



The Lamp

A NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE WILMETTE INSTITUTE

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Scholarship Fund-Raising Effort Planned

The Wilmette Institute has inaugurated an effort both to raise scholarship money and to locate a large number of needy students worldwide who can benefit from the Institute's educational services.

The effort is being planned by the Institute's newly expanded Development Task Force. Its members include Nesreen Akhtarkhvari, Manuchehr Derakhshani, Manuchehr Khodadad, Ezzat Safapour, and Robert Stockman. The Wilmette Institute's goal is to raise 150 scholarships worth \$150 each. The scholarships will be given to students unable to pay any tuition and to students able to pay part of the tuition. Some of the scholarship money will also support students taking the Wilmette

Spiritual Foundations Program Moves to Louhelen

In 2006 the Spiritual Foundations for a Global Civilization program will undergo a major change when the venue shifts to the Louhelen Bahá'í School in Davison, Michigan.

For ten years the Spiritual Foundations program has



Leslie Asplund leads a discussion of marriage and family life during the 2005 Spiritual Foundations program.

been held in the shadow of the Mother Temple of the West in Wilmette. But both nearby colleges have decided to relocate. In 2004 Kendall College closed its Evanston campus and moved into a new facility close to downtown Chicago, where its cooking and hotel-management students are closer to restaurants and hotels. In early 2006 National-Louis University will be

closing its century-old campus a few hundred feet from the House of Worship and will relocate to Skokie, Illinois. It will not have a dormitory at its new location. As a result, the

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Fund-Raising . . . Continued from page 1

Institute's four-year Spiritual Foundations for a Global Civilization program, which has both a residential and an e-learning component.

The fund-raising effort is being launched at an auspicious time for the Institute. First, its new Web site and registration software have made taking Wilmette Institute courses easier and have streamlined administration. Second, the software has made it easier for students to request financial aid on-line. Third, the new system allows the Institute's small staff to offer eighteen courses per year rather than the current sixteen. Finally, more overseas students, especially in India, are asking to take our courses; frequently exchange rates make the courses prohibitive. Hence a number of factors point to an increased need for funds to cover the tuition of needy students.

The Wilmette Institute's courses are designed to develop human resources in the Bahá'í community. Hence the donation of scholarships, in effect, deputizes someone to receive training to teach the Faith better. The Wilmette Institute welcomes all contributions. Some may be able to donate a fraction of a scholarship—\$5, \$10, \$25, \$50 (which would be a third of a scholarship, for example). Others may be able to donate a full scholarship—or two, four, or ten scholarships. Some may wish to commit to multiple-year scholarships. All donations are tax deductible, and all are a contribution to the teaching and deepening work called for in the Five Year Plan.

The Wilmette Institute hopes to start making the scholarship funds available in January. If you can help, make out a check to the Wilmette Institute, and send it to us at 1233 Central St., Evanston, IL 60201. ▲

Student News

We need news for our column! We would particularly like to hear from students who still see daily benefits, a year or more after the Wilmette Institute course they took has finished. How has the Wilmette Institute changed your approach to teaching the Faith? Your ability to serve the Bahá'í community? Your efforts to serve humanity? Please write us at info@wilmetteinstitute.org. ▲

Louhelen Move . . . Continued from page 1

Wilmette Institute is moving the Spiritual Foundations program's 2006 residential session to Louhelen.

The Louhelen Bahá'í School has excellent facilities and can provide a comfortable and congenial home for the program. Since it is relatively close to Wilmette, the Wilmette Institute staff and Board will still be actively involved in managing the summer session. Louhelen's publicity should help boost attendance as well.

The 2006 session, the eleventh held by the Spiritual Foundations program, will focus on the creation of strong and vibrant communities. It will look at human communities throughout history, focusing on two aspects: governance and community building. Governance provides a background for understanding the nature and purpose of the Bahá'í Administrative Order, and community building illumines the three core activities and other priorities for creating distinctive, attractive Bahá'í communities.

The 2006 session will also look at the life and Guardianship of Shoghi Effendi; Bahá'í authoritative texts that relate to administration and community building, such as many works by the Guardian; and Bahá'í history from 1921 to 1963. Details about faculty and other information will appear in future issues of *The Lamp*.

In order to boost attendance, the Wilmette Institute Board has created six scholarships to help needy students attend the program: two for youth (age 18-25), one for a new believer (who has declared since January 2004), one for an American Indian, one for a member of an ethnic minority, and one general scholarship. An application form will be on the Wilmette Institute's Web site shortly. The scholarships will cover full tuition, lodging, and meals or a fraction thereof, depending on need.

With the launch of a new Five Year Plan in May, the 2006 session of the Spiritual Foundations for a Global Civilization program has the potential to provide valuable preparation for Bahá'ís who are setting personal goals for their service to the Faith through 2011. ▲

2006: More Courses, New Topics

The Wilmette Institute has finalized a 2006 course schedule that includes eighteen courses, the largest number it has ever offered. Three new courses are planned:

- **The Writings of the Báb** (starting in April 2006) will be the Institute's first course on the Báb Himself and will mostly be drawn from *Selections from the Writings of the Báb*, though it will also include information about the Báb's chief writings.
- **Women in the Bahá'í Faith** (starting in October 2006) will review the lives of prominent Bahá'í women and consider the central contribution women have made in the development of the Bahá'í Faith.
- **Bahá'í History, 1863 to the Present** (starting in November 2006) will survey all of Bahá'í history in one convenient three-month e-learning course.

Early October also has a "to be announced" time slot, which most likely will be filled by a course on the annual educational theme.

The Wilmette Institute will continue through its cycle of courses on the writings of Bahá'u'lláh by offering the following:

- **Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh Revealed After the Kitáb-i-Aqdas** (starting in March 2006)
 - **Epistle to the Son of the Wolf** (starting in September 2006).
- The world religions series will mostly focus on scripture this year, with courses on:
- **The Bible** (starting in March 2006)
 - **The Qur'án** (starting in December 2006).
 - **Islam for Deepening and Dialogue** (starting in

February 2006), one of the Institute's most popular courses.

Several courses will reinforce the themes of the Spiritual Foundations program:

- **Mining the Gems** (starting in January 2006)
- **Building the Fortress** (starting in May 2006) will recapitulate themes from the 2004-05 program.
- * **The Ministry of Shoghi Effendi** (beginning in October, 2006) will reinforce topics covered during the summer, 2006 residential session at Louhelen.

As always, two "Basics of the Bahá'í Faith" courses will be offered:

- **Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation: A Systematic Survey** (starting in June 2006)

- **Bahá'í Theology: Concepts of God, Revelation, Manifestation, Humanity, Creation, Afterlife, and Covenant** (starting in December 2006)

The rest of the courses in 2006 will be popular repeats:

- **Sustainable Development and the Prosperity of Humankind** (starting in June 2006; the current version of the course



Gayle Morrison addresses the Spiritual Foundations Graduation dinner on August 6, 2005.

has 77 students)

- **Health and Healing** (starting in July 2006; the last time it was run it had almost 100 students);
- **One Common Faith** (starting in August 2006);
- **Introduction to Archives for Bahá'í Archivists** (starting in September 2006, and about which students have already been inquiring).

With its new software, expanded financial assistance, and broadened course offerings, the Wilmette Institute looks forward to its best year to date. ▲

Wilmette Institute E-Learning Course Schedule, 2006

Note: Courses are "Beyond the Basics" Unless Otherwise Noted

Jan. 15-Apr. 15, 2006: **Mining the Gems: Development of the Individual**

Feb. 15-May 15, 2006: **Islam for Deepening and Dialogue**

Mar. 1-May 31: **The Bible**

Mar. 15-June 15, 2006: **Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh Revealed after the Kitáb-i-Aqdas**

Apr. 15-July 15, 2006: **The Writings of the Báb**

May 1-July 31, 2006: **Building the Fortress: Bahá'í Marriage and Family Life**

June 1-Aug. 31, 2006: **Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation: A Systematic Survey [BASICS]**

June 15-Sept. 15, 2006: **One Common Faith**

July 15-Oct. 15, 2006: **Health and Healing**

Aug. 1-Oct. 31, 2006: **The Epistle to the Son of the Wolf**

Sept. 15-Dec. 15, 2006: **Women in the Bahá'í Faith**

Sept. 16-Dec. 16, 2006: **Introduction to Archives for Bahá'í Archivists**

Oct. 1-Dec. 31, 2006: To Be Announced (priority educational theme selected by the National Spiritual Assembly)

Oct. 15-Jan. 15, 2007: **Sustainable Development and the Prosperity of Humankind**

Nov. 1, 2006-Jan. 31, 2007: **Bahá'í History, 1863 to the Present**

Nov. 15, 2006-Feb. 15, 2007: **The Ministry of Shoghi Effendi**

Dec. 1, 2006-Feb. 28, 2007: **The Qur'án**

Dec. 15, 2006-Mar. 15, 2007: **Bahá'í Theology: Concepts of God, Revelation, Manifestation, Humanity, Creation, Afterlife, and Covenant [BASICS]**

All e-learning courses include web-based discussion forums for students and faculty, regular conference calls, systematic lesson plans, and a wide variety of learning projects to help students apply their learning in their local communities. All courses are available at the "introductory" level for those who do not want to take a university-level course, the "intermediate" (undergraduate) level for those wishing to go into more depth, and the "advanced" (graduate) level for those wishing to do extensive research or writing.

More information on all levels can be found on the Web at <http://www.wilmetteinstitute.us.bahai.org>. ▲



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THE WILMETTE INSTITUTE was established in January 1995 by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States to offer academic, professional, and service-oriented courses related to the Bahá'í Faith. In addition to offering university level courses on Bahá'í topics, the Wilmette Institute fosters Bahá'í scholarship; develops new, innovative curricular materials; creates high quality courses on teaching the Faith; and refines Bahá'í concepts of pedagogy.

It aims to produce teachers and administrators of the Bahá'í Faith of great capacity, capable of sharing and demonstrating Bahá'í truths in their lives and speech.

For more information about the Bahá'í Faith, the Wilmette Institute, or its courses, contact:

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