

Baha'is Observe New Year Rites

WILMETTE, Ill. —

Significance of Naw Ruz, the New Year of the Baha'i World Faith, March 21, will be discussed at public meetings by Baha'is throughout the United States, according to the national secretary, Charles Wolcott.

Mr. Wolcott pointed out that the cycle of the Baha'i year culminates in a 19 day period of fasting, in spiritual preparation for the beginning of the new year. During this time, members of the Faith do not eat between sunrise and sun-

set; instead, they use meal time for prayer and study.

He stressed the timeliness of the message delivered by Baha'u'llah, a Persian of the 19th century, believed by millions throughout the world to be "the prophet for the new age." From a prison cell in Akka, Palestine, Baha'u'llah wrote: "The gift of God for this enlightened age is the knowledge of the oneness of mankind, and the fundamental oneness of religion."

Commenting on the Baha'i calendar, Wolcott stated that "instead of the names of pagan feasts and Roman holidays for our months we have been given a calendar in which the name of each month indicates a spiritual quality, such as Light, Mercy, Honor and Loftiness."

The beginning of the Baha'i New Year, March 20, coincides with the advent of spring, a time which mankind naturally associates with renewal and rebirth. Speaking of this age, Wolcott quoted "This is a new cycle of human power . . . It is the hour of unity of the sons of men and of the drawing together of all races and all classes."