

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES

October 15, 2019

To the American Bahá'í community
for the Feast of 'Ilm

Dearly loved Friends,

As this period of special potency swiftly advances toward its culmination, in the closing days of this month, in a multitude of worldwide celebrations commemorating the Twin Holy Birthdays of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh, we pause to observe with profound gratitude signs of a new vitality stirring in the life of the American Bahá'í community. The devotional character of community life in countless localities is being enhanced as believers and their friends gather to pray and engage in meaningful conversation; junior youth are learning to recognize the spiritual perception they possess and to exercise their inherent capacity for acting with wisdom; the bonds between believers are being strengthened as they study the Word of God and experience, through their service in the field, its transformative impact; and classes for children are revealing the precious gems deposited in their souls.

We are eager to hear about the full range of your efforts to ensure your celebrations of the bicentenary were imbued with this spirit. As a result, you will soon be receiving by email a link from nso@usbnc.org via *SurveyMonkey* requesting you to share individual activities leading up to, during, and after your bicentenary celebrations. A separate email link will be sent to Local Spiritual Assemblies enabling them to report on efforts they sponsored and organized. The survey will be available to you until **November 7**. Among things we would like to learn are: how your celebrations were guided by study of the letters of the Universal House of Justice; how you reached out to “the widest possible cross-section of society” and “all those with whom [you] share a connection”; and how your activities included “creative ways to honor the Twin Manifestations.”

News about bicentenary celebrations and related community-building activities are being shared on a special bicentenary page on the national member services website (at www.bahai.us/bicentenary). The page invites the friends to submit photos and brief videos of commemorative activities and artistic expressions, a selection of which will be published on the site. The page also includes links to the international bicentenary page, which, during the 72 hours encompassing the Twin Holy Birthdays, will feature live video streaming of selected events from Bahá'í Houses of Worship across the globe. We hope the page will be shared widely with all those taking part in this historic occasion.

We look forward with great anticipation to reports on your joyful and grateful tributes to the Prophet-Herald of this long-promised Day of God. You are ever in our prayers.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,
NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES



Kenneth E. Bowers
Secretary