



# June 2016 eNewsletter

Your Monthly Source for Upcoming Courses, Webinars, News, Web Talks, Actions Learners Are Taking, and Dates for Upcoming Talks and Conferences



## Letter from the Universal House of Justice

The Universal House of Justice continues to heap bounties on the Baha'is of the world with letters, this time elaborating on 'Abdu'l-Baha's wish in the Tablets of the Divine plan that the friends travel "toward the East and toward the West and enlighten the people with the light of the Most Great Guidance, so that they may take a portion and share of eternal life." One field of service is in the international field of pioneering, in areas to be identified by the International Teaching Center, with the hope that by the end of the Five Year Plan there will be "at least one well-advanced intensive program of growth in every country of the world" where it is possible. The other pioneering imperative is on the home front, where home-front pioneers will be guided by the "requirements set out" in the December 29, 2015, message from the House of Justice. [READ>>](#)

## Wilmette Institute News

**Sign Up Now for the June 5 Web Talk Featuring Trip Barthel Discussing "Creativity in Consultation"**



See how creativity and meditation can aid you in your Spiritual Assembly meetings and other consultative groups. You still have a few days left in which to sign up for Trip Barthel's June 5 Web Talk. [READ>>](#)

**Planning Ahead for Wilmette Institute Web Talks**

Update your planner with information on upcoming (free) WebTalks. Now some of the talks begin with musical devotions, thus incorporating the arts into the talks and discussions. [READ>>](#)

**Recharge Your Firesides and Deepenings with Wilmette Institute Web Talks**

To provide variety for your firesides, deepenings, and personal deepening, consider choosing a Wilmette Institute Web Talk. You can pick your topic and listen at any time on the Institute's YouTube channel. For a list and links, [READ>>](#)

## June - August 2016 Courses

Prepare yourself for discussing Islam with friends and colleagues

### Islam for Deepening and Dialogue

Another in a series in an integrated approach to studying world religions

*Lead Faculty:* [Susan Maneck](#)  
*Faculty:* [Necati Alkan](#), [Lil Abdo Osborne](#)

**Duration of course:** Seven weeks (June 7 - July 26, 2016)



In **Islam for Deepening and Dialogue** we will begin with a survey of the life of Muhammad, a Manifestation of God, and a review of the origins, development, and content of the Qur'an, including the teachings and practices of Islam. We will then examine the Sunni/Shiite split over issues of succession and authority and discuss Islamic mysticism, or Sufism, and the Sufi poetic tradition. Finally, we will turn to contemporary Islam and to Islam and other religions, including the Baha'i Faith. With ongoing anti-Islamic sentiment throughout the world, there is no better time to

improve our understanding of one of the world's most important and influential religions and to prepare for discussing it with Christian and Muslim friends and neighbors.

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

Learn new skills that you can use in any consultative situation

### Dynamic Consultation

A course in a series on skills development

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

**Duration of course:** Eight weeks (June 15 - August 11, 2016)

In **Dynamic Consultation** we will bring together the principles of Baha'i consultation with the practices of mediation and facilitation. The course is designed to promote unity and action in the community through teaching the art and science of consultation in practical skill-based exercises. In seven units we will discuss (1) engaging by meeting and greeting; (2) empathizing by feeling and

## Contributions to Public Discourse

### IEF Climate Change Course Now Available in Spanish Plus French and English

The International Environment Forum has recently posted on its website a Spanish translation of its climate-change course, joining its English and French versions and providing do-it-yourself courses that also work for youth, Baha'i groups, and interfaith gatherings looking for ways to add their voices and actions to limiting the effects of climate change. [READ>>](#)

### Luminous Journey, Film about 'Abdu'l-Baha, Aired on VOA Persian Service in Iran

The Voice of America Persian Service aired an abbreviated version of the documentary film *Luminous Journey: 'Abdu'l-Baha in America*, at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 30, in Tehran. [READ>>](#)



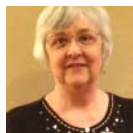
### The Parliament of the World's Religions Issues Statement of Concern of the Persecution of Seven Baha'i Leaders

To mark the eighth anniversary on May 14 of the imprisonment of seven Baha'i leaders in Iran, the Parliament of the World's Religions (PWR) posted on its website on May 12 a [Statement of Concern on Religious Persecution: After 8 Years of Imprisonment of 7 Baha'i Leaders](#). The statement, the first such comment on the persecution of the Baha'is in Iran issued by the PWR, begins with a preface by Parliament Executive Director Dr. Larry Greenfield. The seven Baha'i prisoners were part of the "Yaran" or "Friends in Iran," who looked after the spiritual and social needs of the 300,000-member Baha'i community in Iran.

## Learners in Action

### Reflections on the Climate Change 2016 Course

A learner from Ohio shares how the Climate Change course is helping her in her personal transformation (think becoming vegetarian among other things) and giving her ideas about contributing to community building. [READ>>](#)



### Art Project Captures Essence of 2015 Becoming a Couple Course



It took eight months for Davina Jones, a Baha'i born in Botswana and now living in California, to complete her art project for the **Becoming a Couple** course.

Taking her inspiration from 'Abdu'l-Baha's "God has created such union and harmony between man and wife," Davina chose magnolia blossoms, which are a symbol of eternal fidelity. The image of the clasped hands is based on a photograph she took of her hand in her boyfriend's. She worked in colored pencils, chalk, and oil pastels. [CLICK HERE>>](#)

## News

### What Does the Baha'i Chair for World Peace Do?

If you have ever wondered what



connecting, and exploring by learning and knowing; (3) envisioning by framing and focusing; (4) expanding with creativity and diversity; (5) elucidating virtues and principles; (6) evaluating options and criteria, and executing via action and unity; and (7) examining with reflection and growth. The course's aim is to enable learners to apply the skills at Feasts, in Spiritual

Assembly and committee meetings, in reflection gatherings, as well as in family or work settings. The course is based on a textbook available at <http://www.dynamicconsultation.org/dc/Workshops.html>; it will also be available through the course website.

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

Review principles leading from the present chaos to world peace to prepare for meaningful conversations with friends

## The World Order of Baha'u'llah: Selected Letters

One in a series exploring the ministry and writings of Shoghi Effendi

Lead Faculty: [Ed DiLiberto](#)

Faculty: [Nicola Daniels](#)

Duration of course: Eight weeks (June 22 - August 18, 2016)



**The World Order of Baha'u'llah: Selected Letters**, a compilation of letters written by Shoghi Effendi, identify the essential character and distinguishing features of the Baha'i Faith in contrast to other political and religious systems. In studying the letters, we will examine what Shoghi Effendi identifies as the defects of the prevailing world order, the guiding principles of the Baha'i system that will bring about World Order, and the necessary steps world leaders must take to rectify these defects. We will also study what Shoghi Effendi says about the

ordeals we must traverse in order to realize a new phase in human thought and the important role that North America is to play before we reach the peaceful settlement of world affairs. This course is designed to strengthen our understanding of the times in which we live and our certainty that humankind will pass through a daunting period of world history, knowing that world peace, the dream of the great thinkers of all ages, is not only possible but inevitable.

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

Survey Baha'u'llah's revelation, and find the key to individual and collective transformation

## Baha'u'llah's Revelation: An Introduction

One in a series exploring the revelation of Baha'u'llah

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

Faculty: [William Collins](#) [Daniel Gebhardt](#)

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

In **Baha'u'llah's Revelation: An Introduction**, we will undertake a systematic introduction to twenty of Baha'u'llah's most important works, ranging from The Hidden Words to Epistle to the Son of the Wolf. We will study themes in the works, topics that Baha'u'llah progressively revealed during His ministry, and related tablets wherever possible. The course is designed for learners seeking basic information about the writings of Baha'u'llah, new Baha'is wishing more context for Baha'u'llah's most important works, and veteran Baha'is seeking deeper

the Baha'i Chair for World Peace at the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, does, here is your chance. The [Baha'i Chair for World Peace Newsletter: 2015, A Year in Review](#) summarizes seven talks, three symposia, the Peace Conference, a new course on prejudice, and the publication of *The Promise of World Peace* in ten languages.



### Rising Together: Building the Capacity to Recover from Within--A New BIC Statement

Anyone who has pondered how the capacities needed to grow from milestone to milestone in cluster development will look in practice needs to read the Baha'i International Community's new statement addressed to the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey. Called [Rising Together: Building the Capacity to Recover from Within](#), the statement shows how the skills and the cohesion Baha'i communities are building look in good times and bad.

### Groundbreaking for Local House of Worship in Norte del Cauca, Colombia

Devotions; talks by dignitaries, representative of Baha'i institutions, and the mayor; and a very special symbolic ceremonial burying of soil (a symbol of freedom) from sixty communities marked the [groundbreaking for the local House of Worship](#) called for by the Universal House of Justice in 2012. The area was settled by former slaves, Afro-Colombians, who settled the area in the nineteenth century. The [design](#) was released in 2014.



## Web Talks/Webinars on Consultation, Baha'i Law, and the Hands of the Cause of God

[Wilmette Institute Web Talks](#) / June 5

Trip Barthel  
"Creative Consultation"

[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"

## Conferences on Consultation, the Tablets of the Divine Plan, Sustainable Life Styles and Urban Communities, Persian Culture, Meaningful Work Places, Religion

['Irfan Colloquia / Acuto, Italy](#) / Jun. 29-July 4

Celebrating the Centenary of the Tablets of the Divine Plan  
Centre for Baha'i Studies, Persian

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

Celebrating the Centenary of the Tablets of the



understanding of the ocean of Baha'u'llah's revelation. We will not read the twenty works in their entirety but, rather, will sample passages from the selection of important works revealed by Baha'u'llah.

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

Find out how a study of the Old Testament prepares you for interfaith dialogue

## Exploring the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament)

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

Lead Faculty: [Ted Brownstein](#)

Duration of course: Eight weeks (July 1 - August 17, 2016)



The Hebrew Bible (also called the Old Testament) is a collection of writings sacred to Jews and Christians. It includes historical accounts, prophetic utterances, sacred stories, poetry, hymns, and a variety of other material. In **Exploring the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament)**, we will survey the Hebrew Bible's major books (including selections from the Pentateuch, the earlier and later prophets, the Psalms, and other writings) in the light of progressive revelation and in the historical contexts that they depict. We will also compare the Hebrew Bible with Baha'i scripture, paying particular attention to passages

in the Hebrew Bible that have been "unsealed" (authoritatively interpreted) by the Baha'i revelation. Studying the Hebrew Bible in the light of the Baha'i writings aims to confirm one's faith and to provide opportunities for sharing the Baha'i revelation with others.

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

What is America's role in bringing about world unity?

## The Destiny of America

One in a series of courses on global civilization

Lead Faculty: [Christopher Buck](#)

Faculty: [Reba Carruth](#)

Duration of course: Eight weeks (July 15 - September 6, 2016)



In **The Destiny of America** we will examine the visions of America offered by the Baha'i Faith and some other religious traditions. We will start by reviewing the writings of the Bab, Baha'u'llah, 'Abdu'l-Baha, and Shoghi Effendi about the 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](#) [Register](#) [Financial Aid](#)

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

[2016 ABS Conference / Montreal, Quebec](#) / Aug. 11-14

Now open for [registration](#), [printable registration forms](#), and [hotel reservations](#).

[Association of Friends of Persian Culture Conference](#) / Sept. 1-4

Schaumburg Hotel & Convention Center, Schaumburg, Illinois.

[BNASAA Conference 2016](#) / Bosch Baha'i School / Sept. 8-11

Baha'i Network for AIDS, Sexuality, addictions, and Abuse Conference  
Bosch Baha'i School, Santa Cruz, California.  
Registration not open.

[Baha'i Chair for World Peace Conference](#) / Maryland / Sept. 28-29

Learning Outside the Lines: A Conference on Children and Youth in an Interconnected World  
University of Maryland, College Park, 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  
Bucharest, Romania

['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](#), Bolivia / Oct.. 7-9

Focus on Responsible and Sustainable Lifestyles, Values and Education, and Sustainable Urban Communities  
Nur University, Santa Cruz, Bolivia

[Dedication, Mashriq'u'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.

Like us on Facebook 

Follow us on twitter 

What does Baha'u'llah say about interfaith dialogue? Hinduism? Zoroastrianism?

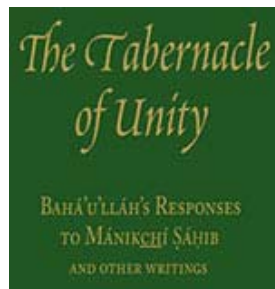
## Tabernacle of Unity

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.

[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](#)

Find us on 

## 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](#)  
['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

**September 1 - October 19, 2016**

[Practicing the Arts: A Workshop Course for Baha'i Artists](#)

**September 2 - October 4, 2016**

[Consulting and Problem-Solving as a Couple](#)

**September 7 - October 25, 2016**

[Rediscovering the Dawnbreakers](#)

**September 10 - October 28, 2016**

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

**September 15 - November 2, 2016**

[Buddhism for Deepening and Dialogue](#)

**September 22 - December 22, 2016**

[How to Organize and Maintain a Baha'i Archive](#)

**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**

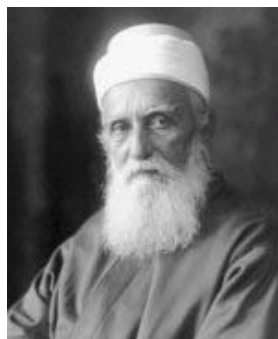
[Charters of the Faith](#)

## November 2016 - April 2017 Course Schedule

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

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](#)

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## 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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YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/WilmetteInstitute>

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[www.bahai.us](http://www.bahai.us)

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

**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

January 7 - February 24, 2017

Finding the Hidden Gift: An Approach to Studying  
the Bahá'í Writings

January 22 - March 4, 2017

Bahá'u'lláh'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

Introduction to the Life of Bahá'u'lláh

February 15 - April 4, 2017

Islam for Deepening and Dialogue

February 22 to 04/16/17

Applying Bahá'í Principles to Discourses on  
Governance in the United States

March 1 - April 26, 2017

Century of Light

March 10 - April 10, 2017

The Badi` Calendar

March 15 - May 3, 2017

The Bahá'í Faith and the Arts

March 22 - June 2, 2017

Economics and the Bahá'í Faith

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

National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States | 1233 Central Street | Evanston | IL | 60201