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In Memoriam

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I testify, O my Lord, that Thou hast enjoined upon men to honour their guest and he that hath ascended unto Thee hath verily reached Thee and attained Thy presence.

(Bahá'í'u'lláh: *Bahá'í Prayers*, p. 45)

Please remember in your prayers these souls who have recently passed on to the Abhá Kingdom. We send our deepest condolences to those families and friends who have been bereaved.

Fuad Rizai, Tunbridge Wells

Fuad Rizai, a long-time staff member of the National Spiritual Assembly, passed away on 10th December, 2002 after an extended period of suffering from a rare abdominal disease. Fuad arrived in the United Kingdom from Tehran in 1960 and remained in the south-east of England for the rest of his life. He married his wife Jill in 1964. His humble and dedicated service to the Cause over many years was exemplary. Particularly notable was his work with Iranian Bahá'ís arriving in the wake of the Iranian revolution in 1979. He also did much work on and for the various Bahá'í properties and served on the National Spiritual Assembly's Properties Committee. On hearing of his passing, the Universal House of Justice wrote that Fuad "served the Faith of Bahá'í'u'lláh with exceptional devotion and dedication throughout his lifetime. His invaluable contribution to the work of the British Bahá'í community, particularly in the loving assistance he extended to Iranian Bahá'í refugees, is recalled with deep appreciation."

Adel Khadem, Westminster

Mr Khadem, who has died aged 90, came from a distinguished Bahá'í family. His father, the calligrapher Mārzā Nasru'lláh, served 'Abdu'l-Bahá and was given the name "Khadem" – meaning "servant" – by the Master. The family lived in Tehran at the Hayāt-i-Bāgh, an enclave of Bahá'í homes around a large garden, which had been purchased on 'Abdu'l-Bahá's instruction. Mr Khadem's older brother, Dhikru'lláh was named a Hand of the Cause by Shoghi Effendi in February 1952. As a young man, Adel served on the National Youth Committee of Iran and pioneered to Iraq. On returning, he went into business. He left Iran at the time of the 1979 revolution. He will be remembered as an extremely kind, self-effacing and sensitive man. He is survived by two children who remain in Iran.

Joyce Card, Cardiff

Joyce Card was born in East Anglia in 1911, the eldest of 4 children. She grew up in rural poverty, but – for her – closeness to nature was riches enough. She was both intelligent and romantic with a love for literature and opera. Her enthusiasm for poetry led to friendship, love and marriage to Carl Card of Cardiff whom she married in 1942. There had always been a strong spiritual element to Joyce's life. She was brought up in the Church of England and pledged never to drink alcohol. When she and Carl investigated and recognised Bahá'í'u'lláh in 1959 it completely changed their lives. Their quiet world

was transformed into a life of meetings, feasts, assembly meetings and weekend schools. Their holidays became travel-teaching trips, including to Skye and Ireland. They would think nothing of travelling 60 miles to Llanelli for a public meeting, and once even went 100 miles to Aberystwyth and back in a day to support an event there. Carl and Joyce attended the World Congress in 1963, and Joyce went to the dedication of the House of Worship in Frankfurt. They became the backbone of the Cardiff community, giving lifts to

those without transport. They also made visits to the elderly and house-bound in the community. The saddest time in Joyce's life was the death of her only son Victor from cancer at the age of 42. But Joyce and Carl were sustained by each other and by their Faith. In her middle years, Joyce nursed terminally ill patients in their homes so that their relatives could get a night's rest. Suffering in the world troubled Joyce greatly. She taught her children to be generous, especially to the poor, and truly let deeds not words be her adorning.

Sheila Cooper, Edinburgh

Sheila Cooper and her husband Don were among the very earliest Bahá'ís in Edinburgh, declaring in 1954. They became very active and Sheila was for many years the secretary of the Local Spiritual Assembly. In the mid-1960s, they pioneered to Aberdeen to help form and support the Local Assembly there. During Sheila's final illness, several members of the Edinburgh community visited her in the hospice and said prayers. Sheila herself chose her own funeral programme which was warmly received by her extended family.

