



Hatcher will discuss what the special day means to him, drawing on his fifty-year effort to learn to see with Baha'u'llah's eyes, to hear with His ears, and to respond with every phase of his life as He would have us do. [There is still time to sign up.](#) Gather a group of friends to listen with you.

### Updated Baha'i Media Bank: Updated for Baha'u'llah's 200th Birthday

For the historic 200th anniversary of the birth of Baha'u'llah, the [Baha'i Media Bank](#) (photographs, maps, graphics) has undergone a major update. The site provides a glimpse into the diversity of the Baha'i community and the breadth of its activities unfolding at the grassroots as well as at the national and international levels. Available to publishers, journalists, videographers, and students, among others.

### National to Local Dignitaries Continue Tributes to Honor the



**Bicentenary of Birth of Baha'u'llah**  
Tributes honoring the bicentenary of the Birth of

Baha'u'llah and commending the Baha'is for their unity, spiritual service, world-mindedness, and interfaith work and work for peace and justice continue to come in. Read the tributes and savor the photographs from Argentina, Australia, [India](#), Kazakhstan, [New Zealand](#), [Pakistan](#), [Singapore](#), the United States, and Vietnam.

### Baha'i World Center Releases New International Website for 200th Anniversary of Birth of Baha'u'llah

A [new international website](#) honoring the 200th anniversary of the birth of Baha'u'llah will unfold in stages during October in six languages, bringing artwork, articles, tribute messages, celebrations from Houses of Worship worldwide, and on October 18 a feature film on the life of Baha'u'llah. Read more in a [Baha'i World Center press release](#).

**LETTERS FROM THE  
UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF**

## Sharing Baha'u'llah's Birthday with Children

A course on parenting and family life

Lead Faculty: [Swathi Baskaran](#)



**Duration of course:** Four weeks (complete at your own pace)

**Sharing Baha'u'llah's Birthday with Children** is designed to help parents, teachers, and other adults share Baha'u'llah's birthday with children in ways that will help children understand the significance of Baha'u'llah's birth and instill in their minds and hearts the

greatness of the day. It will also help children celebrate this very special birthday in a fun and uplifting way. The course will focus on the birth of Baha'u'llah, the childhood and youth of Baha'u'llah, and the early adulthood of Baha'u'llah. It will include stories from the history of the Baha'i Faith, service-project ideas, activities, and songs to help children understand the underlying spirit of the special two hundredth anniversary of Baha'u'llah's birth.

[Watch the video](#)

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

### NEW COURSE

Study a Baha'i perspective on the final book of the New Testament, the Apocalypse

## Exploring the Book of Revelation

Another in a series on an integrated approach to world religions

Lead Faculty: [Ted Brownstein](#)

Faculty: [JoAnn Borovicka](#), [Robert Stockman](#)

**Duration of course:** Seven weeks (October 1 - November 17, 2017)



The Book of Revelation (Apocalypse) holds a unique position as the only prophetic book in the Christian New Testament. The prophetic vision opens with a statement of its authority, a vision to John of Patmos from God transmitted by means of Jesus Christ and an angel. Its rich symbolism has

been the object of study by Christians, both scholarly and popular, giving rise to many views of the future and the end times. Its language and symbolism owe much to the prophets of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and likewise shares motifs with later revelation in the Holy Qur'an and the Baha'i writings. In **Exploring**

## JUSTICE

### **The Institution of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkar: A Link in the "Spiritual Transformation of Society"**

The Universal House of Justice in September released "The Institution of the Mashriqu'l-



Adhkar," a statement prepared by its Research Department, together with a 31-page compilation containing 86 extracts on the same topic. In releasing the statement and compilation, the House of Justice expressed its hope that the compilation will assist all who study it carefully to gain "a deeper understanding of the vital role that the House of Worship is destined to play in the spiritual transformation of society." For copies of the two documents, see the online Baha'i Reference Library at <http://www.bahai.org/library/>.

### **The Dedication of the Baha'i House of Worship in Battambang, Cambodia**

On September 1, 2017, the Universal House of Justice



addressed a moving letter "[To the Friends Gathered in Battambang, Cambodia, for the Dedication of the House of Worship](#)," the first of many-to-come local and national Houses of Worship. Here are an [account of the event and time-lapse video](#), [reflections of the building's architect](#), [day 1 article about and video of Temple dedication](#), and [conclusion of inaugural conference](#).

## Wilmette Institute News

**the Book of Revelation** we will explore the contents of this fascinating sacred vision in the context of progressive revelation, highlighting its links to both former and later sacred texts. The Baha'i Faith offers new interpretations of some of the passages in the Book of Revelation, and individual Baha'i scholars infer other interpretations. In this course we will undertake a careful reading of the contents of this sacred text to understand its historical nature, emphasizing those passages for which authoritative interpretations are given by Baha'u'llah and 'Abdu'l-Baha.

[Watch the video](#)

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

**How can you encourage full and varied participation at Feasts?**

## Feast Consultation

**One in a series on society and social change**

*Lead Faculty:* [Trip Barthel](#)

*Faculty:* [Shamil Fattakhov](#)

**Duration of course:** Seven weeks (October 7 - November 17, 2017)



Consultation at Bahá'í Feasts should be a force of attraction, love, and unity, stimulating individuals and the community to higher levels of action. In this **Feast Consultation**

workshop, we will begin with a study of the underlying principles of consultation and will focus on simple, effective facilitation skills that can be used to make consultation at Bahá'í Feasts more engaging and participatory. We will use written material and videos to demonstrate and discuss the skills of consultation for both the chair and the community in six key areas: (1) setting guidelines that promote full participation and address multiple learning styles; (2) creating an efficient, flexible agenda; (3) asking better questions to stimulate thinking; (4) generating new and different ideas; (5) spectrums of interest with full participation; and (6) reflection to improve consultation. The goal is to have participants end the course with an understanding of the underlying principles of consultation and the ability to use a broader set of facilitation tools, thus promoting more vibrant Feasts that lead to increased attendance, higher levels of participation, and enhanced social bonding.

[Watch the video](#)

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

**How did Baha'u'llah proclaim His message to civil and religious power brokers?**

## United Theological Seminary Plans Two-Day Celebration of the Baha'i Faith

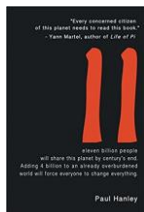


The United Theological Seminary (UTS) of the Twin Cities, MN, USA (with which the Wilmette Institute

signed an articulation agreement earlier this year whereby UTS gives credit for several Wilmette Institute courses) is planning "Baha'i Days," a two-day exploration of the Baha'i Faith, with talks on peace and race unity, a Light of Unity Feast, and a worship service in the Baha'i tradition. [READ>>](#)

### October 29 Web Talk Features Paul Hanley Discussing "Eleven" and the Next Stage in Human Evolution

Sign up to hear Paul Hanley talk about how only a global dynamic, grassroots capacity-building process can transform the 11 billion people estimated to occupy earth by the end of the century. [READ>>](#)



## Wilmette Institute Web Talks for September - November

[Access information about Wilmette Institute Web Talks and lists of talks from 2015 through 2018.](#)

### "What the Bicentenary of the Birth of Bah'u'llah Means to Me"

Oct. 15, 2017 / John S. Hatcher  
Dr. Hatcher will share something of his fifty-year effort to learn to see with Baha'u'llah's eyes, to hear with His ears, and to respond to every phase of his life as He would have us do.

### "Eleven"

Oct. 29, 2017 / Paul Hanley  
Making the world work for 11 billion people by the end of the 21st century is the next, inescapable stage in human evolution.

### "From Duality to Oneness: A Baha'i Perspective on Humanity's

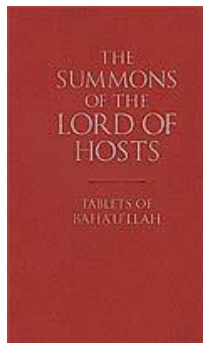
## The Summons of the Lord of Hosts

Another course in a series exploring Baha'u'llah's revelation

Lead Faculty: [Christopher Buck](#)

Faculty: [Necati Alkan](#)

**Duration of course:** Seven weeks (October 10 - November 27, 2017)



In **The Summons of the Lord of Hosts** course we will explore the series of letters that Baha'u'llah sent to kings and rulers of the world between 1866 and 1870. Written after He declared His mission to His followers, the letters, according to the Universal House of Justice, "summoned the monarchs of East and West collectively, and some among them individually, to recognize the Day of God and to acknowledge the One promised in the scriptures of the religions professed by the recipients of His summons." Baha'u'llah Himself says that "Never since the beginning of the world

hath the Message been so openly proclaimed." "As Baha'u'llah's influence penetrates ever more deeply the life of the larger society throughout the world," the Universal House of Justice notes, "it seems especially appropriate" that the full texts of Baha'u'llah's important letters sounding the themes of His revelation be studied by "a broad readership." For texts we will use *The Summons of the Lord of Hosts* and a compilation about the tablets that provides background information.

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

### NEW COURSE

Explore the several covenants (binding agreements) between God and humanity

## The Covenants of the Baha'i Faith

A new course in a series on the Baha'i community

Lead Faculty: [William Collins](#)

Faculty: [Daniel Gebhardt](#)

**Duration of course:** Seven weeks (October 25 - December 12, 2017)

### ["Conscious Evolution"](#)

Nov. 5, 2017 / Robert Atkinson (1st of 3 talks)

As humanity shifts toward an awareness of the inherent interconnectedness of all things, we will explore Baha'i principles and teachings that help clarify and frame humanity's conscious transformational process.

### ["The Dark Night of the Collective Soul: A Baha'i Perspective on the Role & Purpose of Transformation in Society"](#)

Nov. 12, 2017 / Robert Atkinson (2d of 3 talks)

In the adolescent phase of humanity's collective development, it is experiencing a symbolic death leading to a rebirth, higher levels of consciousness, and a whole new way of seeing the world.

### ["Reality Is One, and Global Harmony Is Inevitable: Building a Culture of Oneness"](#)

Nov. 19, 2017 / Robert Atkinson (3d of 3 talks)

This exploration of the global movement of our time--building a culture of oneness--looks at the spiritual forces guiding us toward unity.

### ["A Psychology That Responds to Our Times: Transforming Inner Oppression into Awakened, Aligned, and Liberated Spirit"](#)

Dec. 3, 2017 / Elena Mustakova-Possardt

Learn about the systemic cultivation of cultures of social health that foster in people spiritual awakening and progressively more empowered alignment with planetary transformation.

### ["The Spiritual Destiny of America"](#)

Dec. 10, 2017 / Reba Carruth (1st of 3)

## Contributions to Social Action and Public Discourse

**Living Responsibly  
Make Your  
Daily Life a  
Beautiful  
Prayer:  
October:  
Let's Go for a  
Walk or Bike  
Ride or Car**



A covenant in the spiritual sense is a sacred binding agreement between God or His representative, on the one hand, and His people, on the other. In **The Covenants of the Baha'i Faith** course we will explore the Baha'i community as a covenantal people through study of a number of Covenants: first, the Primordial Covenant God made with humanity before creation; second, the Greater

Covenant through which God promises to supply humanity with guidance periodically through His Manifestations; and, third, the specific Covenants of Baha'u'llah and 'Abdu'l-Baha (sometimes called the Lesser Covenant). These specific Covenants comprise numerous texts by Baha'u'llah referring to the station and appointment of His eldest son 'Abdu'l-Baha as Head of the Faith and the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Baha and related Tablets that establish as His successors the twin institutions of the Guardianship and the Universal House of Justice. The course aims to improve your basic knowledge of these Covenants, assist you to understand them in the context of the Baha'i revelation, and draw you personally and spiritually closer to their provisions.

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

Take the hit and miss out of choosing a potential marriage partner

## [Choosing a Potential Marriage Partner](#)

One in a series on relationships and marriage

Lead Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)

Faculty: [Marabeth Lum](#)

**Duration of course:** Three weeks (October 31- November 17, 2017)



Are you clear about what characteristics you would bring into a marriage? Are you curious about what qualities in a partner would complement yours? Are you praying the right person just shows up? Are you confused about where to begin your search for a

potential partner or overwhelmed by online dating services? Have you already met someone with potential, but are wondering whether he or she is going to be a good match for marriage? You are not alone! Come and explore these questions and more to empower you in all areas regarding meeting and choosing a potential marriage partner.

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

### Pool to Meetings!

"Therefore strive that your actions day by day may be beautiful Prayers."-- 'Abdu'l-Baha

You get caught behind a bus, car, or truck puffing out black smoke? You put the windows up to avoid the emissions? You

wonder how you can avoid adding the problem? Wonder no more. Find out how to not participate in this problem.

[READ>>](#)



### Wilmette Institute to Participate in 2017 Global Climate Change Week

For the second year in a row, the Wilmette Institute will participate in Global Climate Change Week, October 9-15. Look for an email in your inbox and a message ("Storms and Floods--How Can Baha'is Respond in a Meaningful Way") on the Institute's Moodle page for how to participate. [READ>>](#)

### The Parliament of World's Religions Calls for Program Ideas

Do you have a bold idea for a program, performance, or presentation for the 2018 Parliament of the World's Religions to be held in Toronto, November 1-7? The Parliament's theme is "The Promise of Inclusion, the Power of Love: Pursuing Global Understanding, Reconciliation, and Change." [Submit your proposal now.](#)

## Learners in Action

### Writing Biographies and Histories Course Produces Biography of Edna McKinney

Pat Gorman, who took the course on **Writing Biographies and Histories** in 2015, wrote a biography of [Edna McKinney Tibbetts](#), who became a Baha'i at age sixteen in 1898 (five years after the Faith's public introduction in the United States in 1893) and remained an active Baha'i until her death in 1930. She was in the presence of 'Abdu'l-Baha a number of times and often served as a stenographer to record the English



### NEW COURSE

How will we feed 11 billion people by the end of the century?

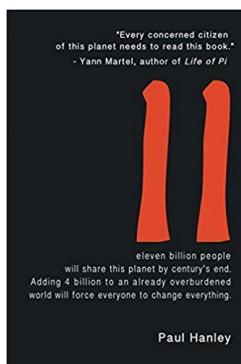
## Sustaining 11 Billion People: Challenges for an Ever-Advancing Civilization

A new course on society and social change

Lead Faculty: [Paul Hanley](#)

Faculty: [Haleh Samimi](#), [Gary Reusche](#), [Neil Whatley](#)

**Duration of course:** Seven weeks (November 1 - December 19, 2017)



Baha'u'llah states that "All men have been created to carry forward an ever-advancing civilization." Based on the book *Eleven*, this course investigates issues and principles involved for individuals, communities, and institutions in contributing to a sustainable civilization with 11 billion people, the UN population projection for 2100. Given that our civilization is already unsustainable, what changes are needed to ensure that humanity can advance with an additional 4 billion people? Key to this process will be an ethical revolution that will reinforce

efforts to reduce humanity's ecological footprint by seeding a new global culture. **Sustaining 11 Billion People: Challenges for an Ever-Advancing Civilization** shows how the principles and plans of the Baha'i Faith directly address these fundamental concerns.

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

What are the spiritual prerequisites for creating true civilization?

## The Secret of Divine Civilization

A course exploring the writings of 'Abdu'l-Baha

Lead Faculty: [Necati Alkan](#)

**Duration of course:** Seven weeks (November 10 - December 28, 2017)

translation of His talks.

## News

### **ABS Conference Videos of Plenary Sessions Now Available for Downloading**

Videos of plenary sessions of the August 2017 Association for Baha'i Studies annual conference are now available to [free viewing and free downloading](#), according to the ABS Executive Committee.

## Web Talks, Webinars, and Podcasts by Other Organizations

### **ethical business for a better future**

Podcast, Episode 3

["The Evolution of Business: How It Lost and Now Needs to Regain Its Connection with Society"](#)

### **Baha'i Chair for World Peace / Oct. 10, 2017**

Dr. Sheri Parks

["Fear of the Dark: Cultural Myth, Psychological Schema, and Prejudice"](#)

### **Baha'i Chair for World Peace / Oct. 24, 2017**

Dr. Mehnaz Afridi

["Muslims and the Holocaust: Reconciliation and Hope"](#)

## Conferences and Colloquia

### **[Irfan Colloquia](#) / October 5-8, 2017**

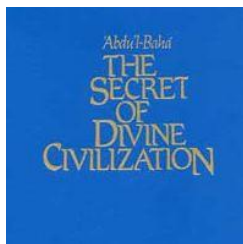
"Bicentennial Celebration of the Birth of Baha'u'llah" (English & Persian)  
Louhelen Baha'i School, Davison MI, USA

### **[ebbf](#) / Oct. 12-15, 2017**

"Ethical Business Building the Future: Transitioning Towards the Spiritual Enterprise"  
Bucharest, Romania

### **[Baha'i Network for AIDS, Sexuality, Addictions, and Abuse](#) / Nov. 9-12, 2017**

2017 Southern BMASSA Conference



In **The Secret of Divine Civilization** we will study 'Abdu'l-Baha's first extensive description of Baha'i social teachings. Elaborating on principles that Baha'u'llah enunciated in His tablets to the kings and leaders of the world, the treatise describes the true nature of civilization and provides a blueprint for the "future reorganization of the world." To develop the theme of universal peace, honest government, and religion

as the true bases of world order, 'Abdu'l-Baha redefines the Islamic tradition that a learned person "must guard himself, defend his faith, oppose his passions and obey the commandments of his Lord." Leaders, in particular, are called to a new standard of honesty and trustworthiness. We will thus look at the complementary processes of personal transformation and social development, leading to a reorganization of the world. We will also examine the book as an early example of public discourse and consider how we can use it to improve our own efforts in public discourse.

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

How does the equality of the sexes contribute to a peaceful society?

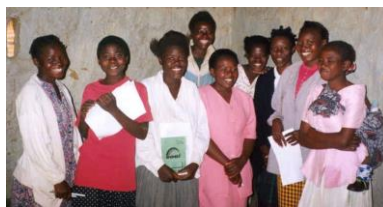
## [The Equality of Women and Men: Application in Public and Private Life](#)

Another course on society and social change

Lead Faculty: [Vasu Mohan](#)

Faculty: [Anne Pearson](#)

**Duration of course:** Seven weeks (November 15, 2017 - January 3, 2018)



In **The Equality of Women and Men: Application in Private and Public Life** we will aim to acquire a thorough understanding of the Baha'i principle of the equality of women and men and to explore its

application in personal development, family life, and the workplace; in Baha'i communities; and in engaging with public discourses. Topics addressed include the nature of human identity; equality in the family and society; gender roles in governance and peace-building; gender-based violence; men and boys as partners in achieving equality; and the role of the media in perpetuating or challenging gender inequality. We will draw on the Baha'i writings, as well as on analysis and commentary from a variety of sources, and review case studies of successful initiatives and communities working toward gender equality in the private and public spheres.

Retreat

Magdalene Carney Baha'i Institute  
West Palm Beach, FL, USA

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[American Academy of Religions](#) /  
Nov. 18-21, 2017

Boston, Massachusetts, USA

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[Desert Rose Baha'i Institute](#) / Feb.  
16-18, 2018

Eighth Annual Arts & Scholars  
Symposium  
Theme: "Finding Common Belief"  
Call for papers and registration open.

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[Parliament of the World's Religions](#) /  
Nov. 1-7, 2018

"The Promise of Inclusion, the Power of  
Love: Pursuing Global Understanding,  
Reconciliation, and Change"

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

## WILMETTE INSTITUTE LINKS, SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS, AND OTHER LINKS

### Wilmette Institute Links

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

### Social Media Links

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.

[Wilmette Institute: YouTube Channel](#)  
[Wilmette Institute: Facebook Page](#)  
[Wilmette Institute: Twitter](#)  
[Wilmette Institute: Pinterest](#)  
[Wilmette Institute: Google +](#)  
[Wilmette Institute: SoundCloud](#)

### Other Links

[Association for Baha'i Studies, North  
America](#)  
[Baha'i Chair for World Peace](#)  
[Baha'i International Community](#)

We will give special attention to champions of equality from Baha'i  
history. Participation from both male and female learners is  
strongly encouraged to maximize opportunities for learning.

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

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### NEW COURSE

How does spiritual and physical intimacy contribute  
to a solid marriage?

## [Linking Spiritual and Physical Intimacy in Marriage](#)

A new addition to courses on marriage

Lead Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)  
Faculty: [Riaz Mostaghim](#)

**Duration of course:** Three weeks (November 28 - December 15,  
2017)



Intimacy in the bedroom is a  
strong unifying factor in a healthy  
marriage. In **Linking Spiritual  
and Physical Intimacy in  
Marriage**, couples are invited to  
expand their understanding of  
some spiritual principles related to  
physical intimacy. Participants will  
learn about practical ways to

enhance marital unity and move toward a rich, passionate, and  
enjoyable intimate relationship. Note: Personal privacy boundaries  
means there will be no requirement to discuss specifics about your  
relationship in the course Forum. All learners will have access to a  
wide range of marriage enrichment resources.

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

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How should you talk about the world's chaos and the  
bright future ahead?

## [Responding Effectively to Global Challenges: Three World Order of Baha'u'llah Letters](#)

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

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

**Duration of course:** Seven weeks (November 28, 2017 - January



[Bosch Baha'i School](#)  
[ebbf \(Ethical Business Building the Future\)](#)  
[Green Acre Baha'i School](#)  
[Institute for Studies in Global Prosperity](#)  
[International Baha'i Website](#)  
[International Environment Forum](#)  
[Irfan Colloquium](#)  
[Louhelen Baha'i School](#)  
[Louis G. Gregory Museum](#)  
[U.S. Baha'i Distribution Service](#)  
[U.S. National Baha'i Library](#)  
[Unity Museum](#)  
[Worldwide Baha'i Community](#)

## Mark Your Calendar

**January 5 - February 22, 2018**  
[Preparing for Interfaith Dialogue](#)

**January 8 - April 8, 2018**  
[How to Organize and Maintain a Baha'i Archives](#)

**January 9 - February 2, 2018**  
 NEW COURSE: [Exploring Friendship, Dating, and Courtship](#)

**January 11 - February 11, 2018**  
 NEW COURSE: [Lawh-i-Sultan](#)

**January 15 - March 3, 2018**  
[Finding the Hidden Gift: An Approach to Studying the Baha'i Writings](#)

**January 20 - March 9, 2018**  
[Baha'i Perspectives on Agriculture and Food](#)

**February 1 - April 4, 2018**  
 NEW COURSE: [Racism: The Most Challenging Issue](#)

**February 5 - March 18, 2018**  
 NEW COURSE: [Nurturing Your Baby Spiritually During Pregnancy](#)

**February 10 - April 6, 2018**  
[The Writings of the Bab](#)

**February 15 - April 11, 2018**

15, 2018)

When war broke out in the Middle East in 2003, the Universal House of Justice noted the "animating effect of the spirit of unrest pervading the planet," the unfolding of the Lesser Peace, and the implications for the "progress" of the Baha'i community and the "evolution of an increasingly global society in the throes of a turbulent transition." It also noted the "feelings of grievance and outrage" of "people across the globe," their "sorrows, fears and perplexities," "anxieties," and anger, all adding to the "chaos and confusion." For the Baha'is, however, the House of Justice said that "they have only to recall the vision and principles offered by the Faith if they are to respond effectively to the challenges posed by the spread of distress and dismay." In **Responding Effectively to Global Challenges**, we will "strive to understand more deeply the Teachings that are relevant" to global unrest by reviewing three letters by Shoghi Effendi published in *The World Order of Baha'u'llah*: "The Goal of a New World Order," "America and the Most Great Peace," and "The Unfoldment of a World Civilization." Our goal is to understand more clearly the chaos in the world and the bright future ahead and to prepare ourselves to participate in meaningful conversations.



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

Learn how you can help preserve the history of a young Faith

## Writing Biographies and Histories: Recording Stories of People and Places

One in a series on history and biography

Lead Faculty: [Robert Stockman](#)

Faculty: [Thelma Batchelor](#), [Roger Dahl](#), [Richard Hollinger](#), [Jenny Lockwood](#), [Adam Thorne](#)

**Duration of course:** Seven weeks (December 1, 2017 - January 18, 2018)

**Writing Biographies and Histories** is designed to help Baha'is who wish to compose a memoir about their own lives, produce a biography of a Baha'i mentor, or write the history of their local Baha'i community. Units in the first half of the course will cover such topics as selecting a topic and settling on an audience; the philosophy and ethics of writing biographies and history; collecting oral history; research in



[Introduction to the Kitab-i-Aqdas](#)

**February 20 - April 16, 2018**  
['Abdu'l-Baha: His Life and Ministry](#)

**February 27 - March 16, 2018**  
NEW COURSE: [Knowing the Character of a Relationship Partner](#)

## March - December 2018 Course Schedule

Below is the Wilmette Institute's course schedule for March through December 2018. The schedule is subject to change. The listing is still partial.

March 7 - April 24, 2018  
Health Care and Social Action

March 10 - April 27, 2018  
The Three Charters of the Faith

March 15 - May 2, 2018  
The Bahá'í Faith and the Arts

March 25 - May 12, 2018  
Some Answered Questions

March 27 - April 13, 2018  
NEW COURSE: Communicating as a Couple:  
Talking and Listening

Climate Change  
April 1 - May 16, 2018

NEW COURSE: Baha'i Institutions, the Community, and the Individual  
April 5 - April 21, 2018

NEW COURSE: Being an Intercultural Couple  
April 10 - April 27, 2018

NEW COURSE: Native American Culture and the Sacred  
April 15 - June 2, 2018

The Advent of Divine Justice  
April 15 - June 12, 2018

The Hebrew Bible  
May 1 - June 18, 2018

The Bab and the Babi Movement  
May 5 - June 22, 2018

NEW COURSE: Helping Children Thrive in a Toxic Media Environment

archives and libraries and on the web; organizing notes and outlining the topic. In the second half of the course, participants will pursue a research and writing project with support and advice from the faculty. The Wilmette Institute may be interested in publishing some short histories, biographies, and memoirs on its public website.

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

Find out more about the fundamental teachings of the Baha'i Faith

## [Baha'i Theology](#)

A course in a series on religion, philosophy, and theology

Lead Faculty: [Mikhail Sergeev](#)  
Faculty: [Ian Kluge](#)

**Duration of course:** Ten weeks (December 7 - February 14, 2018)



This course on **Baha'i Theology** provides an in-depth study of the fundamental teachings of the Baha'i Faith that deal with the study of God, creation, and the relationship between them. The units are organized around a series of topics such as creation and evolution, the nature of God's Manifestations and their revelations, religious ethics, and theology in action. This course is ideal for both Baha'is and others

who want to delve more deeply into the teachings of the Faith.

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

A chance to learn more about the Guardian's multifaceted contributions to the growth of the Faith

## [The Life and Ministry of Shoghi Effendi](#)

A course in the series on Baha'i history and biography

Lead Faculty: [Ed DiLiberto](#)  
Faculty: [Anne Perry](#)

**Duration of course:** Seven weeks (December 10, 2017 - January 27, 2018)

May 8 - May 29, 2018

Tablets of Baha'u'llah Revealed after  
the Kitab-i-Aqdas  
May 10 - June 28, 2018

Introduction to Islam  
May 15 - July 2, 2018

Science, Religion, and the Baha'i Faith  
May 20 - July 7, 2018

One Common Faith  
June 1 - July 19, 2018

NEW COURSE: Making Time and Service  
Choices as a Couple  
June 5 - June 22, 2018

Baha'i Principles as They Relate to  
Discourses on Governance  
June 10 - July 28, 2018

Baha'u'llah's Revelation: A Systematic  
Survey  
June 15 - August 2, 2018

Economics and the Baha'i Faith  
June 20 - August 8, 2018

Introduction to Buddhism  
July 1 - August 19, 2018

Conscious Parenting of Three and Four  
Year Olds  
July 10 - August 3, 2018

The Tabernacle of Unity  
August 20 - October 8, 2018

The Destiny of America  
August 25 - October 13, 2018

The Bab and Baha'u'llah: Two Lives, One  
Story  
September 1 - October 19, 2018

Consulting as a Couple  
September 4 - September 21, 2018

The Baha'i Faith: A Comprehensive  
Introduction  
September 10 - October 29, 2018

Using Discipline to Teach Your Child  
September 11 - October 26, 2018

Introduction to Baha'i History, 1844-  
Present  
September 15 - November 13, 2018

Gifts of the Spirit: The Spiritual Practice  
of



In **The Life and Ministry of Shoghi Effendi** we will look briefly at the unique position held by Shoghi Effendi, his 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. Shoghi Effendi translated many writings of Baha'u'llah into English, translated and edited a history of the Babi period of the Faith, penned thousands of letters clarifying basic Baha'i teachings, and wrote the classic history of the first hundred years of the Faith's beginnings. His devotion, self-sacrifice, and suffering are an inspiration to Baha'is of all generations.

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

Study the prerequisites of world peace to enrich your conversations with like-minded friends

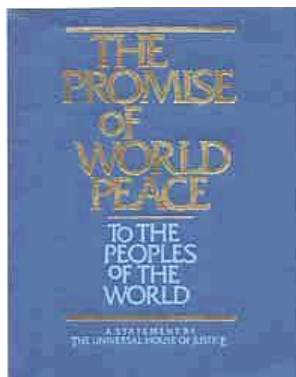
## [The Promise of World Peace](#)

One in a series of society and social change

Lead Faculty: [Barney Leith](#)

Faculty: [Dan Wheatley](#)

**Duration of course:** Six weeks (December 15, 2017 - January 25, 2018)



*The Promise of World Peace* was a ground-breaking document when the Universal House of Justice issued it in 1985. Its discussions of issues necessary for achieving peace (religion; subordinating national self-interest to the requirements of world order; eliminating racism, disparities between rich and poor, and nationalism; emancipating women; abolishing war; accepting the oneness of humankind) remain as relevant today, perhaps even more so. This course will take us through the text in depth and

Creative Writing  
September 25 - November 13, 2018

NEW COURSE: The Book of Isaiah  
October 1 - November 19, 2018

The Baha'i Faith and Social Change  
October 5 - November 23, 2018

Sustainable Development and the  
Prosperity of Humankind  
October 10 - November 28, 2018

Epistle to the Son of the Wolf  
October 15 - December 3, 2018

The Life and Ministry of Shoghi Effendi  
October 20 - December 8, 2018

Writing Biographies and Histories:  
Recording Stories of People and Places  
November 2 - December 19, 2018

Introduction to Shi'i Islam  
November 15 - January 2, 2019

Philosophy and the Baha'i Faith  
December 1 - January 18, 2018

The Promise of World Peace  
December 5 - January 23, 2019

Judaism for Deepening and Dialogue  
December 15 - February 12, 2019

Click here for the 2018 course schedule:  
<http://wilmetteinstitute.org/2018-courses/>

familiarize us with the document's themes and arguments so that we can draw on them in our conversations and discourses. We will enrich our understanding by engaging with documents and videos from Baha'i and other sources.

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

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How can fun, laughter, and vitality create a unified friendships, marriages, and communities?

## [Creating Unity with Friendship, Fun, Social Vitality, and Laughter](#)

One in a series of course on creating a balanced lifestyle

Lead Faculty: [Wendi Momen](#)

Faculty: [Fiona McDonald](#)

**Duration of course:** Seven weeks (December 26, 2017 - February 9, 2018)

'Abdu'l-Baha tells us to "laugh, smile and rejoice in order that others may be made happy" by us (*The Promulgation of Universal Peace* 218). In **Creating Unity with Friendship, Fun, Social Vitality, and Laughter**, come build unified friendships,



relationships, marriages, and communities with this light-hearted skill-building course. Expand your ability to deepen friendships, have fun together, extend hospitality, share humorous stories, take a lighter approach to challenges, and more. The course is excellent preparation for couple dates, neighborhood and family activities, and social events. Please invite your friends.

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

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### ABOUT US

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#### 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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