

**Famous Baha'is plus
Appreciations of the Faith**

Zabine Van Ness
Seattle 2009

List of some well know Bahai's:

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[Layli Miller-Muro](#) Human Rights Activist

[Linda and Dr. Dan Popo, John Kavelin](#) Family and Morality Activists

[Duffy Sheridan](#) Painter

[Khalil Greene](#) Baseball Player

“Appreciations” of friends of the Baha’is:

[Gordon Brown](#) Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

[Al Gore](#) Nobel Peace Prize Winner Author Activist

[Tony Blair](#) Previous UK Prime Minister Foundation for Interfaith Understanding

[David Cameron](#) Leader of Conservative Party UK

[John Hick](#) Philosopher of religion and theologian

[Dan Rather](#) Journalist

Supreme Court Judge [William O. Douglas](#)

[Gabriele Mueller-Trimbusch](#) Deputy-Mayor for Welfare, Stuttgart, Germany.

[Buffy Sainte-Marie](#) Singer Songwriter

[Reverend Peter Owen-Jones](#) Anglican Clergyman TV Presenter

[Ervin László](#) Philosopher Systems Theorist

[Kahlil Gibran](#) Writer Poet

[Leo Tolstoy](#), or Count Lev Nikolayevich Tolstoy Writer

[Helen Keller](#) deaf/blind author activist

[Luther Burbank](#) 1849-1926 Botanist

[Yone Noguchi](#) (1875-1947) Writer


[Dr. David Starr Jordan](#) Scientist

[John Estlin Carpenter](#) Unitarian Oxford Biblical Scholar

Appreciations of Friends of the Bahai's continued

[The Reverend John Tyssul Davis](#) (1872-1944) Theist
[Romain Rolland](#) 1868-1944 Nobel Prize winning author Pacifist
[Major Wellesley Tudor Pole](#) 1884-1968 Writer Lieutenant
[Colonel Sir Francis Younghusband](#) 1863-1942 British Officer Writer
[Marcus Bach](#) Writer Lecturer on religion
[The Reverend Henry Harris Jessup](#) Presbyterian Missionary to Syria
[R. J. Campbell](#) Minister
[Michele Lessona](#) 1824 - 1894 Senator Physician Writer Zoologist
[Herbert Putnam, Litt.D., LL.D.](#) 1861-1955 Librarian of Congress
[Raja Jai Prithvi Bahadur Singh](#) Peace Advocate
[Edward Granville Browne](#) 1862-1926 Orientalist
[Sir Ignatius Valentine Chirol](#) 1852-1929 Historian Journalist

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The background of the slide features a central image. At the top, a red vase holds a bouquet of red flowers. Below this, a red rectangular box contains white text. At the bottom, a lit candle in a red holder with floral patterns sits on a surface, surrounded by several red roses.

O Thou the Glory of Glories !, ye must achieve renown in the world wherever they go, must burn brightly even as a candle in every meeting and must kindle the flame of Divine love ... that the light of truth may rise resplendent in the midmost heart of the world.

Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 441

Queen Marie of Romania

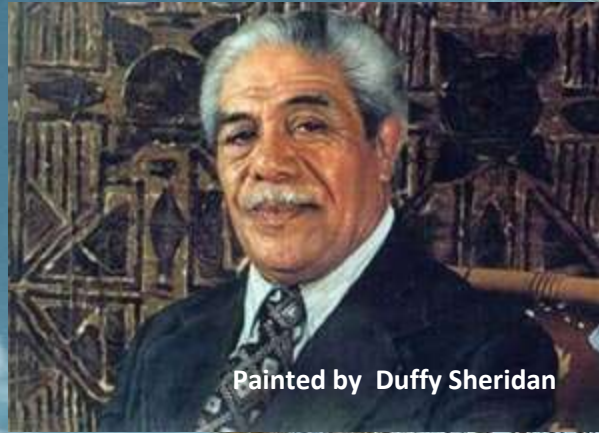
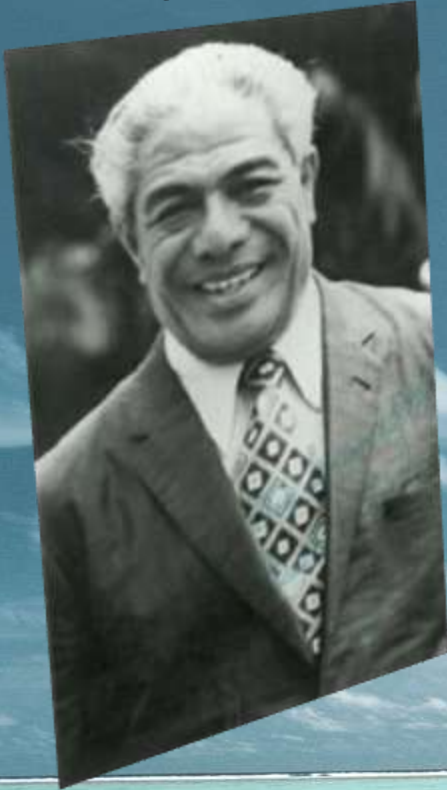


Martha Root
Painted by Steven
Paschal-Hawaii



Queen Marie, who reigned as Queen of Rumania from 1914–1927 and queen dowager from 1927–1938, was the first member of Royalty to become a Bahá'í. She was the granddaughter of Queen Victoria and was related to Zsar Alexander of Russia . She learned of the Faith through Martha Root, an American travel teacher and journalist who traveled extensively, speaking and writing about the Bahá'í Teachings in every corner of the world and meeting with people from all walks of life. Ms. Root met with the queen eight times. Queen Marie publically announced her excitement in the Toronto Star in Canada prior to her travels to the US and Canada in time for the NY World Fair and the opening of a museum in her name in Washington State. She was one of the few female royal members to represent her country at the Peace Conference at Versaille,France after WW1.

King Malietoa Tanumafili II of Samoa



Bahá'í House of Worship, Tiapapata, [Samoa](#)

The governing body of the [Bahá'ís](#), the [Universal House of Justice](#) wrote: "His service to the people of Samoa as Head of State was distinguished by the high principles, genuine compassion and personal humility that characterized the constancy of his concern for the welfare of all. As the first reigning sovereign to accept the Message of [Bahá'u'lláh](#), he set a record that will forever illumine the annals of our Faith, one that future generations will increasingly extol. His great interest for well-nigh four decades in the Faith's progress was reflected in the enthusiastic affirmation of his belief whenever the opportunity presented itself and in the abiding joy with which he regarded the construction in 1984 of the [Mother Temple of the Pacific Islands](#) in Samoa



Tahiriḥ - The Poet



Táhirih an influential poet and theologian of the Bábí faith in Iran. As a prominent Bábí she is highly regarded by Bahá'ís, and often mentioned in Bahá'í literature as an example of courage in the struggle for women's rights. Ṭáhirih also holds a unique theological importance; as she is explained by the Báb to be the spiritual return of Fátimih, daughter of Prophet Muḥammad, and one of the fourteen Shi'í *infallibles*. In 1848 Bahá'u'lláh made arrangements for Ṭáhirih to leave Tehran and attend a conference of Bábí leaders in Badasht. She is perhaps best remembered for appearing in public without her veil in the course of this conference signaling that the Islamic Sharia law was abrogated and superseded by Bábí law. It was at the Badasht conference that she was given the title Ṭáhirih by Bahá'u'lláh, which means "the Pure One".

Martha Root 1872-1939 Journalist

World Traveler Esperantist Baha'i Teacher



Painted by Steve Paschal-Hawaii



Queen Marie of Romania



In 1909 she met Roy C. Wilhelm who introduced her to the Bahá'í Faith by giving her some literature. While researching the religion for several months she met several members of the Bahá'í community, including [Thornton Chase](#) and Arthur Agnew in [Chicago](#), and she, later in that year, declared her faith in the Bahá'í teachings. During this time, she kept on writing and in 1909 she wrote a detailed article for the Pittsburgh Post about the history and teachings of the Bahá'í Faith. She also participated in the first annual Bahá'í convention, which took place in Chicago in 1911.

After her father's death on [November 3, 1922](#), Martha started her travels once again at the age of 50. She travelled to many parts of the United States, Canada, [Japan](#) and [China](#) to spread the teachings of [Bahá'u'lláh](#), and the Bahá'í Faith. She then travelled to [Australia](#), [New Zealand](#), [Tasmania](#), and [Hong Kong](#), and helped [Bahá'í pioneers](#) to teach about the Bahá'í Faith. She then travelled to [South Africa](#), and went on several radio broadcasts. She also studied [Esperanto](#), and met [Lidia Zamenhof](#), the daughter of [Ludwig Zamenhof](#), the creator of Esperanto, who would later become a Bahá'í.

In 1923 she arrived in [Bucharest](#) and sent the Queen a copy of the book *Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era*. Two days after the Queen received the book she granted Martha Root an audience in the palace. The Queen then embraced the Bahá'í Faith, becoming the first monarch to do so.

In 1930 she wanted to meet with [Emperor Hirohito](#) of Japan, but US officials blocked her access. Instead she sent the Emperor some Bahá'í books and some other gifts. She continued to teach, even while she was in ill-health travelling in 1937 to Hawaii, China and [India](#). She returned to Hawaii in 1938 where she died on [September 28, 1939](#).

George Townshend (1876-1957) Anglican Clergyman



George Townshend was born in Ireland and was a well known writer and clergyman. He spent many years near Ballinasloe, County Galway, where he was incumbent of Ahascragh and Archdeacon of Clonfert. He later became the Canon of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin. However, at the age of 70, Townshend renounced his orders to the Anglican Church and wrote a pamphlet to all Christians under the title "The Old Churches and the New World Faith" proclaiming his allegiance to the Bahá'í Faith.

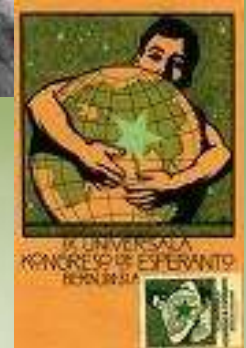
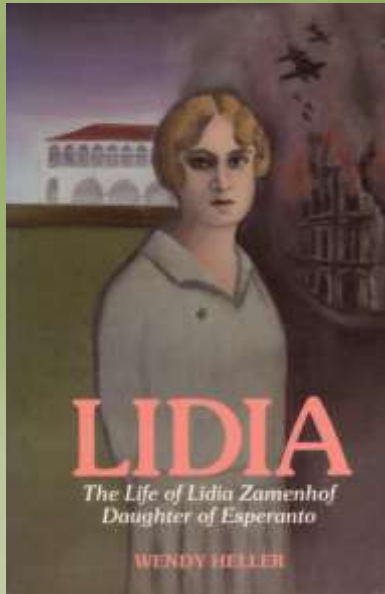
September 23, 2009 in [20th century - 1900-1950](#), [Baha'u'llah](#), [Literary](#), [Religious](#), [Uncategorized](#) | Tags: [Baha'u'llah](#), [Bahai](#), [Church of Ireland](#), [George Townshend](#)

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"The mightiest proof of a Prophet has ever been found in Himself and in the efficacy of His word. Bahá'u'lláh rekindled the fires of faith and happiness in the hearts of men. His knowledge was innate and spontaneous, not acquired in any school. None could gainsay or resist His wisdom and even His worst enemies admitted His greatness. All human perfections were embodied in Him. His strength was infinite. Trials and sufferings increased His firmness and power. As a divine physician He diagnosed the malady of the Age and prescribed the remedy. His teachings were universal and conferred illumination on all mankind. His power has been poured forth more abundantly since His death. In His presence He stood alone and events have proved and are still proving its accuracy.

From The Mission of Bahá'u'lláh

Lidia Zamenhof Early Activist for a Global Auxiliary Language - Esperanto



Lidia Zamenhof (in [Esperanto](#), sometimes Lidja; 1904–42) was the youngest daughter of [Ludwik Zamenhof](#), the creator of the [international language, Esperanto](#). She was born 29 January 1904 in [Warsaw](#), then in the [Russian Empire](#). She was an active promoter of Esperanto as well as of [Homaranismo](#), a form of [religious humanism](#) first defined by her father.

Around 1925 she became a member of the [Bahá'í Faith](#).^[1] In late 1937 she went to the [United States](#) to teach that religion as well as Esperanto. In December 1938 she returned to Poland, where she continued to teach and translated many [Bahá'í writings](#). In autumn 1942 she was killed at the [Treblinka extermination camp](#).

In her memory and honor, a meeting was held in 1995 at the [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#) in [Washington, D.C.](#) The meeting called attention to Esperantists' efforts to save persecuted Jews during [World War II](#).

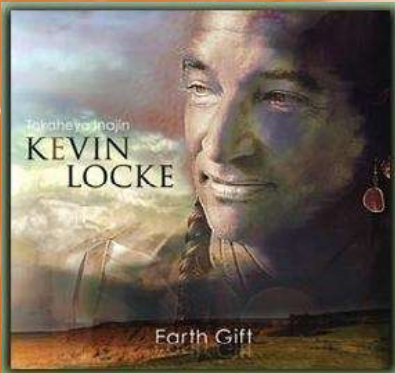
Patricia and Kevin Locke

Award winning Native American Indian activists



Patricia Locke, who died in 2001 at age 73, was a ground-breaking worker for the education of American Indians and one of 10 women [inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame](#) in 2005.

Locke was a Baha'i, and the first American Indian woman to serve on the National Spiritual Assembly, the administrative governing body for Baha'is of the United States. She was of Lakota and Chippewa heritage and played a leading role in the founding of 17 tribally run colleges in the United States. She also was an influential advocate for the passage of federal laws increasing Indian tribes' autonomy over their children's education.



Kevin Locke (son of Patricia Locke)([Lakota](#) name: Tǰokéya Inážiŋ, meaning "The First to Arise") is [Lakota](#) ([Hunkpapa](#) band) and [Anishinaabe](#). He is a preeminent player of the [Native American flute](#), a traditional storyteller, cultural ambassador, recording artist and educator. He is most known for his [hoop dance](#), The Hoop of Life.

Kevin Locke world-renowned Native American performer and educator, and member of the Baha'i community won the Native American Music Awards for awards (Nammys) in three categories: Artist of the Year, Flutist of the Year, and Record of the Year for his newest album, [Earth Gift](#).



Dizzy Gillespie



"Becoming a Bahá'í changed my life in every way and gave me a new concept of the relationship between God and man – between man and his fellow man – man and his family. It's just all consuming."...

John Birks "Dizzy" Gillespie (October 21, 1917 – January 6, 1993) was an American [jazz](#) trumpeter, [bandleader](#), singer, and composer. Together with [Charlie Parker](#), he was a major figure in the development of [bebop](#) and [modern jazz](#). He taught and influenced many other musicians, including trumpeters [Miles Davis](#), [Fats Navarro](#), [Clifford Brown](#), [Arturo Sandoval](#), [Lee Morgan](#), and [John Faddis](#).^[1] In addition to featuring in the epochal moments in bebop, he was instrumental in founding [Afro-Cuban jazz](#), the modern jazz version of what early-jazz pioneer [Jelly Roll Morton](#) referred to as the "[Spanish Tinge](#)". Gillespie was a trumpet virtuoso and gifted [improviser](#), building on the virtuoso style of [Roy Eldridge](#)^[citation needed] but adding layers of [harmonic](#) complexity previously unknown in jazz. Dizzy's [beret](#) and horn-rimmed spectacles, his [scat singing](#), his bent horn, pouched cheeks and his light-hearted personality were essential in popularizing bebop.

<http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=152939431682&ref=mf>

Seals and Crofts

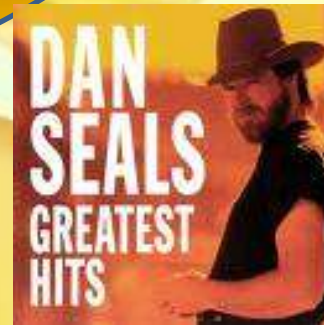


Seals and Crofts are Jim Seals (born James Seals, [17 October 1941](#), [Sidney, Texas](#)) and Dash Crofts (born Darrell Crofts, [14 August 1940](#), Cisco, Texas), a popular soft rock duo in the early 1970s, best-known for their hits "Summer Breeze" and "Diamond Girl." They were also the most famous [Bahá'ís](#) of 1970s in the United States. Thousands became inspired through their music.

Dan Seals Singer



"We are One"



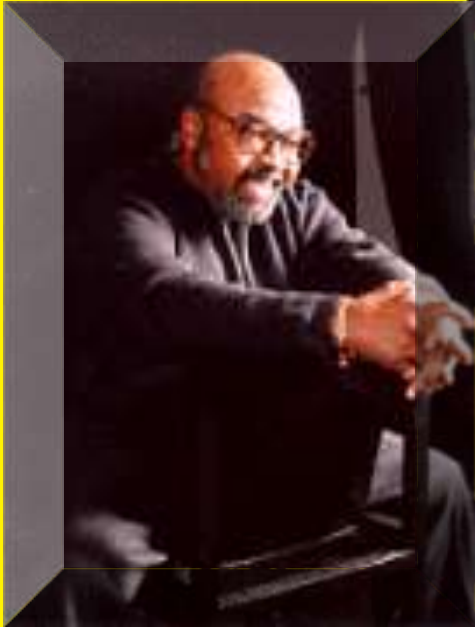
The singer-songwriter Dan Seals was one half of the Seventies soft-rock duo England Dan and John Ford Coley.... As his easy-on-the-ear style went out of fashion in the mid-Nineties, he devoted more time to spreading the word about the Bahá'í Faith, and performed as far afield as Russia. "We're all members of the human race," he said in 1992. "If we were unified with each other, we could knock out the problems in the world a lot quicker."... Seals was an easy-going, gentle soul who enjoyed fly fishing. He took the diagnosis of mantle cell lymphoma with typical fortitude, allowing doctors and researchers to experiment with various treatments in order to better understand this rare condition, before eventually dying at his daughter's home.

Vic Damone Singer



Damone, long a member of the Baha'i faith, promoted his concerns for integrity of the nation - one-parent children, drugs, decline in moral values and so-forth. "It's up to senior citizens to take up the slack, to help families and children."...

James Moody



James Moody (just Moody to his friends) is one of the great treasures of American Culture. He is still an extremely active player who is always stretching the envelope. He is one of the most unsung influences on all of the jazz saxophone world. His music has permeated the universe. He was a close associate of Dizzy Gillespie and was known as Diz' alter ego. They were musical and spiritual Baha'i brothers..... Jazz is a spiritual music, and anything that's spiritual can't go along with what the devil does, OK? And for me, that hard metal rock and that stuff, that's the devil's music. And Baha'i believes that when you play music, you're praying.

Flora Puzim

Queen of Brazilian Jazz



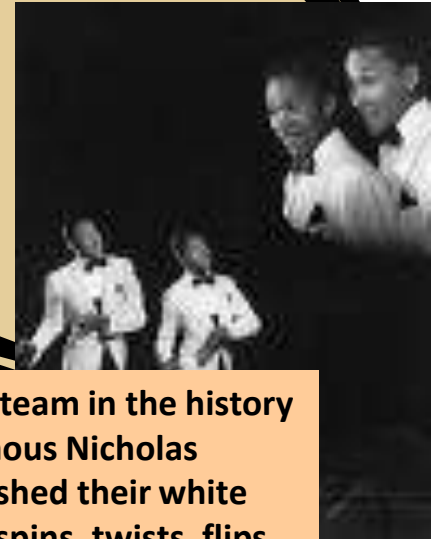
He (Dizzy Gillespie) used to carry his praying book all the time. His praying book had his name printed in gold. One day, when we were on the airplane going to Australia, he said to me, "I want you to have this." Then I said to him, "If you give me your praying book how are you going to pray?" He told me he knew every prayer in the book by memory. I didn't believe it. So he challenged me to open the book on any page and ask him to tell me the prayer of the page. So I opened the book and he asked me what prayer was that, and I said the Traveler's Prayer. He asked me which number it was, and then I told him it was the number 3, and he recited the entire prayer. I quizzed him on another prayer and again he blew me away. He knew every single prayer of that book. So I asked him what was his religion and he told me he had been a Bahai for thirty years. I asked him what was the philosophy of Bahai religion and he said among other things, is the oneness of mankind, universal peace upheld by a world government, equality between men and women, mandatory education for all children of the world and a spiritual solution to the economic power. I was impressed.

Mark Ochu Concert Pianist, lectures on music



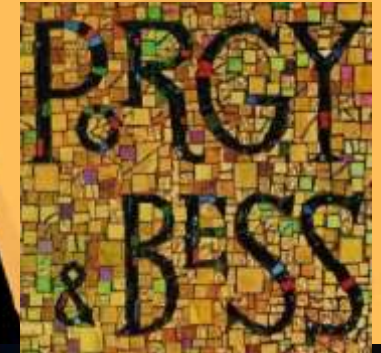
Mark Ochu is a commanding stage presence. An internationally renowned concert pianist, he has taken his approach to music appreciation to some 25 countries on four continents... At that time, a friend of mine who was a Bahá'í was teaching art and comparative religions. He gave me information about the interconnections between various religions, and an understanding of progressive revelation. For me, it was very easy to see the effect .

-Fayard Nicholas - the worlds greatest tap dancer



The two greatest tap dancers that ever lived-certainly the most beloved dance team in the history of entertainment are Fayard (born 1914) and Harold (born 1921-2000), the famous Nicholas Brothers.... the Nicholas Brothers opened at the Cotton Club in 1932 and astonished their white audiences just as much as the residents of Harlem, slipping into their series of spins, twists, flips, and tap dancing to the jazz tempos of "Bugle Call Rag".

Russ Garcia...Composer Conductor



Russell Garcia (born 12 April 1916) in [Oakland, California](#), but a long time resident of [New Zealand](#), is a composer who has written a wide variety of music for screen, stage and broadcast. Self-taught, his break came when he substituted for an ill colleague on a radio show. Subsequently, he went on to become composer/arranger at [NBC Studios](#) (for such shows as [Rawhide](#) and [Laredo](#)), [MGM](#) and [Universal Studios](#) and later movies like the George Pal, MGM films, [The Time Machine \(1960 film\)](#) and [Atlantis, the Lost Continent](#), as well as his orchestrated themes for [Father Goose](#) and [The Benny Goodman Story](#). He collaborated with many musical and Hollywood stars - [Ella Fitzgerald](#), [Louis Armstrong](#), [Anita O'Day](#), [Mel Tormé](#), [Julie London](#), [Oscar Peterson](#), [Stan Kenton](#), [Maynard Ferguson](#), [Walt Disney](#), [Orson Welles](#), [Jane Wyman](#), [Ronald Reagan](#), [Andy Williams](#), [Judy Garland](#), [Henry Mancini](#), and [Charlie Chaplin](#) doing arrangements and conducting orchestras as needed.^[1]



Charles Wolcott... Hollywood Musical Director



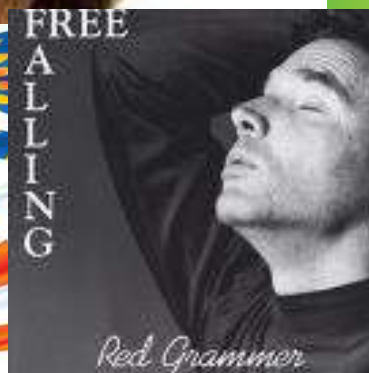
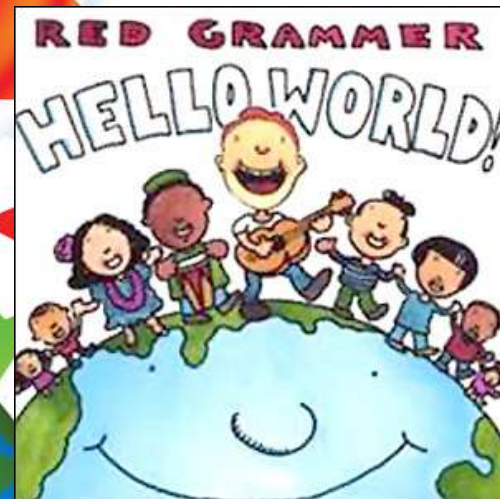
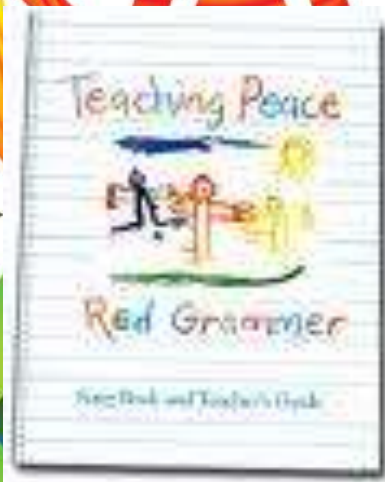
Charles Wolcott ([September 29, 1906](#) in [Flint, United States](#) – 1987 in [Haifa, Israel](#)) served as a member of the [Universal House of Justice](#), the supreme governing body of the [Bahá'í Faith](#), between 1963 and 1987.

Wolcott was born in [Flint, Michigan, USA](#). He moved to [Hollywood](#) in 1937 and soon began working at [Walt Disney Studios](#) writing music for cartoon shorts, then feature films such as [Pinocchio](#) and [Bambi](#). By 1944 he had become General Musical Director at Disney Studios. In 1950 he transferred to [MGM Studios](#) as Associate General Musical Director, and in 1958 became General Musical Director.^[1]

Wolcott had US hit singles in 1944: "Tico-Tico", and 1960: "Ruby Duby Du".

Red Grammer

Singer Songwriter



Red Grammer (born 1952) is a [Grammy](#)-nominated [singer](#) and songwriter. He is best known for his music for the children. His music teaches human values including truthfulness, responsibility, kindness and fairness. Grammer began his singing by making up songs for his nieces and nephews; he has also worked as a school bus driver, door to door salesman, and waiter. His latest album, [Be Bop Your Best](#), was nominated in the 2005 Grammy Awards for Best Musical Album for Children. He is a member of the [Bahá'í Faith](#) and has performed at many Bahá'í venues.

KHALIL FONG

Singer Songwriter



Khalil Fong, born July 14, 1983, is a soul singer and songwriter signed to a label in Hong Kong. Fong was born in Hawaii and his family moved to Shanghai when he was 6. His father (an American-born Chinese from San Francisco, California) wanted Khalil to learn more about Chinese culture. Six years later, they moved to Guangzhou and lived there for about 2 years. Afterwards, they moved to Hong Kong. When he was 16, he sent demos, which he had written, to music producers. Four years later, Warner Music Hong Kong finally recruited him as their producer. Khalil is a Bahá'í. His first language is English and he can speak Mandarin, Shanghainese, Hawaiian Pidgin English, and Cantonese.

Khalil released his first album *Soul Boy* on September 18, 2005. He has won a number of awards, including a silver award for New Male Artist at Commercial Radio. He released his second album "This Love" in December 2006. It featured the song "Love Love Love" (愛愛愛) which peaked at #1 in the 903 top 20

Carol Lombard Actress



Carole Lombard (October 6, 1908 – January 16, 1942) was an American actress. She was particularly noted for her comedic roles in several classic films of the 1930s, most notably in the [1936 film *My Man Godfrey*](#). She is listed as one of the [American Film Institute's greatest stars of all time](#) and was the highest-paid star in Hollywood in the late 1930s, earning around US\$500,000 per year (more than five times the salary of the US President). Lombard's career was cut short when she died at the age of 33 in the crash of [TWA Flight 3](#).

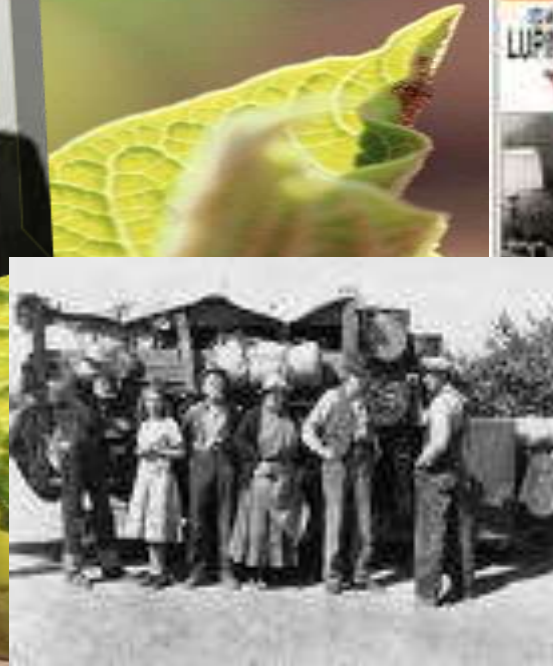
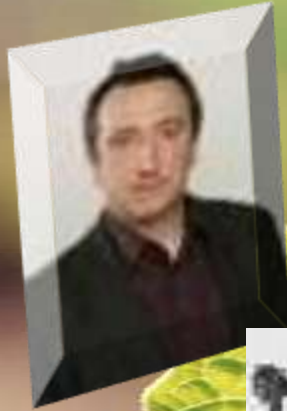
O.Z. Whitehead

Actor

Film

TV

Theatre



Whitehead first appeared on [Broadway](#) in [Martin Beck Theatre](#) performing in [The Lake](#) (1933) in 55 performances from December 1933 to February 1934 which was [Katharine Hepburn](#)'s first Broadway leading role and 11 other [plays](#) by 1939.

O. Z. Whitehead was one of the last surviving members of John Ford's "stock company" of character actors. Along with John Carradine, Donald Meek, Ward Bond, Ben Johnson, Harry Carey Jr et al., Whitehead was one of the many actors regularly employed by Ford to breathe life into even the smallest roles in his films. His best-known part was that of Al in Ford's 1940 adaptation of John Steinbeck's novel [The Grapes of Wrath](#).

[The Scoundrel](#) (1935) by [Ben Hecht](#), and [Charles MacArthur](#) which won a 1936 [Oscar](#) for Best Original Story was Whitehead's first film.^[3] Whitehead most famously played Al Joad ([Henry Fonda](#)'s younger brother) in [John Steinbeck](#)'s [Grapes of Wrath](#) (1940) which was nominated and won several Oscars.^[4] Whitehead starred as Clarence in [Life with Father](#) with [Lillian Gish](#)^[5] among a total of more than 50 films and TV series episodes performances. Whitehead's first TV episode was *The Arrow and the Bow* in [Cavalcade of America](#) in 1953 and continued in other shows like [Gunsmoke](#) (1958), [Bonanza](#) (1960), and two episodes of [Alfred Hitchcock Presents](#) (1960-1). Shortly thereafter Whitehead moved to Ireland and participated in theatre arts there.

ALEX ROCCO Actor



Rocco played the part of [Moe Greene](#), a Las Vegas casino owner, in the film [The Godfather](#). Greene's character represented the top Jewish mobster in the United States. He also played a gangster in the film [The Friends of Eddie Coyle](#) about the Boston [Irish Mob](#). Other notable movies in which Rocco has appeared include [The Wedding Planner](#), as Salvatore and appeared uncredited in [Smokin' Aces](#). He also played a small part in the [Disney/Pixar](#) film, [A Bug's Life](#) as Thorny. In the film [That Thing You Do!](#), Rocco played Sol Siler, the founder of [Playtone Records](#).

He also has a recurring part in the long running animated series [The Simpsons](#) as the head of [Itchy and Scratchy Studios](#), [Roger Meyers, Jr.](#) In DVD commentaries, Rocco has expressed true gratitude to [The Simpsons'](#) staff for allowing him his first voiceover role. He has also taken a part on an episode of [Family Guy](#) (in the episode "[Mind Over Murder](#)", he had a memorable role as the masculine woman) and he is known for having played Charlie Polniaczek, Jo's father on [The Facts of Life](#). From 1989 to 1990, Rocco was a regular on the television comedy series [The Famous Teddy Z](#) in which he played "Al Floss", a slick cheesy Hollywood talent agent and foil to [Jon Cryer](#) in the title role, an ex-mailroom clerk turned superagent. Rocco received an [Emmy Award](#) as [Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series](#) for this role. In 1997, he appeared (along with [Rodney Dangerfield](#)) in the annual Thanksgiving episode of the [ABC](#) sitcom [Home Improvement](#).

Omid Djalili Actor Comedian



Djalili has appeared in a number of films, most notably [Gladiator](#), [The Mummy](#), [Mean Machine](#), [Alien Autopsy](#), [Spy Game](#), [Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow](#), [Grow Your Own](#) and [Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End](#). He has himself noted the fact that he usually appears as a generic Middle Eastern background character in many of these films, often commenting that he appears in the "[James Bond film](#)" as the "Second Azerbaijani oil pipe attendant". He is probably best-known to American audiences as Nasim from the US [sitcom Whoopi](#), starring alongside actress [Whoopi Goldberg](#) and picked up an international film award for Best Supporting Actor in [Casanova](#).

Eva LaRue

Actress

Day Time Drama TV



From 1993 to 1997 and again from 2002 to 2005, LaRue portrayed [Dr. Maria Santos Grey](#) on [All My Children](#).^[2] There, she was half of *All My Children* [supercouple](#) Edmund and Maria. She received a [Daytime Emmy Award](#) nomination in the category of "Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series" for *All My Children*. She also received a nomination in 2004 in the category of "Outstanding Original Song" for composing the song *Dance Again with You*, which was used as a backdrop to the lovemaking scene after the third marriage of the characters Edmund and Maria June of 2003.

LaRue also performed in television movies over the years, appearing as [Annette Funicello](#) in a biographical movie of the former Mouseketeer and also in the adaptation of [Danielle Steel](#)'s [Remembrance](#) as Princess Serena.

While on *All My Children*, LaRue developed a notable friendship with [Sarah Michelle Gellar](#), who portrayed the role of [Kendall Hart](#) on the soap opera. LaRue also was the second Linda Lorenzo, [George Lopez](#)'s sister, on the TV sitcom [George Lopez](#).

In the fall 2005, LaRue began the role of [Natalia Boa Vista](#) on [CSI: Miami](#). It was revealed in the end of Season 4 that Eva's character, Natalia Boa Vista, was the mole in the lab reporting back to the [FBI](#). Beginning with Season 5, LaRue became a fulltime cast member.

Anthony Azizi

Actor Film TV



Anthony Azizi (born [May 29, 1973](#)) is an [American television actor](#).

Born in New York City of [Iranian](#) descent, Azizi is mainly known for his [television](#) work. He has had recurring roles on [24](#) as [terrorist](#) Mamud Faheen, and on [Commander in Chief](#) as presidential aide Vince Taylor. Azizi was also a regular on the short-lived television series "[Threat Matrix](#)". He has also guest-starred on [Criminal Minds](#), [CSI: Miami](#), [JAG](#), [Gilmore Girls](#), [The Shield](#), [NYPD Blue](#), [The West Wing](#), [Desperate Housewives](#), [Lost](#), [Prison Break](#) and [Chuck](#).

Azizi is a [Bahá'í](#). He is married to actress Cymbeline Smith. On May 18, 2007, Azizi and his wife became parents to twin boys. Both are first time parents.

He also starred in the 2002 film [Phobic](#).

Rainn Wilson

Actor Film TV



Rainn Dietrich Wilson (born January 20, 1966) is an [American](#) actor. He is known for his roles as the [egomaniacal Dwight Schrute](#) on the American version of the television comedy [The Office](#), the leading role in the 2008 comedy [The Rocker](#), and assistant [mortician](#) Arthur Martin in [HBO's Six Feet Under](#). Films are amongst many [The Last Mimzy](#), [Juno](#), [The Rocker](#), [Monsters vs Aliens](#) etc.

Wilson founded the website [SoulPancake](#). Since its launch in March 2009, it has had over 1 million visits, and has been featured on [Oprah Winfrey's](#) Satellite Radio Show.



Robert Hayden Poet

Robert Hayden (4 August 1913 – 25 February 1980) was an American [poet](#), [essayist](#), [educator](#). He was appointed [Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress](#) in 1976.^[1]

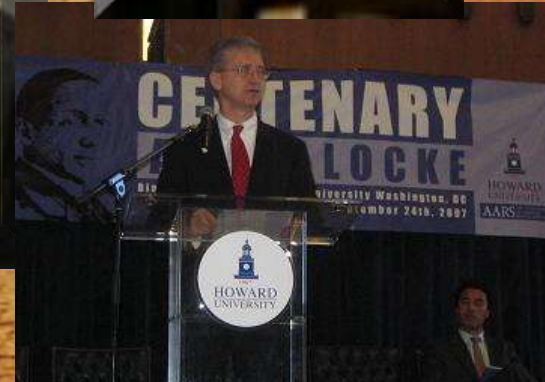
Hayden was elected to the American Academy of Poets in 1975. From 1976 - 1978, Hayden was Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress, the position which in 1985 became the [Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress](#). Hayden's most famous and most [anthologized](#) poem is *Those Winter Sundays*^[citation needed], which deals with the memory of fatherly love and loneliness.

Other famed poems include *The Whipping* (which is about a small boy being severely punished for some undetermined offense), *Middle Passage* (inspired by the events surrounding the [United States v. The Amistad](#) affair), *Runagate, Runagate*, and [Frederick Douglass](#).

Hayden's influences included [Wylie](#), [Cullen](#), [Dunbar](#), [Hughes](#), Bontemps, [Keats](#), [Auden](#) and [Yeats](#). Hayden's work often addressed the plight of African Americans, usually using his former home of Paradise Valley slum as a backdrop, as he does in the poem Heart-Shape in the Dust. Hayden's work made ready use of black [vernacular](#) and folk speech. Hayden wrote political poetry as well, including a sequence on the [Vietnam War](#). On the first poem of the sequence, he said, "I was trying to convey the idea that the horrors of the war became a kind of presence, and they were with you in the most personal and intimate activity, having your meals and so on. Everything was touched by the horror and the brutality and criminality of war. I feel that's one of the best of the poems."

Alain LeRoy Locke

Writer Philosopher Educator



Alain LeRoy Locke (September 13, 1885^l– June 9, 1954) was an [American writer](#), [philosopher](#), [educator](#), and patron of the arts. He is best known for his writings on and about the [Harlem Renaissance](#). He is unofficially called the "Father of the Harlem Renaissance". His philosophy served as a strong motivating force in keeping the energy and passion of the Movement at the forefront.

Locke was a member of the [Bahá'í Faith](#) and declared his belief in [Bahá'u'lláh](#) in 1918. It was common to write to [`Abdu'l-Bahá](#) to declare one's new faith, and Locke received a letter, or "tablet", from `Abdu'l-Bahá in return. When `Abdu'l-Bahá died in 1921, Locke enjoyed a close relationship with [Shoghi Effendi](#), the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith. Although we do not know how much of his philosophy was influenced by the Bahá'í Faith, one can certainly see many similarities and themes that they share. Shoghi Effendi is reported to have said to Locke, "People as you, [Mr. Gregory](#), [Dr. Esslemont](#) and some other dear souls are as rare as diamond."^l

Mark Tobey Painter Artist



In 1935, Tobey held his first solo exhibition at the [Seattle Art Museum](#). He yo-yoed from New York to Washington, D.C. to Alberta, Canada, back to England, and to Haifa to visit the principal shrine of the Baha'i Faith.... In June 1939, Tobey attended a Baha'i summer school and overstayed his allotted vacation time. Inverarity dropped him from the WPA project. Fortunately, paintings he had done on the project were included in a [Works Progress Administration](#) (WPA) exhibition that August, where they were seen by [Marian Willard](#), who operated a New York art gallery.

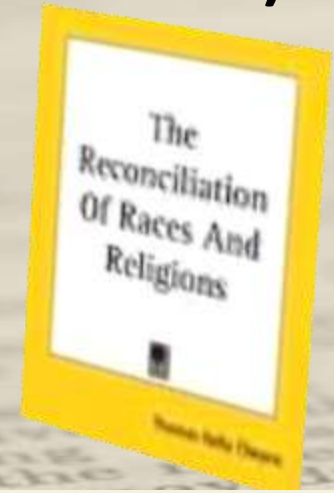
The artist settled in Basel, Switzerland in 1960, and in September took part in [Vienna's](#) Congress of the International Association of the Visual Arts on the topic "The East - Occident".

In 1961, he became the first American painter ever to exhibit at the [Louvre's](#) Pavillon de Marsan in Paris.

Solo presentations of Tobey's work were held at The Museum of Modern Art, New York in 1962, and at the [Stedelijk Museum](#) in [Amsterdam](#) in 1966. In the same year, Tobey traveled to the Baha'i world center in [Haifa](#), then visited the [Prado](#) in [Madrid](#).

THOMAS KELLY CHEYNE (1841-1915)

BIBLICAL SCHOLAR



Thomas Kelly Cheyne (1841 – 1915) was an [English](#) divine and Biblical [critic](#). He was born in [London](#) and educated at [Merchant Taylors' School, London](#), and [Oxford University](#).

Subsequently he studied German theological methods at [Göttingen](#). He was ordained in 1864 and held a fellowship at [Balliol College, Oxford](#), 1868-1882. During the earlier part of this period he stood alone in the university as a teacher of the main conclusions of [Old Testament](#) criticism at that time. In 1881 he was presented to the [rectory](#) of Tendring, in [Essex](#), and in 1884 he was made a member of the Old Testament revision company. He resigned the living of Tendring in 1885 on his appointment to be [Oriental Professor of the Interpretation of Holy Scripture](#), which carried with it a canonry at [Rochester](#). In 1889 he delivered the [Bampton lectures](#) at Oxford. In 1908 he resigned his professorship.

He consistently urged in his writings the necessity of a broad and comprehensive study of the Scriptures in the light of literary, historical and scientific considerations. His publications include commentaries on the *Prophets and Hagiographa*, as well as lectures and addresses on theological subjects. He was a joint editor of the [Encyclopaedia Biblica](#) (London, 1899–1903), a work embodying the more advanced conclusions of English biblical criticism. In the introduction to his *Origin of the Psalter* (London, 1891) he gave an account of his development as a critical scholar. His publications include translations, commentaries, and supplemental research (historical, literary

He became a member of the [Bahá'í Faith](#) by 1914.^[1]

Bernard Leach 1887-1979 British Potter



Bernard Howell Leach, [CBE](#), [CH](#) (January 5, 1887 – May 6, 1979), was a [British studio potter](#) and art teacher. He is regarded as the "Father of British studio pottery"

Leach advocated making utilitarian, so-called [ethical pots](#) over [fine art pots](#), which promote aesthetic concerns rather than function. Thus, his style had a lot of influence on [counter-culture](#) and modern design in North America during the 1950s and 1960s. He aspired to running a modern cooperative workshop which created a catalogue of handmade pottery for the general public. However, he always made individual pots which were exhibited as works of art.

Bernard Leach expressed many of his thoughts on spirituality and art in his letters and articles throughout his life and some of these are reproduced in [Rob Weinberg's](#) "Spinning the Clay into Stars", [Lowell Johnson's](#) "[Reginald Turvey](#) - Life and Art", and his own "Beyond East and West" and "Drawings, Verse and Belief". The agnosticism of his youth had evolved to a sense of spirituality of a more oriental approach. Leach mentions in his 1953 self-published essay, "My Religious Faith", that he first heard of the Bahá'í Faith just before World War I from the American Agnes Alexander, living in Japan. Agnes would later become a Hand of the Cause of God.

Auguste-Henri Forel 1848-1931

Scientist Psychiatrist



Auguste-Henri Forel ([September 1, 1848](#) – [July 27, 1931](#)) was a [Swiss myrmecologist](#), [neuroanatomist](#) and [psychiatrist](#), notable for his investigations into the [brain](#) structure of humans and [ants](#). For example, he is considered a co-founder of the neuron theory.¹ Forel is also known for his early contributions to [sexology](#). Forel suffered a [stroke](#) that paralyzed his right side in 1912, but he taught himself to write with his left hand and was able to continue his studies. By 1914 he was a good friend of the eminent [British entomologist Horace Donisthorpe](#), with whom he stayed in [Switzerland](#); his ardent [socialist](#) views frequently caused political arguments between the two. In 1920 he became a member of the [Bahá'í Faith](#), abandoning his earlier racist and socialist views saying,

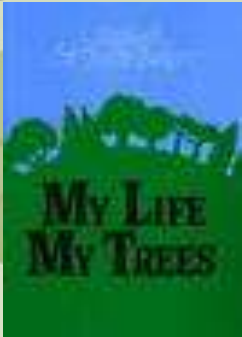
This is the true religion of human social good, without dogmas or priests, uniting all men on this small terrestrial globe of ours. I have become a Bahá'í. May this religion live and prosper for the good of mankind; this is my most ardent wish

—Auguste Forel,

From [`Abdu'l-Bahá](#) he received a [letter](#) about the differences between the mineral, vegetable, animal and human worlds, the spiritual nature of man and proofs of the existence of [God](#).

Richard St. Barbe Baker 1889-1982

Environmental Activist



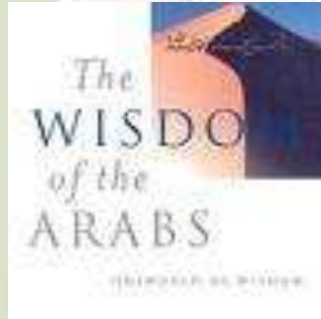
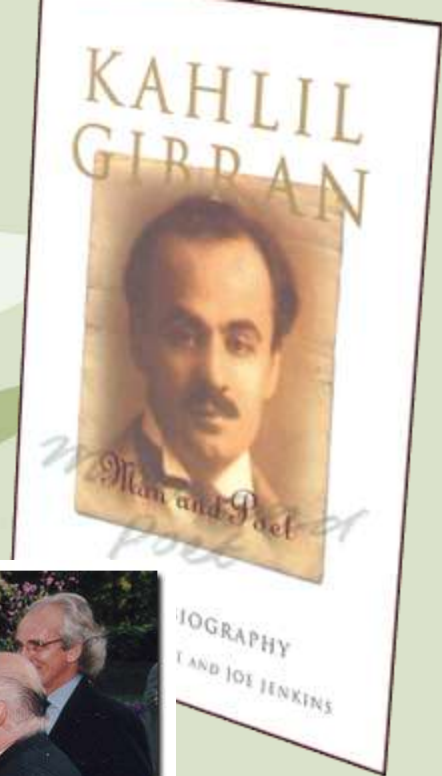
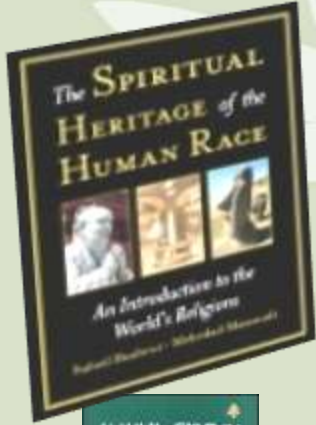
Richard St. Barbe Baker (1889 – 1982) was an [English](#) forester, environmental activist, and author who contributed greatly to worldwide [reforestation](#) efforts. As a leader, he founded an organization, still active today, whose many chapters carry out reforestation internationally.

David Hofman, a Canadian Bahá'í who served on the [Universal House of Justice](#) said of St. Barbe Baker's acceptance of the Bahá'í Faith (shortly after 1924)^[5]: "He always said that this was the beginning of his true life, and he realized that he derived so much benefit from these [Bahá'í](#) prayers that it was only fair that he should serve the Bahá'í Faith to the best of his ability." Mr. Hofman has also said that, "... he spread knowledge of the Faith wherever he went and was greatly admired by Shoghi Effendi for his dedication to the cause of humanity." See also [Bahá'í Faith in Kenya](#) and [Bahá'í Faith in Nigeria](#).



Prof. Suheil Bushrui

Peace Activist Author



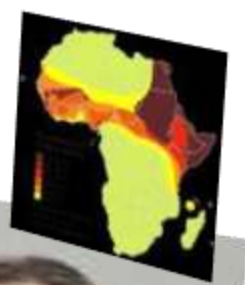
HRH The Prince of Wales, left, with Suheil Bushrui, foreground, right, at a special Temenos Academy function at Highgrove, the Prince's estate, in July 2002

Prof. Bushrui received word that he would be the recipient of the 2003 Juliet Hollister Award. Given by the Temple of Understanding in recognition of "exceptional service to interfaith understanding," the Hollister award has been bestowed on international luminaries such as South African President Nelson Mandela, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson, Queen Noor of Jordan, the Dalai Lama, Kenyan activist Wangari Maathai, and theologian Thomas Berry.

For the last ten years, Prof. Bushrui's platform for the promotion of such ideas has been the Bahá'í Chair for World Peace here at the University of Maryland. In 1992, Prof. Bushrui became the first incumbent of the Chair, which is located in the University's Center for International Development and Conflict Management (CIDCM) and was endowed largely with contributions from members of the worldwide Bahá'í community.

Layli Miller-Muro

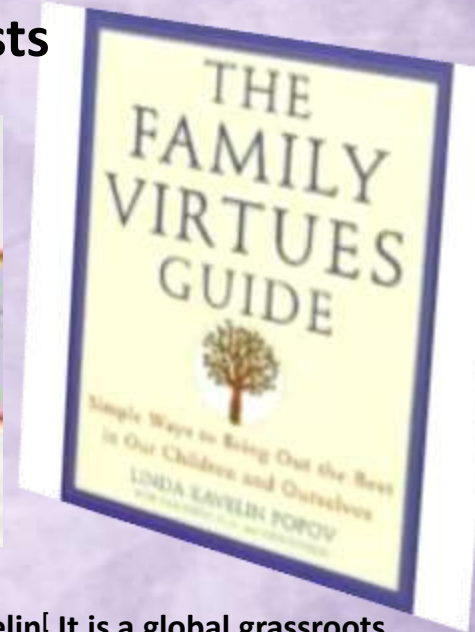
Human Rights Activist



Layli Miller-Muro is the [Executive Director](#) of the [Tahirih Justice Center](#), a [non-profit organization](#) dedicated to protecting women from human rights abuses through the provision of legal aid and public policy advocacy. Miller-Muro founded the organization in 1997 following her involvement in [Matter of Kasinga](#), a high-profile case that set national precedent and revolutionized asylum law in the United States. Fauziya Kassindja, a 17-year-old girl who had fled Togo in fear of a forced polygamous marriage and a tribal practice known as female genital mutilation, was granted asylum in 1996 by the US Board of Immigration Appeals. This decision opened the door to gender-based persecution as grounds for asylum. Using her portion of the proceeds from a book she and Kassindja co-authored about the case (*Do They Hear You When You Cry?* Delacorte Press, 1998), Miller-Muro established Tahirih. Prior to joining Tahirih as Executive Director in 2001, Miller-Muro was an attorney at the Washington, D.C. law firm of [Arnold & Porter](#) where she practiced international litigation and maintained a substantial pro bono practice. Prior to joining Arnold & Porter, Miller-Muro was an attorney-advisor at the U.S. Department of Justice, Board of Immigration Appeals.

Linda and Dr. Dan Popov, John Kavelin

Family and Morality Activists



The Virtues Project was founded in 1991 by Linda Kavelin Popov, Dr. Dan Popov, and John Kavelin¹ It is a global grassroots initiative that inspires the practice of virtues in everyday life. The Project is active in more than 85 countries and was honored by the United Nations during the International Year of the Family in 1994 as a "model global program for all cultures." When they began work on the materials and programs in 1990, Linda was a [psychotherapist](#) designing mental health treatment and disease prevention programs for industry and government, her husband Dan, a graduate of United States Military Academy at [West Point](#), was a senior scientist consulting on information systems to [NASA](#) and clinical pediatric [psychotherapist](#), and her brother John was an art director at [Walt Disney Imagineering](#):

The Virtues Project has inspired and mobilized many thousands of families, educators, leaders and employees to commit acts of service and generosity, to heal violence with virtues, and to create safe and caring communities. There are over 80 certified trainers in The Virtues Project in at least 19 countries¹ Among the more than 30^[4] institutions using curricula or materials based on The Virtues Project are: [British Columbia Teachers' Federation](#) of [Canada](#), [International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War](#), the Ministry of Education of the [Cook Islands](#), [Montessori Schools](#), [Nancy Campbell Collegiate Institute](#) and [One Planet International School](#).

Canada's [Vision TV](#) produced a television series [Virtues: A Family Affair](#) hosted and executive produced by Linda Kavelin Popov. The Popovs have spent more than a dozen years traveling to cultures, communities and organizations around the world to share the simple practices of the Project.

Duffy Sheridan Painter



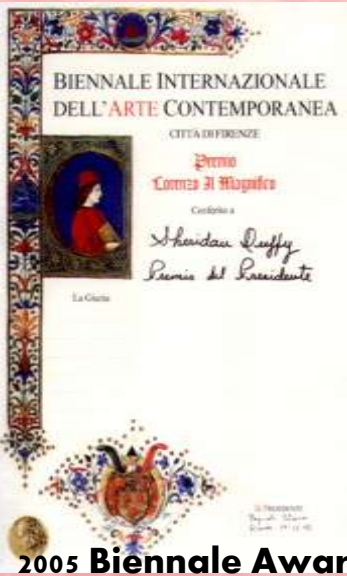
Duffy Sheridan has been painting since he was a child. His father, also an artist, encouraged him to learn to paint anything and everything. He has traveled the world and dedicated his artistic life to the discovery and expression of beauty as he sees it.

Although he and his family spent many years in relative seclusion in the far corners of the world, Sheridan's work has attracted the attention of collectors on five continents.

Since returning to the United States in 1991, his work has received international acclaim and he has been designated a Living Master™ by the Art Renewal Center.

His paintings can be found in prestigious institutions from a Cathedral in the South Pacific to the US Air Force Academy to corporate headquarters in Manhattan, as well as in the private residences of kings, judges, bishops, doctors and collectors all over the world.

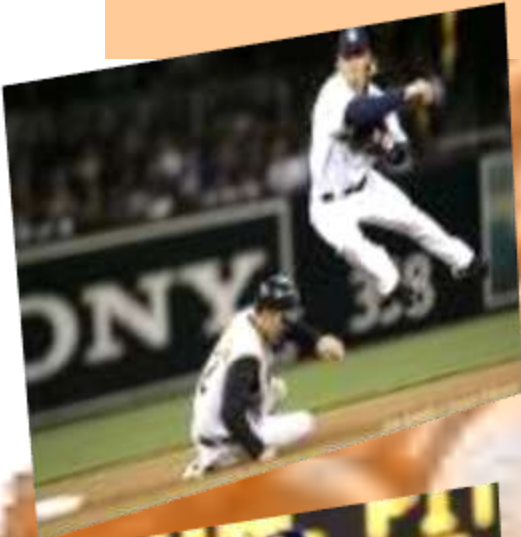
For over 35 years the teachings of the [Baha'i Faith](#) have been the primary influence of Sheridan's life and work and have dominated his continual search for that balance of craftsmanship and artistic expression which has the ability to elevate, in some small way, the human condition.



2005 Biennale Award

Khalil Greene

Baseball Player



Khalil Thabit Greene (born [October 21, 1979](#) in [Butler, Pennsylvania](#)) is a [Major League Baseball shortstop](#) for the [St. Louis Cardinals](#). He bats and throws [right-handed](#).

[San Diego Padres](#) ([2003-2008](#))

[St. Louis Cardinals](#) ([2009-present](#))

A still life arrangement on a marble-topped table. In the center is a large, vibrant bouquet of purple flowers, possibly hydrangeas, in a teal-colored vase. To the left of the vase is a white, classical-style statue of a figure. In front of the statue is a small, dark-colored bird figurine. To the right of the vase is another dark-colored bird figurine. The background shows a window with a wooden frame and a patterned curtain. The text "Appreciations publically shared about the Baha'i Faith" is overlaid in white, bold font in the center of the image.

**Appreciations publically
shared about
the Baha'i Faith**

Gordon Brown

Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.



Gordon Brown is the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. He took office on 27 June 2007, three days after becoming leader of the Labour Party. Prior to this he served as the Chancellor of the Exchequer from 1997-2007, becoming the United Kingdom's longest serving Chancellor since the early 19th century.

"I would like to express my respect and admiration to the Baha'i community which makes a contribution to British life out of all proportion to its size. The principles of the Baha'i faith are rightly shared and appreciated by many in our different communities. It is therefore all the more tragic that Baha'is around the world face prejudice and discrimination. I very much welcome your increased participation in public life and hope you will build on this in the future."

21 April 2009



Al Gore Nobel Peace Prize Winner Author Activist

Al Gore is an American environmental activist, author and former politician. He served as the 45th Vice-President of the USA from 1993 to 2001. In his book 'Earth in the Balance', he explores the spiritual teachings of world religions concerning planet earth.

“One of the newest of the great universalist religions, Baha’i, founded in 1863 in Persia by Mirza Husayn Ali, warns us not only to properly regard the relationship between humankind and nature but also the one between civilization and the environment. Perhaps because its guiding visions were formed during the period of accelerating industrialism, Baha’i seems to dwell on the spiritual implications of the great transformation to which it bore fresh witness: “We cannot segregate the human heart from the environment outside us and say that once one of these is reformed everything will be improved. Man is organic with the world. His inner life molds the environment and is itself deeply affected by it. The one acts upon the other and every abiding change in the life of man is the result of these mutual reactions.” And, again, from the Baha’i sacred writings comes this: “Civilization, so often vaunted by the learned exponents of arts and sciences will, if allowed to overleap the bounds of moderation, bring great evil upon men.””
From *Earth in the Balance*, 1993



Tony Blair Previous UK Prime Minister

Foundation for Interfaith Understanding

Tony Blair was Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1997-2007. He was the Labour Party's longest-serving Prime Minister and the only leader to have taken the party to three consecutive general election victories. On a number of occasions, Mr Blair sent the UK Bahá'í community messages for the celebration of Naw-Rúz.

On 30 May 2008, Tony Blair launched the Tony Blair Faith Foundation as a vehicle for encouraging different faiths to join together in promoting respect and understanding, as well as working to tackle poverty. Reflecting Blair's own faith, but not dedicated to any particular religion, the Foundation aims to "show how faith is a powerful force for good in the modern world."

The United Kingdom deeply values the presence of the Baha'i community and the unique contribution you make. The words of your founder, that "the earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens", have perhaps an even greater resonance in 2007 than ever before. The universal challenges of climate change, and its potentially disastrous impact on millions of people across the globe, remind us forcefully that we are all fellow citizens of the world, all sharing in its destiny. As we confront these challenges I have no doubt that you, and your fellow Baha'is in other countries, have much to contribute to the debate and the pursuit of possible solutions, drawing on the tradition of working for social justice of which Baha'is can rightly be so proud."

21 March 2007

I warmly commend all that the Baha'i community does for social cohesion and better inter-faith relations, which makes such a valuable contribution to our society. Your commitment to tackling discrimination and promoting our shared humanity is particularly important. I hope that this work will become increasingly well-known."

21 March 2006



David Cameron Leader of Conservative Party UK

David Cameron is the current leader of the Conservative Party and Leader of the Opposition in the United Kingdom.

There is no doubt that your faith's belief in the breaking down of barriers that separate people is a lesson to us all, as we face the national and international challenges of our day.

The importance you place on principles such as social justice, and the need to tackle prejudice, has stood the test of time. These principles are as vital today as they were a century and a half ago.

May I commend also your belief in the value of individual human initiative, the importance of family life, and the need to strengthen communities and to review and advance society as a whole."

2006

"The principles which the Bahá'í community hold dear – in particular unity and also the promotion of social justice, a belief in the importance of family life, and a concern for the environment – are of central importance to our society today.

The fact that so much work has been carried out to put these values into practice, through development projects around the world does great credit to your faith.

I know also that you will have in your thoughts at this time those communities elsewhere who face persecution because of their faith. Freedom to worship and to hold religious belief is a fundamental right which we must always cherish."

2007

"Not only is Ridván an important time for communal prayers and celebration, and for electing local governing councils, but it can also be a time for reflection on the principles which the Bahá'í community holds dear. These principles include unity, the promotion of social justice, a belief in the importance of family life, and a concern for the environment. I know that you will also be thinking of your co-religionists elsewhere who may be facing persecution because of their beliefs."

2008

John Hick

Philosopher of religion and theologian



John Hick is an internationally acclaimed philosopher of religion and theologian. His many books have, between them, been translated into seventeen languages. More than twenty books have been published about his work in English, German, French, Chinese and Japanese.

“But the most explicit teaching of pluralism as religious truth comes from the region between east and west, namely Iran (Persia). It was here that the nineteenth-century prophet Bahá’u’lláh taught that the ultimate divine reality is in itself beyond the grasp of the human mind, but has nevertheless been imaged and responded to in different historically and culturally conditioned ways by the founders of the different faith-traditions. The Bahá’í religion which he founded continues to teach this message in many countries today.”

From *The Fifth Dimension*, 1999



Dan Rather Journalist

Dan Rather is an acclaimed US journalist and former news anchor for the CBS Evening News. He is now managing editor and anchor of the television news magazine, Dan Rather Reports, on the cable channel HDNet. His 2001 book, The American Dream: Stories from the Heart of Our Nation contained stories of people pursuing their version of the American dream. One of his interviewees was an Iranian Bahá'í who went to the United States in search of freedom of religion.

"The Bahá'í have been persecuted from their beginnings. In 1844, a Persian merchant now known to the faithful as the Báb proclaimed that God had told him to prepare the world for a divine messenger. When the Báb and his message began to attract a following, they were set upon by extremist followers of the Muslim clergy. In 1850, they killed the Bab. Thirteen years later, a surviving disciple, Bahá'u'lláh, revealed that he was the one of whom the Bab had foretold.

Bahá'u'lláh taught, to put it in simple terms, that God is too great for any one religion to fully contain. Each, however, has contributed to humankind's understanding and progress. To the Bahá'í, the teachings of Abraham, Moses, the Buddha, Zoroaster, Jesus, Krishna, and Mohammed are all pieces of a vast universal puzzle. All have made equal contributions to morality and civilization, and all are studied closely by Bahá'í...

Their faith asks them to work toward eliminating prejudice of all kinds. Women and men are equals in Bahá'í families ... Bahá'í are encouraged to promote their religion but to avoid proselytizing in any way that would infringe on the privacy or rights of others. Each Bahá'í is expected to obey the laws of the country in which he or she lives and to serve the needs of his or her community. They are instructed to avoid partisan politics and do not accept political appointments.

Essentially, Bahá'í do not pose a threat to any religion or to any of the more than 250 nations and territories in which they live. They are not revolutionaries. They are, however, committed to changing the world through faith and education. Because they are peaceful and unobtrusive, it can be difficult to understand why they have been singled out for persecution in Iran... it's hard to see it as boiling down to anything more than hatred. And that's something that's tough for fair-minded people to fully grasp."

Supreme Court Judge William O. Douglas



William Orville Douglas (October 16, 1898 – January 19, 1980) was a [United States Supreme Court Associate Justice](#). With a term lasting 36 years and 209 days, he is the longest-serving justice in the history of the Supreme Court. In 1975, a [Time](#) article called Douglas "the most doctrinaire and committed civil libertarian ever to sit on the court."[[]



The Baha'i House of Worship at Wilmette, Illinois, is a structure of great beauty, as millions who have seen it know. But perhaps not so many realize its symbolic significance. It teaches the essential unity of mankind under one God, irrespective of the various sects and creeds that give expression to the various Faiths....The important thing is recognition of the essential unity of mankind under one God...That is a force which cuts across politics, trade routes racial groupings the world around. It can be made a powerful moral force in the practical affairs of the world if there is a dedication to the cause...the kind of dedication that went into the long and difficult task of constructing the Baha'i House of Worship at Wilmette.

Message at the time of dedication of the House of Worship in 1953



Gabriele Mueller-Trimbusch

**Deputy-Mayor for Welfare, Youth and Health
in the City of Stuttgart, Germany.**

*Gabriele Mueller-Trimbusch is Deputy-Mayor
for Welfare, Youth and Health in the City of
Stuttgart, Germany.*

“The respect you pay to other world religions, your openness for people who have different opinions, your message of peace for the world we live in, makes you a greatly appreciated partner for us. Stuttgart highly values the activities of the Bahá’í community, because it participates in the social life of our city in an exemplary manner.”

Buffy Sainte-Marie Singer Songwriter



France named Buffy Sainte-Marie Best International Artist of 1993. That same year, she was selected by the [United Nations](#) to proclaim officially the International Year of Indigenous Peoples. Sainte-Marie was inducted into the [Juno Hall of Fame](#) for her life-long contribution to music in 1995 and won a [Gemini Award](#) in 1997 for the Canadian TV special *Buffy Sainte-Marie: Up Where We Belong*. This also marked the first time she had performed her famous song to a live audience. She received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the [National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation](#) in Canada in 1998, and was also made an Officer of the [Order of Canada](#). In 1999, she received a star on [Canada's Walk of Fame](#). Sainte-Marie was inducted into the [Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame](#) in 2009.

Reverend Peter Owen-Jones

Anglican Clergyman TV Presenter



*The Reverend Peter Owen-Jones is an Anglican clergyman, author and TV presenter. He is the writer and presenter of *The Battle for Britain's Soul*, *Extreme Pilgrim* and *Around the World in 80 Faiths*.*

“Out of the biblical traditions of the Middle East, a new religion emerged in 19th century Iran which introduced a whole set of new ideas about our connection with the past. On the coast of Israel at Haifa, the followers of the Bahá’í Faith have built a garden at the Shrine of their Prophet known as The Báb. I wonder if this faith will offer a break from the hidebound views of the past I’ve experienced on my journey so far...

There’s one particular Bahá’í saying that I really do admire and it is the world is one country and we are all its citizens. That implies equal rights and an equal relationship with God – not fractured upon one belief system or another.

Having been here, I see Bahá’í is a religion which welcomes all religious perspectives. And I think – in a land of belligerent tribalism – this is such a wonderful, refreshing tonic. For me connecting with God means transcending the mundane facts of where we were born and in what tribe...

This isn’t dependent on being born into some tribe, born into your religion. This is inclusive, all-embracing monotheism and I hope, I hope that this is the future, I do.”

Ervin László Philosopher Systems Theorist



Ervin László is a Hungarian philosopher of science and systems theorist. He has published more than 70 books and is editor of World Futures: The Journal of General Evolution.

“The Bahá’í call for peace comes at a crucial moment in the history of humanity. Peace in the contemporary world is no longer an option but a necessity. All leaders and peoples of the world must come to realize this fact, and achieve the maturity which the Bahá’í Faith foresees for the coming of age of humanity.”



Kahlil Gibran

Writer

Poet

*Kahlil Gibran was a Lebanese-American writer, poet, artist and philosopher. Since its publication in 1923, his inspirational book, *The Prophet*, has never been out of print and remains an international best-seller.*

Juliet Thompson wrote that Gibran “got hold of some of the Arabic of Bahá’u'lláh. He said it was the most stupendous literature that ever was written, and that...there was no Arabic that even touched the Arabic of Bahà’u'llàh.”

Later Gibran met ‘Abdu’l-Bahá. “He simply adored the Master. He was with Him whenever he could be,” wrote Thompson. “He told me that when he wrote *The Son of Man*, he thought of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá all through. He said that he was going to write another book with ‘Abdu’l-Bahá as the centre and all the contemporaries of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá speaking. He died before he wrote it. He told me definitely that *The Son of Man* was influenced by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá.”

Leo Tolstoy, or Count Lev Nikolayevich Tolstoy Writer



Leo Tolstoy, or Count Lev Nikolayevich Tolstoy ([Russian: Лев Никола́евич Толсто́й \(help·info\)](#)), Russian pronunciation: [\[lʲɛv nʲɪkɐˈlajvʲɪtɕ tɐlˈstoj\]](#); September 9 [\[O.S. August 28\]](#) 1828 – November 20 [\[O.S. November 7\]](#) 1910), was a Russian writer widely regarded as among the greatest of novelists. His masterpieces [War and Peace](#) and [Anna Karenina](#) represent in their scope, breadth and vivid depiction of 19th-century Russian life and attitudes, the peak of [realist fiction](#).

Tolstoy's further talents as essayist, dramatist, and [educational reformer](#) made him the most influential member of the aristocratic [Tolstoy](#) family. His literal interpretation of the ethical teachings of [Jesus](#), centering on the [Sermon on the Mount](#), caused him in later life to become a fervent [Christian anarchist](#) and [pacifist](#). His ideas on [nonviolent resistance](#), expressed in such works as [The Kingdom of God Is Within You](#), were to have a profound impact on such pivotal twentieth-century figures as [Gandhi](#)^[1] and [Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)

I have known about the Babis for a long time, and have always been interested in their teachings.It seems to me that these teachings, as well as all the rationalistic social religious teachingsaspire to unite into one common religion of all mankind....in a much as their teachings keep the principal fundamental ideas of brotherhood, equality and love, have a great future before them.

Portions Translated from a letter to Mme. Isabel Grinevskaya Oct 22, 1903

Helen Keller deaf/blind author activist

Helen Adams Keller (June 27, 1880 – June 1, 1968) was an [American author](#), [political activist](#) and [lecturer](#). She was the first [deafblind](#) person to earn a [Bachelor of Arts](#) degree.^{[1][2]} The story of how Keller's teacher, [Annie Sullivan](#), broke through the isolation imposed by a near complete lack of language, allowing the girl to blossom as she learned to communicate, has become known worldwide through the dramatic depictions of the play and film [The Miracle Worker](#). A prolific author, Keller was well traveled and was outspoken in her [opposition to war](#). She campaigned for [women's suffrage](#), [workers' rights](#), and [socialism](#), as well as many other [progressive](#) causes.

In a personal letter written to an American Baha'i:

The philosophy of Baha'u'llah deserves the best thought we can give it. I am returning your book (Braille 'Baha'u'llah and the New Era)

I take this opportunity to thank you for your kind thought of me, and for the inspiration which even the most cursory reading of Baha'u'llah's life cannot fail to impart. What nobler themes than the 'the good of the world and the happiness of the nations' can occupy our lives? The message of Universal Peace will surely prevail. It is useless to combine or conspire against an idea which has in it potency to create a new earth and a new heaven and to quicken human beings with a holy passion of service.



Luther Burbank 1849-1926

Botanist

Luther Burbank was an American botanist, horticulturalist and a pioneer in agricultural science. Burbank also had a spiritual side. His friend and admirer Paramahansa Yogananda wrote of Burbank: "His heart was fathomlessly deep, long acquainted with humility, patience, sacrifice. His little home amid the roses was austere simple; he knew the worthlessness of luxury, the joy of few possessions. The modesty with which he wore his scientific fame repeatedly reminded me of the trees that bend low with the burden of ripening fruits; it is the barren tree that lifts its head high in an empty boast."

"I am heartily in accord with the Bahá'í Movement, in which I have been interested for several years. The religion of peace is the religion we need and always have needed, and in this Bahá'í is more truly the religion of peace than any other."



Yone Noguchi (1875-1947)

Writer



Yone Noguchi was an influential writer of poetry, fiction, essays and literary criticism in both English and Japanese.

“I have heard so much about ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, whom people call an idealist, but I should like to call Him a realist, because no idealism, when it is strong and true, exists without the endorsement of realism. There is nothing more real than His words on truth. His words are as simple as the sunlight; again like the sunlight, they are universal... No Teacher, I think, is more important today than ‘Abdu’l-Bahá.”

Dr. David Starr Jordan

Scientist



Dr David Starr Jordan was a distinguished American scientist and university administrator. In 1885, he was named President of Indiana University, becoming the nation's youngest university president at age 34. In 1891, he became president of Stanford, serving there as president until 1913 and chancellor until his retirement in 1916. Jordan was best known for being a peace activist. He argued that war was detrimental to the human species because it removed the strongest organisms from the gene pool. Jordan was president of the World Peace Foundation from 1910 to 1914 and president of the World Peace Conference in 1915, and opposed U.S. involvement in World War I.

Introducing 'Abdu'l-Bahá at Stanford University, David Starr Jordan said,

"It is our privilege to have with us, through the kindness and courtesy of our Persian friends, one of the great religious teachers of the world, one of the natural successors of the old Hebrew prophets. He is said sometimes to be the founder of a new religion. He has upward of three millions of people following along the lines in which he leads. It is not exactly a new religion, however. The religion of brotherhood, of goodwill, of friendship between men and nations is as old as good thinking and good living may be. It may be said in some sense to be the oldest of religions."

"Abdu'l-Bahá will surely unite the East and the West, for He walks the mystical path with practical feet."

John Estlin Carpenter

Unitarian Oxford Biblical Scholar



John Estlin Carpenter was an eminent Unitarian biblical scholar, theologian and Oxford professor. Carpenter presided over a meeting on 31 December 1912 for 'Abdu'l-Bahá at Manchester College, Oxford, where Carpenter was Principal.

From that subtle race (the Persians) issues the most remarkable movement...The new faith declared that there was no finality in revelation, and while recognising the Koran as a product of past revelation, claimed to embody a new manifestaton of the divine Unity. Carried to Chicago in 1893...it succeeded in establishing itself in the United States; and its missionaries are winning new adherents in India. It, too, claims to be a universal teaching; it has already its noble army of martyrs and its holy books; has Persia, in the midst of her miseries, given birth to a religion which will go round the world?"



The Reverend John Tyssul Davis (1872-1944)

Theist

The Reverend John Tyssul Davis presided over the Theistic Church in London's New Bond Street and later became a Unitarian Minister in Bristol. He was also the Principal of a Buddhist College in Ceylon for two years.

The Bahá'í religion has made its way . . . because it meets the needs of its day. It fits the larger outlook of our time better than the rigid exclusive older faiths. A characteristic is its unexpected liberality and toleration. It accepts all the great religions as true, and their scriptures as inspired. The Baha'ists bid the followers of these faiths disentangle from the windings of racial, particularist, local prejudices, the vital, immortal thread, the pure gospel of eternal worth, and to apply this essential element of life. Instances are quoted of people being recommended to work within the older faiths, to remain, vitalizing them upon the principles of the new faith. They cannot fear new facts, new truths as the Creed defenders must. They believe in a progressive revelation. They admit the cogency of modern criticism and allow that God is in His nature incomprehensible, but is to be known through His Manifestations. Their ethical ideal is very high and is of the type we Westerners have learnt to designate "Christlike." "What does he do to his enemies that he makes them his friends?" was asked concerning the late leader. What astonishes the student is not anything in the ethics or philosophy of this movement, but the extraordinary response its ideal has awakened in such numbers of people, the powerful influence this standard actually exerts on conduct. It is due to four things: (1) It makes a call on the Heroic Element in Man. It offers no bribe. It bids men endure, give up, carry the cross. It calls them to sacrifice, to bear torture, to suffer martyrdom, to brave death. (2) It offers liberty of thought. Even upon such a vital question as immortality it will not bind opinion. Its atmosphere is one of trust and hope, not of dogmatic chill. (3) It is a religion of love. "Notwithstanding the interminable catalogue of extreme and almost incredible sufferings and privations which this heroic band of men and women have endured-more terrible than many martyrdoms-there is not a trace of resentment or bitterness to be observed among them. One would suppose that they were the most fortunate of the people among whom they live, as indeed they do certainly consider themselves, in that they have been permitted to live near their beloved Lord, beside which they count their sufferings as nothing" (Whelps). Love for the Master, love for the brethren, love for the neighbors, love for the alien, love for all humanity, love for all life, love for God-the old, well-tried way trod once before in Syria, trodden again. (4) It is a religion in harmony with science. It has here the advantage of being thirteen centuries later than Islam. This new dispensation has been tried in the furnace, and has not been found wanting. It has been proved valid by the lives of those who have endured all things on its behalf. Here is something more appealing than its logic and rational philosophy. "To the Western observer" (writes Prof. Browne), "it is the complete sincerity of the Bábís, their fearless disregard of death and torture undergone for the sake of their religion, their certain conviction as to the truth of their faith, their generally admirable conduct toward mankind, especially toward their fellow-believers, which constitute their strongest claim on his attention."

"By their fruits shall ye know them!" We cannot but address to this youthful religion an All Hail! of welcome. We cannot fail to see in its activity another proof of the living witness in our own day of the working of the sleepless spirit of God in the hearts of men, for He cannot rest, by the necessity of His nature, until He hath made in conscious reality, as in power, the whole world His own.



Romain Rolland 1868-1944

Nobel Prize winning author Pacifist

Frenchman Romain Rolland was a Nobel Prize winning author, art historian and pacifist. He visited the Bahá'í Centre in Geneva and corresponded with [Tolstoy](#) and [Forel](#) about the Bahá'ís. He quotes from 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Some Answered Questions in his novel, Clerambault.

I first learned of Bahá'ism at Geneva, where they hold a meeting of believers in the doctrine on the 19th of each month...

It is or wants to be a fusion of all the religions of the East and West. It denies none, it accepts them all. It is above all a religious ethic, which does not conceive of religion without putting it into practice, and which seeks to remain in accord with science and reason, without cult or priests. The first duty is that each has a profession: work is holy, it is divine benediction.

I have noticed an analogy with Christian Science. In my spirit, I prefer Bahá'ism. I find it more flexible and subtle. And it offers the poetic imagination a rich feast. Its roots are sunk in the great metaphysical dreams of the Orient. There are some luminous pages in the discourses of St Jean d'Acre (ie: Some Answered Questions) of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Bahá'u'lláh, a prisoner, succeeded in writing and answering some 'tablets' of an admirable and moral beauty, under the name 'the Oppressed One'...



Wellesley Tudor Pole

Major Wellesley Tudor Pole 1884-1968

Writer

Major Wellesley Tudor Pole was a writer, philosopher and English mystic. He authored many pamphlets and books and was a life long pursuer of religious experiences and mystical visions, being particularly involved with spiritualism and the Glastonbury movement.

“The fundamental truths of life and conduct as proclaimed through Jesus have been reaffirmed in picturesque language by the Bahá’í leaders, this reaffirmation being worded to meet the needs of our complex modern “civilisation”. The Founders of both these Faiths possessed outstanding powers of healing and seership.”

“What is the special appeal voiced by Bahá’u’lláh and his son, which has resulted in so many of their followers the world over asserting that they are no longer Jews, Christians, Moslems or Buddhists, as such but have become Bahá’ís? The answer may well be that as each religious revelation becomes crystallised, dogmatic and formal, the need arises for Truth to be restated in terms that conform to the needs of the new hour.”

“I well remember him, majestic yet gentle, pacing up and down the garden whilst he spoke to me about eternal realities, at a time when the whole material world was rocking on its foundations. The power of the spirit shone through his presence, giving one the feeling that a great prophet from Old Testament days had risen up in a war-stricken world, to guide and inspire all who would listen to him.”

“Though by no means a fanatic, I am bound to say that my visit to these places, sacred to Bahá’u’lláh and his son, have deepened my conviction that the Bahá’í movement has an important part to play in the religious regeneration of the world, and especially the Eastern world.”

From The Silent Road, 1960



Lieutenant Colonel Sir Francis Younghusband 1863-1942
British Officer Writer

Lieutenant Colonel Sir Francis Younghusband was a British Army officer, explorer and spiritual writer. He is remembered chiefly for his travels in the Far East and Central Asia, and for his writings on Asia and foreign policy. Younghusband held positions including British commissioner to Tibet and President of the Royal Geographic Society. In 1936, he gathered in London the first meeting of the World Congress of Faiths.

“The story of the Báb...was the story of spiritual heroism unsurpassed... If a young man could, in only six years of ministry, by the sincerity of his purpose and the attraction of his personality, so inspire rich and poor, cultured and illiterate, alike with belief in himself and his doctrines that they would remain staunch though hunted down and without trial sentenced to death, sawn asunder, strangled, shot, blown from guns; and if men of high position and culture in Persia, Turkey and Egypt in numbers to this day adhere to his doctrines; his life must be one of those events in the last hundred years which is really worthy of study...”

From *The Gleam* (1923)

“...the Bahá’í faith exists for almost the sole purpose of contributing to the fellowship and unity of mankind. Other communities might consider how far a particular element of their respective faiths could be regarded as similar to those of other communities. But the Bahá’í faith aimed at combining into one synthesis all those elements in the various faiths which are held in common.”

From *A Venture of Faith* (1937)



Marcus Bach Writer Lecturer on religion

Marcus Bach was an American writer and lecturer on religion, and founder and director of "The Fellowship for Spiritual Understanding." At one point in his life, Dr. Bach set out to meet the five people of his time whom he felt best exemplified the teachings of Jesus Christ in their lives. He travelled 40,000 miles in pursuit of this aim, interviewing Helen Keller, Pope Pius XII, Albert Schweitzer, Therese Neumann, and Shoghi Effendi.

"I went to Israel recently, to the harbor city of Akka, for it was there that Baha'u'llah, banished from Baghdad, spent his years of exile. To this windswept land, where Francis of Assisi once walked, Baha'u'llah came in chains in 1865. I went to the old prison where he was held captive for 25 years and where his son, Abdul-Baha, was a prisoner for 40 years. As I poked around behind the old walls and peered into the dungeons, the Baha'i story came to life. Baha'u'llah, like Jesus, had a forerunner who called himself the Bab, which means "the Gate." In the midst of the religious and political wrangling of Moslem, Christian and Jew, the Bab said in effect: "A plague on all your houses. You have all lost sight of your common origin." He preached that God is the Father of all men and the Founder of all faiths, and that the time had come when heaven would personify this truth. Like John the Baptist, the Bab announced the coming of a messiah: Baha'u'llah, who proclaimed himself in 1863.

I went to Bahji, some six kilometers inland. Here is the sheik's mansion where Baha'u'llah lived like a prince after his release from prison and where he died in 1892. Here is the holy spot where Christians, Jews, Moslems, Zoroastrians and Buddhists came to "lament the loss and magnify the greatness of the herald of God." Baha'is even today do not speak of the death of Baha'u'llah but, rather, of his ascension. In reverence, I knelt beside the bier.

As I walked through the majestic rooms I was reminded that it was here, years ago, that the noted Cambridge University Orientalist, Edward G. Browne, visited Baha'u'llah. His impressions, widely quoted, are precious to every ardent Baha'i: "The face of him on whom I gazed I can never forget. Those piercing eyes seemed to read one's very soul.... No need to ask in whose presence I stood, as I bowed myself before One who is the object of a devotion and love which kings might envy and emperors sigh for in vain!"

This was Baha'u'llah whose power and grace Baha'is saw reflected in his successor, Abdul-Baha, and which they see mirrored today in the present leader, Shoghi Effendi, the eldest son of the eldest daughter of Abdul-Baha, and a distant relative of the Bab. This was Baha'u'llah who, as my minister friend insisted, "can never be sold to Americans; even his name is against him."

But quietly in the heart of every Baha'i there lives a feeling that he and his fellows are children of destiny as well as children of light. Baha'u'llah assured them in his writings: "Be not dismayed! Arise to further my cause and to exalt my word among men..... We are truly almighty. Whoso hath recognized me will arise and truly serve me with such determination that the powers of earth and heaven shall be unable to defeat his purpose."

I have met Baha'is in many parts of the world. They are all cut to the same pattern: heartfelt dedication to the cause and person of Baha'u'llah, zeal in the advancement of their ideals. They ask no salaries, want no honor, and are literally more interested in giving than in receiving. Typical were two Baha'i women I met in Chichicastenango. They had been in this Guatemalan village for two years and had won two converts among the Maya-Quichés. "Isn't this slow progress?" I asked. "That all depends on how you figure it," I was told. "Who knows the power or the value of one soul?"

The Baha'i faith may have been slow in getting started in America because of its ambitious and altruistic world-uniting program. It may have put the cart before the horse. It may have oversold Baha'u'llah on the basis of the oneness of all faiths. But a second look shows that by way of its devotion and the opening door, it may loose itself from captivity. It may also be that the minister was quite right when he said, "If these Baha'is ever get going, they may take the country by storm!"

Published in *The Christian Century*, Volume 74, Number 15 (April 10, 1957)

The Reverend Henry Harris Jessup Presbyterian Missionary to Syria

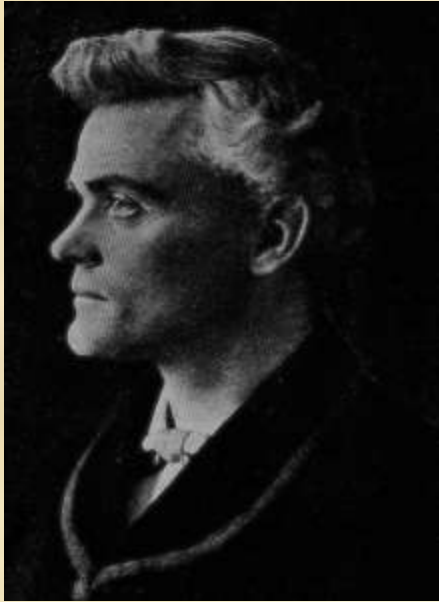


The Reverend Henry Harris Jessup was a missionary and author. He spent a total of 54 years in Syria. His presentation occurred during the Columbia Exposition in Chicago 1863.

“This, then, is our mission: that we who are made in the image of God should remember that all men are made in God’s image. To this divine knowledge we owe all we are, all we hope for. We are rising gradually toward that image, and we owe it to our fellow men to aid them in returning to it in the Glory of God... It is a celestial privilege and with it comes a high responsibility, from which there is no escape.

In the Palace of Bahjí , or Delight, just outside the Fortress of ‘Akká, on the Syrian coast, there died a few months since, a famous Persian sage, the Bábí Saint, named Bahá’u'lláh-the “Glory of God”-the head of that vast reform party of Persian Muslims, who accept the New Testament as the Word of God and Christ as the Deliverer of men, who regard all nations as one, and all men as brothers. Three years ago he was visited by a Cambridge scholar and gave utterance to sentiments so noble, so Christlike, that we repeat them as our closing words:

**“That all nations should become one in faith and all men as brothers; that the bonds of affection and unity between the sons of men should be strengthened; that diversity of religions should cease and differences of race be annulled. What harm is there in this? Yet so it shall be. These fruitless strifes, these ruinous wars shall pass away, and the ‘Most Great Peace’ shall come. Do not you in Europe need this also? Let not a man glory in this, that he loves his country; let him rather glory in this, that he loves his kind.”
Spoken at the Columbian Exposition of 1893, Chicago.**



R. J. Campbell Minister

R. J. Campbell was an English Congregational Minister, who, at the turn of the 20th century, occupied the pulpit of one of the most prestigious churches in England – the City Temple in London. From this pulpit, Campbell began to articulate a doctrinal position which he termed “The New Theology”. Campbell invited ‘Abdu’l-Bahá to give His first ever public address at the City Temple in 10th September 1911.

(The Bahá’í movement) “is one of the most remarkable religious movements of this or any age, a movement which includes, I understand, at least three million souls... The Bahá’í movement, as it is called, in Hither Asia rose on that soil just as spontaneously as Christianity rose in the middle territories adjoining, and that faith – which, by the way, is very closely akin to, I think I might say identical with, the spiritual purpose of Christianity – that movement stands for the spiritual unity of mankind; it stands for universal peace among the nations. These are good things, and the man (‘Abdu’l-Bahá) who teaches them and commends them to three millions of followers must be a good man as well as a great.”

Michele Lessona 1824 - 1894 Senator Physician Writer Zoologist



Michele Lessona was an Italian zoologist, physician, Senator and writer. A dedicated Darwinian, Lessona translated many of Charles Darwin's works into Italian. In 1862, Professor Lessona was appointed physician to the diplomatic delegation sent to Persia to establish relations between the newly created Kingdom of Italy and the Persian government. Fascinated by the life and teachings of the Bab, Lessona wrote a small monograph called "I Babi", published in 1881.

"Forty years ago, in the city of Shiraz, there left childhood and entered puberty a youth that for his singular potency of intellect, for his extraordinary application to study, his profound religious tendencies, his loving nature, for his energy of character, grace of body and beauty of countenance, awakened admiration and affection in everyone who had occasion to deal with him, and captivated all the love of his teachers and relatives. The name of this youth was Mirza Ali-Muhammad...

His style was imaginative and sublime, not like anything human; thus to his quality of a most eloquent orator he added that of an inimitable writer. And while he preached, discussed and taught in the mosques, in the colleges, in the streets, in his house, everywhere they were reading aloud his verses, often interrupting with cries of the most ardent admiration. In all of Shiraz they did not speak of anything else but the Bab, everyone was filled with enthusiasm for him...

The house of the Bab was crowded, night and day, with new converts to his faith; to him came men rich in possessions, men of intellect and energy, and among the very first many mullas enrolled under his banner..."



Herbert Putnam, Litt.D., LL.D. 1861-1955 Librarian of Congress

Herbert Putnam, Litt.D., LL.D. was the eight United States Librarian of Congress, serving from 1899 to 1939. He was the first experienced librarian to hold the post. Early during his administration, Putnam introduced a new system of classifying books that continues to this day.

“The dominant impression that survives in my memory of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá is that of an extraordinary nobility: physically, in the head so massive yet so finely poised, and the modeling of the features; but spiritually, in the serenity of expression, and the suggestion of grave and responsible meditation in the deeper lines of the face. But there was also, in his complexion, carriage, and expression, an assurance of the complete health which is a requisite of a sane judgment. And when, as in a lighter mood, his features relaxed into the playful, the assurance was added of a sense of humor without which there is no true sense of proportion. I have never met any one concerned with the philosophies of life whose judgment might seem so reliable in matters of practical conduct.

My regret is that my meetings with him were so few and that I could not benefit by a lengthier contact with a personality combining a dignity so impressive with human traits so engaging.

I wish that he could be multiplied!”



Raja Jai Prithvi Bahadur Singh Peace Advocate

Raja Jai Prithvi Bahadur Singh of Bajhang, Nepal, was a passionate advocate of world peace and brotherhood. His magnum opus was 'Tatwa Prasamsha,' a book on humanism in Nepali, published in 1913.

“Baha’ism is a faith, which not merely recognises the respective merits of the world religions, but goes a step further and teaches that all religions are One, all the religious seers, saints and prophets are the religious seers, saints and prophets of One religion only, that all mankind is One, and that we must think and feel and act in terms of brotherhood. “We must realise,” as a Bahá’í very beautifully puts it, “that, as the aeroplane, radio and other instruments have crossed the frontiers drawn upon the map, so our sympathy and spirit of oneness should rise above the influences that have separated race from race, class from class, nation from nation and creed from creed. One destiny now controls all human affairs. The fact of world-unity stands out above all other interests and considerations.

Though the traditionally orthodox Hindus, Muslims, Christians, etc., may not agree to call themselves Bahá’ís or even to subscribe to its main tenet, viz., that all religions are One, I think that the really enlightened among them can have no conscientious objection and will indeed wholeheartedly subscribe to it.

Another important aspect of the Bahá’í Faith is its absolutely non-political nature. In *The Golden Age of the Cause of Bahá’u’lláh*, Shoghi Effendi categorically rules out any participation by adherents of the Faith, either individually or collectively, in any form of activity which might be interpreted as an interference in the political affairs of any particular government. So that, no government need apprehend any sort of danger or trouble from Baha’ism.”



George Nathaniel Curzon – the first Marquess Curzon of Kedleston Statesman Foreign Secretary

George Nathaniel Curzon – the first Marquess Curzon of Kedleston – was a British Conservative statesman who served as Viceroy of India and Foreign Secretary. His extensive travels – including a year-long sojourn in Persia from 1889-1890, resulted in several books describing central and eastern Asia and related policy issues.

“The lowest estimate places the present number of Bábís in Persia at half a million. I am disposed to think, from conversations with persons well qualified to judge, that the total is nearer one million. They are to be found in every walk of life, from the ministers and nobles of the Court to the scavenger or the groom, not the least arena of their activity being the Mussulman priesthood itself. It will have been noticed that the movement was initiated by Siyyids, Hajis and Mullas, i.e., persons who, either by descent, from pious inclination, or by profession, were intimately concerned with the Muhammadan creed; and it is among even the professed votaries of the faith that they continue to make their converts...

If one conclusion more than another has been forced upon our notice by the retrospect in which I have indulged, it is that a sublime and un murmuring devotion has been inculcated by this new faith, whatever it be. There is, I believe, but one instance of a Bábí having recanted under pressure of menace of suffering, and he reverted to the faith and was executed within two years. Tales of magnificent heroism illumine the bloodstained pages of Bábí history. Ignorant and unlettered as many of its votaries are, and have been, they are yet prepared to die for their religion, and fires of Smithfield did not kindle a nobler courage than has met and defied the more refined torture-mongers of Tihiran. Of no small account, then, must be the tenets of a creed that can awaken in its followers so rare and beautiful a spirit of self-sacrifice. From the facts that Babiism in its earliest years found itself in conflict with the civil powers and that an attempt was made by Bábís upon the life of the Shah, it has been wrongly inferred that the movement was political in origin and Nihilist in character. It does not appear from a study of the writings either of the Báb or his successors, that there is any foundation for such a suspicion...

The charge of immorality seems to have arisen partly from the malignant inventions of opponents, partly from the much greater freedom claimed for women by the Báb, which in the oriental mind is scarcely dissociable from profligacy of conduct...

The pure and suffering life of the Báb, his ignominious death, the heroism and martyrdom of his followers, will appeal to many others who can find no similar phenomena in the contemporaneous records of Islam....”

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David S. Brown

Edward Granville Browne 1862-1926 Orientalist

Edward Granville Browne was a British orientalist who published numerous articles and books of academic value, in the areas of Persian history and literature. Professor Browne took an interest in subjects which few other Western scholars were willing to explore to any sufficient degree. Professor Browne's interest in the Bábí and later Bahá'í movements was piqued by a book by the French diplomat Comte de Gobineau and resulted in his enjoying a number of private interviews with Bahá'u'lláh Himself in His home at Bahji in 1890. Browne was the only Westerner to meet Bahá'u'lláh and leave a description of the experience.

Professor Browne's encounter with Bahá'u'lláh

“... my conductor paused for a moment while I removed my shoes. Then, with a quick movement of the hand, he withdrew, and, as I passed, replaced the curtain; and I found myself in a large apartment, along the upper end of which ran a low divan, while on the side opposite to the door were placed two or three chairs. Though I dimly suspected whither I was going and whom I was to behold (for no distinct intimation had been given to me), a second or two elapsed ere, with a throb of wonder and awe, I became definitely conscious that the room was not untenanted. In the corner where the divan met the wall sat a wondrous and venerable figure, crowned with a felt head-dress of the kind called **1taj1** by dervishes (but of unusual height and make), round the base of which was wound a small white turban. The face of him on whom I gazed I can never forget, though I cannot describe it. Those piercing eyes seemed to read one's very soul; power and authority sat on that ample brow; while the deep lines on the forehead and face implied an age which the jet-black hair and beard flowing down in indistinguishable luxuriance almost to the waist seemed to belie. No need to ask in whose presence I stood, as I bowed myself before one who is the object of a devotion and love which kings might envy and emperors sigh for in vain!

A mild dignified voice bade me be seated, and then continued: — “Praise be to God that thou has attained! ... Thou has come to see a prisoner and an exile. ... We desire but the good of the world and happiness of the nations; yet they deem us a stirrer up of strife and sedition worthy of bondage and banishment. ... That all nations should become one in faith and all men as brothers; that the bonds of affection and unity between the sons of men should be strengthened; that diversity of religion should cease, and differences of race be annulled — what harm is there in this? ... Yet so it shall be; these fruitless strifes, these ruinous wars shall pass away, and the ‘Most Great Peace’ shall come. ... Do not you in Europe need this also? Is not this that which Christ foretold? ... Yet do we see your kings and rulers lavishing their treasures more freely on means for the destruction of the human race than on that which would conduce to the happiness of mankind. ... These strifes and this bloodshed and discord must cease, and all men be as one kindred and one family. ... Let not a man glory in this, that he loves his country; let him rather glory in this, that he loves his kind. ...”

Such, so far as I can recall them, were the words which, besides many others, I heard from Beha. Let those who read them consider well with themselves whether such doctrines merit death and bonds, and whether the world is more likely gain or lose by their diffusion.”



Sir Ignatius Valentine Chirol 1852-1929

Historian Journalist

British diplomat Sir Ignatius Valentine Chirol was an author, historian and journalist. He travelled through the Middle East as a correspondent for the Morning Standard, visiting Persia in 1884 and Haifa the following year. He served as the Head of The Times' Foreign Department from 1899 until his retirement in 1912. On his passing, Major-General Sir Neill Malcolm called Chirol, the "friend of viceroys, the intimate of ambassadors, one might almost say the counsellor of ministers, he was [also] one of the noblest characters that ever adorned British journalism."

**That the movement which bears the apostolic name of the religious martyr who was put to death at Tabriz more than half a century ago is still a living force in Persia is almost universally recognised. But to what extent and in what shape that force is likely to make itself decisively felt opinions differ very largely...
...Socially one of the most interesting features...is the raising of women to a much higher plane than she is usually admitted to in the East. The Bab himself had no more devoted a disciple than the beautiful and gifted lady, known as Kurrat-el-Ain, the 'Consolation of the Eyes,' who, having shared all the dangers of the first apostolic missions in the north, challenged and suffered death with virile fortitude...No memory is more deeply venerated or kindles greater enthusiasm than hers, and the influence which she wielded in her lifetime still enures to her sex. That women, whom orthodox Islam barely credits with the possession of a soul, are freely admitted to the meetings of Babis, gives their enemies, the Mullahs, ample occasion to blaspheme. But they have never produced a tittle of evidence in support of the vague charges of immorality they are wont to bring against the followers of the new creed. Communism and socialism are also often imputed to them, and some of them appear to have borrowed from the West the terminology of advanced democracy."**