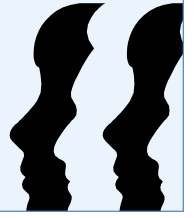


Interfaith Unity Feast

1556 Bell Road - Nashville, TN

We are drops of one ocean, leaves of one tree.



Spiritual Parenting

- **Welcome — Carolyn Stalcup**
- **Interfaith Prayers**

Bahá'í Prayer / Children's Choir

O God! Educate these children. These children are the plants of Thine orchard, the flowers of Thy meadow, the roses of Thy garden. Let Thy rain fall upon them; let the Sun of Reality shine upon them with Thy love. Let Thy breeze refresh them in order that they may be trained, grow and develop, and appear in the utmost beauty. Thou art the Giver. Thou art the Compassionate. — 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Bahá'í Prayer

O my Lord! O my Lord!

I am a child of tender years. Nourish me from the breast of Thy mercy, train me in the bosom of Thy love, educate me in the school of Thy guidance and develop me under the shadow of Thy bounty. Deliver me from darkness, make me a brilliant light; free me from unhappiness, make me a flower of the rose garden; suffer me to become a servant of Thy threshold and confer upon me the disposition and nature of the righteous; make me a cause of bounty to the human world, and crown my head with the diadem of eternal life. Verily, Thou art the Powerful, the Mighty, the Seer, the Hearer. — 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Jewish Prayer

Hear O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart; you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. — *Deuteronomy 6:4-7*

- **Speaker — Sepehr Homayoon**
- **Performance — Jabberwocky (Lewis Carroll) by the Ajamu Family**
- **Holy Writings**

From the Christian Holy Writings

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them, and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

— *Matthew 18:1-3*

From the Christian and Jewish Holy Writings

He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children; that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

— *Psalms 76:5-7*

From the Buddhist Holy Writings

A good, all-round education, appreciation of the arts, a highly trained discipline and pleasant speech; this is the highest blessing.

— *Sutta Nipata 261*

From the Hindu Holy Writings

The parents of a child are but his enemies when they fail to educate him properly in his boyhood. An illiterate boy, like a heron amidst swans, cannot shine in the assembly of the learned. Learning imparts a heightened charm to a homely face. Knowledge is the best treasure that a man can secretly hoard up in life. Learning is the revered of the revered. Knowledge makes a man honest, virtuous, and endearing to society. It is learning alone that enables a man to better the condition of his friends and relations.— *Garuda Purana*

From the Moslem Holy Writings

There is no greater wealth than wisdom; no greater poverty than ignorance; no greater heritage than culture.

— (Shite) *Nahjul Balagha, Saying 52*

And remember when Luqman said to his son by way of instruction, “O my dear son! Establish worship and enjoin kindness and forbid iniquity, and persevere, whatever may befall you. Lo! that is the steadfast heart of things.”

— *Qur’an 31.17*

Every child is born of the nature of purity and submission to God.

— *Hadith of Bukhari*

- **Musical Selections —Children’s Choir “Strive” & “Over the Rainbow”**

- **Holy Writings**

From the Bahá’í Holy Writings

The education and training of children is among the most meritorious acts of humankind and draweth down the grace and favour of the All-Merciful, for education is the indispensable foundation of all human excellence and alloweth man to work his way to the heights of abiding glory. If a child be trained from his infancy, he will, through the loving care of the Holy Gardener, drink in the crystal waters of the spirit and of knowledge, like a young tree amid the rilling brooks. And certainly he will gather to himself the bright rays of the Sun of Truth, and through its light and heat will grow ever fresh and fair in the garden of life.

— ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Selections from the Writings of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, p. 129-30*

Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value. Education can, alone, cause it to reveal its treasures, and enable mankind to benefit therefrom.

— ‘Bahá’u’lláh, *Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá’u’lláh*

All humankind are as children in a school, and the Dawning-Points of Light, the Sources of divine revelation, are the teachers, wondrous and without peer. In the school of realities they educate these sons and daughters, according to teachings from God, and foster them in the bosom of grace, so that they may develop along every line, show forth the excellent gifts and blessings of the Lord, and combine human perfections; that they may advance in all aspects of human endeavour, whether outward or inward, hidden or visible, material or spiritual, until they make of this mortal world a widespread mirror, to reflect that other world which dieth not.

— *Abdu’l Bahá, Selections from the Writings of Abdu’l Bahá*

- **Closing**

- **Refreshments**



The mission of the Unity Feast is to bring people from all religions and backgrounds together in a spirit of friendship and understanding in order to explore common spiritual values from all the world’s major religions. Our goal is to focus on those things we have in common, so that we can do our part to bring unity to humanity ... one person at a time.

The Unity Feast is sponsored by the Greater Nashville Bahá’í Community

Visit us online at www.unityfeast.org