

## Nineteen Day Feasts are for Bahá'ís Only

Although it is clearly stated in *The Bahá'í Community* (page 18) that only members of the Bahá'í community and visiting Bahá'ís from other localities may attend Nineteen Day Feasts, the question is frequently asked whether persons close to the Faith and non-Bahá'í members of Bahá'í families might not be permitted to attend if they leave the room during the consultation period. It is sometimes argued that this privilege will bring these persons closer to the Faith and will dispel any feeling that there are "secrets" in the Faith.

Bahá'ís should realize that the presence of non-Bahá'ís at any portion of the Feast impedes the flow of the spirit that exists between Bahá'u'lláh and His followers and between fellow Bahá'ís throughout the Feast. Furthermore, when visitors are excluded during consultation and are waiting to re-enter the room, the believers, from a sense of courtesy, feel obliged to hurry through the business and cut short the consultation so that their guests may not be kept waiting too long. Thus concentration on the essential aspects of the Feast is dissipated and sociability becomes the dominant factor.

The Universal House of Justice has elaborated upon this matter in a recent letter to the National Spiritual Assembly in which it calls attention to "the essentially domestic, administrative nature of the Nineteen Day Feast." It states:

"With regard to the attendance of non-Bahá'ís at a Nineteen Day Feast, you can explain . . . the essentially domestic, administrative nature of the Nineteen Day Feast. During the period of consultation the Bahá'ís

should be able to enjoy perfect freedom to express their views on the work of the Cause, unembarrassed by the feeling that all they are saying is being heard by someone who has not accepted Bahá'u'lláh and who might thereby gain a very distorted picture of the Faith. It would also be very embarrassing for any sensitive non-Bahá'í to find himself plunged into the midst of a discussion of the detailed affairs of a Bahá'í Community of which he is not a part. The Guardian's secretary wrote on his behalf on 21 September, 1946:

"As regards your question concerning Nineteen Day Feasts . . . as to non-Bahá'ís attending, this should by all means be avoided, but if non-believers come to a Nineteen Day Feast, they should not be put out, as this might hurt their feelings."

"This is why, if a non-Bahá'í does appear at a Nineteen Day Feast he should be made to feel welcome, but a Bahá'í should certainly not invite a non-Bahá'í to attend.

"A non-Bahá'í, who asks to be invited to a Feast, will usually understand if this matter is explained to him."

If it seems essential to expose non-Bahá'í relatives or close contacts to the spirit that should prevail at the Nineteen Day Feast, special meetings can be arranged for such purpose, wherein there will be a beautifully arranged period of devotion followed by sociability, with all members of the community in attendance. (Reprinted from June 1967 *U.S. Supplement of Bahá'í News*)

## Bahá'í Marriage Ceremony obligatory for Bahá'ís

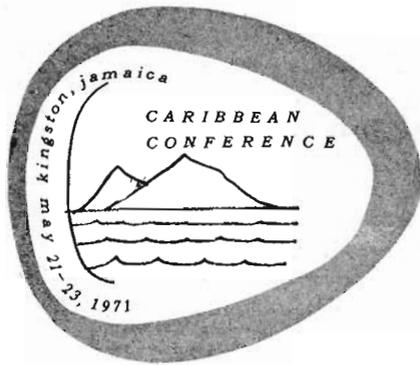
It is the vital duty of local Spiritual Assemblies not only to apply the laws of Bahá'u'lláh with justice and firmness but also to see to it that all believers, especially the youth, know and understand that in the Bahá'í Faith the social laws revealed by Bahá'u'lláh are as binding as His spiritual commands. It is especially important that all Bahá'ís are reminded at frequent intervals that the Bahá'í law of marriage is obligatory for all Bahá'ís who marry, regardless of their age. There are two basic requirements in the Bahá'í marriage law:

I. Bahá'ís who marry must have the consent of all living parents. This applies whether the parents are Bahá'ís or non-Bahá'ís, divorced for years, or not. Where the parents are not Bahá'ís, they should be made to understand that the consent they are asked to give is to the marriage of the couple and does not constitute approval or disapproval of the Bahá'í Faith.

II. When a Bahá'í marries he must have a Bahá'í marriage ceremony. If he marries a non-Bahá'í who

wishes to have the religious ceremony of his (her) faith, the Bahá'í may participate in that ceremony also, provided that it is made clear (1) that the Bahá'í is a Bahá'í by religion, and (2) that by participating in the other ceremony he makes no commitment to any declaration of faith in a religion other than his own. The Bahá'í must insist on having the Bahá'í ceremony carried out before or after the non-Bahá'í one on the same calendar day. The Bahá'í ceremony must be witnessed by representatives approved by the local Spiritual Assembly. Two Bahá'ís may not be married by the religious ceremony of another faith, nor can they be married in the church or other acknowledged place of worship of the followers of other faiths.

If a Bahá'í has a civil or other religious marriage ceremony without having the consent of the parents and a Bahá'í ceremony, he is subject to the possible loss of his Bahá'í administrative rights.



For more details contact:  
**U.S. Caribbean Conference Committee**  
 112 Linden Avenue  
 Wilmette, Illinois 60091  
 (312) 256-4400

A coupon for your use is published in October special edition of *The American Bahá'í*. Please return it if you plan to attend the Conference.

You are urged to invite your non Bahá'í family to join you for this cruise. Although they could not participate in the Conference it is a beautiful sightseeing area. They would be welcome to attend all events on board.

## Two Covenant-breakers Expelled by Hands of the Cause

The following cablegram was received by the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States from the Hands of the Cause of God in the Holy Land on September 17, 1970:

“Owing continuing disobedience strict injunctions forbidding association Covenant-breakers following clear warnings dangers such actions announce expulsion Dr. Parvis Meghnot and wife Lilian Meghnot.”

(signed) Handsfaith

As in all cases of Covenant-breaking the Bahá'ís are forbidden to have any association with these two persons or their children.

## Winter School at Seabeck, Washington

A Bahá'í winter school will be held at Seabeck, Washington December 31, 1970 through noon January 3, 1971. Those attending must be twelve years of age or over. Early registration is advised as space is limited.

**Rates:** \$28.00 per person for the session

**Registrar:** Mrs. Alda Spell  
 11606 Pawnee Drive S.W.  
 Tacoma, Washington 98499

**Registration fee** of \$3.00 (non refundable) is required and will be applied towards the total cost.

## CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE Sheraton-Kingston Hotel Kingston, Jamaica May 21-23, 1971

An eleven-day Cruise to the Virgin Islands and Jamaica has been planned as a Pre- and Post-Conference Institute/Floating Summer School. You would sail from Miami on May 17, 1971 and return to port on May 28, 1971.

Two Hands of the Cause of God will be on board to participate in the deepening programs. Special Bahá'í entertainment has been planned as well as many special events.

be as one soul  
in one body

## Opportunities To Serve

The National Bahá'í Schools Committee is conducting two special projects for which the help of capable and willing Bahá'ís is sought. These projects are:

1. **Children's Stories.** People with talent for writing children's stories are needed to prepare stories and accounts of interesting events from the lives of pioneers and other Bahá'í heroes. Suitable materials at the adult level have been collected for use, but need re-writing to make them attractive to children from ages five to fifteen. Writers at all levels are needed.

2. **Lesson Plans.** People with interest and experience in teaching Bahá'í children's classes are needed to prepare lesson plans according to a standardized outline furnished by the committee. Class levels are from kindergarten through ninth grade. Any level may be chosen by the writer.

Those who are available to participate in either of the above projects should write to: National Bahá'í Schools Committee, John Stroessler, Secretary, 26592 E1 Mar Drive, Mission Viejo, Calif., 92675.

## Policy Regarding Election of Officers for Local Spiritual Assembly

In the electing of Assembly officers, all members of the Assembly are eligible for each office that is being elected, even though one or more of those members already holds an office.

This policy applies whether it is the election of officers at Ridván or the election of one or more officers following a bi-election to replace vacancies on the Assembly.

“Hath the Book been sent down through the power of the true Faith?”

Say: ‘The true Faith itself is astounded.’”

!

*read: Epistle to the Son of the Wolf*

### Calendar of Events

#### Feasts

- November 4—Qudrat (Power)
- November 23—Qawl (Speech)
- December 12—Masá'il (Questions)
- December 31—Sharaf (Honor)

#### Holy Days

- November 12—Birth of Bahá'u'lláh
- November 26—Day of the Covenant
- November 28—Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Baha (1:00 a.m.)

#### Proclamation Events

- November 12—Birth of Bahá'u'lláh
- December 10—Human Rights Day

#### U.S. State Conventions

- November 1

#### U.S. National Spiritual Assembly Meeting

- December 4-6

### New British Title Available

Three Meditations on the Eve of November the Fourth, by Hand of the Cause A. Q. Faizí, published by the British Publishing Trust, is now available in this country. These meditations occurred to Mr. Faizí as he stood on the shores of the Straits of Magellan at Punta Arenas, looking across to Tierra del Fuego, the Land of Fire, at the southern extremity of the South American continent. 4¼ x 6¼, 34 pp., clothbound.

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### New German Titles

The following titles, in the German language, are now available:

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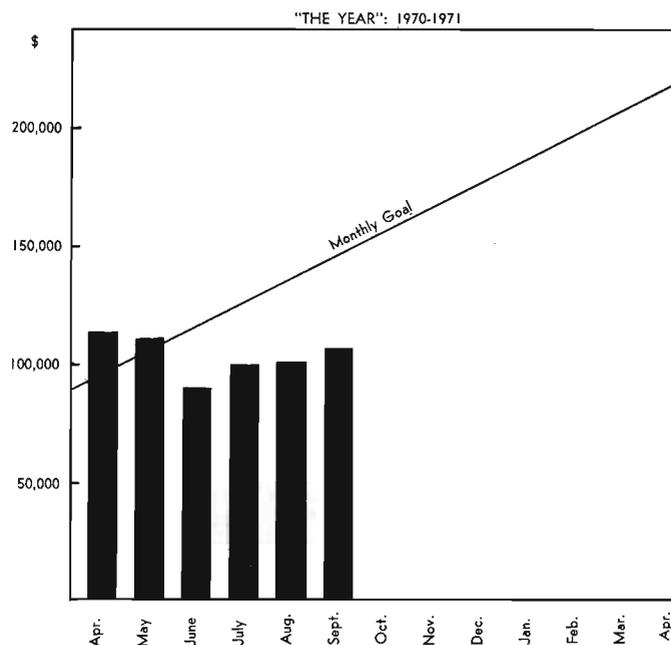
- Kitábi-i-Iqán (cloth) .....\$3.90
- Prayers and Meditations (cloth) .....\$4.50
- The Hidden Words of Baha'u'llah (cloth) .....\$1.60
- Some Answered Questions (cloth) .....\$4.25
- Paris Talks (paper) .....\$1.50

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415 Linden Avenue  
Wilmette, Illinois 60091

### National Bahá'í Fund



INCOME	September 1970	Fiscal Year to Date
Regular Contributions	\$ 91,949.12	\$514,397.28
Special Contributions	12,950.00	69,294.10
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$104,899.12</b>	<b>\$583,691.38</b>
Estates	147.00	26,268.86
Other Income	373.19	11,369.66
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$105,419.31</b>	<b>\$621,329.90</b>
Budget	\$145,000.00	\$720,000.00

## Bahá'í Directory Changes

### Assembly Secretaries

#### Northern California

Washington J.D.: Mrs. Pat Ellis, pro-tem, P.O. Box 203, West Sacramento 95691

#### Central California Dist. No. 1

Mountain View: Mr. Jerry Baumgarten, pro-tem, 179 Dalma Dr., 94040

#### Southern California Dist. No. 1

Monrovia: Miss Beverly Rosman, pro-tem, 215 N. Poppy Ave., 91016

#### Southern California Dist. No. 3

Oxnard: Mrs. Charlene F. Robley, 1004 Denver Pl., 93030

#### Northern Illinois

Evanston: Mrs. Mary M. Kurrus, 1315 Jenks St., 60201  
Skokie: Mr. Bradley A. Hooper, 9045 Lacrosse, 60076

#### Louisiana

Bogalusa: Mr. Michael Parnell, 1206 N. Royal, 70427

#### Massachusetts

Somerville: Mrs. Michele Pericone, 111 Walnut St., 02145

#### Minnesota

Duluth: Mrs. Virginia Peterson, 1436 - 7th Ave., E., 55805

#### New Mexico

Los Alamos: Mrs. Helen Caldwell, 2290-D 39th St., 87544

#### Ohio

Lima: Miss Mildred Clark, 902 W. Spring St., 45805

#### Puerto Rico

San Juan: Mrs. Rachel Barick, Calle Diez de Andino 212, Santurce 00912

#### South Dakota

Rapid City: Mrs. Barbara Krajewski, 1713 7th St., 57701

#### Eastern Washington

Spokane County Commissioners Dist. No. 2: Dr. C. Gordon Fleming, 417 N. Burns Rd., Spokane 99216

#### Western Washington

Edmonds: Mrs. Clela Ware, P.O. Box 512, 98020  
Everett: Mr. Duane Coffler, 3217 Norton Ave., 98201  
Issaquah: Mrs. Joan Jaques, pro-tem, P.O. Box 105, 98027  
King County Councilman Dist. No. 1: Mrs. Carol Colman, 17561 10th N.E., Seattle 98155  
Pierce County Commissioners Dist. No. 2: Mrs. Floye DeVore, P.O. Box 415, Spanaway 98387  
Pierce County Commissioners Dist. No. 3: Mr. Charles Sperling, 9017 Maple Ave., Tacoma 98499

### Assembly Secretaries

#### Western Washington (con.)

San Juan Island: Mrs. Barbara Stratton, Rt. 1, Box 676, Friday Harbor 98250

#### Wisconsin

Oshkosh: Mrs. Judy Suhm, 617 Lilac St., 54901  
Shorewood: Mrs. Arden Lee, pro-tem, 4336 N. Sheffield Ave., 53211

### State Goals Committee Secretaries

#### Northern California

Mrs. Suzanne J. Locke, Box 701, Nevada City 95959

#### Central California No. 2

Mr. Curtis W. Tuck, 4335 E. Ashlan Ave., Fresno 93726

#### Louisiana

Mrs. Sharon Edwards, 449 N. Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge 70806

#### West Texas

Mr. William Kuester, 1517 Tucson, Big Spring 79720

### In Memoriam

Mrs. Mollie Anderson  
Kenosha, Wisconsin  
July 30, 1970

Mrs. Margaret Lear  
West Chester, Penn.  
June 22, 1970

Mrs. Irene Behrens  
Paramus, New Jersey  
June 23, 1970

Mrs. Frances Lewis  
Phoenix, Arizona  
August 23, 1970

Miss Judifeur Brown  
Pacific Grove, Calif.  
no date

Miss Nancy Mendenhall  
Livermore, Calif.  
August 31, 1970

Clifford Edison  
Chicago, Illinois  
July 15, 1970

Mr. Jay Moss  
Los Angeles, Calif.  
March 1, 1970

Leo E. Eston  
Quincy, Illinois  
July 30, 1970

Miss Lola Peterson  
Racine, Wisconsin  
August 31, 1970

Mrs. Elise R. Goodwin  
Greensboro, North Carolina  
August 19, 1970

Harry Slater  
Norwalk, Connecticut  
July 10, 1970

Emil Gross  
Billings, Montana  
September 3, 1970

Mrs. Lynette Storm  
Toledo, Ohio  
August 10, 1970

Mrs. Ruth Hart  
Geneva, New York  
August 16, 1970

Richard Left Hand Thunder  
Poplar, Montana  
July 15, 1970

Mrs. Josephine Haupt  
Union City, New Jersey  
no date

Dwight G. Wood  
Burlington, Wisconsin  
August 13, 1970

Albert Kalfus  
San Francisco, California  
July, 1970

Mrs. Frances Wolcott  
Malibu, California  
August 5, 1970