

EVANSTON PERSONALITY



Susan O'Halloran

Telling tales

A storyteller, she was a featured performer last month at the 26th annual National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tenn., where about 10,000 people came on a weekend to hear stories. "There's tents all over town. I have a story going in my mind, like a film. No matter how many times I tell it, the story is always alive for me! Wherever listeners enter the story, they get something out of it, but not in a didactic way. One little grimace contains the whole attitude."

Stories from life

"I take the events of my life and use them to say something. It's more like personal journalism but a story form I call sit-down comedy. I tell a lot of stories about growing up on the South Side of Chicago and how segregated it was in the 1960s and 1970s. A lot of the material has to do with social justice issues." In one favorite story her misinformed white neighbors learn the realities of politics on the West Side. She writes about her two grown sons when they were growing up in Minnesota, and when she took a dangerous ride with them through Guatemalan mountains.

Writes, too

She writes original fables for *Marriage Magazine*, and she is a diversity consultant for the Kaleidoscope Group in Chicago. Currently developing a high school curriculum on diversity for the Chicago Archdiocese and possibly other school systems, she is a member of St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Church.

Coming attractions

She'll perform at 6 p.m. Nov. 22 at the Hyde Park Union Church, 5600 S. Woodlawn Ave., in the National Storytelling Association's Tellabration '98, for adults of all ages. Hundreds of similar events will take place then nationwide.

By: Marilyn Claessens

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