

# BIG IDEAS

## 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*



**Friday, June 14, 2024, 7:30 EDT**

### Experience, Knowledge and Reality with Gerald Filson

In this presentation, Dr. Filson presents three main ideas. First, how we experience the world, by way of emotion and imagination, which is often very different than how we know the world in its relationship to causes and reason. This is a way to understand religion as complementary to science. As Frank Myhill, a mathematician, noted, "there is no non-poetical description of reality," as the Revelation, full as it is of metaphors, is how we understand our experiences in life.

Second, he cites a British philosopher who said that we don't yet have an adequate philosophical psychology that properly deals with human action. Contemporary philosophy understands human action by intentionality though we often enter into action by way of inclination that this or that action would be enjoyable. Then we find, as Aristotle noted, that we continually refine our actions that involve conversations, coordination with others, and friendships. Aristotle wrote "excellencies we get by first exercising them... For the things we have to learn before we can do, we learn by doing." This summarizes how the Baha'is are learning many things anew like home visits, elevated conversations, coordinating actions with others that requires learning about life experiences.

Third, he jumps to an influential Muslim philosopher, Avicenna's proof of God's existence, which both Baha'u'llah and 'Abdu'l-Baha confirm. He emphasize concepts that are, as Avicenna noted, "impressed in the soul in a primary way."

About Gerald: Gerald Filson has served on the National Assembly of the Baha'is of Canada for eight years, and was previously Director of Public Affairs for 25 years. His Ph.D. work was in philosophy.

**Friday, June 14, 2024**

**7:30 p.m. Join Zoom Meeting**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/  
j/82083440243?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82083440243?pwd=dC9NbDJBZ3lPWGplTEV5SmxQRfRZz09)

[pwd=dC9NbDJBZ3lPWGplTEV5SmxQRfR  
Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82083440243?pwd=dC9NbDJBZ3lPWGplTEV5SmxQRfRZz09)

Meeting ID: 820 8344 0243

Passcode: 229874

For dial-in codes please contact:

[bigideasottawa@gmail.com](mailto:bigideasottawa@gmail.com)

*For security reasons, please do not  
distribute this Zoom link on social media;  
circulate by email or Messenger instead.*