

Web Talk to find out. [READ>>](#)

BIC, the Wilmette Institute, and You: How To Gain Knowledge for Public Discourse and Social Action?

Christine Muller, lead faculty for the Wilmette Institute's **Climate Change** course and faculty for the **Sustainable Development and the Progress of Humankind** course (which starts in September), has written an article about how the Baha'i International Community's many statements and a number of the Wilmette Institute's courses can provide the knowledge you need to prepare yourself and your community for participating with confidence in public discourse and social action. [READ>>](#)

Web Talks for 2016-17: Here Are the Next Six

Web Talks for August 2016 through January 2017 are set. It is time to update your electronic planner so that you don't miss any. [READ>>](#)

New Courses for 2017 Announced: Eleven New Courses and Many Old Faithfuls

The Director of the Wilmette Institute, Dr. Robert H. Stockman, has announced the Wilmette Institute courses for 2017. The final course for 2016 is a new one, as are 11 of the 53 courses for 2017. [READ>>](#)

Summertime Listening: Catch Up on Wilmette Institute Web Talks You Missed

Give yourself a me-time summer break, catch up on Wilmette Institute Web Talks you meant to catch but managed to miss, and find something you can use later for invigorating your study class--or for sharing with a friend. For a list of talks and links, [READ>>](#)

Revisit the Wilmette Institute's Web Talk by Steven Phelps on the Nature of Revelation and the Manifestations of God in the Baha'i Writings

Listen to Steven Phelps sharing his personal insights into the nature of [Revelation and the Manifestations of God](#) in the Baha'i writings, and be prepared to come away with new understandings. Great for personal deepening; great for a study class. [READ>>](#)

Contributions to Public Discourse

Vision Gulf Business Conference: A New ebbf Initiative

This article is a must-read: an account of an ebbf cosponsored conference in Kuwait in which the second keynote speaker tore up most of his notes and spoke from the heart after hearing the first keynote speaker, a Baha'i, speak about the challenges and options for his oil-rich but low-lying country. [READ>>](#)

Learners in Action

"Clouds of Jabarut - Mountain of Malakut": A Drawing and Interpretation

A complex drawing and poem of explanation about the Primal Point, the worlds of God, the essence of human beings, and so much more is a bridge from Native oral tradition and written tradition. You must work out the insights and complexities of this extraordinary learner project

Duration of course: Four weeks (August 15 - September 15, 2016)



The New Five Year Plan (2016-21):

Completing the First Century of the Formative Age is designed to prepare you for participating in the plan that will bring to a close the first hundred years of the Formative Age of the Baha'i Faith. We will undertake a slow, careful reading and discussion of the December 29, 2015, message to the Conference of the Continental Boards of Counselors; the January 2, 2016, message to the Baha'is of the World; and the Ridvan 2016 message, all from the Universal House of Justice.

About the new plan, the Universal House of Justice

has written: "it is a spiritual enterprise, and its true character should never be obscured. . . . All that the followers of Baha'u'llah have learned in the last twenty years must culminate in the accomplishments of the next five."

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

Learn how to discuss world federation as the solution to a world in a "desperate condition"

Building a World Federation: An Idea Whose Time Has Come

One in a series of courses on the Baha'i teachings on global civilization

Lead Faculty: [Sovaida Maani Ewing](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (August 20 - October 7, 2016)



As humanity passes through stages of collective growth in its inexorable yet reluctant move toward increasing integration and unity, it finds itself caught in the thick of many painful and seemingly intractable challenges that mark a turbulent adolescence--crises such as climate change, financial upheavals, the proliferation of nuclear weapons, gross human-rights atrocities, migrant crises,

and the mismanagement of critical natural resources. These are all evidences of what the Universal House of Justice described in its December 29, 2015, letter as the world's "desperate condition." We will together examine how we can solve these and similar problems in **Building a World Federation: An Idea Whose Time Has Come**. We will also learn how to effectively persuade skeptics who argue that creating a global federation is a pipe-dream because nations will never be willing to cede sovereignty, and we will equip ourselves with ways to allay fears that such a move will lead to an abusive world government that is so excessively centralized that it will not heed the voices of diverse populations and minorities and will trample on their rights.

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

Explore the life and legacy of the Perfect Exemplar of the Baha'i Faith

'Abdu'l-Baha: His Life and Ministry

A course in a series exploring the ministry, writings, and talks of 'Abdu'l-Baha

Lead Faculty: [Anne Gordon Perry](#)

Faculty: [Ed DiLiberto](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (August 25 - October 12, 2016)

'Abdu'l-Baha, the Center of Baha'u'llah's Covenant and the Perfect Exemplar for humankind, is unique in religious history. While He is not a Manifestation of God, He is closer in station to a Manifestation than to the station of humanity. Drawing on statements by 'Abdu'l-Baha and Shoghi Effendi, as well as writings by many

for the course on **Baha'u'llah's Revelation: A Systematic Survey** 2012. [READ>>](#)

Thinking of Relationships and Marriage? Course Prompts a Poem Addressed to a Learner's Future Husband

The final project for the new course **Thinking of Relationships and Marriage?** turned out to be a poem on four levels of examination and commitment, leading to "a tower of love."

[READ>>](#)

News

New Website Launched for Chile House of Worship

As the dedication of the Chile House of Worship in Santiago, Chile, approaches, a [new website](#) has been launched. Among the many features are ever-changing photographs showing off the beauty of the Temple's design, the underlying purpose of the Temple, activities associated with the Temple. Links take one to Opening, Visits, Media, Prayer and Service, and Temple and Community. Language choices run the gamut from Afrikans to Zulu. The Chile House of Worship will serve the entire continent of South America and is last continental House of Worship to be built in the world.

Wilmette Institute Web Talks on the Beginning of the Baha'i Faith in Europe, the Story of Joseph, Baha'i Law, the Hands of the Cause of God, and South Carolina Baha'is

["The Dawning of the Baha'i Faith on the European Continent"](#) / Aug. 28

Julio Savi

["The Story of Joseph"](#) / Sept. 24

B. Todd Lawson

["Imagining Baha'i Law"](#) / Oct. 16

Roshan Danesh

["Hand of the Cause of God Zikrullah Khadem and the Ministry of the Custodians"](#) / Nov. 6

Jena Khodadad

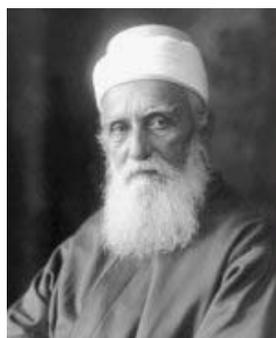
["No Jim Crow Church: The History of the Baha'i Faith in South Carolina"](#) / Dec. 4

Louis Venters

["Trudy \[White\] and Baha'is Spiritual Path in South Carolina"](#) / Jan. 15, 2017

Annette Reynolds

Conferences on the Peace; the Tablets of the Divine Plan; Persian Culture; Aids, Sexuality, Addictions, and Abuse; Children and Youth in an Interconnected World; Building Capacity in the Work Place; Sustainable Lifestyles; and Religions



Baha'is, we will explore 'Abdu'l-Baha's life, station, roles, titles, writings, talks, travels, accomplishments, relationship to Baha'u'llah, and impact on others. In particular, we will study the Tablets of the Divine Plan during this special centenary anniversary of their revelation, focusing on recent letters from the House of Justice and other related documents. We will also examine 'Abdu'l-Baha's first five decades, 1844-92; His station as the Center of Baha'u'llah's Covenant and His early years as Head of the Faith, 1892-1910; His travels to and talks in Europe and North America, 1911-13, and His guidance of the Baha'is in those areas; World War I and war and peace, 1914-21; His Will and Testament and His passing in 1921; and selected topics about 'Abdu'l-Baha (teachings about governance; philosophy and theology; and evolution).

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

Mentors are ready to help you improve your skills in writing, the visual arts, and music

Practicing the Arts: A Workshop Course for Baha'i Artists

A course in a series on skills development

Lead Faculty: [Sandra Lynn Hutchison](#)

Faculty: [Peggy Caton](#), [Marjan Nirou Saniee](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (September 1 - October 19, 2016)



The **Practicing the Arts** workshop is a hands-on, learning-by-doing course that differs significantly in format from most Wilmette Institute courses. It is an advanced course designed for those who wish to improve their skills in writing (with Sandra Hutchison), visual arts (with Marjan Nirou Saniee), and music (with Peggy Caton). After a review of Baha'i writings about art, learners will work on a specific project with the advice and support of their

mentor.

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

Learn communication and consultation skills to foster better relationships

Consulting and Problem-Solving as a Couple

Another course in a series on individuals, marriage, and family development

Lead Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)

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

Duration of course: Five weeks (September 2 - September 30, 2016)



"Family consultation employing full and frank discussion, and animated by awareness of the need for moderation and balance, can be the panacea for domestic conflict," according to a letter written on behalf of the Universal House of Justice. In **Consulting and Problem-Solving as a Couple**, we will discuss how to strengthen your relationship or married-couple

[Arab American Conference 2016](#) / Chicago, IL

area / Aug. 4-7

In Pursuit of Lasting Peace

Arab-speaking Baha'is and their friends

[2016 ABS Conference / Montreal, Quebec](#) /

Aug. 11-14

[Registration](#), [printable registration forms](#), [hotel reservations](#), and [draft conference program](#).**[Association of Friends of Persian Culture Conference](#)** / Sept. 1-4Schaumburg Hotel & Convention Center,
Schaumburg, Illinois**[BNASAA Conference 2016](#)** / Santa Cruz,

California / Sept. 8-11

Baha'i Network for AIDS, Sexuality, Addictions,
and Abuse Conference
Bosch Baha'i School. Registration not open.**[Baha'i Chair for World Peace Conference](#)**

/ College Park, Maryland / Sept. 28-29

Learning Outside the Lines: A Conference on
Children and Youth in an Interconnected World
University of Maryland**[ebbf Building Capacity Conference](#)** /

Bucharest, Romania / Oct. 6-9

Building Capacity: Developing Volition and Latent
Talent in People and Organizations to Create a
More Meaningful Workplace and Civilization**['Irfan Colloquia / Davison, Michigan](#)** / Oct.

6-9

Celebrating the Centenary of the Tablets of the
Divine Plan

Louhelen Baha'i School, English and Persian

[20th Annual International Environment Forum Conference](#), Santa Cruz, Bolivia / Oct.

7-9

Focus on Responsible and Sustainable Lifestyles,
Values and Education, and Sustainable Urban
Communities
Nur University**[Dedication, Mashriqu'l-Adhkar of Chile](#)** / Oct.

13-16

Santiago, Chile

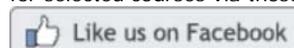
[American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature](#) / Nov. 19-22

San Antonio, Texas, USA

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.



consultation skills; provide a forum for reflecting on the current quality of your interactions and what you want to improve; and discuss how to build understanding, solve difficulties, and reach effective decisions that you can carry out with confidence. We will also identify spiritual principles and qualities for communication and consultation, including equality, justice, wisdom, tact, and timeliness; foster an understanding of consultation; address challenges; and learn to consult well. The course is designed for couples or individuals having a partner not enrolled in the course with whom they can work. But it is open to everyone.

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

Learn more about the Babis and early Baha'is and how they help us understand the growth of modern Baha'i communities

[Rediscovering the Dawnbreakers: The Bab and Babi History, 1844-63](#)

A course exploring the history of the Babi and early Baha'i eras

Lead Faculty: [Moojan Momen](#)

Faculty: [Peter Smith](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (September 7 - October 25, 2016)



In **Rediscovering the Dawnbreakers** we will study the earliest period of the history of the Babi and Baha'i Faiths--including the life and teachings of the Bab and the lives and exploits of His followers, the Dawnbreakers of the Heroic Age--and will provide opportunities for meditating on the spiritual qualities needed for those who endeavor to live a Baha'i life and to serve the

Faith. We will cover the birth of the Babi revelation, including the declaration of the Bab, the enrollment of the Letters of the Living, and the Bab's pilgrimage to Mecca; His banishment to Adhirbayjan; His imprisonments in Maku and Chihriq, and the Conference of Badasht; upheavals in the Babi community in Mazanderan, Nayriz, and Zanjan; the martyrdom of the Bab in 1850; developments after the Bab's martyrdom, including an attempt on the life of Nasiri'd-Din Shah; Baha'u'llah's role in helping the Babis and His imprisonment in the Siyah-Chal in Tehran; the martyrdom of Tahiri; the executions of many of the Bab's disciples and the fate of those who persecuted the Bab and His followers; and a summation of the life of the Bab and His followers, the Dawnbreakers. This study of early Babi and Baha'i history is aimed at suggesting how one can understand contemporary Baha'i communities and their efforts to grow and expand.

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

How does sustainable development relate to you, your neighborhood, your Baha'i community, and the world?

[Sustainable Development and the Prosperity of Humankind](#)

A course in a series on aspects of global civilization

Lead Faculty: [Arthur Dahl](#)

Faculty: [Gary Colliver](#), [Carole Flood](#), [Christine Muller](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (September 10 - October 28, 2016)

In **Sustainable Development and the Prosperity of Humankind** we will address the urgent need to make a fundamental transition away from a society and economy that are threatening our planetary security. From a Baha'i perspective, we will start with a general introduction to sustainable development and seek to understand its profound implications in achieving the prosperity of humankind. Our objectives include teaching ourselves how to think about

Wilmette Institute Links

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

Other Links

[Association for Baha'i Studies, North 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 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

November 1 - December 19, 2016

[Understanding Religion: Social and Historical Aspects](#)

November 7 - December 25, 2016

[The Baha'i Faith and Philosophy](#)

NEW COURSE

November 10 - December 28, 2016

[The Promise of World Peace](#)

November 15 - January 3, 2017

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

NEW WEBINAR

November 22 - January 17, 2017

[The Epistle of Kings: A Comprehensive Study of Suriy-i-Muluk, Baha'u'llah's First Proclamatory Tablet To the Kings of the Nineteenth Century](#)

December 1, 2016 - January 17, 2017

[Writing Biographies and Histories](#)

December 20, 2016 - February 6, 2017

[Introduction to Shi'i Islam](#)

NEW COURSE

December 30, 2016 - February 16, 2017

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

January - June 2017 Course Schedule

Below is the Wilmette Institute's course schedule for January through June 2017. The schedule is subject to change. The listing is still partial.

January 7 - February 24, 2017
 Finding the Hidden Gift: An Approach to Studying the Bahá'í Writings



sustainability by integrating both the material and spiritual dimensions of life into a long-term systems perspective; how to apply that thinking to questions of everyday life and lifestyle; how to use it to start meaningful and distinctive conversations; and how to incorporate it into our community action, reflection, and

consultation. We will review the economic, social, and environmental issues that humanity faces in achieving sustainability and discuss the spiritual principles that can help us find solutions. We will then examine perspectives for the future, both those that show the unsustainability of the present system, including the constraints that have limited women's contribution, and those that show the need for fundamental change--all contrasted with the Baha'i vision of a new world order leading to the prosperity of humankind. We will explore the implications of the new Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda being adopted at the United Nations. Finally, we will look at the importance, for sustainable development, of education reinforced with spiritual values as the basis for helping each of us detach ourselves from Western materialistic civilization; reexamine our present lifestyles; and begin to live more sustainably in accordance with the Baha'i teachings.

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

Study Buddhism to learn more about progressive revelation and develop skills for sharing the Baha'i revelation

Buddhism for Deepening and Dialogue

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

Lead Faculty: [Anne Pearson](#)
 Faculty: [Robert H. Stockman](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (September 15 - November 2, 2016)



In **Buddhism for Deepening and Dialogue** we will survey the life and teachings of the Buddha, the development of His ideas, and the widespread dissemination of Buddhism over much of Asia and, since the late nineteenth century, to the West. We will also read some Buddhist texts and examine similarities and differences between Buddhism and the Baha'i Faith (and other religions), including the emphasis both place on personal transformation. The course will deepen your understanding of an important religion that began in India and will prepare you for discussing spiritual concepts and practices with Buddhist friends and neighbors. All readings for this course will be provided

online, with no purchase of books required.

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

Learn how to help your Baha'i community save and preserve its precious records

How to Organize and Maintain a Baha'i Archives

Another in a series of courses on skills development

Lead Faculty: [Roger Dahl](#)
 Faculty: [Sue Rishworth](#), [Lois Walker](#)

Duration of course: Fourteen weeks (September 22 - December 22, 2016)

NEW COURSE, BRAZIL ONLY, IN PORTUGUESE

January 13 - February 24, 2017
Criando uma Vida Matrimonial, Familiar e Comunitária Coerente

NEW COURSE

January 15 - March 5, 2017
The Baha'i Faith and Agriculture

January 22 - March 4, 2017
Baha'u'llah's Early Mystic Writings

January 25 - March 10, 2017
Science and Religion

February 1 - March 7, 2017
Introduction to the New Testament

NEW COURSE

February 7 - March 28, 2017
The Bab and Baha'u'llah:
Two Lives, One Story

February 15 - April 4, 2017
Islam for Deepening and Dialogue

March 1 - April 26, 2017
Century of Light

March 10 - April 10, 2017
The Badi` (Baha'i) Calendar: Reshaping our
Material, Social and Spiritual Reality

March 15 - May 3, 2017
The Baha'i Faith and the Arts

March 17 - May 26, 2017
Creating a Fortress for Well-Being and Salvation

March 22 - June 2, 2017
Economics and the Baha'i Faith

March 31 - May 12, 2017
Thinking of Relationships and Marriage?

April 1 - May 18, 2017
Native American Religion and Spirituality

April 7 - May 25, 2017
Baha'i Spirituality

April 10 - May 28, 2017
Christianity for Deepening and Dialogue

April 15 - June 10, 2017
Climate Change

April 22 - June 7, 2017
The Mashriqu'l-Adkar: The First Hundred Years

May 1 - June 1, 2017
Feast Consultation

May 10 - June 27, 2017
Gems of Mysteries and Other Early Tablets

May 15 - July 2, 2017
Hinduism for Deepening and Dialogue

May 22 - July 9, 2017
Baha'i History, 1863-2016

May 25 - July 13, 2017



Organized by the United States National Baha'i Archives and taught by three Baha'i archivists, **How to Organize and Maintain a Baha'i Archives** will introduce local and national Baha'i archivists to principles that will help them to organize and maintain their collections. Registration for the course is open to local and national Baha'i archivists (and to others only by permission of the National Archives). The course will include activities requiring access to archival materials in a

Baha'i archives. Two units will cover basic archival principles; the acquisition, arranging, and processing of records and personal papers, including electronic records; nonpaper materials, including digital assets; reference services; exhibits; quarters for housing archival materials; and preservation. Another unit will involve your working on an archival project: either a survey of your archives or advanced work on a project of your choosing. A final unit will guide you through a final report and proposal to your Local or National Spiritual Assembly.

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

Learn how new understandings of Native American religion can enrich your understanding of the Baha'i Faith and of spirituality

[Native American Religion and Spirituality](#)

One in a series of courses on religion, philosophy, and theology

Lead Faculty: [Paula Bidwell](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (October 1 - November 18, 2016)



In **Native American Religion and Spirituality** we will focus on indigenous spirituality and the universal message of Baha'u'llah. We will explore how the spiritual teachings in Native American religion echo and parallel similar teachings found in the Baha'i writings, how Baha'i understandings of spirituality and religion are expanded by considering Native traditions, how culture affects the way in which Baha'is look at reality, and how Native North American Baha'is can connect the Baha'i writings to their sacred traditions and thus share the Message in a more effective manner. We will cover a wide range of topics, including how to understand and communicate without cultural divides, developing an awareness of our inherent

biases, the historic and contemporary effects of Christianity on Native populations, how such effects influence our interactions today and our presentations of the Faith, and the uncomfortable subject of colonization and how it affects Native Americans and European Descendent Americans. In our readings, discussions, and consultations, we will focus on encouraging differing ideas, insights, and perspectives on complex issues to broaden our understandings and enrich our collective experiences and wisdom.

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

Explore Baha'u'llah's own summary of themes He considered important for understanding His Faith

[Epistle to the Son of the Wolf](#)

Another in a series of courses exploring the revelation of Baha'u'llah

Lead Faculty: [Christopher Buck](#)

Faculty: [Necati Alkan](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (October 10 - November 26, 2016)

In the course on *Epistle to the Son of the Wolf*, Baha'u'llah's last major work, which is a single letter containing His own anthology of His writings, we will read

Applying Baha'i Principles to Discourses on Governance in the United States

NEW COURSE

June 2 - July 7, 2017

Home of Love: Marriage, Family, and Community

June 7 - July 26, 2017

Baha'i Spirituality

June 15 - August 9, 2017

Introduction to the Qur'an

June 20 - August 8, 2017

The Promised Day Is Come

June 25 - August 12, 2017

The Baha'i Faith: A Comprehensive Introduction

The full tentative 2017 course schedule is here:

<http://wilmetteinstitute.org/ourcourses/2017-course-schedule/>



the book slowly over a period of six weeks, examining major themes of Baha'u'llah's revelation: God as the source of His revelation; Who Baha'u'llah is; why He came; proofs of His station; His general teachings; the sufferings He endured; humanity's responses to His revelation; and accounts of martyrs that illustrate the transforming power of the Baha'i Faith. Revealed for an enemy of the Baha'i Faith, Shaykh Muhammad-Taqi (surnamed "Son of the Wolf"), the book warns him about the consequences of his persecution of the Faith. Containing as it does Baha'u'llah's quotations from His own revelation, *Epistle to the Son of the Wolf* provides an excellent summary of themes He considered important to understanding the Baha'i Faith.

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

Guidance on lines of action that will ensure the success of the current Five Year Plan

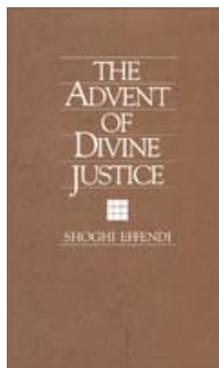
[The Advent of Divine Justice: Shoghi Effendi's Blueprint for Executing 'Abdu'l-Baha's Charter for Teaching](#)

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 (October 15 - December 2, 2016)



Shoghi Effendi's soul-stirring letter, *The Advent of Divine Justice*, was written in 1938 during a time of tremendous turmoil in world affairs. As we find ourselves once again in the midst of breathtaking worldwide change, we turn to his brilliant analysis of our strengths and weaknesses, to his unerring guidance, and to his assurances of our "unspeakably glorious destiny." While addressed "To the beloved of God" in the United States and Canada--countries not yet caught up in the vortex of World War II--his sweeping vision of the World Order of Baha'u'llah is thrilling for all Bahá'ís for all time. Shoghi Effendi helps us understand that there is one Divine Plan, "whose Source is God, whose author is Bahá'u'lláh," and "whose outline has been delineated for them by the pen of 'Abdu'l-Baha." Shoghi Effendi himself leads us to further

stages in the unfoldment of the Divine Plan, which continues to be propelled forward under the guidance of the Universal House of Justice. In this course we will learn the spiritual prerequisites for success of the Plan, the teaching requirements, and the "double crusade" each Baha'i must conduct to "prepare . . . for the time when the Hand of Destiny will have directed them to assist in creating and in bringing into operation that World Order. . . ." As the Universal House of Justice wrote in its December 29, 2015, letter: This is an urgent call for action--"the urgency . . . impelled by the world's desperate condition." As we embark on the current Five Year Plan, study of *The Advent of Divine Justice* could not be more imperative..

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

Guidance for building family unity during courtship, consent, engagement, and marriage

[Engaging in Parental Consent for Marriage](#)

A course in a series on the individual, marriage, and family development

Lead Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)

Faculty: [Hoda Kemp](#), [Wendi Momen](#), [Fariba Vahdat](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (October 21 - December 2, 2016)



Engaging in Parental Consent for Marriage is

centered in the Baha'i belief that marriage is intended to be a unifying experience for a family. It explores the knowledge and skills needed throughout courtship as well as those that help build family unity throughout the process leading up to a marriage. We will cover the purpose and process of parental consent, a requirement for Baha'i marriage; the couple's responsibilities during courtship and before asking parents for consent to marry; parental responsibilities during courtship,

consent, and engagement; and building a united family.

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

Refresh your understand of the covenants implicit in the charters for developing and expanding the Baha'i Faith

[Charters of the Faith: The Tablet of Carmel, the Tablets of the Divine Plan, and the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Baha](#)

One in a series on the revelation of Baha'u'llah and the writings of 'Abdu'l-Baha

Lead Faculty: [Ed DiLiberto](#)

Faculty: [Robert Wilson](#)

Duration of course: Eight weeks (October 25 - December 19, 2016)



In **The Charters of the Faith** we will study three "Charters" of the Baha'i Faith identified by Shoghi Effendi: Baha'u'llah's Tablet of Carmel and 'Abdu'l-Baha's Will and Testament and Tablets of the Divine Plan. We will read and discuss the full texts of these three charters, supplementing our reading with stories, photographs, and other materials and seeking to gain a deeper understanding of their significance and their application in our own lives. We will examine the "three distinct processes" that Shoghi Effendi states these three

charters set in motion, "the first operating in the Holy Land for the development of the institutions of the Faith at its World Center and the other two, throughout the rest of the Baha'i world, for its propagation and the establishment of its Administrative Order" (*Messages to the Baha'i World* 84). The course will conclude with a discussion about the Hands of the Cause of God and the role they played between Shoghi Effendi's death in 1957 and the election of the Universal House of Justice in 1963 and with the role that individuals play in protecting and expanding the Faith.

[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

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