

Petition from Baghdad Baha'is to US

Being a petition sent by the Baha'is of Baghdad, Iraq in 1867 to the United States Government

In 1867 the considerable number of Baha'is remaining in Baghdad, four years after Baha'u'llah's exile to Constantinople [Istanbul] and hence to Adrianople [Edirne], petitioned the United States Congress for assistance for Baha'u'llah's release and for assistance for the Baha'is in general. The twenty-four line petition was signed with ringstone emblems by 53 Baha'is in Baghdad on March 16, 1867. It reached the United States Consul General's office in Beirut, Syria on April 3, 1867*.

From there it finally reached the Secretary of State Seward's office in the United States in July of that year.

Here, for the first time, is the English translation of the petition made at the time, including cover letter, as researched in the United States Federal Archives. At this time it is not known if the petition received a written reply or what other documents in the Archives may be found pertaining to the matter. Further investigation may reveal more. It is not known if the original petition remains in the U.S. Federal Archives, however, microfilm of the original and the English translation is available.

*According to the Rev. Henry Jessup who mentions the petition in his book "Fifty-three Years in Syria, Volume I, p.329, it was mailed from Baghdad to Beirut by a German traveler who had enclosed it with his letter that was heading the same direction. It is not known at this time who that German may have been.

According to Jessup, "one of the documents appended to the petition is signed with a Free Masonic Seal".

This appended document has yet to be located.

Submitted by
 Rob Stauffer

Petition from the Persian Reformers
 United States National Archives
 Record Group 59 (State Department)
 T 367 Roll 5

U.S. Consulate General, Beirut, Syria
 1867 Received J. Smith, [stamped:
 Secretary of State, July 24, '67]
 [from] Beirut [to] Bethany, West Virginia,
 July 22, 1867 Hon. W.H. Seward

Lakota woman elected to head U.S. Baha'is' National Assembly

Posted: June 11, 2007
 by: David Melmer for *Indian Country Today*

Jacqueline Left Hand Bull-Delahunt



RAPID CITY, S.D. - Jacqueline Left Hand Bull-Delahunt has been chosen as the first American Indian woman to head the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States.

Left Hand Bull-Delahunt, a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, was brought up by traditional Lakota grandparents and parents. She became a member of the Baha'is more than 20 years ago.

The change to the Baha'is was not a large leap for Left Hand Bull-Delahunt. The spirituality is very similar to that of her Lakota upbringing, she said.

"I knew about the beauty and power of our traditional ways and the Catholic Church could not accommodate them," she said. "I was always a little bit confused. Then I heard about the Baha'i faith."

Left Hand Bull-Delahunt was elected at the annual National Spiritual Assembly gathering in Wilmette, Ill. She had served as vice chairman of the organization, and also served on the National Spiritual Assembly. She traveled the globe meeting with indigenous peoples in South and Central America and in Canada; she also visited the former Soviet Union.

She is currently the administrative officer of the Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairmen's Health Board in Rapid City.

Left Hand Bull-Delahunt worked for the Baha'is at the national center and was appointed to the committee on American Indian teaching, where she was a liaison to the many American Indians who had become Baha'is.

When she was introduced to the assembly, she was greeted with a rousing ovation that lasted about 10 minutes.

"Everybody was electrified and it sounded as if they were thrilled. ... I think the significance wasn't so much [for] me

A quotation from a sermon of the Imam Ali, the son-in-law and immediate successor of the Prophet Muhammad

Quoted from a Shiah Muslim website:

"Certainly, a time will come upon you after me when nothing will be more concealed than rightfulness, nothing more apparent than wrongfulness and nothing more current than untruth against Allah and His Prophet. For the people of this period nothing will be more valueless than the Qur'an being recited as it ought to be recited, nor anything more valuable than the Qur'an being misplaced from its position. And in the towns nothing will be more hated than virtue, nor anything more acceptable than vice.

"The holders of the book will throw it away and its memorisers would forget it. In these days the Qur'an and its people will be exiled and expelled. They will be companions keeping together on one path, but no one will offer them asylum. Consequently at this time the Qur'an and its people will be among the people but not among them, will be with them but not with them, because misguidance cannot accord with guidance even though they may be together. The people will have united on division and will therefore have cut away from the community, as though they were the leaders of the Qur'an and not the Qur'an their leader. Nothing of it will be left with them except its name, and they will know nothing save its writing and its words. Before that, they will inflict hardships on the virtuous, naming the latter's truthful views about Allah false allegations, and enforcing for virtues the punishment of the vice."

Source: <http://www.al-islam.org/nahj/default.asp?url=147.htm>

From page 1 Jacqueline Left Hand Bull-Delahunt

personally, but the symbolism of having an America Indian at the head of this assembly," she said.

Left Hand Bull-Delahunt will preside over at least 18 national meetings throughout the year, and will preside over the assembly as only the third woman to do so.

"I am thrilled to know that when we say we believe in the equality of all people, we promote the equality of women and try to undo all traces of racism," she said.

She said that throughout indigenous lands, people that are more traditional seem to connect with the Baha'i faith.

The similarities between the Baha'i faith and that of traditional cultural teachings is, first, the way women were honored, Left Hand Bull-Delahunt said.

"The writings in the sacred text, I can relate to the Sun Dance songs and the fact that people will say, in our culture, that women are sacred.

"Baha'i faith says that in crisis, women have more natural resources to face the crisis," she added.

"Another part of the teaching is that there will not be world peace until the equality of women and men are established, not just theoretical, but established."

Another similarity between the Baha'i faith and American Indian culture is the regard for Mother Earth.

Left Hand Bull-Delahunt will present the point of view of the faith in public meetings.

"We have formal relations with the federal government, as well as the United Nations, and we have a person whose job is to do that. My job would be to talk to the federal government representatives or to the United Nations. I would be part of the group to determine what should be said," she said.

She will have to meet with the members of the National Spiritual Assembly, who she said are very intelligent and have very strong views, to consult and to come to a unified view. A meeting agenda is also put together by the chairman.

"We try to apply those principles from our text to world situations or situations in any of our communities. We spend a lot of time with our youth working in efforts to engage them," she said.

Left Hand Bull-Delahunt earned a bachelor's degree from Evergreen State

College in Washington state with a major in community development. She authored a book for children, "Lakota Hoop Dancer," and has written several short stories.

Left Hand Bull-Delahunt is also a Bordeaux, a Lakota name that is synonymous with education. Her uncle was Adam Bordeaux, a revered spiritual leader on the Rosebud Reservation.

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Jacqueline "Jaci" Ferron Left Hand Bull-Delahunt, 4927 Capital St., Rapid City, SD 57702, email: JLHB@aol.com

POSITIVE SPIN SPELLS TV SUCCESS

BLUMENAO, Brazil, 24 June 2007 (BWNS) -- The host of a long-running television talk show for women, Shideh Granfar, has a simple formula for success: "Keep it positive."

She recalls the time a cockroach crawled out of some food on camera, threatening the reputation of a restaurant being featured on the program.

She quickly turned things around by making a joke of the scene and then pointing the cameras at the not-so-tidy recesses of the studio, thus showing that the cockroach wasn't the restaurateur's fault.

"I explained to the viewers that the food had been here for a long time and that studios are not the cleanest places," she recounts, "and I reassured them that the standards of cleanliness at the restaurant are really different. Then I took the cameraman on a tour of the studio, showing the viewers that even though the

set looks beautiful, the studio is another story.

"The episode was a hit, and everyone was talking about it," she continues. "The restaurant people were happy, too."

Shideh - all the viewers call her by her first name - has hosted more than 500 weekly installments of "Mulheres" (Portuguese for "Women") for TV Galega, and this year she was cited by the local office of the Brazilian National Commercial Training Service for outstanding service by a woman in the field of communication and the arts.

"Shideh is one of those people that we always want to have around us: for her laughter, for her sparkle, for her manner of assuming there is a solution to everything - that the hard way is simply the 'least easy' way," said Valther Ostermann, a prominent local newspaper columnist who spoke at the

THINK SUMMER SCHOOL!

Bahá'í Connection

**PUBLICATION: MONTHLY
VOL. 22 ISSUE 07**

Contributions/Subscriptions to offset publication costs and mailing should be sent to Larry Barnes, 5690 Del Paz Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80918. The cost of producing each newsletter is currently \$8.00 per year.

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:

Richard Stamats
705 Drew Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80911
(719) 391-2541
FAX- (719) 391-2541 *51
EMAIL: rstamats@gmail.com

Published by

The Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Colorado Springs,
5690 Del Paz Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80918

Please send all address changes to assembly address.

*There is no copyright,
but please include source.*

Secretary of State:
Sir:

I have the honor to enclose herewith a petition with translation, from a reformed community in Persia, who represent that more than thirty thousand of their body have been massacred by the Persian government, and that about forty thousand remain on the borders of that country. They further represent that their leader is now held a prisoner at Adrianople by the Turkish Authorities at the request of the government of Persia - They pray for the interception of the government of the UStates in behalf of their leader and for greater toleration in behalf of themselves - I forward this petition at the urgent request of the leading members of this Persian reformation - I have the honor to be [undecipherable]

your most able servant, I. Augustus J. Wilson
U.S. Consul General

Translation:

May the most high God be praised - It is well known by all enlightened people, that, the wise learned, those that believe in the Bible, new testament, Koran, etc, nay, all human beings unanimously believe that the origin of the world, the stars, the four elements, mines [minerals], animals and man is one, of which all the creation is benifeted [sic] according to its disposition, aptitude, nature, essence, reason and quality, as declared in the books of all the [religious] communities. Also all the inhabitants of the globe unanimously agree upon the natural principles, that intelligence, learning, wisdom, arts and perfections are better then ignorance, folly, immorality and error; that mercy, admonition, love and tranquillity are better then hatred, obstinacy, envy, ambition and corruption and that truth, honesty, justice and impartiality are honored more than lying, theft, tyranny and violence as written in the moral books of all religions - And as no one disagrees on these two points i.e. in acknowledging a creator to the world & the general knowledge of natural principles- The inhabitants of the globe differ on the manner of worshipping & on the individual regulations and customs.

During the year 1843 of the ascension of Christ, a perfect, wise and virtuous [sic] man [Baha'u'llah?] appeared in Persia, he had knowledge of all religions, laws and knew the history of wisemen, kings and the rules of nations; he saw that the people oppose, hate and kill, abstain and [are] afraid to mix with each other. Nay, they consider each other unclean, though they are all human beings, having different and numerous religions, and that the people are like unto sheep without a shepherd - That learned and wise man wrote many works containing the rules of union, harmony and love between human beings, and the way of abandoning the differences, untruthfulness, and nexations between them, that people may unite and agree on one way and to walk straight-

forwardly in the straight and expedient way, and that no one should avert or religiously abstain from intercourse with another, of Jews, Christians, Mohammadans and others.

That wise man revealed himself till he appeared like the high sun in mid day - when the Shah of Persia heard of these rules, he feared that his religion will be disturbed, so he gathered together the learned men of his religion, who saw that their interests will be disturbed, and their rules changed, as the public are anxious, desire and are inclined to follow that wise man. The Shah therefore agreed with his learned men to order the execution of that wise man and his disciples, so they imprisoned the wise man and massacred [sic] about thirty thousand men of his followers, nay more than thirty thousand not saving women nor infants, after that, with the interference of the Consuls of the Powers, not to kill the wise man, they banished him from Persia and plundered his goods, he came to Bagdad, and the news of his doctrine spread in Irak and almost all the Arabs and the [refugees?] of the Shah of Persia emigrated from Persia and came & followed the wise man; the Shah of Persia was again afraid and beged [sic] the Turkish government to banish him so it sent him away with his family [and a] few of his friends to Constantinople, and the Turkish government imprisoned him with his family in a town named Adrinah [Adrianople] without examining the matter nor questioning him about his rules - If any of you would like to know

the true state of the wise man, let him send a wise commissioner to Adrinah to enquire [sic] after the state of that imprisoned wise man that his state may be made known - We wish therefore to write this information to the kings of the various governments in the belief that all Powers need each other and that relations and obligations exist between them, but every government that has relations with Persia or territorial connection does not take interest in this important matter and they are all bound with the chains of need - Consequently we unanimously agreed to report and inform the Congress of the Republic, of the state of that wise man, that God may prepare for him relief and acquittal, and that you may help and find out a way to deliver that oppressed person from under tyranny and oppression.

Notwithstanding what we have said of the slaughter, imprisonment and plundering the true fact is that there are about forty thousand individuals in Persia & other kingdoms desiring to follow the wise man, but being afraid [sic] of the Governors and Sultans, they dare not manifest their religion.

It has been of our duty to write & inform you of the facts; praying that God will preserve you and grant you victory over the enemies.

Yerom [?] Shoshter, 10 Zel-Keday 1283
(March 16, 1867)(seal, etc.) [end]

THINK SUMMER SCHOOL!

Loving Our Way to Cluster A



C013 Cluster Reflection Meeting
SATURDAY, JULY 28TH 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).



RACE UNITY DAY
JUNE 10, 2007

PICTURE CONTINUES

Major World Religions Ranked by Number of Adherents

Posted on May 24, 2007 06:35 PM under: [Here & There](#)

The following is the list of the world's major religions ranked by the number of believers adherent to them:

1. Christianity: 2.1 billion
2. Islam: 1.3 billion
3. Secular/Nonreligious/ Agnostic/ Atheist: 1.1 billion
4. Hinduism: 900 million
5. Chinese traditional religion: 394 million
6. Buddhism: 376 million
7. primal-indigenous: 300 million
8. African Traditional & Diasporic: 100 million
9. Sikhism: 23 million
10. Juche: 19 million
11. Spiritism: 15 million
12. Judaism: 14 million
13. Baha'i: 7 million
14. Jainism: 4.2 million
15. Shinto: 4 million
16. Cao Dai: 4 million
17. Zoroastrianism: 2.6 million
18. Tenrikyo: 2 million
19. Neo-Paganism: 1 million
20. Unitarian-Universalism: 800 thousand
21. Rastafarianism: 600 thousand
22. Scientology: 500 thousand

THINK SUMMER SCHOOL!

Spin from page 2

ceremony where she received the recent award.

Indeed, Shideh - who is creator, producer, director and host of her program - is known for her infectious laugh and her ability to put a positive twist on whatever life puts in front of her.

Her outlook on life, she explains, comes from her practice of the Baha'i Faith.

"As Baha'is we believe in looking for the best in people. So when I have someone on the show I try to make them feel comfortable. I do not try and put them in a corner and make them look bad. We try to bring out the best of what people have to give. I think that the show serves as a model of positiveness, especially to women."

Shideh says the subjects she addresses on the show bear a direct relation to her religious belief.

"'Mulheres' relates to the Baha'i Faith through the various subjects we choose to address in the development and betterment of the quality of life for women," she says. "The Baha'i writings say a lot about this issue. We also have an editorial opening where we use thoughts, prayers, and material from the writings of the Faith which address the theme of the day." (See video).

She sees the role of the show as providing

an uplifting experience for viewers, given that she thinks people tend to be unhappy about many aspects of their lives.

"When you show them good and positive things, people just love it.," she says. "They're so grateful and they tell me, 'You're always laughing!' But what they don't know is that giving them the opportunity to see good in life is what makes me happy."

She believes it was this upbeat attitude - plus her views on the equality of women and men - that led TV Galega owner Altair Carlos Pimpao to hire her 10 years ago for the show in Blumenao, a city of 300,000 people in southern Brazil.

Mr. Pimpao had watched her lead a Baha'i meeting and found her to be an articulate speaker and a natural host.

Best of all, Mr. Pimpao realized, she and other Baha'is believe strongly in the advancement of women and equality of the sexes. He is not a Baha'i, but he understood their belief and thought this was just the kind of person he needed for the new show.

Often the guests on the hourlong program are local experts in fields relating to education or health. Discussion centers on how the issues relate to women, although Shideh says surveys show that half her viewers are men.

"They (men) are interested and curious about women's subjects," she notes. "Men try to understand the world of women, our dreams and goals in life so they can have better relationships with us. It is great to see how many men are interested. ... We get men calling us while we are on air and asking questions for their wives and friends. By doing this they contribute to the development of ideas and at the same time growth in their own lives and their relationships."

"Mulheres" airs live on Tuesday evenings, and viewers may call in with questions and comments. A tape of each program is rebroadcast on Wednesdays and Sundays, and shows are available on the Internet at Jump TV.

"It has been a rewarding experience," Shideh says of hosting the show. "It's funny. I can be having the worst day of my life, and as soon as I get into the studio I am happy and laughing."

Shideh, who has been married for 26 years and has two children, travels frequently. She says that through her travels she has learned something that she tries to share on her show: "Humanity is humanity, everywhere you go," she says. "Everyone is looking for happiness."

The Cold Within

Six humans trapped by happenstance
in black and bitter cold
Each possessed a stick of wood,
Or so the story's told.

Their dying fire in need of logs,
the first woman held hers back
For on the faces around the fire
She noticed one was black.

The next man looking 'cross the way
Saw one not of his church
And couldn't bring himself to give
The fire his stick of birch.

The third one sat in tattered clothes
He gave his coat a hitch,
Why should his log be put to use
To warm the idle rich?

The rich man just sat back and thought
Of the wealth he had in store,
And how to keep what he had earned
From the lazy, shiftless poor.

The black man's face bespoke revenge
As the fire passed from his sight,
For all he saw in his stick of wood
Was a chance to spite the white.

And the last man of this forlorn group
Did naught except for gain,
Giving only to those who gave
Was how he played the game.

The logs held tight in death's stilled hands
Was proof of human sin,
They didn't die from the cold without,
They died from the cold within.

The poem was written by James Patrick Kinney. Submitted by Velma Ferguson

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD

RUHI BOOK TWO - Starts June 2nd.
This study circle will meet every Saturday and will start with breakfast.

WHEN: Saturday Mornings 10 am-
Noon, Breakfast at 10 am

WHERE: Brayton-Hall's, 611 Skyline
Avenue, Colorado Springs.

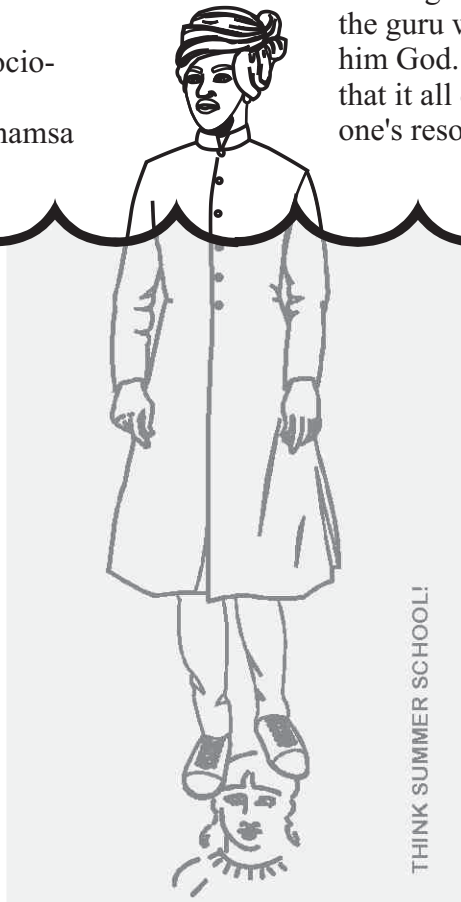
Please call if you intend to join the circle -
Melissa Brayton, ph # 661-8807

**WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD
DEVOTIONS** - Every Wednesday from 7
pm - 7:30 pm, starting June 6th (Until
then we are still on Tuesdays). Call if you
have a specific request for the devotions
topic - Melissa Brayton, ph# 661-8807

In Search of God

In India, there was a socio-religious reformer, Ramakrishna Paramahansa (1836-1886). He has been revered as a spiritual guide by Indians from all religious background. Here is an often cited anecdote about the reformer and one of his most famous disciples.

The disciple was in search of God, and he had sought following the Ramakrishna - let us call him the guru in this anecdote. The disciple had been asking the guru persistently to show him God. One day the guru and his many disciples were bathing in the river. The disciple raised the



issue again and asked when the guru was going to show him God. The guru replied that it all depended on one's resolve and will to seek and find God. The disciple then asked how much will was required.

In response, the guru took the disciple and forced his head under the water and stood on him. The disciple struggled in to resurface, but in vain. The guru finally let go, and the disciple emerged out of water gasping

for air. When the disciple had recovered his breath, the guru asked him, "When your head was under water, what was your goal?"

"Air, Air," replied the disciple, "I wanted air to breathe."

"Were you resolute in that desire?" asked the guru.

"Yes," replied the disciple.

"Were you thinking of anything else?"

"No" said the discipline.

"Were you resolute to get air?"

"Yes."

"In your search for God, that is how you should be, as relentlessly as you were for air, said the guru, "then we all have a chance to find God."

The same applies to everyone who wants to attain the qualities of The Exemplar.

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Try with all your hearts to be willing channels for God's Bounty. For I say unto you that He has chosen you to be His messengers of love throughout the world, to be His bearers of spiritual gifts to man, to be the means of spreading unity and concord on the earth. Thank God with all your hearts that such a privilege has been given unto you. For a life devoted to praise is not too long in which to thank God for such a favour.

Lift up your hearts above the present and look with eyes of faith into the future! Today the seed is sown, the grain falls upon the earth, but behold the day will come when it shall rise a glorious tree and the branches thereof shall be laden with fruit. Rejoice and be glad that this day has dawned, try to realize its power, for it is indeed wonderful! God has crowned you with honour and in your hearts has He set a radiant star; verily the light thereof shall brighten the whole world!

Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Colorado Springs
1622 Rainier Dr.
Colorado Springs, CO 80910

JUL 2007

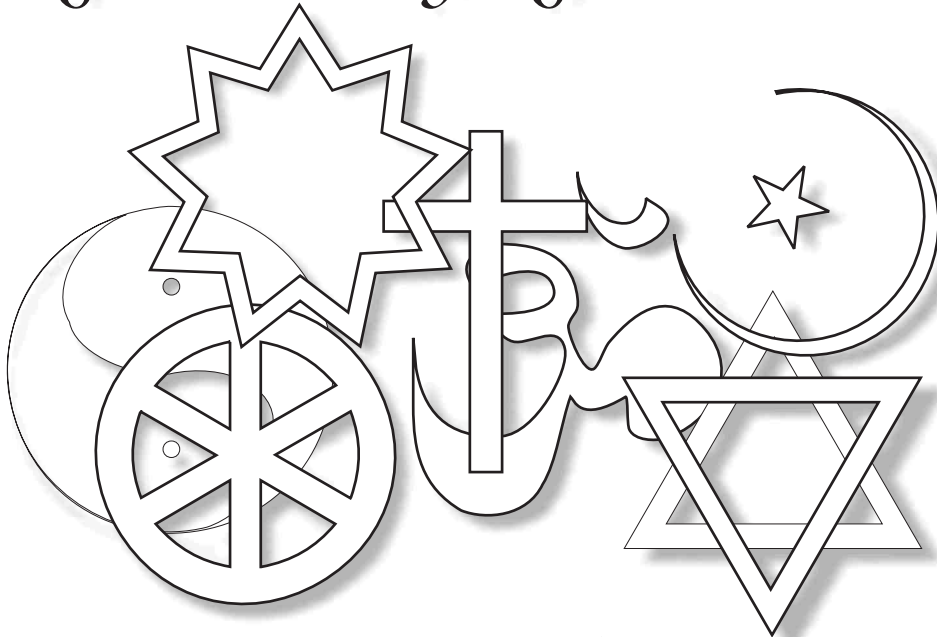
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□

Religion carrying forward



an ever-advancing civilization

DISCOVER THE BAHÁ'Í FAITH