



Port Alberni Nuggets

Volume 2, Issue No. 3

Jamal/Beauty, 179, B.E

Baha'i Quote of the Month



Baha'i Stories:

Ridvan - twelvth day

Many of the Blessed Perfection's followers decided to abandon Baghdad also, and accompany him in his wanderings. When the caravan started, our company numbered about seventy-five persons. All the young men, and others who could ride, were mounted on horses. The women and the Blessed Perfection were furnished waggons. We were accompanied by a military escort. -Myron Henry Phelps and Bahiyyih Khánum, Life and Teachings of Abbas Effendi, p. 30

News and Events:

News from Port Alberni

Chuck has had knee replacement surgery, and although he experienced complications with his heart and had to be taken to hospital in Victoria, he is now back home and says his heart is ticking fine.

Unfortunately, **Jodi** is back in the hospital, having had a heart attack, and the heart specialist is trying to decide what options are available to her.

Cecil has exciting news. He and Grace have their house up for sale (it has probably sold by now), and they have purchased a bed and breakfast at the northern tip of Newfoundland. We wish them all the best in their new venture.

News from our twin community of Jaipur, India

- The National Institutional Conference organized by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of India culminated on April 2 to 4 at the Bahá'í Worship Center in Delhi.
- From 18 to 25 April 2022, a 7-day camp is being organized by the State Bahá'í Training Institute at Bahá'í House, Jaipur. Ruhi Book 7 will be studied in this camp.
- There was a conference in the Sindhi Colony.
- The treasurer of the State Baha'i Council informed the friends that the cost of 25 conferences planned would cost about \$3.290 and made an appeal for contributions.
- The many children's classes, youth activities, and devotionals continue as well as many conferences.



Indore Bahá'í Chair: Principles requisite for climate action



In the long term, efforts to address the multi-dimensional and complex issues related to climate change will need to go beyond technical solutions and beyond even strategies for mitigation. Rather, they must enhance consciousness about a new set of fundamental values central to addressing climate change, such as the principles of the oneness of humankind, justice, and the stewardship of the earth's natural resources.

Arash Fazli

Assistant Professor and
Head of the Bahá'í Chair



INDORE, India — For the past two years, the Bahá'í Chair for Studies in Development at Devi Ahilya University, Indore, has been organizing a series of webinars on the social and economic impact of the pandemic on India's most vulnerable populations.

At its most recent gathering, the Chair brought together academics and economists to explore the nature of transformation that would be required in the systems of society and collective understanding in order to bring humanity into greater balance with the natural world.

“In the long term, efforts to address the multi-dimensional and complex issues related to climate change will need to go beyond technical solutions and beyond even strategies for mitigation. Rather, they must enhance consciousness about a new set of fundamental values central to addressing climate change, such as the principles of the oneness of humankind, justice, and the stewardship of the earth's natural resources,” said Arash Fazli, Assistant Professor and Head of the Bahá'í Chair, at the gathering.

Seen here are some of the attendees of a webinar organized by the Bahá'í Chair for Studies in Development at Devi Ahilya University, Indore, that brought together academics and economists to explore the nature of transformation that would be required in the systems of society and collective understanding in order to bring humanity into greater balance with the natural world.

Ashwini Hingne, of the World Resources Institute, stated: “So far, what we've seen is that the conversation [on climate action] has largely been top-down and technology centered. Conversations have largely focused on building an economic case for moving in the right direction and have led to a slow political process, with private sector interests at the forefront.

“However, what is needed is a change in the discourse on climate action that acknowledges and integrates more meaningfully the interconnectedness of our lives, nature, and the effects of the economic activities that we undertake.”

Participants discussed how any attempt to achieve such a change in the discourse on climate action would need to address the deep-rooted assumption underlying political, economic, and social structures—that human beings are incorrigibly selfish.

“We don’t have the luxury of making these assumptions about human beings. ... We have to believe that people are capable of a different value system free of egocentrism,” said Sharachandra Lele, Senior Fellow of the Centre for Environment and Development at the Ashoka Trust.

Discussions highlighted that such a value system would promote universal participation in climate action and see capacity in human beings and institutions for transcending differences in order to make collective decisions for the common good.

Reflecting on the event, Dr. Fazli draws on insights from the Bahá’í teachings that highlight consultation and cooperation among individuals, communities, and institutions as essential for addressing the pressing issues facing humanity.

“Whether mobilized through agencies of the state or through voluntary action in communities, people in local settings, communities, government, academia, and the private sector need to work in concert to identify achievable milestones and context-specific solutions to their challenges,” he said.

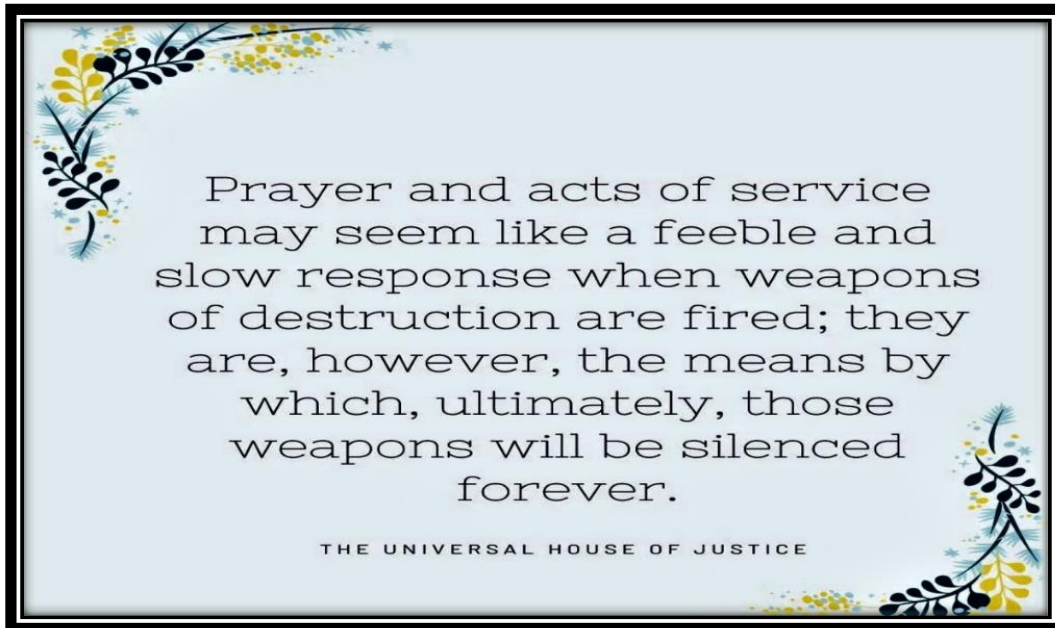
Sharing:

Lesley’s sharing:

I had the bounty of joining a devotional gathering in Victoria, and the guest speaker was David Langness, who is the editor of bahaiteachings.org. The subject was "War and Peace." David was drafted into the army as a young man to go to Vietnam. He went as a conscientious objector (he was already a Baha'i) and became a medic. That horrendous experience shaped his life in that he has always had a keen interest in the topic of peace and how we can achieve it. In the future, as Baha'u'llah has written, if one nation invades another country or there is unprovoked military aggression, the entire world will rise up against it. He feels that the dawn of this idea is beginning to penetrate, and we see an "enormous aversion to war." There is no country today without a peace movement. There are leaders in the world who still emphasize "nationalistic privilege", but there is also an emergence of treaties, alliances and close connections among the nations of the world.

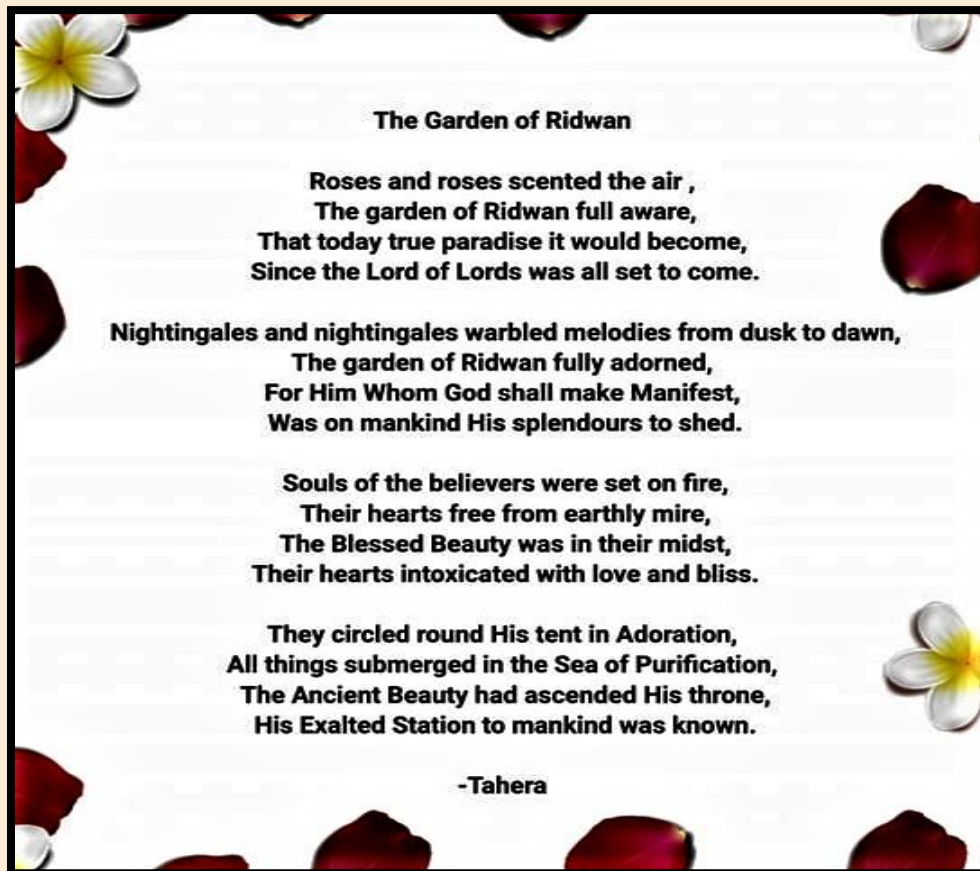
On a slight change of topic, David commented on the 10,000 global conferences happening all over the world and said that this is the first time in human history where millions of people of every background and human diversity are coming together because they want peace and a change in the world. Historians in the future will look back and say that this is where it all started.

Anne's sharing:



Poem of the month

Poem by Tahera (India)



News and Nuggets from our First Nations Community



Uncovering Nuu-chah-nulth roots using grandmother's wisdom



Tsaxana, BC

Linus Lucas Sr. created a Nuu-chah-nulth family tree five years ago to help children and youth in care reconnect with their families.

The senior Quu'asa wellness worker now has a genealogy database filled with approximately 21,000 people with Nuu-chah-nulth roots. Drawing from first-hand knowledge and the Royal BC Museum's genealogy archives, Lucas said the database contains family records that date back to the mid-1800s.

In effort to encourage Nuu-chah-nulth youth to understand their own family lineage, Lucas attended the NTC Northern Region Youth Gathering at the House of Unity, near Gold River on March 29.

Prior to colonization, Lucas said it was common for grandmothers and elders to sit with children and share stories about the life lessons "they needed to know."

Many of those lessons were aimed at helping youth to understand who they were, where they came from and who they were related to, Lucas said.

When the residential school system pulled families apart, many of those teachings were disrupted, he added.

Not only were children separated from their grandmother's wisdom, they were separated from each other, said Lucas.

Even if children attended the same school, Lucas said they weren't allowed to mingle and learn about each other's family ties.

"I have a lot of relatives that are cohabiting with their own relatives," said Lucas. "Many of our survivors of residential school don't have the ability to let their own children know who they're related to."

Margaret Amos was among them and said that traditionally, youth were “constantly” reminded who their relatives were.

“It’s important for everybody to know their ties,” she said. “Not just who they’re related to, but how they’re related.”

Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation Youth Worker John Amos echoed Margaret and said “kids today don’t know who is who.”

“I was always taught you couldn’t be with your first, second, third or fourth cousin,” he continued. “My grandma always taught us who we were related to and who we couldn’t be with. I took her words to heart and mind.”

Amos said he hopes to rekindle the connection between the nations and their grandmother’s wisdom so that “we know who everybody is.”

Margaret said that since families were disrupted by the residential school system, “many of our children have lost their spirit— their identity as Aboriginal.”

“We have to find a way to instill it in them,” she said.

Part of that work is reconnecting the youth back to themselves through genealogy so they know who they are, said Lucas.

Amos’ 14-year-old daughter, Talishe, joined the youth who attended the four-day event hosted by the Quu’asa wellness team and the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation.

Talishe said she struggles to express her feelings and, because of that, has felt alone for a “very long time.”

But as she’s come to learn more about her family’s history and lineage, Talishe said “it’s helped me to know that I’m not alone.”

“My dad always talks about who he’s related to and it just gets me a little more interested in my family every time he speaks,” she said.

Throughout the day, which began with a talking circle and ended with drumming, singing and dancing, youth stopped by to sit with Lucas and retrace their family history through his genealogy database. Lucas said that after a young boy found out he had roots in Hesquiaht First Nation, he started “puffing” his chest out.

When the youth learn that they have relatives in communities outside their own, “it makes them stand up a little taller,” Lucas said.

Audry Smith attended the gathering as a grandmother with her sister, Jessie Mack. The event was an opportunity to “break the cycle” by sharing the teachings that had been passed down to them.

“I like to see the children open up,” said Smith. “Open up like butterflies.”

It's been two and a half years since a youth gathering was held at the House of Unity due to COVID-19 restrictions, Margaret said.

While it's going to take a "little while longer" for the community to get their strength back, Margaret said that through daily practice cultural traditions will be rekindled.

But the change won't happen overnight, she said.

"But what we have is a start," Margaret added. "It'll get better."

From the editor's desk:

Understanding The Implications Of The Oneness of Mankind

I have always thought that I understood the significance of the oneness of humanity as a goal for humanity since, to me, the world's survival depends on it. Moreover, as a Baha'i, I grew up hearing it all the time, so this was imprinted on my psyche.

Since I was interested and thought that I had learned the meaning and implication, I read more and more of the writers, poets, philosophers and great thinkers who talked about this concept. I realized that their ideas were more of a slogan or a cliché. They were very inspiring, no doubt but without any practical suggestions for achieving it.

Recently I was reading about the nature of man and his purpose. I realized there was more to this than I had imagined. After some spiritual readings, I realized that the whole creation of our earth was made for man and his ultimate destiny, which was to achieve the unity of humankind or establish the Kingdom of God on earth. To live a life that God has desired us to live. That meant to nurture our spiritual nature and live as a spiritual beings the way He intended us to live.

"The successive Founders of all past Religions Who, from time immemorial, have shed, with ever-increasing intensity, the splendor of one common Revelation at the various stages which have marked the advance of mankind towards maturity may thus, in a sense, be regarded as preliminary Manifestations, anticipating and paving the way for the advent of that Day of Days when the whole earth will have fructified, and the tree of humanity will have yielded its destined fruit." – Shoghi Effendi, *The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh*, p.166

Can you believe that from the inception of the universe, all these billions and millions of years, this has been the goal for mankind given by our Creator to achieve it? That is amazing.

After this realization, I tried to examine with new insight into the implication of this discovery and try to see what all these years I missed that I have to relearn? I came across this quotation that enabled me to look at the details of God's plan for us to work on. It clearly pinpoints the areas that we have to work to get there.

"Let there be no mistake. The principle of the Oneness of Mankind—the pivot round which all the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh revolve is no mere outburst of ignorant emotionalism or an expression of

vague and pious hope. Its appeal is not to be merely identified with a reawakening of the spirit of brotherhood and good-will among men, nor does it aim solely at the fostering of harmonious cooperation among individual peoples and nations. Its implications are deeper, its claims greater than any which the Prophets of old were allowed to advance. Its message is applicable not only to the individual, but concerns itself primarily with the nature of those essential relationships that must bind all the states and nations as members of one human family. It does not constitute merely the enunciation of an ideal, but stands inseparably associated with an institution adequate to embody its truth, demonstrate its validity, and perpetuate its influence. It implies an organic change in the structure of present-day society, a change such as the world has not yet experienced... It calls for no less than the reconstruction and the demilitarization of the whole civilized world—a world organically unified in all the essential aspects of its life, its political machinery, its spiritual aspiration, its trade and finance, its script and language, and yet infinite in the diversity of the national characteristics of its federated units.” – Shoghi Effendi, The World Order of Bahá’u’lláh, p.43

There is no doubt in my mind that the unity of mankind is inevitable. The question of how and where the changes have to happen to achieve it has to be answered. I try to share my understanding of the whole concept. To create a world that is “Organically unified in all the essential aspects of its life” there has to be a fundamental transformation in all areas of life.

You may ask how it can be done. I have simplified the whole concept for me, and the practical way of doing it is to introduce spirituality and humanity into every aspect of life. For me, there are two ways of working towards this goal. First internal, which means working on learning more, meditating more, purifying my life and becoming more spiritual each day. Second external, offer whatever I have learned spiritually, or I have gained and then look for any opportunity I get to contribute in all my life’s activities. In this small way, I try to play my part. We all have a role to play. This contribution could be in the form of a word or action...

I picked these below headings directly from the quote that indicate a few areas that have to be thoroughly re-examined and infused with the new spirit.

- The reawakening of the spirit of brotherhood and good-will among men**
- Harmonious cooperation**
- The relationships that must bind the nations as members of one family**
- An organic change in the structure of present-day society**
- The reconstruction and the demilitarization of the whole civilized world**
- A world organically unified in all the essential aspects of its life:**

*its political machinery
its spiritual aspiration
its script and language
its trade and finance*

I will discuss one of them here:

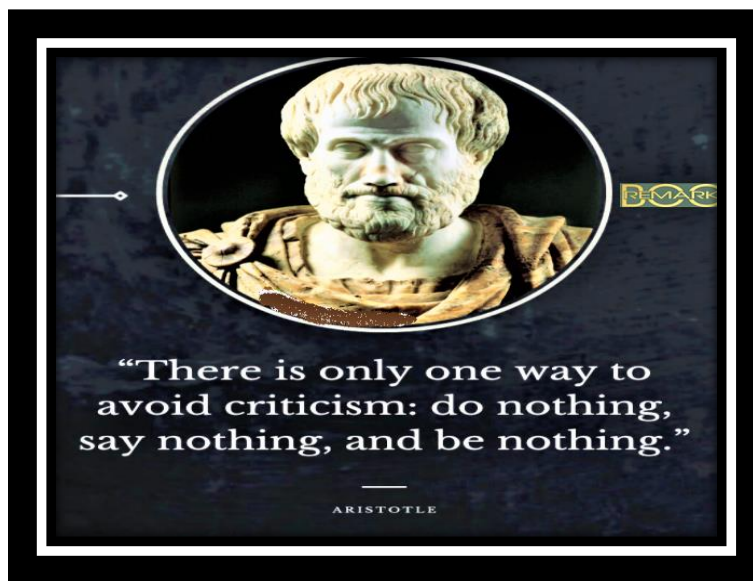
Trade and finance are parts of the economic system

The present economic system is sick and is dying. It cannot meet the needs of humanity. The gap between rich and poor is getting wider and wider, which has increased the suffering of the masses. It is time to re-examine the fundamental assumptions that this system was built on and replace them with humane, moral and spiritual ones. A shift in thinking is needed. By introducing spirituality into our economic activities, we can take steps to lay the foundation for a better economic future. We have the solutions and the technology to build a new system; all we need is the resolve and the will. Everyone has an inherent power to contribute.

By introducing more of the spiritual qualities in our lives, we are laying the foundation for such a society and such an economic system. Some of our goals may seem idealistic, but that is precisely what we are, idealists. We are dreaming of a better world and are ready to make sure that it is established. No great achievement can take place without a goal or dream. Without them, the ever-advancing civilization would not have progressed from the Stone Age to where we are now.

How privileged are we to live in a time that the goal of the oneness of mankind is getting closer, even though we have to deal with the chaos and confusion related to the coming event of the birth of Baha'u'llah's World Order. We have all the tools and the blueprint for the unity of humankind, and as people are getting closer in physical connection and the degree of separation being of humanity reduced, the challenge now is to bring the hearts and minds of the people closer through spirituality.

Famous quotes:



Upcoming Events:

Next feast, Azamat/Grandeur, May 17, 2022

The ninth day of Ridvan, April 29, 2022

The twelfth day of Ridvan, May 2, 2022

Global Conference in Courtenay, BC, May 15, 2022

Contact us at: bshams@telus.net