



Friday, May 10, 2024 7:30 p.m. EDT Join Zoom Meeting

Topic: Big Ideas - Heather Cardin
Time: May 10, 2024 06:00 PM Eastern Time
(US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

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bigideasottawa@gmail.com

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BIG IDEAS:

THE BAHÁ'Í FAITH AND THE ISSUES OF OUR TIME

Please join us for a series of talks addressing some of humanity's shared challenges and opportunities as we work to advance an emerging global civilization. This series brings together current research, experience, contemporary discourses and Bahá'í perspectives.

"Be anxiously concerned with the needs of the age ye live in and its exigencies and requirements." ~ Bahá'í Writings

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Education for the Future: Integrating Subjects and the Arts with Heather Cardin

This presentation traces a thirty year experiment in education, shifting from educator-as-knowledge-giver to educator-as-facilitator, through the use of the arts, and of student self-initiators. It is premised on Baha'u'llah's statement, "Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value. Education can, alone, cause it to reveal its treasures, and enable mankind to benefit therefrom." The educator, as such, discovers methods which assist students to discover their own "gems" as greater than the specific curriculum, and as applicable to almost any subject. What knowledge will benefit mankind, and how can each individual elicit this?

Heather retired from a thirty year teaching career in early 2018. While her Master's studies (Carleton 2005) were in English literature, with an emphasis on poetry, her career included teaching English, French, History, Social Studies, Arts (Drama, Music, Visual Arts), Feminism, and Practical and Applied Arts (embroidery, found object art, gardening, cooking and nutrition). She taught in Papua New Guinea, Belize, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, northern Ontario, and western Quebec, mostly grades four through twelve. This talk uses many student exemplars, and offers a retrospective of Heather's career as she developed insights about how education could change to engage through art, and avoid teacher-centred education. Her career was in parallel with raising three children with her husband Bernie; they now spend a lot of time with two delightful grandsons.

Heather is the author of four books, and the co-author of a fifth; her third book, "Mind, Heart, and Spirit: Educators Speak", published by Bahá'í Publishing US, is a collection of stories about education from around the globe.