

# LIPC Newsletter

*London Interfaith Peace Camp Initiatives*

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## **LIPC 2021**

Happy New Year! In these early months of the year, the LIPC team begins planning for the next summer of camp. Whether or not we will be in person or going virtual, we have started to brainstorm ideas and the many activities and events that the LIPC family can enjoy! In this LIPC edition, learn more about the lives of four noble women in Islam. Read about the local initiatives and Jewish tradition of Purim and how the Christian community will begin to prepare for the season of Lent. The hope of the LIPC Newsletter is to continue to educate one another about the beauty that stems from each of the three Abrahamic faiths. Many blessings to all of you and your families.

# Four Noble Women of Islam



<http://remarkable-women-islam.blogspot.com/2012/04/asiya-ra-wife-of-pharaoh.html>

This time of year, many Muslims remember Sayyida Fatima the daughter of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) since it is the time for her birth anniversary and her death anniversary during these Islamic months. I thought it would be nice to shine a light on the Four Noble Women of Islam.

*Asiya* - Asiya was the wife of the Pharaoh and raised Moses as her own child. She worshipped the true God and didn't believe that her husband, the Pharaoh, was God. For her defiance she was punished and lived in difficulty. We remember Asiya in this passage of the Holy Quran, "Allah cites an example of the faithful: the wife of Pharaoh, when she said, My Lord! Build me a home near You in paradise, and deliver me from Pharaoh and his conduct, and deliver me from the wrongdoing lot." (66:11)

*Maryam* (Mary) - Mary, the mother of Jesus (Nabi Isa) is highly revered in Islam for her chastity, modesty, and dedication to God. She is the only female mentioned by name in the entire Quran (70 times), and there is an entire chapter called Maryam (Mary). The story of when she was in her mother's womb is mentioned in the Quran, as well as her life and the birth of Jesus. Mary received food from heaven as sustenance and was gifted with the virgin birth of Jesus. She was visited by Archangel Gabriel and this verse is one of many revealed about her in the Holy Quran, "And when the angels said, 'O Mary, Allah has chosen you and purified you, and He has chosen you above the world's women.'" (3:42)



Fatima Elzahra

<https://www.namearabic.com/en/product/dewani/fatimaelzahra>

*Khadija* - Khadija was the first wife of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and followed the monotheistic God when many people were idol worshippers in Arabia. When the Prophet was a young man living in Arabia, he ended up working as a trader for Khadija. Khadija was a very successful business woman and ran a trading company which made her one of the richest women in Arabia. When Khadija saw the honesty and good character of Prophet Muhammad (who had not declared his Prophethood at that time), she wanted to marry him. Khadija was older than the Prophet, much more successful (she was his boss!) and she inquired about marriage to him - all traits that are examples to us in our lives now. Many years later, when Prophet Muhammad announced his Prophethood, she was the first person to accept Islam and spent all her wealth to help establish the religion of Islam by helping to abolish slavery and provide food during sanctions that were placed on the Muslims.

*Fatima* - Sayyeda Fatima was the daughter of Khadija and the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Some people would mock the Prophet since his sons died in infancy and he only had a daughter. They would say his lineage would be cut off and his religion would end when he left this world. Fatima is a very special person in this world and the hereafter. Many people can trace their lineage to the Holy Prophet through Fatima. She cared for the Prophet especially as a young girl when her mother Khadija passed away. She is known as Umme Abiha (the mother of her father). She made powerful speeches and raised a purified family of believers. She left this world at a young age but we have several examples of her dedication to Islam and how she prayed for her neighbours and everyone around her before her own family.

*Written by Shahin Pardhon (Senior Staff)*

# Virtual Camp Experiences



“After having worked with London Interfaith Peace Camp for the past 5 years, LIPC 2020 was most certainly one for the books. This year, due to the pandemic our camp went virtual and instead of the usual one week of camp, we were able to spread out our activities over 5 weeks. I’m sure similar to lots of you, I witnessed teamwork and unity to an extent I hadn’t seen in the past. One of the advantages we gained from going virtual was being able to broaden our community and welcome new faces. Although it looked different, we were still able to build relationships and learn about each other’s faiths. I’m glad I was able to share this new experience with all of you and can’t wait to see what the future holds for the LIPC.”

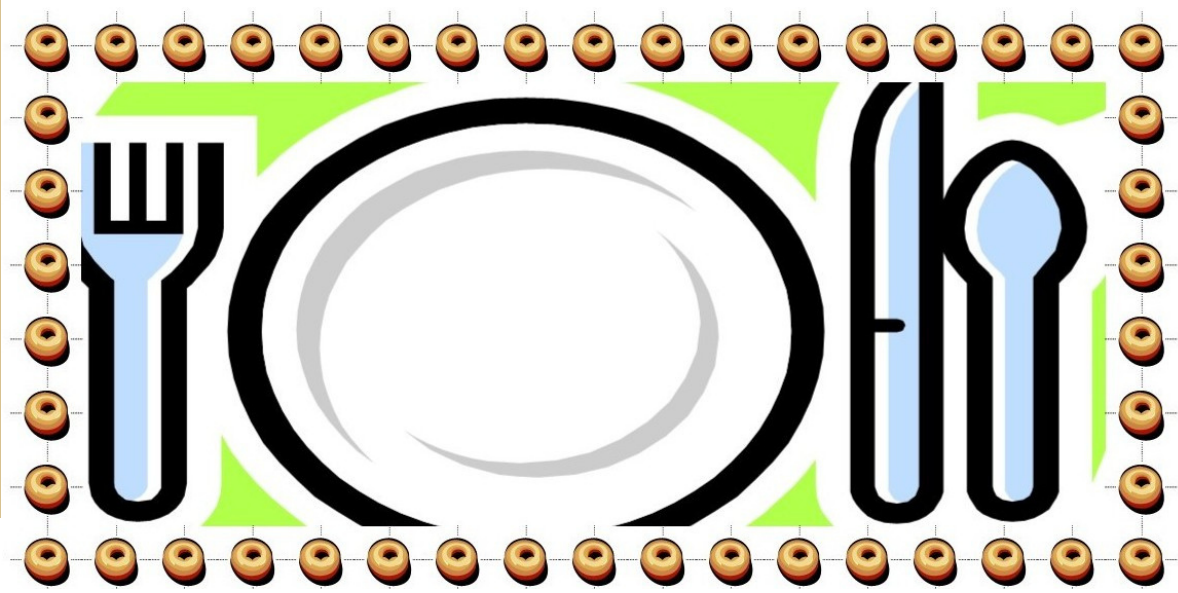
*Written by Miriam Donovan Panchaud (LIPC Team Lead)*

“London interfaith peace camp was an amazing experience. Over the course of the summer this year I learned so much about other faiths, and how to grow in my own faith. Even though we were in a terrible situation with the Coronavirus and camp was unfortunately online in the summer, I still had a wonderful time. The campers level of engagement was high, even though we were gathering in an abnormal manner. I continue to think about my camp experience. I hope to see every person who participated in camp again in the summer 2021.”

*Written by Emma Moynihan (LIPC Camp Counsellor)*



# Come In Out of the Cold 2021



The Jewish Community Centre comes together to fight hunger and homelessness in London. This year is difficult. In previous years we would gather to donate and sort clothes and necessities; to cook and prepare a scrumptious, festive meals; to welcome by sitting tables, to host, and to serve. The pandemic has led to economic upheaval for many. The need is great, and our ability to get out there and help is limited by the demands of social distancing, protecting each other, and the current state of emergency. But our desire to help, and the need to make a difference, has never been clearer. As Purim approaches let's fulfill the traditions of matanot l'evyonim "gifts to the poor", with a compassion and generosity that rises to the need that the pandemic has created.

Please call Jewish London at 519-673-3310 to contribute to this vital campaign. Contributions can also be made online:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/london-jewish-community-centre/>

This year our assistance will benefit three organizations whose efforts are critical to the London community.

Donations will be split equally between these three worthy organizations:

- 1- Wish: Winter Interim Solution to Homelessness committed to plan and implement housing and food solutions for London's unsheltered in anticipation of fallout from a 2nd wave of Covid-19 this winter.
- 2- London Food Bank helping a generous community share its food resources.
- 3- Unity Project providing emergency shelter, supporting housing and stability supports where people are struggling to escape and avoid homelessness

*A message from Jewish London--the London Jewish Community Centre.*

# Did You Know...



In these winter months, the Christian community begins a time of prayer and reflection in the season of lent. It begins on Ash Wednesday and for 40 days Christians take time to remember Jesus' sacrifice before celebrating his resurrection at Easter. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are called the 'three pillars' of the Christian way of life. During lent, these practices become even more important for Christians. They will decide on fasting from certain foods or festivities that they would otherwise take part in on a regular basis. They are reminded of giving back to others whether it is in their church or local community. Some of the many symbols of the lenten season include: ashes, crucifix, water, bread, wine, sackcloth, sunrise, nest, and birds, etc. Lent is a time for Christians to deepen their relationship with God and remember the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus dying on the cross.

*Written by Maija Wilson*