

The BAHÁ'Í Connection

April 1992

The Newsletter for the Bahá'ís of Southeastern Colorado

Calendar of
EVENTS

Hand of the Cause William Sears enters Abhá Kingdom

The following is from the National Spiritual Assembly:
March 25, 1992
To the American Bahá'í Community
Dear Friends:

We are profoundly grieved to announce the passing this morning of the dearly loved Hand of the Cause of God William Sears.

Words cannot begin to express the depth of our love for him or the extent of our appreciation for his lifetime of service to the cause and to the American Bahá'í community. In describing Mr. Sears, the following words of Bahá'u'lláh come immediately to mind: "That one indeed is a man who, today, dedicateth himself to the service of the entire human race." William Sears' dedication to that standard was exemplified by his service as a Knight of Bahá'u'lláh in the pioneering field, as an author of books promoting the Faith and inspiring us to greater victories, as a "spiritual grandfather" to generations of Bahá'í children and most important, as a Hand of the Cause of God tirelessly encouraging the friends and promoting the Faith.

The American Bahá'í community will forever remember its champion crusader, a "fellow warrior" who reminded us of the Victory Promises and called us to "arise reach individual souls everywhere."

We ask you to join us in prayers for the progress of his loving soul and for the ease of the hearts of his children and of his eternal companion Marguerite.

National Spiritual Assembly of
The Bahá'ís of the United States
Robert C. Henderson
Secretary-General

Ridván in the Holy Year

O ye beloved, and ye handmaids of the Merciful! This is the day when the Day-Star of Truth rose over the horizon of life, and its glory spread, and its brightness shone out with such power that it clove the dense and high-piled clouds and mounted the skies of the world in all its splendour. Hence do ye witness a new stirring through all created things.

Selected Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá p 110 no. 73

LSA Elections this Month

Election of LSAs between sunset April 20 and Sunset April 21

It is incumbent upon each local Bahá'í community having more than nine adult members to hold an annual election meeting. All members of the community, adult and youth, should be invited to attend.

-Schedule the meeting to take place during the period between sunset on 20 April and Sunset 21 April. An annual election meeting held at any other time is invalid.

-Determine the place of the meeting.

-Notify all voting members (those 21 and over) of the time and place of the annual election meeting at least 15 days in advance.

King Family Departs for Italy

David, Tammy, Jamal & Zachary King of El Paso County East leave for Italy soon. David, who is in the Army, has been reassigned to a small military installation on the north western coast of Italy.

We wish you a Bon Voyage and a sincere thanks for your efforts for the Faith. Ciao!

Ski Trip Report

Our ski trip to Monarch was a success. We raised \$60 each, just enough for the trip.

The snow was perfect and we skied all day. Afterwards we drove to Mt. Princeton Hot Springs and sat under the hot water as the snow fell around us. 8 pre-youth attended.

I want to thank everyone who supported our fundraisers: Auction and Ayyám-i-Há dance.

Thanks, Sierra VanManen

Colorado Springs

Feasts:

Thursday, Apr. 9, PPMHC

Potluck Dinner 6:15

Please Come Join Us, Please remember to bring utensils and tasty morsels. Its fun!

Thursday, Apr. 9, PPMHC
Feast at 7:15

Please remember everyone should try to bring items for the social portion of feast.

El Paso County

Feasts:

Thursday, Apr. 9, Stamats

Manitou Springs

Feasts:

Things for Everyone

Boulder: John Hatcher to
Speak at Conference. also

Addressing National Minority Problems in Eastern Europe: the case of Central European for Business and Education by Mr. Gabor a Baha'i from Hungary & Bahá'u'lláh, The Promised One of all Ages by Dr. D. Troxell

Call Marty McCloskey (303) 673-9850 for specific locations.

April Jalál-Glory Apr. 9 Jamál-Beauty Apr. 28			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 FEAST	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	ELECTIONS 1st Day ridván	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	FEAST 29 9th Day ridván	30		

So You Want to Teach?

Thoughts to Ponder, Notes from Sharon Babbitt

1. **Are you in a rut?** How much more will you dig before it is a grave?
2. **When will you die?** Have you reached the first quarter of your life span?
Have you reached mid life?
How many years do you have left to teach?
What can you still achieve?
Which talents do you possess to use for teaching?

Consider this and memorize:

Night hath succeeded day, and day hath succeeded night, and the hours and moments of your lives have come and gone, and yet none of you hath, for one instant, consented to detach himself from that which perisheth. Bestir yourselves, that the brief moments that are still yours may not be dissipated and lost. Even as the swiftness of lightening your days shall pass and your bodies laid to rest beneath a canopy of dust. What can ye then achieve? How can ye atone for your past failure?

Baha' u' llah, Baha'i World Faith, page 116

3. **Time is running out!** The clock is ticking! Watch an hourglass: the sands pours more quickly toward the end. Don't race with time when the end is near. Teach now!
4. **Prayer Power!** Keep a list of "contacts" or "hopefuls" inside your prayer book. Hand of the Cause Mr. Khadem recommended that we recite (aloud) the Midnight Prayer and then read (aloud) these names.
5. **Invite Guests to a Fireside.** First, serve the "bare bones", i.e. the basic beliefs or principles of the Faith. If your guests are still "hungry", serve the meat (go into more detail). If your guests are not starved, don't serve a seven-course meal (history, principles, details), but don't "water it down" until there is no leavening left! Save something for dessert (the next fireside).
6. **Keep a list of the names of those who declare** (that you helped to teach). When you feel discouraged about your teaching efforts, look at the list. Feel success! Plant "seeds"! Water them with friendship.
7. **We can't afford to "rest on our oars".** Keep on "rowing" (teaching) even if it seems you "aren't getting anywhere". Even the ripples in the stream will have their effect, if you'll only move your oars. Remember: "Each one Teach one" ...and watch the number of of Baha'is double each year!
8. **Rely upon God, the Concourse, the Messengers of the Past, & the Dawnbreakers.** Call upon these sources in time of need and for assistance with teaching.
9. **Believe!** How do you hope to "connect" if there is no direct circuit to the source of Power? Prayer is the conduit. If the channel becomes clogged or rusty, the "juice" energy flow won't reach you.
10. **Throw out the life line. This is a life or death matter.** Without offering the Faith and sharing it with others they will drown. At this point in history, people need heavy-duty life rafts. They aren't grasping for whoopee cushions! Let's get down to business-our business is teaching!

TIMELY TIDBITS AND TIPS FOR TEACHING Systematic Teaching- Organize your Daytimer or Calendar

- First**, fill in the Baha'i Dates on your Daytimer/Calendar
- Second**, schedule your regular teaching activities
- Third**, make note of teaching projects in your District at goal cities, extension teaching goals, DTC, LSA projects, Teaching Institutes, etc.
- Fourth**, schedule your "Nineteen Day Firesides" at your home
- Fifth**, plan a Unity Feast with your Assembly, Group or Community.
- Sixth**, make time for community service and volunteer work in your city.
- Seventh**, record regular meetings of your clubs and organizations.
- Eight**, make note of special community events (Fairs, Parades, etc.)
- Ninth**, pencil in birth dates of your friends and make them feel special!

Teaching Tips

1. **Pray** -The Power of Divine Assistance-*Meditate*
2. **Please** -How to Win Friends and Influence People
3. **Visualize** -never let go of your dreams
4. **Interact** -Be a Friend and You will have Friends-Become a Magnet-by deepening with the "Creative Word"
5. **Invite** -make the first move-"Bait the Hook!"
6. **Budget your time** -teaching, fun, rest, invest
7. **Diversify** -concentrate your efforts on more than one person or groups
8. **Give them Slack** -Don't consider everyone "The Last of The Red Hot Seekers!" If they're chased they'll run away
9. **Drop the Bait** -mention a principle, quotation or belief - at first without mentioning the source. . . wait till they ask . . . then. . .
10. **"Reel Them In!"** -invite them to do something "non-threatening" with you before you take them to a Baha'i meeting. They will let you know when they are ready for more.
11. **"Feed" Them** -Don't give them a Baha'i Book until they ask for one; Find the answers to their questions; Offer them just a little at a time; Foster the friendship
12. **Never Give Up!** -Keep their names on your prayer list year after year
13. **"Hook Them"** -timing is crucial. When your friends indicate to you that they consider themselves seekers, invite them to a Baha'i event that are sure will be irresistible
14. **Don't set time limits.** -the teaching process can take 10 minutes to ten years
15. **Don't open "your can of worms"** -never mention Baha'i practices too soon, i.e.: beliefs that could become a barrier for the the seeker until the seeker asks or seems ready; i.e., fasting, etc. -
16. **Speak English, the common vernacular** -Unless you're addressing an ethnic group in particular. Substitute common terms in place of "Baha'i slang"; say discussion group instead of "fireside", don't use the terms "Contact" or "Seeker", explain UHJ, LSA, DTC, etc. At the beginning explain the "Three Central Figures" individually.

Suggestions for Systematic Teaching *SJB*

1. Schedule a regular event that people can "count on". Stick to a regular pattern so guests know what to expect, example 1. Food followed by 2. fireside followed by 3. fun.
 - a. monthly
 - b. bi-weekly
 - c. weekly

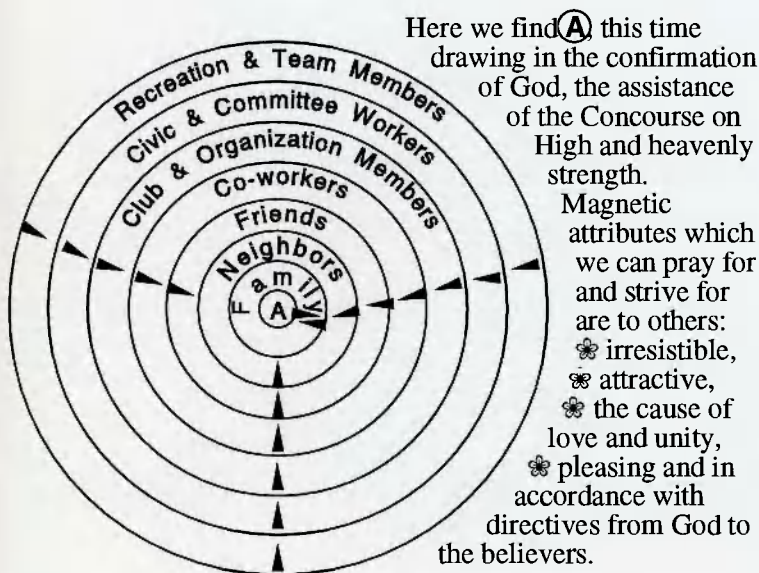
2. Let prayers and inspirations move you to : "*impromptu*" events.
 - a. spur-of-the-moment fun
 - b. go-with-the-flow "celebrations of life"

3. Be innovative and add to this list: "*Getting Together From A to Z*"
 - a. Game Night - table games, cards, charades, etc. (snacks)
 - b. Video Night - rent a movie (popcorn and pop)
 - c. Video Night - Baha'i Newsreels (seekers only)
 - d. Hobby Night - crafts, group project, decorate sweatshirts, etc.
 - e. Guest Speaker - out-of-town Baha'i guests for your friends to meet
 - f. Parties - Treasure Hunt, Solve a Murder, America's Funniest People, etc.
 - g. Camping or Condo Trips - share expenses or take a tent swim, hike, bike, cook, ski, skate, jacuzzi, sing, etc.
 - h. Mountain Outting - jeep, ride, bike, explore, cook out, etc.
 - i. Share a Sport - swim, boat, bowl, surf, golf, volleyball, etc.
 - j. Eat Out - breakfast, brunch, lunch, coffee break
 - k. Eat-In (at your home) - breakfast, brunch, lunch, dinner, cook-out, potluck desserts, buffet, birthday parties, etc.
 - l. Sock Hop - dancing on smooth floor without shoes, Fifties party
 - m. International Dinner Party - Costumes to represent one of many countries, potluck dinner with copies of recipes and international recorded music to set the mood, i.e., Mexican, Italian, Scottish.
 - n. Spud Works - you furnish baked potatoes & have guests bring toppings
 - o. Wok A Chicken (pig, cow, etc.) You furnish a wok and the meat, and guests each bring one ingredient to add to the wok.

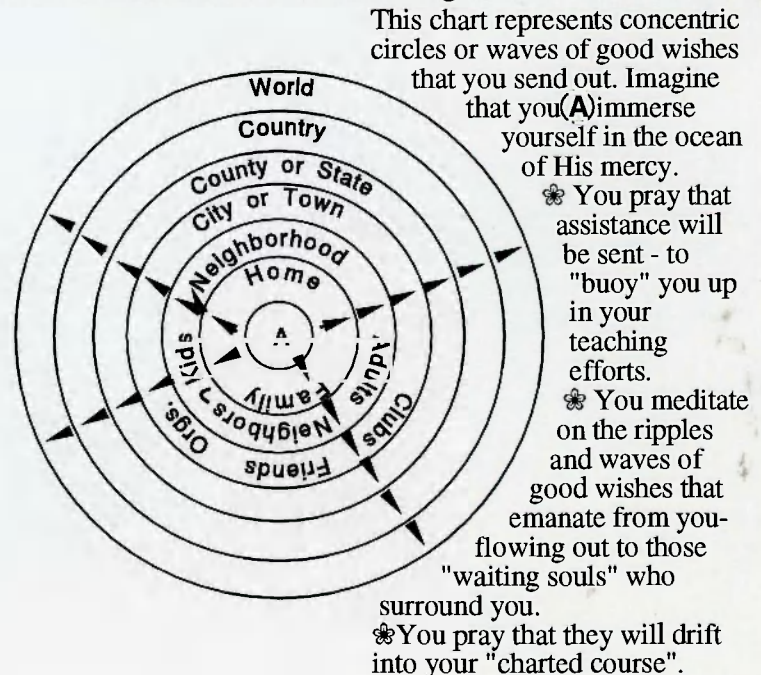
"The magnet which attracts the blessing from on high is teaching the Faith of God."

Shoghi Effendi

The Magnetics of Teaching



The "Circles" of Teaching



Sharon Babbitt

Teaching Deepening Effective, Timely

The Workshop on teaching held during the fast at PPMHC considered a success!

Mark Reddy and Sharon Babbitt lent their time and wisdom to Pikes Peak area Bahá'ís. **Much Thanks!**

They also extend their appreciation to the Deepening Committee and those who provided classes for the children.

They also would like to be apprised of any teaching efforts arising from the workshop. They also appreciate helpful suggestions for future teaching workshops.

Consultation continued

Interrelatedness "Everything in life ministers to our development. Our lesson is to study and learn...Tests are either stumbling blocks or stepping stones, just as we make them." Ten Days in The Light Of Acca p. 10 1979

In the Arabic Hidden Words we can see how God looks at Fault finding. 'O Son of Being; How couldst thou forget thine own faults and busy thyself with faults of others? Who so doeth this is accursed of Me' This is the result of

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fault finding. Who wants to be accursed of God. OFFENSES One Bahá'í gesture to throw something over his shoulder and says, "Praise or Blame, I treat them all the same. I say Thank you, then give them to Baha'u'lláh and think:"Ya Baha'u'l-Abha" Because everything I do is for Baha'u'llah, so what do I care if they don't like it. I give the blame and praise to Baha'u'llah They're His! That precious soul harbors no grievances" Rule of the Sea Who has control must turn First.

ACTIONS

- 1> Do not resign no. 36
- 2> Do not take sides
- 3> Consult about it. It is best to forget it but if it is persistent then it may be necessary to confront the situation with Utmost Tact, Care, Patience, Love are required.
- 4> Pray for Unity
- 5> Resolve differences. Especially if it is between two parties.
- 6> Exercise patience and long-suffering [These are real virtues]
- 7> Intervene those not involved in the discord should take an active measure in intervening to resolve lingering issues without hurt feelings
- 8> Problems are shortened by acts of kindness. People are reluctant to act friendly when they do not feel friendly but this is from a position of ego, self righteousness, and should be turned around because both will be helped by this attitude change. Consultation Improving the Skills.

First what are the skills

Talking beyond being distinct, clear, loud there are these:

1. Speak to the point. Not hedging, hinting, being obscure or coy, using indirect or veiled language invites misunderstandings. Be logical, concise, simple and relate the subject, be specific.

2. Feelings Count. Express feelings even if you do not have a clear understanding of them.

3. Background. Giving extra information may be tedious or counter productive but sometimes it is necessary to illustrate what you are saying. It is not convince others only to illustrate your understanding.

4. Speak to everyone. If everyone does not understand you then a decision will be inferior, because they are ill informed.

5. Courtesy. Basic respect should always be apparent even with strong differences of opinion. Courtesy is a measure of how much Baha'u'llah's teachings have touched our heart. Speak as Abdu'l- Baha was present.

Listening Creatively listening is an undeveloped skill of man. Creative listening is listening for an intended and specific reason. Listen as if you cared. It is only fair to listen to others who you want to listen you. Indifference, preoccupation, fidgeting are sure to reduce the effectiveness of consultation.

A believer reporting to the UHJ felt they were listened to more than anywhere they had been and it improved her quality of reporting.

1. An old adage "A good listener makes a speaker blossom"
2. Listen for feelings. Listen so that the whole mood could be reported to Abdu'l baha accurately.
3. Think about the purpose of consultation. Listen for the relatedness.
4. Do not look for hidden meanings Over analyzation may hamper or lead to diversion not related to the item of consultation.

To be continued. . .

The

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Annual LSA Election Apr 20-21