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**Kamál/Asmá’ – 158B.E.**

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Dr Javahari, Brent Poirier, Alice & Jerry Bathke

#### **NABI WAS TRULY BLESSED....**

If you happen to see what looks to be a Hogan floating above NABI, then how we are feeling on campus must be true. On August 1 we were taken to new spiritual ground when the friends were given the bounty of having Counsellor Javahari of the International Teaching Centre in Haifa, Israel as a guest for an all too short visit. The Community Hogan was filled with friends from as far away as Denver, who drove all night to attend this function and then returned to Denver when the function was over. There were over 60 friends here and the entire evening was transforming. Dinner was served outside, where luckily the rain stopped in time for the tables and chairs to dry out. Dr. Javahari had to be driven in from Phoenix for his short 3-hour visit and his arrival time of 6:00 pm was delayed for a bit due to unforeseen traffic delays in Phoenix.

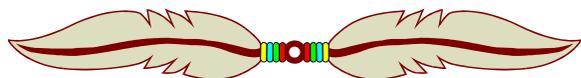
For the friends waiting to see him it may have seemed an eternity. However once we felt his loving presence, time meant nothing;

only that we wished there was more to spend with him. Mr. Enayat Rohani, Auxiliary Board Member accompanied Dr. Javahari from Phoenix. Auxiliary Board Member Brent Poirier from Las Cruces was also present. Dr. Javahari was introduced by Alice and Jerry Bathke, NABI Co-Administrators. The evening opened with traditional flute music played beautifully by Alvin Bitsilly. Alfred Kahn, Sr. performed a traditional drum/chant and Siamak Rouhani chanted in Persian. Jeanette Coffey and Ingrid Cardenas offered Bahá'í prayers.

Inside the Big Hogan, Dr. Javahari captivated the audience with stories of the Dedication of the Terraces; anecdotes about beautiful Bahá'í friends he met during his travels; and stories from the World Centre. He offered suggestions on how Devotional Groups are a wonderful way of bringing in new believers by citing a community in the United Kingdom that had remained stagnant for many years. They began having Devotionals and within a very short period of time, twenty new declarants had come into the faith. They also had over 700 inquiries. As a matter of fact, the area business operators were so impressed that they began requesting Devotionals at their work-sites because they found that their employees were much happier and more productive after attending these sessions!

You could tell from his expression, that Dr. Javahari was so happy to be here at NABI. He indicated that it was extremely important for him to spend time with the friends of this First Nation and to exchange conversation with them. The evening ended with Dr. Javahari being presented gifts by Alice and

Jerry; those gifts included a Pendelton blanket, southwestern tiles, and a gift of sage and cedar; the use of which was explained by Paul Yellowhorse.



**TRAIL OF LIGHT** – Beginning July 30<sup>th</sup> four Bahá'ís are travel teaching in Mexico. Nancy and Dennis Applin from Durango, Colorado and Nanabah and Adesbah Foguth from Lukachukai, Arizona are spreading the glad tidings of this day amongst the indigenous peoples of Mexico. Included in their travel teaching schedule is a visit to the Tarahumara people who lovingly endure continued hardship in the form of severe prejudice. This is the third trip for Dennis and Nancy and the first trip for Nanabah and Adesbah, who are 16 and 15 years old.



**Beautyway Ceremony held at NABI from July 6 – 8.** This year, the patient was Alfred Kahn, Sr. The Prayer Hogan was filled with chanting during this traditional Navajo ceremony led by Medicine Man Mr. Pahe from Navajo, Arizona. There were approximately 40 people from all over the Four Corners area who attended this sacred event. The Kahn family thanks all who came and participated.



**ERIN PERRY**, a truly dedicated youth volunteer has completed her year of service at NABI and returned to Georgia where she will attend Valdosta State College and major in Theatre Arts. Erin continuously showed her love for Bahá'u'lláh with her tireless energy, her captivating smile and her willingness to serve in any capacity.

During Piney Hill Family Camp a going away party was given in her honor, with Jon Francisco providing the music. Everyone had a great time dancing and a special treat was sipping the root beer made by Irving Toddy.



**SUMMER YOUTH ACADEMY held June 19-22 brought approximately 20**

**youth to NABI.** The academy which was planned by the NABI Youth Service Corps was a success and appreciated by the youth who attended. The youth were blessed to have been at NABI when a special guest from Australia, Mr. Philip Obah was in attendance. Mr. Obah spent time with the youth, talking about his traditions and teachings and how they relate to the Bahá'í Faith.



Philip Obah (center top row) and summer youth academy friends at NABI



**HOW MANY VANS DOES IT TAKE TO TRANSPORT 23 JOYFUL BAHÁ'IS FROM NAVAJOLAND TO MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN? ANSWER...2, IF THEY WERE GOING TO THE KINGDOM CONFERENCE.**

On June 26<sup>th</sup> two vans pulled out of the parking lot at NABI and headed for Milwaukee, where they joined approximately 8,000 other eager participants at the Milwaukee Conference Center to participate in the Kingdom Conference. There were many highlights including the resounding sound of joy provided by ongoing musical and stage presentations; valuable workshops; presentations by notable Bahá'ís; reunions with old friends; and for our NABI youth service volunteers, a chance to see family members.

Among those attending the conference were John and Ruby Nelson from Pine Springs; Martha Yazzie and members of her family from Chinle; Rose Morris and family, Tia Garcia from Aneth, Utah; Alfred Kahn, Sr., and family, also from Pine Springs; Kayla Bitsilly from Mexican Springs; Erin Perry, Becky Cannon, Richard Hamrick, Vafa Salmon from NABI; Terry Slimko from Jeddito, and Steve Rogers from Yah-Ta-Hey.

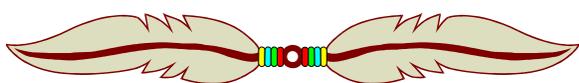
Due to gracious hosting in Colorado Springs, and Kansas City, Missouri, by Local Spiritual Assemblies, our traveling friends were well provided for along the way. A simple thank you does not seem like enough to express our gratitude to these fine friends. The blessings of Bahá'u'lláh will certainly follow them everywhere. May they always walk in beauty.

Other friends from this area arrived in Milwaukee by car or by airplane. They included; Jeff and Helen Kiely, Shireen Wahid, Alfred Kahn, Jr., Charlotte Kahn and her family, Marianna Kahn and her family and Jerry and Alice Bathke.

One of the highlights of the trip was an opportunity to visit the Mother Temple in Wilmette. An early morning arrival there gave our travelers a rare opportunity to spend time in solitude at this holy place.



Look at those smiles! You know they have just returned from the Kingdom Conference



**OVER 200 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE FOUR CORNERS REGIONAL BAHÁ'Í SUMMER SCHOOL.** The theme for this year's summer school, held from July 11-15 was to provide humankind with:

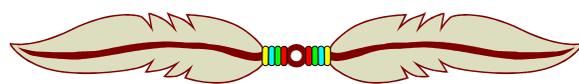
- ❖ Mental and spiritual benefits
- ❖ Fresh enthusiasm to serve
- ❖ An opportunity to deepen their knowledge of the Teachings
- ❖ Close and intense community life
- ❖ A chance to come together and exchange views on the different problems encountered in the Cause
- ❖ A fertile recruiting ground for the enrichment and consolidation of the teaching force
- ❖ A place to enjoy the companionship of Bahá'ís

- ❖ Intellectual training in the history, principles, and teachings of the Cause
- ❖ Training in the application to one's daily life of the principles of moral conduct
- ❖ The opportunity for the gradual elimination of prejudices

A special presentation at the beginning of summer school was given by Alice Bathke on the Dedication of the Terraces in Haifa. Alice continues to keep the promise she made to The Faith, to speak to as many of the friends in the First Nations as possible regarding her impressions of this world changing event.

Activities and workshops included: Using Differences as Opportunities for Spiritual Growth; Houququ'llah; Reaching and Teaching Diversity-Hispanic and Native American populations; Healing Racism; Unity games with the National Indian Youth Leadership Project for youth; t-shirt decorating for the children; swimming in Gallup for the youth and children; traditional dances by the Zuni Nawiistsa Dance Group, and more.

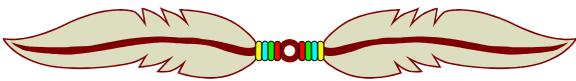
We were joined by our beloved Auxiliary Board Members for Propagation and Protection; Carolyn Staples and Brent Poirier. It just is not summer school without their wise guidance.



**PINEY HILL FAMILY CAMP** was held at the family land of Jerry and Alice Bathke, located in the pine forest near Ft. Defiance. Over 200 friends came and went over the two-week-period of time (from July 16-27). There were lots of activities including hiking, volleyball, prayers at "Prayer Point," opportunities for spiritual growth, bow and arrow making. We were particularly honored to have Master Artist Irving Toddy in residence at the camp. Irving provided all of us with daily art lessons mixed beautifully with talks about Navajo culture and tradition. NABI is blessed to have Stella Toddy, Irving's wife as our cook. Her skill as an artist spills into her creativity as a cook! Thanks to the entire Toddy family for bringing so much to our camp. Terry Slimko planned this year's event and every year it gets better and better. Thanks Terry!



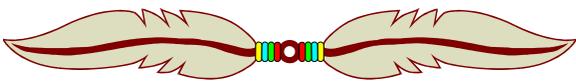
Nina Chick, Fedros Yavrom, Irene Williams, Rosemary Wade & Terry Slimko at Piney Hill Family Camp



### AUSTRALIAN BAHÁ'Í VISITS

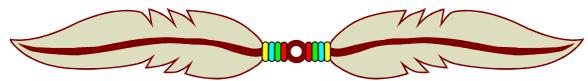
**NAVAJOLAND** (see related story on page 2 –Summer Youth Academy)

Philip Obah, a native of Australia and member of the NSA of Australia visited the NABI campus for four days in July. His visit was arranged by Helen Kiely, American Indian Travel Teaching Coordinator for the Western States. Navajoland was a stop in Philip's continuing journey that began with his presence at the Dedication of the Terraces in Haifa. From there he went to Canada, South Dakota and to Arizona, visiting Native people along the way. Philip said that this was his first time away from his own country and was invited to visit the United States by Kevin Locke. He said he felt that this would be a good time to travel to our continent. He compared the lifestyles of his people in Australia to the indigenous peoples here, indicating they were very similar. His home community in Australia has the only all-native LSA. Philip is a tea drinker and really loved our Navajo tea. His next stop after leaving the United States will be the Island of Samoa.



**Providing two weeks of volunteer support to the NABI campus** were David Maese and Fedros Yavrom from Sacramento, California. Dave and Fedros were able to participate in the Holy Day, the Martyrdom of the Bab, which took place at the home of Kathleen and Paul Yellowhorse and was attended by over 20 friends from the area, as well as enjoy visits with local Bahá'ís. Much of their time was spent constructing

various projects for Piney Hill Family Camp, as well as performing needed improvements on the NABI campus. David and Fedros spent time at Four Corners Bahá'í Summer School, where Fedros was reunited with his cousin Samir Wahid and Samir's children Shireen and Bayan. Fedros was also reunited with Auxiliary Board Member Brent Poirier who Fedros has known since Brent was in high school. David particularly enjoyed visits with John and Ruby Nelson, Paul Yellowhorse, Alfred Kahn, Sr. and Norman Bitsuoi. Both are looking forward to returning to NABI to perform more volunteer work in the name of Bahá'u'lláh and we certainly will be happy to see them.



**RUHI TRAINING COMING TO NABI AND YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY.** August 18 signals the beginning of Intensive Ruhi Training, which will continue through August 24. Letters of invitation have already gone out in the mail to all the friends on the reservation. We are really blessed to have John Kerns and Terry Dumont as the facilitators and know that this is going to be a terrific session.

We are so excited at having the opportunity to have John Kerns back with us. John was a youth volunteer at NABI for over a year and instantly connected with everyone he came in contact with. John took the trainings he received at NABI home with him to Washington where he continues to conduct and develop Study Circles. John is an example of youth leadership and walks with pride the path Bahá'u'llah is setting for him.

*Please do not miss this!*



John Kerns during his NABI days

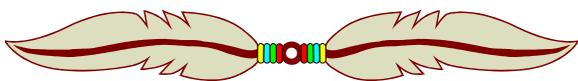


**ANETH COUNCIL FIRE**, which was held over the weekend of August 3-5 was well attended by over 30 friends. Not even a downpour could dampen the spirits of the friends in attendance. The basic theme of the Council Fire was how Aneth could accommodate their uniqueness into the Five-Year-Plan. Aneth is the only community on the Navajo Reservation with a Bahá'í Center. There were speakers, consultations, games, children's classes, singing (led by Jeff Kiely), and of course enjoying the company of one another and good food prepared by Stella, who herself is from the Aneth area.

Rose Morris continues to be an amazing servant of Bahá'u'lláh and we certainly want to recognize her efforts and the efforts of her community in making this such a successful event. Special guests included Firuz and Joan Labib of Manitou Springs, Colorado who stayed on to do some volunteer service at NABI, after coming to hear Dr. Javahari.



**NABI is sad that our wonderful friend and sister, Audrey Balkenbush, Youth Services Coordinator**, has left NABI to return to teaching. Audrey and her husband Larry, have both been offered positions at Jeddito and while we are sad that they will not be with us on a regular basis, we will certainly look forward to any opportunity to visit with them. Audrey will be available as needed; and when her schedule permits, to help with youth programs. Audrey's loving and gentle ways are a source of inspiration, as is Larry's tolerance of the technical breakdowns we periodically experience here at NABI. Although it was difficult for Audrey and Larry to leave NABI, the opportunity to return to teaching full time was a powerful magnet. Jeddito is lucky to have them on staff.



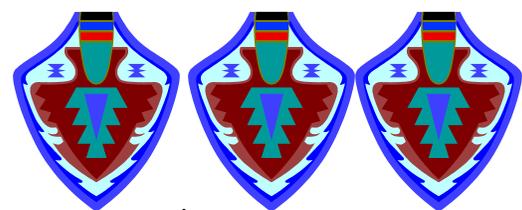
**NABI board members Brad Rishel, Alberta Deas, Alice and Jerry Bathke;** will be traveling to Ontario, California to attend a Regional Training Institute conference which will be held August 23-25. This conference is being sponsored by the Regional Bahá'í Council for the Western States.



**The Native American Bahá'í Institute, it's Board of Directors and the Co-Administrators of the institute welcome suggestions, advice and evaluations on programs, events and other activities taking place at NABI.** In the past, these concerns have often been addressed to the National Spiritual Assembly and the Regional Bahá'í Council of the Western States. We would lovingly like to suggest that in the future these comments come directly to NABI. The NSA and the RBC-W forward this information on to NABI administration for action and follow-up in any event, and in this way we can do our best to get a timely and appropriate response to your communications.

Please address your concerns/comments to:

The Native American Bahá'í Institute  
 PO Box 3167  
 Houck, AZ 86506  
 or  
 e-mail: [nabi@usbnc.org](mailto:nabi@usbnc.org)



*Immerse yourselves in the ocean of My words, that ye may unravel its secrets, and discover all the pearls of wisdom that lie hid in its depths. Take heed that ye do not vacillate in your determination to embrace the truth of this Cause - a Cause through which the potentialities of the might of God have been revealed, and His sovereignty established. With faces beaming with joy, hasten ye unto Him. This is the changeless Faith of God, eternal in the past, eternal in the future. Let him that seeketh, attain it; and as to him that hath refused to seek it - verily, God is Self-Sufficient, above any need of His creatures.*

*Baha'u'llah: The Kitab-I-Aqdas, p. 85-86*