

PTBE Interfaith Friendship Committee meeting

April 24, 2014 -

Attendees: Dick Heiman, Florence Beier, Judy Maller, Joyce Share, Arleigh Grossman, Michele Epstein, Jennifer Benelli, Rabbi Callie Shulman, Rob Vernon

Introductions – Where were you born and where were you brought up?

Discussion: Big Ideas - from our visioning process with Rabbi Callie on March 19

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

Florence: History of activities that were successful:

One Voice
Freedom Seder with Mormon Church
St. Barts – potluck dinner in the sukkah
Buddhists

History of Relationships that did not develop well

Methodist Church in Millbrae
Sikks

NEW Relationship Building: Rabbi Callie is building a relationship with the new minister at St. Andrews Church. She attends our torah study sessions. We now have the benefit of clergy to clergy connections.

Rabbi Callie will also speak at the UCC College Heights Sunday service on May 4.

Dick emphasized that Rabbi Eisner encourages building our reciprocal relationships with faith houses like St. Barts and UCC San Mateo.

Social Action and Education are the basis for these relationships.

Outreach – What is the role you want to play?

For Committee members:

Reach out informally and find a comfortable relationship
Take advantage of Individuals with unique gifts
What are you drawn to?
Make friends through events

The mission is to have a process.

What is the measurement of success? What is the balance of exchange? What is the take away?

EDUCATION:

Dick Heiman talked about Rev. Kristi of UCC Belmont - her efforts and future plans including integration of her education program with PMC. We discussed how both our efforts along with PMC can result in improved outreach with the following components:

- Better organization and publicity of open houses at different congregations.
- Community Service component
- Instill that 95 percent of our values are the same
- Adults and Children learn together
- Work with Multi Faith Presentations and doing some one-on-one programs of our own.

Action Items:

Rabbi Callie suggested that we create a specific Google Drive to be used as an “Idea Bank” for meetings, liaisons and new ideas.

Ideas for better engagement at our meetings:

Invite a guest speaker from a different faith house
Possible Hanukah party with S. Barts
Party around diversity of food

Sports Night on May 1 – Co-Sponsored by Brotherhood, the LDS Churches in Foster City and San Bruno and IFC. Dave Bauer, president of the Brotherhood, came into our meeting and requested four IFC volunteers to be greeters. Volunteers recruited are:

Jennifer Benelli and her son Valentino
Judy Maller
Phil Strauss
Michele Epstein and Arleigh Grossman will share a spot

We need to support the Shinnyo-en Buddhist Temple open house on Sunday, May 18, from 11-2 at 3910 Bret Harte Drive in Redwood City.

****Ask Joel to send out the invitation to both IFC Lists.

Next event

Ice cream social at Rabbi Callie’s house – June 12 7:30 p.m. 492 West 20th Ave.