

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ... FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Women Making History: Story-Circle Style**

The Story Circle Network, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping women explore and record their life stories, is holding its second national women's memoir conference **February 6-8, 2004**, at the **Red Lion Hotel** in **Austin TX**.

Liz Carpenter, the conference keynote speaker, is a sixth-generation Texan, author of several best-selling books, and a journalist who reported on presidents from Franklin D. Roosevelt to John F. Kennedy. She served as press secretary, staff director, and speech writer during the Johnson administration.

Wilhelmina Delco will speak at the Sunday wrap-up lunch. Delco has served ten terms in the Texas Legislature and chairs the national board of The United States Department of Education's National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity. She is an adjunct professor at the University of Texas at Austin.

The three-day conference, "Stories from the Heart II," features twenty-four program sessions offered by presenters from around the country. They will speak on a wide variety of topics of interest to women memoirists and life-writers, including the creation of family-legacy stories, personal narrative techniques, self-publishing, interviewing, journaling, memoir and fiction, mother-daughter stories, and art as a medium for personal story. Participants may perform their stories at an open-mike evening.

Susan Wittig Albert, Story Circle Network founder and best-selling author, will be featured at Conference Welcome session on Friday afternoon. Speaking of the significance of the conference, Albert says, "In the last ten years, personal narrative has been increasingly recognized as an important literary form. We have begun to understand that family story is an important legacy and that women are often the family's story-keepers. Psychologists note, as well, the importance of journaling and personal narrative as a tool for improving mental and physical health. We hope that our conference will encourage women to develop and explore their personal stories."

The conference program and registration information is available on-line, at **www.storycircle.org/Conference**. A brochure may be requested by phone, at 512-454-9833.

CONTACT: Peggy Moody, SCN Executive Director at 512-454-9833, by email at conference@storycircle.org, or by mail at Story Circle Network, PO Box 500127, Austin TX 78750-0127.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Featured speaker photographs are available on the conference website, at **www.storycircle.org/Conference**.

Thank you for your help in publicizing this important event!

Peggy Moody
Executive Director
Story Circle Network
www.storycircle.org

*"Writing makes a map, and there is something about a journey that begs to have its passage marked."
--Christina Baldwin*