The stories we choose to tell and how we choose to tell them determines the course of civilization.

—Ralph Singh, Chair, Wisdom Thinkers Network

Nearly 50 visionary leaders representing diverse ideologies and disciplines will gather at Syracuse University to engage in a dialog, telling the stories of our civilization and searching for a shared narrative to promote sustainability and move us beyond conflict. Through a process used widely in community and peace-building work, participants will share openly and listen deeply, transcending individual positions to develop a new narrative for the future of humanity and the planet. This dialog will be organized around the four topic areas of Environment, Economy, Democracy, and Being. Artists will join participants to create stories that can engender a more compassionate, inclusive, civil society — one that can support a sustainable future. The public is invited to participate in two defining portions of this event:

THURSDAY, NOV. 29  An Evening of Stories and Music for Sustainability
7:00–8:30 p.m.  Maxwell Auditorium (with open reception in Maxwell Foyer at 6:00 p.m.)
Panel discussion and cultural program to share emerging narratives. Open reception preceding the event will allow the public and university community to gather with presenters and participants.

- Remarks by Ralph Singh and by Professor Marjorie DeVault on the role of narrative in social change
- Panelists include Rabbi Brad Hirschfield (Co-President of CLAL), Dr. Naresh Singh (former UN Advisor for Poverty and Sustainable Livelihoods), Nick Stuart (President and CEO of Odyssey Networks)
- Stories presented by Francis Parks, storytelling matriarch and founder of Sojourner Story Festival
- Music offered by jazz clarinetist David Rothenberg, with world-renowned sound designer Doug Quin

FRIDAY, NOV. 30  Building the Story for a Sustainable Future
10:40 a.m.–12:30 p.m.  Global Collaboratory, 060 Eggers Hall
Discussion of emerging narratives assisted by visual facilitator Julie Stuart. Audience contributions will be welcome as the group identifies opportunities for change and begins to frame a call to action.

HOSTED BY

PARTICIPANTS: Faculty from Syracuse University, SUNY ESF, and LeMoyne College will be joined by some of the Wisdom Thinkers Network’s globally renowned visitors, including Fr. Roger Haight, Grove Harris, Rev. Dr. Kurt Johnson, Dr. Stuart Kauffman, Dr. Joan Maloof, Iya Amy Belle Olatunji, Diane Schenandoah, Robert J. Serafini, Jay Sidhu, Ralph Singh, and Bill Wallauer.

For a full list of participants and their affiliations, visit http://tinyurl.com/wtn2012  •  Twitter #wtn2012 @WisdomThinkers