



Eugene Public Library  
www.eugene-or.gov/library

Downtown  
100 West 10th Avenue  
(541) 682-5450  
(541) 682-5898 FAX

Bethel Branch Library  
1990 Echo Hollow Road  
(541) 682-5766  
(541) 682-5770 FAX

Sheldon Branch Library  
1566 Coburg Road  
(541) 682-5778  
(541) 682-5781 FAX

TO: Librarians who plan special events  
Leaders of interfaith assemblies  
Planners of intercultural programs

FROM: Nancy Horner, Adult Services Manager

RE: A remarkably successful interfaith program:  
Writing to Share Your Spiritual Story

I write to recommend a remarkable program, so successful that when it concluded, the participants pressed us to repeat it and extend it. Focused on interfaith understanding, its title is "Writing to Share Your Spiritual Story."

Nan Phifer guided participants in identifying their most meaningful personal experiences and artfully eased them into writing spontaneously. As soon as they had written quick drafts, she divided the large group into small groups in which they read their stories to each other and responded in certain, affirming ways. They did not write about their theologies; instead, people from a variety of faith communities and cultural backgrounds listened to each other's stories and observed their underlying commonalities. Supportive bonds formed between the writers.

Nan has extensive experience guiding memoir-writing workshops. Observing the empathy that arises among participants, she adapted her program to serve interfaith and intercultural organizations. She is an associate director of the Oregon Writing Project, a summer institute for teachers at the University of Oregon, and author of *Memoirs of the Soul: A Writing Guide*.

Thirty-two library patrons preregistered for Nan's workshops at the EPL, and twenty-seven people, unable to get in, left their names on a waiting list. The evaluations of participants praised Nan's workshop, *Writing to Share Your Spiritual Story*. I am pleased to recommend it.



City of Eugene  
Library, Recreation  
and Cultural Services