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Letters to the Editor

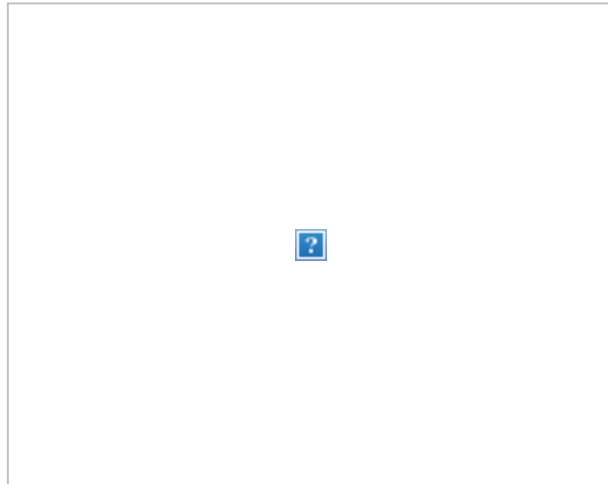


Dear Friends,

CRUISE BRINGS PROCLAMATION OPPORTUNITIES

How can one express gratitude for the opportunity of fulfilling in part some of our obligations to spread the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh?

Marion Klyne, myself, Pauline Senior, and my daughter Adele took a trip during November aboard the P&O ship The Aurora around the Mediterranean to visit the Pyramids and ancient ruins of Ephesus, the Acropolis in Athens, Rhodes, etc. As the Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh occurred whilst we were on board we applied (as we had done earlier in the year on another trip) for a room to be set aside where we could celebrate the occasion. We also invited the whole ship along. This is done by issuing an invitation in the ship's newspaper which comes out each evening with the next day's programme of events. We felt this was a marvellous opportunity for 1900 passengers plus a good many staff to read the word Bahá'í.



Marion Klyne, Pauline and Adele Senior with Terry Waite

During the trip there were several opportunities to introduce the Faith to people to whom this was a new concept and a new word.

One of our ports of call was Cyprus and we had arranged to meet some of the Bahá'í friends there. First Ramin Habibi met us at the port. (I knew Ramin before he was born but had not seen him for some years – he has changed a little.) Marion Klyne who had worked in Northern Cyprus where she was a pioneer, for three years in the early 90's was put into a taxi and driven to Nicosia to meet up with Anita Graves and driven across the dividing line to visit her friends in the north. She spent a wonderful couple of hours with them. Pauline and Adele meanwhile were taken to the home of the Habibis to meet Lesley and drink tea, then they were driven to the middle of Cyprus to the home of the Helicars, Eric and Margaret. What a lovely welcome awaited us there. We had not met them for over 35 years, but nothing was strange. They dined us in the courtyard of their lovely and interesting old Cyprus residence just opposite the church in a very quiet old Cyprus village. We met two of their daughters and their son, son-in-law and granddaughter. The weather was warm but even warmer was the welcome from old friends in Cyprus.

One of the guest speakers on our ship was Terry Waite, a giant of a man both physically and spiritually. He gave four lectures during the voyage – the first about Iran and the situation back in the 70's about hostage taking and negotiating, the second about Libya and Colonel Gaddafi, the third and fourth about his own time as a hostage in Beirut. He was fascinating, he was amusing and he had stories to tell that made the hairs on your neck stand on end. At one stage we were able to speak to him and mention we were Bahá'ís and our particular

one thing he never fails to speak to him and mention the new Bahá'is and our particular interest in his subject Iran. He was obviously well aware of the plight of the Bahá'is and suggested that he should have made mention of them in his talk. However it was a great pleasure to have met and talked to such a lovely man.

With warm Bahá'í love,
Pauline Senior

Dear Editor

“THE BAHÁ'ÍS” MAGAZINE

I'm sure I'm not alone in lamenting the continued absence of “The Bahá'ís” magazine from the Publishing Trust catalogue. The magazine was an enormous help in promoting the Faith and for replying to enquiries. There is nothing comparable available at present. Giving a book is fine if you know the person, but I hesitate to send one in answer to a written or phone enquiry from someone who may well not be a habitual book reader.

Can someone please find out how soon the new edition of the magazine is likely to be ready and whether anything can be done to speed the process along? If there is likely to be more delay, can the National Assembly please consider funding a low-cost newspaper-style publication? We have plenty of talent in our own community to produce such a paper quite quickly, and it would still fill a need when “The Bahá'ís” becomes available again.

Oliver Christopherson, Stevenage

RESPONSE RECEIVED FROM BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING

The Bahá'í Publishing Trust shares the writer's concern about the continued absence of “The Bahá'ís”, which has been one of the most useful and popular titles on our list, since its original publication to coincide with the Second Bahá'í World Congress, just over ten years ago. After enquiring about the matter, we obtained the following response from the Office of Public Information at the Bahá'í World Centre: that this publication “is in the process of being redesigned and updated, and will most likely be published in Spring 2003.”

Dear Editor

MEMORIES OF BILL HELLABY

I am proposing to write a small book about my late husband, William AM (Bill or Billie) Hellaby and I should be most grateful for any memories, thoughts and comments that anyone can send. Anything that anyone can contribute – it doesn't matter what – will be extremely useful when I am ready to start writing. Please send anything to me at, 1 Hothfield Terrace, Carleton Road, Skipton, North Yorks, BD23 2 AX or email me at: madeline.hellaby@ntlworld.com

With grateful thanks in anticipation,

Madeline Hellaby

Dear Editor

CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING PROJECT

Are you interested in living in a semi-communal setting, though with your own space and privacy?

I am looking to explore the possibilities of a housing cooperative, to be organised using Bahá'í principles, and to be located in SE England (home counties).

I would be pleased to further explore this idea with other interested parties.

DEAR FRIENDS,

The INFUSE – Youth Empowerment Project has just finalised an action plan to take the Project to the end of the Five Year Plan. The action plan explains the services that will be created over the three year period and is based upon the Project's ambition to provide a comprehensive service of opportunity and support to all young people.

You can read the Youth Services Action Plan on the Project's Internet Site (via the NEWS page) at its new address: www.infuse.org.uk

Regards,
Darren Howell Project Co-ordinator

BJUK welcomes letters on any topic of general interest, which may be printed at the Editor's discretion. Letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the National Assembly or the Editor.
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