

The Center for Narrative Studies

Becoming a Narrative Practitioner – Three Workshops

Introduction: Living Stories	October 3, 2006	Bethesda, Maryland
Special Session: Ethics in Narrative Practice and Design Coaching	TBA	
Exploring the Story: Narrative Techniques to Enhance Appreciative Inquiry	October 4-5, 2006	Bethesda, Maryland

Introduction

The Center for Narrative Studies is delighted to offer one and two day workshops on narrative practice. Both of these offerings are part of a program representing a rare opportunity for exchange and exploration of the latest narrative methods that are increasingly being used in organizations to accelerate change and renewal.

We live in a sea of stories – from the media, politics, religion, education, and among our families and colleagues. Living amidst this wealth does not mean that we understand how these stories work. No one can live legitimately within one story. The stories we tell define our culture. This program explores our ethical responsibility around the stories we choose to tell.

Discover for yourself how stories shape us and how to shape the stories. The Center for Narrative Studies in partnership with the Taos Institute announces its programme 'Becoming a Narrative Practitioner'. This programme explores how story works and how to work with stories. The work of Appreciative Inquiry begins in stories – the narratives of people's lives. Those stories contain the ingredients that shape the exploration.

Developed independently, the Center's approach mirrors much of the philosophy that has guided Appreciative Inquiry (AI) for so long and offers another avenue of understanding social constructionism at work and how AI and narrative work together. The workshop is designed to include those with no background in AI.

About the facilitators

Paul Costello is the Executive Director of the Center and a pioneer in narrative theory and practice. In addition to writing and teaching, Paul directs the Washington-Ireland Programme, a large-scale peace project celebrating its 10th year in 2004.

Dr. Madelyn Blair co-leads the Narrative Practitioner programme and was an early proponent of Appreciative Inquiry and one of the contributing authors of Lessons from the Field. She brings real world, management experience from IBM to the World Bank.

For more information on the course content contact Madelyn Blair at Pelerei@mac.com or call 301-371-7100.

Course objectives and the shape of the day(s)

Introduction: Living Stories (one day)

This workshop has been designed to assist the participant in learning tools

- (1) to introduce 'Living Stories' as a method for soliciting the most powerful stories within a group or an organization.
- (2) To introduce a narrative understanding of how story works and how to work story
- (3) to explore how patterns of story over time effect performance within an organization
- (4) to identify ways in which Living Stories can be used in organizational settings

This workshop presents the Living Stories process, a tool for eliciting stories and beginning the exploration of meaning.

During the workshop, participants will have the opportunity to practice technique, join in discussion, and explore lessons individually and in groups. After the workshop, the participants are invited to come to the web site of the Center for Narrative Studies (www.storywise.com) to receive on-going insights and results of new research.

Agenda

8:30 to 9:00	Final registrations and coffee/tea
9:00 to 10:00	Opening exercises
10:00 to 10:15	Break
10:15 to 12:30	Living Stories process and practice
12:30 to 1:30	Lunch
1:30 to 3:30	Using Story in Organizational Settings
3:30 to 3:45	Break
3:45 to 4:30	Integrating Living Stories into organizational work
4:30 to 5:00	Closing and Evaluation

Special Session: Ethics in Narrative Practice and Design Coaching

This workshop is a highly participative day. Exercises and tools will be designed to assist the participant

- (1) to consider deeply the principles of ethics of narrative work
- (2) to explore how the principles are applied in various settings
- (3) to review participant designs and be coached for greater effectiveness

This special session is designed to accomplish two major purposes. Ethics in Narrative Practice is designed to assist the participant in learning the principles of ethics in narrative

work and to apply them to designs. Design Coaching, the second half of the day, will be devoted to coaching participants on their own designs for anticipated (or previously done) narrative work.

This session is designed for those who have attended at least one of the workshops on Narrative Practice. The session will be limited strictly to 10 participants maximum.

The workshop will present a set of principles for guiding ethical narrative practice and spend the morning, exploring these in depth through example, reflection, and discussion. The afternoon will be devoted to short presentations by participants of their designs with guided discussion using ground rules and focused questions to assist the designer to consider alternative means to achieve their goals. Guidelines for preparation will be given to registrants.

Agenda

8:30 to 9:00	Final registrations and coffee/tea
9:00 to 10:00	Opening exercises
10:00 to 10:15	Break
10:15 to 12:30	Ethics in Narrative Practice
12:30 to 1:30	Lunch
1:30 to 3:30	Design presentations and discussion
3:30 to 3:45	Break
3:45 to 4:30	Design presentations and discussion
4:30 to 5:00	Closing and Evaluation

Exploring the Story: Narrative Techniques to Enhance Appreciative Inquiry (two days)

This workshop has been designed to assist the participant in learning tools

- (1) to listen with compassion as well as analytically to the stories of others,
- (2) to listen to their own stories with less judgment, and more curiosity
- (3) to connect narrative practice tools and techniques to organizational work, especially, but not exclusively, through the use of Appreciative Inquiry
- (4) to use Narrative Room techniques

This workshop presents the Narrative Room, providing tools and practice for its use in organizational and other social settings.

During the workshop, participants will have the opportunity to practice technique, join in discussion, and explore lessons individually and in groups. After the workshop, the participants are invited to come to the web site of the Center for Narrative Studies (www.storywise.com) to receive on-going insights and results of new research.

The two days are devoted to helping participants see narrative from a new perspective, providing useful tools for work with individuals and organizations. The workshop begins with techniques to enhance listening. Building on these, the work moves to analysis of the

narrative by listening to the story from behind the text, the story within the text, and the story in front of the text. Links to organizational work are made throughout the two days.

Day 1		Day 2	
8:30	Final registrations and coffee/tea	8:30	Final registrations and coffee/tea
9:00	Honing our listening skills	9:00	History and Literature on narrative practice
		9:30	Practicing Narrative Room
10:30	Break	10:30	Break
10:45	Storying our way here	10:45	Practicing Narrative Room: Phase 3
		11:00	Narrative Room
12:30	Lunch	12:00	Lunch
1:30	Exploring the Story: Phase 1	1:00	Story and Constructing Our Reality
		2:00	Integration of Narrative Practice
2:30	Break	3:15	Break
2:45	Exploring the Story: Phases 2 and 3	3:30	The ethics of narrative work
		4:15	Capturing lessons
4:45	Closing	4:45	Closing and Evaluation
5:00	End	5:00	End

Registration form

Narrative Practice Workshops from The Center for Narrative Studies

Please complete the following registration information

Name

Organization (optional)

Address

Daytime Phone

Cell (Optional)

Email

Payment:

Check Session	Session and Date	Cost	Location	
	Introduction	October 3, 2006	\$350	Bethesda, Maryland
	Exploring Story	October 4-5, 2006	\$695	Bethesda, Maryland
	Special Session: Ethics in Narrative Practice and Design Coaching	TBA	\$225*	Bethesda, Maryland

The fee for any workshop is due before the workshop. Checks payable to **The Center for Narrative Studies**. (A limited number of student and not-for-profit places are available.) For those registering for the workshops on May 9 and 10-11, the total cost is **\$945, a savings of \$100**.

*No student places are available for this session.

Please indicate course(s) and mail checks with registration forms to
Madelyn Blair, 2379 Broad Run Ct., Jefferson, MD 21755

Questions: call 301-371-7100 or email Pelerei@mac.com

Optional information we would appreciate:

Reason for taking this workshop?

Travel and accommodation

The Writer's Center

4508 Walsh Street
Bethesda, MD 20815
Phone: 301 654-8664

BY WMATA METRORAIL SUBWAY

Take the Red Line to the Bethesda stop, exit via the elevator, turn right (south) along Wisconsin Avenue. Cross Wisconsin (east side) when convenient. Walsh Street is less than a 10-minute walk on the left. (For Metrorail information, call 202 637-7000 or visit WMATA's page at www.wmata.com)

FROM WASHINGTON, DC

North on Wisconsin Avenue. Walsh Street is the second right off of Wisconsin north of Bradley Boulevard (Lane).

FROM BALTIMORE, MD

South on 95 to 495. West on 495 to Connecticut Avenue. South on Connecticut to Bradley (Route 191). Right and 1 mile to Wisconsin Ave. Right to Walsh Street (2 blocks).

FROM 270

Come South on Wisconsin Avenue, crossing East-West Highway (410). Five blocks later, turn left on Leland. Just after Gaylord's Lamps, turn right into the parking lot. Drive as far south as you can in the parking lot.

Between 4pm and 6pm only: Turn left at Willow (four blocks past East-West), right on 46th, right on Leland, and left into the parking lot beside Gaylord's Lamps, etc.

FROM SILVER SPRING AND EAST

Connecticut Avenue south to Bradley (route 191), right on Bradley, right on Wisconsin, and right on Walsh (2nd right).

FROM CHAIN BRIDGE

From MacArthur turn right at Sibley Hospital (Loughboro), left onto Dalecarlia to Westmoreland Circle; get off at Massachusetts Avenue going away from the city, right on Little Falls Parkway, right on Arlington Road, right on Bradley, left on Wisconsin Avenue (north). The second right turn is Walsh Street.

FROM POTOMAC AND VIRGINIA BELTWAY

South on River Road to Goldsboro Road, left on Goldsboro, which ends at Bradley, right on Bradley, left on Wisconsin Avenue. The second right is Walsh Street.

PARKING

Public parking is available directly across the street from the Writer's Center in a county parking lot. The meters in this lot are effective Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. and free on the weekends. The hours are highly enforced so bring your silver.

There are numerous accommodation options in the vicinity including:

Hotels

American Inn of Bethesda
8130 Wisconsin Avenue
(301) 656-9300
www.american-inn.com

Bethesda Court Hotel
7740 Wisconsin Avenue
(301) 656-2100
www.BethesdaCourtWashDC.com

Four Points by Sheraton Bethesda
8400 Wisconsin Avenue
(301) 654-1000
<http://www.starwood.com/fourpoints/index.html>

Holiday Inn Select Bethesda
8120 Wisconsin Avenue
(301) 652-2000
www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/hi/1/en/hiselect

Hyatt Regency Bethesda
1 Bethesda Metro Center
(301) 657-1234
www.hyatt.com

Residence Inn by Marriott
7335 Wisconsin Avenue
(301) 718-0200
www.residenceinnbethedahotel.com