

ABS Bulletin

A PUBLICATION OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR BAHÁ'Í STUDIES—NORTH AMERICA

Hushmand Fatheazam is 2008 Balyuzi Lecturer



Hushmand Fatheazam

The Executive Committee has announced that Mr. Hushmand Fatheazam will deliver the 26th Hasan M. Balyuzi Memorial Lecture at the Annual Conference of the Association for Bahá'í Studies. The conference will be held at the San Diego Marriott La Jolla over the weekend of 29 August–1 September 2008. The conference theme is “Religion and Social Cohesion.”

Mr. Fatheazam served on the Universal House of Justice from its first election in 1963 until he retired in 2003. Born in Tehran, Iran, he holds master's degrees in arts from Tehran University and Wiswa Bharati

University in India. He worked as a curator at the library of the Faculty of Arts at Tehran University.

After moving to India, he held the post of lecturer in Persian literature at Punjab University and was staff artist at All-India Radio from 1955 to 1963. During that period, he was secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of India and was managing director of the Bahá'í Publishing Trust, New Delhi.

He is a poet, author, and playwright, and his introduction to the Bahá'í Faith, *The New Garden*, has been translated into some 109 languages. 🌸

Social and Economic Development. He was appointed to the International Teaching Centre in 2003 and was elected to the Universal House of Justice in 2005.

Joy DeGruy Leary holds a Bachelor of Science degree in communications, a master's degree in social work, a master's degree in psychology, and a PhD in social work research. She is an assistant professor at Portland State University. Dr. Leary's seminars have been lauded as the most dynamic and inspirational currently being presented

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San Diego Conference speakers



Joy DeGruy Leary

A stellar roster of speakers will be presenting at this year's Annual Conference including Member of the Universal House of Justice Paul Lample, Joy DeGruy Leary, and Robert Rosenfeld.

Paul Lample, an author and educator, holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, and a Master of Science degree from National University in San Diego, California. In the early 1990s Mr. Lample served on the National Teaching Committee of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States. In 1994 he moved to the Bahá'í World Centre to serve as coordinator of the Office of

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Wilfrid Laurier University Press and ABS launch new Bahá'í Studies Series

The Association for Bahá'í Studies has launched an exciting new initiative to co-publish a Bahá'í Studies Series with Wilfrid Laurier University Press in Waterloo, Ontario.

WLU Press, founded in 1974, is well known as an outstanding scholarly publisher, publishing titles in the fields of history, philosophy, literature, sociology, life writing, social work, native studies, women studies, religious studies, and fine art. The press had already published a major book on a Bahá'í topic, Will van den Hoonaard's study, *The Origins of the Bahá'í Community of Canada, 1898–1948*.

The Wilfrid Laurier Bahá'í Studies Series will publish monographs and other works of distinction in Bahá'í Studies, including the study of the Sacred Texts, theology, law, teachings, and principles of the Bahá'í Faith as well as the history of the Bahá'í religion (including its precursor movements, the *Shaykhí* school and the Bábí religion), its central figures, and the development of the Bahá'í community.

The series also encompasses the application of Bahá'í teachings and principles to the needs of humanity including (but not limited to) peace, human rights, ethics, governance,

development, gender and family, the environment, the arts, race and ethnic relations, and Aboriginal peoples.

For more information about submitting a proposal for a book, contact the series co-editors: Anne Furlong and Wendy Heller, e-mail: <series@bahai-studies.ca>.

The first volume in the new series is *Gate of the Heart: Understanding the Writings of the Báb*, by Nader Saiedi. This volume is the first in-depth introduction to the writings of the Báb. It explores the Báb's major works in multifaceted context, explaining their overall message and

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Annual conference speakers

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on the topics of culture, race relations, and contemporary social issues. Her clients have included academic institutions such as Oxford University, Harvard University, Columbia University, Fisk University, Smith College, Morehouse College, and the University of Chicago.

Robert Rosenfeld is the founder of Idea Connection Systems, a company dedicated to releasing an organization's creative potential, serving public, private and international clients, including many Fortune 200 companies as well as regional and national governmental agencies. He is the author (with John Kolstoe) of *Making the Invisible Visible: The Human Principles for Sustaining Innovation*. In 2001, he served on the Commission on Race and Ethnicity, charged to address issues of race in the Rochester, New York, community. He spearheaded the development of Mosaic Partnerships—an innovative

process for breaking down barriers between races.

The Young Scholars Panel has become a favorite feature of the plenary program. This year the panel will be coordinated by Chitra Golestani-Maghzi, who is a graduate student in Comparative Education at UCLA.

Call for presentations

It's not too late to submit a proposal for the conference. For the conference theme statement, submission form, and guidelines for submission, please visit the ABS Web site <www.bahai-studies.ca>. Proposals must be submitted online. Presentations must be substantially original work, unpublished and not previously presented. Papers will be considered for publication in the *Journal of Bahá'í Studies*.

If you would like further assistance with preparing a proposal, please contact ABS, 34 Copernicus St., Ottawa, ON Canada K1N 7K4; tel.: (613) 233-

1903; fax: (613) 233-3644; e-mail: <abs-na@bahai-studies.ca>. The deadline for submissions is **15 April 2008**.

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The **ABS Bulletin** (ISSN 0840-6138) is published quarterly by the Association for Bahá'í Studies, a nonprofit scholarly organization with 1487 international open memberships and 118 institutional memberships. The Association promotes scholarship on all aspects of the Bahá'í Faith; holds conferences and seminars on promising research fields; develops courses, lectureships, and other formal presentations relating Bahá'í principles to scholarly research fields; and publishes books, as well as the refereed *Journal of Bahá'í Studies*.

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ABS announces endowment fund prizes for distinguished scholarship

The Association for Bahá'í Studies–North America Endowment Fund was established in 2007 by anonymous donors. The purpose of the endowment is to recognize the accomplishment of contributions to Bahá'í scholarship by awarding prizes. All fields of Bahá'í scholarship may be considered for this award but preference will be given to scholarly work that correlates the Bahá'í teachings with contemporary issues. The prize is intended to stimulate and encourage research in Bahá'í studies.

Nominations will be invited from Association members each year (see below). Two prizes will be awarded to individuals at the Annual Conference of the Association on the basis of demonstrated excellence in generating Bahá'í scholarship.

The first prize, in the amount of \$4,000, will recognize the publication of a major study that advances our collective understanding of the Bahá'í teachings and, where appropriate, that correlates Bahá'í teachings to contemporary issues. Books will have to have already been published or been accepted for publication. In the latter case a letter from the publisher is required attesting that the book has been accepted and giving an expected date of publication. This prize will be designated as the Association for Bahá'í Studies–North America Prize for Distinguished Scholarship, Book Category (ABS Book Prize).

The second prize in the amount of \$2,000 will recognize the work of a graduate student who has recently completed a graduate thesis. The student will already have graduated or his/her thesis been accepted for graduation. In the latter case, a letter from the supervisor or the person responsible for Graduate Studies is required

attesting that the thesis has been accepted and indicating the date of graduation. This prize will be designated as the Association for Bahá'í Studies–North America Prize for Distinguished Scholarship, Graduate Thesis Category (ABS Thesis Prize).

In both cases, while at levels necessarily different, the works being considered for the prizes will represent significant contributions to knowledge in the field of Bahá'í Studies.

Prizes will be adjudicated by the Awards Adjudication Committee appointed by the Executive Committee of the Association for Bahá'í Studies. The Executive Committee will review and approve the recommendation of the Adjudication Committee.

Call for nominations

The Association for Bahá'í Studies–North America invites nominations for each of the two prizes created under the auspices of the Association for Bahá'í Studies–North America Endowment Fund: the \$4,000 Association for Bahá'í Studies–North America Prize for Distinguished Scholarship, Book Category (ABS Book Prize) and the \$2,000 Association for Bahá'í Studies–North America Prize for Distinguished Scholarship, Graduate Thesis Category (ABS Thesis Prize).

All nominations will provide the following documentation:

- A cover letter outlining the reasons for making the nomination. The cover letter should not be more than two pages long.
- A copy of the published book or of the bound thesis
- In the case of a book having not yet been published but having been

accepted for publication, a letter from the publisher confirming that the book has been accepted for publication and indicating the date of publication

- In the case of a graduate student having yet to convocate but his/her thesis having been accepted for graduation, a letter from the supervisor or from the person responsible for Graduate Studies attesting that the thesis has been accepted and indicating the date of convocation.

- A resume of the nominee's curriculum vitae stressing both salient academic and service activities. The resume should not be more than one page.

Nominations with accompanying documentation should be sent to Association for Bahá'í Studies–North America, attention: Executive Director, Centre for Bahá'í Studies, 34 Copernicus Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1N 7K4. Nominations can be emailed to <abs-na@bahai-studies.ca> or faxed to 613-233-3644 with supporting documents to follow by regular mail or courier.

Nominations should be received at the Centre for Bahá'í Studies post-marked **15 May 2008**, midnight, at the latest. Any applications received after this date will not be considered. Please note that no material will be returned to the person or persons submitting the nomination. Pending unforeseen events, the Adjudication Committee will make its recommendation to the Executive Committee on 15 June, the Executive Committee will make its final decision on 1 July, and the winners will be informed on 5 July. The winners will be presented with their prizes at the annual conference of the Association for Bahá'í Studies to be held in San Diego (La Jolla), California from 29 August to 1 September 2008.

Annual conference information

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Registration and hotel information

Conference registration forms and hotel information are available on the ABS Web site: <www.bahai-studies.ca>. For further inquiries, please contact the Association for Bahá'í Studies at the address above.

Hotel reservations must be made directly with the conference hotel, the San Diego Marriott La Jolla, 4240 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla, CA, 92037; tel.: 858-587-1414; toll-free reservation number: 800-228-9200. Mention the Association for Bahá'í Studies conference to receive the special conference rate. Room rates: \$109 single/double; \$129 triple/quad.

Children's and Junior Youth Program

Every year the Annual Conference Children's Program Team works hard to put together a stimulating and educational program of educational activities for children and junior youth, aged 5 to 15. This year is no excep-

tion—so why not bring the whole family to the ABS Annual Conference? The Children's Conference program will include speakers from the main conference as well as other activities addressing the conference theme. Note to parents: children must be preregistered by **31 July 2008**. For more information, call the ABS office, tel.: 613-233-1903.

Laurier Bahá'í Studies series

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the theological-mystical system and worldview they embody, as well as identifying the key themes, terms, and concepts of each stage of the Báb's writings.

Advance praise for "Gate of the Heart"

"A pioneering and groundbreaking work.... provides fundamental keys for understanding some of the distinctive features of the Writings of the Báb" (Vahid Rafati, of the Centre for the Study of the Text).

"A masterpiece. It is not an exaggeration to say that for the first time

in history a scholar who is well versed in Persian, Arabic, social science, especially sociology (including the sociology of religion and sociology of knowledge), and with a great knowledge of the Bahá'í Holy Scriptures, has produced a scholarly introduction to the Writings of the Báb, His station, and Bábí Law." (Nosratollah Muhammadhosseini, author, *The Báb*).

"*Gate of the Heart* is the first text to provide a holistic overview of the foundational texts of the Bahá'í religion, the work of the Persian prophet known as the Báb. With special emphasis on the Báb's symbolism and logic, it is based on meticulous scholarship and profound spiritual understanding. At the same time, it elucidates both the historic significance and contemporary relevance of the Báb's writings.

Written in a clear and engaging style, *Gate of the Heart* is a welcome contribution to Bahá'í Studies, the study of World Religions, and the study of Spirituality" (Tamara Sonn, The College of William & Mary).

Copies can be purchased directly from the ABS Online Bookstore. See enclosed flier for a special pre-publication offer for ABS members only! 🌟

Street in Rome named after Bahá'í scholar Alessandro Bausani

A street in Rome has been named in honor of Professor Alessandro Bausani (1921–1988). The decision was taken by the Municipal Council following a favorable vote from the Advisory Commission responsible for street names.

The street named after the famous professor and orientalist is situated in zone XLVIII (Casalotti) of the city of Rome and starts from the existing Casal Selce Street.

Raniero Gnoli, retired Professor of Indology, recalled of the great scholar: "One of the most extraordinary figures in our school (Rome's School of Oriental Studies) was Alessandro Bausani, who taught there from 1963 to 1985. Alessandro Bausani was a

man of great intellectual curiosity regarding wide-ranging aspects of culture and was gifted with an incredible predisposition to learning languages and speaking them with particular fluency; his interests were mainly religious. His translation of the Qur'án is by far the best one in Italian.

"He approached Islam—including its modern and, particularly, its Indian form—with a sympathy unknown to many Western scholars, and his translation of the poet Iqbal is very well known.

As is often the case with great loves, Islam itself didn't spare him his share of disappointment and bitterness. Alessandro Bausani belonged to

the Bahá'í Faith, whose persecution, begun during Qájár rule, worsened under the ayatollahs' regime, so that he was unable to return to the Persia he so loved.

"Bausani also studied astronomy and astrology and was an excellent mathematician, to the point that he was chosen as a member of the judging commission for a math exam. For selfish reasons (but not only for those) Alessandro Bausani is one of the friends whose death I regret the most, and every time I find myself facing a particularly difficult problem I say to myself: If only Bausani were still here!" —*Office of Media Relations, National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Italy*