

## IFC meeting notes on Feb 8<sup>th</sup> held at Michele Epstein's House

Attended: Arleigh Grossman, Joanne Aviel, Judy Bloom, Joel Miller, Judy Miller, Michele Epstein, Carol Kadet, Dick Heiman, Rabbi Callie Schulman, Judy Maller, Joyce Share, Davida Talcove

Michele: this is the start of a new year, so let's think about the IFC in the coming year.

Rabbi Callie on Visioning:

- Last year we did a visioning process. let's revisit
- Big ideas or vision: this will help us with upcoming programs
- narrows the focus
- Relationships and friendships
- keep it fun and have energy
- maintain ongoing programs
- educational
- meaningful experience

We talked about the IFC history and how we relate to PMC. He also talked about PMC and what they do.

- IFC focus is at PTBE and our specific relationships
- For example Congregational Church of San Mateo is an IFC partner and not a PMC partner

Should we deepen our relationships?

- Such as reciprocal events and relationships.
- would like to see more PTBE members on IFC
- deepen relationships with other faith houses
- How can we foster relations - we need to make others feel comfortable attending our temple.
- Perhaps events where small groups could interact more instead of large events

What about IFC and Israel –

- How does IFC interact with this?
- Is this proselytizing?
- Israel may be a land mine.
- Depends on specific relationship.
- Case by case basis.
- Maybe very soon we may have to cash in on our friendship in light of the current world situation
- Educational Event sponsored by IFC and JCRC.
  - i. Dick will contact Karen Stiller about facilitating a program about how we talk about Israel with our faith partners.
  - ii. Invite PTBE congregation to this program
  - iii. Suggest that questions be formulated in advance and submitted.
  - iv. Date would depend on PTBE calendar.

Joanne A. talked about attending a meeting in Santa Clara with Pope's Rabbi from Argentina. She is going and may let us know about this event after she attends

We talked about the Pacifica Institute.

- Wonderful relationship.
- Rabbi Callie thinks that the relationship with Pacifica couldn't be better.

Last year we (PTBE) hosted their Iftar.

- Should we host another IFTAR?

- Feeling was that our committee would be open to hosting it at PTBE if it was a PMC volunteer supported event.
- PTBE would be the physical (facility) host and volunteers would be recruited from PMC and PTBE members.
- Michele would be open to be involved in the coordination of Iftar but that would depend on what week it will be held.
- Michele has out of town family coming in mid-July so would prefer that we have it toward the end of June (maybe Saturday, 27).
- We need to have a meeting with Pacifica Institute and Lionel Engleman (PMC) to discuss this option.

Rabbi Callie talked about a Muslim holiday that commemorates the sacrifice of Isaac/Abraham.

- Pacifica Institute is offering to host an event with a freshly slaughtered beef.
- Does PTBE have the bandwidth to support this event or should we offer to host an Iftar in the summer?
- The preference of the group was that IFC members only would like to attend the “sacrifice” event at Pacifica’s Burlingame location.

Pacifica Institute & PTBE - women’s only event.

- Nicole Sorger (IFC member) was very positive on this and suggested we reach out to BEW.
- Joanne suggested it be open to other Muslims beyond just Pacifica.
- Maybe a Fijian Muslim group.
- Vince Perrine and Dick are trying to organize some Muslims from San Mateo.
- Judy Bloom talked about a Muslim woman or group in Palo Alto.
- Joanne suggested that Women's only should be a joint effort with BEW and IFC.

Trinity Baptist Church in San Mateo:

- Rev. Carol Moore and others met with IFC leaders.
- Church is driven by women.
- They are very interested in Interfaith connections.
- Maybe a Shabbat dinner at PTBE?
- View the Torah after the service.
- Suggest that we promote IFC events better.
- Talk it up at BEW and/or Brotherhood.
- We don’t need that many people at Shabbat dinner events.
- Trinity visit may work for May 1st service.
- Michele is willing to get a date and location in the temple on the calendar with Cindi and Katie and confirm with Rev Carole and Mary Evans
- We are going to need to get a chair(s) for this event.

Other relationships

- Relationship building with Transfiguration and the Buddhist Church in San Mateo as more long term projects and can be discussed at the next meeting.
- Also, we may want to consider both of these faith houses or a CCSM combined with College Heights as our guests for Succoth

Songfest on April 19th at CC of Belmont.

- How could IFC participate?
- We want to support Rev. Kristi in any way we can.
- If Elana and Saul could attend, that would be great.
- It might be nice to invite some musical PTBE members to represent us like Rabbi Lisa Tzur, Jerry and Ellen Saliman or Zack Shubert who is a teen and plays a mean and very jazzy version Oseh Shalom on the piano.

- Michele will contact Elana for availability and coordinate with Cindi on publicity.

Social action:

- Home & Hope interaction together.
- Dick asked Carol to see if any of the other faith houses in Home & Hope would be interested in developing relationships.
- Carol spoke about an Episcopal Church in Home & Hope that might need volunteers sponsoring one of their events.
- Church of the Transfiguration would be a good one to possibly approach.
- Carol also asked if any of us would help with Home & Hope.

Freedom Seder is 3/22 at Etz Hayim in Palo Alto.

- Dick asked us to support this event.
- Cindi has all the info from JCRC so she can promote it for PTBE.
- Joel can send out reminders and offer carpooling options for IFC members.
- Having it starting at 7 p.m. on a Sunday night may be appealing to a lot of people.

Next meeting, we will discuss plans for Trinity Baptist Church, Pacifica events and Sukkoth.

Judy Miller suggested that we prioritize our events. Maybe a survey to be sent out.