

Association for Bahá'í Studies–North America
36th Annual Conference

“The Vision of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá for North America”

9–12 August 2012
Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

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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. The security personnel will not allow admittance to anyone without a badge.

Security The host/hostess 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 in “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 15, is being held in the **Gatineau, Saint-Laurent,** and **Bersimis** rooms on the Convention Floor level. Parents may drop off children at their program 15 minutes before the adult session starting time. Parents are asked to pick up their children promptly at the close of each session and for the lunch breaks. (Meals are not included in the children’s program.)

The times for Children/Junior Youth sessions are

Thursday, 9 August 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday, 10 August 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, 11 August 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, 12 August 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

The program of children’s activities is available at the Conference Registration Table. Parents are required to sign a Medical Information and Emergency Health Care Release form and return it to the Children’s Program coordinators.

Association d'études bahá'íes – Amérique du Nord

36e Conférence annuelle

« La vision de 'Abdu'l-Bahá pour l'Amérique du Nord »

Du 9 au 12 août 2012

Fairmont Reine Elizabeth

Montréal, Québec, Canada

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Informations importantes

Le badge de la conférence. Votre badge de la conférence est votre « billet » qui vous donnera accès à toutes les séances. Vous devez le porter pour assister aux séances de la conférence. Les agents de sécurité ne laisseront entrer personne sans un badge.

Sécurité. Les bénévoles faisant fonction d'hôtes/hôtes pendant la conférence sont là pour vous aider. Veuillez suivre leurs instructions en tout temps. On peut les reconnaître par le ruban rouge qu'ils portent sur leur badge.

Ponctualité. L'horaire des séances est très serré. Pour que les conférenciers aient le même temps de parole, les séances doivent commencer à l'heure prévue. Nous vous demandons d'avoir l'obligeance d'arriver à l'heure.

Téléphones portables. La sonnerie de téléphones portables dans le public pendant une présentation est très dérangeante. S'il vous plaît, éteignez votre portable ou mettez-le en mode « silence » quand vous assistez à une séance de la conférence.

Le programme pour les enfants et les préadolescents. (Pour y participer, les enfants doivent être préalablement inscrits)

Le programme pour les enfants et les préadolescents (5 à 15 ans) se tiendra dans les salles **Gatineau**, **Saint-Laurent** et **Bersimis**, situées à l'étage des congrès. Nous demandons aux parents de déposer leurs enfants à leur programme 15 minutes avant le début du programme pour adultes et de les reprendre sans tarder, dès la fin de celui-ci ainsi que pour les pauses du dîner. (Les repas ne sont pas inclus dans le programme pour enfants)

Voici l'horaire du programme pour enfants et adolescents :

Jeudi 9 août, de 9 h à 17 h

Vendredi 10 août, de 9 h à 17 h 30

Samedi 11 août, de 9 h à 17 h 30

Dimanche 12 août, de 9 h à 12 h 30

Vous pourrez vous procurer la liste des activités pour les enfants à la table d'inscription de la conférence. Les parents sont tenus de signer un formulaire d'information médicale ainsi qu'une décharge en cas d'urgence médicale et de les remettre aux animateurs du programme pour enfants.

The Conference Bookstore is operated by the Bahá'í Distribution Service in Canada. The bookstore is located in **Hochelaga 1** on the 2nd floor and offers a wide selection of books and materials, including books and CDs by authors and artists presenting at the conference, and Bahá'í jewellery. Hours of operation are

Thursday, 9 August 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Friday, 10 August 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, 11 August 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, 12 August 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Walking Tour of Sites Visited by 'Abdu'l-Bahá in Montreal

There is a map in your conference folder listing the sites 'Abdu'l-Bahá visited during His visit to Montreal. Attendees can tour these sites as most of them are walking distance from the Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel.

Evaluation Forms The ABS Executive Committee asks for your assistance and cooperation in filling out the conference evaluation forms provided in your conference kit. Your feedback is very valuable to us in our continuing efforts to improve the Conference.

Audio and Video Recordings Conference plenary sessions will be recorded and made available for purchase on audio CD and video DVD. An order form is included in your conference kit and additional forms are available at the Conference Information Desk. Please fill out the form with your credit card number and your order will be mailed to you after the conference.

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 Room The **Chambly** room on the **third level** has been set aside for prayer and meditation from Thursday to Saturday, 8:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m.

Evening Arts After the evening programme there will be an extended arts programme held in the **Le Grand Salon** where conference attendees can socialize and enjoy listening to live music until midnight. Performing artists at the conference are encouraged to sign up to perform at these events. A sign-up sheet will be available near the Conference Registration Table.

Networking Session: A networking session has been organized over lunch on Friday, August 10th from 12:30 – 1:45 pm in the **Saint-Charles** room on the **Convention level**. Conference participants are invited to visit and connect with others in their field of interest, exchange contact information and share research interests to explore opportunities for collaboration and networking. Tables are set up by topics for the various Special Interest Groups of the Association as well as others who may have want to network on topics other than the specific SIG themes.

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, Dr. Mehran Kiai at the conference or contact by email: mehran@kiais.com

La librairie de la conférence est tenue par le *Bahá'í Distribution Service* du Canada. La librairie est située au 2^e étage, dans la salle **Hochelaga 1**. Elle offre une grande variété de livres et de documents, y compris des livres et des CD d'auteurs et d'artistes intervenant à la conférence; vous y trouverez aussi des bijoux bahá'ís. Voici les heures d'ouverture :

Jeudi 9 août, de 11 h à 17 h
Vendredi 10 août, de 9 h à 17 h
Samedi 11 août, de 9 h à 17 h
Dimanche 12 août, de 9 h à 13 h

Visite à pied guidée des lieux visités par 'Abdu'l-Bahá à Montréal.

Votre dossier de la conférence contient une carte indiquant les lieux que 'Abdu'l-Bahá a visités durant son séjour à Montréal. La plupart de ces lieux sont à une distance relativement courte à pied de l'hôtel Fairmont Le Reine Elizabeth.

Formulaires d'évaluation. Des formulaires d'évaluation sont fournis dans le dossier de la conférence; nous vous demandons d'avoir l'obligeance de les remplir. Votre opinion est très importante pour l'AEB et l'aide dans ses efforts pour améliorer sa conférence annuelle.

Enregistrements audio et vidéo. Les séances plénières de la conférence seront enregistrées sur CD (audio) et DVD (vidéo) qui seront proposés à la vente. Un formulaire de commande est inclus dans le dossier de la conférence et des formulaires supplémentaires sont disponibles au comptoir d'information de la conférence. Quand vous remplirez le formulaire, veuillez indiquer votre numéro de carte de crédit; votre commande vous sera expédiée par courrier après la conférence.

Objets trouvés. Pour tout objet perdu ou trouvé, adressez-vous à la table d'inscription de la conférence. Après la conférence, tous les articles non réclamés seront déposés à l'hôtel.

Salle de prières. La salle **Chambly** au troisième étage a été réservée pour la prière et la méditation, du jeudi au samedi, de 8 h à 22 h.

Soirées artistiques. Après le programme du soir, il y aura des présentations artistiques dans le **Grand Salon** où les participants à la conférence pourront partager un moment de convivialité tout en écoutant des musiciens. Ces séances dureront jusqu'à minuit. Nous encourageons les artistes qui interviennent pendant la conférence, à participer à ces représentations ; un formulaire d'inscription est disponible à côté de la table d'inscription de la conférence

Séance « networking »: Une séance « networking » est prévue pendant la pause du dîner, le vendredi 10 août, de 12 h 30 à 13 h 45, dans la salle **Saint-Charles** à l'étage de la **Convention**. Les participants à la conférence sont invités à s'y rendre pour rencontrer d'autres personnes ayant les mêmes centres d'intérêt, de se mettre en contact avec eux et d'échanger des informations sur la recherche concernant leur discipline commune, afin de déboucher sur une coopération et d'arriver à la création de réseaux de contacts. Des tables sont disposées par sujet pour les différents « *Groupes à intérêt spécifique* » (SIG) de l'Association, ainsi que pour d'autres personnes qui aimeraient établir des contacts afin de communiquer sur des sujets autres que les thèmes propres aux SIG.

Les fonds de fonctionnement de l'Association : Ces fonds ont été établis par des particuliers pour soutenir et encourager des initiatives concernant l'érudition bahá'íe. Si vous désirez savoir comment contribuer à ces fonds et apporter votre soutien aux actions de l'Association, n'hésitez pas à vous adresser au trésorier du Comité exécutif, M. Mehran Kiai, soit à la Conférence, soit par courriel : mehran@kiais.com

Theme Statement

“The Vision of ‘Abdu'l-Bahá for North America”

When ‘Abdu’l-Bahá visited North America in 1912, he encountered two countries burgeoning with self-confidence, rapidly industrialising and urbanising, expanding with a combination of missionary zeal and modernist rationalism into the western interior, and beginning to find their way in the world of international affairs. Their combined population was just over 100 million, and vast territories were within one or two generations of treaty negotiations and the setting of formal political boundaries. Both nation-states were rushing down what seemed like an unstoppable path of progress, inspired by Europe’s century and a half of intellectual and material gain. Yet prevailing social theories and accompanying laws left well over half the population without a vote; restricted work, immigration and settlement by race and national identity; and permitted punishing working hours and crippling low wages. In the world outside North America and Western Europe, most people lived directly or indirectly under colonial rule and imperial exploitation, and the emerging community of nation-states was two years away from a conflict of unimaginable scale and impact.

Into this tumultuous mix of confidence and disruptive change, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá arrived with the message of Bahá’u’lláh, re-orienting the minds of all he encountered by both his words and his deeds, and grounding the young Bahá’í community in the broader implications of their faith. ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s vision of human nature, his explications of material and spiritual reality, of human history and human potential, of the true nature of progress, of the role of religion in society, of the unity between east and west and of all the races and nations, of the prerequisites to peace, and of the requirements for just government addressed the burning questions of the age but challenged their assumptions. In light of the inherent connection between spirit and practice, the conference will explore both the vision of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá and the manner in which he conveyed it.

Thème Conférence

La vision d'Abdu'l-Bahá pour l'Amérique du Nord

Quand, en 1912, 'Abdu'l-Bahá parcourt l'Amérique du Nord, il découvre deux pays débordant d'une confiance toute nouvelle, à l'industrialisation et à l'urbanisation en pleine expansion, commençant à tracer leur chemin dans le monde des relations internationales et, animés à la fois par le zèle du néophyte et le rationalisme de la modernité, repoussant sans cesse plus avant les limites de leurs territoires encore inexplorés. Ensemble, leur population vient juste de dépasser les 100 millions. Il ne s'est écoulé qu'une ou deux générations depuis la signature des derniers traités et le tracé définitif des frontières. Inspirées par les avancées de l'Europe aussi bien sur le plan intellectuel que sur le plan matériel au cours des 150 années précédentes, rien ne semble pouvoir arrêter le progrès frénétique de ces deux nations. Et pourtant, les conceptions sociales de l'époque ainsi que les lois qui en résultent ne permettent pas à plus de la moitié de la population de s'exprimer démocratiquement. Ces mêmes théories limitent l'accès au travail, l'immigration et la liberté de mouvement en fonction de la race et de l'origine nationale, et obligent les travailleurs à se plier à des horaires de travail intolérables pour de scandaleux salaires de misère. En dehors de l'Amérique du Nord, la majorité des peuples du monde survivent directement ou indirectement sous la férule coloniale et l'exploitation par les pouvoirs impériaux. Le monde n'est qu'à deux ans du début d'un conflit qui devait prendre des proportions et avoir des conséquences jusqu'alors inimaginables.

C'est dans ce contexte composite au sein duquel les plus grandes certitudes s'affirment sur fond de mutations incommensurables, qu' 'Abdu'l-Bahá débarque sur le continent porteur du message de Bahá'u'lláh. Dans le cadre de ses pérégrinations, il refaçonne par ses paroles et par ses actes la vision de tous ceux qu'il rencontre et il consolide une communauté bahá'íe tout juste naissante, à laquelle il dévoile toutes les implications de leur engagement. La conception de la nature humaine qu' 'Abdu'l-Bahá leur fait découvrir, les élucidations qu'il présente des rapports entre les domaines matériel et spirituel, ses observations sur l'histoire humaine, sa divulgation des facultés insoupçonnées du potentiel humain, ses éclaircissements sur ce que représente le véritable progrès, sur le rôle et la place de la religion dans la société, sur l'unité entre l'occident et l'orient, entre les races et les nations, son évocation de ce que sont les conditions préalables à une paix durable et les attributs d'un gouvernement dont la caractéristique essentielle serait l'esprit de justice, tous ces commentaires tout à la fois répondent aux questions les plus prégnantes de l'époque et remettent en question les convictions de ceux qui se les posent.

C'est à la lumière de cette corrélation intrinsèque entre pensée et praxis que la conférence se penchera sur la vision d' 'Abdu'l-Bahá et la manière dont il en galvanise l'implantation.

Thursday, 9 August 2012

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Special Simultaneous Sessions

Matapédia & Chaudière

- 9:00 – 12:00 **Atelier pour enseignants universitaires et étudiants – À la recherche d'un équilibre insaisissable: est-il possible de mener de front études universitaires ou enseignement et recherche, et un engagement bahá'í de qualité?**
Animateur : PIERRE-YVES MOCQUAIS, Directeur académique, Association des études bahá'ies

Hochelaga 2, 3, & 4

- 10:00 – 12:00 **'Abdu'l-Bahá's Travels to the West and its Implications for North America and Humanity**
Facilitator: SHASTRI PURUSHOTMA & SEAN GALLAGHER

Saint-Maurice & Saguenay

- 10:00 – 12:00 **Some Reflections on Bahá'í Approaches to Social Change - A Case Study of Race-Relations**
Facilitator: LEX MUSTA

12:00 – 2:00 *Lunch Break*

Matapédia & Chaudière

- 2:00 – 5:00 **Workshop for Faculty and Students – Toward an Elusive Balance: The Mysterious Search for an Equilibrium between University Studies or Teaching and Research, and a Meaningful Bahá'í Engagement.**
Convener: PIERRE-YVES MOCQUAIS, Academic Director, Association for Bahá'í Studies

Hochelaga 2, 3, & 4

- 2:00 – 4:00 **Workshop on Recent Messages of the Universal House of Justice**
Facilitators: GERALD FILSON and JUDY FILSON

Hochelaga 5 & 6

- 2:00 – 3:30 **The Journey of the Soul & the Path of Service**
Facilitator: ROBERT ATKINSON
- 3:45 – 5:00 **Promoting Prosperity by Improving Women's Rights – Doing Well by Doing Good**
Facilitator: AUGUSTO LOPEZ-CLAROS,

Saint-Maurice & Saguenay

- 3:00 – 5:00 **Identifying Spiritual Assumptions and Imagining Economic Change**
Facilitators: HOLLY HANSON & KIM NAQVI

5:00 - 7:00 *Dinner Break*

Thursday Evening – August 9, 2012/ Jeudi soir – 9 août 2012

Le Grand Salon

7:00/19 h 00 **Plenary Session/ Séance plénière**
Chair / Président: PIERRE-YVES MOCQUAIS

Devotions / Prières

Official Conference Welcome / Bienvenue officielle
Representatives of the National Spiritual Assemblies of the United States and Canada/
Représentants des assemblées spirituelles nationales du Canada et des États-Unis

A Hundred Years On / Cent ans plus tard DOUGLAS MARTIN

9:30/9 h 30 “After hours Arts”/ « Les arts le soir »

Friday, 10 August 2012/ Vendredi, le 10 août 2012

Le Grand Salon

9:00/9 h 00 **Plenary Session/ Séance plénière**
Chair /Président: ROSHAN DANESH

Devotions / Prières

**Journey Towards Justice - Reflection from the Front Lines / Vers la justice -
Réflexions en provenance du « front »** LOUISE MANDELL

**Social Action for Social Change - Learning from ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s Example / Action
sociale en vue du changement social - Apprendre de l’exemple de ‘Abdu’l-Bahá**
ROSHAN DANESH (MODERATOR/ MODÉRATEUR), JUNE MANNING THOMAS, MINA
YAZDANI, CHIEF DOUGLAS WHITE III, KWULASULTUN

12:00 - 2:00 *Lunch Break / 12 h 00 – 14 h 00 Dîner*

*(Please note that there is a networking session from 12:30 – 1:45 pm in Saint Charles room.
Pick up your lunch and join the various SIG groups)*

*(Veuillez noter qu’il y aura une séance de « networking » de 12 h 30 à 14 h 45 dans la salle
Saint-Joseph. Apportez votre repas et joignez-vous à la séance d’un des divers groupes
d’intérêt*

2:00 - 5:30 p.m. Simultaneous Breakout Sessions

- Hochelaga 6* **Arts I**
Convener and Chair: ANNE GORDON PERRY
- 2:00 - 3:00 A Response to the Sacred: The World Tree and the Elevated Perspective in Prairie Painting KIM ENNIS
- 3:15 - 4:15 From Small-Town Canada to the Co-inheritors of the Tablets of the Divine Plan: Surviving or Thriving? PEJMAN MOSLEH
- 4:30 - 5:30 Beyond Disclosing the Station of the Most Mighty Branch: A Closer Look at the Contents of the *Súriy-i-Ghusn (Tablet of the Branch)* SHAHROKH MONJAZEB
- Richelieu* **Bahá'í History and Biography I**
Convener: SUSAN MANECK ; Chair: MINA YAZDANI
- 2:00 - 3:00 'Abdu'l-Bahá and the Iranian Constitutional Revolution MINA YAZDANI
- 3:15 - 4:15 Laura Dreyfus-Barney and her Role During 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Visit to the West MONA KHADEMI
- Saint-Maurice & Saguenay* **Business Ethics and Management Science**
Convener and Chair: NOUSHA RAM
- 4:30 - 5:30 Applying Core Values and Spiritual Principles in the Leadership, Management and Service of Faith-Based NGOs DAVID A. PALMER
- Pérignonka* **Communication**
Convener and Chair: AMROLLAH HEMMAT
- 2:00 - 3:00 Meaningful Contributions to Discourses Through Media HASHEM SELPH
- 3:15 - 4:15 'Abdu'l-Bahá in America: Engaging a Mainstream Audience 100 Years Later through Social Media BOB SOCKETT, GAZALLE ARDEKANI AND CAITLIN JONES
- Hochelaga 3* **Economics I**
Chair: AUGUSTO LOPEZ-CLAROS
- 2:00 - 3:00 Treatment of Existential Moral Hazard and Eradication of Poverty in the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá RAMA AYMAN
- 3:15 - 4:15 A Bahá'í Inspired Model of Economic Sustainability HOOSHMAND BADEE
- 4:30 - 5:30 Removing Impediments to Sustainable Economic Development: The Case of Corruption AUGUSTO LOPEZ-CLAROS
- Richelieu* **Education I**
Chair: SANDRA BEAN
- 4:30 - 5:30 Bahá'í Campus Associations - Old Order Thinking or Fresh Opportunity? ROGER BLAINE & SANDRA BEAN
- Matapédia* **Education II**
4:30 - 5:30 Teaching Religion Courses in the Classroom in China LINDA COVEY
- Hochelaga 2* **Gender and Equality Studies**
Convener and Chair: ÉLIZABETH WRIGHT
- 4:30 - 5:30 Raising the Banner of Equality: 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Call for the Empowerment of Women CAMILLE N. KHODADAD

- Matapédia* **Human and Natural Environment**
 Convener and Chair: JOHN STEERE
 2:00 – 3:00 Building Awareness on Climate Action HODA RAHBAR
 3:15 – 4:15 Grey Towers, Blue Waters TERRI YORK
- Hochelaga 2* **International Affairs**
 Convener and Chair: JULIA BERGER
 2:00 - 3:00 From Fourteen Points to a Turning Point: The Role of the United Nations in an
 Emerging World Order ARASH ABBASSI
 3:15 - 4:15 Education Under Fire: Elements of a Successful Human Rights Campaign
 GEOFFREY TYSON & DONNA HAKIMIAN
- Saint-Maurice & Saguenay* **Persian Session**
 Chair: MEHRAN ANVARI
 2:00 – 3:00 *donya niazmand e yek tamaddon e jahani- Part I* SHAPOUR RASSEKH
 3:15 – 4:15 *donya niazmand e yek tamaddon e jahani- Part II* SHAPOUR RASSEKH
- Hochelaga 5* **Philosophy I**
 Convener: IAN KLUGE; Chair: JACK MCLEAN
 2:00 - 3:00 The Bahá'í Faith or a New Form of Universalism and Modernity: the Analysis of
 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Trips in the West in a New Perspective JOUBINE ESLAHPAZIR
 3:15 - 4:15 Cognitive Capacities of Science and Religion as a System of Knowledge
 GERALD FILSON & BEN SCHEWEL
 4:30 - 5:30 Nothing Short of Transformational: 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Presentation of the Search for
 Truth JACK MCLEAN
- Hochelaga 4* **Science and Religion**
 Conveners: STEPHEN FRIBERG and RON SHIGETA; Chair: KAMRAN SEDIG
 3:15 - 4:15 Man's Station in the Universe: A Scientist's Spiritual Journey MEHRDAD EHSANI
 4:30 - 5:30 The Bahá'í Concept of Spirit: A Scientific Perspective KAMRAN SEDIG
- Hochelaga 4* **Special Follow up Session to Plenary Panel**
 2:00 – 3:00 Advancing Reconciliation - A Dialogue on the Struggle for Equality and Justice for
 Aboriginal Peoples in Canada ROSHAN DANESH, LOUISE MANDELL, CHIEF DOUGLAS
 WHITE III, ANISA WHITE
- Hurricana & Chaudière* **Study of Religion I - Lessons from 'Abdu'l-Bahá: Precept into Practice**
 Convener and Chair: ANNE PEARSON
 2:00 – 3:00 'Abdu'l-Bahá: The Essence of Humility and Servitude ABDU'L-MISSAGH GHADIRIAN
 3:15 – 4:15 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Method of Training and Encouragement for Service of Two Early
 North-American Bahá'ís NOOSH FAR AFNAN
 4:30 – 5:30 Lessons from 'Abdu'l-Bahá's North American Journey for Our lives Today
 SHASTRI PURUSHOTMA & SEAN GALLAGHER
- Péribonka* **Storytelling**
 4:30 -5:30 *Memorials of the Faithful: Meaning Making for a New Dispensation* HELEN CHENG
- 5:30 - 7:30 **Dinner Break**

Friday Evening – August 10, 2012/ Vendredi soir – 10 août 2012

Le Grand Salon

7:30/19 h 30 **Plenary Session / Séance plénière**

Presentation of Awards for Distinguished Scholarship to Linda Covey, Janak Palta McGilligan, and Louis Venters, by the Association for Bahá'í Studies Executive Committee / Présentation de prix de distinction en érudition décernés par le Comité de direction de l'Association d'études bahá'íes à Linda Covey, Janak Palta McGilligan et Louis Venters

Arts Gala / Gala artistique

Master of Ceremonies: JOHN MCLEOD / Maître de cérémonie : JOHN MCLEOD

Elevation - Ravel Bolero CHRISTIAN PRÉVOST AND LUCIE DUBÉ

Devotional pieces JOSHUA PATTON, AMELIA AND CLARA HASKELL

Sounds of Africa - STEVEN ZOUTENNE, ROCHE MAYAM, CLARA HASKELL & ERICA MCBURNEY

The People with no Camel ROYA MOVAFEGH

Hidden Words SHADI TOLOUI-WALLACE

Celebration – Gigue CHRISTIAN PRÉVOST AND LUCIE DUBÉ

Tiny Ladders - songs by MJ CYR

Voice from the Heart MARTIN KERR

Tribute to 'Abdu'l-Bahá SMITH AND DRAGOMAN

Le Grand Salon

10:00/22 h 00 “After hours Arts” /« Les arts le soir »

The late evening Arts programme is one of many options open to the conference participants, and features planned and open-mic contributions. / Une des nombreuses possibilités s'offrant aux participants à la conférence est le programme artistique de fin de soirée qui comporte des prestations et une période « scène libre ».

Saturday, August 11, 2012 / Samedi, le 11 août

Le Grand Salon

9:00/9 h 00 **Plenary Session / Séance plénière**

Chair / Présidente: SUSANNE TAMÁS

Devotions / Prières

L'éducation morale et spirituelle des jeunes: perspectives laïque et religieuse au Québec 100 ans après la visite d' 'Abdu'l-Bahá à Montréal / Moral and Spiritual Education of the Youth : Secular and Religious Perspectives in Québec, One Hundred years after 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Visit to Montréal

CLAIRE LAPOINTE, LYSE LANGLOIS, LUC BÉGIN

MODÉRATEUR/ MODERATOR: ÉLIZABETH WRIGHT

Pursuing Justice / À la poursuite de la justice IRWIN COTLER

12:30 - 2:45 *Lunch break / 12 h 30 – 14 h 45 Dîner*

Le Grand Salon

1:30 - 2:30 **Consultative Session on the Vision and Activities of the Association for Bahá'í Studies – North America**

All are invited to an open consultation chaired by the ABS Executive Committee. How can ABS most effectively, in the words of the Universal House of Justice, “stimulate scholarly study of the Faith and its teachings, promote a sound understanding of the Cause in academic circles and demonstrate its relevance to the study of social issues”? Grab your lunch and come reflect on learning to date, consult about how you would like to see ABS develop, and suggest initiatives you might take to help make this possible.

2:45 – 5:30 p.m. Simultaneous Breakout Sessions

Hochelaga 6 **Arts II**

Convener and Chair: ANNE GORDON PERRY

2:45 - 3:45 The Power of Storytelling AFsoon HOUSHIDARI & SHERRI YAZDANI

4:00 - 5:00 Embracing the Vision of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá for North America through Documenting His Travels ANNE GORDON PERRY AND TM PERRY

Saint Maurice **Bioethics and Health Sciences**

& Saguenay Convener and Chair: ÉLIZABETH BOWEN

2:45 - 3:45 Surrogacy and Assisted Human Reproduction: Ethical Implications in the Era of the Made-to-Order Baby SHADI KATIRAI

Hochelaga 4 **Bahá'í History and Biography II**

4:00 – 5:00 ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s Vision for the Role of the Two American Bahá'í Communities in the Process of History JENA KHADEM KHODADAD

Matapédia **Business Ethics and Management Science**

Convener and Chair: NOUSHA RAM

2:45 – 3:45 From Profit-Driven to Knowledge-Based: Develop Your Career Commitment YI CHI

4:00 – 5:30 Transformative Leadership & Social Responsibility Panel

The Promise of Social Innovation: Enterprises as a Source of Social Good

FRANCOIS COUILLARD

When Profit and Social Responsibility Collide: Seven Transformational Leadership Lessons from ‘Abdu’l-Bahá NOUSHA RAM

Hochelaga 3 **Economics II**

2:45 – 5:30 Aligning Individual Economic Action with Spiritual Principle

HOLLY HANSON, KIM NAQVI, VESALL NOURANI, AND ANIS SAICHIRO RAGLAND

Hochelaga 4 **Education III**

2:45 - 3:45 Restoring Local Spiritual and Cultural Values in Science Education: The Case of Ethiopia SOLOMON BELAY FARIS

- Saint-Charles* **French Session**
 2:45 – 3:45 Faut-il retracer la figure de l'autre? La mémoire des Bahá'ís iraniens depuis 1979
 PIERRE-YVES MOCQUAIS
- Hochelaga 2* **International Affairs**
 Convener and Chair: JULIA BERGER
 2:45 - 3:45 'Abdu'l-Bahá Urges the Creation of a World Federation – Time to Catch Up
 SOVAIDA MA'ANI EWING
 4:00 - 5:30 Framework for the Community of Nations Panel
 The Spiritual Destiny of North America: Race Unity, Socio-Economic Justice, and
 International Agreement REBA A. CARRUTH
 How to Create a Divine Civilization VASU MOHAN
- Péribonka &
 Richelieu* **Law and Governance**
 Chair: LISA DUFRAIMONT
 2:45 - 3:45 Ethical Democracy: A Democratic Alternative to Liberal Democracy? ARASH ABIZADEH
 4:00 - 5:00 Reducing Genocide to Law: The Illusion of Words, the Reality of Empathy
 PAYAM AKHAVAN
- Hochelaga 5* **Psychology**
 Chair: MICHELLE THELEN-STEERE
 2:45 – 3:45 Seeking the Spiritual Reality of the Mentally Ill, the Physically Challenged and the
 Wounded PHYLLIS K. PETERSON
 4:00 – 5:00 Prayer and Meditation: Cultivating the Inner Spirit Dialogue Between the Natural
 Emotions and the Awakening Heart MICHELLE THELEN-STEERE & JOHN STEERE
- Saint-Maurice
 & Saguenay* **Special Session on Publishing**
 Convener: ABS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, Chair: MARTHA SCHWEITZ
 4:00 – 5:30 Bahá'í Publishing – Discussion Session for Authors and Publishers
- Saint-Charles* **Special Session on University Courses**
 Convener: ABS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Chair: PIERRE-YVES MOCQUAIS
 4:00 – 5:30 Fostering the Creation and Delivery of Courses on the Bahá'í Faith at Universities and
 Colleges
- Hurricana &
 Chaudière* **Study of Religion II – Perspectives on Social Justice**
 Convener and Chair: ANNE PEARSON
 2:45 - 3:45 Comparing Our Activisms: The Anarchists and the Bahá'is JAY HOWDEN
 4:00 – 5:30 Panel on 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Teachings on Poverty and Marginalization
 Extending our Peripheral Vision: Lessons from 'Abdu'l-Bahá on Life at the Margins
 GORDON J. KERR
 Would 'Abdu'l-Bahá Occupy Wall Street? BRIAN GUEQUIERRE
- Convention
 Level* **Poster Presentation - A rendition of The Greatest Name** OMID SADEGHPOUR
- 5:30 - 7:30 *Dinner Break*

Saturday Evening, August 11, 2012 / Samedi soir, 11 août 2012

Le Grand Salon

7:30/19 h 30 **Plenary Session / Séance plénière**

Chair / Présidente: KAREN MCKYE

Amerindian Prayer STÉPHANE BERTRAND

Soliloque/Soliloquy MARIE-CLAIRE SAINDON

Hidden Words LUCIE DUBÉ accompanied by String quartet

Voyage en Amérique - CHRISTIAN PRÉVOST (Violin), YUBIN KIM (Violin), DYLAN HATCHER (Viola), CATHERINE PERRON (Cello)

The 30th Hasan M. Balyuzi Memorial Lecture / La 30^e conférence commémorative Hasan M. Balyuzi

'Abdu'l-Bahá, le porte-drapeau d'une nouvelle civilisation /

'Abdu'l-Bahá, the Standard Bearer of a New Civilisation

SHAPOUR RASSEKH

Le Grand Salon

9:30/22 h 00 "After hours Arts" /« **Les arts le soir** »

Sunday, August 12, 2012 / Dimanche, 12 août 2012

Le Grand Salon

9:00 **Plenary Session / Séance plénière**

Chair / Présidente: MARTHA SCHWEITZ

Devotions / Prières

Examining the Impact of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Visit / Un examen de la portée de la visite de 'Abdu'l-Bahá ROBERT STOCKMAN, LOUIS VENTERS, PATRICIA VERGE AND BOB WATTS, ÉLIZABETH WRIGHT

Screening of *Luminous Journey: 'Abdu'l-Bahá in America, 1912* / Présentation du film *Luminous Journey: 'Abdu'l-Bahá in America, 1912* ANNE GORDON PERRY & TIM PERRY

Three Small Words: How the Master Forged Instruments of Systematic Action in North America / Trois petits mots : Comment le Maître a forgé des instruments d'action systématique en Amérique du Nord ANN BOYLES

12:00/12 h 00 Closing musical presentation / Musique de clôture

GENEVIÈVE LABBÉ and the Children's Conference choir / Geneviève Labbé et le chœur des enfants de la conférence; Piano Pieces / Piano – BEN & JAY MACGREGOR

Closing remarks: Association for Bahá'í Studies Executive Committee / Dernières remarques – Comité de direction de l'Association d'études bahá'íes

Abstracts and Autobiographical Notes

Arash Abbasi • From Fourteen Points to a Turning Point: The Role of the United Nations in an Emerging World Order

North America has been endowed with the distinction of being the cradle for the future New World Order of Bahá'u'lláh. The establishment of the Bahá'í Administrative Order, culminating in the "emergence of the worldwide Bahá'í Commonwealth," is contingent on the harmony of its respective institutions and global entities. Where does the United Nations fit into all of this? Through a historical and comparative approach, this presentation will attempt to explore the "role for the UN within the emerging international order." The conceptions of Woodrow Wilson's 'Fourteen Points' will be explored and juxtaposed to the contemporaneous conceptions within the Bahá'í movement.

ARASH ABBASSI holds a BBA from Simon Fraser University and has served as a research and teaching assistant for the Beedie School of Business. He has been a member of the Campus ABS and has served as Institute Coordinator for his cluster. He will be pursuing his JD this fall.

Arash Abizadeh • Ethical Democracy: A Democratic Alternative to Liberal Democracy?

Liberal egalitarians typically justify democracy by claiming that political institutions must respect the inherent freedom and equality of each person subjected to political power. I argue, however, that a full justification of democracy demands that political institutions also respect the inherent nobility of persons – their capacity to exercise their ethical and moral powers and to cultivate virtues of character. Since political institutions fail to respect the nobility of persons when they provide systematic incentives for individuals to debase themselves in order to succeed, this requirement challenges the widely held view that democracy requires multiparty competitive elections.

ARASH ABIZADEH teaches political philosophy at McGill University. He received his MPhil from Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar, and his PhD from Harvard University.

Nooshfar Afnan • 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Method of Training and Encouragement for Service of Two Early North-American Bahá'ís

This seminar will explore how 'Abdu'l-Bahá through his different, yet interconnected roles as Interpreter, Perfect Exemplar and Center of the Covenant of the Bahá'í Faith was able to educate and encourage the friends in North-America to carry out specific acts of service. Individuals such as Louis Gregory, the promoter of racial unity, and Marion Jack the model to all pioneers, were transformed by him and rendered unique and historic services. The elements that educated and transformed these souls are still available to us today and we can draw on them especially through the institute process that is sweeping the planet.

NOOSHFAR AFNAN is interested in exploring topics related to the early history of the Bahá'í Faith in the West. She has published several articles on contemporary Asian art and holds a Master's degree in art history from Carleton University, Ottawa. Since 2005 she, her husband and children have made their home in Asia.

Payam Akhavan • Reducing Genocide to Law: The Illusion of Words, the Reality of Empathy

Can the emotion of suffering be adequately conveyed through the rationalist credo of international law? Is progressive human rights discourse merely a substitute for genuine empathy? What can UN debates on labeling atrocities teach us about how words can evoke empathy? Is there a spiritual dimension to our wavering faith in global justice? These questions will be explored through the example of the crime of genocide, the untold story of its genesis, and the contest over its ownership. This lecture is based on the recent book *Reducing Genocide to Law: Definition, Meaning, and the Ultimate Crime* (Cambridge University Press, 2012).

PAYAM AKHAVAN LL.M. S.J.D. (Harvard) is Professor of International Law at McGill University, currently on leave at SciencesPo (Paris). He was formerly Senior Fellow at Yale, UN prosecutor at The Hague, founded the Iran Human Rights Documentation Centre, and is counsel in the Kony, Ghaddafi, and other leading international cases.

Robert Atkinson • The Journey of the Soul & the Path of Service

In carrying the message of Bahá'u'lláh to inquiring minds across North America, 'Abdu'l-Bahá expanded a process of social and personal transformation that has contributed significantly to our continually evolving consciousness. Drawing from The Seven Valleys, the mystic way, other sacred traditions, and scientific theories, this interactive presentation identifies a blueprint for soul-making that illustrates a) why the journey of the soul and the path of service are one and the same, and b) how a timeless and universal pattern of transformation is at the core of a lifelong process of acquiring the attributes needed for our eternal journey

ROBERT ATKINSON, Ph.D., is professor of human development and religious studies, and director of the Life Story Center, at the University of Southern Maine. He is the author of eight books including his memoir, *Remembering 1969*, and most recently *Mystic Journey: A Guide to the Lifelong Process of Soul-Making*.

Rama Ayman • Treatment of Existential Moral Hazard and Eradication of Poverty in the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá

We examine 'Abdu'l-Bahá's revolutionary insights to achieve collective economic security and fair distribution of wealth by reorienting society from wealth-accumulating to being service-centered, thus eliminating moral hazards that have foundered the past attempts to eradicate poverty. Lack of incentive to work (socialism) and exploitative consequences of unabated wealth accumulation (capitalism) are among blatant moral hazards that will be largely diminished - a fundamental change in our world view: the exaltation of Service over Wealth Maximization. Once in the aggregate, individuals seek to serve humanity in preference to accumulating wealth, each individual, by definition, would become the beneficiary of others' services leading to a higher sense of security.

RAMA AYMAN is an international mergers and acquisitions and corporate finance investment banker, leading advisory projects, for the past 20 years, in America, Europe, China, CIS, and emerging markets for a broad range of governments and corporations. Educational background includes University degrees in Economics, Political Science, Philosophy, and International Management.

Hooshmand Badee • A Bahá'í Inspired Model of Economic Sustainability

The model is a representation containing the essentials of the Bahá'í economics to create a balanced economy. Central to this model is the principle of moderation as a moral obligation associated with all parts of the market and the economy. The model is developed on the basis of human action and the behaviour of individual members of society. It considers three positive statements which are based on close and inseparable connection between compassion, consultation and cooperation. It must be borne in mind that this is not a Bahá'í model but a Bahá'í inspired model.

HOOSHMAND BADEE is an economist and lecturer of economics and business management. He is currently completing his PhD at York St. John University in UK, researching the role of the Bahá'í Faith in solving economic problems. He is the author of two books entitled 'The True Foundation of All Economics - A Compilation', and 'Spiritual Solution to Economic Problems. (59 words)

Sandra J. Bean and Roger L. Bean • Bahá'í Campus Associations: Old Order Thinking or Fresh Opportunity?

The college campus is a social space inhabited by an intellectually curious population-in-transition. It thus represents an environment that is receptive to the concepts fostered by the Bahá'í Faith. The teaching plan goals of children's classes, junior youth activities, devotional gatherings, and study circles, known as core activities, seem to fit only tangentially into this environment. So is there a role for the Bahá'í campus associations to play in the current teaching plan? This presentation will report on the activities on the Oregon State University campus and some of the challenges faced and solutions found.

SANDRA J. BEAN, a Bahá'í since 1970, is a PhD candidate in Public Health at Oregon State University. She served as Information Office at the Bahá'í World Center and as an English language expert at China Central Television. She is a member of the OSU Bahá'í teaching team.

ROGER L. BLAINE enrolled as a Bahá'í in 1962. He is an alumnus of Oregon State University and a founding member of its Bahá'í Campus Association in 1967. In retirement, Dr. Blaine returned to OSU as a campus teaching team member.

Luc Bégin • L'éducation morale et spirituelle des jeunes: perspectives laïque et religieuse au Québec 100 ans après la visite d' 'Abdu'l-Bahá à Montréal (see Lapointe for full panel description voir sous Lapointe pour la description complète du thème du panel) / **Moral and Spiritual Education of the Youth : Secular and Religious Perspectives in Québec, One Hundred Years after 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Visit to Montréal.** (Veuillez vous référer à la rubrique Lapointe pour le titre et la description de ce panel)

LUC BEGIN est professeur titulaire à la Faculté de philosophie de l'Université Laval et directeur de l'Institut d'éthique appliquée (IDÉA) de cette même université. Il a participé à titre d'expert à la création du nouveau programme d'éthique et culture religieuse maintenant implanté dans toutes les écoles primaires et secondaires du Québec. / LUC BÉGIN is full professor at the Department of philosophy at Université Laval and Director of the *Institut d'éthique appliquée* (IDÉA) [Institute of applied ethics] at Laval. He participated as an expert in the creation of a new Programme of ethics

and religious culture, which has now been implemented in all primary and secondary schools in the province of Quebec.

Ann Boyles • Three Small Words: How the Master Forged Instruments of Systematic Action in North America / Trois petits mots : Comment le Maître a forgé des instruments pour une action systématique en Amérique du Nord

In the talks He delivered during His visit to North America and later in the Tablets of the Divine Plan, 'Abdu'l-Bahá emphasized specific concepts, qualities, and actions that shaped the development of a community capable of engaging in increasingly complex and systematic endeavours. This presentation will focus on three words that appear repeatedly in the Master's talks and Tablets and their effects on community building up to the present day. / Dans les allocutions qu'il a prononcées au cours de son séjour en Amérique du Nord, et plus tard dans le texte de *Les tablettes du plan divin*, 'Abdu'l-Bahá a accordé une importance particulière à certains concepts, certaines qualités et certaines actions qui ont défini le développement d'une communauté capable de prendre part à des entreprises progressivement plus complexes et systématiques. Cette présentation se penchera sur trois mots qui paraissent à maintes reprises dans les allocutions du Maître et dans ses tablettes et sur les effets qu'ils ont eu sur le développement de la communauté jusqu'à aujourd'hui.

ANN BOYLES has a PhD in modern American poetry, teaches part-time at the University of Prince Edward Island, and writes poetry, short fiction, drama, and nonfiction. She serves as member of the Continental Board of Counsellors for the Americas. / ANN BOYLES a obtenu un doctorat en poésie américaine, elle enseigne à temps partiel à l'Université de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard, elle est poète, auteure de courts textes de fiction, de pièces de théâtre et d'ouvrages documentaires. Elle est de plus membre du Corps continental des conseillers pour les Amériques.

**Reba A. Carruth • Framework for the Community of Nations Panel
The Spiritual Destiny of North America: Race Unity, Socio-Economic Justice, and International Agreement**

The goal of this presentation is to discuss the roles and responsibilities of North America - the United States and Canada- in the establishment of the community of nations. In this presentation, 'Abdu'l-Bahá's instructions for the United States and Canada are discussed relative to the global projection of universal norms, and Bahá'í principles. In this session, the policy cooperation and international standards harmonization work of the Transatlantic (United States/Canada/European Union), Western Hemisphere/OAS, and UN Multilateral systems are addressed. The presentation concludes with a summary of the emerging roles of North America and the West in the emerging world civilization.

DR. REBA CARRUTH holds a joint Ph.D. Sociology/MA Public Policy from the University of Minnesota, and MA/ International Affairs from American University. Ms. Carruth specializes in Transatlantic/UN Multilateral Policy Cooperation and Standards Harmonization, is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and directs a Destiny of America Education Project.

Helen Cheng • *Memorials of the Faithful: Meaning for a New Dispensation*

In *Memorials of the Faithful*, 'Abdu'l-Bahá tells the stories of sixty-nine early Bahá'ís who, as the title suggests, were emblems of faithfulness. Many of these stories were about lives that were so humble that the passing years would surely have refused them a history. Yet, seen through the eyes of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, these souls are immortalized as prototypes of the highest values and human aspirations. What are some of the stories 'Abdu'l-Bahá told in this book? Why did he tell them? Part of the presentation will involve multi-media presentations prepared in collaboration with youths and junior youth.

HELEN CHENG organizes and teaches grassroots neighbourhood children and youth programs that introduce ideas and skills indispensable to conflict resolution and peace building. She is also a lawyer and lives with her family in Toronto.

Yi Chi • *From Profit-Driven to Knowledge-Based: Develop Your Career Commitment*

Technology advancement helps researchers and consultants to realize the importance of human capital in for-profit sectors and to develop organizations to be a place for knowledge development and sharing. What are the implications for individual workers? How should we develop the cohesion of profession and services to make the world a better place? What would be our attitude, knowledge and skills? Let's explore the writings of Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the meaning of true career, and how to develop it.

YI CHI works as a vendor manager with TD Bank. She worked in organization design, consulting and supply chain management, and volunteers as a career mentor with CultureLink and Chinese Professional Association of Canada. She earned an MBA from Richard Ivey School of Business and MSc from Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Irwin Cotler • *Pursuing Justice / À la poursuite de la justice*

IRWIN COTLER is an emeritus professor of law (McGill University) constitutional and comparative law scholar, an international human rights lawyer, and a peace activist. He has served as a member of the Canadian parliament since 1999, and was Attorney General and Minister of Justice from 2003 to 2006. / IRWIN COTLER est professeur émérite de droit (à l'Université McGill), spécialiste des questions de droit constitutionnel et comparatif, avocat des droits internationaux de l'homme, et militant pour la paix. Il est député fédéral depuis 1999 et a servi comme procureur général et ministre de la justice de 2003 à 2006.

Francois Couillard • *Transformative Leadership & Social Responsibility Panel* *The Promise of Social Innovation: Enterprises as a Source of Social Good*

Society has failed to solve some of the most pressing issues of our times such as poverty, food security, environmental degradation and chronic disease. A new corporate ethic is emerging, one that broadens the role of business beyond maximization of shareholder value to include the creation of social value. Social innovation, new products or services that help meet our society's most challenges,

is emerging as a promising new way to bridge business and non-profits and encourage collaboration across sectors. In this presentation we will explore concepts such as social business, social enterprise and impact investment from a Bahá'í perspective.

FRANÇOIS COUILLARD'S career bridges business and non-profits. He held senior positions at Johnson & Johnson and MDS. He was also COO of two of Canada's largest non-profit organizations, The Canadian Red Cross and VON Canada. He holds a Chemical Engineering degree and a MBA in Marketing and International Business.

Linda S. Covey • Teaching Religion Courses in the Classroom in China

A course on religions of the world was taught at the university level in Dalian, China, during the spring semester, 2012, and will be repeated over the next two semesters. The story is shared of how this unprecedented event came about; how the course was designed using the timeline of progressive revelation; and how the students had to create their own textbook. This interactive presentation will share what the students learned and what the instructor learned about religion in China, and will garner ideas and suggestions for an in-progress basic textbook on religion for Chinese students.

LINDA COVEY holds degrees in religious studies, psychology, anthropology, and journalism. She currently teaches psychology and topics in religion at LNU-MSU College of International Business in Dalian, China, where she has lived for the past three years. Covey, of American Indian heritage, has been a Bahá'í for 41 years.

Roshan Danesh (moderator/ modérateur), June Manning Thomas, Mina Yazdani, and Chief Douglas White III, Kwulasultun • Social Action for Social Change - Learning from 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Example (see individual names for biographies) / Action sociale en vue du changement social – Apprendre de l'exemple de 'Abdu'l-Bahá (veuillez vous référer aux biographies de chaque panéliste)

This panel explores 'Abdu'l-Bahá's vision and method of effecting social change, and the implications how we seek to effect progressive and meaningful change today. Through three case studies a portrait will be drawn of about the spiritual dynamics of social progress, and the roles and responsibilities of individuals and communities as change agents. Dr. June Thomas explores challenges related to inner city poverty. Chief Douglas White III, Kwulasultun examines the spiritual dimensions of Indigenous reconciliation. Dr. Mina Yazdani connect social change with political change in a presentation titled "'Abdu'l-Bahá's Guidance in Respect to the Process of Political Change: The Iranian Constitutional Revolution (1906-1911)". / Ce panel explorera la vision de 'Abdu'l-Bahá, ses méthodes pour effectuer un changement social et leurs implications pour le travail que nous accomplissons aujourd'hui en vue de changements progressistes et significatifs. En examinant trois études de cas, les panélistes tenteront de décrire la dynamique spirituelle du progrès social et les rôles et responsabilités des individus et des communautés en tant qu'agents du changement. June Thomas, explorera les défis relatifs à la pauvreté dans les quartiers déshérités. Le chef Douglas White III, Kwulasultun, examinera les dimensions spirituelles de la réconciliation des autochtones. Mina Yazdani fera le lien entre le changement social et le changement politique dans une présentation intitulée « La direction fournie par 'Abdu'l-Bahá au sujet du processus de changement social : La révolution constitutionnelle iranienne (1906-1911) » [*'Abdu'l-Bahá's Guidance in Respect to the Process of Political Change: The Iranian Constitutional Revolution (1906-1911)*].

Roshan Danesh, Louise Mandell, Chief Douglas White III and Anisa White • Special Follow up

Session to Plenary Panel - Advancing Reconciliation: A Dialogue on the Struggle for Equality and Justice for Aboriginal Peoples in Canada

This moderated dialogue will explore the challenges of Aboriginal Reconciliation in Canada and the roles individuals and communities can play in advancing progress. The session will provide an opportunity and forum for open discussion with the panelists.

ROSHAN DANESH completed doctoral studies at Harvard Law School, and works, researches and teaches in constitutional law, Indigenous rights, and conflict resolution and peace building. He has taught at several universities worldwide and published on Bahá'í law in the Journal of Law and Religion, Religious Studies and Theology, Bahá'í Studies Review, and Bahá'í World. / ROSHAN DANESH a obtenu un doctorat en droit de l'Université Harvard, il travaille, fait de la recherche et enseigne dans le domaine de la loi constitutionnelle, des droits des autochtones, de la résolution des conflits et de l'établissement de la paix.

Mehrdad Ehsani • Man's Station in the Universe: A Scientist's Spiritual Journey

The Universe is very simple: mostly made of hydrogen, helium and energy. However, the earth contains amazing complexity that is nearly unique in the universe. Unique circumstances have made possible organic chemistry and life on earth, leading to the most complex structure in the universe: human brain. For example, we can show that the energy consumption of human brain per kilogram is 100,000 times the energy per kilogram that our sun can produce. The purpose of all this miraculous combination of events is human consciousness and spiritual awareness. We will explore this physical-spiritual phenomenon in this talk.

DR. MEHRDAD EHSANI is the Robert M. Kennedy Endowed Professor of electrical engineering and Director of Sustainable Energy Engineering Program at Texas A&M University. He is the author of over 350 publications, 14 books, and over 30 patents related to energy.

Kim Ennis • A Response to the Sacred: The World Tree and the Elevated Perspective in Prairie Painting

The vertical line in 'Abdu'l-Bahá's ring stone symbol, representing the possibility of ascent or communication with a greater realm, can be compared with the archetype of the World Tree, or axis mundi. My study of prairie painting reveals that this structure is present in examples of landscape and formalist paintings. It may take the form of a tree, an implied movement beyond a horizon, or an elevated perspective. I will discuss examples of the vertical axis in paintings from diverse cultural origins, and conclude that they may be regarded as an indicator of a spiritual, cultural and ecological healing tendency

Born in Saskatoon in 1956, Mr. ENNIS is a self-taught artist, painting and sculpting in bronze, stone and wood. In 2006 Mr. Ennis completed his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at the University of Saskatchewan and became a Bahá'í. He has recently completed a Master's thesis in Art History.

Joubine Eslahpazir • The Bahá'í Faith or a New Form of Universalism and Modernity: The Analysis of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Trips in the West in a New Perspective

Since the last four centuries, Eastern Civilizations have been profoundly facing the rise of Modernity in the West. Progressively, the East found itself living with a new cultural element which does not belong to it. The values of modernity had a very limited success in the rest of the World. This situation is the major source of conflict in the modern era since the vector that carries them is itself non universal. It is a new form of universalism and modernity and it is this view that we can proceed to a new analysis of the trips 'Abdu'l-Bahá in the West.

DR. JOUBINE ESLAHPAZIR, is completing his PhD in History and Religious Studies at the University of Montréal. His research is on "The Memory of the Persecution in the Bahá'í Community of France and Quebec". Joubine is the author of *Le Petit Livre de Les Religions*, published in France in 2008.

Solomon Belay Faris • Restoring Local Spiritual and Cultural Values in Science Education: The Case of Ethiopia

Smooth transition between home and classroom prepares children for enjoyable and meaningful learning. This theory in mind, the autoethnographic research used interviews and biography methods to identify the perception and practice of spiritual and cultural values and whether the values were included or excluded in the Ethiopian school curriculum. Twenty curriculum stakeholders participated in the research. Findings show belief in and fear of God animated and sustained the Ethiopian way of life. Spiritual teachings derived from sacred writings were the foundation for cultural norms. Science education has little relationship to these norms and is, therefore, in need of restoration.

SOLOMON BELAY FARIS was born and raised in Ethiopia. He earned BSc in Biology from Asmara University and MA in Curriculum and Instruction from Addis Ababa University. He just finished his doctoral studies in Curriculum Studies and Teacher Development from Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto.

Judy Filson and Gerald Filson • Workshop on recent messages of the Universal House of Justice

Drawing on the ninth paragraph of the 2010 Ridván Message and the third and fourth paragraphs of the 2012 Ridván Message, this workshop invites participants to reflect on insights generated by their experience of the institute process and their reading of the Dec. 12, 2011 letter of the Universal House of Justice.

JUDY FILSON is a member of the National Spiritual Assembly of Canada and Gerald Filson is a staff member of the Office of External Affairs of the Bahá'í Community of Canada.

Gerald Filson and Ben Schewel • Cognitive Capacities of Science and Religion as a System of Knowledge

Ben Schewel and Gerald Filson are pursuing a philosophy project that brings together Robert Bellah's insights (inspired by Merlin Donald) regarding the co-evolution of cognitive capacities and religion, and post-empiricist work in the history and philosophy of science (Hacking, Graham-Smith, Gaukroger, etc). The cognitive capacities that have emerged in modern scientific practice, if applied to religion and religious practice, can serve to demonstrate that religion is a system of knowledge, in 'Abdu'l-Bahá's words, "intertwined" with "science [that] will be the handmaid of religion". This presentation outlines the project and seeks comments and feedback.

GERALD FILSON, Director of Public Affairs for the Bahá'í Community of Canada, has degrees in mathematics(B.A.), educational technology(M.A.) and philosophy of education (Ph.D.), with interests in philosophy of science, social and moral philosophy, and practical reason.

Sean Gallagher • 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Travels to the West and its Implications for North America and Humanity (see Purushotma for abstract)

Sean Gallagher • Lessons from 'Abdu'l-Bahá's North American Journey for Our Lives Today (see Purushotma for abstract)

SEAN GALLAGHER attended UC Davis in California and The George Washington University in Washington DC, where he currently resides. He works in technology and serves as secretary of the Local Spiritual Assembly of Washington DC.

'Abdu'l-Missagh Ghadirian • 'Abdu'l-Bahá: The Essence of Humility and Servitude

'Abdu'l-Bahá's visit to the West had a transforming effect on society. His modesty, profound humility and exemplary servitude embraced an industrial-revolutionized West which was discovering pride and power in modernity. Despite exalted titles bestowed by Bahá'u'lláh, 'Abdu'l-Bahá chose servitude. His Tablet of Visitation reveals His longing to become dust in the pathway of His loved ones. Utterly detached from the glory of the "Kingdom of Names", He offered up His life for them. The presentation will trace this immense longing throughout His life. The audience will be invited to discuss the impact of His virtues in today's self-centered, materialistic world.

ABDU'L MISSAGH GHADIRIAN, Professor, McGill University, Faculty of Medicine, is the author of extensive publications including research articles and several books, the most recent of which is *Creative Dimensions of Suffering and Materialism – Moral and Social Consequences*. His recent teaching and research works have been on science and spirituality.

**Brian Guequierre • Panel on 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Teachings on Poverty and Marginalization
Would 'Abdu'l-Bahá Occupy Wall Street?**

This paper will examine the prejudices 'Abdu'l-Bahá encountered, addressed, and fought against directly during His historic travels in North America, including the special favors bestowed upon Fred Mortensen and His address to the poor at the Bowery Mission in New York, questioning whether the Bahá'í response to eliminating the extremes of wealth and poverty has kept pace with

our engagement on issues of racial, religious, nationalistic, or gender based prejudice and discrimination.

BRIAN is a consumer-protection attorney in Austin, Texas, where he received his JD in Law and BA in Literature from UT, and lives with his beautiful wife and children. An avid surfer, waterman, and naturalist, he has been a pioneer and travel-teacher throughout parts of Africa, Europe, and the Americas.

Holly Hanson and Kim Naqvi • Identifying Spiritual Assumptions and Imagining Economic Change

This workshop is a shorter version of the Saturday breakout session, exploring concepts and potential practices presented by the Universal House of Justice in Two Key Documents

Holly Hanson, Kim Naqvi, Vesall Nourani, and Anis Saichiro Ragland • Aligning Individual Economic Action with Spiritual Principle

This workshop explores the challenge posed by the Universal House of Justice in its Ridván 2012 message, “that there be no contradiction between one’s economic conduct and one’s beliefs as a Bahá’í and that “a single soul can uphold a standard far above the low threshold by which the world measures itself.” What is that standard, and how do we align our economic lives with it? To answer these questions, we explore some concepts presented in a 2 April 2010 letter from the Universal House of Justice to the Iranian believers, and in the 2012 Ridván message.

HOLLY HANSON teaches African history at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts. She is the author of "A Path of Justice: Building Communities with the Power to Shape the World," and "Landed Obligation: The Practice of Power in Buganda", and a number of essays on processes of social transformation.

Geoffrey Tyson and Donna Hakimian • Education Under Fire: Elements of a Successful Human Rights Campaign

The proposed paper will address this fundamental question: “Could the systematic combining of certain business techniques with the arts accelerate the effectiveness of engaging large numbers from diverse backgrounds in participating in discourse around particular social issues?” This question will be analyzed through an exploration of the Education Under Fire initiative, which was developed to address the Iranian government’s denial of the right to higher education for the members of the Iranian Bahá’í community and others. Insights will be drawn from instances of student empowerment through grassroots collaboration and effective action on campuses, while also exploring ways in which this initiative inspired action among thousands.

GEOFFREY TYSON supports Education Under Fire from his home in Huntsville, Alabama. With academic training in political science and literature, and having served the Baha'i International Community for a number of years in diplomatic and Internet management capacities, his experience lies within the realm of public relations and Web development

DONNA HAKIMIAN obtained her MA in Women's Studies from the University of Toronto and a BA in Religious and Middle Eastern Studies from McGill University. Ms. Hakimian worked with Education Under Fire to catalyze campaign initiatives across North America, training and mobilizing individuals and groups to advocate for educational freedom and the Bahá'ís in Iran.

Afsoon Houshidari and Sherri Yazdani • The Power of Storytelling

What do 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the U.S. military, and Steve Jobs have in common? They have each recognized and harnessed the power of stories. This workshop will explore the science of storytelling and how this magical art can enhance a variety of service activities. In addition to storytelling itself, the workshop will explore why stories have the power to not only evoke strong emotions, but also inspire people to actions as polar as participating in violence to working for peace. It will convey tips for effective storytelling, and encourage participants to consider how storytelling can boost their own activities.

AFSOON HOUSHIDARI first fell in love with storytelling for adults during a year of service in Australia with Artworks Performance Arts Theatre, a Bahá'í-inspired travelling theatre/dance/painting non-profit organization. When not storytelling, she enjoys working as a refugee lawyer for the Canadian Department of Justice and swimming in lakes.

SHERRI YAZDANI Several years ago Sherri stumbled into storytelling when she decided to share the story of a young boy's visit to the House of The Báb at a holy day celebration. What happened next seemed magical. Now she takes the magic of stories everywhere from corporate events to concerts to baby showers. Find her at www.storiesbysherri.com.

Jay Howden • Comparing Our Activisms: The Anarchists and the Bahá'ís

The diverse philosophies, personalities and practices collectively labelled "Anarchism", on the surface, may seem to bear little relation to the Bahá'í worldview and community. If we think about it at all, Bahá'ís might confuse "anarchy" with "disorder/chaos", or associate it exclusively with destructive acts. This presentation begs to differ, and so explores the ways in which Anarchists and Bahá'ís converge (often profoundly) and tries to learn from the places where they diverge (sometimes violently).

JAMES "JAY" HOWDEN is an educator, long-time basketball coach, sometime writer and all-the-time father of four sons. A high school English teacher for 20 years, he was also Editorial Advisor to the former Governor General of Canada, Adrienne Clarkson. He and Diana live, learn and teach in Dalian, China.

Shadi Katirai • Surrogacy and Assisted Human Reproduction: Ethical Implications in the Era of the Made-to-Order Baby

As the pace of technology and globalization increases, so does the ease in contracting out the process of reproduction. We will look at the growing surrogacy industry India, and the rise of the "Google Baby," where anyone can simply buy eggs and sperm online and ship them to brokers housing

surrogates abroad. Relying on some more recent letters from the Universal House of Justice, advising that surrogacy is not permissible, we will analyze the differing incentives of the intending parents, surrogate mothers, gamete donors, and brokers from a Baha'i inspired perspective, to examine questions such as "Do children have a unique bond with their biological parents, even if they are separated at birth?"

SHADI KATIRAI is a litigator at Stieber Berlach LL.P. and a health lawyer. Her academic research explores the legal, ethical and social implications of new technologies and health care practices. She has an LL.M. from Georgetown University in Global Health Law, an LL.B. from Queen's University, and a B.Sc. from the University of Toronto.

**Gordon Kerr • Panel on 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Teachings on Poverty and Marginalization
Extending our Peripheral Vision: Lessons from 'Abdu'l-Bahá on Life at the Margins.**

Part of the popular narrative surrounding 'Abdu'l-Bahá's journey to the West, was his sensitivity to life at the margins. In particular, His response to people who were often ignored by others, e.g. the poor, servants, even children. This workshop explores how the Master encourages us to cultivate our sensibilities to the human condition, especially to those who are victims of injustice or social exclusion. Our goal will be a clearer sense of which topics of social concern 'Abdu'l-Bahá might address if he was to visit our shores today and which individuals and marginal groups he might reach out to in our communities.

GORDON KERR, I teach Business Ethics at the University of Macau (China) where I am also Coordinator of General Education. As Chief Editor of UK Bahá'í Publishing Trust (1980 -98) I worked on a number of publications about 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and produced/designed exhibitions and commemorative events based on episodes from His journeys to the West.

Mona Khademi • Laura Dreyfus-Barney and her Role During 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Visit to the West

This paper examines the significant role of Laura Dreyfus-Barney (1879-1974) played before, during, and after Abdu'l-Bahá's journeys to the West. Her life and her contributions to the Bahá'í Faith will be examined.

MONA KHADEMI is an independent researcher. She has been carrying out research about the life of Laura Dreyfus-Barney for the past 10 years and has presented papers at the International Middle Eastern Studies Annual Conference in 2010 and International Society for Iranian Studies Annual conference in 2009.

**Jena Khadem Khodadad • 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Vision for the Role of the Two American Bahá'í
Communities in the Process of History**

In the Process of History 'Abdu'l-Bahá instilled in the two communities of Canada and the United States the vision of their noble role in the process of history. Discourse on the philosophy of history raises seminal questions: Is a destiny immanent in the process of history? Is history progressive--headed toward a culmination--the unified history of humankind? Is there a supra-historical element

that guides its course? These questions and more will be probed in this session referring to the magnificent vision of 'Abdu'l-Bahá for North America invigorated by the mandates of the Tablets of the Divine Plan.

JENA KHADEM KHODADAD, PhD Biological Sciences, Northwestern University. Her academic career includes research on biological membranes, teaching Cell biology and neuroscience at Rush Medical and Graduate Colleges. Her scientific publications are in refereed Journals and her latest book is, *The Dynamics of Growth: Scientific Principles at Work in the Worldwide Advancement of the Bahá'í Faith*.

Camille Khodadad • Raising the Banner of Equality: 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Call for the Empowerment of Women

That the empowerment of women was central to the New Era 'Abdu'l-Bahá came to America to promulgate can be seen in the number of times He made it the theme of His public addresses. 'Abdu'l-Bahá encouraged women to achieve new heights of accomplishment and selected women to take the lead in advancing His design for the worldwide growth of the Bahá'í Faith. He spoke clearly to His contemporaries and to generations yet unborn of woman's proper place side-by-side with men in all the departments of life. This workshop will revisit 'Abdu'l-Bahá's talks and the women whose lives were transformed by His teachings.

CAMILLE KHODADAD, J.D., has practiced in the area of employment law for the last twenty years. She is currently head of the employment law department and member of the aviation law department of Hall, Prangle & Schoonveld in Chicago. Prior to joining HPS, Camille was a partner at Lord, Bissell & Brook.

Lyse Langlois • L'éducation morale et spirituelle des jeunes: perspectives laïque et religieuse au Québec 100 ans après la visite d' 'Abdu'l-Bahá à Montréal (see Lapointe for full panel description voir sous Lapointe pour la description complète du thème du panel) / **Moral and Spiritual Education of the Youth : Secular and Religious Perspectives in Québec, One Hundred Years after 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Visit to Montréal** (Veuillez vous référer au titre et à la description du panel sous la rubrique Lapointe)

LYSE LANGLOIS est professeure titulaire au département des relations industrielles de l'Université Laval où elle enseigne la gestion des ressources humaines, l'éthique et le professionnalisme au travail. Ses travaux de recherche portent sur la prise de décision éthique et le leadership éthique. Elle a été membre du Comité national d'éducation bahá'ie du Canada. / LYSE LANGLOIS is full professor at the Department of Industrial Relations at Laval University, where she teaches human resources management, and ethics and professionalism in the workplace. She is particularly interested in research on ethical decision making and ethical leadership. She served as a member of the National Bahá'í Education Committee.

Claire Lapointe, Lyse Langlois, et Luc Bégin • L'éducation morale et spirituelle des jeunes: perspectives laïque et religieuse au Québec 100 ans après la visite d' 'Abdu'l-Bahá à Montréal / Moral and Spiritual Education of the Youth : Secular and Religious Perspectives in Québec, One Hundred Years after 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Visit to Montréal

Ce panel vise à mettre en évidence les transformations sociales et spirituelles qui ont eu lieu au Québec depuis la visite d' 'Abdu'l-Bahá en 1912 et leur influence sur l'éducation morale et spirituelle des jeunes. La professeure Lapointe décrira d'abord l'évolution de la société québécoise de 1912 à 1997, année de la déconfectionnalisation du système scolaire public. Le professeur Bégin discutera ensuite du programme *Éthique et culture religieuse* implanté dans les écoles du Québec en 2008 et qui remplace les anciens programmes d'enseignement religieux et moral. Plus précisément, il parlera de la conception éthique sous-jacente à ce programme, de ses finalités, de son potentiel et de ses limites. La professeure Langlois conclura en analysant la conception bahá'íe de l'éducation spirituelle des jeunes, ses finalités et ses promesses de transformation sociale. / This panel will highlight social and spiritual changes that have occurred in Québec since 'Abu'l-Bahá's visit in 1912, and their influence on the moral and spiritual education of young people. First, Prof. Lapointe will describe the evolution of Quebec society between 1912 and 1997, the year when the public school system became nonconfessional. Prof. Bégin will then discuss the Ethics and Religious Culture programme implemented in 2008 in Quebec schools, replacing the existing programmes of religious and moral education. He will speak more specifically on the ethical conception underpinning the programme, its purpose, potential and limitations. Prof Langlois will conclude with an analysis the Bahá'í concepts on the spiritual education of young people, its purpose and its promises for social transformation.

CLAIRE LAPOINTE est professeure titulaire et directrice du département des fondements et pratiques en éducation de l'Université Laval. Elle est membre du Conseil supérieur de l'éducation du Québec et présidente de sa Commission de l'éducation préscolaire et de l'enseignement primaire. Depuis 1997, elle participe activement au développement des instituts bahá'ís de formation au Canada. / CLAIRE LAPOINTE is full professor and director of the Department of educational foundations and practices at Laval University. She is a member of the *Conseil supérieur de l'éducation du Québec* [Commission on preschool and primary education] and President of its *Commission de l'éducation préscolaire et de l'enseignement primaire* [Commission on preschool and primary education].

Augusto Lopez-Claros • Removing Impediments to Sustainable Economic Development: The Case of Corruption

Over the last 30 years, the development community has come to accept that bribery and corruption are deeply damaging to economic and social development. Not only do we better understand the mechanisms through which corruption works, but we have also learned a great deal about what helps and what doesn't in international efforts to mitigate its impact. Corruption is deeply at odds with the moral basis of the world's great religions and was a central theme in the messages sent by the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith to rulers in 19th century Europe. Why is dealing with corruption at the center of a new development paradigm?

Augusto Lopez-Claros • Promoting Prosperity by Improving Women's Rights – Doing Well by Doing Good

Men and women throughout the world want to provide for their families and ensure their children have a good start in life. Often, the chance to start a business or get a job is the surest way to accomplish this goal. But how to be sure that women have the same opportunities as men to fulfill

their economic potential? The World Bank's Women, Business and the Law project presents a unique dataset examining how the law can help—or impede—women from working and earning an income and what can be done to improve women's economic rights

AUGUSTO LOPEZ-CLAROS is the World Bank's Director of Global Indicators and Analysis. He has also been Chief Economist and Director of the Global Competitiveness Program at the World Economic Forum in Switzerland. He has a Ph.D. in economics and more than 25 years experience as an international economist.

Sovaida Ma'ani Ewing • 'Abdu'l-Bahá Urges the Creation of a World Federation – Time to Catch Up

It was almost a century ago, during His historic trip to the United States, that 'Abdu'l-Bahá advised a high official of the federal government that he could best promote the interests of his government and people, if he strove to gradually apply the principle of federalism to the world at large. Now, almost a century later, the indispensable need for the application of this principle has become increasingly apparent; particularly if we are to effectively tackle seemingly intractable collective problems such as climate change, nuclear proliferation, use of force and financial to name but a few. Please join us in exploring how we can do this.

SOVAIDA MA'ANI EWING is an international lawyer turned independent scholar who writes and lectures in the area of collective security. She is the author of three books including her latest entitled "Collective Security Within Reach" (2008). Ms. Ma'ani Ewing is currently working on her next book focussing on issues of energy and nuclear proliferation.

Louise Mandell • Journey Towards Justice - Reflection from the Front Lines / Vers la justice - Réflexions en provenance du « front »

This talk reflects on my journey representing Indigenous Peoples in British Columbia in their struggle for justice. Just before 'Abdu'l-Bahá began his Western journey sharing a message of equality, justice and peace, Indigenous peoples advanced their call for justice through petitions and letters to the Crown. Recognising Indigenous rights to the land and models of governance and laws remains a central challenge for Canadian society in the face of Crown denial. This challenge is at a turning point. Canadian society must move from an adversarial and fear-based understanding and approach, towards vision and action which transforms colonial patterns and conflict into new patterns for living that reflect our collective unity and diversity. / Cette allocution est une réflexion de mon parcours alors que je représentais les autochtones de Colombie-Britannique dans leur lutte pour obtenir la justice. Juste avant que 'Abdu'l-Bahá n'entreprenne son voyage en Occident pour livrer son message d'égalité, de justice et de paix, les peuples autochtones avaient demandé la justice en soumettant des pétitions et des lettres à la couronne. La société canadienne continue de faire face au défi que présente le refus de la couronne de reconnaître les droits territoriaux des autochtones ainsi que leur droit à se gouverner eux-mêmes et à adopter des lois. Cette situation est à un point tournant. La société canadienne doit mettre de côté l'approche de confrontation et de peur qu'elle a adopté et la remplacer par une conception et des actions propices à la transformation des modes colonialistes et conflictuels en modes reflétant l'unité et la diversité.

Louise Mandell • Special Follow up Session to Plenary Panel - Advancing Reconciliation: A Dialogue on the Struggle for Equality and Justice for Aboriginal Peoples in Canada (see Danesh for abstract)

Torontonian LOUISE MANDELL entered aboriginal law in its infancy, working under Grand Chief George Manuel, President of the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs and the World Council of Indigenous Peoples. She has since devoted herself to implementing constitutional change, advancing many leading cases decided by the Supreme Court of Canada. / La torontoise LOUISE MANDELL a fait son entrée dans le domaine du droit autochtone dès les débuts. Elle a travaillé pour le grand chef George Manuel, qui était président de l'Union des chefs indiens de Colombie-Britannique et du Conseil mondial des peuples autochtones. Depuis, elle voue ses énergies à la mise en œuvre des changements constitutionnels et à l'appui de nombreux dossiers sur lesquels la Cour suprême du Canada doit se prononcer.

Douglas Martin • A Hundred Years On / Cent ans plus tard

DOUGLAS MARTIN is a historian. He served as a member of the Universal House of Justice (1993 - 2005), on the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Canada (1960 - 1985), and was appointed by the House of Justice to direct the work of the Bahá'í International Community's Office of Public Information. Mr. Martin was editor-in-chief of *One Country* and of *The Bahá'í World*. A founding member of the Association for Bahá'í Studies, he served on its Executive Committee from 1974 to 1985. / DOUGLAS MARTIN est historien. Il a été membre de la Maison universelle de justice (1993-2005), de l'Assemblée spirituelle nationale des bahá'ís du Canada (1960-1985) et, plus tôt, la Maison universelle de justice l'avait nommé responsable du Bureau d'information publique de la Communauté internationale bahá'íe. M. Martin a été éditeur en chef des publications *One Country* et *The Bahá'í World*. Il a été membre fondateur de l'Association d'études bahá'íes et a servi au sein de son Conseil de direction de 1974 à 1985.

Jack McLean • Nothing Short of Transformational: 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Presentation of the Search for Truth

Careful examination of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's public addresses in Europe and North America between the years 1911-1913 reveals that in His sequential presentations of Bahá'í principles, next to the oneness of humanity, He regarded the independent investigation of the truth as being most significant. This presentation argues that a reevaluation of this underestimated and neglected Bahá'í teaching is in order. 'Abdu'l-Bahá regarded this principle as an inescapable moral imperative that would lead to both personal transformation and revolutionary societal change, and a means for achieving greater unity among the world's great religions. This presentation explores the implications of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's teaching.

JACK MCLEAN is an independent Bahá'í scholar and poet. Author of three books, one edited volume, and academic articles in Bahá'í theology and spirituality, his forthcoming volume is *A Celestial Burning: A Selective Study of the Writings of Shoghi Effendi*. This book analyzes Shoghi Effendi the writer and divine interpreter.

Pierre-Yves Mocquais • Faut-il retracer la figure de l'autre? La mémoire des Bahá'ís iraniens depuis 1979

Même si Pierre Nora et Éric Méchoulan questionnent la propension de notre époque à la boulimie commémorative, la mémoire demeure un facteur primordial de construction identitaire, aussi bien individuellement que collectivement. Des milliers de Bahá'ís quittèrent l'Iran suite à la Révolution islamique de 1979. Trente ans plus tard, nombreux approchent de 70 ou 80 ans. Le moment est-il venu de collecter et de préserver leur mémoire? Un tel projet, même s'il peut paraître incontournable, comporte bien des risques, que soulignent les penseurs français Paul Ricoeur et Tzvetan Todorov relativement à la fiabilité, à la manipulation et à l'abus de la mémoire. Cette présentation sera suivie d'une discussion approfondie sur la pertinence d'un tel projet.

Pierre-Yves Mocquais • Atelier pour enseignants universitaires et étudiants – À la recherche d'un équilibre insaisissable : est-il possible de mener de front études universitaires ou enseignement et recherche, et un engagement bahá'í de qualité?

Ancré dans une étude de textes choisis, cet atelier interactif mêlera témoignages, questions et discussion sur les rapports complexes et souvent conflictuels que nous entretenons entre deux formes d'engagement : en tant qu'étudiants plongés dans nos études ou en tant qu'enseignants chercheurs immergés dans notre travail scientifique d'un côté; en tant que bahá'ís engagés dans un immense processus de transformation culturelle, économique et sociale de l'autre. Comment éviter la schizophrénie qui nous guette? Comment envisager des activités de campus qui permettent de joindre ces deux engagements? Quelle est, dans ce contexte, la place de l'érudition bahá'ie?

PIERRE-YVES MOCQUAIS PHD Professeur titulaire, études françaises, québécoises, Université de Calgary. Ancien doyen, Faculté des Humanités. Chevalier, Ordre des Palmes académiques. Directeur académique, Association études bahá'ies. Membre : comité éditorial *Revue des études bahá'ies*; comité scientifique, *Encyclopédie du Patrimoine de l'Amérique française*. Auteur, six ouvrages dont *Histoire(s) de famille(s) : mémoire et construction identitaire en Fransaskoisie* (2011).

Pierre-Yves Mocquais • Workshop for Faculty and Students – Toward an elusive balance: the mysterious search for an equilibrium between university studies or teaching and research, and a meaningful Bahá'í engagement.

Rooted in a study of specific texts, this participatory workshop will bring together testimonies, questions and discussion on our complex and frequently conflicting relationship between two forms of engagement: as students determined to carry out our studies toward a degree or as faculty and scholars immersed in our teaching and research, on the one hand; as Bahá'ís engaged in a massive process of cultural, economic and social transformation on the other. How can we avoid a creeping schizophrenia? What sort of campus activities would help in bridging these two forms of engagement? What would be, in such a context, the place for Bahá'í scholarship?

PIERRE-YVES MOCQUAIS PHD Full Professor, French, Quebec Studies, University of Calgary. Former Dean, Faculty of Humanities. Knight, Ordre des Palmes académiques. Academic Director, Association for Bahá'í Studies. Member: Editorial Committee, *Journal of Bahá'í Studies*; Scientific Committee *Encyclopédie du Patrimoine de l'Amérique française*. Author, six books, including four and many articles on the francophone culture of the Prairies.

**Vasu Mohan • Framework for the Community of Nations Panel
How to Create a Divine Civilization**

This talk explores elements of the Master's prescriptions for development. Using Afghanistan as a case study, successes and challenges of large-scale democratization and development initiatives undertaken by the international community will be examined in the context of the Master's guidance to the rulers and people of Persia of 1875 given in the Secret of Divine Civilization. The presenter will draw on data and lessons from international institutions and his first hand experience working on democracy, governance and human rights programs in Afghanistan for the past ten years. Insights will be beneficial while engaging in broader discourse relating to development.

VASU MOHAN works in the field democracy, governance and human rights programming in Asia with a specific focus on empowerment of disenfranchised– children, youth, women, minorities and people with disabilities. He currently serves at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems. He is a member of the Mudra Dance & Theater Ensemble, which combines theater, dance and music to address issues of social concern.

Shahrokh Monjازه • Beyond Disclosing the Station of the Most Mighty Branch: A Closer Look at the Contents of the *Súriy-i-Ghusn* (The Tablet of the Branch)

The presentation will take a closer look at the other often glossed and overlooked contents of this very significant Edirne Tablet of Bahá'u'lláh. To achieve this end a new and improved provisional English translation of the original Arabic text of the Tablet will be examined.

SHAHROKH MONJAZEB has been a presenter at the ABS annual conference since 1991. He is the co-founder of The Furútan Academy for the Study of Bahá'í History and Sacred Text and is the author of a monograph on Bahá'u'lláh entitled *BAHA'U'LLAH A Brief Survey of His Life and Works*.

Pejman Mosleh • From Small-Town Canada to the Co-inheritors of the Tablets of the Divine Plan: Surviving and Thriving

'Abdu'l-Bahá praised Canadians' "great capacity" and Montreal as an impressive metropolis while envisioning Canada's great destiny. A survey of Canadian literature and social history contextualizes 'Abdu'l-Bahá's lofty thoughts. Reflecting on Canadian literature, Margaret Atwood identifies "survival" as a national trait. Susanna Moodie's *Roughing it in the Bush* (1852) discourages further immigration while "small-town" continues to figure greatly from *In the Village of Viger* (1896) to *Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town* (1912) to modern works. With the implementation of the *Tablets of the Divine Plan*, Canada has thrived internationally and in metropolitan neighbourhoods.

PEJMAN MOSLEH works in the IT sector. He has been published by literary journals such as *Descant* and *Other Voices*.

Lex Musta • Some Reflections on Bahá'í Approaches to Social Change - A Case Study of Race-Relations

The Universal House of Justice has recently written of Bahá'ís and the Bahá'í community as “protagonists of social change” learning “to apply with increasing effectiveness elements of Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation, together with the contents and methods of science, to their social reality.” ‘Abdu'l-Bahá's example contains essential guidance of how to be such protagonists, and highlights how the process of effecting constructive social change is one which requires a re-orientation of how we think, generate knowledge and meaning, and put knowledge into action. This two hour active workshop, engages participants in exploring the Baha'i approach to social change and how to act on it in one's daily life.

LEX MUSTA Co-Founder African-American Historical Alliance of South Carolina which brings Americans of African and European descent together in the common cause of honoring, loving, and advancing peoples of African descent. Mr. Musta is an independent researcher whose work focuses on the role of social meaning in shaping racial relations.

Kim Naqvi • Identifying Spiritual Assumptions and Imagining Economic Change (see Hanson for abstract)

Kim Naqvi • Aligning Individual Economic Action with Spiritual Principle (see Hanson for abstract)

KIM NAQVI is an economic and development geographer with a BSc in Biology, and an MA and PhD in Geography. She teaches human geography at Thompson Rivers University in British Columbia.

Vesall Nourani • Aligning Individual Economic Action with Spiritual Principle (see Hanson for abstract)

VESALL NOURANI, is pursuing a PhD in Economics at Cornell University. He is particularly interested in the role of self-perception in shaping economic behavior.

David Palmer • Applying Core Values and Spiritual Principles in the Leadership, Management and Service of Faith-Based NGOs.

This presentation will present and seek advice on a project recently launched at the University of Hong Kong with the goals of (1) identifying and interpreting core values and spiritual principles in faith traditions, which can inspire, motivate and orient action for constructive social change; (2) aligning personal spiritual growth with service to society; (3) operationalizing core values and spiritual principles in organizational leadership and management; (4) operationalizing these values and principles in social service and engagement in the community; (5) evaluating, reflecting, and innovating to improve the ability to apply core values and spiritual principles.

DR. DAVID A. PALMER is an Assistant Professor in the department of Sociology at the University of Hong Kong. The author of two award-winning books on religion in modern and contemporary China, his research focuses on religion, grassroots movements and organizations, and social development in the contemporary Chinese world.

Anne Gordon Perry and Tim Perry • Embracing the Vision of ‘Abdu'l-Bahá for North America through Documenting His Travels

When ‘Abdu’l-Bahá traveled to the United States and Canada with a message of universal peace, the unity of East and West, racial harmony, gender equality, and a visionary view of America’s future, He captivated many, calling upon them to develop into better human beings and create a civilization that blends the spiritual with the material. How can we now embrace the scope of His vision and continue His work? Join documentary filmmakers Anne and Tim Perry to reflect on how ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s journey can help us embrace ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s vision and hear about their film, “Luminous Journey, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá in America, 1912.”

ANNE GORDON PERRY, PhD Aesthetic Studies, teaches at the Art Institute of Dallas. With husband /co-producer Tim Perry, she has documented ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s visit to America in a film, Luminous Journey. She has also just published a new edition of Green Acre on the Piscataqua, with an expanded chapter on ‘Abdu’l-Bahá.

TIM PERRY, video producer/director, currently works as a producer for Time Warner Cable Media. He created three videos for the 1992 Bahá’í World Congress and has worked with Bahá’í Media Services on the U.S. Bahá’í Newsreel’s opening animation and a “Call on Faith” app series about the travels of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá.

Phyllis Peterson • Seeking the Spiritual Reality of the Mentally Ill, the Physically Challenged and the Wounded

This presentation calls attention to the suffering of the mentally ill in our community and the frustration of individuals that are bereft of the knowledge of how to include them in our active Bahá’í community. Ten stories that illustrate how virtues support us in our quest to eradicate fear of those who are misunderstood and suffer the stigma of being different will be examined interactively in this break out session with Phyllis Peterson. May they find acceptance and support as others come to believe in their spiritual reality.

PHYLLIS K. PETERSON is the author of *Assisting the Traumatized Soul; Healing the Wounded Talisman, The Heroic Female Spirit: A Collection of Tales* by Bahá’í Publishing; travel teaching in Thailand, Japan, China, Swaziland, Botswana, England, and the Marshall Islands, presenting her program “Protective Behaviors for Children.” She resides in Illinois.

Shastri Purushotma & Sean Gallagher • ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s Travels to the West and its Implications for North America and Humanity

This participatory session will examine ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s journey to the West and its implications for North America and humanity. What was the response to His voyage, what were some of the seeds that ‘Abdu’l-Bahá planted, and how have they borne fruit over the past century, for individuals, for social groups, for the North American continent, and the human race, in 1912, in 2012, and for many generations yet unborn?

Shastri Purushotma & Sean Gallagher • Lessons from ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s North American Journey for Our lives today

This presentation will examine ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s travels to the West in the context of the most important issue humanity has faced in the past 169 years: its response to the coming of the Promised One of All Ages. What were the implications of the Master's journeys for individuals, for social groups, and the human race, in 1912, in 2012, and for many generations yet unborn?

SHASTRI PURUSHOTMA has served as human rights officer for the US National Spiritual Assembly's office of external affairs in Washington D.C. and as a secretary at the Bahá’í World Center. He currently resides in Northern California and is working at a high-tech startup company.

Anis Saichiro Ragland • Aligning Individual Economic Action with Spiritual Principle (see Hanson for abstract)

ANIS SAICHIRO RAGLAND has worked on economic development issues on a variety of scales, from the World Bank to a community-founded organization in Malawi. He is currently studying Resource Economics at the University of Michigan.

Hoda Rahbar • Building Awareness on Climate Action

Global population growth, demand for scarce resources, and changes in the climate – these are matters of great consequence that I will explore with openness and candour to advance our understanding of climate change from a Bahá’í perspective and engage participants in a meaningful social discourse around climate action. In tackling such important issues, the discussions started will contribute to bringing awareness to our role as being responsible global citizens and help change the way we think about sustainability. I will make myself available after the conference for ongoing forward-thinking initiatives to promote trans-boundary approaches in dealing with this pressing challenge.

HODA RAHBAR is a Policy Analyst for the Business Development Team with the Climate Action Secretariat. In this role for the Canadian government, she works to enable businesses to grow within a carbon constraint by identifying emission reduction pathways and developing the business case and government policies to implement those reductions.

Nousha Ram • Transformative Leadership & Social Responsibility Panel When Profit and Social Responsibility Collide: Seven Transformational Leadership Lessons from ‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Since the explosion of prosperity in the world, we have experienced the side-effects of unrestrained capitalism. Our response has been to build up a system of checks and balances: NGOs, NPOs, and regulatory bodies, believing these would create a balanced world. We have created the fundamental belief that profit cannot be made without harming the world, and that you can only “do good” if you don’t make a profit. An exploration of principles outlined by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, shows that the path

forward requires solutions that intertwine profit and good in such a way that one can't be generated without the other.

NOUSHA RAM leads the Technology Strategy practice at Deloitte Consulting in Ottawa.

Shapour Rassekh • 'Abdu'l-Bahá, le porte-drapeau d'une nouvelle civilisation / 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the Standard Bearer of a New Civilisation

SHAPOUR RASSEKH, PhD Sociology Former professor, University of Tehran. Served as Iran's Secretary of State for Economic and Social Planning. Former consultant to UNESCO's International Institute for Educational Planning and International Bureau of Education. Books include *The Contents of Education* (1987) and *Perspectives on Literacy* (1991). Publications in French and Persian, including *Education et culture de la paix: Sélection bibliographique mondiale* (1996) and *Moqaddemeh bar jame'eh shenasi-ye Iran* (1970). Articles in *Encyclopaedia Iranica*. Chapter in *Converging Zones: Persian Literary Tradition and the Writing of History: Studies in Honor of Amin Banani* (2011).

SHAPOUR RASSEKH, doctorat en sociologie Ancien professeur, Université de Téhéran. Ancien secrétaire d'État à la planification économique et sociale de l'Iran. Ancien expert-conseil auprès de l'Institut international de la planification de l'éducation et du Bureau international d'éducation de l'UNESCO. Auteur de nombreux ouvrages dont *The Contents of Education* (1987) et *Perspectives on Literacy* (1991). Auteurs d'articles en français et en persan, dont *Education et culture de la paix: Sélection bibliographique mondiale* (1996) et *Moqaddemeh bar jame'eh shenasi-ye Iran* (1970). Auteur d'articles dans *Encyclopaedia Iranica*. Auteur d'un chapitre dans *Converging Zones: Persian Literary Tradition and the Writing of History: Studies in Honor of Amin Banani* (2011).

Omid Sadeghpour • Poster Presentation - A Rendition of The Greatest Name

A rendition of The Greatest Name, composed of elements of nature and symbols from the Bahá'í Writings – on display at Convention level outside Le Grand Salon. To request a copy of this art for no cost contact omid@mit.edu

OMID SADEGHPOUR was born and raised in Chile and Ecuador, from a pioneering family. Currently he is finishing an MBA degree at MIT Sloan in Boston. He has served on multiple committees in the past – while serving in the East Bay ATC and the Berkeley, CA LSA he began drawing the rendition of The Greatest Name which is the central piece of his presentation.

Ben Schewel • Cognitive Capacities of Science and Religion as a System of Knowledge (see Filson for abstract)

BEN SCHEWEL, a member of the National Spiritual Assembly of Belgium, is a Ph.D. candidate in philosophy at University Leuven in Belgium. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia and a recipient of a Fulbright and Belgian American Education Foundation fellowship.

Kamran Sedig • The Bahá'í Concept of Spirit: A Scientific Perspective

Spirit is an important, yet elusive, concept to explore. Due to historical reasons and current materialistic outlook, the concept of spirit is not considered worthy of serious intellectual exploration. Indeed, in today's atheistic atmosphere, it is shunned. Often, the concept of spirit is examined through a theological lens. In this presentation, I will explore the concept of spirit, as presented in the Bahá'í Scriptures, from a scientific perspective. We will see why spirit is the foundational ground upon which an undivided, rational, scientific whole can be constructed.

DR. KAMRAN SEDIG is an associate professor at Western University in Computer Science and Information and Media Studies. He received his M.Sc. from McGill in artificial intelligence and his Ph.D. from UBC in applied cognitive sciences. He has published more than 90 scientific articles in international journals, conferences, and books.

Hashem Selph • Meaningful Contributions to Discourses Through Media

Examining real-world examples of media production -- including non-fiction films, television programs, and digital media, this presentation will unpack some of the complexities and questions facing media producers attempting to make meaningful contributions to the discourses of society.

HASHEM SELPH is a film and television producer based in Los Angeles. Focusing primarily on the documentary form, he has contributed to films on a wide-range of issues and which have been distributed on television and theatres. He is currently a producer and writer for a newly-launched online media channel.

Robert Sockett, Gazalle Ardekani, and Caitlin Jones • 'Abdu'l-Bahá in America: Engaging a Mainstream Audience 100 Years Later through Social Media

'Abdu'l-Bahá confronted Americans with a vision of human nature, social unity, and the nation's future that was 100 years ahead of its time. *239Days.com* reconstructs this journey moment by moment—from April 11 to December 5, 2012—using a combination of magazine-style features, social media feeds, and online discussion forums. We are now halfway through the journey and will share the many lessons we have learned on how to present compelling content, and how to generate meaningful conversations. Since the project is 'live' during the conference, the audience can participate in the discussion as it unfolds.

ROBERT SOCKETT develops web-centered learning campaigns for international organizations. He is Executive Director of Learning Solutions at SwissVBS and the Producer of *239Days.com*.

GAZALLE ARDEKANI is the project's Social Media Editor and has a degree in Digital Enterprise Management.

CAITLIN JONES is a Writer at *239Days.com* and has a degree in Creative Writing.

Special Session on Publishing • Bahá'í Publishing – Discussion Session for Authors and Publishers

This highly participatory session is intended as a venue to identify and discuss any and all issues that are of interest to Bahá'í authors and publishers, regarding the process, opportunities, and challenges of publishing works on the Faith. The format will include a roundtable and small group discussions on specific topics. Participants will include Bahá'í publishers in the U.S. and Canada, and representatives of the U.S. Bahá'í Publishing Trust and of the U.S. Review Office. Topics can also include *The Journal of Bahá'í Studies*, academic publishing, self-publishing, online publishing, and book marketing.

Special Session on University Courses • Fostering the Creation and Delivery of Courses on the Bahá'í Faith at Universities and Colleges

In 1974, the Universal House of Justice called on the Canadian Bahá'í community to “cultivate opportunities for formal presentations, courses and lectureships on the Bahá'í Faith in Canadian universities and other institutions of higher learning.” At this workshop, the Executive Committee of the Association for Bahá'í Studies will review the document *Teaching Courses with Bahá'í Content in Universities and Other Institutions of Higher Learning: Opportunities and Issues to Consider*. Then discussion will address challenges and opportunities, questions of content and methodology, and will propose new ways of approaching the question taking into account the statement from the Universal House of Justice in its 2010 Ridván message about “participation in the prevalent discourses of society”.

John Steere and Michelle Thelen-Steere • Prayer and Meditation: Cultivating the Inner Spirit Dialogue Between the Natural Emotions and the Awakening Heart

‘Abdu’l-Bahá refers to “the natural emotions” as being of our ego-based and not our spiritual natures. He counsels us regarding the purpose of life as cultivating the heart as a treasure trove of potential virtue. Foremost in this process of transmuting the full range of one's natural emotions into the soul's highest octave of expression: grief to joy; anger-compassion; hurt-wholeness; shame-self-love; and fear-faith -- is through prayer and meditation with one's inner spirit. This talk is about using the natural emotions as the compost for cultivating one's virtues via this inner spirit dialogue as an evolutionary psycho-spiritual process over a lifetime.

MICHELLE THELEN-STEERE, M.A., C.M.H.T., is a Clinical Counselor, Hypnotherapist, and Cognitive Behavioral Instructor. She holds a Master's Degree in Clinical Counseling and is a Certified Hypnotherapist. Her specializations are in cross-cultural, women's, disability, and childhood and adult abuse issues and she has worked with clients from over 40 countries.

JOHN STEERE is an environmental planner and activator who serves on several environmental and arts/ecology non-profit boards; he is the co-author of *Restoring the Estuary* and numerous articles on deep ecology. He holds a B.A. from Harvard College and a Joint Masters in City Planning /Landscape Architecture from UC Berkeley.

Robert Stockman, Louis Venters, Patricia Verge and Bob Watts, Élizab eth Wright • Examining the Impact of ‘Abdu’l-Bah ’s Visit (see individual speakers for more detail) / Un examen de la port e de la visite de ‘Abdu’l-Bah  (Veuillez vous r f rer   l’information fournie sur chacun des pan listes)

Five panelists examine the impact and significance of ‘Abdu’l-Bah ’s visit from four perspectives. Dr. Robert Stockman explores the implications of the style and content of ‘Abdu’l-Bah ’s visit – both his talks and his other activities. Examples of transformative changes in three North American populations, African American, Aboriginal, and French Canadian are explored by Dr. Louis Venters, Patricia Verge and Bob Watts, and  lizab eth Wright. / De quatre points de vue, cinq pan listes examinent la port e de la visite de ‘Abdu’l-Bah . Robert Stockman explore les implications du style et de la teneur de la visite de ‘Abdu’l-Bah , en ce qui a trait   ses allocutions et   ses autres activit s. Louis Venters, Patricia Verge, Bob Watts et  lizab eth Wright examinent des exemples de changements transformateurs au sein de trois populations nord am ricaines : les afroam ricains, les autochtones et les canadiens-fran ais.

Robert Stockman • What ‘Abdu'l-Bah ’s Visit Teaches Us (see above for full panel description) / Ce que le voyage de ‘Abdu’l-Bah  nous enseigne (Une description plus compl te parait plus haut)

‘Abdu'l-Bah ’s visit demonstrated ways Bah ’is can strengthen the unity of their communities, express their love through service, teach the Faith to others, and transform themselves. ‘Abdu'l-Bah ’s public talks defined basic Bah ’i principles and are examples of public discourse. His home visits and attention to children’s classes and youth gatherings reinforced nascent core activities. By inviting young Bah ’is to accompany Him in His travels, He accompanied them in their Bah ’i education and service. His emphasis on teaching, the Covenant, and the future Universal House of Justice prepared North American Bah ’is for the Will and Testament and the Tablets of the Divine Plan. / Le voyage de ‘Abdu’l-Bah  a montr  aux bah ’is comment ils pouvaient contribuer   l’unit  au sein de leur collectivit , exprimer leur amour en servant leurs semblables, enseigner la Foi aux autres et se transformer eux-m mes. Dans ses allocutions, ‘Abdu’l-Bah  a d fini les principes bah ’is fondamentaux et elles servent d’exemples d’allocutions publiques. Les visites qu’il a rendues   diverses personnes et l’attention qu’il a port  aux cours pour enfants et aux r unions de jeunes ont renforc  ces activit s de base   leurs tout d buts. En invitant de jeunes bah ’is   l’accompagner dans son voyage, il les a aussi accompagn s dans leur  ducation bah ’ie et dans leurs efforts pour servir. L’importance qu’il a accord e   l’enseignement,   l’Alliance et   la future Maison universelle de justice a pr par  les croyants nord am ricains   l’arriv  de son Testament et de ses Tablettes du plan divin.

ROBERT STOCKMAN, Director of the Wilmette Institute, has a doctorate in religious studies from Harvard University (1990) and teaches religious studies part time at DePaul University in Chicago. He is the author of three books on American Bah ’i history and of numerous articles on many aspects of the Bah ’i Faith. / ROBERT STOCKMAN qui est directeur de l’Institut Wilmette, a obtenu un doctorat en  tudes religieuses   l’Universit  Harvard (1990) et enseigne   temps partiel les  tudes religieuses   l’Universit  DePaul de Chicago. Il est l’auteur de trois livres sur l’histoire bah ’ie aux  tats-Unis et a  crit un grand nombre d’articles sur une vari t  d’aspects de la foi bah ’ie.

Patricia Verge and Bob Watts • Return to Tyendinaga: Collaborating to Tell the Story of the Canada’s First Bah ’is of Aboriginal Ancestry (see Stockman for panel title and description) / Retour

à Tyendinaga : une collaboration pour raconter l'histoire des premiers bahá'ís canadiens d'origine autochtone (Veuillez vous référer au titre et à la description du panel sous la rubrique Stockman)

PATRICIA VERGE is a writer and editor. She works part-time at her local newspaper as a copy editor, and enjoys mentoring young reporters. She lives in Southern Alberta and has been a Bahá'í since 1975. / PATRICIA VERGE est auteure et éditrice. Elle travaille à temps partiel dans un journal local à titre de réviseuse et elle aime aider les jeunes journalistes. Elle habite dans le Sud de l'Alberta et est bahá'íe depuis 1975.

BOB WATTS, Fellow and Adjunct Professor, Queen's University, graduated from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Bob has been involved in Indigenous policy initiatives, including Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Of Mohawk and Ojibway ancestry, he is a member of the Six Nations Reserve, and is the grandson of Jim and Melba Loft. / BOB WATTS, chargé de cours et professeur auxiliaire à l'Université Queen's, a obtenu son diplôme à la *Kennedy School of Government* de l'Université Harvard. Il a participé à des projets de politique sur les autochtones, dont la Commission de vérité et réconciliation du Canada. De descendance mohawk et ojibwée, il est membre de la réserve Six-Nations et il est le petit-fils de Jim et Melba Loft.

June Manning Thomas • Social Action for Social Change - Learning from 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Example (see Danesh for panel title and description) / **Action sociale en vue du changement social – Apprendre de l'exemple de 'Abdu'l-Bahá** (Veuillez vous référer au titre et à la description du panel sous la rubrique Danesh)

JUNE MANNING THOMAS, PH.D., is Centennial Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, the University of Michigan. Her books include *Redevelopment and Race* (1997); *Planning Progress: Lessons from Shoghi Effendi* (1999); and the forthcoming co-edited *The City after Abandonment* (2012). She is President-elect of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning. / JUNE MANNING THOMAS, est professeure de planification urbaine et régionale à l'Université du Michigan. Elle est l'auteure de *Redevelopment and Race* (1997); *Planning Progress: Lessons from Shoghi Effendi* (1999); et est co-auteure de *The City after Abandonment* (2012). Elle est présidente désignée de l'*Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning*.

Louis Venters • 'Abdu'l-Bahá, Louis Gregory, and the Southern Interracial Movement in the Era of the Great War (see Stockman for full panel description) / **'Abdu'l-Bahá, Louis Gregory et le mouvement interracial durant la période de la grande guerre.** (Veuillez vous référer au titre et à la description du panel sous la rubrique Stockman)

The years surrounding the First World War witnessed increasing demands by African Americans for an end to racial oppression, unprecedented anti-black violence, and the growth of a tentative new interracial movement in the U.S. South. Urged by 'Abdu'l-Bahá to help reshape the national discourse on race, Louis Gregory and other Bahá'í teachers in the South forged important connections with black and white activists in such emerging organizations as the NAACP and the Interracial Commission. Examples from Gregory's home state of South Carolina indicate both notable receptivity to the Bahá'í teachings on race. / Durant la période de la Première Guerre mondiale les Afro Américains ont de plus en plus insisté pour que l'on mette fin à l'oppression raciale et à la violence sans précédent dirigée contre les noirs, et cette période a vu le développement d'un

mouvement interraciel préliminaire dans le Sud des États-Unis. Encouragé par 'Abdu'l-Bahá à contribuer à la définition du discours national sur les questions de race, Louis Gregory et d'autres enseignants bahá'ís, actifs dans le Sud, ont établi des liens importants avec des activistes blancs et noirs, appartenant à des organisations comme la NAACP et la Commission interraciale. Les exemples de la Caroline du Sud, État d'origine de Louis Gregory, illustrent la réceptivité notable aux enseignements bahá'ís sur les races, et l'ampleur de la réaction des éléments conservateurs.

LOUIS VENTERS is a professor of African American and Southern history at Francis Marion University. His recent doctoral dissertation examined the development of an interracial Bahá'í movement in Jim Crow-era South Carolina. He and his family are pioneers in the small town of Hemingway, his family home. / LOUIS VENTERS est professeur d'histoire afroaméricaine et des États du Sud à l'Université Francis Marion, à Florence en Caroline du Sud. Dans sa récente thèse de doctorat il a examiné le développement d'un mouvement interraciel bahá'í durant la période du système Jim Crow en Caroline du Sud. Sa famille et lui se sont installés comme pionniers dans la petite ville de Hemingway, d'où il vient.

Chief Douglas White III, Kwulasultun • Social Action for Social Change - Learning from 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Example (see Danesh for full panel description)

Chief Douglas White III, Kwulasultun • Special Follow up Session to Plenary Panel - Advancing Reconciliation: A Dialogue on the Struggle for Equality and Justice for Aboriginal Peoples in Canada (see Danesh for abstract) / **Action sociale en vue du changement social – Apprendre de l'exemple de 'Abdu'l-Bahá** (Veuillez vous référer au titre et à la description du panel sous la rubrique Danesh)

CHIEF DOUGLAS WHITE III, KWULASULTUN is Chief of the Snuneymuxw First Nation, member of the Political Executive of the First Nations Summit, and member of the First Nations Leadership Council of British Columbia. A practising lawyer, he frequently lectures at universities and law schools on various topics including Indigenous laws and reconciliation. / DOUGLAS WHITE III, KWULASULTUN, est chef de la Première nation des Snuneymuxw, il est membre de la direction politique du Sommet des Premières nations et du Conseil de direction des Premières nations de la Colombie-Britannique. Il est avocat et prononce souvent des discours dans les universités et les écoles de droit, sur divers sujets, comme les lois autochtones et la réconciliation.

Anisa White • Special Follow up Session to Plenary Panel - Advancing Reconciliation: A Dialogue on the Struggle for Equality and Justice for Aboriginal Peoples in Canada (see Danesh for abstract)

ANISA WHITE (B.Com, LLB) is Persian and Cree-Métis with ancestry from St. Paul de Métis Settlement and Whitefish Lake First Nation (AB). Anisa regularly provides tools and services to First Nation and Metis organisations implementing their inherent rights in child welfare, lands and resources, by supporting and strengthening institutional capacity.

Élizabeth Wright • (see Stockman for panel title and description) / (Veuillez vous référer au titre et à la description du panel sous la rubrique Stockman)

Depuis la visite d' 'Abdu'l-Bahá au cœur même du Canada français, à Montréal en 1912, la Foi a progressé chez les Canadiens d'expression française, particulièrement au Québec, la seule province francophone du Canada. Les Franco-Canadiens composent plus du quart de la population canadienne, mais ne constituent qu'une faible minorité de la communauté bahá'íe. Peut-on trouver des « portes ouvertes », comme l'a promis 'Abdu'l-Bahá, dans cette population qui a connu de profondes transformations sociales, culturelles et religieuses ? Quelle part cette « société distincte » peut-elle contribuer au « très grand avenir » du Canada, « tant dans le domaine matériel que spirituel », dont a parlé le Maître ? / Since 'Abdu'l-Bahá's visit to the heart of French Canada, in Montréal in 1912, the Faith has progressed among French speaking Canadians, especially in Quebec, the only French-speaking province in Canada. Franco-Canadians form one quarter of the Canadian population but are only a small minority in the Bahá'í community. In this population, which underwent deep social, cultural and religious changes, can we find "open doors", as promised by 'Abdu'l-Bahá? What part can this "distinct society" play in the "very great future" of Canada "whether from a material or a spiritual standpoint" to which the Master referred?

ÉLIZABETH WRIGHT détient une maîtrise en sociologie (1997) et une maîtrise en traduction et terminologie (2012) de l'Université Laval (Ville de Québec). De 2001 à 2011, elle a dirigé le Bureau pour la promotion de la femme de la Communauté bahá'íe du Canada. / ÉLIZABETH WRIGHT holds a masters degree in Sociology (1997) and a master's degree in Translation and Terminology (2012) from Laval University, in Québec. From 2001 to 2011, she was responsible for the Bahá'í Community of Canada's Office for the promotion of women.

Mina Yazdani • 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Guidance in Respect to the Process of Political Change: The Iranian Constitutional Revolution (1906-1911) (see Danesh for panel title and description) / **La direction fournie par 'Abdu'l-Bahá au sujet du processus de changement social : La révolution constitutionnelle iranienne (1906-1911)** (Veuillez vous référer au titre et à la description du panel sous la rubrique Danesh)

Mina Yazdani • 'Abdu'l-Bahá and the Iranian Constitutional Revolution

This presentation will investigate the Tablets and talks of 'Abdu'l-Bahá that pertain to this period and demonstrate that far from betraying what the enemies of the Faith have called "indifference" or lack of patriotism on the part of Bahá'ís, 'Abdu'l-Bahá in fact endorsed a different mode of participation based on unity and consultation, rather than conflict and contention, between the state and the people.

MINA YAZDANI is an Assistant Professor of history at Eastern Kentucky University. Dismissed from medical studies in Iran for her religious beliefs, she obtained a BGS (Indiana), an MA in Religious Studies and Culture (Wilfrid Laurier), and a PhD from the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations (Toronto). / MINA YAZDANI est professeure adjointe d'histoire à l'Université de l'Est du Kentucky. Chassée du programme de médecine de son université en Iran, en raison de sa religion, elle a obtenu un baccalauréat général (Université de l'Indiana), une maîtrise en études religieuses et

culturelles (Université Wilfrid Laurier) et un doctorat du Département d'Études des civilisations du Proche et du Moyen Orient (Université de Toronto).

Terri York • Grey Towers, Blue Waters

Explore Gifford Pinchot's quest for a world organization for the management of resources and his belief that environmental/conservation issues were social-spiritual issues that were matters of justice and necessary for peace. Imagine the intrigue he may have felt when he heard about a new religion that proclaimed that the protection, exploration, and exploitation of the earth's resources must come under the jurisdiction of a world federal system which would ensure economic and social justice. Wonder at the connection between the Forester with a global vision, and the Master with a global Faith.

TERRI YORK is an instructor of history and geography at Kilgore College in Kilgore Texas.

Artists Performing

STÉPHANE BERTRAND Les arts de la scène, la foi bahaie et les premières nations sont les fils de trames de la vie de Stéphane. C'est lors d'une tournée en 1987, avec « Let it be this Generation », qu'il rencontre Dorothy Francis (Maquabeak) qui lui confie un Tambour sacrée, que le chant autochtones croise sa route. Performing arts, bahai faith and first nations are the the warp and woof of Stéphane's life. Touring with "Let it be this generation" in 1987 is path crosses an Elder Dorothy Francis who ask him to be the care taker a sacred drum. From there on Native chanting make is way in is life.

MJ CYR, a New-Brunswick born Bahá'í musician, has recently released her Full Length Devotional record "Canopy". She will be concluding her Cross-Canada tour at this year's ABS conference.

Chanteuse -pianiste -auteure-compositeur-interprète et professeure de chant et de piano, LUCIE DUBÉ possède un baccalauréat en piano classique de l'Université Laval et un baccalauréat en techniques d'écritures musicale de l'Université de Montréal. Pendant plusieurs années elle a été invité comme soliste à voyager dans plus de 20 pays avec la chorale « Voices of Bahà ».Celle-ci a signé trois albums,participé à plusieurs autres et compte plus de cent cinquante compositions ,dont la majorité inspirées par les écrits sacrés de la Foi Bahá'íe.

AMELIA HASKELL is currently doing her M.A. in Theatre Education at McGill University. She has worked as an actor, dancer, choreographer, teacher and playwright in many localities around the globe. Born and raised in Montreal, Amelia began playing the piano and violin at a young age.

CLARA HASKELL is currently doing in B.F.A. in Photography and Art History at Concordia University. Her passions include music, art, photography, baking, singing and playing the guitar. Born and raised in Montreal, Clara has been involved in many musical initiatives around the city and has always had a strong love for the arts .

When MARTIN KERR sang 'Blessed is the Spot' to 40 million listeners on BBC Radio, he was just 13. By age 22 he'd traveled to 30 countries and settled in Canada, where he'd soon reach the finals of Canadian Idol. Inspired by noble ideals and ordinary people, his songs touch countless hearts from grand halls to humble street-corners.

GENEVÈVE LABBÉ, singer-songwriter, Geneviève's path has taken her to Senegal, Vietnam, Australia, New-Caledonia and most recently to India where she performed for the 25th anniversary of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkar in Delhi.She has released *Sunshine in you* and *Sous un meme soleil*, joyful and uplifting albums for children inspired by the Holy writings. Available at www.genevievelabbe.com/en and BDS.

ROYA MOVAFEGH is a multi-media artist. Her photo publications have appeared on *Oprah* and *Them=Us: Photographic Journeys Across Our Cultural Boundaries*. Her novel, "*The People With No Camel*", gives voice to the plight of the Bahá'í community in Iran and addresses concepts of freedom. She is currently co-writing the screenplay for TPWNC.

JOSHUA PATTON is a performing artist, with a background in theatre, music, and dance. He recently graduated from Concordia University with a BFA in Theatre and Development, where his understanding of how the arts can be used for personal and social change greatly improved.

CHRISTIAN PRÉVOST, violoniste montréalais, est très actif sur la scène musicale canadienne et internationale. Il est membre de l'orchestre I Musici de Montréal avec lequel il a fait de nombreux enregistrements et tournées en Asie, Europe et les Amériques. Il forme également un duo avec son épouse, l'auteure-compositeure et pianiste, Lucie Dubé.

MARIE-CLAIRE SAINDON completed a Bachelor's degree in Composition at McGill University in 2007 and a Master's degree in Film Composition at Université de Montréal in 2010, with Ana Sokolovic and Pierre-Daniel Rheault. She is published by Boosey & Hawkes and has been commissioned by ensembles such as Arkéa, Fíolütróniq, and Concerto Della Donna. She is currently working on projects, both concert and on film.

SMITH & DRAGOMAN The singer-songwriter duo, Brett Smith & Michael Dragoman began performing music together in the mid 90's in Guelph, Canada. Their music, largely folk-based at the time, has gradually evolved into the genre of world music incorporating sounds and rhythms from Africa, the Middle East and traditional sounds from the West. The music of Smith & Dragoman is inspired by the incredible stories of the early history of the Bahá'í Faith; stories of heroes and heroines from mid 19th century Persia who chose to lead a life in accordance with their beliefs – but which ran counter to the dominant voice of the fanatical religious leaders of the time and which, in the end, cost them their lives.

Smith & Dragoman have released two CD's, *Open the Gates* and *Under the Lote-Tree*, and one live concert DVD. They will be releasing their much anticipated third CD, *The Mystery*, at the ABS conference – a CD dedicated to the life of Abdu'l-Bahá. They are joined at the Association for Bahá'í Studies Conference by their fellow band mates, Emily Dragoman, Aaron Ferrera, Asher Lenz and John Ebata. For more information, please visit their website at: www.smithanddragoman.com and visit them on FaceBook.

Vancouver based, Australian singer/song writer SHADI TOLOUI-WALLACE, is an accomplished musician and recording artist. Having completed the production of two full-length albums with acclaimed producer and session guitarist, Louie Shelton, Shadi relocated to North America to explore her musical career and serve the Bahá'í Community through her artistic contributions.

Né dans une famille Bahá'íe centrafricaine, STEVE PATHÉ ZOUTENNE de Mondélé a été attiré très tôt à la musique, notamment en intégrant dès son adolescence la chorale Bahá'íe de Bangui, sa ville natale. Plutard vers l'âge de 15 ans, il apprit à jouer de la guitare. En 2012 il collabore avec le rappeur Rocher Rimité, bahá'í originaire du Tchad, dans un projet d'enregistrement de chansons inspirées des paroles cachées.

Conference Organization

<i>Conference Task Force</i>	Lisa Dufraimont, Mehran Kiai, Pierre-Yves Mocquais, Kim Naqvi, Parvin Rowhani
<i>Arts Programme & Devotions</i>	Christian Prévost, Lucie Dubé
<i>Children/Junior Youth Program</i>	Elaheh Mottahedeh Bos and Melody Rowhani
<i>Logistics</i>	Shahrokh Akhound
<i>Photography</i>	Louis Brunet and Lorraine Goh
<i>Registration</i>	Nilufar Gordon
<i>Security/Ushers</i>	Shahriar Tahmazian
<i>Stage Manager & Decor</i>	Fariba Sabet-Sharghi
<i>Technical Director</i>	Geoff Cohen, Vafa Anderson
<i>Translation</i>	Louis Brunet and Shooshoo Monajem
<i>Volunteers</i>	Samir Nakhostin

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 Montréal.
Nous remercions particulièrement l'Assemblée spirituelle des bahá'ís de Montréal.