

The Bahá'í Faith

La Foi Bahá'íe

The Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Vancouver

“And as the progress and execution of spiritual activities is dependent and conditioned upon material means, it is of absolute necessity that immediately after the establishment of local as well as national Spiritual Assemblies, a Bahá'í Fund be established, to be placed under the exclusive control of the Spiritual Assembly. All donations and contributions should be offered to the Treasurer of the Assembly, for the express purpose of promoting the interests of the Cause, throughout that locality or country. It is the sacred obligation of every conscientious and faithful servant of Bahá'u'lláh who desires to see His Cause advance, to contribute freely and generously for the increase of that Fund.” (Shoghi Effendi)

29 August 2017 / 11 Names (Asma') 174 B.E.

Dearly loved coworkers,

The Spiritual Assembly has been delighted to continue to receive the stories and details of the planning taking place across the community in preparation for the Bicentenary, and continues its earnest prayers that all of your efforts may yield fruits. A significant aspect of the planning of these events involves a large flow of material resources across the community: invitations to befittingly represent the event to our friends, food to nourish the masses coming to celebrations; equipment capable of spreading the Word of God to every ear in attendance, and venues suitable of a reverent and dignified occasion of special potency.

In anticipation of this outpouring of resources to honour the Divine Messenger for this day, the Spiritual Assembly had set aside approximately \$12,000 in the budget for this year for Holy Days at the outset of the year. As questions and plans come into the institution around the flow of funds, however, we are quickly realizing that the needs of the community are much greater, which is simultaneously extremely exciting and daunting to consider.

After recent consultation, the Assembly wants to reassure the community that material means should not be a barrier to the friends in their teaching efforts, and that funds are available to ensure that these sacred events can take place. At the same time, the friends are encouraged to consider the costs of events across the entire community, and how to best exercise the principles of justice and generosity as we determine in our teams and neighbourhoods how to contribute to the Fund to allow the entire community to befittingly celebrate these occasions.

The friends are encouraged to contact the treasurer (treasury@vancouverbahai.org) with any questions they have around the funds for these events, as well as to continue to let the Assembly know what kind of costs it can anticipate. There is also property insurance for venues through the National Assembly's insurance policy, which some venues require to see. The friends are encouraged to let the treasurer know the name and address of the venue if they are renting space for the celebrations so the Assembly can pass this information on to the National.

It is indeed a prospect most exciting that as we grow and expand our community, we are also learning to increase the complexity of our relationship with the material resources, and we applaud the community in their efforts to learn alongside the institution in this arena.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,
The Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Vancouver
Jason Burtwistle, Secretary

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