



Bay Creek Bulletin

Aug-Sept 2011

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD BAHÁ'Í CENTER

By Sara Richards

Have you passed the Baha'i Center at 324 W. Lakeside Street and wondered, what is Baha'i anyhow? It turns out to be like many religions in some ways and totally unique in others. Basic tenets of Baha'i similar to other religions include oneness of God, oneness of humanity, universal peace. Other Baha'i tenets are more progressive than those espoused by some religions: equality of men and women, individual search for truth, universal education, harmony of science and religion. Some--like elimination of extremes of wealth and poverty--would fit on forward-thinking political platforms.

All the more remarkable then that this religion was founded in the nineteenth century in the midst of the Islamic culture of the Persian Empire. Baha'u'llah (whose name means Glory of God in Arabic) was the scion of an upperclass Persian family. He led a privileged life as a young man and married a nobleman's daughter in 1835. He became a follower of Babi, a new sect founded in 1844 which stressed personal moral standards. Like John the Baptist, the Bab [founder of Babi] proclaimed that a new messenger from God would come soon. When it became wildly popular, threatening the power of the secular and religious ruling elites, they responded by persecuting Bab and his followers.

That is how Baha'u'llah came to be in the Black Pit, a horrid prison in Tehran. It was there that he experienced a religious revelation. Upon his release he began to write the many books that comprise the basis of Baha'i. Exiled from Iran, he led a life of wandering and imprisonment but his teachings attracted followers then and now. Baha'is believe that Baha'u'llah is the latest in a succession of divine messengers like Abraham, Krishna, Christ and Muhammed.

A floor tenet of Baha'i is that individuals search for truth: people must discover for themselves what they believe. No one else can tell a person what to believe or try to convince someone what to believe. As a result, proselytizing of any sort is banned. This does not, however, preclude education efforts. There are classes, children's groups, and printed materials available for those who want them.

Lest one think that Baha'is give only lip service to this tenet, let me tell you about Elham, one of the members of the Lakeside Street community. She was born and raised by Baha'i parents in Iran. Her parents told her and her siblings that they did not have to believe in or practice the same religion but they did want them to educate themselves about religion. When she was 18 years old, Elham requested a Bible and read it. Then she read the book of Baha'u'llah. She was attracted to the way Baha'i got rid of the "ism's"—nationalism, racism, sexism. She, in turn, practices this same philosophy toward her own daughters, telling them they need not be Baha'i but stressing that they must explore and nurture their spiritual lives.

While Elham was born into the religion in Iran, Talieh, another member of the (Continued on next page)

Bay Creek Billboard

Mon Aug 8 6:30 pm Friends of Olin-Turville (FOOT)
Bi-Monthly meeting at Goodman South Madison Branch Library, 2222 S. Park (in Villager Mall).

Sat Aug 14 & Sept 19 10:00 am to noon Shoreline clean ups with Friends of Monona Bay. Meet at Brittingham Park Beach House (corner of Proudfit & W. Brittingham Place). Garbage bags and tools are provided, please bring your own gloves and dress accordingly. Contact Nina for more info. Email: ninaj@wisc.edu Phone: 265-3411 or 258-1788

Tues Aug 23 United Way Day of Caring (Please see article on page 5 for more info)

Sat Aug 27 1:00–3:00 pm BCNA Ice Cream Social Enjoy FREE Chocolate Shoppe ice cream (vegan options will also be available). Please bring a topping to share. Bowls and spoons will be provided or you can bring your own

Mon Sept 12 BCNA Bi-Monthly meeting 6:30 pm

Madison Baha'i Center, 324 W. Lakeside St.
All Bay Creek residents are invited to attend. Voluntary annual dues of \$10 per household can be paid at any neighborhood meeting or sent to Dan Kennelly 808 O'Sheridan St. 53715.

First Wednesday of each month Friends of Monona Bay
124 S. Brooks St., Rm 1, 6:30 pm

(Baha'i, continued) Lakeside Street community, was born into it in Kansas. She and her family were the only Baha'is in their small Kansas town so she connected with other Baha'is particularly other Baha'i youngsters via internet chat rooms. It was while there that she read Baha'u'llah in order to refute claims that some in that chat room were making.

Those not born to the religion have come in varying ways to it. Sariah was a Lutheran deaconess for almost two decades when she realized that Baha'i was speaking to her more intensely than her own religion. She read extensively about Baha'i and was struggling with the decision when a friend told her, "You have to pray to Jesus to see what you should do." She did. When she told her Lutheran minister of her decision, he said that she was correct to follow her own direction and wished her well.

The path to spiritual truth can involve those currently engaged in another religion or those who have deliberately opted to disavow any religion. It's interesting when one from each camp is married to the other. Ellie had disavowed religion at age eighteen but as an adult became aware of Baha'i. After much reading she decided it was for her. Her husband followed a more roundabout path, starting as a Catholic priest. They were married both in the Catholic church and in a Baha'i ceremony and attended both places of worship until he, too, read and prayed extensively and decided that Baha'i was the correct spiritual path for him.

The varied paths these women took to Baha'i reflect the belief that this religion is the latest in a continuum of religions, a continuum that mirrors the stages of life from infancy through adolescence through adulthood.

The Baha'i women I spoke with like to tell how their community was led to its current location on Lakeside Street, previously the home of a catering service, a restaurant, and—a long time ago—a hardware store. A realtor from Minnesota had joined their community. When she discovered they were looking for a space in which to meet, she offered to follow up on local listings. Being new to the city, she got lost ("No, she was led by God," said Elham) and ended up on Lakeside Street where she saw the handwritten sign offering to rent part of the building. The congregation rented for some time, then took the plunge and purchased the building. They have been generous to the neighborhood association in letting us use it for bimonthly meetings and other events.

BCNA Minutes of July 11, 2011 Meeting

By Dan Kennelly

Madison Police Chief Noble Wray presented BCNA with the Sir Robert Peel Award for Community Policing, given to recognize the neighborhood's work with the Police Department to address problems at Olin Park. Sgt. Jim Dexheimer was thanked for his hard work and coordination with the neighborhood on this issue. *(Editor's note: The award may be displayed the South Madison Library. We will have an update in the next issue.)*

A representative of Rev. Larry Jackson updated plans to retrofit 702 W. Wingra Drive to create a multi-tenant boarding house. Rev. Jackson presented this in November 2010 and neighbors expressed a number of concerns and asked many questions. A meeting was planned for July 17 at the project site to talk in detail about the project.

The owners of the Clark Station on Park Street plan to demolish and rebuild the facility. They wrote the neighborhood to request an expedited application process for the demolition permit. Neighbors generally supported rebuilding the station, however, without more information about the plans, many were uncomfortable with supporting the expedited permit and the request was denied.

A neighborhood resident discussed noise from Willow Island during events. Many neighbors have expressed frustration over noise levels from the island during events such as Bratfest and "Band Camp". Possible approaches to address this included contacting Alder Ellingson and/or Supervisor Richmond to set up a meeting with the operators of the Alliant Energy Center. A small group agreed to take the lead on next steps.

On a related note, Officer Dave Dexheimer is looking for Bay Creek residents who are interested in taking the "Boom Car" training he teaches. The class is designed to train citizens in the process of filing complaints against vehicles disturbing the peace with their stereos. Those interested should email ddexeimer@cityofmadison.com.

Sara Richards provided an update on the neighborhood sign replacement project and the "neighborhood gateway and gather place" concept proposed for Olin Avenue. Neighborhood artist Aaron Laux created a concept for a small sign to replace the sign at the intersection of Wingra Drive and Park Street. Aaron also created a concept plan for a sculpture, welcome sign, community garden, and "council ring" on the vacant site located between Olin Avenue and Van Deusen Street (across from the pool). BCNA received a \$10,000 city grant for this project but the budget for this proposal would be significantly greater than that. The neighbors plan to explore options to raise more funds, trim the budget, and phase the project to make it feasible.

The Annual BCNA Ice Cream Social will be on Sat, Aug 27 at Franklin School. Rain date is Sun, Aug 28

Bay Creek Neighborhood Association

Resolution in Opposition to the Policies of Governor Scott Walker

Adopted by Unanimous Vote, July 13, 2011

WHEREAS, Many Bay Creek neighbors are public servants including school teachers, university employees, municipal employees, and state workers. Rather than taking a shared sacrifice approach to solving Wisconsin's modest budget problems, Governor Walker's solution is to assault these public employees who work hard to provide essential services.

WHEREAS, Bay Creek is well-served by public transit and bike trails and residents appreciate the opportunity to use energy efficient transportation alternatives that help reduce oil consumption. Governor Walker's decisions to reject federal funding for intercity rail, oppose the Regional Transit Authority (RTA), and oppose state investments in bicycle infrastructure undermine our neighborhood's desire for a diverse, comprehensive, and energy efficient transportation system.

WHEREAS, Many Bay Creek residents strive to save energy, subscribe to our local utility's green energy program (which is mostly generated by wind), and some have even installed renewable energy systems at home. Governor Walker's decisions to cut funding for biomass energy projects, cripple the state's wind power industry, and favor outdated fossil-based energy sources over clean renewable technologies is counter to Bay Creek's collective interest in supporting a modern energy system that utilizes renewable resources.

WHEREAS, The Bay Creek Neighborhood and the larger South Madison area is a community that takes pride in its diversity with respect to age, race, ethnicity, disability status, sexual orientation, and income. Governor Walker's agenda would weaken state programs and services designed to protect vulnerable Wisconsin residents and undermine neighborhoods like Bay Creek where inclusivity and respect for those less fortunate are a community values.

WHEREAS, The Bay Creek Neighborhood upholds a high standard of public discourse that is thoughtful, open, values listening, and respects opposing opinions. This is reflected in our neighborhood meetings, our exchanges on our email listserve, and our daily conversations with neighbors. In contrast, Governor Walker's approach to public discourse is short-sighted, ideologically entrenched, and pays little regard to the importance of listening to and working with people with differing views.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED The Bay Creek Neighborhood Association stands in opposition to Governor Scott Walker's policies identified above and disapproves of his overall approach to leadership in Wisconsin. The neighborhood encourages Governor Walker to rethink his policies and his attitude towards governing. Finally, and most importantly, Bay Creek Neighborhood residents are ready and resolved to aggressively support efforts to unseat Governor Walker and replace him with someone who better reflects the values of our neighborhood.



SAVE THE DATE.....Friends of the Zoo invites you to the **6th annual Zoo Run Run on Sept 25th**. A 5k/10k walk and run will take you past our lovely Zoo and through the beautiful Vilas neighborhood. Stick around after the race to enjoy food, **free beer donated by Capital Brewery**, fun and games, **live music** and more! Pre-registration is \$35.00 and Race Day registration is \$40.00. The race will begin at 10:00am and will be chip timed. Awards will be given to 1st through 3rd place in each division. Go to vilaszoo.org or active.com to register.

St Mark's Free Community Meal and Food Pantry

St Mark's Church (605 Spruce St) serves a free community meal every Friday at noon in the church basement. Their food pantry is open on Tuesdays from 10 am to noon and Thursdays from 5:45 pm to 7:40 pm to anyone in need of extra groceries. To donate food or volunteer your time, please call the church at 256-8463.

Our Newsletter Needs Help

The ad revenue for the Bay Creek Bulletin doesn't cover all the costs of printing the newsletter. Each issue costs approximately \$640 to print and we generate an average of \$520 per issue, leaving a shortage of approximately \$720 per year. We've been covering the shortage by using funds in the general account but those dollars are running out. We're working on finding more advertisers but wanted to let people know how they can help. Currently **less than 2%** of Bay Creek residents pay dues on a regular basis. If 72 more households pay the \$10 voluntary annual dues and designate that they should be used for the newsletter, that would cover the shortage for the next year. Dues can be sent to Dan Kennelly, 808 O'Sheridan St, 53715. If you'd like your dues to be used for the newsletter, please write "for Bulletin" on the memo line. Thank you!

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

BCNA Ice Cream Social

The annual Ice Cream Social will be held on Sat, August 27 between 1 and 3 with a rain date of Sun, August 28. Join us at Franklin School for free Chocolate Shoppe ice cream (including vegan); please bring a topping for ice cream.

Voter ID Update

Effective immediately all voters must sign a poll book when voting. A photo ID will be required in 2012. BCNA is looking into a presentation from the City Clerk's office on this topic at an upcoming meeting. Complete information on the new Voter ID law is available at <http://www.cityofmadison.com/clerk/PhotoIDDDetails.cfm>. City of Madison brochures regarding the new law are available at the following links:

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/clerk/documents/NewElectionLawsBrochure07.20.2011.pdf> ;

http://www.cityofmadison.com/election/documents/VotingBrochure_000.pdf;

<http://www.cityofmadison.com/election/documents/ObtaininganIDCardtoVote.pdf>

Cooling Center Information

Cooling areas close to Bay Creek are the Goodman South Madison Library, the Central Library, and the Senior Center at 330 W. Mifflin. A complete map of city facilities that have air-conditioning or might bring you relief from the heat is available at <http://www.cityofmadison.com/residents/summer/extremehotweather.cfm>

From the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Affiliate staff, and Race Committee at South Central Wisconsin Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, we would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the entire Bay Creek neighborhood for making the 14th annual Race such a grand success. We also send out a very special thank you to all of the neighbors that came out to walk or run with us, volunteered at the race, or cheered on our participants as they made their way around the Bay Creek neighborhood. We are currently looking for volunteers from the neighborhood to help on the 2012 Race Committee with planning for next year's Race as well as course marshals from the neighborhood to help on the course next year. Please feel free to contact us at racecoor@komenmadison.org if you are interested.

Thanks for being such great neighbors, and Save the Date for June 2nd, 2012!

WAGON DRIVE THANK YOU

Thank you to all our neighbors for donating school supplies and food to the 3rd Annual Wagon Drive. Thanks to all the kids who participated and helped again this year. If you know a family in need of school supplies and/or food, please let them know about the St. Marks Lutheran Church Food Pantry (see page 2). Supplies will also be provided to Lincoln, Franklin, and Randall Schools, contact the school social worker.

Senior Notes from South Madison Coalition of the Elderly

Day of Caring (Tuesday, August 23) Events:

- Zoo field trip 8:30-11:00 a.m.
- Free Lunch at Willow Island, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Window washing at Romnes- sign up for morning or afternoon

The United Way Day of Caring is a time when volunteers from businesses and groups throughout Dane County take a day off work to assist organizations like ours with special projects. The day also provides an opportunity for volunteers to meet residents of our community. This year's Day of Caring will focus especially on the older adults.

The Signature Project will be a field trip to the Henry Vilas Zoo, which celebrates its 100th birthday this year. Volunteers and older adults from around Dane County will be matched up one-on-one, to enjoy a stroll around the zoo and participate in the various activities scheduled for the morning. The zoo visit will begin with introductions at 8:30 a.m. Afterwards, all are welcome to join United Way for a free lunch at The Alliant Energy Center's Willow Island.

Another group of volunteers will be on hand at Romnes Apartments to wash windows for residents. Window washing will be available both morning and afternoon so you can go to the zoo and the lunch and still have your windows washed. A request form will be distributed to residents to sign up for window-washing. South Madison Coalition of the Elderly invites you to be part of this fun day!! Those who plan to attend the zoo event or the lunch are requested to call 251-8405 by Tuesday, August 9.

Bay Creek Bulletin information The Bay Creek Bulletin is published every other month by the Bay Creek Neighborhood Association (BCNA) and is a news and information service for the neighborhood. The Bulletin welcomes comments and submission of articles, photographs, drawings, poetry, announcements and other information.

Next issue Oct/Nov 2011 Deadlines: Ads and Copy, Sept 16. Delivery: Second week of October

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Contact Sara Richards at 255-5023 or leftpaintedtoenail@hotmail.com for more information.

Standing committees

Welcoming committee
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Web committee Jim Winkle,
813 Emerson St.; 259-1812; jim@EventsGalore.net

BCNA area representatives
Area 1—Wingra Drive west of Park Street
Area 2—Northwestern railroad tracks east to Olin-Turville Park
Area 3—Lakeside St to Monona Bay and west to Park Street
Area 4—Central area between Lakeside St and Olin Ave
Area 5—Tree streets
Area 6—Romnes Apartments
BCNA Rep to South Metropolitan Planning Council

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U.S. Senators Herb Kohl; 264-5338; senator_kohl@kohl.senate.gov
Ron Johnson; (414) 276-7282; <http://ronjohnson.senate.gov> (Click on 'Contact')

BCNA police department liaison: Sgt Jim Dexheimer; South Side Station, 825 Hughes Place; Phone: 266-5938; Fax: 266-4452; office hours 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.