



Port Alberni Nuggets

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Baha'i Quote of the Month



Baha'i Stories:

Beauty

Driving home, we came to the most spectacular waterfall, foaming down a black precipice. The Master peremptorily stopped the car and with a sort of excitement got out of it; then walked to the very edge of the precipice. After standing there for some time, His eyes fixed on that long, shining torrent, which seemed to be shaking off diamonds in a fury, He seated Himself on a rock hanging over the deep abyss. I can still see that Figure of quiet Power perilously poised above the precipice, that still, rapt Face delighting in some secret way in the beauty of the waterfall. Tears came to Laura's eyes and mine. During the whole drive He was always discovering lovely things and with vivid animation pointing them out to us: the bright green of the fields and hills, the neat villages, a spire rising from a cluster of Swiss houses, or from some lonely spot on a mountain. A tiny village, high among the peaks, caught His eye . . . It was just after we left the waterfall that the Master turned, smiling, to me. "If I come to America, Juliet, will you invite Me to see such waterfalls?"

-Diary of Juliet Thompson, p. 78-79

News and Events:

News from our twin LSA of Jaipur, India

The non-stop activities continue with great enthusiasm with many JY, devotional gatherings and children classes.

An 8-day winter camp was organized for the youth who presented their teaching action plans for returning to their respective villages after the completion of their deepening.

Baha'is of our community made a video clip after the feast sending our love to the Jaipur community. This video was in response to their earlier video message sent to our community by their LSA.



Bahá'í World News Service

Counsellors' return marks start of new journey for Bahá'í world



BAHÁ'Í WORLD CENTRE — The consultations of the Boards of Counsellors that had begun immediately after their conference have today concluded, marking the beginning of a new chapter in the development of the global Bahá'í community.

The consultations of the past few days were enriched by the wealth of insights that emerged from a global perspective uniquely available to the conference of the Counsellors held from 30 December 2021 to 4 January 2022.

The focus of the Counsellors' discussions over the past few days has been on promoting within each continent the unified, systematic endeavors of Bahá'í communities at the local, regional, and national level. These endeavors involve educational programs that build capacity for community-building, as well as social action and participation in societal discourses.

The Counsellors, spiritually uplifted by visits to the Holy Shrines and Holy places, enlightened by the guidance of the Universal House of Justice, and illuminated by the insights gained from their colleagues, are now departing the Holy Land, ready to radiate the absorbed spiritual energy and insights back to the Bahá'í world in the lead up to thousands of global conferences that will be held in the coming weeks and months.

The House of Justice has stated that these conferences will enable communities "to examine anew the possibilities before them to release the society-building powers of the Faith" in their efforts to put into action "Bahá'u'lláh's universal summons to work for the betterment of the world.

Sharing:

Lesley's sharing:

As you know, there will be a series of conferences taking place worldwide, beginning in February and continuing through Ridvan and the launch of the Nine Year Plan. The National Spiritual Assembly has described the conferences in one way as "the means by which the Universal House of Justice will speak to the peoples of Canada" and includes those of us who are Baha'is, those actively involved in our communities, occasional participants and family members, even those involved less directly through association with organizations. When we consider that our precious Supreme Body is reaching out to all of us and that souls are crying out to be involved in doing something to better the world, our role is clear. Can we reach out to those souls and begin to have conversations about this Beloved Faith that can lead to an invitation to a conference?

Laurand's sharing:



I believe that we Baha'is are working to educate ourselves, using the concepts and precepts given us by Baha'u-llah, like the Oneness of mankind, to unite the world. Uniting all the people from various backgrounds, Religion being one of them, into one universal belief. The foundation of Religions is One.

Throughout history, God has sent us great teachers, Abraham, Moses, Zoroaster, Jesus, Krishna, The Buddha, Mohamud, the Bab and Baha'u'llah, to guide and protect mankind with laws that enlightened the people in the places and ages in which they were given. The hope that a new knowledge and justice given to us by Baha'u'llah will bring about a peace that will unite us, giving us new enlightenment, building on all the guidance given to us by the great teachers of the past. We Baha'is of today are illuminating our minds so we will be able to assist today's and future adherents. Thank you, Abdu'l-Baha, for setting an example for us to follow.

O SON OF SPIRIT! My first counsel is this; Possess a pure, kindly and radiant heart, that thine may be a sovereignty ancient, imperishable and everlasting. The hidden words of Baha'u'llah

Poem by Tahera

*He relentlessly served every moment
His love reflected through His deeds
A kindness that permeated barriers
Of Religion, of nations, of creed.*

*A generosity that was boundless,
A heart forgiving as can be.
In every test and trial,
God's mercy He could see.*

*He accepted each suffering,
That came His way.
With happiness and gratitude
He lighted up each day.*

*He was the Centre of the Covenant,
A station infallible and sublime.
Yet He was full of humility,
That no words can define.*

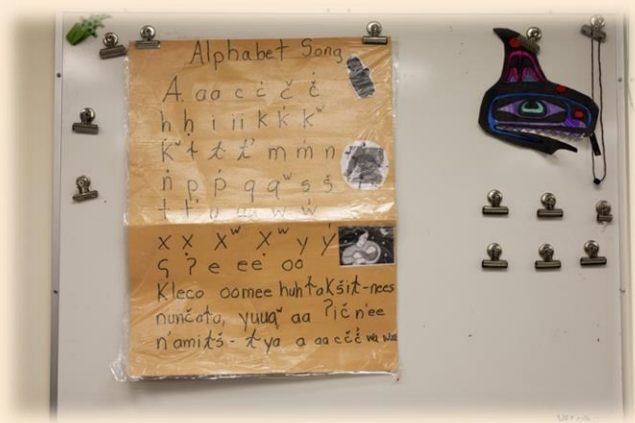
*As the centenary of His ascension
We together commemorate,
Accept our services, O Master!
Let Thy love in each heart germinate.*

Tahera

News and Nuggets from our First Nation community



Interweaving Nuu-chah-nulth culture into a school curriculum



Tofino, BC, During art class at the Wickaninnish Community School in Tofino, Dominic Hansen eagerly volunteered to introduce himself to his class.

Despite having already been in school together for nearly three months, Hansen’s classmates listened to him attentively, as if they were hearing him for the first time. In Nuu-chah-nulth, he shared his name, his parent’s names and where he comes from.

Nuu-chah-nulth peoples commonly introduce themselves by sharing more than just their name, said Dani Stone, the school’s vice-principal and fine arts teacher. They describe where they have roots, the names of their parents and grandparents, as well as the territory they currently occupy.

The formality is one Stone encourages the children to regularly practice.

“It’s a way to make connections,” she said. “Identity is so important. Ultimately, we’re trying to help kids to be able to advocate for themselves – to know who they are.”

Nuu-chah-nulth language and cultural teachings are woven into the school’s everyday curriculum.

You’ll often hear Stone reminding her students to show “iisaak,” meaning respect, to each other. And instead of saying, “thank you,” at the end of the class, Stone will say its Nuu-chah-nulth translation, “kleco-kleco.”

“It’s so important for kids to see themselves [and to] understand that we’re on Tla-o-qui-aht territory,” she said.

Even the student’s art projects are entirely inspired by Nuu-chah-nulth culture.

Under the guidance of Grace George, First Nations support worker for School District 70, Darlene Frank, the school’s Nuu-chah-nulth education worker, and Corinne Ortiz-Castro, Tla-o-qui-aht First

Nation homeschool coordinator, the art classes integrate First Nations symbols and traditional sewing practices.

Before COVID-19, Stone said the fine arts program consisted of more performance-based classes, such as music and drama. But when lockdowns and social distancing measures made it difficult for some children to regularly attend class, Stone said they needed to switch gears.

“We were trying to build school community without being allowed to be together last year,” said Stone.

By transitioning the focus to visual arts, Stone said it gave students a “place to enter wherever we were with our learning.”

For students like Payton Black, the shift felt natural. The 10-year-old has been sewing for years after being taught by her grandmother.

“When I’m nervous, I sew,” she said. “It’s fun.”

The emphasis on visual arts has allowed students, like Black, to step into the spotlight and share their skills with friends, said Stone.

Through a progression of increasingly more intricate art projects, Stone is trying to develop the student’s confidence. They are building up to create a design that will be sewn onto the school’s regalia and left behind as a legacy piece.

Many years ago, George told Stone that she dreamed of seeing the entire school dressed in regalia designed in the school’s colours while performing Nuu-chah-nulth dances for the entire community. This year, Stone said, the school is working towards that goal.

Community members and school staff have been sewing vests and shawls so that there is one for every student.

While the gathering hinges on the situation surrounding COVID-19, Stone said she remains hopeful.

“One day when we return back to a more normal time and we’re able to gather safely together, we hope to have our community come together to celebrate with us,” she said.

Over the 28 years that George has been working as a First Nations support worker, she said she’s seen a big shift in the way the community and Nuu-chah-nulth peoples have embraced their culture.

As recently as 10 years ago, George said that students wouldn’t identify themselves as being from Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation.

“They just weren’t told,” she said.

Now, even the most quiet and shy First Nations children say who they are “loud and proud,” George said.

The 67-year-old never went to residential school, but her older brother, Billy, did.

“He was really, really badly beaten,” she said. “But he never forgot the language.”

Billy became her mentor when she began studying Indigenous language revitalization and proficiency at the University of Victoria, where she recently graduated with a diploma.

“When I started taking the language course, he couldn't believe that he went from being beaten to being paid to teach me the language,” she said. “It's really evolved and it's so nice to see. Tofino and this school have been really accepting of our language.”

The Nuu-chah-nulth alphabet, which contains 46 letters, hangs on the white board at the front of the classroom.

It's not easy to learn, but George said some students picked up on the language “right away.”

Eddie Dyrchs moved to Tofino from Germany with his family three years ago. Because Nuu-chah-nulth and German share some of the same guttural sounds, George said the language has come to him easily.

The nine-year-old said that Nuu-chah-nulth reminds him of German and has been “really fun” to learn.

“Land-based learning is so important,” said Stone. “That's the stuff that really resonates with the kids.”

Stone said she laments that she didn't receive Nuu-chah-nulth teachings when she was in school.

“I feel like I'm catching up as an adult,” she said.

The vice-principal said she's “blessed” to have received so many different teachings from Nuu-chah-nulth members and education workers. It's a gift she wants to share with her students.

“I see the joy and pride on parents' faces and kids' faces when they learn those [cultural] pieces,” she said. “It helps to build connections within the students.”

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From the editor's desk:

Practical Economic Suggestions for Everyday Use (Part Five)

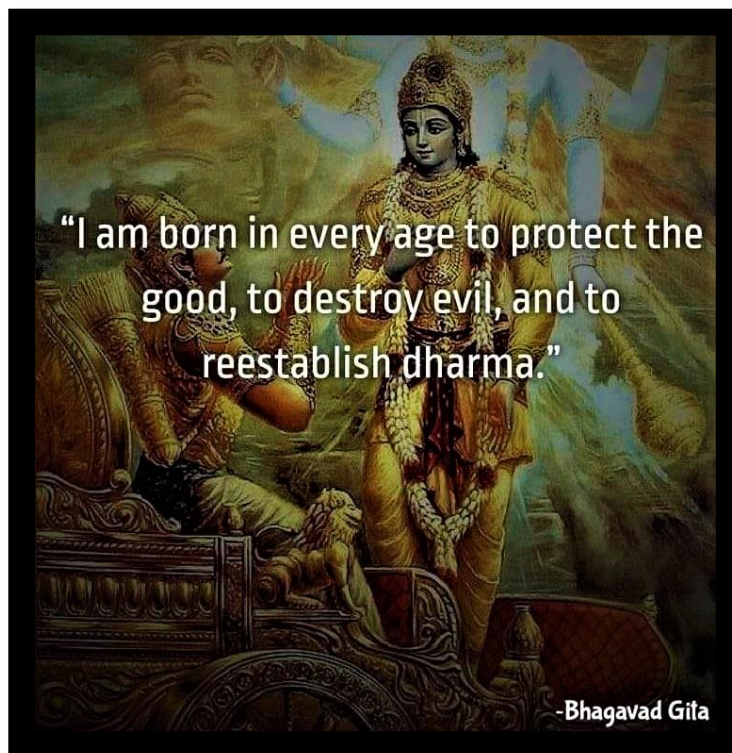
Based on the Baha'i Writings, the suggestions below may hopefully help you to bring about this fundamental change in your character and your everyday economic actions. There are 53 suggestions but I mention 9 here.

- 19. Increase your economic and business knowledge. The more we know about how economics works, the better we will be able to forecast the future.*
- 20. Volunteer for service whenever possible with the spirit of service, following Abdu'l-Bahá's example, Who served mankind all of His life.*
- 21. Give to the Bahá'í Fund and also support worthy charitable organizations. Every act of giving is a small step towards reducing the gap between rich and poor.*
- 22. Have or adopt a financial goal in life. As we have teaching plans in the Faith and other goals and plans in our life, it is vital to have an individual financial plan. Goals encourage discipline.*

This is very important. It is almost impossible to have a comfortable financial life without planning.

23. **Avoid debt** as much as possible since too many financial burdens damage the quality of spiritual and human life. **Investigate the rate of interest** on mortgages, loans and credit to reduce cost. Volumes can be written about this subject. Debts are one of the most destructive factors that should be avoided.
24. **Create a habit of saving.** Life is full of uncertainty and change and having some money for a rainy day creates peace of mind. Saving should be part of our financial goals. It is a wonderful habit to have. It is not easy to save with the pressure of our consumer mentality today, but nevertheless, it is crucial.
25. **Spread the word about honest and fair businesses and professionals.** It is like giving them free advertising. They need all the help they can get. It has a very enabling power helping honest people and businesses.
26. **Don't buy the latest models** if the old ones are in working order and provide the same service. Having the latest of everything creates an unnecessary economic burden for an individual which in turn decreases the quality of life. Be practical about material possessions. But it is hard not to want to purchase the latest model of car when everyone is doing the same.
27. **Avoid keeping up with the Joneses.** That is the worst kind of spending. It is also a sign of spiritual and emotional immaturity. And we see it happen every day. It is regrettable that people want the approval of others, while their spiritual destiny is in jeopardy.

Famous quotes:



Upcoming Events:

Coming feast: Sultan, Sovereignty. January 17, 2022, 7 PM

Next feast: Mulk, Dominion, February 5, 2022, 7 PM

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