

200th Anniversary of the Birth of the Báb

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“Verily I am Thy servant, O my God, and Thy poor one and Thy suppliant. I have arrived at Thy gate, seeking Thy shelter. I have found no contentment save in Thy love, no exultation except in Thy remembrance, no eagerness but in obedience to Thee, no joy save in Thy nearness, and no tranquility except in reunion with Thee ...” – The Báb

October 29, 2019, marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of the forerunner and prophet-herald of the Baha’i Faith, the Báb, meaning “the Gate”.

The Báb’s ministry began in 1844 when he was 25 and lasted only 6 years. He appeared in a society oppressed by fierce religious fanaticism but wrote extensively. His eloquent prayers and profound expositions and commentaries spoke of and prepared people for the imminent appearance of a divine teacher who would guide humanity towards global justice, unity, and peace.

No less than twenty thousand of the Báb’s followers, “who refused to barter their newly born faith for the fleeting honors and security of a mortal life” were put to death. He himself was executed by a firing squad in 1850. But his message endured, his promise was fulfilled, and the divine teacher he spoke of became known as the founder of the Baha’i Faith. The Báb’s life story has been depicted in the film, “The Gate: Dawn of the Baha’i Faith” (<https://thegatefilm.com/>).

As Baha’is around the world celebrate this joyous event, there will be two local celebrations, both free and open to the public:

Mountain View Baha’is will host an event on Sunday, Nov 3 at the Community Center, 201 S. Rengstorff Avenue in Mountain View. Doors will open at 11:00am and the program, which will include live music, short talks, an art display and children’s activities, will start at 11:30am and will be followed by lunch. Please RSVP at: <https://mountainview200.eventbrite.com>.

Los Altos Baha’is will host an event on Sunday, Nov 10 at 3:00pm at the Quinlan Community Center, 10185 N. Stelling Road in Cupertino. The program will include live music, a talk, and a video presentation and will be followed by refreshments.