
EUROPEAN PUBLIC INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Youth Interviewed on Slovenian Television

An interview with two youth on a year of service in Slovenia has been aired on the country's national television.

Joshua Lynch and Daniel Gardner, from the United States and Canada were asked about their experiences and period of service. The interview can be viewed at the address: <http://www.rtv slo.si/duhovniutrip/arhiv.php> and by clicking on "20.10".

Joshua Lynch also travelled to take part in a book fair in Italy on 23 October 2005, where he gave a presentation on the Slovenian Bahá'í community's children's classes. Bahá'ís from Venice had a booth at the fair with materials and gave presentations on a newly released book about Bahá'u'lláh and His revelation.

(For further information please contact the Regional Spiritual Assembly of Slovenia-Croatia)

Netherlands: Interfaith Collaborations

Last September a major interfaith gathering was held in The Hague. Among the attendants in the Grand Church were Ministers of the Cabinet, Members of the Parliament, Members of the Council of State, religious leaders, and interested others. Ms. Nadie Reyhani represented the Bahá'í Faith. She chanted from the Hidden Words "O Children of Men! Know ye not why We created you all from the same dust?"

Every year at "Prinsjesdag", held on the third Tuesday of September, the Dutch monarch, currently Queen Beatrix, addresses a joint session of the Lower House of Parliament and the Senate in the historic 'Hall of Knights' at The Hague. Traditionally, a Christian religious service was held before the official ceremony. For half a decade, the Local Interfaith Council of The Hague organizes this event at which Jews, Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Bahá'ís and Humanists participate.

After the religious service, a Catholic Organization called Justitia et Pax Netherlands handed out the booklet "Act Now for the Millennium Development Goals" to the participants, including members of Parliament and religious leaders. The booklet compiles 18 messages from Pope John Paul II, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, H.R.H. Prince El-Hassan of Jordan, and the Bahá'í International Community.

(For further information please contact the National

Spiritual Assembly of the Netherlands)

Bahá'í Joins Panellists at UN Event

The Bahá'í community of Nancy, France, took part in a celebration for the UN International Day of Peace on 25 September 2005, organised by the Committee for Non-Violence and Peace in Lorraine within the framework of the UN Decade of Peace.

The day was organised around artistic and musical presentations, workshops and forums, with 30 association booths.

Esther Zana-Nau from Luxembourg took part in a round table discussion on "Different Approaches to Peace," alongside Catholic, Protestant, Muslim and Atheist representatives. In response to the question: "What represents peace in your Faith?" Mrs. Zana-Nau spoke with conviction and clarity about the principles in the Bahá'í Faith. Contacts were made for future inter-religious activities in the region.

(For further information please contact the National Spiritual Assembly of France)

Teacher Introduces School Project

A home-front pioneer working as teacher in a high school in Madeira has been given permission to use a project based on human rights and citizenship in his classes.

The educational project was approved by the school's governing board in the very conservative and traditionally Catholic town of Ribeira Brava.

The theme of his educational project is "The earth is but one country and mankind its citizens."

(For further information please contact the National Spiritual Assembly of Portugal)

Slovenian Magazine Article

An article written by Bahá'ís about the Bahá'í Faith has appeared in a Slovenian magazine with a distribution of 3,500 copies.

The two and a half page-long article by Tomaz Bojc and Aleksandra Zibelnik-Badii was published in the May issue of the magazine "Karma," with information on the principles, central Figures and activities of the Bahá'í community.

(For further information please contact the Regional Spiritual Assembly of Slovenia-Croatia)

Centre Hosts Interfaith Event

An intercultural and inter-religious event with music and prayers was organised at the Bahá'í Centre in Nice, France for World Religion Day.

Representatives attended from the five principal religions on the Côte d'Azur. Present were Mr. Claude Layani, a former Rabbi and Jewish Officiate, Mrs. Isabelle Bonbal, representing "Ripga," the Association of Tibetan Buddhists and Mr. Guy Terrance, the General Vicar of the Bishop of Nice and the former Ecclesiastical Counsellor at the French Embassy in the Vatican. Mrs. Djida Kahia, the Cultural President of the Association France-Algeria, read a selection of the Koran affirming the veneration of Islam by Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary, followed by an Islamic prayer recited by Mr. Mustapha Debieb, the vice-president of the same association.

Mr. Eric Louvet, a member of the National Spiritual Assembly of France, represented the Bahá'í Community. Prayers for peace and selections of the Bahá'í Writings were recited and the Bahá'ís commented on the oneness of God and the principle of progressive revelation.

The French choir Patchwork, with singers of all ages and nationalities, performed at the event, followed by the Russian Orthodox vocal ensemble Metel-Nizza.

(For further information please contact the National Spiritual Assembly of France)

Company Earns Ethical Award

The German plant of global electronics manufacturing services company Elcoteq received, on 21 October 2005, the International Spirit at Work Award 2005.

"We are very happy to receive this award. During the past two years we have been able to demonstrate that implementing a more humane value system has a positive impact also on our day-to-day operations," said German

Bahá'í Rüdiger Fox, general manager of Elcoteq Offenburg.

The International Spirit at Work organization is the only global organization dedicated to honouring companies that have implemented explicit spiritual practices, policies or programs inside their organizations.

Elcoteq Offenburg successfully increased employee job satisfaction and enhanced community relations, for instance, by expanding apprenticeship and trainee programs.

(For further information please visit <http://www.spiritatwork.com/awards/willisharman/pressrelease.html>)

Bahá'í Organisation and Participation in Inter-Religious Education Conference

From 21 to 23 October 2005, six Bahá'í representatives from France took part in a highly interesting conference about inter-religious education, hosted by the GNRC (Global Network of Religions for Children). The conference, focusing on the promotion of ethical education, was organized in collaboration with the Bahá'í International Community's Office of Public Information in Paris. Six religions were represented at the conference, with the goal of exchanging experiences and ideas. The participants were comprised a range of children, youth and adults, including two youth from the French Bahá'í Community.

On Saturday 22 October 2005, the National Bahá'í Centre in Paris hosted an evening for all of the participants, welcoming over 40 guests. The Paris Bahá'í youth animated the evening through a series of dances by the Diversity Dance Workshop. The successful reception allowed these participants to interact and develop bonds of friendship.

(For further information please contact BIC-OPI Paris)

The EPIB reports on recent Public Information activities in Europe. Please send all news concerning Public Information to be published for the next issue directly to BIC-OPI, Paris no later than the 25th of each month (25 January 2006 for the next issue) to the attention of Jessica Dacey. The Office of Public Information may edit articles received and decides on the publication of all submitted material.

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