

# Association for Bahá'í Studies–North America

## 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference

9 — 12 August 2018  
Sheraton Atlanta, Georgia, United States

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### ***Important Information***

***Conference Badge*** Your conference badge is your “ticket of admission” to all sessions. You must wear it to attend conference sessions. Security personnel will not allow admittance to anyone without a badge.

***Security*** The security and usher volunteers at the conference are there to assist you. Please follow their instructions at all times. They can be identified by red ribbons on their badges.

***Promptness*** The schedule of sessions is very full. To give equal time to the speakers, the sessions must begin on time. We request your cooperation in arriving promptly.

***Cell Phones*** The ringing of mobile telephones in the audience is very disruptive to a presentation. Please turn off your cell phone or put it on “silent” mode while you are in the conference sessions.

***The Children’s and Junior Youth Program*** (Children must be preregistered to attend)  
The Children and Junior Youth Program for ages 5 to 14, is being held in **Savannah 1, 2 & 3 on level 2**. Parents may drop off children at their program 15 minutes before the adult session starting time and are required to sign a Medical Information and Emergency Health Care Release form and return it to the Children’s Program coordinators. Snacks are included in the program. Please pick up your children promptly at the close of each session and for the lunch breaks. The times for the sessions are:

<b>Junior Youth</b>		<b>Children</b>	
Thursday, 9 August	9:00 am — 5:30 pm	Thursday, 9 August	10:00 am — 5:30 pm
Friday, 10 August	9:00 am — 6:00 pm	Friday, 10 August	9:00 am — 6:00 pm
Saturday, 11 August	9:00 am. — 6:00 pm	Saturday, 11 August	9:00 am. — 6:00 pm
Sunday, 12 August	9:30 am — 12:30 pm	Sunday, 12 August	9:30 am — 12:30 pm

**Room for Parents with Young Children Georgia 13** on **level 1** is assigned to parents with children under the age of five.

**The Youth Conference** (ages 15 to 18) takes place in **Valdosta**, on **level 2**.

**The Conference Bookstore** is operated by the US Bahá'í Distribution Service. The bookstore is located in **Piedmont** on **level 3** and offers a wide selection of books and materials, including books and CDs by authors and artists presenting at the conference. Hours of operation are

Thursday, 9 August 2:00 am — 7:00 pm

Friday, 10 August 9:00 am — 7:00 pm

Saturday, 11 August 9:00 am — 7:00 pm

Sunday, 12 August 9:00 am — 1:00 pm

**Evaluation Forms** The ABS Executive Committee values your feedback in continuing efforts to improve the conference, and invites you to submit your evaluation online at <http://bahai-studies.ca/conferenceevaluation>.

**Video Recordings** Plenary session recordings will be available to download and viewing on the ABS Vimeo account at <https://vimeo.com/absna>.

**Lost and Found** Lost and found articles should be reported to the Conference Registration Table. After the close of the conference, any items not picked up will be turned over to the hotel.

**Prayer / Quiet Meditation Room** The room **Georgia 2** on **level 1** is available from 10am to 9pm for anyone who may wish to spend some time in prayerful reflection. Please bring your own prayer books. This room is not to be used for any other purpose, no matter how quiet and respectful.

**Association Endowment Funds** These funds are established by individuals to support and encourage Bahá'í scholarship initiatives. If you wish to explore opportunities to contribute to these funds and support the goals of the Association, please feel free to consult with the treasurer of the Executive Committee.

**Photography** Please be aware that three official Conference Photographers, identified by their badge, will be taking photos throughout the event. These photos are property of the Association for Bahá'í Studies, which uses them for as historical records, for promotion of its own activities, and in reports to the institutions and to the general public.

## Conference Statement

Material civilization is like unto the lamp, while spiritual civilization is the light of that lamp. If the material and spiritual civilizations become united, then we will have the light and the lamp together, and the outcome will be perfect.

— ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*

Central to the aim of carrying forward the renewal of civilization is the intellectual advancement of humanity. The process of participating in the prevalent discourses of society contributes to laying the foundation of a new world.

The ABS Conference seeks to provide a purposeful environment characterized by learning, collaboration, and mutual support. We envision participants assisting one another to advance their intellectual capacities to sharpen spiritual perception, accurately read social reality, analyze the assumptions and concepts in their fields, and correlate them with Bahá’í teachings.

Since the establishment of the Association for Bahá’í Studies in 1975, the annual conference has endeavored to strengthen the intellectual life of the Bahá’í community through creating spaces to promote learning and collaboration, serving to accelerate ongoing intellectual discovery. At this unique time in history, as humanity stands at the threshold between adolescence and collective maturity, we witness from all sides the rapid disintegration of the present world order. While many survey the transformations with feelings of unease and fear, Bahá’ís are buoyed by the hope of Bahá’u’lláh’s promise that integrative forces are exerting their influence, crystallizing in all spheres of human life, and ushering in a new era of spiritual civilization. These forces of integration are motivating increasing numbers of people to work towards justice and unity in their respective communities and in society as a whole. They are also gradually reshaping society through the conscious efforts of Bahá’ís, striving alongside their friends and collaborators. In light of the present condition of society, the 2018 annual conference of the Association for Bahá’í Studies will focus on the wide implications of civilization building for discourse across all disciplines.

The Association welcomes submissions from individuals and groups of all ages and disciplines, especially youth and first time presenters, who wish to contribute to the discourse of their respective field through the lens of Bahá’í concepts related to civilization building.

	Thursday			Friday
8:15				8:15 – 8:45 Welcome Breakfast: Grab a coffee and meet us in room <i>Georgia 6</i>
9:00				9:00 – 10:15 Special Workshops
10:00	10:00 – 12:00 <b>Working Groups Sessions</b>  Agriculture <i>Georgia 3</i>  Health <i>Georgia 5</i>	10:00 – 12:00 <b>Study of guidance from the Universal House of Justice</b>  <a href="#">Uprooting Racism in America</a> <i>Athens</i>  <a href="#">Racial Prejudice</a> <i>Macon</i>  <a href="#">Climate Change</a> <i>Augusta</i>	10:00 – 12:00 <b>Learning about Working Groups</b>  Drop in any time and meet with members of various ABS Working Groups  <i>Georgia 6</i>	<b>Contributing to Prevalent Discourses</b>  Youth & undergrad students: <i>Valdosta</i> Grad students & post-doc <i>Augusta</i> Faculty & professionals <i>Macon</i> General interest <i>Athens</i> See “Workshops” p. 29
12:00	Lunch Break			Lunch Break
14:00	14:00 – 17:30 <b>Simultaneous Breakout Sessions</b>  Details: table on p. 7  Abstracts and presenters’ biographical information: pp. 12-29			14:00 – 18:00 <b>Simultaneous Breakout Sessions</b>  Details: table on pp. 8-9  Abstracts and presenters’ biographical information: pp. 12-29
18:00	Dinner Break			Dinner Break
19:30	19:30 – <i>Ballroom</i> Plenary Session Chair: Nwandi Lawson  <b>Official Conference Welcome</b> Representatives of the Continental Board of Counselors for the Americas and of the National Spiritual Assemblies of the United States and Canada  _____ <b>Social Identity and the Oneness of Humankind: Reconciling the Universal with the Particular</b> Shahrzad Sabet  p.24			18:15 – 19:15 – <i>Georgia 3&amp;9</i> <b>BIHE Open Meeting</b>  19:30 – <i>Ballroom</i> Plenary Session Chair: Mariam Ashtiani  Screening of <b>An American Story: Race Amity and the Other Tradition</b> Discussion by William H. Smith and Craig Rothman p.24  _____ 21:10 Screening of <b>“The Gate: The Story of the Báb”</b> Discussion by Edward Price and Steve Sarowitz p. 22

	Saturday	Sunday
9:00	9:00 – 10:15 Special Workshops  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Evolving Conceptual Framework</b></p> Youth & undergrad students: <i>Valdosta</i> Grad students & post-doc <i>Augusta</i> Faculty & professionals <i>Macon</i> General interest <i>Athens</i> See “Workshops” p. 29	10:00 – <i>Ballroom</i> Plenary Session Chair: Shabnam Koirala Azad  <p><b>Building Community with Refugee Populations in Atlanta</b>            Soroosh Behshad, Laretta George, Jasmine Miller-Kleinhenz, Shadi Salehian (chair)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">p. 13</p>
10:00	10:30 – <i>Ballroom</i> Plenary Session Chair: Ken Bowers  <p><b>Devotions</b></p> <p><b>Constructive Resilience</b>            Firaydoun Javaheri</p> <p style="text-align: right;">p. 16</p>	<hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: 0;"/> <p><b>The Residue of Memory &amp; the Clarion Call of Truth: Healing through Reclamation and Remembrance</b>            Masud Olufani</p> <p><b>Closing Remarks – ABS Executive Committee</b>            Shabnam Koirala Azad            Association for Bahá’í Studies Executive Committee</p> <p style="text-align: right;">p. 21</p>
12:00	Lunch Break	End of conference program
13:00	12:45 – 13:45 – <i>Georgia 3&amp;9</i> <b>BIHE Open Meeting</b>	
14:00	14:00 – 18:00  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Simultaneous Breakout Sessions</b></p> Details: table on pp. 10-11  Abstracts and presenters’ biographical information: pp. 12-29	
18:00	Dinner Break	
19:00	19:30 – <i>Ballroom</i> Plenary Session Chair: PJ Andrews  <p><b>Devotions</b></p> <p><b>Navigating Discourse on Race within the Politicized Landscape of Journalism</b>            Jesse Washington</p> <p style="text-align: right;">p. 28</p>	

# Youth Conference – Valdosta Room

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9:00 – 12:00</b>		<b>14:00 – 15:30</b>	<b>15:45 – 18:00</b>	
	<i>Field Trip to the Martin Luther King Jr. Center</i>		<i>The Elimination of Racial Prejudice and the Community Building Process</i>  Phyllis and Gene Unterschuentz	<i>Uniting Spiritual and Material Civilization (Part 1 of 2)</i>	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9:00 – 10:15</b>	<b>10:45 – 12:00</b>	<b>14:00 – 15:00</b>	<b>15:15 – 16:45</b>	<b>17:00 – 18:00</b>
	<i>Contributing to the Discourses of Society: A Participatory Workshop</i>	<i>Meeting with former member of the Universal House of Justice</i>  Firaydoun Javaheri  p.16	<i>Meeting with Continental Counselor</i>  Nwandi Lawson	<i>Breaking It Down Toward E Pluribus Unum</i>  William H. Smith  p.27	<i>How Can We Get the Leaders We Need to Bring Us the Peace We Deserve</i>  Sovaida Ma'ani and Gigi Ewing  p.11
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9:00 – 10:15</b>	<b>10:30 – 12:00</b>	<b>14:00 – 15:30 Main Ballroom</b>	<b>15:45 – 16:45</b>	<b>17:00 – 18:00</b>
	<i>The Evolving Framework for Action: A Participatory Workshop</i>	<i>This is the presentation we wish we had seen ... so we would have remained Bahá'í when we were in our twenties (Part 1 of 2)</i>  Porya Hosseini and Sahba Kian  p.18	<i>Interactive Session with Native American Artist and Author</i>  Kevin Locke  p.19	<i>This is the presentation we wish we had seen ... so we would have remained Bahá'í when we were in our twenties (Part 2 of 2)</i>  Porya Hosseini and Sahba Kian  p.18	<i>Social Media, Music, You</i>  Raha Lewis
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9:30 – 10:45</b>	<b>11:00 – 12:00 Main Ballroom</b>			
	<i>Uniting Spiritual and Material Civilization (Part 2 of 2)</i>	<i>The Residue of Memory and the Clarion Call of Truth: Healing through Reclamation and Remembrance</i>  Masud Olufani  p.21			

## Thursday Breakout Schedule — 10:00 to 17:30

Room	Georgia 3 & 9	Georgia 7 & 8	Georgia 6 & 12	Athens	Macon	Augusta
10:00 – 12:00	<i>Agriculture Working Group</i>	<i>Health Working Group</i>	<i>Learning about Working Groups</i>	<i>Message Study Session</i> Uprooting Racism in America	<i>Message Study Session</i> Efforts to Eliminate Racial Prejudice	<i>Message Study Session</i> Climate Change
Room	Georgia 3 & 9	Georgia 5 & 11	Georgia 7 & 8	Athens	Macon	Augusta
14:00 – 15:00	<i>Robert Stockman</i> What is the Bahá'í Faith? The History of Summaries p.27	<i>Tanja Sargent</i> Educating Morally Empowered Global Citizens in China p.25	<i>Anita Jefferson</i> Eloquent Speech: Using Words to Transform Society p.16	<i>Soroosh Behshad</i> The Global Refugee Health Crisis: How Can I Become More Involved Both Globally and Locally? p.13	<i>James Samimi-Farr</i> Policy and Profit: The Hidden Structures of Our Media System p.25	<i>Barbara Matthews</i> Old Age: The Paradox of Physical Decline and Spiritual Greatness p.20
15:15 – 16:15	<i>Robert Stockman</i> Wilmette Institute Information Session	<i>Thaddeus Herman</i> Bahá'í Inspired Schools: From Iran to India p.15	<i>Carolyn Murphy</i> Developing Rationality, Education and the Scientific Process: The Supreme Gift of God to Man p.20	<i>Tania Nordli</i> Knowledge, Ethics, and Action: A Bahá'í Response to the Plague of Addiction p.21	<i>Rezaie &amp; Tyson</i> * 15:15 – 16:45 Finding Mutualism in the Study and Practice of Film p.23	<i>Gordon Braithwaite</i> Water and Light: Reflections on Metaphor in the Bahá'í Writings p.13
16:30 – 17:30	<i>Sana Zareey</i> Understanding the Lived Experiences of Youth with Secondary School Streaming: Neighborhood-based Research and Discourse p.29	<i>Glen Cotten</i> Truth, Beauty and Goodness: Three Interconnected Aims of "True Education" p.14	<i>Law Working Group Introduction</i> p.19	<i>Gisu Mohadjer</i> Eliminating the Extremes of Wealth and Poverty: Guidance in the Bahá'í Writings on Global, Community, and Individual Action p.20		<i>Kamran Sedig</i> Developing the "Eye of Oneness": An Integrative Analysis p.26

### Special sessions

Economies Working Group: Sharing and Formulating Questions for the Study of Economies, 14:00 – 16:00 Georgia 6

## Friday Afternoon Breakouts Schedule – 14:00 to 18:00

Room	Georgia 3 & 9	Georgia 4 & 10	Georgia 5 & 11	Georgia 7 & 8
Track	Social Action	Leadership	Indigenous Studies	Health
<b>14:00</b>	<p><i>Khorrām, Javid, Williams, St. John</i></p> <p>Learning about Social Action from the Experience of Bahá'í-inspired Organizations</p> <p><b>14:00 – 15:30</b></p> <p>p. 17</p>	<p><i>Hernandez &amp; Kerr</i></p> <p>Transformative Leadership: Developing the Hidden Dimension</p> <p><b>14:00 – 15:30</b></p> <p>p. 15</p>	<p><i>Tamara Pearl</i></p> <p><i>Mamawis Wichitowin: The Creation of Innovative Programming for the Indigenization and Decolonization of Law Schools and Beyond</i></p> <p><b>14:00 – 15:00</b></p> <p>p. 21</p>	<p><i>Darius Loghmanee</i></p> <p>Moving Toward a Community-based Paradigm of Health Education</p> <p><b>14:00 – 15:30</b></p> <p>p. 19</p>
<b>15:30</b>			<p><i>Temily Tavangar</i></p>	
<b>15:45</b>	<p><i>Tavangar &amp; Dozier</i></p> <p>Diversity Is Not the Goal: Exploring Transformational Principles in the Quest for Racial Justice</p> <p><b>15:45 – 17:15</b></p> <p>p. 27</p>	<p><i>Paula Drewek</i></p> <p>Friendship and Faith: Women's Experiences of Reaching Out to "the Other"</p> <p><b>15:45 – 16:45</b></p> <p>p. 14</p>	<p>World Religion as Indigenous Religion: The Baha'i Faith and Malaysia's Semai Tribe</p> <p><b>15:15 – 16:15</b></p> <p>p. 28</p>	<p><i>Akhavan, Akhavan, Kardan</i></p> <p>Menstrual Inequity, the Advancement of Women, and the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh</p> <p><b>15:45 – 17:15</b></p> <p>p. 12</p>
<b>17:15</b>				
<b>18:00</b>		<p><i>Sandra Schickele</i></p> <p>The Millennial Generation and the Coming New Race of Humankind</p> <p><b>17:00 – 18:00</b></p> <p>p. 26</p>	<p><b>Indigenous Studies</b></p> <p>Working Group Reflection and Planning Meeting</p>	

### Special sessions

BIHE open meeting: 18:15 – 19:15 *Georgia 3 & 9*



## Friday Afternoon Breakouts Schedule — 14:00 to 18:00

Athens	Macon	Augusta	Room
Scholarship	Race	Governance	Track
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Meet the Authors</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>John S. Hatcher</i> <i>Kathryn Jewett-Hogenson</i> <i>Michael Karlberg</i> <i>Sovaida Ma'ani</i> <i>Julia Berger (chair)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>14:00 – 15:30</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">p. 20</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Monjazeb &amp; DeGruy</i></p> <p>Exploring the History of Racial Injustice in the United States as a Context to Understand the Bahá'í Writings on Our Most Challenging Issue</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>14:00 – 15:30</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">p. 14</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Ahlhauser, Chandler, Abbas</i></p> <p>Insights into Anti-Corruption Discourse</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>14:00 – 15:30</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">p. 12</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>14:00</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Shahrzad Sabet</i></p> <p>Social Identity and the Oneness of Humankind</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Plenary Follow-up</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>15:45 – 16:45</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">p. 24</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Anthony Vance</i></p> <p>Louis Gregory: The Oneness of Humanity and Highlights in the Development of the African American Lawyer</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>15:45 – 16:45</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">p. 28</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Julia Berger</i></p> <p>Global Polity: The Baha'i International Community and the United Nations</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>15:45 – 16:45</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">p. 13</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>15:30</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>15:45</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>John S. Hatcher</i></p> <p>Scholarship and the Framework for Action</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>17:00 – 18:00</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">p. 15</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Shadi Salehian</i></p> <p>The Role of Resilience in Promoting Successful Integration of Displaced Populations</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>17:00 – 18:00</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">p. 24</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Roya Akhavan</i></p> <p>Terrorism: Root Causes and Solutions</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>17:00 – 18:00</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">p. 12</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>16:45</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>17:00</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>18:00</b></p>

## Saturday Breakout Schedule — 14:00 pm to 18:00 pm

Room	Georgia 3 & 9	Georgia 4 & 10	Georgia 5 & 11	Georgia 7 & 8
Track	History	Economics	Sciences	Philosophy
14:00	<i>Atieno Samandari</i>  Tahirih and the Movement for Gender Equality: Spirit in the East, Form in the West  14:00 – 15:00  p. 25	<i>Adib Sedig</i>  Analyzing “Deep-seated, Structural Defects” of Social Economy through the Lens of Complexity and Social Development Sciences 14:00 – 15:00  p. 26	<i>Jena Khadem- Khodadad</i>  Genetic Engineering: Ethical and Spiritual Standpoint in Bringing Together Material and Spiritual Civilization 14:00 – 15:00  p. 17	<i>Tara Semple</i>  Implicit Anthropologies Drawing on the Revelation to Enlighten our Observations 14:00 – 15:00  p. 27
15:00				
15:15	<i>Kathryn Jewett- Hogenson</i>  'Abdu'l-Bahá's Efforts to Bring about World Peace During His travels in the West 15:15 – 16:15  p. 16	<i>Majidi &amp; Brown</i>  Economic Life as an Arena of Spiritual Expression: The Process of Understanding and Practicing of the Law of Huqúqu'lláh 15:15 – 16:45  p. 20	<i>Dyrdahl-Young, Tavangar, Merritt</i>  Applying the Bahá'í Revelation to the Field of Agriculture 15:15 – 16:45  p. 14	<i>Melissa Gholamnejad</i>  Common Faculty—Union of Mind and Body 15:15 – 16:15  p. 15
16:30	<i>Sattarzadeh &amp; de Leon</i>  “Power [in] the People!”: A Reconceptualization Within Critical Activism and Scholarship 16:30 – 17:30  p. 25			<i>Jordan Raj</i>  “Just Kidding, I Respect You”: Exploring the Conscious Side of Comedy 16:30 – 17:30  p. 23
17:00		<b>Economies</b>  Working Group Networking Session	<b>Agriculture</b>  Working Group Reflection and Planning Meeting	
18:00				

### Special sessions

BIHE open meeting: 12:45 – 13:45 *Georgia 3 & 9*

Publishing in *The Journal of Bahá'í Studies* – Meet the Editor: 17:00 – 18:00 *Georgia 6*

## Saturday Breakout Schedule — 14:00 pm to 18:00 pm

Athens	Macon	Augusta	Room
Health	Resilience	Law	Track
<p><i>Kourosh, Kourosh, Kourosh, Hosoda</i></p> <p>A 21st Century Revisiting of the Tablet to the Physician: Applying Guidance of Bahá'u'lláh with a Modern Scientific Lens for a Healthy Life</p> <p><b>14:00 – 15:00</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">p. 18</p>	<p><i>Karlberg &amp; Hanson</i></p> <p>Part 1: Nonviolence, Constructive Programs, and Resilience</p> <p><b>14:00 – 15:30</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">p. 17</p>	<p><i>Martha Schweitz</i></p> <p>Accountability and Elected Bahá'í Institutions: Concepts, Structures and Methods</p> <p><b>14:00 – 15:00</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">p. 26</p>	<p><b>14:00</b></p>
<p><i>Poustchi, Fareid, Osoro, Khoshkhoo</i></p> <p>Three Protagonists: Building a System of Health</p> <p><b>15:15 – 16:45</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">p. 21</p>	<p><i>Karlberg &amp; Hanson</i></p> <p>Part 2: Constructive Resilience Research Collaboration</p> <p><b>15:45 – 17:15</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">p. 17</p>	<p><i>Turner &amp; Downer</i></p> <p><i>The Secret of Divine Civilization</i> and Effectively Contributing to Civic Discourse</p> <p><b>15:15 – 16:45</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">p. 28</p>	<p><b>15:00</b></p> <p><b>15:15</b></p>
<p><b>Health</b></p> <p>Working Group Reflection and Planning Meeting</p>		<p><b>Law</b></p> <p>Working Group Reflection and Planning Meeting</p>	<p><b>16:45</b></p> <p><b>17:00</b></p> <p><b>18:00</b></p>

## *Abstracts and Biographical Notes*

### **Shirin Ahlhauser, Kalim Chandler, Mahvash Abbas • Insights into Anti-Corruption Discourse**

Building on their experience in the ABS Law Working Group, a group of friends working in anti-corruption law and development decided to explore how the framework of the Bahá'í Writings can be used to advance the discourse within this field. They first studied relevant Bahá'í guidance on the issue, ensuring they reviewed current discourse through the lens of the Revelation, and then explored current discourse surrounding the topic, identifying certain areas where Bahá'ís can contribute. Initial efforts include examining the effectiveness of current legislative and enforcement efforts, and additional perspectives that can be added from a Bahá'í conceptual framework.

*SHIRIN AHLHAUSER* is a Legal Consultant for the World Bank, Office of Suspension and Debarment, which handles anti-corruption cases.

*KALIM CHANDLER* is an in-house attorney focusing on mergers & acquisitions and international anti-corruption compliance (Foreign Corrupt Practices Act).

*ABBAS MAHVASH* is a corporate transactional attorney who currently works in the field of international social and economic development.

### **Désirée Akhavan, Céline Akhavan, Nadia Kardan • Menstrual Inequity, the Advancement of Women, and the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh**

The shame and taboo historically associated with menstruation continues to impede the advancement of women and our collective quest for equality of the sexes. How can we engage in discourse and address the problem of menstrual inequity, and ultimately the inequality of men and women, when the very word “menstruation” can scarcely be said aloud without embarrassment or shame? Companies like Thinx and organizations like Racket are challenging current norms by raising awareness of women’s needs and fighting the taboo that has long been a woman’s period. During this cross-disciplinary session, we will share our exploration of the discourse around menstrual inequity and the contribution of the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh to purging the shame associated with the subject and act of menstruation. We urge men to join the conversation.

*DÉSIRÉE* is an attorney and entrepreneur in New York. She is a Co-Founder at Lazeez, a paleo baking company with a mission to empower women and build healthy communities through food. Previously, she was Deputy General Counsel and Head of Legal and Compliance for North America at Third Bridge, and has held international speaking engagements with Ethical Business Building the Future. Désirée hosts a monthly women's gathering, a space for women to engage in meaningful conversations, and also and collaborates with the Founders at Racket to raise awareness about menstrual inequity.

*CÉLINE* is Co-Founder and Baker at Lazeez, a paleo baking business based in Brooklyn, NY aiming to create community and engagement around nutrition and wellness. A graduate of NYU, she studied politics and law & society and has since worked in research, helping corporate clients to identify business challenges and to design & implement solutions across global organizations. Conscious of female-centric issues, Céline has focused her work on changing the conversation regarding women in the workplace, working at a practical level to change behaviors and cultures to bring about gender equity. She also focuses on driving community and capacity development at the local level in NYC.

*NADIA* is a teacher and writer in New York City. A graduate of Rutgers University, she has taught sixth grade writing for four years at Democracy Prep Charter Middle School in Harlem. For nearly two years, she created and sustained a weekly devotional gathering titled “Feminism and Spirituality” where topics within feminism were approached and discussed through a Baha'i lens. She lives in Manhattan and is working on her first novel.

### **Roya Akhavan • Terrorism: Root Causes and Solutions**

The Bahá'í-inspired discourse on the promise of world peace has identified racism, nationalism, religious strife, gender inequality, and extremes of wealth and poverty as the root causes of war. This presentation will address the phenomenon of terrorism as a case study of how all of these root causes are implicated in creating this new form of violence and warfare. Although terrorism is closely identified in the collective consciousness with religious extremism, this presentation will seek to provide evidence that religion often plays only a partial role, and that Bahá'í

teachings on eliminating racism, nationalism, gender inequality, and extremes of wealth and poverty can play an effective and constructive role in preventing “radicalization” as the primary instigator of terrorist motivation and action.

Dr. *ROYA AKHAVAN* currently serves as Professor and Director of Graduate Studies at the Department of Mass Communications, St. Cloud State University. In addition to extensive research and publication in the field of mass communication, she has maintained a research interest in peace studies. Her most recent work is a book entitled, *Peace for Our Planet: A New Approach* (2017).

### **Soroosh Behshad • The Global Refugee Health Crisis: How Can I Become More Involved Both Globally and Locally?**

In recent years there has been a drastic increase in the number of refugees worldwide. This discussion aims to incorporate insights from the Bahá'í writings in developing a step-by-step approach to becoming involved both on the global and local level to the needs of refugees. The presentation will include a review of current field work being conducted by the presenter in developing a sustainable healthcare model to deliver eye care to both Syrian and Rohingya refugees residing in refugee camps as well as local efforts to serve refugee populations within the United States.

*SOROOSH BEHSHAD*, MD, MPH is an Ophthalmologist and Professor at Emory University. He has worked with hospitals and ministries of health to develop national eye care plans in developing countries. His research includes improving access to healthcare and developing projects to address health disparities for under-served populations, both locally and abroad.

### **Soroosh Behshad, Laretta George, Jasmine Miller-Kleinhenz, Shadi Salehian (moderator) • Building Community with Refugee Populations in Atlanta**

This panel presentation situates local community building efforts with refugee populations in Clarkston, Atlanta, within the larger discourse of refugee movement, inclusion and integration. Panelists will draw insights from their engagement with refugee children, youth, and adults through various grassroots activities and professional practice, shedding light on some of the ways in which mutual learning has led to a greater understanding of what it means to be in community for all participants.

*SOROOSH BEHSHAD* (see bio above).

*JASMINE MILLER-KLEINHENZ* is the program coordinator for Citizen Science Advancing Health and Diversity at Emory University. Her PhD in Cancer Biology is from Emory where her work focused on developing novel targeted therapeutics for drug-resistant breast cancer. Through her work with the Ruhi Institute, she has served with refugee populations in Clarkston, GA for over six years.

### **Julia Berger • Forging a Global Polity: The Bahá'í International Community and the United Nations**

This presentation explores the engagement of religious NGOs (RNGOs) with the United Nations, through a focused analysis of the Bahá'í International Community's UN Office. In order to examine and understand this engagement, we must consider not only the actions of RNGOs, but also the rationale behind them. To study organizational rationale, I introduce the concept of the “organizational substrate.” Having provisionally identified the elements of the BIC's organizational substrate, I demonstrate the operation and expression of the substrate throughout four periods of the BIC's 70-year history of involvement with the UN (1945-2015).

*JULIA BERGER* recently completed her PhD in Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Kent, UK. From 2004-2015 she was Principal Researcher/Writer at the Baha'i International Community's UN Office. She serves on the Leadership Team of the Women's Caucus of the American Academy of Religion, and is part of the ABS Religion and Society Working Group.

### **Gordon Braithwaite • Water and Light: Reflections on Metaphor in the Bahá'í Writings**

While it's impossible to fully understand why were certain metaphors selected to describe fundamental concepts such as truth, love, and justice within the Bahá'í Writings, we would do well to reflect on the chosen terms and consider their meaning and significance. A close examination of metaphors—particularly in relation to water and light—reveals patterns which, once recognized, help us to better acquire and apply knowledge from the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh. This presentation will explore the ways in which water and light metaphors are invoked to both conceptualize and clarify our capacity to know and love God.

GORDON BRAITHWAITE has a background in language, literature, and education. His current focus is on language and its relationship to one's perception and understanding of the Bahá'í Writings.

**Glen Cotten • Truth, Beauty and Goodness: Three Interconnected Aims of "True Education"**

In this session, I propose that what the Bahá'í Writings refer to as "true education" can be usefully understood as a process of learning characterized by authentic dialogue that aims for truth, beauty, and goodness. I will offer philosophical and psychological accounts, inspired by my dissertation findings, the Bahá'í Writings and certain educational philosophers and psychologists, to explain what I mean by authentic dialogue and truth, beauty and goodness. I will argue that, for human knowing and learning to be authentic and transformative, the innate and interconnected impulses of the human soul to seek truth, beauty and goodness must be both fostered by and integrated within educational practices. Finally, I will suggest some practical implications for pedagogy.

GLEN COTTEN has a Ph.D. in education from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. The findings of his dissertation reveal how engaging in "authentic communication and dialogue," especially across socio-cultural barriers, powerfully stimulates moral development, and how such communication/dialogue stems from and further amplifies innate spiritual impulses to seek truth, beauty and goodness.

**Joy DeGruy and Arta Monjazez • Exploring the History of Racial Injustice in the United States as a Context to Understand the Bahá'í Writings on Our Most Challenging Issue**

We will explore the history of racial injustice in the United States from slavery to modern programs of systematic oppression as a framework for understanding the Bahá'í Writings on race unity. This history, though well documented, is not acknowledged or taught as mainstream education. It is our responsibility as Bahá'ís to seek this truth because without understanding the nature of the wound we cannot hope to properly apply the healing balm of Bahá'u'lláh's message. We will examine 'Abdu'l-Bahá's and Shoghi Effendi's addresses to the American Bahá'í Community regarding racism and investigate how our lack of understanding of the true nature of the wound has limited our ability to fulfill our spiritual imperative of abolishing racism within America and, indeed, within the American Bahá'í Community.

ARTA M. MONJAZEB MD, PhD is an Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology at UC Davis School of Medicine. He is an internationally recognized cancer researcher with over fifty peer reviewed publications in the field and serving as an advisor on several committees for the National Cancer Institute as well as Director of Immunotherapy for the UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center.

JOY DEGRUY, MSW, PhD is an internationally recognized researcher, educator, author and presenter with expertise in race relations. Dr. DeGruy holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications; two master degrees in Social Work and Clinical Psychology; and a PhD in Social Work Research with over twenty years of practical experience as a professional in the field of social work.

**Paula Drewek • Friendship and Faith: Women's Experiences of Reaching Out to the "the Other"**

Development of a spiritualized civilization requires that we look beyond the boundaries historically imposed onto the essential oneness of humanity. WISDOM (Women's Interfaith Solutions for Dialogue and Outreach in MetroDetroit) approaches this process by making friends with those who are different: in faith, race, ethnicity, nationality, culture. WISDOM disseminates its message of friendship with "the other" through both panel presentations and an expanded compilation of personal stories in *Friendship and Faith: The WISDOM of Women Creating Alliances for Peace*. After reviewing the genesis of this interfaith process, the presenters will read a few of the book's stories and then engage audience members in sharing their own "encounters with the other."

PAULA DREWEK is a retired professor of Humanities at Macomb Community College in Warren, Michigan. She taught courses in arts and ideas and comparative religion for 39 years. Following retirement she has devoted time to Interfaith activities in the Detroit area: Past president of WISDOM, the Scholar Colloquy with the Michigan Roundtable, the Interfaith Odyssey TV show among others.

**Ruhiyyih Dyrdaahl-Young, Jahan Tavangar, and Winnona Merritt • Applying the Bahá'í Revelation to the Field of Agriculture**

"A special regard" is given to the "noble science" of agriculture in the Bahá'í Writings. The Sacred Texts offer an enduring foundation for future agricultural

development and its relationship to the whole system of human governance. Furthermore, the Universal House of Justice describes the concept of “constructive resilience” in relation to the Bahá’í of Iran. The many parallels this resilience finds in the natural world will be explored. The panelist from the Agricultural Working Group will discuss the vision in the Writings for a future society based on agriculture. Finally, the creation of a conceptual framework illumined by the Bahá’í Writings will be analyzed for contributing to the discourse in the field.

*RUHIYYIH* is currently a PhD candidate in Agricultural Nematology with a focus on the gene expression of a bacterial control agent of nematodes. Her journey in agriculture started as a farmhand on small-scale farms. She has earned a M.Sc. from University of Florida in Horticulture. She joined Syngenta as a scientist doing R&D and later accepted a research fellowship at UF.

*JAHAN* has a BSc. degree in Agricultural Engineering, an MSc. degree in environmental engineering, and a PhD in Water Resources Engineering. He is a co-founder of a technology company and a social entrepreneur. He has been involved in a number of agricultural and environmental projects in the U.S., Haiti and Israel.

*WINNIE* was working on a BSc. at Cornell when she met her orchardist husband. Meeting the challenges of fruit growing and feeding a large family from her organic garden was preparation for many projects to promote the importance of agriculture throughout the USA and Caribbean.

### **Melissa Gholamnejad • Common Faculty—Union of Mind and Body**

The Bahá’í Writings reveal the inherent spiritual foundations of various philosophical teachings. In *Some Answered Questions*, for example, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá introduces the significance of the philosophical concept of the “common faculty.” Applying a unique Cartesian analysis, this presentation introduces an explanation of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s reference, especially regarding the mysterious relationship between the mind and the body, which is rarely addressed or understood in philosophical scholarship.

*MELISSA* is a PhD candidate in Philosophy and has studied the historical relationships between mind and body and how their interconnection has been perceived over time.

### **John S. Hatcher • Scholarship and the Framework for Action**

Instead of attempting to bridge the gap between science and religion, Bahá’í scholarship asserts that this fracture is illusory, that the physical dimension of reality is but a purposefully created counterpart of the metaphysical dimension—that there is but one reality, and we are obliged to examine both in concert if we are to understand how reality works. More importantly, however, is the Bahá’í notion that scholarly research has minimal value unless and until applied to some benefit for humankind. Furthermore, knowledge without social application is incomplete because each informs the other in a continuum.

*JOHN S HATCHER*, PhD, is Professor Emeritus in English Literature, a speaker, poet, editor, and author of more than twenty books, some of which have been translated into Spanish, French, German, and Chinese. He is editor of the *Journal of Bahá’í Studies* and the Wilfrid Laurier University Press Bahá’í Series.

### **Thaddeus Herman • Bahá’í-Inspired Schools: From Iran to India**

This emerging study will look at the establishment of Bahá’í-inspired schools started in the 1970s and 1980s by Iranian pioneers who settled in India. What is the history of these schools? How and why were they started? In what ways are their schools inspired by the Bahá’í Revelation? Early research will be presented including discussions of method and approach.

*THADDEUS* is a third year PhD student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. While living and working in India, he established relationships with many Iranian pioneers to India who had started educational institutions, many of which he visited. The genesis and nature of these schools piqued his interest and he has chosen to pursue his PhD researching this very phenomenon.

### **Joan Hernandez, Jessica Kerr • Transformative Leadership: Developing the Hidden Dimension**

Transformative leadership implies striving for personal transformation and the creation of a better world, while inspiring others to do the same. This is more easily done when we have internalized a clear conceptual framework that guides our actions. At Nur University, in Bolivia, Eloy Anello and Joan Hernandez developed such a framework, inspired by preliminary

work done by a group of outstanding Bahá'í educators. When the time came to publish the material in English, May Khadem, who had worked extensively in Health for Humanity with a preliminary translation, collaborated in updating it. The response to the framework has been overwhelmingly positive, having been used with youth, in university programs and in public health, in countries reaching from the Americas to China, Iran and Africa.

*JOAN HERNANDEZ* was born and grew up in the United States. After college she pioneered to Guatemala for 19 years, then moved to Bolivia in 1990, where she works with Nur University. She is the author or co-author of over twenty books related to leadership, education, family life, and the Bahá'í Faith. Each year she facilitates numerous workshops, both at Nur and throughout the world.

*JESSICA KERR* is an accomplished photographer, photojournalist and founder of Cultivating Capacities, a non-profit grassroots organization that works with like-minded organizations to develop human capacity for the betterment of community. Currently she is spearheading the introduction of Transformative Leadership on the local and state level with a special focus on empowering educators in Colorado.

### **Firaydoun Javaheri • Constructive Resilience**

The purpose of Divine Revelation is to establish an ever-advancing civilization. God has provided all the means for its accomplishment and assures us of eventual success. The protagonists in this effort are individuals, communities, and institutions. Work undertaken by individuals, whether as personal initiative or on behalf of the institutions, is vital to fulfillment of this goal. Deprived since 1983 of their Bahá'í institutions, individual Bahá'ís across Iran offer a case study in how to pursue this goal.

*DR. FIRAYDOUN JAVAHERI* holds a doctorate in agronomy. As a pioneer to Africa for twenty-seven years, he served the Bahá'í community in his roles of Auxiliary Board member and, then, Continental Counsellor. While in Zambia, he worked as chief technical adviser for the Food and Agricultural Organization (an agency of the United Nations) and assisted, together with his wife Vida, in the establishment of the Banani International Secondary School. Dr. Javaheri served as a member of the International Teaching Centre from 1998 to 2003, and the Universal House of Justice from 2003 to 2018.

### **Anita Jefferson • Eloquent Speech: Using Words to Transform Society**

Eloquent speech is a light and lamp of unity; its power can transform society. Words have meaning which, when illumined with divine intent, can harmoniously guide social interactions. Relationships are formed one word at a time. How you speak, what you say, and when, can be the pivot upon which connections are solidified or dismantled into territorial battles that thwart listening and potential agreement. Eloquent speech opens up dialogue and bridges misunderstandings so that arguments and proofs can be reconciled regardless of position or platform.

Anita Jefferson, Ed.M., is a tenured communication expert who consults in the field of organizational development. She was selected as the 2008 "Toastmaster of the Year" for the state of Georgia and has held leadership positions on various boards of directors, including the Junior League of Atlanta and Business and Professional Women of Atlanta. Anita is also the author of *Climb Every Obstacle: Eliminate Your Limits!*

### **Kathryn Jewett-Hogenson • 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Efforts to Bring about World Peace During His Travels in the West**

When questioned by reporters as to why He came to the United States, 'Abdu'l-Bahá usually replied that He came to promote world peace, and, specifically, to take part in the Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration. The significance of that conference and other talks and meetings of the Master with peace groups has not been examined closely in Bahá'í literature. His work in this regard continued to be carried out by both Bahá'í institutions and individual believers after His passing in 1921. His teachings on the eradication of war and the specific actions necessary to achieve that end continue to be as relevant in 2018 as they were in 1912.

A graduate of Emory & Henry College and the University of Virginia School of Law, Ms. *HOGENSON* is the author of *Lighting the Western Sky: The Hearst Pilgrimage and the Establishment of the Bahá'í Faith in the West* published in 2010 by George Ronald Books. She co-authored *West Point* (Images of America Series) by Arcadia Publishing and is currently working on a biography of Horace H. Holley.



### **Michael Karlberg and Holly Hanson • Nonviolence, Constructive Programs, and Resilience? (Part 1)**

In this workshop, participants will break into small groups to study and correlate excerpts on *constructive resilience* from letters of the Universal House of Justice with excerpts from the academic literature on *means and ends*, *constructive programs*, and *prefiguration*. The latter concepts are drawn from the discourse on nonviolent social change and they are directly relevant to the concept of constructive resilience. After this initial exercise, participants will study two brief case studies that illustrate all of these concepts. One of these case studies will be drawn from the experience of African American Bahá'ís (as alluded to in a letter from the House of Justice dated 4 February 2018). The other one will be drawn from outside the Bahá'í community. At the conclusion of the small group study key insights will be shared in the large group. Before the conclusion of the entire session, people who want to actively participate in an expanding program of research on this theme will be invited to attend the subsequent session (below).

### **Michael Karlberg and Holly Hanson • Constructive Resilience Research Collaboration (Part 2)**

In this workshop, participants will consult together about research questions and next steps that can be taken to advance an expanding program of research. Questions may include: What experiences, past and present, illustrate aspects of constructive resilience outside the Bahá'í community? What aspects of constructive resilience do we want to understand more fully? What methods and opportunities are available to do this? What are the experiences we have had, or endeavors we are engaged in, that enhance our understanding of constructive resilience? What spaces exist in which we can engage others in an exploration of these concepts and contribute to wider discourses on related themes? What next steps can we take to advance these efforts?

*Michael Karlberg* is a professor at Western Washington University. His program of research critically examines foundational assumptions underlying Western civilization. He is the author of *Beyond the Culture of Contest* and has begun collaborating with others on a research program on *Constructive Resilience*.

*Holly Hanson* is a professor of history at Mount Holyoke College, where she teaches African history, the history of global inequality, and history of small-

scale agriculture. Her publications include *A Path of Justice: Building Communities with the Power to Shape the World*, *Landed Obligation: The Practice of Power in Buganda*, and *Social and Economic Development: A Bahá'í Approach*. She is currently writing a book on the long history of political accountability in East Africa, and is involved in two collective endeavors organized by ABS: an exploration of the nature of economies and economic inequality, and an inquiry into the concept of constructive resilience as an approach to social change.

### **Jena Khadem Khodadad • Genetic Engineering: Ethical and Spiritual Standpoint in Bringing Together Material and Spiritual Civilization**

Technological advances in gene manipulation have generated unimagined prospects for human wellbeing, but have also raised moral and ethical concerns as biotechnology continues to advance and lead to yet greater breakthroughs at an increasingly rapid pace. Gene editing technologies, such as CRISPR, have been applied to certain genetic diseases and the development of therapies for several life threatening conditions. However, such technologies raise the serious ethical and moral concerns of: eugenics, gene enhancement, human cloning, and biohazards. The critical nature of such technologies warrants an ongoing earnest discourse.

*JENA KHADEM KHODADAD* holds a PhD in cell and molecular biology. Her research on molecular organization of cellular membranes has led to publications and presentations, nationally and internationally. She has a special interest in exploring spiritual principles concerning challenges posed by genetic technology. Dr. Khadem Khodadad is Emeritus Faculty at Rush Medical College.

### **David Khorram, Mahnaz Javid, Vivek Williams, and Virginia St. John • Learning about Social Action from the Experience of Bahá'í-inspired Organizations**

In its Ridván 2010 message, the Universal House of Justice pointed out that “as they strive to address the concerns of society around them” the friends working at the grassroots may draw on the experience and capacity of “a number of non-governmental organizations, inspired by the teachings of the Faith and operating at the regional and national levels.” The founders and directors of four Baha'i-inspired organizations will present their learning and experience: Mahnaz Javid of Mona Foundation, Vivek

Williams of Townshend International School, David Khorram of Marianas Eye Institute, and Virginia St. John of Tahirih Justice Center.

*DAVID KHORRAM* is co-founder of Marianas Eye Institute and of Brilliant Star School in the Mariana Islands. He serves as an ophthalmic surgeon and instructor for various international eye care projects. David is on the Advisory Board of the Mona Foundation and has served as an administrator at Townshend International School.

*MAHNAZ JAVID* has a doctorate in Educational Leadership and 20 years of experience in organizational development and talent management in high tech industry. Last year Mahnaz left her corporate career to focus entirely on Mona Foundation, a Bahá'í-inspired non-profit which she founded in 1999, and currently serves as its CEO and President.

*VIVEK WILLIAMS* has been active in the field of education for over twenty years. With a background in the sciences and postgraduate studies in educational administration, he has been a teacher and senior administrator in several Australian schools. For the past seven years he has served as director of Townshend International School.

*VIRGINIA ST. JOHN* joined Tahirih in 2014. She manages the administration of Tahirih by ensuring that it uses its financial and operational resources efficiently while serving women and girls. Prior to joining Tahirih, she was Chief of Staff for Deloitte's global governance, risk, and compliance services. Before that, she was Chief Financial Officer of Legal Aid Justice Center. Virginia is on the planning committee for Management Information Exchange's National Administrators Conference. She is also a member of the advisory boards of Legal Aid Justice Center and Training Futures. She has traveled throughout Asia, Europe, and Africa, including visits to Japan, India, and China

### **Sahba Kian and Porya Hosseini • This is the Presentation We Wish We Had Seen ... So We Would Have Remained Bahá'í through Our Twenties**

It can be difficult to live our lives in accordance with the Bahá'í teachings. Especially when it comes to the challenges we face while trying to develop our character and habits, while pursuing our education and work, building intimate relationships, seeking happiness, overcoming sorrows and trials, and

ultimately facing down death. Rúhíyyih Khánúm lays out the blueprint for how we can deal with these aspects of life according to the Bahá'í principles. Her book *Prescription for Living* changed our lives, and we would like to share it with you in hopes that it sparks a transformative process within you.

*DR. KIAN* is a practicing dentist and also holds a masters degree in the biomechanics of soccer shooting. Dr. Kian enjoys finding creative ways to promote oral health in his community and he has been avidly trying to replicate the findings of his Master's thesis while playing FIFA.

*PORYA HOSSEINI* is one of top sales representatives for Honda Canada for the past four years and has been the recipient of multiple prestigious awards. When he isn't being your stereotypical Persian salesman, he can found demonstrating his FIFA expertise and showcasing exemplary patience with inferior skills of Dr. Kian.

### **Arianne Shadi Kourosch, Atoosa Kourosch, Ellie Kourosch, Emitis Hosoda • A 21st Century Revisiting of the Tablet to the Physician: Applying Guidance of Bahá'u'lláh with a Modern Scientific Lens for a Healthy Life**

In a society obsessed with optimizing appearance, fitness, and longevity, where conflicting advice on health and wellbeing comes from fad diets, self-appointed experts, and social media gurus, one can apply the guidance of Bahá'u'lláh using the lens of modern scientific to navigate through the noise and determine the health guidance that is actually credible and beneficial. Four Bahá'í doctors spanning specialties including internal medicine, pediatrics, allergy and immunology, nutrition, dermatology and public health will lead the group through a scientific evidence based review of Bahá'u'lláh Tablet to the Physician for clues on how we can promote healthy weight, digestion, mental health, aging gracefully, and cancer prevention.

*Dr. ARIANNE SHADI KOUROSH* is Assistant Professor of Dermatology at Harvard Medical School, and Director of the Division of Dermatology Community Health for Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). She is also the Founding Director of the Pigmentary Disorder & Multi-Ethnic Skin Clinic at MGH, and the State Legislative Advocacy Leader for the dermatologists of Massachusetts.

*Dr. ATOOSA KOUROSH* is faculty in Pediatrics and Allergy and Immunology at the University of Washington. She has presented her research relating to allergies, the gut, and the microbiome, as well as her work in the field of Public Health at numerous international scientific conferences. She is also a certified Yoga instructor and was a finalist for NASA's Astronaut Training Program.

*Dr. ELHAM KOUROSH* serves on faculty and teaches courses on nutrition and diet therapy at Cedar Valley College in Texas, and combines her Masters in Dietetics and PhD in Public Health in community health programs including the North Texas Prenatal Breast-Feeding Promotion Program. She is a nutrition and lifestyle coach and advises groups and individuals on healthy eating.

*Dr. EMITIS HOSODA* is board certified in internal medicine and the author of an internationally subscribed Women's Health Focus Blog. She has a private practice in Enumclaw, Washington, focused on functional medicine and holistic health. She also works as a nocturnal hospitalist—admitting and taking care of critically ill patients at night.

### **Law Working Group Introduction**

Join us for an introduction to the ABS Law Working Group, where you will also hear about some of the topics we've begun exploring (Secret of Divine Civilization, Governance, Race, Adversarialism, Dispute Resolution, etc.), as well as the annual Law Working Group Seminars. We hope this will be a space for anyone new to get involved in the ongoing process of exploring our interests, experiences, and expertise in light of the guidance from the Universal House of Justice to systematically contribute to the discourses in our profession.

### **Kevin Locke Interactive • Session with Youth and Junior Youth**

Kevin Locke (Tokaheya Inajin in Lakota translation "First to Rise") is a world famous visionary Hoop Dancer, preeminent player of the Indigenous Northern Plains flute, traditional storyteller, cultural ambassador, recording artist and educator. Kevin is Lakota and Anishnabe. While his instructions were received from his immediate family and community, from extended family in every part of the world, Kevin has learned many lessons in global citizenship and how we each can draw from our individual heritages

to create a vibrant, evolving global civilization embracing and celebrating our collective heritage.

### **Darius Loghmanee • Moving Toward a Community-based Paradigm of Health Education**

While current health discourse primarily focuses on the role of institutions and individuals, the notion of community learning as it pertains to advancing specific health objectives is evolving. Previously, the ABS Health Working Group presented findings that suggested giving communities access to resources, methods, and instruments is considered essential to current development work. We also shared that there may be less focus on creating conditions that nurture individual's capacities to identify and address health issues. This presentation will examine the current conception of "community" in the literature and explore the possibilities when "communities" are seen as protagonists rather than object of development efforts.

*DARIUS LOGHMANEE*, MD is a sleep specialist from Chicago, IL. He focused on helping develop capacity in a growing number of people to think and act systematically to optimize sleep health in children.

### **Sovaida Ma'ani and Gigi Ewing • How Can We Get the Leaders We Need to Bring Us the Peace We Deserve?**

Our world is falling apart at the seams. Our leaders have abdicated their responsibility for advancing the well-being and happiness of their people. The public is in despair as trust in these leaders and in the institutions of government plummet. At such a critical time in our history, the Bahá'í Writings provide a radical new paradigm for electing our leaders: helping us reconceptualize the qualities we seek, the tools we use to assess their fitness, the electoral process itself, the relationship between the elector and elected and the rights and duties of each. Together we will explore this new paradigm.

*SOVAIDA MA'ANI EWING* is the founding director of The Center for Peace and Global Governance (cpgg.org), a Bahá'í-inspired think tank that proposes principled solutions to pressing global problems through publications, podcasts, lectures and workshops. Her most recent books are *Building a World Federation* (2015) and *21st Century Ready* (2018).

*GIGI EWING* is a graduating senior from National Cathedral School in Washington, D.C. When she isn't running to and from class and various music rehearsals, she enjoys exploring the Bahá'í Writings to enrich her understanding of herself and the world.

**Behrad Majidi and Danita Brown • Economic Life as an Arena of Spiritual Expression: The Process of Understanding and Practicing of the Law of Huqúqu'lláh**

Although the distant future of humanity is bright and glorious, and while so many hopeful developments in the life of humanity have emerged over the last two centuries, the afflictions upon the masses of humanity during this transitional period are many and severe. And yet, it does not need to be so. The Universal House of Justice, in its 1 March 2017 message, speaks to a few societal patterns and their corresponding economic impacts afflicting humanity. The message offers solutions and spiritual remedies. We will explore the significance and the transformative implications of a mighty law gifted to humanity by Bahá'u'lláh—the great law of Huqúqu'lláh. The Right of God has both spiritual and practical implications. It impacts the transformation of the individual and of society.

*BEHRAD MAJIDI* is serving as a Deputy Trustee of Huqúqu'lláh and is a member of the US Board of the Trustees of Huqúqu'lláh.

*DANITA BROWN* is serving as a Deputy Trustee of Huqúqu'lláh, and is a member of the US Board of the Trustees of Huqúqu'lláh.

**Barbara Matthews • Old Age: The Paradox of Physical Decline and Spiritual Greatness**

American senior care and its care plans are based on a medical model which is largely focused on biological and social needs with little, if any, regard to man's essential spiritual reality. This presentation proposes a hierarchy of spiritual needs and proposes responsive principles and practices for medical providers, senior care professionals, caregivers, families, and seniors themselves to create a new paradigm for policy and practice within senior care.

*BARBARA MATTHEWS*, MBA, is an eldercare advocate and gerontologist who has worked in senior care for 18 years. She frequently speaks on aging and is author of *Old Age: The Paradox of Physical Decline and Spiritual*

*Greatness*. She is a student of world religions and founding member of her local Interfaith Council.

**Gisu Mohadjer • Eliminating the Extremes of Wealth and Poverty: Guidance in the Bahá'í Writings on Global, Community, and Individual Action**

What are the spiritual foundations for the elimination of the extremes of wealth and poverty, and how can we achieve this objective? We will seek to explore the guidance contained in the Bahá'í Writings on actions that we need to take at the global, community, and individual level.

*GISU MOHADJER* is an Operations Advisor at the World Bank, and has worked in Latin America, Africa, South Asia, and East Asia. She holds degrees from Harvard College, Harvard Business School, and the Harvard Kennedy School.

**Julia Berger (chair), John S. Hatcher, Kathryn Jewett-Hogenson, Michael Karlberg, Sovaida Ma'ani • Meet the Authors**

You've read their books, now listen to them talk about the inspiration that animated their decision to contribute to Bahá'í scholarship and the efforts that brought them from vision to completion. After the authors will give a brief insight into their recent works (which can be found at the conference bookstore) they will welcome questions from the audience.

**Carolyn Murphy • Developing Rationality, Education and the Scientific Process: The Supreme Gift of God to Man**

The Bahá'í Revelation teaches the unity of science and religion as a fundamental principle, but many people in every culture are unclear how to live this teaching, especially because science and religion are often considered to be dichotomous, separate magisteria. This presentation seeks to share, through examination of clear passages from the Bahá'í Writings, both the divine reality of this unity, as well as practical ways to manifest and deepen in our lives the prescribed behaviors of rationality, reason, and learning. The truth of the unity of both religion and science can then be known through both principle and practice.

*Dr. CAROLYN MURPHY* is a retired earth science teacher who lives in South Carolina. She has been a Bahá'í since 1970, and has traveled extensively teaching the

Bahá'í Faith in the Caribbean, the American South, and on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona. She is currently writing a book on science and the Bahá'í Faith titled *The Scientific Revelation: A Bahá'í Perspective on Science and Religion*.

### **Tania Nordli • Knowledge, Ethics, and Action: A Bahá'í Response to the Plague of Addiction**

'Abdu'l-Bahá wrote: "O ye lovers of God! In this, the cycle of Almighty God, violence and force, constraint and oppression, are one and all condemned. It is, however, mandatory that the use of opium be prevented by any means whatsoever, that perchance the human race may be delivered from this most powerful of plagues." North America is experiencing an epidemic of opioid related harm. This epidemic was started by doctors prescribing opioids more liberally, with materialistic motivations behind the education campaigns promoting these drugs. Similar forces are now promoting the prescribing of marijuana. This presentation will explore the theme of preventing more widespread use of addictive substances through coupling ethics and knowledge.

*TANIA NORDLI MD, FCFP, dip ABAM MRO MROCC, Assistant Clinical Professor, Family Medicine, University of Alberta. Tania is a family doctor treating pain and addiction for over 20 years. She has served in-patients with severe and persistent mental illness and addictions, in a First Nation Community, as a palliative care consultant, and with new Canadians. One of her passions is reflecting on how Bahá'í teachings can illumine solutions.*

### **Masud Olufani • The Residue of Memory and the Clarion Call of Truth: Healing through Reclamation and Remembrance**

A multidisciplinary presentation inspired by the forgotten souls who passed from auction block to plantation via Atlanta's Crawford Frazier Negro Brokerage House. Through this performance the artist attempts to challenge America's predisposition to pave over its painful past, and draws attention to slavery's proximity to our present. The nation's desire to avoid the shameful history of slavery has resulted in avoidance and memory erasure, prolonging transgenerational intolerance and injustice and depriving the nation of the difficult but restorative work necessary for healing, for justice. The Bahá'í Writings say that "truthfulness is the foundation of all human virtues." In essence, no other virtue is possible

without truthfulness. This presentation is a humble attempt to peel back the veil of historical deception, and expose the ignorance and indifference prevalent in society to the cleansing light of truth.

*MASUD ASHLEY OLUFANI is an Atlanta-based mixed media artist whose studio practice is rooted in the discipline of sculpture. Masud has exhibited his work in group and solo shows in the United States, France, and Hong Kong. He has completed residencies at several colleges and prestigious art centers and has been awarded multiple prizes and grants, including the 2016 Southern Art Prize for the state of Georgia, and a Waltham Fellowship. Currently, Masud is an artist in residence at the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center.*

### **Tamara Pearl • Mamawis Wic'hitowin: The Creation of Innovative Programming for the Indigenization and Decolonization of Law Schools and Beyond.**

As an Indigenous woman from One Arrow First Nation, Saskatchewan, I am passionate to contribute to the education of present and future law students. The focus of my Masters of Law (LL.M) thesis is on how we can decolonize and Indigenize academic institutions. Law is a helping profession. For law students to be educated in how to be better helpers, it would be necessary in this time of receptivity for reconciliation in Canada to introduce anti-racism and empathy skills. No matter how well-intentioned a law student or practitioner is, we are still informed by colonialist attitudes because of racist and colonialist education we all have received from our earliest ages. A way to interrupt these attitudes is through deconstructing them by developing a visceral connection with Indigenous professionals and communities through consultation.

*TAMARA PEARL is a Nēhiyaw woman and Bahá'í from One Arrow First Nation, Saskatchewan, in Treaty 6 territory, and a proud single mother. Growing up in the core neighbourhoods of Saskatoon with strong ties with her family on reserve, Tamara has a BA in Anthropology, a JD in Law and is currently in an LLM graduate law program.*

### **Shirin Poustchi, Shoghi Fareid, Sam Osoro, and Sattar Khoshkhoo • Three Protagonists: Building a System of Health**

As members of the Bahá'í Community increasingly become involved in the discourse related to the

practice of healthcare in their local settings, focus turns toward those aspects of a conceptual framework pertaining to novel approaches to health and its interplay with community. Historically, healthcare has been regarded as a commodity administered unidirectionally to the individual or community by those operating within the healthcare system. It regards those entities as two distinct groups: those who administer the commodity and those who receive it. This perspective fails to impart the potential contributions of individuals and communities toward the healthcare of the whole.

*SHIRIN POUSTCHI* is a third year medical student in the PharmD/MD program at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. She holds a doctorate of pharmacy from the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy at Rutgers University. She is passionate about innovating healthcare delivery with a special interest in healthcare system science and population health.

*SHOGHI FAREID* is a lecturer and practicing dentist in California. Dr. Fareid is a John Greenspan Global Health Fellow and Pierre Fauchard Academy Merit Award Winner with special interest in the critical evaluation of health-care systems. He holds a doctorate in dental surgery from the University of California, San Francisco.

*SAM OSORO* is a data analyst at Tuts Health Plan in Boston, MA. He holds a master's degree from University of Texas at Arlington in Economics with a focus on Public Policy. His work ranges from risk adjustment to social determinants of health and healthcare payment reform.

*SATTAR KHOSHKHOO* is a medical resident at the Harvard Medical School-affiliated Partners Neurology Program. He holds a medical doctorate degree from the University of California, San Francisco. His interests include application of personalized medicine to neurology and its intersection with healthcare economics.

### **Edward Price and Steve Sarowitz • “The Gate: The Story of the Báb” A Film about the Origins of the Bahá’í Faith**

On the eve of the bicentenary of the birth of the Báb, Spring Green Films presents a new documentary film about the life and teachings of the Báb. Spring Green Films, a Bahá’í owned film company, has teamed up with award-winning film-maker, Bob Hercules, to

produce the first ever documentary on the life and teachings of the Báb. Working with a budget of several million dollars and meticulously researched, the director blends expert interviews with dramatic reenactments filmed in Spain, original music, archival images, visual effects, on-location shots in Haifa, state-of-the-art production and 4K photo-graphy. After the film, the film makers will discuss non-portrayal of the Bab, filming on location, consulting with the Institutions, and other aspects of making the film.

*EDWARD PRICE* is author of *The Divine Curriculum: Divine Design* (Volume 1), a 44 year Bahá’í, and co-writer of the film. BA, University of Virginia, in Psychology and Religious Studies. MS.Ed., National University, in Curriculum and Instruction. As an instructional designer, he has published in peer-reviewed journals and developed training programs for numerous government and corporate clients.

*Steve Sarowitz* is President of Spring Green Films, LLC, and executive producer of *The Gate: The Story of the Báb*. He is founder and chairman of Paylocity, a publicly traded payroll processing company, and of Blue Marble Payroll, a payroll company with an international focus. Steve is an avid teacher of the Bahá’í Faith, often found at the Bahá’í Temple in Wilmette, IL, giving tours and teaching visitors.

### **Neuroscience, Ethics, and Religion: Moving Beyond Coexistence • Tara Raam (moderator), Gillian Hue, Karen Rommelfanger, Paul Root Wolpe**

Neuroscience is a rapidly evolving field that aims to root human experience in the workings of the human brain. An ongoing discourse between neuroscience and various religious communities has often been fraught by tension that arises from a rigid separation of the material and spiritual dimensions of life, raising valuable questions about the nature of the mind, mental health, social relationships that bind humanity together, and the ethical systems that guide our use of technologies that alter brain function. In this conversational discussion, three professors from Emory University will share their reflections on this discourse and consider a path forward that integrates insights from neuroscience, ethics, and religion.

Dr. *TARA RAAM* holds a PhD in Neuroscience from Harvard University and is currently a postdoctoral research fellow at Johns Hopkins University. Her research focuses on the neural mechanisms that enable learning to occur in social environments. She is

interested in integrating insights from neuroscience and religious thought to form coherent conceptions of human nature.

Dr. *PAUL ROOT WOLPE* is a Professor in the Department of Medicine and Director for the Center for Ethics at Emory University. His work focuses on the social, religious, ethical, and ideological impact of medicine and technology on the human condition. He is a past president for the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, and spent 15 years as Senior Bioethicist for NASA.

Dr. *GILLIAN HUE* holds a PhD in Neuroscience from Emory University and is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Georgia Gwinnett College. Her postdoctoral research focused on science education and ethics. She has traveled to Tibet with the Emory-Tibet Science Initiative to teach Neuroscience coursework to Buddhist Monks in exile, and is the managing editor of the American Journal for Bioethics Neuroscience.

Dr. *KAREN ROMMELFANGER* is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurology at Emory University. Her work focuses on Neuroethics, a rapidly evolving field that explores how neuroscience and its emerging technologies challenge our value systems, notions of self, free will, the mind, and human nature. She is the Program Director of Emory's Neuroethics Program and the co-Chair of the Global Neuroethics Summit.

### **Ashiyah Rahmani • Learning in Action: Be a Correspondent**

This interactive workshop draws on research that shows three processes to capacity building: acclimatization, diversity, and mutual support. Acclimatization in terms of incremental steps taken that slowly build capacity and enhance “flow”; diversity—whereby inter-ethnic and gender equal groups etc. are most capable of addressing community issues; and mutual support, whereby collective spaces where issues are shared and echoed, empowering “voice” and “praxis.” This workshop will develop capacity, using social media tools, to speak to issues on three topics: income, gender, and racial inequality. Participants will share community issues faced, and create a group discussion recording to be amalgamated as a montage audio/video artefact.

*ASHIYAN* recently defended his PhD dissertation (Communication and Information Sciences) and is

completing the revisions whilst teaching at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. His research looks at the way in which women in rural Fiji use mobile devices to interact with community radio. He has served as a member of the NSA of Hawaii for the last five years.

### **Jordan Raj • “Just Kidding, I Respect You” Exploring the Conscious Side of Comedy**

Everybody loves a good joke, but do jokes love all people? For centuries the art of comedy has been provoking laughter and entertaining audiences. At the core of all humor is an authenticity which speaks volumes about the mindset of populations. What are the current attitudes and discourses in humor, and is it possible to contribute to a sense of oneness while laughing along the way?

*JORDAN RAJ* is an online content creator and communications graduate. The content he produces is characteristically light-hearted and entertaining. He is part of the team behind BahaiBlog.net, a project with the mission to “create, celebrate and explore Bahá'í-inspired content, artistic expression, and use of media.”

### **Munib Rezaie and Amelia Tyson • Finding Mutualism in the Study and Practice of Film**

Dominant approaches in film studies and filmmaking practices often reflect the assumption that human nature is inherently conflictual. Unfortunately, this normative adversarialism prevents us from acknowledging the experiences and works of individuals who operate within a mutualistic framework or from allowing more positive and constructive ways of relating on a film set. By considering the Bahá'í teachings on the concepts of world citizenship, political non-involvement, and consultation, however, we can acknowledge the value of non-conflictual forms of narratives, human experiences, filmmaking practices, and politics that would otherwise remain ignored.

*MUNIB REZAI*E received his PhD in Communication with a focus in media studies from Georgia State University in Atlanta, GA. His dissertation project challenges long-held adversarial assumptions in the discipline of film studies by looking at certain issues through the lens of the Bahá'í teachings. He currently teaches middle and high school students at Midtown International School in Atlanta.

AMELIA TYSON is a MFA candidate at American University in Washington, DC, where she focuses on Wildlife and Environmental Filmmaking. Her thesis film looks at water conditions in the state of Alabama through the dual lens of grassroots advocacy and education, as well as the structural and systematic mechanisms preventing the protection and conservation of the state's abundance resource.

### **Craig Rothman and William H. Smith • An American Story: Race Amity and The Other Tradition**

The primary purpose of the documentary project, *An American Story: Race Amity and The Other Tradition*, is to impact the public discourse on race. To move the discourse from the "blame/grievance/rejection" cycle to a view from a different lens, the lens of "amity/collaboration/access and equity." In contrast to the lens that focuses exclusively on the racist traditions that are rooted in America's social history, the moral counterweight of close, loving, friendship and collaboration, which have always been present in our history, represents "the other tradition." This "other tradition" is a source of inspiration and presents models of behavior that are instructional and include unknown and uncelebrated legacies to be absorbed and emulated across generations of present day Americans. The documentary discusses the "better in us" a needed collective perspective in the current climate of national disunity across racial, religious, and political lines.

CRAIG ROTHMAN has over 35 years of experience in television and film and has received various awards for his work as a writer, director and producer. He currently serves as the Director of the Media Services department at the Baha'i National Center in Wilmette, IL. He is Co-Executive Producer of the documentary "An American Story: Race Amity and The Other Tradition."

WILLIAM H. SMITH, Ed.D, is the founding executive director of the National Center for Race Amity based at Wheelock College in Boston, MA. Prior he was as executive director of the Center for Diversity in the Communication Industries at Emerson College. He is Co-Executive Producer of the upcoming documentary "An American Story: Race Amity and The Other Tradition."

### **Shahrzad Sabet • Social Identity and the Oneness of Humankind: Reconciling the Universal with the Particular**

The recent surge in tribalism across Western societies brings renewed salience to questions of identity. Notably, it exposes the longstanding tension between bounded social identities and affiliations, on the one hand, and universalist yearnings and commitments, on the other. I draw on the Bahá'í notion of the oneness of humankind to address the conceptual underpinnings of this debate in public discourse and political philosophy. I make the case that a genuinely unbounded primary identity (i.e., one based on our membership in a single human race) represents not just an expansion of scope from the national to the global, but a *qualitative* shift that permeates *all* identities, and serves to fundamentally protect and liberate our secondary affiliations from their otherwise inherent instabilities and contradictions.

SHAHRAZAD SABET's research spans politics, economics, psychology, and philosophy. She is a Fellow at the University of Maryland's Bahá'í Chair for World Peace Program. Previously, she was a Senior Research Fellow at Princeton University and a Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard, where she received her PhD. Her work has been featured in outlets such as *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*.

### **Shadi Salehian • The Role of Resilience in Promoting Successful Integration of Displaced Populations**

Sixty-six million people are displaced worldwide, a historical record high. Successful integration of such populations is crucial and essential to both them and host nations. Given our interconnected world, we must appraise factors that facilitate successful integration of such populations into their new homes. By exploring evidence-based research evaluating the role of resilience and the factors that promote, enhance, or reduce it, we can arrive at a better understanding of resilience as one of the factors that help displaced populations integrate into prosperous and sustainable communities.

SHADI served at Research Department Bahá'í World Center Israel for many years. She holds a Master of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University. Her main research and work focus on displaced populations and refugees with access to health as vital component of social integration. She also collaborates with the Global



Institute for Health and Human Rights in working with displaced populations in Syria.

### **Atieno Samandari • Tahirih and the Movement for Gender Equality: Spirit in the East, Form in the West**

This presentation will discuss the movement for gender equality from a three-fold perspective. First will be an immersion in the spirit of the movement, which was embodied by Tahirih in the 19th century. Second, will be an overview of the form of the movement as it emerged in the US in the 19th century and its progress in the 20th century. Third will be a discussion on the global nature of the movement in the 21st century and some of the priorities emerging today. The session will also draw from Bahá'í statements as we explore ways in which we, too, can reflect the spirit embodied by Tahirih for the achievement of gender equality.

*Dr. ATIENO MBOYA SAMANDARI* is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Emory University and Agnes Scott College in Atlanta. Her scholarly interests are in gender and the law, gender and the environment, and human rights.

### **James Samimi-Farr • Policy and Profit: The Hidden Structures of Our Media System**

The media is undoubtedly among the most powerful social forces in North America. Our media systems, however, are not inevitable, but contingent: their structures are molded in large part by political and economic concerns. Though not easily recognizable, these structures wield tremendous influence over the coverage we see and, indeed, over our understanding of what media can be. What is our current media system, and how does it differ from Bahá'u'lláh's vision of media as "a mirror endowed with hearing, sight and speech"?

*JAMES SAMIMI FARR* is the Media Officer for the US Bahá'í Office of Public Affairs in Washington, DC. His work focuses on the role of media in society, as well the defense of the Bahá'ís in Iran and Yemen. Before joining the OPA, Mr. Samimi Farr worked as a writer, editor, and journalist, with work appearing in the *Toronto Star* and *Maisonneuve* magazine.

### **Tanja Sargent • Educating Morally Empowered Global Citizens in China**

The concept of global citizenship education, so beloved in the Bahá'í community, is gaining popularity in contemporary globalized education discourse—though scholars and educators are still grappling with its meaning and implementation. The globally coordinated and systematic experience of the Bahá'ís in implementing the Junior Youth Empowerment Program (JYEP) can potentially contribute to this conversation. This paper examines the animators' efforts to establish in China's middle schools a unique educational program which draws on some of the elements of the JYEP (Moral Empowerment through Language, or METL), as well as its implications for global citizenship education both in China and in the rest of the world.

*TANJA SARGENT* is Associate Professor in the Educational, theory, policy and administration department at Rutgers University. Her research focuses on educational reform in China. She teaches courses in Comparative Education and Society and Education in Contemporary China.

### **Sahar Sattarzadeh • "Power [in] the People!": A Reconceptualization Within Critical Activism and Scholarship**

The overlapping realms of social activism and academic scholarship are especially present today in North America. Activists and academics alike, guided and inspired by "critical" disciplines, knowledges, and practices linked to education, ethnicity and race, gender, Indigenous worldviews, international relations, social movements, and political science, for example, speak on behalf of the "powerless" oppressed against the "powerful" oppressors. Relying on case studies, critical scholarship, as well as Bahá'í Writings and texts on mind, body, and human spirit, we propose an evolving reconceptualization of power—in theory and practice—that moves beyond political and material limitations as it relates to knowledge, justice, and social transformation.

*SAHAR D. SATTARZADEH*, Ph.D., is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa. She studies comparative global perspectives on (in)equity and (in)justice in sociologies of knowledge and education; science, technology, media; and activism/social movements.

*JUSTIN DE LEON*, Ph.D, is an editor for the *International Feminist Journal of Politics* and member of the Global

Feminisms Collaborative at Vanderbilt University. His research and advocacy work (through various photography, film, and storytelling projects) focus on Indigenous worldviews, feminist studies, international relations, social change, and the Lakota Sioux.

### **Sandra Schickele • The Millennial Generation and the Coming New Race of Humankind**

In its message to the 2013 Youth Conferences, the Universal House of Justice outlined the role youth have played throughout the history of the Faith. It also highlighted our responsibility to empower “not only Bahá’í youth, but those of like mind who can see the positive effects of what the Bahá’ís have initiated and grasp the underlying vision of unity and spiritual transformation.” The Millennial Generation, it might be argued, possess the seeds of the future “new race of men [and women]” and we should thoroughly explore how we can successfully present Bahá’u’lláh’s message to them.

*SANDRA SCHICKLE* (BS Communication, MBA) worked as a public relations manager before dedicating herself to being a full-time parent. Currently, she works with a number of community groups in Davis, CA, and is member of the Board of Directors of the Davis Food Co-op, a grocery store that focuses on local and organic foods. At present the co-op is looking at strategies to attract more millennial generation shoppers to an enterprise currently dominated by boomers. Sandra is a baby boomer and the mother of two adult millennials.

### **Martha Schweitz • Accountability and Elected Bahá’í Institutions: Concepts, Structures and Methods**

In contemporary discourse, accountability is understood as essential to legitimacy of a governing system. Elected Bahá’í institutions lack some of the basic indices of accountability in democratic governance. Rather than dismissing accountability as an element of the Bahá’í system, the writings challenge us to understand it differently—in a context where governing is an act of trusteeship and where other models of accountability are highly relevant. These models are correlated with the Bahá’í system both to highlight aspects of the administrative order that merit persistent attention in community building and to explore how this correlation may enrich contemporary discourse on good governance.

*MARTHA SCHWEITZ* (J.D. 1981, NYU) has practiced with a large firm, been a professor of international law in the U.S. and Japan, and published articles on international human rights, gender equality, global governance, international organizations, and Bahá’í law, with a focus on the role of civil society in global governance. Since 2001 she has served at the U.S. Bahá’í National Center.

### **Adib Sedig • Analyzing “Deep-seated, Structural Defects” of Social Economy through the Lens of Complexity and Social Development Sciences**

The stability, happiness, and prosperity of the world of humanity depends on “readjustment of the social economy.” To this end, in its 2017 letter, the Universal House of Justice highlights some “deep-seated, structural defects” in social economy which must be corrected. This presentation provides a correlative analysis of some concepts from the House of Justice’s letter with elements of complexity theory as well as recent techniques used in social development science. It is intended to contribute to social discourse about these issues. It is of particular importance to youth who work toward the realization of a brighter future for humanity.

*ADIB SEDIG* is an 18-year-old youth who avidly studies the Bahá’í Writings, as well as socio-economic, mathematical, and scientific subjects. Since the age of 13, he has presented at three Bahá’í conferences. He will begin his undergraduate studies in mathematics and economics at Western University in September of 2018.

### **Kamran Sedig • Developing the “Eye of Oneness”: An Integrative Analysis**

The principle of oneness is central to the Bahá’í Faith and its discourse with other worldviews which emphasize multiplicity and distinction; we are called upon to discern reality with the “eye of oneness.” The Bahá’í Writings further state that oneness is a “subtle principle ... requiring close analysis and attention.” Developing the ability to see with the eye of oneness requires many levels of understanding. The purpose of this presentation is to analyze this subtle principle. To this end, this presentation will integrate material from religion, philosophy, mathematics, and science to support the Bahá’í principle of oneness.

*Dr. KAMRAN SEDIG*, M.Sc. (McGill) and PhD (UBC), is an associate professor at Western University. His research and publications are in cognitive, computer,

and information sciences. He has published more than 100 scientific articles and books dealing with design of human-centered computing for complex cognitive activities.

### **Tara Semple • Implicit Anthropologies—Drawing on the Revelation to Enlighten our Observations**

Young adults' attempts at challenging social and economic structures are often confined by their own conceptual and habitual framework—their implicit anthropology. The interpretation of such behavior through sociological theory acknowledges the social constraints, but can be complemented by analyzing the habitualized anthropology prevailing not only in the social actors' own framework, but also in that of the interpretative tools we use to analyze this behavior. This presentation will use original data as a basis to explore implicit anthropologies. Insights from the Revelation can offer concepts that are useful to complement and partly challenge existing theories and are the basis of an alternative exploration of reality that relies on observation and reflection in light of divine guidance, rather than on a purely materialistic view.

*TARA SEMPLE* is a Doctoral candidate in cultural sociology at the International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture in Giessen, Germany. She is interested in the effects of capitalism, consumerism and materialism on individuals, and has focused her research on the cultural practice of hipsterism as a paradigm for the negotiation of identity in postmodern societies.

### **William H. Smith • Breaking It Down Towards E Pluribus Unum**

*Breaking It Down Towards E Pluribus Unum* was developed over a three year period at the National Center for Race. The purpose of the game is to encourage and people to talk about race in a non-toxic manner with a focus on amity, emotional safety, learning and mutual support. Conversations about race are often contentious and discourage open and supportive dialogue. By practicing amity and cultivating friendship, we create environments where we can feel safe to admit to what we don't know, ask difficult questions and support each other in a spirit of learning.

*WILLIAM H. SMITH*, Ed.D, is the founding executive director of the National Center for Race Amity based at

Wheelock College in Boston, MA. Prior he was as executive director of the Center for Diversity in the Communication Industries at Emerson College. He is Co-Executive Producer of the upcoming documentary "An American Story: Race Amity and The Other Tradition."

### **Robert Stockman • What is the Bahá'í Faith? The History of Summaries**

There is a long history of attempts to craft short but comprehensive summaries of the Bahá'í Faith. Different audiences need different summaries, but they inevitably must involve many of the same elements, for a popular summary, if widely enough disseminated, will shape scholarly perceptions, and scholarly summaries will influence many of the details of popular summaries. Summaries often have not balanced the material and spiritual aspects of the Bahá'í teachings, either. The presentation will start with late 19th century summaries, will review the impact of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's visit and the writings of Shoghi Effendi, the broadening understanding in the 1960s, 70s, and 80s, the potentially revolutionary changes in perception since 1996, and the role of scholarly efforts.

*ROBERT STOCKMAN* has a doctorate in history of religion in the United States from Harvard University. He is the author of four historical books, one introductory text, and numerous articles on Bahá'í history and theology. He teaches religious studies at Indiana University South Bend and is Director of the Wilmette Institute.

### **Homa Tavangar and Eric Dozier • Diversity Is Not the Goal: Exploring Transformational Principles in the Quest for Racial Justice**

This session brings together three diverse thinkers and practitioners applying Bahá'í principles in public contexts to the urgent needs of this day. The interactive experience will draw on wisdom gleaned from Buddhism, the Bahá'í Faith, African-American gospel song traditions, academic research at the intersection of technology and equity, global citizenship education, global survey data, and neuroscience. Experiential, interactive, musical and inspiring, this session will also be practical, offering inspiration and innovative strategies to go beyond building diversity to building relationships. Learn how to apply these tools across settings.

*Homa Tavangar* is author of best-selling *Growing Up Global* (Random House), co-author of five books for

educators, and writer for numerous national websites. She advises children's media, schools and organizations on global citizenship, empathy, and inclusion; serves on the Tahirih Justice Center Board and is the mother of three daughters.

*ERIC DOZIER* is a cultural activist who uses music to engage communities in dialogue about racism. He currently serves as the Director of Equity and Campus Culture at the Episcopal School of Nashville while he pursues his doctorate exploring Black gospel music performed in multicultural contexts as a pathway to racial justice

### **Temily Tavangar • World Religion as Indigenous Religion: The Bahá'í Faith and Malaysia's Semai Tribe**

Tribal communities have long been the subject of civilizing missions that ignore indigenous notions of prosperity. In line with the conference theme, this presentation explores the unique history of one indigenous tribe—the Semai of Malaysia—and their encounter with the Bahá'í Faith in the mid-20th century. After decades of resisting attempts at religious conversion, the Semai embraced the Bahá'í Faith in large numbers between the 1960s and 70s. Why were they receptive to religion at this time? Why did they choose the Bahá'í Faith? How does this relate to their own visions of progress and development? These are some of the questions that will be explored.

*TEMILY TAVANGAR* is a PhD candidate in anthropology at the University of Hong Kong. Her research on Malaysia's indigenous people explores the intersections of tribal identity, religion and development. Previously, Temily worked as an international TV journalist based in Asia. She currently resides in China with her husband and baby.

### **Gabriel Turner and Joshua Downer • The Secret of Divine Civilization and Effectively Contributing to Civic Discourse**

This presentation focuses on insights inspired by the Bahá'í Law Working group's study of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's *The Secret of Divine Civilization*. 'Abdu'l-Bahá's method is the focus, taking into account the parallels and differences in his context and that of contemporary North America. 'Abdu'l-Bahá unites a wide range of subjects with a potent vision of the spiritual source of civilization, employing a select appeal to nostalgia, reliance on commonly recognized authority, and a

comprehensive vision of the good life. In their presentation, Gabe and Josh will expand on these themes and their original contributions inspired by their study.

*GABRIEL TURNER* investigates financial institutions in New York City for a state agency. He received an undergraduate degree from Maryville College and a J.D. from New York University School of Law.

*JOSH DOWNER* practices law at an international law firm in Washington DC. He received an undergraduate degree in Government from Harvard University, a MSc in International Political Economy from the London School of Economics and a J.D. from Vanderbilt University.

### **Anthony Vance • Louis Gregory, The Oneness of Humanity and Highlights in the Development of the African American Lawyer**

The presentation explores the role of Louis Gregory, as a young African American lawyer and new convert to the Baha'i Faith, in promoting the oneness of humanity through his work in race amity and race unity—all within the context of the broader societal trends, particularly highlighting the development of African American lawyers in the United States.

*ANTHONY VANCE*: 2010 to present: Director of Public Affairs, Baha'is of the U.S.; 2006-2010: Deputy Secretary-General at the Baha'i World Center; 1982-1985: Attorney, Ropes & Gray, Boston; 1985-2006: attorney and manager, USAID in Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Botswana, and Egypt; B.A. Economics, M.B.A. and J.D., Harvard.

### **Jesse Washington • Contributing to Journalism on Race in America**

In the media, which encompasses written and televised journalism as well as social networks, the dominant framework of the discourse on race is political. Race and politics have become inseparable, especially with the election of the last two American presidents. The culture of journalistic debate, meanwhile, thrives on conflict. This session will explore opportunities for transcending the divisive structure of current racial discourse to produce journalism that addresses racial issues from a Bahá'í perspective.

*JESSE WASHINGTON* has written about race throughout his 31-year journalism career. He currently writes for ESPN's *The Undefeated*, which explores intersections of race, sports and culture. From 2008-15 he was the National Writer/Race and Ethnicity for The Associated Press. Jesse was born into a Bahá'í family in New York City.

**Workshops • “Contributing to Prevalent Discourses” and “The Evolving Conceptual Framework”**

A two-part series of workshops focusing on concepts core to the coherence and development of Bahá'í scholarship. In these 75-minutes workshops, participants will study and explore guidance pertaining to these themes, as well as the themes' relationship to Bahá'í scholarship. Groups will be organized according to different stages of study or career in order to facilitate the sharing of experiences, questions, opportunities, and challenges associated with each.

**Sana Zareey • Understanding the Lived Experiences of Youth with Secondary School Streaming: Neighborhood-based Research and Discourse**

Streaming involves dividing students into “streams” or “tracks” each leading to distinct post-secondary options. This qualitative Master’s level study investigated the streaming experiences of youth and their families in Toronto, Ontario. Overall, it was found that: (i) streaming placement was not strongly related to the academic aspirations of the youth; (ii) most families had inadequate information on streaming; (iii) there were strained relationships between students of different streams; and (iv) there were race and class biases affecting stream placement. This study serves as a resource for policymakers, educational practitioners, and the public at large. Structural processes, such as streaming, impacted by race, class, privilege and under-privilege have important implications in the futures of youth in the neighborhoods we serve.

After completing undergraduate studies in electrical engineering, *SANA ZAREEY*'s experience as an animator of junior youth groups inspired him to pursue his Bachelor of Education and Masters of Arts in Social Justice, Equity and Social Science Education from the University of Toronto. Sana is now the Vice Principal of Nancy Campbell Academy, a Bahá'í-inspired, not-for-profit secondary school

**Conference Organization**

<i>Arts Programme</i>	Kimia Ferdowsi Kline
<i>Children Conference</i>	Elaheh Mottahedeh-Bos
<i>Conference Coordinator</i>	Nilufar Gordon
<i>Junior Youth &amp; Youth Conference</i>	Atieno Mboya Samandari and Taraz Samandari
<i>Logistics</i>	Camellia Pirmoradi
<i>Photography</i>	Susan Jeffers, Leila Yavari, Navid Yavari
<i>Programme Chairs</i>	Julia Berger, Shabnam Koirala-Azad, Eleanor Mitten, Tara Raam
<i>Publicity &amp; Promotion</i>	Rachel Wolfe
<i>Registration</i>	Sohaila Parsai, Peter Amiri
<i>Reporting</i>	Rosalyn Clark
<i>Stage Décor</i>	Marjan Yavari
<i>Stage Manager</i>	Reginald Colbert
<i>Technical Director</i>	Peter Sandy
<i>Ushers / Security</i>	Zhaleh Boyd
<i>Volunteers</i>	Marjan Yavari

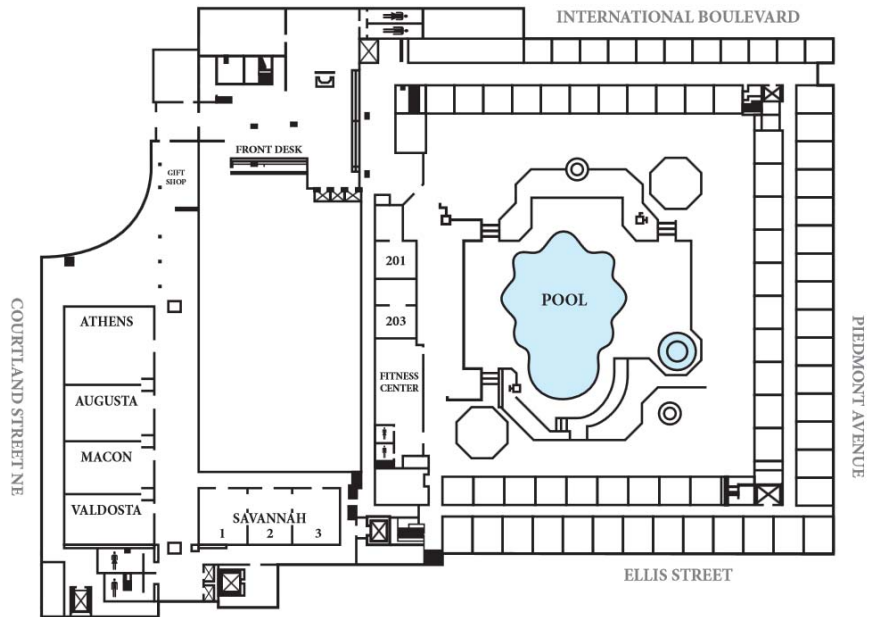
**The ABS Executive Committee extends its deep appreciation to all those who have assisted in the preparation and running of this conference. Our heartfelt thanks are also due to the many volunteers who contributed their service and have worked so hard to make this conference a success.**

**With special thanks to the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Atlanta.**

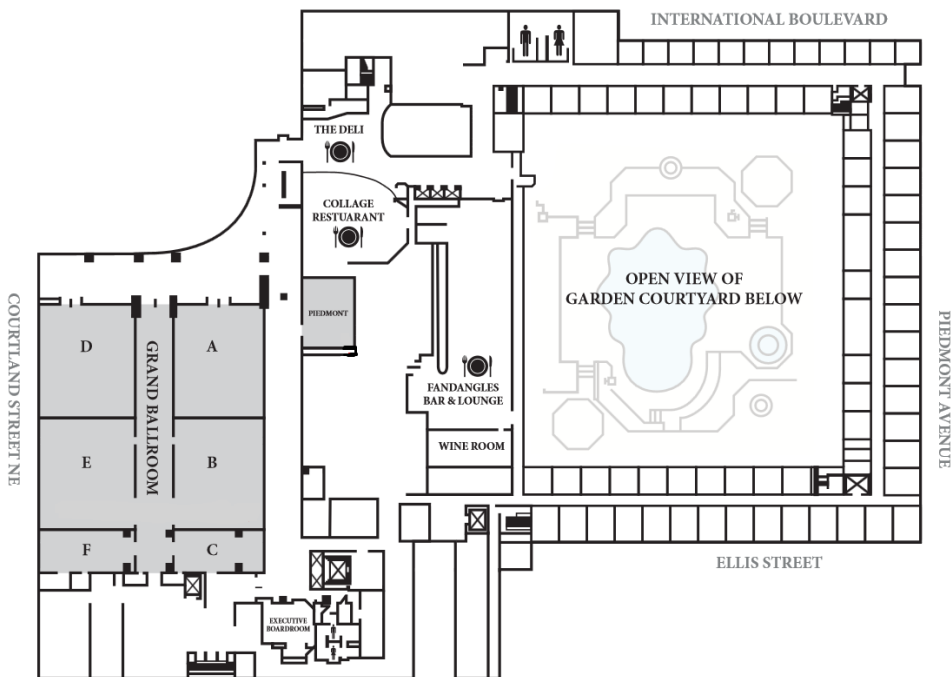
# Sheraton Atlanta: 1<sup>st</sup> Floor



# Sheraton Atlanta: 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor



# Sheraton Atlanta: 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor



## Restaurants near the Sheraton Hotel

- Within*      \$\$\$ **Fandangles** (American)
- 1 block*      \$\$ **Crazy ATLanta** 182 Courtland (casual American)  
\$ **Waffle House** 112 Courtland (American diner)  
\$\$ **Truva** 60 Andrew Young International (Turkish)  
\$\$\$ **Cuts Steakhouse** 60 Andrew Young International  
\$\$ **Hsu's** 192 Peachtree (Chinese)  
\$ **Tin Lizzie's Cantina** 229 Peachtree (Tacos)  
\$ **Gus's World Famous Fried Chicken** 231 Peachtree (Southern)
- 2 blocks*      \$\$ **Amalfi Pizza** 17 Andrew Young International (Italian)  
\$\$ **Alma Cocina** 191 Peachtree (Mexican)  
\$\$ **Sweet Georgia Juke Joint** 200 Peachtree (upscale soul food)  
\$\$ **Hard Rock Café** 215 Peachtree (American)  
\$ **Subway** 225 Peachtree (sandwiches)  
\$\$ **Metro Café Diner** 229 Peachtree (24-hour casual)  
\$\$ **Caribou Coffee** 231 Peachtree (light fare)
- 3 blocks*      \$ **Quizno's** 138 Peachtree (sandwiches)  
\$ **Dunkin' Donuts** 98 Forsyth  
\$\$ **Mango's** 180 Auburn (Caribbean)  
\$\$ **Sweet Auburn Seafood** 171 Auburn (Southern)  
\$ **Pizza Hut** 25 Piedmont  
\$\$ **Pittypat's Porch** 25 Andrew Young International (Southern)

# The Journal of Bahá'í Studies

*“Bahá'ís who are involved in various disciplines—economics, education, history, social science, philosophy, and many others—are obviously conversant and fully engaged with the methods employed in their fields. It is they who have the responsibility to earnestly strive to reflect on the implications that the truths found in the Revelation may hold for their work. The principle of the harmony of science and religion, faithfully upheld, will ensure that religious belief does not succumb to superstition and that scientific findings are not appropriated by materialism.*

— Universal House of Justice, 24 July 2013

A quarterly scholarly journal published since the beginning of the Association, in 1975, and now under the editorship of John S Hatcher, the *Journal of Bahá'í Studies* has just released its spring/summer issue, Volume 28, number 1/2, which is available in the conference bookstore and can also be accessed free online at <https://bahai-studies.ca/publications/journal/>.

The goal of the journal is to foster a space for academics from all backgrounds to participate in the major discourses that are emerging during this era of quantum change and dramatic transformation at every level of society. Virtually every discipline is now focused on how these concerns impact our collective thought and action. As members of a global community contracted into in a single body politic, humanity requires that the concerns of every nation and people become innovative in scholarly thinking and social action.

Put simply, scholarship isn't just for scholars anymore, nor is the journal solely for Bahá'ís. The journal welcomes submissions that are relevant to Bahá'í Studies as defined in the widest sense. And as a serious academic publication, the journal submits all articles to a rigorous, blind peer review process by scholars in the field, even though we strive to make them accessible to a wide, multidisciplinary audience. In addition, we require articles to demonstrate original thinking, present new information, open up new avenues of thought, or throw new light on long-standing problems.

Anyone interested can meet Dr. Hatcher at the session  
“Publishing in *The Journal of Bahá'í Studies*” Saturday, 17:00 – 18:00 room Georgia 6.

