

June 2015 eNewsletter



Celebrating Twenty Years

Dr. Sandra Lynn Hutchison To Be Featured in Sixth Wilmette Institute Twentieth Anniversary Web Talk on June 7--"Windows on Divine Wisdom: Accessing the Meaning of the Baha'i Revelation"

Sign up now for faculty member Dr. Sandra Lynn Hutchison's Web Talk entitled "Windows on Divine Wisdom: Accessing the Meaning of the Baha'i Revelation." She will be discussing skills that will help us find gifts hidden in the Word of God and how to become engaged and enlightened readers of the texts.



[Click here to continue>>](#)

Web Talk No. 4, with Dr. Christopher Buck, Offers Ideas for Engaging in Public Discourse in Interfaith Settings and on the Destiny of America

Understanding the myths and visions of America held by dominant and minority religions in the United States provides an unexpected source of information that will enable you to engage in public discourse on current social issues and world peace and in interfaith dialogue.

[Click here to continue>>](#)

An opportunity to study the basics of the Baha'i Faith systematically, whether you are seeker, new believer, or a veteran Baha'i

[The Baha'i Faith: A Comprehensive Introduction](#)

One of a series of courses on world religions and scriptures

Lead Faculty: [Robert Stockman](#)

Faculty: [William Collins](#)

Duration of course: Eight weeks (June 1 - July 26, 2015)



The Baha'i Faith: A Comprehensive Introduction offers a thorough and systematic study of the Baha'i religion. We will start with a review of the vastness of the Baha'i Faith's authoritative texts, which sets it apart from other religions. In subsequent units we will examine the fundamental concept of unity and its

implications for creating community, reforming the world, and reconceptualizing such subjects as leadership, politics, and conflict; the nature of God, revelation, Manifestation, humanity, creation, religion, and the Baha'i Faith's relationship to other faiths; the nature and spiritual development of human beings and the role of marriage and family life; and the Baha'i approach to reorganizing the social life and civilization of the human species. In the historical section of the course we will examine the

Web Talk No. 5, Dr. Moojan Momen's Discussion of "The Re-Creation and Utilization of a Community's Memories," Shows How Shoghi Effendi Rallied North American Baha'is to Succeed in His Plans



You are in for a mind-expanding treat as you explore with Dr. Momen how Shoghi Effendi recreated and utilized the North American Baha'is' memories of the Dawn-Breakers to rally with the needed heroism, self-sacrifice, and perseverance to spread the message of Baha'u'llah around the world, winning the right to be called the spiritual descendants of the Dawn-Breakers. [Click here to continue>>](#)

Anniversary Web Talks, August through December 2015

To plan ahead for the Wilmette Institute's next six Web Talks honoring its twentieth anniversary, from August (Susanne Alexander) through December (Dr. Michael Penn), [click here](#) for details on topics and speakers (as well as links to previous talks--with summaries of the talks and links to YouTube and Podcasts).

Age Is No Barrier--A Senior Reflects, Takes Action, and Keeps on Teaching: Celebrating the Wilmette Institute's Twentieth Anniversary



You won't want to miss the comments of this senior on how Wilmette Institute courses have enriched her life during the past five years as she refreshes her memory, makes herself relevant, and keeps on teaching at way past sixty-five. [Click here to continue>>](#)

Contributions to Public Discourse

Washington Baha'i History Museum Provides Speakers for a Worldwide Video Webinar Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

The Washington Baha'i History Museum in Seattle, Washington, USA, has, for a number of years been a trusted partner with Edmonds Community College, providing speakers for its Community College Initiative program. When ECC and the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs could

development of the Baha'i community from the time of the Bab (1844) to the present, considering the development of new Baha'i institutions and the Faith's focus on several important priorities: diversity, geographical spread, and empowerment of the membership. The course is suitable for inquirers wishing a basic overview, new Baha'is desiring a chance to explore the religion they have accepted, and veteran Baha'is wishing to refresh and deepen their understanding.

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

An in-depth introduction to the religion from which the Baha'i Faith sprang

Islam for Deepening and Dialogue

One of a series of courses on world religions and scriptures

Lead Faculty: [Susan Maneck](#)
Faculty: [Necati Alkan](#), [Lil Abdo Osborne](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (June 10 - July 29, 2015)



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 throughout the world, there is no better time to improve our 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](#)

Your chance to study principles of Baha'i consultation with skill-based exercises

Dynamic Consultation: Nine Keys to Unity

Part of a series of courses on skills development

Lead Faculty: [Trip Barthel](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (June 15 - August 3, 2015)

not come up with speakers for a CCI global webinar in a timely manner, they turned to the History Museum, which found six speakers in seventy-two hours. [Click here to continue>>](#)

News

New Newsreel on the Construction of the Baha'i Temple in Chile Released



View the moving eighth newsreel on the Baha'i Temple in Chile, and see how it is already a magnet for Baha'is and non-Baha'is;

builders, construction workers, and architects; a dignitary from Samoa; and city officials (from Santiago and Penalolen, both of whom speak in the video).

For English:

http://templo.bahai.cl/noticiario_eng.htm.

For Spanish:

<http://templo.bahai.cl/noticiario.htm>.

Journal of Baha'i Studies' Editor Discusses Theme Issues and Invites Feedback

Read a letter from the editor of the *Journal of Baha'i Studies* on theme issues, submitting articles, and proposing new topics and authors, online book reviews, and more.

[Click here to continue>>](#)



Green Acre Baha'i School, Retreat, and Conference Center: Summer Paid and Volunteer Service Opportunities

Look into spending the summer at the Baha'i school in Maine (USA) visited by 'Abdu'l-Baha, where there are [paid summer positions](#) open as well as volunteer summer positions for [youth \(18-25\)](#) and [adults \(26+\)](#).

Louhelen Baha'i School: Summer Paid and Volunteer Service Opportunities

Are you or someone you know looking for paid or volunteer summer work? Louhelen Baha'i School in Davison, Michigan, USA, is looking for [youth \(18-25\)](#) and adults (26+) [paid](#) and [volunteer](#).

Save These Dates!

An updated list of 2015 calls for papers, academic conferences, and webinars.

[Click here to continue>>](#)



Dynamic Consultation: Nine Keys to Unity brings together the principles of Baha'i consultation with the practices of mediation and facilitation. It is designed to promote unity and action in the community through teaching the art and science of consultation in very practical skill-

based exercises. Units contain discussions of engaging by meeting and greeting; empathizing by feeling and connecting, and exploring by learning and knowing; envisioning by framing and focusing; expanding with creativity and diversity; elucidating virtues and principles; evaluating options and criteria, and executing via action and unity; and examining with reflection and growth. Such skills can be applied at Feasts, in Spiritual Assembly and committee meetings, in reflection gatherings, as well as in family or work settings. The course is based on a textbook available at

http://www.9facets.org/9f/Dynamic_Consultation.html; it will also be available through the course website.

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

A new course on some of Baha'u'llah's earliest and most profound tablets

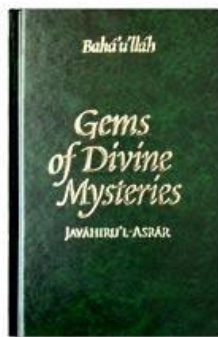
Gems of Divine Mysteries and Other Early Tablets by Baha'u'llah

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

Lead Faculty: [Robert Stockman](#)

Faculty: [Daniel Gebhardt](#), [Daniel Pschaida](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (July 1 - August 18, 2015)



In **Gems of Divine Mysteries and Other Early Tablets** by Baha'u'llah we will examine the *Javahiru'l-Asrar* (Gems of Divine Mysteries), a mystic work similar to both the Seven Valleys and the *Kitab-i-Iqan*. We will also study several shorter but very important works by Baha'u'llah, *Sahifiy-i-Shattiyyih* (Book of the River), the Tablet of the Holy Mariner, *Shikkar-Shikan-Shavand*, and *Lawh-i-Ayyub* (Tablet of Job), all of which exist in official translation or reliable provisional translation. We will read background about the circumstances of revelation of the tablets, read the tablets themselves,

and discuss their contents.

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

Learners in Action

Climate Change Course 2015: Learners Find Unique Ways to Save the Planet and Engage in Discourse about the Moral Ramifications of the Degradation of the Planet



Two learners in the 2015 Climate Change course found unusual ways to contribute to saving the planet and preparing for public discourse on the immorality of degrading our planet.

[Click here to continue>>](#)

The Fear of God: One Learner's New BFF

Read how the fear of God, a concept that many find difficult to understand, becomes one learner's "new favorite topic," which is both "comforting and freeing."

[Click here to continue>>](#)

Social Media

Wilmette Institute Facebook and Twitter Discounts

Follow the Wilmette Institute on Facebook and Twitter! Doing so could get you a discount on your next Wilmette Institute course. The Institute is 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+

Wilmette Institute Links

[Wilmette Institute Public Website](#)
[Wilmette Institute Course Delivery System](#)
[Wilmette Institute Student Projects](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Reference Materials](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Twentieth Anniversary Web Talks](#)

Other Links

[Association for Baha'i Studies, North](#)

Find answers about Baha'i dating, courtship, and preparation for marriage

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

Part of a series of courses on courtship and marriage

Lead Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)

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

Duration of course: Seven weeks (July 6 - August 24, 2015)



Have you ever felt a bit baffled about how to navigate through friendship, dating, and courtship on the way to marriage? Have you ever had difficulty, considering the current state of our society, in trying to figure out how to apply Baha'i principles to relationships? You are not alone! This short but powerful course will help you with a number of topics: How do you really get to know his/her character? Why is friendship vital as a foundation? What

does dating look like when you apply the Baha'i teachings to it? How do you choose a potential spouse? How can a couple apply spiritual principles in courtship and move toward marriage? Learners do not need to be in a relationship to benefit from this course. We encourage couples to register as a group.

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

[America](#)
[Baha'i Chair for World Peace](#)
[Baha'i International Community](#)
[Bosch Baha'i School](#)
[ebbf \(Ethical Business for a Better Future\)](#)
[Green Acre Baha'i School](#)
[Institute for Studies in Global Civilization](#)
[International Baha'i Website](#)
[Irfan Colloquium](#)
[Louhelen Baha'i School](#)
[Louis G. Gregory Museum](#)
[U.S. Baha'i Distribution Service](#)
[U.S. National Baha'i Library](#)
[Washington Baha'i History Museum](#)

Mark Your Calendar

September 1 - October 19, 2015
[Practicing the Arts](#)

September 7 - October 25, 2015
[Two Peacemakers: Baha'u'llah and Deganawida](#)

September 10 - October 29, 2015
[Zoroastrianism for Deepening and Dialogue](#)

September 15 - November 15, 2015
[Sustainable Development and the Prosperity of Humankind](#)

September 22 - December 22, 2015
[Introduction to Archives for Baha'i Archivists](#)

September 27 - November 14, 2015
[Navigating Some Complex Subjects: Strengthening Your Marriage](#)

October 1 - November 18, 2015
[World Federation](#)

October 7 - November 24, 2015
[The Leaves of the Twin Divine Trees](#)

October 10 - November 28, 2015
[Introduction to the Kitab-i-Iqan](#)

October 15 - December 9, 2015
[The Equality of Women and Men: Application in Private and Public Life](#)

October 20 - December 9, 2015
[The Life of Baha'u'llah](#)

October 25 - December 13, 2015
[Understanding Baha'i History](#)

November 2015 - May 2016

Study a key Bahá'í authoritative text in its new translation

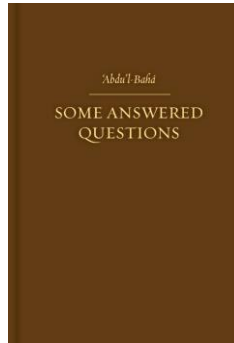
Some Answered Questions

One of a series of courses on the life, ministry, writings, and utterances of `Abdu'l-Baha

Lead Faculty: [Christopher Buck](#)

Faculty: [Susan Maneck](#), [Shahrokh Monjazeb](#)

Duration of course: Eight weeks (July 11 - September 3, 2015)



Some Answered Questions consists of a series of questions that Laura Clifford Barney asked `Abdu'l-Baha over lunch in Acre between 1904 and 1906. The answers were recorded in Persian. `Abdu'l-Baha reviewed, modified, and approved them, thereby converting pilgrim's notes into authoritative Baha'i text. Barney herself undertook the task of translating them into English. The resulting classic Baha'i text appeared in 1908. Limitations in the translation have been a concern for some time, as Barney was not fully conversant with philosophical terminology. The

translation, newly revised by a Committee at the Baha'i World Center, resolves many difficulties and brings the authoritative interpretations of `Abdu'l-Baha to an English-speaking audience with new clarity and precision.

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

A survey of the history of the Baha'i Faith from 1863 through 2015

Baha'i History, 1863-2015

Another in a series of courses exploring the history of a developing community

Lead Faculty: [Moojan Momen](#)

Faculty: [Necati Alkan](#), [James Harrison](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (August 15 - October 2, 2015)



Baha'i History, 1863-2015, will explore the major themes of Baha'i history from Baha'u'llah's exile from Baghdad to the second decade of the twenty-first century, emphasizing the development of the Baha'i Faith over the last century and a half. We will cover the period from 1863 to the end of Baha'u'llah's life in 1892; the ministry of `Abdu'l-Baha (1892-1921); the ministry of Shoghi Effendi (1921-57); the ministry of the custodians (1957-63); the period from the election of the Universal House of Justice to the end of the twentieth century (1963-96); and the period

Course Schedule

Below is the Wilmette Institute's course schedule for November 2015 through May 2016. The schedule is subject to change.

November 1 - December 19, 2015
'Abdu'l-Baha in America

November 10 - December 29, 2015
Exploring the New Testament

November 15, 2015 - January 2, 2016
Century of Light

November 20, 2015 - January 7, 2016
Science, Religion, and the Baha'i Faith

December 1, 2015 - January 18, 2016
The Secret of Divine Civilization

December 10, 2015 - January 27, 2016
One Common Faith

December 15 - February 2, 2016
Exploring the Qur'an

January 7 - February 24, 2016
Studying the Baha'i Writings

January 10 - February 27, 2016
Marriage Course

January 15 - March 3, 2016
Baha'i Theology

January 22 - March 10, 2016
Summons of the Lord of Hosts

February 1 - March 7, 2016
Exploring the Book of Isaiah

February 7 - March 29, 2016
The Ministry of Shoghi Effendi

February 12 - April 1, 2016
Introduction to Sufism

February 22 - April 10, 2016
Chinese Religions for Deepening and Dialogue

March 1 - April 26, 2016
Climate Change

March 7 - April 24, 2016
To Be Announced

March 10 - April 27, 2016
To Be Announced

marking a new direction in the teaching work and outreach to the public (1996-2015). In each unit we will be reading from *God Passes By* and/or *Century of Light*, supplementing the books with essays and articles on themes such as the development of the community, attracting minorities, the worldwide spread of the Faith, persecution, and more. The course ends at Ridvan 2015, one year from the end of the current Five Year Plan (2011-16).

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

ABOUT US

The Wilmette Institute eNewsletter

The Wilmette Institute eNewsletter is published monthly by the Wilmette Institute, which offers quality online courses on the Baha'i Faith. The Wilmette Institute 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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March 15 - May 3, 2016
The Baha'i Faith and the Arts

March 22 - June 2, 2016
Economics and the Baha'i Faith

April 1 - May 18, 2016
Understanding Religion:
Conceptual and Experiential Aspects

April 7- May 25, 2016
Christianity for Deepening and Dialogue

April 15 - June 12, 2016
Marriage Course

April 22 - June 7, 2016
The Kitab-i-Aqdas

May 1 - June 18, 2016
Baha'i Spirituality: Pathway to Mental
Clarity, Inner Calm, Awareness of God,
and Physical Health

May 7 - June 24, 2016
To Be Announced

May 10 - June 7, 2016
Preparing for the New Five Year Plan

May 15 - July 2, 2016
Preparing for Interfaith Dialogue

May 22 - July 9, 2016
The Writings of the Bab