



**Association for Bahá'í Studies–North America  
27th Annual Conference**

29 August–1 September 2003  
San Francisco Airport Marriott  
San Francisco, California

Association for Bahá'í Studies–North America  
27th Annual Conference  
“Religion and Community in a Time of Crisis”

29 August–1 September 2003

San Francisco Airport Marriott  
Burlingame, California, USA

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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 security personnel are there to assist you. Please follow their instructions at all times. They can be identified by red ribbons on their badges.

***Promptness.*** This year 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’s Program, for ages 5 to 15, is being held in the Monterey, Santa Barbara, and Santa Clara Rooms. Parents may drop off the children at their program 15 minutes before the adult session starting time. Parents are requested 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

Friday, 29 August	9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Saturday, 30 August	9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Sunday, 31 September	9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Monday, 1 September	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.

**The Conference Bookstore** is operated by the Bahá'í Distribution Service, an agency of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States. The bookstore is located in the San Ramon Room and offers a wide selection of books and materials, including books and CDs by authors and artists presenting at the conference, and Bahá'í jewelry. Hours of operation are

Friday, 29 August	2:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.
Saturday, 30 August	9:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.
Sunday, 31 August	9:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.
Monday, 1 September	9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

**Evaluation Forms.** The ABS Executive Committee asks for your kind assistance and cooperation in filling out the conference evaluation form provided in your conference kit. We appreciate your feedback and suggestions. In our ongoing efforts to improve the Annual Conference, beginning this year all breakout sessions will have evaluation forms. Please drop off your evaluations in the containers provided or at the Conference Registration Table.

**Membership.** In support of the Association's membership drive, we ask you to encourage your friends and Spiritual Assemblies to join the Association. Please use the membership form enclosed in your conference kit. More forms are available at the Conference Information Desk.

**Audio Recordings.** Conference plenary sessions will be recorded and will be available for purchase on audio CD. 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 the tapes 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 and Meditation Room.** Suite 8042 has been set aside as a prayer and meditation room from Saturday through Monday.

☆ **NEW FEATURE—Networking.** The Marina del Rey Room has been set aside as a “Networking Room.” A networking board has been set up where those who wish to connect with others in their field can post their contact information and research interests using the form provided in the conference kit. Networking meetings scheduled: those interested in the following areas are invited to meet in the Networking Room:

Studies on Bahá'í Community and Institutions—Saturday, 5:30 p.m.  
International Affairs—Sunday, 5:00 p.m.

☆ **NEW FEATURE—“Office Hours.”** The following presenters will be available to meet informally with students and other interested persons, to discuss their presentations, and to answer questions during the lunch hour. Bring your lunch and drop in!

<b><u>Saturday 12:30–1:30 p.m.</u></b>	<b><u>Room</u></b>	<b><u>Sunday 12:00–1:00 p.m.</u></b>	<b><u>Room</u></b>
Suheil Bushrui	<i>Irvine</i>	William Hatcher	<i>Irvine</i>
Holly Hanson	<i>Newport</i>	Stephen Lambden	<i>Anaheim</i>
Michael Karlberg	<i>Anaheim</i>	Susan Maneck	<i>Newport</i>
		June Thomas	<i>Bayside 1</i>
		Richard Thomas	<i>Bayside 2</i>

## ***Friday, 29 August 2003***

9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

### **Special Interest Groups**

#### ***Location***

*Salon G/H*

#### **Agriculture and Ecology**

Coordinators: JOHN THELEN STEERE and CHRISTINA TOMS

Theme: “Reversing an Environmental and Spiritual Crisis”

10:00 a.m. The Dawn of the Hydrogen Age STANTON BROWN

11:30 a.m. *Lunch Break*

1:30 p.m. Restoring Ecological Harmony with Spirit-based  
Ecological Stewardship GARY HALSEY

3:00 p.m. The Emulation of Natural Systems, Spiritual Ecology,  
and the Prospect of a Sustainable Society—A dialogue led by  
JOHN THELEN STEERE and CHRISTINA TOMS

*Suite 8024*

#### **Bahá’í Institute for the Arts**

Coordinator: ANNE GORDON PERRY

9:00 a.m. Creative Devotions featuring Caroline Mackay, harpist

9:30 a.m. Announcements / reports / *ORISON*

9:45 a.m. Unlocking the Doors of Heaven: Setting the Creative Word to  
Music CAROLINE MACKAY, Celtic harp and song

10:30 a.m. Musical Tools for Teaching Human Rights and the  
Global Ethic MERRILL COLLINS

11:15 a.m. Bahá’í Drama: reports on work by Mark Perry, Kurt  
Asplund, and Bill George

12:00 p.m. *Lunch Break*

1:45 p.m. Devotions

2:00 p.m. “Lady Freedom”: Cracking the Code of an Important and  
Forgotten Image of the Sacred Feminine in United States Culture  
and History KATYA MILLER

3:00 p.m. The Unveiling of Iranian Cinema in the West ANNE GORDON  
PERRY

4:00–5:00 p.m. Consultation on the role of the arts in Bahá’í  
communities and the world in general

*Salon I/J*

#### **Bahá’í Language Educators**

Coordinator: SANDRA FOTOS

9:00 a.m. Creating a Talk Show: An EFL Opportunity for  
Authentic Communication IRSHAT MADYAROV

9:30 a.m. The Middle-Eastern Student SAFINEH TAHMASSEBI

10:30 a.m. Integrating Character Education into Your ESL/EFL  
Classrooms NANCY WATTERS

- 11:30 a.m. Innovative Language Pedagogy and Community-Building Features of the Ruhi Study Circle Process: A Cross-Cultural Comparison SANDY FOTOS, DARA SHAW, and DENNIS MALONEY
- 12:00 p.m. *Lunch Break*
- 1:30 p.m. What's in a Name? The Kalakwahti Vision PAULINE TUTTLE
- 2:00 p.m. Designing your ESL/EFL Web site: An Introduction JONAH WINTERS
- 2:30 p.m. *Break*
- 3:00 p.m. Roundtable on Bahá'í-Inspired Activities (Moderator: DARA SHAW) Presenters: JUDITH JOHNSON (What If); IRSHAT MADYAROV (Successful Consultation Skills Activity); Nancy Watters (Virtues Pick); Jerry Strain (Speak and Write the Promise); Sandy Fotos (Draw What I Tell You!); MARILYN HIGGINS (Working with the Language of Human Rights); DARA SHAW (Bahá'í-Inspired Short Stories: Exercising the Four Skills)
- 4:30–5:30 p.m. BLE SIG Annual Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Fellowship dinner

Suite 8042

### **Communication**

Coordinator: AMROLLAH HEMMAT

- 9:00 a.m. Opening and introductory remarks
- 9:15 a.m. Weblogs: An Emerging Channel of Mainstream Communication and Community LACEY GRAVES
- 10:15 a.m. *Break*
- 10:30 a.m. A Systematic Approach to Multidimensional Study and Analysis of the Bahá'í Sacred Writings KAMBIZ RAHMANI
- 11:30 a.m. Discussion: SIG scope, purpose, and activities
- 12:30 p.m. *Lunch Break*
- 1:30 p.m. Maintaining Identity in Cultural Isolation: Choosing Communication Strategies MARCELLA LAFEVER
- 2:30 p.m. *Break*
- 2:45–5:00 p.m. Closing discussion: SIG future activities and organization, collaborative projects and research plans

Newport

### **Consultation and Conflict Resolution**

Coordinator: TRIP BARTHEL

An interactive workshop on consultation skill building

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome, devotions, introductions, and goals for the day
- 9:30 a.m. Developing Guidelines for Consultation
- 10:45 a.m. *Break*
- 11:00 a.m. Learning Styles in Consultation
- 12:00 p.m. *Lunch Break*
- 1:00 p.m. Creativity in Consultation
- 2:15 p.m. *Break*

2:30 p.m. Humor in Consultation

3:30 p.m. Evaluation

4:00 p.m. Networking

*Bayside 3*

**Education**

Coordinator: KAMILLA BAHBAHANI

9:00 a.m. Welcome and devotions

9:30 a.m. The Importance of the Education of Children in  
Overcoming Prejudice and Fostering a Just Society RITA STARR

11:00 a.m. *Break*

11:15 a.m. Youth Arts Workshops: The Benefits of a New Format  
MARCOS LEWIS

12:00 p.m. *Lunch Break*

1:00 p.m. Education for Transition Toward a Global Society: A K–8  
Social Science Framework ROBERT SIEGEL

2:15 p.m. *Break*

2:30 p.m. Panel: Spirit into Action: Applying Bahá'í Principles of Educa-  
tion in Academia and Public Education (Chair: SHABNAM KOIRALA)

3:30–5:00 p.m. Evaluation and Networking

*Bayside 1*

**Tawaciñ Wašte Wiñ Indigenous Studies Circle**

Coordinator: PAULINE TUTTLE; Co-chairs: LOUISE PROFEIT-  
LEBLANC, ROBIN CHANDLER, and PAULINE TUTTLE

8:30 a.m. Opening Prayers; Welcome MARY GUBATAYAO HAGEN

8:45 a.m. Centering the Day LOUISE PROFEIT-LEBLANC; Overview of  
Day's Program ROBIN CHANDLER; Overview of Formation  
Process and Introduction to Honoring PAULINE TUTTLE

9:00 a.m. Honoring for the late Tawaciñ Wašte Wiñ (Patricia Locke)

9:40 a.m. Panel: The Complementarity of Diverse Ways of Knowing  
(1) Ways of Knowing, Ways of Seeing Indigenous Scholarship  
LOUISE PROFEIT-LEBLANC; (2) From Fragmentation to Consoli-  
dation and Unity: Indigenous Scholarship and the New Ethnic  
Studies in the U.S. ROBIN CHANDLER; (3) New Paradigms in  
Indigenous Studies, Questions to Ponder PAULINE TUTTLE

10:40 a.m. *Break*

11:00 a.m. Establishing Indigenous Identity in the Covenant JORDON  
BIGHORN

11:30 a.m. Panel: Highlights from the Field: Empowering Our Youth (1)  
From the Heart DELORIA BIGHORN; (2) The Importance of  
Cultural Revitalization and Indigenous Youth Leadership  
Development in our Collective Spiritual Destiny KATHY MADJIDI;  
(3) Indigenous Scholarship in Community Contexts SONNY  
VOYAGEUR

12:30 p.m. Preliminary Consultation on Vision Statement

1:15 p.m. *Lunch Break*

Friday

- 2:00 p.m. Consultation on Vision, Purpose, and Goals  
3:30 p.m. Consultation on Logistics  
4:00 p.m. Understanding the Bahá'í Concept of Scholarship in the Context  
of Indigenous Cultures ABDU'L-MISSAGH GHADIRIAN  
5:00–5:30 p.m. Closing Thoughts and Commitments for Future Initiatives

*Salon C/D*

### **Marriage and Family**

Coordinator: KEYVAN GEULA

- Preparation for Bahá'í Marriage: A Day-long Workshop  
9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Identifying relationship skills that promote growth  
and behaviors that cause damage—and how to root damaging  
factors out of relationships PATTY HOWELL and RALPH JONES  
1:30–5:00 p.m. How living the Bahá'í teachings elevates the reality of  
marriage and makes it a “fortress for well being and salvation”  
KEYVAN GEULA

*Anaheim*

### **Philosophy**

Coordinator: IAN KLUGE

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome  
9:15 a.m. The Value of Ludwig Wittgenstein's Post-War Philosophy  
for a Developing Bahá'í Philosophy SUSAN BRILL DE RAMÍREZ  
10:45 a.m. The Call to Being: Introduction to a Bahá'í Existentialism  
IAN KLUGE  
12:00 p.m. *Lunch Break*  
1:00 p.m. Session reconvenes  
1:15 p.m. Minimalism: A Philosophical Overview WILLIAM S. HATCHER  
2:45 p.m. Organizational discussion; additional Q&A with speakers

*Bayside 2*

### **Racial Unity/Intercultural Issues**

Coordinator: GERALD BOYD

Theme: “Confluence: The Role of the Social Artist in the  
Time of Crisis”

- 9:00 a.m. Welcome and introduction  
9:15 a.m. A Most Challenging Issue: A City's Odyssey to Eliminate  
Racism ROBERT ROSENFELD  
10:15 a.m. Hate Crimes as a Human Rights Issue: A Comparative  
Policy Analysis POLLY BOYD  
11:15 a.m. *Break*  
11:30 a.m. History, Ritual, and Familial/Community Bonds: A Native  
American Perspective THARON WEIGHILL  
12:30 p.m. *Lunch Break*

- 2:00 p.m. Racial Stereotypes, Movement, and the Perception of Threat  
NEGIN TOOSI
- 3:00 p.m. *Break*
- 3:15 p.m. Panel: The Role of the Social Artist in the Time of Crisis  
THARON WEIGHILL, POLLY BOYD, NEGIN TOOSI; RICHARD THOMAS  
Moderator: GERALD BOYD
- 4:30–5:00 p.m. Networking

*Irvine*

### **Science and Religion**

Coordinator: STEPHEN R. FRIBERG

Theme: “Ethics and Science”

- 9:00 a.m. Introduction STEPHEN FRIBERG
- 9:20 a.m. Science and Religion: The Thirst for Compatibility  
MARY ANN GORSKI
- 10:10 a.m. Science, Religion, and Valuation WILLIAM H. SHARP
- 10:50 a.m. *Break*
- 11:10 a.m. A Bahá’í Perspective on the Ethics of Human Embryo  
Research MASOUD AFNAN
- 12:00 p.m. *Lunch Break*
- 1:30 p.m. The Role of the Sciences and the Arts in the Transformation  
of the Planet KELLY SNOOK
- 2:20 p.m. Dominion Is God’s: Teaching Our Children about Science  
JANET TANAKA
- 2:50 p.m. Evolution of Science and Religion RON HERSHEL
- 3:30 p.m. *Break*
- 3:40 p.m. Dissecting the Ethical Scientist: Bahá’í and Feminist  
Perspectives BAHARAK YOUSEFI
- 4:10–5:00 p.m. Discussion: Science and Ethics—Future Directions

*Salon A/B*

### **The Study of Religion**

Coordinators: ROBERT STOCKMAN and JACK MCLEAN

- 9:00 a.m. The Bahá’í Faith and Judaism STEPHEN LAMB DEN
- 10:00 a.m. Did Prophecy Fail? The Lesser Peace and the Year 2000  
JACK MCLEAN
- 11:00 a.m. *Break*
- 11:30 a.m. American Civil Religion and the Destiny of America: A  
Comparative Analysis PAULA DREWEK
- 12:30 p.m. *Lunch Break*
- 2:00 p.m. Karbala and the Collective Memory of Martyrdom PAYAM  
FOROUGH and LYNDSEY CALHOUN
- 3:00 p.m. Mystical Reality in the Bahá’í Faith LEROY JONES
- 4:00 p.m. Closing discussion and wrap-up

Friday/Saturday

## ***Friday Evening***

*Grand Ballroom*

7:00 p.m.

### **Plenary Session**

Chair: MARTHA SCHWEITZ

Official Conference Welcome

Binding Together a Fragmented World: A Bahá'í Perspective on  
"Community" ANN BOYLES

8:30 p.m.

*Break*

8:45 p.m.

*Artistic Program*

Master of Ceremonies ROBERT PHILLIPS

TENNESSEE VALLEY ORCHESTRA, under the direction of  
LAURIE COHEN

JOHN DAVEY HATCHER, tenor, and SUSANNA CHUBARIAN, soprano

Dance KAMAL SINCLAIR STEELE

Duncan Dance for Harmony MARY SANO AND HER DUNCAN  
DANCERS

MELODY OF CHINA Chinese classical music YANGQIN ZHAO and  
HONG WANG

TENNESSEE VALLEY ORCHESTRA with JOHN DAVEY HATCHER, tenor,  
and SUSANNA CHUBARIAN, soprano

## ***Saturday, 30 August 2003***

*Grand Ballroom*

9:00 a.m.

### **Plenary Session**

Chair: PIERRE-YVES MOCQUAIS

Devotions

*Secret of Divine Civilization: Contemporary Applications*  
JUNE MANNING THOMAS

10:15 a.m.

Artistic Presentation CAROLYN MACKAY, Celtic harp and vocals

10:30 a.m.

Civility and Piety as Foundations of Community PHILIP SELZNICK

11:30 a.m.

*Lunch Break*

2:00–5:30 p.m.

### Simultaneous Breakout Sessions

*Bayside 3*

2:00–4:15 p.m. **Panel: Faith, History, and Community Building in the Bábí and Bahá'í Faiths** Chair: BRIAN A. MILLER

2:00 p.m. The Bejeweled Temple of the Báb's Revelation STEPHEN LAMBDEN

2:40 p.m. Religion and State: A Comparative Analysis of Islamic and Bahá'í Concepts SUSAN STILES MANECK

3:15 p.m. Bahá'í Community Building in North America: A Historical Perspective ROBERT H. STOCKMAN

*Bayside 3*

### Presentation

4:30–5:30 p.m. The Clay and the Ocean: Human Knowledge and Revelation PIERRE-YVES MOCQUAIS

*Bayside 2*

### Life Crisis and Healing

2:00–3:30 p.m. **Workshop:** The Bahá'í Faith as a Healing Community PATRICIA ROMANO MCGRAW

4:00–5:30 p.m. **Workshop:** Creative Dimensions of Life Crisis and Suffering ABDU'L-MISSAGH GHADIRIAN

*Bayside 1*

### Human Rights

2:00–3:00 p.m. The Oneness of Humankind as the Emerging Principle in Human Rights Law DANIEL LORD

3:15–4:15 p.m. Exporting Religious Extremism: Consequences and Containment DWIGHT BASHIR

4:30–5:30 p.m. Human Rights and the Century of Light LEILA KHAZRA and DELARAM FAHANDEZH

*Newport*

### World Association to Promote Bahá'í Libraries and Archives

2:00–2:45 p.m. Libraries and Archives in the Bahá'í World: Past, Present, Future WILLIAM P. COLLINS

2:45–3:30 p.m. The Bahá'í World Bibliography Project GRAHAM HASSALL

3:45–5:30 p.m. Roundtable on Local Bahá'í Archives and Libraries (PAULINE TUTTLE, DAVID PIFF; Chair: ROGER DAHL)

The roundtable will discuss how to effectively train local archivists and librarians, considering that there are over 1,100 LSAs in the United States and 300 in Canada and they often have a high turnover of local archivists. What are possible training options and what should the training consist of? The roundtable will consist of audience participation and three speakers who will give short presentations.

Saturday

*Salon I/J*

**Moral Education and Philosophy**

2:00–3:30 *p.m.* The Experience of Moral Capabilities in a High School Setting GORDON NAYLOR

4:00–5:30 *p.m.* Minimalism: A Bridge between Classical Philosophy and the Bahá'í Faith WILLIAM S. HATCHER

*Salon G/H*

**Community Development Research**

2:00–3:30 *p.m.* Learning about the Application of Principle-based Indicators of Development: Evaluating Community-based Natural Resource Decision Making in Latin America WILLIAM E. DAVIS and SHAHLA F. MAGHZI

4:00–5:30 *p.m.* Community Development Research in the Bahá'í Community DOROTHY MARCIC, WILLIAM GEISSLER, and ROXANNE HAI

*Anaheim*

**Sacred Texts**

2:00–3:00 *p.m.* The Sacred Text of Nature: A Weaving Together of Native American, Ecological, and Bahá'í Views JOHN THELEN STEERE and TULI RODE

3:15–4:15 *p.m.* Coming to Terms with 'Abdu'l-Bahá's "Savages" DERIK SMITH and MISHA MAYERNICK

*Anaheim*

**Presentation**

4:30–5:30 *p.m.* Social Movements Theory and the Bahá'í Community DAVID DIEHL

*Suite 8024*

**Workshop** (*limited to 30 participants*)

2:00–4:15 *p.m.* Bahá'í Scholarship in University Courses: How Do I Start? MARCELLA LAFEVER and MICHAEL KARLBERG

*Suite 8024*

**Presentation**

4:30–5:30 *p.m.* Spiritual Research, Spiritual Researcher: Spirituality as an Essential Element of Researcher Preparation KAMILLA BAHBAHANI

*Irvine*

**Association for Bahá'í Studies in Persian**

2:00–5:30 *p.m.* Presentations in Persian by NADER SAIEDI and GHASEM BAYAT Chair: MOJDEH MOLLAVI

5:30 *p.m.*

*Dinner Break*

*Grand Ballroom*  
8:00 p.m.

### **Gala Concert**

Master of Ceremonies ROBERT PHILLIPS

FARZAD KHOZEIN, violin; TODD KHOZEIN, piano; NASEEM KHOZEIN, violin

Odissi Dance from India ASAKO TAKAMI DANCE GROUP

Classical selections MERRILL COLLINS, pianist, and

KRISTINE SINAJON, mezzo-soprano

Armenian Dances KAROUN DANCE ENSEMBLE

Music from Ghana KALIMBA SOUNDZ

## ***Sunday, 31 August 2003***

*Grand Ballroom*  
9:00 a.m.

### **Plenary Session**

Chair: SHEILA BANANI

Devotions with members of the Black Men's Gathering

Some Thoughts about Scholarship and Learning in a Far-from-Equilibrium State STEPHEN BIRKLAND

10:15 a.m.

**Panel:** Young Adults on Bahá'í Scholarship, Academia, and Service RUHA BENJAMIN, CONSTANCE M. CHEN, CHITRA GOLESTANI-MAGHZI, DERIK SMITH; Chair: SHAHLA MAGHZI

11:30 a.m.

*Lunch Break*

*Irvine*  
1:00–2:15 p.m.

### **Annual General Meeting of the Association for Bahá'í Studies–North America**

All are cordially invited to attend, to meet the Executive Committee, and to share in consultation about the activities and future directions of the Association.

2:30–6:00 p.m.

### **Simultaneous Breakout Sessions**

*Bayside 1*

#### **Communities of Transformation**

2:30–3:30 p.m. The Birth of Another World: Visions of Justice, Unity, and Human Well-Being: A Case Study of Community Change in Oakland, California CYNTHIA BARNES SLATER and SHAHLA MAGHZI

4:00–5:30 p.m. **Workshop** Multiracial Community Building Among the Bahá'ís in the U.S., 1912–2000 RICHARD THOMAS

Sunday

*Bayside 2*

**Bahá'í Association of Mental Health Professionals**

2:30–3:15 *p.m.* Reflections on the Birth and Growth of the Bahá'í Association of Mental Health Professionals MICHAEL PENN  
3:15–4:00 *p.m.* Spiritual Alienation or Community? A. JANE FAILY  
4:00–4:45 *p.m.* Authenticity, Sexuality, and the Abuse of Power  
MARY K. RADPOUR

*Bayside 2*

**Presentation**

5:00–6:00 *p.m.* The Seven Valleys: A Seven Step Process to Psycho-Spiritual Development MICHELLE THELEN-STEERE and TULI RODE

*Bayside 3*

**The Writings of the Báb**

2:30–4:30 *p.m.* Truth: The Báb and the Point NADER SAIEDI

*Salon I/J*

**Rhetoric and Storytelling**

2:30–3:30 *p.m.* The Rhetoric of Religious Texts AMROLLAH HEMMAT  
4:00–5:30 *p.m.* Storytelling and Community in the Bahá'í Faith  
CAROLYN SAWIN and LOUISE PROFEIT-LEBLANC

*Salon G/H*

**Presentation**

2:30–3:30 *p.m.* Engaged Detachment, Comic Detachment: Modernity and the Mystic's Last Laugh ARASH ABIZADEH

*Salon G/H*

**Presentation**

3:45–4:45 *p.m.* Conceptualizing and Performing Bahá'í-Centered Social Research CHARLES CARNEGIE and BRADLEY R. WILSON

*Newport*

**Gender and Ethics**

2:30–3:30 *p.m.* Moral Authority—What's That Again? MARILYN HIGGINS and PHYLLIS PETERSON  
3:45–4:45 *p.m.* Feminist Ethics: The Connection between Gender and Justice PATRICIA CAMPUZANO  
5:00–6:00 *p.m.* Gender and Peace Education MARIE GERVAIS

*Irvine*

**Panel: Bioethics**

2:30–5:00 *p.m.* Discussion of topics in bioethics ABDU'L-MISSAGH GHADIRIAN, RIDVAN MOQBEL, and panelists to be announced

*Anaheim*

**Economics and Social Justice**

2:30–3:30 *p.m.* A Bahá'í Model of New World Society in Alberta, Canada: Social Justice represented by Wealth Equity LES KUZYK

Anaheim 3:45–5:45 p.m. The Modern History of Materialism HOLLY HANSON and  
KIM NAQVI

Suite 8024 **Panel/Workshop** (*limited to 30 participants*)  
2:30–4:45 p.m. The Press as a Consultative Forum  
TOM ARMISTEAD, NEDA NAJIBI; Chair: MICHAEL KARLBERG

Suite 8024 **World Association to Promote Bahá'í Libraries and Archives**  
5:00–6:00 p.m. Meeting (all are welcome)

6:00 p.m. *Dinner Break*

8:00 p.m.  
Grand Ballroom

**The 21st Hasan M. Balyuzi Memorial Lecture**

Artistic Presentation SUSANNA CHUBARIAN, soprano,  
and NAIYRY SARKISSOF, piano

Introduction SUSANNE TAMAS

The Opening of the Academic Mind: The Challenges of  
Reforming a Culture in Crisis SUHEIL BUSHRUI

## ***Monday, 1 September 2003***

9:00 a.m.  
Grand Ballroom

**Plenary Session**  
Chair: CHARLEEN MAGHZI

Devotions

**Panel:** Covenant-Centered Scholarship  
Chair: JOHN S. HATCHER  
MICHELLE HEMMAT, BRIAN A. MILLER, and PIERRE-YVES MOCQUAIS

11:30 a.m. Bahá'í Models or Models by Bahá'ís? WILLIAM E. DAVIS

12:00 p.m. Musical presentation by WORK OF HEART  
(WENDY MCCAIN, vocals; SEWARD MCCAIN, bass; CARL  
WAKELAND, piano)

12:15 p.m. *Close of Conference*

## *Abstracts and Biographical Notes*

### **Arash Abizadeh • Engaged Detachment, Comic Detachment: Modernity and the Mystic's Last Laugh**

The familiar charges against detachment maintain that it represses emotion, fosters passivity in the face of injustice, and undermines the collective attachments and virtues necessary for healthy community. These charges, however, apply only to passive conceptions of detachment. This paper suggests that the writings and lives of Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá broach an alternative notion of detachment that avoids the charges and highlights the central role of humor in progressive sociopolitical projects. Via an encounter between Middle Eastern mysticism and European modernity, the Bahá'í Faith sets the stage for a notion of engaged detachment and a conception of mysticism compatible with modernity.

ARASH ABIZADEH teaches political philosophy at McGill University. He received his MPhil from Oxford as a Rhodes scholar in 1994 and PhD from Harvard in 2001. He has published in journals including *Review of Metaphysics*, *Political Theory*, *American Political Science Review*, and *Senses of Cinema*, and is an editor of *World Order*.

### **Tom Armistead • The Press as a Consultative Forum** (See page 20)

TOM ARMISTEAD is associate editor, *Engineering News-Record*, the weekly news magazine of the construction industry. For sixteen years previously, he was manager of public relations for Walsh Construction Co., Trumbull, CN.

### **Kamilla Bahbahani • Spiritual Research, Spiritual Researcher: Spirituality as an Essential Element of Researcher Preparation**

This paper explores the links between spirituality and research by examining the spiritual development of the researcher. Since spirituality is an inherent part of human reality, it influences our

ability to perform effective research. After exploring how spiritual development is linked to an ability to understand reality, the paper will look at tools in the Bahá'í Writings for the development of spirituality and consider whether these can be incorporated into a researcher training program. The presentation will be followed by a chance to discuss how these ideas can be incorporated into practice in academic settings.

KAMILLA BAHBAHANI is a doctoral candidate in Urban Services/Education at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. Her dissertation research examines the evolution of an integrated instructional environment at one elementary school. Work from her master's research among the Buryats of Siberia inspired this paper.

### **Dwight Bashir • Exporting Religious Extremism: Consequences and Containment**

This presentation will attempt to address issues raised in the April 2002 letter from the Universal House of Justice to the world's religious leaders such as the state's role in promoting nationalism and intolerance, the "manipulation of [religious and] cultural legacies" by religious institutions and governments, and the inability or reluctance of states to eradicate religious extremism. Particular attention will be paid the role of some governments in perpetuating or curbing Islamic fundamentalism. The major findings demonstrate that unless the international community examines and addresses the issue of state-sponsored propagation of religious extremism, this phenomenon may become irrepressible.

DWIGHT N. BASHIR is a foreign policy analyst for a U.S. government agency advising the President, secretary of state, and Congress. He has presented and published on a wide array of topics in international affairs and holds a PhD in international conflict resolution from George Mason University in Washington, DC.

**Ghasem Bayat (Association for Bahá'í Studies in Persian)**

GHASEM BAYAT is a specialist in the field of oil and gas exploration and production with substantial publications in his fields of expertise. Over the past thirty years he has worked as a scientist, educator, and engineer in many countries. He is an honorary scholar at Bosch Bahá'í School.

**Ruha Benjamin (Panelist, Young Adults on Bahá'í Scholarship, Academia, and Service)**

RUHA BENJAMIN is a PhD student in the Department of Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley. The varied subjects of her research include medical sociology and women's health, race and education, knowledge construction, and critical social theory. She lives in the Bay Area with her husband Shawn and son Malachi, and is expecting her second baby this November.

**Stephen Birkland ● Some Thoughts about Scholarship and Learning in a Far from Equilibrium State**

STEPHEN BIRKLAND is a member of the Continental Board of Counsellors for the Protection and Propagation of the Bahá'í Faith in the Americas. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees for Huqúqu'lláh in the United States.

**Ann Boyles ● Binding Together a Fragmented World: A Bahá'í Perspective on "Community"**

The Bahá'í Faith offers a coherent concept of "community" capable of binding together—in the true sense of the word *religio*—a fragmented, disunited world. It is a vision of community that supports the structure of a world civilization and promotes the creative capabilities of each human being in assisting that civilization to develop and sustain itself. Is the Bahá'í vision utopian? How, in fact, does the Bahá'í model challenge current paradigms of development and social change, and what kind of blueprint do the Bahá'í teachings offer for cohesive community development? Can it be applied universally?

ANN BOYLES is the senior writer and editor for the

Bahá'í International Community's Office of Public Information. She 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. Ann serves as the Auxiliary Board member for Protection in the Atlantic region of Canada.

**Suheil Bushrui ● The 21st Hasan M. Balyuzi Memorial Lecture ● The Opening of the Academic Mind: The Challenges of Reforming A Culture in Crisis**

"The academic world, once the scene of great exploits of the mind and spirit, settled into the role of a kind of scholastic industry preoccupied with tending its machinery of dissertations, symposia, publications, credits and grants" (*Century of Light*, 89). This paper offers a perspective on the state of the academy. It attempts to address reforms essential to the progress and development of society: retrieving the central place of teaching in the curriculum, inculcating humility in place of intellectual arrogance, protecting the academy against the intrusion of corporate and political agendas, abrogating the law of "publish or perish," and finally, widening the intellectual and spiritual horizon of students by introducing them to the noble monuments of classical culture and to that "universal and unanimous tradition" represented in the spiritual heritage of the human race.

SUHEIL BUSHRUI was appointed as the first holder of the Bahá'í Chair for World Peace in 1992. A distinguished author, poet, critic, and translator, and the recipient of many awards, he is the foremost authority on the works of Kahlil Gibran. His publications include *The Style of the Kitáb-i-Aqdas: Aspects of the Sublime*; *Kahlil Gibran, Man and Poet* (co-authored with Joe Jenkins); and *The Wisdom of the Arabs*.

**Patricia Campuzano ● Feminist Ethics: The Connection between Gender and Justice**

Feminism has become a distinctive model to address issues of inequality and injustice because it looks at gendered wealth and power differentials for answers to our local and global crises. Feminist ethics endeavors to generate a moral theory granting women a more equal share of

political power, wealth, and responsibility. This presentation will explore the many points feminist ethics has in common with the Teachings of Bahá'u'lláh, especially in regard to topics of woman as subject and the role she is required to play in the ethical pursuit of justice.

PATRICIA CAMPUZANO was born in Mexico and became a Bahá'í in 1998. She moved to Chicago that same year to serve at the Bahá'í National Center and attend the Wilmette Institute. Currently she is attending graduate school in Oregon with the aim of studying the similarities between Bahá'í ethics and feminist ethics.

**Charles V. Carnegie and Bradley R. Wilson ● Conceptualizing and Performing Bahá'í-Centered Social Research**

What would constitute a Bahá'í methodology for social research? In this session, two Bahá'ís about to embark on new research projects—Wilson to look at coffee farmers in Nicaragua producing for the global economy, and fair-trade coffee activists in the United States; Carnegie to study the formation of global consciousness in the Bahá'í community—locate their respective projects in relation to a Bahá'í paradigm and its intersections with contemporary social theory. In seeking to apply appropriate Bahá'í-centered methods for study and social change, the session ties together elements of experience, science, and spirituality to provide new perspectives on scholarly practices.

CHARLES V. CARNEGIE is associate professor of anthropology and chair of African American Studies at Bates College. He is editor of *Afro-Caribbean Villages in Historical Perspective* and author of *Postnationalism Prefigured: Caribbean Borderlands* (Rutgers University Press, 2002).

**Constance M. Chen (Panelist, Young Adults on Bahá'í Scholarship, Academia, and Service)**

CONSTANCE M. CHEN is a physician and writer who is currently training in plastic and reconstructive surgery at the University of Washington in Seattle. She has written a book about Mary Ware Dennett, an American pioneer in birth control and sex education, and was a founding editor of *Men's Journal*. She has been a Bahá'í for nineteen years.

**William P. Collins ● Libraries and Archives in the Bahá'í World—Past, Present, Future**

This presentation reviews library and archival cultural institutions in the Bahá'í community, considers the challenges facing them, and suggests possible future developments. Questions of training and availability of interested candidates are also addressed. Larger issues of community development, institutional structure, and funding are reviewed for their impact on these institutions.

WILLIAM P. COLLINS has master's degrees in librarianship and social sciences. He is the former director of the Bahá'í World Centre Library and is currently a planner and recommending officer for Bahá'í materials at the Library of Congress. He is the author of a major Bahá'í bibliography and numerous articles and specializes in millennialism and Mormonism in relation to the Bahá'í Faith.

**Roger Dahl (Chair, Roundtable on Local Bahá'í Archives and Libraries)**

ROGER DAHL has been the archivist at the National Bahá'í Archives, United States, since 1974 and is a member of the Society of American Archivists and the Academy of Certified Archivists. Mr. Dahl has published several articles on American Bahá'í history.

**William E. Davis ● Bahá'í Models or Models by Bahá'ís?**

Do we understand sufficiently the Bahá'í Revelation to lay claim that our efforts are Bahá'í? Has the evolution of the Bahá'í Faith come to the stage that we can say indicates there is sufficient clarity about the outlines of Bahá'í culture? The development of models by Bahá'ís provides space to recognize the evolutionary character of the Faith. It permits the application of the culture of learning principle to be dominant.

**William E. Davis and Shahla Maghzi ● Learning about the Application of Principle-based Indicators of Development: Evaluating Community-based Natural Resource Decision Making in Latin America**

In recent times, communities and social organiza-

tions are increasingly challenged to facilitate fair and just decision-making processes regarding the use of local resources that are freed from corruption and oriented toward the promotion of environments of cooperation and trustworthiness. This workshop reports on the learning process resulting from applying principle-based standards to evaluate a local community-based natural resource decision-making process used in Latin America. Indicators are derived from those suggested by the Institute for Studies in Global Prosperity and the document *Valuing Spirituality in Development*.

WILLIAM E. DAVIS is a principal and founder of DPK Consulting, working with public sector clients throughout the world. For the past twenty-four years he has worked in the administration of justice internationally, federally, and at the state level. He is a member of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States.

#### **David Diehl ● Social Movements Theory and the Bahá'í Community**

One of the fastest growing sub-fields of sociology is the study of social movements and collective action. This presentation offers a brief overview of the major theoretical strands of social movements theory. In surveying the field I will pay particular attention to three questions that are both central in the literature and have direct implications for understanding Bahá'í community development: why do people participate in social movements? how are social movements structured? and how do social movements develop over time? I will end with suggestions as to how this body of literature can inform reflection and action in Bahá'í communities.

DAVID DIEHL is currently a doctoral student studying sociology of education at Stanford University. His interests include social identity, sociology of culture, and network theory. He holds a master's degree in education and before coming to Stanford spent three years working in elementary schools.

#### **Delaram Fahandezh ● Human Rights and the Century of Light (See page 20)**

DELARAM FAHANDEZH is currently an honors law and society/history major at Toronto's York

University, with plans to pursue a career in the legal profession. Delaram currently serves on the Toronto Youth Committee as well as the York University CABS Executive Committee.

#### **A. Jane Faily ● Spiritual Alienation or Community?**

Western psychotherapy is, with a few exceptions, a psychology based on the study of individuals. In this age in which psychotherapy serves as a secular religion, our materialistic and individualist values are assumed within its purview. The Bahá'í Writings specify spiritual and non-individualistic values. How does adherence to Bahá'í values mesh with contemporary psychotherapy and how does it depart from it? Highlights of that comparison will be presented.

A. JANE FAILEY received her PhD from the University of Georgia. She has been a delegate to UN Conferences on Women and a consultant to ten African National Spiritual Assemblies on the equality of women. Currently she is a psychologist at the Marietta Mental Health Center in Marietta, GA.

#### **William Geissler ● Community Development Research in the Bahá'í Community (See page 21)**

WILLIAM GEISSLER is a principal in Research.Net, an online research company based in the Nashville area, serving large commercial clients worldwide. It also provided research services to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the U.S. and its media campaign. Bill Geissler served on the National Teaching Committee for seven years.

#### **Marie Gervais ● Gender and Peace Education**

The polarization of men and women in peace research has resulted in both marginalization of feminist research and the exclusion of men from peace processes. This paper informs peace education literature by examining three categories of conceptual omissions. It informs gender study by demonstrating the imperative of enabling men and boys to see themselves beyond the constraints of male dominance, in partnership with women and girls. Current peace education initiatives focus on

culturally bound differences and the promotion of mutually engaging peaceful practice.

MARIE GERVAIS is a doctoral student studying culture and peace education at the University of Alberta, Canada. Her teaching experience of twenty years spans kindergarten to university level. She is currently working on research in the areas of teacher cultural belief and gender and peace.

### **Abdu'l-Missagh Ghadirian (Panelist, Bioethics)**

#### **Abdu'l-Missagh Ghadirian ● Workshop: Creative Dimensions of Life Crisis and Suffering**

Our perception of life crisis and suffering is often colored by negative emotions of fear and dismay and overlooks possible positive implications. But distressful or tragic events carry a message which can give a new meaning to those who face those challenges. Those who turn a traumatic experience of their life into a creative endeavor have found a new purpose in life which serves as a creative impulse. This presentation explores the development of creativity in relation to serious life events among artists, writers, and others who have suffered physical, mental, or social disabilities or impediments. Spiritual as well as psychosocial aspects of the subject will be discussed.

ABDU'L-MISSAGH GHADIRIAN is a professor at McGill University Faculty of Medicine and an emeritus physician at the McGill University Health Centre and the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal. He is former director of medical education of the Montreal World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Mental Health, and author of *Substance Abuse: A Bahá'í Perspective*.

### **Chitra Golestani-Maghzi (Panelist, Young Adults on Bahá'í Scholarship, Academia, and Service)**

Chitra Golestani-Maghzi is a PhD candidate at the UCLA Graduate School of Education in social science and comparative education. She is presently serving as an Auxiliary Board member for Propagation in Southern California. Her research explores how educators engage students in dialogue about social justice in public schools.

### **Roxanne Hai ● Community Development Research in the Bahá'í Community (See page 21)**

ROXANNE HAI is finishing her master's degree in nonprofit management at the London School of Economics, having recently received her BA in communications from Boston University. Her master's thesis looks at the development of social capital, specifically measuring the effectiveness of a National Teaching Committee-sponsored intervention into Bahá'í communities.

### **Holly Hanson and Kim Naqvi ● The Modern History of Materialism**

This presentation correlates the unfoldment of materialist theory, its attendant social and economic expression, and references to materialism in Bahá'í texts as all three emerge during the ages and epochs of the Bahá'í Faith. By drawing specifically on our disciplinary backgrounds of development geography and history, we explore a systematic approach to identifying materialism, as characterized by Shoghi Effendi, as "the chief factor in precipitating the dire ordeals and world-shaking crises that must necessarily involve the burning of cities and the spread of terror and consternation in the hearts of men." Our goal is to provide additional tools with which to address contemporary interpretations of society, economy, and history.

HOLLY HANSON teaches African history at Mount Holyoke College. She is the author of *Landed Obligation: The Practice of Power in Buganda, Social and Economic Development: A Bahá'í Approach*; and numerous articles on the Bahá'í Faith and social transformation. She is currently working on a history of social inequality in twentieth-century Kampala, and a book on globalization, individual initiative, and faith in the perspective of the world's religions.

### **Graham Hassall ● The Bahá'í World Bibliography Project**

This presentation proposes the creation of a "Bahá'í world bibliography project." It describes the need for a global networked project to monitor referencing services for the purpose of identifying and collecting significant references to the Bahá'í Faith and for making them available in a consoli-

dated bibliography. There is need to determine the structure for participation in the project, its technical specifications, its scope, and its method of report delivery. It is envisaged that the results of the project will be systematically made available in print and through electronic media.

GRAHAM HASSALL is director of the Office of Academic Affairs and chair of the Department of Conflict Resolution at Landegg International University. He has particular interests in conflict resolution, governance, and Bahá'í history, biography, and bibliography. He is currently writing a centenary history of the Bahá'í community of Switzerland.

### **John S. Hatcher (Chair, Covenant-Centered Scholarship)**

JOHN S. HATCHER is professor of English literature at the University of South Florida. His books include *From the Auroral Darkness*, on Robert Hayden's life and poetry; *The Purpose of Physical Reality*; *The Arc of Ascent*; *The Ocean of His Words*; and (coauthored with Amrollah Hemmat) *The Poetry of Táhirih*.

### **William S. Hatcher ● Minimalism: A Bridge between Classical Philosophy and the Bahá'í Faith**

Twentieth-century philosophy has largely consisted of a pseudo-dialogue between the extremes of a positivistic, reductionistic objectivism and a subjectivist, postmodernist relativism. "Minimalism" represents both an original method and a fresh treatment of philosophical problems, applying the modern logic of relations to classical issues in philosophy such as the existence and nature of God. Rigorous application of this method yields answers strikingly similar to those in the Bahá'í Writings. Although minimalism goes far to restore the broken dialogue between science and religion, it is not an ad hoc compromise between two extremes but rather a proactive philosophy based on explicit, positive principles.

WILLIAM S. HATCHER is a mathematician, philosopher, and educator. A specialist in the philosophical interpenetration of science and religion, he has, for over thirty-five years, held university positions in North America, Europe, and Russia.

His most recent book is *Minimalism: A Bridge between Classical Philosophy and the Bahá'í Faith* (2002).

### **Amrollah Hemmat ● The Rhetoric of Religious Texts**

Analysts of rhetoric have found religious texts interesting for various reasons. Religious texts motivate, persuade, and empower the believer. They exert authority, keep the reader engaged, and cause changes in one's life pattern. They instruct, delight, and move, as an ideal orator does. Also, religious texts provide an insight into the nature of language and communication that other texts do not. References to some of Wittgenstein's, Burke's, Bakhtin's, and Gadamer's views on communication and language should help us better understand the manner in which religious texts interact with readers, exert their authority, enlighten, and motivate.

AMROLLAH HEMMAT is coauthor (with John Hatcher) of *The Poetry of Táhirih*. He has also published material on telecommunications and Arabic grammar. He studied physics and management in Iran, applied behavioral science at Johns Hopkins University, and has a PhD in communication from the University of South Florida.

### **Michelle Hemmat (Panelist, Covenant-Centered Scholarship)**

MICHELLE HEMMAT is an undergraduate studying in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public Policy and International Affairs at Princeton University. Her focus is on public health and she plans to enter medical school after graduating. Ms. Hemmat is a member of the Princeton Bahá'í club and the Religious Life Council.

### **Marilyn Higgins and Phyllis Peterson ● Moral Authority—What's That Again?**

Time-worn authoritarian approaches to moral authority, and reaction to them in an age of multicultural diversity, have left gaps in the education of children's moral capacities, leading to moral paralysis. This presentation will be a dialogue between two researchers whose varying experience and studies focus on topics of moral authority

from social science and religious perspectives. They examine elements that promote, enhance, or block development of empathy, perception, moral imagination, moral reasoning, and will to choose moral actions. The “authority of self” and its essential relationship to growth of the “self that is pleasing to God” will be discussed.

MARILYN HIGGINS, professor in the Faculty of International Cultures, Yamaguchi Prefectural University, Japan, has been a pioneer for twenty-five years, and an educator with over thirty years experience. She holds degrees in psychology, counseling, and moral education. Her studies compare moral education environments especially in Japan and China.

**Michael Karlberg ● Workshop: Bahá’í Scholarship in University Courses: How Do I Start? (See col. 2)**

**Michael Karlberg ● Panel/Workshop: The Press as a Consultative Forum**

In a letter to the American Bahá’ís, the Universal House of Justice stated that “the code of conduct of the press must embrace the principles and objectives of consultation as revealed by Bahá’u’lláh.” This workshop will explore the implications and applications of this statement. It will begin with brief presentations on the topic from the perspective of a journalist, a public relations professional, and a media scholar. These will be followed by a workshop process in which participants will further explore ways in which the press can serve as a more effective instrument of public consultation.

MICHAEL KARLBERG is assistant professor in the Department of Communication at Western Washington University. He teaches and conducts research in the areas of communication, culture, and conflict. He will be publishing a book entitled *Beyond the Culture of Conflict* in May 2004 (George Ronald).

**Leila Khazra and Delaram Fahandezh ● Human Rights and the Century of Light**

Within a human rights framework, the presentation will address unresolved global issues of racism and the social construct of race; the model of patri-

archy implemented by governments resulting in economic disparities; systemic discrimination resulting in civil defamation and collective disadvantage; and strategies for change. The key concepts will draw on modern examples of Western institutions and the historiographical analyses of the models of the twentieth century as addressed in *Century of Light*. The ideologies that presented themselves in the twentieth century will be considered with respect to Bahá’í principles of justice within society, with references to *God Passes By*.

LEILA KHAZRA is currently an honors business administration major with a specialization in marketing at Toronto’s York University, with hopes to pursue a career in law. Leila is a devoted and active member of the Toronto Bahá’í community and serves on the York University CABS Executive.

**Les Kuzyk ● A Bahá’í Model of New World Society in Alberta, Canada: Social Justice represented by Wealth Equity**

The Bahá’í Faith teaches that a new social order is available through adherence to teachings stressing ethics or virtues. I make an attempt to analyze the pragmatic progress of the Bahá’í model towards its social ideals. A Bahá’í community is evaluated for social justice represented by the ethic or virtue of benevolence and its impact on material wealth equity. In Alberta, Canada, the Bahá’í community is surveyed for beliefs and behaviors for comparison with the surrounding non-Bahá’í community. I suggest an analytical model of the Bahá’í Faith’s potential moral influence on behavior to be applicable in other global locations.

LES KUZYK is a graduate student at the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada. He has a strong interest in spiritual models of society such as the Bahá’í model. He has been a Bahá’í pioneer in the South Pacific and a local pioneer in Alberta.

**Marcella LaFever and Michael Karlberg ● Workshop—Bahá’í Scholarship in University Courses: How Do I Start?**

Many Bahá’í university and college students are faced with the question of how to incorporate Bahá’í principles and perspectives into their coursework and degree pursuits. The facilitators of this workshop were able to incorporate Bahá’í

topics into coursework as well as thesis and dissertation work and have been asked by other Bahá'í students about the problems and intricacies of doing this kind of scholarship in a secular university setting. This workshop will offer insights and experiences and provide hands-on practice and knowledge sharing for others interested in pursuing Bahá'í scholarship in a university setting.

MARCELLA LAFEVER is a doctoral student in intercultural communication at the University of New Mexico. Her master's work at California State University, Sacramento, involved the development of a strategic planning process with a Bahá'í community concerned about increasing intercultural participation in community consultation and decision making.

### **Stephen Lambden ● The Bejeweled Temple of the Báb's Revelation**

This presentation will give a few details about the content of select writings of the Báb, many of which have been neither translated nor discussed by the modern Bahá'í community. From the *Qayyum al-asma* (The Self-subsisting Support of the Divine Names, mid-1844), to the *Haykal al-din* (The Temple of Religion, 1850), luscious pearls besparkle the firmament of the creative and wonderful ideas disclosed in the religion of the Báb. This presentation will attempt to present a few traces of these gems.

STEPHEN LAMBDEN has been involved in Bahá'í scholarship for over thirty years, and has a special interest in the Abrahamic religions and their relationship to Bábí/Bahá'í doctrine. Dr. Lambden's articles have appeared in the *Encyclopedia Iranica*, *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*, *Studies in the Bábí and Bahá'í Religions* (Kalimat Press series), and many other journals and books.

### **Daniel B. Lord ● The Oneness of Humankind as the Emerging Principle in Human Rights Law**

This presentation will examine how evolutions in human rights reflect the rise of the Bahá'í principle of the oneness of humankind in international law. The emergence seems strengthened by shifts in perspectives, among them a mounting awareness

of the urgency of global problems and need for collaborative action to resolve them, and recognition of the fundamental universality of human rights—and from implications of other perspectives identified by the Universal House of Justice. The right to development will be discussed as one of the new generations of human rights invigorated by the principle of the oneness of humankind.

DANIEL B. LORD, PhD, is an Alaska state program manager in behavioral health and of counsel with a law firm in Anchorage. He completed his graduate degrees at the University of Michigan, and law degrees at the University of Iowa, where he was a William S. Anderson Scholar.

### **Patricia Romano McGraw ● The Bahá'í Faith as a Healing Community**

This workshop is structured around six common culturally embedded myths that block understanding of our spiritual connection with God, our connection with others, and emotional health. These myths portray human beings as independent, self-sufficient “computers.” However, new scientific research demonstrates that humans are fundamentally interdependent from birth until the end of life. The concept of emotional “attunement” will be introduced as a model for healthy relationship patterns and will be demonstrated through role play and audience interaction. Participants will learn how to create attuned interactions both in prayer and with others, and will explore the role of the Bahá'í community in fostering healing among its members.

PATRICIA ROMANO MCGRAW is a psychologist in private practice in Towson, Maryland, where she specializes in treating victims of violence and abuse. Her book, *Maybe It's Not Your Fault: Six Myths of the Mind that Keep You Blaming Yourself* (working title), will be released in Spring 2004 by Bahá'í Publishing.

### **Dorothy Marcic, William Geissler, and Roxanne Hai ● Community Development Research in the Bahá'í Community**

Under the direction of the U.S. National Teaching Committee, a community development and needs assessment project began in 1999, utilizing a model of action research (evaluating a project and

making adjustments to the next phase). The Bright Horizons project, which involved large-scale consultation, was designed to determine needs within the community at the same time that believers determine strategies for solving problems they have identified. Each community determined its own strengths and weaknesses and strategies to improve its functioning. After five communities completed the project, a survey was conducted to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the project. These results will be shared.

DOROTHY MARCIC is a professor at Vanderbilt University's Owen Graduate School of Management and was director of the doctoral and master's programs in human resource development at Vanderbilt. She is the author of *Managing with the Wisdom of Love*.

**Shahla Maghzi (Chair, Young Adults on Bahá'í Scholarship, Academia, and Service)**

**Shahla Maghzi • The Birth of Another World: Visions of Justice, Unity, and Human Well-Being: A Case Study of Community Change in Oakland, California** (See page 25)

**Shahla Maghzi • Learning about the Application of Principle-based Indicators of Development: Evaluating Community-based Natural Resource Decision Making in Latin America** (See page 16)

SHAHLA MAGHZI is a graduate student in jurisprudence and social policy at U. C. Berkeley's School of Law. She received her BA in international relations and Chinese in 1998 from Stanford University and has lived and worked in China, Israel, and Siberia.

**Susan Stiles Maneck • Religion and State: A Comparative Analysis of Islamic and Bahá'í Concepts**

This presentation explores the relationship between religion and state in the Bahá'í Writings in the context of their Islamic background. As interpreters of Islamic law the 'ulamá filled the roles of both legislatures and judges, leaving rulers with only the executive functions of government. In establishing Houses of Justice, Bahá'u'lláh essentially removes the 'ulamá's power as

guardians of divine law and gives that power to democratically elected legislatures. But the sacrality and religious nature of law remains unchanged, thereby still restricting government to the executive functions. Hence, the House of Justice makes the laws while the government enforces them.

SUSAN STILES MANECK is associate professor in the History and Philosophy Department at Jackson State University. Dr. Maneck has published several articles on women and the Bahá'í Faith for Oxford University Press, Brill Press, and State University of New York Press and has also authored a book on Zoroastrianism entitled *The Death of Ahriman*.

**Misha Mayernick • Coming to Terms with 'Abdu'l-Bahá's "Savages" (See page 25)**

MISHA MAYERNICK received her BA in sociology from the Evergreen State College in 2001. She is currently pursuing her graduate degree in conflict resolution from Landegg International University in Switzerland.

**Brian A. Miller (Panelist, Covenant-Centered Scholarship)**

BRIAN MILLER received his PhD from the University of California and is Lecturer in the Arabic Language at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

**Pierre-Yves Mocquais • The Clay and the Ocean: Human Knowledge and Revelation**

This presentation will first review the evolution of Western thought from a system based on the symbol to one based on the sign. The second part of the presentation will focus on what can be seen as the present chaos of knowledge, within which duality seems to be the fundamental principle. Paradoxically, some of the dichotomies and tensions that characterize current thinking signal the need for an overarching principle that would reconcile epistemological conflicts. This principle is one of unity, which can only be found in revealed knowledge, which transcends the limitations of all human knowledge and represents a common epistemological foundation.

PIERRE-YVES MOCQUAIS is dean of the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Calgary. His

research interests include Quebec and French Canadian Literature, literary theory, particularly textual genetics, culture and folklore, the franco-phone culture of the Prairies, and the works of Hubert Aquin. He is a member of the Auxiliary Board for Protection.

### **Ridvan Moqbel (Panelist, Bioethics)**

RIDVAN MOQBEL is professor in the Department of Medicine, University of Alberta. He is widely published in the field of immunology and asthma with two books, one hundred peer-reviewed papers, and fifty chapters and reviews in textbooks. He served as a member of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the U.K. between 1979 and 1992 and is an Auxiliary Board Member for Protection.

### **Neda Najibi ● The Press as a Consultative Forum (See page 20)**

NEDA NAJIBI is president of Najibi Communications; host for "All Things Considered" and anchor/reporter on Hawaii Public Radio. Previously she was an anchor/reporter for ABC affiliate KLBK Radio in Austin, Texas, and associate producer for CBS affiliate K-EYE TV, Austin, Texas. She is a recipient of the Edward R. Murrow Award and author of *The Ground I Walk On* (1999).

### **Kim Naqvi ● The Modern History of Materialism (See page 18)**

KIM NAQVI is a development and economic geographer at the University of Saskatchewan. Her research includes empirical studies on declining industrial employment and industrial wages, and the implications for development theory and practice, and theoretical studies on the cultural basis of development and economic theory.

### **Gordon Naylor ● The Experience of Moral Capabilities in a High School Setting**

For decades the issue of moral education has been the subject of considerable debate. How do we help our youth develop into moral citizens? Can an educational environment be created that fosters healthy moral development? The most successful

and productive years for moral development are between the ages of ten and sixteen. Therefore, the importance and timeliness of high school programming designed to foster moral development is paramount. This paper presents findings that have been carried out regarding methods to promote moral development in an educational setting. This moral framework is based on the experience of Nur University in Bolivia.

GORDON NAYLOR serves on the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Canada. He is the founder and Executive Director of Nancy Campbell Collegiate Institute, a private, international secondary school which inspires academic excellence within a clear moral framework, and is executive director of Hatts Off, a 200-employee private social service agency.

### **Michael Penn ● Reflections on the Birth and Growth of the Bahá'í Association of Mental Health Professionals**

The Bahá'í Association of Mental Health Professionals (BAMHP) is a nonprofit, Bahá'í-inspired organization designed to serve the intellectual, social, and spiritual needs of practitioners, researchers, and theoreticians who desire to apply the insights contained in the Bahá'í Writings to the mental health professions. The Association seeks to combine the highest scientific and professional knowledge in the field of mental health with ongoing study and application of the Bahá'í Writings to all aspects of mental health education, research, and practice. This presentation will articulate the vision and highlight the conceptual underpinnings of BAMHP and is designed for practitioners and consumers of mental health services.

MICHAEL L. PENN is an associate professor of psychology and a clinical psychologist specializing in the study and treatment of hopelessness-related disorders. His research interests and publications include mind-body relations, the pathogenesis of hopelessness, psychology and spirituality, and the epidemiology of gender-based violence. He is the author of *Overcoming Violence Against Women and Girls* (2003).

### **Phyllis Peterson ● Moral Authority—What's That Again? (See page 19)**

PHYLLIS PETERSON, whose Skylark Publishing Company creates and markets materials for family violence shelters in the U.S. and abroad, is the author of *Assisting the Traumatized Soul: Healing the Wounded Talisman* (Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 1999). She travels extensively, giving workshops on anger management, boundary sculpting, and "authority of self."

### **David Piff (Roundtable on Local Bahá'í Archives and Libraries)**

DAVID PIFF is senior archivist at the National Archives and Records Administration Pacific Region (San Francisco). He served for nearly seventeen years as modern records archivist at the Bahá'í World Centre, where he developed a records management program. Dr. Piff is the author of *Bahá'í Lore* (George Ronald, 2000).

### **Louise Profeit-LeBlanc ● Storytelling and Community in the Bahá'í Faith (See col. 2)**

LOUISE PROFEIT-LEBLANC is the aboriginal arts coordinator for the Canada Council for the Arts in Ottawa. She co-founded the Yukon International Storytelling Festival and has developed workshops utilizing story as a means for community development and cross-cultural communication. Her storytelling draws on the traditions of her ancestors, the Athapaskan people of the Yukon territory of Northern Canada.

### **Mary K. Radpour ● Authenticity, Sexuality, and the Abuse of Power**

This presentation will explore issues of power as they relate to sexuality and spiritual development and suggest that issues of power are at the heart of the three agendas laid out for the American Bahá'í community in Shoghi Effendi's *The Advent of Divine Justice*.

MARY K. RADPOUR is a clinical psychotherapist from Chattanooga, TN. She served the Bahá'í community for fifteen years as a member of the Auxiliary Board and is currently involved in The Authenticity Project, a research project exploring the relationship between spiritual development and mental health.

### **Tuli Rode ● The Sacred Text of Nature: A Weaving Together of Native American, Ecological, and Bahá'í Views (See page 25)**

### **Tuli Rode ● The Seven Valleys: A Seven Step Process to Psycho-Spiritual Development (See page 26)**

TULI RODE, CCHT, is of Apache heritage and a cross-cultural counselor and consultant in Native American resource development for treatment therapies.

### **Nader Saiedi ● Truth: The Báb and the Point**

The Writings of the Báb are an immense and as yet untapped treasury of creative and revolutionary ideas. The philosophical question of truth is a central theme of His Writings throughout all its stages. Analyzing four chronological discussions of truth in the Báb's Writings, we will try to gain a sense of the complex relations, unveiled by the Báb, among *servitude* as an epistemological category, the term *Báb* as representing a specific theory of truth, and the twin stations of the Point as the resolution of the problem of relativism.

NADER SAIEDI is professor of sociology at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, and is the author of *The Birth of Social Theory* and *Logos and Civilization: Spirit, History, and Order in the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh* (2000) as well as numerous articles on Bahá'í Studies in Persian and in English.

### **Carolyn Sawin and Louise Profeit-Leblanc ● Storytelling and Community in the Bahá'í Faith**

Most every Bahá'í is familiar with the stories of the Dawn-Breakers, which are recounted again and again at Bahá'í events throughout the year. As individuals, we also share with others our personal experiences in the Faith, from stories of becoming a Bahá'í to accounts of recent teaching trips. Both of these kinds of stories play an integral part in shaping Bahá'í identity and community life, yet we are seldom conscious of this process. This workshop will examine the nature and role of storytelling in the Bahá'í Faith, and will challenge participants to utilize storytelling in their own lives as Bahá'ís.

CAROLYN SAWIN earned a PhD in anthropology from the University of Washington in 2000. Her doctoral dissertation was an oral history of the Bahá'í Faith among First Nations people in the Yukon. Dr. Sawin has taught anthropology and American Indian Studies at the University of New Hampshire.

**Philip Selznick ● Civility and Piety as Foundations of Community**

PHILIP SELZNICK is professor emeritus in law and sociology at the University of California, Berkeley. Among his most important publications are *TVA and the Grass Roots*; *The Organizational Weapon*; *Leadership in Administration*; *Law and Society in Transition: Toward Responsive Law* (with Philippe Nonet); and *The Moral Commonwealth: Social Theory and the Promise of Community*. His most recent book is *The Communitarian Persuasion*.

**Cynthia Barnes Slater and Shahla Maghzi ● The Birth of Another World: Visions of Justice, Unity and Human Well-Being: A Case Study of Community Change in Oakland, California**

Contemporary social scientific theoretical work offers numerous insights into the contours of social, economic, and racial prejudice and inequality that continue to plague human society. Not only do contemporary findings on social inequality shed light on the current crisis facing communities, they also speak to a need for new models of unified life that seek to promote the well-being of all of its members. This workshop will examine how a Bahá'í community in Oakland has sought to overcome these challenges based on a common commitment to the principle of the oneness of humanity.

CYNTHIA BARNES SLATER is an organizational development professional with twenty years' corporate and public industry experience. She has lived and worked in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the U.S. She has a BA in government from Cornell University and is currently an HR consultant based in Oakland, CA.

**Derik Smith (Panelist, Young Adults on Bahá'í Scholarship, Academia, and Service)**

**Derik Smith and Misha Mayernick ● Coming to Terms with 'Abdu'l-Bahá's "Savages"**

In a number of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's authenticated and unauthenticated texts, allusions to the "savagery" and "barbarism" of African peoples appear to echo a brand of racist rhetoric elemental to eighteenth-century European projects of colonialism. This paper recognizes the potential difficulty that this language presents and attempts to confront the critique of those who would use it to question the authority of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and, by extension, the Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh. The argument attempts to come to terms with 'Abdu'l-Bahá's language by contextualizing it within the rigorous humanism of the foundational Texts of the Bahá'í Faith.

DERIK SMITH is a husband and father currently pursuing his PhD in English literature at Northwestern University. Focusing on twentieth century African-American writing, he is completing a dissertation on poet Robert Hayden. In August of 2003 he will begin teaching as a professor of African-American literature at Arcadia University.

**John Thelen Steere and Tuli Rode ● The Sacred Text of Nature: A Weaving Together of Native American, Ecological, and Bahá'í Views**

Learning the sacred text of nature has been the practice of native peoples worldwide. The primal understanding of humanity as caretaker of the earth has been reawakened through the principles of modern ecology and environmental stewardship. We will weave together traditional teachings from a variety of North American tribes with Bahá'í writings on "the book" of nature, seeking to synthesize their messages to reveal how native peoples had an original sense of Bahá'í principles. Turning away from this sense of reciprocity with nature has been a source of our contemporary ecological crisis. We'll offer antidotes reflecting respect for the sacredness of the Creation.

JOHN THELEN STEERE is an environmental and habitat restoration planner. He is the coauthor of the award-winning *Restoring the Estuary* and numerous articles on habitat partnerships. He is a senior project manager with Sycamore Associates, an ecological consulting firm, and serves on the boards of several environmental nonprofits. He holds a BA from Harvard College

and a joint master's degree in city and regional planning and landscape architecture from U.C. Berkeley.

**Michelle Thelen-Steere and Tuli Rode ● The Seven Valleys: A Seven Step Process to Psycho-Spiritual Development**

The Recovery Model for addictions and trauma has been used for over seventy years. While helpful for many, it is an incomplete paradigm for the transformation of self. In our presentation, we will explore the concepts of *Uncovery* and *Discovery* as adjuncts to the Recovery process. This three-fold method is adapted from *The Seven Valleys and the Four Valleys*.

MICHELLE THELEN-STEERE, MA, CHT, is a cross-cultural counselor with years of experience with over forty countries. Speaking both Spanish and English, she is the bilingual family therapist at Huckleberry Teen Health Program and has a private practice as well.

**Robert H. Stockman ● Bahá'í Community Building in North America: A Historical Perspective**

The history of the Bahá'í Faith in North America, in a sense, is a history of community building. Americans were often attracted to the Bahá'í Faith because of their yearning for true community, whether that vision was millennial and biblical, individualistic, or utopian. The approach of American Bahá'ís to community building has gone through at least three phases over the last century: (1) the Bahá'í Movement as the leaven for civilization (1905–1921); (2) the Bahá'í Administrative Order as the Instrument for Civilizing Humanity (1921–1970s); and (3) Building Institutions of the Community (1970s to the present).

ROBERT H. STOCKMAN is coordinator of the Research Office at the U.S. Bahá'í National Center; director of the Wilmette Institute; and an instructor of religious studies at DePaul University in Chicago. Among his publications are *The Bahá'í Faith in America*, volumes 1 and 2, and *Thornton Chase: The First American Bahá'í*.

**June Manning Thomas ● Secret of Divine Civilization: Contemporary Applications**

In 1875, 'Abdu'l-Bahá advised the people of Persia how to bring about progress. He focused on the need for the "spiritually learned" to exemplify certain qualities of leadership and building up civilization rather than promulgating war. Since that time much has changed, and much has not; contemporary society continues to struggle with similar issues. This paper will summarize the basic themes, note guidance on those themes as recently described by the Universal House of Justice, and suggest the nature of the dialogue that needs to take place in order to create divine civilization.

JUNE MANNING THOMAS, FAICP, is professor of urban and regional planning at Michigan State University. Her books include *Redevelopment and Race: Planning a Finer City in Postwar Detroit* (winner of the Paul Davidoff Award) and *Planning Progress: Lessons from Shoghi Effendi*. Her research focuses on the interaction of racial change, social justice, and urban planning, with a strong focus in recent years on community development.

**Richard W. Thomas ● Workshop: Multiracial Community Building Among the Bahá'ís in the U.S., 1912–2000**

This workshop will focus on how Bahá'ís in the U.S. used the teachings on racial amity and unity to guide their efforts in building a multiracial community, beginning with African Americans and Europeans, eventually including Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, and Iranian Americans. In the process, the Bahá'í community has become one of the most multiracial religious communities in the United States. Participants will be asked to share their stories of multiracial community building.

RICHARD W. THOMAS is a professor of history at Michigan State University, where he has taught since 1971. His books include *Detroit: Race and Uneven Development*; *Racial Unity: An Imperative for Social Progress*; *Life for Us Is What We Make It: Building the Black Community in Detroit*; and *Understanding Interracial Unity: A Study of U.S. Race Relations*.

### **Pauline Tuttle (Roundtable on Local Bahá'í Libraries and Archives)**

PAULINE TUTTLE is adjunct professor, School of Music, University of Victoria, British Columbia, and director, Kalakwahti Studies Centre, Lake Cowichan, BC. Dr. Tuttle has published numerous articles and papers in the field of ethnomusicology.

### **Bradley R. Wilson • Conceptualizing and Performing Bahá'í-Centered Social Research (See page 16)**

BRADLEY R. WILSON is a graduate student in geography at Rutgers University. His research examines the intersection of the political economy of the coffee industry and the cultural politics of globalization. The project aims to link together the often divisive categories of theory and practice to find ways to enliven positive social and economic change.

## **Artists Performing**

SUSANNA CHUBARIAN has a master's degree from the Rachmaninoff Conservatory in Rostov-on-Don. She has performed in Rostov's Lyric Opera and Philharmonic and has had leading roles in *Carmen*, *La Bohème*, *Eugene Onegin*, and *Rigoletto*, among others. She was regional finalist in the Metropolitan Opera auditions in 2000.

MERRILL COLLINS has a master's degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. She has produced performances for many major events and broadcasts, including the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, Airlift to Africa, In Concert Against Aids, Human Rights Day, and World Habitat Day.

JOHN DAVEY-HATCHER has performed the role of Piangi in the Toronto production of the *Phantom of the Opera* and many other roles in Canada and the U.S. He is a member of the San Francisco Opera Chorus and music director of the award-winning Adda Clevenger Youth Chorus of San Francisco.

KALIMBA SOUNDZ was put together by Sammy Suchie Nortey, a Ghanaian cultural dancer, singer, and master percussionist. The group includes Nii

AMAH NAT HAMMOND, master drummer and vocalist; and POPE FLYNE, a prolific songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, master drummer, and choreographer from Ghana.

THE KAROUN DANCE ENSEMBLE OF ST. JOHN ARMENIAN CHURCH has been performing for Armenian cultural events and international festivals around the Bay Area since 1999, promoting appreciation for the beautiful tradition of Armenian dance and music, as well as awareness of their rich and ancient culture. The dancers have all been inspired by their travels to Armenia and by their close connection to their heritage.

FARZAD KHOZEIN, who is classically trained, combines contemporary classical music with elements of Mideastern folkloric (reflecting his heritage), Latin (influenced by time spent living in South America where he was concertmaster of the National Symphony Orchestra of Ecuador), other world musics, new age, and smooth jazz. His latest album is *Mirror of Emotions*.

CAROLYN MACKAY'S musical development has encompassed a variety of disciplines—ballet and choreography, clarinet and guitar, poetry and songwriting. She has performed extensively on Celtic harp and also performs in the vocalist harp trio AnamCara. She has recorded her haunting Celtic spiritual music in the CDs *O Most Mighty Ocean!* and *Suite: Mothers & Angels*.

SEWARD MCCAIN, a well-known bass player, has toured with James Moody, Vince Guaraldi, Diane Schuur, Cleo Laine, Rosemary Clooney, and many more. He and his wife Wendy also teach music and have joined forces in songwriting. They will be including some of their original compositions in their musical line-up.

WENDY ROSE MCCAIN is a long-time professional singer. Her career highlights include sharing the stage with Dizzy Gillespie and performing with the Peace Orchestra at the Louis Gregory Institute.

MARY SANO, director of Mary Sano and Her Duncan Dancers, is a third generation Duncan dancer and a protégée of Mignon Garland, founder of the Isadora Duncan Heritage Society. Ms. Sano has been performing and teaching Duncan dance and her own choreography internationally over twenty years. In 1997 she opened the

Mary Sano Studio of Duncan Dancing in San Francisco.

NAIYRY SARKISSOF was born in Lebanon of Armenian descent. She started playing piano at age six, studied at the Conservatoire National de Leban, and received her bachelor's degree in music from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. She has appeared as a soloist in many cities and currently teaches privately.

KRISTINE SINAJON is a mezzo-soprano currently working toward a bachelor of music degree at San Francisco State University. She is a featured soloist on the SFSU Chamber Singers' CD entitled *A Heart's Journey*. Kristine is active in the Music Ministry of the Catholic Archdiocese and has been cantoring for ten years.

KAMAL SINCLAIR STEELE is the founder and Artistic Director of Universal Arts. She has collaborated with Baakari Wilder (Noise/Funk), Mustafa Shakir (winner of 1998 National Black Theater's Hottest Poet Award), Ayodele Casel, and Robbie McCauley, among others. Previously, Steele made her living as a dancer and choreographer (STOMP, 1998 Emmy Awards).

ASAKO TAKAMI has taught and performed Indian dance extensively throughout Japan and in the U.S. She was nominated by the Isadora Duncan Awards Committee as a finalist for the best performance in 2000. Currently she teaches Odissi dance (one of the seven main forms of Indian classical dance) in the Bay Area.

TENNESSEE VALLEY ORCHESTRA is a community chamber orchestra which brings musicians from Marin County and the Bay Area together to rehearse and perform classical repertoire. The orchestra includes a music director, auditioned amateur musicians, and professional musicians in educative, principal, and soloist positions.

CARL WAKELAND has a bachelor of music degree in piano. As a jazz musician in Hawaii, Carl performed with jazz and Hawaiian legends Freddie Hubbard, Stan Getz, Richie Cole, and Gabe Baltazar.

HONG WANG is a graduate of Nanjing Normal University's Music Department where he studied *erhu* (Chinese fiddle). He is a Chinese instruments instructor and consultant at Laney College in

Oakland and at the San Francisco Community Music School, and is an active participant in Young Imaginations, a multicultural arts education agency in Marin County, California.

YANGQIN ZHAO, prophetically named after the instrument she has become famous for playing, is one of the foremost *yangqin* (Chinese hammered dulcimer) performers in the world, having been elected to the prestigious Chinese Musicians Association and the Chinese Nationalities Orchestra Society. She is an honors graduate of Nanjing Normal University's Music Department and was head of its faculty of instrumental music.

### Conference Organization

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*Conference Coordinator* Parvin Rowhani

*Deputy Coordinator* Luisa Priddy

*Arts Program* Nushin Mavaddat

*Children's and Junior Youth Program* Faiza Salter, Greg Weiler, Jenny Mennon

*Devotions* Nushin Mavaddat

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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.

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