

# Children at the Well

Dear Young Person,

Congratulations! You have been selected to apply to participate in a new program of the Interfaith Story Circle of the Tri-City Area, called "Children at the Well". We have organized this program so that young people can develop their skills in telling stories from their own religious traditions along with young people of other faiths.

We plan to have a group of students meet with story coaches about six times over the coming school year to learn about storytelling and work on their stories. There will be two coaching sessions in February, two sessions in March and two in April. The sessions will be from 2:45 to 4:45 on the following Sundays: Feb. 5, Feb. 12, March 5, March 26, April 9 and April 23. It would be important to come to all of our meetings. We plan to have participants tell their stories at a community gathering of friends, family and others, on April 30, 2006.

You would be working with professional story tellers, Marni Gillard and Mary Murphy, who are experienced in coaching young people for telling.

Please share this letter with your parents, so they can learn what this project is all about.

If you are interested in participating, we would like you to write a note back to us to tell us a bit about yourself and explain why you would like to be involved. There are some questions below that can help you get started in writing the letter.

Don't feel you have to answer every question.

- ❖ Have you done any storytelling in the past?
- ❖ Have you had an opportunity to hear a storyteller?
- ❖ Is there anyone in your family who is a good storyteller? If so, what do you like about their stories?
- ❖ Do you have a story about your own life that you find yourself telling to other people? For example, something about a very happy time, or a disappointment? Your favorite religious holiday? When you first met a good friend? Once when you were scared in the dark?
- ❖ Is there a story from your own religion that you particularly like to hear?
- ❖ Storytelling involves practicing. Is there something you've had to practice to get better at? Would you be willing to put the time in to practice storytelling?
- ❖ This project will involve sharing with people of other faiths. Would you be interested in that?

You can send your note by e-mail to me at [pbethweiss@aol.com](mailto:pbethweiss@aol.com).

We hope you can join us for the Winter Lights Telling this Sunday (Jan. 22) at the Church of St. Vincent DePaul in Albany (900 Madison Ave., corner of Partridge St.) We will have a short Children at the Well meeting at 1:15, and then the performance is from 2 to 4.

Thank you for your interest! We are looking forward to reading your note, and to meeting you.

Sincerely,

Paula Weiss (518) 785-7842  
Mrs. Gert Johnson (518) 374-0637