

Bobette Heern in Israel. (Photo provided)

Heerns take pilgrimage

Cave Junction residents Jim & Bobette Heern recently returned from a nine-day Baha'i pilgrimage to Haifa, Israel. That is where the Shrine of the Bab, graced by 10 terraced gardens, adorns ancient Mount Carmel, home to the Old Testament Prophet Elijah. Baha'i pilgrimage only comes once in a lifetime, and the Heerns waited seven years for the trip.

"It was an intensely personal journey," said Bobette. "Just as prayer and meditation come from the very core of one's existence; feelings, thoughts and intimations of the spirit wafted over my heart and soul daily, cleansing and drawing me closer to God."

"There are strong spiritual forces in such holy places, and to bow my head at the threshold of the Qibih (Point of Adoration) where Baha'u'llah, Prophet-Founder of the Baha'i Faith, is entombed was a profound relief followed by an indescribable joy."

Besides visiting the shrines of the twin prophets of the Baha'i Faith, the Heerns visited the prison cell in the city of Akka, where Baha'u'llah was held captive by the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire in the late 1800s. They also visited three other dwellings where he and his family took up residence.

A visit to their faith's World Archives ended their nine-day stay. The personal belongings of the Baha'i Holy Family were displayed.

The Heerns held a Power Point presentation at their home in celebration of the birth of Baha'u'llah.

Oregonians said exposed to many toxic chemicals

Pollution in People: A Study of Toxic Chemicals in Oregonians, a new survey conducted by the Oregon Environmental Council and the Oregon Collaborative on Health & the Environment, indicates that a diverse group of people from across the state have been exposed to more than a dozen toxic chemicals.

Unfortunately, the one trait they probably share with all Oregonians is the unwelcome presence of toxic chemicals in their bodies, study sponsors said, adding:

"The results of the tests revealed in the study include several key findings. Among them: Toxic chemicals from consumer products, food, and industrial pollution contaminate our bodies. Each person tested in this study had

at least nine and as many as 16 of the 29 toxic chemicals tested for in their body.

"While some of these toxic chemicals come from contaminated soil, air, and water, many of the pollutants also come from food, everyday household dust, and from direct contact with such everyday products as personal care items, plastic products, consumer electronics, and stain-resistant furniture.

"These toxic chemicals are cause for concern because they can lead to what are otherwise preventable health problems.

"State and federal regulations have failed to prevent the use of harmful chemicals in consumer products, manufacturing processes, and food production," sponsors contend.

Oregon leads way for use of renewable biofuels

In July 2007, Oregon became the first state to provide incentives for the local production of feedstocks for alternative, renewable fuels.

The state also enacted a renewable fuels standard requiring the blending of biodiesel and ethanol in all diesel and gasoline sold at the pump. "Fueling Oregon with Sustainable Biofuels," a new report from the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC), discusses "how to best seize this opportunity through responsible, sustainable practices."

Oregon's diverse agricultural industry and strong environmental policy framework make it uniquely placed to become a leader in the development of sustainable biofuels, said OEC. The establishment of incentives and a stable market for biofuels empowers Oregon farmers and businesses to develop these renewable fuels locally, the organization said. It added:

"In many cases, renewable fuels development can

foster new Oregon-grown industries and add an income stream to growers.

"However, not all biofuels are equal from a sustainability perspective. 'Fueling Oregon with Sustainable Biofuels' makes the case that biofuels can and must be produced -- from 'field to wheel' -- with environmentally and socially sound practices. The report suggests ways to maximize the environmental potential of biofuels, from practices on the farm to practices in biorefineries."

The report discusses the types of biofuels feedstocks feasible in Oregon. It suggests which might be most beneficial from social and environmental perspectives.

To capitalize on Oregon's potential for producing clean, renewable fuels, the report recommends that policymakers and representatives of the biofuels industry adhere to the following principles:

*Support only biofuels that reduce greenhouse gas emissions on a life-cycle as-

essment basis.

*Process biofuels with minimum fossil fuel inputs.

*Protect air and water quality.

*Grow biofuel feedstocks using sustainable agricultural practices.

*Conserve water.

*Protect biodiversity.

*Avoid conversion of native ecosystems.

Support socially responsible and locally owned biofuels production.

Provide consumer information.

Said OEC, "In the near-term, one of the most important steps the state can take is to adopt a Low-Carbon Fuel Standard, which would require all fuel providers to gradually reduce the green-

house gas intensity of the fuels they sell.

"We hope that 'Fueling Oregon with Sustainable Biofuels' will provide the analysis and tools needed to help make Oregon a national leader in sustainable biofuels production.

"Biofuels are only as sustainable as the agricultural and industrial processes that produce them."

Added Chris Hagerbauer, OEC director of programs, "Biofuels can clearly provide positive environmental benefits.

"Oregon's goal should be to maximize those benefits and mitigate any negative environmental consequences of feedstock production and fuel processing."

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Student Achiever

A 2006 Illinois Valley High School GED graduate, Tovi Olivolo has begun his sophomore year at Southern Oregon University (SOU) at Ashland.

Throughout his freshman year, Olivolo maintained a 3.8 cumulative grade-point average, and remained on the Dean's List while studying music and chemistry.

He currently plays clarinet, bass clarinet and saxophone in six SOU groups. They include the symphonic band, pep band, and chamber music ensemble.

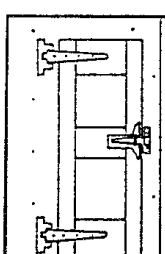
He returned from China, where he toured Yantai and Shanghai with the Siskiyou Saxophone Orchestra. He plans to tour western China and Thailand during 2008.

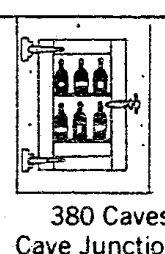
He is the son of Laurel Olivolo, of Cave Junction.




Tovi Olivolo (Photo provided)

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