

# Local Baha'is elect governing units

National Assembly will be elected May 24 at Illinois meet

*Special to The Times*

The Huntsville and Madison Baha'i communities recently elected their nine-member governing bodies, called Local Spiritual Assemblies.

The Huntsville board members are Diana Foroughi, Navid Foroughi, Helen Oney, Amelia Tyson, Rosana Tyson, Quita Underwood, Carolyn Wolfe, Gary Wolfe and Gary Wynn.

The Madison board mem-

bers are Ursula Ahmed, Bill Gates, Rosie Gates, Darren Hiebert, Ruhyyih Hiebert, Cathy Kholanjani, Saeed Kholanjani, Keith Losset and Jim Parker.

The U.S. National Assembly will be elected May 24 during a convention at the Baha'i House of Worship in Wilmette, Ill. Darren Hiebert of Madison is one of 171 delegates elected in district elections in October 2002.

The Baha'i faith, second only to Christianity as the most widespread of the world's independent religions according to *Encyclopedia Britannica*, has no clergy and

administers its affairs through democratically elected councils at the international, national and local levels.

The Baha'i Universal House of Justice is made up of nine members: Kiser Barnes and Hooper Dunbar of the United States; Hartmut Grossman of Germany; Dr. Firaydoun Javaheri and Dr. Farzam Arbab of Iran; Dr. Peter Khan of Australia; Douglas Martin of Canada; Glenford Mitchell of Jamaica; and Ian Semple of England.

The Baha'i House of Worship in Wilmette, Ill., a national historic site and the only Baha'i House of Worship in

North America, celebrates its 50th anniversary next Saturday at 7:00 PM. The event is open to people of all religions.

A devotional service in the sanctuary will include an a cappella choir, followed by a presentation by renowned architect Fariborz Sahba, who designed the elaborate Baha'i House of Worship in India ([www.bahaindia.org/temple](http://www.bahaindia.org/temple)) and constructed the Terraces at the Baha'i World Center on Mt. Carmel in Haifa, Israel ([www.sahbaarchitect.com](http://www.sahbaarchitect.com)).

The 50th anniversary of the May 1953 dedication of the nine-sided Baha'i Temple is also the 100th anniversary of the conception of the project, which was completely funded with contributions from Baha'is only.

The local Baha'i Center is at 3209 Pulaski Pike. The national center is in Evanston, Ill., and the world center is in Haifa, Israel.

For more information on the anniversary celebration, visit [www.us.bahai.org](http://www.us.bahai.org). For more information on the local Baha'i groups, call 881-0057 or e-mail [opi-rep@huntsville.al.us.bahai.org](mailto:opi-rep@huntsville.al.us.bahai.org).