

Letter from the Universal House of Justice sanctioning (not endorsing) *Heart to Heart*

**THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARIAT
12 July 2010**

Mrs. Zabine Van Ness

U.S.A.

Dear Bahá'í Friend,

Your email letter of 11 June 2010 regarding reaction to the Heart to Heart project has been received by the Universal House of Justice, which has asked us to respond as follows.

Your sincere commitment to the Faith is acknowledged with gratitude,You are, of course, free to choose any particular method of teaching that you prefer and may offer the program on your Web site or to interested local friends and summer or winter schools. In this way, it can serve as a resource to those who seek it out. However, you should not feel disheartened if individuals or institutions do not take advantage of this offer.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

Department of the Secretariat

cc:

International Teaching Centre

National Assembly of the United States

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NSA letter re Heart to Heart from the Office of the Secretary

NSA of the United States -Office of the Secretary July 15, 2009

The National Spiritual Assembly was delighted to have received copies of your DVD, "Heart to Heart: A Spiritual Journey from Exploration to Transformation". We have been asked to convey its appreciation that you have designed "Heart to Heart" to be integrated with the core activities and study circles and to provide a bridge to that process.

Be assured of the appreciation of the National Assembly for your generosity in creating such a gift that it can be enjoyed by the Friends for generations to come. May your continued efforts to serve and advance the Cause of God be blessed and confirmed.

With loving Baha'i greetings,
Office of the Secretary

National Review Letter

October 23, 2008

Dear Ms. Van Ness,

The Review Office is pleased to inform you that review has been completed on the *Heart to Heart* visual Bahá'í teaching aid you have designed for use either as a slide presentation (for groups) or as a notebook-bound hard copy (for one-on-one teaching). ...

First, though, we highly commend your creativity, ambition, and devoted effort in creating *Heart to Heart*. The slide sequences are beautifully presented and graphically enticing. Their organization, along with the intended distribution as a single CD master file with sophisticated internal cross-linking and electronic indexing, will allow users to generate their own teaching programs for use in concert with Ruhi classes, deepenings, and other forms of teaching the Bahá'í Faith. This is an amazing achievement, to which we know you have devoted many years of work. We fully expect that this labor of love will be eagerly received by Bahá'ís in their efforts to share the Faith with others...

....One of the most interesting comments made by the review team revolved around the consensus among the members that *Heart to Heart* will greatly empower Bahá'í teachers while also engaging and attracting seekers. They expressed confidence that it would help to advance the institute process as currently understood because it consciously implements each of the spiritual practices associated with Ruhi training, thus providing a way of attracting newcomers to study circles and core activities. They further opined that such a product would be enthusiastically welcomed by Bahá'í agencies and individuals serving at all levels of the Cause....

Some feedback comments:

[Jim Harrison](#) March 21 at 11:22am

Ms. Van Ness! Thank you so much for including me in yesterday's meeting with yourself and Miles Lane! I have been exploring Heart to Heart and am UTTERLY amazed at the profound gift you have given us all for the sake of spreading the message of Baha'u'llah!!! I have already been singing the praises of this amazing tool to everyone who would listen at last night's Naw Ruz dinner!

I can't wait to get going fully on this.

[Lynn Johnson](#)

Lynn says, "Dear Zabine, It was so nice to meet you over the internet last week during our chat with Juanita Hernandez. The work you have done is fabulous!!".

Sebastian Lawrence Hayball commented on your status:

"Wow Zabine...you are doing a great service. Well done. Keep at it. Good to know such initiatives are taking place and making progress. 1ove!"

[Peggy Lemmey Borell](#) 4-18-2010

It was a great session. I'm looking forward to using this amazing tool with friends. Thank you for your service to the Cause!

[Bill Hyman](#) April 20, 2010 at 4:25pm

Subject: Heart to Heart

Just thought you would like to know that I am using a lot of your questions on a TV show, in English, which I produce weekly. It is a moderated panel presentation which usually has 2 Christians and a Baha'i answering the same questions. When I am on the panel I sometimes use some of the quotations which you use to answer the questions. So far I have made 45 programs so I am running out of questions.

[Stephen Boyce](#) April 26 at 8:53pm [Report](#)

Dear Zabine,

Thank you so much for creating Heart to Heart. This makes it so easy to talk about the Faith with seekers, and also to learn and deepen the Faith for myself. Again, Thank you!

Continued..

[Julia Wallace Cox Letourneau](#) Thank you for sharing these precious moments.It's so inspiring ! You are relighting many candles that were flickering by the winds of despair into flames of fire that will not be extinguished ! Thank you reminding us of our true purpose.

Hi Zabine!

Thank you so much for your kind message! I actually used Heart to Heart with two friends the other day and it was very effective! Thank you!

Take care,
Emily

Dear G,

Are you familiar with Heart2Heart direct teaching method via Internet? Do you know Zabine van Ness in the Washington state area? I believe that you could make great use of this technology. It is simply beautiful and efficient and easy to learn to use.

Love
KP

[Amanda Gronich](#)

What a fantastic service. I have thought for a long time about this concept. So glad someone is doing it.

Thози Nomvete commented on your link:

"That's what I just did a few hours ago. It's on my profile, and it is part of my blurb at the "info" page of Facebook. It's just Fantastic!"

continued

[Barney Leith](#) 06 May 2010 at 23:04

Re: Heart to Heart online

It's certainly very comprehensive..... I'm sure it will touch many hearts.

Warmest greetings

—Barney

[Cathy Giebitz Higgins](#) Zabine, I just posted on Miles' wall that I am astounded at the beauty of Heart to Heart. Such a labor of love AND brilliant idea! Thank you for doing it and sharing it.

[Sue Littman Cole](#)

I went on the site and saw some stuff. Printed some out to share with my family. Some cool stuff!

KK.."True statment Susan. There may be other Baha'is such as myself, who also need the 12 step program along with the writings. It would be nice if I could fine those Baha'is who are 12 steppers and has a group going that directs its energies from the writing into the 12 step program. I wonder if such group exist today?

Thank you Zabine for the link of Heart to Heart to the 12 step program. It is my intent to check it out Sunday, May 9, 2010 at some unknown given time of the day. Kay Kelly commented on your link:

"This is wonderful Zabine! Thank you for the time and care you put into this. It will help many people.
“

Thank you and congratulations. Without these modern means it will be really hard to bring the Divine Teachings to people in all islands, mountains, valleys.... We are thankful to Baha'u'llah not only for the Revelation, but also for the amazing means.

L.L.

Le Loc, Vietnam

continued

[Eyobed Teklegiorgis](#)

Thank you so much for giving me the greatest opportunity to serve our faith. I wish our heart desire would be accomplished.

Posted by [Elizabeth Kay Gunselman](#) on July 24, 2009 at 3:36pm in [Heart to Heart Back to Heart to Heart Discussions](#)

Hello All, Heart to Heart is the way to go because if you connect with the seeker with all your heart and touch the seeker's heart, you have made the connection that is necessary for the seeker to desire to investigate further. I had a wonderful conversation with a young family man who installed this computer. We had several hours of quality teaching. He said that he would check the web for more information. I told him about the Bab and Bahauallah and we have each others email address. He is a Baptist, but he was very open and could relate to the reality to it all! With lots of Love Elizabeth, Elisheva!

[Larry Yost](#)

Zabine, You are a "hero" here! What a wonderful tool! Thanks!

Dear Zabine,

I can't tell you how touched I feel... what a powerful time in my life! I'm still feeling the glow!

Many hugs to you, too!

Your Baha'i sister, (ooo, I like that!)

Barbi

[Sylvia Susan Ault](#) May 14 at 7:30am

Zabine, immediately I knew, while watching your video, that this was an answer to my vision from last month, of dancing while speaking "Sign Language" to the lyrics of the songs (Baha'i songs). It is graceful, beautiful, and is a way to communicate with all peoples from everywhere.

[Dominga](#)

I have been constantly on your Heart to Heart love it

continued

When I that you had very kindly provided the address for the online version in the description of your video, I went into Heart to Heart and look at it for several hours. ...I was hooked. I was so excited about it, I woke my roommate up and brought her to my laptop to look.... Kamelia

by [Davidson Efetobore](#) 1 hour ago

I have been using heart-to-heart CD on my Lap-Top to teach others.. It has proven to be very effective for teaching.

Cynthia Brown commented on your photo:

"Thank you so much for your hard work. Heart to Heart is beautiful.

Nancy A. Markovich commented on your photo:

"Thank you dearheart! I am so proud of you! What a model you are for the rest of us!"

Tammy posted something on your Wall and wrote:

Hi Zabine,

Jeff and I want to have you over sometime soon. He wants a lesson from you on using Heart to Heart. He has a friend that has done book one- but is quitting book 2. We think Heart to Heart, might be what he needs."

[Derek M. Cockshut](#) Thank-you Zabine, I greatly admire your service to the Beloved.

[Shizu E M Futa](#) August 24 at 1:14am

As a personal research tool to help present Ruhi and add quotes to support its scenarios or to promote further study, Heart to Heart proves invaluable because it is so beautifully indexed and cross-referenced. For self-deepening, or for consolidating resurfacing inactive Bahá'ís and new believers, it is also a wonderful instrument.

Helenya Taurino Gradidge posted on your Wall.

Helenya wrote:

"i am starting heart to heart on sunday with my family"

continued

Dearest Zabine,

It has been clear to me ever since I met you in Washington, Seattle a few years ago, that you are truly a gem of inestimable value! Your work is not only an amazing idea whose time has come – especially for people like myself who have a fleeting background in the Bible – given that my late father was a Pastor in Jamaica – but, it is also a valuable tool that is consistent with the technological times as well. What do I mean?

In our devotion, my wife Anyema and I had a discussion about the notion of the resurrection. Given our recent coaching conversation – when we chatted together for nearly two hours – I was able to authoritatively and quickly find the index and all the relevant Bible quotes on the subject.

It was an experience of true power! And, all that I need to do now, and, that I would encourage everyone to do – is to simply learn how to navigate this ‘Ferrari’ of divine vehicle in order to win souls for the Blessed Beauty!

**Fondly,
Sherlock**

Dear Zabine, As requested, when I saw them this weekend, I personally passed on to all the RBC members, and the Counselors, your gift to them each of your “Heart to Heart” DVD. They asked me to convey to you their appreciation and “Thank you!”

**Loving regards,
Dale**

Dear Zabine: Thanks so much for the wonderful gift of your Heart to Heart program! Once again, our meeting with honored guests left no time to see you while we was meeting last weekend, but we were touched by your kindness and generosity!

**Best wishes,
Henri**

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Dear Zabine, I am so happy to have so many teaching opportunities and I wanted to thank you for the Heart to Heart files which I was able to show to Kevin on the plane. He was thoroughly engrossed in them, and it provided much additional information in such a colorful slide presentation I offered to him on that 2 hour plane ride. He is a Seventh Day Adventist and posed some very Christian statements, and with Baha'u'llah's help, I was able to answer his queries satisfactorily for the moment. He just kept firing questions and thoughts throughout, so if I didn't answer that one fully, he didn't seem bothered by it.

Thank you so much for giving me the H2H files. I happened to have it on my desktop and so it was easily accessible. I conveniently went to the bathroom on the plane and handed him my laptop, which he eagerly took, and when I returned much later (waiting in line), he was busy as a bee going through the slides. We were close to landing and he gave me his business card and asked for my email address as well. I didn't volunteer it, as I wanted to see how much he wanted to keep in contact. Ya Baha el Abha, he asked!

Thank you dear God, for the teaching we are able to do!

Kiyoko

Dear Zabine, As you know, the Knoxville LSA has for some years taken a keen interest in Heart to Heart and is moving along nicely. Until now, I've done several firesides, a couple of public devotional meetings, and other stuff where I've demonstrated its potential. This has created a lot of local excitement.

Zabine, I did receive your phone call late this afternoon; however, I must tell you I was elated to receive the Heart to Heart CD today. So, I immediately went to work at trying to familiarize myself with the CD.

It is absolutely beautiful and I am excited about using it to teach. I was touched by the graphics and quote on the cover.

Although, I didn't share the CD this evening with our seeker, I did show her the package and shared the longer quote from Seven Valleys..."this mystery of inner meaning may be whispered only from heart to heart" I couldn't begin to thank you for this most wonderful gift you have created and offered as a teaching tool.

All went very well and our seeker is eager for us (my husband and me) to return next week.

Much Love,

Norene

continued

Zabine: Happy Naw Ruz and thank you for sharing this demo of H2H. Ive been after this for quite some time now, having heard about your use of it while you were in Florida. I'm certain it has grown to fruition. What a bounty to have such a tool! May the Blessed Beauty shower His graces on you for years to come due to this effort! Ya! Baha'u'l'abha!

Love

Rose

Dear Zabine, I have downloaded the demo and it looks amazing! Can I forward it to my sister in Roanoke and my niece in Dallas? Can I share it with our Tamarac community? Can I post it on Bahai-eu-65? Let me know. I don't want to overstep my bounds, but this is so truly exciting!

I am so proud of your effort! You never gave up and here it is!

LOVE

Debbie

Zabine, Thank you for pulling together all your insights from your many years of service in the field of teaching and for sharing them with us. We all appreciate your hard work.

Amanda (and the ATC)

Dearest Miles Congratulation, you did it, you are very smart , with most pure heart, very Spiritual and loving person and we do love you. Thank you to be patience during this long journey, you will not ever understand what you have done yet, this project is a great contribution to the advancement of the faith that brings peace and tranquility to people of THE earth, from now on blessing will showers upon you . We are so happy to know you, this project that finished is much better than to have ten PHd's. your name would be in this world and the next and Bahauallah's angels are around you,protecting you and your family.

Congratulation again.

With LOVE

Parvaneh and Mazi

continued

There is so much valuable, relevant, thought provoking material here that keeps us in line with the World Centre guidance in an attractive and engaging way! It is certainly a bold project, offered as input to a general consultation around the central concepts in circulation in the present Plan, and offers in itself a field of learning and improvement for anyone engaged in this glorious Enterprise! Alex Zabine, Thank you so much for this document, it is fantastic. This is going to be so helpful in my teaching work and hopefully I can share it with others in the community. These times we are in are so powerful. May we all be prepared in our spiritual life to accept this challenge. God is working through you to give us our homework. THANK YOU, THANK YOU dear “pie lady This is not “pie in the sky” this is reality. Love it that I have you as a cohort in the Cause.

Diana

My dear Zabine, It is beautiful – simply marvelously beautiful. I understand what you want us to read slowly. Be assured this wayfarer will do so.

Lovingly,

Barbra