



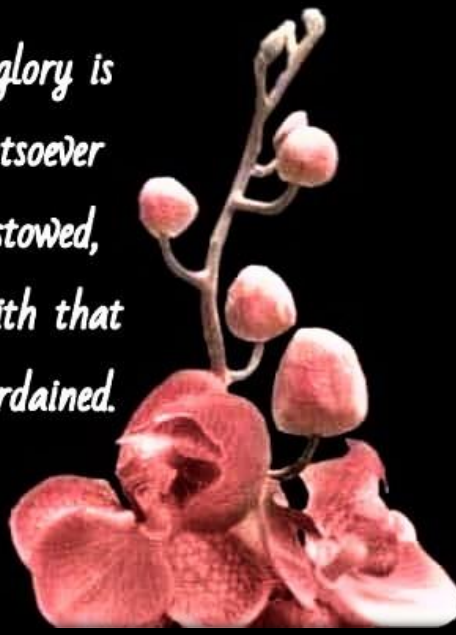
Port Alberni Nuggets

Volume 2, Issue No.16

Sharaf/Honor, 179, B.E

Baha'i Quote of the Month

The source of all glory is
acceptance of whatsoever
the Lord hath bestowed,
and contentment with that
which God hath ordained.
Bahá'u'lláh



Baha'i Stories:

Parents - treatment of

The Master also dearly loved His devoted disciple, Juliet Thompson. In her diary she wrote about a visit with Him in New York City in November 1912. One day she wrote, 'I had been very naughty with Mamma that day and had grieved her. My precious mother was brought up in luxury, lived in luxury until Papa died. She cannot get over her sensitiveness about our too-apparent poverty and she simply won't have people to meals. I had begged her to make an exception of Mirza 'Ali-Akbar, who was arriving at such an awkward hour, and to let me bring him back at lunch. But she wouldn't hear of it. Whereupon I flew into a temper, told her what I thought of her "false pride", and stamped out of the house.

'Now, entering the Master's house with the three Persians, instead of a welcome, I received a blow. The Master didn't even look at me. "How is your mother?" were His first words. "Is she happy?"

'Then He told me to go straight back to her but to return the next day. I went back and comforted her with His rebuke to me.' -Honnold, Annamarie, Vignettes from the Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 47

News and Events:

News from our twin community of Jaipur, India

The Training Institute Rajasthan is organizing a seven-day winter campaign for youth is going on with great spirit.at Babu Nagar Bahai House, about 50-70 youths are participating. Ruhi book number 1,3,5 and other books are studied. Below are some pictures of some of the activities.



Bahá'í World News Service

The arts: Vancouver youth embrace power of music to awaken high aspirations



VANCOUVER, Canada — A growing number of young people in Vancouver have been exploring how music can awaken noble sentiments and provide comfort and inspiration to their peers. The songs they create draw on their own experiences and those of their friends to explore the stories of adolescent youth undergoing significant changes in their lives as they become more conscious of their spiritual identity and their potential to contribute to society.

This initiative arises from the efforts of these youth who are exploring concepts in Bahá'í educational programs that aim to cultivate the ability of young people to serve society and develop their artistic expression.

Youth facilitators of these programs have observed that by focusing on the power of language to shape one's understanding of the world, these programs assist the younger participants to better express their thoughts and convictions, strengthening their ability to resist negative influences such as consumerism.

One of the songs made by the youth, Listen Closer, explores the idea of overcoming the pressures of materialism:

*This voice is telling me to live for pleasure
Strive for leisure, give into pressure*

*But we need something of meaning to measure
When we hear truth, that's the real treasure*

Dinuk, who facilitates youth groups in his neighborhood, says: "It's really different from pop culture music that youth are exposed to, where it's more about making provocative statements. In contrast to that, we really wanted to create music that would allow youth to see themselves as protagonists.

"A good example of this is one of the songs that is about a youth who notices that someone's being bullied and considers what choices they could make in that situation."

*Bell rings it's time for lunch
I see my friends together
Then I see, someone alone
Someone I've never talked to
Should I go and say hello
I want to show I care
I know my friends are watching me
Wondering what I'll do?*

Shadi, one of the organizers of the initiative, speaks about the power of music to influence the listener, saying, "If you play music to somebody with negative language over many months, they will start talking like that."

Jason, a participant, adds that the challenges some of his peers face are compounded by the negative messages in popular music. "Then you add this other layer of negative music, and when they're saying the words, it's not helping them, and it's actually sad to watch."

Shadi notes that listening to positive, uplifting music has a vastly different effect on one's being and behavior, highlighting the unique power of music to impact the human spirit.

Aaliyah, another facilitator of the youth groups, describes the songs emerging from the initiative as an "an untapped area of music, with lyrics that uphold positive values... Like having music that's cool to listen to, but about things that we can identify with."

The initiative takes a collaborative songwriting approach. "The songs never belong to any one person," says Shadi.

Participants, all of whom have varying degrees of musical experience, gather every three months for two consecutive weekends. During these sessions, they reflect on spiritual concepts, such as consultation, the importance of service, and the nature of true friendship. They also discuss the challenges and needs of their neighborhoods. These meetings provide the inspiration for the songs the youth create.

The initiative in Vancouver is among many others throughout the world where people participating in Bahá'í community-building activities are learning about the power of music to inspire hope and action toward the betterment of society.

The News Service has previously reported on similar initiatives that work closely with Bahá'í training institutes. In Ecuador, a series of seminars has sparked songs about social change. Meanwhile, a group of youth in New Zealand have been exploring how music can enhance their understanding of moral

concepts, and in Zambia, music has been an essential element in the development efforts of the Lunda people.

Poem of the month

A poem on Mulla Sadiq

**(Bahá'u'lláh entitled him
Ismu'lláhu'l-Asdaq (the Name of God, the Most Truthful)
and he was posthumously named a Hand of the Cause by Abdu'l-Bahá)**

**Mulla Sadiq was his name,
A learned divine of great fame.
Truthful is what his name means,
And love for God throbbed in his veins.**

**An ardent follower of the Bab,he became,
And throughout Persia spread His flame.
He was persecuted for his beliefs,
But nothing could replace his joy with grief.**

**He bore each suffering with such fortitude,
With astounding patience and certitude.
In Shiraz,he was tortured and lashed,
His frail body bled as he was scourged and bashed.**

**People thought he would not survive,
After fifty lashes,he would hardly be alive.
But more than nine hundred strikes,he endured,
Glowing with serenity,he was calm and assured.**

**His face was wreathed in a heavenly smile,
His tranquillity unshakable by the enemies hostile,
He covered his mouth with his hand,
Concealing a laughter which no one could understand.**

**When he later revealed about his condition,
People realised the power of true submission!
He stated that only the first seven blows hurt,
The rest on him, could no pain exert!**

**God had tranformed his agony to ease,
The gladness of his soul was beyond anyone to seize!
His radiance was celestial,his steadfastness astounds!
May his life inspire us to serve with such trust abound!**



Tahera

From the pages of history

The Bab's farewell address to the Letters of the Living

Having sent forth Mulla Ali on his mission, the Bab summoned to His presence the remaining Letters of the Living, and to each severally He gave a special command and appointed a special task. He addressed to them these parting words:

"O My beloved friends! You are the bearers of the name of God in this Day. You have been chosen as the repositories of His mystery. It behoves each one of you to manifest the attributes of God, and to exemplify by your deeds and words the signs of His righteousness, His power and glory. The very members of your body must bear witness to the loftiness of your purpose, the integrity of your life, the reality of your faith, and the exalted character of your devotion. For verily I say, this is the Day spoken of by God in His Book: On that day will We set a seal upon their mouths yet shall their hands speak unto Us, and their feet shall bear witness to that which they shall have done.' Ponder the words of Jesus addressed to His disciples, as He sent them forth to propagate the Cause of God. In words such as these, He bade them arise and fulfil their mission: 'Ye are even as the fire which in the darkness of the night has been kindled upon the mountain-top. Let your light shine before the eyes of men. Such must be the purity of your character and the degree of your renunciation, that the people of the earth may through you recognise and be drawn closer to the heavenly Father who is the Source of purity and grace. For none has seen the Father who is in heaven. You who are His spiritual children must by your deeds exemplify His virtues, and witness to His glory. You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt have lost its savour, wherewith shall it be salted? Such must be the degree of your detachment, that into whatever city you enter to proclaim and teach the Cause of God, you should in no wise expect either meat or reward from its people. Nay, when you depart out of that city, you should shake the dust from off your feet. As you have entered it pure and undefiled, so must you depart from that city.'"

-THE DAWN-BREAKERS & NABIL'S NARRATIVE

News and Nuggets from other communities



Funding announced for mothers centre run by Huu-ay-aht



Port Alberni, BC

In an effort to keep more Indigenous children out of the foster care system, a transitional living facility is coming to Port Alberni to support mothers and their young ones.

For years the Huu-ay-aht First Nations have been working on developing a mother's centre to better support those struggling with addiction, mental health challenges, abuse, poverty or other trauma that can interfere with parenting. Now such a facility is approaching realization, with a \$5-million commitment announced by the B.C. Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation on Nov. 8 to cover the centre's initial operating costs.

B.C. Housing has invested \$10 million into a 17,900 square-foot, two-level facility capable of housing up to a dozen mothers and their children in separate units, complete with a day care and offices for the Huu-ay-aht's Child and Family Wellness Department, which will run the centre with around-the-clock staff. Construction is expected to begin as early as January, and operations are scheduled to begin by the summer of 2024.

Modelled after the Vancouver Aboriginal Mother's Centre that opened in 2002, the Port Alberni facility will be called Oomiiqsu Mother Centre, using the word for mother in Nuuchahnulth.

Other funds for the project include nearly \$800,000 from the B.C. Ministry of Education and Child Care and \$1.4 million from the Huu-ay-aht First Nations.

"This partnership between the province and the Huu-ay-aht First Nations will make an important difference on the West Coast of Vancouver Island, where many communities are remote and provide few options for mothers and their children in need," said Murray Rankin, minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, who spoke at the mother centre announcement in Port Alberni. "At Oomiiqsu, they

will find stability, security and access to support in a way that works specifically for the Nuu-chah-nulth people.”

The announcement was emotional for several who spoke at the event, as the Huu-ay-aht have worked to improve a social issue that brought about a public health emergency for the First Nation in March of 2018. At that time 21 per cent of Huu-ay-aht children were in the foster system, but the 47 youngsters who were in care at the time have since declined to the current level of 18-22, said Huu-ay-aht Councillor Edward R. Johnson. He pointed to work the First Nation has undertaken to implement recommendations of the Social Services Project. Informed by a panel of experts tasked to investigate the large number of Huu-ay-aht children in foster care, the project relied heavily on input from Huu-ay-aht citizens.

“The movement of change is wonderful see, in knowing that change takes time,” said Johnson during the mother centre announcement. “In being able to enforce reconciliation - to be able to slow that momentum of colonialism - it’s an uphill battle.”

While the public health emergency was declared four and a half years ago, a young Huu-ay-aht mother was fighting in court for access to her newborn. The baby was removed by the B.C. Ministry of Children and Family Development from the mother while in a Victoria hospital just three days after birth. The newborn was put in the care of the paternal grandmother in Courtenay, while the 20-year-old mother, who lived in Port Alberni, was limited to two hours of access a day. Contact was not granted on weekends, as ministry staff were not available to supervise the visits.

But by mid March a Provincial Court order reunited the mother and newborn, after supports from family and the Huu-ay-aht helped the case for the baby to live with the young woman.

Since then movement has occurred across Canada to better recognize the right of First Nations to determine the welfare of their own children. At the beginning of 2020 Bill C-92 came into force, affirming the jurisdiction of Canada’s Aboriginal communities for child protection, giving opportunity for First Nations to choose their own solutions for children and families. More recently, amendments were announced to B.C.’s Child, Family and Community Service Act, recognizing the right of First Nations to determine their own child welfare services.

But while the number of B.C. children currently in foster care has declined to nearly half of what existed 20 years ago, Indigenous youngsters have not kept pace. As of 2021 Aboriginal children comprised 67 per cent of those in care, according to the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

At the mother centre announcement Josie Osborne, MLA for Mid Island-Pacific Rim, spoke of the goal “to turn the corner from a very dark history of separating children from families and culture, to one that is more generous, more humane in a culturally aligned way of keeping children and families together.”

“I’ve done hundreds of announcements in my riding in my seven years. I haven’t been to anything more important than today,” added Courtenay-Alberni MP Gord Johns. “This project is going to save lives.”

Johnson said that Oomiiqsu is designed to prevent the traumas that many families have had to endure by providing a transitional home “where mothers and children will feel safe, healthy and connected.” He shared that his mother would have benefited from such a place to help with her struggles when he was young.

From the editor's desk:

The Spiritual Cost of a Higher Standard of Living

Undoubtedly, the standard of living has improved since the industrial revolution, particularly for many in the West. Not long ago, there was a time when phones, colour T.V.s, and cars were only for the rich, and the poor could only dream of having them. But now even poor people in developed nations own cell phones, colour T.V.s and computers.

Even children from poor or rich families have cell phones and assorted sophisticated electronic toys as early as the age of three or four. Of course, the adults also have their toys: airplanes, ride-on lawnmowers, boats and motorcycles.

The sad part about all these expensive toys: you do not have to have money to buy them because you can get a loan. With all our material possessions, we have come to believe we are better off than before and have improved our material quality of life. We think that acquiring more possessions will make us feel happier and more comfortable—but unbridled acquisition only starves the soul and makes us less and less happy. Our souls feel trapped in the clutter of material goods. The Baha'i teachings tell us:

“All around us today we see how man surrounds himself with every modern convenience and luxury, and denies nothing to the physical and material side of his nature. But, take heed, lest in thinking too earnestly of the things of the body you forget the things of the soul: for material advantages do not elevate the spirit of a man. Perfection in worldly things is a joy to the body of a man but in no wise does it glorify his soul.” – Abdu'l-Baha

If we use happiness as a criterion, many of us have begun to realize that in spite of our higher standard of living, we are less happy than people were before. Why? Perhaps because the more we have, the harder we have to work to maintain that standard of living—and the more we work, the less time and energy we have to nurture our minds and our souls through meditation, reading books, playing music, painting, spending time with family and friends, and helping others. Those things can bring us true happiness.

Almost all agree that our current economic system provides more goods and money—but having more may not necessarily be the best. The philosophy of “more is better” has led to a mentality of acquiring as many material goods as possible. That mentality has created a sickness in society that measures achievements based on having more possessions and disregards the emotional and spiritual aspects of one's life.

This lack of spirituality is the root cause of most of the problems in the world, and Baha'is are encouraged to introduce spirituality in any way possible into their economic activities. This can be as simple as praying for the poor or as grand as initiating a multi-billion dollar project to eliminate

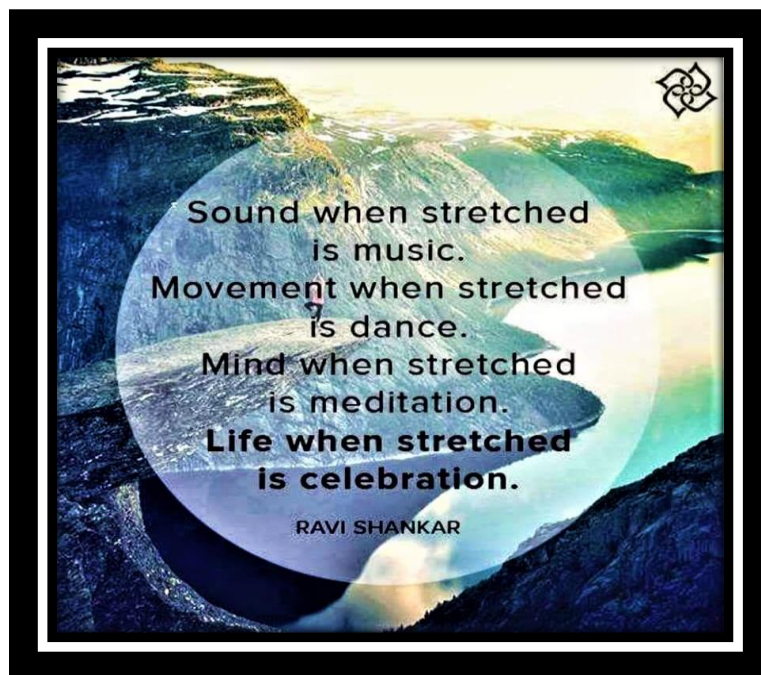
poverty or eradicate the disease. It could be by paying fair prices, avoiding wastage, being honest in insurance claims, or giving charitable funds.

Some mistake a higher standard of living for prosperity. To have more does not translate into being happier. According to the Legatum Prosperity Index, prosperity:

- *Is a home to grow, to raise a family, a community where we belong, is people who care.*
- *Is compassion and generosity, is health, is education, is truth and integrity, in politics, in media, in business. Is peace and safety.*
- *Is in opportunity to work, to earn, to save, to get ahead, to innovate, to take risks, to succeed (or fail).*
- *Is freedom from hunger, disease, slavery, poverty, conflict, to speak our minds, to vote, to follow our beliefs. Is hope, space to breath and time to recharge and re create.*
- *Is becoming the best I can be and helping others to be the best they can be.*

The question remains: do we want a higher standard of living at any cost, or do we want true prosperity for ourselves and all? The decision is ours, and the price to pay is ours, too.

Famous quotes:



Upcoming Events:

Next feast, Sultan/Sovereignty, January 19, 2022

Contact us at: bshams@telus.net