

December 2010 eNewsletter

News

New Board Drafts New Mission Statement, Begins Revision of Institute Goals



The new Wilmette Institute Board (Niki Daniels, Cathy Higgins, Missy Martin, Mark Rossman, and Robert Stockman) had its first meeting during the weekend of November 19-21. It began with prayers at the House of Worship.

The Board's main task was to review the Institute's mission, purpose, and nature, review its current status and efforts, and chart its path into the future. A long and fruitful afternoon of consultation on Saturday produced the following mission statement and statement of the Institute's core values:

The Wilmette Institute, an agency of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States, operates as a center of learning offering academic, professional, and service-oriented programs related to the Bahá'í Faith. It delivers flexible. . . .

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Our Students Speak Up

Studying Zoroastrianism Brings Surprises



I knew nothing of Zarathustra, his

December 2010-February 2011 Courses

One Common Faith

Lead Faculty: Farhad Rassekh
Faculty: Ed DiLiberto

Duration of course: Three months (Dec. 1, 2010 - Feb. 28, 2011)

Now just \$99!



One Common Faith analyzes the assertion that "The time has come when religious leadership must face honestly and without further evasion the implications of the truth that God is one and that . . . religion is likewise one." The document, commissioned by the Universal House of Justice, looks at the nature and results of the dominance of materialism in the modern world. . . .

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Baha'i Theology: Concepts of God, Revelation, Manifestation, Creation, Humanity, Afterlife, and Covenant

Lead Faculty: Ian Kluge
Faculty: Wolfgang Klebel

Duration of course: Three months (December 15, 2010 - March 15, 2011)

This course on Baha'i Theology (the study of God and creation and of the relationship between them) provides an in-depth study of many of the fundamental spiritual teachings of the Baha'i Faith. The units are organized around a series of questions we all ask from time to time: *Who am I* (what is the nature of human nature)?

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times, his culture, and his songs. I learned so very much . . . The acceptance of the original prayers of Zarathustra into the prayer life of Baha'is came as a surprise, but a welcome one. . . . I respect and appreciate Zarathustra's position as a Messenger for his times.

--John Morgan, Austin, Texas

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The Secret of Divine Civilization Opened Doors to Studying the Baha'i Writings

This [course on *The Secret of Divine Civilization*] was the first time I had studied any of the writings in such detail. I definitely gained a much better understanding of how to delve into the writings and not to just to "read it." . . . I have been able to relate the material learned in several conversations (Baha'is and non-Baha'is). The learning is so broad that it seems to apply to many daily themes and not just the ones specifically studied.



--Shahriar Farhadi, San Clemente, California

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Mark Your Calendar

Mar. 1 - May 31, 2011

[Kitab-i-Iqan and Gems of Mysteries](#)

Mar. 15 - June 15, 2011

[Rediscovering the Dawnbreakers: Baha'i History,
1844-53](#)

Apr. 15 - July 15, 2011

[Christianity for Deepening and Dialogue](#)

May 1 - July 31, 2011

[Huququ'llah](#)

How to Study the Baha'i Writings

Lead Faculty: Sandra Hutchison

Faculty: Richard Hollinger

Duration of course: Three months (Jan. 2-Apr. 2, 2011)

How to Study the Baha'i Writings is one of four basic courses offered by the Wilmette Institute. It is designed to introduce students to a method of studying the Baha'i scriptures systematically by using a number of literary and exegetical tools. In the course we will study selected passages from Baha'i scripture through nine "windows" into divine wisdom. . . .



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Health and Spirituality

Lead Faculty: Marleen Chase

Faculty: Theo Cope, Nicola Daniels, Claire Levesque, John Paul Vader

Duration of course: Three months (Jan. 15 - Apr. 15, 2011)



In this course we will explore the interrelationship between health and spirituality, using Baha'i texts and recent research literature. We will examine, from spiritual and scientific perspectives, the role of spiritual qualities, mind, nutrition, prevention, lifestyle, stress, suffering, and aging on physical and mental health.

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The Promised Day Is Come

Lead Faculty: Zaid Lundberg

Faculty: Duane Troxel and Kurt Hein

Duration of course: Three months (Feb. 1 - Apr. 30, 2011)



This course will study *The Promised Day Is Come*, Shoghi Effendi's letter explaining the reasons for the world's present moral and social chaos and providing assurance that God has not abandoned humanity. The work recounts Baha'u'llah's proclamation of His mission to the rulers of His time; describes the derisions and silence with which that proclamation was met. . . .

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The Twin Covenants of the Baha'i Faith

Lead Faculty: Brent Poirier

Duration of course: Three months (Feb. 15 - May 15, 2011)

This new course will explore the covenants of Bahá'u'lláh and `Abdu'l-Bahá. The first covenant consists of numerous texts by



Mar. 15 - Aug. 15, 2011

[The New Five Year Plan: Arise for the Triumph of the Cause](#)

Bahá'u'lláh referring to the station of His eldest son `Abbas, Who took the title of `Abdu'l-Baha, "Servant of Baha" upon His father's passing. The second covenant refers to the Will and Testament of `Abdu'l-Baha. . . .

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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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[Baha'i Faith and your privacy](#)