

Talks for 2017. Update your electronic planner with the remaining Web Talks for Fall 2016 and the first one 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 classes--or for sharing with friends. For a list of talks and links, [READ>>](#)

Contributions to Public Discourse

What You Need to Know about the Paris Agreement

Available now: a [fact sheet](#) that answers the most common questions asked about the Paris Agreement adopted in 2015 and signed at the UN in 2016. Among the questions answered: What happens next? Who has signed? Does the U.S. Congress have to approve? What is the big deal with the 1.5 degrees Celsius goal? How can I help?

Panel for World Environment Day in Togo, West Africa, Enhanced by Climate Change Course

A learner in the 2016 Climate Change course stepped forward to help organize a program celebrating World Environment Day, invite a number of dignitaries, and to speak on a panel with NGOs and others. [READ>>](#)



Unusual (As Usual): ebbf's Spring International Learning Event on Consultation

Dr. Wendi Momen writes about ebbf's recent conference held in Italy ("Consultation, Beyond Decision-Making: A Tool for Learning") and the surprise of new attendees (half of the crowd) when they discovered that they were expected to consult with one another. Find links to keynote talks. [READ>>](#)

Learners in Action

New Course "Applying Baha'i Principles to Discourses on Governance in the United States" and the New Five Year Plan Bring Clarity to What Governance Means

One learner took the course, hoping to hone his skills in talking about climate change, sustainable development, the equality of women and men, and a just society and ended up finding it useful during an election year. Another learner took it with her three teenage sons who were taking government courses in high school or college so that they could all learn more about the Baha'i view of government. [READ>>](#)



A Newbie Dentist Finds Ways to Take Baby Steps--in Action, Poetry, and Prose--to Lay the Groundwork for Social Action Projects

New to dentistry and her home town, a Montana Baha'i sets out to learn about her social spaces and to open avenues of conversation to prepare



[Register](#) [Financial Aid](#)

purpose, role, and destiny of America. We will also consider statements by the Universal House of Justice about the subject and articles written by Baha'is about America's future. We will close with essays about the concepts of the destiny of America in other minority religions in the United States.

[Course Description](#) [Fees](#) [Course Schedule](#)

Find out what Baha'u'llah says about interfaith dialogue

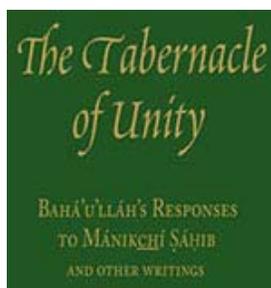
Tabernacle of Unity

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

Lead Faculty: [Susan Maneck](#)

Faculty: [Necati Alkan](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (August 1 - September 17, 2016)



The five tablets in *The Tabernacle of Unity* proclaim some of the central tenets of Baha'u'llah's Faith and the universality of His prophetic claims. In this course we will undertake a careful reading of the five tablets, exploring the Baha'i concepts of progressive revelation and the role of religion in advancing human civilization; the relevance of the tablets to interfaith dialogue; and what the tablets teach us about the process of revelation.

Baha'u'llah addressed two tablets to a Zoroastrian who admired Him and who asked questions about Zoroastrianism and Hinduism and three tablets to

Baha'is of Zoroastrian background. As a group, the tablets show Baha'u'llah's love for the followers of a religion that arose in Iran, where His own revelation was born.

[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. 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.

for making a mark later on. Using poetry and prose, she shares her journey with us. [READ>>](#)

A Non-Artist Takes the Baha'i Faith and the Arts Course to Learn How Arts Will Contribute to a New Civilization

Curious about the arts and how they will contribute to an ever-advancing civilization, a learner signed up for the arts course and ended up with a "joyous experience" in which she unpacked "one intriguing gift after another." The result: not one but two devotionals that led to other changes in her Baha'i friends and community. [READ>>](#)

A Fireside and Presentations to a Youth Group: Two (of Many) Results of Learnings in Climate Change Course

A Baha'i of some years and his wife, a Baha'i of two weeks, collaborated to share their learnings from the **Climate Change** course in a fireside and then with three presentations to a youth group. [READ>>](#)

News

A Review of Louis Venters' No Jim Crow Church: The Origins of South Carolina's Baha'i Community

Dr. Robert H. Stockman reviews a book that he calls "possibly the best piece of history written about the American Baha'is to date." The book covers the years 1898 to 1963, describing the growth of the South Carolina Baha'i community, along with the history of racism and civil rights, major developments in American Baha'i history, thus providing an excellent overview of the history of the national Baha'i community as well. [READ>>](#)



The Journal of Baha'i Studies To Be Published in Mid- to Late-July

Filled with articles on human rights, oppression and empowerment, the concept of the Manifestation of God in Chinese symbolism, an interview with Roger White, and several poems, the Spring/Summer 2016 issue of *The Journal of Baha'i Studies* will be in mailboxes by mid- to late-July.



E*lix*ir #3 Now Available

The [third issue of e*lix*ir](#), an electronic magazine of the arts and letters, is now available. The theme of the issue is "Rumi, Race, and Religion" and includes an editorial on the topic. The issue challenges the reader with essays on the search for truth, the challenges of race, and a little-known African American poet; a new style of calligraphy; poetry; a column on "The Writing Life"; a new section called "The Voices of Iran"; photographs by a new staff photographer.

Wilmette Institute Web Talks

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

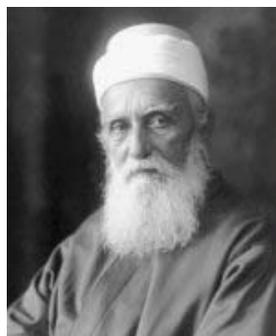
Explore the life and legacy of the Perfect Exemplar of the Baha'i Faith

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

Duration of course: Seven weeks (August 25 - October 14, 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 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 stand 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 arts 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

[Wilmette Institute Web Talks / Aug. 28](#)

Julio Savi

"The Dawning of the Baha'i Faith on the European Continent"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talks / Sept. 24](#)

B. Todd Lawson

"The Story of Joseph"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talks / Oct. 16](#)

Roshan Danesh

"Imagining Baha'i Law"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talks / Nov. 6](#)

Jena Khodadad

"Hand of the Cause of God Zikrullah Khadem and the Ministry of the Custodians"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talks / Dec. 4](#)

Louis Venters

"No Jim Crow Church: The History of the Baha'i Faith in South Carolina"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talks / Jan. 15, 2017](#)

Annette Reynolds

"Trudy [White] and Baha'is Spiritual Path in South Carolina"

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

['Irfan Colloquia / Acuto, Italy / Jul. 5-8](#)

Celebrating the Centenary of the Tablets of the Divine Plan

Centre for Baha'i Studies, English

['Irfan Colloquia / Tambach, Germany / Jul. 21-24](#)

Celebrating the Centenary of the Tablets of the Divine Plan

Tambach Baha'i Center, German

[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. 1-4](#)

Schaumburg 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

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 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 Badash; upheavals in the Babi community in Mazanderan, Nayriz, and Zanja; 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](#)

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, Mashriq'u-Adhkar of Chile](#) / Oct. 13-16

Santiago, Chile

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

San Antonio, Texas, USA

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Wilmette Institute Links

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[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](#)
['Irfan Colloquium](#)
[Louhelen Baha'i School](#)
[Louis G. Gregory Museum](#)
[U.S. Baha'i Distribution Service](#)

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 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 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

[U.S. National Baha'i Library
Unity Museum](#)
[Worldwide Baha'i Community](#)

Mark Your Calendar

October 7 - November 24, 2016

[Native American Religions and Spirituality](#)

October 10 - November 27, 2016

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

October 15 - December 2, 2016

[The Advent of Divine Justice](#)

October 25 - December 12, 2016

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

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 2016 - April 2017 Course Schedule

Below is the Wilmette Institute's course schedule for December 2016 through April 2017. The schedule is subject to change. The 2017 listing is still partial.

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

NEW COURSE

January 13 - February 24, 2017
Criando uma Vida Matrimonial, Familiar e
Comunitária Coerente (in Portuguese; Brazil only)

January 22 - March 4, 2017
Bahá'u'lláh's Early Mystic Writings

January 25 - March 10, 2017

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)



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](#)

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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Science and Religion

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

NEW COURSE

February 7 - March 28, 2017
Introduction to the Life of Bahá'u'lláh

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

February 22 - April 16, 2017
Applying Bahá'í Principles to Discourses on
Governance in the United States

March 1 - April 26, 2017
Century of Light

March 7 - May 26, 2017
Creating a Fortress for Well-Being and Salvation

March 10 - April 10, 2017
The Badi` Calendar: Reshaping our Material,
Social and Spiritual Reality

March 15 - May 3, 2017
The Bahá'í Faith and the Arts

March 22 - June 2, 2017
Economics and the Bahá'í Faith

March 30 - May 12, 2017
Thinking of Relationships and Marriage?

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

April 7 - May 25, 2017
Bahá'í Spirituality

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

April 15 - May 15, 2017
Climate Change

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

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