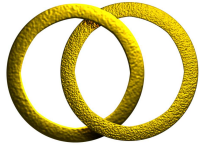


IFFP is moving to Einstein HS! Details below ▼



Interfaith Families Project

Sept./Oct. 2007 www.iffp.net P.O. Box 5413, Takoma Park, MD 20913 iffp@verizon.net 301-270-6337

PROGRESSIVE INTERFAITH, PART II



Who are these Progressive People of Faith? In the second part of the discussion begun in the July-August newsletter, Rita Nakashima Brock, the founding Co-Director of Faith Voices for the Common Good, provides some thoughts:

Movements in American history fueled by the energy of religious progressives include the Abolitionist Movement, Women's Suffrage, Conscientious Objection to War, Trade Unions, the New Deal, Civil Rights and much more. Progressive

Christians continue to engage in these movements, within their own religious communities and around the world.

Progressive religious people have a global vision. Christians in recent years have been involved in the World Council of Churches and the Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians. With these and other groups, they have sought to encourage cooperation among churches, to end colonialism in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, to support liberation movements of oppressed peoples across the globe, to promote nonviolent approaches to conflict, and to improve the lives of women and children.

Progress people of faith are not characterized by a particular set of religious beliefs, uniformity of institutional forms, shared personal practices, or agreement on specific political and social policies. They don't need to be. What unites them, what defines them, is an open-ended search for truth and an untiring pursuit of justice for all – and the conviction that these commitments are mandates of their faith. These are their commitments, not because they want or need to be allied progressives, but because they must be committed to these values as people of faith.

— Rev. Julia Jarvis, Spiritual Director

IFFP ON THE MOVE!

IFFP'S New Location!

We're very excited about moving to our new home at **Albert Einstein High School**, 11135 Newport Mill Rd., in Kensington (only 3 miles and 8 minutes (thanks, **Ellen**) from Sligo MS). Einstein has a large cafeteria, an auditorium for the COA ceremony, dance studio for our yoga class, carpeted room for the nursery, a courtyard, a huge parking lot and the Newport Mill Park & playground right next to the parking lot. We know it will take everyone a while to get adjusted to the new classrooms and how to get from one place to another without losing the kids, but we will all get acclimated soon!



We have thanked **Kevin Dove**, the Maintenance Supervisor at Sligo and **Carlos** for all their wonderful care of us. We will definitely miss Carlos. He asked to say hello to everyone. We plan to get a gift for **Greg Hamilton** at the county Interagency Coordinating Board that schedules outside use of schools. He has been our greatest help and supporter since we started at Sligo.

Directions: Newport Mill Rd. runs between Veirs Mill Rd. & University Blvd. in Kensington.

From the beltway: Take the Connecticut Ave. north exit. Connecticut splits to the left a few blocks after Knowles in Kensington (Hardware City on left). Stay to the right, University Blvd., and continue going straight. After the small shopping center on the left (CVS), take an immediate left onto Newport Mill and follow the curve around to the right. The school is a block down on the right.

From S.S. or Takoma Park: North on Georgia, take Veirs Mill past Westfield Shopping Center, cross University Blvd.; turn left onto Newport Mill. Or take University Blvd. Cross Georgia, make a right turn at Veirs Mill and then a left at Newport Mill.

From Rockville: Take Veirs Mill toward Wheaton. Make a right onto Newport Mill Rd.

CALENDAR: SEPT – OCT 2006

September 8 – Teacher Training

September 9 – Welcoming Gathering

Rabbi White & Rev. Julia
Community Potluck

September 13 – Rosh Hashanah

September 16 – Gathering – Rosh Hashanah

Sunday School, Session 1

Back to School Discussion

Fall Open House
Table at Takoma Folk Festival

September 22 – Yom Kippur Teen Led Service

5 p.m. at Paint Branch U.U. Church
Break Fast

September 23 – Gathering – Yom Kippur

Sunday School, Session 2
Adult Group

September 27 – Sukkot

**September 30 – Gathering – Sukkot &
Gleaning**

Details below

October 5 – Simcha Torah

October 14 – Gathering

Sunday School, Session 3
Adult Group
Sunday School Picnics – Grades 1, 2, & 3

October 21 – Gathering

Sunday School, Session 4
Adult Group
Sunday School Picnics – Grades Pre-K & K

October 28 -- Gathering

Sunday School, Session 5
Adult Group
Sunday School Picnics – Grades 4 & 5

CALENDAR DETAILS

Welcoming Gathering and Potluck at Einstein High School, Sunday September 9!!!

Another wonderful year at IFFP is about to begin in our new home at Einstein! Please join **Rev. Julia, Rabbi Harold and Ellen, DRE**, Sunday, September 9th, 10:00, as we come together again after our summer break. Rev. Julia will lead our first Gathering of the 2007-2008 year which will be followed by a festive

potluck lunch in the cafeteria. The children, supervised by Randy Gibson (Julia's Randy), will decorate an IFFP banner to be used at our table at the Takoma Park Folk Festival. This is a great time to reconnect with our community, catch up with other members, and focus on all the wonderful programs and events that IFFP offers. For more information, or **if you would like to help coordinate this event**, please contact Susan, sury3@aol.com or 301-270-6337.

IFFP will provide paper goods and beverages. As usual, the food assignments are based on your family's last name (use the female head of your household if the adults have different last names). Please bring enough for 10 to 15 people. If your last name begins with:

A-J: Bring a side dish or salad

K-Z: Bring a main dish

Board Members: Bring dessert

— **Susan Ryder**, Program Coordinator

► **Special Message from Julia on the Welcoming Gathering**

Dear Community,

We will have a great reunion Sept. 9 at Einstein HS. Not only will it be a time to catch up and reconnect but we will be ritualizing a brief farewell to Sligo and a big hello to our new space. It is quite beautiful and spacious. Once we conclude our ritual we will take some time to reflect on the theme of "hospitality" with not only each other and our world but also where this graciousness needs to start – with ourselves! The shofar has already been sounding in synagogues everywhere to begin waking people up to the new year and the renewing of our lives. May our year be one of waking up to the deep acceptance of ourselves (wherever we are in life) and to those many various guests around us.

May you be free, free, free,

Julia

Back to School, September 16

After delivering or sending your children off to their first Sunday School class of the new academic year, please plan to attend the Back to School meeting. At least one parent of each Sunday School child **must** attend, and it would be great if both parents attended. This meeting is not just a logistics session. It is a chance for us to talk about the program and for me to get input from parents (and anyone else who is interested).

— **Ellen Jennings**, Director of Religious Education

Fall Open House, September 16

On September 16th, we'll host our Fall Open House for people who are interested in learning more about our interfaith community with the possibility of joining. Visitors attend our Gathering, and then may choose to hear either **Ellen's** overview of the Sunday school or join **Rabbi White, Rev. Julia**, and board members at an orientation session, 11:00-noon, where they can learn more about IFFP programs and activities. We are fortunate at IFFP to have an interfaith group unlike any other in the DC area or in the country! Many local interfaith families would be thrilled to find our community, so please spread the word about IFFP and our Open House. If you have friends who are interested in having a look, please suggest they contact Susan in the IFFP office at 301-270-6337 or sury3@aol.com. Also please pass the word along through list serves, and e-mails to friends.

We need apples and honey for Rosh Hashanah – September 16

We want to bring in the sweetness of the New Year with the traditional treat of apples and honey (in addition to our usual morning fare.). We need about 6 members to each bring a small or medium jar of honey and a dozen apples, cored and sliced. If you can, please contact Susan in the IFFP office at 301-270-6337 or sury3@aol.com.

— **Susan Ryder**, Program Coordinator

Yom Kippur Reflection & Break the Fast, September 22, Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

Our Yom Kippur service will be held this year on **Saturday evening, September 22**, 5:00-6:00 pm at the **Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church** near Silver Spring, 3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi, Maryland. **Sam Seligman** and our teen group will lead this lovely, family friendly service in the Meeting Room (sanctuary). Younger children are very welcome, but we do not provide child care. The Paint Branch Church has an open, airy sanctuary filled with windows and surrounded by trees, and the setting helps to make this service a memorable one for all of us who usually gather in a school cafeteria.

Please join us for our Break-the-Fast potluck meal in the foyer of the Meeting Room and in the Meeting Room from 6-7 p.m. This is a wonderful way to complete Yom Kippur and end your fast. We hope that you and your family will attend. (Please leave the food that you bring on the tables in the foyer.)

After the service, everyone staying for the potluck (and bringing food) will convene in the foyer where you may remain to eat or carry your food into the Meeting Room. There will be plenty of time to visit and eat. Those of you who will wait until sunset may want to save a plate of food until then. We have the space until at least 7:00 p.m., and beyond if needed, so just enjoy yourself.

Please bring one or more of the following for the potluck: egg/tuna/chicken salads, cold cuts with rolls or bread; challah/butter, bagels/cream cheese, fruit and desserts (bring whichever dish you choose to serve 10 people). IFFP will supply paper goods and drinks.

Directions:

<p>From Takoma Park: Follow Carroll to Ethan Allen/MD 410 Cont. to follow MD 410 .6 mi Turn left onto MD 650 N/New Hampshire 3.4 mi Turn rt onto Powder Mill Rd .6 mi Turn lt onto Riggs Rd/MD 212. Cont. to follow MD 212 .9 mi</p> <p>From Gaithersburg: 270 S to 495 E Merge onto MD 650 N/New Hampshire Ave, exit 28 A toward White Oak Rt onto Powder Mill Lt onto Riggs Rd/MD 212. Cont. to follow MD 212 End at 3215 Powder Mill</p>	<p>From DC MD 185 N/Connecticut Merge onto 495 toward Baltimore/SS Merge onto MD 650 N/New Hampshire Follow above directions from New Hampshire</p>
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— **Susan Ryder**, Program Coordinator

Sukkot and Gleaning, September 30

Come one, come all to one of the best IFFP experiences you will have! To celebrate Sukkot, the joyous Jewish feast of ingathering, IFFP will once again be moving the site of its gathering to a nearby farm where

we will “glean” produce to be given to a local food bank. Gleaning to celebrate Sukkot is fast becoming an IFFP tradition – one in which members of all ages can participate and share in the joy of the Fall season and celebrate nature’s bounty while providing for needy members of our community. Last year, we had a great turnout and picked numerous bags of peppers and eggplants on a gorgeous fall day. We hope that you can join us this year for this fun event!

We will meet on September 30 for a gathering at the farm at the usual time of 10 a.m. and then glean crops until noon. **Watch the list serve for the exact location and directions to the gleaning site and more details. Every family is asked to please bring their own snack.** The location is dependent on weather conditions that week. If you have questions, please contact **Chuck Pierret**.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

IFFP Table at the Takoma Park Folk Festival

The very popular **Takoma Park Folk Festival** will be the day of our Open House, September 16. Since this draws so many people, it’s a good place to advertise IFFP. One of our wonderful new families, **Jill & Josh Bernstein**, discovered us at last year’s festival.

IFFP will have an information table at the Festival, and we need several volunteers – including teens – to help staff the table for one-hour shifts. **Rebecca Weiss** is organizing this PR event that will include handing out flyers, showing photos, plus some attention getters. Please contact **Susan**, sury3@aol.com, or **Rebecca** if you would like to **help** out!

— **Susan Ryder**, Program Coordinator

High Holy Days Services at Georgetown University

Rabbi White leads services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur at **Georgetown University**. They are free and open to the public. These popular services do fill up, however, so the Rabbi advises IFFP families to arrive at least 20 minutes before the start of each service. Child care is available for pre-school aged children. Times and locations for all services are available on the Campus Ministry Information Hotline, 202-687-1882. Rosh Hashanah begins at sunset September 12 and Yom Kippur at sunset September 21.

ADULT GROUP

Adult Discussion Group Gears Up For Another Year

Building on the momentum of last year’s mutlti-track, multi-faceted schedule, this year’s Adult Discussion Group will kick off on September 16th with **Larry Bostian** leading a discussion based on a bible reading. This session is an alternative for those who do not children in Sunday school or whose spouse will attend the Back to School Discussion with **Ellen Jennings**. Larry will use a bible passage as the taking off point for a lively discussion.

In another discussion, **Rabbi White** and **Rev. Julia** will be meeting with those new folks orienting them to what IFFP is all about.

On September 23rd, we’ll begin “two tracking” to provide alternative discussions. On the 23rd, **Rabbi White** and **Rev. Julia** will lead a discussion on “Forgiveness and Repentance” that will compare and contrast Jewish and Christian views. Our second track will feature – by popular demand – a discussion of family rituals. Bring along your own family rituals and traditions to discuss – whether spiritual, religious or just plain fun.

In October, we'll be kicking off a three part series of "Interfaith 101," our ever popular chance for new and old members to talk about the many issues of living in an interfaith relationship and raising interfaith kids. **Ian Spatz** will, once again, lead the discussion. We'll also be announcing our second track programs for October soon. Stay tuned!

— **Ian Spatz**

FROM THE BOARD

Greetings IFFP Friends!

I'm pleased to report that the newly constituted Board has been hard at work over the summer planning for the upcoming year. We were thrilled to welcome our new Board members (**Susan Mathis, Stephani Abramson, Bobby Gelfeld, Robby Jones, and David Quigley**) who have dived into their new roles with enthusiasm. I feel very fortunate to be working with such a talented and committed group!

Last year the Board had to make the difficult choice to stop expanding (and in some cases cut back on) the services and programs we offer in order to keep the staff from working way beyond their contracted hours and to keep board members and committee volunteers from burning out. As a community, we have so many great ideas and innovations that we could implement, but we need more volunteers, or more staff hours, or both to accomplish them.

So this year we are trying to lay a foundation that will help to grow the organization -- slowly and intentionally -- so that we retain the culture of intimacy that drew so many of us to IFFP, while allowing the organization to meet our expanding expectations and needs.

One of our first steps in the process has been the creation of two new committees -- public relations and fundraising -- which represent two of the major focuses of the Board this year. We hope to fine-tune our outreach and publicity so that more families can learn about our unique community. We are in the process of re-designing our web site -- our main PR goal for this year. And, following our grant-writing success last year, we plan to solicit funding from outside sources that may be interested in supporting our "project."

Another important priority for the Board this year is to improve communication and coordination between the Board, the staff, and our many excellent committees (community service, adult education, membership, gathering, etc.). We have implemented a new role for Board members as committee delegates that we hope will help us to be more efficient and productive and take some of the burden off of the staff.

I welcome your input and feedback and encourage you to consider getting involved in one of our committees. If you have questions or suggestions about the Board's goals and priorities this year, please don't hesitate to contact me.

— **Rebecca Weiss**, Board Chair

NOTES FROM THE DRE



Welcome back to another year of Sunday School! This fall we're bigger and better than ever -- with 10 classes (Preschool 3s through 8th Grade plus our Mixed Grade class), Hebrew and Music. Please make sure your child is registered by the beginning of September, so that our teachers can adequately prepare for every one of our wonderful students.

The first day of Sunday School will be September 16 for all classes but COA Prep and COA. Those classes will start on September 23. September 16 is also our big Back to School Sunday Parent Session, when the main Adult Group forum focuses on Sunday School logistics, curriculum content and parent Q and A. This is a required event for at least one parent of each child who attends our Sunday School, and I look forward to seeing you there!

You'll notice one change in the Sunday School forms this year – the About My Child form now asks one parent from each family (who is not already teaching or assisting Sunday School) to sign up for a specific duty. These range from agreeing to be available as a back-up substitute teacher to volunteering as a one-time carpool coordinator. Parent participation is key to the success of our Sunday School – not only does it help make our overall program possible but it also makes each child's experience much more meaningful.

I wrote in my last newsletter article that summer is a season of Sabbath. My hope and my prayer is that it has been a restful season for all of us and that we are feeling reenergized as we move into both the new school year and the Jewish New Year. Fall is a time of new beginnings and change. If we are well rested, this can be exciting. If not, it can be daunting.

I urge you to remember the rhythm of work and rest. Humans have a need for both, and when the two are in balance, we are able to find our “groove” and wonderful things can happen.

Remember, to everything there is a season.

Peace and blessings to all,

— Ellen Jennings, Director of Religious Education

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS PICNICS

You Are Invited to Your Child's Sunday School Class Picnic

Come and meet your child's Sunday School teachers and the other parents of children in your child's class, while your children actually have time to talk and play together! This year we will have 3 dates for our Sunday school potlucks, **October 14: Grades 1, 2, & 3; October 21: Grades Pre-K & K; October 28: Grades 4, 5 & Mixed.** (The 6th Grade will be having lunches after field trips.) Teachers will provide name tags so that parents can indicate their child's grade & name.

These opportunities to get together in smaller groups really help to build community as well as give parents the chance to speak personally with their child's teachers. Use this time to arrange play dates for your kids, evenings out with some of the other parents, or get-togethers with other families. Children are much more likely to want to come to Sunday school when they know they'll see their buddies there.

The class potlucks/picnics will take place on the above Sundays after Sunday School. The cafeteria has been reserved for each date so that each class has a choice of having an outdoor picnic at the adjoining Newport Mill Park or a potluck in the cafeteria. Teachers may prefer to have parents convene in the classroom after Sunday School, or to meet the teacher and children in the park. You will be notified of the specifics in the notices that the teachers send out to the class before the picnics. Each family is asked to bring its own food and drinks (unless the teacher chooses to organize a potluck), a blanket to sit on, frisbees, and balls if the park is used and any necessary paper or plastic goods.

IFFP SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS – 2007-08

We have a fabulous team of teachers for our IFFP Sunday School this year. They'll all be meeting with Ellen Jennings for a teacher training on 9/8 and will be ready to meet and greet your children on the first day of Sunday School, 9/16 (9/23 for COA Prep and 8th Grade COA). Please welcome them

Music – Marci and Rich Shegogue
Hebrew – Michael Rosenman
Community Service – Carol Muskin

Preschool (4s) – Mary Melrod and Eve Weisberg
Kindergarten – Lora Dunne and Anita Iverson
1st Grade – Elizabeth Gelfeld with Eileen Kraus-
Jakobsberg, Kathy Flitter and Jodi Kanter
2nd Grade – Roberta Pracher and Alison Wylegala
3rd Grade – Cindy Pohoryles and Diane Ives

4th Grade – Anne Stewart with Antoinette Eates
and Ron Weich
5th Grade – Eric Burman and Jill Weiler
6th Grade – Freddie Adelman and Lisa Henderson
COA Prep – Adria Zeldin, Roanne Calizo and
Scott Roby
8th Grade COA – Ellen Jennings and Robin Allen
Mixed Grade COA – Kerri Mullins-Levine with
Robin Allen and Michelle Motta

GET YOURSELF LISTED AND LISTSERVED!!

Be included in the IFFP Directory

Our terrific, helpful directory is scheduled to come out in October. The most efficient way to accomplish that is for each of you to send in your registration forms by September 1st so that we can have accurate information for our directory, for personal listings as well as for class listings.

Get a Name Tag

We're starting a new year and would like all members to have name tags in good condition. If you know that your name tag is lost, incorrect, or broken and that you need a new one, e-mail **Susan** at sury3@aol.com. We will make name tags for all new members as well as those who need new ones by the end of September

Join the List Serv

The IFFP list serve is our **only** way to contact all the members with important announcements, bulletins, updates, and information requests. All members should sign on to the list serve by sending a blank e-mail to: iffplistserve-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. We would like to have 100% of our community read our weekly bulletins (Thursday) to keep up with timely information. If you have signed up and are not receiving our Thursday bulletins, please contact Susan, sury3@aol.com.

When you change your email address, please unsubscribe from your defunct address, iffplistserve-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com then re-subscribe from your new email address, iffplistserve-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Members also can pass on non-commercial information to other members by sending an e-mail to: iffplistserve@yahoogroups.com. Please include "off topic" in the e-mail heading if your message is not related to an IFFP matter.

— **Susan Ryder**, Program Coordinator

RABBI WHITE AT IFFP



Rabbi White is now considered our Jewish Spiritual Leader or resident Rabbi. He has very happily agreed to participate in a much larger capacity at IFFP and will be present at almost every Gathering this year. He will be more involved with Adult Education and with the Sunday school classes. We are very fortunate to have his knowledge, experience and input into our programs and activities.

CATHOLIC PRESENCE AT IFFP

Sr. Pat Parachini will be visiting with us four times this year to participate in Gatherings and Adult Education. Sister Pat is an adjunct faculty member at the Washington Theological Union and the Religious Literacy Project Coordinator at Georgetown University for Catholic students. Pat is an experienced professor of pastoral theology, spirituality, and preaching; a workshop facilitator; and spiritual director. As many of our members are Catholic, we want to provide a knowledgeable Catholic presence as a resource for our community. Sr. Pat will join us November 4, All Saint's Day for the Gathering and Adult Education topic "What Does it Mean to be a Saint?"; December 16, Reflection; February 10, Lent Gathering & Adult Education on "Death & Dying"; April 6, Easter Gathering, and Adult Education on "Catholic Sacraments," including a dialogue with Sr. Pat, **Rabbi White and Rev. Julia**.

INTERFAITH COUPLES WORKSHOP SERIES

We are offering our wonderful Couples Workshop Series, October 9, 16, 23 & 30, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Christ Congregational Church, 9525 Colesville Rd., Silver Spring. The workshops are designed to help couples explore and implement practical strategies for coping with the myriad issues that face an interfaith couple, including dealing constructively with extended family; how to raise the children; decision making about issues of culture and faith; how our upbringing has affected our attitudes and reactions; and other relevant topics.

Father Michael Kelly of St. Martins of Tours, **Rabbi Harold White**, **Rev. Julia Jarvis** and **Dr. Dan Griffin**, IFFP member and family counselor will lead the series. Each has years of experience counseling and working with interfaith couples.

The series will also include our Interfaith 101 Series, October 14, 21, 28 & December 2, 10:00-noon at Einstein HS, 11135 Newport Mill Rd, Kensington. Those enrolled in the class will also participate in a focus group after each Interfaith 101 session from 12:00-1:00 p.m. with **Rev. Julia** and **Rabbi White**. Cost for members: \$160/couple for the sessions at CCC and \$80/couple for the focus groups after the Interfaith 101 sessions; \$200/non-members & \$100 for non-members for the focus group.

NEW MEMBER COMMITTEE

New Member Committee Activities for the 2007-08 year

The IFFP Membership committee has several new and continuing activities planned to help welcome new members into our group. Among them are:

New Member Brunch: To be held at Einstein HS for new members to get to know one another and members of the IFFP board and staff. The details of the brunch will be announced in the weekly e-mail bulletins.

New member profiles: Each month, the IFFP newsletter will profile new members. Plans for a new member link on the IFFP website are also being considered.

FAQ handout: New members will be provided with a FAQ sheet that includes a list contact numbers and referrals.

Welcoming Ceremony: New members will be recognized during Gatherings as part of a new member welcoming ceremony.

Weekly Hosts: Members of the New Member Committee will be designated each week to meet new members and guests and introduce them to the IFFP community prior to the gathering, and before and after Adult Group.

We are also looking for fresh ideas on bringing in new members and retaining existing members.

If you are interested in helping the Membership Committee, please contact Stephani Abramson.

— **Stephani Abramson** New Member Coordinator

IFFP WOMEN'S GROUP

Our spring retreats have been such a success that the women's group decided to meet monthly! Open to all IFFP women, our Women's Group meets the second Thursday of the month at one another's home (or another special location) for socializing, support, spirituality, and fun! Each month has a different theme decided by the host (see a movie, read a book, cook a meal, work on a sewing project – the sky's the limit!). Last year we saw several movies, went out to dinner, watched and discussed a video, played games, and in general enjoyed spending time together. Watch the weekly bulletins for information on upcoming activities.

We're looking for 15 participants who will make a six month commitment to the group. For more information or to join the group contact **Stephani Abramson** or **Lauren Groff**.

— **Stephani Abramson** Women's Group Co-Coordinator

IFFP TEEN GROUP

The IFFP Teen Group plans on building on last year's successful reinstatement of an active and involved group. **Sam Seligman** returns to continue leading the group, along with teen **Zoe Cohen** and former teen **Rev. Julia**. If you or your teen is interested in joining the Teen Group or finding out what's being planned, feel free to email Sam, Zoe, or Rev. Julia.

YOUNG COUPLES & YOUNG FAMILIES

Welcome Back for Another Year!

Welcome back everyone! We would like to continue the tradition of providing an opportunity for Young Couples involved in IFFP to get together and have some fun! We will plan dinners, brunches, gatherings at Washington Capitals games and much more.

A "young couple" is any IFFP member who is dating, engaged, married without children or with preschool age children. If you have any questions, please contact **Kristina Seppala**.

First Young Families Event, September 15

We are thrilled about the number of young families (pre-preschool age children) who have joined IFFP in recent years! Our social gatherings will be child friendly and inclusive (if you have ideas/suggestions please e-mail Tova.

Please join Young Families for our first potluck at the home of **Tova** and **Gideon Sanders**, Saturday, September 15, 4-6 p.m. Tova and Gideon will provide burgers/veggie burgers – others should bring a side or dessert!

Please RSVP so that they know how many to expect.

YOGA AT IFFP

We are pleased to offer yoga again during the Sunday school and Adult Education time period, 11-12:00. The sessions will be held in the Einstein dance studio, October 14, 21 & 28; November 4 & 18; December 2, 9 & 16. We prefer that members sign up for all 8 sessions or for ½ of the sessions, though drop-ins are more than welcome: \$120 for 8 sessions or \$15 per session. If you are interested in joining the class (and have not yet responded), please contact Susan at sury3@aol.com or **Grace Goodman**.

We have a new teacher, **Janice Simsohn Shaw**. She has practiced yoga since 1997, and has taught off and on since 2002 in Madison, Wisconsin and the DC area. She tends to teach a flowing style that draws upon a variety of yoga forms, including Astanga and Kripalu, and has taught absolute beginners as well as experienced yoga practitioners, all of whom are welcome at this class. She loves yoga both for its ability to stretch and strengthen the body, as well as to calm the mind and particularly loves teaching yoga in a community, as she finds that yoga can be a powerful and enjoyable way to help people connect in new ways. As an aside, she's proudly one half of a loving interfaith couple.

JOYS!

Vivian Marielle Liebreich was born in July to **Rob, Jen, and Joseph**. All were home the same day (kudos to the DC Family & Birth Center!) and are doing great. Although 11 days early, Vivian weighed in at a hearty 8 pounds 4 ounces and 20 1/2 inches.

Patty, Brian Ella Rose, and Liliana Friedman celebrate their first “Forever Family Day” on October 13, when they welcomed Liliana into their home and hearts.

FOR SALE!

IFFP T-Shirts

Diane Katz is arranging for the design and printing of IFFP T-shirts. If you are interested in purchasing one or more, please contact her.

A LAST WORD

From the editor

This marks the start of my second year as editor of the newsletter, and I would be remiss were I not to thank the one person who has made doing this job relatively painless: **Susan Ryder**. Just a look through this and past issues gives you a hint of the number of articles Susan prepares for each newsletter. Susan also helps

with the editing, makes sure I get your names right, and fact-checks the articles to make sure the information that you receive is accurate. So, thank you, Susan!

– **Peter Gray**, Newsletter Editor

IFFP Board Chair: Rebecca Weiss

IFFP Coordinators: *Adult Group:* Colette Matzzie, & Ian Spatz • *Celebrations:* Jessica Vistnes • *Community Comfort/Support Group Contacts:* Mary Wichansky & Cheryl Dembo • *Community Service Workgroup:* Carol Muskin • *Membership:* Stephani Abramson • *Newsletter:* Peter Gray • *Website:* Mark Shellenberger • *Worship:* Larry Bostian • *Young Couples:* Kristina Seppala - *Young Families:* Tova Sanders

IFFP Staff: *Spiritual Director:* Rev. Julia Jarvis, 301-270-6337 (office) • *Director of Religious Education:* Ellen Jennings • *Spiritual Advisor:* Rabbi Harold White • *Program Coordinator:* Susan Ryder, sury3@aol.com