

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

October 15, 2018

To the American Bahá'í community  
for the Feast of 'Ilm

Dearly loved Friends,

Three swiftly passing weeks have already elapsed since the treasurers of some 250 Local Spiritual Assemblies gathered here, in the near vicinity of the Bahá'í National Center, for a rich and rewarding National Treasurers' Forum. It was an occasion that provided abundant opportunities for reflection, consultation, and learning regarding the Funds of our Faith and the vital importance of our generous and regular support of them.

One question that received due attention over the weekend is raised by the friends whenever members of this Assembly travel the community. We have all watched the annual goal of our National Fund grow considerably over the years—in the last decade, from \$25 million to \$38 million this year. “Where does the money go?” we are frequently and understandably asked. One effective way to learn about this is to spend time with the comprehensive Annual Report we prepare every year and make available to the community at Ridván. A scan of its pages will impress any interested reader with the wide variety of fronts on which we are working in the course of a typical year. From the support we are providing—in collaboration with our 12 Regional Bahá'í Councils—to the community-building efforts taking place in scores of clusters across the country, to our efforts to make better known to members of Congress and other governmental officials the relentless persecution being borne by our sisters and brothers in Iran, our work in these areas is constant and of the highest import to the Faith's advancement.

Another of our principal concerns is the maintenance of the properties we hold in trust for the community, including the several buildings of our national administrative center, our four permanent Bahá'í schools, and a number of properties of enduring historical value. Of paramount concern is the upkeep and preservation of our most precious asset, our majestic Bahá'í House of Worship, and its companion Welcome Center.

These represent but a few of the myriad activities sustained by the precious dollars you lovingly and unselfishly contribute. Presently, Fund contributions stand at \$11 million, a laudable start for the year. Our National Secretary, Kenneth E. Bowers, further explored this same theme and the spiritual principles with which it is inextricably interwoven in a video presentation specially designed for participants in the Treasurers' Forum. We are pleased to share it with you through [this link](#) and hope it will become a focus of consultation at tonight's Feast and whenever our National Fund is discussed.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,  
NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF  
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Juana C. Conrad  
Treasurer