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**Sent:** Wednesday, March 17, 2021 7:05 PM

**Subject:** RBCNE to Northeast region 3-17-2021

**To the Spiritual Assemblies, Area Teaching Committees, communities, nuclei, and believers in the Northeast**

**Dearest Friends,**

**This letter is a call to action, sent with optimism and love, by the Regional Bahá'í Council of the Northeastern States. We hope that it will be considered at the Feast of Bahá, during Spiritual Assembly and Area Teaching Committee meetings, and in many other spaces where the friends can consider what actions they will take to help win an important goal.**

**The regional goal has been to have 999 new devotional gatherings by Ridván, one month from now. There are currently 825. With only one month remaining, we call your attention to two pressing questions.**

- **Who are the devoted souls who will arise to enrich the region with another 174 devotional gatherings to help awaken spiritual susceptibilities in the participants, increase unity in families, friends, and communities, and generate a spirit of communal worship?**
- **The Universal House of Justice tells us that involving people in prayer means sharing with them the benefits of engaging in a conversation with their Maker, and that upon the quality of that conversation, “depends the development of the limitless capacities of the soul and the attraction of the bounties of God.” Who will arise to offer this opportunity to those they love?**

**We are praying that all Spiritual Assemblies, Area Teaching Committees, and communities will come up with specific action steps to help individuals and families to achieve the goal. We are praying that every nucleus, family, and individual will consider what they can do and then step into the arena of service to do their part to win the goal.**

**A good first step will be reflection on another call to action found in a letter dated 18 December 2014 written by the Universal House of Justice to the Bahá'ís in Iran:**

***“Beloved friends: Gatherings dedicated to prayer throughout your blessed land, in every neighbourhood, town, village, and hamlet, and the increasing access that your compatriots are gaining to Bahá'í prayers are enabling your community to shine the light of unity in the assemblage of humanity, lending a share to the endeavours of your fellow believers throughout the world. Plant, then, the seeds of future Mashriqu'l-***

*Adhkárs for the benefit of all, and ignite countless beacons of light against the gloom of hatred and inequity.”*

You can participate in giving the gift of “sharing the spiritual food that sustains the life of the spirit,” by deciding when, how, how often, and with whom you will share it. After that, following the next few guidelines will assist the region to victory in winning the goal.

- For meeting the goal, devotionals need to be conducted on a regular basis, not one-time events. Regular can be as you determine- daily, weekly, monthly, whatever, but the intention needs to be to have them regularly, and the idea is not to stop at Ridván.
- The devotionals can be held in any way and with anyone that you like. For example, they can be with your family, children, or spouse. They can be with a friend, a neighbor, or a group of people. You can do them in person if situations allow, by Zoom, or even by telephone. There is no particular format to be followed. For example, you can decide to design a program or ask participants to select a prayer, passage, or poem to read. You can be creative or not. That part is up to you!
- You need to report your devotional by contacting the Regional Council at [secretary@rbcne.usbnc.org](mailto:secretary@rbcne.usbnc.org) Even after you have your first one, if your intention is to do it on a regular basis, report it then. Give the name of the person hosting (usually your own name or your family), the town or city where the person hosting lives, and how many people are attending. You can also report devotionals that have never been reported, as those will also count towards the goal.
- Once you have reported it, you do not need to report it each time it is held. If at some point the devotional is discontinued, report that.

The Regional Council is confident that, together in unified action, the institutions, agencies, and individuals in the Northeast will arise to meet the challenge before us. Meanwhile, please pray with us for a successful conclusion of the goal by Ridván.

With abiding love,

Regional Bahá'í Council of the Northeastern States

Marie McNair, Secretary

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