

First Saturday of each month, Devotional Gathering at M & M Lessani's, starts at 6:30 pm and followed by dinner, for more information please call 408-7922. *Everyone is welcome.*

Adult Class

Adult Class is studying the Book: *Baha'i Comprehensive Deepening Program*. This is a study of Purpose, Meaning, the exercise of Will, and the development of Virtues that become the foundation for building Baha'i life.

Devotional Topics

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| Sunday, Jan 1 | Know Thyself |
| Sunday, Jan 8 | Equality of Men & Women |
| Sunday, Jan 15 | Employing the Power of Prayer |
| Sunday, Jan 22 | Return of the Spirit |
| Sunday, Jan 29 | Body, Soul and Spirit |

World Religion Day will be celebrated at the Center. The program starts at 6:30pm on Saturday Jan 21st. Kevin Locke will be the guest speaker. Look for Suzette's weekly newsletter for more information.

(continued from front)

.....The walls were whitewashed, and there was a divan. Standing next to Roy was a majestic figure with a long black beard, dressed in what appeared to be an oriental gown. The figure approached Roy, taking off His ring and placing it on Roy's finger and removing Roy's ring and placing it on His finger. Roy was transfixed by the apparition. A practical man not prone

to visions or psychic experiences, he was unable to reconcile what he had seen with who he considered himself to be. He decided to tell no one about the experience. After all his "practical" friends would never understand. And his mother would certainly renew her efforts to draw him into the Faith. In 1907 his mother received permission to go to the Holy Land to see Abdu'l-Baha. She asked her son to accompany her. Roy, unwilling for his mother travel so far alone, agreed. Thus In April 1907 Roy and Laurie traveled to Akka and the home of the Master. When they reached their destination, Roy found himself suddenly, strongly and warmly embraced by Abdu'l-Baha. "Welcome! Very Welcome!" Abdu'l-Baha said on their arrival. "I have been waiting for your coming. It is with God's help that you have reached Akka..... you represent all American believers..." Recovering from the shock of finding himself hugged by another man, Roy felt his reservations vanish as he relaxed into the welcoming atmosphere of Abdu'l-Baha's home. Sometime during the Wilhelm's six-day stay at the prison house, Abdu'l-Baha urged Roy to visit Bahji. On the way, one of the Persian believers took him to a small white house in which Baha'u'llah stayed when He visited the Garden of Ridvan. As he entered the house, Roy found himself in the room he had seen in his vision. Shaken, he quickly left the house, realizing he had to share his secret with Abd'ul-Baha. "You had a spiritual experience," Abdu'l-Baha told Roy. "Baha'ullah had wedded you to His Faith." From that moment Roy Wilhelm was a Baha'i. In 1908 Roy met Martha Root at a restaurant in Pittsburgh and introduced her to the Faith, forever altering Baha'i history. He said "I sometimes think my chief reason for being born was to get Martha started". In 1909 Roy was one of the nine members elected to the Executive Board of the Baha'i Temple Unity. Always looking for a way to spread the message of Baha'u'llah, Roy not only produced his teaching booklets but even included quotations from the Baha'i writings in his business advertisements. In the years preceding the establishment of the Baha'i Publishing Trust, Roy could often be seen in his unheated office after midnight making copies of the latest Tablets of the Master. He made hundreds of such copies and had them circulated throughout the American Baha'i community. Roy passed away on December 24, 1951. Even after his death he continued to serve the Faith. In 1953 Shoghi Effendi was able, after 30 years of effort, to acquire property of over 23,000 square meters within the precincts of the Shrine of the Bab thanks to the estate bequeathed to the Faith by Roy Wilhelm.