



# BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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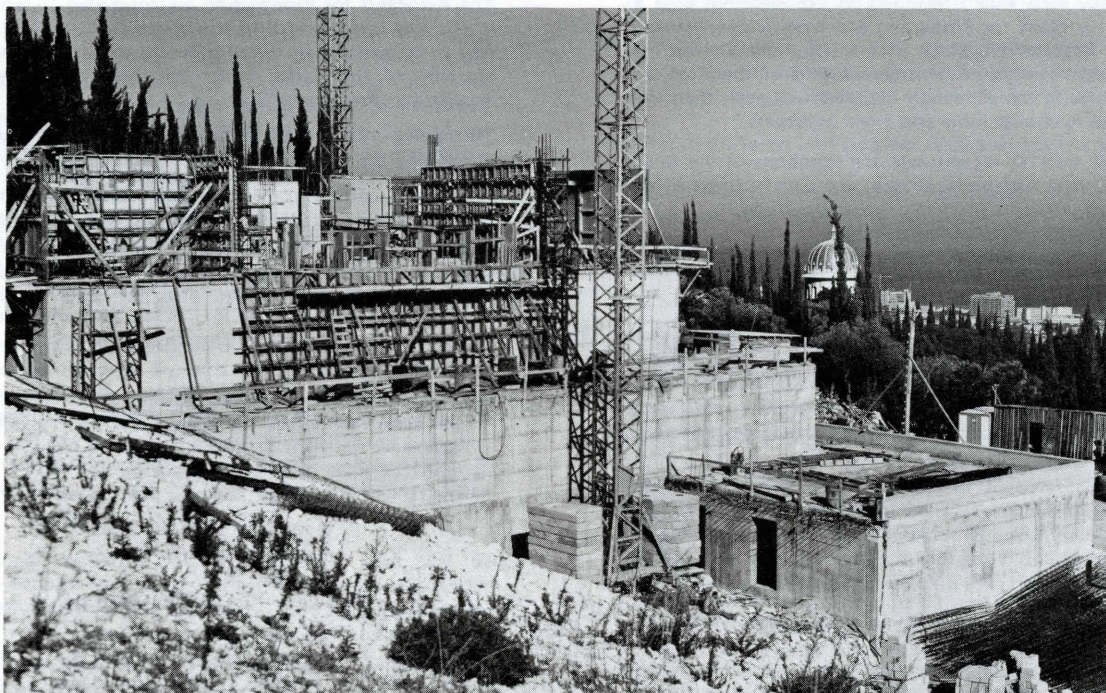
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April 1978

## THE SEAT OF THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE



*The Seat of the Universal House of Justice, in two photographs taken on 1 February 1978. The top photograph shows the two basement levels of the new building and the first two above-ground floors, looking toward the Shrine of the Báb from the south-east corner of the structure. In the lower photograph, taken from the south-west corner, workmen are placing the steel reinforcing for the poured concrete floor of the fifth level. The groups of columns in the centre of the picture are parts of two of the piers which will support the dome. The extension at ground level on the right will house blowers for the building's heating and air-conditioning system. Earth fill is being placed between the basement levels and the excavation into the side of Mt. Carmel. Construction is proceeding on schedule.*



## AUXILIARY BOARDS AND THEIR ASSISTANTS

In a message addressed to the Bahá'í World on 7 October 1973, the Universal House of Justice announced the strengthening of the Auxiliary Boards through an increase in their numbers and by creating the function of Assistant. Each Continental Board of Counsellors was given "the discretion to authorise individual Board Members to appoint Assistants".

The European Counsellors made at that time a somewhat timid start in Germany, Italy and England, gradually extended to other countries, but in those countries which did not clearly experience the appointment of Assistants this important decision of the Universal House of Justice remained rather vague.

Recently the Universal House of Justice decided to increase the number of Auxiliary Board Members in Europe from nine to twenty-seven members for Protection and from twenty-seven to thirty-six for Propagation. Since that decision the Continental Board has made changes in the membership of the Auxiliary Boards as well as in the allocation of territories given them and has asked them to choose more and more Assistants.

This is a good time to recapitulate the functions of the Board Members and their Assistants, so that the development of the Faith in Europe may take place in a harmonious way.

"Authority and direction flow from the assemblies, whereas the power to accomplish the tasks resides primarily in the entire body of the believers. It is the principal task of the Auxiliary Boards to assist in arousing and releasing this power." — (Letter from the Universal House of Justice to the Continental Boards and National Assemblies, 10 October 1969).

This brings us back to an understanding of the basic point contained in a letter of the International Teaching Centre to the Continental Boards dated 14 October 1976. Protection of the Faith is not continuously needed in our various communities, because attacks by Covenant-breakers and other enemies of the Faith are intermittent. Therefore the essential task of the Board Members for Protection is to prepare the Baha'í community.

"Above all, the members of the Protection Boards should concentrate on deepening the friends' knowledge of the Covenant and increasing their love and loyalty to it, on clearly and frankly answering, in conformity with the teachings, whatever questions may trouble any of the believers, on fostering the spiritual profundity and strength of their faith and certitude, and on promoting whatever will increase the spirit of loving unity in Bahá'í communities." — (From the International Teaching Centre, quoting from a statement by the Universal House of Justice).

As to the Board Members for Propagation, the International Teaching Centre explains in the same letter, again quoting the Universal House of Justice:

"The primary tasks of the Propagation Boards, however, are to direct the believers' attention to the goals of whatever plans have been placed before them, to stimulate and assist them to promote the teaching work in the fields of proclamation, expansion, consolidation and pioneering, to encourage contributions to the Funds, and to act as standard-bearers of the teachers of the Faith, leading them to new achievements in the diffusion of God's Message to their fellow human beings."

These are essential principles which underlie the functions of the Auxiliary Boards, which are obviously very important.

On 7 October 1973, the Universal House of Justice decreed the appointment of Assistants, and described their functions as follows:

"Their aims should be to activate and encourage Local Spiritual Assemblies, to call the attention of Local Spiritual Assembly members to the importance of holding regular meetings, to encourage local communities to meet for Nineteen Day Feasts and Holy Days, to help deepen their fellow believers' understanding of the Teachings and generally to assist the Auxiliary Board Members in the discharge of their duties."

In the same letter it was made clear that the Assistants should be appointed for a limited territory and for a limited time and that they could be at the same time members of assemblies and committees.

On the occasion of the Conference at Langenhain on 28 October 1977, the Continental Board had the opportunity to consult with a representative of the International Teaching Centre, and it was seen to be necessary to increase the number of Assistants.

The Assistants for Protection will have especially as their first duty to achieve the aims listed in the letter of the Universal House of Justice of 7 October 1973, under the direction of the Protection Board Members.

The Assistants for Propagation are appointed to work primarily in the goal towns and they will concentrate on the formation of new local assemblies, by stimulating the proclamation and the teaching of the Faith, under the direction of the Auxiliary Boards for Propagation.

To clarify further, it is perhaps helpful to give examples illustrating the relations of the institutions amongst themselves:

- a. At the commencement of the Bahá'í year, the national committees and the Auxiliary Board Members may be authorised by a Counsellor and the National Assembly to consult together to work out details of the plans for the year. This authorisation may also be given at some other time in the year if necessary; after the consultation the national plan is decided by the national teaching committee and approved by the National Assembly.
- b. The Auxiliary Board Members and their Assistants stimulate the local assemblies, the groups and the individual believers to achieve the plan, by working out local plans in consultation with the local assemblies or the groups and by encouraging the believers to adopt personal plans, such as:
  - to resolve to live the Bahá'í life
  - contribution to the Fund
  - to be a pioneer
  - to proclaim and teach the Faith
- c. A continual exchange of information should take place between the national committees and the Auxiliary Boards who will then pass this on to the Assistants: for example, the National Teaching Committee should pass on by circular, personal letter or telephone the decisions which the National Assembly has approved (plans for national or regional conferences, choice of goal towns or objectives to achieve etc.). On their part the Board Members should inform the national committees of their own plan of work and that of their Assistants.
- d. Assistants or Board Members must not, under any circumstances, change plans which have been decided. If changes are desirable they act as follows:
  - if it is a question of change in local plans, the Board Member of the Assistant should propose a consultation with the local assembly to explain his ideas and make recommendations. But the local assembly takes the final decision either to modify or maintain the plans. Adoption of special projects is handled in the same way.
  - If the national plan is concerned, the Assistant must make a recommendation to his Board Member, who will explain the matter and give his views to the Continental Board or to a Counsellor, who in turn will decide if it would be useful to consult the National Assembly on this matter.

It is impossible to describe in detail all the possibilities which may arise relating to the principles which have been stated. It is, however, certain that the success of the Five Year Plan and future plans will depend largely on the degree of confidence which exists between all the institutions and on the desire to collaborate without the slightest egoistic reservation, all relations being based on sincerity and purity of motive.

All our institutions are at an embryonic stage, they will educate themselves mutually by working hand in hand, but they are all under the protection of the Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh.

February 1978

CONTINENTAL BOARD OF COUNSELLORS



## RELEASING THE POWER OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

A meeting of the utmost importance took place in the National Hazíratu'l-Quds on 21 January 1978. Counsellor Adib Taherzadeh and six of the nine Auxiliary Board members met in formal session with the National Spiritual Assembly. All present were aware of the significance of the occasion and there was an atmosphere of excitement as the areas of co-operation of these two Institutions were jointly explored.

Initially the National Assembly had re-examined the letter from the Universal House of Justice of 1 October 1969 which appears at the end of Compilation No. 2: "Continental Boards of Counsellors" in the light of a letter dated 6 July 1977 from the House which had been sent to all National Assemblies and which clarified the subject of collaboration between Board Members and the Teaching Committees. This was then discussed with Counsellor Taherzadeh who later met with the Board Members. When the joint meeting was convened it was obvious that members of both Institutions were eager to establish the closest possible working relationship. The spirit of dedication to the common goal was truly inspiring. It will become more and more apparent in the future how these meetings, and the agreement reached, will speed the progress of the Cause in the British Isles. The National Assembly wishes to share with all the friends the initial decisions of this historic weekend.

1. As soon as we receive from the Counsellors a translation into English of a definitive article on the work and functioning of the European Board of Counsellors we will publish it in the Bahá'í Journal. (Reproduced on facing page)
2. We most warmly welcomed the individual pledges of service to the community made by each Board Member and will do all in our power to improve the channels of communication to facilitate this service. Specifically the Auxiliary Board Members will not wait to be called upon to visit an assembly but will take the initiative in offering themselves or one of their Assistants to visit all the assemblies in the areas allocated to them.
3. The National Assembly calls upon all local assemblies to examine how best they can avail themselves of the inspiration and guidance from the Auxiliary Board Members. They should:
  - a. Invite Board Members to the occasional assembly meeting, community activity and Feast.
  - b. Advise their respective Board Members of any weekend or special activity they are organising as well as all the "cluster" arrangements they may make as "responsible" assemblies.
  - c. Advise their regional teaching committees of all their firesides and public meetings so that these may be published in the regional news-sheet, preferably sending a copy to "Intercom-Bahá'í" in order that Board Members and other assemblies can see all the local and area activities.

d. Invite the Board Members to study with them the "Guidance Notes", the compilations on the "Local Assembly" and "Consultation" (now being printed), and their particular responsibilities under the "Programme for Victory".

e. Endeavour to "stand on their own feet" by attempting to resolve any difficulties with the help of "Guidance Notes" and by turning to the Writings, rather than by referring all matters to the National Assembly. Auxiliary Board Members will, without getting directly involved in any particular administrative issue, generally guide and inspire the friends to solve their problems in the spirit of achieving that stature envisaged by the Universal House of Justice who, when launching the Five Year Plan, wrote that they should "gradually assume their proper function and responsibilities in the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh".

4. To help in this growth of the assemblies the National Assembly is bringing the Guidance Notes up to date and producing them in sufficient quantities for all members of all local assemblies.

It was in the letter of 1 October 1969 that the House wrote:

"Authority and direction flow from the assemblies, whereas the power to accomplish the tasks resides primarily in the entire body of the believers. It is the principal task of the Auxiliary Boards to assist in arousing and releasing this power."

It was in the Naw-Rúz 1974 message that they pinpointed the "distinctive Bahá'í characteristics" and wrote that "the coming of age of the human race must be foreshadowed by the mature, responsible understanding of human problems and the wise administration of their affairs by these same Bahá'í communities".

It was later in that same message that we read that strengthening the local assemblies will "greatly enrich the quality of Bahá'í life, will heighten the capacity of the Faith to deal with entry by troops. . . . will demonstrate the solidarity and ever-growing distinctiveness of the Bahá'í community" and will offer "a refuge to the leaderless and hapless millions of the spiritually bankrupt, moribund present order".

It was with great joy and gratitude that the National Assembly recorded its appreciation of the historic meeting of 21 January, confident that a new era had begun in the British Isles, an era of unprecedented activity by the Auxiliary Board Members and their Assistants and of the closest co-operation between the twin institutions of our Administrative Order, an era which will witness the complete and triumphant conclusion of the Five Year Plan and those Plans which will inevitably follow down through the years as essential stepping stones to the eventual establishment of God's Kingdom on this earth.

### NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

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## NATIONAL CONVENTION

**DATE:** SATURDAY/SUNDAY 27/28 MAY 1978

**VENUE:** WATFORD LEISURE CENTRE

**FACILITIES:** Seating capacity for at least 600.  
Rooms for children with play-school equipment for the youngest. Parallel programme prepared by CEAC.  
Room with all services for nursing mothers close to balcony overlooking Convention Hall.  
Large room for youth from age thirteen upwards — special programme arranged by NYC.  
Ample room for registration, book stock, committee displays, etc.  
Small Cafeteria open throughout.  
Unlimited parking space around the Centre.  
Large recreational areas and woods for picnic meals during break periods.

## HISTORY OF THE BAHÁ'Í FAITH IN JAPAN

1914 — 1936

by the late Hand of the Cause of God, Agnes Baldwin Alexander.

This is a delightful little book published by the Bahá'í Publishing Trust of Japan. It will be treasured by those lucky few who obtain a copy as the edition is a limited one of 1,000 copies of which we, as sole agents for Europe for the Japanese Trust, have taken 200, almost half of which have already been sold to the Continent. If you did not get one at Teaching Conference, better get it quickly before they are sold out, it will not be reprinted!

B.148

110 pp. £5.75



## BAHÁ'Í PUBLIC RELATIONS

**United Nations**

One of the most effective ways of strengthening our ties with the United Nations is to give our Bahá'í International Community details of what is being done around the world in those areas of activity in which the United Nations is concerned. This feed-back is vital and many things are done by the Bahá'ís in the United Kingdom which are never reported. It is most important therefore that reports are sent in to the National Office for the attention of the Public Relations Officer of any activity, however unimpressive it may appear to be or however small the results seem to have been. Please send your reports **now** of all past events of anything which happened during 1977 and then keep us up-to-date with your news. Some typical activities for report are as follows:

- Any activity carried out in conjunction with UNA.
- Any commemoration associated with UN Day; Human Rights Day; World Children's Day; International Womens Day; Week of Prayer for World Peace.
- Any cooperation with women's organisations in the common goal of improving the conditions of women.
- Any association with the local branches of the United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF.
- Any attendance at meetings, conferences, seminars organised by any UN agency on the following subjects — Human Rights, social development, environment, human settlements, world food, science and technology, population, law of the sea, crime prevention, narcotic drugs, control of alcoholism, youth, the family, water and desertification.
- Any use at meetings, in the media or at Bahá'í study classes of the excellent material put out on most of the above activities by the Bahá'í International Community.
- Any meetings which have brought together organisations with common purposes — UNA and World Federalists, etc.

**Religious Education in Schools**

In the growing debate on this subject the Bahá'ís, and particularly those who are teachers in schools, have a worthwhile contribution to make and our contribution is increasingly being given attention. Two events are recommended for attendance:

- a) **Standing Conference on Inter-Faith Dialogue in Education**, Inter-Faith Conference, 17–19 July, 1978, St Katharine's College, Stand Park Road, Liverpool. Full residential course—cost £17.50. Send deposit £5 to John Prickett, Little Brunger, Appledore Road, Tenterden, Kent TN30 7DD. (Balance for whole or part time attendance to be paid on arrival). Teachers may obtain financial help from the LEA for this Conference.
- b) **"The Challenge of Religious Education Today"**, a special five-day intensive course on the theory and method of religious education, mostly for ministers of religion, but Bahá'ís welcomed, 19–23 June, West London Institute of Higher Education, Borough Road, Isleworth, TW7 5DU. 10.30–4.00 daily. Course Fee £8, lunch extra. (Check with PRO, National Office, to see if any vacancies left).

**World Congress of Faiths**

Annual Conference: **"Religion and the Poetic Imagination"**. 8–10 September (Friday supper — Sunday tea) St John's College, York. £20 WCF members; £22 non-members. Application forms from National Office.



*Flags of the United Nations in the form of the word "Bahá'í" decorate the speakers' table at a United Nations Day conference hosted by the Bahá'ís of Porto Alegre, Brazil. Shown at the table are, from left: Rangvald Taetz, chairman of the Local Spiritual Assembly of Porto Alegre; Mas'úd Khamsí, a member of the Continental Board of Counsellors for South America; Mrs Nylza Taetz, coordinator of the meeting; and Professora Alda Cardoso Kremer, Deputado Dervy Furtado, Professora Maria Josepha P. Motta, and journalist Ana Amelia Lemos, non-Bahá'ís who took part in the programme.*





**NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY**  
**9 – 13 July 1978**

The National Youth Committee is organising a conference for the youth of this community to which have also been invited youth from Europe, Canada, the United States and Iran. Its aim is so to inspire and spiritually uplift the youth that they will arise and with eager hearts and tireless devotion help to achieve all the remaining goals of the United Kingdom, both at home and overseas, through dedicated pioneer and travel teaching efforts. Projects will be organised, both abroad and within the United Kingdom, so that those who wish to do so may start immediately after the conference. There will be plenty of practical aid and advice to help the friends in their plans.

Please start now to get your passports in order so that a speedy start may be made.

The conference is only for Bahá'ís and we are not encouraging the attendance of any non-Bahá'í friends, but should anyone have a close relative — wife/husband/brother/sister who particularly wishes to attend, please contact the Youth Committee before booking them.

All friends **MUST** have credentials and those from overseas must send a copy of their credentials with their application form.

**COSTS:—** £27.30 Adult, full board, whole period, including VAT and deposit (£3).  
 £20.60 13–15 years  
 £18.40 8–12 years  
 £13.50 3–7 years  
 Children up to two years — free.

Those under sixteen must have forms signed by a parent if they wish to attend the conference or go travel teaching without them.

A deposit of £3 is required.

Please write for application forms to:

NORMAN HUDSON  
 147 Joseph Groome Towers,  
 Ellesmere Port,  
 South Wirral L65 2DB.

Closing date: 31 May 1978.

**NATIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEE**

**YOUTH GROUP PILGRIMAGE —**  
**19 DECEMBER 1977**

On Sunday afternoon, 18 December, a group of eleven youth from various parts of the United Kingdom, freshly exhilarated from Teaching Conference in Hatfield, left Heathrow Airport — destination Tel-Aviv. We were the second youth group pilgrimage organised by the National Youth Committee.

Arriving in Haifa, we joined the other members of the Western group who were from the United States, Finland, Italy, Scotland and the Orkneys. We were a youthful group chronologically (except three, all were under thirty-five) and in spirit. The harmony and rapport generated between us was phenomenal.

The bounty of being on pilgrimage is unparalleled. Hand of the Cause, Mr Faizi came each evening to the Pilgrim House, holding everyone enthralled with stories recounted in his own unique inimitable style. We were fortunate to be the first group of pilgrims to be given a guided tour of the site of construction of the Seat of the House of Justice. Upon completion, this building will add even more prestige to the Cause in the Holy Land.

The Universal House of Justice shared with us the exciting news of the formation of the first Bahá'í Radio Station, in Ecuador.

On a personal note, we were happy to meet again many familiar faces — members of the British Bahá'í Community now residing at the World Centre, including George and Elsie Bowers, Ernest and Joan Gregory, Gloria Momen, Ron Bates and Kathleen Hyett.

Sadly, our nine days came to an end all too quickly. Fortunately, on returning to England, before going back to real, everyday life, half of us had the opportunity of attending the Henley Winter School, and sharing some of our experiences with our fellow workers in the Cause.

**Rúhiyyih Haqjoo**

**THE FUND**

Ways of making contributions to the Funds.

1. Directly (by cheque or postal order) to the National Treasurer:—

**Mrs Betty Goode,**  
**1 Loddington Lane,**  
**Belton,**  
**Uppingham LE15 9LA**

2. By Bank Giro directly to the bank which is:—

**The National Westminster Bank Ltd.,**  
**186 Brompton Road,**  
**London SW3**

Our account number is **18188443**

3. By Post Office Giro. Our number is **43 301 4008**
4. The Capital Projects Fund is in a separate account:—

**The National Westminster Bank Ltd.,**  
**186 Brompton Road,**  
**London SW3**

Account number 18188648

**POINTS WHICH ARE IMPORTANT**

- A All cheques no matter for which Fund should be made payable to **"NSA OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS"** (please **NOT** to Betty Goode).
- B They should be 'crossed'.
- C It is unwise to send paper money or any money through the post unless it is registered.
- D Receipts are only sent if the donation is accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.
- E It is still cheaper to make Post Office Giro payments than to buy postal orders.
- F Friends wishing to donate by Deed of Covenant, please write directly about it to the National Treasurer.



We warmly welcome to the community the following new believers, recorded in the National Office between 25 November 1977 and 31 March 1978.

**ADULTS:**

Miss Antonia Antoniou (Nicosia—Cyprus); Miss Katerina Antoniou (Nicosia—Cyprus); Kobina Antwi-Safee (Plymouth); Paul Austin (Hove); Glyndor Beard (Gloucester); Mrs Marjorie E. Beardsmore (Warwick); Mrs Helen Benfield (New Forest); Mrs Margaret Bound (Hove); Miss Helen Buchanan (Hamilton); Miss Elaine Cooper (Thanet); Norman Cresswell (Gloucester); Miss Moira Dillon (Malta); Ross Bryan Donald (Aberdeen); Robert A. Dosenbach (St Albans); Miss Glynis A. Downs (Bristol); Mrs Tina J. Dryburgh (Slough); John Dunthorne (Warwick); Mrs Catherine Eckersley (Shrewsbury); Antonio Faustini (Warwick); Donald Fletcher (Blackpool); Mrs Natalie Gaye Ford (Penwith); Brian Ghrawoo (Stevenage); Leopold Edward G. Graeme (Larnaca—Cyprus); Michael Hawkins (Luton); Mrs Hilda F. Hawnt (Belfast); Miss Susanna Nancy Hill (Oadby & Wigston); Miss Janet Humberger (Edinburgh); Mrs Hilda Maude Humphreys (Southwark); Harold Hunt (Camden); Mrs Mary L. Hyne (North Cornwall); Roderick Johnson (Gloucester); Mrs Doris Leeder (Plymouth); Mark A. Lucey (Eastbourne); Teshome Mammo (Limassol—Cyprus); Mrs Pitsa Matafia (Cyprus); Miss Betsy McLagan (E. Lothian); Mrs Hannah Mehrnoosh (Hove); Camil Mohadjer (Exeter); Nasser Momtaz (Westminster); Mrs Alia Nadim (Stafford); V. Nambiar (Plymouth); Oliver Okoroafor (Limassol—Cyprus); Peterson Ade'ye-ye Oyewusi (Limassol—Cyprus); Mrs Grace Palmer (Worthing); Miss Amy Pan (Westminster); Dennis Payne (Hounslow); Miss Doris Pill (Plymouth); George Potter (Moray); S. Rajagopal (Plymouth); Miss Maureen Reid (Stirling); Mrs Marion Reynolds (Eastbourne); Mrs Rosanna Rofé (Barnet); Mrs Mary Richards (Hove); Mrs Elizabeth Anne Scotchburn-Snell (Limassol—Cyprus); Tan Chai Seng (Plymouth); Desta Shanko (Limassol—Cyprus); Lionel R. G. Skeen (Worthing); Mrs Amy Stanton (Vale of Glamorgan); Oliver Bedford Sturge Moore (Glasgow); Richard Geoffrey Swann (Sedgemoor); Adefrs Teshneh (Limassol—Cyprus); Thomas Todhunter (Carlisle); Grange Williams (Manchester); Mrs T. C. Williams (Wigan).

**YOUTH:**

Miss Yasmin Adeeb (Vale of the White Horse); Mark Bonsall (Newport); Miss Astrid Bunyan (Camden); Miss Judy Brachi (Ards); Michael Cunliffe (Allerdale); Nigel Devereux (Dundee); Miss Soona Farid (Hove); Parto Forouhi (Edinburgh); Miss Saghar Forouhi (Edinburgh); Miss Shahla Gushtasbi (Belfast); Payvand Khademi (Luton); Miss Elaine S. Kirton (Warwick); Miss Showleh Majidi (Stirling); Behzad Mazloom (York); Massoud Mohammadi (Edinburgh); Miss Karen Leslie Moskowitz (Knowsley); William A. Russ (Oxford); Miss Perin Sarosh (Camden); Geoff W. F. Smith (Penwith); W. E. Williams (Anglesey); Kamran Zabihi (Stirling).

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS****INTERNATIONAL TRAVELS OF  
THE HANDS OF THE CAUSE OF GOD****AMATU'L-BAHÁ RÚHÍYYIH KHÁNUM**

The Hand of the Cause Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum left the Holy Land early in September for an extended trip through the Far East. Among the communities she has visited thus far are India, Nepal, and Japan. Following are reports of some of the highlights of her trip.

In the Indian state of Kashmir, Rúhíyyih Khánum had long interviews with the governor and chief minister of the state, and many officials attended a large reception for her. The reception was covered by television, as was a ceremony in which she laid the cornerstone of the Haziratu'l-Quds in Srinagar. A ten-minute radio talk she gave was broadcast twice, and a special radio review of the entire week of Bahá'í events was broadcast before she left for Nepal.

In Katmandu, the capital of Nepal, Rúhíyyih Khánum spoke at four meetings. The first was at the only women's college in Nepal where she spoke on the rôle of women. About 900 students, teachers, and other guests were present. A resumé of her talk appeared in an English-language newspaper. Her second talk was to the Rotary Club, where she was warmly received. The Faculty of History and Cultural Subjects at the university then invited her to address their group, and a number of professors and about forty students attended. Later, she was invited to the office of the vice-principal and answered questions. "A very friendly spirit prevailed", she reported. Her fourth appearance was at the Institute of Trade for Rural Women, where about sixty women from the Institute and representatives of different departments of government and nearby schools were present.

Rúhíyyih Khánum's visit received very wide and favourable publicity. There was an excellent article in the only English-language newspaper and another in the Nepali press, which has a very wide circulation. Both included photographs.

On her arrival in Japan, Rúhíyyih Khánum granted a long interview to the Mainichi newspaper, the second largest in the country, which resulted in an excellent article accompanied by her photograph.

On 24 October she spoke at a United Nations Day celebration sponsored by the Bahá'ís of Sagami-hara, where a capacity crowd filled the meeting hall. A special guest was Mrs Furukawa (Mochizuki), the first woman to become a Bahá'í in Japan.

**'ALÍ AKBAR FURÚTAN**

The Hand of the Cause of God 'Alí Akbar Furútan spent nearly a month in Japan. "Both Bahá'ís and non-Bahá'ís were deeply impressed and greatly stirred", said a report of his visit. In all, the Hand of the Cause spoke on twenty-four separate occasions. "We also visited Kurashiki, Amagasaki, Ube, Kansai, Takarazuka, Suita, Osaka, Kakogawa, Kyoto, Sendai, Shinjuku, and Tokyo. In many of the localities, non-Bahá'ís attended his talks after reading about him and the Faith in local newspaper articles."



**ALASKA:** The Hand of the Cause 'Alí Akbar Furútan was featured at a two-day National Teaching Conference in Anchorage, Alaska. Over 200 Bahá'ís attended. The conference dealt primarily with the need for more pioneers, travelling teaching teams, and consolidation effort in the Alaskan villages.

**CAMEROON REPUBLIC:** The Cameroon Republic now has Bahá'ís residing in 832 localities, only eighteen short of the 850 called for under the Five Year Plan, according to a report delivered at a National Teaching Conference.

**CANADA:** The National Spiritual Assembly of Canada has launched a mass-media advertising campaign, on a scale never before attempted in that country, designed to introduce the Faith to vast numbers of Canadians.

The heart of the effort is a campaign consisting of five quarter-page newspaper advertisements, which appeared on consecutive weekends in *Canadian Magazine*, a colour supplement distributed in many major newspapers.

At the same time, the National Assembly commissioned the preparation of the first commercially-produced television advertisement for Canada, along with a special thirty-second radio spot announcement for those areas where that medium is more practical.

In conjunction with the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, a thanksgiving service was held on 16 October on the steps of Parliament Hill in Ottawa. In response to an invitation issued by the Office of the Secretary of State, an official representative of the National Spiritual Assembly was present.

Dr Hossain Danesh participated in the morning gathering, which brought together some thirty Faiths in a spirit of prayer and thanksgiving. Dr Danesh was formally introduced to the Queen as the representative of the Canadian Bahá'í community.

**FIJI ISLANDS:** The Hand of the Cause H. Collis Featherstone was featured at a special proclamation reception and buffet luncheon held 9 November 1977 at a new prestige hotel in Suva. Over fifty distinguished guests included ministers and senior officials of the government, legislators, members of the judiciary and police, United Nations officials, foreign diplomats, educators, news media representatives, and businessmen.

The purpose of the event was to enable Mr Featherstone to speak of the Faith to men and women who occupy the highest positions in government, administration, education, and social services in Fiji. "Response to the invitation was truly magnificent . . . and the purpose of the event was triumphantly fulfilled," said the report of the National Assembly of the Fiji Islands.

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**GERMANY:** Bahá'í Verlag, the publishing trust of the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany, was represented at the first Moscow Book Fair with nine Bahá'í books. Its participation was in a joint effort with the German publishers' association. Bahá'í Verlag received a medal commemorating its participation in the fair.

George Ronald Publishers of Great Britain was also represented at the fair, and exhibited four Bahá'í titles, *Muhammad and the Course of Islám*, *The Glad Tidings of Bahá'u'lláh*, *The Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh*, Vol. 1, and *Christ and Bahá'u'lláh*. Its participation was arranged and managed by Collet's of London, a sales agent for a group of British publishers.

**ITALY:** One of Italy's Five Year Plan goals, the formation of a new Local Spiritual Assembly at Cosenza, had been such an uncertainty that the National Goals Committee organised a special two-week intensive teaching campaign there late in the summer.

The Bahá'í pioneers in Cosenza had worked hard to make friends with the local residents and had been invited on several occasions to visit them in their homes. But the local people had been reluctant to visit the homes of the believers, one of whom lives in a low-income housing project.

After the intensive teaching activity began, all of this began to change. Visitors who arrived in the town would be graciously shown to the residences of the local pioneers. Finally, one evening it was decided to show some filmstrip programmes in one believer's small apartment, but the living room was too small. Instead, they connected their projector to an extension cord and projected the films against the outside wall of a nearby house.

A neighbour handed her chairs out of her window for the audience, and other neighbours began to arrive, carrying chairs of their own. Over forty people saw the filmstrip programme and all stayed afterwards to talk about the Faith.

The next evening one of the neighbours was organising a birthday party, and invited all of the Bahá'ís to attend. The host invited them to close the evening with a prayer. The next morning, the last day of the teaching project, the visiting Bahá'ís found it very difficult to leave. Their new-found friends were sad. "Please come back soon", one woman said. "We have only just got to know you and to love you, and now you are going away".

The new Local Spiritual Assembly was formed on 25 September.

**SOUTH WEST PACIFIC OCEAN:** During an extensive visit to New Caledonia, British Bahá'í Meherangiz Munsiff was able to achieve widespread publicity for the Faith through a series of broadcasts and interviews which were seen, heard, and read over a wide area.

While in Noumea, New Caledonia, Mrs Munsiff participated in a one and a half hour radio broadcast which was transmitted via satellite to Hawaii, New Guinea, British Solomon Islands, California, Fiji, the New Hebrides, New Caledonia, Tonga, American Samoa, Western Samoa, Cook Islands, Gilbert Island, and New Zealand, among others. The programme was on the rôle of women, and Mrs Munsiff was able to mention the name of Bahá'u'lláh and His Teachings, and emphasise the rôle of Bahá'í women.

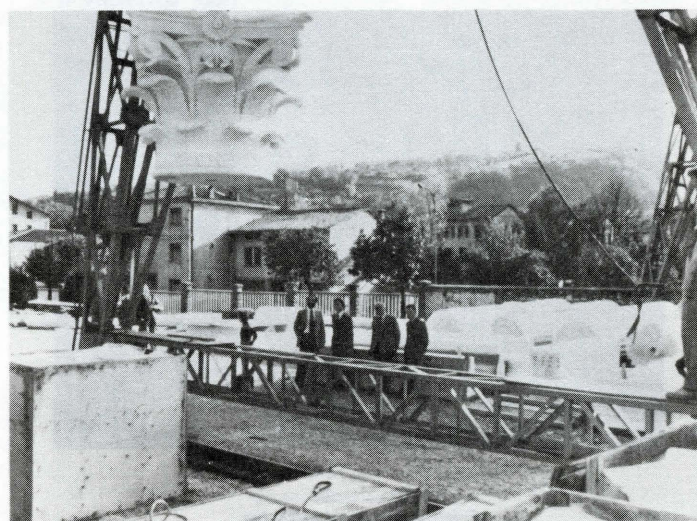
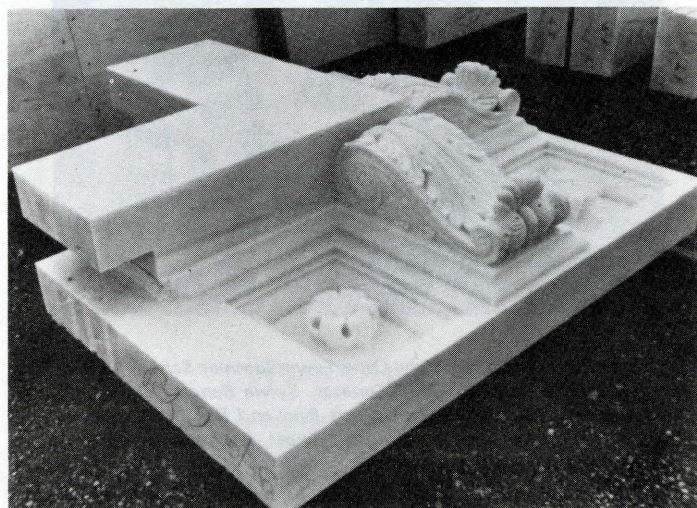
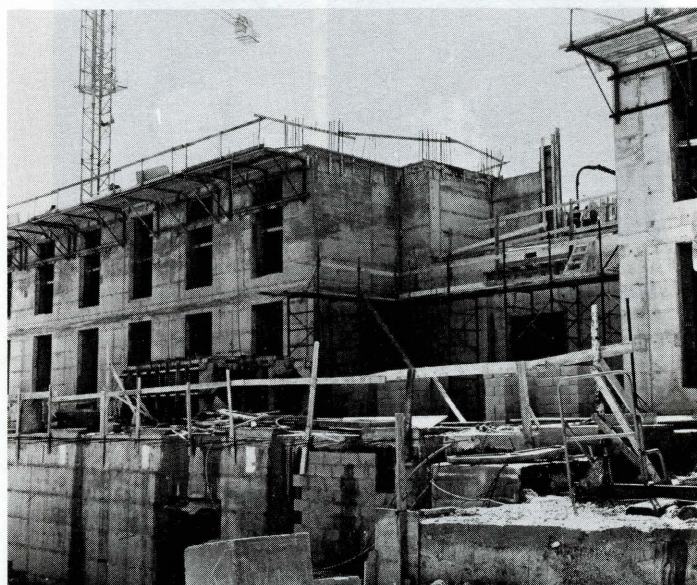
On the same day, Mrs Munsiff was interviewed on both the local radio and television stations, and was able to mention the Faith. Earlier, an article and picture in the local newspaper drew the attention of many people.

During a visit to Australia, she was interviewed by two university radio stations and two newspapers in Perth, during a schedule when she spoke at three universities and introduced the speaker at a special United Nations Week celebration.

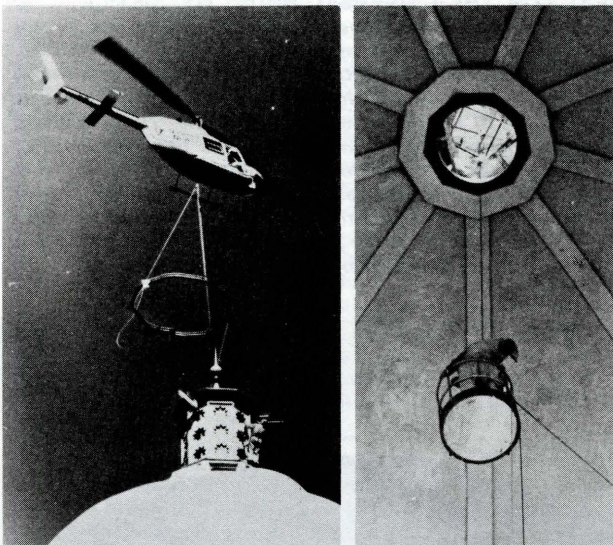
**UGANDA:** "... Stimulating news was reported by the youth in their efforts at the Secondary School in Entebbe and the National Teachers' College of Kyambogo in Kampala. In Entebbe, as a follow-up of an individual commitment made at a recent Teaching Conference, three youth, accompanied by a visiting youth from Kampala, were able to proclaim the Faith. ... during which time nine young people became Bahá'ís. The three young Bahá'í teachers will hold regular weekly classes to further study the Faith.

#### SEAT FOR THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

The following photographs show further progress in the construction of the Seat of the Universal House of Justice. The first shows the main entrance area of the building as shown from ground level on the North side. Forms are being erected for the walls of the fifth level of the structure. The second and third photographs show completed marble ornamentation for the building as displayed for inspection at the Italian studio which is doing the carving. Second is a portion of the entablature which will be erected atop the columns. Bottom can be seen a capital for the columns, and portions of the columns themselves in the background. Work is proceeding on schedule.







A local television station's helicopter assisted engineers in lifting a structural steel ring to the lantern atop the Bahá'í House of Worship in Sydney, Australia. The ring will support a trolley which will be used for external inspection and maintenance of the dome of the building. Inside, a special basket, lifted by a cable and winch, will be used for access to the lantern and dome. A telescoping boom will assist maintenance of the interior of the building.



British Bahá'ís attending the Cape Town Summer School held in December. L. to R.: "Sue" Benatar, Sylvia Benatar, Billy Lee, Chris Lee, two Lee children, Chris Beer and Baby Beer, Simon Beer, Pat Beer, Odette Benatar, Nigel Freeman. Over 150 believers attended and there were thirty-five declarations during that period.



Friends gathered in Malta.

## NOTICES

Will those friends who have sent them please note that the Editor will pay no attention to anonymous letters of any kind on whatever subject.

The editorial office continues to be inundated with requests for more or fewer copies of the BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL and changes of address. Distribution matters should be directed to the National Office where the BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL is distributed — the Editor is concerned only with editing.

**DEADLINE:** As the Bahá'í Journal must now await distribution with the first available Newsletter, would the friends please note that there will now be a regular deadline date — six weeks before the first day of the month in which it is scheduled for publication — as follows:

February issue	— deadline	— 15 December
April		15 February
June		15 April
August		15 June
October		15 August
December		15 October

Please send **TYPEWRITTEN** copy (PLEASE) and black and white glossy photographs to the Editor:

Lois Hainsworth (Mrs)  
136 Thurlow Park Road,  
West Dulwich,  
London SE21

## BIRTHS



## MARRIAGES

- 1 October 1977: Elahe Torofigh (of Durham) to Behnam Santari, in Iran.  
5 January 1978: Sateh Fanapazir (Ryhope) to Qasim Bayat (North Berwick) in Tihiran.

## DEATHS

"O Thou Who art the Lord of all men! Grant then, O my God, that Thy servant may consort with Thy chosen ones, Thy saints and Thy Messengers in heavenly places that the pen cannot tell nor the tongue recount." (Red Prayer Book)

- November 1977: Graeme Fairlamb, in Scunthorpe, aged 22, in a road accident.  
9 January 1978: Una Coward, in Sheffield, aged 83.

## HUQUQU'LLAH

حضرت ولی امر الله در لوح شهر بانو مونج شوال ۱۳۴۵ میفرماید: قوله لجزیر:

اما در خصوص حقوق الله حقوق الی راجع بمرکز امر است . انتهى

در همین لوح مبارک میفرماید:

تعلق آن به مال التجاره و ملک و عایدات است که بعد از مخارج لازم آن

فایده حاصل شود و بر مایه افزوده گردد باید حقوق آن داده شود و چون یک مرتبه حقوق

اداشد دیگر بر آن تعلق نگیرد مگر آنکه آن مال از شخصی بشخص دیگر رسد . انتهى



## NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

At this critical juncture of the Five Year Plan, it is imperative and vital that we should consider our direct relationship with the people in our immediate surroundings: namely our **neighbours**.

It is our sincere hope that the beloved friends in the United Kingdom, as families and individuals, become acquainted with their neighbours and associates and show **genuine love** and sincere concern for their well-being. Let the Bahá'í family become a source of comfort and harmony in an effort to break down the walls of inhibition, prejudice and isolation. Let them be a centre of attraction and truly "possess a pure, kindly and radiant heart".

By inviting their neighbours to their homes and introducing them to one another, the beloved friends should become a source of unity and joy to those amongst whom they live.

The National Teaching Committee has prepared some notes and ideas, in English and Persian, which could be useful to the family in general, and the women at home in particular. These notes will be sent to spiritual assemblies, Bahá'í groups and isolated believers when requested. Please address your request to:

Mr Roger Wilkinson,  
2 Prizet House,  
Kendal, Cumbria. LA8 8AB

Let our aim be the establishment of bonds of friendship and mutual understanding with our neighbours which will gradually open their hearts, at later stages, to the precious Message of Bahá'u'lláh, and gain valuable and sincere friends to the Faith in this country.

"We love to see you at all times consorting in amity and concord within the paradise of My good-pleasure, and to inhale from your acts the fragrance of friendliness and unity, of loving kindness and fellowship. . . . We shall always be with you; if We inhale the perfume of your fellowship, Our heart will assuredly rejoice, for naught else can satisfy Us." — Bahá'u'lláh (GWB 315,8).

## LIST OF TEACHING AIDS

Since the National Teaching Committee started an Agency to distribute written teaching aids in March 1976, two items have been removed from the original list and eleven items have been added. The revised list of available items is given below. To obtain items, please send your request with a large SAE (most items are A4 size) to Roger Wilkinson, (address above).

1. First Ideas List. Dated Ridván 1975, this contains twenty-five ideas, for teaching.
2. Second Ideas List. Dated November 1975, this contains nineteen further ideas on teaching.
3. Third Ideas List. Dated March 1976, this contains twenty-six additional ideas on teaching.
4. Do-it-Yourself Play dated September 1975. This is an outline of a play which is designed for amateurs, and which is meant for teaching the Faith. Needs six or more actors.
5. Teaching Institute on Teaching. A community project for teaching people how to teach. The organisers need to prepare beforehand, but all the guidance is there.
6. Newspaper Quotes. Chosen as being suitable for advertisements.
7. Letter to Schools. Dated January 1976, this is a sample letter offering speakers and/or books to secondary schools.
8. Schools Competition. Prepared by Sheffield Spiritual Assembly. This is a sample layout for Idea No. 24 on the First Ideas List.
9. Teaching Teams. Guidelines for running a package teaching event, using "street teaching" methods. Envisaged for groups with 25 or more active members.
10. Article on Individual Teaching—Journal No. 228 June 1975.
11. Article on Firesides — Journal No. 229 September 1975.
12. Article on Correspondence with Newspapers — Journal No. 230 November 1975.
13. Article on Exhibitions — Journal No. 232 March 1976.
14. Teaching Guidelines. Large yellow booklet sent to all communities around Ridván 1975. Consists of guidelines for the organisation of teaching projects.

15. Study Course on The Bahá'í Faith. Produced by the NTC in 1958. To be used in conjunction with certain books.
16. Guidelines for Setting Up a Travel Teaching Rota. Only useful to teaching committees or possibly for use abroad.
17. LSA Teaching Plan. Originally prepared by Durham Spiritual Assembly. Designed to develop local assemblies.
18. Teaching Plan No. 1. A systematic approach to teaching the population by taking each profession / area of employment / interest in turn.
19. Phased Teaching Project. A sample teaching plan to be used over a period of time in a given area.
20. Teaching Plan No. 11. This is a plan for a 'Campaign Month' in a given area.
21. A Year's Plan — Self explanatory for use by local assemblies.
22. Guidelines for holding of weekend schools, conferences etc.
23. Guidelines for a few days Teaching Project in a goal District.
24. Individual Goals for each Bahá'í suggested by the Continental Board of Counsellors for Europe.
25. World Religion Day programme, dated January 1976. A complete ten page script of readings intended for use with musical interludes.
26. Specimen Newspaper Advertisements prepared by Swansea Spiritual Assembly. Over two dozen, mostly very large, advertisements used in 1976.
27. Fourth Ideas List. Dated November 1976, this deals with systematic teaching to cover the whole of a local government District.
28. Letter to Schools offering Books. This is an alternative to item No. 7 for use when books alone can be offered.
29. Specimen Advertisement offering free pamphlets prepared by the Bahá'ís of Warwick, complete with list of pamphlets and reply letter.
30. Guidelines for getting the best out of Travel Teachers, dated June 1977. Fourteen points to improve the way in which a community can benefit from travel teachers.
31. Guidelines on local Newspaper Relations, a letter from the Public Information Committee dated May 1977.
32. Guidelines for firesides giving three programmes for organised series of weekly firesides.
33. Specimen Book Exhibition in a Public Library — in preparation.
34. Ideas for women at home on how to teach the Faith. Compiled by Beatrice Smith and of particular interest to women from a Persian background — in preparation.

\* \* \* \* \*

## INTERCOM-BAHÁ'Í

Do you subscribe to Intercom-Bahá'í? Have you ever even heard of Intercom-Bahá'í? It is the national monthly newspaper of the United Kingdom National Assembly and contains all the latest news of the progress of the Faith in Britain and in our overseas goals. There is also a limited amount of other important international news.

Since starting two and a half years ago, Intercom has paid its own way, depending entirely for its revenue on readers' subscriptions. The British Community and many friends overseas have given the paper marvellous support, with subscriptions reaching a peak of 780 at the end of 1977.

However, the costs of producing a four-page monthly tabloid are immense and the Intercom team must continue to appeal to everyone for support in order to pay our way. Of course, our wish to attract new readers is not solely mercenary because we want as many people as possible to read it in order that more can share the exciting news contained in the paper.

If you would like to subscribe or take out a subscription as a gift to a friend, it costs £3.50 (inland) or £4.50 (overseas) per annum. Cheques or postal orders should be made payable (sterling only) to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom. Please send your money, together with your name and address, to:

Sue Hardy,  
36 Summerlea Way,  
Slough, Berks.



## SOME THOUGHTS ON CONSULTATION DURING THE NINETEEN DAY FEAST

*"Now is the time to cheer and refresh the downcast through the invigorating breeze of love and fellowship, and the living waters of friendliness and charity"*

Bahá'u'lláh, Gleanings, V.

We are all aware that the Nineteen Day Feast is a particular bounty that is given by God to Bahá'ís alone and that its underlying purpose is to promote unity and love within the Bahá'í community, as an aid to us in spreading Bahá'u'lláh's message of unity to mankind. 'Abdu'l-Bahá says, "This Feast is a bringer of joy. It is the groundwork of agreement and unity. It is the key to affection and fellowship. It diffuseth the oneness of mankind."

And yet because many of us are all too human and still struggling to follow the perfect example of a Bahá'í life found in 'Abdu'l-Bahá, our efforts continually fall far short of our aspirations when we have to mirror forth the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh in our daily lives.

The institutions of the Faith both test and deepen us and this is true also of the Nineteen Day Feast. And at no time during the Feast can the opportunities and obstacles to unity be more apparent than at the consultative period.

As Shoghi Effendi has written: "The Bahá'ís must learn to forget personalities and to overcome the desire — so natural in people — to take sides and fight about it. They must also learn to really make use of the great principle of consultation. There is a time set aside at the Nineteen Day Feasts for the community to express its views and make suggestions to its assembly; the assembly and the believers should look forward to this happy period of discussion, and neither fear it nor suppress it."

The way an assembly conducts this period of the Feast and the way that individual believers respond to the invitation to contribute to the development of the community is one true measure of the maturity of a Bahá'í community. It is particularly important that new members of the community and the youth should be encouraged by the atmosphere existing during the Feast to contribute their ideas aimed at fostering growth of the Faith, locally and nationally.

We need constantly to bear in mind that the suggestions and recommendations put forward are for the assembly to evaluate at a subsequent meeting, preferably the next one. Individual members of the community should be careful not to usurp the function of the assembly by being too strongly critical of ideas and proposals as they are put forward during the Feast. If such a practice is allowed to go unchecked, it firstly destroys the spirit of unity and harmony at the Feast. Secondly, unbridled criticism will certainly inhibit the flow of ideas from the community, particularly from those younger, or more sensitive, members. And the next stage is the withdrawal, little by little, of some believers from the life and activities of the local Bahá'í community — and that is only the start of the ill effects! It is no good saying a Bahá'í must be prepared for some criticism from fellow Bahá'ís, quoting 'Abdu'l-Bahá in support of the contention. Some of us know that we have yet to achieve that stage of detachment from our ideas and personal feelings. Unity and harmony — and enthusiasm — are delicate plants.

What then must we do to ensure that consultation fulfills its true purpose in the Nineteen Day Feast? Firstly, believers should take great care that their comments on any suggestion put forward by fellow members of the community are supportive rather than destructive. Help to define the proposal more closely, and hence assist subsequent assembly discussion of the matter, by asking the proposer its scope, objective, etc. If you feel impelled to sound a cautionary note based upon your previous experience, make sure that it is cautionary and not destructive — remember circumstances will have changed! Before expressing your views, consider whether the way you intend to express them will promote harmony or sow discord. Remember that anything destructive of unity must be avoided — think about the "unwisdom of the friends".

"Endeavour ye as much as possible that differences may not arise in the affairs; let not every insignificant matter become the cause of disagreement. If such conditions exist the end will be complete dispersion. The believers and maidservants of the Merciful must all consider how to produce harmony, so that the unity of the human world may be realised, not that every wholly unimportant subject become conducive to differences of opinion." ('Abdu'l-Bahá, BNF, p.411)

Nevertheless, as Shoghi Effendi says, "it is . . . the vital responsibility of every loyal and intelligent member of the Community to offer fully and frankly, but with due respect and consideration to the authority of the assembly, any suggestion, recommendation or criticism he conscientiously feels he should in order to improve and remedy certain existing conditions or trends in his local community." Note that the right to criticise relates to **existing conditions** — it is not carte blanche approval to voice objections to other believers' proposals about **future plans and activities**. Once again, the warning is sounded, "it should be stressed that all criticisms and discussions of a negative character which may result in undermining the authority of the assembly as a body should be strictly avoided. For otherwise the order of the Cause itself will be endangered, and confusion and discord will reign in the community."

In helping to maintain a harmonious atmosphere at the Nineteen Day Feast, the chairman for the meeting has a great responsibility. He should, with the prior approval of the local assembly, ensure as far as possible that negative criticism of recommendations and suggestions are eliminated, pointing out that the merits or demerits of such proposals will be discussed by the assembly at its next meeting. It is essential that the authority of the chairman at that time is respected and that any negative comments cease immediately.

Furthermore, the adoption of individual believers' proposals by the community at the Nineteen Day Feast should not be allowed to become a covert means of expressing approval or disapproval of such proposals. It should be made clear at the time that both recommendations and individual suggestions are considered by the assembly and that no procedural niceties can be allowed to cut off the local assembly from a fruitful source of ideas in the community. As the American National Assembly has said, "The Secretary of the Assembly records each resolution adopted by the community, as well as the various suggestions advanced during the meeting, in order to report these to the Spiritual Assembly for its consideration. Whatever action the assembly takes is to be reported at a later Nineteen Day Feast." (quoted in "The Covenant and Administration — A Compilation," Wilmette, 1971, p.68)

Not only are such changes likely to promote harmony and unity during the Feast, but they will also allow time for the important matter of "consideration of national and international Bahá'í affairs, to strengthen the capacity of the community to co-operate in promotion of the larger Bahá'í interests and to deepen the understanding of all believers concerning the relation of the local community to the Bahá'í World Community" (Ibid, p.68)

We must pray that the Nineteen Day Feast truly becomes "the very heart of our Bahá'í community life." As the National Assembly of the United States has said in a statement approved by the Guardian, "When properly conducted, and attended by a Bahá'í community which fully appreciates their importance, the Nineteen Day Feasts serve to renew and deepen our spirit of faith, increase our capacity for united action, remove misunderstandings and keep us fully informed of all important Bahá'í activities, local, national and international in scope."

Peter Kyne



## CHILDREN'S WEEKEND SCHOOL

STOCKPORT 21/22 JANUARY



*Children and helpers at the Stockport Children's Weekend School  
21/22 January.*

On this, the second children's weekend which the Stockport Bahá'í Community has held in Ilam, in the Peak District, we had sixteen children aged between nine and thirteen attending, from Stockport, Macclesfield, Hyde, East Leake, Chester and St Helens. We also had three youth and four adults to help. The school was held in the field study facility of the Ilam Hall Youth Hostel, in a most beautiful environment of hills, woods and swiftly flowing river.

On Friday night there was a heavy fall of snow, and as we approached the Peak hills on Saturday morning, what cries of delight and joy there were, especially to see Ilam Hall like a fairy tale castle amidst glistening white surroundings. Everyone tumbled out of the cars into the snow, at least four inches thick, and started off our weekend with many well-aimed snowballs.

As darkness fell all gathered inside to start with prayers and stories of the tumultuous times of the Dawnbreakers, of the people who battled so hard to lay the foundation of our Faith. This was followed by drawing and painting of those times, and cardboard models of forts and castles.

How grateful we were for the great inspiration and energy of our youthful helpers, Tom Fox from Manchester, Davey Wright from St Helens, and Shirin Podger from Australia. The children were divided into three groups, and with the youth they prepared plays and songs.

In the evening two children presented slides of Papua New Guinea, of exotic tropical places and the people and Bahá'ís they visited there.

Sunday began with a flurry of washing and tidying up, then all settled down to the first session — prayers and a talk on Unity in Diversity. After this there were more preparations for plays, followed by a wild game of all the religions (groups of children) pushing and pulling mankind (the adults) about, which was finally calmed down by the arrival of the Bahá'í Faith. Lunch followed and then into the snow once more. The boys played the New Guinea tin game, whilst the girls built a snowman and went off on a sunny walk amid the bare trees and snow laden meadows, where deer and rabbit footprints could be seen. Back inside to the chairs in a circle, to a session when all discussed teaching.

More painting, more football, a feast of cakes, and the parents arrived to see the plays. What tremendous acting potential we have amongst us — much laughter and huge applause ended our happy weekend.

Sue Podger

## NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

**CAMBRIDGE:** Hard work and careful planning by the Cambridge Assembly provided the foundation on which an extremely successful exhibition showing the Faith and five other religions was built. Entitled 'Six World Religions', the exhibition went on show in the Central Library, Cambridge at the beginning of January. It was planned to keep the exhibition there for two weeks, but as the end of that period drew near, the Chief Librarian personally contacted the assembly chairman to ask for an extension of two weeks owing to popular demand.

The exhibition, which cost over £600 to build, consists of eighteen large panels, three devoted to each religion under the themes of 'Foundations', 'Teachings', and 'Development'. The six religions represented are Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islám, and the Bahá'í Faith, each religion being presented from the point of view of its own adherents rather than from a specifically 'Bahá'í' angle.

Design of the exhibits was the work of Judi Lewis, a Welsh Bahá'í resident in Cambridge, who was trained at Swansea and Birmingham Colleges of Art. The assembly chairman, Denis MacEoin, is a research orientalist, and he was able to make use of his knowledge of this field in choosing the illustrations and other materials and in writing the texts which accompany them. But it was the hard work of a small core of dedicated local believers which enabled the assembly to produce this massive exhibition in something like two weeks.

The result is colourful, informative, and inspiring: Cambridge LSA thinks it is one of the best exhibitions incorporating the Faith ever built in this country. It will be travelling shortly to the goal area around Newmarket, to be shown in libraries there, then to other locations around Cambridge, and eventually to other assembly and goal areas. Assemblies interested in making use of the exhibition can obtain further information from the Cambridge LSA secretary.

**CRAIGAVON:** Representatives from Belfast, Castlereagh, Carrickfergus, North Down and Lisburn communities were present at the Bring and Buy Sale which was held in Pinebank Community Centre, Craigavon. Craigavon Community organised this event and a thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all. £65.65 was raised for the National Fund on behalf of all the friends of Northern Ireland. Although our numbers were small the results were large.



*An important goal of the Five Year Plan was achieved when the first Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the Isle of Man was formed. Photograph shows assembly members with Auxiliary Board Member Madeleine Hellaby.*



**DURHAM:** For World Religion Day we asked all churches in the vicinity of Durham City to include in their prayers on Sunday 15 January, the first three verses of Prayer No. 89 in the Bahá'í Prayer Book. A public meeting was held in the Town Hall, Durham, the subject being "The Bahá'í Faith". The speaker was Oliver Christopherson of Stevenage and over twenty people attended, two of whom were non-Bahá'ís.

Our community is currently assisting in the formation of a United Nations Association in Durham to gain contacts with other 'unity-minded' people.

During Intercalary Days we had our annual visit to an elderly persons' hospital in Durham — small gifts were distributed to some of the patients. Parties were also held for Bahá'í children and their friends, and also for the community and their friends. As we are three adults short in Durham, we ask for the prayers of all believers for pioneers or declarations to save our LSA from lapsing.

**EALING:** We had a well-filled room at the Ealing Town Hall for World Religion Day when we invited representatives of all the other major religions to join us in reading from a prepared script, after allowing each of them five minutes to say something about the origins and ideals of their Faith.

Our guest of honour was the Deputy Mayor of Ealing with the Deputy Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs Charles Hancock. He made a speech warmly praising the Bahá'í Community for organising such a meeting and expressing the hope that we would repeat such an occasion. He promised his support to the Bahá'ís wherever he might meet them. He then extended a very warm welcome to a party of young Bahá'í pilgrims en route to Israel and Iran, from Brazil, who were staying in Ealing for a few days and attended this meeting.

At the close of the speeches thirteen-year old Tania Golzari gave a brief pianoforte recital and this was followed by refreshments. At an American auction in December over £2,000 was raised for the Fund.

**GREAT YARMOUTH:** On Saturday 28 January a One-Day School was held at the home of Bridget and Iain Macdonald in Gorleston. It was the first event of this kind to be held in the Goal District of Great Yarmouth and proved successful. Hugh McKinley led a deepening session in the afternoon on the Universal House of Justice compilation "The Gift of Teaching", and there was some constructive discussion. Nine Bahá'ís attended this session and after a hearty supper we were joined by ten others, including two non-Bahá'ís, for a happy, if somewhat noisy evening of songs and music with the music provided by our gifted neighbouring Waveney Bahá'í community.

**HASTINGS:** On 19 December 1977, the Bahá'í Group of Hastings organised a tree planting ceremony at Alexandra Park in the presence of the Mayor of Hastings and some friends from Brighton and Eastbourne. One of the members of Hastings Community, Mr Fariborz Goharriz, introduced briefly the Bahá'í Faith. On this occasion an official photograph was taken and later all the Bahá'ís went to the Town Hall. A young member of our community, Miss Helen Preston, spoke about different aspects of the Bahá'í Faith and presented the Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh to the Mayor. This ceremony took over an hour and was followed by a social gathering. The Mayor was very happy and said: "... I hope you will grow quickly in this town and in the country, because your aims are according to the needs of the present time. ...". (Photograph below)



*The Deputy Mayor of Ealing planting a tree, photographed with some of the friends. Already people have noticed the inscription and have asked about the Faith.*

**NORTH BEDFORDSHIRE:** Our community had a very successful celebration for World Religion Day. We have worked closely over the past years with the Bedford Community Relations Association and with the United Nations Association. One result of this has been the holding of a United Nations Day Service in the main Anglican church, at which for the last two years passages from the scriptures of the major religions, including the Bahá'í Faith, have been read. For our own celebration we, therefore, chose an afternoon of meditation, consisting of readings from Bahá'í writings, interspersed with recorded music on Bahá'í themes, and followed by refreshments (plentiful and home-baked). Over fifty written invitations had been sent out to all members of Bedford UNA and all committee members of BCRA. Nine visitors attended the celebration which was held in the Community Relations Hall, filled to its seating capacity of about thirty. We had also received free pre-publicity in two free local newspapers, resulting in one seeker visiting us. All visitors remained to hold animated discussions with the Bahá'ís during the serving of refreshments, and one of them suggested that next year we should hire a bigger hall and make a bigger event of the occasion.

A wonderful feeling of closeness and friendship was promoted by two social evenings, one in the goal-town of Luton and one in Bedford, both fulfilling the hospitality of the Ayyam-i-Ha, the Intercalary Days, but perhaps of even greater bounty to those who participated was a party-type high tea served for twenty-nine members of a children's home in Bedford, followed by a magic show. The Mayor of North Bedfordshire attended the event, presented the home with chess sets and a cricket set on behalf of the Bahá'í community and accepted a copy of "Dawn over Mount Hira" as a memento of the occasion. All those present felt that the ties of the Bahá'í community with the local community had been greatly strengthened.

**WAVERLEY:** The Waverley Spiritual Assembly was formed on 11 December. The meeting was attended by Mrs Mary Hardy, Auxiliary Board Member Adam Thorne and a large group of friends from Guildford and Elmbridge. We are especially grateful to Guildford for their tireless efforts over a number of years, and we know that they are as thankful as we are that this assembly goal has finally been achieved.

One of our first teaching projects was the distribution of 1,000 invitations to World Religion Day meetings in Farnham and in Godalming. This was mainly proclamation, but eight new contacts came to the Farnham meeting, several of whom have been in touch with us since. We have had some very good publicity in the local press, who seem happy to print anything we submit, whether this concerns our administration, Holy Days, or Bahá'í personalities. The Waverley friends are concentrated mainly in two of the six towns under our jurisdiction, and we hope that our ranks will soon swell to cover the whole area!

