

# Bahai's celebrate Feast of Ridvan

CHICAGO, Ill. — In commemoration of the Feast of Ridvan, the Baha'is of Chicago will give a pot luck party at the Baha'i Center, 116 S. Michigan on Saturday afternoon, April 24, beginning at 4 p.m. The program will be planned by the Baha'i Youth and Young Adults.

The Feast of Ridvan is observed by Baha'is around the world, from April 21 to May 2. The Feast of Ridvan commemorates the twelve days that Baha'u'llah, Prophet-Founder of the Baha'i Faith, spent in the Ridvan garden before leaving Baghdad. The first, ninth, and twelfth days of the Feast of Ridvan are specially commemorated as Holy Days.

It was in this garden that Baha'u'llah announced to several of His followers that He was the Promised One whose coming was foretold by all the prophets of the past. He assumed the name Baha'u'llah, which when translated means "The Glory of God." His followers became known as Baha'is.

Baha'u'llah was born in Tihiran, Iran, November 12, 1871. He was the son of a

government minister. Upon hearing of the claim of the Bab to be a Prophet of God, Baha'u'llah embraced the Babi Faith and became one of its staunchest adherents. In 1852 Baha'u'llah was imprisoned in an underground dungeon in Tihiran. While imprisoned there, He received the first intimation He was the Great Messenger of God foretold by the Bab.

Upon His release from prison, a period of life-long exile and banishment began. The places of exile included Baghdad, Constantinople, Adrianople, and finally imprisonment in the Turkish penal colony of Akka in the Holy Land. He remained a prisoner until His death in 1892.

Baha'u'llah's teaching revolved around three basic principles: the oneness of God, the oneness of religion, and the oneness of mankind. He stated that God has revealed His Word in each age through a chosen individual, variously called a Prophet or Messenger, among these were Abraham, Moses, and Christ. Baha'u'llah stated, and Baha'is believe, that He is the Bearer of God's Word for this Age.