

LIPC Newsletter

London Interfaith Peace Camp Initiatives



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Share Your Own Story!

London Interfaith Peace Camp continues to be an amazing initiative where participants build relationships and learn from one another! In this edition of our "LIPC Newsletter" you can read a few stories about how some of our team came to be a part of London Interfaith Peace Camp. What is your own experience with LIPC? Share some of your stories with us!

"Making LIPC a Family Tradition"



When the London Interfaith Peace Camp first started, my twin boys were 4 years old. They were too young to be enrolled in camp, but I pleaded with the organizers to allow them to join, on the condition that I would stay with them the whole time and volunteer. That first camp was a great learning curve for all of us. I ended up sharing a presentation on Islam for all of the campers (remember the Alex and Yusuf cartoon!) and teaching young girls about the spiritual beauty of hijab. It was such a great experience, I ended up continuing on as a volunteer till today. This is my 8th year with the LIPC and I have loved watching our campers grow into counsellors and team leads. I feel blessed to watch our little campers learn so much, especially in my favourite activity, the Friday scavenger hunt! Each year I learn about other faiths, but also my own faith. I am excited to make the LIPC a part of our family tradition.

Written by Shahin Pardhan

"All I Did Was Say Yes"



When I first came to London, I was involved in some interfaith groups. Through one of them, I was introduced to leaders from Valleyview Mennonite Church and the Islamic Centre of Southwest Ontario. Valleyview had a former congregant (adult child of current congregants) who was involved in the original peace camp at Eastern Mennonite University in Virginia, who invited us to share in their accumulated knowledge so we could start a similar camp here in London. Another member of Valleyview connected us with Kings, who had the physical space that could accommodate a summer camp. Kings also shared a commitment to building the interfaith community in London, so it became a perfect match.

As I tell people, all I did was say yes. After that initial invitation, I just kept coming back! As a result, Temple Israel and I have been involved since the very beginning.

Written by Rabbi Debra Dressler

"Friendship in the Work of Social Justice"



In the fall of 2017 Charlene Jongejan Harder tapped me in the shoulder and asked if I would join the London Interfaith Peace Camp leadership team as she prepared for a move and a new ministry position in Lambton County. Without hesitation I said, "Yes!" Knowing that I had big shoes to fill I jumped in wholeheartedly; I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with the campers, Rabbi Dressler, Sister Shahin, Maija and the amazing leadership team (Walter too!). Bringing together people of all ages to share stories, food, faith and friendship is a lifelong passion and LIPC is an amazing coming together of all of these elements. We can never underestimate the power of friendship in the work of social justice. I know that I have learned as much or more than our campers and have grown in my own faith. Now I have graduated from a ministry program in the United Church of Canada and am preparing for a move and a new ministry role. Truth be told I am writing amidst boxes in our new home in St. Catharines, Ontario.

I wish all who facilitate and participate in LIPC abundant blessings and know that I will continue to keep in touch and learn from this important work.

Written by Barb McGill