



# Saanich Peninsula Refugee Initiative Group

## UPDATE #17

April 9, 2017

**!!MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!**

### **THE NEXT SPRIG COMMUNITY GATHERING**

**7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday May 17th  
At St. John's United Church  
10990 West Saanich Rd. in Deep Cove.**

Meet Fatma and her family. Be inspired by Syrian newcomers and SPRIG volunteers as they share their experiences and their learnings about the responsibilities, joys and challenges of refugee sponsorship. Participate in discussion and find out how you can support the next Syrian family who will be arriving here soon.

The evening is the last in a series of four initiated by St. John's United Church entitled, *Strengthening our Sacred Relationships*. See attached poster. See [www.stjohnsunited.net](http://www.stjohnsunited.net)

#### **SPEAKING WITH SAFAA:**

Every week as Safaa speaks with one of the Steering Committee via Skype, our respect for this small, strong, young mother of four grows deeper. In the face of many challenges, she courageously parents and home schools her four children. Safaa has had one more interview about coming to Canada, but there are still more steps in the clearance process before she will be approved to become a Landed Immigrant. We are hoping and planning for her arrival within the next few months.

#### **EXPERIENCING NEW CULTURES:**

Syrian newcomers are not the only ones who are learning about other cultures. March 21<sup>st</sup> is Nowrooz (Nowruz or Newroz), a very important holiday for Kurdish people to celebrate the New Year and their unique culture. We have not yet found other Kurdish people in Victoria, but last month Fatma and her family plus two SPRIG volunteers danced the night away with the local Canadian-Iranian community who also celebrate Nowrooz.

#### **MORE VOLUNTEERS STEPPING UP:**

It takes a strong team of people to support a family of newcomers as they settle into our community. If you have contacted us about getting involved, please attend the gathering on May 17<sup>th</sup> to learn more about sponsorship responsibilities. If you cannot attend and still want to be involved, please email us at [sprig@gmx.com](mailto:sprig@gmx.com).

#### **SHOPPERS Optimum Card**

You can donate your points to SPRIG. Your points will help Safaa when she is purchasing supplies for her family. Go to <https://www1.shoppersdrugmart.ca/en/optimum-new> .

[www.sprig.me](http://www.sprig.me)

[sprig@gmx.com](mailto:sprig@gmx.com)



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