



**Ms Elham Simmons**

**Advancement Coordinator Conveys Assured Strength and Guidance**

Ms Elham Simmons is the Office of Cluster advancement coordinator, serving the North Western Regional Baha'i Consul. One of her responsibility is to work with the Area Teaching Committees in "B" and "A" cluster, for example to help them lunch the Intensive Program of Growth in "A" clusters and help the "B" clusters to advance them to the next level.

*[Transcript follows]*

Hi, this is my first time to your cluster and its really been exciting. I heard about you I've heard wonderful stories about you from Siamak. This mornig I got to meet your core team, your teaching committee and your assistants and I realize you have a wonderful team working for you. I want to acknowledge them for the work that they are doing here and focus they are bringing. And from what I here from them is that have wonderful cluster to work with as well. The joy and the love is just alive in this cluster. When we heard about slogan "Loving your way to Cluster A" it just embodied everything wonderful about what the institute process can help us

**Coordinator** continues page 3

**You Just Never Know...**

*This is a story told by Dr. Dwight Allen in 1967 at the Intercontinental Conference in Chicago*

All National Spiritual Assemblies were charged with delivering, in person, to the Head of State of their respective countries, a copy of the "Proclamation of Baha'u'llah". At the time, the Head of State of Haiti was Dr. Duvalier, known as "Papa Doc". His was a ruthless regime, kept in power through fear more than anything else. The populace was cowed through the Tauntaun Makud, a "secret service" with dark overtures of voodoo and constrained only by the wishes of Duvalier. Human rights were non-existent.

Needless to say, the National Assembly of Haiti had some valid concerns about presenting Baha'u'llah's word to such a one as Duvalier. However, after prayer, placing their trust in Baha'u'llah, they called to make their appointment for the presentation. They were puzzled when they had no problem whatsoever in scheduling the meeting with the President for Life.

On the appointed day and at the appointed hour, the members of the National Assembly of Haiti presented themselves at the Presidential Palace and were immediately taken to an antechamber adjacent to Duvalier's office. Over them stood a guard of what must have been the four largest men in all Haiti , each one armed with a machine pistol at the ready. Soon, the office door opened and Dr. Duvalier appeared, asking the members of the Assembly into his office and cordially greeting each one of them. One Assembly member noted that the expression on their guards' faces had become one of wide-eyed surprise.

Dr. Duvalier sat the Assembly in his office and dismissed the guards, which was unprecedented. He served each member tea and cakes personally and as he settled himself back with his own tea, began the interview by recounting his



**Carmelite Monastery to follow Bahai Temple**

Garden will span an area of three hectares and will feature numerous statues, religious artifacts and a large amphitheatre overlooking a spectacular view

The order of the Carmelite Monastery in Haifa, Israel, a 19th-century monastery located on the slopes of Mount Carmel, became envious of the beautiful Bahai Temple gardens in Haifa and decided to follow suit by creating its own. The Carmelite gardens will be built on the mountainside of the Stella Maris neighborhood, where a military army based was located until recently. The garden will span an area of three hectares and will feature numerous statues, religious artifacts and a large amphitheatre overlooking a spectacular view.

As in the Bahai gardens, the Carmelite garden will also have a visitors' center that will be open to the public. An American landscape architect was hired to design the garden. The cost for building the garden is estimated \$200 million, while the initial investment totals \$50 million.

This week, an official from the Carmelite Monastery submitted a building plan to the district planning committee for a complex in the Stella Maris neighborhood comprising 350 housing units, an elderly citizen's home, a small commercial center and a hotel comprising 100 rooms. The apartments will not only be sold to Carmelite community members, but to the general public. Revenues incurred from the sales of the apartments will be used for funding the Carmelite garden.

The Carmelite Order is an enclosed Catholic order founded in the 12th century by a group of Europeans led by a man commonly called Saint Bertold on Mount Carmel, Israel, where the order received its name.

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**You Just Never Know** from p 1

college days in Milwaukee , Wisconsin in the early 1940's.

It seems that housing was scarce in Milwaukee in those days and considering that he was a black man and a student, it was well-nigh impossible for him to find lodgings. It seems the only shelter he could find was with a white Baha'i couple who took him into their home and treated him as a member of the family.

Because of that hospitality, the President extended to the Baha'i of Haiti freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom from unwarranted search and seizure. We take these freedoms as a given. In Haiti at the time, no other group enjoyed such freedoms. It meant that the Baha'is could teach openly, hold Feasts, and distribute literature. The secret police were to protect the Baha'is.

Dr. Allen went on to say that we can never know how the seeds we plant will grow nor can we ever predict the result of our living the Baha'i life to the best of our abilities. This nameless Baha'i couple through one courageous act, granted an entire Baha'i nation freedom.

**And another story:**

At the time when the National Spiritual Assemblies were presenting The Promise of World Peace, which I believe was in the mid 1980's, the National Spiritual Assembly of West Germany made an appointment with then I think was Prime Minister Koll, for this purpose.

A delegation from that Assembly went to the Appointment and they were welcomed most graciously. Before they had a chance to present him with the booklet and to explain about its purpose and that the the Baha'i Faith, the Prime Minister said, "I know the Baha'is!" which shocked those who were present because nobody had any idea.

In the years following World War II, the future Prime Minister was a teenager. He and a group of his friends went on a bicycle trip around the country...and they happened upon a group of Baha'i youth who were having a summer school camp. They cordially invited the bikers to join them in this gathering, which they did. Heaven can only imagine what went on there, but

this biking group had a wonderful time with these Baha'i youth. Then the bikers went on their way.

Little did the future Prime Minister nor the Baha'i youth know that he would be a Prime Minister some 40+ years later. All he remembers was the excellent and positive impression he had in that gathering. One of those Baha'i youth was Herman Grossman and it is Mr. Grossman who has shared this story with many of us Baha'is in Europe .

From the moment of that meeting in the late 1940 post-WWI-Germany to that meeting in the office in the mid-1980's, there had been no contact. After that meeting, the National Spiritual Assembly of West Germany had a special status within the country and respect was given to it by the government. I believe that this influence is still there today, even if that particular Prime Minister is no longer a part of the government. So it just goes to show you that little seeds, planted long ago eventually do have an impact.

Those of you who were unable to come were sorely missed. We needed your input! We look forward to seeing all of you at the next Reflection Meeting. In the meantime, continue those home visits, devotional gatherings and children's classes.

Our love to all of you

**Colorado Springs Sunrise/Sunset**

<b>March 2</b>	<b>7</b>
Sunrise: 6:31am Sunset: 5:51pm	Sunrise: 6:23am Sunset: 5:56pm
<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>
Sunrise: 6:29am Sunset: 5:52pm	Sunrise: 6:22am Sunset: 5:57pm
<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>
Sunrise: 6:28am Sunset: 5:53pm	Sunrise: 6:20am Sunset: 5:58pm
<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>
Sunrise: 6:26am Sunset: 5:54pm	Sunrise: 6:19am Sunset: 6:00pm
<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>
Sunrise: 6:25am Sunset: 5:55pm	Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunrise: 7:17am Sunset: 7:01pm

12  
Sunrise: 7:16am  
Sunset: 7:02pm

13  
Sunrise: 7:14am  
Sunset: 7:03pm

14  
Sunrise: 7:13am  
Sunset: 7:04pm

15  
Sunrise: 7:11am  
Sunset: 7:05pm

16  
Sunrise: 7:10am  
Sunset: 7:06pm

17  
Sunrise: 7:08am  
Sunset: 7:06pm

18  
Sunrise: 7:07am  
Sunset: 7:07pm

19  
Sunrise: 7:05am  
Sunset: 7:08pm

20  
Sunrise: 7:03am  
Sunset: 7:09pm

Folks in Cortez may add 15 minutes to get a correct schedule. Others in between may be slightly less.

**Bahá'í Connection**

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**Submissions**

If you wish to have the Bahá'í Connection run an article or advertise for your event please submit as soon as possible. The Bahá'í Connection is finished on the 21st of each month that means that regular type is received up to the 20th. If you want a special design connected with an event please send it so that it is received by the 14th.

Articles are edited for size, clarity and relative value to the readers. Photographs and artwork are encouraged, however it is best to avoid having us return the images.

**All items for the Bahá'í Connection can be sent to:**

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achieve and how we really reach that stage. That is has that focus and you clearly have a plan to reach that A stage. But you also have the love, you have the motive and you have that energy infusing everything you do that connects you those spiritual forces. So you guys have it.

So tonight kicks off Ayyam-i-Ha. Ayyam-i-Ha is the gift of God to man and I was thinking of this other quote in the Will and Testament of `Abdu'l-Baha. He tells the what is the greatest gift? He says "Of all the gifts of God the greatest is the gift of Teaching. It draweth unto us the Grace of God and

this person who owns the phone. And in the dream she wonders who could be calling me. Anyway she picks up the phone and she say hello and person on the other ends say Hello is this Laurie. She says yes. The voice says this is Bill Sears. How can I help with the teaching work? She was shocked and how did I get this phone call? And the funny thing was she later got a call from her brother in Japan asking do you know someone named Marguerite because I had the funniest dream.

In the December 27 letter the Universal House of Justice uses in two places the

had these dreams of special connections. People have been saying I haven't thinking about things for years, but all of a sudden something in my heart told me I need to talk to you again.

This community I am living in just had our Intensive Program of Growth event, we just had our expansion phase. A friend and I have our own little teaching team so we put together our list of people we want to contact. She puts on the most wonderful devotions. We were praying for each other friends on our list. And her prayers must be very potent, because nearly everybody on my



is our first obligation. Of such a gift how can we deprive ourselves? Nay, our lives, our goods, our comforts, our rest, we offer them all as a sacrifice for the Abha Beauty and teach the Cause of God."

So in these next few days as we are giving gifts to each other and as we are celebrating the days of Ayyam-i-Ha a gift from God to man. We're going to be consious that teaching is God's greatest gift to us as Baha'is. It is our duty, its our obligation, but it's our gift. It draws into us the grace of God. In this room you can be assured that Concourse on High is here as well. So if any of these seats may look empty they are actually filled with souls who are so ready to be called upon. That reminds me of this one cluster in Washington State there is this woman there who is working with her daughter to do a youth group. As they were about launch one of their IPG (Intensive Programs of Growth) she had a dream. In this dream she was with some people and somebody's phone rang and they answered the phone. They said Oh Laurie this phone is for you. She said I don't even know

phrase "above all". I think it is in second or third paragraph they say "confidence is patiently built. Yet, above all, it is reliance on God that sustains them in their endeavours." Then in the very last paragraph they say "Above all, the friends need to remain ever conscious of the magnitude of the spiritual forces that are at their disposition."

So above all, above the institute process, which is the priority, above whatever we are doing in our communities...above all these things we must remain confident and rely on God and remember that these spiritual forces are really really sitting next us, closer than our life vein ready to assist us. As I was leaving Pensacola Florida I was at the airport where was a number of Baha'is. I saw there was Auxilliery Board Member just sitting there so I went over. He said do you know what I am doing? I am saying prayers for teaching and just a few minutes ago this man came over and sat next to me and said, "A voice in my head told me to sit here and listen." This is kind of spooky, but these are realities. These forces are realities. How many times have friends

list contacted me before I contacted them. It was like, gee this is getting really easy. All I had to do was call them back... I had to take action too.

You are on the right there. you are going to be an A cluster before you know it. You are going to have this gift, this constant gift that is already with you. Its going to be accelerated, its systematic, your doing it together, you will be shoulder to shoulder serving God as you already are. You will drawing you these wonderful bounties and gifts of God. I think before long you will be an A cluster. I imagine the Concourse on High looking down and seeing this bright spot shining in Colorado, because there animated souls here. I look forward to coming back when you are an A cluster as well.

I just wanted to share the excitement and joy I feel in being here with you.



## Report & Goals for Cluster Advancement:

Jan 1st to April 21 = 110 days

	Sept 30 2006	Feb 2	Ridvan Goal
<b>a. Institute Campaigns</b>			
Completed the Sequence	23	29	40-50
Completed at least 1 book	108	113	To Be Determined
Active Tutors	19 (63%)	30 (71%)	50%
Home Visits	52+	over 400	To Be Determined
Firesides	8	None reported	To Be Determined
<b>b. Multiplication of core activities</b>			
Ongoing Study Circles	6	12	10
Children's Classes (ongoing)	5	5?	5+, multiple sites
Devotional meetings (ongoing)	7	8	10
Jr. Youth Activities	Yes	Yes	Increase COI
large % of active core involved in core activities completed at least 1 book	108	113	To Be Determined
<b>c. Reflection Meetings</b>			
<b>d. Outreach to all inhabitants</b>	30+	5	10+ seekers

### CLASS Schedules:

Dates	Book(s) Offered
March 2, 3 and 4	Ruhi 3, 4, 6 and 7

If there are any questions, please call me (Sheldon) at (719) 599-7632

## Cluster Reflection Meeting Report

### *"Loving Our Way to Cluster A"*

Twenty-five of the friends including 5 pre-youth/youth gathered to reflect on our growth since the last Reflection Meeting in October, to make plans from now to Ridvan and to just plain have fun and enjoy each others company.

The most important thing we must do before Ridvan is to have 11 persons complete the sequence of Ruhi courses. We are very close!! So if you have just 2 or 3 course left to complete, please consider ways in which you can do this before Ridvan. Another goal that is critical is to have two new ongoing Devotional Gatherings. One will begin in Ramah very soon. If you can or would like to start one in your neighborhood, please let us know. We stand ready to assist.

The Area Teaching Committee has two new most welcome members-Lua and Richard Jamison. Sheldon Jones was thanked for his services on the ATC. The Regional Council has asked that he concentrate on his service as Area Coordinator.

Our own dear Siamak Rouhani has been recently appointed Auxilliary Board Member for Protection. His new assistants are Nadine and Allen Kirby, John and Dixie Cole and Tony Goggans.

Everyone enjoyed consultation, games, prizes, pictures, wonderful teaching stories and lunch.

A new approach to breakout discussion groups was used. The intent was to gather information as to where we are and what resources are still needed to prepare for "entry by troops" in Cluster CO13 and then to apply this knowledge to the situation that occurred when a large group of the community of interest arrived unannounced at Sunday morning devotions and classes.

This really happened right here in CO13! To see the results of this consultation watch for the next Bahá'í Connection and decide how you can serve!!



## The Order of Ruhi Classes and You

Until further notice, people can take Ruhi 1, 2 and then 7 and become tutors of Ruhi 1 and 2

Completion of Ruhi 7 makes a person eligible to tutor any book he/she has already taken except Ruhi 7.

To become a tutor of Ruhi 7 the person must have tutored at least four Study Circles and have co-facilitated Ruhi 7 with a more experienced tutor.

After Books 1 and 2, the remaining books (3, 4, 6 and 7) can be taken out-of-order, but there is an advantage to following the sequence.

Book 5 is for Junior Youth Animators and is not considered part of the sequence, but anyone who wishes may take this book as well.



## Our Life Care Center story in Evergreen Colorado

Leif and I created crosses out of popcycle sticks. We colored them with glue glitter. We wrapped all religions prayers around them. Two prayers each-one on each side. One side always had a Baha'i prayer on it. Mostly the Morning prayer and Healing prayer. A lot of The Lords prayer since the is a worldly prayer=everybody knows. Than on Christmas morning, we all, being our family of five, Brian, ZK, Rhen, Leif and I went to Evergreen and passed out 70 crosses of prayers. Some were so happy to see us. Others more curious as to, 'why?' Brian dressed in a suit they though he was a preacher and we were a church group. Others just too shocked to see that I created three sons to even notice the cross in their hands. Many were touched by the morning prayer. Some didn't want to look at the cross yet, just needed to visit. So we did. The ones that couldn't read well we read the prayers to them. One woman I couldn't read very well to through my tears as she couldn't open her hands from arthritis balling them up. Too difficult to hold her head to see me. We just touched her as I tried to read. Didn't want her to see my tears as I read to her. Tried so hard to speak clearly. She touched my soul, Brians too. She whispered to him, he smiled. He knows she heard, he knows she was aware of our being there. many didn't notice. One was even asleep at her lunch. We put crosses on tables or in palms of hands in these cases. Some one will see them. They will wake to see them. People will visit and read them. The crosses will have stories to tell and to hear. They walk on. Thank you Toni for helping us in our project.

This is our Family tradition. How we spend Christmas mornings. Helping our often forgotten, celebrate Christ in their life, and in ours.

## Reflection Stories Shared

*1/27/07 Date of meeting*

The Bradley family visited a nursing home in Evergreen, Colorado on Christmas morning (a family tradition). This year they made crosses from popsicle sticks and glued a Baha'i prayer on one side and a Christian prayer on the other. They gave these out to about 70 residents, reading a prayer with many! SEE DETAILS IN LEFT COLUMN

Toni shared that a Buddhist friend who organized a fireside at her house previously, asked if she could meet her and a friend of hers for lunch to talk about the Faith. She also suggested that this might be a good time to do her practice presentation on the lives of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh. She reiterated in her email that she is not seeking to become Baha'i but is interested in learning about the Faith. She has become a real friend of the Faith and is helping with teaching efforts!

Ciara is doing a paper on Ayyám-i-Há and Saraiya is doing one on Evolution Vs. Creationism.

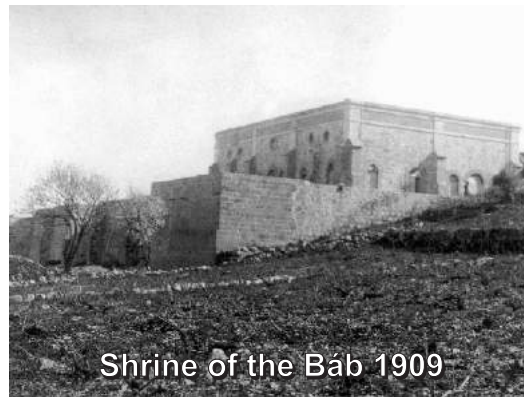
Mary, who was initially hesitant to bring up the Faith in her educational institution, mentioned to a student who said something about hating religion that they'd love the Baha'i Faith and gave him a card with the principles of the Faith on it. Another breakthrough was the Dean going out of her way to select a card at Christmas which had more of a "winter" theme. Mary had an opportunity to let her know that her Faith includes all religions.

Mariah reported that her drama teacher is interested in attending a Devotional gathering!

Charlotte shared an opportunity that arose during a work related gathering where most were drinking. She sought out a table on non-drinkers that was very diverse. A debate was going on between a Lakota Indian and an Africa-American regarding whose ancestors were on the planet first. When asked what she thought, she explained that as a Baha'i, she believed that we're all one family. They were pleasantly surprised as they thought she was "just another company stuffed shirt".

Charlotte also shared a story from Woodland Park/Teller County's recent Martin Luther King Festival. They were really bothered about the weather and it turned out that there was blue sky (which wasn't forecasted) so many locals participated. A woman who has attended for many years was so worried that because attendance has varied so, that they might not continue the event. A woman attending for the first time gave Char her email address and said to please contact her

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Shrine of the Báb 1909

### Remembering—Caring

"Now I am going to tell you an interesting story about the Nineteen Day Feast. The Feast would be in the same room (next to the Shrine of the Bab) and after the prayers, 'Abdu'l-Baha spoke to us. There would be a big table near the door full of good things, fruits and sweets. 'Abdu'l-Baha Himself would stand next to this table. Then we would come, one by one, He would put some fruit and other good things with His own hands into our hands. We would go out, we would kiss the fruit and eat them and enjoy them. It was very good fruit.

Now one of these Nineteen Day Feasts, I had a young brother. He was only six years old. He was sick and he could not come. But he is a child - and all these people - who would remember him? I thought nobody would remember him. When my turn came, I got my share and kissed it. I was going out to eat it and enjoy it.

'Abdu'l-Baha stopped me. He gave me another share and said, Please give this to your brother who is sick and at home." Oh! You have no idea how happy this made me. That 'Abdu'l-Baha remembered my little brother, without anyone telling Him that he was sick. We didn't! But He knew it. This is 'Abdu'l-Baha!

I was so excited! I wanted to run and tell my father who was outside that 'Abdu'l-Baha remembered my little brother. Before I could move He stopped me again and gave me another one. Guess for whom this one is? He said, "This is for your mamma who stayed home to look after your brother."

You see how thoughtful and kind He is? For everyone. He remembered everyone. And I can tell you - be rest assured that even now if you turn your heart to Him and pray to Him, He will not forget you. Ask for His help and assistance. Please ask for His assistance - especially! He will almost take your hand and show the way to you. It's so beautiful, so beautiful."

This story of 'Abdu'l-Baha was shared by Mr Aziz Yazdi, retired Counsellor and former member of the International Teaching Centre, at a Baha'i Pre-Youth Winter School held December 6 - 8, 1991 in Puslinch, Ontario, Canada. It is taken from "Parenting in the New World Order", Vol. 1, Issue #6

**Happiness** continued from p 5

for next year. The Crescent Youth Dancers kept saying they are so pleased we're having this. Great teaching event!

Star mentioned that a gentleman present at her wedding (who usually asks nothing about the Faith), mentioned that "everybody is so happy".

Velma, who lives in a senior residence and frequently hands of The Open Door pamphlets, bought a variety of small, business size cards with select Baha'i Writings on them to give to someone who has done something especially nice. She's handed out over 50 already!

Firuz was at a Socrates Café discussion recently where the topic was individuality. Someone asked "what about individuality and religion?" Firuz was able to talk about being raised as a child to understand the importance of the individual in religion. Also, there is an upcoming topic of Islam and Christianity that will be discussed in the group. The Baha'is in the group have a good relationship with all and it was suggested that maybe he and the new Muslim member of the group could tell about their Faiths.

Nadine shared how a tongue in cheek comment turned into a fireside. A woman reservist, who may be called up (whose husband is serving in Iraq), seemed concerned. Nadine made a comment that if she became a Baha'i, she could apply for non-combatant duty. To her surprise, the woman really wanted to know more about the Faith.

Special Presentation: Charlotte Rickert shared a slide presentation of the recent Martin Luther King celebration in Woodland Park. A great turnout and wonderful opportunity for fellowship and teaching. This was the 10th Annual celebration sponsored by the Baha'is of Woodland Park and Teller County.

## **Cruel Fast Pun Fest**

I don't wish to wine, but starting on sundae it seems that all a number of people (probably those not so well bread) have been sending cereal messages around to their "friends" to remind them of their empty tummies.

This process should be discontinued before it creates a food at the World Centre. It goes against the grain to so torment our friends, so lettuce stop at once.

I have as good a sense of hummus as the next person, yet a pear of my friends have extended my tolerance to its limits with their mouth-watering emails. In pasta years I have found the Fast most pheasant, but now I quail each time I seafood, and bacon in the evenings is quite a chore.

To those whose poultry efforts have failed to make my tummy rumble I have only one thing to say. May you meat with your just desserts!

*Loving Our Way to Cluster A*



## **CO13 Cluster Reflection Meeting Saturday, April 14th 2 to 5 pm**

(followed by a potluck dinner)

**Activities provided for children!**

Come Celebrate the goals met and each other! Bring any pictures of Core Activities to share (we'll make a collage board to display).

## **An Athiest is questioned**

An anecdote is related by Guy Murchie `about Charles Boyle, the fourth Earl of Orrery, who flourished in southern Ireland early in the eighteenth century — and of the theorem that bears his name. Having heard of Kepler's famous discovery of the laws of planetary motion and of Newton's recent work on gravitation, Lord Orrery had a working model of the solar system built inside his castle. It was an extraordinary, dynamic and up-to-date piece of clockwork with orbital hoops and a brass sun in the center

plus smaller globes representing Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn slowly revolving around it, even a moon circling the Earth and four little ones going around Jupiter.

`But it seems that Lord Orrery had an atheist friend who had an utterly materialistic outlook and thought of the universe as just an immense moving system of natural machinery that somehow coasts along, blindly

but automatically maintaining itself with-out benefit of consciousness, mind or intelligence of any kind. So when the friend heard tell of Orrery's new and wonderful machine, he lost no time in going to the castle to see it. Entering the great hall where the model was in operation, the atheist's eyes widened with awe and the first question he asked Lord Orrery was: "Where did you get this magnificent thing? Who made it?"

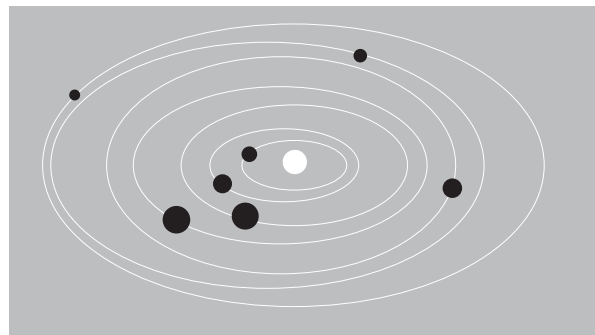
`But Orrery, remembering previous

arguments with the atheist surprised him by replying, "Nobody made it. It just happened".

"How could that be?" retorted the atheist. "Surely

these intricate gears and wheels couldn't create themselves. Who made them?"

`Lord Orrery stood his ground, insisting that his model of the solar system had just happened by itself. Meantime, the atheist worked himself into a state of hysterical frustration. Then at last, judging the time was ripe, Orrery let him have it. "Up to now", he declared, "I was testing you. Now I am going to offer you a bargain. I will promise to tell you truly who made my





little sun and planets down here as soon as you tell me truly Who made the infinitely bigger, more wonderful and more beautiful real sun and planets up there in the heavens".

“The atheist turned a little pale and, for the first time, began to wonder whether the Universe could really have made itself, or possibly be running all this time automatically and unguided by the slightest twinge of intelligence. And this was the origin of the Orrery Theorem which says: "If the model of any natural system requires intelligence for its creation and its working, the real natural system requires at least as much intelligence for its own creation and working." [The Seven Mysteries of Life, p.611]

This anecdote is suggestive not so much for its persuasiveness, as for that subtle irony which is a distinctive feature of anyone who has attained a universal view of life and existence and consequently to a serenity, which we think — because Bahá'u'lláh states it — to be man's birthright. [For an explanation of the concept that happiness is a human birthright See G. Townshend, *The Mission of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp.88] Any other outlook is conducive only to fruitless and unacceptable pessimism, or at most to agnosticism, which we accept only as a refuge where clever minds may withdraw, when they do not meet or recognize anything worthy of their trust during their lives. But it is only a pause, a limbo whence they must sooner or later emerge to face with all its implications the inescapable task of finding an answer to the great existential questions of life, lest other forces prevail. Such forces, denying the transcendental worlds, deprive life of its meaning and human values of their pregnancy, and reduce man to being satisfied with considering himself an intelligent animal and thus becoming the most foolish of all living creatures — a creature who prefers to be even as his inferiors, who stupidly upholds and sanctions a society poisoned by competition and war. Whereas the concepts of the atom and of evolution, as explained in the Bahá'í texts, are in themselves a mighty trace of God in this phenomenal world, a trace which it is worthwhile following if that 'knowledge of God' [Gleanings, p.5] in which all things begin is to be attained.



Shari Meyer, Auxiliary Board Member for Propagation serving Utah and Colorado

## A Child shall Lead Them

Shari Meyer, ABM Utah & Colorado for Propagation tells this story of a Baha'i from Wyoming. This lady has a family and got onboard with the last five year plan. This family got together to consult on what they were going to do with Ruhi Training. Wyoming has very few Baha'is and they are widely separated so it would be very difficult for them to complete the sequences of courses. The consultation brought about having Dru, the mother of the family, become a book 7 trainer so she can lead the people in Wyoming. This was quite a challenge for this family. So Mom had to go do the Ruhi thing and left behind her working husband and the children to care for each other and the house. When she heard that Book 7 was being done in Salt Lake she wanted to take part in spite of the fact that it would be done over three weekends. While she was in Salt Lake Dru told this story. While she was doing Book 3 she needed to do this practice class with children. Her daughter being 17 she knew she would need to look elsewhere. Well, elsewhere happened to be found at the school where her husband was the principal. So Dru went up to this lady and explained that she needed a child to practice her techniques on and would she be willing to loan her child to this project. The lady said, "Sure."

So she starts these lessons with 6 or 8 year old child. After three lessons this child goes to her mother and says, :Mom, you need to go to these lessons too." So the Mom asks Dru if she can. Dru begins a Ruhi 1 class and asks this lady if she knows anyone who would like to join her in the class. She said yes this lady I work with would like too. So Dru has the little six year old in one class and these two women in Ruhi 1 class. About half way through the mom asked Dru, "Do we have to wait until we complete the book before we can become Baha'is?" So these ladies declare and another Baha'i family moves into the community and they reach nine members by Ridvan.

Our campaign theme until Ridvan will be "Loving our Way to Cluster A". The theme focuses on the importance of creating a loving



environment in our community as we strive to meet the goals of the 5 Year Plan.

Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Colorado Springs  
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Many thoughts as the Baha'is attend meeting with guests Shari Meyers ABM for propagation and Elham Simmons, Office of Cluster Advancement Coordinator