



# The **Bahá'í Journal**

Volume One Issue Number 11 March 1985



**FAITH ON  
FILM** Page 4





# THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

TELEX RECEIVED 29 JANUARY 1985

JUST RECEIVED NEWS EXECUTION SHIRAZ, RUHU'LLAH HASURI, 35 YEARS OLD. HE WAS SHOT IN PRISON. NEWS DEATH IN PRISON TIHRAN RUSTAM VARJAVANDI 15 SEPTEMBER CONFIRMED. THIS BRINGS TO 178 NUMBER THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES FOR FAITH. SINCE 3 SEPTEMBER 16 BAHAI'S HAVE BEEN KILLED OR HAVE DIED IN PRISON, 101 IMPRISONED AND 79 RELEASED, SOME OF WHOM HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN REPORTED IMPRISONED. TOTAL NUMBER NOW IN PRISON, AS FAR AS CAN BE ASCERTAINED, IS 707. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WHO WERE DISMISSED OR THEIR PENSIONS STOPPED BECAUSE OF THEIR FAITH ARE NOW BEING SUMMONED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL AND COMPELLED PAY BACK ALL THE SALARIES RECEIVED FOR MANY YEARS, EVEN DECADES, FAILING WHICH THEY WILL BE IMPRISONED. CAUSE MANY RECENT IMPRISONMENTS IS INABILITY TO PAY BACK SALARIES BAHAI'S HAD RECEIVED WHILE LAWFULLY EMPLOYED BY GOVERNMENT. THIS PRESSURE AS WELL AS ABOVE-MENTIONED NEWS MAY BE PUBLICIZED AND GOVERNMENTS INFORMED.

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

## بیت العدل اعظم درخواست عکس

با توجه به حوادث و اضمحلات اخیر در ایران چون تهیه عکس از حرمات بیت ائمه و کوفته های اجزاء ساکن ایران غیر ممکن است ولی بر حسب اتفاق ممکن است دوستانی که کشور ایران را ترک کرده اند یا اجزاء بکلیه در این کشور بنا همگی دارند یا خود مدارکی در این زمینه داشته باشند و ضرورت دارد که این مدارک مرکز جهانی ارسال شود لذا از اهدا و کفندگان چنین مدارکی تقاضا میشود عکس های مربوطه را به دفتر تحف علی ارائه فرمایند تا ترتیب این امر داده شود. البته ذکر اسامی افراد و شرح واقعه و تاریخ حوادث و ذکر نام محل و سایر اطلاعات نیز ضروری است.

## مکاتیب حضرت عبدالهادی بزبان فارسی

مجموعه ای از مکاتیب حضرت عبدالهادی بزبان فارسی اخیراً از طرف مرکز جهانی منتشر شده است. بهر عزیزان مستثنائی مطالب این کتاب بود چاپ نرسیده است این کتاب انوشهر نثریات امری قابل تهیه است.

## مهاجرین عزیز تقاضای عکس

چون از طرف بیت العدل اعظم الهی شرح خدمات ده ساله مهاجرین عزیز درخواست شده است بنابراین از مهاجرین عزیز تقاضا میشود شرح خدمات خود را با ذکر نکات عمده ای خدمات و صورت انجام کارهای مربوطه مرکز جهانی ارسال فرمایند صفحۀ روشنی از آن را نیز به کمیته اهداف بن الهی بارسال فرمایند.

Mrs. Kathy Hardy Hemmati,  
9 Dunlop Terrace,  
Penicuik, Mid Lothian

## From the National Spiritual Assembly

The National Spiritual Assembly wishes to draw the attention of the Friends to the following points with regard to visiting the Guardian's Grave:

1. Cars should not be parked in the immediate vicinity of the Guardian's Grave. There is ample room for parking in front of the chapel. Parking is also permitted at the far end of the road in either direction. The sight of cars, and the starting and stopping of engines tend to impinge upon the beauty of that holy spot.

2. All other graves in the cemetery should be given the same respect and due regard for the bodies buried there as we would expect from non-Baha'is visiting the Guardian's Grave.

3. Once again we have been asked to remind the friends that the posing of individuals or groups for photographs within the precincts of the Guardian's Grave should not occur. This is a holy place and as such is due every respect and reverence.

4. Although not wishing to restrict in any way the friend's acts of devotion, the National Assembly would ask that the friends refrain from pouring perfume or attar of roses over the plinth as this stains the marble.



# From The Editor

Allah'u'Abha!

Dear Baha'i Friends,

As you can see from this issue we have changed the format of the pages in order to include more material and give us more flexibility in the layout. This is the first stage in a new look for the Journal. Over the next few issues more improvements will be made. We hope that this meets with your approval, and we would welcome any suggestions and comments.

The Editorial Staff would like to thank the believers for their wonderful letters of support. In answer to several recent comments about the anonymity of articles and news appearing in the Journal, the Editor would like to point out that some material is written by the editorial staff and some by committees and yet others by those who WISH to remain anonymous. Occasionally the names of authors have gone astray in the word processor, which has the annoying habit of chopping off the last line or so of text thus obliterating the name of the writer. However, we have been under instructions from the National Assembly to avoid references to personalities. The believers may be

## DEADLINE March 10th

No material received  
after this date can be  
considered for inclusion  
in the next issue.

pleased to know that the National Assembly have now reversed this policy. The Journal has always willingly acknowledged those whose material has appeared in its pages, though community news is always ascribed to communities rather than to individuals. We apologise if the Journal has come across as impersonal in any way. There are those who think that we are far too informal.

At the area convention attended by the editor, a representative of the youth stood up and spoke about the International Year of the Youth. He spoke very eloquently and he said: "We have been told that the Youth can move the world. Just allow us to, and we will." In other words, let us not do the youths' work for them, but let us give them every support.

A very heartening thing is the recent spate of media coverage for the Faith on Radio and Television,, as well as a good article in the Readers' Digest magazine of January this year. (It might be worth using that last item as an opening gambit for any potential contacts you have had in mind for a while.) This is due to the sterling work done by many of the communities throughout the country, as well as those involved on the national level.

If I have a message for you this month it is to be cheeky! If it is for the sake of the Faith our daring will be rewarded.

Our very special thanks must go this month to Caroline Gibbs who has been our Children's Editor for some time. She has "left" us to devote herself to a new baby, for which we offer her and Chris our congratulations. Thanks also to Ramona Geisler for typing late at night for this and other issues.

Warmest Baha'i Love,  
The Editor

## Editorial Policy

The editorial board wish to draw to the attention of the friends the following points:

**DEADLINES** In order to increase standards of presentation and efficiency the Baha'i Journal is being printed by an outside printer. This means that our deadlines for receipt of material for inclusion must be strictly adhered to. If material is late for whatever reason it may be considered for the following issue.

**CONTENT** It would be appreciated if material submitted was either typed or neatly written and that the matter of the dignity of the Faith was kept in mind.

**EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY** The Editor reserves the right to reject, cut or alter any contribution submitted for publication in the interests of deadlines, topicality, appropriateness, standards or dignity.

Please try to adhere to these brief guidelines. Should you wish further guidance you may phone Richard Boyle at the National Office (01-584-2566)

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The Baha'i Journal is for circulation amongst Baha'is only.

All material should be sent, before the deadline, to the Editor, Baha'i Journal, 27 Rutland Gate, London SW7 1PD.



# MEDIA BREAKTHROUGH

Recently the Faith seems to have been languishing in the shadows instead of being firmly in the spotlight of continual publicity.

However, since just before Christmas, the Faith has suddenly sprung once more to public attention.

Perhaps the catalyst for all this was the Adjournment debate sponsored by Roger Freeman, MP for Kettering (see last issue).

Since this debate there have been several excellent articles in the National press and a renewed interest by the broadcast media.

The roots of this success lie with the individual believers, who over the past months have been patiently passing on news to their local and regional newspapers and approaching their MPs and Euro-MPs. It is all very well to keep the pressure up from the National Office, but there must be an accompanying push from communities and individuals throughout the country.

Elsewhere in this article you will find three extracts from national newspapers or magazines. BBC Radio 4 has also carried an interview with Simon Mortimore, the Chairman of the National Assembly and The World Service has broadcast an interview with the National Teaching Committee's secretary, Jan Mughrabi, who used to be a pioneer in Africa.

The Reader's Digest in its December issue (American edition) and its January

## Guardian

4th FEBRUARY

### BAHA'IS FACE CASH DEMANDS

Members of the Baha'i religion in Iran who used to work for the State - including doctors and teachers - have been ordered to pay back their salaries or face imprisonment.

The order, issued by the Attorney-General, Mr. Mousavi Ardabili, is seen as the main reason for a sharp increase in the number of Baha'i arrests in recent months. Since the beginning of September, 101 are known to have been seized, bringing the total to at least 707, according to Baha'is in Britain.

Now they fear that "many thousands" will be affected by the Attorney-General's decree. There are 300,000 Baha'is in Iran, making it the country's largest minority religion.

The deputy chairman of the Baha'i National Spiritual Assembly in Britain said: "The Attorney-General has indicated two categories of people who must pay back what they have earned."

"The first is retired people who used to receive pensions which have been stopped since the revolution," he said.

"The second category is those who have been dismissed from state jobs. If they cannot raise the money, the penalty is prison."

edition (UK edition) carried a 5 page article on the persecutions in Iran. (This is the world's most widely read magazine with a circulation of over 31,000,000 printed in 17 languages). Hopefully the article will appear in other national editions in the near future.

Newsnight, on BBC2, included an item on the Faith, again on the subject of the persecutions, on their February 14th programme. One week before, a film crew descended on the regular Thursday night public meeting at the Baha'i centre in London to film a meeting in progress. This was combined with an interview with an Iranian Baha'i who had been in prison with the 10 women who were martyred in Shiraz in June 1983. The programme made the point very clear that although Iranian authorities deny even the existence of the Faith in Iran, or discount it as a political movement, Baha'is who were being held under various charges could win their freedom if they recanted their Faith.

These developments are very encouraging and one indication of the emergence of the Faith from the "Age of Obscurity". But we cannot rest on our laurels. Now that the population at large is becoming familiar with the name and principles of the Faith, we must work even harder to deepen ourselves individually, strengthen the institutions of the Faith, and continue our teaching efforts with renewed vigour. It is only in this way that we will be ready for the "entry by troops" that will surely come in the not-too-distant future.



# Torture of a Peaceful People

By Fergus M. Bordewich

Despite all the campaigns waged in their behalf, millions of innocent people in dozens of countries are still persecuted and sometimes killed because of their politics, skin color, ethnic background, class origin or religious beliefs. In revolutionary Iran, the regime of Ayatollah Khomeini has elevated the medieval witch hunt to a national priority. This pitiless effort aims to "cleanse" the Islamic state of the Baha'is, adherents of a peace-loving minority religion, solely because they refuse to renounce their faith.

"Two of my brothers and my brother-in-law were taken away in the night and killed by the Ayatollah's executioners", says an elderly doctor. "The Pasdars (revolutionary guards) stripped me of my home, my car, my property, and shut down my medical practice. When they told my nephew that every member of the family, from eight to eighty, was to be killed, I decided to flee".

The old man pauses for a moment, choosing his words. "And yet we are not against the Iranians or Khomeini", he finally says. "We will never take vengeance on anyone. All we want is to be left in peace to worship as we choose".

The doctor's experience is typical of the unremitting terror that has engulfed the followers of the Baha'i faith since Shi'ite Moslem fanatics seized power in Iran in 1979. The Khomeini regime has mounted a steady campaign of persecution against the Baha'is - killing some 200, imprisoning and torturing hundreds more, and forcing tens of thousands into exile.

## Instruments of Satan.

Since their founding in the 19th century by a Persian prophet whom they call Baha'u'llah, or Glory of God, the Baha'is have been regarded by their countrymen as heretics from Islam. But today's Shi'ite radicals have added a new resentment: to them, the generally well-educated and

progress-minded Baha'is symbolize the late Shah's modernisation attempts, which Khomeini's followers are determined to reverse. In the words of one powerful religious judge, "The Iranian nation cannot tolerate the perverted Baha'is, who are instruments of Satan and followers of the devil and of the superpowers and their agents".

Such sordid accusations are part of the awful nightmare land of today's Iran, where contempt is virtue, cruelty is devotion and ignorance is wisdom. The 250,000 or so Baha'is who remain in Iran are pacifists by creed - like Mahatma Gandhi, they believe that violence begets only more violence - and they submit to their fate with the calm surrender of Christian martyrs.

The Baha'is, who number some four million in 166 countries, practice a gentle faith that emphasizes the unity of religions, nations and races, and considers "service to mankind" a form of worship. Much in their canon is common to all the great religions - including Islam. Baha'is are prohibited by their religion from participating in politics, and also believe in strict obedience to the laws of any country in which they live. Indeed, even while their families are being tormented by the

authorities, Baha'i draftees - despite their faith's pacifism - are serving in Iran's war against Iraq....

In Iran, meanwhile, the stage remains set for genocide. The threat of total extermination will hang over the Baha'is as long as fanatic religious leaders, with their totalitarianism of hate and bigotry, remain in power. If Iran were to lose its war with Iraq, or if its economy were finally to collapse, it could scarcely be surprising if the radical mullahs looked to the Baha'is as scapegoats and put into effect the "final solution" that they seem to have had in mind all along.

The Baha'is pray that the world will come to their aid, by continuing to accept Baha'i refugees and by putting economic and diplomatic pressure on Iran. To endure the nearly unendurable daily life inside Iran, however, they will look ultimately to their own faith.

"We are not bitter", Gerald Knight says, with the sense of self-assurance and conviction that rises through the words of nearly all Baha'is. "We don't hate the people who are killing our fellow Baha'is. Rather, we take our example from the people who are being killed - they are filled with love for their tormentors. In them we see the power of God".



By Rosemary Righter.

# IRAN SAVAGES BAHAI'S AND DENOUNCES UN CHARTER

Iran, whose systematic use of torture and executions without fair trial is under investigation by the United Nations, has become the first country in the world to denounce the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Its ambassador to the UN, Said Rajaie-Khorassani, has told the UN in New York that since the Declaration, for which Iran voted and which has the force of international customary law, derives from "the Judaeo-Christian tradition", Iran "would not therefore hesitate to violate its provisions".

Iran justifies its defiance of international law by claiming that it abides instead by "the divine law" of its 1979 Islamic constitution. It is refusing to cooperate with the UN's special investigator, who is due to make a preliminary report next month but has not been able to visit the country.

Torture to obtain information or confessions is prohibited under Iran's constitution, but Iran claims that "corporal punishment and the death penalty" are not torture "if carried out on the basis of Islam, in

accordance with a sentence by an Islamic court". However, there is extensive documentary evidence that torture is being used to extract confessions, and without judicial sanction, and that it is becoming more brutal and more widespread. One group, the 300,000 Iranian members of the Baha'i Faith, has been denied recognition under the constitution and is becoming persecuted as an entire community.

Iran justifies its denial of recognition for the Baha'is by arguing that they are "a political sect". In fact, Baha'is are expressly forbidden by their religion to take part in politics and enjoined to obey the ruling civil power.

The allegation that Baha'is are "Zionist agents" derives from the historical accident that their founder, Baha'u'llah, was exiled to Acre in the 19th century, and the world headquarters of the 3m-strong worldwide religion is there on Mount Carmel, in what is now Israel.

A temporary lull in the number of executions of Baha'is came in 1983, following an international

outcry over the hanging of 10 women and teenage girls for teaching Baha'i children who had been expelled from school. But since last June, the scale and ferocity of tortures of Baha'is has increased. Last month six senior leaders were executed, and the death of another 19 is thought to be imminent. Others have died under torture aimed at extracting videotaped confessions for use on Iranian television.

Outside the jails Baha'is are subjected to exceptional measures. One man was taken last June from a Tehran hospital while he was recovering from surgery; on the way to prison, the guards tore open his sutures. Others have been surrounded by mobs and burned to death, or incinerated in their homes. Families of those executed have been driven from their homes.

Some 40,000 Baha'is have managed to flee Iran. Those who remain live under a suspended sentence of death. Khomeini has not rescinded his edict that "if somebody is a heretic and will not recant, the shedding of his blood is not a crime".

## NATIONAL CONVENTION

Southport Theatre  
Southport

26, 27 & 28 April

Book your hotel now!







# THE BAHAI FUND

Its role  
in the  
spiritual  
development  
of the  
individual

Have you ever read the book of Leviticus in the Old Testament? In it there are many laws which have not been observed by Jews for two millenia, and yet, I believe, they have a parallel for Baha'is today.

I mean specifically the laws of sacrifice, which are explained in physical terms in quite some detail. The sacrifice is of live animals - sheep, goats, and lambs.

Perhaps a doubting Jew in the 7th century B.C. might have been forgiven for asking why this was done. Indeed, many of the practices such as sprinkling the blood on the altar or burning the flesh may seem strange if not repugnant to us now. So, how would we answer the question? Would it not be fair to say that this is the physical expression of a spiritual principle - namely sacrifice - and given the time, conditions, and stage of development, the most suitable expression.

Of course, we do not have live animal sacrifices in the Faith, but we do have the principle. In fact, it seems to be at the very heart of all religious experience, a mystical

law, an aspect of spirituality itself.

'Abdu'l-Baha explains it this way:

"Until a being setteth his foot in the plane of sacrifice, he is bereft of every favour and grace; and this plane of sacrifice is the realm of dying to the self, that the radiance of the living God may then shine forth."<sup>1</sup>

There is no need to outline the supreme degree of self sacrifice evinced by our fellow believers suffering persecution in Iran. Suffice it to say that they are the very embodiment of the principle in this day.

However, that is not to say that we should miss out on our part. For do we not have the Fund as our expression of love for the Cause? "Contributions to this Fund constitute an effective way whereby every believer can test the measure and character of his faith, and to prove in deeds the intensity of his devotion and attachment to the Cause."<sup>2</sup>

**"...it is only through such devotion and sacrifice that the Cause can prosper and its message embrace the whole world."**

The Guardian also points out that it is for our own individual development: "Every Baha'i, no matter how poor, should have confidence that his spiritual progress will largely depend upon the measure to which he proves, in his deeds, his readiness to support the divine institutions of his Faith."<sup>3</sup>

"The more one can give the better it is specially when such offerings necessitate the sacrifice of other wants and desires on behalf of the donor. The harder the sacrifice the more meritorious will it be, of course, in the sight of God. For after all it is

not so much the quantity of one's offerings that matters but rather the measure of deprivation that such offerings entail."<sup>4</sup>

I would like to suggest that this is the attitude we should have: that we are making sacrifices in giving to the Fund for the love of God. Any material benefits to the Cause are a sort of divine "spin-off", but not the prime motive for our giving.

It would be foolish to deny however, that we are not in a more fortunate position than our 7th century Jewish friend. He saw his contributions (or offerings) literally going up in smoke. We can see other more tangible results from our sacrifices. The Guardian, when referring to the Temple in Wilmette stated:

"It is with sacrifice that this Temple is to be built."<sup>5</sup> i.e. not with money.

In other places the sublime station of the Fund is reiterated by the Guardian. In relation to the collection of funds for the Temple He wrote:

"...it is only through such a spirit of devotion and sacrifice that the Cause can prosper and its message embrace the whole world."<sup>6</sup>

"Upon the degree of self-sacrifice involved in these individual contributions will directly depend the efficacy which these nascent administrative institutions, called into being through the power of Baha'u'llah, and by the virtue of the design conceived by the Centre of His Covenant, will exert."<sup>7</sup>

Even more significantly, He stated that it is the "continuous and abundant flow of funds into the national treasury, on which the successful prosecution of the Plan must chiefly depend."<sup>8</sup>

Yes - the winning of the Plan itself depends on our donations.



Bearing in mind the high station of the Fund, I hope I am not heretical in feeling slightly embarrassed when appeals for the Fund are couched in terms of Mars bars per day. Is that what is meant by sacrifice? For example, why not ask yourself if you couldn't manage through life with a black and white television rather than a colour set (if you have one), and contribute the difference in the license cost to the Fund. Or the next time you think of going to the cinema why not arrange a prayer evening and contribute the amount saved to the Fund? Why not go to the jewellers today or tomorrow and sell something precious? Surely this is what is meant by detachment?

"Beware, O men, lest ye be tempted to part with Him in exchange for the gold and silver ye possess."<sup>9</sup>

In conclusion, as we remember that "every minute ... is infinitely precious"<sup>10</sup>, perhaps it is befitting to close with the words of the Universal House of Justice:

"He (the Blessed Beauty) rewards our humble efforts with effusions of grace which bring not only advancement to the Cause but assurance and happiness to our hearts, so that we may indeed look upon our neighbours with bright and shining faces, confident that from our services now will eventuate that blissful future which our descendants will inherit, glorifying Baha'u'llah, the Prince of Peace, the Redeemer of mankind."<sup>11</sup>

John Parris

#### References:

1. Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Baha, page 76.
2. Lifeblood of the Cause, page 9, Number 3 of a series of compilations issued by the Universal House of Justice.
3. Ibid. page 10.
4. Ibid. page 10.
5. Ibid. page 7.

## SACRIFICE Vs NECESSITY

In these days of economic turmoil and unemployment the Fund seems inevitably to fall short of its target. As the price of materials, services etc. increases and the numbers of those out of work climbs ever higher the situation seems bound to get worse.

But why should this be? Without a doubt the actual amount of money available to the friends will decrease. The Fund should therefore suffer. So what can the individual believer, without much money to spare do? As we can see from the main article on the Fund in this issue, we can all make savings in the way in which we live.

But even in communities like Iran (before the revolution) where many people gave large lump sums of money to the Fund, it was the steady trickle of pennies which made up the bulk of the donations. Of course this applies only to communities which have universal participation. We talk about the daily requirements of the Fund in terms of Mars Bars because this is how small the necessary donation is. Of course a Mars Bar is a small amount if you can afford it. But what if you really believe that you cannot afford it? Shoghi Effendi, in a letter written on his behalf states, "As to material sacrifices towards the welfare of the Cause he wished you to understand that the general interests of the Cause take precedence over the interests of particular individuals".

However to balance this we must look at another letter written on his behalf, "Even though Shoghi Effendi would urge every believer to sacrifice as much as possible for the sake of contributing towards the fund of the National Assembly, yet he would discourage the friends to incur debts for that purpose".

The choice is therefore left up to the individual. There is another way in which the friends can help the Fund, this is by economising in all aspects of the Faith so that scant resources are not wasted. For example, if you change your address, inform the National Office as soon as possible so that the Journal or any other correspondence can be sent to your new address. Every month quite a few Journals are returned marked "Moved, address unknown". Community secretaries can save much duplicated or needless effort by following the instructions of the National Assembly or the National Office.

All the economies we can imagine, let alone implement, cannot replace regular and generous donations to the Fund, but they can help stretch the available money. We have the writings, we know what must be done, and it is up to each individual to search their heart and to give what they are able.

6. Ibid. page 8.

7. Wellsprings of Guidance, Page 19, Messages from the Universal House of Justice 1963-68, Baha'i Publishing Trust, Wilmette, Illinois, 1976.

8. Op. cit. page 12.

9. Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, page 38, (British Edition), Baha'i Publishing Trust,

1949.

10. The Unfolding Destiny of the British Baha'i Community, page 10, Messages of the Guardian to the British Baha'i Community, 1944-47, (Abridged version).

11. Messages of the Universal House of Justice to the Baha'is of the World, Ridvan 1984.



# GO ON-

## Stick your neck out!

Mihan Ram has made a video tape entitled "THE EARTH IS BUT ONE COUNTRY" which was featured in the last edition of the Journal.

Many who had seen it in Britain had said that is not good enough for the intended purpose and that better things had been done elsewhere. A copy was sent to the House of Justice and somehow went astray en-route\*. The tape did not seem to be having much luck. Until, that is, Vafa Ram went to Canada and took the video tape with him.

There he discovered that Canada does not have an Audio Visual Department of its own, because the International Audio Visual Centre is based in Canada. They do, however, have a Distribution Service of the material that does come to them. Some of the members of this service saw the video tape and liked it. Contrary to Vafa's expectations, they said that it was good compared to a lot of material made in the U.S.A.

At that point Vafa became very cheeky and sticking his neck out - expecting it to be cut off - enquired whether it was suitable for Cable T.V. They agreed that it was, and knew of a Cable T.V. company nearby who might be interested. It just so happened that this Cable T.V. company was in the town of Halifax where Vafa was due to go next anyway! So the cable company was contacted and they were delighted. They were obliged to give time to all local groups and were very pleased to be able to broadcast a Baha'i programme for half an hour - three times in one week - at 8:00 in the evening for their prime viewing time!

Not only that, but the Halifax Baha'is created an

introduction to the video tape so the Cable Company agreed to interview Vafa for another series of half-hour broadcasts to show the week before the video tape! Simultaneous with the setting up of the broadcasts, a letter came to Ram's from the House of Justice praising the video tape and saying that it was suitable for Cable T.V.! So it pays to be cheeky!

\*Vafa's sister took the tape on pilgrimage with her to give to the House of Justice informally.

## Carnival Night on the Isle of Mull

Friday, 4th January, 5:00 a.m. a very tired Carnival Night and their driver set off from Huddersfield on their long trek to Mull. They had been invited up to play their music to the youth of the island.

They arrived at 4:30 p.m. and there to meet them were some friends who showed them to their home, a good 20 miles north. After a very welcome hot meal, they were taken to their accommodation in the main town of Mull, Tobermory. They were pleasantly surprised to find that they were to stay in a luxury, self catering chalet owned by a local Baha'i. After a well earned early night they got up relatively early and walked into beautiful Tobermory, where countless numbers of photographs were taken of Tobermory Bay and its surroundings. They could feel the wonderful community spirit generated by the town which was made more apparent when they found out that the local youth were trying to raise money to save the community centre from demolition; the very same place they were to perform in that night.

After an afternoon practising and final sound checks in Aros Hall, they were well prepared for the evening. They arrived at the hall at 9:00 p.m. to find it full with almost 80 youth. They were to play two separate sets, one from 9:30 to 10:00, and the other from 11:15 to 12:00.

Their first, shorter set opened with a percussion piece which was appreciated by the lively youth. Half an hour went by very quickly and the first set was completed. As they took the stage for the second time, they were given a warm reception. An exciting time followed with both band and audience to the spirit of the occasion.

As the last bars of the final song faded away and the band left the stage, it was obvious that they were to return very shortly, judging from the cries for more. How could they refuse?

They remounted the stage and were to stay for a further TEN numbers! It was during the fifth encore that someone ran on stage to tell them that a girl had declared, much to everyone's delight. Therefore it was only right that an original version of "Oh Baha'u'llah" should be played. It was noticed that two of the island's four police officers had entered the hall and were watching over the events and happily tapping their feet to the music!

As the house lights came on at nearly 12:40 a.m. the musicians, having played for nearly 3 very rewarding hours, were physically drained.

The musicians would like to thank the local Baha'is for making their short stay both enjoyable and rewarding, and look forward to returning soon.



# Bahá'í Talk in Westminster Abbey

There was yet another proclamation breakthrough at Westminster Abbey in January.

For over a decade, Philip Hainsworth has been associated with developing a Baha'i presence on such bodies as the World Congress of Faiths, the UN Advisory Committee on Education, the World Federalists, etc., and he was invited by the World Conference of Religions for Peace to give a talk at the Deanery, Westminster Abbey, on the persecution of the Baha'is.

Alas, he had to tell them that he would be halfway across the world in the Falkland Islands, and so they invited Lois Hainsworth to give the talk instead.

About thirty people attended the meeting, including Marcus Braybrooke, and religious leaders from the Hindu, Sikh, and Jewish Faiths, and various other Christian denominations. Only two Baha'is were present: Shoaleh Dirdin of Solihull, who was representing her employer, and Marjorie Ward of Sevenoaks.

The meeting was chaired by the Dean of Westminster, Dr Edward Carpenter, who introduced Lois very warmly, speaking of "the plight of this gentle people". Lois spoke for over an hour, dealing with the early persecutions and the historical background, following the story of persecution through to the present day. She mentioned a number of relevant teachings and gave a general outline of the Faith.

She was questioned afterwards for another

hour, and both Dr Carpenter and the Secretary of the movement asked for a written resume of the talk, which will be circulated to those members not present. The sympathy and willingness to be of assistance of all those present was much in evidence.

Once again the hallowed walls of one of England's much-loved buildings resounded to the Name of the Blessed Beauty and the deeds of His followers.

## ARCHIVES

Archives are the golden threads which link our glorious heritage with generations yet unborn. I wonder how many of us are fully aware of the vital necessity of preserving those invaluable records of 'history in the making' for the benefit of those who will follow after us.

It is so easy to rely upon the memories of the older generation of believers to thrill us with their sacrifices, of endeavours and victories; forgetting, all too often, that as they pass away such recollections will become mere 'hearsay' - sometimes to be forgotten altogether.

A very great responsibility rests upon every Assembly member, and particularly your local secretaries, to ensure that the 'highlights and red letter days' of our year by year activities are not only faithfully recorded but also faithfully preserved.

This theme has been brought home to the writer in an astounding manner in recent weeks whilst sorting the archives of the Cardiff Spiritual Assembly. We all knew that the first Assembly in Wales was formed in 1948: that probably the first Baha'i in Wales was Mrs Rose Jones in 1942. Before then, so far as was known... nothing.

Nothing that is until a news cutting from the "Western Mail" came to light. Dated 1925 - 59 years ago - it recorded that travel teachers Martha Root and Mrs Schprocher of Montreal visited Cardiff and addressed three public meetings in November of that year.

Two decades of Baha'i history of Wales had been added, and why? Only because one faithful soul, Mr J C Craven of Altringham, had taken the trouble to save the cutting, had carefully preserved it for 35 years, and finally handed it over to the Cardiff Assembly for safe keeping, where, since 1960, it has awaited rediscovery.

### ARE YOU PRESERVING YOUR PRECIOUS ARCHIVES?

Carl Card

PLEASE NOTE: Carl is still anxious to receive 'reminiscences' from any friends with memories of the early days in Wales. Please send them to him at: 13 Mynachdy Road, Cardiff, CF4 3DW.

### Wanted

#### NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF

Applications are invited for the posts of:

- 1) Office Manager - to replace Jiyan Ghadimi, who will be leaving soon for Japan.
- 2) Full-time secretary, with audio skills.

Anyone interested in the above positions should contact the National Office, 27 Rutland Gate, London SW7 1PD. Tel. 01 584 2566.



# National Women's Committee

"One of the potentialities hidden in the realm of humanity was the capability or capacity of womanhood ...In past ages woman was wronged and oppressed ...Through the effulgent rays of divine illumination the capacity of woman has become so awakened and manifest in this age that equality of man and woman is an established fact."

'Abdu'l-Baha, from a talk given to the Federation of Women's clubs, Chicago.

Dear Friends,  
Allah'u'Abha!

Greetings to you all from the newly-appointed National Women's Committee. At its second meeting, it was decided that this letter be written to acquaint you with some of the objectives of this committee and to ask for your contribution and cooperation to ensure their successful achievement.

"If woman be fully educated and granted her rights, she will attain the capacity for wonderful accomplishments and prove herself the equal of man."

From the same talk by 'Abdu'l-Baha.

One of the aims of this Committee is, therefore, to help Baha'i women to meet, to a greater extent, the challenge of recognising and realising their own latent potential in every level of human and spiritual accomplishment, so that they may emerge as full co-equals and complementary partners with men; both in the Baha'i

community as more active participants and in society at large as more effective promoters of the Cause of God. Deepening on the role of Baha'i women as the first educators is another area for development.

Another task of the Committee is to make and maintain firm contact with various women's organisations throughout the country, and to hold suitable gatherings at both regional and national levels. Area coordinators will shortly be appointed to keep you fully informed of all the activities.

To do all this, and much more, the Committee is in great need of your invaluable suggestions, support and prayers.

"O handmaids of the Merciful! ...It is my hope that everyone of you be so set aflame with the Divine fire, that each may illumine a whole world with the effulgence of the love of God, and with eloquent speech, fluent tongue, and the confirmations of the Holy Spirit. Speak of the Essence of Revelation in such wise that the learned, the wise, and the scholars of the Earth may be astonished...Ye are the leaves of the bough of guidance and fruits of the tree of beneficence.. The eye of Mercy is fixed upon you and the cloud of bounty showers upon you..."

'Abdu'l-Baha.

With loving Baha'i greetings,

National Women's Committee.

p.s. This year's privileged members are: Mrs. Rita Docherty (secretary), Miss Sepideh Taheri, and Mrs. Kathleen Hardy-Hemmati (treasurer). Please send all correspondence to: Mrs. Rita Docherty, 27 Kilknowe Place, Galashiels, Selkirkshire, TD1 1RH, Scotland.

## THE EASTERN LITERATURE COMMITTEE

The Eastern Literature Committee is responsible for translating Baha'i literature into Eastern European languages.

In order to be able to work on translations we of course need people, preferably Baha'is, who speak these languages as their mothertongue, who are able to translate from the English language (in rare cases exceptions have to be made), who in the ideal case haven't been out of the country for too long, or had some practise meanwhile and who are willing to assist us in our work.

Special shortage of translators or people able to proofread we have in the following languages: BULGARIAN, POLISH, ARMENIAN, AZERI (Adherbaidjan) and GEORGIAN. We are turning to you to ask you for help in finding friends speaking one of those languages, perhaps you can find a way to announce our request and let the friends know of our needs.

We very much appreciate your help!

With loving Baha'i greetings,  
The Eastern Literature Committee  
(C/O The N.S.A. of Germany)

## Please Note

The Universal House of Justice has asked the friends to consider either Malta or Cyprus when planning to pioneer overseas.

These two islands in the Mediterranean are both vitally important goals.

Please contact the International Goals Committee (see page 13) if you are interested in pioneering.



# CHILDREN'S PAGE



## *Dear Children,*

At this time of year it is very cold, and the countryside is often covered in snow and ice. The trees are bare and the flowers have all disappeared. Most of the small animals have gone to sleep for the winter because it is so cold and the snow has covered all their food. and many of the birds have flown south,

where it is much warmer. Not all the birds have flown away, some, like the robin-redbreast are still here. Perhaps you could feed them, because food is hard to find they are very hungry. Birds like to eat bread, nuts and seeds. They also like bits of fat. You could ask your mother and father to help you.

This time of the year is the most exciting. Soon all the animals will wake up and the birds will fly back. The flowers are beginning to peep out of the ground and soon the leaves will begin to appear on the trees.

This time is special for Baha'is too. On 21st March Baha'is celebrate Naw-Ruz. Naw-Ruz means "New Year". It is a good time for New Year because everything is like it is new - the leaves are new, the flowers are new and the animals are rested after their long sleep. If you like, draw a picture of something special that you see in spring and perhaps we will print it if you send it to us. Your mother and father will know where to send it.



Here is a picture for you to colour in.



# COMMUNITY NEWS



## LONDONDERRY

The January 16th issue of the "Londonderry Sentinel" carried a full-page article on the Faith.

Headed "A New Vision for Ulster from the Baha'is", it dealt extensively with the history and beliefs of the Faith together with an interview with Dr. Keith Munro and a brief account of the persecution of the believers in Iran.

The way this came about was interesting:

In November Dr. Munro undertook a travel teaching trip to Iceland. Before going he arranged with a local journalist for an article about the visit to be written when he came back.

This was in preparation when the "Sentinel" launched a 'platform' series to allow local churches and groups to put their views over. The editor then decided to allow a general article on the Faith, in this series to be prepared by the journalist already involved, in cooperation with local Baha'is.

The article on the Iceland trip was not shelved, but is to be used at a future date, and will also give publicity to the Faith.

The article was much appreciated for its size, use of photographs, and general positive approach. The "Sentinel" is widely read in the city and the county of Londonderry, and also across the Irish border

## BEVERLEY

On Sunday 20th January the Baha'is of Hull and Beverley held their World Religion Day Meeting at The Friends' Meeting House, Beverley. This was the most ambitious project held to date in the goal town of Beverley.

The Quakers very kindly lent the Baha'is their Meeting House for the event. Over 30 people attended of which half were guests of the Baha'is. Nearly all the friends had brought someone along. The guests included several who had not been to a Baha'i gathering before.

The programme included readings from all the world religious scriptures and prayers read in Spanish, French and Arabic. Interspersed between the readings was music played on the beautiful lilting Celtic harp. The musician had not been to a Baha'i gathering before but agreed to come and play for one of the Baha'is. The music was very successful in providing a lovely spiritual atmosphere to the meeting which everyone really enjoyed.

Two of the guests were a Rabbi from the Jewish Faith and a Unitarian Minister who both read from their respective scriptures. After the meeting there was a real 'Buzz' as refreshments were taken.

## THAMESDOWN

The meeting to celebrate World Religion day was held at the Swindon Art centre on Sunday afternoon and despite the weather there was a very good attendance. The purpose of the meeting was to illustrate the remarkable similarities which exist in the Holy writings of each of the world's major religions.

Seven readers, representing the Hindu, Jewish, Zoroastrian, Buddhist, Christian, Islamic and Baha'i Faiths read, in turn, passages

directly related to each other in a series of nine themes. These were prefaced and concluded by a cycle of seven prayers, one from each religion. Between the cycle of readings music was provided by Vanessa Munroe and Paul Darby with words appropriate to each set of readings.

The nine themes related to the origins and greatness of creation, the great claims made by the messenger of God, seeking the truth, man and the greatness of man, the need for the fellowship and unity and the hope and promise enshrined in each religion for the future of mankind.

The chairman, in warmly thanking those who had participated in the readings and especially too, the musicians for their beautiful music, remarked on the way in which readings had often exactly paralleled one another. He said that, had the curtain at the front of the stage been drawn, it would have been very difficult to know exactly which religion was being represented at that particular time.

We are, in many parts of the country, becoming a multi-racial society land thus multi-religious. For the sake of unity it is very important that we try to understand one another's outlook and see the many points that we have in common and that this had been the purpose of the meeting.

## READING

On World Religion Day, Sunday 20th January, the Baha'is of Reading celebrated the occasion together with members of other faiths and Baha'is from neighbouring communities. We had sent letters out to all religious groups in the Reading area, and it was a delight to have a good response when the Buddhists, the Quakers, a Baptist, a Presbyterian and



a Sikh attended the gathering. Selections from the texts of different faiths were read out with everyone reading from their own Holy Writings followed by a slide show of pictures taken in Israel on the different holy places of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and the Baha'i Faith. The afternoon ended with hot drinks and biscuits, everybody chatting away happily and establishing new friendships. World Religion Day had been celebrated in the true spirit of the occasion.

#### ABERDEEN

Recently the Baha'i Societies of Robert Gordon's Institute and the University held a joint meeting under the supervision of the Local Spiritual Assembly, at which the methods by which the youth of today can contribute to World Peace and Unity were discussed. The meeting was very fruitful as both the discussions were stimulating, and there were contacts present. The above meeting was advertised on the local radio which has a large number of listeners. The local newspaper was also presented with a letter informing them of the plans of the Baha'i youth for 1985.

#### VALE OF GLAMORGAN

In order to cooperate with the programmes of the Year of the Youth, the Youth Committee of Vale of Glamorgan invited the secretary of the non-Baha'i youth organization to their meeting.

After a brief explanation about the Baha'i Faith and the distribution of the competition of the United Nations and the Charter of the United Nations to the secondary schools in the Vale of Glamorgan, he also explained the aims of the year of the youth in South Vale of Glamorgan.

The Baha'i youth committee promised to help and cooperate with them. Then he said, "we accept the Baha'i youth representatives from each Baha'i community of South Vale of Glamorgan to our committee and if you have any other projects that need money we are ready to pay you."

The Youth Committee of the Vale of Glamorgan had arranged a one day school on 9th December 1984. About 40 believers attended the class, most of them youth.

The subject was about Tests and Difficulties, and had been divided into two parts: Baha'i Heroes in

the Past and Present.

In the afternoon there was a workshop and discussion panel. All the food had been prepared by the youth and sold in order to pay the cost of this one day school.

In an atmosphere of great friendship and unity, over 90 people, many of different nationalities and religions, gathered for a dignitaries' dinner in the name of 'Peace and Unity' arranged by the Baha'is of the Vale of Glamorgan, in the presence of Councillor Mrs Ruby Parsons, the Mayor of the Vale. Fourteen V.I.P.s had accepted the invitation for the evening of 25 January. The special occasion was further supported by our Baha'i friends from neighbouring communities and their guests.

The evening began with a truly universal flavour - a dinner including Eastern and Western dishes prepared in abundant portions by so few ladies. The opening address on the subject of peace and unity was given by the Mayor, Councillor Ruby Parsons, who, in accepting the community's early invitation, prompted the further acceptance of so many other V.I.P.s. In her kindly way, and in only a few words, she emphasized that, "if we are searching for basic principles to guide us through life, we need look no further" than the Baha'i beliefs. Mr Russell Holden, the UNA Executive Officer, also speaking on the topic, was greatly appreciated, as he gave a special insight on the international level. Concluding the talks was the Baha'i speaker, Professor James Taylor. He gave a beautiful and dynamic speech underlining the spiritual remedy for the world's malaise. A presentation of the book, "The Earth is But One Country" (John Huddleston) was made on behalf of the Baha'is of the Vale of Glamorgan to each guest speaker.



Friends gathered at the Vale of Glamorgan dignitaries meeting



# INTERNATIONAL GOALS COMMITTEE

In this last phase of the Seven Year Plan, the Universal House of Justice has called for 386 pioneers to be sent by 44 National Spiritual Assemblies to 94 national communities. Our part in this great spiritual drama is to send 24 pioneers to 11 countries.

Since Ridvan 1984 four souls have already arisen and moved to their pioneer posts. Our remaining goals are shown below.

Remaining U.K. Goals, January 1985	Pioneer
Cyprus	3
The Gambia	2
Ghana	2
Sierra Leone	1
Seychelles	1
St. Vincent	2
British Virgin Islands	1
Sri Lanka	1
Venda	3
Malta	4

"Upon our efforts depends in very large measure the fate of humanity", we have been told by the Universal House of Justice. Could you arise to pioneer?

If you are considering pioneering, to one of our goals, or to any other country, we should love to hear from you. We are always ready to consult, and we shall help in any way we can.

IGC Pioneering Secretary is Mrs. Betty Tulip, 64 Welford Avenue, Irthlingborough, Northants, NN9 5XA (Tel. 0933 650799).

## PIONEERING OPPORTUNITY - FINLAND

The Kinghorn family, pioneers from the U.K. to Finland, are looking for a Baha'i au pair, 17 years or over. The contract would be minimum one year with optional second year starting immediately. More details from IGC Secretary.

## PIONEER GOAL - VENDA

Venda, an Independent Republic since 1979, is a tiny country surrounded by South Africa's Transvaal Province. It is a very beautiful country, generally very fertile. Venda straddles the Soutpansberg mountain range and has an attractive sub-tropical climate.

Its 500,000 people are largely rural farmers, though Venda also has agricultural, forestry, mining and manufacturing industries. Very generous Government assistance is given to those wishing to establish a business in Venda.

Venda has a University, 3 teacher training colleges, and 57 secondary schools. It also has 5 hospitals, a nursing college and 47 clinics.

There is a very great need for pioneers to Venda, preferably Persians, to take the Message of Baha'u'llah to the people of Venda before they are attracted to leave their peaceful rural life for the incredible hardships and devastating materialism of the South African cities.

Please contact IGC Pioneering Secretary for more details

"He ('Abdu'l-Baha) rested not a moment, till the fame of the Cause of God was noised abroad in the world ... The beloved of God must also follow the same example. This is the secret of faithfulness, this is the requirement of servitude to the Threshold of Baha!"

Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Baha, p.10.

## IRRIGATION ENGINEERS

Opportunity to aid village project in India, sponsored by a Third World group supported by the Baha'is of Banff and Buchan. Details from IGC Pioneering Secretary.

TRAVEL TEACHING: IGC is organising another Easter travel teaching project, this year a 5-day trip to Holland. There will also be a travel teaching project to Belgium to coincide with the European Youth Conference at Antwerp, 26-29 July. Details from IGC Travel Teaching Secretary, Miss Taraneh Majidi, 15 Bolton Road, Harrow, Middx., (Tel. 01 863 6704)

"Neither the threatening world situation, nor any consideration of lack of material resources, of mental equipment, of knowledge, or of experience - desirable as they are - should deter any prospective pioneer teacher from arising..."

Shoghi Effendi

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEACHERS

Job opportunities for qualified teachers:

UGANDA - Int. School, Kampala, basic salary  
SRI LANKA, GHANA, and CHINA - 21 positions in all, local salaries

Details: IGC Pioneering  
There are sometimes opportunities for English Teachers to teach in private language institutes in different towns in Greece.

As some Baha'is may be interested to spend some years in beautiful Greece, especially from the U.K. and Ireland, we give below the papers needed for a foreigner applying for a license to teach in a private school in Greece:

1. BA degree or license to teach from another country.
2. A paper stating that the person has never been convicted of any crime. These papers must be officially translated into Greek, submitted to the Ministry of Education in Athens with an application for a teachers license.

For further information please contact:  
Anneliese Haug, P.O. Box 11056, GR 103 10 Athens. GREECE.



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS



## ZAIRE

In Kinshasa, Zaire the final examinations for students in the State secondary schools included a question on the Baha'i Faith. About 10,000 candidates throughout the country were asked: "What is the Baha'i Faith? Mention some of the principles and ordinances."

## INDIA

The first training course of the Centre for Rural Development was held in Panchgani from 28 October to 7 November for selected believers from different rural areas. It was for the Baha'is from Maharashtra and was conducted in the Marathi language. Future courses will be for Baha'is from other states, with the course materials translated into the various languages as necessary.

Eighteen students attended, 16 of them receiving certificates in poultry farming. The inauguration of the

training course was held in conjunction with the closing of the 12th course of the Baha'i Academy - given for directors of permanent training institutes in India. The event was a beautiful demonstration of the cooperation and unity among the different institutions of the Faith in Panchgani - New Era School, the Baha'i Academy, and the Centre for Rural Development. A report from Counsellor B. Afshin, dated 15 November, points out "how smoothly and rapidly these three unique and blessed institutions are progressing and advancing in maturity with love and unity."

The core of the programme was Baha'i study - history, administration, spiritual subjects, and proofs and prophecies of past dispensations - taught by four highly qualified Baha'is.

Vocational classes were taught free of charge by government trainers who were helpful and cooperative. Their training films and the use of Baha'i films meant that there was a film show almost every night and students showed keen interest in the media presentations. Graduates of the poultry course were certified to the Indian government, thus becoming eligible for loans to begin their own poultry farms.

Agriculture, health and first aid were also taught. Plans for the future of the Centre include land and buildings of its own.

## ARGENTINA

In Buenos Aires on 12-15 October the cultural committee of the Local Assembly of Buenos Aires held a three-day exhibition of the arts in a public plaza of the city.

Co-sponsors were: the United Nations Information Centre; UNESCO; and the Organization of American States. Twenty thousand people were attracted to the event, and learned about the Faith at the same time. The coverage by the media was (for the first time in a Baha'i event) very complete. There were two reports on one television channel and one on another, and articles in all local newspapers but one. Local authorities, members of Congress, Senators and others responded warmly to the Assembly's invitation.

## NIGERIA

Members of the Jos Baha'i community paid a courtesy call on His Royal Highness, the Gbon-Gnon of Jos, on 20 June. Auxiliary Board member N. Khayltash, C. Nwachukwu, and C.C. Achodo were warmly received by the traditional ruler, who was informed of the basic teachings of the Baha'i Faith, and given some of the Holy Writings.

The Nigerian Baha'i News for August reports:

"The Gbon-Gnon expressed satisfaction with the purpose of the visit and a willingness to read the Writings. He further pledged his cooperation to the Faith.



Amatu'l-Baha Ruhyyih Khanum, accompanied by Mrs Violette Nakhjavani (on right) pays a courtesy call to Indira Gandhi, the late Prime Minister of India just two weeks before her assassination. Accompanying Ruhyyih Khanum on the visit were three members of the National Assembly.



# From the National Teaching Committee

## TAKE A TEACHING TIP FROM ICELAND!

N.T.C. member from Iceland, Mr. Thorkelsson, a recent visitor to the National Centre, has shared with us Iceland's recipe for success in 'Personal Teaching'. We pass this recipe on to you - but you need to be committed for at least a year ... which is what 'Abdu'l-Baha advises anyway.

In Iceland, personal teaching has been the only way to achieve the goals of the Plan because Iceland does not attract too many pioneers from abroad, and the local communities are mainly too small to send pioneers to achieve the goals. So, after a lot of thought and prayer, the following plan for "Personal Teaching Teams" came into being, and has been very successful indeed, resulting in many declarations:-

A "Personal Teaching Team" is made up of 3-4 friends in a locality who work well together and they take the following four steps:

1. At their first meeting, each person lists the names of everybody they know. Such a team may come up with up to 100 names!

2. Next, the team prays together and links a name of one of the martyrs to the name of a 'seeker'. Everybody on the list is studied and the people are grouped into 'similar' types, i.e. housewives with small children, teenagers, elderly married couples, etc. until each team has several 'groups' to work with.

3. Each group is studied to see what sort of INFORMAL social activity might be best for them which they could 'host' - it could be:

- a Coffee Morning for the mothers with small children,
- an invitation to a meal, a pot-luck, a get-together in a local Coffee House,
- an evening of games of cards, scrabble, monopoly, chess ...
- an outing to a cinema, a concert, or an exhibition, etc.

4. The Baha'is then 'create' a social environment in which their friends will feel comfortable and friendly and have the opportunity to meet the other members of their team and people similar to themselves. Each 'event' is geared to the type of people in the group and the sort of things they like doing best.

The "Personal Teaching Teams" meet regularly together, to pray for their friends and to plan the next 'event'. When the time is right, their friends closest to the Faith, who have shown some interest because they have, by now, met more than one Baha'i, and have perhaps asked some questions or read a book, THEN they are invited to come to a Fireside. Gradually, after some weeks or months of this carefully planned activity the "Teaching Teams" are getting declarations and it is very successful.

It also sounds like a lot of fun! Does anyone want to try it here?

### NEEDED

The 'New Era' School still needs ready-to-be-passed-on books and toys. They would be most grateful if you could send them to:  
Irene Tafaaki  
New Era School  
Panchgani 912805  
India

# In Loving Memory

Florence Elizabeth Altass was born in Aldborough, Suffolk on 13th May 1884, one of 9 children.

Her life was dedicated to the service of the sick and helpless. At the age of 21 she took up nursing qualifying in general and mental nursing. She did maternity training in a London Dock area Hospital, working with prostitutes. It taught her tolerance and sympathy. In 1912, she attended Baha'i meetings in Edinburgh. Here she met 'Abdu'l-Baha, son of Baha'u'llah, and His ideas affected her whole life. She blazoned a trail of natural healing with opposition from orthodox medicine.

Her first nursing assignment was in Vienna at the Austrian Court of the House of Habsburg, where she was well liked by both the Arch-Duke and Arch-Duchess. Though strict Catholics, they listened to many of her Baha'i ideas, and on leaving gave her a Carmelian Rosary, with an inscribed medallion in place of the Crucifix which she carried till her death.

She nursed in Russia until the fall of the Tsar. Many people have since adopted her approach to medicine. She was invited to present a paper at an International Baha'i Conference on Health and Healing. She died at the age of 97.

The Local Spiritual Assembly of Hastings requests donations from the Friends towards the cost of an inscribed headstone and eventual burial in a private grave for Florence. Believers may obtain the address of the Hastings Secretary from their own community Secretaries.



# Letters to the Editor

Knowing how hard and patiently you are working and also how precious your time is, I hope you will forgive me for this letter.

Owing to an injury to my arm I've been unable to write before this regarding my views of the Baha'i Journal, which I felt impelled to write about.

To my regret I was unable to attend the Teaching Conference. This was my loss, but I missed meeting the Editor of the Journal in person.

On reading the article inviting criticism (ref. Volume 1, Issue 9, January 1985 Baha'i Journal), I was sad and puzzled to read a quote on criticism you had received.

Where was the spirit of love and forbearance and appreciation that we should have for each others, I asked myself. Personally, I don't mind if the standard of English isn't perfect or that there may be some mistakes, as long as the Baha'i love and spirit of service is there.

I know I'm unable to do the type of work that is involved in producing the Journal so I'm grateful for those friends who can.

The invigorating spirit of love and fellowship which is very powerful is what first attracted me many years ago to investigate the Faith. Of course over the years I realised that the Baha'i Faith has a lot to offer mankind.

When I was an isolated believer the Journal was very precious to me. It was a means of keeping in touch with events and the friends, and I loved

looking at the photos sent in.

The article that appeared in the Sunday Times newspaper this week telling of the suffering of the dear friends in Iran should bring home to all Baha'is that we should be grateful, humble, and willing to do service for the Cause, and to show love and compassion not only to each other (which I sometimes think we forget to do), but to all mankind. If criticism is invited, let us answer in a loving, thoughtful way.

So please don't be discouraged, Editor. We need your efforts and hard work to produce for us our monthly Journal.

May God bless you all,  
Warmest Baha'i love and  
many thanks,  
Anne Jeffery

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Dear Sir,

This letter was goaded into life by the Baha'i Journal of January 1985. While it will arrive with out of date for your February issue, you may consider it apt for your March issue.

For Christians all over the world, Christmas has come and gone with all its relevant (or should we say 'irrelevant'?) festivities. Are they thinking that perhaps a final cheque to the Ethiopian Famine Appeal will act as a panacea then - bother religion and let's get on with a normal life!

In Christmas 1983 this is how I viewed life certainly. I counted myself a Christian and didn't recognise the fact that I had become a Baha'i until March 1984. Since that period I have felt that at times I take two steps forward in the Faith then three steps backward. The Journal has been an inspiration to me as I read of fellow Baha'is and the writing and the teaching of the Faith. Like me, there must be many new adult Baha'is trying to "live the

life" in the old world which happily accepted them as "quasi-Christians".

In the light of this I feel a little saddened by some of the comments included in the editorial column where criticism was included. As Baha'is we are encouraged to have questioning minds but this should be used to positive advantage. No - the Journal is not "spiritless, dull, repetitive and childish". Don't let us take an ultra pious view over "Cosmopolitan", it's near neighbour "She" has carried some very sympathetic literature about the Faith. Read "Cosmopolitan" sometimes, sister Baha'is! Don't shut yourself off in the rarified atmosphere of the Baha'i world.

The Editor defended his position so well and justified his position on the Journal and even the Journal itself! The Journal, by its contents, then continued to justify itself. The analogy of the Faith and American football was cleverly written and did not talk down to anyone.

To those of us who are unable to attend the Conferences and Schools as we care for non-Baha'i family, your articles about such events are interesting and make us feel involved.

The two articles in the January Journal which had personal interest for me were "Back to School", as I am a school teacher, and "Loss", as my mother died during the summer. The great love and gentle understanding of the Faith were such supports at that time, plus a moving prayer sent by Baha'i friends, that a daught could say for her mother.

Fellow Baha'is, let us be thankful for the Journal, produced at times under pressure, but bringing us all the news of the spread of the Faith and the fulfilment of the words of Baha'u'llah. It isn't easy



being a Baha'i - it's not meant to be! The sense of achievement when you know that the Faith has been furthered by your positive efforts is immense. We must not turn inwards on ourselves, but outwards - towards the sunlit splendour of the Great Age lovingly promised to us by the Master Himself!

Loving Baha'i Greetings,  
M. Cassey

---

Dear Editor,

We all know that in the future, there are certain words which will cease to exist or never be used. No doubt one of these words is "criticism". Perhaps it could be replaced by "suggestions" (positive ones!), as criticism can often be very destructive. This not only applies to criticizing the Baha'i Journal or other committees, but each other within a community. The Guardian, in one of his letters, urges the believers "to suppress every critical thought and every harsh word, in order to let the spirit of Baha'u'llah flow into the entire community". In another letter, He tells us that to help the Cause through our example, Baha'is must "show love, patience, and never criticize, but rather encourage".

Hand of the Cause, Mr. Samandari is quoted to have said, "if you take away all the writings of Baha'u'llah, "Abdu'l-Baha, and Shoghi Effendi, and take away all matters that relate to laws, principles and instructions, if you distill what you have left, there is one thing - encouragement."

Those of us who attended the North Sea Border Conference last September, might remember the words of a believer who had been serving at the World Centre for 16 years: that throughout this period not a single word of criticism

was said to him and the Universal House of Justice always encouraged and showed him love. Though looking back, he could recall the number of times he was wrong!

Before we criticize someone, perhaps we could think of the effect this criticism might have and remember the words of "'Abdu'l-Baha: "Beware lest ye offend the feelings of anyone, or sadden the heart of any person, or move the tongue in reproach of, and finding faults with anybody..."

Igan Hayati, Slough

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Dear friends,  
On United Nations Day, my younger little boy, Jeremy, aged eight, was honoured to take part in a very special event and I thought you would like to know about it to cheer your heart.

He is very gifted, the youngest instrumental scholar at St. Mary's Music School, Edinburgh, and sings in the choir there. Since Edinburgh is to be a centre for a large youth gathering for the International Year of the Youth, the Choristers were asked to perform a single record called "Tell Us", the Children's Anthem for Peace.

This record was released that day and broadcast on STV and BBC Scotland, with a video, and Jeremy, a very sincere little Baha'i child, was the youngest participant. Perhaps other Baha'is would like to know and buy the record if they can? Apparently it has been broadcast all over the world and I felt how appropriate it was that our Faith should be represented by so small a member in such a lovely event.

Proceeds from the sale of the record will go to the United Nations Humanitarian Fund and St. Mary's Scholarship Fund.

With loving Baha'i greetings,  
Margaret Paton

Dear Sir,

A question has been asked by one of our community so I am passing it on to you in the hope that you can answer it - Why is the Baha'i Journal only to be read by Baha'is? Where other members of the family are not Baha'is it looks like Secret Service. Can you advise?

Ann Millar

EDITOR: The simple answer is that the N.S.A. have issued a directive that the Journal is for circulation among Baha'is only. The long term answer is another thing and is a matter for serious consideration at a higher level.

---

Dear Baha'i friend,

Our committee was very much moved by a letter received from one of the LSA's in response to the offer of the presentation of "The Feast" video tape and the corresponding deepening programme that we thought we would like to share part of this letter with the friends through the Journal.

"...I am writing to thank you for the offer of a film entitled "The Feast" plus deepening material. The Assembly wishes you to know that we are such a loving united community that we have no need of the film or material to solve any problems, but rather wish to view the film out of interest. It seems that the friends here, three British and nine Middle-Eastern, acknowledge the truth that the Baha'i knows no nationality, and endeavour to treat each other without prejudice of any kind. The Assembly is radiantly happy about this, and wishes to let you know, so that you can inform the friends of this happiness, and that it may make our own efforts filled with renewed optimism..."

With warmest Baha'i greetings,  
Shahla Haqqoo  
Persian Affairs Committee.



Dear Friends,

## A FOLLOW-UP TO INTER-FAITH ACTIVITIES.

Have you ever stopped to think....? If a non-Baha'i ever wanted to worship with us, could they do it? Well, we know that we cannot invite people to our Feasts... Nor do we have any Temples handy! Or do we...

How about organising regular 'Unity Feasts' based on the Baha'i Temple worship for our non-Baha'i friends? Thus they can share our worship and perhaps their hearts will be touched by this spiritual food, and they will understand better the spirit of our Faith and the significance of the Oneness of Religion. A Unity Feast could start with a brief explanation of the Baha'i Temple services, and include prayers and readings from all the Holy Scriptures followed by a few minutes of quiet reflection or meditation.

Choose a suitable evening, or perhaps a Sunday morning, and serve refreshments afterwards. I think, because the Baha'is in Beverley Hills did this every Sunday morning - I became a Baha'i far more quickly than I might otherwise have done. For THOSE prayer mornings we just said prayers, a 'Circle of Prayer' non-stop for an hour, Baha'i prayers, and prayers from our hearts, followed by beautiful, spiritual stillness and quiet.... It touched my heart.

Jan Mughrabi.

**THE JOURNAL WELCOMES  
YOUR LETTERS AND  
VIEW ON ALL ASPECTS  
OF BAHAI LIFE**

## Site for sore eyes

Have you ever wished that Summer School was being held nearer your home?

Or dreaded that long journey in the cold weather which was necessary to get you to Winter School? Perhaps you have never considered attending a National School because they always seem to be so expensive. However you feel about attending National Schools you have a chance to bring them nearer to you, and perhaps down in price, by finding a suitable venue in your area.

The members of the Baha'i Schools Committee can be identified at a distance by their deathly pallor and red eyes. They have looked high and low, near and far for suitable sites for Schools, but with little success. You can save their sore eyes by having a look in your own area to see if there are any potential School venues. Below are a list of requirements needed for a National School. If your venue meets all these, or comes very close to it, please let us know.

1. Venues can either be full-board or self-catering. If they are the former the adult charge per day, including V.A.T., should not exceed £10, and this should include three meals plus coffee and tea breaks. If we are to do our own 'housekeeping' the charge should not exceed £4-5 per day for an adult (including V.A.T.).

2. If possible, the town/village where the venue is located should be served by both bus and rail transport.

### SUMMER SCHOOLS

Minimum of 120 beds  
Room for 150 minimum in lecture hall  
4 rooms for children's classes  
Swimming pool on or near site

Additional rooms for seminars (5)  
Space for a 'tuck shop'  
A secure room for books and audio-visual material  
Room for a creche  
Grounds for outside sports/activities

### WINTER/SPRING SCHOOLS

Minimum of 70 to sleep  
Room for 85 in lecture hall  
1-2 rooms for junior youth  
Indoor sports facilities  
Additional rooms for seminars (3)  
Space for a 'tuck shop'  
A secure room for books, etc.  
Good heating system

Let us hear from you soon so that we can save our sore eyes! Please write to Noreen Atkinson, 2, Culcheth Hall Drive, Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 4PS.

## CYPRUS PROJECT

The National Spiritual Assembly of Cyprus is planning a two-month teaching event in the Southern (Greek) sector of the island over September and October 1985. A number of Baha'is from many countries have been to Cyprus over the past several years as pioneers, travel teachers and visitors, making friends among the inhabitants of the island and contributing much to the work of the Cause. These Friends are warmly invited to participate in this teaching event, where their invaluable contribution will be much appreciated. First-time visitors are most welcome too.

All those interested please write for further details to the Teaching Project Committee secretary: Miss Najla Baghdadi, P.O. Box 1356, Limassol, CYPRUS.



# THE FAST

"We have enjoined upon you fasting during a brief period, and at its close have designated for you Naw-Ruz as a feast... The traveller, the ailing, those who are with child or giving suck, are not bound by the fast... Abstain from food and drink, from sunrise to sundown, and beware lest desire deprive you of this grace that is appointed in the book".

Baha'u'llah

Day	SUNRISE AND SUNSET													
	London		Bristol		Birmingham		Manchester		Newcastle		Glasgow		Belfast	
	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
1	6 47	5 39	6 57	5 49	6 56	5 45	6 59	5 46	6 58	5 40	7 11	5 49	7 16	5 59
2	6 45	5 41	6 55	5 51	6 53	5 47	6 56	5 48	6 55	5 42	7 08	5 52	7 13	6 01
3	6 43	5 43	6 52	5 53	6 51	5 48	6 54	5 49	6 53	5 44	7 06	5 54	7 11	6 02
4	6 41	5 45	6 50	5 55	6 49	5 50	6 52	5 51	6 51	5 46	7 03	5 56	7 09	6 04
5	6 39	5 46	6 48	5 56	6 46	5 52	6 49	5 53	6 48	5 48	7 01	5 58	7 06	6 06
6	6 37	5 48	6 46	5 58	6 44	5 54	6 47	5 55	6 46	5 50	6 58	6 00	7 04	6 08
7	6 34	5 50	6 44	6 00	6 41	5 56	6 44	5 57	6 43	5 52	6 56	6 02	7 01	6 10
8	6 32	5 51	6 42	6 01	6 39	5 58	6 42	5 59	6 41	5 54	6 53	6 04	6 59	6 12
9	6 30	5 53	6 40	6 03	6 37	5 59	6 40	6 00	6 38	5 56	6 50	6 06	6 56	6 14
10	6 28	5 55	6 37	6 05	6 35	6 01	6 38	6 02	6 36	5 58	6 48	6 08	6 54	6 16
11	6 25	5 56	6 35	6 06	6 32	6 03	6 35	6 04	6 33	6 01	6 45	6 11	6 51	6 19
12	6 23	5 58	6 33	6 08	6 30	6 05	6 33	6 06	6 31	6 03	6 43	6 13	6 49	6 21
13	6 21	6 00	6 31	6 10	6 28	6 07	6 31	6 08	6 28	6 05	6 40	6 15	6 46	6 23
14	6 19	6 01	6 29	6 11	6 26	6 08	6 29	6 10	6 26	6 07	6 38	6 17	6 44	6 25
15	6 16	6 03	6 26	6 13	6 23	6 10	6 26	6 11	6 23	6 08	6 35	6 19	6 41	6 26
16	6 14	6 05	6 24	6 15	6 21	6 12	6 24	6 13	6 21	6 10	6 32	6 21	6 39	6 28
17	6 12	6 07	6 22	6 17	6 19	6 14	6 21	6 15	6 18	6 12	6 30	6 23	6 36	6 30
18	6 09	6 08	6 19	6 18	6 16	6 15	6 19	6 17	6 16	6 14	6 27	6 25	6 34	6 32
19	6 07	6 10	6 17	6 20	6 14	6 17	6 16	6 19	6 13	6 16	6 24	6 27	6 31	6 34
20	6 05	6 12	6 15	6 22	6 12	6 19	6 14	6 21	6 11	6 18	6 22	6 29	6 29	6 36

## CALENDAR EXTRA

First of 4 study weekends with Counsellor Adib Taherzadeh: 9 - 10 March in Birmingham, to study "The Advent of Divine Justice". Those taking part must have read the book. 35 places only; age limit 15 - 30. Applications to Nica Louie, 49 Sea Lane, Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, Sussex BN12 WQD, by 4 March please.

SPRING SCHOOL 5 - 8 April, Great Hucklow Holiday and Conference Centre, Nr Buxton, Derbyshire. Intensive study school on "Prayer". Only 30 places available (Over 16's only) Cost £43 all inclusive. Send S.A.E. for brochure and booking form to Spring School, Baha'i Central Registrations, 2 Culcheth Hall Drive, Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 4PS. Book Now to avoid disappointment.

## SUMMER SCHOOLS

27 JULY "CHANGE AND CHALLENGE" Jordanhill College of Education, GLASGOW, Scotland.  
- 3 AUGUST

10-18 AUG NORTHERN IRELAND SUMMER SCHOOL, Portora Royal School, ENNISKILLEN, County Fermanagh

17-24 AUG WELSH SUMMER SCHOOL (I) Rock Park Centre, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, Wales.

24-31 AUG WELSH SUMMER SCHOOL (II) Rock Park Activity Centre, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, Wales.

Look out for further details!



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 20-27 MAR SPRING SCHOOL IN PERSIAN (INCLUDING NAW-RUZ PARTY) IN SWITZERLAND Topics: "Social and Economic projects in the Third World, the Station of the Bab, Baha'i life" . Details from: Tagungszentrum Landegg, CH-9405 Wienacht/AR, Switzerland. Tel: 071 912233
- 24 MARCH NAW-RUZ PARTY NORTHAVON Persian dinner and disco. 5-10 pm Tickets and details: Mrs. Azordegan (0272) 793260 OR Mrs Moshtael (0454) 613919
- 30 MARCH INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE YOUTH ONE-DAY SCHOOL WINCHESTER From 10.30 am. at 6, Vernham Rd., Winchester. Details from Miss Shokofeh Fanaian Winchester 64953 OR Miss Anna Seifert Winchester 62833
- 30 MARCH - 2 APRIL S.W. SCOTLAND SPRING SCHOOL. Subject "Baha'u'llah". Price £20 all-in with reductions for unemployed and children. (First 40 bookings ONLY). Send £5 with your booking to Jackie Mehrabi, 95 Georgetown Rd. Dumfries, Scotland. Tel 0387 62730
- APRIL CELTIC CONFERENCE on all aspects of teaching, deepening and development in the Celtic areas. To be held in Bangor, North Wales. Details from Dewi Hughes, 2 Mount Pleasant, Gallt y Foel, Deiniolen, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 3EG Tel (0286) 871497
- 5-8 APRIL MANCHESTER MINI-SCHOOL to be held at Manchester Baha'i centre. Registration £2 plus £1 for accommodation . Bring sleeping bags. Sports day on 7th, so bring sport gear. Details Miss Homeyra Doostdar 061-491-0123
- 6 APRIL ISLE OF WIGHT FAMILY DAY from 10.30 am. come and meet Daryoush and his family at Ingleston, The Terrace, Chale, Isle of Wight, on Easter Saturday. Clive is bringing a slide show, we will enjoy music, fellowship, and deepen in the Faith. Drinks and soup provided; please bring sandwiches. Details 73 1013
- 13-20 APR IYY NATIONAL FESTIVAL Chester is the venue for the IYY National Festival. There will be a Baha'i caravan and many events which will need the help of the youth. Chester Baha'is are represented on the local IYY Committee and there will be ample opportunity for teaching. Details Sue Grimshaw (0244) 374460 OR Joan Bowers (0244) 851246
- 26 APRIL NOTTINGHAM PUBLIC MEETING "The Baha'i Writings on Music - The Nature and Purpose of Music" Helen Simpson. Tape and slide presentation. 7.30 pm. Gedling Memorial Hall, Gedling Nottingham. Details from Helen Simpson (0602) 618139
- MAY SCOTTISH TEACHING CONFERENCE IN PERTH: Stand by for further details.
- 18 MAY ONE DAY SCHOOL, Lakefield Centre, Lakefield Rd, Llanelli, 10.30 - 5.00 Please bring an item of food for pot-luck lunch. Details from Bryn Fussell, tel 0792-205678 ext 4209 (9.00-4.00) or from Mrs Jan Fussell, 7 Hendre Isaf, Llwynhendry, Llanelli, Dyfed, SA14 9LE.
- JULY EUROPEAN YOUTH CONFERENCE IN ANTWERP.BELGIUM 26-29 July. Theme: YOUTH CAN MOVE THE WORLD. Further details to follow.

Thursday Public Meetings at the National centre, 8pm. 7 March, Suzi Worters and May Manning; "The growth of the Faith in New Zealand and the South Pacific": 14 Mrch, Ann Moqbel; "Attitudes and Human responses": 21 March, Jan Mughrabi; "The dawn of a new day": 28 March, Kathy Nikjoo; "Laws - the Baha'i concept":

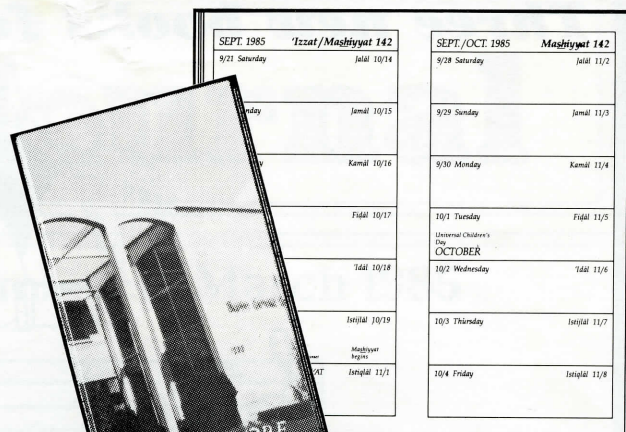
**PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS ARE SENT IN AT LEAST TWO MONTHS BEFORE THE DEADLINE. CHECK THAT THE INFORMATION IS ACCURATE AND THAT YOUR ITEMS INCLUDE THE DATE, THE VENUE, WHAT IT IS, THE SUBJECT, WHO TO CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS, COST (IF ANY), TIME AT WHICH IT STARTS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION. REMEMBER - IF YOU OMIT THESE DETAILS IT IS YOU WHO WILL LOSE OUT!**



# Remember your dates...

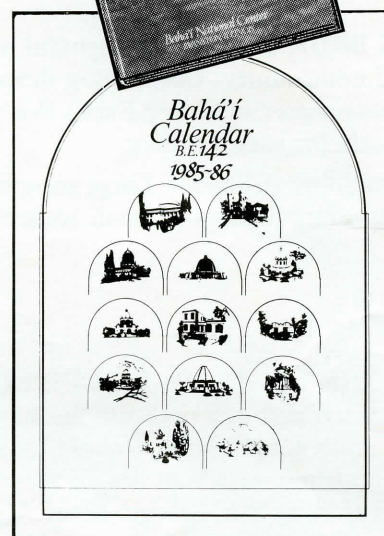
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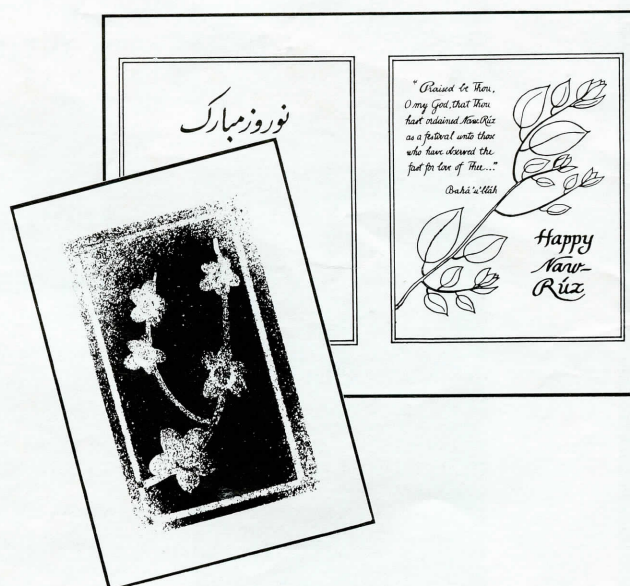
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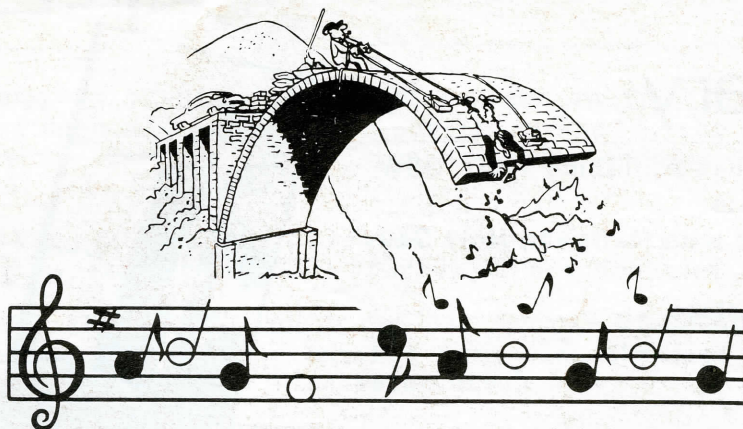
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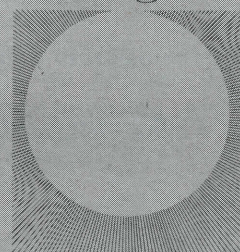
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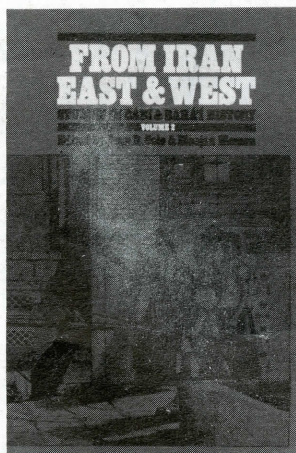
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