



February Letter 2010

Dear Teen Leaders and Parents,

Thanks for a successful Interfaith Youth Café on St. Valentine's Day – it was great to get the phone call from y'all! February is usually our most easy-going month, since there is no new program to prepare for in February...

The February View

Our next meetings is **FEBRUARY 27 – Morning: all Teen Leaders are required to attend.**
Afternoon: Support Teen are invited to attend; Teen Scholars are required to attend.

Drawing is at 8:15 AM.

Other Things to Consider:

1. Our last dress rehearsal and workshop did not reflect our best efforts... we did some things really well... yet we want a workshop in which everything is done really well... let's not get lazy or sloppy... You know you can do better! It's a shame when everyone doesn't give 100 %... it really shows...
2. HISDO morning practice: Be prepared to practice lots of rough spots... check agenda for details.
 - **Managers** – know your pages inside and out!
 - **Section Leaders** – come with your index card notes for every section you are leading.
(to borrow a phrase... "What part of 'NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED TO READ' is difficult to comprehend?")
 - **Skits and comments** – come with your parts memorized
 - **At all times** – Everyone is assigned a seat and is expected to pay attention – no side talking, no texting, and no bathroom breaks when you have a part coming up. This was a real problem in January!
 - **Everyone** – if you haven't read a section of the binder completely, **READ IT BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING!**
You need to **KNOW THIS WORKSHOP** backwards and forwards!
3. We'll celebrate winter birthdays at lunch time ... Jasmine (Dec. 8), Lisa (Jan. 14), Steven (Jan. 30) and Ralph (Feb 29). Ralph will bring ice cream cake!
4. In the afternoon, we'll be practicing presentation skills, as well as reviewing all the programming of Tomorrow's Present, using the website. **Each mentor group will need a lap top** –I can provide one -- who else can bring a lap top for the day?
5. Ralph will be having shoulder surgery the day before our meeting. Lisa is going to run the meeting, with assistance from Marquis Boston and Erica Weber. Lisa will ask a couple of parents to attend for support.

The Longer View...

March – we will have two meetings – and another Interfaith Café:

- (A) March 20: Regular HISDO practice in the morning; Mentor-Buddy Program Part 2 in the afternoon.
We will teach parts of the Hope Is Something You Do workshop.
Please remind your mentor buddies – lunch will be at 12:30, and the program will go 1:00 - 3:00.
- (B) March 21: Interfaith Youth Café – First Unitarian Society – 1:00 – 4:30
- (C) March 27: Hope Is Something You Do workshop for middle school teens

April – we will have two meetings –

- (A) April 24: Program evaluation and planning in the morning; prep for Stritch program in the afternoon.
- (B) April 25: Pebbles Reunion and Celebration of Learning at Stritch; 1:00 – 5:30 (includes set-up & clean-up)
Please remind your mentor buddies – the program will go 2:00 - 5:00 pm.

This Month's Questions

Call/email your mentor group leader between Feb. 19-22 with the answers to these questions:

- #1. Did you receive the February email and letter? Is any information incorrect?
- #2. What did you think was the worst part of the Jan. 30 workshop? What do we most need to practice?
- #3. What was the best part of the workshop – what do we know really well – what doesn't need practice?
- #4. Will you be attending the March café?

Don't forget!

**CALL YOUR MENTOR GROUP LEADER BY FEBRUARY 22 THE LATEST
with the answers to these questions!**

***If you do not call your Mentor Group Leader,
your next stipend will be reduced by \$10.00.***

***Mentor Group Leaders:
If you do not call Lisa by Wednesday, February 24,
your next stipend will be reduced by \$10.00.***

Call Lisa with any other concerns you may have... 414-545-6006... or email her at Lisa@tomorrowspresent.org.
Ralph will not be able to attend the next meeting... due to his shoulder surgery...

For more information about Lisa, continue to visit www.tomorrowspresent.org and click on "Lisa's Health Update." Then click on the blog from there; the blog link is toward the bottom of the page.

Lisa Calderone

Ralph Stewart

Gerri Sheets-Howard

Enclosures: • Contact info and corrected calendar • March Interfaith Café Flyer

Groups:	COMPASSION	INSPIRATION	LOVE	FRIENDSHIP
Seniors:	Rebecca (leader)		Arthur (leader)	Aqueelah
Juniors:	Joana	Fernando (leader)	Beatriz	Steven (leader)
		Sun		
Sophomores:	Francis	Kayla	Dauson	Keyon
Freshmen/women:	Mykilia	Khalil	Jasmine	Lucero

27 FEBRUARY 2010 Agenda



8:15 **Drawing**

In Mentor Groups:

- Sign Birthday Cards
- Discuss last workshop: ●What is needed for us to improve our workshop?
 - What went wrong and why?
 - What will be different next time?

8:30 **Mentor Groups report**

8:45 **Prayer**

- Presider (candle, Mutual invitation): Jasmine
- Stars Reflection: Rebecca
- Word: Dauson
- Blessing: Lucero

9:00 **Practice Green Pages** – All Sections

10:00 **Bathroom break**

10:10 **Energizer:** “Mentor Group” Panels (each group answers questions as one entity)

10:20 **Practice Orange Pages** – All

10:40 **Practice Tan Pages** – All

11:00 **Practice Purple pages** – E (Christmas Story), H (Wrap-up)

11:20 Conversation about next year (Lisa)

12:00 Evaluation in Mentor Groups; report of key insights; reminders for phone calls/emails

12:30 **LUNCH** ● Present cards, gifts ● Mentor group affirmations (Fernando leads this)
Happy Birthday, winter people: Jasmine (Dec. 8), Lisa (Jan. 14), Steven (Jan. 30) and Ralph (Feb 29).

1:15 **Training on 4 G’s of Teaching and the Tomorrow’s Present Website**

2:45 **Mutual Invitation:** Name your favorite part of today’s meeting.

3:00 Spontaneous Prayer/Blessing of Teen Leaders until we meet again...

3:00 ish Teen Leaders dismissed when room is clean; checks given out

3:00 ish **Mentor Group Meeting – review the money options, get feedback.**

Discuss buddy-mentor program

Need for special meeting with Marquis...

Call to Prayer: A candle is lit and carried across to the other side of our group, pass, in the middle of the Teen Leaders, between two tables on one side and two tables on the other. Then the candle is brought back to the prayer table.

Word of God:

Before Abram's name was changed to Abraham, God took him outside and said: "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. That's how many descendants you will have... I am God, who brought you here to give you this land."

Abram put his faith in God, but asked, "How can I know that I shall have this land?"

God answered him, "Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old she-goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon."

Abram gathered all these animals, split them in two, and placed each half opposite the other; but the birds he did not cut up.

At that time, in Abraham's culture, it was common for men to make promises this way.

They cut animals in half, separated the pieces, and walked between them. The pledge being: If I break my word, may my own body be torn in half, like these animals.

As the sun was about to set, a trance fell upon Abram, and a deep, terrifying darkness enveloped him. When the sun had set and it was dark, there appeared a flaming torch, which passed between those pieces.

It was on that occasion that God pledged this promise, this covenant with Abram.

The word of the Lord.

(Adapted from Genesis 15: 5-12; 17-18.)

All respond: Thanks be to God.

Stars Reflection:

Stars are light years away. To Abraham, that's how far away his future sons and daughters seemed to be. By the time we see a star, it has been sending us that signal of light for hundreds of thousands of years. It's a very persistent gift that each star gives to the future.

When Abraham looked up at the night time sky, the light he saw left those stars thousands of years earlier. The light we will see tonight also left thousands of years earlier... perhaps it left the stars during Abraham's life time – or perhaps even earlier.

All Jews, Christians and Muslims are sons and daughters of Abraham. Our number has grown so great, it's almost impossible to count. It took a long time, but God did not break that promise to Abraham.

All respond: Our God is an on-time God.

Personal Reflection Questions (Mutual Invitation):

1. How strong is your commitment to the ministry of the Teen Leaders? Would you be willing to walk between the halves of animals and make that type of pledge? What will you do to make your commitment stronger?

2. How is "Tomorrow's Present" like the gift of light the stars gave us light years away, the gift we are still receiving today?

3. Why do you think it was so important for people in Abraham's time to have sons and daughters? Do you think it's more important or less important for people today? Why?

4. How does being sons and daughters of Abraham change our outlook toward our brothers and sisters who are Jewish and Muslim as well as Christian?

5. What other insights do you have regarding this Scripture passage?

Blessing: (Spontaneous) on the Teen Leaders, our families, our ministry and those we serve.