



**2003-2004**

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.



**Antonio Sacre, 2003 JustStories Fellow**

The 2003 JustStories Fellow was bilingual storyteller, Antonio Sacre who is based in Los Angeles.

Antonio Sacre: [asacre@earthlink.net](mailto:asacre@earthlink.net)



**Dovie Thomason, 2004 JustStories Fellow**

Dovie was supported in the on-going development of a series of stories about residential schools and American Indians in the last century. Dovie Thomason is a Lakota/Kiowa Apache storyteller.

Dovie Thomason: [dovestory@earthlink.net](mailto:dovestory@earthlink.net)



# juststories festivals

**JustStories 2003-04 SERIES OF STORYTELLING**

## **PERFORMANCES**

Stories that celebrate and inspire

Stories that disturb and challenge

Stories that comfort and connect

**Performances with nationally-renowned storytellers**

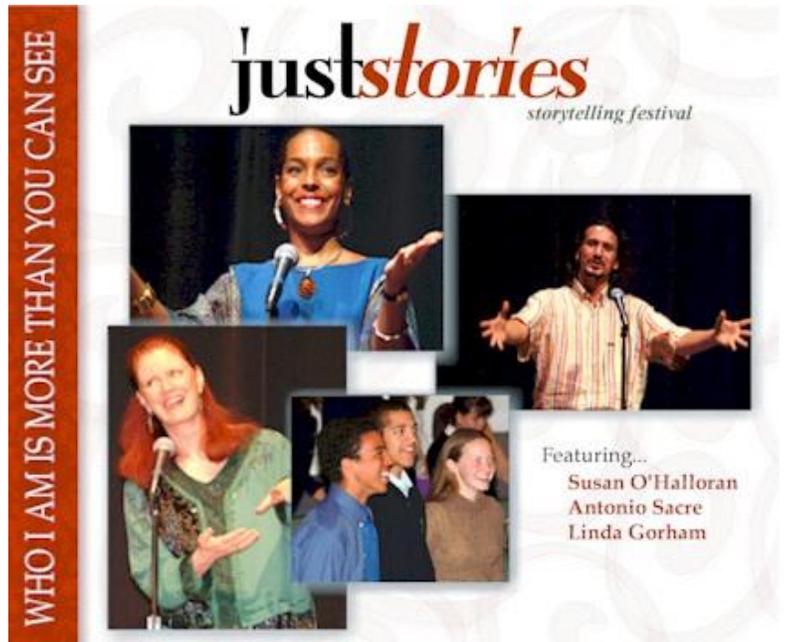
**Antonio Sacre & Susan O'Halloran and guest storytellers.**



**OCTOBER 3, 2003**

**Stories that explore the multicultural identities we all possess**

The first COR event of the 2003-04 school year was held at St. Scholastica High School in Chicago, IL. The morning began with prayer and was followed by a program of professional storytelling by Linda Gorham, Sue O'Halloran and Antonio Sacre. The storytellers took turns performing stories that explored questions of ethnic identity and of the multicultural identities we all have.



Linda Gorham presented “I am somebody”, an affirmation-story, and then told stories about growing up in and out of her African-America community. She also presented a moving account of racial encounter through the life of a small girl during the desegregation of the Little Rock Arkansas school system in the sixties.

Susan O’Halloran presented a story of racial discovery as she talked about the time she attended her first multi-racial retreat as a teenager.

Antonio Sacre told a story of bi-lingual and interracial conflict and tensions as he grew up and attended school, and about the loss and recovery of his Cuban-American identity.

The whole audience joined in the “Grandmother Spider” action story. A brief reflection session pulled together the threads and meanings of the performance, pointing to the important role that our heritage and families play in how we learn to view others, and in the development of our identities.

400 people attended the event. The participants represented 14 archdiocesan high schools. Teachers, storytellers, and media were also present.

# juststories festivals

January 23, 2004

## **Hyphen-Americans: Where We've Come From and What We've Lost and Gained**

The third JustStories Festival of the school year was held at Maria High School in Chicago, IL. The morning began at 9:30 with a prayer. Three storytellers took turns sharing a series of stories focusing on the immigrant experience.

Arif Choudhury's story explored the assumption that people make of him because of the color of his skin. His story revealed, however, that he was born and raised in a suburb of Chicago.

Sue O'Halloran's main story focused on the experience of her beloved grandmother as she emigrated from Ireland at the age of thirteen. The story touched on issues of survival in a new country, loss of culture, courage and sacrifice.

Antonio Sacre began his story with a brief history of Cuba and how the communist government "forced" people to emigrate and continued with a reflection on the impact this history has had on his immediate family as his father was one who left Cuba.

The storytellers took time toward the end of the performance to answer questions from the audience. The event ended with Tom and Kris Kastle leading the audience in song.

350 people attended the event, including representatives from 10 archdiocesan high schools. Adult participants included storytellers, Directors of Religious Education and Media personnel.

Participants were given classroom discussion guides to unpack the stories upon returning to their schools.

# juststories festivals

**GO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**  
**March 19, 2004**  
**Maria High School, Chicago, IL**

The fourth and final COR JustStories Festival entitled GO MAKE A DIFFERENCE celebrated in storytelling, song and music people and groups who have taken a stand against injustice and made a difference.

Storyteller SUSAN O'HALLORAN, who hosted the Festival, told her story about not just an individual, or a group, but an entire town that stood up for justice. The story was about the town of Oberlin, Ohio in 1850.

It was an account about courage, taking a stand, of inspiration and hope — and a story that held a challenge for high school students today.

ZAHRA BAKER and her musical ensemble Mystical Rising Circles used story and song to celebrate the stand for justice by African Americans during the “Blood Summer” of 1873. Zahra Baker used her childhood town of Colfax, Louisiana as the setting that brings alive the triumphs and tragedies of the reconstruction Period following the Civil War. This too was a story of struggle, seeking justice and new beginnings — and a story that challenges high school students to make a difference today.

ANTONIO SACRE presented an insightful and entertaining story on the life of Cesar Chavez and the Farm Workers' Movement. Through a series of small choices made over the years, Cesar Chavez was able to make a difference first in his own situation, and then in the lives of tens of thousands of farm workers across the U.S. Antonio questions and then affirmed that one person can make a difference — whoever that person is according to their gifts.

Following the Storytelling Performance the 200 student-participants present gathered in break-out sessions in smaller groups to review, reflect and discuss what the stories pointed to in their present everyday lives.

There were over 200 high school students present for this COR Festival from 11 high schools in the Archdiocese of Chicago.





