

Schaefer to deliver key ABS lecture



Udo Schaefer contributed to a book that constituted a key defense of the Bahá'í Faith against scholarly attacks in the early 1990s.

Udo Schaefer will deliver the Hasan M. Balyuzi Memorial Lecture at this year's Annual Conference of the Association for Bahá'í Studies, to be held Aug. 30-Sept. 2 in Toronto, Ontario, the Executive Committee of the ABS has announced. His lecture's tentative title is "Theological Foundations and Structural Elements of Bahá'í Ethics."

Always a highlight of the ABS Conference, the Balyuzi Memorial Lecture is given each year by a distinguished person who has made outstanding contributions to Bahá'í scholarship or whose life has become a significant part of the history of the Bahá'í Faith.

Schaefer is the author of numerous books and articles on the Bahá'í Faith and on Islam. His books available in English include *The Light Shinetb in Darkness: Five Studies in Revelation after Christ*, *The Imperishable Dominion: The Bahá'í Faith and the Future of Mankind*, *Beyond the Clash of Religions: The Emergence of a New Paradigm*, and most recently *Making the Crooked Straight: A Contribution to Bahá'í Apologetics*.

The German edition of the latter book, co-authored with Ulrich Gollmer and Nichol Towfigh, played a key role in upholding the public reputation of the Bahá'í Faith in Germany when it came under attack in the early 1990s.

Born in 1926, Schaefer studied law at Heidelberg University. His doctoral dissertation was on the constitutional law of the Bahá'í community in comparison with Canon Law and Protestant Church Law. After serving for many years as a

judge and later as chief public prosecutor at the State Court of Heidelberg, he retired in 1988.

The Balyuzi Lecture was named for Hasan M. Balyuzi, eminent Bahá'í scholar and Hand of the Cause of God, who was a descendant of a brother of Khadíjih-Bagum, the wife of the Báb. The Universal House of Justice, in a 1980 cable to the Bahá'í world, praised his steadfastness, patience and humility as well as "his outstanding scholarly pursuits" as an inspiration to rising generations to follow in his footsteps.

The theme of this year's ABS annual conference is "Towards a Spiritual Civilization: Spirit into Action." The conference will be held at the Delta Meadowvale Resort and Conference Centre, near the Toronto Airport.

To register, contact Parvin Rowhani, Conference Coordinator, Association for Bahá'í Studies, 34 Copernicus St., Ottawa, ON, Canada K1N 7K4 (phone 613-233-1903, fax 613-233-3644, e-mail abs-na@bahai-studies.ca). Although it is possible to register on site, attendees who register in advance receive a discount on registration fees. Register by May 31 to receive the maximum discount.

The special conference room rate is equivalent to about US\$64 per room per night (occupancy by up to four people). The toll-free hotel reservations number is 800-422-8238 (specify "Association for Bahá'í Studies Group" when making reservations). ♦