

## **Interfaith Story Circle of the Tri-City Area**

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## **Interfaith Youth Storytelling Event April 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Schenectady, NY, 2006** The Interfaith Story Circle of the Tri-City Area presents a program of faith-related stories told by young people. The program will be hosted Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM, by The United Methodist Women of SUMC at the Shenendehowa United Methodist Church, 971 Route 146, Clifton Park. The community is invited to attend; children in attendance need to be old enough to sit quietly for stories.

The program is part of the Story Circle's Children at the Well project, which has won the 2006 Brimstone Award. This 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.

The storytellers hail 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. The young people have each chosen their own stories, and have worked to adapt them for the telling. They have been meeting with storycoaches Mary Murphy and Marni Gillard since February to learn about storytelling and to prepare for the performance.

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A vegetarian pot-luck will be held after the performance. Those wishing to attend the meal are asked to bring a dish containing no meat, poultry or seafood. There will be an informal story-sharing for all afterwards.

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 April 30<sup>th</sup> performance of the Children at the Well, or the Interfaith Story Circle, please contact Gert Johnson at 374-0637 or [GRSJohnson@aol.com](mailto:GRSJohnson@aol.com). You can also find information at [interfaithstory.org](http://interfaithstory.org).

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