

The 2009

# juststories

Spring Concert

Presents

## Raven Dreaming: Embracing the Human Spirit

with

Story Artist

**Gene Tagaban**

with Stories, Dance and Songs of his  
Cherokee, Tlingit and Filipino heritages

Friday April 3, 2009  
Dominican University  
at 1.00pm & 7.00 pm

This event celebrates the life and works of civil rights leader  
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the 31st Anniversary of his assassination.

**Raven Dreaming** is a proud partnership of Dominican University,  
Angels Studio and O'Halloran Communications



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The Concert will last approximately 90 minutes with no intermission. There will be time for questions and interaction with Gene after the performance.

Co-producers for this event are:

- **Susan O'Halloran**, Chicago-based Storyteller and Educator (M.C.)
- **Dominican University Graduate School of Library Science** (your Host, Janice DelNegro, Storyteller and Educator) and
- **Father Derek Simons S.V.D.** Angels Studios. (Executive Producer)



## Raven Dreaming: Embracing the Human Spirit

Welcome **Gene Tagaban**, Storyteller and Story Artist.  
([www.genetagaban.com](http://www.genetagaban.com) • [onecrazyraven@earthlink.net](mailto:onecrazyraven@earthlink.net))

Gene currently lives in Ferndale, Washington and is a Tlingit/Cherokee/Filipino American. He will be performing a variety of stories, songs and dances today.

Among his repertoire is his brand new true memoir-story : *I Am ... Indopino!* Gene has developed and created this story with the support of the 2009 JustStories Fellowship. This is a grant provided by Angels Studio/Chicago that allows certain storytellers, who have a devotion to racial justice, to create new stories that deal with identity, race-relations and exclusion.

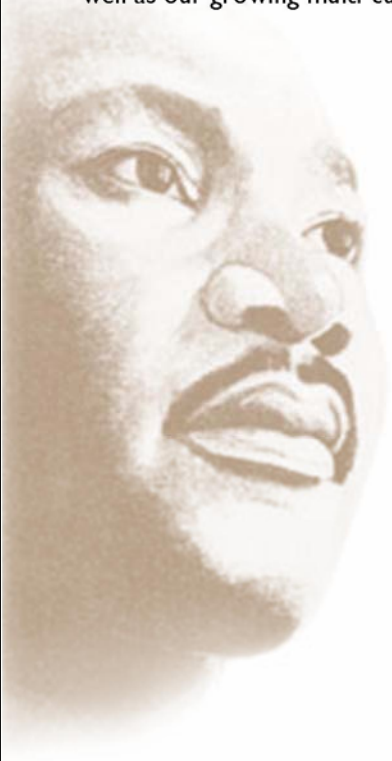
In *I Am .. Indopino!*, Gene shares his own as well as his family's exploration and eventual acceptance of all of who they are. Born in Alaska, Gene felt like a true "other" because his mother's Cherokee heritage was, at times, not accepted by other First Nation groups. In addition, the levels of other-ness expanded in Gene's life because of religion. His grandmother was Catholic, his mother Baptist, his Native background had no word for religion and Alaska was primarily Russian Christian Orthodox.

And what about being a Cherokee-Tlingit-Filipino *American*? The messages of "outsider-ness" were deeply embedded for many Native people as a cascade of broken promises, such as treatment on reservations and the memory of the U.S. Navy bombing of Alaskan Indian villages in the early 1900s were passed down from generation to generation. Still, today, as Gene travels about this country he encounters people's ignorance and prejudices toward Native groups.

But Gene's journey to becoming a noted storyteller, musician, dancer and actor moves far beyond a mere acceptance of his cultures to an inspiring celebration that teaches all of us more about both our uniqueness and our deep universal connections. Gene's original story comes to life with animated telling plus traditional flute, drums, rattles, dance, masks and ceremonial regalia. His themes of family, lineage and our relationship with the natural world will resonate with anyone who has searched for their "place" and a sense of belonging.

On this weekend that America remembers the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. we hear his still-challenging call: "An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity ... Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

We join with Gene Tagaban in celebrating the earliest residents of America as well as our growing multi-cultural nation.



We must learn to live together as  
family or perish together as fools. . .

Whatever affects one directly,  
affects all indirectly. . . .

I can never be what I ought to be  
until you are what you ought to be.

~ *Martin Luther King, Jr.*  
1929-1968

## **The Dominican University Graduate School of Library and Information Science**

Accredited by the American Library Association, Dominican University's Graduate School of Library and Information Science has been educating future librarians and information professionals since 1928. GSLIS offers master's degrees in library and information science and in knowledge management.

[www.dom.edu/academics/gslis/](http://www.dom.edu/academics/gslis/)

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## **Angels Studio/Chicago**

Angels Studio is an award-winning agency devoted to bringing the races together through events and media. Angels has produced the JustStories Storytelling Festival for the past six years and sponsors the JustStories Fellowship, which supports storytellers with a passion for racial justice in developing new stories.

JustStories and Event Archives :  
[www.racebridges.net](http://www.racebridges.net)

Lesson Plans for Schools :  
[www.RaceBridgesForSchools.com](http://www.RaceBridgesForSchools.com)

Angels Studio is a communications ministry of the Society of the Divine Word. (S.V.D.)

## **O'Halloran Communications**

Products and services focusing on:

- humor and kindness surviving even in the worst of times
- truth and justice triumphing over apathy and repression
- connection and celebration with our best selves and each other

We do this through awesome performances for audiences 3 to 103, workshops on the Power of Story and Diversity, Inclusion and Racial Justice, keynote addresses that entertain as well as motivate and inspire plus books, CDs, DVDs, blogs, social networking and online classes.

[www.susanohalloran.com](http://www.susanohalloran.com)

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## **The Illinois Storytelling Festival moves indoors for its 25th Anniversary!**

Dominican University's Graduate School of Library Science welcomes the festival to its River Forest campus. With theater stages, classroom workshops, on-site food and parking, the University venue is a perfect new home. This year's festival will be held on **Friday evening, September 25th and Saturday, September 26th.** Watch for details at the Illinois Storytelling website:  
[www.storytelling.org](http://www.storytelling.org)