

SUSAN O'HALLORAN

Experience One of America's Top Diversity Speakers & Storytellers

Meet Susan O'Halloran



PHOTO BY: Jennifer Girard

Susan O'Halloran is recognized as a top speaker on issues of diversity and inclusion. She has given over 2000 presentations to corporate audiences worldwide, faith-based organizations of all kinds, and the staffs and students of educational institutions.

What can a white, Irish, Catholic-raised woman who grew up in Chicago tell you about diversity?

Plenty.

Susan's passion for the American vision of "equal opportunity for all" was activated in high school when she became part of an interracial youth group. She was trained by adults who worked with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when he lived in Chicago in the 1960's. With these adult mentors, Sue traveled to the African American side of Chicago's color line and listened to radically different stories than she had heard in her all-white working class neighborhood. Her quest for a way to bridge peoples' different perspectives and experiences had begun.

Susan was a National Storytelling Network keynote speaker and has several times been a featured teller at the National Storytelling Festival. She is author of seven books as well as several diversity, leadership and team building curricula. Sue has also co-produced well-received multicultural shows and DVDs (with Angels Studio S.V.D./Chicago) including *Black, White and Brown: Tribes & Bridges at the Steppenwolf Theatre* and *More Alike Than Not: Stories of Three Americans – Catholic, Jewish and Muslim*.

Susan's best endorsements come from her audiences: "In an entertaining way, Sue opened our minds to how society still excludes and what we can do to create a more inclusive organization and world!"

A word from Sue

"I feel strongly that students don't learn, businesses aren't productive and faith-based groups won't have credibility if they and their clients aren't feeling valued and appreciated. Having a sense of belonging and fairness isn't a 'nice to have' but a 'must have' for any organization to fulfill its mission."

"Your message to us was helpful and fit perfectly into the theme of our conference. Many participants asked me to express their appreciation for your inspiring words. We thank you for your valuable contribution to our organization. You made our conference a success!"

Samuel W. Milkes, Executive Director Pennsylvania Legal Aid

"Sue far exceeded our expectations. Even though we were there to talk about Cultural Diversity, the exercises and group work not only addressed cultural inclusion, but it also felt like a strategic planning and team building session wrapped into one retreat. You made our committee look smart for hiring you - thanks!"

Shawn Perrigo, Executive Director Abbey Delray South Life Care Community, Florida



Susan was the host of the WTTW-TV Emmy-nominated town hall meeting on race as well as host of public affairs shows at KTCA-TV in Minneapolis, MN



Susan was featured on Nightline, the ABC Nightly News show, speaking about immigration and her Irish American heritage.

The New York Times

The New York Times interviewed Susan about how the ideals of the 1960's Civil Rights era live on into this new century.

Chicago Tribune

The Chicago Tribune has covered Susan in several articles including a feature article in their Parade Magazine covering her appearance at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee



The Chicago Reader's "Critic's Choice" says: "O'Halloran has mastered the Irish art of telling stories that are funny and heart-wrenching at the same time"



NATIONAL STORYTELLING NETWORK

The professional association of national and international story artists honored one of their own by awarding Susan the Service and Leadership Award for her work in diversity and storytelling.



VIDEO AWARDS

Susan is the recipient of national and international video awards including the CINDY competition, the International Film & TV Festival of New York and Awards of Excellence from the U.S. Industrial Film Festival and the Los Angeles Education Film Advisory Board.



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

The Archdiocese of Chicago presented Susan with the St. Katherine Drexel Racial Justice Award as well as the Spirit of Peace Award. Cardinal George, Archbishop of Chicago commented, "Susan's commitment to racial justice in the Church and in society has made a significant impact on the lives of countless people."

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PHOTO BY: Ron Gurnile

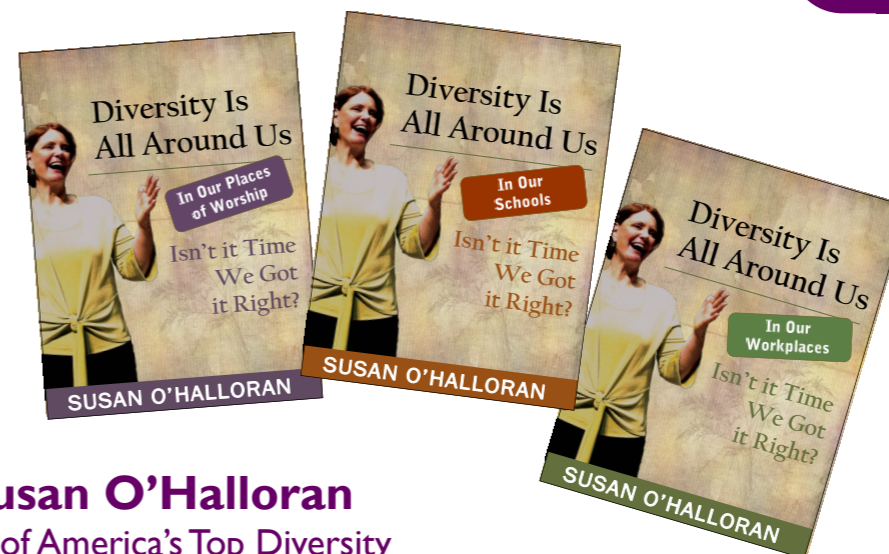
ATTENTION EVENT COORDINATORS

Let one of America's top diversity speakers and storytellers empower your audience at your next event!

"Susan's presentation helped us discover how the ways we think and communicate may be hurtful or harmful to others without even knowing it and, more importantly, how to put an end to it. Susan was the easiest speaker we've ever worked with."

Linda Barner, Vice-President of Multicultural Affairs, Key Bank

Author of the Leading Diversity Books



Susan O'Halloran
One of America's Top Diversity Speakers & Storytellers

Susan accepts a limited number of dates per year! Book her now for your special event!

(866) 997-8726
www.SusanOHalloran.com

- Conference Openings & Closings
- Keynotes
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- Educational Trainings
- Onsite Meetings
- Community Events

A PARTIAL LIST OF CLIENTS

Corporate

IBM
Vulcan Construction
Blue Cross/Blue Shield
Northern Trust

Non-profits

Smithsonian Institute
United Nations
YWCA
John G. Shedd Aquarium

Educational

Wharton School of Business
Columbia School of Business
Eastern Illinois University
Peacebuilders High School Program

Faith-based Communities

Archdiocese of Chicago
Berkeley Divinity School at Yale University
Am Shalom Congregation
Islamic Cultural Center

Five Reasons Event Coordinators Hire Susan

1 EXPERIENCE

Susan O'Halloran is a speaker with 30 years of experience in the diversity field. As both a freelancer and working as a consultant with the Kaleidoscope Group, she has delivered over 2000 presentations to a wide variety of audiences, from school groups to Fortune 500 Companies. Her professionalism and commitment to client satisfaction makes your job easier.

2 HUMOR AND DEPTH OF KNOWLEDGE

Susan's wit and enthusiasm create safety around hot button topics. Her depth of knowledge makes complicated issues easy to understand. She peels back the layers of how your organization got to where it is so you can get to where you want to be.

3 REAL IDEAS FOR REAL CHANGE

Susan's presentations model concrete ideas that your audience members can put into practice immediately. Then, she shows you how to continue your diversity journey so that your organization will be even more successful as a place to learn, worship or do business.

4 AUTHOR AND PRODUCER

Susan has authored seven books and designed diversity curriculum for schools and businesses. If you want a larger event for your organization, she's also an experienced producer of conferences and performance festivals as well as of film and video. Susan works with a group of top speakers/storytellers. She will tailor a presentation for your unique needs that can cover multiple dimensions of diversity.

5 FREE RESOURCES WITH EVERY PRESENTATION

Help your participants continue their learning with Sue's books, CDs, curricula and DVDs. These follow-up resources make a great gift for your audience members.

CHOOSE FROM SUSAN'S KEY DIVERSITY TOPICS

For Businesses and Associations

The Business Implications of Unintended Exclusion

When an organization fosters feelings of insiders and outsiders – consciously or unconsciously – there are predictable results: lower morale, less teamwork, confused communications and harmful publicity (not to mention the effect on the bottom line). On the other hand, diversity and inclusion done right becomes an integral part of an organization's identity and can be the missing ingredient to lasting success.

We've Already Done Diversity 101 – What Comes Next?

Take your diversity journey to the next level. Move beyond awareness to true cultural competency internally as well as externally with your clients. Learn to recognize and dismantle the often hidden policies and practices that are creating barriers to your organization's true vision for inclusion and equity.

For Faith-Based Organizations

Walking the Talk – Being As Inclusive As We Say We Are

There are unconscious assumptions and unintentional behaviors *all of us* engage in that create exclusion. Learn to separate our good intentions from the true impact of our behaviors, policies and practices so that we can "be the change" we wish to see in the world.

How to Create Genuine Interfaith Dialogue

Discover both the universal and unique elements of Christian, Jewish, Muslim and other faiths. Be aware of the confusion and fear that result when cultures mix with little understanding. Explore the misconceptions and common threads of such issues as immigration, assimilation and life passages. In a time of religious tension, sincere and skillful dialogue can highlight our distinct histories and our common humanity to engender hope for the future.

For Everyone

How to Get Beyond Political Correctness to True Respect

Ever feel as though you don't know what to say or not say anymore? Do you find yourself wishing that people could just relax around each other no matter how similar or different they are? While each group and individual is unique there are some common sense guidelines for treating each other with respect. Discover frequent sore spots – words and actions that have the "ouch factor." Stop walking on eggshells and move from PC – Politically Correct – to PCC – Personally Caring and Committed.

For Educators

How to Create a Welcoming School

Discover what it takes to make each student feel welcomed and create a school where increased learning occurs. There are proven ways to make your school more inclusive. Classrooms can be calmer. Students can be taught how to treat each other with respect. Teachers can feel better about teaching and the so-called "Achievement Gap" can close.

Real change can't happen if diversity issues are relegated to a special day or if a single, already overwhelmed teacher inherits the task to "do something about diversity." To be successful, your school needs a strategic plan that works on all four levels of transformation: the personal, the interpersonal, the institutional and the cultural.

What To Do If You're Accused of Racism (and Other Fun Teaching Moments)

What if someone accuses your school or *you* of being racist? You may want to discuss "difficult" topics but are afraid of causing more division instead of less. Or maybe you've already had an ugly incident at your school and found out how ill-prepared you were to respond. There are ways to break free of the legacy of past discrimination and mistrust. Stop feeling guilty, scared or helpless and feel confident and empowered instead.

For Students

How to Survive Cliques

It's natural to want to spend more time with some people than others. However, when the halls, cafeteria or after-school activities get divided into turfs or even war zones, going to school becomes treacherous and a whole lot less fun. Steering clear of bullies - and not acting like one yourself - plus knowing how to handle divisions are skills that you can learn in order to survive in your school and do well in the wider world.

Being a Leader in a Global, Multicultural World

Leadership is not about telling people what to do, but inspiring people to come together to create amazing results! Learn how the global leaders of tomorrow create diverse teams that work together for common goals. Realize a much larger definition and appreciation of culture. We are all multi-cultural and the leader who is culturally fluent knows how to bring out the best in everyone.

Susan speaks about diversity in a non-threatening, inclusive and entertaining way. Participants leave her presentations feeling uplifted and empowered to make their organizations more welcoming to all - places where everyone feels valued and appreciated and the invisible barriers to reaching our full potential no longer exist.

Experience One of America's Top Diversity Speakers & Storytellers

"Our students were so engaged by Susan's powerful and inclusive storytelling. They had thoughtful questions following the performance and shared their own stories for days and weeks afterward. If you're looking for a program that will be more than a speech and will help your students be in conversation and community with one another, this is it!"

Katy Lowe Schneider, Hanover College
Associate Dean of Students/Director of First-Year Programs



Susan has presented to groups as small as a dozen in rural China to audiences of thousands in the U.S. and abroad.

YOUR AUDIENCE WILL LEARN HOW TO:

- Reject guilt and embrace inspiration
- Respond to other people's prejudices
- Stop stereotypes that limit everyone
- Discuss diversity with passion but not blame
- Feel confident having cross cultural conversations
- See the value in including others' perspectives and experiences
- Learn the unintended impact of uninformed good intentions
- Feel personally heard and seen
- Take an honest and forgiving look at themselves
- Re-energize their commitment to end discrimination
- Make sense of present day conflicts by understanding history's lingering effects
- Develop greater self-acceptance and pride in their backgrounds
- Appreciate the ways diverse peoples come together to create positive change
- Create true transformation by approaching problems practically and comprehensively

"That was really, really good! I said to myself, 'Now there's a woman who understands story!'"
- Studs Terkel, prize-winning author and radio personality



"What you do is so important and needed."
- Al Gore, former Vice President, Chairman of Current TV and Academy Award winner

"If you want your audience to live a life full of joy and happiness, then bring my friend Susan O'Halloran to speak for your group today! You'll be so grateful you did!"

- James Malinchak, Co-Author, Chicken Soup for the College Soul, "2-Time College Speaker of the Year!" Founder, www.BigMoneySpeaker.com



"If you want your audience to walk in someone else's shoes – Sue takes you *there*. Sue's presentations explain the systematic reasons for discrimination so that we can come to terms with our history and create a much better future. She does all this with humor, clarity and immeasurable depth."

Julie Landsman
Author of *A White Teacher Talks About Race* and *Growing Up White: A Veteran Teacher Talks About Race*

"My teachers raved about Susan after hearing her speak. They felt respected and understood and learned useful strategies for their classroom."

Diep Nguyen, Ph. D.
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
School District 62 Des Plaines, Illinois



Susan gets her audiences involved!

"Susan O'Halloran is an exhilarating storyteller. Her refreshing and engaging style touched a central common core and facilitated dialogue and a deeper understanding of diversity at our parish."

David Melzer
St. Viator Parish, Chicago, and President of Creativity, Inc: Resources to nourish & fertilize seeds of belief, hope and possibility.



Susan is always willing to greet attendees and autograph books after her presentations.

The ideal speaker choice for your next special event!