

Interfaith Story Circle of the Tri-City Area

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Story Circle Wins National Award

Schenectady, NY January, 2006 The Interfaith Story Circle of the Tri-City Area, a group composed of people of many faiths and traditions, recently learned that they are the recipients of the 2006 Brimstone Award. The Award, given annually by the National Storytelling Network, headquartered in Jonesboro TN, focuses on the transformational properties of storytelling, and aims to increase understanding of the ways storytelling can promote change in individuals and communities. It includes a five thousand dollar grant which will be used to support the proposed project “Children at the Well”.

This model storytelling project will gather and work with an interfaith group of young teenagers from Notre Dame - Bishop Gibbons School, the An Nur Islamic School, the Hindu Temple Society of the Capital District and the Community Coalition for Jewish Education. They will be instructed in storytelling technique starting February 5. The young people will be coached to develop stories from their own traditions to tell at an April 30th community performance and dinner. The two story coaches will be Marni Gillard of Schenectady, and Mary Murphy of Albany. An added component

of the program is a series of three interfaith workshops to be held for interested teachers of religion.

Page Two

The Interfaith Story Circle has been meeting for twelve years to share stories and storytelling resources. Their goal in this new effort is to value and nourish the gifts of the next generation and to give them the opportunity to demonstrate the transforming and healing power of story to family, friends and the broader community. As Br. Muhammad Kabir, Principal of the An Nur Islamic School, writes;

Storytelling is a way for people to find common connections.
Who can think of a better way to transform the future than by
building bridges within the next generation?

For more information on the Children at the Well project or the Interfaith Story Circle please contact Gert Johnson at 374-0637 or GRSJohnson@aol.com or Paula Weiss at 785-7842 or pbethweiss@aol.com.

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