

# Extending Narrative Practice:

## *Refreshing the spirit of the work*

A FOUR-DAY TRAINING EVENT

June 14- 17, 2010

Monday - Thursday

9 am - 4 pm

Location:

All Souls Interfaith Gathering  
Shelburne, Vermont

PRESENTED BY:

SHONA RUSSELL

PEGGY SAX

GAYE STOCKELL

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Sponsored by

The Narrative Practice & Collaborative Inquiry Study Group

The University of Vermont Social Work Department

Narrative Practices Adelaide

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A F O U R - D A Y T R A I N I N G E V E N T

### WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

Shona Russell, Peggy Sax and Gaye Stockell offer this 4-day workshop to review (Day 1) and extend (Days 2-4) key ideas and specific practices of the narrative approach. We will explore life as multi-storied and the ways stories shape lives, and will experiment with practices that open space for new stories to emerge. In particular, we will focus on ways of working that support and build personal agency through explorations including:

Asking questions that generate experiences of self knowledge and understanding

Separating problems from the person and placing them in social and political contexts

Shaping one's own life according to personal values and commitments and intentions

Practicing therapeutic questions toward rich story development and intentional state understandings of identity

Discovering entry points for subordinated stories and possibilities for continued exploration

Bringing forth the absent but implicit as a map to support therapeutic inquiry

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FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO  
[reauthoringteaching.com](http://reauthoringteaching.com)

### LOCATION

This gathering aims to create a rigorous and lively learning experience where participants can further develop skills in narrative approaches in collaboration with others, while savoring an environment offering panoramic views, good company, and outdoor splendors. We are delighted to have the perfect location: All Souls Interfaith Gathering ([www.allsoulsinterfaith.org](http://www.allsoulsinterfaith.org))



This remarkable non-denominational project of environmental stewardship, “where spirit meets nature,” offers a picturesque and inviting Vermont landscape. The workshop schedule will make the most of these surroundings: box lunches, walking, exploring the labyrinth and Sacred Earth Wheel, cycling and other planned outdoor activities. Participants can also sign up for meditation, yoga and massage (extra fee for massage).

### ACCOMMODATION

Lodging and travel information will be posted soon; please check our website, for further information.



*Gaye Stockell, Peggy Sax and Shona Russell (left to right)*

## PRESENTERS

**Shona Russell, M.A.**, Adelaide, South Australia, has made narrative approaches to therapy and community work her focus for almost 20 years through her work in non-government organizations and in independent practice. Shona was an active member of The Dulwich Centre teaching faculty, where she and her close colleague Maggie Carey played a primary role in developing the skills practice component of the International Training programme. In 2008, Shona joined Michael White, Maggie Carey and Rob Hall in Narrative Practices Adelaide. Shona continues to be inspired by those with whom she works both in counseling and teaching contexts including in Bangladesh, Columbia, Mongolia, Palestine, Zimbabwe, Brazil, Canada and France. She has written and co-authored numerous articles and books (see [reauthoringteaching.com](http://reauthoringteaching.com) website for references).

**Peggy Sax, Ph.D.**, Middlebury, Vermont, is in independent practice as a Licensed Psychologist-Doctorate, consultant, workshop presenter and instructor. She has apprenticed herself to narrative therapy since the early 1990s. Peggy is the author of a book exploring her teaching of narrative practices through a combination of online and classroom strategies, *Re-authoring Teaching: Creating a Collaboratory*, the companion website: [www.reauthoringteaching.com](http://www.reauthoringteaching.com) and founder of the online "The Narrative Practice and Collaborative Inquiry Study Group." It gives her great joy to bring together favorite people, ideas and practices – to learn, engage, play and replenish together within her beautiful home state of Vermont.

**Gaye Stockell, M.A.**, Sydney, Australia, started her exploration of narrative ideas and practices 20 years ago in Sydney, whilst working in community mental health services. Working in partnership, she introduced narrative conversations to people experiencing severe mental illness concerns and as a new approach to therapeutic group work. In her independent practice, Gaye continued to explore narrative practices through her conversations with families, couples and individuals as well with the counselors, psychologists and social workers she meets in consultations. Her consultation/supervision work has been in the areas of sexual assault, mental health, drug and alcohol, adolescence and services for people who are homeless. She has taught at universities and institutions in Australia and overseas, including the USA, Cuba, New Zealand, Italy, Paris and the UK.

MICHAEL WHITE

“THE KEY IS PRACTICE, PRACTICE, AND MORE PRACTICE... INTERESTINGLY, IT IS RIGOROUS PRACTICE THAT ENABLES SPONTANEITY. THE EXPERIENCES OF LIFE THAT SEEM MOST SPONTANEOUS TO US ARE THOSE THAT WE HAVE HAD THE MOST PRACTICE IN.”

-- *Maps of Narrative Practice*

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## TRAINING EVENT FORMAT:

This workshop will offer multiple opportunities for putting ideas into practice through discussion, exercises, “scaffolding” questions and reviewing tapes and transcripts. Participants will further explore material presented in the large gathering (within the beautiful sanctuary) in smaller practice groups.

On Day 1, we will review key concepts in the narrative approach. We will devote Days 2-4 to expanding skills in applying narrative concepts and practices to our work as practitioners. Throughout, we will engage in narrative conversations that refresh the spirit of our work, and explore practices to re-invigorate professional identities and the values we bring to our work.

## PARTICIPANTS

The workshop is appropriate for psychologists, social workers, psychiatrists, nurses, counselors and other human service practitioners in work contexts that include independent practice as well as agency settings such as community mental health, parent-child centers, and hospital programs. We strongly recommend all participants attend the first day when we will review key concepts of the narrative approach, especially anyone newer to this approach. Continuing education credits will be available for licensed social workers, psychologists, nurses and mental health clinicians.

Go to [reauthoringteaching.com](http://reauthoringteaching.com) for further information about registration, schedule, activities, lodging and suggested reading, or contact:

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