

SPRING CELEBRATIONS

“The coming of a Manifestation of God is the season of spiritual spring.” —‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Birds are singing and the scent of flowers fills the air as the warm soil bursts with new life. It’s spring, a wonderful time of fresh growth and energy!

This time of year is especially joyful for Bahá’ís, who celebrate several

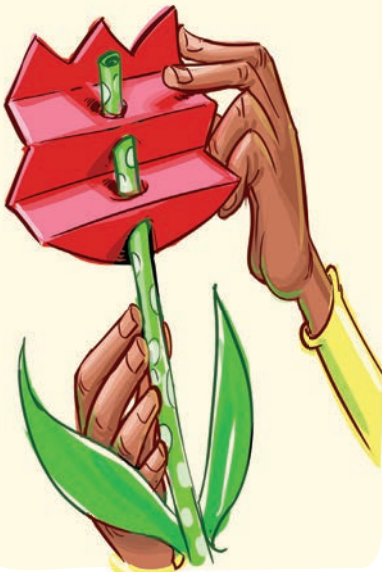
holy days. March 21 is the Bahá’í New Year, or Naw-Rúz. Then, April 21 to May 2, we celebrate the Festival of Ridván. These 12 days are known as the “King of Festivals,” honoring Bahá’u’lláh’s declaration that He is a Messenger of God bringing a new Faith to unite the world.

This spring, bring a spirit of unity and renewal to your community by inviting friends and family to share in games and activities.

FLOWERS OF ONE GARDEN

Draw a 4" tulip head on colored construction paper and cut out. Make four horizontal accordion folds, evenly spaced, and punch a hole in the center. Unfold paper, and fit a green straw through holes of tulip.

Cut out two thin leaves from green construction paper. Add glue to bottom of each leaf and wrap around bottom of straw.



RHYTHM STOMP



Divide into groups of three or four. Each group finds objects to use as percussion instruments (such as sticks, rocks, buckets, etc.). They can also use body movements, such as clapping, snapping, or stomping.

Groups cooperate to create a short, rhythmic song with the instruments. Then they each perform for the larger group.



BIRD'S NEST COOKIES

Put $\frac{3}{4}$ cup butterscotch chips and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup creamy peanut butter in the microwave for 20 seconds, then stir. Repeat until melted. Pour over two cups crunchy chow mein noodles and mix well.

Place spoonfuls of noodles on baking sheet lined with wax paper. Top with egg-shaped candies, then refrigerate until firm.

PURE HEART PRAYER CARD

Use pencil to draw a large heart on card stock. Inside heart, make a box for each word of a quote, such as, “Create in me a pure heart.” Leave space between boxes. Fill each box with a word, using different lettering styles.

Draw designs in spaces between boxes. Erase box lines. Add color with markers, colored pencils, paint, or glitter glue.



Research by Lisa Blecker and Amy Renshaw
Writing by Katie Bishop • Art by C. Aaron Kreader