

Hiru no Hoshi

No. 232

The well-being of

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**mankind,
its peace and security,
are unattainable
unless and until
its unity
is firmly
established.**

- Baha'u'llah-



UNITY

What Baha'u'llah is telling us in this quote is that the people of the world won't be happy, and we won't find the answers to any of the worlds problems; such as war and hunger and poverty, until we have unity.

Unity means liking people that are different from you, people that are of a different shape, color, language, country or religion than you.

We should not see any person as too short, or too tall, or too poor or too dark or too fat or not as smart or too different looking. We should only see

their heart. We should try and see what it feels like to be them.

None of us decide what color we are, how pretty we are, who our parents are, or what country we were born in, God decides that., so we should never let anyone make us feel bad because we are different in some way from others. We have to remember that it was God that made us the way we are, and we should be happy and grateful and know that we are wonderful, just as we are, and we should never let anyone make us feel like we are less than wonderful.

So it is up to us to stop war and all the bad things that are happening in the world. We start by looking at each person's heart, including our own, and not at the outward appearance.



Seven Candles of Unity

Abdul-Baha told us that this was a bright, new age. He called it the Century of Light. He explained that the Unity of the World would happen as if one bright candle after another came into the world.....the Seven Candles of Unity. He said if you looked carefully you could see them dawning on the horizon, just like the sun rising.

The First Candle is Unity in the Political Realm. This means that

people in government, of the different countries, will work together for the good of the world, for example, the environmental problems.

The Second Candle is Unity of Thought, which means people all over the world will start thinking of the world as one place and not just think of their own country.

The Third Candle is Unity of Freedom, which means all people, men or women, no matter what color or how much education they have, will be treated equally.

The Fourth Candle is Unity of Religion. That the whole world will see that all the religions are from the same one God and all receive their power from Him.

The Fifth Candle is Unity of the Nations which will make all mankind citizens of one country, the world.

The sixth Candle is Unity of Races. When man realizes that there is only one race, the human race.

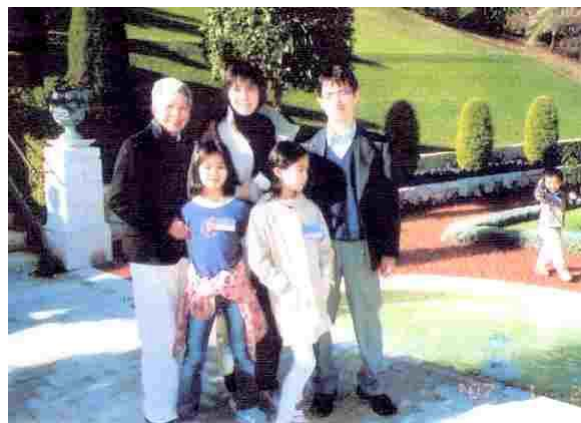
The seventh candle is unity of language, so that everyone in the world will be able to speak to each other in the same language, so there will be no more separations between people.

Abdul-Baha promised that, "Each and every one of these will inevitably come to pass, inasmuch as the power of the Kingdom of God will aid and assist in their realization."

When all these candles are lit, it will be like a Brand New World !



Happy Birthday World!!!!



The Children's Pilgrimage

Naoko Kagami

Our children, Mei (9), Miki (8), Mon(6), and Lui (3), went with us on Pilgrimage to the Baha'i Holy Places in Haifa, Israel, on Dec. 25th 2006, and I would like to share it with you.

Lui was only 3 years old so he couldn't join us for the whole pilgrimage, because he was too little, but he did visit the Shrine of Baha'u'llah in Bahji and the Shrine of the Bab in Haifa.

Mei and Miki, were old enough to go everywhere with the pilgrims and had many precious experiences there. For example, they went to the "Archives" where the Holy Documents of the Faith are kept. What impressed them the most was that they were able to see a real photo and painting of Baha'u'llah and the Bab. Miki could hardly express her excitement when she was able to stand right in front of that Great Personage. She just sighted "Wow...". She mentioned later "I guess that picture could never fully show what Baha'u'llah was really like."

The Baha'i Gardens were extraordinary beautiful and Miki was deeply impressed. She would often say such things as " Beloved Shoghi Effendi was worthy to be the planner of this garden, He made it so beautiful for Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l-Baha..." It was just after hearing about the story of how He instructed the gardeners to plant each one of the trees according to His plan. Little Mon comment was that " It's like Heaven!"

It was the first time for any of them to enter the Holy Shrines. At the beginning, they didn't know what to do in such an Atmosphere. Then by watching how other people bowed down at the Holy Threshold, they followed them and bowed and started praying. They were quite nervous at first. Lui was also bowing and praying when he entered the Shrine of Baha'u'llah and patiently waited for his turn to go the Threshold. But it was too peaceful and he went into a deep sleep before it was his turn. After returning from pilgrimage, at home, I said, "Let's say prayers facing towards Baha'u'llah," they would bow down to their knees and pray, especially Mon and Lui.

In the city of Akka, we heard lots of stories about how Baha'u'llah and believers suffered. The children were very attentive and listened to them and asked many questions to the guide. Because of this experience they now understand the stories of the Dawn breakers and martyrs much clearer.

Another precious experience for them was meeting the friends who came for pilgrimage at the same time. They were the youngest pilgrims of our group, but the guide and some of adults were so nice to the children, that they still call them, "their world friends"

They played origami and tag with children who speak different languages from them. They played in the building called “The Pilgrim Reception” at Bahji. Isn’t it nice to be able to make friends everywhere and with people of every nationality?

The children’s grandmother, who doesn’t know much about Baha’i Faith was also with us. She was so impressed with the beauty of the Holy Land and the people. When it was night and they said prayers, she would simply listen, but later she really loved the chant that Baha’u’llah and the Martyrs would sing in the Siyah Chal (the Black Pit). She sang it with us and still does, whenever we say prayers with her.

The children keep the Pilgrim name tags that they got when we were in Israel. They are now their treasures.

We hope these spiritual experiences and bounties at such an early age will influence their spiritual growth from now on.





Once upon a time in Okinawa,

There were 5 little children. The mother was American and the father was Japanese. The little children were new to Okinawa as they had just come from living in Guam the year before.

One day, little Anisa, the youngest, came home from kindergarten with a picture for mother's day. She proudly showed the picture to Mother while the family was sitting around the table watching mother cut apples for an apple pie she was making. "Look Mommy, I drew you." Mother looked at the picture and smiled. Mona laughed, "Silly Anisa! Mother doesn't have black hair and black eyes! She has light brown hair and blue eyes! Who is that!" Anisa frowned and looked like she was going to cry. "The teacher told us to use the black crayon for the hair and eyes, so I did!" Shahla looked at the picture thoughtfully and said. "Mommy, why can't you look like the other Mommies? All my friend's mothers look like that picture. How come you have to be so different? I want you to be like everyone else!" Asma who was the second oldest, said, "Yeah, I kind of know how they feel, it kind of embarrasses me when you come to school on parent's day, you stick out so much, and you speak English to me! It sounds like you are showing off!" Mother was feeling a little sad, hearing her children talk like this. "Well, what if I am careful and only speak Japanese to you in public?" Mother asked. "No," put in Riaz "cause your Japanese is funny and wrong, just don't speak, that would be great!". That made mother laugh, because she knew her Japanese wasn't that good. "Well, my dear children, there is a lesson to be learned here. It doesn't make me feel bad that I am different. Where I come from, lots of people look like me. And I know that it's ok to look and talk like me. The world is full of different kinds of people. We are all alike in some ways, and we are all different in some ways. Never let anyone make you feel bad that you are different. The only thing that is important is how we act. How we treat other people. How kind and gentle and loving we are. And when you look at other people, forget about what your eyes are seeing, think about what your heart is seeing. See them beautiful. Like we all want to be seen." Mother took the picture that Anisa had drawn, and put it on the refrigerator. But Anisa ran and got some crayons and drew another picture, this time with brown hair and big blue eyes. She gave it to Mother and said. "Here, Mommy this is really you, and I am glad that it is!" The other kids laughed and each gave Mother a big hug.

Art Page



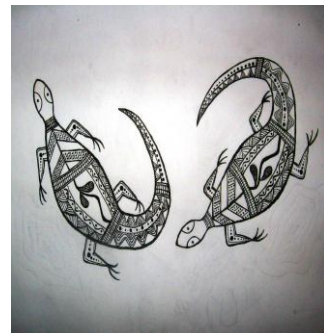
Art from Children in Iran



Junko Ogawa's Art



Hiroaki Fukuhama's Art



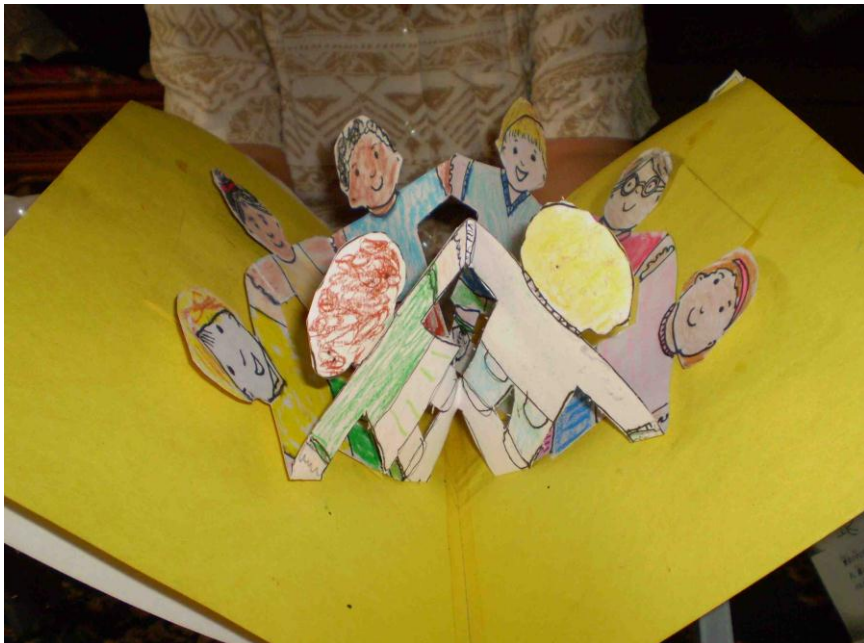
If you have a nice drawing please send it to us, maybe we will put it in next issue.

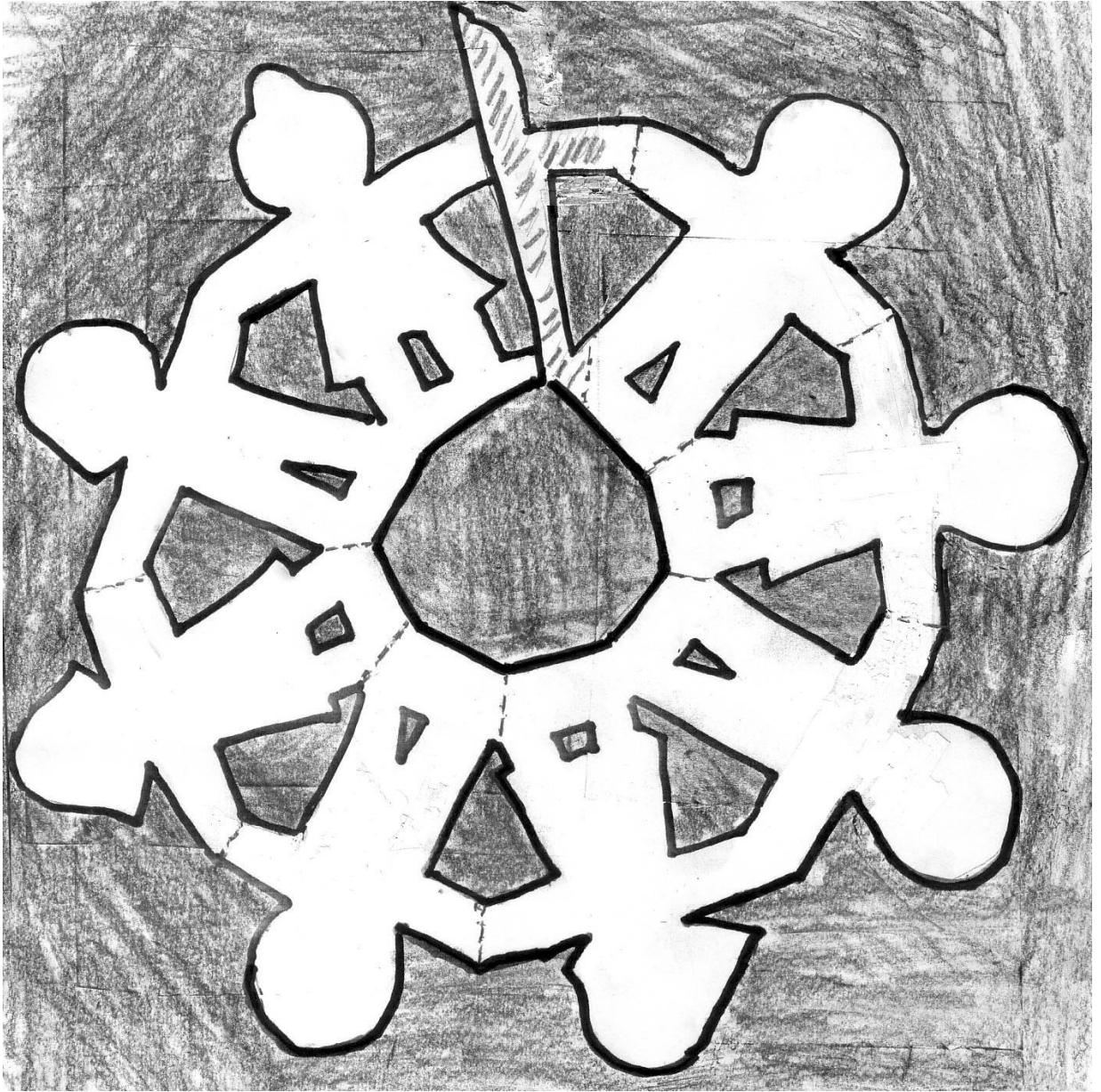
Activity Page

POP UP ONENESS OF MANKIND CARD

- Put happy faces on the children.
- Color them with different colored skin, hair, eyes, and types of clothes, fronts and backs. (Don't forget to draw them holding hands!)
- Cut on the black lines.
- Glue the shaded area to the back of the girl next to it, to make a circle.
- Fold on the dotted lines, some fold out and some fold in.
- Tape the back of the 2 children not folded, on each side of a piece of construction paper folded in half, so that the children are standing up.

Now you have a **Pop Up Oneness of Mankind Card**, to give to a friend.





Hello World !



Thailand Boys At School

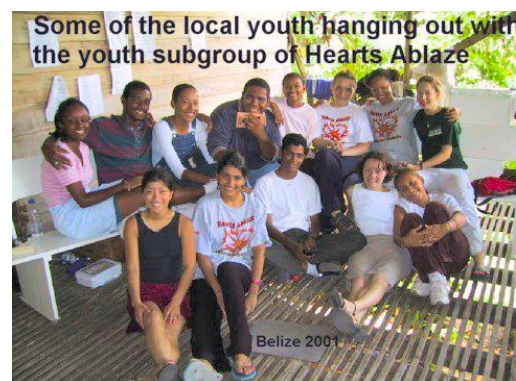


Hawaii Children
Volunteering



Solomon Island Children
at NawRuz

Australian Aborigine Girl



From a to b....

From b to c.....

Follow the dots.....

And what can you see? Then color it nicely!



“O people of the world, ye are all the fruit of one tree and the leaves of one branch. Walk with perfect charity, concord, affection, and agreement.”

Abdu'l-Baha,



Parents Page

We as adults have a great responsibility to train the next generation to be part of a World Community. There is no place left in the world for the prejudices we learned from our own childhood; prejudices of race, country, language, religion, education or social status. We so easily pass on these prejudices to our children by our words or facial expressions, by our suspicions of anyone that is different. We must teach our children to look at each person as an individual and not as a member of a group, such as foreigners, poor people, white people, black people, old people, teenagers, sick people, or handicapped people. We must teach the children to look into the heart of each person, see them as a mirror of God, and not be suspicious of them.

Abdul Baha teaches us to... ***“Care for the stranger as for one of your own; show to alien souls the same loving kindness ye bestow upon your faithful friends.***

So, as much as we are able, let us strive to bring our children into contact with a variety of people. And show by our deeds as well as our words that we are lovers and well wishers of all mankind.

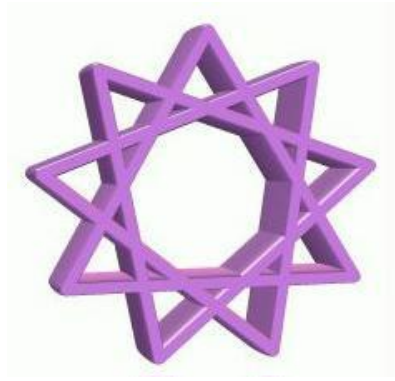
“Do not be content with showing friendship in words alone, let your heart burn with loving kindness for all who may cross your path.”

Abdu'l-Baha



Answers to the Quiz.

1. Unity of Mankind.
2. The Heart.
3. Seven Candles.
4. A Brand New World.
5. To Haifa, Israel, on Pilgrimage.
6. Baha'u'llah's photo.
7. Because their mother was not Japanese.



If you have stories of your children learning a virtue or anything connected to the Faith, please send them to us, so we can have stories of “A little boy in Yamaguchi” or “A little girl in Akita”. You can either write the story yourself or send the details and we will write the story. Either English or Japanese is fine. We also are waiting for pictures of Children’s Classes from your community, or drawings from your children. Please send all stories and pictures to hirunohoshi@gmail.com

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