

200th Anniversary of the Birth of Baha'u'llah

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Every year each faith community commemorates the anniversary of several special events, including those associated with the lives of its founder and other significant people within that community.

These occasions are times of collective joy or sorrow, and always a time of reflection.

October 22 of this year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of the prophet-founder of the Baha'i Faith, Baha'u'llah – title meaning Glory of God. This is a special and joyous event for all the Baha'i communities around the world.

Baha'u'llah taught that there is one God who is the source of all major religions. The common purpose of these religions, he explained, is the education of humankind, which despite its diversity is one family.

Because of his teachings he spent 40 years of his life in exile and imprisonment. His extensive writings, which include prayers, commentaries, and letters to both individuals and the rulers of the world, are a blueprint for the spiritual transformation of the individual and the society.

He wrote, "the earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens."

He called for the elimination of all forms of prejudice and for unity and collaboration among all the peoples of the world. He affirmed the equality of women and men and the harmony of science and religion. He called for the universal education of all children and the elimination of extremes of wealth and poverty.

Mountain View Mayor, Ken Rosenberg has signed a proclamation in honor of this bicentenary. Baha'i communities of Silicon Valley – including Los Altos and Mountain View – will be celebrating this special occasion in the coming weeks. These celebrations will include the following two public events.

A dedication ceremony for a bench donated to the City of Mountain View by its Baha'i community in honor of the bicentenary. It will be held on Saturday, October 21 from 12:00 to 1:30 PM at the Kite Lot of Shoreline at Mountain View. The Mayor and the City Council members have been invited. There will be ribbon cutting, live music, and a picnic.

The Light of Unity Festival sponsored by the Baha'is of Silicon Valley. It will be held on Sunday, October 22 at 3:00 PM at the Quinlan Community Center, Cupertino Room, 10185 N. Stelling Road in Cupertino. The program will include a talk, live music, and refreshments.
