

# The Seeing "I"

*Empowerment through Interactive Storytelling*

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**To our devoted readers:** Why are you so important to us? Because you tell us that what we do has meaning and resonates with the needs and outlooks of today's world. Because you recognize our uniqueness. You confer on us the mantle of accomplishment. You appreciate the stories we offer and the insights they provide. And most important, you keep us afloat financially and spiritually! *We need you!!*

## Living in the Changing World of "Others"

*For Catherine Frank, the laughter closed the deal.*

As Director of the Duke University Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), Dr. Catherine Frank was too busy to attend the StoriesWork seminar, *Tea and Symposium: The Magic of Storytelling*, part of OLLI's spring 2007 curriculum schedule. What she did not expect was the hilarity that traveled from the seminar room down the hall to her office—on the subject of aging! Later she received comments from the seminar attendees, all retirees eager to continue their education, that emphasized the value of storytelling discussion classes that encouraged insight and understanding in a safe, friendly and even humorous atmosphere.

Frank began to think of other topics for StoriesWork – an organization which brings varying groups together to discuss important and difficult issues by means of storytelling – to address. She knew StoriesWork brings a variety of groups together to discuss important and difficult issues by means of storytelling. And she liked StoriesWork's dedication to diversity.

"Increasing diversity is of particular concern to OLLI as an organization," says Frank, describing her typical students as mature, white and female. And because they've lived through seismic changes—in

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## You Are Our Barons!

We are delighted to be part of Duke's OLLI curriculum this winter (see article, left). We're also working with several other organizations, like the Last

Stop program of the Criminal Justice Resource Center or the Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative of the North Carolina Coalition against Domestic Violence. More and more organizations seek our services, and the scope of what we do is widening even as we write this – domestic violence, criminal justice, substance abuse, aging, parenting, diversity and more.

As our commitments and responsibilities mount, so does our need for personnel, space, equipment and, of course, MONEY! Fortunately, our **December 2007 Annual Fundraising Campaign** is here, and we are appealing for donations from our loyal supporters. And that reminds us of a story!

### *Story: The Baron and the Beggar*

*A beggar came to the home of Baron Rothschild and rang the bell. The butler answered and asked what this man in*



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## "Changing World"...continued from previous page

women's roles, cultural norms, technology, even the composition of their communities – she thought programs around these issues would be fruitful for her members and could attract new members as well.

For a new OLLI series, "Living in the Changing World of 'Others'" (see page 3 for details), topics were aptly chosen:

- **Age and Youth** *"It's important that our members not feel marginalized in a youth-oriented culture. It's also important that they not marginalize themselves by failing to understand younger people."*

- **African American and EuroAmerican** *"We would love to have a more diverse membership. The retired population of the Triangle represents many groups; this helps us understand each other."*

- **Men and Women** *"Our members have lived through changes in the role of women and the response of men in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, so it's great to talk about that."*

- **Worldly and Other-worldly** *"Even people who don't consider themselves very religious want to wrestle with spiritual questions."*

"The StoriesWork class last spring generated very positive feedback," Frank remembers. "People knew they'd spent a unique afternoon in an unconventional classroom setting. The new kind of learning was important– it's one more thing we can work on as a group! People were willing and able to be surprised; that was a good thing."

Still, the idea of the sheer joy of it was, if not unexpected, something Frank's members look for. "Learn for the love of it, fun, stretch us in new ways," she explains. "Looking at traditional stories in the context of modern times is important, and that's what StoriesWork will help us do."



## "Baron"...continued from previous page

*ragged clothes wanted. "I want to talk to Baron Rothschild," he said. "I can't let you talk to him," said the butler, kindly. "Maybe I can help." "No," insisted the beggar. "I must speak with the baron."*

*The butler returned inside and Rothschild's secretary came out, asking how she could help. "I want to talk to the baron," repeated the beggar. "I handle all his personal details," said the secretary. The beggar insisted: only the baron.*

*The baron, intrigued, finally agreed to see this persistent visitor and asked his mission. "I'm a poor man, wife and six kids, no money for the holidays. I want you to give me something to help me."*

*"We do this all the time," smiled the baron. "You could have asked my butler or my secretary, and saved yourself all this trouble."*

*"Baron," sighed the beggar. "You may be the richest man in the world. You know how to do many things. But please, don't tell me how to beg!"*

What does this have to do with StoriesWork? We, too, struggle to find the money we need. Do we go to foundations for grant money? Yes. Do we ask corporations for outright contributions? We do. Do we get paid for services and programs we offer? Of course. We are very grateful for all these sources of sustenance, and we offer them heartfelt appreciation. But it's not enough.

Now we appeal directly to you – our readers, our financiers, and the most important source of our moral support. You are our Baron. (But please don't tell us how to beg!)

Please send your 2007 donation in the enclosed envelope. Please increase your support from last year. For newcomers, please contribute for the first time.

To all our "Barons," you help us maintain and grow our unique and wonderful organization. We salute you, we love you, and we need your support!

*Happy Holidays!*

## Help Us Grow More Partnerships!

*We are expanding our partnerships with business.*

Partnership goes both ways. It starts with trust—our partners trust our unique product, our track record and our wise use of money. We benefit from their financial and moral support. They benefit when we tell you about their generosity.



You can help us build more of these productive and mutually beneficial partnerships. How? Be a “partner developer!” Tell us about companies and organizations (and people, too) that would appreciate StoriesWork. Any and all suggestions are welcome. We all have ideas – please give us yours.

**Just fill out the form on the back page with your suggestions, mail it with your check in the enclosed envelope. We will do the rest!**

*And we will all feel good!!*

We are grateful for our current partnerships with these organizations:

Capitol Broadcasting Company  
Target  
Sam’s Club  
Harris Teeter  
Sun Trust  
Guglhupf Bakery and Patisserie  
The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation  
Duke University-OLLI program  
North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence

We have been helped in the past by these organizations:

Merrill Lynch  
SAS  
NC Humanities Council  
Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation  
Triangle Community Foundation

## Winter/Spring 2008 Calendar

*StoriesWork appeals to all ages!*

### **Living in the Expanding World of “Others”**

Thursdays 11:00AM to 1:00PM

Bishops House, Duke University East Campus.

January 17–Age and youth

January 31–African American and EuroAmerican

February 14–Men and Women

March 6–Worldly and Other Worldly

Co-sponsored by Duke Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

### **Intergenerational Understanding**

Tuesdays 12:30-2:30PM

Durham Center for Senior Life

March 4 –Young Adults

March 11–Seniors

March 18–Combined Session  
young adults and seniors

March 25–Combined Session  
young adults and seniors

April 1–Combined Session  
young adults and seniors

Co-sponsored by the Last Stop Program of the Criminal Justice Resource Center and the Durham Center for Senior Life.

### **Teens and Domestic Violence Prevention**

Four sessions to be held on Friday afternoons in Siler City, Dates and location to be determined

Sessions:

Communication, trust, acceptance, responsibility for others.

Secrecy, pride, tolerance.

Accommodation, family support, retaliation.

Love, caring, jealousy, security.

Co-sponsored by the Coalition for Family Peace of Siler City