# INTERFAITH ENCOUNTER ASSOCIATION (IEA)

### THREE ENCOUNTERS OF JERUSALEM WOMEN'S INTERFAITH ENCOUNTER GROUP IN SPRING 2014

### 23/12/13

Our Jewish members had celebrated the Hanukah Festival two weeks ago and our Christian friends were eagerly looking forward to Christmas!

So it was a good opportunity to remember the traditions related to Hanukah historic backgrounds, lighting of candles, sufganiot/doughnuts, children's games, family reunions, presents to children and others.

Our Christian members explained about their different traditions, Armenian, Catholic dishes and specialties as well as the decorations of the Christmas tree. As always we felt the bond keeping us together.

It's more than ten years that we are meeting, almost every month. We know already a lot about our families and involve them sometimes in our home visits.



## 31/01/14

This time we were in the middle of winter- a rather mild one - and the topic was the role of women in their families and their communities.

We talked about women education in the Muslim world, where more and more young girls have expectations to lead a fulfilling professional life as well as a family life. It's sometimes difficult to proceed due to conservative behavior in some areas.

Altogether we see more teachers, scientists, lawyers, doctors, nurses etc. in the Israeli society in the last decade. Hopefully the trend will grow further.

#### 28/03/14

Pessah/Passover and Easter were already so close, everybody was already busy with errands and plans for the holidays. Beyond talking again about families and holiday traditions, we discussed programs for the next meetings: a visit to Ein Gedi Botanical Garden and Spa, a visit to the Islamic Museum, viewing a film about women together and other projects. The main question: the budget....

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