

YouTube channel. For a list and links, [READ>>](#)

Letter to the Editor from ebbf

Last month we published a short article on the upcoming ebbf conference (Milan, Italy, May 12-15) called "Consultation: Beyond Decision-Making: A Tool for Learning." Daniel Truran, the director of the organization, has written: "Thank you for the mention of the next ebbf annual event on consultation in your always rich newsletter. I keep being amazed by just how much content and great opportunities for elevated insights you keep producing." Thank you ebbf!

Six Words Describing the Wilmette Institute

In 2015 the Wilmette Institute invited six-word essays as part of its twentieth-anniversary celebration. They are still coming in. Laura Caro, from Wheaton, Illinois, has sent this one: "*Never fail to learn something amazing!*"

Learners in Action

The Badi' Calendar and Naw-Ruz: Learning That Keeps On Giving

The new Badi' calendar becomes a vehicle for transforming a Naw-Ruz celebration in New York state into a vehicle for learning more about the calendar and the opportunities for aspirational change as one reflects on the attributes of God each day. [READ>>](#)

The Ministry of Shoghi Effendi Course: Gives New Understandings about His Life

A learner from Maryland set out to learn more about Shoghi Effendi and shares what she learned about the Guardianship (as opposed to the man Shoghi Effendi); the role his wife Ruhyyih Khanum played; and the Sacred Geometry of the Guardian's record keeping. She also shares how she is putting her learnings to work in her every-day life. [READ>>](#)

Is Happiness a Definable Goal in Health? Thoughts from the Health Care and Social Action Course

A learner in the new **Health Care and Social Action** course muses about how happiness (as opposed to non-depression) could become a goal of healthcare professionals. [READ>>](#)

News

Centenary of the Tablets of Divine Plan: The Theme for the July 2016 'Irfan Conference in Italy

See the list of presenters and titles of the diverse presentations scheduled for the July 5-8, 2016, 'Irfan conference in Acuto, Italy, and make your airplane reservations for a stimulating gathering. [READ>>](#)

Dr. Daniel C. Jordan Papers Given to the Stanford University Libraries

In February 2016 Dr. Daniel C. Jordan's widow gave to the Stanford University Libraries a large collection of her husband's materials on education, human development, and the Anisa Project. But there is a second archives that also contains Jordan's papers. [READ>>](#)

Web Talks/Webinars on the Nature

Formative Age

One in a series of courses on Baha'i teachings on community and administration

Lead Faculty: [Niki Daniels](#)

Faculty: [Farzin Aghdasi](#), [Mat Cotton](#), [Sherna Deamer](#), [Joan Lincoln](#)

Duration of course: One month (May 10 - June 10, 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 participate in interfaith dialogue in a learning mode to enhance public discourse about the role of religion in society

Preparing for Interfaith Dialogue

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

Lead Faculty: [Barney Leith](#)

Faculty: [Ted Brownstein](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (May 15 - July 2, 2016)



At a time when the "world devouring fire" of religious fanaticism is spreading and fundamentalism is rife, while, simultaneously, growing numbers of people consider themselves "spiritual but not religious," the need for Baha'is to engage in fruitful interfaith dialogue is growing. In **Preparing for Interfaith Dialogue** we will explore how Baha'is can participate in dialogue with people of all faiths and none, respectfully and in "learning mode"--avoiding what might be called "Baha'i triumphalism"--such that "Souls then advance their understanding together, humbly sharing the insights each possesses at a given moment and eagerly seeking to learn from fellow wayfarers on the path of service." Inspired by Baha'u'llah's call to "Consort with the followers of all religions in a spirit of friendliness and fellowship," we will draw on Baha'i and other resources to learn about theoretical and practical aspects of local interfaith dialogue. We will also look at the importance of public discourse about the role of religion in society during the new Five Year Plan. We will focus on sharing ideas, insights, and perspectives on interfaith relations as we broaden our understandings and enrich our collective experiences and wisdom.

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

Learn more about the writings of the Bab to prepare for the 200th anniversary of His birth

The Writings of the Bab

A course exploring the writings of the Bab

Lead Faculty: [Moojan Momen](#)

Faculty: [Steven Phelps](#)

of the Manifestations, Spiritual Economy, Consultation, Baha'i Law, and the Hands of the Cause of God

[Wilmette Institute Web Talks](#) / May 8

Stephen Phelps

"I Am the Mystic Fane: The Nature of the Manifestation in the Baha'i Writings"

[Association for Baha'i Studies](#) / May 19

Lawrence Miller

"The Path to Spiritual Economy and Spiritual Enterprise"

[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, and Religion

[ebbf Conference / Milan, Italy](#) / May 12-15

"Consultation: Beyond Decision-Making: A Tool for Learning"

['Irfan Colloquia / Santa Cruz, CA](#) / May 26-30

Celebrating the Centenary of the Tablets of the Divine Plan
Bosch Baha'i School, English and Persian

['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 Divine Plan
Centre for Baha'i Studies, English
See story in "News" section above

['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](#).

['Irfan Colloquia / Davison, Michigan](#) / Oct. 6-9

Celebrating the Centenary of the Tablets of the Divine Plan
Louhelen Baha'i School, English and Persian

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

Santiago, Chile

Duration of course: Seven weeks (May 22 - July 9, 2016)



The Writings of the Bab is an introduction to the Bab's principal writings. Our study will be both historical and thematic: We will study the Bab's writings in the order in which He revealed them (between 1844 and 1850), and we will also focus on selected themes--the station of the Bab, His major teachings, His announcement about Baha'u'llah (His prophetic successor Whom He referred to as "He Whom God will make manifest"), and the role the themes played in preparing for the revelation of Baha'u'llah. 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 (Dala'il-i-Sab'ih); the Persian Bayan (Bayan-i-Farsi); the Arabic Bayan (al-Bayan al-'Arabi); the Book of Names (Kitabu'l-Asma'); and the Book of Five Grades (Kitab-i-Panj-Sha'n). There will be an opportunity to read the works of a number of scholars who have studied the writings of the Bab.

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

NEW COURSE

Learn how to build a positive relationship that might lead to a positive, service-oriented marriage

Thinking of Relationships and Marriage?

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

Lead Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)

Faculty: [Alex Blakeson](#), [Hoda Kemp](#), [Wendi Momen](#), [Raymond Switzer](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (May 27 - July 14, 2016)



You may be uncertain about being in a relationship and also be thinking, "Why get married?" Come explore and learn new perspectives and ways of preparing for positive experiences. It can be a natural part of your life journey to establish a close connection with someone. **Thinking of Relationships and Marriage?** will help you navigate through a coherent process of building a friendship, assessing character, understanding male-female relationships, and being of service. Your learning will position you to make significant decisions about courtship and the broader horizon of marriage. This course is intended *primarily* for single individuals not yet in a relationship or individuals or couples in a relationship; others are welcome.

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

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.

[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.

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Wilmette Institute Links

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[Wilmette Institute Course Delivery System](#)
[Wilmette Institute Student Projects](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Reference Materials](#)
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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](#)
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[Unity Museum](#)
[Worldwide Baha'i Community](#)

[Mark Your Calendar](#)

August 1 - September 17, 2016
[The Tabernacle of Unity](#)

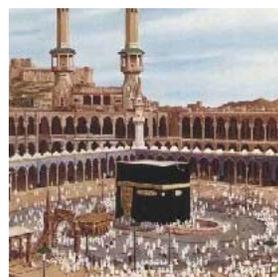
August 20 - October 7, 2016
[Building a World Federation: An Idea Whose Time Has Come](#)

August 25 - October 12, 2016
['Abdu'l-Baha: His Life and Ministry](#)

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](#)



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: Nine weeks (June 15 - August 9, 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 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 9, 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 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

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 - December 2016 Course Schedule

Below is the Wilmette Institute's course schedule for September through December 2016. The schedule is subject to change.

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 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

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 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 (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 among other minority religions in the United States.

[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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