BIG IDEAS



Fri. November 13, 2026
7:30 pm EST

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Meeting ID: 823 1911 2353
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For dial-in codes please contact:

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BIG IDEAS:

BAHÁ'Í PERSPECTIVES ON 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."
- Baha'i Writings

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With Leslie Cole

Telling our Stories: The Importance of Recording History

Through her research and writing of Canada's Northern Baha'i history Leslie Cole has explored how our history and personal stories were influenced by changes in Canada and the world. The expansion of federal government services across the North in the 1950s and 60s. The idealism and activism of the 1960s and 70s. The rise of Indigenous calls for self-determination and land claims negotiations. The Iranian revolution of 1979 and Baha'i refugees coming to Canada in the 1980s. The fall of the Soviet Union and calls for Baha'is to pioneer to Eastern Europe and China in the 1990s.

All of these events influenced the history of Baha'is in Canada and in the North. Interviews with early pioneers and newsletters from the time recorded in Leslie's new book Under One Tent reveal how Northern Baha'i families and communities were shaped by the exigencies of their time.

Leslie Cole became a Bahá'í in Yukon in 1981, and lived in Carcross and Whitehorse for eight years. She first went to Canada's North for a summer job in Fort Resolution, Northwest Territories and later did her MA in Geography on cultural change on Baffin Island from the 1950s to the 1980s. Her work as a journalist took her to most Yukon communities as well as Inuvik, Iqaluit, and Yellowknife. She has lived and worked in Yukon, Denmark, and Norway and travelled to Alaska, Greenland, Iceland, Finland and Sweden. Her new book Under One Tent: A History of Baha'is in the Northern Canada was published in August.