

The Seeing "I"

Empowerment through Interactive Storytelling

Vol 6 No 3

September 2009

Look Around! *Folktales are part of the soul of every human being. In every generation, they help us to survive in a challenging world. Look around!*

Grandparents and Grandchildren: An Enduring Bond

Long ago, when I was a child, my grandfather often entertained our family with stories. To this day I remember those afternoons with pleasure. –Gloria T. Blatt, college professor and author

One of my earliest memories is sitting on my grandmother's lap, curled against her shoulder, while she sang a story to me. When writing this article, those story-songs sang out to me once again. –Diane Lennox, Communications Specialist, SAS; StoriesWork writer/editor and storyteller

Please join us on September 12, 2009 as StoriesWork honors the special grandparent-grandchild bond with a fundraising event, "**Stories across Generations for Grandparents' Day.**"

What better way to celebrate than to create a new memory with your grandparent or grandchild? As typical of the StoriesWork technique, we received many different answers to this question:

This storytelling program for grandparents and grandchildren is a unique opportunity for each generation to see the world through the others' eyes. –Regina Kronmiller, Office/Accounts Manager

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The Story Told Around the World

One of the most retold stories in the world deals with grandparents, parents, and children.

Told in many cultures, the story reveals how similar are family cares and concerns, regardless of time and place.

The Wooden Bowl

Central European version. A frail old man came to live with his son, daughter-in-law and little grandson. The old man's hands shook so much that he spilled his food and his fork often clattered to the floor. The young couple decided they had to do something. They set up a small, separate table in the corner for the old grandfather and gave him a wooden bowl for his food. The old man was unhappy but there was nothing he could do. One day, his little grandson was working with some pieces of wood. "What are you making?" asked his father. The little boy proudly explained that he was making a wooden table and bowl for when his father became old and frail. The young couple, suddenly realizing their unkindness, brought the old grandfather back to the family table.

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It's great to get the generations together. Storytelling for grandchildren and grandparents encourages us to create our own family stories with each other. –David Baker, Chair, StoriesWork Board of Directors

This is a great sharing event – a great memory-making event. –Jane Armstrong, Consultant in Aging

I can't imagine a more fun way to connect the generations than by telling stories. –Dan Hudgins, Faculty, UNC School of Social Work

I believe that the process of learning is circular in that each generation teaches and learns from each other. The Grandparent-Grandchild Storytelling Event is spectacular in that it practices the concept of intergenerational teaching and learning. We will see stories formed and combined from thoughts and experiences of two generations (grandparent and grandchild) working together in a safe and non-threatening way.

–Linda Crawford, Director, RSVP of Durham County

Storytelling is a universal language connecting people of all ages, ethnicity, gender, cultural and economic background, and religion. From previous StoriesWork activities, we've learned that stories resonate across all generations. Whether teenagers at the Durham Housing Authority, seniors at the Durham Council for Senior Citizens, young men in trouble with the law, or parents facing today's challenges, all helped us see the world in ways that take us outside our own age and experience.

Most of us are grandchildren. Many of us are grandparents. And all of us have intergenerational ties. Come with your loved ones and share in a novel storytelling experience. And invite your family and friends, too!

"Stories across Generations for Grandparents' Day"

takes place Sept 12, 2009 2:00-4:00 PM at Rigsbee Hall, 208 Rigsbee Avenue, Durham, NC 27701.

See flyer (page 3) for details. *Please register early.*

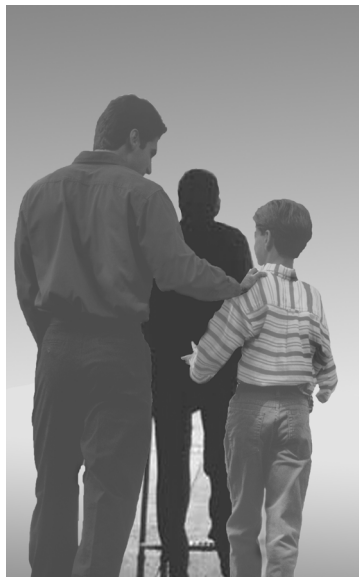
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"Story around the world"...from previous page

Hispanic and a similar Irish version. The young couple banished the old man from the house and put him into a room outside the house with no heat. When the young father asked his little son to take a blanket to his old grandfather, the child obediently carried a blanket to his father, and asked him to cut it in two parts. "Why should I cut the blanket in two?" asked the father. The child replied, "I will save one part to use for you, father, when you are old."

Chinese version. The young couple gave the old man a valuable porcelain bowl for his food. When he clumsily dropped it on the floor and it broke into many pieces, the outraged family banished him from the table.

A South Asian version. With very little money or food to spare, a father made a basket in which to put the old grandfather and send him floating out into the river. The little grandson, watching his father, prodded him, "When you are finished with the basket, bring it back so we can save it for you when you get old."



Each generation sees the world through a different lens. It often takes a grandchild's innocent eyes to remind us of the underlying truth.



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Stories Across Generations for Grandparents' Day

StoriesWork invites grandparents and grandchildren to a fun-filled afternoon of participatory storytelling.

Listen to wonderful stories.

Watch the action props.

Dream with your grandchild/grandparent and retell a story if you wish.

No experience needed.

Just a love of stories and of each other!



Where: Rigsbee Hall
208 Rigsbee Avenue
Durham, North Carolina, 27701

When: Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009 • 2:00-4:00 PM

Who: Grandparents and grandchildren of all ages
Any intergenerational pair of relatives, neighbors and friends

Entertainment

Refreshments

Door Prizes

Name _____
Address _____ zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

One Grandparent plus One Grandchild \$ 20
Each additional person \$5
Total

Mail this form and check to:

StoriesWork 1820 James Street Durham, NC 27707 Attn. Melissa Blake
or Pay online – www.storieswork.org click on Donate
Some scholarship money available upon request 919-433-1535

We honor our supporters who generously responded to our Spring 2009 Fund Drive. You lift our spirits and inspire us to ever greater accomplishments. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



\$100 and up

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\$50 to \$99

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Up to \$24

*Anonymous (2)
Linda Jones*

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