

# The BAHÁ'Í Connection

The Newsletter for the Bahá'ís of Southeastern Colorado

November 1991



Rose Latka, a New Baha'i Youth with her friend \_\_\_\_\_, who introduced her to Faith.

## Youth attracting Youth

\_\_\_\_\_ told her friend Rose about the Baha'i Faith and she traveled with the \_\_\_\_\_ on a trip to the Glenwood Springs Anniversary Weekend Event. This had an impact on Rose and she declared her belief in Bahá'u'lláh. Asked how her parents felt about her choice, Rose said, "They love it" even though her mother still preferred her faith. We welcome you Rose and hope you have a happy and successful life as a Baha'i.

## April Goggans Receives Unity of Mankind Merit Badge



April Goggans received her merit badge October 19. The award requires certain achievements be accomplished. April memorized 9 prayers, read 7 books among those being: The Green Years, Tahiri, God Loves Laughter, The Hidden Words, The Sunshine Tree. Also, April needed to perform acts of community service. One of the services she provided happened when she was at the Wounded Knee Indian Reservation. The adults were attending a meeting and the children were left to themselves. April organized the children into getting to know each other and keeping them under control.

## Calendar of Events

### COLORADO SPRINGS

#### Feasts

Nov 3, 7:15 PPMHC

Nov 22, 7:15 PPMHC Town Meeting & Unity Feast for

Pike's Peak Region\*

Guest Speaker will be William Allmart from Baha'i National Center. The purpose is to facilitate national and international development through enhanced communications with local communities. Information on childcare arrangements will be sent at a later date.

**Friday, November 22** A potluck luncheon with Mr. William Allmart at Noon Judi Barnes, 5690 Del Paz Dr. Seniors will be regarded as guests of honor and need not bring food. RSVP - Judi Barnes, 598-4806

#### Holy Days

Birth of Bahá'u'lláh Otis Park 7:00-10:00 PM Pizza Party - price to be announced

### EL PASO COUNTY

#### Feasts

Nov 3, 7:00

Nov 22, 7:15 Gone to Unity Feast Colorado Springs

### MANITOU SPRINGS

#### Feasts

Nov 3, 7:00

Nov 22, 7:30

Dec 12, 7:00

Dec 30, 7:30

Barnes

Jeanne Hornor

Alison Landis

Debi Miller

#### Holy Days

Birth of Bahá'u'lláh Jeanne Hornor

#### Highway Cleanup

Oct 27, 1:00 Meet at Cascade Post Office

Nov 24, 1:00 Meet at Cascade Post Office

Dec 29, TBA

### Firesides

Wed - Co. Spgs.

Friday - Co. Spgs.

Sunday - Co. Spgs.

Friday - El Paso Co.

Rickert 260-7732

Afnani 590-7049

Ostovar 596-3966

Rouhani 392-6472

Friday Nov. 8 Multi-Cultural at Hillside Community Ctr. 7:00

### Sunday Deepening Class

Oct. 27 Vision of Unity- Firuz & Joan Labib

Nov. 3 The Most Great Challenge- Auxiliary Board Member, Carol Brooks

Nov. 10 Christianity/Baha'i Faith the first 150 years, Richard Stamats/Omid Ferdowsian

Nov. 17 Islam and the Baha'i Era, the first 150 years, Dr. Duane Troxel/Youth

Nov. 24 Recap Discussion\* Jeff and Lynn Barnes

\*The Recap discussion will include the previous class topics plus a topic from the most recent from American Bahá'í. It would benefit the Recap class to reflect on the classes so that we delve more deeply into the previous information.

### Institute to Create Patterns of Unity Meetings

Nov 15, 7:00 PM Hillside Community Center





## UN day Thunderous Success

Many attend the 6th Annual UN Day Dance. A special thanks to our participants, Tlaloc Aztec dancers, IREPO African dancers and Drummers, Sons of Norway and Dancin Shadows. And a special thanks to the behind the scenes efforts of Soheila Afnani, who arranged the dancers and set up the displays, Maria Stamats who organized the international desserts with assistance of Karlene Davis, Gary Gillam, Bonnie Rouhani. A job well done by Ralph Homan as Emcee, with a special introduction of the Faith by Roya Mahmoudi. Thanks to the following who assisted audio- Kolya McCleave, Tony Goggans, Jeff Barnes, Bonnie Cann, Bill Cann, Muin Afnani, Mrs. Samadari, Jeane Hornor, And thanks to the many others for providing materials for the display, the international desserts and the labor in setting up and cleaning up. I know I've forgotten someone, so thank you for understanding.



Above from IREPO, African lower from Tlaloc Aztec

## Station of Bahá'u'lláh

Dear Friends,

The Universal House of Justice in its message of Ridvan 1990 to the bahá'ís of the World wrote: *"Beloved Friends: Merely two years separate us from the conclusion of the Six Year Plan and the beginning of Ridvan 1992 of the Holy Year, that special time when we shall pause to appreciate the tumultuous record of events which will have brought us to the Centenary of the Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh and to reflect with due solemnity upon the redemptive purpose of the life of the most precious Being ever to have drawn breath on this planet."* As we prepare to embrace the Holy Year study of the life and station of Bahá'u'lláh should be among high priorities of our Bahá'í life.

A complete and thorough understanding of the majesty and grandeur of the station of Bahá'u'lláh is beyond the reach of the holy ones let alone ordinary human beings. Yet, only through Him man can know God. Shoghi Effendi in <sup>1</sup>The Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh writes: *"To strive to obtain a more adequate understanding of the significance of Bahá'u'lláh stupendous Revelation must, it is my unalterable conviction, remain the first obligation and the object of the constant endeavor of each one of its loyal adherents. An exact and thorough comprehension of so vast a system, so sublime a revelation, so sacred a trust, is for obvious reasons beyond the reach and ken of our finite minds. We can, however, and it is our bounden duty to seek to derive fresh inspiration and added sustenance as we labor for the propagation of His Faith through a clearer apprehension of the truths it enshrines and the principles on which it is based."*

One approach to the study of the station of Bahá'u'lláh is to look at the prophecies from previous scriptures. Some of the references to Him are: Glory of the Lord, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Lord of Hosts, King of Glory, Desire of all nations, Sun of Righteousness, World Savior, Shah-Bahram, Buddha of Universal Fellowship, Most Great Spirit, Tenth Avatar, Immaculate Manifestations of Krishna, Prince of this world, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Lord of the Vineyard, Glory of God, Alpha and Omega, Great Announcement, He who conversed with Moses from the Burning Bush on Sinai, Essence of Being, Remnant of God, Lord of the visible and invisible, sole Object of all previous Revelations, and He whom God shall make manifest. Friends can refer to the monumental work of the beloved Guardian, <sup>2</sup>God Passes By, for some of the prophecies concerning the Blessed Beauty. It is important to point out the fact that although by His appearance Bahá'u'lláh has fulfilled these and many other prophecies, His station is not limited to the fulfillment of any of these prophecies. For example, Bahá'u'lláh is the return of Imam Husayn to Shiah Islam, however this does not mean that His station is limited to the fulfillment of this prophecy.



The Master, in <sup>3</sup>Some Answered Questions explains that the Divine Manifestations have three planes: physical station, station of rational soul, and station of the divine appearance, i.e., the Holy Spirit. Abdu'l-Baha explains that the individual reality of each Manifestation of God is distinct and unique: "...the individual reality of the Manifestations of God is a holy reality, and for that reason it is sanctified and, in that which concerns its nature and quality, is distinguished from all other things...The Divine Manifestations are so many different mirrors because they have a special individuality, but that which is reflected in the mirrors is one sun. It is clear that the reality of Christ is different from that of Moses." Two points should be emphasized in the above passage. First, the rational soul or the human reality of the Manifestation of God is a holy reality. Second, each Divine Manifestation has a different and distinct reality, concerning the Holy Reality <sup>4</sup>Abdu'l-Baha says "The individual realities of the Divine Manifestations have no separation from the Bounty of God and the Lordly Splendor." When we speak of the reality Baha'u'llah the intention is His holy reality and not the physical station of Mirza Husayn Ali. Some of the most illuminating statements about the station of Baha'u'llah - He Whom God shall make manifest are found in the Writing of the Babi Dispensation. The Bab in the third Vahid (section) of the chapter 15 of the Persian Bayan says that the Primal Will (that which is the first creation or emanation from God) in every Dispensation hath been and is Baha'u'llah. In every Dispensation the intermediary between God and His Manifestation has been described in a unique and distinct way: the Burning Bush to Moses, the Dove to Christ, the Angel Gabriel to Muhammad. These are different descriptions or symbols of the same reality, the Holy Spirit. Baha'u'llah, being the Most Great Spirit, in some of His Writings has stated that He has created that intermediary, the Holy Spirit. In the <sup>5</sup>Suriy-i-Haykal (Surih of the Temple) Baha'u'llah states:

*"The Holy Spirit Itself hath been generated through the agency of a single letter revealed by this Most Great Spirit, if ye be of them that comprehend."*

Adib Taherzadeh in the third volume of Revelation of Baha'u'llah concerning this subject writes: [In His writings, Baha'u'llah has indicated that whereas in past Dispensations the Prophets and Messengers of God received their Revelations through an intermediary, in this Dispensation the voice of God may be heard directly from the Person of Baha'u'llah. Affirming this in one of <sup>6</sup>His Tablets, Baha'u'llah states that the same voice which Moses heard through the Burning Bush may be heard directly from Baha'u'llah in this Day.] This does not mean that Baha'u'llah is identifying His station with that of Godhead. As it is quite clear from numerous Writings of the Blessed Beauty, the essence of God is beyond comprehension of all, including His Manifestations. Of course the best way to understand the station of Baha'u'llah is to read and comprehend His writings directly.

Once we have had the opportunity to study the Writings of the Bab, Baha'u'llah, 'Abdu'l-Baha, and Shoghi Effendi on the station of the Blessed Beauty it will not come as a surprise to us that His is the station of the Father, the Lord of Hosts, the Creator, and not only the fulfillment of the prophecies regarding return of the previous Divine Manifestations.

In the Book of Certitude, Baha'u'llah describes two

Quranic verses, one indicating that all the Manifestations are one and the same, the other explaining that every Manifestation has a unique station. Friends can refer to The Book of Certitude and study this subject in detail.

For the remainder of this article we shall review some of the writings of this Dispensation (including those of the Bab) in light of the aforementioned statements concerning the station of Ancient Beauty, Baha'u'llah.

1p. 8

2 p. 98,99

3 Chapter 38 Some Answered Questions

4 Chapter 39 Some Answered Questions

<sup>5</sup>Suriy-i-Haykal (Tablet of the Temple) In this Tablet Baha'u'llah reveals the majesty and glory of the Temple, which is His own Self, and unveils new facets of God's revelation.

<sup>6</sup>The Advent of Divine Justice, p.79

Muin Afnani

## **Unity Committee/Social Coordinator?? A Message to Co. Spg. Residents.**

Because of recent questions and concerns expressed in the Feast, I thought it appropriate to restate the role of the Unity Committee and clarify the role of the social needs coordinator.

First The role of the Unity Committee is to survey the needs of the community and develop programs that create a "family concept" of aid and assistance. They are specifically charged with developing a plan to provide rides to those in need of transportation to activities, to work toward unifying the community, to make Feast more spiritual and joyful. Also to welcome newly declared believers and new arrivals to the community.

Second the purpose of the social needs coordinator is to assist Baha'i individual in the Colorado Springs Community with:

- food and/or housing needs
- job search assistance
- finding and distributing household effects and furniture
- initial counseling and support to community members in need
- referral to counseling and other community services
- liaison between the L.S.A. and community members involved in or thinking about a year of patience and other personal difficulties

Because of the previously mentioned goals we need to have people willing to provide the following services.

- provide hospitality for those in need of short term housing
- provide food
- provide household effects and furniture
- provide transportation for taking individuals to job interviews and look at housing or other appointments

If you are in need or know of others in need please don't hesitate to contact me, Tony Goggans, Social Needs Coordinator.

*"The essence of faith is fewness of words and abundance of deeds; he whose words exceed his deed, know verily his death is better than his life."*  
Baha'u'llah, Words of Wisdom Baha'i World Faith p.141

In His service,  
Tony Goggans

## Friends Deeply Saddened at the sudden loss of "Sandi Randall"

With deepest sorrow we announce the passing of Alesandra Maria E. Randall, known to all her friends as "Sandi" on October 12, 1991 at the age of 18. She's been a Baha'i since she was 15 and a member of the Pueblo Community.

Survived by her son Geoffrey 15 months, her mother, Cindy Mills, brother, James and Grandparents, Joseph and Rose Rael

Sandi has participated in Baha'i events since she was 5 yrs old. She graduated at the top of her class from Grand Mesa High School and had her journeyman's certification as a cement mason. Sandi was the only woman to graduate from this school. Sandi also had plans to pursue certificate in automotive electronics. She was artistically talented and also planned to take art classes in college. Sandi had a passion for nuturing injured animals back to health and rescued all she could in the Pueblo area.

Please offer prayers for her progress in Abha Kingdom



The Baha'i Connection is published monthly by the Local Spiritual Assembly of Colorado Springs, 5690 Del Paz, Colorado Springs, CO 80918. Information for publication only should be sent to Richard or Maria Stamats, 705 Drew Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80911 or call (719) 392-6472 on or preferably before the 20th of each month.

Change of addresses should also be sent to the above address.

Contributions to offset publication costs and mailing should be sent to Mike Gardner, 528 W. Bijou, Colorado Springs, CO 80905. The cost of producing each newsletter is currently \$6.00 annually.

The  
**BAHÁ'Í Connection**  
705 Drew Drive  
Colorado Springs, CO 80911

## New Weekly Meeting!! called "FONDEST DREAM"

-Informal and without specific form.

-Special Requirement: read some verses from the Golden Quran each meeting. then Baha'i Writings.

followed by discussion or comments Beginning with Baha'i World Faith; others as chosen by group approval. Other topics whether spiritual in nature or not may happen. Heart to heart talks on any subject is encouraged. These meetings are not to replace firesides. Baha'is and non-Baha'is are welcome.

WHERE: Begin November 1, 1991 - 3 days per week, from 6-9pm - Monday, Wednesday, Friday (except in conflict with other priority Baha'i meetings). Held at Tremont Manor Apartment, 3rd Floor Lounge, 2929 Tremont just behind Skippers Restaurant on West Fillmore Street. Riley J. Jenkins 2929 Tremont Apt. #A 15 North

## From Baha'i Education Committee: A Tip

*Man's treasure is his utterance...*

Tablets of Baha'u'llah p. 62

Abdu'l-Baha gave us a golden key to that precious treasure when He instructed us with these words: "Encourage ye the School children from their earliest years, to deliver speeches of high quality..." Selections from the writings of 'Abdu'l-Baha p. 134

With His profound Divine knowledge of child psychology of the New Age, the Master has placed in our hands this golden key that can raise the level of mankind and open a new world of marvellous wonders in the field of child participation in the establishment of God's new universal civilization on eaarth.

Can you imagine the impact that will be exerted upon humanity when Baha'i children in all nations can give speeches of "high quality"? And give them in public? This could contribute richly towards producing a transformation in the world.

## Pike's Peak Youth Workshop

Call Bonnie Cann 596-5631 or Juli Redson-Smith 594-0551 for late breaking details on where and when.

## Youth Group continue to meet

November 1, 15 & 29 at the Cann home 4810 Templeton Park Circle, Apt 44 across from Doherty High School. The fun starts after school to 9:00pm. Call for details 596-5631.