

GATHER WITH LOVE

The sunny summer season brings backyard barbecues, nature hikes, and bike rides under blue skies. It's a great time to connect with your family or neighbors and strengthen bonds of friendship. You might invite them to a devotional meeting, children's class, junior youth group, or Bahá'í summer school. You could do community service together. Or just hang out and build neighborhood unity. Try these activities to have fun and spark meaningful conversations!

HEART ART

Paint a bright mix of paint on paper. When dry, cut the paper into heart shapes and glue them to a blank card.

Include a Bahá'í quote, such as "Concentrate all the thoughts of your heart on love and unity." Or write your own message of love and kindness. Give it to a friend or neighbor to lift their spirits.



NAME GAME

Gather slips of paper, and write on each the name of a real or fictional person. For ideas from Bahá'í history, go to brilliantstarmagazine.org and search "Shining Lamps." Put the slips in a bowl.

Form two teams. One person takes a slip and has 30 seconds to help their team guess the name. They give any clues except the name itself. If their team guesses, they choose another slip. If not, they put it back, and the bowl goes to the other team. Which team can guess the most names?



SNAPSHOT STORIES

At your gathering, ask everyone to bring a photo of a happy memory (in print or digital form). Each person has two minutes to show their photo to the group and tell the story behind it.

When time is up, the group talks about virtues they noticed in the story or asks questions to get to know the storyteller better. The storyteller then chooses the next person to share.



PIECE IT TOGETHER

Cut 10" x 10" puzzle pieces out of card stock. Make enough for everyone in your group. Using markers, each person decorates a piece with something they love about their community, an activity they enjoy together, or an idea for building unity. Then work together to arrange the pieces into a community mural.

