Teachers and/or parents;

To those of you who have said yes to leading the sharing of story prompts at the tables on Sunday..and to all others I might not have spoken to, but I know would be "naturals" at this assuming this role and will do a great job for us:

There are three specific things you can do to help on Sunday. (Please read to end of the note)

1. Right after the telling we will move into the fellowship hall and join in a human treasure hunt activity. Each person will be given a sheet to fill in. It should prove to be lots of fun. It would be great if you would lead the way by engaging in this activity yourself and by encouraging all those you meet to do the same. See the following page for a sample treasure hunt sheet. There are four different versions.
2. Story prompts to be used for story sharing at tables. Please try to position yourself, as best you can, at either end of the tables of ten that will be set up. We are going to encourage people to sit with people that they do not know..one family with another, or two friends with two others, etc. We realize that.there is only so much we can do to achieve a mix at the tables. Please see if you can encourage this and place yourself where you think you might be helpful. The main idea is to avoid having a whole table of Muslims, one of Christians, etc. Please see below for the story prompts. There may be two copies at either end of your table or they may be on small cards on the table..if time can be found to do them this way. We certainly don't want to inhibit people from having normal conversations, but we do want to encourage them to engage in meaningful story-sharing. This is just as much a part of the goal of the afternoon (and our project) as the youth telling.
3. There will be "Just Wanted You To Know" sheets on the tables which we would like people to fill out before they leave. We will be using this to evaluate the telling and the pot luck meal..the community part of our project.. in our reports to the National Storytellling Network. Please see that people take a moment to write their answer before they leave. It is very important to us that they do this.

Thanks so much for being willing to help. In so many ways, as you can see, the success of the afternoon depends on those of you who are story-leading in these ways. Your using your gifts and talents on our behalf is much appreciated. I know that your presence and sharing is going to make all the difference!

Please keep the students and all involved in the project in your prayers. All have worked hard and we have high hopes for Sunday...

Peace, prayers,

Gert

P.S.

Just to elaborate a bit on the time frame for the afternoon. We are estimating that the storytelling portion of the afternoon will take perhaps an hour and fifteen minutes. We'll know more about this after our practice run-through on April 23rd. Some of the students' stories are 7-8 minutes or so, but several are quite short. And we will take a stretch break in the middle.

After the telling we will move to the large room adjacent to the sanctuary, have some hors d'oeuvre type food, visit a bit and engage in a short activity that will get people talking. The United Methodist Women are taking care of setting up, warming, serving and cleaning up. This is their interfaith event for the year and we are most grateful for their help.

Just before dinner, a small group of childen from the Hindu Temple Society of the Capital District will perform a brief Hindu "story-dancing" for us.

The vegetarian food people bring will be served buffet style and people of different faiths can visit and do some informal story sharing at the tables of ten. Parents whose childen are in the project, Interfaith teachers who have been involved in the three workshops we have held, and those of you who come from Interfaith and Story Circle of the Capital District will be key to the success of this part of the program. We will be looking to you to lead, share and encourage others to do the same. We will provide some story prompts to encourage sharing. If you are interested in acting as a leader at one of the tables, please let me know.

Although we recognize that some people will only attend the telling, we are hoping that most will stay to share in the meal. This is an important part of our Children at the Well Project; that is, putting families/adults from diverse religious traditions in touch with each other and sharing. The students have been doing this for the last two months, but "children learn what they live" and seeing the adults model interfaith sharing as well will speak volumes.

I hope we'll see many of you there. Your presence will truly make a difference!

Gert

PROMPTS FOR STORY-SHARING AT TABLES:

* Which story told by the students today held the most meaning for you?
* Did any of the students' stories remind you of another story?
* Is there a story behind your name?
* Are there any stories that you thought of, or heard, when you were filling in the Human Treasure Hunt squares?
* Do you have a story about one of your family's religious holiday customs?
* Do you have a funny or really unusual story about a religious experience?
* What is your favorite story from your religious tradition?
* Tell the story of what brought you here today.

HUMAN TREASURE HUNT

Goal: To find a person here who is a "match" for each square below. When you find them, have them print their name in the square that applies to them. You may not use the same person for more than one square. Try to use new people, not ones you already know.

Prize: Getting to meet each other, and to think about all the stories that are associated with these squares.

Find a Person Who……

Reads the Koran	Has a school assignment due tomorrow	Celebrates Hanukah
Knows the Lord's Prayer	Can tell you about Krishna	Has a shrine in their home
Can do a somersault	Has a golden retriever	Is a 6th grader