

IHM Associate Newsletter

November 2009



IHM Associates

Where Are We Going?

By B. J. Schlachter

Welcome aboard the IHM Associates train, picking up speed through Monroe and beyond! Hang onto your hats as the Spirit gains momentum and pushes us onward! The IHM Associates are *moving forward ... in the IHM Spirit* (our theme on Sept. 12)!

Ahhh, the Spirit's push is sometimes more like a nudge and the train is really the Hearts Afire Process -- and we all know how "processes" move along. Sigh.

Nevertheless, the Creating Community Planning Committee (formerly known as the July 23 planning committee) met on Oct. 18 to consider what could be some beginning steps to

forming a dynamic, viable IHM Associates group. (For July 23 summary see last Newsletter.) Please see the attachment to this newsletter for a summary of the discussion and suggestions generated from the gathering of associates (Sept. 12). As reported in the July 23 summary, "We came away from the day wanting to respect individual participation preferences and, at the same time, wanting to encourage a greater group identity (consciousness)." We are moving forward!

Based on these two group discussions, the Creating Community Planning Committee is recommending the following:

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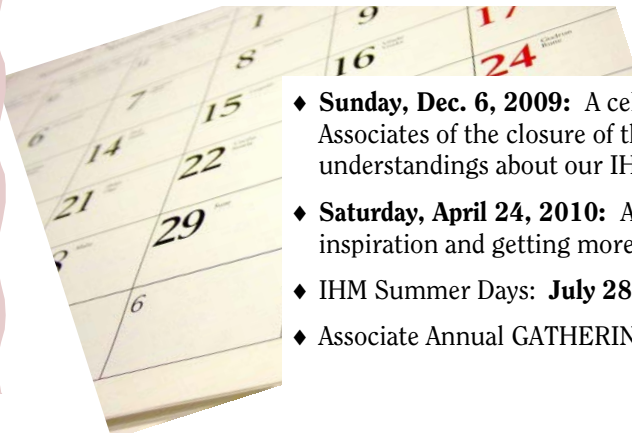
KUDOS TO IHM ASSOCIATES, TOO!

The quarterly IHM publication, *Connections*, has a kudos column to let people know about special recognition that has been given to individual IHMs and **IHM Associates**. This is a significant way for us to be more visible and known as part of the IHM Community. Holly Knight, Director of IHM Communications, encourages all IHM Associates to give her notice of items that fall under the following criteria: (hknight@ihmsisters.org)

- Earned honors, awards, special recognition for specific achievements
- Significant ministerial appointments and achievements
- Completion of degree or certificate
- Publication of books or articles in professional journals or major magazines, newspapers and periodicals
- Election or appointment to position on international, national, state, regional council or committee
- Presented keynote or major address to international, national, state or regional organization or conference

Please submit the information! Let us know what wonderful works the Spirit of God is expressing through you!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



- ◆ **Sunday, Dec. 6, 2009:** A celebration with the Sisters and Associates of the closure of the *Hearts Afire process*, our new understandings about our IHM Community.
- ◆ **Saturday, April 24, 2010:** A Spring Event involving input, inspiration and getting more acquainted.
- ◆ IHM Summer Days: **July 28-31, 2010**
- ◆ Associate Annual GATHERING: **Sept 11, 2010**

IHM Vision Statement

We are committed to bringing about the dream of God on planet Earth through respect for, nurturing of and promoting liberation and well-being of all persons and all of nature as God's good creation.



Associate Leadership



Rosemary Etue



Sue Furda



Rita Carey

During our times in 2009, some IHM Associates have given their time and gifts to help create a Spirit-directed group. The following list of Associates have given leadership in some way to move us forward: Rita Carey, Jo Ann Capaul-Smallidge, Mary Connor, Patty Danks, "Nicki" Diulio, Rosemary Etue, Susan Furda, Mary Ellen Hochkins, Kathy Rogers, "B.J." Schlachter, and Therese Terns. Thank you!



Mary Ellen Hochkins



JoAnn Capaul-Smallidge



Mary Connor

A heart-felt "Thank You" goes to Ruthann Liagre, Barbara Stanbridge, IHM, facilitators, and Monica Stuhldreier, IHM, Associate Coordinator, for their time and efforts with facilitating, encouraging, and keeping track of details as we gathered for planning or discussions. Their talents and collaboration made everything energizing and hope-filled. Thank you!



B.J. Schlachter



Nicki Diulio



Kathy Rogers



Patty Danks

The Creating Community Planning Committee has a list of individuals that have offered to help in a specific way or at an event. However, we need more people to offer to be on committees or event planning (i.e. work groups). Let us know what **you would like to do**. Contact Monica Stuhldreier, IHM, (mstuhldreier@ihmsisters.org) or B.J. Schlachter (bjs-ams@prodigy.net). Thank you!

IHM Associate Covenant



Rose Paone Evarts
made her Associate Covenant in a lovely word service at the IHM Motherhouse Chapel on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2009.

Four of her friends began the service with a candle lighting prayer about the four seasons.

Rose's companion on her associate journey was Rose Bernadette Van

Ooteghem, IHM.

Rose initially came from a big family, a very religious and a very loving one. She had IHM Sisters in school (St. Charles) and as a result desired to become an IHM

Rose was in the IHM community as a postulant and first year novice in 1949-51. After she left, she graduated from college, married and had two daughters, Theresa and Mary Fran, both of whom graduated from Marian High. They are both professionals and she is very proud of them.

Rose's husband, Peter, passed away in 1986.

She was an elementary teacher, a reading specialist for 20 years and got her MA in curriculum and

supervision from Oakland University.

It was her visit to the Donor's Brunch and tour right after our renovation that struck Rose as she watched the senior sisters in their wheel chairs and walkers. This inspired her to become a volunteer in the Health Care Center.

Rose felt a serenity in the older sisters that she felt compelled to connect with. She made a decision to offer her service, which she has been doing for several years now. She even brought her dog for pet therapy until he died last year.

This contact led to her desire to become an IHM Associate!

We are so glad to have Rose back with us as an IHM Associate and volunteer.

Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

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IHM Associates Margaret Mary Leusch, Doris Hervieux and Pauline Boucher at the IHM Associate Gathering, Sept. 12



USING TECHNOLOGY AND THE INTERNET

We want to focus on getting to know one another. That does not mean just among residents of Monroe, or Detroiters, or those able to drive for two hours. There are ways of teleconferencing, Skype, Internet sites, etc. that could be utilized to make contact among individuals throughout the country with each other. However, at this time, the Creating Community Planning Committee does not have the knowledge or expertise to know how to use the newer communication tools. **Do you?**

We could use your help! We want to open up planning meetings to everyone. Your presence and ideas are important if we are to be a Spirit-directed group of IHM Associates within the larger IHM Community. **Our voice** has to be more than a small, vocal gathering of a few. Therefore, if anyone can help us get started "making connections," please contact B.J. Schlachter (bjs-ams@prodigy.net), phone 248-528-0324 or Patty Danks (pattyd1111@aol.com), phone 734-699-7877.

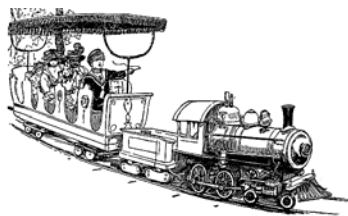
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1. Provide more opportunities for individuals to get to know each other.
 - Offer four events a year for associates to mingle with one another. These may be IHM Community-wide events or IHM Associates-sponsored events.
 - Form a communications work group to explore Skype, teleconferencing and other communication methods to enable fuller participation by individuals living outside of Monroe.
2. Focus on welcoming new associates, implementing new ideas and integrating individuals into the larger IHM Community.
3. Blend this Planning Committee with the Associate Advisory Council to create a united effort

towards meeting common objectives.

4. Explore ways to grow a greater associate identity and relationship with IHM spirituality, mission and charism.

The train is leaving the old station behind. This is an invitation to volunteer your time and talents for an event, a working group or the planning committee. This is an opportunity to voice your desires/concerns. Are you onboard? Come on...Jump on!



More Sept. 12 Gathering Pictures



Melissa Hugg, Nicki Diulio, Margaret Brennan, IHM and Mary Ellen Hochkins.



JoAnn Capaul-Smallidge and Kate Winnell