



Linda O'Neil

LINDA O'NEIL is a writer and editor living in Ottawa, Ontario. She studied journalism at Carleton University, Ottawa and had a long career working in communications for a number of NGOs involved in education, women's issues and mental health, and has edited a number of books, including "The Origins of the Baha'i Community in Canada 1898-1948" and "A Legacy of Courage: the Life of Ola Pawlowska, Knight of Baha'u'llah".

She took an intensive scriptwriting program, creating a portfolio of one-act plays, film and radio scripts, and a television documentary for the Canadian NSA's *Baha'i Perspectives* series. A founding member of the Ottawa Baha'i Creative Writers Group, her creative work includes writing plays, short stories, memoir and poetry. She created a small production company, Stigma Busters, to mount two mental health-themed plays for the Ottawa Fringe Festival in 2003 and 2004.

Linda investigated the Bahai Faith as a first year university student. She rapidly fell in love with the Faith and began a spiritual adventure that has lasted more than 50 years. A highlight was her service as a Baha'i community development volunteer in the Democratic Republic of the Congo 1977-78 where she taught ESL and spent a year travelling by truck and on foot, meeting Baha'is in many remote villages. She has also travelled and met Baha'is in India, Pakistan, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Martinique and Guadeloupe, Australia, the Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea.

Linda is happily and busily retired and currently concentrates her efforts on promoting the arts in the Baha'i community, and, with Heather Harvey, organizing arts events and coordinating the *Big Ideas* presentation series.

