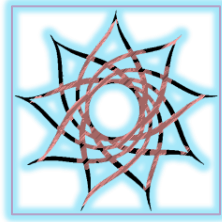


**Central Okanagan Cluster Newsletter**  
**Sulṭán / سلطان / Sovereignty, 172 B.E. Jan 19th-Feb 6th, 2016**



“Again I earnestly appeal to every one of you, and renew my only request with all the ardor of my conviction, to make...yet another effort, this time more spontaneous and selfless than before, and endeavour to approach your task – the election of your delegates...-with that purity of spirit that can only obtain our Beloved’s most cherished desire. Let us recall His explicit and often-repeated assurances that every Assembly elected in that rarefied atmosphere of selflessness and detachment is, in truth, appointed of God...”

**January 18<sup>th</sup> – Feast of Sovereignty/ Sulṭán**  
**Double Sector Event**

**Mission & Glenmore** -. Javid Parsa  
555 Clifton Rd. @ 7:15 pm  
Hm (250) 448 1519 / Cell (250) 717 8285

**Downtown & Rutland – Sholeh & Sohayl Ghadarian’s**  
**1470 Guisachan Place @ 7pm**  
**(look for the house with the fence)**

**2016 Unit Convention**



Electoral Unit #93 (Central Okanagan-Peachland, West Kelowna,  
Westbank First Nations, Kelowna)  
Sunday, January 31, 2006, 1:30-5:00  
Okanagan Mission Community Hall, 4409 Lakeshore Rd.

**February 5<sup>th</sup> – Reflection Meeting 7 pm**  
**Rotary Centre for Arts, 421 Cawston Ave**  
(Parking can get congested so please arrive early)

Great strides have been made this last cycle with multiple new devotionals starting up along with reaching our goals of increasing the number of Friends of the Faith attending devotionals. There is much to celebrate.

**LINKS:**

Sign up to Host or help with any of the upcoming events. <http://www.bahai-kelowna.org/holy-day-volunteers.html> or [contact your](#) or check out our community webpage for events and details @ <http://www.bahai-kelowna.org>

Sulṭán / سلطان / Sovereignty 172 BE - Cluster Devotional Schedule						
Beauty Jamál	Perfection Kamál	Grace Fiḍál	Justice 'Idál	Majesty Istijlál	Independence Istiqlál	Glory Jalál
	19	1	2	3	4	5
	<b>Mon Jan 18</b>	<b>Tue Jan 19</b>	<b>Wed Jan 20</b>	<b>Thur Jan 21</b>	<b>Fri Jan 22</b>	<b>Sat Jan 23</b>
	<b>FEAST</b>		(D) Kelowna General Hospital 11-12 pm	(WK) Lakeview Lodge 11-130am Contact Felour @ 250-768-2048  (R) Aghdasi 7pm @ 778-478-9849	(R) JY Devotional 7:30 pm Carmel's @ 778-363-3760	(WK) Prayers @ 8am Joan Bauer's @ 778-755-0562  (WFN) @ 7pm Ata/Shahnaz 250-769-1440
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<b>Sun Jan 24</b>	<b>Mon Jan 25</b>	<b>Tue Jan 26</b>	<b>Wed Jan 27</b>	<b>Thur Jan 28</b>	<b>Fri Jan 29</b>	<b>Sat Jan 30</b>
Prayers @ 2 pm N & F Ashraf call 250-862-9595			(D) Kelowna General Hospital 11-12 pm	(WK) Lakeview Lodge 11-130am Contact Felour @ 250-768-2048  (R) Aghdasi 7pm @ 778-478-9849	(R) JY Devotional 7:30 pm Carmel's @ 778-363-3760	(WK) @ 8am Joan Bauer's @ 778-755-0562  (G) Azar's 10 a.m. @ 250-762-5354  (WFN) @ 7pm Ata/Shahnaz 250-769-1440  (R) @ 7:30 pm Youth Dev. call Colleen @ 778-930-1844
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<b>Sun Jan 31</b>	<b>Mon Feb 1</b>	<b>Tue Feb 2</b>	<b>Wed Feb 3</b>	<b>Thur Feb 4</b>	<b>Fri Feb 5</b>	<b>Sat Feb 6</b>
(LK) Z&M Behin Oyama @ 7 pm @ 250-307-9060  <b>UNIT CONVENTION 1:30-5</b>		(WK) 2 pm Ladies Group call Sonia @ 250-862-3923	(D) Kelowna General Hospital 11-12 pm	(WK) Lakeview Lodge 11-130am Contact Felour @ 250-768-2048  (R) Aghdasi 7pm @ 778-478-9849	(WFN) 7:30pm Ata/Shahnaz @ 250-769-1440  <b>Reflection Meeting 7 PM</b>	(WK) Prayers @ 8am Joan Bauer's @ 778-755-0562  (WFN) @ 7pm Ata/Shahnaz 250-769-1440  <b>FEAST</b>
1	<p><b>“By convening a gathering for worship at which adults and children of any background are welcome, the spirit of the Mashriqu’l-Adhkár is evoked in any locality” –Dec 29, 2015 Universal House of Justice</b></p> <p><b>As things can change Please contact Hosts to confirm devotional info</b></p>					
Sun Feb 7						

WK–West Kelowna WFN–Westbank 1st Nations G–Glenmore D–Downtown R–Rutland M–Mission (LK) Lake Country

JY & Parents Devotional (Rutland) – once per cycle / CC Family Devotional (West Kelowna) – every few weeks

Core activities which have been identified by the House of Justice are:

- D** Devotional Meetings
- S** Study Circles
- Y** Activities for Youth (10-14)
- C** Classes for Children

\*Co-Ordinator:

Jr Youth : Camel Mehrabkhani, ph. ph 778-930-1844 [Cmehrabkhani@gmail.com](mailto:Cmehrabkhani@gmail.com)

Study Circles -Colleen Bryant, ph. 778-930-1844, [colleen.s.bryant@gmail.com](mailto:colleen.s.bryant@gmail.com)

Children's Classes : Caroline Mackay, ph 250-768-0930 [theharplady@shaw.ca](mailto:theharplady@shaw.ca)

Area Teaching Committee: Weihang Chen, Cindy Snedden and Dawn Powell @ [c.ok.cgc@gmail.com](mailto:c.ok.cgc@gmail.com)



We love getting the newsletter from Kelowna. Dave arrived today to join me for the final 3 weeks here in Katherine. We've contacted a local Baha'i and will catch up with him to study the UHJ message from December and have a feast. Roberts's wife is away at the moment so he misses out on Baha'i activities. He told me there is another young woman who just moved here at the end of the year so hoping the 4 of us can get together for a feast.

I'll send you some photos separately from my phone of the house and our little garden.

Miss you all and think of all of you often.

Love Barbara & Dave



## **Gathering of Devotional Hosts**

**(January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Kelowna)**

A group of Devotional Hosts gathered together to consult and to see how we were doing with our devotional goals. This gathering was as much a celebration as an evaluation. It is so exciting to see the effect of the collective study, planning and mutual support in action across our cluster from hosting devotionals, supporting devotionals and helping to create:

***“Occasions where any soul may enter, inhale the heavenly fragrances, experience the sweetness of prayer, meditate upon the Creative Word, be transported on the wings of the spirit, and commune with the one Beloved. Feelings of fellowship and common cause are generated, particularly in the spiritually heightened conversations that naturally occur at such times and through which the “city of the human heart” may be opened. By convening a gathering for worship at which adults and children of any background are welcome, the spirit of the Mashriq’l-Adhkár is evoked in any locality. The enhancement of the devotional character of a community also has an effect on the Nineteen Day Feast and can be felt at other times when the friends come together.***

(The Universal House of Justice 29 December 2015, paragraph 49)

Of the 17 individuals involved much consultation and insights were gleaned. Some initial ideas for the upcoming reflection meeting were discussed. We all were so delighted to hear so many wonderful stories and personal experience around devotionals. The below was shared regarding a new devotional that started in West Kelowna that very morning:

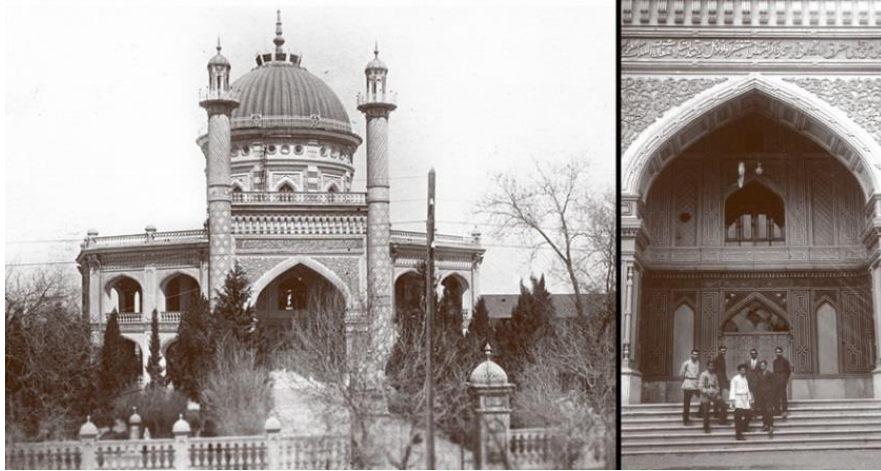


### **1<sup>st</sup> Children’s Class Family Devotional in West Kelowna.**

The children along with some parents attended the 1<sup>st</sup> Children’s Class Family devotional in West Kelowna.



## Historical Tidbits



### **'Ishqábád, Turkmenistan**

The first Mashriqu'l-Adhkár was constructed at the beginning of the twentieth century in the city of 'Ishqábád, which is today the capital of Turkmenistan. The structure was confiscated by Soviet authorities in 1938 and later demolished after being irreparably damaged in an earthquake.

Bahá'ís in localities throughout the world are today planting seeds from which Mashriqu'l-Adhkárs will eventually grow. The process begins with simple efforts to open personal and collective spaces for prayer. Acts of service then become integrated into an evolving pattern of activity and more sustained efforts to infuse aspects of community life with a devotional spirit become possible. The eventual establishment of a physical edifice marks another important stage in the fulfilment of Bahá'u'lláh's vision for Houses of Worship.

The physical structure of a Mashriqu'l-Adhkár comprises a central building—a House of Worship—along with several dependencies. While the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár forms the focal point of worship in a geographical area, its purpose is not solely to provide a place for prayer. 'Abdu'l-Bahá explained that, through the provision of education, healthcare and other services, it is also to support the social and economic progress of the community and offer shelter, relief and assistance to those in need. In this connection, 'Abdu'l-Bahá anticipated that subsidiary branches—such as a hospital, school, university, dispensary, and hospice—would gradually be added to a House of Worship.

Referring to the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár then being constructed near Chicago in the United States, Shoghi Effendi wrote that:

“...however inspiring the conception of Bahá'í worship, as witnessed in the central Edifice of this exalted Temple, it cannot be regarded as the sole, nor even the essential, factor in the part which the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár, as designed by Bahá'u'lláh, is destined to play in the organic life of the Bahá'í community. Divorced from the social, humanitarian, educational and scientific pursuits centering around the Dependencies of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár, Bahá'í worship, however exalted in its conception, however passionate in fervor, can never hope to achieve beyond the meagre and often transitory results produced by the contemplations of the ascetic or the communion of the passive worshiper. It cannot afford lasting satisfaction and benefit to the worshiper himself, much less to humanity in general, unless and until translated and transfused into that dynamic and disinterested service to the cause of humanity which it is the supreme privilege of the Dependencies of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár to facilitate and promote.”



Historical Dates

Dec. 20th, 1920 -start of the construction of the temple in Wilmette

Dec. 21st, 1848 -Baha'u'llah sets out from Tehran for the 2nd time to Fort Tabarsi

Dec. 31st, 1843 -the passing of Siyyid Kazim in Karbila

Jan.1-3, 1971 -International teaching conference in Liberia

Jan.12th, 1853 -Baha'u'llah is banished from Tehran to Baghdad

**\*please send newsletter submissions to [dawnpowell@ogopogo.com](mailto:dawnpowell@ogopogo.com)**

# Alberta Bahá'í Winter School presents:

## Attracting Spiritual Forces for a Life of Service

Enhancing the devotional character of our community

With Dr. Ann Boyles

**Date & Time:** Feb 13-15, 2016 9:00 am to 3:00pm

**Theme:** Attracting Spiritual Forces for a Life of Service

Enhancing the devotional character of our community

**Location:** The Bennett Centre (9703-94 Street, Edmonton)

**Located 3 blocks east of the Muttart Conservatory**

**Facilitator:** Dr. Ann Boyles served as a member of the Continental Board of Counsellors for 10 years, as an Auxiliary Board member for 9 years, and as senior editor of "The Baha'i World" volumes from 1994-2006. She is a writer of drama, short fiction and poetry, as well as non-fiction, and teaches at the University of PEI.

**Activities:** Music, skiing (\$20/person including equipment rental and instruction), sledding, skating (bring your skates), orienteering, team-building games, campfires

**Children and JY Program:** provided by Edmonton Public Schools, Muttart Conservatory and the Baha'is of Edmonton. Bennett Centre staff will lead The Stories, Histories and People of Alberta, a full-day program on traditional Aboriginal and Metis culture, plus co-operative games and outdoor activities. A 2-hour guided, interactive children's tour of the Muttart conservatory is included.

**Accommodation:** \$33/person/night including cooked breakfast. Dormitory style, 4 bunks per room. Shared bathroom. Bring own bedding (sleeping bag or pillow, sheets and duvet). There are also plenty of hotels within 5 minutes drive.

**Early-Bird Pricing** (\$150) ends Jan 15th. Regular registration (\$175) ends Feb 7th. to purchase your ticket and for the fee break-down, please follow this link <https://www.universe.com/albertabahaiwinterschool>

For questions and inquiries, please utilize the link above or contact **Martin Kerr** at [780-893-7335](tel:780-893-7335) / [martinkerrmusic.com](http://martinkerrmusic.com) or **Carole Charlton** at [780-340-0264](tel:780-340-0264) / [carole.charlton4@gmail.com](mailto:carole.charlton4@gmail.com)