

REGIONAL BAHÁ'Í COUNCIL
OF THE NORTHEASTERN STATES

March 20, 2020

To the believers in the Northeast region

Beloved Friends,

In every test, there are blessings in disguise. In difficulties, we find opportunities for spiritual growth. When we call upon steadfastness, we pursue other ways to serve. As we invoke patience, we discover creativity. If faith and love drive us forward, our efforts bring bounties, harmony, and hope.

All over the region the friends are applying these and other spiritual principles to help them continue and increase their current activities, while still being mindful of the restrictions being placed upon them by the current health crisis. We are writing to share some of those ideas with you. We hope that individuals, communities, and clusters will try new things and share their stories with the Regional Council via email at secretary@rbcne.usbnc.org so that we can, in turn, share them with the region. In this way, we will learn from each other and remain inspired and connected during these challenging times.

Putting service into action, with a twist here and there:

- In a children's class, the teacher emailed the materials (quotes, prayers, coloring sheets...) to the parents. Then via a Zoom call, the children's class was held with the children and teacher on the video call as the parents assisted the children.
- In a neighborhood where many people do not have access to computers, the children's class teacher prepared materials for the children and left them on the doorsteps of their homes for the parents to use with them. There was included in each packet a homemade booklet of prayers for each family to use in these troubling times.
- A teacher who is not working because the schools are closed reached out to the whole cluster so that anyone who needs help with such things as shopping can let her know. She will make deliveries because she has time now.
- Another friend in another place offered to coordinate services of shopping and delivery for those who need that help, matching up those in need with those who volunteer to assist.
- Study circles have not shut down in many places. They are continuing by using technology. For example, a study circle in a goal cluster will continue as planned, but by Zoom.

The Regional Bahá'í Council looks forward to receiving many more examples of ways that the friends are putting their service into action. We are truly confident that the goals of the Plan in the Northeast will be won: eight more clusters to reach the second milestone and a vast increase in the number of core activities throughout the region.

The Council wants to take this opportunity to wish all the friends a blessed Naw-Rúz. In contemplating what we would give each of you as a gift if we could, we attached this video to uplift and inspire you, while these words of the beloved Master convey our wishes for you during this Divine Springtime:

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“...the spiritual bounty and springtime of God quicken the world of humanity with a new animus and vivification. All the virtues which have been deposited and potential in human hearts are being revealed from that Reality as flowers and blossoms from divine gardens. It is a day of joy, a time of happiness, a period of spiritual growth. I beg of God that this divine spiritual civilization may have the fullest impression and effect upon you. May you become as growing plants. May the trees of your hearts bring forth new leaves and variegated blossoms. May ideal fruits appear from them in order that the world of humanity, which has grown and developed in material civilization, may be quickened in the bringing forth of spiritual ideals.”

With much love and best wishes,

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