

# 5th Techny JustStories Storytelling Festival • 4.14.07

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**BRIDGE RACIAL DIVIDE BY TELLING STORIES:  
HEAR STORIES AND LEARN HOW TO TELL YOUR OWN**  
*JustStories Conference Saturday, April 14 in Techny will also honor  
Northbrook Teachers as BridgeBuilders*

Professional storytellers will share secrets of how they use the power of voice and body language, to grab an audience's hearts and minds to advance social justice in the fifth annual JustStories Festival held in Techny, IL (Northbrook) on Saturday, August 14, 2007. "When we know someone else's story, it's easier to accept, appreciate and understand them," says featured storyteller Susan O'Halloran, who is also producer of the conference along with Angels Studio of the Divine Word, Techny in collaboration with the Northbrook Islamic Cultural Center and the Northbrook Community Relations Commission.

For the fourth year in a row, the event also honors area individuals whose work and life have helped to foster interracial and inter-cultural dialogue and understanding. This year, The Chicago Province of the Society of the Divine Word is honoring three retired teachers and two current public school teachers with the 2007 BridgeBuilder Award for their excellence in enlarging and enriching the boundaries of their students' minds, lives and spirits.

The honorees are Jerome Hoynes of Glenbrook North High School, Motria Melnyk of Meadowbrook Elementary School and retired teachers Carol Hillsberg, Jean Steinberger and Becky Recor, former teachers at Wood Oaks Junior High School. More information about the winners is available online at the conference web site, [www.racebridges.net/juststories](http://www.racebridges.net/juststories).

The morning will feature workshops on cross-cultural body language and full voice expression. The BridgeBuilder Award luncheon will follow and, then, right after lunch the group plans to rededicate the "Techny Peace Pole," first raised at the conference center as part of JustStories 2005 with the words "Let Peace Prevail on Earth" in six different languages. The afternoon will feature Antonio Rocha, Arianna Ross, Susan O'Halloran, Anne Shimojima and Arif Choudhury telling stories about or from their ancestral homes in Bangladesh, Brazil, Japan, Russia and Ireland on the themes of ethnic identity, immigration, race relations and "the dance between Insiders and Outsiders."

JustStories runs from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 14 at Divine World International Conference Center at Techny, 2001 Waukegan Rd. The event costs \$20 for the entire day, or \$10 to attend from 9 a.m. to lunch or 2 to 6:30 p.m. High-school age and older students (parents are asked to leave their young children home) can attend for half price. Discounts are available for groups of 15 or more. For more information or to buy tickets, please visit [www.racebridges.net/juststories](http://www.racebridges.net/juststories), email [information@racebridges.net](mailto:information@racebridges.net), or call 312-234-9839.