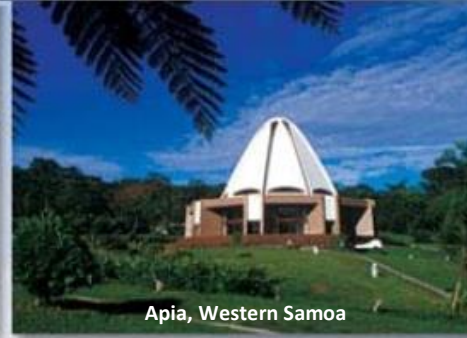




Santiago, Chile



Wilmette, Illinois, USA



Apia, Western Samoa

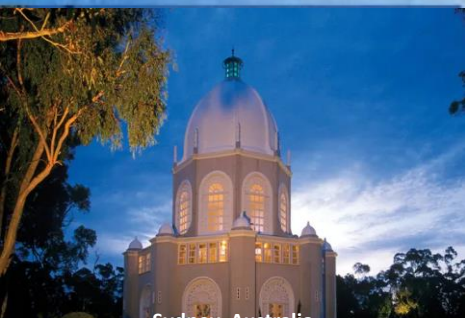


Bahapur, New Delhi, India

THE BAHÁ'Í FAITH



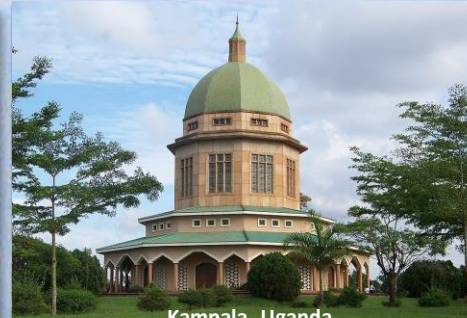
Learning About the Faith of Our Bahā'ī Siblings



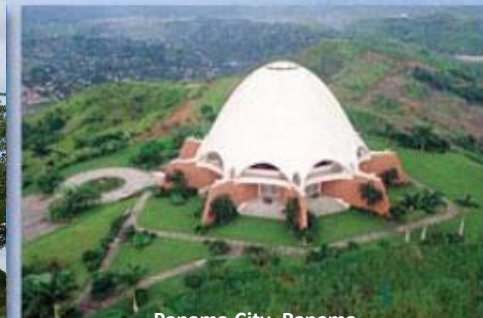
Sydney, Australia



Hsinchu, Taiwan



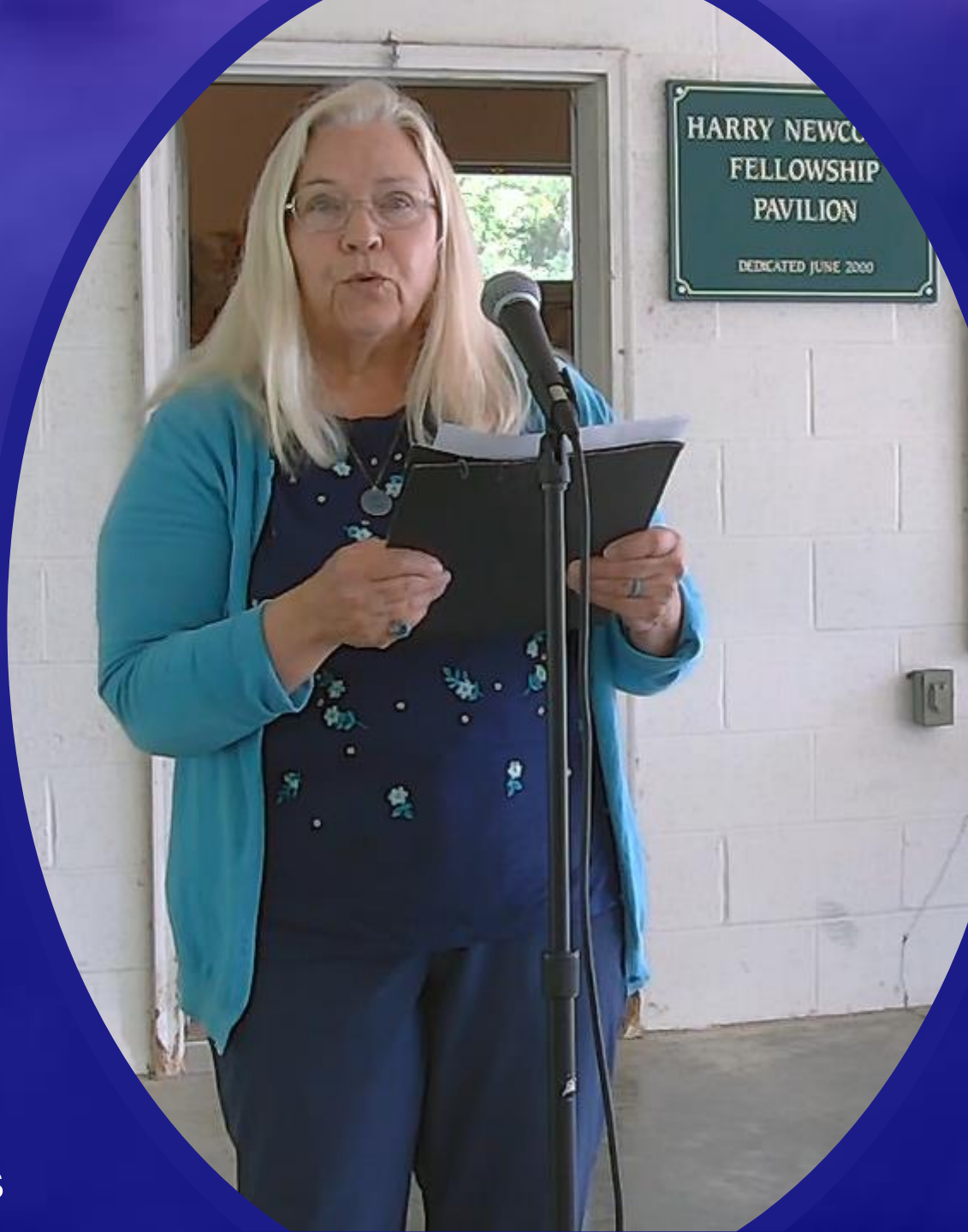
Kampala, Uganda



Banama City, Panama

*"So powerful is the light of
unity that it can illuminate
the whole earth."*

~Bahā'ullāh



A Summary of the
Presentation by Paula Myers

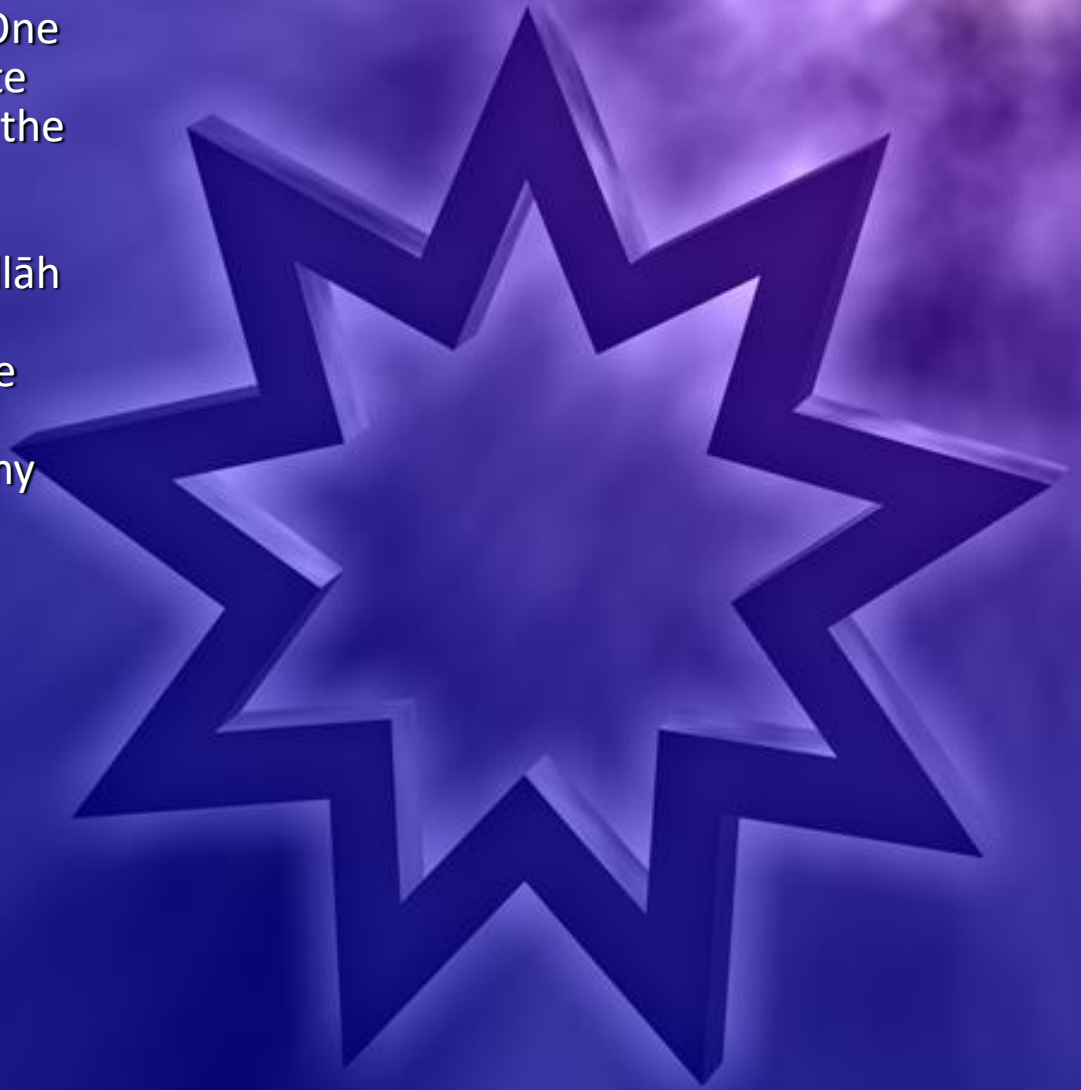
One Light, Many Lamps

At the May 2022 HARC Meeting on May 10th, held at the Harry Newcomer Fellowship Pavilion at Benevola United Methodist Church in Boonsboro, MD, we celebrated volunteers and donors, fellowshiped with one another while enjoying a meal together, and celebrated one of the many paths that Paula Myers shared about the Baha'i Faith for our Interfaith Learning Moment.

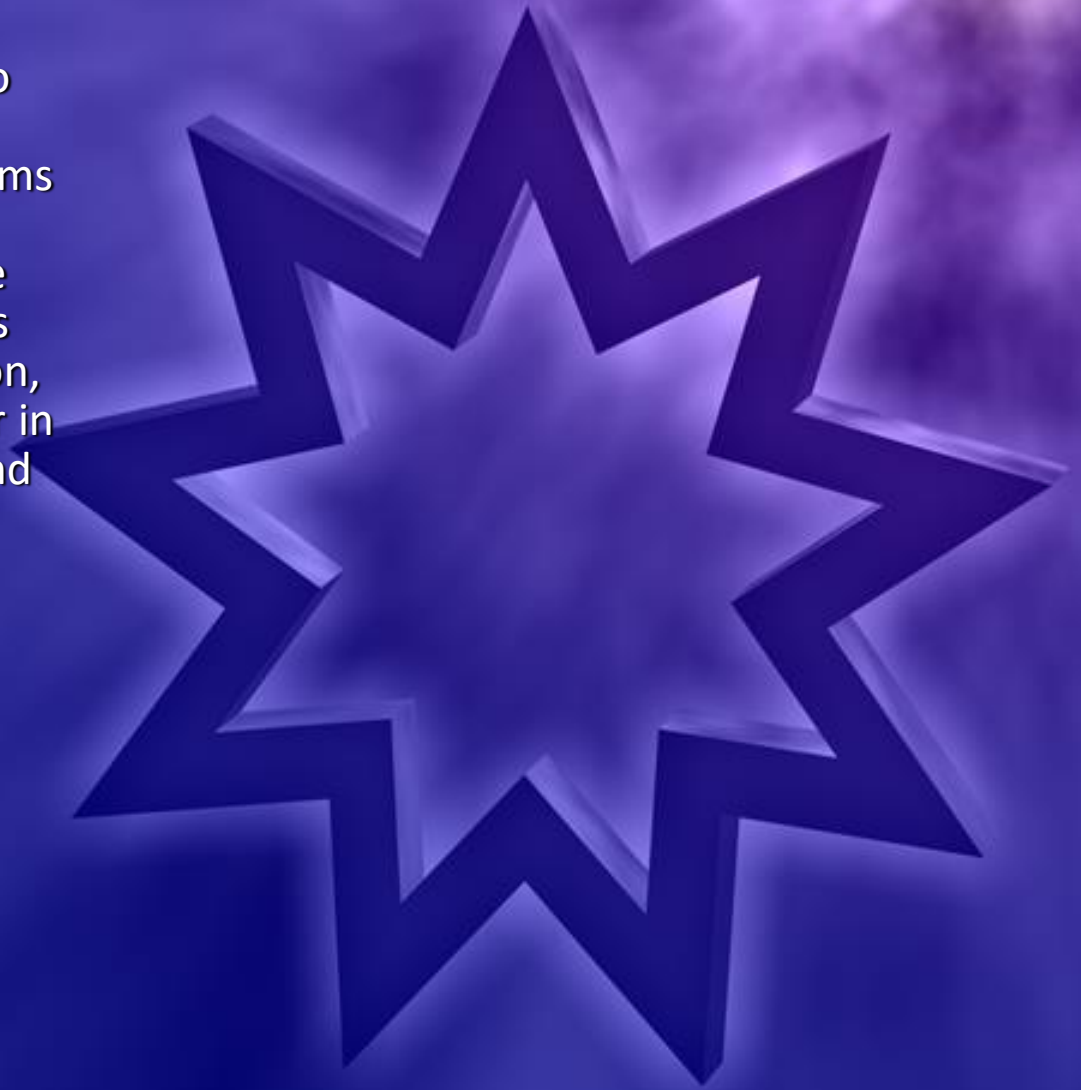
Paula thanked the Interfaith Coalition of Washington County for being there for all faiths to come together as one. The interfaith meetings, she told us, have played a large role in the local Baha'i Faith community uniting even stronger. The Interfaith Coalition has even helped coordinate events with and for the Baha'i Faith community who hasn't always had a very strong voice in our area. The two communities combined efforts have built-up an awareness of the Baha'i Faith in our region not necessarily had before, has helped grow the Baha'i community together, and has helped bring new members to their community. The Baha'i Faith community is very thankful for such a partnership!

Thank you to all who made this meeting a success with a special thanks to Paula for sharing about her faith, showing us the many similarities between us.

The Baha'i Faith sprouted roots in 1844 when The Bāb's ministry began. The Bāb ('The Gate') was much like John the Baptist, announcing that One greater than he would come to unite the world. It wasn't until 1863 that the One that he was a forerunner for would manifest as Bahā'ullāh ('The Glory of God'). Followers of Bahā'ullāh became known as Bahā'īs and the Bahā'ī Faith was born. It teaches the oneness of God, the unity of humanity, and the essential harmony of religion.



Baha'i teachings promote the agreement of science and religion, gender equality, and the elimination of all prejudice and racism. Baha'is believe in each person's capacity to find the truth for themselves, and there is no clergy or even ritual forms of worship. A worship service at a Baha'i House of Worship or Temple consists solely of scripture readings from the world religions, meditation, and prayer. Baha'is gather together in democratically-led communities and welcome everyone.



Despite their apparent differences, the world's great religions, according to the Bahā'īs, teach an identical truth. Bahā'ullāh's peculiar function was to overcome the disunity of religions and establish a universal faith. Bahā'īs believe that all the founders of the world's great religions have been manifestations of God and agents of a progressive divine plan for the education of the human race. Therefore, they accept the validity of each of the founders and prophets of the major world religions and believe in progressive revelation. This unique Baha'i principle views every great Faith as a link in a single, spiritual system, progressively revealed, similar to how chapters in a book tell an evolving story — by God to humanity.



Baha'i teachings focus on the soul's relationship with the eternal, unknowable essence of God, and recommend daily prayer and meditation to everyone. Baha'is believe that the human spirit lives eternally, and so endeavor to illumine their souls with spiritual attributes — kindness, generosity, integrity, truthfulness, humility, and selfless service to others. Bahā'īs believe in the oneness of humanity and devote themselves to the abolition of racial, class, and religious prejudices. A great bulk of Bahā'ī teachings are concerned with social ethics.



The Baha'i Faith provides the means for peace and tranquility through a progressive set of social teachings known as the **principal Bahā'ī tenets** and are the essential unity of all religions and the unity of humanity.

- Independent Investigation of Truth
- Elimination of Prejudice of Every Kind
- The Oneness of Humanity
- One Essential Foundation for All Religions
- Religion Should Cause Love, Affection, and Joy
- The Harmony of Science and Religion
- A Universal Auxiliary Language
- Universal Compulsory Education
- Gender Equality
- Establishing a World Parliament
- The Abolition of the Extremes of Wealth and Poverty
- The Non-Involvement of Religion With Politics
- Human Rights for All

These fundamental Baha'i principles call for a complete restructuring of humanity's priorities — from material to spiritual, from exclusive to inclusive, and from divisiveness to unity.



ONE race, the HUMAN race...

“The earth is but one country and humankind its citizens.” ~Bahā’ ullāh

Houses of Worship

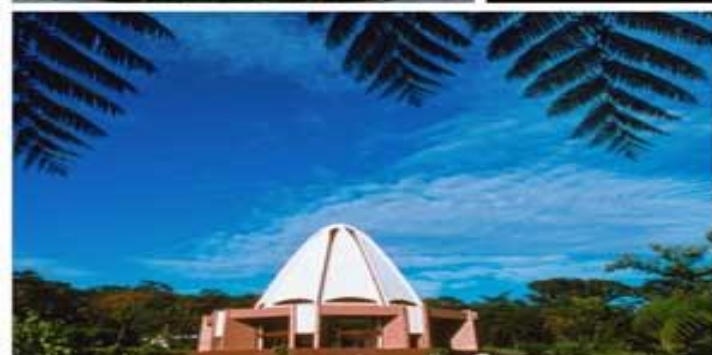
Baha'i houses of worship also known as temples are exclusively reserved for worship. Everyone, regardless of their beliefs, is welcome. They are not churches, mosques, or synagogues – instead, they are intended to unite all people in the love of one Creator. Each Baha'i House of Worship has nine sides and nine doorways, symbolizing the many paths to the one true God. In them, you will never hear a sermon of any kind, and only the sacred texts of the world's great Faiths are either read, sung, or chanted.

<https://bahaiteachings.org/the-worlds-bahai-houses-of-worship>

Images from <https://bahai-library.com>

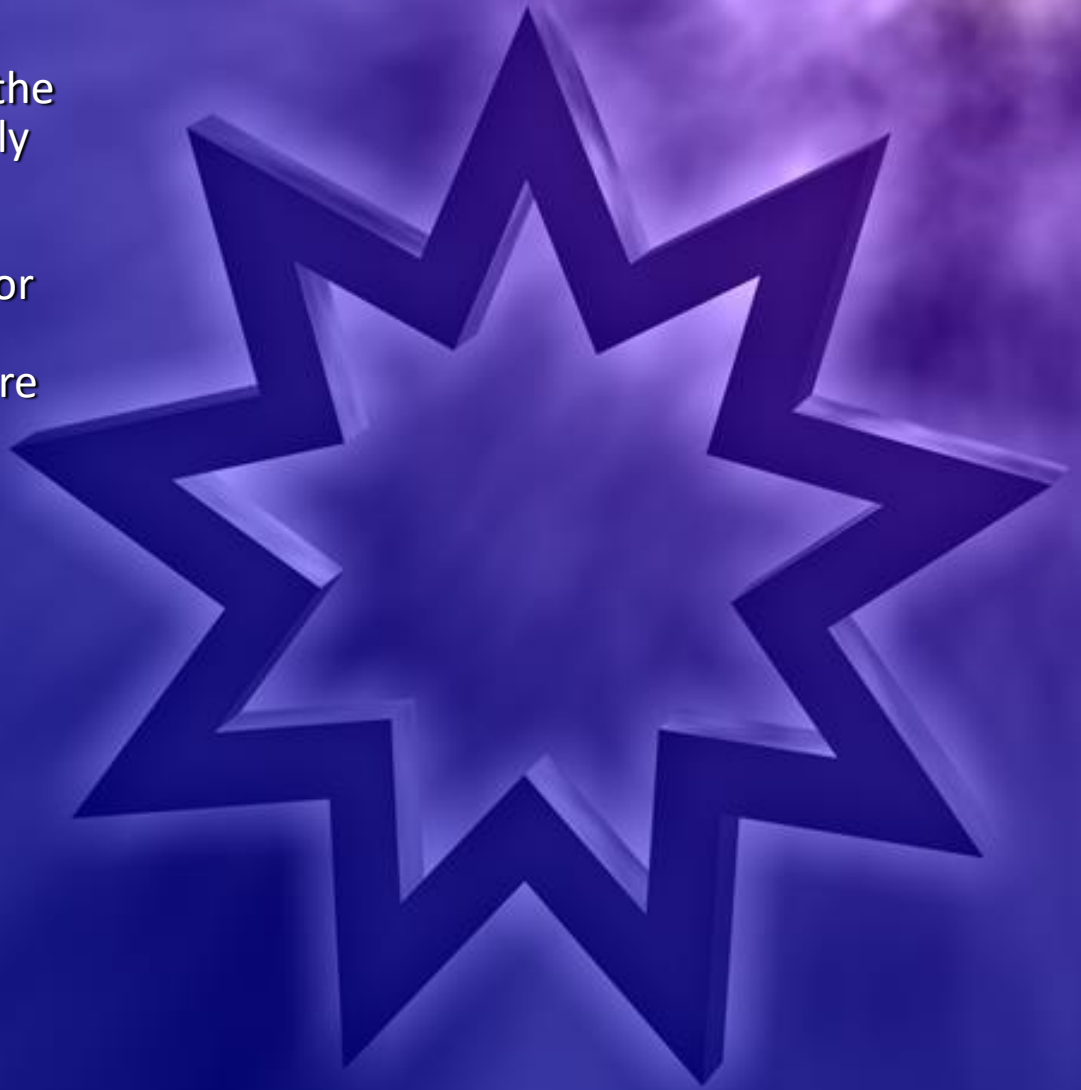


Baha'i Houses of Worship



Symbology

While the five-pointed star is the official symbol of the Baha'i Faith, the nine-pointed star is more commonly associated with the religion, even being used as the representative symbol on the official US website for the faith. The number nine, is also incorporated into Baha'i architecture such as in nine-sided temples.



Symbology

Shoghi Effendi states that the symbol can also represent "the nine great world religions of which we have any definite historical knowledge, including the Babi and Baha'i Revelations." Another version of the nine-pointed star places a symbol of each of those religions at each of the nine points: Baha'i, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Shinto, & Sikhism.



Resources

Official Resources:

www.bahai.org (official worldwide site)

www.bahai.us (official US site)

www.bahaibookstore.com

Unofficial Resources:

<https://bahaiteachings.org>

<https://bahai.com>

<http://www.bahaiblog.net>

<https://bahaipedia.org>

Recommended Reading:

<https://www.bahaibookstore.com/Thief-in-the-Night-The-Case-of-the-Missing-Millennium-P8151.aspx>





“Glory not in love for your country, but in love for all humankind.” ~Bahā’ullāh



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faith partners in Washington County, Maryland.

www.harccoalition.org