

## April 2014 eNewsletter

### News

#### The Superstructure of the Baha'i House of Worship in Chile Begins to Rise

"Construction, Worship, and Service," the latest in a series of videos following the construction of the Baha'i House of Worship in Santiago, details work on the building's superstructure and adjacent landscaping and facilities. The link also includes previous videos that you may have missed. Click here: <http://news.bahai.org/story/982>.



#### Studying the Kitab-i-Iqan on Your Own

A tutorial, by Fazel Naghdy, designed to help you journey through Baha'u'llah's Book of Certitude at your own pace and by yourself.

[Click here to continue>>](#)

#### The Story of the Jews with Simon Schama: PBS Premieres New Series

Public Television Stations are running a five-part series exploring the Jewish experience. [Click here to continue>>](#)



#### A Wilmette Institute Student Explains How She Combines Teaching Ballet and Character Development

Read the journey of a ballet teacher who combines character development with teaching classical ballet, affecting generations of students, most of whom will not pursue classical ballet as a profession. [Click here to continue>>](#)



#### In Memory of Professor Amin Banani

Click here to listen to seven speakers (including Dr. Firuz Kazemzadeh and Sheila Banani) memorialize Amin Banani, professor of Persian history and literature at

### April - June 2014 Courses

Be the first to sign up for this new course on the important institution of the Mashriqu'l-Adkhar

## The Mashriqu'l-Adhkar: The First Hundred Years

Lead Faculty: [Robert Stockman](#)

Faculty: [Duane Troxel](#)

Duration of course: Seven Weeks (April 1 - May 19, 2014)



Baha'u'llah, in His Kitab-i-Aqdas, instructed Baha'is to build Houses of Worship, which are dedicated to the praise of God. "The House of Worship forms the central edifice of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkar (the Dawning-place of the Praise of God), a complex which, as it unfolds in the future, will comprise in addition to the House of Worship a number of dependencies dedicated to social,

humanitarian, educational, and scientific pursuits." The course will examine the institution of the Mashriqu'l-Ashkar; explore authoritative texts by Baha'u'llah, `Abdu'l-Baha, Shoghi Effendi, and the Universal House of Justice about the institution; review the construction and uses of the Houses of Worship in Ashqabat, Wilmette, Kampala, Sydney, Frankfurt, Panama City, New Delhi, and Samoa; look at the construction of the House of Worship in Santiago, Chile; review guidance about the local and national Houses of Worship that are under way; and explore the future of this very important Baha'i institution.

[Course Description](#) [Fees](#) [Course Schedule](#) [Register](#) [Financial Aid](#)

Revisit an important letter detailing fundamentals necessary for contributing to the plans of the Universal House of Justice

## The Dispensation of Baha'u'llah

One in a series of courses on the writings of Shoghi Effendi

the University of California, Los Angeles, and a Knight of Baha'u'llah, who, with his wife opened Greece to the Baha'i Faith: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5AqC8mPn2A> .

### The Journal of Baha'i Studies Announces a New Direction

Dr. John S. Hatcher, the new editor of *The Journal of Baha'i Studies*, has written a letter outlining the journal's new direction. Click here to read the letter:

<http://www.bahai-studies.ca/journal/files/Email.to.ABS.membership.pdf>.



### Contributions to the Wilmette Institute's Scholarship/Discount Fund Still Welcome

The fund grew by \$500 last month! To see how to contribute, go to

<http://wi.bahai.us/files/2013/08/Fundraiser-August-2013-electronic.pdf>.

### Save These Dates!

An updated list of 2014 calls for papers, academic conferences, and webinars.

[Click here to continue>>](#)

## Social Media

### Facebook and Twitter Discounts

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter! Doing so could get you a discount on your next Wilmette Institute course. We are offering discount codes for 10 or even 20 percent for selected courses via those two social media.

Like us on  Facebook

Follow us on  twitter

Find us on  Google+

## Mark Your Calendar

**July 1 - August 18, 2014**

[Dynamic Consultation: Nine Keys to Unity](#)

**July 10 - August 28, 2014**

[Tablets of Baha'u'llah Revealed after the Kitab-i-Aqdas](#)

**July 20 - September 8, 2014**

[Understanding Religion: Social and Historical Aspects](#)

**July 24 - August 30, 2014**

[Becoming a Couple: Preparing for Marriage](#)

**August 1 - Sept. 18, 2014**

Lead Faculty: [Ed DiLiberto](#)

Faculty: [Robert Wilson](#)

**Duration of course:** Seven Weeks (April 10 - June 7, 2014)



Shoghi Effendi wrote *The Dispensation of Baha'u'llah* in 1934 to clarify certain "root principles" of the Faith and to "call the attention of those who are destined to be the champion-builders of the Administrative Order of Baha'u'llah to certain fundamental verities the elucidation of which must tremendously assist them in the effective prosecution of their mighty enterprise." Whereas many religions arrive at an understanding of the station of their Manifestation and other significant figures through theological controversy, in one document Shoghi Effendi eliminates the potential for confusion and disunity by defining the stations of Baha'u'llah, the Bab, and `Abdu'l-Baha, and the nature and purpose of the Administrative Order. In addition, Shoghi Effendi interprets prophecies, defines some Baha'i doctrines, and offers illuminating comparisons with previous religions. A thorough understanding of the letter is essential to all Baha'is' deepening and to their successful contributions to the plans of the Universal House of Justice.

[Course Description](#) [Fees](#) [Course Schedule](#) [Register](#) [Financial Aid](#)

Start the new Baha'i year by reexamining prayer, fasting, and meditation

## Scientific and Artistic Dimensions of Baha'i Spirituality, Obligatory Prayer, Meditation, and Fasting

Lead Faculty: [Christopher White](#)

**Duration of course:** Seven Weeks (April 20 - June 7, 2014)



How does Baha'i spirituality help us develop mental clarity, spiritual awareness, inner calm, and even physical health? We will begin with a discussion of prayer and meditation in comparative perspective. In subsequent units we will consider the distinctive elements of Baha'i prayer

and meditation; the artistry of bodily postures and divine verses blended in the obligatory prayers; the history and significance of the Greatest Name and its use in prayers and meditations; the spiritual and physiological benefits of fasting; and how fasting might promote self-control and restraint. The course incorporates insights from recent studies in medicine, psychology, and other scholarly fields to aid us in understanding how Baha'i spirituality can lead to profound experiences of peace, encouragement, and joy.

[Introduction to Shaykhism](#)

## September - December 2014 Course Schedule

Below is the Wilmette Institute's course schedule, August through December 2014. The schedule is still partial and tentative.

September 1, 2014  
Practicing the Arts

September 10, 2014  
Introduction to Archives for Baha'i Archivists

September 20, 2014  
Climate Change

October 1, 2014  
The Writings of the Bab

October 10, 2014  
The Promised Day Is Come

October 21, 2014  
Preparing for Interfaith Dialogue

November 1, 2014  
Tabernacle of Unity

November 20, 2014  
Marriage and Family Life

December 1, 2014  
`Abdu'l-Baha: His Life and Ministry

December 15, 2014  
Baha'i Theology

[Course Description](#) [Fees](#) [Course Schedule](#) [Register](#) [Financial Aid](#)

A course to help you deepen your understanding of Islam and prepare for dialogue with Muslims

## Islam for Deepening and Dialogue

One in a series of courses providing an integrated approach to understanding world religions

Lead Faculty: [Moojan Momen](#)

Faculty: [Susan Maneck](#), [Lil Abdo Osborn](#)

**Duration of course:** Seven Weeks (May 1 - June 17, 2014)



In Islam for Deepening and Dialogue we will begin with a survey of the life of Muhammad, a Manifestation of God, and a review of the origins, development, and content of the Qur'an, including the teachings and practices of Islam. We will then examine the Sunni/Shiite split over issues of succession and authority and discuss Islamic mysticism, or Sufism, and the Sufi poetic tradition. Finally, we will turn to contemporary Islam and to Islam and other religions, including the Baha'i Faith. With ongoing anti-Islamic sentiment in the United States and elsewhere in the world, there is no better time to improve your understanding of one of the world's most important and influential religions and to prepare for discussing it with Christian and Muslim friends and neighbors.

[Course Description](#) [Fees](#) [Course Schedule](#) [Register](#) [Financial Aid](#)

A new course that will enhance your understanding of America's role in bringing about world unity

## The Destiny of America

Lead Faculty: [Christopher Buck](#)

Faculty: [Reba Carruth](#)



**Duration of course:** Seven Weeks (May 10 - June 27, 2014)

In The Destiny of America we will examine the visions of America offered by the Baha'i Faith and some other religious traditions. We will start by reviewing the writings of the Bab, Baha'u'llah, `Abdu'l-Baha, and Shoghi Effendi about the purpose, role, and destiny of America. We will also consider statements by the Universal House of Justice about the subject and articles written by Baha'is about America's future. We will close with essays about the concepts of the destiny of America among other minority religions in the United States.

[Course Description](#) [Fees](#) [Course Schedule](#) [Register](#) [Financial Aid](#)

A course to help you deepen your understanding of Christianity and prepare for dialogue with Christians

## [Christianity for Deepening and Dialogue](#)

One in a series of courses providing an integrated approach to understanding world religions

Lead Faculty: [Peter Terry](#)

Faculty: [Ted Brownstein](#)

**Duration of course:** Seven Weeks (May 20 - July 8, 2014)



**[In Christianity for Deepening and Dialogue](#)** we will explore the history of Christianity, including the development of doctrine and ritual; the fragmentation of the Christian community; the treatment of those deemed to be heretics; relations with non-Christians including Jews and Muslims; and the interplay of religious with political, economic, scientific, and artistic aspects of culture in Christendom. Our aim is to become informed about the beliefs and practices of those who have called themselves Christians over the course of two millennia, to learn how to share Baha'i perspectives with Christians effectively, and to understand Christian perspectives in the light of the Baha'i teachings.

[Course Description](#) [Fees](#) [Course Schedule](#) [Register](#) [Financial Aid](#)

A new course for couples preparing to ask for parental consent

## [Engaging in Parental Consent for Marriage: Preparing for Marriage](#)

Another in a series of courses for individuals and couples preparing for marriage

Lead Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)

Faculty: [Alex Blakeson](#), [Hoda Kemp](#), [Wendi Momen](#)

**Duration of course:** Five Weeks (May 22 - June 26, 2014)



**[Engaging in Parental Consent for Marriage](#)** will cover the context and spiritual foundation of Baha'i marriage, uniting a couple's families, intercultural union, and practicing gender equality. We will discuss the purpose and process of parental consent for marriage; the couple's responsibilities before asking for consent; parental responsibilities during courtship, consent, and engagement; and appropriate responses when parents give their consent for the proposed marriage and when they do not.

[Course Description](#) [Fees](#) [Course](#)

[Schedule](#) [Register](#) [Financial Aid](#)

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Join a survey of the ocean of Baha'u'llah's writings

## [Baha'u'llah's Revelation: A Systematic Survey](#)

One in a series of courses studying the revelation of Baha'u'llah

Lead Faculty: [Necati Alkan](#)

Faculty: [Ed DiLiberto](#)

**Duration of course:** Three Months (June 1 - August 31, 2014)



In this three-month course entitled [Baha'u'llah's Revelation](#) we will undertake a systematic introduction to twenty of Baha'u'llah's most important works, ranging from [The Hidden Words](#) to [Epistle to the Son of the Wolf](#) and the obligatory prayers. We will study themes in the works, topics that Baha'u'llah progressively revealed during His ministry, and related tablets wherever possible. The course is designed for learners seeking basic information about the writings of Baha'u'llah, new Baha'is wishing more context about Baha'u'llah's most important works, and veteran Baha'is seeking a deeper understanding of the ocean of Baha'u'llah's revelation.

[Course Description](#) [Fees](#) [Course Schedule](#) [Register](#) [Financial Aid](#)

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Revisit Shoghi Effendi's classic guidance on the virtues needed for success in the teaching work

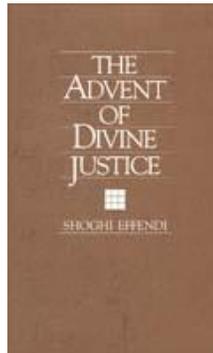
## [The Advent of Divine Justice](#)

Another in a series of courses on the writings of Shoghi Effendi

Lead Faculty: [Betty J. Fisher](#)

Faculty: [Helen Wilson](#)

**Duration of course:** Six weeks (June 10 - July 28, 2014)



Shoghi Effendi wrote *The Advent of Divine Justice* to encourage and motivate Baha'is in teaching, pioneering, expansion, and consolidation as they pursued their First Seven-Year Plan (1937-44) in response to 'Abdu'l-Baha's call in His Tablets of the Divine Plan for the systematic spread of the Faith. We will examine the background of the composition of *The Advent of Divine Justice* and follow with an overview of the North American Baha'i community in 1938. Then we will examine Shoghi Effendi's call for the acquisition of virtues

(rectitude of conduct, chastity, holiness, and freedom from prejudice), looking also at how the Universal House of Justice reiterates the importance of these virtues in pursuing its Plans. Finally, we will study the assurances of the community's success in the unfoldment of `Abdu'l-Baha's Tablets of the Divine Plan, as Shoghi Effendi looked ahead to a "still more superb mission" that lay before the Baha'is. The emphasis, in the December 28, 2010, letter (and other letters) from the Universal House of Justice, on the clusters of virtues about which Shoghi Effendi wrote in *The Advent of Divine Justice* makes a careful study of the letter very timely.

[Course Description](#) [Fees](#) [Course Schedule](#) [Register](#) [Financial Aid](#)

Be inspired by the monumental accomplishments of the Guardian of the Baha'i Faith

## The Ministry of Shoghi Effendi

One in a series of courses on the life and writings of Shoghi Effendi

Lead Faculty: [Duane Troxel](#)

Faculty: [Barney Leith](#)

**Duration of course:** Seven Weeks (June 20 - August 7, 2014)



In **The Ministry of Shoghi Effendi** we will look briefly at Shoghi Effendi's childhood and youth (1897-1921) and more extensively at his ministry as Guardian of the Baha'i Faith (1921-57). We will consider the many roles Shoghi Effendi filled (builder, interpreter, author, and translator) as he carried out his duties as Guardian in fostering the growth and development of the Baha'i Faith. He devoted much of his ministry to building the administrative order outlined by Baha'u'llah and elaborated by `Abdu'l-Baha in His Will and Testament and to using it as an instrument for fostering the international spread of the Baha'i Faith called for by `Abdu'l-Baha in the Tablets of the Divine Plan. Shoghi Effendi also worked tirelessly to extend and beautify the properties of the Baha'i World Center in Haifa and Acre, to erect the facade of the Shrine of the Bab, and to prepare a physical home for the center of the administrative order. . . .

[Course Description](#) [Fees](#) [Course Schedule](#) [Register](#) [Financial Aid](#)

### **ABOUT US**

The Wilmette Institute offers quality online courses on the Baha'i Faith. It is committed to engaging a broad and diverse international community of learners in deep study of the Faith and to fostering love for study of the Faith. The Wilmette Institute was established in January 1995 by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States.

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Wilmette Institute, 1233 Central Street, Evanston, IL, 60201-  
2886 USA

Phone 1.877.WILMETTE (1.877.945.6388) - Fax:  
1.847.733.3563

Email: [info@wilmetteinstitute.org](mailto:info@wilmetteinstitute.org)

Web: <http://wi.bahai.us>

Moodle: [www.wilmetteinstitute.net](http://www.wilmetteinstitute.net)

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