

Norman Cluster Newsletter



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Ridván Garden photo by Ryan Lash

Newcomers of All Ages Joining Our Community



Welcome!

The Selchert Family has transferred from Columbia, Missouri. Gary, Carol, and young Sarah have moved here to help Carol's mother. Carol herself grew up in Norman. She and Gary met when they both worked in the information technology industry some years ago. Gary has been a Bahá'í since 1970; Carol became a member in the mid-90s. They say they're looking forward to getting acquainted with the friends here. Both Carol and Gary attended Suzanne's Ruhi Book 2 class Aug. 5—on a moment's notice, as it happened. We're happy to have them and look forward to seeing them all soon.



Congratulations to the Cougher and Stevens Families!

Oliver Reinhold Cougher, was born July 27, 2009 at 9:27 p.m. to John and Sarah Cougher. He weighed in at 7 lbs. 2 oz. and stretches to 20 inches long. Mother and baby are doing well. Big sister, Sadie, is enjoying quality (and quantity) time with Daddy!



LSA Report

- The Sooner Kickoff is scheduled for Friday the 21st and the Bahá'ís will have a booth with material to be given away to the incoming students. We are purchasing about \$300 worth of supplies for this event.
 - There will be a Norman Cluster Reflections Gathering Saturday, August 15th at the Norman Baha'i Center. Potluck dinner starts at 6:30 and a community picture will be taken to be sent in to the American Baha'i with an article celebrating our successes and progress.
 - The Ministers Alliance group has requested the use of our Center for one of their monthly meetings. The Stevenses will host their meeting and give the group a fireside.
 - The ATC has gotten the city's requirements for hosting a Block Party the committee is planning for the Center.
 - The librarian will be purchasing approximately \$50.00 worth of Bahá'í children's books to be kept at the Center and for use at Feasts for story time with the children. The Assembly is encouraging everyone to sign up to lead the children's program at the Feasts.
 - We will be getting two separate bids on the parking lot resurfacing soon and will let the community know what we find out.
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Treasurer's Report

We have had another great month. We met our money goal but are still falling a little short of the goal for participation percentages (adult goal 40%; actual 36%). But the children just achieved 50% participation! We have met our financial goal every month this year, five for five! We can all be thankful we are not in a part of the country that is really hurting from the recession. [Cliff Stevens]

Sundays at the Center

Want to start your week off with some wonderful fellowship and prayerful devotion? Why not try the Sunday morning devotions at the Baha'i Center at 10:30! It is usually a small, casual group that enjoys prayers, lively discussion and spiritual rejuvenation. It is not unusual for us to have a guest show up to see what the Baha'i Faith is all about. The last Sunday of the month is the potluck breakfast at 9:00. This is a full breakfast—not just donuts! We enjoy breakfast, some singing at 10:00 and then prayers at 10:30. Everyone is welcome!

Tidbits

- The Community Speakers Program will resume on August 28 with Brenda Wheelock speaking about the Cleveland County Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty (CROP) Walk to Fight Hunger.
- Ten children from the Norman Baha'i classes met with their teachers on July 28th for a night of bowling at the Sooner Bowling Lanes in Norman. Two were friends of Baha'i children.
- Some of us received the transcription of a recent talk by Dr. Peter Khan, "Reflections on the Ridván 2009 Message." He clarifies elements of that message from the Universal House of Justice in ways you'll find inspiring. If you would like a copy, please contact me at knpark@yahoo.com or 310-6512.