

ABS Bulletin

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

Washington conference program announced

It's not too late to make plans to attend the 33rd Annual Conference of the Association for Bahá'í Studies—North America! The conference, on the theme “Environments,” will be held 13–16 August 2009, at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington D. C.

The conference will open Thursday morning with several general sessions as well as the Student/Faculty Development Program (see page 4 for details).

A special all-day workshop on Thursday will explore the topic “Engaging the Writings: Scholarship and a Broad Pattern of Action.” Participants will be invited to examine excerpts from the Writings and identify insights on how to engage in and develop new approaches toward scholarship that advance Bahá'í Studies in areas such as global social and economic prosperity, defense of the Faith and the explanation and exploration of its teachings, and correlation of the teachings with the works in various disciplines. The afternoon session, “Some Explorations in Applying Bahá'í Scholarship,” will seek to connect knowledge with a cycle of learning, reflection and action with an emphasis on making a positive contribution to improving society. Presenters Dorothy Marcic, Peter Engstrom, and

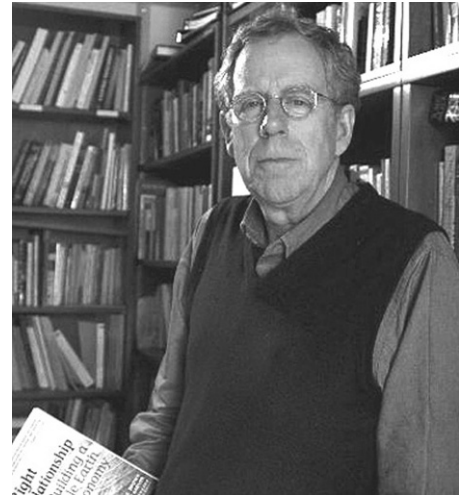
Johann Wong are from the arts, business and social development arenas and exemplify a strong commitment to putting principles into action.

Also on Thursday afternoon, the International Environment Forum (IEF) will host a workshop led by Arthur Dahl on “Values-Based Indicators of Sustainable Development,” which welcomes all who are



interested in learning about and contributing thoughts to an EU-funded project to develop values-based indicators of sustainable development. Dr. Dahl is senior consultant to the project, which is being jointly undertaken by a number of interested European-based organizations, inspired in part by the Bahá'í International Community's statement, “Valuing Spirituality in Development.”

Thursday evening's plenary session will feature Dr. Dahl's presentation, “Transforming Environments from the Inside Out.”



Peter Brown will speak in the International Environment Forum panel

The Friday morning plenary session organized by the IEF and moderated by Tahirih Naylor of the Bahá'í International Community will address the topic, “Global Governance, Human Maturity, and the Challenge of Sustainability.”

This session will explore the emerging need for more effective international environmental governance in light of the widespread acknowledgement that current approaches are insufficient to safeguard the interests of an increasingly interdependent world. The emergence of a global consciousness of

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Conference breakout sessions

Breakout sessions at the conference will include the following presentations:

Naseem Alizadeh, "Building within Our Means"

Nancy Joy Allchin, Rehema Clarcken, and Dara Gay Shaw, "Online English Teacher Roundtable"

Nathalie Auger, "Are Allusions to Global Warming Present in the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh?"

Kamilla Bahbahani, Marie Gervais, Peter Cromwell, and Lee Brown, "Bahá'ís Grapple with Racism"

Samuel Benoit, "Faith in Environmentalism"

Sandra J. Bean, "Extremes of Wealth and Poverty: What is the Impact of Well-Meant Economic Policies on Health and Well-being in Developing Countries"

Maya Bohnhoff and Stephen Friberg, "Progressive Revelation as the Bahá'í Answer to New Atheism"

Bret Breneman, "Gerard Manley Hopkins and the 'Nature' of the Environment"

Rana Chang and Shahla Bolbolan, "Achieving Equality Through Chastity, Modesty, and Marriage: A New Radical Feminism?"

Reed F. Curry, "Information and Knowledge: What is 'Knowledge' in the Information Age?"

Carol Curtis and Tahirih Naylor, presenters, with co-facilitators Duncan Hanks and Peter Adriance, "Climate Ethics"

Marjan Davoudi, "Raising a Child as the Creator of Light, not a Subject to the Dark Side of the Environment"

David Kalim Diehl, "Getting Noticed and Making a Mark: The

Challenges of Interdisciplinarity for Bahá'í Studies"

Hamid Farabi and Ruhyyih Farabi, "Environment and Its Effects on the Spiritual Life of Man"

Fahdad Fani, "Providing an Environment for a Constructive Discussion between Science and Religion"

Khosrow Farahbakhsh, "Organic Unity and the Second Law of Thermodynamics"

Marie Gervais, "'Eat Ye, O People': The Role of Food and Hospitality in Bahá'í Intercultural Relations"

William P. Gregg, "Bahá'í Gardens as Catalysts for Neighborhood Transformation"

Brian Guequierre, "Thoughts on Water"

Brett D. Hartman, "Restoring the Earth's Resources: A Bahá'í Perspective: Where the Land Is Hurting, the People Are Hurting"

Ian Harris, "Human Rights for the Entire Bahá'í Community: Using a Group-Oriented Minority Rights Framework to Advocate for the Bahá'í Community"

Ingrid Hauck, "Creating Sacred Spaces: A Bahá'í Perspective on Feng Shui"

Amrollah Hemmat, "Beyond Feminism: Tahirih's Life and Writings"

Darius Himes, "Figures of Speech and Thought: Implications of Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation for Contemporary Art and its Relation to the Community of the Greatest Name"

Camille N. Khodadad, "Seeking a Work Environment Conducive to the Development of Human Potential"

Mehrzad Khorsandi, "In Search of a Balanced, Generative, Emergent

and Environmentally Responsive Architecture/Construction Curriculum"

Ian Kluge, "The Writings, Philosophy, and the Human Environment"

Samir Koirala, Dave Wellman, and Mitra Solomon, "Footprints of the Future: Visions of Human Civilization a Century from Now (and How to Get There)"

Katharine Kripke, "The Old World Order, the New World Order, and Ending HIV/AIDS"

Emily Lample, "Knowledge in Action: Consonance between Students' Understandings of Social Problems and Their Participation in Community"

Dale E. Lehman, "What Bahá'ís Think about Science and Religion"

Susan Maneck, "Accusations against Bahá'ís within the Context of Islamic Heresiography"

Couros Meharian, Ian Kluge, and Dinesh Singh (moderator, Robert Stockman), "Apologetics Program: Answering Irreligion"

The **ABS Bulletin** (ISSN 0840-6138) is published quarterly by the Association for Bahá'í Studies, a nonprofit scholarly organization with 1579 international open memberships and 71 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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Robert Michell, "The Casting Down of Turquoise (Poems on Prophets, Saints, and Ordinary Angels)"

Kavian Milani, Gloria Yazdani, and Hossein Ashchi (moderator, Susan Maneck) "Apologetics Program: Answering Muslim Critics"

Maral Moradipour, Harsh Pancholi, Rolando Aguilera, and Nysa Pilbrow, "(Dis)Orienting Discourse in a Bahá'í Social Landscape"

Pejman Mosleh, "Saving Sohrab: Tracing the Bahá'í Faith in Contemporary Persian Fiction"

Elena Mustakova-Possardt, Patricia McGraw, and Michael Penn, "Creating Healthy Social Environments: Positive and Sustainable Communities"

Lex Musta, "Transforming African-Descent Environments through Museums"

Kayhan Nadji, "The Effect of Environment and Nature in Architecture"

Fazel Naghdy, "The Bahá'í Community as a Learning Organization"

Anne Gordon Perry, "Approaching the Centenary of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's 1912 Visit to America: Preparation, Research, Commemorative Projects"

Jennifer Phillips, Dan Enslow, and Lev Rickards, "The Wisdom of Crowds: Unexpected Realities of Consultation and Groups"

Robert L. Rogers, "'Green' Starts With the Letter 'S'"

Naomi Rohrer, "Teaching Oral English Online Through SKYPE (VOIP)"

Nousha Ram, "Principle-Based Leadership in Turbulent Times"

Ariana Salvo, "Translating Values into Practices: Exploring a New Framework for Positive Change in Prince Edward Island's Farming Community"

Payam Sazegar, "Materialism and

Health: A Bahá'í Perspective"

Ben Schewel, "Scriptural Reasoning and the Bahá'í Faith"

Pooya Shoghi, "'Bahá'í Elitism' and the Class-Based Dynamics of the 'New Anti-Bahá'ism' in Iran"

Dinesh Singh, "Concepts of Space, Time, and Causality in Relation to the Bahá'í Writings"

Lawrence Staudt and Anne Gillette, "Assisting the World's Transition to a Sustainable Energy Future"

Deborah Clark Vance, "Naming Names: The Power to Control the Meaning of Media Symbols"

James P. West and Marzieh West, "Environment and Economics: More than Meets the Eye"

Debbie Wilke and Nancy McKeand, "On Track With Marco, a Computerized High Beginner English Program"

Michael Winger-Bearskin, "Grab the Future: The Innovation Imperative"

Mina Yazdani, "Scapegoating Bahá'í:



Washington, D.C. (Photo by Jake McGuire, courtesy Washington D. C. Visitors and Convention Bureau)

The Clergy, the State, and Mob Violence in Twentieth-Century Iran." ❧

Panel on university courses (Saturday)

A panel presentation and discussion will be held at the annual conference Saturday on "Fostering the Creation and Delivery of Courses on the Bahá'í Faith at universities and colleges. It will be chaired by Pierre-Yves Mocquais, Academic Director, Association for Bahá'í Studies.

In 1974, the Universal House of Justice called on the Canadian Bahá'í community to "cultivate opportunities for formal presentations, courses and lectureships on the Bahá'í Faith in Canadian universities and other institutions of higher learning." The Association for Bahá'í Studies – North America made this goal an integral part of its mandate, and over the last three decades, many such courses, both credit and noncredit, have been prepared and taught at universities and colleges across North America. These efforts have been attentively observed and commended by the Universal House of Justice.

At this workshop, panelists will share their experiences with mounting such courses, addressing challenges and opportunities related to how courses were started, reflecting on questions of content and methodology, as well as on lessons learned. The main focus of the discussion will be on ways to enhance the development of such courses in "universities and other institutions of higher learning" and support the mandate given to the Association for Bahá'í Studies.

Plenary program

Continued from page 1

oneness and the requisite degree of human maturity required to ensure a transition from national to global governance approaches will also be examined.

Peter Adriance, NGO Liaison for the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the U.S., will present on "The Essential Role of Religion in Fostering a Sustainable World." Next, featured presenter Peter G. Brown will address the conference. Dr. Brown is

co-author of the book, *Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy* (February 2009). The book, which was written by a cooperative group, emerged from the Quaker tradition of dialogue and truth-seeking. The Moral Economy Project and the authors start with the idea that human well-being is entirely dependent on the well-being of the whole commonwealth of life. Dr. Brown's reflections have garnered strong interest from leaders of thought on the themes of global governance,

human maturity, and sustainability.

The presentation will begin by defining the concepts of "right relationship," the "commonwealth of life," and "whole earth economy". Dr. Brown will then introduce five key questions: What is the economy for? How does it work? How big should it be? What is a fair distribution of its benefits and burdens? How should it be governed?

Following this presentation, Arthur Dahl, President of the International Environment Forum, will respond and discuss, with audience participation.

In the evening, along with the presentation of the Association for Bahá'í Studies Awards, there will be an Evening with the Arts.

Saturday morning's plenary will begin with a presentation by Soli Shahvar, director of the Ezri Centre at Haifa University and author of *The Forgotten Schools: Baha'is and Modern Education in Iran 1899-1934* (I.B. Tauris International Library of Iranian Studies, 2009), followed by a panel on "Social Environment and Building Bahá'í Community Identity" with Payam Akhavan, Kit Bigelow, and Mark Perry.

Payam Akhavan will discuss, in light of recent developments, the emerging need for a new Iranian Bahá'í identity, not as victims but as an important social force poised to provide leadership for the reconstruction of Iran.

Kit Bigelow will explore the Bahá'í teachings on the important role language and speech play and their relevance for changing our current cultural, social, and human environments. Mark Perry's presentation will discuss "Annulling Differences of Race: The American Bahá'í Experience and Beyond." Dr. Perry

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Faculty/Student workshop program (Thursday)

In a letter dated 24 April 2008, written on behalf of the Universal House of Justice, it is stated:

The House of Justice is fully committed to fostering the development of Bahá'í scholarly activity in all parts of the Bahá'í world. Through their scholarly endeavours believers are able to enrich the intellectual life of the Bahá'í community, to explore new insights into the Bahá'í teachings and their relevance to the needs of society, and to attract the investigation of the Faith by thoughtful people from all backgrounds. Far from being a diversion from the worldwide effort to advance the process of entry by troops, Bahá'í scholarship can be a powerful reinforcement to that endeavour and a valuable source of new enquirers.

It is in this context that the Association for Bahá'í Studies is organizing a special program for university faculty and students at the Washington, D. C., conference to be held from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday 13 August 2009. After a keynote address by member of the Continental Board of Counsellors Ann Boyles, the workshops will be facilitated by Ann Boyles, Valerie Davis, Pierre-Yves Mocquais (Academic Director of the Association for Bahá'í Studies), and David Smith. Topics of consultation will include the study of guidance on the role and place of scholarship in the context of the global plans of the Faith, specifically the process of growth and associated core activities; reflection on how to contribute to contemporary thought and engage in discourse and practice in academic fields; sharing of best practices in the mentoring of students and young adults and the creation of dynamic campus associations and clubs; and considerations on the relationship between scholarship and social action when raising awareness in academic circles regarding the situation of the Bahá'ís in Iran being denied access to post-secondary education.

“ENVIRONMENTS”

Association for Bahá'í Studies
 33rd Annual Conference, 13–16 August, 2009
 Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC, USA

Please register for EACH person attending the conference by *fax*: 1-613-233-3644, by *phone*: 1-613-233-1903, *online* at <http://www.bahai-studies.ca> or by *mail*: 34 Copernicus Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1N 7K4.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province/State _____

Country _____ Postal/ZIP Code _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

If this registrant is a child, please indicate age _____ Do you have any special needs? _____

← Please circle one fee.

		Full Conference Fee (4 days)		One-Day Fee	
		ABS Member	Non-Member	ABS Member	Non-Member
Individual Adults	By June 30	\$80	\$140*	\$30	\$50**
	By July 31	\$90	\$150*	\$30	\$50**
	After July 31	\$100	\$160*	\$40	\$60**
Couples	By June 30	\$130	\$200*	n/a	n/a
	By July 31	\$140	\$210*	n/a	n/a
	After July 31	\$150	\$220*	n/a	n/a
Seniors (65+)/ Students/ Unwaged	By June 30	\$60	\$90*	\$20	\$25**
	By July 31	\$70	\$100*	\$20	\$25**
	After July 31	\$80	\$110*	\$25	\$30**
Children (ages 5–15) <u>must</u> be registered by July 31		\$60		\$30	
Special Discounts		Senior couple: 10% off total registration fee			
		Family: 20% off total registration fee***			

ALL CONFERENCE FEES
 ARE IN US DOLLARS

*This fee includes a 1-year membership in the Association, including a year's subscription to *The Journal of Bahá'í Studies* and ABS Bulletin, and discounts on ABS publications and conferences. U.S. memberships are charged at the U.S. currency rate.

**This fee does not include membership.

***Parents and dependent children living at the same address (3 persons minimum)

Total Fees: _____

Scholarship _____

Contribution: _____

GRAND TOTAL _____

Method of Payment

- Cheque Money Order
 VISA MasterCard American Express

 Credit Card Number

 Credit Card Expiration Date

 Cardholder's Name (please print clearly)

 Cardholder's Signature

CANCELLATION POLICY: Registration fees are refundable, less 10% administrative fees if the Association is notified by July 31, and less 20% administrative fees if notified after July 31.

Registrants from outside Canada, please note: fees paid by credit card are processed in Canada. Some credit card companies apply a service charge for transactions taking place in another Country.

HOTEL AND RESERVATIONS

The conference hotel is the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, situated on 16 acres of beautiful gardens and adjacent to the Woodley Park Metro, this hotel is both beautifully and conveniently located. The hotel has a fitness centre, an outdoor heated pool, two restaurants, a coffeehouse and a deli.

Marriott Wardman Park Hotel
2660 Woodley Road, NW, Washington, DC
20008 USA

Special conference room rate:

Single/double occupancy: US \$129 per night (plus tax)

Triple occupancy: US \$139 per night (plus tax)

Quadruple occupancy: US \$149 per night (plus tax)

Conference attendees must make hotel reservations directly with the hotel.

To receive the special rate ask for the Association for Bahá'í Studies special conference rate when making your reservation.

Toll-free Reservations: 1-800-228-9290

Local Reservations: 202-328-2000

Online Reservations: <https://www.marriott.com/reservation/availability.mi?isSearch=true&propertyCode=WASDT>



Please note: ABS has been guaranteed a limited block of rooms at this rate until July 29, 2009. After that date, reservations may be accepted on a space-availability basis at the negotiated rate. To ensure that you obtain the low rate, be sure to make your reservations as soon as possible, and no later than July 29.



TOURISM AND ENTERTAINMENT

The conference hotel is only a few blocks from the National Zoological Park. A short Metro ride will take you downtown to historical attractions such as Ford's Theatre, the Smithsonian Institute and the National Mall. More information about attractions, and activities in Washington, can be found on the Washington Tourism Web site at < <http://www.washington.org/>>.

ROOM SHARING Reduce your conference costs (and make new friends!) by sharing a room at the hotel. To contact other attendees interested in sharing a room, please join the Yahoo! Group "ABS-

NA Conference" by visiting its site <<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/absconference>> or by sending an e-mail to: <absconference-subscribe@yahoo.com>. **NOTE:** attendees must make their own hotel reservations and are responsible for contacting interested parties to make their own sharing arrangements. If you encounter difficulties with the Yahoo! Group system, please contact the Association for Bahá'í Studies office for assistance.

Bahá'í Encyclopedia Project launches website

The Bahá'í Encyclopedia Project has launched a website featuring a gradually expanding selection of articles for the study of the Bahá'í Faith, at <<http://www.bahai-encyclopedia-project.org/>>.

The articles cover a range of topics in the categories of history, biography, teachings and laws, administration, and institutions. All the articles bring together information from a variety of sources, many of which can be found only in research libraries and archives.

The historical and biographical entries, in particular, include much material that has never been published or has not been available until now in English.


Every attempt has been made, within the limits of available resources, to present the articles in an attractive and user-friendly format and to make it possible to update and improve them over time.

Since the inception of the Encyclopedia Project in 1984, the National Spiritual Assembly of the

Bahá'ís of the United States has provided unfailing encouragement and financial support.

In late 2008, however, cost considerations resulting from the world economic crisis led the National Assembly to seek ways to reorganize the project in order to maintain momentum in its online publishing while reducing expenditures.

The project is currently being restructured on the basis of volunteer service and earmarked contributions to support part-time editorial work and website maintenance and development, as resources permit. For those residing under the jurisdiction of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, updated information on the Encyclopedia Project is posted under its departmental section on the administrative website <www.usbnc.org>.

The Encyclopedia Project welcomes inquiries, comments, and suggestions, which may be sent to <encyclopedia@usbnc.org>. 

Hotel reservations must be made directly with the conference hotel, the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Rd. NW, Washington, D.C. 20008; tel.: 202-328-2000; toll-free reservation number: 800-228-9290. You must mention the Association for Bahá'í Studies conference to receive the special conference rate. Room rates: \$129 single/double; \$139 triple; \$149 quad. The conference rates are extended to four days before and after the conference dates.

Children's and Junior Youth Program

Be sure to register your children for the educational Children's and Junior Youth Program at the annual conference. The Children's Conference program will include speakers from the main conference as well as other activities addressing the conference theme. Important note to parents: children must be preregistered by **31 July 2009**.

For more information about the children's program, please call the ABS office, tel.: 613-233-1903.

Conference updates

For the latest conference updates, and to download the full conference program, please visit the ABS website at <www.bahai-studies.ca>.

Members' News

Richard Gray (Boone, North Carolina) is the lead author on the book *Stellar Spectral Classification* recently published by Princeton University Press (April 2009) as part of the Princeton Series in Astrophysics (<http://press.princeton.edu/titles/8963.html>). Dr. Gray is a professor of Astronomy at Appalachian State University.

Plenary program

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will trace the processes of change in the Bahá'í community with regard to race and their implications both for the development of early Bahá'í identity and for ongoing processes of change

The evening program will be devoted to the Hasan M. Balyuzi Memorial Lecture presented by Otto Don Rogers.

Sunday morning's plenary will include Member of the Continental Board of Counsellors Ann Boyles, and the Young Scholars Panel, moderated

by Jian Khodadad.

Every evening after the plenary sessions there will be "After Hours Arts."

Registration, and hotel information

Conference registration and hotel information are available on the ABS website: <www.bahai-studies.ca>. For further inquiries, please contact the Association for Bahá'í Studies, 34 Copernicus St., Ottawa, ON, Canada K1N 7K4; tel.: 613-233-1903; fax: 613-233-3644; e-mail: <abs-na@bahai-studies.ca>.



Tidal Basin, Washington, D.C. (Photo: Destination DC, courtesy Washington, D.C., Visitors and Convention Bureau)

Conference call—Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa

The second annual conference of the Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa (ASMEA) will be held October 22–24, 2009 at the Key Bridge Marriott in Washington, D.C. on the theme “The Middle East and Africa: Historic Connections and Strategic Bridges.”

The conference will feature presentations and roundtables that demonstrate the interrelationships between the two regions over time with special emphasis on the historical, political, economic, religious, security, and cultural links between them.

The conference will also feature special presentations by: ASMEA Chairman Bernard Lewis, Dennis Ross, Special Advisor to the Secretary of State for the Gulf and Southwest Asia and John Bolton, Former United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations and former Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security.

For more information about the conference, visit the website: <asmeascholars.org>

Grants available

ASMEA is pleased to provide a limited number of grants for full-time graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and professors to defray 100% of the cost of lodging.

Members who are full-time graduate students (especially those at an advanced stage in Ph.D. programs), post-doctoral fellows, and tenured and untenured professors who complete a statement of need are eligible for consideration.

Adjunct professors may apply for grants but will be considered only after the submissions from full time faculty and students have been considered.

Applications for assistance must be received by **1 August 2009**. For more information, please email ASMEA at <info@asmeascholars.org>.

ASMEA invites members of the ABS to join the Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa. ASMEA is a nonpartisan and non-profit organization. Its mission is to defend academic freedom and to improve Middle Eastern and African studies.

Calendar of Events

28 June–1 July 2009

Acuto, Italy

Irfan Colloquium

Contact: The Centre for Bahá'í Studies, Hotel La Panoramica, Via Capodimonte 49, 03010 Acuto (FR), Italy; tel: 39-0775-56061; fax: 39-0775-56841; e-mail: <acuto@bahai.it>.

3–9 July 2009

Irfan Colloquium

**Persian Language Conference
Acuto, Italy**

Contact: The Centre for Bahá'í Studies, Hotel La Panoramica, Via Capodimonte 49, 03010 Acuto (FR), Italy; tel: 39-0775-56061; fax: 39-0775-56841; e-mail: <acuto@bahai.it>

13–16 August, 2009

“Environments”

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Marriott Wardman Park Hotel
Washington, D.C.**

Contact: ABS, <abs-na@bahai-studies.ca>; website: <bahai-studies.ca>

22–24 October 2009

Washington, D. C.

“The Middle East and Africa: Historic Connections and Strategic Bridges”

2nd Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa

Contact: David Silverstein, Executive Director, ASMEA tel.: 202-429-8881; e-mail: <ed@asmeascholars.org>; website: <www.asmeascholars.org>