



2009 Winter Workshop Facilitators



LURAY GROSS works extensively in schools and the community presenting workshops and performances for all ages. She is a believer in the power of stories and poems as resources nurturing heart, mind, and spirit. Under the auspices of Storytelling Arts, Inc., she brings multicultural folktales into the classroom and facilitates response and elaboration, particularly through writing. Her own love of the spoken and written word, of the outdoors, and of music were all nurtured by her experiences growing up on a busy Pennsylvania dairy farm.

Luray is the author of three collections of poetry: *Forenoon* was published in 1990 by The Attic Press in Westfield, NJ, and *Elegant Reprieve* won the 1995-96 Still Waters Press Poetry Chapbook Competition. *The Perfection of Zeros*, was published by Word Press in 2004. She was the recipient of a Fellowship in Poetry from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. In 2000, she was named a Distinguished Teaching Artist by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and was the recipient of the Robert Fraser Open Poetry Competition Award from Bucks County(PA) Community College. She was the 2002 Poet Laureate of Bucks County and resident faculty at the 2006 Frost Place Festival and Conference on Poetry in Franconia, New Hampshire.

JULIE DELLA TORRE has been telling traditional and literary fairytales to audiences of all ages since 1985. Her nine years of elementary school teaching and her study of child development and curriculum have made Julie finely attuned to stories that are age appropriate. Julie says, "My background in education helps me to choose stories that are appropriate to students' developmental levels. The myths and folktales that I tell are filled with ethical dilemmas that provide a catalyst for deep discussion and reflection. For this reason, I prefer classroom telling."



As a freelance storyteller in the Metropolitan area Julie performs at the Hans Christian Andersen Statue in Central Park, New York is Book Country, The Newark Museum, and in many schools, libraries, and festivals. Julie is currently storyteller-in-residence at a number of elementary schools in northern New Jersey including Central School in Glen Rock. Also an established teacher of storytelling, Julie has taught adults at Rutgers University, the Adult Community School of Glen Rock, the New Jersey Library Association, and William Paterson University, among others.



HELEN WISE tells personal and contemporary stories as well as traditional folk and fairy tales. Often programs include her stories of life growing up in a Southern family extended enough, organized enough and self-conscious enough to annually elect officers! Perhaps, this is why many of Helen's stories are filled with laughter and invite listeners to actively participate in the telling. She has also worked as a teacher, costume designer, stage director with children and youth, and curriculum writer. Her own experience in a multicultural family and her ten plus years on the staff of an international heritage camp give her a personal sensitivity and breadth on multicultural and racial issues in literature and life. Helen believes narrative stories are the way we all create meaning from the fragments of our knowledge and experience.

Helen has worked extensively in Trenton, Head Start and elementary schools, building preK-5 storytelling and story writing residency programs. Other residencies include Pennington, South Brunswick, West Windsor, Princeton, and Spotswood school districts; preschoolers at Princeton Nursery School and Home Front's Cherry Tree Club; Princeton Friends School. Helen has told and/or led workshops for Cotsen Children's Library at Princeton University, Zimmerli Art Museum, Grounds for Sculpture, Mid-Atlantic Storytelling Conference, NJ Storytelling Festival. Helen earned her B.A. in English Literature and B.F.A. in Theatre from St. Andrews College, her Teaching Credential from Claremont Graduate School, and her M.A. in English Literature from Clark University. Helen is certified in NJ for K-8 and secondary English.