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“Read a few [interviews] and you’ll want to grab a loved one and share your own story.”

GIVE THE GIFT OF LISTENING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

***New York Times* bestseller *Listening Is an Act of Love* offers a unique holiday “gift that gives back” by supporting StoryCorps’ efforts to build a more thoughtful and compassionate nation**

NEW YORK – December 11, 2009 – *Listening Is an Act of Love* (The Penguin Press), a collection of fifty stories selected from the archive of the groundbreaking oral history project StoryCorps, provides a meaningful gift for anyone looking to give a meaningful, charitable gift this holiday season. The book reminds readers of the importance of listening to and learning from those around them and supports StoryCorps, a nonprofit, in its efforts to create one of the largest collections of American voices ever recorded. 100 percent of the book’s royalties go to fund StoryCorps’ work collecting and preserving the stories of everyday Americans for future generations.

You can give the gift of listening this holiday season by sharing *Listening Is an Act of Love* (available in hardback, paperback or audio CD) with your loved ones. Along with your purchase, you can also download a free gift card and an IOU to help you record your own interview with someone important to you. Visit www.storycorps.org/book for more information on where to buy the book and how to redeem this free holiday gift.

Since 2003, StoryCorps has been recording and preserving 40-minute conversations between Americans from all walks of life throughout the country. StoryCorps’ best-selling first book, *Listening Is an Act of Love*, celebrates the participants of this revolutionary project with print versions of some of their most remarkable stories arranged thematically: Home and Family, Work and Dedication, Journeys, History and Struggle, and Fire and Water, which includes stories from the September 11th attacks and Hurricane Katrina.

“The holiday season provides a perfect opportunity for us to share these personal stories with our loved ones and think about the kinds of stories they could tell,” says StoryCorps founder and MacArthur “Genius” Dave Isay.

One of the book’s stories, told by Marie DeSantis, 78, recounts her family Christmas during World War II. When she received a telegram that said her brother Joseph was missing in action, her mother decided the family would not have a Christmas tree that

year because Joseph wouldn't be there to celebrate. On Christmas Eve, they received a letter from Joseph in the hospital, who wrote, "By now you must be putting up the Christmas tree, and I want you to know that I'm all right.... And Mama, don't worry about me." Marie's brother John saved the day with a Christmas tree he had purchased secretly and had hidden under the porch.

About StoryCorps

StoryCorps is an independent non-profit whose mission is to honor and celebrate one another's lives through listening. StoryCorps has one of the largest archives of American voices ever created, with interviews gathered from more than 50,000 people in all 50 states. Each StoryCorps interview is recorded on a free CD for participants to take home and share, and is also archived at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. Each week, millions of Americans listen to StoryCorps' award-winning broadcasts on NPR's *Morning Edition*. StoryCorps' second book, *Mom: A Celebration of Mothers from StoryCorps*, scheduled for publication in April 2010, will feature inspiring stories by and about mothers. StoryCorps' major funders include: The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), The Atlantic Philanthropies, The Ford Foundation, The Annenberg Foundation, The Kaplen Foundation, and Joe and Carol Reich. For more information, visit www.storycorps.org.

About the Author

Dave Isay is the founder of StoryCorps and its parent company, Sound Portraits Productions. Over the past two decades his radio documentary work has won nearly every award in broadcasting, including five Peabody awards. Dave has also received a Guggenheim Fellowship, a MacArthur Fellowship, and a United States Artists Fellowship. He is the author (or coauthor) of four books based on Sound Portraits radio stories, including *Our America: Life and Death on the South Side of Chicago* and *Flophouse*. He and his wife, Jennifer Gonnerman, live in Brooklyn.

LISTENING IS AN ACT OF LOVE

A Celebration of American Life from the StoryCorps Project

Edited and with an Introduction by Dave Isay

Penguin Books

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