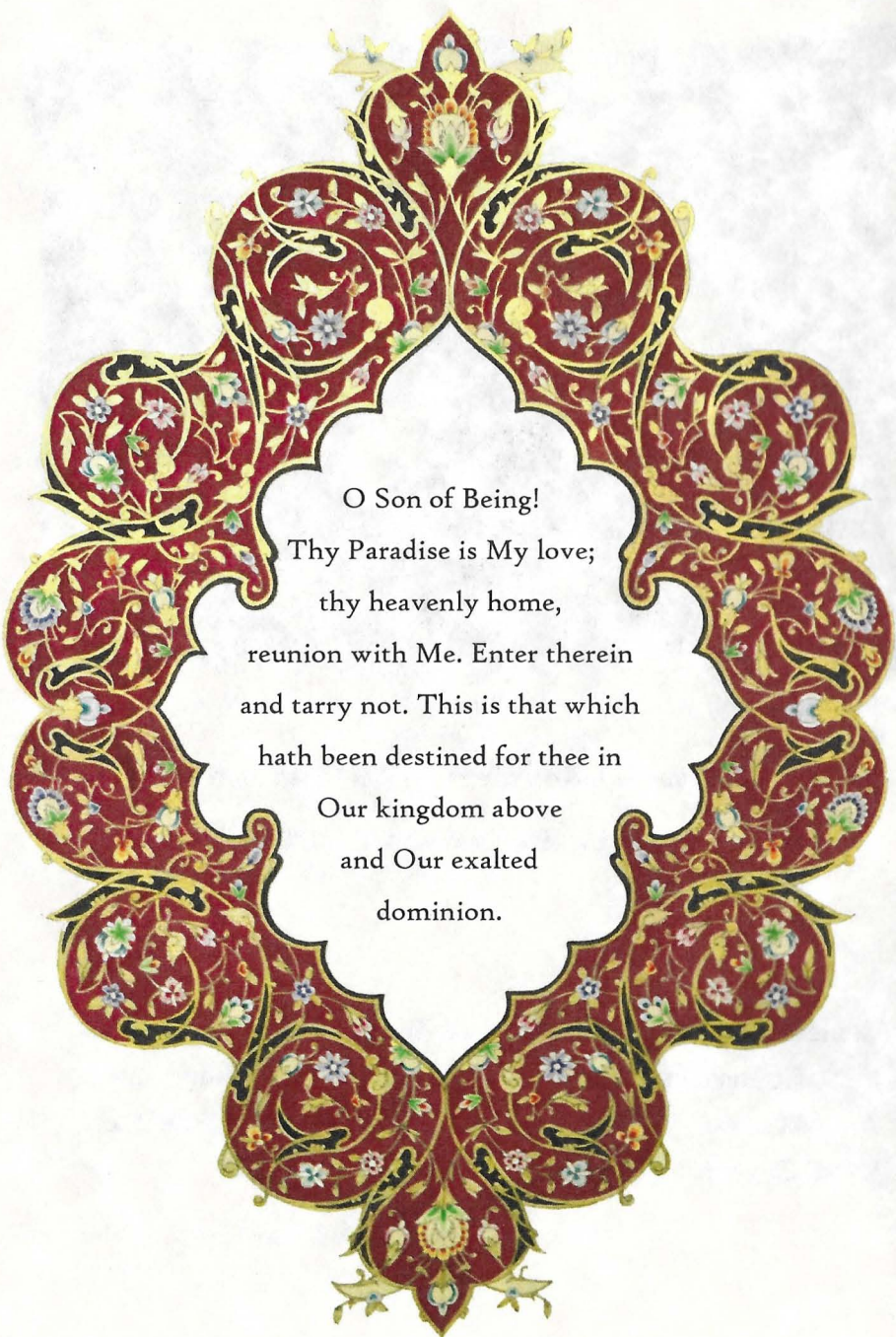
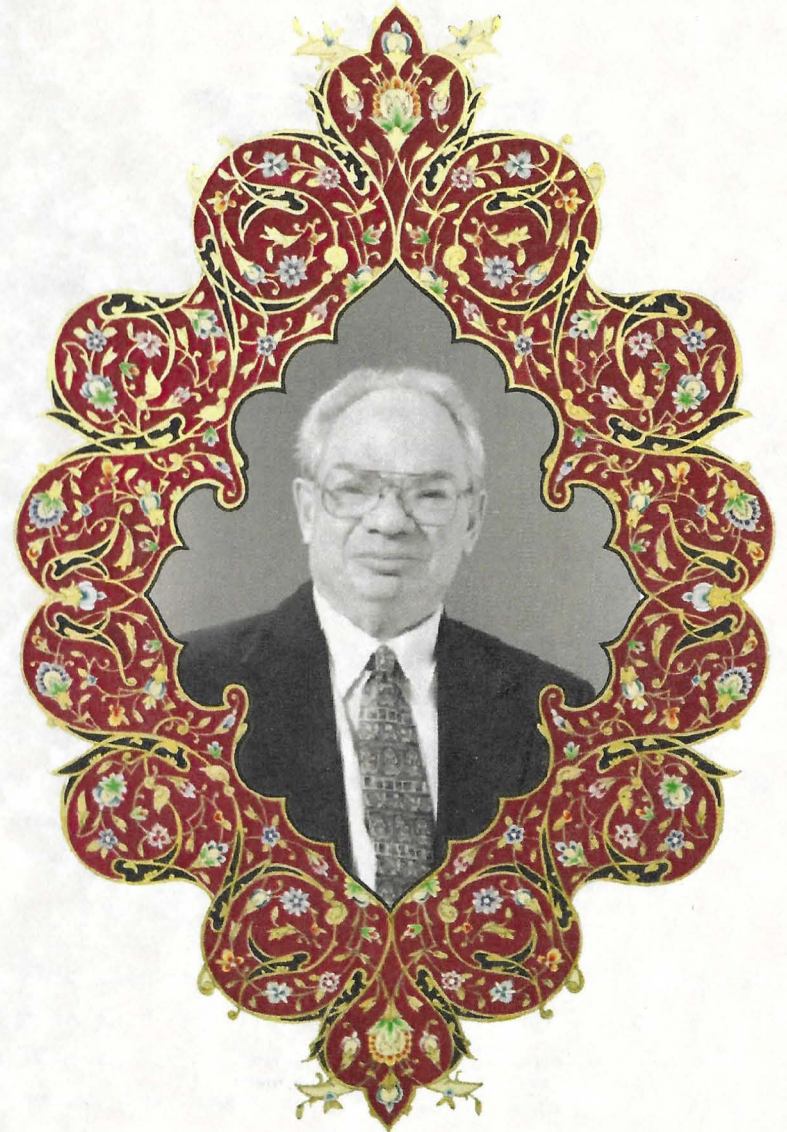


IN MEMORIAM



O Son of Being!
Thy Paradise is My love;
thy heavenly home,
reunion with Me. Enter therein
and tarry not. This is that which
hath been destined for thee in
Our kingdom above
and Our exalted
dominion.



FRED SCHECHTER

BAHÁ'Í HOUSE OF WORSHIP

MARCH 25, 2017

7:00 P.M.

DEVOTIONAL PROGRAM
AUDITORIUM

CHOIR SELECTION

PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS, LXXI
BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS, CLXV
BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

MUSICAL SELECTION

SELECTIONS FROM THE WRITINGS OF 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ, #12
'ABDU'L-BAHÁ

GLEANINGS, CLI
BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

PERSIAN CHANT

SELECTIONS FROM THE WRITINGS OF 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ, #165
'ABDU'L-BAHÁ

CHOIR SELECTION

◊◊◊

REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM
FOUNDATION HALL

Piano Music

Welcome and Opening Comments

Reading of the Condolence Messages from the Universal House of Justice
and the National Spiritual Assembly

Remembrances

Audiovisual Presentation

Closing Prayer

Close

DEVOTIONAL PROGRAM
AUDITORIUM



- CHOIR SELECTION -

Magnified be Thy name, O my God, for that Thou hast manifested the Day which is the King of Days, the Day which Thou didst announce unto Thy chosen Ones and Thy Prophets in Thy most excellent Tablets, the Day whereon Thou didst shed the splendor of the glory of all Thy names upon all created things. Great is his blessedness whosoever hath set himself towards Thee, and entered Thy presence, and caught the accents of Thy voice.

I beseech Thee, O my Lord, by the name of Him round Whom circleth in adoration the kingdom of Thy names, that Thou wilt graciously assist them that are dear to Thee to glorify Thy word among Thy servants, and to shed abroad Thy praise amidst Thy creatures, so that the ecstasies of Thy revelation may fill the souls of all the dwellers of Thine earth.

Since Thou hast guided them, O my Lord, unto the living waters of Thy grace, grant, by Thy bounty, that they may not be kept back from Thee; and since Thou hast summoned them to the habitation of Thy throne, drive them not out from Thy presence, through Thy loving-kindness. Send down upon them what shall wholly detach them from aught else except Thee, and make them able to soar in the atmosphere of Thy nearness, in such wise that neither the ascendancy of the oppressor nor the suggestions of them that have disbelieved in Thy most august and most mighty Self shall be capable of keeping them back from Thee.

Bahá'u'lláh

From the sweet-scented streams of Thine eternity give me to drink, O my God, and of the fruits of the tree of Thy being enable me to taste, O my Hope! From the crystal springs of Thy love suffer me to quaff, O my Glory, and beneath the shadow of Thine everlasting providence let me abide, O my Light! Within the meadows of Thy nearness, before Thy presence, make me able to roam, O my Beloved, and at the right hand of the throne of Thy mercy, seat me, O my Desire! From the fragrant breezes of Thy joy let a breath pass over me, O my Goal, and into the heights of the paradise of Thy reality let me gain admission, O my Adored One! To the melodies of the dove of Thy oneness suffer me to hearken, O Resplendent One, and through the spirit of Thy power and Thy might quicken me, O my Provider! In the spirit of Thy love keep me steadfast, O my Succorer, and in the path of Thy good pleasure set firm my steps, O my Maker! Within the garden of Thine immortality, before Thy countenance, let me abide for ever, O Thou Who art merciful unto me, and upon the seat of Thy glory stablish me, O Thou Who art my Possessor! To the heaven of Thy loving-kindness lift me up, O my Quickener, and unto the Daystar of Thy guidance lead me, O Thou my Attractor! Before the revelations of Thine invisible spirit summon me to be present, O Thou Who art my Origin and my Highest Wish, and unto the essence of the fragrance of Thy beauty, which Thou wilt manifest, cause me to return, O Thou Who art my God!

Potent art Thou to do what pleaseth Thee. Thou art, verily, the Most Exalted, the All-Glorious, the All-Highest.

Bahá'u'lláh



- MUSICAL SELECTION -

Know thou of a certainty that Love is the secret of God's holy Dispensation, the manifestation of the All-Merciful, the fountain of spiritual outpourings. Love is heaven's kindly light, the Holy Spirit's eternal breath that vivifieth the human soul. Love is the cause of God's revelation unto man, the vital bond inherent, in accordance with the divine creation, in the realities of things. Love is the one means that ensureth true felicity both in this world and the next. Love is the light that guideth in darkness, the living link that uniteth God with man, that assureth the progress of every illumined soul. Love is the most great law that ruleth this mighty and heavenly cycle, the unique power that bindeth together the divers elements of this material world, the supreme magnetic force that directeth the movements of the spheres in the celestial realms. Love revealeth with unfailing and limitless power the mysteries latent in the universe. Love is the spirit of life unto the adorned body of mankind, the establisher of true civilization in this mortal world, and the shedder of imperishable glory upon every high-aiming race and nation.

Whatsoever people is graciously favored therewith by God, its name shall surely be magnified and extolled by the Concourse from on high, by the company of angels, and the denizens of the Abhá Kingdom. And whatsoever people turneth its heart away from this Divine Love—the revelation of the Merciful—shall err grievously, shall fall into despair, and be utterly destroyed. That people shall be denied all refuge, shall become even as the vilest creatures of the earth, victims of degradation and shame.

O ye beloved of the Lord! Strive to become the manifestations of the love of God, the lamps of divine guidance shining amongst the kindreds of the earth with the light of love and concord.

All hail to the revealers of this glorious light!

‘Abdu'l-Bahá

Release yourselves, O nightingales of God, from the thorns and brambles of wretchedness and misery, and wing your flight to the rose-garden of unfading splendor. O My friends that dwell upon the dust! Haste forth unto your celestial habitation. Announce unto yourselves the joyful tidings: “He Who is the Best-Beloved is come! He hath crowned Himself with the glory of God’s Revelation, and hath unlocked to the face of men the doors of His ancient Paradise.” Let all eyes rejoice, and let every ear be gladdened, for now is the time to gaze on His beauty, now is the fit time to hearken to His voice. Proclaim unto every longing lover: “Behold, your Well-Beloved hath come among men!” and to the messengers of the Monarch of love impart the tidings: “Lo, the Adored One hath appeared arrayed in the fullness of His glory!” O lovers of His beauty! Turn the anguish of your separation from Him into the joy of an everlasting reunion, and let the sweetness of His presence dissolve the bitterness of your remoteness from His court.

Bahá’u’lláh



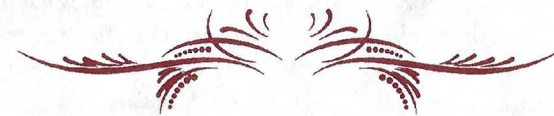
~ PERSIAN CHANT ~

O my God! O my God! Verily, thy servant, humble before the majesty of Thy divine supremacy, lowly at the door of Thy oneness, hath believed in Thee and in Thy verses, hath testified to Thy word, hath been enkindled with the fire of Thy love, hath been immersed in the depths of the ocean of Thy knowledge, hath been attracted by Thy breezes, hath relied upon his supplications to Thee, and hath been assured of Thy pardon and forgiveness. He hath abandoned this mortal life and hath flown to the kingdom of immortality, yearning for the favor of meeting Thee.

O Lord, glorify his station, shelter him under the pavilion of Thy supreme mercy, cause him to enter Thy glorious paradise, and perpetuate his existence in Thine exalted rose garden, that he may plunge into the sea of light in the world of mysteries.

Verily, Thou art the Generous, the Powerful, the Forgiver and the Bestower.

‘Abdu'l-Bahá



~ CHOIR SELECTION ~



Please proceed downstairs to Foundation Hall.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARIAT
OF THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

January 29, 2017

All National Spiritual Assemblies

We feel great sorrow as we mourn the passing of humble, loving, steadfast servant of the Cause of God, Fred Schechter. His wide-ranging achievements, spread over many decades, are the fruits of a life lived with selfless devotion to the Faith. Not long after enrolling as a Bahá'í, he answered the call of the beloved Guardian for believers to go to Africa, and there he was named a Knight of Bahá'u'lláh for French Somaliland. He also travelled as a pioneer to several countries in Latin America. His efforts to encourage Bahá'í youth were a notable feature of his thirteen years as a Continental Counsellor in the Americas, years which culminated in his appointment to the International Teaching Centre. His wisdom, kindness, and good humour, combined with a practical approach and friendly demeanour, enabled him in so many settings to advance the Cause and to help others develop a capacity for service.

In the Holy Shrines we will supplicate for the progress of his illumined soul, now reunited in the realms above with his dear wife, Julia. To his three children, as well as other family members, we offer our condolences. We call for memorial gatherings to be held in his honour in all Houses of Worship and in Bahá'í communities throughout the world.

The Universal House of Justice

cc: International Teaching Centre
Boards of Counsellors
Counsellors

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES

January 31, 2017

To the children of
Mr. Fred Schechter

Dearest Bahá'í Friends,

We share your sorrow in the passing of dear Fred Schechter, your beloved father and our good friend, a man whose warmth and loving kindness, genuine humility, and ready—but always gentle—sense of humor made for a presence that lifted spirits and inspired them to greater heights of service. Even as we mourn his departure and the loss of his delightful company, we join you in celebrating his nearly nine decades of this life—a life truly well spent, for the greater part of it was devoted to energetic, whole-hearted, and faithful service to God, to humanity, and to the Bahá'í Faith he embraced as a young man barely out of his teens.

Teacher, administrator, international pioneer, trusted member of some of the Faith's most senior institutions—the number and scope of Fred's significant and historic contributions to the worldwide advance of Bahá'u'lláh's unifying teachings are beyond our ability to adequately recount in the limited space afforded by a letter. Yet, moved by warmest admiration, we cannot fail to marvel at the intrepid spirit that motivated Fred—inspired by the beloved Guardian's Ten Year World Crusade and its call for believers to take the Faith to the many corners of the world that had yet to be touched by it—to arise and all alone set out for the African nation then called French Somaliland. Though just 26 and a recent college graduate, this act of unselfish obedience earned Fred membership in the company of those honored by Shoghi Effendi with the immortal designation “Knight of Bahá'u'lláh.”

From that auspicious start, years of similarly brave pioneering efforts followed, taking Fred successively to a great number of the diverse nations of Latin America. It was during this period of tireless itinerant teaching that he met his beloved bride, Julia—your dear late mother—who became his steadfast and enthusiastic support in nearly a quarter century of appointed service as an Auxiliary Board member, Continental Counselor, and Counselor member of the International Teaching Center.

Without a doubt, Fred's stellar record of service to our sacred Cause has added imperishable luster to the annals of the American Bahá'í community, and our hearts swell with joy and pride to claim him among the heroes of Faith born on this soil.

We extend our heartfelt condolences on the loss you—his cherished daughter, Amy, and sons, Charles and Jim—have sustained, asking you to share them with your respective spouses, with Fred's adored grandchildren, and with all other family members. Be assured your dear father will be fondly remembered in our prayers in the stillness of the great Auditorium of the Mother Temple of the West, where we will offer supplications for the eternal progress of his radiant soul—reunited now with his beloved Julia in the realms of pure spirit that await the faithful on the opposite shore of this life.

With tender Bahá'í love,

Kenneth E. Bowers
Secretary

National Spiritual Assembly of the
Bahá'ís of the United States



Counselors-Auxiliary Board Conference

May 22-25, 1981 - Lincolnwood, Illinois

Center: Hand of the Cause of God Zikrulláh Khádem; Left to right: Counselors Hidáyatu'lláh Ahmadíyyih, Artemus Lamb, Angus Cowan, Velma Sherrill, Lauretta King, Fred Schechter, Lloyd Gardner, and Sarah Pereira