

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES

May 25, 2016

To the American Bahá'í community

Dearest Friends,

Nearly four weeks have passed since the 108th Bahá'í National Convention was triumphantly concluded, an interval that has provided us all with precious time to reflect on our laudable performance as a national community and to savor, among other shining victories, our collective achievement of not only meeting but exceeding our National Fund goal for the year.

But the situation of the society that surrounds us grows ever more dire, and our fellow citizens' need for the hopeful vision of our Faith grows ever more desperate. Much as we might wish to rest from our labors, if only for a moment, we cannot. In cluster after cluster across the nation, neighborhoods that formerly were adrift—some of them without hope or a shared sense of purpose—are being brought to vibrant new life by the friends' faithful efforts to introduce their residents to the transformative power of Bahá'u'lláh's unifying teachings. To meet the expectations of the Universal House of Justice in these next five years, this community-building work must not only continue but be much intensified.

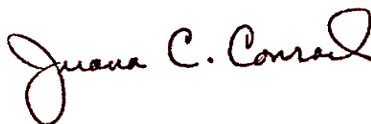
To ensure that the all-important endeavors we are engaged in gain strength, the National Spiritual Assembly decided in its first meeting of the new Bahá'í administrative year to raise our National Fund goal to \$35 million. The additional monies will help each of our 10 Regional Bahá'í Councils to provide a measure of material support to the dedicated homefront pioneers and mobile teaching teams that are carrying out much of this work. Funds will also enable our permanent and seasonal Bahá'í schools to expand efforts to invite the participation in their offerings of members of the larger community. Plans for capital improvements to Bahá'í properties will have the necessary funds to proceed and the Bahá'í Publishing Trust will be able to press on with its efforts to widely disseminate Bahá'í literature in print and electronic forms.

Friends, we have already shown we can meet this goal. Let us now show we can provide a generous, steady, and reliable stream of contributions throughout the year, meeting sensible milestones along the way rather than waiting until the fiscal year is nearly over to be finally moved to determined action.

Our prayers for your great success surround and support you in all you do to advance our Cause. May your wholehearted efforts continue to be abundantly blessed and confirmed!

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF
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Juana C. Conrad
Treasurer