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"I believe our common stories bring us together in ways that make us stronger people and more effective therapists. The rock may be small, but when it's tossed in the water it creates ripples just as a seemingly small idea or story can have dramatic effects. The small ripple created when the rock hits the water can be a wave by the time it reaches the shore. Our personal stories can be traced back to a few small ripples as well."

Martha Lopez, study group member from Barranquilla, Colombia, now living in Tulare, California

Welcome to the Narrative Practice & Collaborative Inquiry Study Group

Twelve steps that new members follow for getting started

- 1** Check out the schedule for guided study of readings, recordings and guest authors. Our guided study schedule is chock-full of interesting readings and recordings. The online forum also enables you to engage in conversation with guest authors. For topics that interest you, click "notify" to sign up to get an email whenever there is a new post under that topic. Also check out the bottom of the home page for a list of the most recent posts. Please sign up for continuing education credit if this interests you.
- 2** Have a first look around to familiarize yourself with the study group forum structure and its six main sections: ✨ Start here ✨ Foundations for narrative practice and collaborative inquiry ✨ Themes ✨ Maps of Narrative Practice ✨ Apprenticeship to a craft ✨ Inspiration and provocation
- 3** Introduce yourself under "Introductions: Members." Create a profile. If you have a digital camera, upload a profile photo and "View from my window."
- 4** Read "How the Study Group Works" to understand guidelines and agreements.
- 5** Check out the "Help Desk" for commonly asked questions, specific tips and to ask your own questions. Technology instructions are also linked to "Help" in the main navigational bar, and "Help" in the media library. What at first might seem overwhelming will soon become familiar. Don't hesitate to ask; we are a friendly, hospitable group.
- 6** Read the "Weekly Update" to see what's currently going on, and to find the most current conversation.
- 7** Start your studies: Everyone begins by getting re-acquainted with "What is narrative practice?" and "What is collaborative inquiry"? You can also catch up with materials already covered. Feel free to add to any discussion even if it appears that we have moved on. There's always room for more reflections and questions.
- 8** Come find us and decide where to join in the discussion. Recent hot topics include, among others: ✨ In the aftermath of suicide ✨ New visions for science and narrative ✨ Buddhism and narrative ✨ The rhizome metaphor ✨ The absent but implicit ✨ "Magical realism" and narrative therapy
- 9** Apprenticeship to a craft: Look for your special interests and work context. Special interest groups such as working with families with young children, working in hospital and psychiatric settings and independent practice are forming; or start a new topic of your own. Here you'll also find opportunities for practice, and reflections on replenishing the spirit of the work.
- 10** Inspiration and Provocation: This section is for anything from YouTubes, favorite quotes, stories – to announcements and reflections on workshops. Have a look, and start thinking about what you might add.
- 11** Media library and copyright permission: The "media library" is a treasure trove of interesting readings, and will continue to grow. The links to these materials are within specific topics (just click on the link). Please honor the formal copyright agreements with publishers to restrict your use of these materials to study group purposes.
- 12** Pacing is everything. Find what works for you – you know your schedule best. Several members say it helps to create a weekly routine. Some people stay connected on a daily basis, while others move in and out. It's up to you. Remember there is no grade. We are studying for the love of learning!