Proposal to add Nine Pointed star to Unicode

Figure 1: Proposed Nine Pointed Star Shape

Introduction

The purpose of this proposal is to request that a codepoint be allocated in the UCS for the nine pointed star character, which is commonly used by members of the Bahá’í Faith.

In Bahá’í Literature, different forms of stars were used that are not standardized from one publishing to another (examples below). The presence of the nine pointed star will help standardize across the different publications. Adding to that, for religions lacking a representation of their place of worship, it is suggested to use the Place of Worship emoji with the representing symbol of their faith, of which there are exactly none feasible at the moment.

In terms of Unicode, the nine pointed star is one of the most common symbols of the Bahá’í Faith, specifically the most distinctive one other than maybe the Ringstone Symbol (which would be extremely less universally usable), and it would help provide a near complete lineup of religions of the world; currently, there are many religious symbols supported via the Unicode standard - including Jewish (Star of David), Christian, Muslim (Star and Crescent), Sikh, Buddhists, and Wiccan (five pointed star).

The nine pointed star will also introduce a popular star character to the list of available stars in Unicode.
**Naming convention**

NINE POINTED WHITE STAR is a widely accessible and commonly used term for the symbol provided. It follows the same naming standard as other available stars in the unicode (number of points - form of the star - color).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✡️</td>
<td>U+2734</td>
<td>Eight Pointed Black Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✡️</td>
<td>U+2735</td>
<td>Eight Pointed Pinwheel Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✡️</td>
<td>U+2736</td>
<td>Six Pointed Black Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✡️</td>
<td>U+2737</td>
<td>Eight Pointed Rectilinear Black Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✡️</td>
<td>U+2738</td>
<td>Heavy Eight Pointed Rectilinear Black Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✡️</td>
<td>U+2739</td>
<td>Twelve Pointed Black Star</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figure 2: Current list of stars in Dingbats*

The regular compound nine pointed star, with Schläfli symbol of \{9/3\} or 3\{3\}, is the most common popular representation among Baha’is. However, the regular star version - the Schläfli symbol of \{9/4\} - is also acceptable, but not as popular.

*Figure 3: Snapshot from Wikipedia on nine-pointed star formation*  
(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enneagram_(geometry))
Other common usage of the star in Bahá’í context uses an outline and filled version, although this is not prescribed in any way. Table 1 provides more variation of stars.

In addition, while fonts can be introduced to provide a variety of options to the user, Baha’i organizations do not have a standard font library nor have sufficient resources to deploy specialized fonts. The need for variation of nine pointed star is better understood in the section of “Use of Nine Pointed Star”, as different contexts may demand a star format that is legible on paper, stone, leather or other surfaces. In addition, the significance of access to those symbols for Baha’is around the world, especially users who may not have access to exclusive fonts, ensures that no Baha’i individual is disenfranchised from representing their Faith in the best manner to them.

In terms of placement, the nine pointed star should ideally be added to the current lineup of religious symbols or stars. In practical terms this would for example imply receiving the same treatment as the other symbols with a religious meaning as to being rendered as an emoji in instant messaging context. This would also enable the rendering of a symbol for a Bahá’í House of Worship, of which there are a growing number in the world.

For the purpose of this proposal, I have recommended that the nine pointed star be placed in the Geometric Shapes Extended (https://www.unicode.org/charts/PDF/U1F780.pdf) block (1F7D0 - 1F7FF). Religious symbols have been placed in different blocks, including Miscellaneous Symbols (2600 - 26FF), Dingbats (2700 - 27BF), but no blocks were available.

Table 1: Proposed 9 Pointed Star Characters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code Point</th>
<th>Glyph</th>
<th>Character Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1F7D9</td>
<td><img src="https://www.unicode.org/charts/PDF/U1F780.pdf" alt="NINE POINTED WHITE STAR" /></td>
<td>NINE POINTED WHITE STAR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**History**

The nine pointed star is also one of the most used symbols and shapes by the adherents of the members of The Bahá’í Faith. The Bahá’í Faith is a religion that was founded by its prophet
Baha’u’llah in 1863. There are over 7 million Bahá’í adherents worldwide, and Bahá’í institutions are recognized by many governments in the world - including the United States (https://www.bahai.us/) and European Union (http://www.eprid.eu/members/bahai-international-community/). Bahá’ís also participate in political administrations, such as the United Nations (https://www.bic.org/offices/united-nations), providing insight and perspective towards achieving world unity through discourses that promote the betterment of mankind.

Given the growth of followers of the Bahá’í Faith year over year, and the prominence of the Bahá’í Faith around the world, the availability of the Bahá’í icon would be significant to practicing Bahá’ís around the world.

In a non-Baha’i context, the nine pointed star is a common mathematical shape that consists of three intersecting triangles. The nine pointed star is also called a Nonagram, Enneagram, or Star of Goliath. In pop-culture, the nine pointed star also represents the band Slipknot, where they use the regular compound 9 pointed star figure as a symbol (image on right).

![Figure 4: Slipknot 9-pointed star](image)

**Significance of Nine in the Baha’i Faith**

Shoghi Effendi, Central Figure and the Guardian of the Bahá’í Administration from 1921 until His passing in 1957, gave significant commentary to the significance of the number 9, which Bahá’ís represent as 9 pointed star. In a letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi, he clearly explains that there are three reason for the significance of the number nine:

> First, regarding the significance of the number nine: Its importance as a symbol used so often in various connections by the believers lies in three facts: first, it symbolizes the nine great world religions of which we have any definite historical knowledge, including the Babi and Bahá’í Revelations; second, it represents the number of perfection, being the highest single number; third, it is the numerical value of the word 'Bahá'.
> (Lights of Guidance, From a letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to an individual believer, July 9, 1939)

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1 Pew Research Center states “The Baha’i faith began in Persia (now Iran) in the 19th century. Bahá’ís are widely dispersed across many countries, with significant populations in India, the United States, Kenya and elsewhere.” Adherents.com (2005) statistics are: 7 million Bahá’ís around the world, ranking as the 13th largest global religion.
Shoghi Effendi’s reference to the “numerical value of the word ‘Bahá’” in the quotation is based on the Abjad numeral system, a system based on Arabic, Hebrew and other Semitic languages dating back to before the 8th Century. In this system, each letter of the alphabet represents a number, so the first letter of the Arabic alphabet, alif, is used to represent the number ‘1’; the second letter, bā’, is used to represent the number ‘2’, and so on.

This is clarified in another letter to a Baha’i believer by Shoghi Effendi:

In the Semitic languages—both Arabic and Hebrew—every letter of the alphabet had a numerical value, so instead of using figures to denote numbers they used letters and compounds of letters. Thus every word had both a literal meaning and also a numerical value. This practice is no more in use but during the time of Baha’u’llah and the Bab it was quite in vogue among the educated classes, and we find it very much used in the Bayan. As the word Baha also stood for the number nine it could be used interchangeably with it.

(Lights of Guidance, From a letter written on behalf of the Guardian to an individual believer, February 19, 1932)

Use of Nine pointed Star

When searching for the term “Bahá’i”, the presence of the nine-pointed star cannot be disregarded. The symbol is used widely in different areas of life, including - but not limited to - literature, architecture, gravestones, signage, and websites (for example, https://bahaiteachings.org/ uses the nine pointed symbol in its logo).

Additional references are provided at the end of this proposal.

Nine pointed star bullet points in newsletter
Figure 5: Carta Noticiosa newsletter, National Bahá’í Assembly of El Salvador, 11/2003

Nine pointed star used in calendar to mark important Bahá’í events
Figure 5: Kalendar 154 Bādī, National Baha’i Assembly of Turkey, 1997 A.D.
c) “Aquel que es la Eterna Verdad, exaltada sea Su gloria, siempre ha amado la fidelidad. El bien sea sobre aquel que adorne su templo con su vestimenta y se honre con esta la mayor de las distinciones”.

“La honradez, la prudencia y la honestidad son, verdaderamente, los bellos adornos de Dios para Sus criaturas. Felices los que comprenden, y que el bien sea con los que adquieren tales virtudes”.

“Adheríos siempre a la cuerda de la honradez y asíos al borde del manto de la veracidad: así os lo pide Aquel que es el Verdadero, Aquel en quien confían. Dios es mi testigo, la honradez es una luz que brilla intensamente desde los cielos y conduce a la exaltación de la Causa de Dios, el Omnipotente, el Incomparable, el Todoalabado. Quien ha permanecido fiel a la Alianza ha sido firmemente en su adhesión a la honradez, mientras que los que lo han repudiado, están en grave error”. (LH, 24, 25 y 26)

Báhá'u'lláh

a) “Di: ¡Oh pueblo! Arrojad, ante los esplendores de esta Revelación, las cosas que poseéis, y aferraos a lo que Dios os ha ordenado observar. Tal es Su mandamiento para vosotros, y Él, ciertamente, es el más capacitado para mandar. ¡Por Mi Belleza! Es Mi propósito, al revelar estas palabras, hacer que todos los hombres se acerquen a Dios, el Todoglorioso, el Más Alabado. Cuidad de no tratarme como trastesteis a Mi Heraldo. Cuando los versículos de Dios os sean enviados desde

Figure 6: Selección de los escritos de Bahá'u'lláh y el Báb para la reflexión y la profundización, revisado y aprobado por Asamblea Espiritual Nacional de los Bahá'ís de Bolivia
Figure 7: Baha’i inori no sho (バハイの祈り), p.213. Prayer book in Japanese

Figure 8: Baha’i inori no sho (バハイの祈り), p.213. Prayer book in Japanese
Nine pointed star used in map and map legends

Figure 9: Map - The early history of the Bahá’í Faith, Clayton Hamre
(https://www.reddit.com/r/bahai/comments/35myqw/map_the_early_history_of_the_bah%C3%A1%C3%A9_faith_1650x1275/)

Figure 10: Zoomed image of the legend from Figure 9, highlighting the use of a 9 pointed star as an element inside the map legend.
Figure 12: Image of a physical, hardcopy Map of Haifa with Nine Pointed Star legends highlighting important Baha’i sites. Baha’i World Center, Haifa.
Nine pointed star used on gravestone markers

Figure 13: Example of tombstones in the U.S. with nine pointed stars

Nine pointed star used as signage for Baha’i Centers

Figure 14: Example of nine pointed stars as signage for Baha’i Centers in the U.S.

Nine pointed star added to logos to indicate Baha’i affiliation

Figure 15: Bahá’í Publishing Logo (US Trademark Office: Serial Number 72221623)
Nine Pointed Star in Bahá'í Literature

Currently, the governing institution of the Bahá'í Faith employs the five-pointed star and nine-pointed star in its Holy Writings and literature to define characters similar to a comma or period.

Currently, Baha'i institutions use the nine-pointed star in a graphical format at the end of each of their reports, guidance, or writings. Some examples can be viewed here (with screenshots below):

https://bahaiworld.bahai.org/library/is-economic-justice-possible/
https://bahaiworld.bahai.org/library/a-new-cycle-of-human-power/
https://bahaiworld.bahai.org/library/the-light-was-in-the-darkness/

Figure 16: Screenshots from Baha'i World Center website that include nine pointed star in its inline text
Demand and the Need of Nine Pointed Stars

This proposal is an individual proposal not brought forward by any Bahá’í organization specifically. However, the governing Bahá’í body (Bahá’í World Center) has provided a lot of materials and supporting documents of available usage of the nine pointed stars. Additional materials are attached to this proposal’s appendix.

Historically, followers of the Bahá’í Faith were not able to place the nine pointed stars in Bahá’í literature due to the lack of nine pointed stars in printing and rotary presses of the time. Evidence of this can be seen in the figure below:

Figure 17: Side by side comparison of Al-Kitab al-Aqdas, the most Holy Book, Baha’u’llah.

The version on the left is the 1943 version published in Tehran, the version on the right is the 1899 version published in Russia. Due to lack of availability of nine pointed stars, members of the Bahá’í Faith utilized other available stars in the region (six pointed stars and eight pointed stars) in Bahá’í Literature.  

https://www.h-net.org/~bahai/areprint/vol1/aqdas/aqd.htm
With the presence of Unicode standards and symbols, members of the Baha’i Faith will have a common star standard for their literature and have an appropriate way to mark religious affairs like places of worship in line with the other already represented religions, as there is no existing symbol that could work for this appropriately so far.

**Unicode Properties**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1F7D9</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Star" /></td>
<td>NINE POINTED WHITE STAR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1F7D9;NINE POINTED WHITE STAR;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;