

Give yourself the gift of story this season.....
The run up to Christmas and the Winter Solstice is so oftent just that: a run.
How about taking a breath, pausing, and letting yourself receive a weekend to
reconnect to yourself, your soul, this living Earth, and the Holy?

The Gift of Story

A retreat for Advent and the Winter Solstice

December 5-7, 2014

Friday dinner—Sunday lunch
at Rolling Ridge Study Retreat Community

With Lindsay McLaughlin and Julie Gabrielli

What is the gift of story? It's a felt sense of connection that awakens hidden kinships and renews our belonging to the sacred community of Life.

Stories connect. They connect us to our ancestors, our faith, our souls, one another, and the Sacred Earth. In this spacious retreat there will be time for

- rest and dreaming,
- time alone wandering in the winter woodlands and rocky places of this wild mountain land,
- quiet journaling and silence, and
- time together listening to stories...to the rich stories of the season, of indigenous peoples, and of our own encounters with soul and nature.



The season of Advent and the Winter Solstice is a time immersed in story: of stars, angelic visitations, dreams, and journeys. Held in the cradle of these rich stories, our own stories emerge from deep within. Perhaps one of the deepest gifts we human ones can give, or receive, at this moment in Earth's evolving life, is our gift for story and storytelling.

Sitting with a group of people around a fire and telling stories opens us to an experience of shared creativity that goes back millennia. Even if we have only met, our stories have a way of weaving in and among each other...The stories come through individuals and have their way with us in a collective mystery....

In ritual and ceremony, silence, poetry, journaling, time among the trees, we will encounter the guardians and guides to the wildness and imagination of the Earth. We will listen for stories of belonging and tell them to each other and the land. We will recover forgotten stories and discover hidden connections and new perspectives that we can carry forth as glowing embers into the winter darkness.

Give yourself the gift of story this season....

Retreat Leaders:

Lindsay McLaughlin is an educator, writer, grandmother, dancer, and longtime member of the Rolling Ridge Study Retreat Community. Her experience includes leading numerous retreats exploring the gift of story and celebrating the sacred circles of community and connection.

Julie Gabrielli is an architect, teacher, filmmaker, and writer. She explores ways to tell the new stories that are emerging in our culture. Her experience includes designing buildings and places from new/old paradigms; community engagement for sustainability, and cultivating joy, creativity, attention and reverence through the arts.

This retreat will be held at Rolling Ridge Study Retreat House, a six bedroom cabin in a wilderness setting near Harpers Ferry, WV. Rolling Ridge is accessible by car only. The retreat begins with supper at 6 pm on Friday and concludes with lunch on Sunday. Fee for the retreat is \$210 (double occupancy) and \$230 (single) and includes lodging for two nights, six meals and program. To reserve your place, email lindsay@rollingridge.net and request an application to be returned with a \$50 deposit.



Give up all the other worlds except the one to which you belong.
Sweet Darkness, David Whyte