

Devotional Programs in Edmond

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.*

Devotional Gathering 6:00pm on Friday July 30th at Mollaian's. For more information please call 562-1399.

Ruhi book 1 Thursdays at 7pm at Sadeghi's. For more information please call Mahyar at 341-8432

Ruhi book 8 Sundays at 2pm at the Center. For more information please call Mahyar at 341-8432

Adult Class

"Baha'ullah's Teachings on Spiritual Reality" is an ongoing series and the facilitators are Doug Mc Queen and Suzette Rattenbury. This month we are studying part I, the Quest for Spirituality. (Books are available at the Center)

Devotional Topics

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| Sunday, July 4 | America |
| Sunday, July 11 | The Recognition of God |
| Sunday, July 18 | Color me Human |
| Sunday, July 25 | You Must Be Born Again |

Breakfast at the Center Every Sunday morning during the Summer breakfast will be provided at the Center. We still need friends to sign up for hosting and perform hosing duties as usual.

Open House, (Social night/ Game night) Saturday July 10th, 6:30pm at Mollaian's. It is Pot Luck Dinner. The address is 1700 Redland Drive. For directions please call 562-1399.

(Continued from the front)

for about two months, soon afterwards becoming a believer. He married a Qajar princess, a great granddaughter of Fath-Ali Shah by the name of Udhra Khanum Diya'u'l-Hajuyyih. Already a Baha'i, she was educated and talented and well versed in Persian poetry and literature. The couple had four daughters. When he was about 30 years old Ibn-i-Asdaq sent a letter to Baha'u'llah, asking Him to grant him the station of "utter self-sacrifice", martyrdom. Baha'u'llah replied to him through his amanuensis, Mirza Aqa Jan: "...Today, the greatest of all deeds is service to the Cause. This Martyrdom is not confined to the destruction of life and shedding of blood. A person enjoying the bounty of life may yet be recorded a martyr in the Book of the Sovereign Lord. Well is it with thee that thou hast wished to offer whatsoever is thine, and all that is of thee and with thee in my path." Two years later, in 1882, Ibn-i-Asdaq again wrote to Baha'u'llah asking for martyrdom. This time Baha'u'llah, addressing him as Shahid Ibn-i-Shahid(martyr, son of the martyr) replied: "We, verily, have ordained for him this exalted station, this high designation. Well is it with him that he attained this station prior to its appearance, and we accepted from him that which he intended in the path of God, the One, the Single, the All-Knowing, the All Informed." On receiving this reply Ibn-i-Asdaq devoted his entire life to teaching the Baha'i Faith and encouraging the Baha'is. He traveled extensively, visiting Baha'i communities all over the country, his wife's royal connections enabling him to teach the Baha'i Faith among the members of the Iranian nobility as well as royalty. Ibn-i-Asdaq many times referred to "hunting the lion rather than the fox." It was in a Tablet revealed by Bah'u'llah in April 1887 in honor of Ibn-i-Asdaq that the concept of "Hand of the Cause" was first mentioned. In another Tablet written to Ibn-i-Asdaq, Baha'u'llah, having been informed by him that the Baha'is of Tehran had arranged to observe the Mashriqu'l-Adhkar, wrote the prayer "Blessed is the spot, and the house, and the place, and the city, and the heart, and the mountain, and the refuge, and the cave, and the valley, and the land, and the sea, and the island, and the meadow where mention of God hath been made, and His praise glorified." Ibn-i-Asdaq continued teaching the prominent people. He extended the range of his travels, visiting India, Burma and Russian Turkistan, always seeking the notables of every city. In Marv he began preliminary work on the construction of a Mashriqu'l-Adhkar and founded a hospice and junior school. At home he initiated the establishment of teacher-training classes for Baha'i women. The early years of the ministry of Abdu'l-Baha were plagued by the machinations of the Covenant-breakers. Abdu'l-Baha called upon the Hands of the Cause to counter their activities. Ibn-i-Asdaq and the other Hands traveled throughout Iran explaining to the Baha'is the nature and power of the Covenant and confirming them in it. In 1899 Abdu'l-Baha also called upon the Hands to establish an elected Spiritual Assembly in Tehran to administer the Faith. From this body evolved the National Spiritual Assembly of Iran. In 1919 Abdu'l-Baha asked Ibn-i-Asdaq and Ahmad Yazdani personally to deliver a Tablet to the Central Organization for a Durable Peace at Hague. Ibn-i-Asdaq also delivered to the Shah the Risaliy-i-Siyasiyyih(Treatise on Politics) written by Abdu'l-Baha during the lifetime of Baha'u'llah. Ibn-i-Asdaq lived well into the 20th century, thus serving not only Baha'u'llah, and Abdu'l-Baha but Shoghi Effendi as well. He outlived his fellow Hands, passing away in Tehran in 1928. Shoghi Effendi named him an Apostle of Baha'u'llah.