

*For inspiration to move beyond the norm
Ask Ralph Singh to speak to your school or organization*



Connecting our world, especially our children, through the Wisdom of Stories

Today competing ideologies dominate the landscape leaving citizens little room for peace... Dominated by divisive rhetoric, empathy has vanished and no one stops to listen to each other anymore. We have forgotten how to share our stories. Can sharing and learning to honor each other's stories lead to a shared narrative? ...Wisdom Thinkers recognizes a spiritual connection which will allow us to transcend our individual positions and work to create a shared narrative for the future of humanity... (Singh, 2012)

WHAT PEOPLE HAVE SAID ABOUT

Inspirational, informative, true charisma

Introducing Ralph Singh - <http://tinyurl.com/intro-rsingh>

Ralph Singh will inspire you, expand your horizons, and provide simple steps to create a culture of “peace”

His motto – “keep spiraling upward” – has inspired countless people to overcome obstacles and seek their dreams

The Wisdom Thinkers Vision

We believe that stories have the power to change the world – and by reweaving the wisdom of our traditional stories, both sacred and secular, and new understandings into education and public life we will be able to strengthen our social fabric and foster a more compassionate, inclusive, civil society.

What we offer:

Ralph Singh, founder of The Wisdom Thinkers Network, will customize a day long visit for your school context. In order to challenge and engage students at a variety of ages and stages, the day can be structured as several workshops, class visits, and assemblies designed for a particular age range of students.

PROGRAMS

Lower School

PK-grade 3: Storytelling and role-play from Ralph Singh's book and character education program, Stories to Light our Way. This book combines tales and fables around the world to help foster children's intercultural understanding of kindness and inclusivity.

Grades 4-6: The workshop at this level will use Stories to Light Our Way as the foundation for the presentation, but, along with hearing the tales, intermediate students will collaborate to create stories of their own. These stories may take many forms: written narrative, dramatic presentation, visual art, or shared as oral traditions of their own (to be captured as podcasts or videos).

Middle School

Grades 7-8: Assembly or workshop format. Older students will be encouraged to make the transition from a general understanding of personal values to their application in a broader global sense.

Upper School:

Interactive sessions in assembly or smaller groups – and “master” story telling workshops teaching students the Power of weaving stories into public speaking and writing, helping them find their own voice.

Core Titles:

- > Stories for a More Compassionate and Just World
- > Personal Values, Global Vision: Framing the Values for a New World Order
- > Towards a Theology of Community – Arson, Forgiveness, and Healing in a Post 9-11 World
- > Sikhism, A Course for Life
- > Exploring Spirituality, Character Education from the Inside Out
- > Stories to Light Our Way

Work with Faculty

Professional development workshops on the use of wisdom stories in character education, In his own words:

“I provide educational tools for schools, developed and tested over the past 20 years in what has come to be called character education, using teaching stories and basic principles from all of our traditions. I also use them... to engage students, young and old, in discussions about ethics and values in public life using the core teachings from the world’s traditions and cultures, practical interfaith education, to build a foundation for a compassionate, pluralistic, civil society” (Singh, 2013).

Sample presentations:

- > **Nurturing Ideal Citizens of the State of Virtue: Ethical Teaching in a Largely Unethical World**
- > **Covering character development, multi-cultural education, and links of curriculum and community service projects.**
- > Teaching from Your Core – linking contemplative moments to your daily routine

GENERAL

Drawing on his own experiences locally, nationally, and internationally, Ralph brings a vast and unique array of stories and real-life experiences covering his years in India, work in the business world, and volunteer efforts with the United Nations Association, the North American Interfaith Network, and his subsequent work with Wisdom Thinkers Roundtables. He uses discussion, case studies, and role play to engage students in identifying opportunities and realistic action plans for societal change.

He shows how to balance a life filled with purpose, with the daily needs of raising and providing for a family, and balancing business commitments with community service.

To combine a passion for social uplift, spiritual growth – constantly seeking to expand our consciousness and understanding – with a lifelong learning and exploration of solutions to our human condition

While he has been called a master networker, he really sees the world as one large family and is able to connect to people at all different levels of shared experience.

He has mastered 3 diverse languages – French, Japanese, and Punjabi (he translates works in this core language)

Visited 45 (sans N Dakota, Alaska, AS, OK) of our 50 states, 15 countries, notably India, Russia, China, Switzerland, Holland, England, Scotland, Australia, former Yugoslavia, Turkey, (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran en route to India in 1970)

Spoken on his work at major national and international forums, to include the below

- > Millennium Peace Summit at the United Nations
- > Parliament of the World’s Religion, Melbourne, Australia
- > Smithsonian Institute
- > North American Interfaith Network
- > Association of Moral Education – Nanjing, China

Spoken or presented at schools, including:

- > The Gunnery
- > Phillips Exeter Academy
- > The Hockaday School, Dallas TX
- > Grace Church School
- > Episcopal Academy
- > Montessori School of Syracuse
- > Consulted for, developed courses, and taught at Manlius Pebble Hill School, Dewitt, NY

Books Authored

- > A Path to Follow a Life to Lead
- > Stories to Light Our Way, w audio CD

ARTICLES AND OP-EDS

Character Ed. Before Higher Ed': Wisdom Trumps Knowledge

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ralph-singh/character-ed-before-higher-ed-wisdom-trumps-knowledge_b_4055401.html

The Democracy Gap: Receding or Reseeding Democracy Depends on Your Point of View

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ralph-singh/the-democracy-gap-receding-or-reseeding-democracy-depends-on-your-point-of-view_b_3550607.html

Interfaith Storytelling for a More Perfect Union

As we approach the 10th anniversary of Sept. 11, a day that called on all Americans to dig deep in their hearts and come together as one nation, it would do well for "we the people" to take an annual checkup on the state of our more perfect union.

Ralph Singh's Huffpo blog - <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ralph-singh/>

Commentary: Seek society's shared narrative, says spiritual leader Ralph Singh

By **Your Letters** | November 30, 2010, 5:00AM

By Ralph Singh Few holidays bind family and community together in a national narrative the way Thanksgiving does. Aside from the food, football and preparation for Black Friday, Thanksgiving gives us all time to reflect on something greater — a greater good — a greater power — a greater way of being human. Amid the rush, let us pause to... [Full story »](#)

Hostages to violence must be freed

By **Your Letters** | December 19, 2012, 10:22AM

We in the United States, as in much of the civilized world, are holding our children hostage to violence. The stories we choose to tell, and how we choose to tell them, determines the course of civilization. There should be little doubt that we have created a culture of violence. [Full story »](#)

Blogs

- > www.exploringspirituality.org
- > www.huffingtonpost.com/ralph-singh/

Additional presentations:

Evening presentations can be designed to engage parents, Board Members, and members of the local community in a panel discussion. Topic and panel composition will be determined based on ideas from Mr. Singh and school input. Themes typically incorporate an exploration of spirituality and values in education and public life, the power of forgiveness, and the role of narrative in promoting personal and social change, similar to the 2012 WTN Roundtable held at Syracuse University.

Ralph Singh

Inspirational Speaker

Chairman and CEO of Wisdom Thinkers Network, a diverse group of acclaimed thought leaders in business, education, science, poverty alleviation, environment, community, and religious organizations who believe stories have the power to change the world. By reweaving the wisdom of our traditional stories, both sacred and secular, and our new understandings into education and public life, we feel we can strengthen our social fabric and foster a more compassionate, inclusive, civil society.

Ralph has spent the last 40 years of his life promoting spirituality and values in education and public life, and bringing people of diverse backgrounds together to find a shared narrative towards peace. He currently consults with educational, community, and religious leaders to develop curricula and resources that foster an understanding of shared values in schools, using the teachings and wisdom stories from the world's spiritual traditions and cultures. As Chair of Wisdom Thinkers, Ralph convenes roundtables of thought leaders and community members to break down the barriers to civil conversation and move toward a shared narrative.

Sharing their personal journeys creates an instant sense of community in which it becomes easier to address the difficult questions which may divide us. He is known for his creative ways of framing issues to allow all voices to be heard and respected.

He likes to be known as an ordinary person who has enjoyed (and continues to enjoy) extraordinary life experiences: from the powerful vision that drew him from New York to the feet of one of the world's greatest spiritual masters, His Holiness Baba Virsa Singh, in India, where, at the age of 22, he became Babaji's first foreign devotee, to his involvement in the community building efforts surrounding the post 9-11 arson attack on his spiritual community Gobind Sadan, USA, North of Syracuse, NY.

Ralph has authored and edited five books, including "A Path to Follow, A Life to Lead" about his life's journey. As a former National Council Member and Chapter President of UNA-USA, Ralph helped establish the Central New York MUN at Syracuse University, which now draws over 500 students from the U.S. and Canada. Committed to justice and community building, he chaired the local Human Rights Commission, coordinated an award-winning program to break down barriers between the able-bodied and disabled communities, and developed programs for drug awareness and poverty alleviation.

He speaks regularly on diverse subjects related to spirituality and civil society, maintains a Huffington Post blog in addition to his own Exploring Spirituality blog, and contributes commentary and articles regularly to local media outlets.

To have Ralph convene a round-table, speak to your school or organization, or consult with your staff about using stories to build character education programs, contact him at: 888-793-7257

ralph@wisdomthinkers.org | www.wisdomthinkers.org

