

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.*

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

Sunday, Mar 7.....Hidden Words
Sunday, Mar 14.....Baha'u'llah His Life and Mission
Sunday, Mar 21.....Wellsprings of Divine Guidance
Sunday, Mar 28.....Forgiveness

Fund raiser for the National Baha'i Fund was held on Saturday February 20th at the Center. \$11,445.50 was raised and LSA added \$20,554.50 to this amount. The total of \$32,000 was sent to the National Baha'i Fund.

Naw-Ruz Party, Oklahoma Baha'i Association would like to welcome you to the 2010 Naw Ruz Bash. Immerse yourself in Persian culture by experiencing live music by "DJ PJ" and a full Persian Buffet. Limited seating available. Tickets are \$20 for adults (age 10+), \$12 for children (under 10). All tickets must be purchased before the event. Location: Sinbad's Mediterranean Cuisine and buffet, 5801 NW Expressway, Okc, Ok, 73132. Telephone: (405) 773-3663. Time: 7:00-9:30pm dinner served, 9:00-midnight dancing. For ticket information contact: Sama Astani, (405)664-8997, sama@ou.edu or Anissa Angier, (405)343-5638, anissa.angier-1@ou.edu

(Continued from the front)

Enoch was introduced to Ali Nakhjavani and a friendship began. Attracted by the warmth of the Persian household, he started attending evening meetings held in the Banani home. Enoch asked many questions particularly on biblical subjects and about the return of Christ. One day he appeared in Banani's home with a letter asking that he be accepted as a baha'i. Enoch was the third Ugandan to accept the Faith and the first of the Teso tribe. When he became a Baha'i, Enoch gave up all alcohol immediately. So remarkable was the change in his conduct and attitude that his wife also accepted the Faith. Soon after, several of Enoch's fellow Teso tribesmen followed his lead in embracing the Faith of Baha'u'llah. Two months after Enoch's enrolment, Kampala formed its first Local Spiritual Assembly. Eighteen months after his acceptance of the Faith, he responded to the Guardian's appeal for Pioneers to open new African territories to the Faith. He entered the British Cameroons and the Guardian designated Enoch a Knight of Baha'u'llah, a title given to the Baha'is to settle in countries previously unopened to the Faith during the ten year crusade. Enoch lived for ten years in Cameroons before returning to Uganda. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Faith in West Africa, principally the Cameroons, Nigeria and Ghana. In 1957, Enoch Received permission from the Guardian to make his pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Arriving on February 3, Enoch was the first black African to make the pilgrimage. Soon after Enoch left the Holy Land Shoghi Effendi named him Abu'l- Futuh the "Father of Victories" for work in Uganda, his pioneering to the British Cameroons, and becoming a Knight of Baha'u'llah, his raising of pioneers from among recent converts and his teaching of 300 souls. summoned to Banani's home in October 1957, Enoch Olinga was handed a cable from the Guardian notifying him of his elevation to the rank of a Hand of the Cause. When he read the message, Enoch prostrated himself flat on the floor, a mark in Africa of deep submission to one's lord. Only four years a Baha'i at the time of his appointment, he was at 31 the youngest Hand of the Cause. After the death of Musa Banani in 1971, Enoch bought the Banani home in Kampala in which he had accepted the Faith. The political situation in Uganda deteriorated throughout the 1970's, culminating in a terrible civil war. In September 1977 the Faith was banned and the House of worship was closed. Later, although the Government had been overthrown, chaos still reigned in the city, with both soldiers and townspeople looting and fighting. On September 16, 1979, Enoch, his wife and their three children went to Temple grounds where Enoch briefed the Baha'is about the situation of the Baha'is in Iran. Later in the day some of the youth provided music while Enoch and his wife joined in the dancing. Later that evening, at about 8:30, five armed men approached the Olinga's residence and shouted "Open the door!" Lennie, Enoch's youngest son, opened the door and there was the sound of gun shots. The next morning the Enoch's body was found lying in the courtyard and a trail of blood leading from the kitchen to a bedroom. Here the pitiful mangled remains of Enoch's wife and three of his children were found heaped on the floor. The tragedy shocked the Baha'i world. Was it an attack on a well-known leader of the Faith or one of many acts of terrorism occurring on that troubled land? The truth will never be known. Enoch Olinga and his family were buried on September 24 on Kikaya Hill, next to the Hand of the Cause Musa Banani.