



**Farzam Arbab**  
1941 - 2020



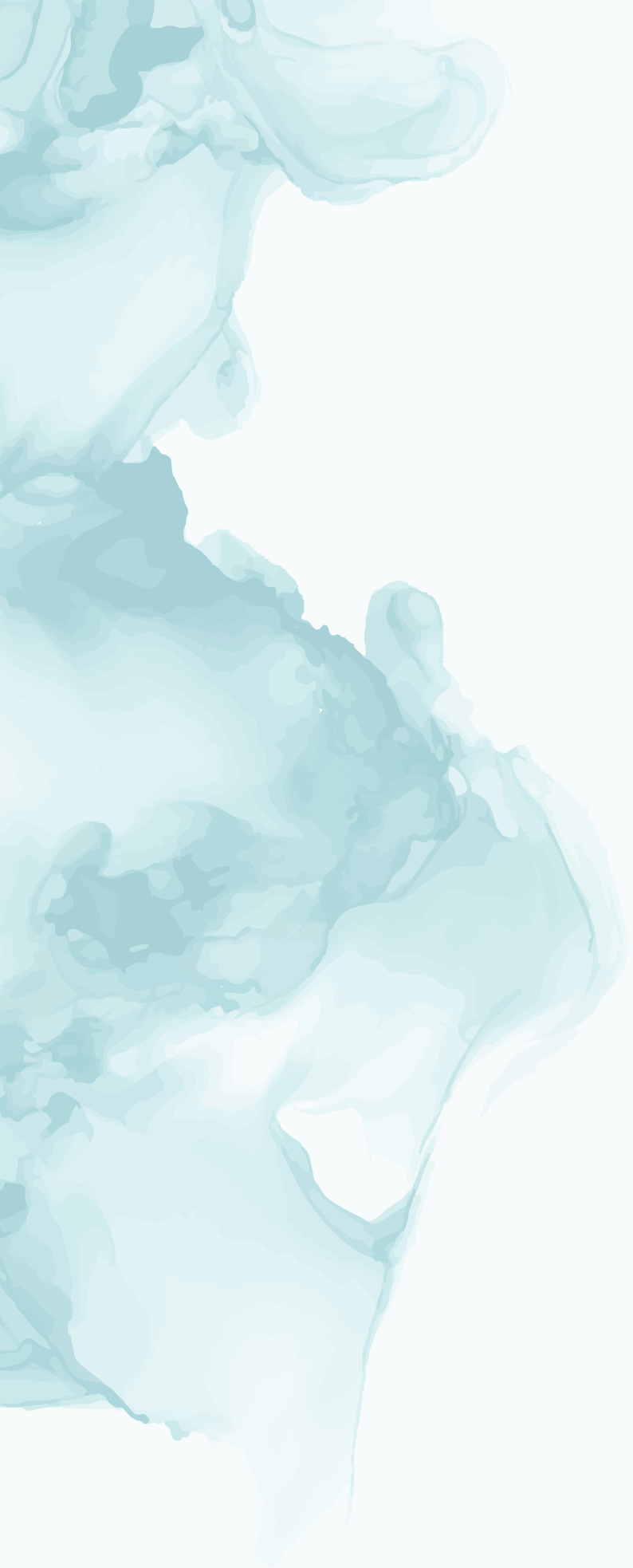
**Douglas Martin**  
1927 - 2020



**Violette Haake**  
1928 - 2020



*Memorial Gathering*  
for three distinguished servants of Bahá'u'lláh



DEVOTIONAL PROGRAMME

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MUSIC

Message of the Universal House of Justice to all National Spiritual Assemblies,  
26 September 2020, announcing the passing of Farzam Arbab

*O my God! O my God! Verily, Thy servant, humble before the majesty...*  
‘Abdu’l Bahá

*God has given us eyes, that we may look about us at the world...*  
‘Abdu’l-Bahá, The Secret of Divine Civilization

*Promote ye the development of the cities of God and His countries...*  
Bahá’u’lláh, The Kitáb-i-Aqdas

*How vast the number of people who are well versed in every science...*  
The Báb, Persian Bayán

*Prayer for the departed in Arabic*  
‘Abdu’l Bahá

Message of the Universal House of Justice to all National Spiritual Assemblies,  
29 September 2020, announcing the passing of Douglas Martin

*Glory be to Thee, O Lord my God! Abase not him whom Thou hast exalted...*  
Bahá’u’lláh

*The spiritually learned are lamps of guidance among the nations...*  
‘Abdu’l-Bahá, The Secret of Divine Civilization

*Praised be Thou, O Lord my God! This is Thy servant who hath quaffed...*  
Bahá’u’lláh, Prayers & Meditations XII

Message of the Universal House of Justice to all National Spiritual Assemblies,  
24 September 2020, announcing the passing of Violette Haake

*O Lord, O Thou Whose mercy hath encompassed all...*  
‘Abdu’l Bahá

*Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity...*  
Bahá’u’lláh

Prayer for the departed in Persian  
‘Abdu’l Bahá

AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATION

*Act in accordance with the counsels of the Lord...*  
‘Abdu’l-Bahá

*Praise be to Thee, O my God! Thou didst call me...*  
Bahá’u’lláh

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

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**Transmitted by email**

**TO:** All National Spiritual Assemblies

**DATE:** 26 September 2020

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**MESSAGE:**

With grief-stricken hearts we mourn the sudden passing of our former colleague, our dearly loved brother Farzam Arbab, news of which has brought us fresh sorrow. His brilliant mind, loving heart, and vibrant spirit were ever turned towards the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh, seeking to draw from it insights that, through the process of education, could build spiritual and intellectual capacity within entire populations. Born in Iran, he studied in the United States before settling in Colombia as a pioneer. His outstanding gifts fitted him, it seemed, for a distinguished career in the physical sciences—but Providence had determined otherwise. His rigorous scientific training was instead applied to the work of the Faith. He recognized that the verities contained in the Bahá'í writings concerning spiritual and social transformation and the entry into the Faith of the masses of humanity demanded persistent effort to learn how to bring them about; the investment of his whole being in this great enterprise was complete and constant. Throughout his time as a member of the National Spiritual Assembly of Colombia, as a Continental Counsellor, as a member of the International Teaching Centre, and finally as a member of the Universal House of Justice for two decades, his unshakeable belief in the capacity of all of God's children, especially of young people, was the hallmark of his service to the Cause. Always insightful, always discerning, always attuned to spiritual reality, this man of exceptional vision lived a life shaped by the harmony between scientific truth and true religion.

To Sona, his beloved wife, and to Paul, his cherished son, as well as to other family members, we extend our heartfelt condolences at this unexpected loss. We supplicate in the Sacred Shrines for the progress of his illumined soul as it commences its journey into the eternal realms of God. May it be lovingly welcomed to its heavenly home. All Bahá'í communities are urged to arrange memorials, as circumstances permit, including in all Houses of Worship, to mark the passing of much-loved, illustrious Farzam Arbab.

The Universal House of Justice

cc: International Teaching Centre  
Boards of Counsellors  
Counsellors

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

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**Transmitted by email**

**TO:** All National Spiritual Assemblies

**DATE:** 29 September 2020

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**MESSAGE:**

With mournful hearts already brimming with sorrow, we announce the passing of our much-loved, much-admired former colleague, Douglas Martin. Having embraced the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh as a young man, he with all his heart dedicated his life to the Cause of God over successive decades of outstanding service. The special gifts he possessed for presenting the Faith with clarity and vision shone through as much in his scholarly writings as in his public presentations, including in vigorous defence of the Bahá'í community in Iran. Much of this work was undertaken while he simultaneously discharged weighty responsibilities in the administration of the Faith. This included a quarter century spent as a member of the National Spiritual Assembly of Canada, most of that time as its Secretary. His scintillating intellect and uncommon grasp of the grand forces of history, combined with his formidable powers of expression, were much in evidence during the years he spent as director-general of the Bahá'í International Community's Office of Public Information, a prelude to the twelve years he served as a member of the Universal House of Justice. Resolute, ingenious, and blessed with piercing insight, he will be immensely missed.

We pray ardently that dear Douglas, now reunited with his beloved wife, Elizabeth, may be received with joy in the Abhá Kingdom, and that his illumined soul may ever soar in the limitless realms above. The friends in every community are called upon to honour his memory by convening memorials, including through devotions at every House of Worship, as circumstances permit.

The Universal House of Justice

cc: International Teaching Centre  
Boards of Counsellors  
Counsellors

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

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**Transmitted by email**

**TO:** All National Spiritual Assemblies

**DATE:** 24 September 2020

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**MESSAGE:**

Our hearts sorrow at the passing of dearly loved Violette Haake. Reared in a distinguished family tracing its roots to the early history of the Faith, she served the Cause of God with utter dedication over many decades, first in her native Iran, and later in the United States and Australia. Whether when pioneering, or during her time as an Auxiliary Board member, or as a Continental Counsellor in Australasia, and most especially in the ten years she served as a member of the International Teaching Centre, her intrepid spirit and radiant enthusiasm for teaching were ever in evidence as she rallied the friends, particularly the youth; poured out encouragement; and fanned the flame of love for Bahá'u'lláh in the hearts. Violette possessed a character that blended extraordinary resilience, steadfastness, and inner strength with unfailing kindness, a nurturing instinct, and true joy. To the last, hers was a life devoted to the service of the Lord.

To her husband, Roderic, and her daughter, Susanne, we extend our heartfelt condolences, with an assurance of our supplications at the Sacred Threshold for the progress of Violette's luminous soul as it plunges into the sea of light in the world of mysteries. The believers in every land are asked to arrange memorials in her honour, including in all Houses of Worship, as circumstances permit.

The Universal House of Justice

cc: International Teaching Centre  
Boards of Counsellors  
Counsellors



Farzam Arbab



Douglas Martin



Violette Haake

O my God! O my God! Verily, Thy servant, humble before the majesty of Thy divine supremacy, lowly at the door of Thy oneness, hath believed in Thee and in Thy verses, hath testified to Thy word, hath been enkindled with the fire of Thy love, hath been immersed in the depths of the ocean of Thy knowledge, hath been attracted by Thy breezes, hath relied upon Thee, hath turned his face to Thee, hath offered his supplications to Thee, and hath been assured of Thy pardon and forgiveness. He hath abandoned this mortal life and hath flown to the kingdom of immortality, yearning for the favor of meeting Thee.

O Lord, glorify his station, shelter him under the pavilion of Thy supreme mercy, cause him to enter Thy glorious paradise, and perpetuate his existence in Thine exalted rose garden, that he may plunge into the sea of light in the world of mysteries.

Verily, Thou art the Generous, the Powerful, the Forgiver and the Bestower.

— *Abdu'l Bahá*

God has given us eyes, that we may look about us at the world, and lay hold of whatsoever will further civilization and the arts of living. He has given us ears, that we may hear and profit by the wisdom of scholars and philosophers

and arise to promote and practice it. Senses and faculties have been bestowed upon us, to be devoted to the service of the general good; so that we, distinguished above all other forms of life for perceptiveness and reason, should labor at all times and along all lines, whether the occasion be great or small, ordinary or extraordinary, until all mankind are safely gathered into the impregnable stronghold of knowledge. We should continually be establishing new bases for human happiness and creating and promoting new instrumentalities toward this end. How excellent, how honorable is man if he arises to fulfill his responsibilities; how wretched and contemptible, if he shuts his eyes to the welfare of society and wastes his precious life in pursuing his own selfish interests and personal advantages. Supreme happiness is man's, and he beholds the signs of God in the world and in the human soul, if he urges on the steed of high endeavor in the arena of civilization and justice.

— *Abdu'l-Bahá, The Secret of Divine Civilization*

Promote ye the development of the cities of God and His countries, and glorify Him therein in the joyous accents of His well-favoured ones. In truth, the hearts of men are edified through the power of the tongue, even as houses and cities are built up by the hand



Members of the Universal House of Justice, 1998. Douglas Martin, second from left. Farzam Arbab, third from left.

and other means. We have assigned to every end a means for its accomplishment; avail yourselves thereof, and place your trust and confidence in God, the Omniscient, the All-Wise.

– Bahá'u'lláh, *The Kítáb-i-Aqdas*

**H**ow vast the number of people who are well versed in every science, yet it is their adherence to the holy Word of God which will determine their faith, inasmuch as the fruit of every science is none other than the knowledge of divine precepts and submission unto His good-pleasure.

– *The Báb, Persian Bayán*



The Continental Board of Counsellors for Australasia, 1991. Violette Haake, front row, second from left.

إلهى إلهى  
 قد ماجَ طمطامُ رحمانيتك و هاج أرياح شطر روحانيتك.  
 قد أشرقَ نيزُ الغفرانِ مِن مطلعِ العفو و الإحسان على  
 أهلِ الإمكان و أزالَ ظلامِ العصيان. فابتهلُ إليك يا  
 رحيمى و يا رحمن أن تُطهرَ عبدكَ الزاجعَ إليك الوافد  
 عليك الوارد بين يديك عن وضر الذنوب فى عالم الإمكان  
 و أغرقهُ فى بحر الألطاف و أغسلهُ فى مغتسل بارِدٍ و  
 شراب و ألبسه رداً العفو بين الأبرار و طيبهُ برائحة  
 طيب الإمتنان و أخلده فى فردوس الجنان و أسقه من عين  
 الحيوان و أرزقه لقاك فى جوارك. إنك أنت الرؤف  
 الغفور العفو الكريم المنان. ع ع

**G**lory be to Thee, O Lord my God! Abase not him whom Thou hast exalted through the power of Thine everlasting sovereignty, and remove not far from Thee him whom Thou hast caused to enter the tabernacle of Thine eternity. Wilt Thou cast away, O my God, him whom Thou hast overshadowed with Thy Lordship, and wilt Thou turn away from Thee, O my Desire, him to whom Thou hast been a refuge? Canst Thou degrade him whom Thou hast uplifted, or forget him whom



Thou didst enable to remember Thee?

Glorified, immensely glorified art Thou! Thou art He Who from everlasting hath been the King of the entire creation and its Prime Mover, and Thou wilt to everlasting remain the Lord of all created things and their Ordainer. Glorified art Thou, O my God! If Thou ceasest to be merciful unto Thy servants, who, then, will show mercy unto them; and if Thou refuseth to succor Thy loved ones, who is there that can succor them?

Glorified, immeasurably glorified art Thou! Thou art adored in Thy truth, and Thee do we all, verily, worship; and Thou art manifest in Thy justice, and to Thee do we all, verily, bear witness. Thou art, in truth, beloved in Thy grace. No God is there but Thee, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting.

– *Bahá'u'lláh*

The spiritually learned are lamps of guidance among the nations, and stars of good fortune shining from the horizons of humankind. They are fountains of life for such as lie in the death of ignorance and unawareness, and clear springs of perfections for those who thirst and wander in the wasteland of their defects and errors. They are the dawning places of the emblems of divine Unity and initiates in the mysteries of the glorious Qur'án. They are skilled physicians for the ailing body of the world, they are the sure antidote to the poison that has corrupted human society. It is they who are the strong citadel guarding humanity, and the impregnable sanctuary for the sorely distressed, the anxious and tormented, victims of ignorance. “Knowledge is a light which God casteth into the heart of whomsoever He willeth.”

For every thing, however, God has created a sign and symbol, and established standards and tests by which it may be known. The spiritually learned must be characterized by both inward and outward perfections; they must possess a good character, an enlightened nature, a pure intent, as well as intellectual power, brilliance

and discernment, intuition, discretion and foresight, temperance, reverence, and a heart-felt fear of God. For an unlit candle, however great in diameter and tall, is no better than a barren palm tree or a pile of dead wood.

– *Abdu'l-Bahá, The Secret of Divine Civilization*

Praised be Thou, O Lord my God! This is Thy servant who hath quaffed from the hands of Thy grace the wine of Thy tender mercy, and tasted of the savor of Thy love in Thy days. I beseech Thee, by the embodiments of Thy names whom no grief can hinder from rejoicing in Thy love or from gazing on Thy face, and whom all the hosts of the heedless are powerless to cause to turn aside from the path of Thy pleasure, to supply him with the good things Thou dost possess, and to raise him up to such heights that he will regard the world even as a shadow that vanisheth swifter than the twinkling of an eye.

Keep him safe also, O my God, by the power of Thine immeasurable majesty, from all that Thou abhorrest. Thou art, verily, his Lord and the Lord of all worlds.

– *Bahá'u'lláh, Prayers & Meditations XII*

O Lord, O Thou Whose mercy hath encompassed all, Whose forgiveness is transcendent, Whose bounty is sublime, Whose pardon and generosity are all-embracing, and the lights of Whose forgiveness are diffused throughout the world! O Lord of glory! I entreat Thee, fervently and tearfully, to cast upon Thy handmaiden who hath ascended unto Thee the glances of the eye of Thy mercy. Robe her in the mantle of Thy grace, bright with the ornaments of the celestial Paradise, and, sheltering her beneath the tree of Thy oneness, illumine her face with the lights of Thy mercy and compassion.

Bestow upon Thy heavenly handmaiden, O God, the holy fragrances born of the spirit of Thy forgiveness. Cause her to dwell in a blissful abode, heal her griefs with the balm



Farzam Arbab, second from left, at a conference of Counsellors in the Americas in 1985. Hand of the Cause of God John Robarts is third from right.

of Thy reunion, and, in accordance with Thy will, grant her admission to Thy holy Paradise. Let the angels of Thy loving-kindness descend successively upon her, and shelter her beneath Thy blessed Tree. Thou art, verily, the Ever-For-giving, the Most Generous, the All-Bountiful.

– *Abdu'l Bahá*

**B**e generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity. Be worthy of the trust of thy neighbor, and look upon him with a bright and friendly face. Be a treasure to the poor, an admonisher to the rich, an answerer of the cry of the needy, a preserver of the sanctity of thy pledge. Be fair in thy judgment, and guarded in thy speech. Be unjust to no man, and show all meekness to all men. Be as a lamp unto them that walk in darkness, a joy to the sorrowful, a sea for the thirsty, a haven for the distressed, an upholder and defender of the victim of oppression. Let integrity and uprightness distinguish all thine acts. Be a home for the stranger, a balm to the suffering, a tower of strength for the fugitive. Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring. Be an ornament to the coun-

tenance of truth, a crown to the brow of fidelity, a pillar of the temple of righteousness, a breath of life to the body of mankind, an ensign of the hosts of justice, a luminary above the horizon of virtue, a dew to the soil of the human heart, an ark on the ocean of knowledge, a sun in the heaven of bounty, a gem on the diadem of wisdom, a shining light in the firmament of thy generation, a fruit upon the tree of humility.

– *Bahá'u'lláh*

**A**ct in accordance with the counsels of the Lord: that is, rise up in such wise, and with such qualities, as to endow the body of this world with a living soul, and to bring this young child, humanity, to the stage of adulthood. So far as ye are able, ignite a candle of love in every meeting, and with tenderness rejoice and cheer ye every heart. Care for the stranger as for one of your own; show to alien souls the same loving kindness ye bestow upon your faithful friends. Should any come to blows with you, seek to be friends with him; should any stab you to the heart, be ye a healing salve unto his sores; should any taunt and mock at you, meet him with love. Should

هُوَ الْإِلَهِي

آمرزنده و مهربانا این جان های پاک از زندان خاک آزاد  
 شدند و به جهان تو پرواز کردند نیکخو بودند و مفتون  
 روی تو و تشنه جوی تو در زمان زندگانی به نفعه  
 رحمانی زنده شدند دیده بینا یافتند گوش شنوا داشتند  
 از هر بستگی آزاد بودند پیوسته به عنایات خرم و  
 دلشاد حال به جهان راز پرواز نمودند و در جوار رحمت  
 بر شجره طوبی لانه و آشیانه سازند و به نغمه و ترانه  
 پردازند خدایا این نفوس را گناه بیامرزد و از چاه به اوج  
 ماه برسان در گلشن الطاف راه ده و در چمن عفو و  
 غفران پناه بخش سرور آزادگان کن و در حلقه مقربان  
 درآر بازماندگان را نوازش فرما و آسایش بخش و زیور  
 عالم آفرینش کن تا به ستایش تو پردازند و به تسبیح و  
 تقدیس تو تویی عفو تویی غفور تویی آمرزنده و مهربان.

ع ع

any heap his blame upon you, praise ye him;  
 should he offer you a deadly poison, give him  
 the choicest honey in exchange; and should he  
 threaten your life, grant him a remedy that will  
 heal him evermore. Should he be pain itself, be  
 ye his medicine; should he be thorns, be ye his

roses and sweet herbs. Perchance such ways and  
 words from you will make this darksome world  
 turn bright at last; will make this dusty earth turn  
 heavenly, this devilish prison place become a royal  
 palace of the Lord—so that war and strife will  
 pass and be no more, and love and trust will pitch  
 their tents on the summits of the world. Such is  
 the essence of God's admonitions; such in sum  
 are the teachings for the Dispensation of Bahá.

– *Abdu'l-Bahá*

Praise be to Thee, O my God! Thou didst  
 call me, and I answered Thee. Thou didst  
 summon me, and I hastened unto Thee, entering  
 beneath the shade of Thy mercy and seeking  
 shelter at the threshold of the door of Thy grace.  
 Thou hast nurtured me, O Lord, through Thy  
 providence, chosen me for Thee alone, created  
 me for Thy service, and appointed me to stand  
 before Thee. I beseech Thee, by Thine all-glori-  
 ous Name and by Thy beauty that hath dawned  
 above the horizon of Thy most exalted Essence,  
 to cause me to be related to Thee even as Thou  
 hadst done so aforetime, and not to separate  
 me from Thyself. Cause then to appear from  
 me, O my God, that which is worthy of Thee.  
 Thou art, in truth, powerful over all things.

– *Bahá'u'lláh*



Douglas Martin and Canadian friends on the eve of his departure for the Bahá'í World Centre, 1985.

