

Application to Participate in the Second Annual Intergenerational Forum (IGF)

Vision: To bring together in a public forum representatives of the younger generation and senior citizens and glean their perspectives on vitally important matters concerning humanity, our country, and the world today. Further, to stimulate, recognize, and respect the opinions of each generation and to learn from them.

The Forum will be held at Bishop England High School on Tuesday March 7, 2017 at 7:00pm. This event is being organized by several citizens of Daniel Island in conjunction with The Daniel Island News. Five high school seniors and five senior citizens will be chosen to participate in the Forum, which will be open to the public to observe. The new and exciting format for this year's IGF will focus on three major issues, which are shown on page 2. These issues will be taken up one at a time at the direction of the Forum's Moderator. Participants will have a chance to make a brief opening statement on the issue and open discussion will follow.

Following the last issue, participants will have the opportunity to say what they have learned from the other generation through participation in the Forum.

If you would like to be considered to be a participant in the Forum, please complete this Application and submit it following the instructions below. Participants will be selected by the IGF Committee based on their application and other criteria to assure a diversity of representation on the panel. **Completed applications must be received by the IGF Committee no later than by February 3' 2017.**

Instructions for Completing this Application

Full name: _____ I like to be called: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State: ____ Zip _____

Home phone: _____ Mobile phone: _____ Email: _____

Age: ____ Sex: M ____ F ____ If high school student your high school _____

On a separate page which is to be attached to this application:

1. Please write a brief statement describing yourself
2. Write your initial thoughts on each of the three major issues shown on page 2 of this application (limit is 150 words per issue)
3. Scan in your completed application with self-description and initial thoughts on the issues and submit by email to igf29492@gmail.com. Please include in your email a good photo head shot (Jpeg).

For additional information, questions, or difficulty submitting your application, please contact Fred Danziger, Committee Chairman at 516-524-2208 or at fred.danziger13@gmail.com.

Thank you for considering to be a participant in the Second Annual Intergenerational Forum.

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The three major issues to be discussed at the Second Annual Intergenerational Forum are:

Q1. What can we do about the rising trend of incivility in our country? It is reported that the majority of Americans say incivility has risen to crisis levels. Incivility goes beyond politics and touches every aspect of American society. Gross political rudeness, bullying in our schools, cyber bullying on the Internet and on social media, and the inability of people to discuss a controversial issue in a civil manner are but a few examples. The consequences of such behavior can range from preventing government action on important issues, may deter people from entering public service, cause the transfer of a student to a different school, the loss of a friend, and may even be leading to the increase of violence in our society.

What actual, proactive, current, and ongoing actions can we take, locally and as a nation, to restore civility to our country and society?

Q2. How is the way we engage with one another affecting our interactions? What impact is this having on relationships across generations? With the proliferation of digital communication, i.e. emailing, texting and social media, the way we communicate with each other is rapidly and radically changing. Short bursts of texts have replaced face to face conversations. We often express ourselves and gain affirmation through “likes” on social media posts and emojis/emoticons have emerged as cultural standards for conveying feelings. Our connectivity has never been more powerful. But are we still capable of conveying compassion and empathy towards each other - and can we form meaningful, lasting relationships with little interpersonal interaction? What impact is this form of communication having on us as a society?

Q3. What should America do about the 11 million undocumented immigrants now living in our country? Undocumented immigrants in the US live in limbo, a kind of “off the grid” existence. They cannot legally get social security numbers, work, receive welfare, and can get driver’s licenses in only 12 states. Many obtain illegal social security cards and drivers licenses so they can work, drive, and support their families. Undocumented immigrants often fear deportation and the possible break-up of their families. Most would be considered hard workers, good family men and women, and people who are here seeking opportunity and “The American Dream”.

Some politicians support a program to deport them all as they entered our country illegally. This is seen by many as impractical and not in our country’s best interests, as they fill a needed niche in America and add to our cultural diversity. Others support programs that would allow undocumented aliens to become legally registered conditional residents with certain rights, privileges and obligations; possibly with a path to citizenship. This would put them “on the grid” and make them visible to our government as are all of our country’s citizens.

So, what should our country do about the 11 million undocumented immigrants that now reside here?