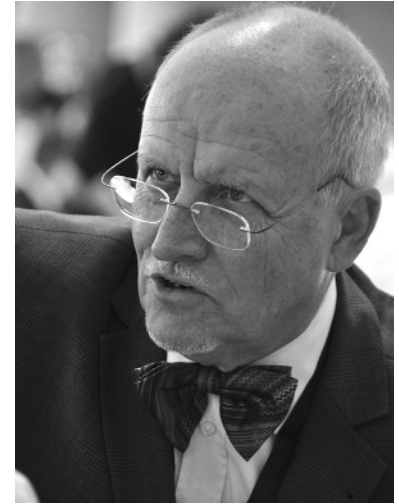


ABS Bulletin

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

Hooper Dunbar to address Vancouver conference



Hooper C. Dunbar

This year's annual conference program is shaping up to be an event not to be missed! So if you have not yet made your plans to attend, don't delay another instant!

The opening plenary address at the 34th Annual Conference of the Association for Bahá'í Studies—North America will be presented by recently retired member of the Universal House of Justice, Hooper C. Dunbar. The conference will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, from 12 to 15 August 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver.

Mr. Dunbar served in Haifa since 1973 when he was called to the Bahá'í World Centre as a member of the International Teaching Centre. He was first elected to the Universal House of Justice in 1988 and since then was elected to successive terms.

Originally from Los Angeles, he was an actor on stage, screen, and television. In 1958 he began fifteen years of residence in Latin America, where he worked as a translator and educator.

Mr. Dunbar served as a member of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Nicaragua before being named to the Auxiliary Board for Protection.

In 1968 he was appointed to the Continental Board of Counsellors in South America and served in that position five years until moving to the Holy Land.

Mr. Dunbar is an accomplished painter whose works have been shown in Europe and elsewhere. He is the author of a book-length study guide to the Kitáb-i-Íqán (Book of Certitude), one of the major works of Bahá'u'lláh, and of *Forces of Our*

implications, and correlate them with insights about human nature drawn from the Bahá'í Writings and from the experience of the Bahá'í community. The goal of the panel will be to contribute to the emergence of a more coherent interdisciplinary discourse on human nature that harmonizes the best contemporary

insights from science and religion. Panelists will include Pouya Ehsani, a behavioral scientist at the University of Michigan; Martha

Continued on page 8

RETHINKING
HUMAN NATURE
ASSOCIATION FOR BAHÁ'Í STUDIES
34th ANNUAL CONFERENCE - 12 - 15 AUGUST 2010 - VANCOUVER, BC

Time: The Dynamics of Light and Darkness, published last year.

Plenary Program

On Saturday 14 August, Michael Karlberg, Associate Professor in the Department of Communication at Western Washington University, will moderate a panel on "Advancing a Discourse on Human Nature." The panel will explore conceptions of human nature across diverse academic disciplines, discuss their social

- In this issue . . .**
- 2 Breakout sessions**
 - 4 Announcements**
 - 5 Registration form**
 - 8 Calendar of events**

Breakout sessions at the conference

This year, a variety of stimulating breakout sessions is planned for the conference. The following presentations are scheduled as of press time:

Roundtable discussion pursuing conversation from plenary session on “Advancing a Discourse on Human Nature”

Nancy Ackerman, “Is the Bahá’í Concept of Equality Revolutionary? A Comparison of Bahá’í and Feminist Frameworks of the Nature of the Human Being”

Pinki Anand, “Alan Gewirth’s Principle of Generic Consistency, Human Nature and Ethical Individualism”

Kurt and Leslie Asplund, “An Extraordinary Journey: Applying Bahá’í Historical Scholarship to the Creative Art of Playwriting”

Bahá’í Medical Association of Canada, Networking Meeting

Trip Barthel, “Framing Consultation: From Conflict to Collaboration”

Anne R. Breneman, “Flowering of the Human Spirit: Teaching and Learning with Students at Hampton University”

Peter T. Bruss, “Evaluating Emergent Innovative Solutions: Testing a Framework of Action for Sustainable Social and Economic Development”

Theo A. Cope, “Positive Psychotherapy and Bahá’í Teachings”

Gregory C. Dahl, “Globalization and Human Nature”

Richard N. Dodge, “Rational Proofs of the Existence of the Soul”

Wade Fransson, “Separating Light from Dark”



Don't miss the boat! Register for the Annual Conference right away! (Photo Tourism Vancouver)

Abdu'l-Missagh Ghadirian, “Scientific Materialist View of Human Nature and Spiritual Reality”

Michael D. Graham, “The Collaborative Creative Process and the Future Role of Design”

Brian Guequierre, “Finding Fred Mortensen: Confirmations and Transformation on the Path of Service to the Cause”

Chelsea Horton, Linda Covey, and Lee Brown, “Declaration, Prophecy, and Progressive Revelation: Indigenous-Bahá’í Intersections.”

David Hunt, Chad Jones, and Dan Jones, “Web Trends: Vectors for Participation in Discourses of Society”

Camille N. Khodadad, “The Changing Image of Women”

Dierdra Kiai, “Creating Socially Conscientious, Personally Meaningful Video Games”

Ian Kluge, “Bloch’s Philosophy of Hope, the Bahá’í Writings and Human Nature”

Marcella LaFever, “9P Planning: A Model for Public Consultation” (Poster Presentation)

Marjolein Lips-Wiersma, “Drawing

Nearer unto God through Our Work”

John MacLeod, “The Bahá’í Holy Shrine: World Heritage Sites”

Larry McCullough and Mary K. Radpour, “The Missing Curriculum: Educating for a New Conception of Human Nature”

Kelly Monjazebe, “Encouraging

The *ABS Bulletin* (ISSN 0840-6138) is published quarterly by the Association for Bahá’í Studies, a nonprofit scholarly organization with 1833 international open memberships and 113 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*.

© 2010

Association for Bahá’í Studies

34 Copernicus Street
Ottawa, ON

Canada, K1N 7K4

Tel. 613-233-1903

Fax 613-233-3644

E-mail: abs-na@bahai-studies.ca

Web site: www.bahai-studies.ca

- Sexual Wellness for This Generation and the Next”
 Shahrokh Monjazebe, “From the Lucid to the Wondrous Script: The Origins and the Evolution of Bahá’í Calligraphy and Sacred Writings”
 Pejman Mosleh, “From Armanshahr to Ruhi: Rethinking Human Nature and Utopia in Iran”
 Peter C. Newton-Evans, “Influencing the Latin American Discourse on Human Potential for Socio-Cultural Change”
 Panel on Teaching University Courses with Bahá’í Content—Sponsored by the Association for Bahá’í Studies Executive Committee
- Prema Perumal and David Hunt, “Writing New Cultural Stories”
 Laheed Quddusi, “Aristotle to Einstein: Revolutions in Physics and Religion”
 Jalaliyyih Quinn and Leslie Asplund, “The Nature and Character of the Artist”
 Nadia Riazati, “From ‘World Citizenship and Social Rights’ to Human Nature: Sociology and Bahá’í Approaches, A Comparative Study”
 Harold Rosen, “Human Nature and World Religion: A Bahá’í-Inspired Philosophical Anthropology”
 Shahrzad Sabet, “What Can Justify Duties of Global Economic Justice? Individual
- Responsibility, Human Consciousness, and the Oneness of Humankind”
 Naysan Sahba, “Maximum Medium: What a Bollywood Soap Opera Can Teach Us about Communication, Change, and Social Action”
 Farshid Samandari, “Philosopher’s Stone: Integrating Arts, from Fantasy to Reality”
 Francesca Sawyer, “Bach to Bahá - Melodies for Peaceful Living”
 Martha L. Schweitz, “‘Trustees of the Merciful’: Fiduciary Duties and Virtue in Bahá’í Governance”
 Kamran Sedig, “The Concept of Spirit and its Role in Understanding

Continued on page 8

Join us at the ABS conference!

10 reasons not to miss it:

1. Stimulating plenary and breakout presentations exploring the conference theme
2. Special sessions for students and young adults
3. Network with others in your discipline or profession
4. Special sessions in Persian
5. The Hasan M. Balyuzi Memorial Lecture
6. Arts program, concert, and “after hours” performances
7. Reconnect with old friends and meet new ones
8. Get involved in the ABS Special Interest Groups
9. Children’s conference—bring the whole family
10. Enjoy the sights in beautiful Vancouver

Announcements and calls for papers

Encyclopedia of American Women's History

Contributors are being sought to write an encyclopedia article on the Bahá'í Faith for an upcoming multi-volume encyclopedia of American women's history, edited by Hasia Diner, the Paul S. and Sylvia Steinberg Professor of American Jewish History at New York University.

Going well beyond Notable American Women, this reference work, which will be published by Facts on File, will include not only biographical entries, but will also cover organizations, concepts, and ideas central to understanding the history of women in America. A modest honorarium is available.

The deadline for this work will be August 10, 2010. Several hundred entries remain unassigned and they are currently looking for writers for these articles. Please contact <women.hist.editors@gmail.com>.

Conference on Modern Religions and Religious Movements and the Bábí-Bahá'í Faiths

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, The Faculty of Humanities Chair in Bahá'í Studies announce the Third International Conference on Modern Religions and Religious Movements and the Bábí-Bahá'í Faiths, to be convened between Monday, 21 March and Thursday 24 March 2011. This is a preliminary announcement and call for papers concerning the birth and developments of religions and religious movements in modern times.

The nineteenth century in particular saw the birth of a number of modern religions and religious movements, a few of which became new world religions. The Bábí and Bahá'í Faiths, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints ("Mormon"), the Seventh-Day Adventists, the German Templars, the Ahmadiyyah, the various shades of the salafiyyah in Sunni Islam, The Habad Hassidut in Judaism, and a few other religious developments are all topics which were discussed in the previous conferences and are open to discussion in this conference.

The book published following the 2000 conference, *Studies in Modern Religions and Religious Movements and the Bábí-Bahá'í Faiths* (ed. M. Sharon) was published by E. J. Brill, Leiden, 2004.

Please send the topic and no more than a 500 words abstract of your suggested papers and a short CV before 15 September 2010 to Professor Moshe Sharon, Chair in Bahá'í Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem Mt. Scopus, Jerusalem 91905 Or by e-mail: <msharon@mscc.huji.ac.il>.

ABS–Japan annual conference

The 18th Annual Conference of the Association for Bahá'í Studies - Japan will be held over the weekend of 25–26 September 2010 on the theme, "The Age of World Civilization."

The conference will be held in Yokohama at the Kanagawa Kenmin Katsudou Support Center. ABS–Japan aims to become widely known as a forum open to everyone, not only to professional academics. Under this new policy, a broader inclusiveness of participants is greatly

welcome in this year's annual Conference.

The theme for this year focuses on how we can best understand the concept "The Age of World Civilization". This concept represents a world where Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation will ultimately be realized. The attainment of this goal, however, depends upon the degree to which our own personal efforts and activities bear fruit.

By considering this theme from the viewpoint of our daily core activities, and our other involvements in society, whatever they might be, a door can be opened to a vast array of topics for personal research, but only if we are prepared to strive for deeper insights based upon the principles of the Faith, and as related to the dire needs of our society.

Please contact the Steering Committee Chairman: Mr. Koki Sugimoto, e-mail: <bricolage_koki@yahoo.co.jp>

Updated bibliography now online

The Antipodean Bahá'í Studies website has made available an updated and expanded bibliography on the Bábí religion and the Persecution, Repression, and Diaspora of the Iranian, Egyptian, and other Bahá'í communities. The bibliography can be accessed at <<http://www.abs.org.nz/bibliography/babism/>>

The bibliography now includes European language sources for the Bábí religion and as a result has tripled in size to 500 individual items. The bibliography focuses on scholarly publications but also includes polemical material from key witnesses to the Bábí movement such as Christian missionaries in Iran.

“RETHINKING HUMAN NATURE”

Association for Bahá'í Studies
34th Annual Conference, 12–15 August, 2010
Hyatt Regency, Vancouver, BC, Canada

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? _____

		Full Conference Fee (4 days)		One-Day Fee	
		ABS Member	Non-Member	ABS Member	Non-Member
Individual Adults	By July 31	\$90	\$150*	\$30	\$50**
	After July 31	\$100	\$160*	\$40	\$60**
Couples	By July 31	\$140	\$210*	n/a	n/a
	After July 31	\$150	\$220*	n/a	n/a
Seniors (65+)/ Students/ Unwaged	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***			

← Please circle one fee.

**ALL CONFERENCE FEES
ARE IN CANADIAN
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 min.)

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 Hyatt Regency Vancouver, situated within a few blocks of Vancouver's spectacular harbour. The hotel features a spa, a whirlpool, a 24-hour fitness centre, an outdoor heated pool, two restaurants, a café and a lounge. The beach is a 25-minute walk away.

Hyatt Regency Vancouver
655 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC
V6C 2R7 Canada

Special conference room rate:

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

Triple occupancy: CAN \$149 per night (plus tax)

Quadruple occupancy: CAN \$159 per night (plus tax)

Online reservations: https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_gi_new&groupID=1689909

Toll-free Reservations: 1-800-233-1234

Local Reservations: 604-683-1234

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.

PLEASE NOTE: these rates are guaranteed **only until June 30, 2010. From July 1st to July 16th, the rates increase by \$10.00.** Reservations made after the cut-off dates will be based on availability at the Hotel's prevailing rates. The conference rates are extended to four days before and four days after the conference dates.



TOURISM AND ENTERTAINMENT

Vancouver offers many opportunities for outdoor activities: visit Stanley Park and its 11km of beaches (just a few minutes from the conference hotel), walk the Capilano Suspension Bridge, or take a boat tour to see whales, orcas and dolphins just off the coast. Other points of interest are the Vancouver Art Gallery and the Museum of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia. More information about attractions, and activities in Vancouver, can be found on its tourism website at <http://www.tourismvancouver.com>.

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@yahoogroups.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.

Plenary program

Continued from page 1

Rabbani, a lecturer in Peace and Conflict Studies at the Humanities and Western Civilization Department at the University of Kansas; Mary K. Radpour, a licensed clinical social worker in private practice in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and an occasional adjunct professor of psychology at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; Ryan Siegel a PhD student in Applied Economics at Oregon State University.

Also planned is a panel entitled "Many Generous Hands," which will be made up of Indigenous leaders and scholars who will share perspectives and insights on the challenges and opportunities of creating social, cultural, and spiritual reconciliation.

The panel will include discussion of Indigenous perspectives on the spiritual and material dimensions of existence and their relationship, the challenges of social and cultural reconciliation and the roles of individuals and communities in those processes, and the challenges and opportunities for faith communities, such as the Bahá'í Faith, to play a positive role in processes of reconciliation.

Following the panel presentations there will be a moderated dialogue amongst the panelists. Confirmed panelists include Lee Brown, Director, Institute for Aboriginal Health, University of British Columbia; Chief Douglas White III Kwulasultun of the Snuneymuxw First Nation; and Jacqueline Left Hand Bull, a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe (Sicangu Lakota) and Chair of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States.

This year, the Young Scholars Panel will be coordinated by Maria Mutitu, and will take place on Sunday morning



Lookout Harbour Center evening (Photo Tourism Vancouver)

Payam Akhavan, Professor of International Law at McGill University, will speak on the topic of "From Hatred to Humanity: The Bahá'ís and Iran's Coming of Age."

He has served as UN war crimes prosecutor at The Hague and counsel before the World Court; and is Co-Founder of the Iran Human Rights Documentation Centre.

Member of the Continental Board of Counsellor for the Americas, Alison Milston, will be addressing the conference on Sunday morning.

Balyuzi Lecture

Julio Savi will deliver the 28th Hasan M. Balyuzi Memorial Lecture. The title of his lecture will be "Destiny and Freedom in the Bahá'í Writings."

SIG circle

The Special Interest Groups of the Association will hold informal discussion sessions this year on Friday, 13 August, from noon to 2:00 p.m. At the SIG Circle event, the SIGs will organize display tables and provide opportunities for discussions with interested members.

Arts

Artistic presentations are integrated throughout the ABS conference, including in the devotional programs. There will be an evening program devoted to the arts as well as "After hours" sessions with impromptu musical performances.

Persian sessions

Several special sessions will be conducted in Persian during the conference. Speakers at these sessions will include Shapour Rassekh of Switzerland, Nosratollah Mohammadhosseini (who will speak on the Báb's doctrines on human nature), and Hushmand Fatheazam.

Children's Conference

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

Continued on page 8



Vancouver's Stanley Park (Photo Tom Ryan, Tourism Vancouver)

Plenary sessions

Continued from page 2

the conference theme. **Important note to parents: children must be preregistered by 31 July 2010.** For more information about the children's program, please call the ABS office, tel.: 613-233-1903.

Conference program updates

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

Conference 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>.

Reservations must be made directly with the conference hotel, the Hyatt Regency Vancouver, 655 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC V6C 2R7; tel.: 604-683-1234; toll-free: 800-233-1234.

Be sure to mention the Association for Bahá'í Studies conference in order to receive the special conference rate. Room rates: \$129 single/double; \$149 triple; \$159 quad.

Rates are guaranteed only until **30 June 2010**. From 1 to 16 July the rates increase by \$10.00.

Reservations made after the cut-off dates will be based on availability at the hotel's prevailing rates. Conference rates are extended to four days before and after the conference dates.

Breakout sessions

Continued from page 3

Human Cognition, Knowledge, Language, Mathematics, and Science"

Mikhail Sergeev, "Anthropological Views of 'Abdu'l-Bahá"

Payam Shodjai, "Money and Bling: A Bahá'í Perspective on Wealth"

Deborah Vance, "Rethinking Women's Nature: What Do the Writings Tell Us?"

Omid Townsend, "Peacekeeping and Nation Building in the Twenty-First Century: A Survey of Developing Practices in the Developing World"

Gloria Yazdani, "Maryam, 'the Crimson Leaf'"

Mina Yazdani, "Anti-Bahá'ism of Iranian Intellectuals During the Pahlavi Era"

Calendar of events

3-6 July 2010

**'Ifrán Colloquium
Centre for Bahá'í Studies
Acuto, Italy**

For more information, contact the organizers, tel: 1-847-733-5301, e-mail: <info@irfancolloquium.org>; website: <www.irfancolloquia.org>

12-15 August 2010

**Association for Bahá'í Studies—
North America
34th Annual Conference
Hyatt Regency Vancouver
Vancouver, BC, Canada**

Contact: Association for Bahá'í Studies, 34 Copernicus St., Ottawa, ON Canada K1N 7K4; tel.: (613) 233-1903; fax: (613) 233-3644; email: <abs-na@bahai-studies.ca>; website: <http://www.bahai-studies.ca>

25-26 September 2010

**18th Annual Conference
ABS—Japan
Kanagawa Kenmin Katsudou
Support Center
Yokohama, Japan**

Contact Koki Sugimoto, e-mail: <bricolage_koki@yahoo.co.jp>

7-10 October 2010

**'Irfán Colloquium
Louhelen Bahá'í School
Davison, MI, USA**

For more information, contact the organizers, tel: 1-847-733-5301, e-mail: <info@irfancolloquium.org>; website: <www.irfancolloquia.org>

21-24 March 2011

**Third International Conference on
Modern Religions and Religious
Movements and the Bábí-Bahá'í
Faiths
Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Jerusalem, Israel**

Contact: Prof. Moshe Sharon, e-mail: <msharon@mscc.huji.ac.il>