alston

When Charlotte Blake Alston accepts a teaching position at a private Quaker school, she expects she’ll finally become part of an educational institution committed to respect and equality for all members of the school community. But true equity comes with awareness, sensitivity and diligence. *The School of Invisibility* illustrates how cultural conditioning can creep into even the most “inclusive” school environment.

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**Where Are You From?**
Arif Choudhury

Bangladeshi-American Muslim storyteller, Arif Choudhury, shares stories about growing up as the only “brown-skinned boy” in the neighborhood and how 9-11 changed how others might perceive him and his family.
**DIWALI – From Darkness to Light, Hindus in America - Happy New Year!**  
Archana Lal-Tabak

A Goddess inspired story of the adversities faced and overcome by Archana’s family as they move from India to America. This is a story of identity, assimilation and race relations that ultimately honors different paths of healing and different religions. Overcoming health issues and life and death challenges, from Darkness to Light describes the embodiment of the Indian festival of Lights/Diwali that welcomes in the “new” in each and every one of us in a beautiful way.

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**Why Am I a Jew?**  
Gerald Fierst

Gerry Fierst is someone who would describe himself as “spiritual”, but he also says: “I also love the ritual of religion which connects us to all who have gone before and all who will come long after we are gone.” Especially as Gerry got older, he realized der pintele yid lived inside of him as he could hear the words of his ancestors and pass the tradition of the blowing of the shofar on to his children.

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**My Faith Story: How I Became Baha’i**  
Gene Unterschuetz

As a five year old, Gene had questions about God, Heaven and the soul that went unanswered. As a result, his relationship to God was tenuous and he considered religious people to be weak. Twenty years later, when he found the Bahá’í Faith, his questions were finally answered, and he became a “religious” person himself.

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**Soul Food in a Southern Swamp: Bumming Fish and Crossing Boundaries**  
Doug Elliott

After fishermen in the Okefenokee Swamp give Elliott two fierce looking mudfish, he finds himself on a hilarious cross cultural journey learning how to cook the fish, and later meets a number of challenges learning how to tell the tale.

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**The Promise: A Lesson in White Privilege**  
Phyllis Unterschuetz

What happens when the warm connection between a black woman and a white woman is broken by insensitivity and unconscious white privilege? Are courage, honesty, forgiveness and hope enough to heal the separation? This true story is based on the chapter “The Promise” in the book Longing: Stories of Racial Healing by Phyllis and Eugene Unterschuetz, © Bahá’í Publishing 2010.
Passing for WASP
Carol Birch

Carol believes this statement: "To build a bridge from one culture into another and make pluralism a cause for celebration, we have to have one foot firmly planted in who we are." However, in exploring her Polish and Scottish roots, Carol wonders if she's really been living what she teaches.

Listening to My Neighborhood: A White Woman, Gentrification, and Belonging
Julie Ganey

A white woman moves into a rapidly gentrifying neighborhood with, initially, very little curiosity about the community that resides there. Her assumptions about what it means to belong are challenged.

Brush the Dirt from My Heart
Connie Regan-Blake

Storyteller, Connie Regan-Blake, was invited to come to Uganda by "Bead For Life" (www.beadforlife.org), an NGO helping women lift themselves out of extreme poverty. Many of them are displaced people from the horrors and atrocities of civil war in northern Uganda and are dealing with the ravages of AIDS. Connie was welcomed into their homes and hearts as if she was family and she listened to their profound and transformative stories. This is Namakasa Rose's story.

A Link in the Circle: Learning to Lean on My Indonesian Family
Arianna Ross

What is it like to be so immersed in a culture that a lady on the bus becomes your adopted "Aunt" and a bus driver your "Brother? While Arianna Ross, travelled alone through Indonesia, she discovered that sometimes family is defined by a connection and not blood. Many days Arianna lived with only the support of total strangers. Witness the similarities and differences between Arianna's culture and theirs.

The Bus: Traveling from England to India, with the Hell's Angels
Geraldine Buckley

As the new Protestant Chaplain at the largest men's prison in Maryland, Geraldine quickly realizes that the midweek Bible service has been overrun by the Crips – a violent, largely African-American gang – and that if something isn't done quickly the Correctional Officers will close down the service. Going to the root of the problem, Geraldine meets with the head of Crips in her office, but she soon sees that as the two of them are so completely different she will have to establish some common ground before asking for his help with the problem. Will telling him a story of a thug-filled six-week bus trip from London, UK to Delhi, India, that she took decades before, be enough to win his trust? Can the midweek Bible service be saved?
Guatemala 1993: When Hope Is Rekindled
Sue O'Halloran

Susan takes her young adult sons to Guatemala to be inspired by the Catholic clergy, religious and lay people working for justice there. Her own idealism is challenged as she hears stories of the atrocities people are suffering because of Guatemala’s civil war. A “moment of grace” and wisdom from the Mother Superior restore her sense of hope and dedication.

Will You Please NOT Marry Me? - Adventures In Cross-Cultural Dating
Csenge Zalka

When a single girl from Eastern Europe goes to the USA to study, she has to face certain assumptions made about green cards, marriages of convenience, and other things no one prepared her for. Culture shock comes in many shapes and sizes, and graduate school orientations never tell you what “the L word” really stands for…

1966 Caracas, Venezuela: Day One of Junior High For An American Girl
Angela Lloyd

Moving to Junior High school opens Angela’s eyes to a society and culture that she had been living in (Caracas, Venezuela), and yet one from which she was separate. Angela’s story tells a universal truth: we think we are the only ones telling ourselves “We do not belong here.” That statement is what we have in common.

Looking for Papito
Antonio Sacre

As a Cuban and Irish American child, Antonio deals with being “too ethnic” or “not ethnic enough”. By trial and error and with the support of his family, Antonio reclaims all of his ethnic heritage and his Spanish language.

How Do You Say Blueberry in Spanish?
Antonio Sacre

Antonio explores the challenges and joys of trying to raise a bilingual child. As anxious new parents, Antonio and his wife ask, “Are two languages better than one?” and find humor along the way.

A Voting Booth Built for Two: Election Enthusiasm from a Cuban-American Mom
Carmen Agra Deedy

The small Southern town where Carmen’s parents live is a-buzz with political acrimony. Carmen’s mother, Esther, a spunky octogenarian—and Cuban refugee—regards her right to vote a hard-won, American privilege. As she finishes casting her vote, she is more than happy to remind her husband, Carlos, of “their views” on local elections. Carlos’ reaction to his wife’s enthusiasm is a hysterical and poignant civics lesson for all who are lucky enough to be casting their vote at Rocky Springs Elementary School that day.
My Brother's Keeper: A Teenager Works to Free Manuel Salazar from Death Row
Jasmin Cardenas

Can a teenager make an impact in a world full of injustice? Jasmin looks back at the roots of her involvement in social justice issues when she joined the cause to free the young Mexican-American artist, Manuel Salazar, who sat on death row falsely accused of killing a police officer.

Between Worlds
Olga Loya

Olga reaches back into her Mexican-American childhood as she searches for her place in the world.

The American Visa: A Saga In Three Acts
Antonio Rocha

Antonio recounts all the difficulties he faced to get a Visa to come to the United States from Brazil. Going the “legal” route is filled with red tape, bureaucratic inconsistencies and plenty of suspicion. That seemingly insurmountable document became his ticket to his current life as a professional storyteller in America.

To Live or Not to Live in La Villita, Chicago: A Latina Struggles with Civic Responsibility
Jasmin Cardenas

Jasmin struggles with the decision of where to live: a culturally vibrant Mexican-American community that struggles with safety or a picturesque middle class neighborhood where her son might be the only brown boy on the block. How does this educated Latina seek out community? And how, as we grow older, do we stay true to our values of making a difference in the world?

No Aguantará – It Will Never Last
Carrie Sue Ayvar

The differences were easy to see, Catholic/Jewish, Brown/White, Spanish-Speaking/English-Speaking, Mexican/American, rural/urban. When Carrie Sue and her fiancé decided to marry there were many who thought their relationship would not last long – including the representative from the U.S. Embassy in Mexico who was handling their Visa.
**What's a Mexican?**  
Olga Loya

Olga explores the various labels for her ethnic group: Mexican, American, Mexican American, Latina, Chicana and so on. In doing so, she finds out how she wants to define herself and her pride in her cultural life.

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**My Father the Whiz: A Cuban-American Man Outwits Jim Crow**  
Carmen Agra Deedy

In 1964, Carmen's father, a Cuban refugee, went to work at a steel manufacturing plant near Atlanta, Georgia. When, on the first day of work, he asked to take a bathroom break, he was faced with two choices: before him was a "white" bathroom . . . and a "colored" bathroom. Carmen's father's solution would foreshadow how this inventive man would ultimately teach his Cuban-American daughters that, in matters of conscience, we need not accept the only choices placed before us.

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**Too Crazy to Know Better**  
Jay O'Callahan

Jay O'Callahan shares storyteller Sandra Harris's story of her involvement in the Civil Rights struggle in Birmingham, Alabama in 1963.

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**Through the Eyes of York**  
Bobby Norfolk

In 1804, Lewis & Clark crossed The Great Plains and dangerous Rocky Mountains to finally see the Pacific Ocean for the first time! One person who was part of this Corps of Discovery was an African American man named York. While York was not always credited with his part in the Western exploration, his contributions were a large part of Lewis & Clark's success.

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**Mary McLeod Bethune: An American Educator and Civil Rights Leader**  
Elizabeth Ellis

In this excerpt from a longer story, Elizabeth tells of the time Mary McLeod Bethune faced down the Ku Klux Klan to provide education for African-American girls.
**Rosie the Riveter Part III**  
Judith Black

During WWII, men fought on the eastern and western front, but Rosie was the soldier on the home front. Working all shifts and all jobs she plowed her way through a workplace woven with sexism and racism and despite it all, this gal had production levels that turned heads. In this excerpt, you’ll meet an African American Rosie who changed the nature of a 1944 workplace.

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**One Righteous Man: The Story of Raoul Wallenberg**  
Syd Lieberman

This excerpt contains Syd’s Great Aunt Helen’s account of what happened to her during the Holocaust. Syd taped his aunt’s story and tells the story in her voice.

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**Miss No Name: Struggles for Justice**  
Jay O’Callahan

Jay shares storyteller Brother Blue’s (Dr. Hugh Morgan Hill) experience as an African American soldier in World War II in the Jim Crow South.

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**Shadowball**  
Bobby Norfolk

Learn what the term “Shadowball” meant if you were a person of color who played baseball in segregated America in the 1920's and 30's. Bobby brings to life famed players such as Cool Papa Bell and Satchel Paige, as he explores their triumphs and sacrifices.

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**Taming the Fire: A Black Heritage Search**  
Sheila Arnold

One day an angry black teenage girl - Sheila - stormed into her History Class and demanded to know why she had never heard about black inventors. Her favorite teacher, who happened to be white, was faced with a decision, but in making that decision an entire classroom of students was changed and history was given more relevance.

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**Special Blends: A Youthful Perspective on Multi-Cultural, Multi-Ethnic Heritage**  
Amber, Autumn and Misty Saskill

Amber, Misty, and Autumn – three multi-ethnic sisters – offer a sneak peek into their thoughts about self-identification. These storytellers also share a medley of emotional experiences about how they have sometimes been viewed by others. From skin color to hair texture, from humor to poignant reflection, these dynamic young women personify Dr. Maria P. P. Root’s, *Bill of Rights for People of Mixed Heritage.*
**An African Native American Story**
Mama Edie McLoud Armstrong

Many Africans and First Nations People bonded together during and after slavery in the Americas and in the Caribbean for protection, acceptance, friendship and love. As a result, many African descendants in these countries also share Native American ancestries. Mama Edie learns while watching old Westerns on TV with her grandmother, Nonnie Dear, a new perception of who the “good guys” or “bad guys” were.

**Loving Someone Tall: A Conversation With My Father About Race**
Laura Packer

When Laura fell in love with Kevin, she was certain her liberal family would love him, too. After all, he was smart, handsome, educated and kind; that his skin was a different color didn’t matter, right? Imagine her surprise when Laura and her father needed to negotiate his discomfort with her sweetheart’s differences.

**A Father’s Gift**
Noa Baum

In 1965, there was a war between India and Pakistan and Bilal wanted to know “Why is there all this hate?” This is the true story of a special gift Dr. Bilal Ahmed, a Pakistani Muslim, received from his father when he was thirteen. He offered his story as a gift to storyteller, Noa Baum, to shape and retell and, now, having told it to you, she hopes you will pass it on.

**You Never Know What the End’s Gonna Be**
Diane Ferlatte

In 1972 Diane marries outside her race (as they say) and her mother-in-law refuses to attend the wedding, among other things. What happens to the family’s relationship afterward is anyone’s guess.

**Taylor Made Family: An Aunt’s Tale of Transracial Adoption**
Nancy Donoval

When Nancy’s sister adopts seven-year-old Taylor, aunt and niece find kindred spirits in each other. This story explores what makes us family and when the color of one’s skin does and doesn’t matter.
Evacuation
Anne Shimojima

What if the U.S. went to war with your country of origin? Anne Shimojima tells of the difficult days following the attack on Pearl Harbor, when her Japanese-American family faced forced evacuation from their home. Could it happen to you?

Immigrant Story: A Chinese Family in the U.S.
Nancy Wang

This story follows the journey of Nancy Wang’s ancestors who arrived in California on a junk boat in 1850 and started the fishing industry of the Monterey Peninsula. However, both legal and illegal violence ensued against them for generations. This story reveals how a group of immigrants rallied with resilience and ingenuity so that the 7th generation of Chinese Americans thrives today.

A Twice Saved Life: The Solly Ganor Story
Alton Takiyama-Chung

Solly Ganor, a Lithuanian Jew, was a boy when Germany invaded his country in 1940. He was eventually sent to Dachau and was rescued by members of the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team, the all-Japanese American unit. Fifty years later he once again meets the man who saved him.

Cost of Racism
Motoko Dworkin

As Motoko raises her Japanese son in the U.S., she is reminded of prejudice against Koreans in her own country, and discovers the importance of the language we use to create the world we live in.

Grandpa’s Story: No Apology Necessary
Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo

An American family gathers for a reunion with laughter, memories, and good ol’ corn beef and cabbage. Suddenly, the father kneels before his family and sobs apologetically, “Your country has betrayed you.” With the launch of Executive Order 9066, the unconstitutional mass incarceration of over 110,000 citizens of Japanese ancestry begins. Now this American family, at this point in history, deemed the “enemy race” must ask, “What will happen next?”

Vietnamese Refugees: An American Immigrant Story
Susan O’Halloran

The true story of a Vietnamese teenager who makes it to America after a harrowing boat journey and refugee camp. At a commemorative storytelling event honoring Vietnamese Americans, Sue witnesses the transformative power of story as this young man shares his American immigrant story. The community of listeners that storytelling creates makes a new country feel like home.
My Long Hair
Motoko Dworkin

Motoko tells a story about her own experience of sexual harassment in Japan, how she was trapped into silence imposed by her culture, and how storytelling helped her break the silence and heal herself.

Incarceration
Anne Shimojima

How would the government treat your family if it went to war with your ancestors’ country of origin? Anne Shimojima describes life in an incarceration camp for her Japanese-American family during World War II.

Onara
Alton Takiyama-Chung

This is a true story written by Mako Nakagawa and told by Alton with her permission. A young girl wonders about the difference between “hakujin” (white people) and “nihonjin” (Japanese people) while in an internment camp in WWII. She speculates as to why hakujin do not onara (a euphemism for “passing gas”).

Chinese New Year’s Frogs: A Collision of Culture and Nature
Linda Yemoto

“Ranger Linda” describes her encounter with a group of well-intentioned Chinese Americans bearing bullfrogs. This surprising incident illustrates how cultural differences can have unintended consequences and how cultural awareness can lead to greater understanding and a better outcome for all.

A Window of Beauty: A Story of Courage from the Holocaust
Nancy Shapiro-Pikelny

Nancy tells an excerpt from “A Window of Beauty,” a story inspired by the experiences of a young girl, her remarkable teacher and their secret art classes in the Terezin Concentration Camp in Czechoslovakia during World War II. It is a tale of courage, friendship and the power of artistic expression to sustain hope and light the way during the darkest of times.
**The Day the Nazis Came**  
Syd Lieberman  

An excerpt from Syd's book *Streets and Alleys*, this is a true story of the day the Nazis spoke at Lovelace Park in Evanston, IL and Syd's surprising reaction.

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**My Father's Race Against Discrimination: Anti-Semitism in the 1930s Track and Field**  
Carol Kaufman-Kerman  

Carol's father's is told he is not permitted to run on his college track team at the University of Pennsylvania. Two Jewish runners in the 1936 Berlin Olympics are not permitted to participate in the 400 relays. All three are Jewish and all three have the same coach.

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**Ancient History? Do Stories of the Holocaust Matter?**  
Gail Rosen  

Gail Rosen tells the story of a Holocaust survivor. Why tell a story that's not your own? How does understanding others' stories help us think about our own place in history?

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**The Spirit Survives (Part I – Gertrude Bonnin) and The Spirit Survives (Part II – Grandpa)**  
Dovie Thomason  

The "Indian Experiment" in education, the government boarding schools, is unknown to many Americans, yet affects us all. Following forty years of study of these stories, Dovie knew she had to share what she'd learned that would be essential to her daughter, and all of us. She weaves history, biography, autobiography and personal reflection in this story that she never "wanted" to tell. But there are some stories that need to be told...

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**Another Way West**  
Jane Stenson  

At age 16, in 1855, Jane's great-grandfather sailed from Long Island, N.Y. around the Horn to San Francisco where he was STRANDED! He took a job with Wells Fargo as a treasure agent in the Sacramento-Shasta Mining District...the home of the Shasta Indian Nation. In 1860 he rode the first leg EAST of the Pony Express. He was also a member of San Francisco's Vigilance Committee, a group of 6000 men, committed to establishing "law and order." How do we seek understanding of both the pride and the discomfort our ancestor's stories?
I Wanted To Be an Indian
Jo Radner

Stories about our ancestors help us understand who we are. Encountering troubling revelations about her forebears and their Indian neighbors in colonial New England, Jo asks what it means to tell -- and live with -- her whole, complex history.

Who Knows What Children Make of These Things?
Milbre Burch

In three short anecdotes, the teller (Milbre as a child) and her small daughter, Elizabeth, try to make sense of a world in which we are taught to fear “the Other”.

Who is a Friend? German-Jewish Reconciliation After the Holocaust
Gail Rosen

Who is my friend and who is my enemy? Gail Rosen, a Jewish storyteller, goes to Germany and makes a surprising connection to a German man who lived through WWII.

Not By the Sword: How a Cantor and His Family Transformed a Klansman
Pippa White

In 1991 in Lincoln, Nebraska, a Jewish Cantor and his family were threatened and harassed by the Grand Dragon of the state Ku Klux Klan. Here is the remarkable story of how they dealt with the hatred and bigotry, and, in the process, redeemed a life. Based on the book, Not By the Sword: How a Cantor and His Family Transformed a Klansman, by Kathryn Watterson.

On the Bus: Saved By an Angel
Jon Spelman

A re-telling of a story that was told to Jon by a woman at one of his performances about how a perfect stranger saved this woman when she was a girl from arrest and worse. The woman left before Jon could ask her more, but her story says that this could happen anywhere and at any time. Any of us may be called to help another.
The Bridge Collapse
Kevin Kling

A bridge collapses in Minneapolis and the media is there. Suddenly, watching the stories of all the heroes from that day, Kevin is aware of the great diversity in his city. Citizens of every color and creed were there to rescue and help people in the midst of this tragedy. Another friend of Kevin’s tells him how upset he was when people from other countries showed up to work in a local factory. Then, this same friend hears his grandmother being interviewed on the radio as a “first generation” American and realizes that we are all immigrants.

The Story On Our Skin: Looking for Identity Beyond Appearance
Christopher Agostino

A StoryFace by Christopher Agostino — From when we humans first became aware, we began to paint our skin with colors and symbols of who we are. Were we telling the world “look at my skin to see who I am”, or saying that since appearances can change, then true identity must lie deeper within us?
Christopher Agostino
Christopher Agostino has enjoyed a 30-year adventure in theater, storytelling, facepainting and bodypainting as chronicled in his book Transformations! The Story Behind the Painted Faces. He combines these arts in a unique performance style called StoryFaces. This piece is a synthesis of lessons learned through his explorations of world cultures and the art of transformation. Before Cave Walls…the story on our skin is a full-length educational presentation on the history and cultural significance of masks and body art. Samantha Desom, medical student, models for the story.

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Charlotte Blake Alston
Charlotte Blake Alston is a storyteller, narrator, instrumentalist and singer who performs in venues throughout North America and abroad including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Smithsonian Institution, the Kimmel Center, the Women of the Word Festival in Cape Town, South Africa, a refugee camp in northern Senegal plus prisons, detention centers and major festivals, museums, universities and concert halls.

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Mama Edie McLoud Armstrong
Mama Edie McLoud Armstrong is a speech and language pathologist, bilingual storyteller (Spanish/English or Sign Language/Voice) and percussionist, creating specialized, interactive and highly engaging performances and workshops for all ages. She provides services for educational conferences, festivals, special art and history museum exhibits, for the corporate sector, for places of worship and more. Drawing on her African, Native American and Italian ancestries, she encourages us to learn about and to embrace all that we are; to see something wonderful in everyone; and to dare to make a difference in the world.

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Sheila Arnold
Sheila Arnold has been gifted by God with performance skills and has been using this talent since she was eight years old. Since 2003 she has been a full-time Storyteller traveling through the United States and sharing a variety of stories – “whatever tells good in her mouth”, as well as doing Historic Character Presentations and Christian Monologues.

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Carrie Sue Ayvar
Carrie Sue Ayvar, an award winning, Arabic surnamed, Eastern European Jewish woman from Pittsburgh, PA tells stories that flow effortlessly between Spanish and English. As a storyteller, speaker, Teaching Artist and Chautauqua Scholar, she loves to connect people, languages and cultures via shared stories. Believing, as her grandfather taught her, that “If you don’t know the trees, you may be lost in the forest, but if you don’t know the stories, you may be lost in life”, she guides her listeners through cross-cultural experiences in her performances at venues large and small throughout the U.S. and Mexico.

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Noa Baum
Born and raised in Jerusalem, Noa Baum offers a unique approach to storytelling in communities and organizations. For her, storytelling is the intersection of her work as a performance artist, educator, and diversity specialist. Her peacebuilding programs include keynotes and workshops, and her piece A Land Twice Promised tells the true stories of four women, two Israelis and two Palestinians.

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Carol Birch
Carol Birch is an internationally acclaimed storyteller, author, workshop leader, lecturer, recording artist, and director of storytelling recordings who has been a featured storyteller six times at the National storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee. Her concerts for adults include the story of Lou Gehrig and works by John Steinbeck and Ray Bradbury, while others celebrate immigrants, women, and love.

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Judith Black
Judith Black’s wide-ranging repertoire includes adult theater pieces, original stories based on the real lives of America’s unsung heroes and heroines, stories for religious communities, women’s stories, and programs for school audiences that include traditional folklore and original pieces. She also leads workshops for students, educators, storytellers, religious educators, and natural and historic interpreters.

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Geraldine Buckley
British born Geraldine Buckley is an award-winning storyteller, speaker, writer and educator who shares folk tales, and true stories based on her own globe-trotting adventures, at festivals, schools, theatres, house-concerts, colleges and conferences. Until January 2010 Geraldine was a chaplain at the largest men’s prison in Maryland and she is currently developing middle school storytelling projects and curriculum aimed at keeping at-risk teenagers out of jail. Known for her warmth, wit and humor, Geraldine lives in Frederick, Maryland, but she is an audience favorite on three continents – her most recent trip was a storytelling and speaking tour of New Zealand.

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Milbre Burch
An internationally known performer, a produced playwright, a published poet and fiction writer, a lauded director and dramaturg, an award-winning recording artist, a storytelling revival archivist, an educator, and scholar, Milbre Burch is a storyteller in every sense of the word. In 2012 her teaching and touring schedule took her to Seville, Spain, Dublin, Ireland, Shropshire, England and Washington, DC. She received an NSN Oracle Award in 1999 and was nominated for a spoken word GRAMMY in 2007.

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Jasmin Cardenas
Born to Colombian parents, bilingual storyteller Jasmin Cardenas enjoys telling personal stories of being bi-cultural to people of all ages. Her Ancient Myths & Legends Program is a bilingual collection of folktales, myths and legends from North, South and Central America, paying special attention to Colombian stories. Jasmin has enjoyed telling stories to people of all ages, all over the world, as a professional storyteller, theater artist and SAG Actress.

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Arif Choudhury
Arif Choudhury is a storyteller, filmmaker, and stand-up comic who shares a tapestry of stories about growing up in one of the Chicago area’s few Bangladeshi-Muslim families. Focusing on issues of ethnic and religious identity, immigration, assimilation and diversity, Choudhury explores the humor in how we think about and relate to one another.

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Carmen Agra Deedy

Carmen Deedy grew up hearing stories in the Cuban community within Decatur, GA. The love of stories that she acquired as a young person was solidified the first time she experienced The National Storytelling Festival as a listener. Since then she has gone on to tell Nationally and Internationally. Deedy has authored numerous children’s books, among them a New York Times Bestseller, 14 Cows for America. She is the recipient of various literary awards, and is the Emmy-winning host of Love That Book, a children’s book program, produced in her home state of Georgia. A frequent speaker to adults, children remain her favorite audiences.

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Nancy Donoval

Nancy Donoval is the 2010 National Story Slam Champion. Coming to storytelling 26 years ago from a background as a theater director, she is a highly respected storyteller and story coach specializing in finding humor in the hard stuff. Nancy tours her one-woman show “The Road to Shameless” to campuses nationwide to promote sexual violence prevention. Originally from Chicago, she now makes her home in Minneapolis.

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Motoko Dworkin

Parents’ Choice Award winner Motoko blends her hilarious and poignant tales from Asia with mime, songs and origami. A native of Osaka, Japan, Motoko has performed in schools, libraries, and festivals across the U.S. since 1993. Her featured appearances include PBS’ “Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood”, the National Storytelling Festival, and Carnegie Kids in Miyazaki, sponsored by Carnegie Hall.

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Doug Elliott

Whether he’s singing about catfish, pontificating on possums, extolling the virtues of dandelions, pondering the “nature” in human nature, telling wild snake tales or wailing out a jivey harmonica tune, storyteller, Doug Elliott, will take you on an unforgettable, multifaceted cultural tour of North America’s back country.

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Elizabeth Ellis

Telling personal tales, Appalachian and Texas tales, and stories of heroic American women, Elizabeth Ellis's storytelling journey has taken her from her local library to as far away as New Zealand. Her workshops, storytelling intensives, and interactive keynotes open doors for participants to communicate on a deeper level, and her school and library performances enhance curriculum, promote character education, stimulate reading, and celebrate diversity.

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Diane Ferlatte

Diane Ferlatte continues to focus on schools and libraries as much as possible because she believes this is where the tradition of storytelling is to be nurtured and the lessons of the stories most need to be heard. In fact, she was honored to be featured in Language of Literature, McDougal Littell's latest textbook series for middle school grades.

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Gerald Fierst

Gerald Fierst is one of America’s most acclaimed storytellers. As a performer, he has appeared throughout the US, in Europe, and in Asia, telling original stories, stories from his own Jewish tradition, and stories from world folklore; as a writer and teacher, he has worked for school systems and universities across the US, leading workshops for teachers and students in writing and performance. He has served as a Co-director of the MidAtlantic Storytellers’ Gathering, as a member of the board of The New York Storytelling Center, and as artistic director of the Jewish Storytelling Center at the 92nd St Y in NYC.

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Julie Ganey

Julie Ganey is an actress and writer in Chicago, where her original solo shows The Half-Life of Magic and Love Thy Neighbor…till it hurts have received multiple productions. She is a company member at 2nd Story, a professional collective of writers and storytakers, and her work has appeared in their recently published anthology and also on NPR. Julie is especially proud of her work as a teaching artist with students of all ages.

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**Gwendolyn Hilary**

*Gwendolyn Hilary*, former librarian and educator, has been sharing stories that spark the imagination and touch the soul for more than 25 years. She regularly performs with Enoch Williamson, world-renowned musician, and together they create an energetic fusion of music and the spoken word. Gwen especially enjoys sharing multicultural folktales and the history, contributions, and powerful stories of African Americans.

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**Robert Kikuchi-Ynogo**

*Robert Kikuchi-Ynogo*, together with his storyteller wife, Nancy Wang, founded Eth-Noh-Tec in 1982. This is a kinetic story theater company based in San Francisco, weaving [tec] together distinctive cultural elements of the East and West [eth] to create new possibilities [noh]. Eth-Noh-Tec produces and performs contemporary presentations of traditional folktales from the many countries and cultures of Asia through storytelling, theater, dance, and music. Robert is available for performances in schools and colleges solo, or with his wife as Eth-NohTec.

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**Kevin Kling**

*Kevin Kling*, playwright, author, and storyteller, has had his plays and adaptations performed around the world. His commentaries can be heard on NPR’s *All Things Considered* and he has been awarded numerous arts grants and fellowships. He travels around the globe to numerous storytelling festivals and residencies and has released a number of CD collections of his stories.

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**Carol Kaufman-Kerman**

*Carol Kerman* is a storyteller, story educator and drama specialist. Her folktales are full of energy and engage the audience to participate through chants and movement and help children be “smart from the heart.” Her personal stories hope to spark in her listeners their own stories.

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Archana Lal-Tabak, M.D.
Archana Lal-Tabak, M.D. is an Integrative Physician, Storyteller, Speaker, Writer, and Visual Artist. Archana completed the Honors Program in Medicine at Northwestern University and practices Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Holistic Psychiatry, Nutrition and Mind-Body-Soul Integration into Wellness & Wholeness. She is often a guest on television, radio and speaks to groups throughout the U.S.. She is a Co-Founder of Heart of Transformation Wellness Institute in Evanston, IL with her husband, Jim. Archana was raised in a Punjabi Hindu family from India and now practices Interfaith & Trans-denominational Spirituality.

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Syd Lieberman
Syd Lieberman is an internationally acclaimed storyteller, an author, and an award-winning teacher. Many of his best-loved stories deal with growing up and raising a family in Chicago. He is also known for his original historical pieces and his signature versions of Jewish and literary tales. Syd’s work has garnered awards from ALA, Parent’s Choice, and Storytelling World. He has taught storytelling at the Kennedy Center and Disney World, and received commissions from NASA; the Smithsonian Institution; Johnstown, Pennsylvania; Historic Philadelphia; and the Van Andel Museum Center.

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Angela Lloyd
“Diagonally parked in a parallel world”, Angela Lloyd sees the art of storytelling as a way to tell what we see. A teaching artist, worker of the word and musician, Angela was raised abroad with three languages: English, Spanish and music.

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Olga Loya
Before she was a storyteller, Latina American Olga Loya was many things. Like many of her storytelling colleagues, she spent years working as a teacher. (She even founded her own alternative school after a few years in the public school system.) The classroom is a gateway for many professional performers who learned their trade in front of a demanding audience of students.

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**Diane Macklin**

Diane Macklin has delighted audiences for over 15 years, sharing tales through a “dynamic” style seasoned with rhythm, sounds, and movement, engaging listeners of all ages. She has performed from Massachusetts to California for venues such as the National Air and Space Museum, Cincinnati’s Playhouse in the Park, Wolf Trap’s Theatre-in-the-Woods, and the National Storytelling Festival’s Exchange Place. As a performer, certified educator, and writer, Diane believes in “Making a difference, One Story at a Time.”

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**Michael D. McCarty**

Michael McCarty (“Have Mouth Will Run It™”) is a multicultural storyteller of African, African-American and International Folk tales, Historical tales, Stories of Science, Spiritual stories as well as stories of the brilliant and absolutely stupid things he has done in his life. His stories inform, educate, inspire and amuse. His storytelling style is energetic and enthusiastic.

Website: [www.havemouthwillrunit.com](http://www.havemouthwillrunit.com)

Email: Click here to contact Michael

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**Earliana McLaurin**

Earliana “Earl” McLaurin is a Chicago-based actor, writer, and teaching artist. Earliana has worked with such companies as Stockyard’s Theatre Project, Hell in a Handbag Productions, and is a company member with 2nd Story storytelling collective.

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**Bobby Norfolk**

Bobby Norfolk’s national and international community and educational programs promote positive character education traits and cultural diversity, literacy, drug awareness, nature, and history. He delights audiences with his first person living history and musical programs, and his workshops and keynotes are favorites among educators, corporations, festivals, and conventions.

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Jay O’Callahan

Jay O’Callahan, recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, has performed his original work with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, Lincoln Center and in theatres throughout the United States. Time Magazine called his work “genius.”

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Susan O’Halloran

Susan O’Halloran is a story artist, writer, television personality and keynote speaker. Her stories focus on family, a sense of place and how our past affects our present and future. She is the author of several books and diversity curricula plus a producer of multicultural performances and films. In addition, Sue teaches diversity and inclusion seminars in Fortune 500 companies and Graduate Schools of Business and Story Power seminars for nonprofits.

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Laura Packer

The daughter of a writer and librarian, Laura Packer has been telling stories her whole life. She has told and taught around the world and is the winner of the Brother Blue Award and the National Storytelling Network’s Oracle Award. When she isn’t telling or teaching, Laura works with organizations to help them understand the value of storytelling and listening.

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Jo Radner

Over the past fifteen years, Jo Radner has performed in theaters, festivals, conferences, schools, colleges, and at community events. She creates personal and family tales as well as stories about the people and history of Maine. She leads storytelling workshops for children and adults and also conducts fieldwork and oral history projects for communities, veterans’ organizations, and other groups.

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**Connie Regan-Blake**

Connie Regan-Blake has entertained audiences in 47 states and 16 countries, bringing the wisdom, humor, and drama of stories to main stage concert halls, libraries, and the corporate world. She has been featured on seven award-winning recordings, both as a solo artist and a member of the acclaimed Folktellers duo, and at the nation’s top folk music and storytelling festivals.

Website: [www.storywindow.com](http://www.storywindow.com)
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**Antonio Rocha**

Antonio Rocha, a native of Brazil, began his career in the performing arts in 1985. His unique solo shows of stories and mime have been performed from Singapore to Hawaii and many places in between including ten countries on five continents.

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**Gail Rosen**

Gail Rosen trained in theater and special education and as a bereavement facilitator and educator, she leads hospice and adult bereavement camps. Her programs include Jewish storytelling, Holocaust oral history, wisdom stories, folk tales, literary stories, and personal adventures. Gail is the founder of the Healing Story Alliance, a special interest group of the National Storytelling Network.

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**Arianna Ross**

Arianna Ross and her company, Story Tapestries, create international, dynamic programs that weave the power of storytelling, dance, theatre, and music. She is known for her ability to entertain and educate children and adults with equal success. For over 14 years, Arianna has performed and taught workshops across the United States, India, and Brazil in festivals, concert halls, colleges, libraries and schools.

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Antonio Sacre

Antonio Sacre, born in Boston to a Cuban father and Irish-American mother, is an internationally touring writer, storyteller, and solo performance artist based in Los Angeles. He earned a BA in English from Boston College and an MA in Theater Arts from Northwestern University. He has performed at the National Book Festival at the Library of Congress, the Kennedy Center, the National Storytelling Festival, and museums, schools, libraries, and festivals internationally.

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Autumn Saskill

Florida born Autumn Joy Kornreich Saskill is an eighteen year-old college junior currently studying to be an interpreter for the Deaf. Recipient of national awards for excellence in youth storytelling, Autumn has told stories to many groups including the National Storytelling Pre-Conference (St. Louis, MO); Ebony Talent Association (Chicago, IL); the Sterling, IL Storytelling Festival, and the National Association of Black Storytellers Festival (Atlanta, GA); and has presented her own workshop series, The Art of Creating Stories, for hundreds of children from area schools. Autumn uses her special gifts as a singer, pianist, professional voice-over artist and multilingual Storyteller to embody the talent of today’s youth.

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Misty Saskill

Misty Saskill is a storyteller and poet par excellence that is fluent in Spanish and Haitian Creole and has spent extensive time as a workshop presenter and volunteer in the Dominican Republic. She is part of a multilingual storytelling family that brings a unique blend of language, music, movement, and teaching to their high demand interactive tandem-tag-team performances. Misty has been recognized throughout the United States for her storytelling and poetry and is published in the National Association of Black Storytellers’ anthology, Sayin’ Somethin’.

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Autumn, Misty & Amber Saskill

Born in Evanston, Illinois, Amber Saskill is a talented storyteller who has performed stories and songs in English, Spanish, French and Russian in schools, museums, libraries and festivals around the world. As a youth, in the year 2000 the National Storytelling Youth Olympics Committee chose Amber from among thousands to be the National Ambassador of youth storytellers. As an adult, she continues to perform individually and with her family that is one of the premiere multilingual storytelling troupes in America.

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**Sadarri Saskill**

Sadarri Saskill is a Chicago-born writer, educator and multilingual storyteller whose work is seasoned with cultural richness and diversity. Sadarri is part of a vivacious family of teaching artists offering programs worldwide for audiences of all ages; taking her performances to places like Haiti, Spain, France and North America including the Exchange Place at the National Storytelling Festival and the International Storytelling Center – both in Jonesborough, TN; NABS Festivals in San Diego and Atlanta; and the International Art of Storytelling Festival in Miami. Specializing in multi-cultural literacy, their stories and songs have also been showcased in numerous award-winning audio and video recordings.

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**Nancy Shapiro-Pikelny**

Nancy Shapiro-Pikelny is a teacher, storyteller and ‘oral archaeologist’ who uncovers and brings to the stage, narrative layers of history, folktales and family legends. Her stories come from Jewish life in Eastern Europe to the Middle East, her ancestors’ immigrant experiences in America and her original work. Nancy has performed at schools, libraries and community events, including the National Storytelling Festival Exchange Place, Piccolo Spoleto, the Chicago Jewish Folk Arts Festival and the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center.

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**Anne Shimojima**

Like many Japanese-American families, Anne Shimojima’s family didn’t talk about their experiences during World War II. Gathering family photographs and interviewing a 91-year-old aunt opened the way to uncovering the story, and helped Anne to articulate her own identity as a Japanese-American. Anne performs folk tales, literary stories, and historical pieces in schools, libraries, museums, and festivals, and gives workshops on the use of storytelling in education and the creation of family history projects.

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**Jon Spelman**

Jon Spelman’s thirty years as a performer, storyteller, writer, teacher, and coach have won him awards and acclaim. He has developed more than thirty-two hours of narrative performance material, which he performs throughout the United States and Europe, and his work has been commissioned by Ford’s Theatre, The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and The Smithsonian Institution, among others. Jon also offers master classes and school and community residencies.

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Jane Stenson

Jane Stenson is a storyteller, author, and master teacher who instills world folktales and personal stories with images and metaphors crafted from her love of nature and belief in diversity. Her stories stimulate and inspire her listeners to think more humanistically about each other and their place in the world. Jane is the co-author of three books on storytelling in the classroom.

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Alton Takiyama-Chung

Alton Chung grew up with the stories, superstitions, and magic of the Hawaiian Islands. This combined with his Japanese and Korean roots, gives him a unique perspective to tell cultural tales and personal stories with a deep sense of reverence and authenticity.

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Dovie Thomason

Dovie Thomason learned Indian stories from her Apache and Lakota relatives, and has performed throughout the United States and internationally in schools, libraries, conferences, powwows, and festivals. The National Endowment has recognized her commitment to traditional cultural arts and education as a Master Traditional Teaching Artists for the Arts and she is a winner of the Parents’ Choice Gold Award, Storytelling World Honors Award, and the American Library Association/Booklist Editor’s Choice Award for her recordings of traditional Native stories.

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Gene Unterschuetz

Gene Unterschuetz has been studying the dynamics of race since 1990 and engaged in field research on racial conditioning for the past 15 years. He and his wife, Phyllis, have traveled extensively around the country telling stories of their personal struggles to overcome their own racial conditioning. These anecdotes eventually became the basis for their book, Longing: Stories of Racial Healing, which was published in May 2010.

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Phyllis Unterschuetz

Phyllis Unterschuetz is the co-author with her husband Gene of Longing: Stories of Racial Healing, a white couple’s personal account of a journey that pulled them out of their comfortable notions about race and into the lives of people of African descent, where they faced their greatest challenge – their own racial conditioning. She has been engaged in field research on the dynamics of race for the past 15 years, sharing her stories of healing for organizations around the country. Phyllis is also a founding member of the Race Story ReWrite Project, a movement to claim authorship of our collective race story and write a new ending that reflects our inherent nobility.

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Csenge Virág Zalka

Csenge Virág Zalka is a storyteller and former Fulbright student from Hungary, currently working on her PhD studies in the USA. She performs internationally, telling folktales and legends in three languages. As a storyteller and author she focuses on the merging of oral tradition and popular culture.

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Nancy Wang

Nancy Wang, together with her storyteller husband Robert Kikuchi-Ynogo founded Eth-Noh-Tec in 1982. This is a kinetic story theater company based in San Francisco, weaving [tec] together distinctive cultural elements of the East and West [eth] to create new possibilities [noh]. Eth-Noh-Tec produces and performs contemporary presentations of traditional folktales from the many countries and cultures of Asia through storytelling, theater, dance, and music. Nancy Wang is available for performances in schools and colleges solo, or with her husband as Eth-NohTec.

Website: [www.ethnohtec.org](http://www.ethnohtec.org)
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Pippa White

Pippa White calls her One's Company Productions “part storytelling, part theatre, part history.” Her true stories are those of immigrants, pioneers, Orphan Train Riders, resistance fighters, reformers and other brave individuals who seek to better the world. She has performed in 31 states.

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Linda Yemoto

For more than 30 years, Linda Yemoto was “Ranger Linda” to thousands of kids and adults in the San Francisco Bay Area. Now retired from her career as a Park Naturalist, she continues to tell stories that convey an appreciation of natural and cultural history. Linda is Chair of the annual Bay Area Storytelling Festival.

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Last August, Susan O’Halloran and Father Derek Simons, co-producers of the Chicago area JustStories Festival, brought their festival to their JustStories Facebook Page. Storyteller and coach Nancy Donohue interviewed Sue about taking the festival online. From that conversation, these are some of the revelations about their successes and just how this online festival was envisioned and produced.

The Concept

Nothing takes the place of live storytelling, but an online storytelling festival held the possibility of being even more far-reaching. Father Derek Simons and I had co-produced the live JustStories Festival—devoted to stories of racial identity, justice, and unity—for nine years. Derek already had two sites on the Internet: RacebridgesForSchools.com and RacebridgesVideos.com. I wrote lesson plans and co-produced those videos plus was already marketing online webinars. At the same time, I was working with a brilliant web and marketing person, Kris Evenson of CaptureHits.com. So all three of us were active online to one degree or another. On Facebook, I watched people commenting on each other’s posts and thought: “Wow, if we videotaped the tellers’ stories, the audience could comment. The storyteller could be online and immediately respond to questions—like a Q & A session after a live performance. We can have a worldwide conversation on race with stories as the centerpiece!” Derek and Kris were having similar inspirations and so the online festival was born!

No Time Restrictions or Geographic Boundaries

Most of our audience was from the U.S., but we also had listeners/participants from Canada, the UK, Australia, Germany, New Zealand, Israel, Brazil, India, Spain, Switzerland, Greece, Ireland, Philippines, Sweden, Argentina, Russia, Taiwan, Norway, and Italy. One of our tellers, Arif Choudhury, was traveling when his stories ran—so he was answering people’s questions while riding in the backseat of a car in rural Bangladesh. I had always imagined somebody in Mississippi talking to somebody in Australia talking to somebody in New York, and that’s just what happened.

Online, people can go back and revisit the stories on their own schedule. Also, unlike a live festival that has multiple “tents” or performing spaces, listeners don’t have to make those painful decisions of which tellers to hear.

A Producer-Driven Event

This kind of storytelling is more akin to when you create a story for a radio program. Each teller owns his or her story and performance (in exchange for letting us record them, each teller was given an electronic version of their story that they could use elsewhere such as on their own websites or to burn onto DVDs), but I approved each story months beforehand. When you are paying a crew thousands of dollars and working on a tight schedule, you can’t take the time to tweak a story on location.
Because this festival is applied storytelling—storytelling in the service of social justice—the content is primary. Plus, we’ve discovered that people just won’t watch long videos on the Internet. To ensure timing, quality, and consistency of theme, the videotaping had to be directed so that the festival’s effect would be larger than any one story.

We recorded the tellers in a simple, straight-on, head and shoulders format. I received many emails saying, “I can’t believe how intimate it felt.” That’s the effect we were after—the feeling that the teller was sitting right across from the listener, speaking directly to him or her, letting the emotion come through. I used to work at a PBS station and was a film and video scriptwriter for years so I felt comfortable working with the video crew, checking the camera position, lighting, and so on to create a live, candid feel. The tellers just kept going if there was a “mistake;” they worked it out as they would in a live performance. The storytellers were professional and prepared. The result was a spontaneous performance and a permanent record.

Favorite Moments

Even though Derek and I recorded every one of those stories, and Kris and I edited the videos (which meant watching them over and over again), I was still moved by watching them all together over the three full days of the festival. Wow! The stories just knocked me out.

I remember one exchange after Jane Stenson’s and Jo Radner’s stories were shown. Both women told about discovering that their great grandfathers had been involved in the genocide of First Nations’ people. Several people from different First Nations wrote in talking about how to turn guilt and shame into something productive. Then, a man from Germany wrote saying he had discovered that his father was a Nazi. He described how moved he had been by stories he had seen earlier: Gail Rosen’s story on the Holocaust, and Dovie Thomason’s story on the Indian Boarding Schools. So here were people from all over the world, with many different backgrounds, talking about how we need to be honest about our past. The online festival helped them reconcile their feelings and experiences with the good and terrible truths of their families’ and countries’ histories. And, now, they had a whole set of stories in common with which to reference their feelings. Through these stories, people were given a common language and international healing was occurring over the Internet.

Viral Referrals and Endorsements

Here’s the best way I can explain the Facebook statistics. Imagine a city of 400,000 people that are all connected to each other (that was our “friends of fans” potential network). All of our ads and posts plus others’ comments and sharing was analogous to putting billboards all over town. Fifty-one thousand people actually saw those billboards. In Facebook language, this was our weekly “reach,” in other words 51,000 heard about the online festival in one form or another. Thirty-eight hundred people noticed the billboards and became “fans” by clicking the “Like” button on our Facebook page. This means they no longer had to come to our page to see the posts; the stories were fed into their newsfeeds as part of their status updates (which means their “friends” saw them, too). The industry standard for going viral (meaning people engage with the online content by commenting, liking, or sharing a post, responding to an invitation, etc.) states that anything above a 2% response rate is outstanding; the average virality of our posts was 2.47%.

That’s why I wanted to use social media platforms such as Facebook and YouTube rather than trying to drive each single person to a separate, one-directional website. With respondents basically helping us to market the festival, we reached people far beyond the typical storytelling audience. Plus, the videos keep getting shared. We have over 12,000 views on YouTube as of this printing. That number continues to climb each week.

The most surprising statistic was that the greatest percentage of our audience was 25- to 34-year-old males! As many of our storytelling audiences age, we keep asking where to find younger tellers and audiences. Simple—they’re on the Internet. But we also reached traditional storytelling audiences. A 97-year-old woman who had always been a big storytelling fan called when she couldn’t figure out how to get online. I worked with the concierge at her assisted living home to figure out the problem. A number of people who are shut-ins said they hadn’t been to a storytelling festival in years. They were excited to be able to participate again.
The Festival Design and Promotion

We started the Facebook page in February of 2012 to build our fan base, to get buzz going, and to get people in the habit of coming to our page or receiving our posts. You can’t just announce an August festival in August and expect people to show up. We decided to hold the festival for three days to give it a large presence. We ran NSN ads online and in Storytelling Magazine along with passing out fliers and bookmarks at the July NSN Conference. Plus, we used Facebook for a truly affordable and super-targeted ad campaign. We used every other social-media outlet, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest and so on, plus offered nonprofits and tellers prizes and online mentions during the festival for sending our promo materials to their email lists.

Future Plans

Father Derek and I decided ten years is a good amount of time for the successful run of the JustStories Festival. We’re both on to other projects. For myself, I want to expand this idea of online storytelling so I have moved the venue to a new Facebook page, StoriesConnectUsAll, and will be producing that by myself for now. On StoriesConnectUsAll, we will continue to share historical anniversaries, resources, and professional tellers’ stories each week. But we’ve also added lay people sharing their stories. In addition, we’re going a step further and becoming an education site as well. Every month we’re presenting free and paid webinars on the subject of racial bridge building. We have a Teacher’s Institute Day scheduled in August filled with stories and webinars. The next online story festival, the Stories Connect Us All Online Festival, will be this October. We’ll run it during the school week to get more students involved in watching the stories and talking to the tellers.

When we planned our first online festival, we set expectations of how many folks we might reach. In the end, we far exceeded those goals, but, just as easily, it could have failed. This entire project was a grand experiment! I hope readers will “like” us on our StoriesConnectUsAll Facebook page so they, too, can be part of the next evolution.

Susan O’Halloran can be found at: www.SusanOHalloran.com and www.Facebook.com/StoriesConnectUsAll

Nancy Donoval is at: www.NancyDonoval.com
OUR 2013 RaceBridges FELLOWS . . .

Carmen's two new stories:
My Father, the Whiz and The Voting Booth

Jasmin's two new stories:
My Brother's Keeper and Betraying My Values?

Read descriptions of these four new, growing stories at RaceBridges.net/fellowship

The stories premiere in Spring 2013.

Storyteller Susan O'Halloran is director and midwife for this project.

The RaceBridges 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.

RaceBridges.net

Seeking to Build Bridges with Stories

Timpanogos Storytelling Conference
Proposed date: Feb 7-8, 2014
Orem, Utah

Celebrate Your Story!

We are looking for compelling storytellers to teach the performance and application of story. Whether on stage or in the classroom, the board room or the living room, we want to hear from you!

Your proposal could deal with any aspect of story performance (finding, organizing, crafting, marketing, voice, body work, etc) or with the transformational power of storytelling in various fields such as home and family, education, organizational training, family history, blogging, human services, writing, etc.

The workshops must be hands-on and interactive.

Proposals due June 1st, 2013

Proposal form and FAQs—timpfest.org