
Interfaith Families Project

August 2005

www.iffp.net

P.O. Box 5413, Takoma Park, MD 20913

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301-270-6337

FROM THE BOARD

The Board has been meeting throughout the summer to plan for the upcoming year and we are excited that IFFP members will soon be meeting again at Sligo Middle School on September 11th. Here are a few updates.

- **Spiritual Director Search:** The Board has established a process for hiring a new spiritual director, and your participation is both welcome *and* needed. Here's how the process will work. *First*, we will circulate a job announcement this month. *Second*, we are inviting IFFP members interested in being considered for the search committee for Heather's replacement to submit their names to the Board, through me. We hope the search committee will reflect the diverse viewpoints and backgrounds of the IFFP membership. *Third*, we will distribute to the entire membership in September a community questionnaire and ask that members fill it out and then discuss it at an Adult Group meeting. We believe that this questionnaire will help guide IFFP in many ways, but in particular it will help the search committee better understand the desires and needs of the membership as they select and interview candidates for Heather's replacement. *Fourth*, the search committee will interview candidates and make recommendations to the Board and the Board will make a final selection of the new Spiritual Director. As we have already explained, in the meantime the fall Gatherings will be led by the Worship Committee and **Rabbi White** and will include contributions from the membership.

If you are interested in being considered for the search committee, please send me an e-mail.

- **Registration:** If you have already sent in your IFFP annual registration, thank you very much! If not, please do so by September 1st. The sooner we get the membership forms completed, the sooner we can complete the directory and class lists. Thank you for your consideration to this important bit of house keeping.
- **10th Anniversary Party, September 17th:** As you know, we are looking forward to a great evening at Positano Ristorante Italiano to celebrate ten years of IFFP, with great food, musical entertainment, games for kids, and the opportunity to reminisce about IFFP's early days and growth and to hang out together. We will also have an exciting raffle drawing to help raise money for IFFP's programs. If you have not yet RSVP'd, please do so right away to **Susan Ryder** at the IFFP office. Thanks to the anniversary party committee for all their hard work on this.
- **IFFP Fall Open House September 18th:** You will see inside a reminder to help publicize the fall open house, an important opportunity to let people in the Washington, Maryland and Virginia community know that there is a resource for them if they are exploring a Christian/Jewish experience for themselves and/or their children. Please help spread the word to people you know personally who might find that IFFP is the right place for them.
- **IFFP T-Shirts:** You will also find inside the description and order form for a new IFFP T-shirt and long sleeve shirt, in kids' sizes and women's and men's styles. Please put your order in right away if you want to start out the year with a cool new shirt. Thanks to **Diane Katz** for putting this together.

In other news, I am pleased to announce that **Ian Spatz** has rejoined the Board after having been a Board member and chairman in past years. Ian brings great experience, loyalty, and sensitivity to the old and new at IFFP and we appreciate his willingness to rejoin the Board. I want to recognize the hard work of our paid staff, **Ellen Jennings** and **Susan Ryder**, who are carefully attending to so many details before our first gathering. And I also wish to thank **Holly Cooper**, our unpaid newsletter editor and producer, for her excellent work this past year and this coming year.

The summer is coming to a close, school is about to begin and so is IFFP. I hope that you have each had a chance to relax, try out something new, and spend quality time with your family and with yourself over the past few months. Maybe you had the chance to think about at least one way in which your membership in IFFP has had an effect on your life. I also hope that once the fall schedule of school, sports, work and other obligations kicks in you will find time for a little summer in your life, regardless of the weather. I look forward to seeing all of you at our opening gathering and picnic on **September 11th**. As always, feel free to contact me for any reason with questions, concerns or comments about anything related to IFFP.

- Daniel Weiss, Board Chair

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2005

Aug. 28 (Sun.) 4-7 pm	Pool party & picnic* <i>Daleview Pool</i> 901 Daleview Drive, Silver Spring	Sept. 10 (Sat.) 9 am – 4 pm	Teacher training <i>Christ Congregational Church</i>
Sept. 11 (Sun.) 10 am	Sligo Middle School <i>Welcoming Gathering & Picnic (pages 3-4)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gathering led by Rabbi White, 10 am • Picnic Brunch following Gathering 	Sept. 17 (Sat.) 6 pm	10th Anniversary Celebration* (<i>page 3</i>) <i>Positano Ristorante Italiano</i> 4940 Fairmont Avenue, Bethesda, MD
Sept. 18 (Sun.)	Sligo Middle School <i>Open House (page 4)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gathering, 10 am • Refreshments, 10:30 am • Sunday School/Adult Group - Back to School Day (<i>page 5</i>)/Orientation, 10:45 am • Class Picnic for PK and K, noon (<i>page 6</i>) • COA Evening Meeting 	Sept. 25 (Sun.)	Sligo Middle School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gathering, 10 am • Refreshments, 10:30 am • Sunday School/Adult Group, 10:45 am • Farewell Lunch for Rev. Heather, 12-2pm (<i>page 4</i>) • COA Evening Meeting

* You should RSVP now if you plan to attend these events.

Important note: Remember that the **Gatherings will start at 10 am this year**, to allow time for socializing and refreshments in between the Gathering and the prompt start of Sunday School and Adult Group at 10:45.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

10th Anniversary Celebration!!!

It's time to celebrate 10 great years of IFFP!! Many people have worked very hard to create our wonderful community that is one of only three large, established interfaith groups in the country. IFFP started with only a handful of families in Takoma Park and has grown to approximately 100 families from Maryland, D.C. and Virginia! This is a major and ongoing accomplishment! Come celebrate with old friends, current friends, and make new friends at our 10th Anniversary bash. Let's celebrate together what has come before, what is, and what the future can be.

Join us at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday evening, September 17th at Positano Ristorante Italiano, 4940 Fairmont Avenue, Bethesda, MD. Positano is a fabulous, picturesque restaurant that has the feel of a small Italian village – an entire village. There will be music, dancing, games for the kids, and more! The menu is little different from what one might find in a trattoria in Rome or along the Amalfi coast and will provide us with a delicious gourmet Italian dinner, including a vegetarian option. Please don't miss this wonderful evening in Italy with old friends!

To view photos of the many rooms in Positano and for more information about this family owned and run restaurant, please go to their website: www.epositano.com. There are several parking lots and garages on Fairmont and the adjoining streets. Positano charges \$4.00 for valet parking, if you prefer.

Directions:

From 495: Exit at Rt.355 Bethesda, MD. Take Rt355 (Wisconsin Ave) south toward downtown Bethesda. Make a right on Woodmont Ave. Make a right on Old Georgetown Rd. Make a right on Fairmont Ave. Positano Restaurant is on the right at 4940 Fairmont Ave.

From Bethesda Metro Station: Go up Old Georgetown Rd three blocks and make a right on Fairmont Ave at the Amoco Gas Station.

From Washington, DC. Take Wisconsin Ave. to Bethesda. Make a left on Old Georgetown Rd. Make your third right on Fairmont Ave.

If you get lost call 301-654-1717. They'll bring you in.

- Adria Zeldin & Mary Joel Holin, 10th Anniversary Celebration Coordinators

Welcoming Gathering and Picnic

It's almost that time of the year again when our lives return to an ordered pattern. Please join **Rabbi White** at 10 a.m. on Sunday, September 11th, for our first Gathering of the 2005-2006 year followed by a festive potluck picnic at Sligo Creek Park (or in the cafeteria if the weather is inclement). It's a great time to reconnect with our community, see the changes in our kids, and focus on all the wonderful programs and events that IFFP offers.

Sligo Creek Park has enough open area for frisbee, races, and other games, and a sidewalk for rollerblades, bikes, hot wheels, & tricycles! Anyone interested in organizing races or games, please contact **Susan** at iffp@verizon.com or 301-270-6337.

There are picnic tables but not enough for everyone, so please bring picnic blankets. Also, there are no bathrooms, only a portable toilet, so please plan accordingly (use the facilities at the school).

IFFP will provide paper goods, beverages, and ice pops (no kitchen). 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). If your last name begins with:

A-J: Bring a side dish or salad

K-Z: Bring a main dish

Board Members: Bring dessert (other than popsicles)

- Geneva Collins, Celebrations Coordinator

Fall Open House

Please spread the word. IFFP is unique in the DC area and lots of folks would like to find us. On September 18th, IFFP will host an open house for people who are interested in learning more about our interfaith community with an eye toward joining us. Guests will have a chance to attend the Gathering that morning, hear **Ellen's** overview of the Sunday School, see our Sunday School Program in action, and hear more about other IFFP Programs during the orientation session. The event will begin at 10 a.m. and end at noon. 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 iffp@verizon.net. Also please kindly pass the word along through list serves, e-mail, and by posting the open house flyers (included in the IFFP Fall membership packets) in your community.

- Cheryl Leanza, New Member Coordinator

Farewell Luncheon for Rev. Heather

Rev. Heather's difficult decision to leave her position as Spiritual Director came when neither she nor the members of IFFP had the opportunity for closure - for her to leave us for her new job and life in Columbia, and for us to say goodbye. We will have that chance on Sunday, September 25th, from 12:00-2:00, when Rev. Heather joins us for a farewell luncheon. We'll have time to visit with her and her family, thank her for all she's contributed to IFFP, and send her many good wishes for her new life. (And thank her for continuing to teach COA!)

Once again, this will be a potluck lunch with IFFP supplying drinks and paper goods. 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). If your last name begins with:

A-N: Main dishes

O-Z: Side dishes or salads

Board Members: Desserts

- Susan Ryder, Program Coordinator

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Notes from the DRE

The teaching teams are all set, teachers have already met with one another to begin planning their lessons, and on September 10th we will all gather for a full day of teacher training. In the October newsletter I'll provide a complete recap of the training, but for now suffice it to say that IFFP teachers will be entering their classrooms this fall with a wide variety of teaching tools and strategies meant to provide your children with the best possible learning environment.

While our teachers are getting ready for their classrooms on the first day of Sunday School, September 18th, I'd like to ask that parents get ready to attend the Back to School Sunday assembly on that same day. Here's what to expect:

After the Gathering, please take your children to their classrooms. I'll have a diagram of the building at the membership table that morning, and each classroom door will be labeled with the correct grade. Please leave your child as quickly as possible (if you have a very young child, you might consider having one parent stay with the child and one parent attend the assembly) and then return to the Gathering room.

At the **Back to School assembly**, I'll outline the IFFP Sunday School curriculum and will also provide a preview of this year's curriculum review process. In addition, I'll hand out several REQUIRED forms for parents to fill out and ask that they be handed back that same morning. I also will collect checks for Hebrew books and the 4th and 5th grade novels. Finally, I'll be happy to answer any questions that parents bring to the assembly that morning.

Please note: Our teachers want to be ready for your children. Many classrooms will use nametags or placetags the first day of Sunday School, and the teachers can only do this if they know which children will be in their classes. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT that you send in your registration forms as soon as possible, so that we have accurate class lists for the teachers. It will really help your children.

I very much look forward to this Sunday School year and to meeting with all of you on September 18th. If you have any questions in the meanwhile, feel free to e-mail or call me.

May you all have safe travels and a wonderful summer,
Ellen Jennings, Director of Religious Education

IFFP Teaching Staff for 2005-2006

Preschool	Sherry Leikin, teacher Kathryn Flitter, assistant
Kindergarten	Lora Dunne, teacher Amy Stern, assistant
1st Grade	Elizabeth Gelfeld, teacher Eileen Kraus-Jakobsberg, assistant
2nd Grade	Jaclin Gilbert, teacher Diane Jentilet, assistant David Habenstreit, assistant
3rd Grade	Jill Weiler and Cindy Pohoryles, co-teachers
4th Grade	Lisa Gabriel and Freddie Adelman, co-teachers
5th Grade	Eric Burman and Erin Sweeney, co-teachers Diane Katz, assistant
6th Grade	Bobby Gelfeld, Cynthia Wayne, Carol Muskin, co-teachers
Mixed Grade Class	Kerri Mullins-Levine, teacher Robin Allen, assistant Larry Ravitz, assistant

COA Prep Sarah Dammeyer and Sheldon Novek, co-teachers

COA Heather Kirk-Davidoff, teacher
Sam Seligman, assistant
Rose Sadler, assistant

Roving Substitute Carol Muskin

Music Teacher Marci Shegogue

Hebrew Teacher David Quigley

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

Our first year of Sunday School Class Picnics at Sligo Creek Park was a success, so we'll proceed ahead this year! 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! These opportunities to get together in smaller groups really help to build community as well as giving you parents the chance to speak personally with your child's teachers. Use this time to arrange play dates for your kids, evenings out with some of the other parents, or get together 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 picnics will take place on Sundays at noon in Sligo Creek Park. The cafeteria has been reserved for each date in case of bad weather. 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, balls, and any necessary paper or plastic goods. The Mixed Grade class will announce their plans at the beginning of the year and the 6th Grade will be having lunches after field trips. The fall picnics will occur on the following schedule (we'll finalize the spring picnic schedule in 2006):

Sun., Sept. 18 – Pre-K and K
Sun., Oct. 2 - Grades 1 and 2
Sun., Oct. 9 - Grades 3 and 4
Sun., Oct. 30 - Grade 5

- Susan Ryder, Program Coordinator

GET INVOLVED

Be one of the first to have a cool IFFP shirt

Get into the IFFP 10th anniversary spirit by purchasing the first ever IFFP merchandise. Orders can be mailed to **Diane Katz** or given to her before the Gatherings during the month of September. Orders will arrive mid-October. Pictures of the shirts and order forms are attached.

- Diane Katz, IFFP Member

Attend a Young Couples' Event

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a good summer. Here are the dates for 2005-2006 young couples' events. (For IFFP, a young couple is anyone who is dating, engaged, or married without children or with

children not yet in Sunday School.) Actual dates will be scheduled for the last two events closer to that time. If you have any questions or suggestions for other things you would like to do as a group, please contact **Kerri Mullins-Levine**.

Friday 10/14/05	Potluck dinner (Any volunteers for hosting?)
Sunday 12/4/05	Brunch after IFFP gathering and adult group
January 2006	Capitals hockey game or any other suggestions welcomed
April or May 2006	Potluck dinner

- Kerri Mullins-Levine, Young Couples Coordinator

Help with the Fall Women's Retreat

Jessica Vistnes has once again offered her beautiful, spacious home for our second annual Fall Women's Retreat, Saturday, October 22nd. We need two to three women to organize and plan the day.

At the well-established Women's Spring Retreat in April of 2004, the participants expressed the desire to have more than one women's retreat during the year, and a local, one-day gathering was the answer. The theme chosen last year was autumn -- a time of harvest, when we gather in what we have made and what we have been given. We had a professional facilitator, delicious potluck lunch, wonderful discussions, walk, dancing, bread making and more planned by **Barb Gottlieb**, **Grace Goodman** and **Antoinette Eates**. It was truly a very special day and the fee was only \$25.00.

If you are interested in helping to coordinate this wonderful event, please contact Susan at iffp@verizon.net.

- Susan Ryder, Program Coordinator

Join the List Serv

The IFFP list serv 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 serv by sending a blank e-mail to: iffp-subscribe@topica.com. We would like to have 100% of our community read our weekly bulletins (Thursday) to keep up with timely information.

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

Be included in the IFFP Directory

We know how useful our directory is and that everyone would like to receive it early in the year. 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

Fall is quickly approaching and we'd like to have name tags for all members. If you know that your name tag was lost, incorrect, or broken last spring and that you need a new one, please e-mail **Susan** at iffp@verizon.net. We will make name tags for all new members as well as those who need new ones by the end of September.

Complete the Forms in Your Registration Packet

Our new fall season of Sunday School and activities is almost here. Registration packets were mailed over two weeks ago and we urge everyone to please fill out the registration form and volunteer form and return them to the office by September 1st. We especially need your registration form and check by September 1st (volunteer forms can follow if you wish), so that teachers know who and how many students will be in their classes. We also want to have this information as soon as possible for the directory and volunteer committees.

- Susan Ryder, Program Coordinator

UPDATES

Summer Hike

On Sunday, July 24th, 12 IFFP members hiked the Billy Goat Trail near the Great Falls of the Potomac River and the C&O Canal. We saw many animals during our hike: lizards, toads, a muskrat, a water snake, fish, a turtle, water boatmen, butterflies, birds, tadpoles, and dogs. The weather was hot and sunny. We all had a good time hiking.

- Aaron Katz, IFFP Member (5th grade)

Welcome to New Members

We welcome new members **Dr. Robin Allen**, who will be assisting in the Mixed Grade Class and has worked with many of our families; and **Ilisa Halpern** and **Scott Paul**, and **Jennifer, Joe and Ryan Cavey** (joining our pre-K class) who visited IFFP events several times last year. We are happy to have you join our IFFP family.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We join **Rena** and **Kent Dirckx** in welcoming **Henry Joseph Dirckx** into their family and the IFFP community. He was born early on August 10th and the family is doing well.



Front



Back

INIGNIA
APPAREL
301-537-4762
PO Box 93 Olney, MD 20830

Interfaith Families Project Shirt Order Form		
Name:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Daytime Phone:	Evening Phone:	



Item# G2000
Description: 100% Cotton Short Sleeve T-Shirt Front and Back Imprint
Adult (Small - XXL): Stone Blue
Youth (Small - Large): Red
Unit Price: \$11.00
 Youth and Adult Add \$1.50 for XXL



Item# B1001
Description: Bella Ladies cut crewneck short sleeve t-shirt Front and Back Imprint
Women's Adult (Small - XXL): Deep Heather
Unit Price: \$15.00
 Add \$1.50 for XXL



Item# G2400
Description: 100% Cotton Long Sleeve T-Shirt Front and Back Imprint
Adult (Small - XXL): Sports Grey
Youth (Small - Large): Gold
Unit Price: \$15.00
 Youth and Adult Add \$1.50 for XXL



Item# G9000
Description: 10oz. 80/20 Crewneck Sweatshirt ***Sweatshirt Gets Front Imprint Only***
Adult (Small - XXL): Olive
Unit Price: \$18.00
 Adult Sizes Only Add \$1.50 for XXL

Size Chart	Item #	Description	Unit Cost	Quantity	Extended Cost
Youth <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L					
Adult <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL					

Size Chart	Item #	Description	Unit Cost	Quantity	Extended Cost
Youth <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L					
Adult <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL					

Size Chart	Item #	Description	Unit Cost	Quantity	Extended Cost
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Adult <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL					

Size Chart	Item #	Description	Unit Cost	Quantity	Extended Cost
Youth <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L					
Adult <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL					

TOTAL ORDER AMOUNT: _____