



Thompson-Nicola Bahá'í School

Thursday, August 9th to Monday, August 13th, 2018

Dutch Lake Community Centre - 209 Dutch Lake Road, Clearwater, BC

2018 Theme: Contributing to the Betterment of Society



Economic Choices Towards a Coherent Life – Contributing to the Betterment of Society

Keynote Presenter: Saba Arjomand

Our subtle and often subconscious personal beliefs about fundamental concepts, such as human nature, the purpose of our existence, and our relationship to wealth, determine our personal financial choices. The Universal House of Justice calls us “to learn about how to participate in the material affairs of society in a way that is consistent with the divine precepts and how, in practical terms, collective prosperity can be advanced through justice and generosity, collaboration and mutual assistance.”¹

We will explore the above theme using a variety of approaches such as engaging experiential exercises, audio-visual materials, and reflection on some excerpts from the Bahá'í Writings to gain insights and advance awareness regarding our financial choices.

The program has been developed from concepts gleaned from the March 1st 2017 letter of the Universal House of Justice.



The Unity of Science and Religion

Mason Schmitt

If truth were a bird, the wings that would allow it to soar, would be science and religion. This presentation explores how science and religion can be seen as two complementary systems of knowledge that allow us to engage in our own individual investigations of truth, with each helping to elevate our understanding of reality.

¹ Letter of the Universal House of Justice to the Bahá'ís of the World dated March 1st 2017



How Business Can Contribute to the Betterment of Society

Mason Schmitt

This presentation begins by introducing a novel economic theory that looks at the spiritual principles that underpin our global economy. The presentation continues with powerful examples of businesses whose founders have strong spiritual principles and how those founders have manifested their principles, through successful businesses, in service to humanity.



Truth and Reconciliation - The Bahá'í Response

Doris Bruno / Marcella LaFever

What can we do to “participate in the promotion of justice, reconciliation, and healing” and to “contribute to restoring balance in relationships between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal peoples?” These words from the statement of the Bahá'í community of Canada, in our submission to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and from Senator Murray Sinclair, the Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, will guide this workshop in studying excerpts from the Bahá'í submission as a guide to



better understand the process of reconciliation as a framework for personal action.

Starting with some brief historical background the session will involve participants in planning to take on the “daunting challenge” to harness “growing constructive forces” to bring “long separated peoples into new relationships, where dynamics of prejudice and domination are replaced by the powers of cooperation, reciprocity and genuine love and harmony...” View the video “The Path Home” at <https://vimeo.com/131765992>



Exploration and Workshop on "The Devotional"

Gerald Morris

This class will be focus on specific guidance from the Writings regarding the nature and purpose of devotionals and their role in establishing the Mašriqu-I-'Aḡkār*. It will examine components from nine successful devotionals currently being held in the Okanagan Valley and will end with a brief devotional using the three levels of questions employed throughout the Ruhi books.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would prepare to sing or chant a prayer during this last portion. This request is not a prerequisite for attending the class, but an effort and opportunity to create greater beauty during the devotional and an occasion to share and encourage additional musical resources in our communities.

*A Bahá'í House of Worship, sometimes referred to by the name of mašriqu-i-'aḡkār (مشرق الازكار), Arabic phrase meaning "Dawning-place of the remembrances of God"), is the designation of a place of worship, or temple, of the Bahá'í Faith.





Consultation & Compassion

Rob Johnson

Many Bahá'ís believe that they understand and practice consultation. I suggest that this is actually one of the organic parts of the faith, that as we mature we may become aware of the true nature of consultation and how to better integrate its principles into our everyday life. Ruhi book 10-2 brings forth quotes, principles, and practice of consultation with a renewed energy that is awakening me from my consultative slumber in a way that has stimulated me to offer a workshop to assist myself and others to reassess our position of - **"We know how to consult"**. *"This matter should be forcibly stressed by thee, so that consultation may be observed by all."* (Bahá'u'lláh)



Children and Junior Youth Programs - Transforming the Community with Art & Music

Georgia Lesley and Caroline Mackay

These two artists have been best of friends for many years, and have collaborated on several projects in their two fields of visual and musical arts. Both have a deep appreciation for - and experience with - Children and Youth. For the Clearwater Summer School, they will work as a team in each of their disciplines, to explore these 3 themes with the participants:



Prayerfulness ~ *"I rejoice to hear that thou takest pains with thine art... it is as if thou wert at prayer in the temple." "We, verily, have made music as a ladder for your souls."*

How does our involvement in the Arts increase our nearness to God, and reflect His attributes?

Gratitude and Beauty ~ *"It behoveth the craftsmen of the world at each moment to offer a thousand tokens of gratitude at the Sacred Threshold, and to exert their highest endeavour ... so that their efforts may produce that which will manifest the greatest beauty and perfection before the eyes of all men."*

What does Gratitude mean? What is Beautiful (and what isn't)? What skills and qualities might we focus on developing as artists, in order to express our gratitude, and to manifest beauty?

Being Purposeful ~ *"Wherefore... play and sing out the holy words of God with wondrous tones in the gatherings of the friends, that the listener may be freed from chains of care and sorrow, and his soul may leap for joy and humble itself in prayer to the realm of Glory."*

How can we focus our hearts on creating a joyful experience for others? What artistic practices make it easy to open up a simple, elevated conversation among friends?

As the children and youth consider these themes and questions, they will experiment with painting, singing and instruments (harps, percussion and xylophones) and demonstrate their works by expressing themselves in the language of the spirit.

