OU Bahá’í Club Starts New Semester Strong

The new school year has just begun, but already the OU Bahá’í Club has met, made plans, and is on its way to accomplishing its goals. Officers are Sama Astani, president; Anissa Angier, vice-president; Shamim Bina, treasurer, and Molly Turner, secretary. The club is open to students as well as members of the community. Here are some notes from Molly’s minutes of the last meeting. The club meets on Mondays at 7 p.m. in the Union. Sama Astani is going to reserve a permanent room for the rest of the semester. Cliff Stevens will lead a book club on Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, most likely to be held on campus. Lara Lauginiger is hosting Ruhi Book 1, possibly on Sundays. She's interested in promoting it with flyers and chalking [meaning writing on sidewalks with fat chalk]. The club definitely wants to do a Naw-Rúz party again, possibly in a bigger venue. Members discussed programming Coffee & Unitea with the Religious Studies club as a way to draw in a larger population. Planning will begin next week. [Thank you, Molly!]

Write to Senators Urging Them to Protest Sentencing of Iranian Prisoners

Earlier this month, the seven Iranian Bahá’í leaders, known as the Yaran, were found guilty of the false charges levied against them by the government and each was sentenced to 20 years in prison. Here is a portion of the letter from our National Spiritual Assembly:

“Please write a letter in your own words to each of the two senators for your state, as well as to the representative for your congressional district. After informing them briefly of the background of the situation, ask them to take whatever actions are within their power to shine a spotlight on the Iranian government's behavior. Polite suggest they not underestimate the effect their words can have in making the Iranian authorities aware they cannot violate basic standards of international human rights unseen by a watchful world. Their words of support will also bring comfort and solace to the hearts of the long-suffering Iranian Bahá’ís. You can find out who your senators and congressional representatives are by visiting the website http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml. Background information and updates about the situation are available at http://iran.bahai.us and http://news.bahai.org. To widen this outreach effort, we further ask you to enlist the support of your friends and co-workers—as well as other faith communities and civic organizations in your locality.”

Editor’s note: Here are the two OK senators, their mailing addresses, and the proper way to head your letter:

The Honorable Tom Coburn
172 Russell Senate Ofc. Building
Washington, DC 20510.
Dear Senator Coburn:

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
243 Russell Senate Ofc. Building
Washington, DC 20510.
Dear Senator Inhofe:

"Put your trust in God, and commit your affairs to His keeping. He, verily, will, through the power of truth, render you victorious, and He, verily, is powerful to do what He willeth, and in His grasp are the reins of omnipotent might."
Area Teaching Committee Launches New Intensive Program of Growth (IPG)

With the encouragement of Auxiliary Board Member Bezhad Rohani, the Norman community gladly took up the challenge of another period of teaching prayers, holding devotionals and firesides from Sept. 26 through October 1. Here are the specific goals, which you put on the tally sheet (available online or at the Center): 20 firesides, 25 devotionals, and 1400 individual teaching prayers. We can do it! Victory celebration coming soon.

Secretary's Report 8/20/10 Feast of Asmá (Names)

1. Approved: ATC to host next Reflection Gathering, 8/27/10, reflecting on the last goal and sharing experiences. The ATC approved repeating the goals: 1400 prayers, 25 devotional and 20 firesides. Victory Celebration on 10/2/10.
2. The CIC reports that a tutor gathering would be held, 8/12/10 at the Center.
3. The Building & Grounds committee is looking for a forklift to move the storage shed. Will talk to the new neighbors before deciding on a new location for the shed.
4. Naghmeh Astani has requested to be removed from the Social committee. We will ask Rachel Blundel to serve as the convener.
5. Request from Kathleen Park for volunteers for PR assistance in news gathering and taking pictures of events. We will ask Frank and also a college student.
6. A message on the Center phone from the Quaker community requested Baha'is to participate in Interfaith Prayers for Peace program. Lethika will call them for details.
7. Sooner Kickoff, Friday 8/20/10. Cindy Stevens has ordered the material for the booth; $100.00 was sent to the Chamber of Commerce for booth rental.
8. The Assembly plans to meet with the OU College Club on 9/13/10, 6:30 p.m. and will provide a pizza dinner. The Assembly will give each student a care package.
9. Recommendation to have the fundraiser dinner [Sept. 25] at the OEC community room. We will try to reserve it. A sign-up sheet for various food items will be available at the next Feast. Also a suggestion that we have a silent auction during the dinner to raise additional money. Fuad offered to assist.
10. Approved Building & Grounds committee to purchase counter tops and hardware for the new cabinets. Zahrais are donating two more cabinets for the Center.
11. Cindy, Cliff, Kathleen, Anne, Roya and Amelia offered to coordinate a garage sale fundraiser.
12. The audit for the fund completed.
13. The Assembly will schedule the 2nd part of the LSA deepening on consultation this fall.

Treasurer's Report

During the month of Asmá, the fund has done very well in one way, but lags behind in another. If you've heard me at our recent Feasts, you already know. We have met our monetary goal quite handily, but participation has been less so far. The month is not over yet, I hope you will choose to participate.

Tidbits

Baha'i's not on the list serve can subscribe to their state list by sending a request to bahai-request@bcca.org with their name, Baha'i ID number, city and state. SPREAD THE WORD. This also places them on their Regional Council's list, so they can receive important updates.
Spirit Weavers Getting Creative at the Center

Calling all crafters!! Bring your quilting, knitting, crocheting or any other craft or handiwork and enjoy fellowship and love while working on your project. This activity is patterned after a group that meets weekly in Spokane, WA, and several people here loved the idea—so we're going to give it a try. Bring any music you want to share. We’ll start with a short devotional and then get craftin'! This is a time to share our talents, our thoughts and our spirits with each other. (Update: they had so much fun last time, they’re planning to do it again.)

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Request from The American Bahá’í

Dear friends who are Bahá’ís in the continental U.S., Please tell us about spiritual conversations you are having with other people. How do you identify those who might be willing to engage with us in building community? What do you say to them? Through what stages do your conversations with them proceed? How do you help them plug in to the core activities and other community-building efforts? Thanks.

Tom Mennillo, Associate Editor, The American Bahá’í, TMennillo@usbn.org.

**Friends, if you don’t wish to respond directly to The American Bahá’í, you may call, write, or email me, and I’ll prepare your contribution and send it for you. Kathleen Park knpark@yahoo.com 405-310-6512.

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The Stillwater Bahá’ís are planning an event for International Day of Peace on Sunday, September 19, on the OSU campus from 3 to about 5 p.m. We are focusing on how world peace begins at home, and have invited a speaker from our local Domestic Violence Services and are planning to invite the deputy police chief to speak as well. We would also like to include some kind of music/singing/etc. for the program. If you or anyone you know is a singer/musician, we would be delighted if you could grace our event with a short musical interlude! Contact Jasmine Bigler corresponding secretary, Stillwater LSA. jasmine.bigler@okstate.edu.

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Toronto Bahá’ís Show “Home” at Toronto International Film Festival

Made by a lot of Toronto Bahá’ís (Aaron Phelan, Andrew Smith, Esther Maloney, Nagmeh Phelan, Winnie MacIsaac) the short comedy has no Bahá’í content. But it does have seniors. If you’re in town for the festival, let’s meet up. You should also go see bahaimedia's Rainn Wilson in his two Tiff movies “Super” and “Peep World.” See http://tiff.net/filmsandschedules/tiff/2010/homelifeadvice. Our trailers are up here: http://www.youtube.com/user/HomeEverybodyGoes. See: http://www.facebook.com/HomeTheMovie See you there, but if not, we could use all the Internet support we can get. . . Andrew andrewnicholasmccannsmith.com

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Bahá’í World Centre Seeking Professionals and Youth Workers

1. **Director of Finance:** The Financial Coordinator oversees day-to-day operation of the Department of Finance. Must have an accounting/finance qualification, English proficiency, experience in a computerized financial environment, and strong management and organizational skills.

2. **Mechanical Technician:** mainly responsible for the installation, repair and maintenance of mechanical equipment and building facilities, e.g., heating, air-conditioning, ventilation, refrigeration,
emergency generators, water systems and automated gates. Candidate should have completed a
certificate course in mechanical engineering or equivalent and/or attended an apprenticeship program,
with some work experience in mechanical, electro-mechanical repairs and/or maintenance of mechanical
equipment. Good communication and team-building skills are essential. Knowledge and/or skills of
more than one engineering discipline would be an advantage.

3. **Recruiter**: responsible for filling positions with suitable staff. Must be a mature individual, with good
knowledge of written and spoken English and communication skills; able to work independently as
well as in a group; maintain confidentiality. Attention to detail, flexibility, tact, good organizational
skills, Microsoft Office.

4. **Selected Vacancies for Youth**
   September 15, 2010 is the deadline for youth to submit offers for the following positions starting
   between April 2011 and April 2012: Security guards, gardeners, kitchen helpers, mail processors,
cleaning, maintenance helpers, customer service assistants.
   Visit [https://bahai.bwc.org/service/default.asp](https://bahai.bwc.org/service/default.asp); email serve@bwc.org.

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**National Spiritual Assembly Seeking to Fill These Paid Service Positions**

1. Content and Material Developer — Office of Assembly Development
2. Assistant to the Music Director — House of Worship Activities Office
3. Bahá’í House of Worship Director — House of Worship Activities Office
4. Marketing Manager — Bahá’í Publishing Trust
5. Program Coordinator — Bosch Bahá’í School in Santa Cruz, California
6. Facilities Assistant — Bosch Bahá’í School in Santa Cruz, California
7. Bookstore Coordinator — Green Acre Bahá’í School in Eliot, Maine
8. Hospitality Coordinator — Green Acre Bahá’í School in Eliot, Maine
9. Facilities Assistant — Green Acre Bahá’í School in Eliot, Maine
10. Facilities Coordinator — Native American Bahá’í Institute in Houck, Arizona
11. Fund Development Officer — Treasurer’s Office
12. Fund Development Associate — Treasurer’s Office
13. Accounts Payable Clerk — Treasurer’s Office
14. Network Technician — Information Technology

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**Grace before Meals**

He is God! Thou seest us, O my God, gathered around this table, praising Thy bounty, with our gaze set upon
Thy Kingdom. O Lord! Send down upon us Thy heavenly food and confer upon us Thy blessing. Thou art
verily the Bestower, the Merciful, the Compassionate. —Ábdu’l-Bahá

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**Bahá’ís Welcome Students at Kick-off**

Several faithful and fearless Norman Bahá’ís braved the heat
to welcome students back to campus. They handed out
literature, cold drinks, bumper stickers, and packets of
necessary goodies to the students. Several people stayed for a
while asking questions about the Faith.

(photograph by Frank Lolito)
**Mysticism in the Bahá’í Faith**

Azam and Mashallah Hakim’s son-in-law (Melody’s husband), Ghaneh Fananapazir, graced us with a talk, “Mysticism in the Bahá’í Faith,” on August 2. “The Word of God is deep,” he said, and used this as inspiration for his talk. He quoted the Báb: “The number of meanings for one letter of God’s Word is as many as the atoms,” and made the point that unless we understand the parent faiths, we can never appreciate the depths within our own. He also discussed the many definitions of mysticism by enumerating the differences between asceticism and mysticism and showed how the Bahá’í Faith includes an amalgamation of both. The Grace of God elevates our words and praises, despite their inadequacy to be acceptable in the sight of God. The inner aspect of the Manifestation speaks with the authority of God—the Divine aspect. The outer aspect speaks with a voice of humility and servitude—the created aspect. Prayers are the evidence of the created aspect praising His own Divine aspects. [Notes by Keturah Stevens Fortner]

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**Coming up**

The fundraiser for Center improvements will be an International Dinner, September 25. Dust off your favorite recipes and let’s get cookin’!

**Children’s Classes Starting New Semester**

Beginning on Sep. 11 at 10 a.m., preschool children will meet at the Center. Children’s classes begin on Sunday, the 12th at 10:30 as do the youth classes at 11. Teachers include Cindy & Sarah, Lethika & Julie & Keturah, Kathy & Fuad, and Kay & Cliff. Remember, children of all faiths, or no faith at all, are welcome.

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The purpose of this newsletter is to strengthen our sense of community. Please share your announcements and ideas—and especially stories of family and teaching efforts. Your newsletter editor is Kathleen Park. Please call with your news items (310-6512) or email knpark@yahoo.com. Send pictures, too! The newsletter comes out once every Gregorian month. To receive the newsletter by email, contact M. Hakim.

“We, verily, have chosen courtesy, and made it the true mark of such as are nigh unto Him. Courtesy is, in truth, a raiment which fitteth all men, whether young or old.” —Bahá’u’lláh

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George Cooper gave a fireside here in August. Joh and David Gainey will speak about pilgrimage and show photos at a public meeting in October. Stay tuned!