



Transform'Action

Making our mark through Service to Humanity

An awe-inspiring episode of the history of the Bahá'í Youth Movement will unfold in Québec this year, from June 28th to July 1st. This International Bahá'í Youth Congress will be the first of the new 'Gregorian' Millennium, the first of the 5-Year Plan, the first of the 5th Epoch of this groundbreaking Faith!

Two thousand youth ages 13 to 30, inspired into action by the love of Bahá'u'lláh, will gather from all around the world to consult about how best to fulfill their potential as "channels" through which the "catalyst" for "spiritual revival" can be provided. May we all strive at every breath to reach the summits of service demonstrated to us by our spiritual heritage, the young martyrs and heroes who have upheld this most noble Covenant!

This is a Congress, not a conference - it is meant to act as a springboard for the concentrated efforts of the Bahá'í Youth Movement, and as such will place more emphasis on workshops and consultations than on conferences. A special focus on the Institute process and service project planning, in an energetic atmosphere enhanced by a particularly vibrant Quebec culture, will help participants rejuvenate spiritually and acquire concrete tools vital both in their personal lives and in their service to humanity. Activities are planned in French, English and Spanish, and translation will be available.

There are service projects planned before and after for those who wish to stay longer in the blessed province of Quebec, where Amatu'l-Baha Ruhiyyih Khanum lived as a youth, and where the only designated Bahá'í Shrine outside of the Holy Land is to be found. Québec is the number one priority destination for Canada's National Spiritual Assembly's teaching goals, and its warmth in the summer is exceeded only by that of its local populations (French, English and Native). Please note that visits to the Shrine will be organized only outside of Congress dates.

Registration costs are 200 \$CDN before April 21, 250\$ after that and 300\$ on site. This covers all food and housing expenses. 2-way transport between Montreal and the Sherbrooke University campus (where the Congress is happening) will be organized for an extra cost: estimated at 25-30\$, it is to be determined according to the number of people requiring this service.

Please visit our web site, <http://www.congres2001.org> [no longer available 20020722], for more information or to register, or contact The International Bahá'í Youth Congress Committee, <mailto:info@congres2001.org> [no longer available 20020722], fax: +1(450)923-8663.

Nameste!

NAMESTE! (that's Hello in Hindi and means "I bow to you"). I'm working at the House of Worship in Delhi and I have very little spare time because work is from 9am - 7.15pm every day - almost



ten hours on my feet! Luckily I'm hardcore!

My life here is already caught up in the inevitable madness that seems to swirl continually around my life. I am living in a small apartment stuffed full of girls

from all around the world. The shower consists of a small jug and a tap, and the loo is an ominous looking hole in the ground. However, I am making some wonderful friends, and I like living without luxuries, it helps me become more detached (I hope).



The poverty here is mad. At night there are sleeping Indians just strewn all over the streets and on the roofs, and there are huge shanty towns with loads of precariously erected shacks and huts and human residue is all over the ground. The city is hilariously chaotic, the roads are narrow, and thousands of wild boars, pigs, rickshaws, cars, buses, people and cows speed around, all trying to cram into each other's space and making as much noise as possible; in particular the rickshaws, which make a kind of manic, prolonged quacking noise whenever they beep (which is all the time).

Everything is so cheap. A haircut costs less than a pound and an hour on the internet is only 40 pence. Tomorrow me and some friends might be going to a beauty parlour for leg waxing and other stuff, all these things we can't do at home (so much for being detached)!

Working at the Temple is very tiring but really good fun. The Indians and travellers just pour in continuously, and we get up to 30,000 per day. It's the most visited building in the whole of India!

Poppy Villiers-Stuart

Transforming Arts Scotland

April Dance Training Week



Throughout the week, 9th –15th April, between 20 and 25 youth attended the Transforming Arts Scotland TAS dance training week.

There was a busy programme and the youth worked very hard learning the dances and rehearsing for a final show. Dance training took up at least six hours of the day, often leading to extra training and rehearsal during spare time. Other aspects to the programme included training to hold and lead discussion workshops and the development of confidence and spiritual qualities that relate to being a moral leader and a dance trainer.

For some this was their first opportunity to take part in any dance training, and they participated very well.

It was a fun week with several birthdays, and it was lovely to have the opportunity to get to know several youth from the islands a bit better (Diane, Katheryn, Sonia and Kalim), and our two new Russian/Ukrainian friends – Olga and Sveta – now living in the South West of Scotland.

While there is plenty room for the improvement of such events, this was a very positive week, which has contributed substantially to the development of the dance work in Scotland.

One thing that should really be said is that events such as these are revealing the true capacity of our youth. Many have proved themselves to have great managerial and organizational skills, consultation skills, problem solving skills, responsibility and trustworthiness; tremendous zeal, outstanding patience and tolerance, understanding and compassion, kindness and love that is rarely found in such measure, courage and audacity, leadership qualities, a strong sense of purpose and a love of service.

Special thanks should go to our special helpers:

Sergio – who provided invigorating and fun warm up games, and a very successful and

popular meditation.

Heather – who offered invaluable advice for the improvement of training in the future, and held a very professional session for the development of voice projection skills.

Maggie and Karen – who kept us eating with the most wonderful cooking.

Rita – for her very special contribution as Auxiliary Board Member, and for some excellent sessions on confidence and assertiveness.

Other helpers who participated throughout the week, helping to cook, clean, ferry and generally supervise, were Marlyn, Venus, Ned and Amanda.

Special thanks to Alan for his superb posters!

A very special thanks to the youth who took responsibility for training and preparing for the final show.

If anyone wants more information on TAS, please contact:

Nickie & Vahid Mehrabi

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I really enjoyed this year's Bushfire. I loved the sessions. They were really good, interesting and I learned a lot. Everyone there was really nice and I had a great opportunity to meet up with old friends, who I still keep in touch with. I know a lot more about sex, drugs and rock'n'roll in the Baha'i Faith. I enjoyed it a lot, especially the people there. I'd love to go next time. It's a great opportunity to learn more about yourself and the Baha'i

Faith. So I think you should go, learn and enjoy yourself.

Layla