

# Reform Bahai Faith Forum



## Hello Jenabe Fazel

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### News:

Reform Bahai Faith Forum created for Bahais of all persuasions on August 21, 2011.

"The shining spark of truth cometh forth only after the clash of differing opinions."  
—Abdul-Baha

"The conscience of man is sacred and to be respected."  
—Abdul-Baha

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Reform Bahai Faith Forum » General Category » General Bahai Discussion (Moderator: Jenabe Fazel) » Topix - Baha'i Rift - Chicago Tribune - Forum

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Topic: Topix - Baha'i Rift - Chicago Tribune - Forum (Read 3020 times)

## Jenabe Fazel

Administrator  
Jr. Member



Posts: 76



### Topix - Baha'i Rift - Chicago Tribune - Forum

« on: August 22, 2011, 08:20:55 AM »

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After the US Federal Courts ruled, on December 29, 2010, for the THIRD TIME, against the lawsuit filed by the Wilmette Baha'is against Bahais of other denominations, the Wilmette Baha'is appear to have managed to destroy the Topix Forum, in one way or another, that Bahais of several other denominations had used for over three years to discuss the lawsuit against them.

[http://trueseeker.typepad.com/true\\_seeker/court\\_case.html](http://trueseeker.typepad.com/true_seeker/court_case.html)

This type of fanatical tactic is exactly what Wilmette-Haifan Baha'is have done for many decades, as extensively documented on various websites. That the Wilmette Baha'i nsa would demonstrate such unmitigated contempt for the ruling of the Federal Court system, probably through Baha'is working in one way or another under the so-called "Continental Board of Counsellors" for "protection and propagation," should give thoughtful people reason for serious concern. For further incidents:

Comments posted to The Chicago Tribune Forum

[http://www.fglaysher.com/bahaicensors/Chicago\\_Tribune.html](http://www.fglaysher.com/bahaicensors/Chicago_Tribune.html)

PDF copies of pages on Topix documenting nearly 4,600 (4,626+) posts to that forum, from Google's cache copies as of July 9, 2011, have been preserved at the link above:

Baha'i rift\_ Baha'is upset with Orthodox Baha'i Faith - Topix1  
Baha'i rift\_ Baha'is upset with Orthodox Baha'i Faith - Topix6

Baha'i rift\_ Baha'is upset with Orthodox Baha'i Faith - Topix215 (documents 4,626+)

Baha'i rift\_ Baha'is upset with Orthodox Baha'i Faith - Topix229

Baha'i rift\_ Baha'is upset with Orthodox Baha'i Faith - Topix230

This Forum has been created to provide a safe and secure place for Bahais of all other denominations to discuss the lawsuits or whatever other things Bahai they wish. All are welcome to share their thinking and beliefs. This Forum will be only lightly moderated, mostly in regard to accusations or innuendos of "covenant breaking" and such other ad hominem insults. Let us follow here Abdul-Baha's shining example of respect for the conscience of other people!

For those unfamiliar with the record of Wilmette-Haifan Baha'is online and elsewhere, see

The Baha'i Faith & Religious Freedom of Conscience,

<http://www.fglaysher.com/bahaicensorship>



« Last Edit: August 28, 2011, 08:25:54 AM by Jenabe Fazel »

Report to moderator   
76.112.30.51 (?)

"To be a Bahai simply means to love all the world; to love humanity and try to serve it; to work for universal peace and universal brotherhood." —Abdul-Baha

The Reform Bahai Faith, <http://reformbahai.org/>

## Joel61436

Newbie



Posts: 2



### Re: Topix - Baha'i Rift - Chicago Tribune - Forum

« Reply #1 on: August 26, 2011, 09:47:06

PM »

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Split Topic

I think the Baha'i Faith has fallen prey to being a religious organization. When the Administrative Order began, I suspect it was seen as a way to maximize the teaching of the Faith, but instead of teaching, the National Spiritual Assembly has, instead, sought to sustain itself as an organization or denomination. Thus, it expects loyalty to the organization and punishes or discredits those it sees as "rocking the boat." A message of Julie Chanler and Ahmad Sohrab was that the Faith was not an organization or denomination. If we look at Christian groups as the church of Christ, they teach that the church is not a denomination, but the people of God, united by Christ. Baha'is can learn from this--the Baha'i Faith is not an organization, but people who have responded to the message of Baha'u'llah. I belong to a group called the United Lodge of Theosophy. We welcome all who adhere to Theosophy, regardless of any otherwise differences. Baha'is need to see their unity, not in the Administrative Order or Universal House of Justice, but in the message of Baha'u'llah. Some degree of organization is necessary to get the teaching out, but the organization is a means to an end, not an end in itself. What we want to do is teach the message of Baha'u'llah and Baha'is should have no other objective. Personally, I hold the Universal House of Justice with great respect; however, they are not what the Faith is about. The basic principles are what the Faith is about. Adherence to the House of Justice should no more define a Baha'i than adherence to a synod or bishopric defines a Christian. A Christian is a Christian due to his/her faith in Christ, no more. The same should be true for Baha'is. If you accept Baha'u'llah's message, you are "part of the fold." Those who accept that message should be welcome at the Baha'i table. Baha'is need to affirm what is most necessary about being a Baha'i and all else is commentary.



Report to moderator 198.70.154.76 (?)

**Jenabe Fazel**

Administrator

Jr. Member



Posts: 76

**Re: Topix - Baha'i Rift - Chicago Tribune - Forum**« **Reply #2 on:** August 27, 2011, 08:17:03

AM »

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Thanks, Joel, for commenting.

I definitely agree with much of your point of view. Abdul-Baha stated that "People think religion is confined in an edifice, to be worshiped at an altar. In reality it is an attitude toward divinity which is reflected through life."

Many passages in his addresses and writings are to that effect. It's only with the fraudulent will and testament of 1921 that the obsession begins with organization and "administration" in some Bahai denominations. He himself had repeatedly emphasized the Bahai Movement could not be organized. The Bahais of the time and even today still fail to reflect on what it was he meant by that. It is essentially the idea of unity and emphasis on the teachings as you suggest.

According to the clear instructions of Abdul-Baha, the Universal House of Justice has not yet been elected. The bogus body of people in Haifa, Israel are the rotten fruit of the unprobated, unauthenticated will and testament of 1921, and therefore do not constitute the representative institution that Baha'u'llah and Abdul-Baha envisioned, but a corrupt product of essentially Shiite origin through the imamate of Shoghi Effendi. It's that corrupt, pseudo institution that has produced much of the conflict and lawsuits during the last decades in Bahai circles.

Fortunately, Abdul-Baha's authoritative interpretation of Baha'u'llah's Teachings for the modern world remains preserved in the early volumes of the Star of the West prior to 1921 and in his writings. After 1921, with the take over of the Bahai Movement by Shoghi Effendi and his family, the corrupting forces began to set in, comparable to Muawiyah in Islam or Constantine in Christianity, turning the Faith into a political power symbol. While I don't have any respect for what purports to be the Universal House of Justice today, I do respect Julie Chanler and Ahmad Sohrab, and Ruth White

[http://reformbahai.org/Ruth\\_White.html](http://reformbahai.org/Ruth_White.html), for trying to preserve Abdul-Baha's teaching that the Bahai Movement cannot be organized because it's precisely his emphasis on its transcendent, spiritual nature that is universal, important, and enduring, unlike the corrupt lust for power and control that obsesses the Haifan heresy.

The sad fact is that the vast majority of Haifan Bahais have been so deceived and brainwashed about the actual early history of the faith that most of them do not even have the slightest clue about what Abdul-Baha really taught. All the books from a Haifan bias merely repeat the script handed down to their authors by the "review" imposed by the de facto imamate that seized control in 1921.

« *Last Edit:* August 28, 2011, 08:22:48 AM by Jenabe Fazel »

Report to moderator

76.112.30.51 (?)



"To be a Bahai simply means to love all the world; to love humanity and try to serve it; to

work for universal peace and universal brotherhood." —Abdul-Baha

The Reform Bahai Faith, <http://reformbahai.org/>

## jeffrey

Newbie



Posts: 1



### Re: Topix - Baha'i Rift - Chicago Tribune - Forum

<< **Reply #3 on:** August 29, 2011, 02:41:09

PM >>

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I respectfully disagree that it was Shoghi Effendi who was responsible for the subversion of the Faith. It was a small group of elitist Baha'is who wished to shape and mold the Faith to their own liking. The same ilk of people are in power in Haifa and Wilmette.

So I have a question about this forum: Is it for the free exchange of differing opinions or is it a platform to promote the Reform Bahai Faith? I say this because it is moderated (which I disapprove of). Topix was not moderated.



[Report to moderator](#) 97.123.87.206 (?)

## Jenabe Fazel

Administrator

Jr. Member



Posts: 76



### Re: Topix - Baha'i Rift - Chicago Tribune - Forum

<< **Reply #4 on:** August 29, 2011, 05:11:04

PM >>

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I respect your opinions.

First, I'll try to answer your concern about moderation. It is true that Topix was unmoderated, which allowed anything to be said by anyone. I believe that feature is already available on talk.religion.bahai, which I was significantly involved with creating way back in 1996 through 1997. As you many know, it remains perhaps the longest running Bahai discussion on the Internet, Usenet actually, that is unmoderated. I think, though, what has happened to talk.religion.bahai, at times, is that many false identities, whether Haifan Baha'is or various Iranian and Muslims, often detract from the quality of conversation, using numerous reprehensible tactics. I note that people who were on Topix have not migrated to talk.religion.bahai, which they could have done. I don't believe an unmoderated forum will work. Given the history of Haifans infiltrating and disturbing all discussion boards of the past, etc., there has to be a way to protect the vulnerable newcomer and innocent. That's just reality, even after the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruling for the third time against them and their ridiculous lawsuit.

My thinking here, with a Forum open to Bahais of any denomination other than the one who has the very long historical record, over eighty years, of harassing Bahais of other conscience, is to protect people from more of that kind of thing coming from those quarters, yet providing a space where Orthodox Baha'is, Baha'is Under the Provision of the Covenant, Tarbiyat Baha'is, Reform Bahais, and so on, might get to know one another a little more. Topix helped a lot but has been wiped off the Internet, whether by the Haifans or for some other reason, one can't be sure.

I think it's important that the various Bahai denominations listen to one another

and understand each others' views. We don't have to agree. Understanding can lead to better relations than were demonstrated in the court rooms of the Seventh Circuit of Northern Illinois.

I do follow and appreciate your point about Shoghi Effendi. I've heard on many occasions people defend him with the idea that it was really Mason Remey and other Americans who wanted an organized Bahai religion after Abdul-Baha died in 1921. So I do respect that thinking. I must say, though, having heard it so often, that I believe it is actually a subterfuge used by Shoghi Effendi to put people off the real trail leading to him and his own family, especially his mother and perhaps Abdul-Baha's wife. Much of that history has been buried or lost, but I think significant insights into that family can be found in Ruth White's books. She actually knew the Abdul-Baha and met with him in Haifa, giving her the opportunity to observe the family at very close range. I heartily agree with you that the same kind of people are now "in power in Haifa and Wilmette." Fortunately, they don't own or run the Faith of Baha'u'llah and his appointed interpreter Abdul-Baha.

I hope that Bahais of all persuasions will feel free to share and express their views and understanding of their own experience of the Bahai teachings and their denomination. They're completely free, to my mind, to share and promote what they believe is the true or correct understanding of what Abdul-Baha called the Bahai Movement. So, it's not solely to "promote the Reform Bahai Faith," though I do believe it is the most in harmony with the vision of Abdul-Baha. That's my opinion. I'm not forcing it on anyone here or elsewhere, unlike most of Bahai cyberspace.

Hope this helps.



Report to moderator  76.112.30.51 (?)

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## Jenabe Fazel

Administrator  
Jr. Member



Posts: 76



### Re: Topix - Baha'i Rift - Chicago Tribune - Forum

« **Reply #5 on:** September 01, 2011, 08:39:29 AM »

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**Quote from: Joel61436 on August 26, 2011, 09:47:06 PM**

"Personally, I hold the Universal House of Justice with great respect; however, they are not what the Faith is about. The basic principles are what the Faith is about."

Joel,

I'm trying to understand what you find worthy of respect about the Wilmette-Haifa uhj. Not only has it imposed the same censorship and "review" that Shoghi Effendi always did, from 1921 on, but it has also followed his reprehensible example of using the US courts to harass and attempt to destroy other Bahai denominations. As you know, the most egregious examples were in the early 1940s against Ahmad Sohrab and Julie Chanler, 1966 against Mason

Remey, and from 2006 to 2010 against the Orthodox Baha'i Faith, the Baha'is Under the Provisions of the Covenant, and the Tarbiyat Baha'i Community, while the Reform Bahai Faith was repeatedly slandered by the Wilmette Baha'is in the Seventh US District Courts.

Here's what the Seventh US District Court of Appeals answered back with in its Opinion to the Wilmette Baha'is, who couldn't possibly have started the lawsuits without of the knowledge of the Haifan "universal house of justice":

7th Cir: Public online 08-2306 case documents as PDF and oral argument MP3 Opinion in case# 08-2306, Judge Sykes:

"When a district judge takes sides in a religious schism, purports to decide matters of spiritual succession, and excludes dissenters from using the name, symbols, and marks of the faith (as distinct from the name and marks of a church), the First Amendment line appears to have been crossed." See original Court documents and recording at <http://www.ca7.uscourts.gov/fdocs/docs.fwx?caseno=08-2306&submit=showdkt&yr=08&num=2306>

From Judge Sykes' Opinion:

p 7: False finding of "fact" by Judge Austin in 1966

p 13: "...civil authorities may not make judgments about religious controversies when deciding church property disputes. Kedroff, 344 U.S. at 116. (The church-autonomy principle recognized in Watson "must now be said to have federal constitutional protection as a part of the free exercise of religion against state interference.").

"Building on Kedroff, the Supreme Court held in Presbyterian Church that "the First Amendment severely circumscribes the role that civil courts may play in resolving church property disputes."

p 14-15: "Considered in light of these First Amendment limitations on the court's authority, certain aspects of the 1966 injunction are troubling. The decree declares that "there is only one Baha'i Faith," that Shoghi Effendi was its last Guardian and none has come since, and the National Spiritual Assembly was its representative and "highest authority" in the United States and was "entitled to exclusive use of the marks and symbols of the Faith," including the exclusive use of the word "Bahá'í." Declarations of this sort push the boundaries of the court's authority under Kedroff and Presbyterian Church. In church property disputes (trademark suits obviously qualify), the First Amendment limits the sphere in which civil courts may operate. When a district judge takes sides in a religious schism, purports to decide matters of spiritual succession, and excludes dissenters from using the name, symbols, and marks of the faith (as distinct from the name and marks of a church) [boldface added], the First Amendment line appears to have been crossed."

p 17: "It is a principle of general application in Anglo-American jurisprudence that one is not bound by a judgment in personam in a litigation in which he is not designated as a party or to which he has not been made a party by service of process.' ""

p 20: The court expands on and concludes that the parties were simply not in privity with the 1966 flawed decision by Judge Austin.

NOTE WELL: "a church," i.e., the Court clearly states, as a matter of incontestable historical fact, that the Wilmette nsa merely constitutes one of many interpretations of the Baha'i Faith.

As I've tried to indicate, the root of the problem with the Wilmette, Haifan interpretation of the Baha'u'llah's Teachings is that it leaves out Abdul-Baha's actual 1912 Authentic Covenant, substituting the spurious will and testament forged by Shoghi Effendi's family in 1921.

The Bahai Faith can be Reformed but only by returning to the Interpretation clearly outlined by Abdul-Baha in Europe and America prior to his death. The evidence and record of his Interpretation has been preserved in the Star of the West for anyone willing to read with an independent mind, free of the decades of deception and brainwashing into blind belief administered by the Haifans.

For those interested, see on the Reform Bahai Faith website, the relevant Star of the West volumes, under the links, Bahai Writings > Early Bahai Sources > Star of the West volumes. <http://reformbahai.org/>



Report to moderator 76.112.30.51 (?)

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The Reform Bahai Faith, <http://reformbahai.org/>

### Jenabe Fazel

Administrator  
Jr. Member



Posts: 76



### Re: Topix - Baha'i Rift - Chicago Tribune - Forum

« **Reply #6 on:** September 08, 2011, 08:39:37 PM »

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Friends, I want to let you know there's an interesting discussion of Abdul-Baha's Authentic 1912 Covenant at <http://www.interfaith.org/forum/bahai.html>

Check it out or share your views here!



Report to moderator 76.112.30.51 (?)

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The Reform Bahai Faith, <http://reformbahai.org/>

### Jenabe Fazel

Administrator  
Jr. Member



Posts: 76



### Re: Topix - Baha'i Rift - Chicago Tribune - Forum

« **Reply #7 on:** December 19, 2011, 11:23:57 PM »

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Here's a direct link to the discussion on the Interfaith forum:

<http://www.interfaith.org/forum/abdul-bahas-1912-authentic-covenant-14434.html>



Report to moderator  76.112.30.51 (?)

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The Reform Bahai Faith, <http://reformbahai.org/>

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