

September 2010 eNewsletter

News

New Board Appointed to Oversee Wilmette Institute

The National Spiritual Assembly has appointed a new Board to oversee the policies and direction of the Wilmette Institute. The Board's members include Cathy Higgins, an educational technologist from New Hampshire; Niki Johnson, a Wilmette Institute faculty member; Missy Martin, Director of the Education and Schools Department of the Baha'i National Center; Mark Rossman, Vice-President Emeritus at Capella University; and Robert H. Stockman, the Institute's Director. The Board has held its first telephone meeting and scheduled a series of telephone and face-to-face meetings over the next few months to review the Institute's mission, history, and accomplishments and to make plans for its further development during the next Five Year Plan.

Our Students Speak Up

September-November 2010 Courses

[The Writings of the Bab](#)

Lead Faculty: Peter Terry

Faculty: Armin Eschraghi and Roozbeh Taeed

Duration of course: Three months (Sept. 1 - Nov. 30, 2010)



This course is an introduction to the principal writings of the Bab. Among the works we will study are the Commentary on the Surih of Joseph (Qayyumu'l-Asma'); tablets to secular and religious leaders; The Seven Proofs

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Studying *Epistle to the Son of the Wolf* Brings Many Rewards



I can't describe the eagerness with which I approached my computer hoping to hear from others and the joy I felt upon an explanation, contact, kindness; as I write this, I start to cry from gratitude. It is very hard to be out here [in a very small, isolated Baha'i community]. . .

. With the help of the teachers, this work took on a much deeper and fuller view of the concepts, thoughts, and admonitions of Baha'u'llah. . . . I learned some of the allusions made by Baha'u'llah and realized this alone could be a life study. . . . My understanding of the magnitude of this revelation has deepened. I become overwhelmed. . . .

--Rebecca Deerwater, Fort Bragg, California

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A Vision of a Family-Centered Baha'i Community

The resources acquired and studied in this course have been of immediate benefit to my family and the families of our friends. My children are at the stage of life when they are either starting a new marriage or seeking life partners. As a Baha'i parent involved in guiding that process, the material has been of great usefulness. A culture of learning has been fostered within our family as all our family members have engaged in discussion over the readings. . . .



--Helen Dechtiar, Burlington, Vt.

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Introduction to Archives for Baha'i Archivists

Lead Faculty: Roger Dahl

Faculty: Lois Walker, Susan Rishworth

Duration of course: Three months (Sept. 15 - Dec. 15, 2010)

Organized by the United States National Baha'i Archives and taught by three Baha'i archivists, this course will introduce local and national Baha'i archivists to principles that will help them to organize and maintain their collections. . . .



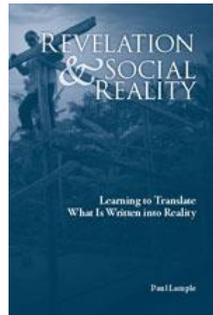
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Revelation and Social Reality: Implementing the Annual U.S. Educational Theme for 2010-11

Lead Faculty: Robert Stockman

Faculty: Martha Schweitz and Melanie Smith

Duration of course: Three months (September 22 - December 22, 2010)



The 2010 Ridvan letter and Paul Lample's new book *Revelation & Social Reality: Learning to Translate What Is Written into Reality* will be the texts for this course, which will provide you with an opportunity to discuss themes in both works and to share ideas about how to implement the principles contained in them. . . .

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The Ministry of Shoghi Effendi

Lead Faculty: Zaid Lundberg

Faculty: Kurt Hein

Duration of course: Three months (Oct. 1 - Dec. 31, 2010)

This course looks 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). The course will consider the many roles Shoghi Effendi filled as he carried out



Becoming a Resource on Buddhism for the Baha'i Community



I gained so much insight into Buddhism! . . . Instead of planning a fireside on Buddhism for Baha'is and seekers, [the Baha'i community] . . . decided that, since the community has two Buddhist seekers (which I didn't know about), the community itself would like to be deepened on Buddhism and the Baha'i Faith, basic Buddhist tenets, and reincarnation. That way, the individuals will be better able to teach. I may also go ahead and schedule a fireside for the Buddhist friend I know to review what I learned and ask him what he believes. . . .

--Judy Russell, Prescott, Arizona

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[Mark Your Calendar](#)

December 1 - February 31, 2011
[One Common Faith](#)

December 15 - March 15, 2011
[Baha'i Theology: Concepts of God, Revelation, Manifestation, Creation, Humanity, Afterlife, and Covenant](#)

Jan. 2 - Apr. 2, 2011
[How to Study the Baha'i Writings](#)

Feb. 1 - Apr. 30, 2011
[The Promised Day Is Come](#)

his duties as Guardian in fostering the growth and development of the Baha'i Faith. . . .

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[Baha'u'llah's Early Mystic Writings](#)

Lead Faculty: Cynthia Shawamreh

Faculty: Moojan Momen

Duration of course: Three months (Oct. 15, 2010-Jan. 15, 2011)

In this course on Bahá'u'lláh's early mystic writings we will explore a theme that dominates Bahá'u'lláh's early writings and continues throughout His revelation: the relationship of the individual to spiritual reality--to God, to spiritual truths, to principles of personal development, and to laws of conduct. We will explore Baha'u'llah's Rashh-i-'Ama. . . .



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[Islam for Deepening and Dialogue](#)

Lead Faculty: Susan Maneck

Faculty: Chris Buck and Lil Osborn

Duration of course: Three months (Oct. 22, 2010 - Jan. 22, 2011)

In this course we will begin with a brief survey of pre-Islamic Arabia, Islam, and the Five Pillars of Islam. In the next two units we will cover the life of Muhammad and review the origins, development, and content of the Qur'an, including the teachings and practices of Islam. . . .



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[Exploring the Qur'an](#)

Lead Faculty: Hussein Ashchi

Faculty: Necati Alkan

Duration of course: Three months (Nov. 1, 2010 - Jan. 31, 2011)



In this course we will explore the Qur'an, the divine revelation on which the religion of Islam is based. Beginning with an introduction to the Qur'an and a summary of the tenets of Islam, we will then examine Baha'i references to the Qur'an (the Baha'i writings are filled with quotations from and allusions to the Qur'an. . . .

Feb. 15 - May 15, 2011
[The Three Covenants of the Baha'i Faith](#)

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[Exploring the Christian New Testament](#)

Lead Faculty: Daniel Grolin

Faculty: Ted Brownstein

Duration of course: Three months (Nov. 15, 2010 - Feb. 15, 2011)

In this course we will study the Christian New Testament, a collection of letters and historical works about the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, in the light of progressive revelation and in their historical context. In one unit we will discuss the canonization of the New Testament. . . .



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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](#)