

Our Story

We are a group of writers and storytellers who wish to create an open environment for people to share their experiences with a cooperative, supportive group.

Joe Cronin has taught writing and philosophy in higher education for 27 years. He has developed a successful online writing and literature program at Antioch University, and served on the Board of the Antioch Writers' Workshop for 10 years. Bob Sylvester served as a



a licensed counselor, and currently serves as an Associate Spiritual Director for The West Virginia Institute for Spirituality.

We become what we create, and we create what we become

He enjoys writing poetry, and short creative pieces.

To Register:
Contact Joseph Cronin, Ph.D.
@937-344-4349
jcronin@antioch.edu
Or
Bob Sylvester, M.A.
@304-552-9661
bsyl@msn.com

We would like a small deposit to hold your reservation. We are going to limit the group to 15 people per gathering. Our gatherings will take place the last 3 Mondays each month and will go from 7—9 p.m.

We ask for a small donation to cover cleanup expenses and snacks. We will meet at the WVIS unless otherwise stated. You may just show up, but we will limit the group to 15.

We are not affiliated with a 12-step program, or a faith-based organization.

The Next Step

Writing for Discovery

A Small-Group Experience
Of Telling and Writing our Personal Stories

Monday Evenings
7:00—9:00 pm
Starting September 10

In partnership with
The West Virginia Institute for Spirituality
WVIS.org



TEL: 937-344-4349 OR 304-552-9661

From an early age, we take great delight in telling and listening to stories. Stories have the power to capture our imagination, which is the key to being able to understand and sympathize with other human beings. An ancient art form that transcends cultures and traditions, storytelling is the hearthstone of the human experience.

At The Next Step, we will explore the transformative power of storytelling by gathering and sharing stories in written and oral forms. We will meet as equals in creative potential, and will explore storytelling through art, music, literature, food, and laughter .

Our gatherings will take place on the last three Mondays of each month at The West Virginia Institute for Spirituality, located in Charleston's East End, beginning Monday, September 10. Snacks and wifi will be provided. We ask for small, voluntary donations.

Storytelling as Identification

Have you ever heard a story and felt like the storyteller was telling your story? Have you ever identified with a character in a story, and lived your life through that character? Have you found yourself doing that with the stories you tell about yourself? Have you told your story to someone else?

Sometimes we cannot voice what lies closest within us. In storytelling communities, identification with others is a critical step toward realizing what we have been through. The Next Step takes place through telling our own stories and listening to others tell theirs as a way of harnessing our creative human potential.

Storytelling as Healing

Many healing practitioners and communities use storytelling as a way of getting at the deeper sources of someone's condition or situation. Storytelling can often have a therapeutic effect on both the audience and the storyteller.



OUR DESTINIES LIE IN
THE STORIES WE TELL

Storytelling as Creativity

We contain the seeds of our futures. It is difficult to read life's tea leaves and find solutions to life's dilemmas that work in a sustainable way. Storytelling is a process of discovery, a process of finding the deeper sources and springs within ourselves from which we can give birth to a new sense of purpose and achieve growth. Stories have regenerative powers that enable us to recognize and see the deeper meanings of the things in life that we cherish. Our stories contain within them our fears, hopes, and aspirations.

Taking the Next Step

Join us if you wish to share your experience, strength and hope through storytelling. We believe that the word is a fount of creativity and that through the word, we can rediscover the foundations of who we are, and what we wish to accomplish.

1601 Virginia St. E.
Charleston, WV 25311
WVIS.org

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bsyl@msn.com
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