Festival of Ridván

In support of our staff, students, faculty and postdocs, this information is offered as a resource about the Baha’i observance of the Festival of Ridván.

APRIL 20–MAY 2, 2019

HISTORY AND MEANING

The Festival of Ridván commemorates the 12 days when Bahá’u’lláh, the prophet-founder, lived in paradise, which is called Ridván. During this time, Bahá’u’lláh declared that he was the messenger of God for that time. This is the holiest of days in the Baha’i tradition. Baha’i houses of worship hark back to Ridván. They are circular in shape, have nine sides and a dome, and are surrounded by nine gardens.

TIPS FOR SUPPORTING THE VANDERBILT COMMUNITY

• Be aware of fasting and the Festival of Ridván when planning unit-based events.

• While students are not automatically excused from class for this observance, they may work with their course instructors to make accommodations, such as considerations for students who may be fasting. Graduate and professional students must refer to their own school and departmental vacation policies and calendars for more specific information.

• Staff members may request paid time off for this observance. Support their preference to take leave for their religious observance.

TYPICAL OBSERVANCES

• There are special meals and community activities to mark this aspect of the life of Bahá’u’lláh.

• Elections for spiritual assemblies are held during this time.

RESOURCES FOR MANAGING WELL-BEING AND MENTAL HEALTH

People feel many types of emotions during the holidays—joy, peace, stress and depression, to name a few. Whatever you feel, know you are not alone, and Vanderbilt has resources to help you through these challenges.

Faculty, Staff and Postdocs
Work/Life Connections-EAP
(615) 936-1327
vumc.org/health-wellness/work-life

Students
Office of Student Care Coordination
(615) 343-9355
vanderbilt.edu/carecoordination/

This resource is part of a toolkit created by Equity, Diversity and Inclusion to highlight religious and cultural observances that members of our community may practice. This toolkit is not meant to be exhaustive, but instead to provide a general overview of how we can support staff, faculty, students and postdocs. We continually refine this information and welcome your suggestions.

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