

Bahá'í Houses of Worship Mashriqu'l-Adhkár

Apia, Samoa, 1984

Class prepared by Arthur Lyon Dahl

'Abdu'l-Bahá

Although to outward seeming the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár is a material structure, yet it hath a spiritual effect. It forgeth bonds of unity from heart to heart; it is a collective centre for men's souls.... The edifice of the House of Worship hath a powerful influence on every phase of life.

(‘Abdu'l-Bahá, Selections from the Writings of ‘Abdu'l-Bahá, §60)

Bahá'í House of Worship Pacific Islands

The Bahá'í House of Worship for the Pacific Islands sits on a mountainside behind Apia, Samoa. It was designed by the architect Hossein Amanat, who also designed buildings on the arc at the Bahá'í World Centre on Mount Carmel in Haifa, Israel. It was dedicated in 1984.

House of
Worship

Apia
Samoa



Apia
Samoa



Apia
Samoa





Dedication of the House of Worship 1984

The House of Worship was dedicated in 1984 by Hand of the Cause Ruhiiyyih Khanum in the presence of the Head of State, His Highness Susuga Malietoa Tanumafili II, the first ruling Head of State to become a Bahá'í. My wife Martine made the official film of the dedication, and my brother Keith, a long-time pioneer to Samoa, and I were official photographers. My mother and children also attended the dedication. I first visited Samoa in 1969 for a Baha'i youth conference, and have made many trips there since, spending more than a year there altogether, so I feel very close to the people of Samoa.

Dedication 1984





We all
helped to
prepare the
gardens for
the
Dedication



Me
working
in the
gardens



Lilian Ala'i,
Knight of
Bahá'u'lláh
for Samoa
as the first
Bahá'í to go
there in
1954 (green
dress),
showed
guests to
their seats



A choir
provided
music



The
architect
of the
House of
Worship
Hossein
Amanat
and his
wife



Arrival of
the Head
of State,
Malietoa
Tanumafili
II



The
Malietoa
and
Ruhiyyih
Khanum



Malietao speaking at the dedication



Dedication

Apia
Samoa
1984



Apia
Samoa
1984
Dedication

Ruhiyyih
Khanum



After the dedication ceremony, there was a traditional Samoan celebration with gifts for the honoured guests



Gifts
included
whole
roast
pigs



My wife
Martine
and her
film crew



The Head
of State
was
presented
with a
model of
the House
of Worship



The youth
performed
traditional
Samoan
dances and
songs



The youth
performed
traditional
Samoan
dances and
songs



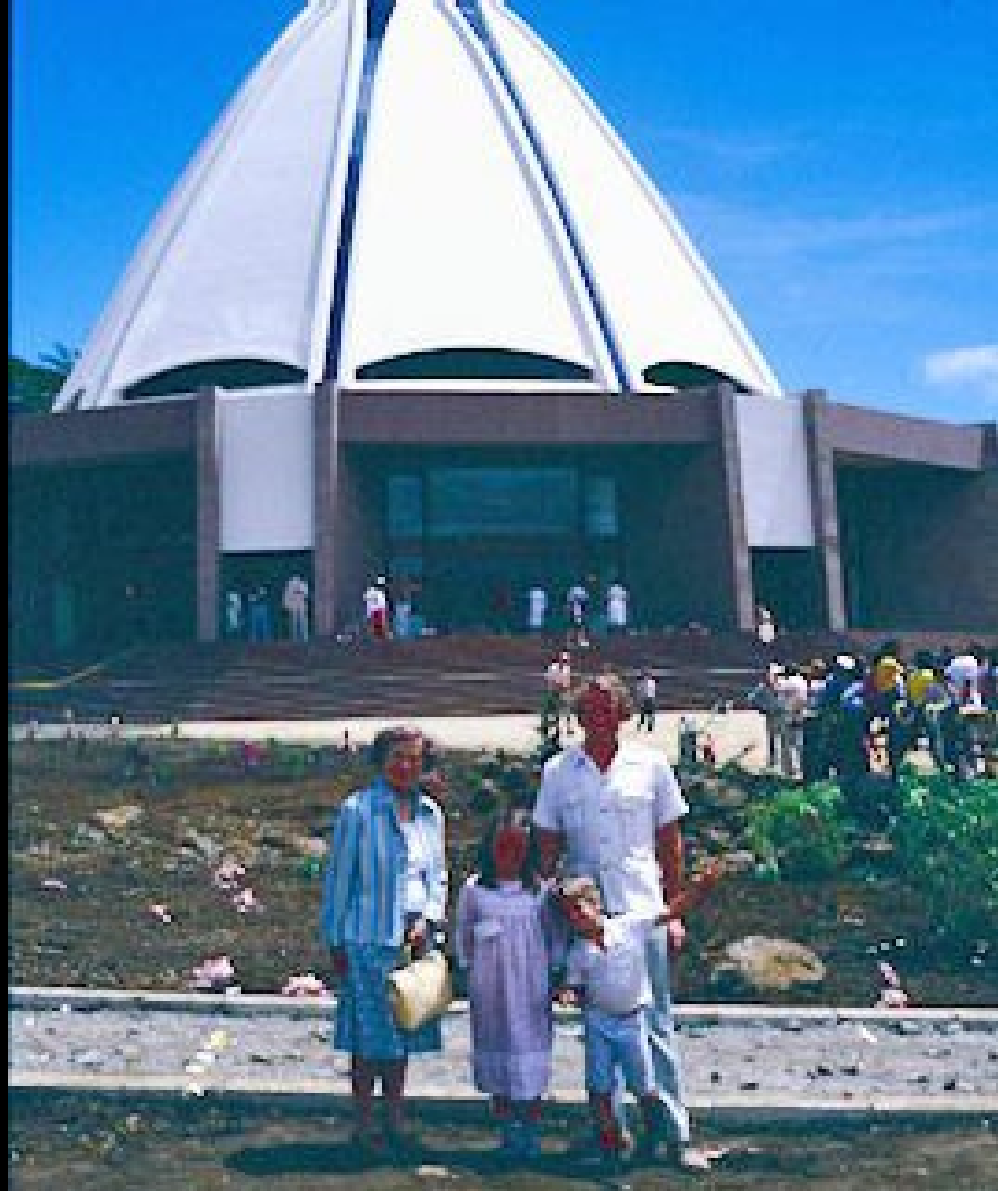
A beautiful young girl dances, in this case Sitarih Ala'i, the daughter of Suhayl and Lilian Ala'i



Apia
Samoa
1984



Me with
my mother
and children



photographers
including my
wife Martine,
me and my
brother Keith



Apia
Samoa
1984



Samoa
House of
Worship
at night

