

A BAHÁ'Í COMPANION FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS

Brilliant Star

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THE LIFE AND WORK
OF SHOGHI EFFENDI

QUIZ: ARE YOU A
COMMUNITY BUILDER?



Spirit of Community

Brilliant Star

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Brilliant Star empowers kids to explore their roles as world citizens. Inspired by the principles of peace and unity in the Bahá'í Faith, we encourage readers to use their virtues to make the world a better place.

The Bahá'í Faith is the second most widespread religion in the world, with over five million Bahá'ís. It was founded by the Prophet Bahá'u'lláh ("Glory of God" in Arabic) in 1863. Bahá'u'lláh taught that all people are part of one human family, and all religions come from one God. Bahá'u'lláh's eldest son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, interpreted His teachings and led the Bahá'í community after Bahá'u'lláh's passing.

Today, Bahá'ís work to bring love and justice to the world, and end prejudice and discrimination of all kinds.

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aMAZEing ADVENTURE

Kindness can build bridges between people.



NEW DESTINATIONS



Zeke & Rhombus: We're All Noble
Tips for peace from our space-exploring pals



Warming the Hearts
How can you kindle connections with others?



All from Stardust
Search the constellations for glowing virtues.



Life of the Báb: Announcing a New Era
He declared He was the Promised One.



Quiz: Are You a Community Builder?
How many ways can you foster friendship?



Dance with Diversity
Spirits soar when everyone is welcome.



Shoghi Effendi: Let Us Arise
He led the Bahá'í Faith after 'Abdu'l-Bahá.



The Guardian's Creativity
Fun art activities to develop your skills



Shoghi Effendi's Advice
He urged us to defeat prejudice with love.



Master Your Mindbugs
Use virtues to keep unfair bugs at bay.



Treetop Community
What can herons teach us about unity?

DEAR FRIENDS,

Earth is home to over seven billion people. With almost 200 countries and about 7,000 languages, our human family is amazingly diverse. Sometimes differences can make it hard to get along. Prejudice, conflicts, and injustice pull us apart.

But have hope! Peace will come. It takes all of us working together. We can start by looking at our similarities. An important one is that we were all born with nobility. We were created to help each other and to express virtues like love, courage, and creativity.

In this issue, explore how you can celebrate diversity and build unity. Play games to connect with friends and family. Find out how to consult and talk about race unity. Quiz yourself on your community-building skills. Make a "Family and Friends" tree craft with Nur. And get to know Eric Dozier, a music educator inspired by the oneness of the human family.

Celebrate *your* nobility and the nobility of everyone you meet. Together, we can bring light to our world.



LOVE, BRILLIANT STAR ☆



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ZEKE & RHOMBUS: WE'RE ALL NOBLE

Hil Zeke here, with my pet, Rhombus. We travel the galaxy, studying peace. When we first came to Earth, we were so excited to meet humans. You're super diverse in culture, size, language, and color. It's like a cosmic festival! But we found out that some groups face prejudice and are treated unfairly, just because of their color. You can't have peace that way!

Eons ago, our planet had two names, depending on which

half you lived on: Zil or Zag. We were at war for ages. There was a lot of hurt and mistrust. We almost destroyed each other until we realized there would be nothing left.

We started working together and discovered that no matter where we live or how we look, we're all noble souls. It took huge efforts to end prejudice, but we created a united home: Zilizag. Building peace takes love and patience. But if we can do it, humans can too!

CHECK OUT OUR TIPS FOR CREATING A PEACEFUL PLANET. USE THE ZILIZAG DECODER TO COMPLETE THEM.

1 On Earth, science proves that humans are all one species. Race is a social idea. Replace it with the idea of _____ in diversity.



2 Treat everyone with _____.



See them as noble beings who share your planet.

3 _____ with compassion when



people share feelings and experiences about racism or injustice.

4 Each person is _____. Don't



expect a friend to explain what life is like for everyone of their background.

5 Be aware that the media stereotypes people. Look for _____ movies, TV



shows, and books.

6 Don't laugh at jokes that put down a race or other group. Stand for _____



and talk about how the jokes are hurtful.

7 If someone says you offended them, listen, apologize, and _____ from it.



8 Find out about the _____ and



history of your planet or region. What do you all have in common?

ZEKE'S ZILIZAG DECODER

A	Ⓢ	C	Ⓜ	E	Ⓜ	G	Ⓢ	I	Ⓢ	K	Ⓢ	M	Ⓢ	O	Ⓜ	Q	Ⓢ	S	Ⓢ	U	Ⓜ	W	Ⓜ	Y	Ⓢ
B	Ⓢ	D	Ⓜ	F	Ⓜ	H	Ⓢ	J	Ⓢ	L	Ⓢ	N	Ⓢ	P	Ⓢ	R	Ⓜ	T	Ⓢ	V	Ⓢ	X	Ⓜ	Z	Ⓢ

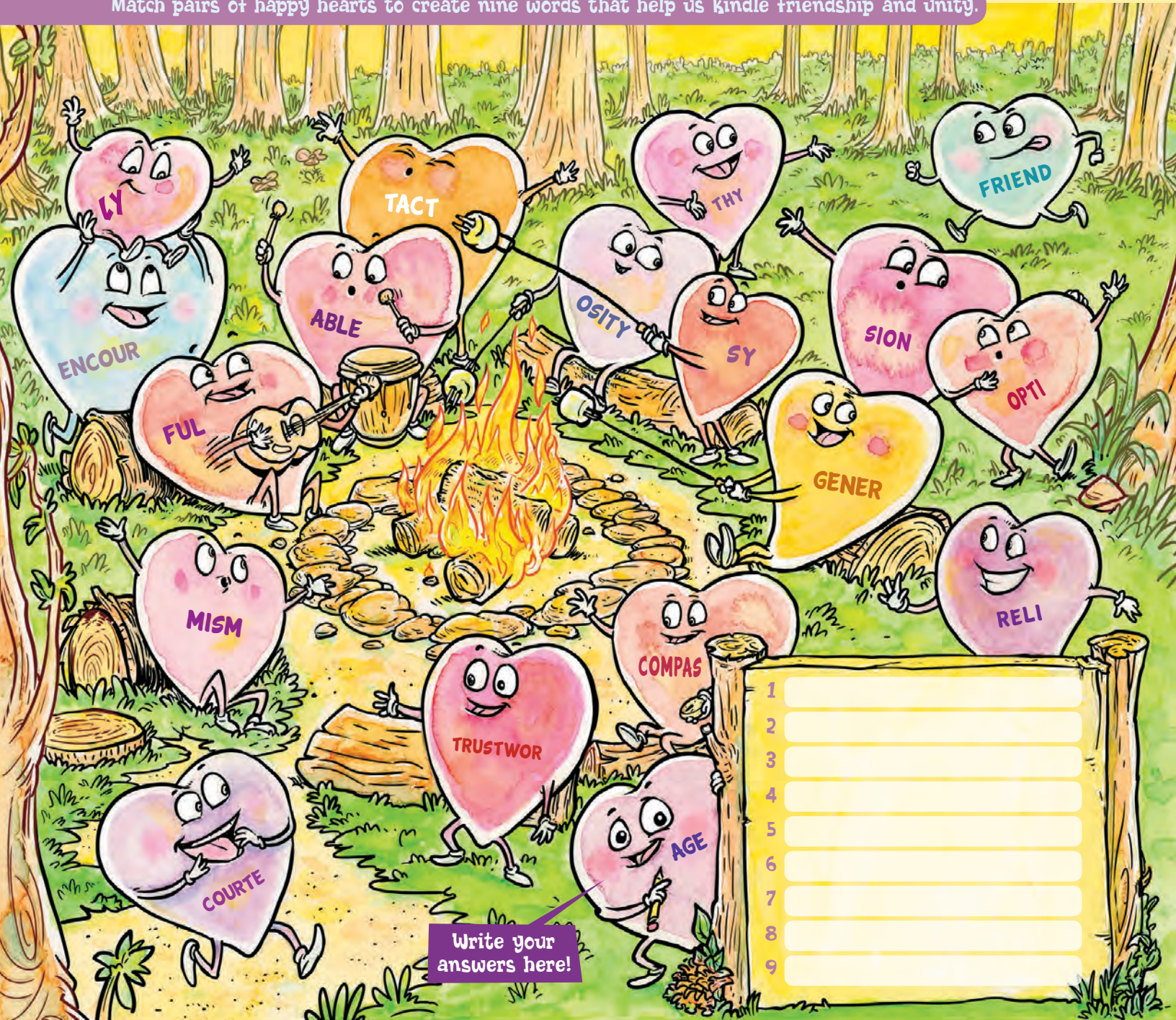
Warming the Hearts

“They whose hearts are warmed by the energizing influence of God’s creative love cherish His creatures for His sake . . .” —Shoghi Effendi

Like a crackling campfire on a chilly night, being with friends from different cultures, religions, and backgrounds can give you a cozy sense of community. You can experience and learn about so many new things—like tasty foods, cool traditions, and fun games. You may also learn a lot about yourself. You’re likely to get braver at trying new things and better at connecting with others.

Sometimes our differences can be challenging. We may have misunderstandings. It helps to be flexible and focus on people’s positive qualities. We’re all noble souls—we were created by God to develop virtues like compassion and unity. No matter how different we may be, we can warm any heart when we burn brightly with loving-kindness.

Match pairs of happy hearts to create nine words that help us kindle friendship and unity.



All from Stardust



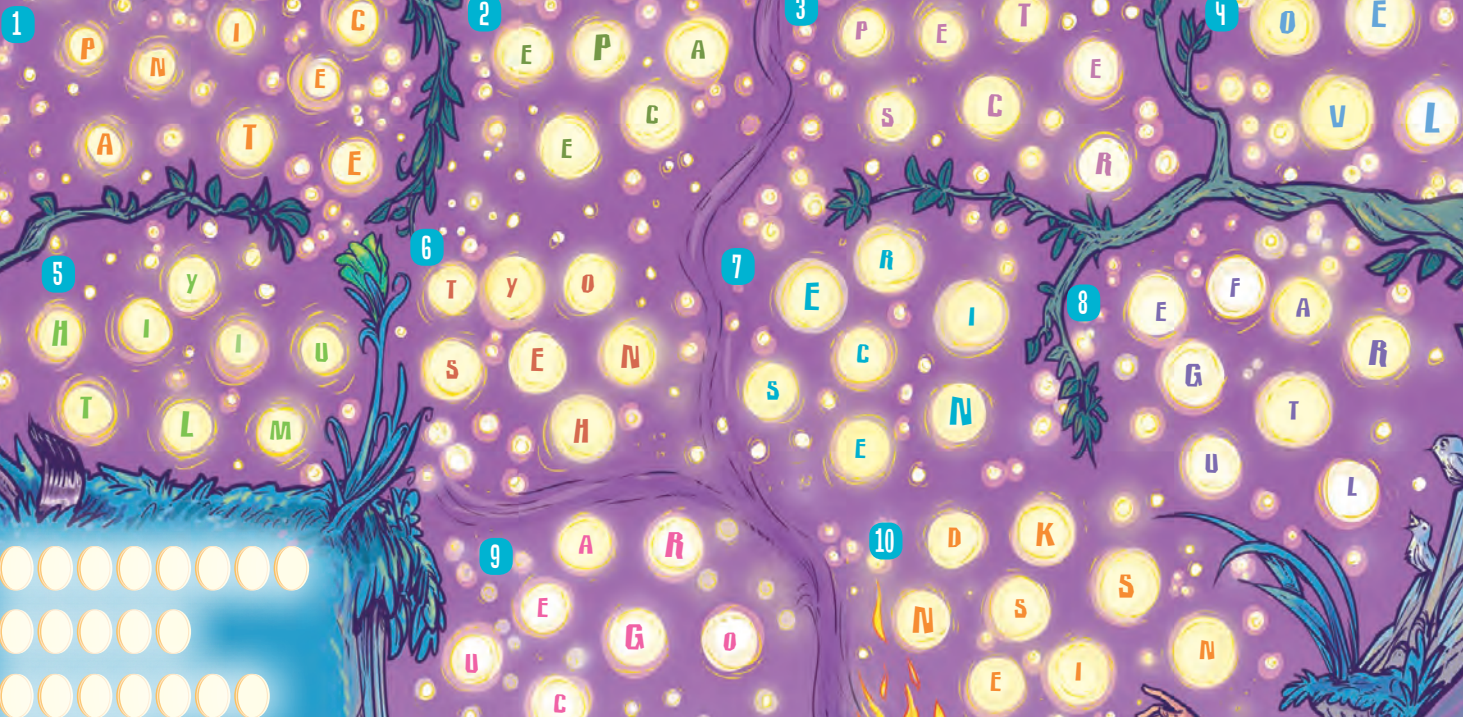
"Know ye not why We created you all from the same dust?
That no one should exalt himself over the other." —Bahá'u'lláh

Did you know that we're all made of stardust? Of course, stars aren't really made of dust—they're mostly hydrogen and helium gas. But billions of years ago, before Earth was formed, oxygen, carbon, nitrogen, and other elements were created for the first time in stars' cores. When these stars died and exploded, all of these elements collected over time to create Earth and

its creatures—including dust and human beings!

Even though we may look and act differently, God created us all from the same substance. Remembering this can help us shine with kindness when we meet someone of another race, culture, or background. Who knows—you may be surprised to find out how alike you are! When we spread the light of love and unity, we can all glow together like stars in a night sky.

Unscramble each constellation to discover virtues that can help us shine with the light of unity.



1	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
2	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
3	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
4	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
5	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
6	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
7	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
8	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
9	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
10	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○



The Life of the Báb

The highlighted area marks the time in which this story takes place.

1819 October 20

Birth of the Báb in Shíráz, Iran

1842 August

Marries Khadíjih Bagum

1843

Birth of their son, Ahmad, who soon dies

1844 May 23

Declares Divine Mission as Prophet-Founder of the Bábí Faith

1844 December

Announces His station while on pilgrimage in Mecca, Saudi Arabia

1847 July

Imprisonment in the fortress of Máh-Kú (The Open Mountain)

1848 April 10

Transfer to the fortress of Chihriq (The Grievous Mountain)

1848 July

Declares His mission to leaders in Tabríz, Iran, and is punished with the bastinado

1850 July 9

The Báb is martyred in Tabríz, Iran.

In 1844 in Persia (now Iran), 18 people made an amazing discovery. They were the first to believe in the Messenger of God known as the Báb (“the Gate” in Arabic). The Báb called them the Letters of the Living. Each was mysteriously inspired to find Him through prayer, meditation, or dreams. The last one, Quddús, recognized Him at first sight, saying no one else could radiate such “power and majesty.”

The Báb urged these followers to travel and tell others that a new Messenger of God had appeared. He asked Quddús to join Him on pilgrimage to the Islamic holy cities of Mecca and Medina (now in Saudi Arabia). There He would announce that He was the Qá’im, the Promised One of Islam and the Messenger of a new faith.

They boarded a ship and endured a difficult journey for almost two months. Storms rocked the overcrowded boat, but the Báb and Quddús remained calm as they prayed and the Báb revealed holy writings.

The other passengers grew tired and unhappy from the harsh conditions. One man argued with everyone and refused to share water, though others had none. His behavior was so terrible that the captain ordered his crew to throw the man overboard! The Báb threw Himself onto the man and urged the captain to change his mind and be forgiving. Moved by the Báb’s kindness, the captain agreed.

In Mecca, the Báb followed the rituals of pilgrimage with dignity and reverence. A central focus of pilgrimage



Historical engraving of the Kaaba in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, where the Báb announced His station as the Promised One. Muslims face the Kaaba during prayer.

is the Kaaba, the holiest shrine in Islam, believed to have been built by Abraham, a Messenger of God, and His son.

Wearing His robe and green turban, the Báb circled the Kaaba in the sweltering heat. Pilgrims filled the courtyard as He approached the Kaaba. Then He held the iron ring on its door. In a loud, clear voice, He announced three times, “I am that Qá’im Whose advent you have been awaiting.” Silence and wonder fell over the crowd.

The Báb’s announcement marked the start of a new era. He taught that another Messenger of God would soon appear.

When the Báb and Quddús returned home, Persia was alive with news of the Báb’s message, igniting the fire of love in many hearts. The Báb and the Letters of the Living continued to share His teachings and prepare people for the coming of Bahá’u’lláh.

Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace

United Communities

A Brief Timeline

The Life of Bahá'u'lláh

The highlighted area marks the time in which this story takes place.

1817 November 12

Birth of Bahá'u'lláh in Tíhrán, Iran

1844

Recognizes the Báb as a new Messenger of God

1852

Imprisonment in the "Black Pit" of Tíhrán

1853–1863

Exile in Baghdád, Iraq. From 1854–1856, He goes into the mountains to pray in solitude.

1863 April

Declares Divine Mission as Prophet-Founder of the Bahá'í Faith

1863–1868

Exile in Constantinople (Istanbul), then Adrianople (Edirne), Turkey. Begins writing letters to kings and rulers in 1867, urging world unity

1868

Last exile, to prison-city of 'Akká, Israel

1877

Finally free to live in countryside homes of Mazra'ih and then Bahjí, outside 'Akká

1892 May 29

Bahá'u'lláh passes away at Bahjí.

In the mid-1800s, a small community began to grow in Baghdád (now in Iraq). Many of its members had little money, but they joyfully shared what they had—including their shoes and cloaks. Even in poverty, they were happy. These were some of the earliest followers of Bahá'u'lláh, and they were delighted to be near Him.

Because of His belief in the Báb, government officials unjustly exiled Bahá'u'lláh from Persia (now Iran) to Baghdád in 1853. He spent two years praying and meditating in the mountains, then returned to the city, bringing new energy to those around Him. He revealed many holy writings and encouraged everyone to strengthen their character.

Friends gathered in a small, candlelit room to joyfully chant Bahá'u'lláh's verses throughout the night. Their love for Him was like a magnet, pulling their hearts together in unity. Some shared an empty room with no furniture. Bahá'u'lláh visited them and raised their spirits. He was heard to say, "Its emptiness pleases Me . . . it is preferable to many a spacious palace, inasmuch as the beloved of God are occupied in it with the remembrance of the Incomparable Friend . . ."

Most early Bahá'ís came from a Muslim background, but the Faith soon inspired people from other religions. The first Jewish person to become a Bahá'í was a doctor named Hakím Masih. He learned about Bahá'u'lláh's teachings while helping Bahá'ís who were in prison. He shared the Faith with others, and many Jewish people became Bahá'ís.



Bahá'u'lláh said of His time in Baghdád, "We revealed, as a copious rain, Our verses, and sent them to various parts of the world." This engraving shows Baghdád in the 1800s.

Bahá'u'lláh said His teachings would one day unite the world. Early Bahá'ís believed this, but they couldn't imagine how it would happen. At that time, there were no cars or telephones. Bahá'ís sometimes walked for months to see Bahá'u'lláh. They copied His writings by hand and traveled long distances on foot to deliver them to others.

In 1863, Bahá'u'lláh was exiled from Baghdád to what is now Turkey, and then to what is now Israel. Still, the Bahá'í Faith continued to grow. He urged Bahá'ís to share His message of peace in different countries. Some traveled to Egypt, Eastern Europe, and India. There are now over five million Bahá'ís around the globe, located in nearly every country.

Today, Bahá'u'lláh's teachings encourage us to be friends with all people and eliminate prejudice. Inspired by His message of peace, communities work together to bring light and love to the world through service, prayer, and fellowship.

“Consort with the followers of all religions in a spirit of friendliness and fellowship.” —Bahá’u’lláh

Connect with Group Games

Have fun getting to know friends and neighbors with these cooperative games.

Have You Seen My Friend?

Each person draws a group member’s name from a box. Take turns standing in front of the group and asking, “Have you seen my friend?” Describe their positive qualities or talents, such as, “He’s creative, friendly, and a great artist.” The first person to guess correctly goes next.



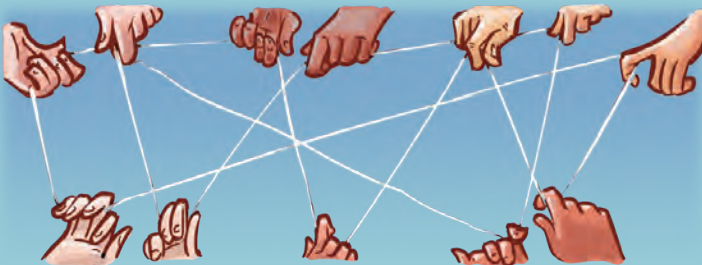
Creative Communication

Find new ways to “talk” in a silent game. First, everyone lines up by height (shortest to tallest) without speaking. Then make it more challenging and line up by favorite color, then by birthday. Afterward, talk about how it went.



Tied Together

Stand in a circle. One person holds a ball of yarn and names a favorite activity, hobby, or interest, until others who share the interest raise their hand. Holding onto the end of the yarn, the first person tosses the ball to someone who raised their hand. Take turns until you’ve made a full web of connection.



Growing Community

Draw a tree on a large sheet of paper and hang it on the wall. Each person cuts a leaf and a fruit from construction paper. With markers, write a word that helps grow a strong community on the leaf, and a related action on the fruit. Decorate them. Take turns hanging them on the tree and explaining what you wrote on them.



Circle of Unity

One person places an arm through a rope loop or hula hoop. Everyone forms a circle, holding hands. Pass the hoop around the circle without breaking hands. If you break hands, start over.



RILEY'S RAINFOREST



I LOVE HOW CONSULTING HELPS US MAKE DECISIONS WITH UNITY AND CREATIVITY!

“Send down... from the clouds of Thy mercy the rains of Thy healing...”

—Bahá'u'lláh

Explore & Soar: Caring Consultation

Try these ideas for consulting with love and respect.

- ☐ Start with a prayer, if possible. A reverent tone helps prepare our hearts and minds.
- ☐ State goals and priorities clearly, so everyone understands.
- ☐ Speak with moderation and courtesy. If you get upset, slow down and remember that you all have the same goal.
 - ☐ Gather and share the facts, so your decisions aren't based only on opinions.
 - ☐ Offer your ideas, then let them go. Detachment and humility help you stay open-minded to different perspectives.
- ☐ Give everyone a chance to speak. Listen to and carefully consider each idea.
- ☐ Be patient and keep a sense of humor, even if there are challenges.
- ☐ When a decision is made, create a plan and support it in unity.



Consult and Connect

Imagine you're working on a big group science project, but your team is arguing and can't pick a topic. Or your best friend's birthday party is at the same time as a special family event. How do you make good decisions *and* stay connected with others?

Positive relationships with friends and family are important for your health and happiness. In fact, scientists say our brains are “wired” to connect with others. When we're not focused on a specific job, our brain automatically goes back to searching for clues about other people and their feelings. That helps us cooperate and work together.

Even babies and toddlers collaborate by pointing to objects an adult is searching for. By age three, they learn to create rules and share group goals. When older

kids cooperate, they develop better relationships and more self-esteem.

But having these skills doesn't mean we'll always agree. We each have unique thoughts and experiences, and cooperation can be tricky when we don't see things the same way.

One tool that can help is **consultation**. It's a way to work together to search for truth, discuss ideas, and make decisions with unity. When we consult, we look for ideas that everyone has to offer. Instead of arguing over whose opinion is best, we share opinions calmly and listen with love and humility.

The next time you face a challenge, invite friends to consult with you. You can hear new ideas and strengthen friendships.

Curiosity Canopy



When we consult, there are four other C's that are important to keep in mind: critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Many educators and leaders agree that these are the most important skills for success. They're also keys to effective consultation.



Are You a Community Builder?

“The part of youth is very great; you have the opportunity to really determine to exemplify in word and deed the teachings of Bahá’u’lláh . . .” —Bahá’í Writings

What does “community” mean to you? It can be the place where you live or a group you share an interest with (like music or dance). It’s also a feeling of togetherness. In Hawaiian culture, people express unity, respect, and love with the word *aloha*. It’s used for hello or good-bye, but the “aloha spirit” also conveys warmth at any time.

Like dropping a pebble in a tide pool, your actions can start a flow of kindness that ripples out to reach many others.

Think about ways to build love and friendship with those around you. You can smile at people, listen to them, or write an encouraging note. You can help a parent, friend, or neighbor with a chore. How will you make ripples today?

Do your actions help to build unity?

Circle your answers, then add up your points.



1. I enjoy learning about cultures that are different from my own.

Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

2. I express my appreciation at events for the people who work to make them happen.

Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

3. I treat everyone with kindness and compassion, no matter what their background.

Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

4. If someone is being excluded from a group, I try to include them.

Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

5. I like to cooperate with others on events or service projects.

Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

6. At community gatherings, I find out how I can be helpful.

Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

7. If someone makes a racist joke or comment, I speak up.

Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

8. I like to use my unique skills or talents to make people happy.

Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

9. I make a point to welcome new people in my area.

Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

10. When someone is kind to me, I show my appreciation.

Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

11. At events, I greet people and make them feel welcome.

Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1

12. I show respect for my parents, teachers, and elders in my community.

Often = 3 • Sometimes = 2 • Rarely = 1



MY SCORE

36-28 POINTS You know how to spread joy and connect with others in your community. Keep making ripples!

27-20 POINTS You’re learning how to uplift your community. Try a tip from the quiz to sharpen your skills.

19-12 POINTS You can boost your community-building skills. Begin by trying a couple of tips from the quiz.

Dance with Diversity

Do you love to dance? The dance floor is bursting with music, movement, and laughter. Everyone is bright with a spirit of joy and friendliness. You're eager to fly onto the floor and join in the fun!

Being part of a vibrant community can feel like that. Everyone is welcome and free to express themselves. Like good dance partners, we learn moves that help keep the party alive. A basic step

is being kind and including everyone, no matter what their ethnicity, religion, or class. For example, if someone is sitting alone at an event, try inviting them to hang out with you.

If you stumble and fall out of step sometimes, that's okay. With patience and practice, we can all learn to put our best foot forward and move to the rhythm of friendship and unity.

Find the words at this feathery fiesta to complete tips for being a great dance partner and community builder.



- 1 Don't stress about a mistake. Learn from it and have !
- 2 Serve with a talent or idea you're about.
- 3 Be and suggest your own spin on the moves.
- 4 reaching out to others in friendship.
- 5 If someone is struggling with the steps, be .
- 6 to everyone's ideas with an open mind.
- 7 Try to everyone who wants to join in.
- 8 Stay , even if things don't go as planned.
- 9 on how your event went and how to mix it up next time.
- 10 Express your to everyone!

EXPLORE AND PROTECT THE EARTH AND ITS CREATURES



"All the members of this endless universe are linked one to another." —Bahá'í Writings

EARTH-SAVING TIP

Water from the hose can contain chlorine, fluoride, and sodium, which can damage plants and soil. Use a rain barrel to save rainwater. It's better for the garden, and you'll reduce household water use.



WOW, REALLY?

To estimate the distance of lightning, count the seconds between the lightning and the thunder. Divide by five to get miles or by three to get kilometers.



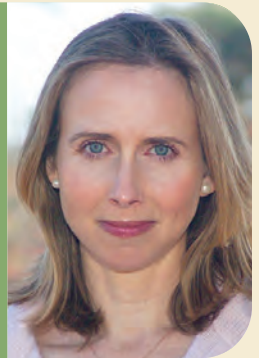
OUR CONNECTIONS



Did you know that lightning bolts make the air hotter than the sun's surface? The air expands explosively, causing a sonic shockwave—the sound of thunder. As climate change warms the Earth, intense thunderstorms are increasing. These occur when warm, moist air cools as it rises. It condenses into a cloud of water, then pours down as rain or hail. Severe storms can lead to floods, tornadoes, and other disasters.

PROTECTING OUR PLANET

Dr. Heidi Cullen, a climatologist in California, studies how human activity, like burning fossil fuels, leads to climate change and extreme weather. She was an expert for the Weather Channel and won a 2017 Rachel Carson Award. She says, "Climate change . . . [is] connected to everything from the energy grid, to population growth, to our water supply."



WHERE IN THE WORLD?



Holi, a Hindu festival honoring spring and the triumph of good over evil, is celebrated in this South Asian nation. People show friendship by painting each other with colorful powders. *Unscramble the letters to find its name:*

ADINI ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

AMAZING ANIMALS



These busy pollinators are critical to our food supply. Their legs have hooks that they use to hold each other and form a living chain, an act called festooning. It may offer support as they build a honeycomb. *Fill in the blanks to find their name:*

○ ○ ○ Y B ○ ○ S



LIGHTNING & LUNA

FIERCE FACE-OFF

#81



IN PROFESSOR PROWD'S LAIR ...



SO, WHO ARE YOU FOR REAL?

AFTER WE TOSS YOU IN THE DUNGEON, YOUR FAMILY CAN JOIN YOU!

NO!



ZZZZAAAPPP!!

WHOA!

ARGH!



LISTEN! PROWD IS USING YOU. YOU DON'T OWN THIS GOLD. YOU'RE JUST SLAVES TO IT!

WE'RE GONNA BE RICH! WE CAN TAKE OUR GOLD AND LEAVE PROWD WHENEVER WE WANT TO.



LEAVE ME? YOU WOULDN'T DARE, YOU FOOLS.

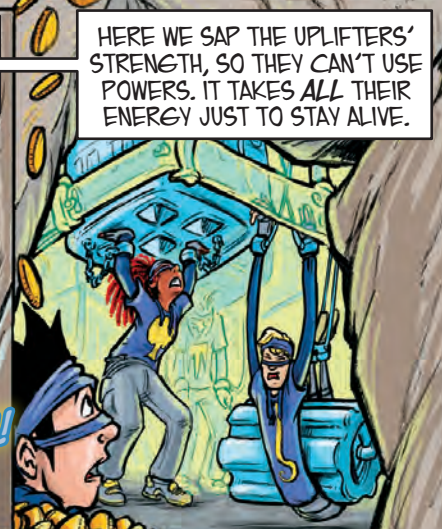
YOU WILL SERVE ME, OR I'LL BURY YOU!



UGH, GOLD IS SO... HEAVY. CAN'T... MOVE IT ALL.

I'M OPENING THE DUNGEON! DRAG HIM IN!

OOOOOSH!!



HERE WE SAP THE UPLIFTERS' STRENGTH, SO THEY CAN'T USE POWERS. IT TAKES ALL THEIR ENERGY JUST TO STAY ALIVE.

JUST OUTSIDE THE TUNNELS ...



OUR UPADS SHOULD WORK NOW! LET'S CALL FOR BACKUP.

I'M SO WORRIED ABOUT MY PARTNER, ARBOR!

WE'LL RESCUE THEM ALL, FLAME.



HQ, WE NEED BACKUP AT PROFESSOR PROWD'S LAIR!

ROGER THAT, LUNA! SENDING HELP. CAUTION - HE HAS POWER-BLOCKING TECH.



WHEN DO WE GET OUR SHARE OF GOLD?

SILENCE! YOU'LL GET IT WHEN I SAY YOU DO!



JJLJNNGGLE!

NOW ELIMINATE THE UPLIFTERS!

FINE! YOU WANT GOLD? I'LL GIVE YOU GOLD!

HEY—THAT WASN'T OUR DEAL—

WE'RE HACKERS, NOT THUGS.

FOOLS! I DON'T NEED ANY OF YOU. YOU'RE NOTHING!

WE'VE FOUND YOU, PROWD!

LUNA!

BE RIGHT THERE, BRO!

CAN YOU SEE WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR FLAME OF TRUTH?

THEY'RE MESMERIZED BY THE GOLD, LIKE A SICKNESS. AND THE GOLD IS ... FAKE!

HEY—LOOK HERE!

IT IS FAKE!

WHAAT? I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!

FLAME, CAN WE SHOW THE OTHERS?

I CAN ONLY SHOW ONE PERSON AT A TIME!

MY WAVE POWER MAY EXPAND IT. LET'S COMBINE POWERS!

OKAY, GRAB MY ARM!

OH, NO YOU DON'T!

I MADE THESE TO STOP ANY SUPERPOWER!

USE WATER TO DOUSE FLAME'S FIRE.

I'LL DISRUPT LUNA'S WAVE WITH AIR.

ARGH!

NO!

Enjoy every episode of *Lightning & Luna* in our iPad app, available for free download in the Apple App Store!

SHOGHI EFFENDI: Let Us Arise

Have you ever faced a responsibility that was so big, you felt like the weight of the world was on your shoulders?

As a young man, Shoghi Effendi felt like this when he became the leader of the Bahá'í community.

Shoghi Effendi was born on March 1, 1897, in 'Akká, Israel. He was raised in the home of his grandfather, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, who led the Bahá'í Faith after Bahá'u'lláh's passing. Shoghi Effendi's father was Mírzá Hádí Shírází, a descendant of the Báb. His mother was Díyá'íyyih Khánúm, 'Abdu'l-Bahá's eldest daughter.

As a boy, Shoghi Effendi was full of energy and curiosity. He had a deep bond with 'Abdu'l-Bahá, who was known as the Master.

When he was five, Shoghi Effendi asked 'Abdu'l-Bahá to write something for him. 'Abdu'l-Bahá wrote, "Now is not the time for you

to read and write, it is the time for jumping about and chanting . . . memorize the prayers . . . and chant them that I may hear them . . ."

From then on, Shoghi Effendi chanted prayers loudly enough to be heard throughout the neighborhood. When family asked him to be quieter, he said, "The Master wrote to me to chant that He may hear me! I am doing my best!"

In his teens, Shoghi Effendi went to the American University of Beirut in Lebanon. When not studying, he enjoyed mountain climbing, swimming, and soccer.

After graduating in 1918, some of Shoghi Effendi's happiest days were spent working as 'Abdu'l-Bahá's secretary. For about two years, he was at 'Abdu'l-Bahá's side day and night, often translating letters and conversations into English for Bahá'ís from the West. He wrote to

a friend, "What a dear and blessed spot to be privileged to live in!"

Legacy of Leadership

In 1920, Shoghi Effendi went to Oxford University in England. He was determined to learn all he could to serve the Faith.

The following year, his life changed dramatically. His beloved grandfather unexpectedly passed away. Devastated, Shoghi Effendi returned to Israel.

When the Master's will was read, Shoghi Effendi was shocked to learn that 'Abdu'l-Bahá had named him the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith. At about age 24, he was the leader of the global Bahá'í community.

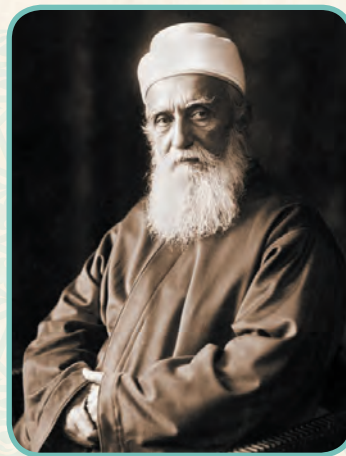
Faced with this immense responsibility, Shoghi Effendi retreated to the mountains of Switzerland to gain "health, strength, self-confidence and



March 1, 1897
Shoghi Effendi is born in 'Akká, Israel



1920-1921
Studies at Oxford University, England



November 28, 1921
Passing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá.
Shoghi Effendi becomes the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith



April-December, 1922
Retreat to the mountains of Switzerland

“How vast is the Revelation of Bahá’u’lláh! How great the magnitude of His blessings showered upon humanity in this day!” —Shoghi Effendi

spiritual energy.” He climbed and hiked, some days walking 25 miles (40 km). After eight months he returned home, feeling renewed.

Shoghi Effendi jumped into action and encouraged Bahá’ís to share the Faith around the globe. He wrote, “Let us arise to teach His Cause with righteousness, conviction, understanding and vigor . . . Let us scatter to the uttermost corners of the earth . . .”

Bahá’ís met with Shoghi Effendi and visited Bahá’í holy places. He inspired them and talked about the growth of the Faith. Under his leadership, countries and territories with Bahá’ís grew from 35 to 254.

One Bahá’í he met was Mary Maxwell, a young woman from Canada. They talked about the power of the Bahá’í teachings. Shoghi Effendi even taught her Persian calligraphy. In 1937, they were married. Shoghi Effendi gave his wife a new name—Amatu’l-Bahá

Rúhiyyih Khánum. He called her “my tireless collaborator.”

His Kind Heart

“He was fundamentally a very tender-hearted person” and expressed this kindness “in many ways,” Rúhiyyih Khánum said. He shared loving gifts and messages, and he gave financial help to the poor. In peaceful moments, he had “a delightful sense of humor” and his eyes would “dance with amusement.”

Shoghi Effendi had amazing energy and drive, working from early morning until late each night. He wrote thousands of letters and created plans for teaching the Faith worldwide. He sent messages to Bahá’í junior youth and signed them, “Your true brother, Shoghi.”

Shoghi Effendi envisioned plans for the Bahá’í World Centre, the spiritual and administrative heart

of the Faith, in Israel. Its focal point is the Shrine of the Báb. He asked his father-in-law, architect Sutherland Maxwell, to design a magnificent superstructure to surround the original shrine. It was completed in 1953.

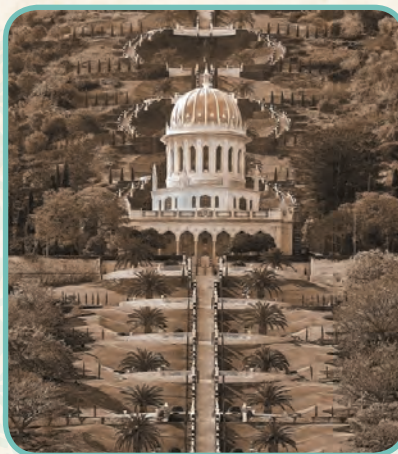
In 1957, Shoghi Effendi became ill during a trip to London, England. Then suddenly, on November 4, he passed away at age 60.

Bahá’ís gathered to honor the Guardian with prayers in many languages. His gravesite, near London, is a place of prayer and meditation.

In 1963, the national Bahá’í governing bodies of the world elected the first Universal House of Justice. Shoghi Effendi said that this nine-member council will enable the “light” of the Bahá’í Faith to “illumine the whole earth.” It is elected every five years to guide Bahá’ís in establishing global peace and justice.



March 25, 1937
Marriage to
Amatu’l-Bahá
Rúhiyyih Khánum



1953
Shrine of the Báb
completed on
Mount Carmel



November 4, 1957
Shoghi Effendi passes
away in London, England

April 1963
Election of the
first Universal
House of Justice

THE GUARDIAN'S CREATIVE SPIRIT

“No picture of Shoghi Effendi’s personality would ever be complete that did not depict the truly extraordinary artistic sense he possessed . . . He certainly had a painter’s and an architect’s eye.” —Amatu’l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánúm

Shoghi Effendi loved art and design. We can see this in his plans for the buildings and gardens of the Bahá’í World Centre in Israel. As the Shrine of the Báb was being built, he wrote, “My soul is thrilled in contemplation of . . . the beauty of its design, the majesty of its proportions, the loveliness of its surroundings . . .”

As a writer, the Guardian was inspired by poetry. If

a passage of literature was particularly soul-stirring, he would recite it out loud. He also drew maps to track the growth of the Bahá’í Faith around the world. Map-making combined his attention to detail and his creativity.

Shoghi Effendi encouraged everyone to explore the visual arts, poetry, and music. How do *you* like to express your creativity?

Explore your creativity with these activities inspired by Shoghi Effendi’s artistic spirit.

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP IN 3D



Gather small empty boxes, bottle caps, cardboard tubes, and other recyclables. On a large piece of cardboard, draw the streets in your neighborhood. Create buildings with markers, colored paper, and the other materials. Attach them with tape or glue.

RADIANT GARDENS

Design a garden diorama. Cover a shoebox in colored paper. Then use paper and clay to make fountains, flowers, ponds, or trees. Add pebbles, leaves, or twigs. Make paper butterflies and other creatures.

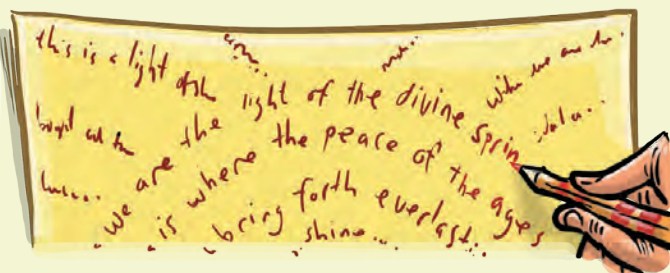


DESIGNS FOR DEVOTION

A Bahá’í Temple is circular and has nine sides and nine gardens with walkways. Design your own, thinking about the windows, doors, fountains, and details. Draw your idea, build it with LEGO bricks, or sculpt it from clay.



POWERFUL POETRY



Draw a shape from nature, such as a tree, a bird, or the sun. Along the outline, write words that express your feelings about it. Use markers to add details.

Shoghi Effendi's Guidance



Can you imagine writing 26,000 letters? Shoghi Effendi wrote this many letters to guide Bahá'ís around the world. In 1938, he sent an inspiring letter to the Bahá'ís of the U.S. and Canada. Known as

The Advent of Divine Justice,

it urged them to develop virtues needed for the arrival (or advent) of a peaceful world.

In this letter, Shoghi Effendi called racial prejudice “the most vital and challenging issue” facing the Bahá'ís. In the southern U.S., by law, black and white people had separate schools, restaurants, parks, and other public places. Interracial marriage was illegal.

To combat this injustice, Shoghi Effendi urged building unity with “genuine love, extreme patience, true humility” and “prayerful effort.” Bahá'ís responded by working to defeat prejudice. Such work for social justice continues around the world today. How do you help to create unity and friendship in your community?

Search for 19 virtues that Shoghi Effendi mentioned in *The Advent of Divine Justice*. Look forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally.

E	W	Q	Z	M	A	H	F	M	R	D	E	Z	Y	S
W	W	N	I	S	K	Q	E	O	X	X	V	C	Y	S
K	I	P	Y	W	I	S	A	D	Y	T	I	U	Q	E
E	S	V	I	C	O	O	P	E	R	A	T	I	O	N
C	D	H	Q	B	L	U	F	R	E	Y	A	R	P	I
I	O	S	H	F	Q	J	A	A	S	N	I	O	A	H
V	M	U	E	Y	R	S	A	T	C	A	T	Q	S	T
R	O	K	R	Y	T	I	L	E	B	A	I	L	E	R
E	P	P	I	A	T	N	E	O	E	U	N	R	C	O
S	L	M	T	C	G	C	D	N	V	Z	I	C	N	W
J	U	S	T	I	C	E	S	H	D	E	R	V	E	T
J	Z	S	Q	N	M	R	A	M	V	S	Q	Y	I	S
F	K	Y	D	Y	T	I	L	E	M	U	H	O	T	U
W	H	D	T	D	Y	T	S	E	N	O	H	I	A	R
H	E	U	R	R	C	Y	B	M	D	Z	J	W	P	T

COOPERATION
COURAGE
EQUITY
FRIENDSHIP
HONESTY
HUMILITY
INITIATIVE

JUSTICE
LOVE
MODERATION
OPTIMISM
PATIENCE
PRAYERFUL
RELIABILITY
SERVICE

SINCERITY
TACT

TRUSTWORTHINESS
WISDOM

Colorful Community: Make a Family & Friends Tree

“All may be seen to be the parts of the same tree – the great tree of the human family.” –‘Abdu’l-Bahá

My global community of bugs is super diverse! Scientists know of about a million different kinds of incredible insects in the world. From green to yellow and orange to blue, our different skin and glow colors make us even more brilliant!

I love that humans have different skin colors, too. It would be so dull if everyone looked the same. And you know what’s

amazing? Even though people come in various shapes, sizes, and colors, their genes are really 99.9% identical to each other!

When more people understand that there’s only one human family, it will be easier for everyone to get along and live in peace. A fun way to spread unity is by sharing arts and crafts. Here’s a cool pop-up card you can create to express how your community is connected!



You'll Need

- 8" square (20.3 cm) and 2" x 4" (5.1 x 10.2 cm) white poster board
- 11" x 14" (27.9 x 35.6 cm) colored poster board
- clear tape
- pencil
- colorful paper
- scissors
- small photos or drawings of family and friends
- ruler
- markers
- brown paint
- tacky glue
- paintbrush
- stickers (optional)

- 1 Fold square poster board in half. Along fold, draw half a tree trunk about 4" x 1½" (10.2 x 3.8 cm). At trunk's top, starting next to fold, add branches that extend off page. Or, get a template on *Brilliant Star's* website.* Cut out tree.

- 2 Cut 1" (2.5 cm) off trunk's bottom to make stump. Paint tree and stump brown. Let dry. Repeat on back.





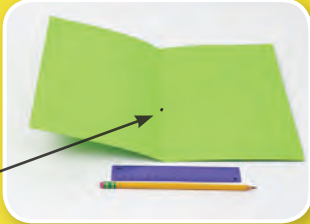
3 (a) On back of stump, cut 1" x 1/2" tall (2.5 x 1.3 cm) triangle from center of stump's base. Fold tabs up so creases meet triangle's tip. (b) Glue front of stump's top fold to back of trunk's base. Recrease all folds of tree.



7 Glue photos or drawings of family and friends onto construction paper shapes. Make sure card can close without photos folding or poking out.



4 Fold large poster board in half so shorter edges meet, and open it. Make a dot in center, 4 1/2" (11.4 cm) from bottom edge.



8 (a) To make a sign, fold small poster board in half so short edges touch. Unfold and cut 1" x 1/2" tall (2.5 x 1.3 cm) triangle from center of base. Fold tabs up so creases meet triangle's tip. (b) With sign partly unfolded and its back side facing tree's front, completely glue tabs so sign's center stands up on card's crease. Reinforce tabs with tape.

5 With tree partly unfolded and its back side facing you, completely glue tabs so tree's center stands up on dot when card opens. Reinforce tabs with tape.



6 Cut ends of branches into points. Cut small leaves from paper and glue them to fronts of branches. Make sure branches don't extend past card's edges when closed.



9 Add paper grass. Use paper cutouts, markers, or stickers to decorate card. Invite friends to sign it and write a message.



RADIANT STARS

Getting to know kids who shine

Connect with kids around the world!
How are they like you? How are they different? Each of us has a unique story to tell. What's yours?

Bayan B.

Age: **10**

I live in: **California, U.S.**

I want to be:
Doctor (radiologist)

This career interests me because:
I can use technology to help sick people.

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Junior youth service projects

Three qualities of a happy community:
Members are considerate of each other. Everyone feels included. It's ... clean and beautiful ...



A hero or role model:
'Abdu'l-Bahá

Place I'd love to visit:
Antarctica

To make a new kid feel welcome, I'd:
"Look 'em in the eye and say 'Hi!'" (just like Red Grammer says)* and then ask them to come play

To stop prejudice and build unity, kids can:
Listen to what's happening in the world and try to put yourself in someone else's shoes.

If I could invent an ice cream flavor to encourage unity, it would be:
U.I.T.C. (Unity in the Community). It comes in a two-pack to share. If you both agree on the flavor, it would be that flavor. If not, it would be a terrible flavor.

Sasha M.

Age: **13**

I live in:
San José, Costa Rica

I want to be:
Artist or pilot

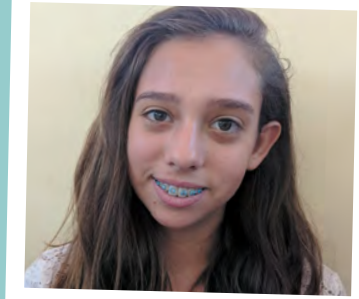
This career interests me because:
I love art, I love drawing, and I also love airplanes.

Virtue I admire most:
Honesty

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Participating in my junior youth groups

Three qualities of a happy community:
Mutual trust, acceptance, unity

To make a new kid feel welcome, I'd:
Sit next to him or her, ask questions ... [and] introduce my friends



A hero or role model:
Malala Yousafzai

To build family unity:
When I tell people my opinions, I try not to offend them ...

To stop prejudice and build unity, kids can:
I think ignorance is the source of prejudice. Maybe if people were more educated about other people's views and made an effort to get to know people of all cultures ... there would be more understanding.



Roya S.

Age: **12**

I live in: **New York, U.S.**

I want to be:
Interior designer or professional swimmer

This career interests me because:
I love designing creative things and I love swimming.

Virtue I admire most:
Patience

Favorite animal or pet:
Bunnies

Place I'd love to visit:
Paris, France

Favorite books:
Harry Potter series

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Junior youth [group] and summer school

A favorite food: **Adas Polo [Persian rice with lentils]**

Three qualities of a happy community:
Unity, generosity, and friendliness

An activity that created unity and joy:
School plays ... my friends did it with me, and we had a lot of fun.

To build family unity:
I'm kind.

To make a new kid feel welcome, I'd:
Invite them to come hang out with me

To stop prejudice and build unity, kids can:
Teach others

Ryan P.

Age: 10

I live in: **Pennsylvania, U.S.**

I want to be: **Author, actor**

This career interests me because:

I like acting . . . and I like writing and drawing and reading books.

Virtue I admire most: **Loyalty**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Pilgrimage**

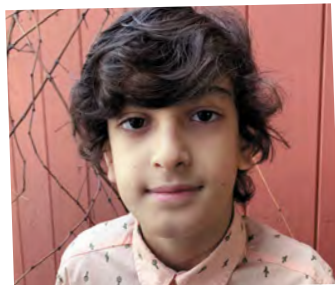
Place I'd love to visit: **Iran**

A hero or role model: **My dad**

To make a new kid feel welcome, I'd: **Show them around, [be] kind to them, invite them to play . . .**

An activity that created unity and joy: **Every year, my whole school has a cancer donation, and the people who have cancer will be happy [to] . . . see that people care.**

If I could invent an ice cream flavor to encourage unity, it would be: **I would make a flavor called "Kindness" . . . strawberry mixed with vanilla and Pop Rocks . . . [It] would give a loving and warm feeling.**



Zaynab A.

Age: 10

I live in: **Maryland, U.S.**

I want to be: **A teacher or a librarian**

This career interests me because:

I love learning and I love reading books.

Virtue I admire most: **Honesty**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Catocin Ecology Camp [in Maryland] and Ayyám-i-Há* . . .**

Place I'd love to visit: **Japan**

A hero or role model: **My third grade teacher, Mrs. Lee**

Three qualities of a happy community: **Kindness, responsibility, and respect**

An activity that created unity and joy: **We chose items to donate to refugees as part of a service project after a devotional gathering.**

To stop prejudice and build unity, kids can: **Work together and respect each other**

If I could invent an ice cream flavor to encourage unity, it would be: **Rainbow of Unity. It would taste like your top three favorite flavors.**



"God has crowned you with honor and in your hearts has He set a radiant star; verily the light thereof shall brighten the whole world!" — 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Amina G.

Age: 11

I live in: **Illinois, U.S.**

I want to be: **Singer/actress**

This career interests me because:

I really love to sing and want to keep singing in the future.

Virtue I admire most: **Trust**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Singing our prayers**

Favorite animal or pet: **Animal is zebra, pet is cat**

Place I'd love to visit: **Mexico**

Three qualities of a happy community: **Unity, trust, and cooperation**

To build family unity, I: **Do talking sessions [with my family] so we can all tell each other how we feel**



A hero or role model: **My dad. He has a million things to do but still has time to be with me and pick me up [or] drop me off at places.**

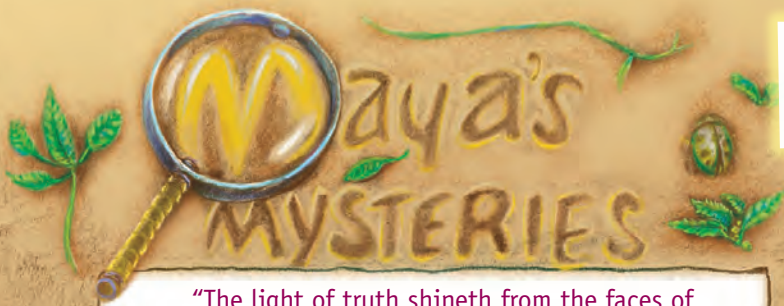
To stop prejudice and build unity, kids can: **We all come from different backgrounds, and with that we can tell our community to come and meet the others halfway.**

If I could invent an ice cream flavor to encourage unity, it would be: **DIVERSE is what I'd call it. It would taste like all of the ice cream flavors/textures mixed together.**

How to be a Radiant Star:

1. If you're age 7-14, go to www.brilliantstarmagazine.org. From the top menu, choose "Discover." Then click "Become a Radiant Star or Trailblazer," and fill out the form. Or e-mail us at brilliant@usbnc.org. Include your name, age, birth date, mailing address, and phone number.
2. When it's your turn to shine, we'll send you questions and a form for you and your parents to sign.
3. Answer the questions and send them to us with the signed form, along with at least two good-quality, close-up photographs of your smiling face. Photos should be in sharp focus and show your eyes clearly. Please don't send color copies, low-resolution digital images, or copyright-protected images (like school portraits).

* Ayyám-i-Há is a festival of hospitality, charity, gift giving, and preparing for the Bahá'í Fast.



THIS TALKING STICK HELPED US LISTEN!



"The light of truth shineth from the faces of those who engage in consultation." —Abdu'l-Bahá

TACTFUL TALKING TOOL

We got a new puppy today! He's a Bernese Mountain Dog and so cute! It was tough deciding who would feed and walk him, though. My little brother and sister started arguing and woke the puppy from his nap. Then I got an idea! I ran into my room and brought out my talking stick.

Okay, it doesn't really "talk," but a talking stick is a cool communication tool that's been used by

some American Indian tribes for centuries. Only the person holding the talking stick can speak, and everyone else listens closely. Then they pass the stick to others, one at a time. Everyone shares ideas.

The talking stick helped me and my siblings remember that God wants us to show respect, equality, and oneness. We agreed on a schedule to take turns caring for the puppy. And we chose a name: Pinecone!

MAKE YOUR OWN TALKING STICK

You'll Need: A thick, smooth stick • acrylic paint • brushes • colorful string or yarn • scissors • beads • felt (optional)

- 1 Paint stick with colors, designs, and words that express your hopes for the conversation. In some American Indian tribes, an eagle represents truth, power, and grace, and the color green symbolizes nature, harmony, and healing. Add virtues like respect and peace.



- 2 When dry, tie colorful string or yarn around stick. Continue wrapping it around in a band of color. Cut string, leaving a long end. Tie a knot around stick to secure string.

- 3 Add beads to end of string and tie a knot to secure them. If you wish, add felt and more strings with beads.



TIPS FOR TACTFUL TALKS

- Speak from your heart with positivity and avoid criticizing others.
- Listen to the person with the talking stick without interrupting. Try to understand their point of view.
- Keep an open mind and focus on learning from the group.
- It's okay if you disagree with others. Share your thoughts with courtesy. Try finding things you all agree on.
- If a decision needs to be made, ask each person to vote on a solution. Everyone supports the idea with the most votes.



Master Your Mindbugs

Did you know you have a buggy brain? We all do. Our mental habits or “mindbugs” can trick us into treating people unfairly based on their race, religion, gender, or other qualities.

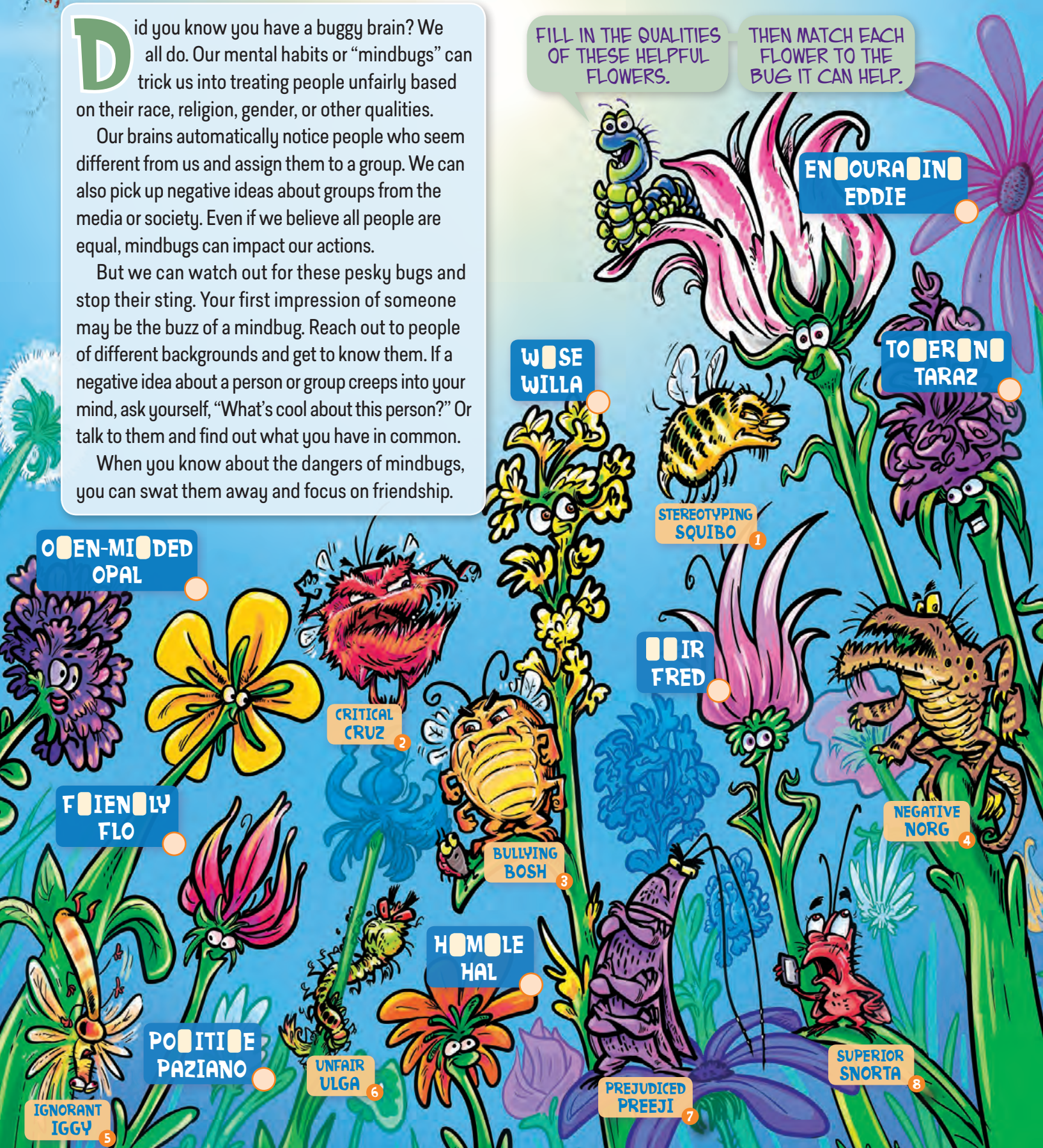
Our brains automatically notice people who seem different from us and assign them to a group. We can also pick up negative ideas about groups from the media or society. Even if we believe all people are equal, mindbugs can impact our actions.

But we can watch out for these pesky bugs and stop their sting. Your first impression of someone may be the buzz of a mindbug. Reach out to people of different backgrounds and get to know them. If a negative idea about a person or group creeps into your mind, ask yourself, “What’s cool about this person?” Or talk to them and find out what you have in common.

When you know about the dangers of mindbugs, you can swat them away and focus on friendship.

FILL IN THE QUALITIES OF THESE HELPFUL FLOWERS.

THEN MATCH EACH FLOWER TO THE BUG IT CAN HELP.



WISE
WILLA

ENOURA
EDDIE

TOERIN
TARAZ

WISE
WILLA

STEREOTYPING
SQUIBO

IR
FRED

EN-MIDED
OPAL

CRITICAL
CRUZ

NEGATIVE
NORG

FIENLY
FLO

BULLYING
BOSH

HOMOLE
HAL

POSITIE
PAZIANO

UNFAIR
ULGA

PREJUDICED
PREEJI

SUPERIOR
SNORTA

IGNORANT
IGGY

Eric Dozier



"I was surrounded by music," says Eric Dozier of his early years. He started learning the piano at his dad's side at age four. He sang and played the piano with his family at the local Baptist church in rural Tennessee, U.S. Singing was a way of life.

Eric grew passionate about how to create unified communities. He got a bachelor's degree in public policy and a master's degree in religion, then became a mentor for youth. In time, he focused on the role of music in society. He worked with the World Famous Harlem Gospel Choir and cofounded One Human Family Music Workshops.

Today, Eric uses music to bring people together and teach them about the oneness of humanity. He travels the globe leading choirs and empowering creativity. He also helps to create a diverse culture at the Episcopal School of Nashville, while completing a doctorate degree in black gospel performance. He and his family live in Tennessee.

Q: What's your favorite childhood memory?

A: We had a toy piano . . . and my dad would put this record on . . . "Broadway Boogie," and I would just bang on the piano . . . [Later] I remember my dad coming up the driveway with a real piano on the back of my grandfather's truck . . . He starts playing . . . and I was just amazed . . . so I sat up next to him and watched his hands, and that's how I learned how to play.

Q: What was the most challenging experience for you as a kid?

A: My parents splitting up when I was about 12 . . . That was tough for me, had a really big impact on my life . . . I was also about to start a new school . . . That was a big time of transition.

Q: What inspired you to become a music educator?

A: For me . . . music has always been a means of maintaining and carrying forward community . . . It was never . . . just a performance practice. It was always for a greater purpose . . . I've always kind of aspired that my music be useful . . . Music and vision . . . help the community to grow and mature spiritually.

Q: What motivated you to become a Bahá'í?

A: I grew up learning about the oneness of humanity . . . The hope for the realization of the oneness of humanity is embedded in black culture . . . in black music . . . in black spirituality . . . in every aspect of who we are . . . I was prepared to meet the Bahá'ís and the Bahá'í Faith by the vision that was planted inside of me because of my family . . . It was like, well, of course, this is what the world should be like.



Eric's whole family was musical, and at age 4, he'd already begun learning to play the piano by watching his dad.

Questions and
Answers with an
Inspirational Bahá'í



Q: This issue of *Brilliant Star* is about building unified communities. What are three things kids can do to help?

A: They need to understand how their communities operate . . . get involved . . . [Second,] use their imaginations, and don't believe that just because they don't see something in the world, that it can't be in the world. They . . . have great capacity to imagine a better world, and they also possess the energy to bring it into existence . . . And third . . . really cultivate a thirst for learning . . . realize that learning does not only come from books or computers . . . You don't just learn with your mind . . . You know through your senses . . . through your intuition, you learn through meditating . . . gardening . . . singing . . . dancing—all of these different things. Keep an open mind and understand that knowledge can come from a multiplicity of places . . .

Top: Eric leads the Victoria, Canada, chapter of the One Human Family Workshop Choir in February 2017. The choir has chapters around the U.S. and Canada.
Bottom: Singing is a joy that Eric shares with his wife, Genevieve, and daughters Worthington (left) and Justice, at a 2017 Bahá'í school in Wisconsin.

Q: The prejudice and disunity in the world can be discouraging. How do you stay optimistic?

A: We have to search for signs of light . . . There is a lot of beauty in the world, and there are a lot of people—and a lot of young people specifically—that are doing great things in the world . . . Search out these young people and use them as role models.

Q: You use the power of music to promote healing, justice, and racial reconciliation. How can music help us in these areas?

A: Music has always had a power to raise awareness about particular societal issues in a highly effective way, probably more so than any other art form . . . If you think about . . . group singing, we all have to be kind of pointed in the same direction for it to work . . . There's also . . . the lyrical content, particularly for singing about justice . . . That does have an impact on people's spirit . . . it really releases a force into the world.

Q: If you had one wish for *Brilliant Star's* readers, what would it be?

A: I will kind of take my experience with my [daughters] . . . What I really want for my children is I want them to see the world as their family and . . . their home . . . I want them to see themselves as . . . friends and family to the whole human race . . . That's my wish for . . . our young people, you know, because the world is theirs. It does belong to them.

SHINING LAMP

A Bahá'í who served humanity with radiance

Amoz Gibson (1918-1982)



When Amoz Gibson was growing up in Washington, D.C., he often walked to Bahá'í meetings with his dad. Amoz held his hand and listened to him talk about the Universal House of Justice, the council of nine people that would one day be elected to guide the Bahá'í community. He used such glowing words that Amoz never imagined the Universal House of Justice would exist in his lifetime. He certainly didn't know that one day *he* would serve on it himself.

Born in 1918, Amoz had a diverse heritage, including Creek Indian, African American, and Scotch-Irish family members. His father, William Gibson, was a minister who studied various religions. After he attended a Bahá'í meeting in 1912, William and his wife, Deborah, immediately became Bahá'ís.

Amoz attended Bahá'í children's classes as a kid. He lived during an incredible time of growth for the Bahá'í community. When he was young, the Faith was only in about 35 countries. By the time he was 40, it reached over 200 countries and territories.

In 1950, Amoz and his wife, Mary, moved to Mexico with their children. They enjoyed getting to know people and sharing the Faith while Amoz earned his master's degree in geography.

Pioneers to Navajo Land

In 1953, the leader and Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith, Shoghi Effendi, encouraged Bahá'ís to move to new places to share the Faith with others. Amoz and Mary decided to move to the Navajo reservation in Arizona and New Mexico. Amoz asked friends, "Please pray for us that we may become God's instruments here in Navajo land for His purposes."

He and Mary taught at a school in the middle of the reservation, *150 miles* from the nearest town. The roads were unpaved and often dangerous. They spoke a different language than some students. Still, Amoz and Mary were happy and began making friends.

Amoz visited and encouraged people all over the reservation. He asked Bahá'ís to help friends become "shining stars" through love and encouragement and praise . . ." In 1957, a woman named Sadye Joe became the first Navajo to join the Faith. Amoz was filled with joy as the Bahá'í community began to grow.

One of the First Nine

Amoz was elected to the U.S. National Spiritual Assembly, which guides the American Bahá'í community. In 1963, all National Spiritual Assemblies gathered in Haifa, Israel, to elect the first Universal House of Justice. Imagine Amoz's surprise when he was elected to serve as one of the nine members!

He and his family moved to Israel. He loved caring for Bahá'í buildings and holy places, inspecting every corner and making sure they would last for years to come. He always continued to share the Faith, writing to his friends on the Navajo reservation and traveling around the world.

After dancing at a powwow attended by hundreds of indigenous Bahá'ís, Amoz urged them to meet difficulties by remembering "all of the beautiful faces beaming with the light enkindled in our hearts by the special favor of the bounty of God . . . the Most Great Spirit who watches over all."

In 1980, Amoz was diagnosed with cancer. He passed away in 1982 at age 63. The Universal House of Justice praised his "CONSTANT SERVICE FOUNDED ON ROCKLIKE STAUNCHNESS . . ."

Treetop Community



Great blue herons are truly great! They're the largest herons in North America and can be 4 feet (1.2 m) tall with a wingspan of 6 feet (1.8 m). From North America to Central America, the Caribbean, and the Galapagos Islands, you might see dozens gathered in trees, like giant flowers. Herons nest in colonies of up to several hundred pairs. Males and females work together to build their nests and protect the young.

Sometimes other kinds of wading birds join the colony.

There are about 60 species of herons in many sizes and colors. Like our feathered friends, humans thrive when we support each other and cooperate in harmony. We can celebrate our different sizes, colors, and styles. As you wing your way through life, have fun reaching out to diverse people. We're all human. Diversity of color is only skin—or feather—deep.

Find 29 great blue herons in this Florida marsh.



WHAT DO BIRDS FOLLOW MOST ON THE INTERNET?

THE FEATHER FORECAST!



DOWN

ACROSS

1. Differences can be challenging. Be _____ and focus on people's positive qualities. (p. 3)
6. As a boy, Shoghi Effendi was full of energy and _____. (p. 14)
9. Male and female _____ work together to build their nests and protect the young. (p. 27)
10. A way to search for truth, discuss ideas, and make decisions with unity (p. 8)
12. No matter where we live or how we look, we're all _____ souls. (p. 2)
13. Human activity, like burning fossil fuels, leads to _____ change. (p. 11)
14. Shoghi Effendi wrote an inspiring letter about building peace called *The Advent of Divine* _____. (p. 17)

2. We can bring _____ and love to the world through service, prayer, and fellowship. (p. 6)
3. Swat away "mindbugs" so you can focus on _____. (p. 23)
4. _____, carbon, and nitrogen were created in the cores of stars. (p. 4)
5. Eric Dozier says we should cultivate a thirst for _____. (p. 25)
7. People's genes are 99.9% _____ to each other! (p. 18)
8. Like dropping a pebble in a tide pool, your _____ can start a flow of kindness that ripples out to reach many others. (p. 9)
9. Sasha and Zaynab admire this virtue most. (pp. 20-21)
11. Amoz and Mary Gibson taught at a school on a _____ reservation. (p. 26)

FROM OUR MAILBOX



Brilliant Star has interesting facts. Also it makes me feel like a brilliant star, which is what it is supposed to do. It helps me remember that **Brilliant Star** is here to make me feel close to God.
 —Kian S., age 11, Michigan, U.S.

ANSWERS

KEY: T=Top, C=Center, B=Bottom, L=Left, R=Right

- Page 2: 1) unity, 2) respect, 3) Listen, 4) unique, 5) positive, 6) justice, 7) learn, 8) cultures
- Page 3: Compassion, courtesy, encourage, friendly, generosity, optimism, reliable, tactful, trustworthy
- Page 4: 1) patience, 2) peace, 3) respect, 4) love, 5) humility, 6) honesty, 7) sincere, 8) grateful, 9) courage, 10) kindness
- Page 10: 1) fun, 2) passionate, 3) creative, 4) Practice, 5) patient, 6) Listen, 7) include, 8) positive, 9) Reflect, 10) thanks
- Page 11: India, Honey bees
- Page 23: 1) Open-Minded Opal, 2) Encouraging Eddie, 3) Friendly Flo, 4) Positive Pazioano, 5) Wise Willa, 6) Fair Fred, 7) Tolerant Taraz, 8) Humble Hal
- Page 27: 1 at far TR, 5 at TL, 6 at TC, 7 at TR, 3 at CL, 1 at C, 4 at CR, 2 at BC

BUILDING BRIDGES

“Let us join together to hasten forward the Divine Cause of unity, until all humanity knows itself to be one family, joined together in love.” —‘Abdu’l-Bahá

When you walk into an event where you don’t know anyone, it can be scary and a bit lonely. It warms your heart when someone smiles and walks over to talk with you.

Being friendly to people of all races and backgrounds, treating others with respect, and sharing what you have are all acts of kindness that build bridges to people’s hearts.

Maybe you can welcome a new student to your school,

invite your neighbors over for dinner, or help out at a food bank. You can do something every day to make connections and strengthen bonds with family and friends.

It’s not always easy. We all have distinct personalities and opinions. Sometimes conflicts will pop up, causing bumps in the road. But with compassion, patience, and understanding, you can help create paths to a joyful, thriving community.

To reach Harmony Heights, you must cross the areas marked with a * by placing one plank over each gap. You can only make *three* plank bridges!

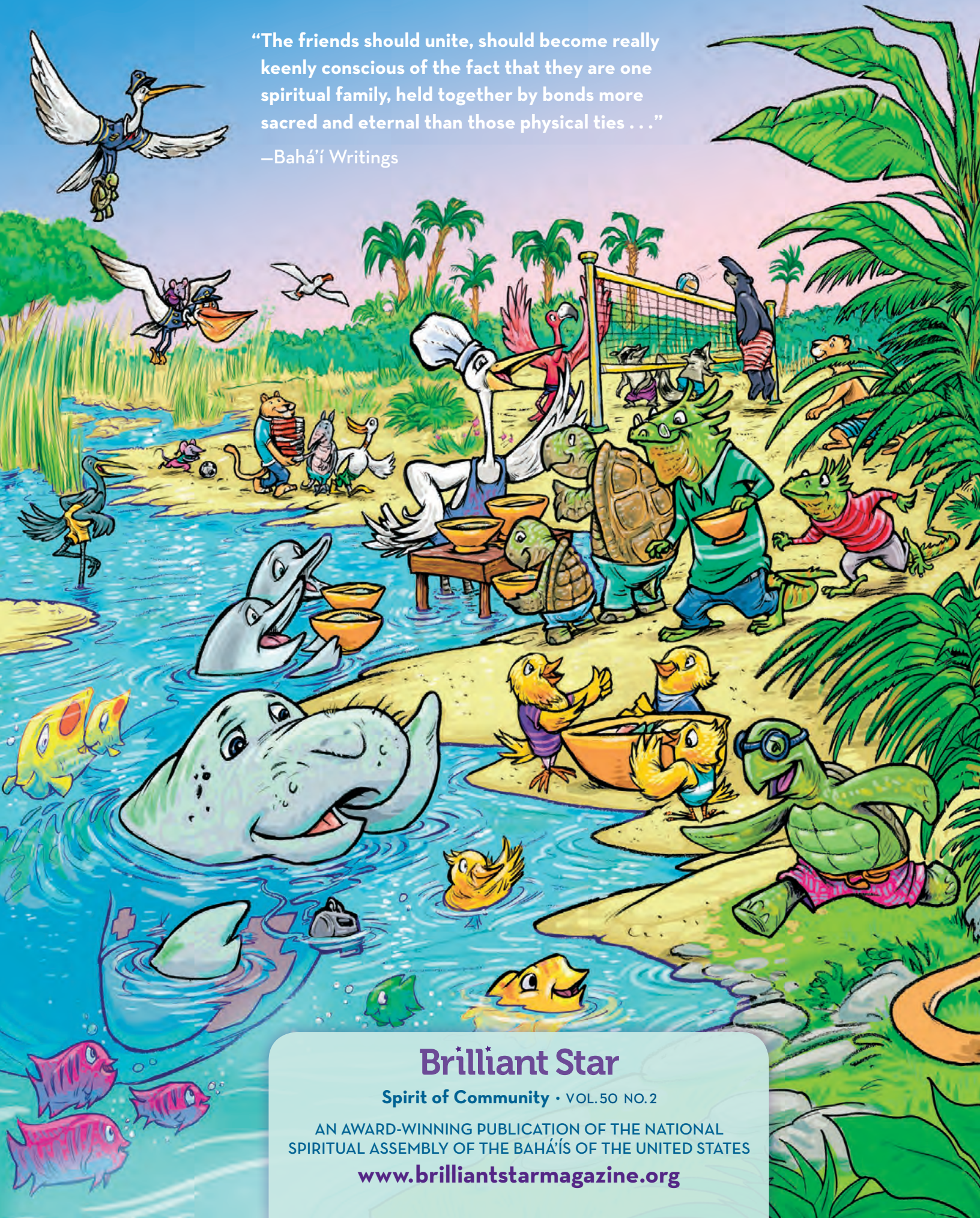
HARMONY HEIGHTS

START



“The friends should unite, should become really keenly conscious of the fact that they are one spiritual family, held together by bonds more sacred and eternal than those physical ties . . .”

—Bahá'í Writings



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