

# ARLINGTON ARTSLETTER

*What's New in the Arts in Arlington!*

June, 2002

## SWAPPING STORIES 02

**Premiere Performance in the Barrett Elementary School Library, Tuesday, June 11, 6:30 p.m. 703-228-6288.**

"Even though there's 75 years difference in age, we had very similar experiences", says an Arlington senior. "It makes me feel great that we have someone to sit down with and talk to us and listen to us", says a student.

They were both participants in Swapping Stories, an innovative, intergenerational theatre project, a storytelling exchange that pairs up seniors and students who trade oral histories, developing links that transcend age, gender and heritage.

Swapping Stories 01 was part of Arlington's Bicentennial Celebration, in which fourth grade students from Arlington's Barrett Elementary school, one of the most diverse in Arlington, were paired with seniors from their neighboring Culpepper Garden Senior center. Many of the children were newcomers to this country, and most of the seniors were longtime residents. They found the storytelling to be a bond-producing experience to tellers and listeners alike, bringing a sense of value to the act of recollecting as well as the experiences that are recollecting. For the seniors, it helps to sharpen their minds, and for the students it helps to encourage them to value narrative as a form of self expression.

Swapping Stories 02 has once again paired the two groups, fourth graders from Barrett Elementary and seniors from Culpepper Garden Center, and their adventures and triumphs will premiere in a performance in the Barrett School Library, 4401 N. Henderson Street. Arlington on Tuesday, June 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Swapping Stories is a partnership between the Arlington Public Schools and the Arlington Senior Adult Programs, and was made possible by a grant from the Arlington Community Foundation. For more information see the website [www.swappingstories.org](http://www.swappingstories.org)