

## Tawacin Waste Win Intensive Campaign Challenges Youth

Family atmosphere, love, prayer and service infused the participants on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota. Attended by approximately 30 Native peoples from as far away as Alaska, and Canada, the 6 week intensive Ruhi campaign in honor of the late Patricia Locke, Tawacin Waste Win, won the hearts of all.

In the last issue of the Navajo-Hopi Newsletter we read a letter from Cyntia Garcia a Navajo youth from Aneth, Utah. Also, at the Reunion Gathering Council Fire held at NABI this past weekend we heard glowing reports from three Navajo youth who participated in this historical project.



Here are some more stories:

### Adesbah Foguth, age 16

Six weeks in South Dakota studying Ruhi was such an enlightening experience! Although I have been a Baha'i all my life, I have never been so in love with Baha'u'llah or His Cause.

What made Tawacin Waste Win Camp special was that there were 30 different Baha'i Natives from all over the US and Canada. For six weeks we lived, prayed, studied, sang Baha'i songs, and learned together. Some of the highlights were our teaching experience in the community. The Ruhi process teaches Baha'is how to teach the faith, but first we had to teach ourselves. "Whoso arises to teach the cause of his Lord, let him before all else, teach his own self..." So we spent the first week or two learning the basics, love, truthfulness, faith,

joy, happiness...etc. Then we went out into the community, and it was amazing!

The Ruhi books 1-7 have changed my life forever! If you or anyone has a chance to take any of the Ruhi courses then do it, it is truly enlightening! Allah'u'abha.

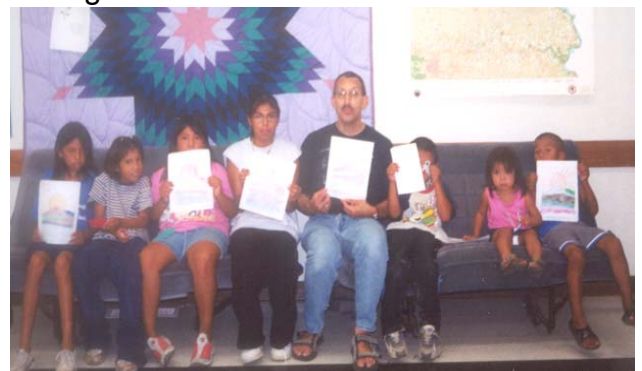


### Nanabah Foguth, age 17

Spending almost the entire summer at Mobridge, South Dakota was a life changing experience. Reading and studying the writings is what every Baha'i youth dreams of. From day one we started off to a good beginning. From early morning to late at night we studied intensively books 1-7.

Living together for approximately 40 days brought a true Baha'i loving environment. It was our own little Baha'i community. I remember the group saying we should live in Mobridge and this will be the beginning of the Baha'i community. The Mobridge townsmen were all very interested in the Faith. We made a big impact on everybody we met. I recently got a letter from one of the youth we taught the Faith to and she said, "After the Baha'is left, it was quiet and boring not being able to talk to people about what they believe in."

Adesbah and I are back in school now and have plans to do devotional gatherings and study circles and even facilitate Books 1 through 3 in the near future.



## Seowah Kahn, age 14

Hi! I am Seowah Alta Kahn and I am half Navajo. I am from Pine Springs, Arizona. I was honored to go to South Dakota for the six week Ruhi training. I had so much fun! My life will never be the same again. I will always remember it. I will do children's classes in Pine Springs and in my home area. I will also do study circles with someone more knowledgeable to help me.



The following poem was composed by Randy Daniels, a Hunkpapa Lakota/Sioux Indian youth while attending the Ruhi classes:

A promise was made to me.  
Made of love.  
A promise that drew me closer to Thee.  
What words and songs did this heart sing.  
A sorrowful soul recognizing his truest love.  
Like the sun manifesting its brilliance at midnight; a rose receiving its first kiss of rain.

I swoon at the very thought of your presence,  
eternal and everlasting.  
This unending love, heavenly though it may be,  
is conditional.  
The never-ending Beloved gently whispers to me,  
"Love Me that I may love thee."  
A love so great that no single heart can contain.

I know my purpose;  
the Cause that gives life to my being.  
My love will be forever.  
I will never stray.  
Please Lord! Let me be near you.  
Let me show you my love in a myriad ways.  
Let my duty, my worship and devotion never end.  
Thy love is my dearest wish.  
My love is my service and desire.  
Two promises made of love.  
Hand in hand we walk through eternity.

## Navajo To Visit China in September

Members of the Navajo Nation will set foot in China during the month of September. A small group consisting of Charlotte Kahn from Lukachukai and her 11-year-old son James Foguth, will join Kathryn O'Leary (non-Navajo) on a travel-teaching trip to Hong Kong, Macao, and China. James received encouragement to go teach internationally from the Regional Baha'i Council West when they heard about the proposed trip. He was offered deputization funds from a fund that was established by Mr. Khadem for the education and teaching of Native American children. They will leave on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> (no superstitions stopping them) driving to California where they will visit Kathryn's family and the Baha'is of Walnut Creek who helped to deputize them. Then they fly out of San Francisco airport for Hong Kong on Tuesday morning, Sept 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 AM.

They plan to visit the Chinese Baha'is in several locations in Southern China where Kathryn lived for three years. The Chinese friends love the Faith and are like sponges, absorbing all that they can about spiritual life once they make that connection with God through Baha'u'llah.

Charlotte and James will share stories, songs, and information about Navajo culture with the Chinese people, dressing traditionally for the occasions. They will visit schools in Macao, Zhuhai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen.

The group hopes to go to the countryside and to one of the 5 sacred mountains of China to say prayers for the Navajo Nation and that East meets West once more, the next time with Chinese Baha'is coming to NABI. In this land of 1.2 billion souls surely they can find and help to feed the souls of those "multitudes (that) hunger for the bread of life."



Charlotte Kahn, James Foguth, and Kathryn



## Hello Goodbye

“You say goodbye and I say hello  
 Hello, hello  
 I don't know why you say goodbye,  
 I say hello  
 Hello, hello  
 I don't know why you say goodbye,  
 I say hello.”

So said the Beatles a long time ago and the NABI staff recently, as they reluctantly said goodbye to several of the youth volunteers.

Denali Weiler was the first to take her leave after facilitating Ruhi Book 1, August 23-25. Her father came from Oregon to join her for the weekend at NABI. He then brought her back home for a few short days before she returned to college in Boston. Denali overflows with positive energy and kept all the summer activities lively and fun. Everyone at NABI and in the community misses her.

Brian Powers was the next to go, leaving on August 29<sup>th</sup>. He will be remembered for his puppets, sense of humor, and wizardry at the computer. Brian also returns to college for his last year at Tufts University in Massachusetts. His invaluable service to the Institute and to the Auxiliary Board will go down in history as he has set up a website for Alice Bathke and her assistants.

Last to leave was Medina Cochrane who came all the way to NABI from New Zealand to serve for the summer. She left on September 3<sup>rd</sup> with the prospect of being in transit for 36 hours. Medina fell in love with NABI and the people in the area. She felt that the Gallup Ceremonial was magical and the best thing she had ever seen in her life. She wants to return to NABI and we await her arrival, as we enjoyed her many delicious desserts and dishes.

Luckily, Daniel Tully will stay on with NABI for at least six more months. He has been working hard alongside Monte Yellowhorse preparing the construction site of the new kitchen. Together they also put together the Baha'i booth that Monte designed for the

Navajo Nation Fair. Daniel is getting a good taste of life in the West and is thriving on it.

That brings us to the newest member of the NABI staff – Temily Eddington, a young woman from Australia. She has been living in Cortez, CO for the summer where she served in many capacities – nanny, children's and youth class teacher in Aneth, activities coordinator for the children and youth at 4 Corners Baha'i School and traveling teacher to Juarez, Mexico. We sure need her at NABI where she will stay for the next several months.

**A Big Aloha** – (hello, goodbye and love in Hawaiian) – goes out to all the youth volunteers.



Daniel, Temily, Denali, Julian and Medina

## CHILDREN'S CLASSES AT NABI

**“...it is in early childhood that a firm foundation must be laid. While the branch is green and tender it can easily be made straight.” Abdu'l-Baha**

Children are most definitely the future of our community. In them, we place our hopes for a better world. Therefore, we must assist them while they are young to acquire spiritual qualities and upright characters. NABI, like many Baha'i communities around the world, offers classes for children in order to achieve this goal. All children from ages 5 to 15 are welcome to participate in Children's Classes every Thursday evening after Community Dinner.

Classes start at 7:00 p.m. and last approximately one hour. All classes are taught with love and discipline, instilling in the children the essential truth and oneness of all religions. The children learn about different spiritual qualities like courtesy, justice, peace, honesty and humility. All classes aim to stimulate the child by including various modes of learning such as memorization of prayers and quotations, storytelling, games, songs, and the arts.

Please let us know if we can answer any questions about these classes. Any youth or adult who wishes to help teach classes are most welcome. Please call us at (928) 587-

7599 and talk to Doris, the youth and children's coordinator.



## Ruhi Book 2 Training at NABI

On the weekend of September 20-22, NABI will host a training in Ruhi Book 2. The facilitators will be Nancy and Dennis Applin from Colorado. The process will begin Friday evening with dinner at 6 PM, prayers following and then introductions and orientation.

This course covers many of the concepts and principles of the Faith and gives the participants hands on experience in conveying these ideas to others. Through various practical methods, Baha'is are taught how to share their love of the Faith to seekers.

As the Five Year Plan encourages us to start Devotions, Children's Classes and Study Circles in our clusters, studying Ruhi is one of the ways that we can ensure we develop the human resources necessary to fulfill the 5 Year Plan.

Please join us for this exciting course as we move toward a new culture of learning in America and obey the Universal House of Justice in their directive to form study Circles.

Register at NABI by calling (928) 587-7599 and reserving your spot for the course.

## NABI Board Renamed And Two New Members Welcomed

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States recently made a decision to adopt the title of 'Advisory Committee' for all nationally owned schools and institutes. This title is more reflective of the actual role and relationship between the schools and institutes and the Advisory Committees.

Accordingly, the National Spiritual Assembly has appointed eight members to the Advisory Committee of the Native American Baha'i Institute. They are Mrs. Alice Bathke, Mr. Jerry Bathke, Ms. Alberta Deas, Mr. Jeff Kiely, Mr. Michael Lindsey, and Mr. Brad

Rishel. Ms. Nanabah Foguth and Mr. Alvin Bitsilly are two new members who have accepted their appointment to the Advisory Committee.

The members will serve for three-year terms and will work in close collaboration with the administrators of the schools and institutes to devise strategic plans to assist in meeting the development goals of the schools and institutes.

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States beseeches the Almighty to bless their efforts in service to the Cause.

## NABI Summer Youth Academy, 5<sup>th</sup> August

This summer's youth academy was an event to remember. The youth that took part were all really up for some serious Ruhi as well as a Jolly Good time.

We all managed a perfect combination of both. The program consisted of a bright and early start (easy for some, impossible for others!!). After prayers, in the wonderful prayer Hogan and breakfast, Ruhi Book 1 was studied throughout the day.

Many refreshing insights were released during the Ruhi sessions, which were expressed through speech, drama and art. That's one of the beauties of doing the Ruhi books more than once and with different age groups!

On the third day of the academy Monte Yellowhorse took us all on a LOOOOONG hike, which was, well, to be brutally honest very tiring but fantastic at the same time. It was a time of bonding and fellowship between the groups various age groups and characters. Despite our collective tiredness we all still managed a three-hour Ruhi session in the afternoon... WOW!!...what accomplishments!!

In fact the whole week, what with the Talent show, the endless pool matches, Bon-fire and seemingly constant laughter were all just magnificent. The transforming power of Ruhi was once again revealed as we all became great friends and spiritual brothers and sisters.

Allah'u'abha.... I can't wait for the winter academy!!

## Navajo Nation Fair

We began setting up the Baha'i booth on the Wednesday, which was the first day of the fair! The NABI staff that took charge of the Baha'i involvement in the fair began making the design of the booth, which was stored deep in Monte Yellowhorse' consciousness.

The theme of the booth was natural beauty and this was shown through a wonderful wooden lattice arch that seemed to bless our booth with its simplicity and grace.

Colorful flowers decorated the lattice structure, which gave it extra beauty. It certainly was distinct from the surrounding booths providing somewhat of a haven amongst the madness of the free gift collecting.

On the back of the booth we hung a large world map with a banner quoting "The Earth is but one Country and mankind its citizens". The map was a major attraction with people pointing to where they had visited and guessing where NABI staff and various volunteers were from.

Hundreds of Navajo and English prayers were given out and many people stopped and chatted and were interested in the faith and its teachings. The booth was also decorated with numerous pictures of the Baha'i Houses of Worship in Haifa and these, with their immense natural beauty attracted many people.



Shahin Sobhani at the Navajo Fair Booth

### Ruhi Book One

On August 23<sup>rd</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup> Ruhi Book One was held at NABI. This three-day course was joyfully and creatively facilitated by Siamak Rouhani and Denali Weiler, who led the participants through a series of *Reflections on the Life of the Spirit*. The participants came together for one long weekend in a spirit of love and cooperation to study the words of Baha'u'llah and to learn from each other.

With such a wonderfully diverse group of people coming together everyone gained far more from this weekend of fun, study, and service than they could have hoped for or anticipated.

Each day everyone had a chance to work with a variety of different people, to share and reflect with the larger group, and to break into smaller study groups. After each break we were called back together by music from around the world, revitalizing ourselves by playing games and relaxing in each other's company.

Through Ruhi we learned that studying the writings can be fun and that meeting new people can help bring new perspectives into your everyday life.



Using the arts in Ruhi in South Dakota

### NABI Reunion and Pine Springs 40<sup>th</sup> Council Fire Commemoration

On August 31<sup>st</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup> NABI held its annual reunion as well as a commemoration of the anniversary of the Pine Springs Council Fire held in 1962. 40 years ago Pine Springs had its first introduction to the Baha'i Faith when Hand of the Cause, Mr. Khadem, Amos Gibson, Marion Steffas (possibly the first Native American Baha'i) and 12-year-old Robert Henderson visited the area. Many Navajo elders and leaders of the Navajo community were there to inhale the spiritual fragrances that spread out from that spot and some declared their faith in Bah'u'llah at that time. This remembrance was the inspiration that ignited consultation during the NABI reunion.

Travel teachers, John Foguth and Helen Kiely, gave a report about their trip to the Wind River reservation in Montana. They spent two weeks traveling around visiting the Native Baha'is and rekindling their faith.

The youth that attended the 6-week Ruhi training in South Dakota were on hand to give a report of their summer (see article on the 1<sup>st</sup> page for details). It was the highlight of the day as everyone was so impressed with their amusing stories, perseverance in studying, and forbearance under difficult conditions.

Auxiliary Board assistants also gave reports on their efforts in their clusters. As the Universal House of Justice has enjoined the Baha'is of the world to establish clusters and to raise up children's classes, devotional meetings, and study circles within those clusters, a plan emerged after the reports and consultation to strengthen that directive. The attendees left the reunion determined to start or nurture those 3 vital programs in their areas.

As these programs take root in different communities, people who learn about the Faith can join the Baha'is in these programs.

The culmination of all this effort for the next year will be the 41<sup>st</sup> Pine Springs Council Fire and Trail of Light which will move out from NABI and visit those communities and clusters that have established devotions, study circles and children's classes, thus reinforcing those communities and providing support and fellowship from the larger Baha'i community.



## Fellowship by Jacque Bohner

One of the challenges facing Baha'is today- is how to water seeds of fellowship different people have planted over the years, in order to make us feel the oneness of humanity and share that feeling with everyone we know.

One steadfast source of nurturing water to those of us in Arizona is Elizabeth Dahe. She has planted and watered many seeds of fellowship and service. A small group of people partook of Elizabeth's warmth and love in a spontaneous get together on Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>.

On Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup>, I thought of Elizabeth, thinking she was in Phoenix where I see her once a year. Years ago we, (the Bohner family) were neighbors when we lived in Keams Canyon and Elizabeth was living in Polacca. On Saturday, Bob Bohner was on First Mesa when he happened to run into one of Elizabeth's grandsons and discovered that she was in Polacca.

Meanwhile, Terry Slimko who lives in White Cone and teaches in Jeddito was visiting me in Holbrook. Terry was asking if he and Audrey Balkenbush, who lives and teaches in Jeddito, could be introduced to Elizabeth's family and thereby pick up the threads of friendship begun by others in the past. I said that I would talk it over with Bob and try to figure something out.

Shortly after Terry left. Bob came home and said: "Jacque, Elizabeth is in Polacca. I said we would come and take her to lunch tomorrow." Well, what do you make of that? I called Audrey and she went out to tell Terry.

The Holbrook Baha'i youth had a study circle scheduled for Sunday but we felt it was important for Brooke to see Elizabeth. She was his Hopi Nanna when he was very small, spending 8 hours a day with him for one year. It is an important bond to keep.

Brook, along with Adam Rischel agreed to take the trip with us. When we got there, Brooke and Elizabeth had time for a stroll down memory lane before we went to eat. Elizabeth loves to tell the story of starting a kitchen fire while making fry bread with Brooke. She still laughs while recalling Brooke politely waiting until she was done instructing him in the fine art of fry bread making and then calmly saying: "Elizabeth, there's a fire in that pan over there." Her response was: "Good heavens child, why didn't you interrupt and tell me sooner?" (While she smothered the fire.) Brooke is adept at interrupting when emergency demands to this day.

I got to reminisce with her about our trip to New York together for the Baha'i World Congress in 1992. We not only remember the wonder of the event that we shared together, but the silly things, like Elizabeth getting hooked on gyro sandwiches from the street vendors in New York. Her favorite ice cream was vanilla then, but on Sunday she had strawberry ice cream for desert. No one is completely predictable, especially Elizabeth!

During our lunch we got to catch up with Jack Kooka, Elizabeth's cousin. Jack is a person who lives a life of service and he is also a good friend of the Bohner family. He likes to meet people, so if you happen to go to the Keams Canyon Café real early in the morning look for Jack as he usually eats breakfast there, while meeting people from around the world.

Elizabeth's daughter Betty was there and we had a nice talk with her. Other family members joining us were Elizabeth's great niece, Fawna Bullis and her 3-year-old daughter (who is named after Elizabeth). Fawna was in Bob's 7<sup>th</sup> grade class when he taught in Jeddito. We remember him fondly for his friendliness to Brooke's older brothers in school.

After meeting everyone at Elizabeth's, we went to meet Audrey and Terry and have lunch. We decided not to end it there so we went over to Shungpovi to visit Alonzo and Victoria Dewakuku. While visiting with the Dewakukus, Terry and Audrey discovered they have common acquaintances through their students at school.

It was very heart warming to see old and new friends picking up the threads of fellowship. Elizabeth was delighted to see her old friends and to meet Audrey and Terry. They are already planning to share a feast together while Elizabeth is staying in the area. As a "snow bird", it is now necessary for Elizabeth to

stay in a warmer climate during the winter where there is central heating and a lower altitude. Elizabeth's daughter is glad there are local Baha'is in Jeddito that will contact Elizabeth while she is in Polacca.

If you want to say hello to Elizabeth, now is the time, as she will either be with her daughter in Polacca or in Tuba City with her daughter Angie. Elizabeth creates many opportunities for others to love, serve, and grow, so pick up the watering can and enrich these friendships and perhaps the Concourse on High will help you fulfill that wish as it did for us!

It was a very nice Sunday!

### **NABI to Build New Kitchen**

The National Spiritual Assembly of the US has approved plans to build an additional Hogan that will sit next to the existing Big Hogan at NABI. It will house a new kitchen and storage area. For years NABI has managed to feed the community on Thursday evenings, and people attending programs on the weekends, out of the small Big Hogan kitchen.

The new kitchen will have standard restaurant size sinks for washing pots and pans, storage for food, counter space for food preparation, and a dishwasher for sanitizing "real" dishes.

In the past NABI has been required to use paper and Styrofoam plates and plastic ware. The new facility will cut down on waste and the creation of tons of trash. Construction on the new building will begin this fall. NABI staff has already started to prepare for construction by locating water and power lines under-ground. Soil testing will be done this week by the authorities, to okay the project.

We are grateful to the National Assembly for re-assessing the need for our new kitchen and look forward to its completion!

### **Message to Haifa World Center Pilgrims**

If you are planning a pilgrimage to Haifa, we would like to send something with you. During the Pioneer Weekend at NABI a book was created entitled "Pioneer Honor Roll". It contains the names of those souls, alive and deceased, that have served in Navajo Land and other parts of the world.

We humbly ask that pilgrims going to the World Center carry it with them and pray at the door of the sacred threshold for the people whose names are written within.

Please contact Jerry Bathke at NABI on 928 587-7599 to get the Honor Roll when you go to Haifa and return it to him when you come back.

### **KEN MORPHET-BROWN PASSES TO THE ABHA KINGDOM**

Ken passed on to the Abha Kingdom in August 2002 after a long struggle with bone cancer.

Ken Brown was a pioneer and active travel teacher here on the Navajo Reservation beginning in May of 1975 with his marriage to Mary Ellen Morphet and continuing on to the Yakima Reservation when they moved there in the 90's.

Ken and Mary Ellen lived in Chinle, Lukachukai, Rock Point, Shonto and Tuba City. Ken spent much time travel teaching and has visited most of the Navajo Baha'i communities, especially working with the Baha'is of Aneth, Rock Point, and Red Lake (Tonalea).

Ken and Mary Ellen's son, Jessie, came back to the reservation in 1999 and worked at NABI as a youth volunteer.

We can all look forward to the assistance Ken will be able to render to the Cause of God now that he has joined our other hard working dear departed souls.

### **Up Coming NABI Events**

**September 20 - 22<sup>nd</sup> Ruhi Book 2**

**October 18 - 20<sup>th</sup> Ruhi Book 3**

### **Attention: Elementary School Teachers**

A friend in Michigan who is a second grade teacher wrote to ask if there is a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class in our area that would like to establish a sister/brother relationship with her class. The class in Michigan would like to be "pen pals" with some children in the southwest. They would also like to share art and stories about differences and similarities in culture and climate. In the past they have been able to send books, school supplies, and new clothing to children in Honduras, but this year they would like to share with kids closer to home.

If you have a class that is interested, please write directly to Mary Kay Cipolla at Holy Name Catholic School, 409 S. 22<sup>nd</sup> St, Escanaba, MI 49829 or e-mail her at [mkcipolla@chartermi.net](mailto:mkcipolla@chartermi.net)

A similar program was started last year when the youth of the Baha'i Club at the University of Illinois became pen pals with the kids from the Houck Chapter. It is a great way for children to develop their writing skills and learn more about the world around them.