

ABS Conference News

March 2010

Julio Savi to deliver Balyuzi Lecture at Vancouver conference

Scholar, physician, and poet Julio Savi has been named to deliver the 28th Hasan M. Balyuzi Memorial Lecture at the 34th Annual Conference of the Association for Bahá'í Studies–North America. The conference will be held in Vancouver, BC, from 12 to 15 August 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver.

Dr. Savi received a classical education and went on to study medicine at the Universities of Bologna and Florence. He now works as a gynecologist in the province of Bologna.

He has participated in the translation of most of the major Bahá'í texts into Italian. His areas of research are Scriptures, spirituality, inter-religious dialogue, and poetry. His first published book in English was *The Eternal Quest for God* (George Ronald, 1989), which was also published in Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese.

His latest book in English is *Towards the Summit of Reality: An Introduction to the Study of Bahá'u'lláh's Seven Valleys and Four Valleys* (George Ronald, 2008).

Among his articles are "The Declaration *Dominus Iesus*: A Brake on Ecumenism and Interfaith Dialogue?," "Shedding Light in

the Hearts: Reflections on Poetry" (*Journal of Bahá'í Studies*, 2002), "Towards a Definition of Bahá'í Theology and Mystical Philosophy," "Prayers and Rituals in the Bahá'í Faith" (with Faezeh Mardani), "Tablet to Jináb-i-Mullá 'Alí Akbar fí ardi'l-álif (A Provisional Translation)" (with Faezeh Mardani).

He has also published an anthology of poems titled *Remoteness* (Rome, 2002). Dr. Savi is currently secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Italy.

For conference program updates, visit the website <www.baha'i-studies.ca>.

Conference theme statement

How can Bahá'í scholarship contribute to the emergence of a new consensus regarding human nature?

How we see social reality depends largely on our assumptions, but much contemporary discourse implicitly or explicitly assumes that human nature is self-interested and competitive and that human relations are necessarily conflict-based. In economics, political science, sociology, educa-



2010 Balyuzi Lecturer Julio Savi

tion, law, international relations, and even religious studies, theories have been built upon these assumptions. Consequently, social institutions, media representations, the arts, and popular culture largely reflect and reinforce them.

Despite this prevailing world view, new understandings of human nature are emerging at the margins of many academic disciplines. These acknowledge the human potential not only for egoism but also for altruism, not only for competition but also for cooperation. Such emerging scientific understandings are further supported by the world's great religious systems, which offer spiritual and social practices designed to cultivate our altruistic and cooperative potential. Yet these scientific

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Annual conference

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and religious insights continue to be eclipsed by an entrenched model of human nature based on egoism and conflict.

Mindful of the complementary insights of both science and religion and in collaboration with like-minded individuals, Bahá'ís can draw upon both the Bahá'í writings and emerging knowledge in various disciplines to articulate and advance new models of human nature. The experiences of the Bahá'í community and others can be investigated to lend support and insight to these efforts. The annual ABS conference is one venue where scholarship and ongoing collaborative efforts can be fostered.

You are invited to explore these and related questions at the 34th Annual Conference of the Association for Bahá'í Studies—North America, to be held in Vancouver, BC, 12–15 August 2010.

Call for presentations

Proposals are invited for presentations on (but not limited to) the above themes, as well as themes pertaining to creative processes and concepts within the performing arts, visual arts, and other modes of artistic expression.

Presentations must explore an original question or proposition through a clearly described method or approach. Proposals must outline the presentation in detail and provide sufficient background on the topic and on the presenter's qualifications for the review panel to judge the value of

the contribution. A broad range of qualifications is recognized, beyond purely academic and/or professional. Proposals must be for substantially original work, unpublished and not previously presented.

While many presentations are in the style of talks, the use of the arts and other diverse approaches is also encouraged. Presentations should be seen as a collaborative process, where the speaker engages conference participants in discussion on new work, which further advances that work. Papers will be considered for publication in *The Journal of Bahá'í Studies*. Proposals are especially welcome from youth and first-time ABS presenters. Guidelines for submissions are available on the ABS website, and you can also contact the ABS if you would like further assistance with preparing a proposal.

Proposals must be submitted online (go to <www.bahai-studies.ca>). Potential presenters unable to submit online may contact the 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> for on alternate means of submission. The deadline for submitting proposals is **1 April 2010**.



Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden, Vancouver (Photo Tourism Vancouver)

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. Mention the Association for Bahá'í Studies conference 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.

“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 April 30	\$80	\$140*	\$30	\$50**
	By July 31	\$90	\$150*	\$30	\$50**
	After July 31	\$100	\$160*	\$40	\$60**
Couples	By April 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+)/	By April 30	\$60	\$90*	\$20	\$25**
Students/	By July 31	\$70	\$100*	\$20	\$25**
Unwaged	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 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 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)

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.