

The BAHÁ'Í Connection

AUGUST 1992 The Newsletter for the Bahá'is of Southeastern Colorado

Calendar of
EVENTS



Colorado Spring Spree sprung a leak causing a minor delay for their outstanding performance on the sidewalks of Pioneer Plaza.

Don't Rain on My Dance

The Colorado Springs Bahá'í Youth Workshop performed at SpringSpree in Colorado Springs on Saturday, June 27th. We had two performances, both of which gathered considerable crowds. In addition to doing three dances, we performed the sign language to "Listen", and discussed topics of racial, social and sexual unity and materialism according to the Bahá'í perspective. The audience was very receptive to all of these issues. On behalf of the Colorado Springs Bahá'í Youth Workshop, I would like to thank all the Bahá'is who came to support us.

Also the Colorado Springs Bahá'í Youth had a fund raiser during the weekend of June 20th and 21st. While facilitators for the Dialogue: Racism Workshop were meeting in the Fallahi home, the youth provided activities for the children to keep them amused and occupied as their parents were engaged in the meeting.

Arghavan Rahimpour
youth reporter

Great News!

Melonie Housman, wife of Brian Housman of Pueblo, chose to become a Bahá'í on May 14, 1992. Welcome, Welcome, Welcome!

Make Your Summer Fruitful, Fabulous & Fun Attend Summer School

August 14, 15 & 16 at the Paintbrush Ranch near Nederland & Gold Hill outside Boulder. The fees are as follows: \$59.00 for adults 22 and up, free 0-2, \$23.00 3-12, \$46 13-16 and \$50.00 17-21.

Topics

The topics are the Station of Baha'u'llah and the Significance of the Holy Year presented by Mark Reddy & Sharon Babbit. Taraz Samandari will present the topic Ethics & Values in America. Richard Staller will lead a walk with selections from the Holy Writings. Children's class will use special edition of Brilliant Star. Kathy Staller with age 4-5, Barbara Saylor, Sooror Hafezzadeh & Sandra Bolz 6-8, Billy Troxel, Vidal Sabeti 9-11, and Kevin Barnes 12-14.

Attractions:

- Grey Owl and his "Thunder Drum & friends (please bring canned goods, useable clothing & toys for donation to the Indian Reservation)
- Swimming in outdoor pool
- Horseback riding (\$15.00 per person)
- Trout fishing pond

Registration **HURRY** contact:

John Bolz, 345 London Ave.,
Lafayette CO 80026 or call (303)
666-9275.

Colorado Springs

Feasts:

Wednesday, August 1, 10:00 am at the home of Zia Rahimpour, 4845 Crimson Circle South. Hosted by the Youth.

Thursday, August 20, 7:15 PPMHC Potluck at 6:15

Monday, September 7, 7:15 PPMHC Potluck at 6:15

El Paso County

Feasts:

7:30 August 1,
7:30 August 20, Stamats Home

for Everyone

Summer School August 13-16

Look for purple information sheet in the mail and article this issue.

80th year of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Visit
Glenwood Springs, September 12-13

** Special Meeting **

Aug 9, 9:30-11:30am Special meeting to discuss information found on page 2 this newsletter and Racism from NSA.

District Convention October 4

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		①	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
②	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

☐ Holy Day on which work should be suspended
○ Feast Days is usually observed on preceding evening.

To Every Member of The American Bahá'í Community: Things You Should Know!

Recent History

Contributions(\$ thousands)	April 1990	April 1991	April 1992	2-Yr. Avg Chg%	Special Meeting
Bahá'í National Fund	\$7,763	\$10,704	\$10,377	17%	Aug 9, 9:30-11:30am Special meeting to discuss information set forth here and racism. Please come!
Bahá'í International Fund	\$ 601	\$ 668	\$ 1,114	39%	
Arc Projects Fund	\$2,195	\$ 3,184	\$ 1,311	- 7%	
Continental Bahá'í Fund	\$ 347	\$ 276	\$ 179	-28%	
Total	\$10,906	\$14,832	\$12,981	-12%	

Honor Roll

Local Assemblies	721	734	780
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Automatic Contribution

Individuals	3,962	3,988	3,693
Assemblies	368	417	418
Groups	50	60	62
Total Contributions	\$2,305,440	\$2,572,548	\$2,497,164
Percentage of Total Expenses	16%	16%	14%

Issue for Consultation

These events have catapulted the American Bahá'í Community into the forefront of the most important issue facing our nation today, namely the establishment of true unity. We will in all likelihood experience an upsurge of public interest in the Cause of God unsurpassed in our history.

We earnestly request that you consider and consult upon this crucial question: What is the befitting spiritual and material response of each believer, as a member of the pre-eminent community in the Bahá'í world, to these circumstances?

Where Are We Today?

A series of developments here and abroad have **irreversibly increased the demands on the community's resources, spiritual, human and material:**

- A message from the Universal House of Justice in May reiterated the critical situation of the international funds of the faith, in light of the requirements of the Arc Projects and of specific growth opportunities around the world
- The National Spiritual Assembly has focused on race unity as the paramount strategic objective for the American Bahá'í Community
- The US House of Representatives has passed, with broad bi-partisan support, an historic resolution calling for the emancipation of the Persian Bahá'í Community
- Local goals for the Bahá'í National Fund represent each Assembly's role in supporting the Administrative Order; 1,161 Local Spiritual Assemblies received suggested goals for the year, while only 180 have responded with commitments of \$1.8 million, or 11% of the projected annual budget
- Credit lines available to the Assembly are almost fully used because essential expenses such as the National Assembly's pledge to the International Fund, administrative costs of the World Congress and the Temple work have outpaced contribution cash flow
- The National Spiritual Assembly is concluding a review of its national organization with the intention of further reducing expenses
- A National Assembly plan is taking shape which will build on a united community's economic and spiritual strengths

The foregoing illustrates the dynamic of crisis and victory so vividly described by Shoghi Effendi. Moreover, within just one year, we have seen:

- The issuance of one of the most widely-distributed, well-received documents in Bahá'í history, The Vision of Race Unity: America's Most Challenging Issue
- The completion of the Models of Unity study
- A valiant response by numerous Bhaá'í communities to the May riots, led by Los Angeles itself
- Expressions of interest in Bahá'í strategies for oneness by national and local leaders and distinguished private institutions
- The publication of an open letter to President Bush setting forth our principles of oneness

NEW JOHN THE BAPTIST PREACHING UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD

Abdul Ba-ha, Patriarchal Head of Bahaists in Denver

With Message of Love and Justice to All and for All

Venerable, Impressive and Imposing Figure From Oriental Lands Comes to Give, Asking Nothing But to Be Heard.

BY ALICE ROHE.

A venerable man-like, a patriarch of old his gray beard falling upon his breast, his white locks surmounted by a white turban, his erect figure draped in the flowing garments of Persia, this is Abdul Ba-ha, Abbas Effendi "Servant of God," teacher of universal religion, universal peace, universal brotherhood.

When I say this is Abdul Ba-ha, the statement refers only to the first fleeting impression of this head of the Bahai movement, who is in Denver spreading the message of brotherly love of the universal religion, which will be the foundation of interreligious, interracial and international brotherhood.

For when this aged man-whose presence in the dominant personality defies age-speaks, when the keen dark eyes become afire with the words he utters the first impression of Abdul Ba-ha becomes but a superficial one. Yesterday afternoon at the Shirley hotel, surrounded by a staff of attendants, chief of whom is the vividly intelligent and finely educated Dr. Ameen U. Fareed, I was thrilled for an hour by the flow of sonorous words that rolled from the lips of this man of the Orient, who has a message for all this world.

Not understanding a word that Abdul Ba-ha said in his native tongue, the calm of "the master," broken at times by an impetuous rardor as he raised small slender hands in expressing a thought his words quickly translated with a beautiful understanding by Dr. Fareed gave to the interview an impressiveness that is seldom possible when interpretation from one language to another is necessary.

The son of Baha'o'llah, whose coming "the Bab" foretold Abdul Ba-Ha brings the message from his father, the founder of the Bahai movement.

Underlying Love of Humanity
The most impressive feeling that one receives in talking to this patriarchal messenger from Persia is his broad humanity-his love of humankind underlying the deep spirituality of his teaching and his deep love of God in whom is all knowledge.

Yesterday afternoon, listening to the rolling sentences quickly translated by Dr. Fareed, the interruption of an afternoon tea drinking according to American custom would have been extremely incongruous.

But this man of deep sympathies, who shrinks from exploitation of his own personality, who wishes to get the message of brotherly love, of unity to all mankind, is as simple as only dignity and nobility of character understands simplicity.

The conversation of Abdul Ba-Ha did not even stop even as we drank our Persian tea together. And for the benefit of tea drinkers, let me add that he has sipped this fragrant tea of Persia served in small glasses, pored over two lumps of sugar and stirred with a tiny spoon on a plate of Persian design-one has never tasted tea.

Then it was the aroma of that fragrant tea permeating the room with a soft and subtle perfume that Abdul Ba-ha shed more light upon the Bahai movement of which he is the present head and which has witnessed the martyrdom of "the Bab" and the forty years' imprisonment and exile of Ba-ha'o'llah.

Broad and Sweeping Philosophy.

Questions concerning the actions of progressives and reformers, of the woman's suffrage movement being but an outcome of the teachings of Bahaiism, were answered but in broad, sweeping philosophy of Abdul Ba-Ha's own style:

"The contingent world is typical of man as the microcosm, the human organism. Just as the microcosm, the human organization, goes through successive embryonic steps beginning with embryonic origin, through the foetal stages of maturity, likewise does this contingent world. In man we find in the period of maturity unfolding signs of intelligence and the virtuous characteristic of the world of humanity. Therefore we can say that the development of man from the beginning was a preparation for the laying of a foundation, for the culminating event which was intellectuality. All these physical processes expressed in metabolism are for the same purpose of ripening into a reasonable being. The reason of mind in the human world is the great goal toward which organisms work. The greatest of all reforming movements appeared bearing the same relation to the world at large as the mind in maturity bears to the human being. This was no other than the coming of Baha'o'llah. Bahaiism appeared in the Orient and

ABDUL ALLAHO ABHA, Persian prophet and apostle of the Baha'ullah religion and his retinue, after their arrival in Denver yesterday. Left to right: Mirja Mohmoul, the scribe; Fingeta, the Japanese cook; Ahmad Sohrab, Abdul Ba-ha, Dr. Ameen U. Fareed, the interpreter, and Sayid Asad O'llah.



founded the divine civilization, because civilization is of two kinds, material and divine, natural civilization and the civilization of the kingdom.

"Inasmuch as these constitute a great issue which transpired in this century, the manifestation of Baha'o'llah in the East was like the dawn of the sun, was like the dawn of the great mind. And it revolutionized the Oriental world. The development is like unto a tree. It has put out leafage and branches and has blossomed. But like the tree, all these are only the beginnings preparatory to fruitage."

Teaches Universal Council

As Abdul Ba-ha spoke leaning back in a chair drawn near the window of his room in this hotel he glanced from the rain flecked leaves of a swaying tree skating its branches near the panes of glass. The gray bearded man with the message of universal religion wrinkled his high forehead at times and occasionally closed his eyes as though looking into the future for the realization of the message which he believes is finding material ground for fruitage in America.

"Among the teaching of Bah'o'llah," he said, "is that of a universal council. Indeed the father of Abdul Ba-Ha-the promised one of whom the Bab prophesied to come bearing the divine truth-met imprisonment and exile through his teaching of universal justice."

"His teachings are for a universal council among all races, for all nations, for all religions."

Abdul Ba-Ha then spoke of his father with an added reverence in his voice.

"Fifty years ago Baha'o'llah wrote to all the kings and crowned heads of the earth presenting the need of the world for a court of justice, the members of which shall be elected delegates representing all nations and governments of the world. The parliament of every nation must have two delegates elected at large, the nation whereof the world's court shall be composed."

"All international disputes and inter-governmental problems shall be presented for settlement to this court of justice."

"If in case a nation should go contrary to the decrees and court the world, if humanity would arise against the rebel power."

"This was declared fifty years ago by Baha'o'llah. His addresses were published in India, and were spread all over the continent. However, the royalty of Persia arose against Baha'o'llah, being of the deepest despotic form of government. For fifty years he endured horrible ordeals. He was either in exile or prison, but through the power of the Holy spirit he spread through the world his teachings."

Abdul Ba-Ha was a young boy when his father first threw him into prison, and the gray-haired man who is now in Denver himself, suffered forty years along with his father, imprisonment and exile, receiving from the head of the Bahaiism his instructions.

"Religion ought to be the cause of love," he continued. "The foundation of Divine religion is love. Hence it must be ever the cause of love and fellowship among men. And if religion proves the cause of hatred and enmity, and a factor in murder and rapine, it is better to do without it."

The son of Baha'o'llah speaks always of his beliefs as being the teaching of his father. A favorite way of making his statements is:

"Among the teachings of Baha'o'llah is that relating to a universal language, which shall be the means of international communication. He speaks for a general spirit of education. It is the duty of a father to educate his children. If he cannot, then it is the duty of the body politic to educate the child."

Pioneer of Equal Suffrage.

A system of social economy goes hand in hand with the Bahai movement, and interesting it is to note the position of woman in their scheme of life entire. Indeed, the Bahaiists claim the forethought of the equal suffrage movement.

Abdul Ba-Ha, speaking of education, does not hesitate to say, since women are the mothers of the race, a father who has not money enough to educate both boys and girls, should choose daughters as the recipients of culture.

Speaking of civilization, natural and divine, Abdul Ba-Ha says that the natural is not sufficient for it tends toward bodies, while divine civilization is on the realm of morality. Were it not for divine civilization the world of men would be akin to animals. All the divine, holy manifestations were the founders of the godlike civilization. The first and foremost of such a civilization was Jesus Christ.

Asked whether he thought woman with her awakened responsibilities and realization of her own individual rights would be largely instrumental in the regeneration of society Abdul Ba-ha said:

"The accomplishments of wonderful women in our own times gives us the keen anticipation of many extraordinary

women in the future. So far as equality is concerned, both men and women must be equal. Men and women are as wings bearing humanity aloft. If one wing is weak the flight is hampered. Both wings must be equally strong in order that the bird may take its way to progress. Therefore, as women become peers of men the world of humanity will soar."

And Abdul Ba-Ha sees no reason that woman is not man's equal. As the mind and the soul are sexless so there should be no discrimination except those dependent upon frailty physique concerning women. Women, he believes, having having sensibilities, finer intuitive powers, are often man's superiors.

Science and religion, instead of being conflicting, Abdul Ba-Ha compares to the same simile as that used for men and women-both are as wings of the same truth.

The broadness of his views and the desire toward universal religion-a oneness of mankind accepts all religions. His philosophy is that, as there is but one God which all religions worship-why not throw aside the symbols, the theories, the differences which but turn the straight path toward God in diverse directions.

Bahaiism is not a cult, it is not a doctrine-it is a message, a desire to blend all religions, to smooth away the rough edges of differences that creak. Abdul Baha has spoken in the big churches of New York city, he has addressed the men of the Bowery mission, he has talked before the Theosophical society in Chicago, he will talk in the Divine Science Church in Denver. Indeed, he is a man of all religions, seeing good in all who worship God. He is a Christian in that he believes in the teachings of Christ, Christ, to the Bahaiist, is a manifestation of the divine spirit. This spirit manifests itself from time to time. Baha'o'llah is the last manifestation.

Abdul Baha takes to himself no divinity. He is merely the messenger of his father's teaching of universal

peace, brotherhood and religion.

This patriarchal man of Persia, with the face that, is now overcast with thought, was lighted by a kindly feeling of friendship, was born in Persia on the twenty-third of May, 1844, the day upon which "the Bab" prophet of the coming manifestations of the divine spirit made his declarations to his disciples at Shiraz.

His father, Baha'o'llah, was one of the richest and most noble families of Persia. Baha'o'llah never met "the Bab," the prophet who told of the coming of the greater teacher, whose mission would be that of establishing the universal religion, the Brotherhood of Man.

Has Been Head Twenty Years.

The Bab suffered martyrdom along with thousands of his followers and shortly after Baha'o'llah appeared, his mission lasting forty years. He died in 1892, and since then the man who is now in Denver has been at the head of the Bahaiist movement.

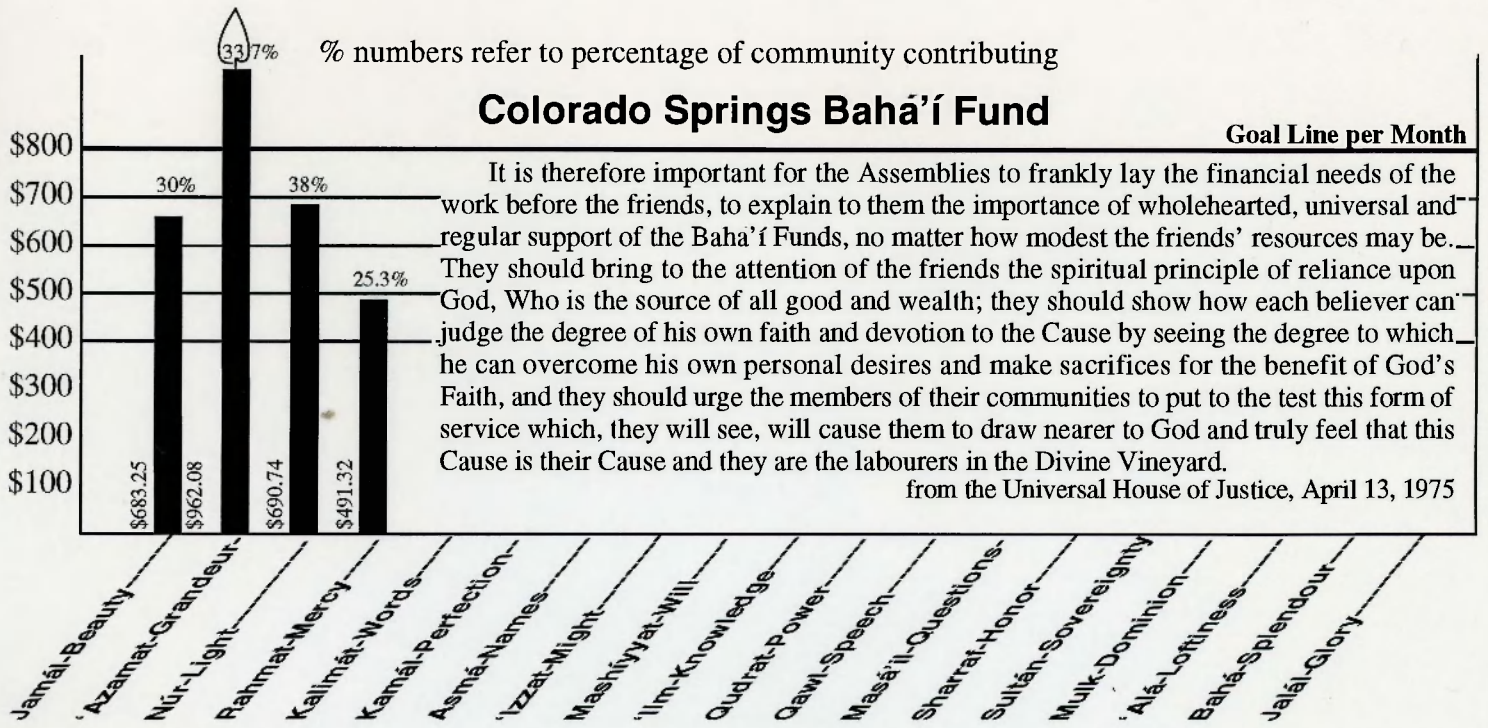
This venerable man whose only wish is to be known as the servant of humanity, has led a life which has been one continual dispensing of good. Charity flows from his finger tips. And the practical demonstration of brotherly love is his. Recently in New York quite unostentatiously he gave away \$200 in quarters to the poor at the Bowery mission.

He teaches that the root of all knowledge is the knowledge of God. And when he teaches it is not for gain.

The remarkable thing about the Bahaiist movement is that the teachings are altruistic- Abdul Ba-Ha receives nothing- he gives always. He does not believe in a paid priesthood and his social and economic doctrine is that no human being should look to others for his maintenance.

He gives freely of his teachings of a universal religion-a universal brotherhood-a oneness of the world.

The followers of Abdul Ba-Ha number 200 in Denver. Last night he gave the first of his talks at the home of Mrs. S. E. Roberts on Sherman street.



Please consider contributing and send contribution to: Sadat Ostovar, 4745 S. Carefree, Colorado Springs, CO 80917. For El Paso County East send to: Bonnie Rouhani, 490 Dix, Colorado Springs, CO 80911.

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Contributions to offset publication costs and mailing should be sent to Sadat Ostovar, 4745 S. Carefree Colorado Springs, CO 80917. The cost of producing each newsletter is currently \$6.00 annually.

The Goggans' Family move to Home on the Range.

After several years of livin' the life o' city slickers they have moved to Falcon and now are a part of El Paso County East. Welcome to the County. We have a lot of work to do here, too. 'Abdu'l-Bahá's

Newspaper Article Replicated to mark 80th Anniversary His Colorado Visit

This article is not a facsimile, but every effort has been made to accurately copy this article, including typos, and spelling differences. The original is nearly 3 times bigger therefore it is difficult read in its shrunken form. I hope you try reading it anyway.

The Ed.

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