“O wayfarer in the path of God! Take thou thy portion of the ocean of His grace, and deprive not thyself of the things that lie hidden in its depths. Be thou of them that have partaken of its treasures.” Bahá’u’lláh

Tutors are teachers

“This Day a door is open wider than both heaven and earth”

The Universal House of Justice called on Bahá’ís at the beginning of the Five Year Plan to open their study circles, children’s classes and devotional meetings “to all the inhabitants of the locality”.

As tutors, we have the bounty of being intimately linked with the process of growth. By embracing non-Bahá’ís in our study circles we are contributing to opening the portals of our community life to the outside world. This requires “courage and imagination”. It also requires initiative.

At the recent Tutor Encounter on 1 August, Auxiliary Board member, Dr Allan Waters shared an uplifting vision of the role of tutors in the institute process. He explained there were two vital elements to growth: individual initiative and tutors.

At the next Perth Cluster Reflection Meeting (Sunday 15 August), an exciting teaching campaign will be launched – a campaign to reach out and attract the wider community to our core activities! Tutors will be at the forefront of this new initiative.

What does this mean? It means tutors being ready to tutor Book 1 in response to this campaign of reaching out to the wider community.

What can YOU do?

• Come to the Cluster Reflection meeting
  (Sunday, 1 August – details page 2)
• Offer to start a Book 1 study circle
  (contact bcl-rc@wa.bahai.org.au or phone Patricia or a zonal coordinator – see page 7)
• Prepare yourself
  - read the guidelines on integrating non-Bahá’ís into study circles (in your Tutor Manual, last few pages of the tutor guide)
  - register for a Tutoring Book 1 preparation day on Sunday 5 September 9 am to 1 pm at BCL
CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 15 (Sun) 9.00am to 1 pm *8.30 for facilitators</td>
<td>Cluster Reflection Meeting Murdoch University, Robertson Lecture Theatre, Science and Computing Building 245. This Lecture Theatre is best approached from Carpark No 2. Please note this is a different Lecture Theatre to the ones previously used.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 21 (Sat)</td>
<td>Preparation for Tutoring Book 1 (non-Bahá’ís in study circles) 9 am to 1 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 7-10</td>
<td>Portals to Growth Conference A must for tutors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 21 (Sun)</td>
<td>Tutor encounter – 9 am to 1 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 29</td>
<td>Summer institute programme begins. Details soon…</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Highlights this month
- “Best ever” Tutor Encounter (p3)
- First Book 5 in WA “fantastic” (p3)
- Learning and service as a tutor: ideas home visits and practices (p4)
- Tutor Resources. Part 4. (p 5) “Being a Promoter of the Arts” Appreciating arts; using music (p 5 and 6)
- BCL coordinators directory (p7)

Register NOW for “Portals to Growth” Conference 7-10 October! Deadline: 31 Aug. An opportunity NOT to be missed.
Email: portalstogrowth@bahai.org.au
Web: www.portalstogrowth.org.au

Book 7 study circle with their “Spiritual Path” artwork

Soon to be tutors - Shidan, Carmel, Sahba, Fareed, Jane, Soroush (not in picture Violette, Joel, Navid, Nasrin)

Study circles with non-Bahá’ís
Good news!
We have heard of Book 1 study circles starting with non-Bahá’ís in Cockburn, East Fremantle, Armadale and at UWA. This is great news. Please share news of Book 1 study circles – where, when, and what! We need your stories…

Stories from last month’s WAYfarer
Stories last month showed how easy it is to integrate non-Bahá’ís naturally into the study circles; how they enjoy the process of studying the Writings, the arts, memorisation and service elements.

Hidden Words free for non-Bahá’ís
Remember to ask for your copies of Hidden Words to give to non-Bahá’ís in Book 1 study circles. If you let Mahtab know, she will provide you with the required number, as well as the great new leaflet on BCL educational opportunities.

Tips to help you in your Tutor Manual
Your tutor manual includes a Book 1 Tutor Guide. In this Guide you will find tips on inviting and integrating non-Bahá’ís into your study circles. Check it out….
“The best ever” commented one tutor.

Graced by the presence of Dr Manijeh Reyhani, member of the Continental Board of Counsellors and Auxiliary Board member, Dr Allan Waters, the tutor encounter on 1 August was a joyous and purposeful event. Thirty six people attended, including four visitors from China, one from Singapore, one from Queensland and our two special Bunbury tutors, Minoo and Marjorie. It was especially heartwarming to welcome many attending a tutor encounter for the first time, including several newly graduated tutors.

Allan Waters shared an uplifting vision of the significant role of the tutor in the institute process, particularly at the present stage of growth in the Perth cluster. He explained how tutors will be at the forefront of the upcoming teaching campaign, involving non-Bahá’ís in Book 1 study circles. He said the experience of being a tutor is in three stages – as a participant in Books 1-7, as a tutor of the different books and as a tutor of Book 1 with non-Bahá’í participants.

Workshops on home visits and practices, divided into “book groups”, studied “Reflections on Growth” newsletter of the International Teaching Centre about home visits. After focussed and meaningful discussion, the tutors came up with some great ideas about practices and home visits relating to each books. These are given on page 4 (“Learning and Serving as a tutor”).

Then it was global perspectives. Muna, Minoo and Shantha shared inspiring stories of how the institute process is making its mark in Jordan, Sabah (North Borneo) and Malaysia.

Finally, everyone enjoyed the practical arts workshops, learning how to make cards and fridge magnets, to create a Ridván garden scene for Book 4 and to write Haiku poetry. We saw how easy it is to integrate these activities into our study circles to consolidate learning. Thank you Faeghe, Claudette, Shamim S and Allan for such stimulating sessions.

See you at the next tutor encounter: Sunday, 21 November!

First Book 5 study circle in WA
“Book 5 was fantastic”

Shamim, Venus, Maryam, Manijeh, Shirin

Two tutor participants wrote:

“Book 5 was fantastic. I really enjoyed it. It completes the learning. It is a great book for tutoring as well because is full of nice activities, stories and songs. It really builds on Book 1-4. We were 5 participants and enjoyed each others company very much.”

“My book 5 experience was a very pleasant one. We all found the book very useful and interesting as it really summarises all the things learnt in Books 1-4, cleverly hidden behind the guise of children's classes. We found it especially important and useful to go through every single lesson as a group, either by being mock children or being the teacher. It is in fact the information presented in the lessons that summarises all the things a participant would have learnt in the previous books up to Book 5. This also gives a lot of room for the arts as every lesson involves singing, drawing and drama. So overall I would have to say that book 5 is one of the most well thought out books in the sequence as it really encompasses everything.”

Portals to Growth Conference:
Calling all tutors …
Interested in submitting a proposal for a workshop, presentation, arts performance, display or other forms of sharing relating to the Institute Process? For details Email: portalstogrowth@bahai.org.au Web: www.portalstogrowth.org.au Fax: +61 2 9998 9223 Phone: +61 2 9998 9252 Co-ordinators Mobile: 0400 049 073
LEARNING AND SERVING AS A TUTOR

Storytelling Workshop for all tutors!

Saturday 14th August,
9.00am -1.00pm, at BCL
REGISTER BY
Phone Georgie or Lorraine 9330 3058 – leave message with name and contact details, or
Email: bcl-oce@wa.bahai.org.au

Home visits and practices

Workshops on home visits and practices were held at the last Tutor Encounter. The following ideas resulted from focussed and meaningful discussion.

Book 1 “Reflections on the Life of the Spirit”

- Love and encouragement of the tutor is important
- Home visits need courage
- Home visits develop your skills
- Home visits are a practice; it is doing and learning from the practice
- Encourage non-Bahá’ís in study circle to do home visits
- Home visits are a spiritual meeting, meaningful interaction – we can share prayers, study Writings together, share Ruhi process
- People in general are suffering and more receptive, lives becoming meaningless, so take courage to share with non-Bahá’ís
- Use quotations from Book 1 when making visits to create interest
- Remember the Word of God attracts
- Give prayer books to non-Bahá’ís
- Home visits to inactive Bahá’ís keep them “in the loop”

Book 2 “Arising to Serve”

- It is the tutor’s responsibility to make sure practices happen
- Book 1 tutors are responsible to ensure home visits so that the culture of home visits starts and is a natural progression in Book 2
- Modelling of the tutor
- Tell participants well in advance, get them thinking, make home visits systematic
- Tutor can accompany participants, particularly those that are less confident initially
- Seek assistance and co-operation of Local Spiritual Assembly to organise home visits
- Preparation is important
- Flexibility of practices – sometimes visits could be to you (the participant)
- When you do a home visit, use wisdom and be adaptable to the situation
- Practices might be done at a Feast.
- Book 2 participants could host a Feast (deepening theme on the Feast)

Book 3. Teaching Children’s Classes, Grade 1

- Home visits can be made with a deepening theme of spiritual education, leading to a neighbourhood children’s class
- Integrate children’s activities into the deepening. Purpose: attract children; demonstrate to parents what children’s classes could look like.
- Reflect on Home Visits (as follow up from Book 2), at the beginning of Book 3 – to encourage, learn, share challenges, successes

Next issue: outcomes from Book 4 and 6 study circles.
TUTOR RESOURCES

Being a promoter of the arts

A nine-part series on the tutor as a “promoter of the arts”

Part 4. Fostering an environment of art appreciation and using music.

“...you can make a significant contribution to the capabilities of service of those who take part in a study circle by encouraging them to develop their capacity for artistic expression, be it through music, poetry, painting, drama or any of the various types of crafts.” (from Book 7 “Walking Together on a Path of Service”, Unit 3, page 111)

In this part we reflect on the purpose of arts in a study circle and how participants can themselves become promoters of the arts. Also, we look at the significance of music, suggest some guidelines for integrating music in study circles and some ideas for promoting an appreciation of music.

Appreciating arts

The purpose of a study circle is to empower the participants spiritually. Arts make a significant contribution to spiritual upliftment and empowerment. In addition, art activities reinforce learning of the concepts being covered in the material of the study circle.

On another level, a study circle is also an opportunity to encourage and further individual artistic expression, and to foster an appreciation of arts.

An encouraging environment can be created for participants to themselves become “promoters of the arts”. By developing a spirit of service, participants will want to further their own creative ability after the completion of the study circle, or offer their talents to the community, or encourage others to further their talents and use arts in teaching and service activities.

Promoting

“By being a promoter of arts and crafts at the grassroots ... you will be opening up creative channels through which can flow inspiration and the force of attraction to beauty.” (p 131, Book 7)

Encouraging

“... identify those who have special aptitude and help them, as a friend, to find ways to develop their talents, independent of the study circle.” (p 118, Book 7)
The significance of music

“… in this new age the Manifest Light hath, in His holy Tablets, specifically proclaimed that music, sung or played, is spiritual food for soul and heart.”

“… melodies, though they are material, are connected with the spiritual, therefore, they produce a great effect. A certain kind of melody makes the spirit happy, another kind makes it sad, another excites it to action.”

Music makes a significant contribution to spiritual upliftment and it is essential to include music in a training institute programme.

Some thoughts for the tutor to consider when incorporating music into study circles are.

- Consider the make-up of your group
- Use talents of those who are musically inclined
- Respect and encourage everyone; some may not be musically inclined
- Make sure that no one is ever embarrassed
- Reinforce ideas being covered in the material through group singing

Promoting an appreciation of music – some ideas

- Go to a concert together – this could be a good social activity for the study circle too
- Ask everyone to take turns to bring their favourite music to each study circle session; set aside a time to listen and discuss.
- Invite a musician or singer to visit the study circle to play a musical instrument or teach songs
- Invite someone to help the group compose a song
- Discuss how music and song can be used in proclamation and teaching
- Discuss ways of learning about traditional music and music of different cultures
- Use music as background – for example, when doing individual exercises, reading certain passages from the Writings, as background for other art activities

Reference: Book 7 “Walking Together on a Path of Service” – Unit 3 – Section 5 and 6, Pages 115 – 120

Please send your art stories to include in WAyfarer.

Next month - poetry
Zonal Coordinators

North: (Joondalup, Wanneroo, Stirling)
Shoghi Keshavarz: phone 9407 7479
Email: shoghi.keshavarz@health.wa.gov.au

West: (Cottesloe, Claremont, Peppermint Grove, Mosman Park, Nedlands, Vincent, Cambridge, Perth, Subiaco)
Ardeshr Kalani: phone/fax 9284 2391 (home), 0407 303 419 (mobile)
Email: kalani@iinet.net.au

South: (S Perth, Victoria Park, Canning, Melville, Cockburn, Fremantle, E Fremantle, Rockingham, Mandurah, Kwinana)
Nasim Kasiri-Fozdar: phone 9335 7370 (home), 0402 200 520 (mobile)
Email: nkasiri@yahoo.com

East: (Kalamunda, Armadale, Gosnells, Swan, Belmont, Bayswater, Mundaring, Bassendale)
Houman Milani: phone 9277 6116 (home), 0422 456 629 (mobile)
Email: Houman211@yahoo.com

Office of Regional Coordination (study circles)
Administration Manager for study circles: Mahtab Kiassati
Phone: 9330 6999 (Mon, Tues, Fri)
Email: bcl-rc@wa.bahai.org.au

Regional Coordinator for study circles: Patricia Mackay
Phone: 9437 4153
Email: bcl-rc@wa.bahai.org.au or hpmackay@wiredcity.com.au

Office of Education
BESS - Bahá'í Education in State Schools
Coordinators:
Georgie Sounness: phone 9339 4798; email - bcl-oce@wa.bahai.org.au
Lorraine Lobo phone: 9399 7636 or 0418 624657; email: bcl-oce@wa.bahai.org.au

BCC – Bahá’í Children’s Classes
Coordinator: Hilary Abadi
Phone: home: 0894 435 580; mobile: 0438 920 866
Email: habadi@iinet.net.au

Junior Youth and Ecological Camps
Coordinators:
Shidan Tosif Phone: 9385-6509 Mobile:0413484876 email: shidan@iinet.net.au
Shamim Kasiri Phone: 9304 0467 Mobile:0402563507 email: shamimkasiri@yahoo.com.au
Saba Salman Phone: 9284 7654 Mobile: 0421210269 email: saba_999@hotmail.com