

Learners in Action

"Islam: An Exploration" PowerPoint Shared with Community Fireside

Working together, a group in New York State that was taking the course **Islam for Deepening and Dialogue** put together a 42-slide PowerPoint with sections contributed by four of the group members. See how much information the group collected as they accompanied each other on a journey to learn more about Islam. [READ>>](#)



Healing and Hope Come to a Youth through the 2013 Youth Conferences and the Relationships and Marriage Course

Read what a youth from Australia learned about herself in the **Thinking of Relationships and Marriage?** course and how, with new learnings from the course and a passage from the 2013 Youth conference materials, she charted a new journey for herself in a poem. [READ>>](#)

A Young Adult Expresses Her New Understanding of Marriage in a Painting

A third-generation Baha'i captures her new understanding of the spiritual complexity of marriage in an as-yet-unnamed painting and shares which Baha'i writings helped her in her creative process. [READ>>](#)



News

7th Annual Artists & Scholars Symposium, February 17-19, 2017

The Call for Papers for the Artists & Scholars Symposium held annually at Desert Rose Baha'i Institute in Arizona is out, and it's time to start making plans for presenting and attending. Click on the link for more details. [READ>>](#)



2016 ABS Conference Plenary Session Videos Now Available

The Association for Baha'i Studies Executive Committee has announced that videos of the 2016 ABS conference plenary sessions are now available for online viewing and free download on the ABS website <http://bahai-studies.ca/proceedings-and-recordings/>. Included are three talks (The Intellectual Life of the Baha'i Community; Baha'i-inspired Education; and Text, Translation, and the Nature of Reality). The three panels discuss Technologies and Values; Citizenship and Participation; and Social Justice and Education.

Call for Papers for a Special Issue of e*lix*ir

Sandra Lynn Hutchison, Editor, elixir-journal.org, is planning a special Spring issue of e*lix*ir on the theme of Mount Carmel, "the Hill of God and His Vineyard." She welcomes literary submissions (poems, stories, essays, high-quality memoirs) and visual art relating to this holy mountain.



In **The Baha'i Faith and Philosophy**, we will explore the relationship between the Baha'i teachings and many eternal human questions, such as metaphysics (the system of principles underlying a particular study or subject), religion and spirituality, epistemology (how we know something), ethics, social philosophy, aesthetics and self-expression, and the philosophy of law, education, politics, love, and humanity.

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

NEW COURSE

Revisit the peace statement to see how you can draw on it for contributions to the prevalent discourses around you

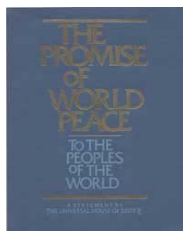
The Promise of World Peace

A course in a series on the writings of the Universal House of Justice

Lead Faculty: [Barney Leith](#)

Faculty: [Dan Wheatley](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (November 10 - December 28, 2016)



In 1985 the Universal House of Justice issued *The Promise of World Peace*, the first in a series of ground-breaking documents that address humankind's situation and needs. Three decades later the message, known to many as "the peace statement," is as cogent and urgent as ever with the world increasingly embroiled in conflict, whether "hot" or "cold," involving disputes over territory, nationalist ambitions, religious inspiration, tribal conflicts increasingly involving terrorist organizations, fundamentalist religious and ideological groups, nationalist groups, and so on. As the Universal House of Justice wrote in 1985: "Whether peace is to be reached only after unimaginable horrors precipitated by humanity's stubborn clinging to old patterns of behavior, or is to be embraced now by an act of consultative will, is the choice before all who inhabit the earth. At this critical juncture when the intractable problems confronting nations have been fused into one common concern for the whole world, failure to stem the tide of conflict and disorder would be unconscionably irresponsible." Much progress has been made, but the governments of the world and the United Nations have failed to stem "the tide of conflict and disorder." In our study of the statement we will consider what changes have taken place in the world since 1985, for good and for ill, and will familiarize ourselves with the document's themes and arguments so that we can draw on them in our contributions to public discourse and our conversations with those we encounter in our daily lives.

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

Delve deeper into an issue of equality that has a multitude of ramifications for world unity

The Equality of Women and Men: Application in Private and Public Life

One in a series of courses on global civilization

Lead Faculty: [Vasu Mohan](#)

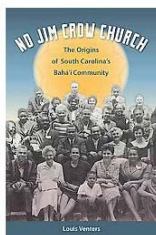
Faculty: [Anne Pearson](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (November 15 - January 2, 2017)

In **The Equality of Women and Men: Application in Private and Public Life**

Deadline: April 1, 2017. Submit to sandrahutchison19@hotmail.com.

Louis Venters' No Jim Crow Church Now Out in Paperback



The University of Florida Press has recently released Louis Venters' popular *No Jim Crow Church: The Origins of South Carolina's Baha'i Community* in paperback for \$27.95. Author Paul Harvey wrote that the book is

"A richly detailed study of the rise of the Baha'i Faith in South Carolina. There isn't another study out there even remotely like this one." Dr. Robert H. Stockman [reviewed the book](#) in an earlier eNewsletter. Dr. Venters will be speaking about his book in his Wilmette Institute [Web Talk](#) on December 4.

Web Talks/Webinars on Sexism and Power; Baha'u'llah's Suriy-i-Muluk; South Carolina Baha'is; Baha'i Perspectives on Globalization, Economics, and the Qur'an; and More

[Baha'i Chair for World Peace](#) / Nov. 1, 2016
May A. Rihani, Director of the George and Lisa Zakhem Gibran Chair for Values and Peace, University of Maryland
"Sexism, Gender Roles, and Their Intersection with Power"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / Nov. 27
Shahrokh Monjazebeh
"A Divine Proclamation Like No Other: Baha'u'llah's Epistle of Kings"

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

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / Jan. 15, 2017
Annette Reynolds
"Trudy [White] and Baha'is Spiritual Path in South Carolina"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / Feb. 12, 2017
Greg Dahl
"Globalization and Current Events--A Baha'i Perspective"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / Mar. 12, 2017
Houshmand Badee
"Is There a Baha'i Economic System?"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / April 2, 2017
Todd Lawson
"The Baha'i Faith and the Qur'an"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / May 14, 2017
Jena Khodadad
"The Hand of the Cause of God Zikrullah Khadem and the Ministry of the Custodians"

[Wilmette Institute Web Talk](#) / June 11, 2017



we will aim to acquire a deeper understanding of the Baha'i principle of the equality of women and men and to explore its application in personal transformation, family life, workplace, and Baha'i communities and in engaging with elevated conversations and public discourses. We will address topics such as the nature of human identity and the

acquisition of self-knowledge; equality in the family; transforming economic structures and processes; women's role in building peace, security, and governance; eliminating violence against women; men and boys as partners in achieving equality; and the important role played by the media. We will draw on the Baha'i writings, social science and policy research, and analysis and commentary from a variety of sources. Special emphasis will be placed on role models and champions of equality from Baha'i history, including 'Abdu'l-Baha and the Greatest Holy Leaf, and case studies of successful initiatives and communities working toward gender equality in the private and public spheres. Participation from both male and female learners is strongly encouraged to maximize opportunities for learning.

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

NEW WEBINAR

Prepare for the 200th anniversary of Baha'u'llah's birth with a new webinar course on His first proclamation to the kings of the world

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

A course in a series exploring the revelation of Baha'u'llah

Lead Faculty: [Shahrokh Monjazebeh](#)
Faculty: [Christopher Buck](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (November 27 - January 15, 2017)



Sultan Abdul-Aziz

The year 2016 marks the 150th anniversary of the revelation of Baha'u'llah's seminal proclamatory work, the Suriy-i-Muluk, which set the stage for future summons by Him to all the major political leaders of the nineteenth century. Baha'u'llah wrote this lengthy and monumental epistle during His banishment to the remote Turkish city of Edirne and while He was engulfed in severe attacks from within the Babi community contesting His leadership and undermining His divine mission. In this course we will examine closely relevant topics, such as those addressed in the text of the tablet; the impact of this very challenging summons on the political landscape of Europe and the Middle East; and how its spiritual repercussions are still being felt today in the global political arena. Our study will include four webinars.

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

Make good on your promise to write a history of your community or of a Baha'i special to you

[Writing Biographies and Histories](#)

One of several courses on skills development

Michael Penn

"A Philosophy of Mind Grounded in Relationships:
A Baha'i-Inspired Perspective"

Conferences on AIDS, Sexuality, Addictions, and Abuse; Religions; Our Place in the Natural World; Harnessing Diversity; and 200th Anniversary of the Birth of Baha'u'llah

[2016 Baha'i Network for AIDS, Sexuality, Addictions, and Abuse Southern Conference](#) /

Nov. 3-6, 2016

Magdalene Carney Baha'i Institute
West Palm Beach, FL, USA

[American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature](#) / Nov. 19-22, 2016

San Antonio, Texas, USA

[Artists & Scholars Symposium](#) / Feb. 17-19, 2017

Theme: "Our Place in the Natural World"

Call for papers: deadline Jan. 15, 2017

Desert Rose Baha'i Institute, Eloy, AZ, USA

[ebbf \(Ethical Business Building the Future, Beyond Diversity\)](#) / May 4-7, 2017

ebbf's 27th International Learning Event

"Understanding and Harnessing Diversity"

Geneva, Switzerland

['Irfan Colloquia](#) / May 25-28, 2017

"Bicentennial Celebration of the Birth of Baha'u'llah" (English & Persian)

Bosch Baha'i School, Santa Cruz, CA, USA

['Irfan Colloquia](#) / June 28-July 4, 2017

"Bicentennial Celebration of the Birth of Baha'u'llah" (Persian)

Centre for Baha'i Studies, Acuto, Italy

['Irfan Colloquia](#) / July 5-9, 2017

"Bicentennial Celebration of the Birth of Baha'u'llah" (English)

Centre for Baha'i Studies, Acuto, Italy

['Irfan Colloquia](#) / July 20-23, 2017

"Bicentennial Celebration of the Birth of Baha'u'llah" (German)

Tambach Seminar Center, Tambach, Germany

['Irfan Colloquia](#) / October 5-8, 2017

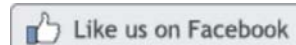
"Bicentennial Celebration of the Birth of Baha'u'llah" (English & Persian)

Louhelen Baha'i School, Davison MI, 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.



Lead Faculty: [Robert Stockman](#)

Faculty: [Thelma Batchelor](#), [Roger Dahl](#), [Richard Hollinger](#), [Adam Thorne](#)

Duration of course: Eight weeks (December 1 - January 17, 2017)



Writing Biographies and Histories is designed to help Baha'is who wish to write the history of their local community, compose a memoir about their own lives, or produce a biography of someone. Units in the first half of the course will cover such topics as selecting a topic and settling on an audience; the philosophy and ethics of writing biographies and history; collecting oral history; research in archives and libraries and on the web;

organizing notes and outlining the topic. In the second half of the course, participants will pursue a research and writing project, advised by the faculty. The Wilmette Institute may be interested in publishing some short histories, biographies, and memoirs on its public website.

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

Increase your understanding of the "source and background" of the Baha'i Faith

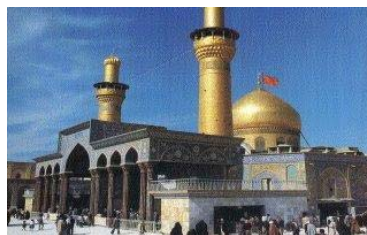
Introduction to Shi`i Islam

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

Lead Faculty: [Moojan Momen](#)

Faculty: [Daniel Pschaida](#), [Peter Smith](#)

Duration of course: Eight weeks (December 20 - February 6, 2017)



Shoghi Effendi states that the Baha'i Faith started as "a heterodox and seemingly negligible offshoot of the Shaykhi school of the Ithna-'Ashariyyih sect of Shi`ah Islam" (*God Passes By* xii). He also said that Baha'is "must strive to obtain, from sources that are authoritative and unbiased, a sound knowledge of the history and tenets of Islam--the source and background of their Faith" (*The*

Advent of Divine Justice 75: 49). In this course we will focus on Shi`ism, and, especially, on the Ithna-'Ashariyyih (or Twelver) school of Shi`ah Islam. We will also examine the history of this sect and its distinctive teachings. In particular, we will look at the split into Sunni and Shi`ah in Islamic history, the history and doctrine of the Imamate, the Twelfth Imam, and the developments in Shi`ism that led to the Babi and Baha'i Faiths.

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

NEW COURSE

Connecting with the joy and laughter that draws seekers to the Baha'i Faith and enlivens Baha'i communities

Creating Unity with Friendship, Fun, Social Vitality, and Laughter

A course on relationships and community life

Lead Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)

Faculty: [Wendi Momen](#)

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](#)
[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

February 1 - March 7, 2017
[Introduction to the New Testament](#)

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: Strengthening Your Marriage](#)

March 22 - June 2, 2017
[Economics and the Baha'i Faith](#)

March 31 - May 12, 2017
[Thinking of Relationships and Marriage?](#)

April - September 2017 Course Schedule

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

April 1 - May 18, 2017

Duration of course: Seven weeks (December 30, 2016 - February 17, 2017)



'Abdu'l-Baha tells us to "laugh, smile and rejoice in order that others may be made happy by you" (*The Promulgation of Universal Peace* 218). In **Creating Unity with Friendship, Fun, Social Vitality, and Laughter**, come build unified friendships, relationships, marriages, and communities with this light-hearted skill-building course. Expand your ability to deepen friendships, have fun together, extend hospitality, share humorous stories, take a lighter approach to challenges, and more. The course is excellent preparation for couple dates, neighborhood and family activities, and social events. Please invite your friends.

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

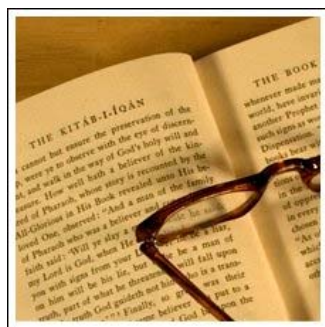
Expand your capacity for reading and understanding the Baha'i writings

Finding the Hidden Gift: An Approach to Studying the Baha'i Writings

A course exploring the Baha'i writings in general

Lead Faculty: [Sandra Lynn Hutchison](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (January 7 - February 24, 2017)



Finding the Hidden Gift: An Approach to Studying the Baha'i Writings introduces learners to a systematic method of studying any Baha'i scripture by using a number of literary and exegetical tools. We will study selected passages from Baha'i scripture through four "windows" into the meaning of divine wisdom: Language; Theme; Structure; and the Work as a Whole. Through learning to read carefully, with attention to literal and figurative language, theme, structure, and the place of the work in the author's writings, we will develop tools for analyzing any Baha'i text systematically. The course will also examine

quickly five other "windows" into the meaning of scripture: the oeuvre (body of works), the biography, the times, the literary tradition, and the world scriptural tradition.

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

NEW COURSE

Learn why agriculture is essential for reconstructing the world and how you can make it part of your core activities

Baha'i Perspectives on Agriculture and Food

One in a series of courses exploring aspects of a global civilization

Lead Faculty: [Paul Hanley](#)
 Faculty: [Arthur Lyon Dahl](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (January 15 - March 5, 2017)

Native American Religion and Spirituality

April 2 - April 23, 2017

The Qur'an and the Baha'i Faith

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

Science and Religion

May 1 - June 1, 2017

The Mashriqu'l-Adkar: The First Hundred Years

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, 1863-2017

May 25 - July 13, 2017

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

June 2 - July 7, 2017

Home of Love: Marriage, Family, and Community

June 7 - July 26, 2017

Baha'i Spirituality

June 20 - August 8, 2017

The Promised Day Is Come

June 25 - August 12, 2017

The Baha'i Faith: A Comprehensive Introduction

July 1 - August 18, 2017

Some Answered Questions

July 15 - September 1, 2017

Dynamic Consultation

July 21 - September 15, 2017

Are We Ready for Marriage?

August 1 - September 17, 2017

The Kitab-i-Iqan

August 20 - October 7, 2017

Building a World Federation: The Key to Resolving our Global Crises

August 25 - October 12, 2017

Zoroastrianism for Deepening and Dialogue

September 1 - October 19, 2017

Practicing the Arts: A Workshop for Baha'i Artists

September 8 - October 13, 2017

Navigating Marriage Challenges

September 10 - October 28, 2017

Sustainable Development and the Prosperity of Humankind



Baha'u'llah describes agriculture as "a vital and important matter" that is foremost among the principles for "the advancement of mankind and the reconstruction of the world." Yet current agricultural policy often prioritizes yield and profit over health and sustainability, while the poor struggle to feed themselves, and climate change makes farming increasingly unpredictable. These and other factors threaten food security. In **Baha'i Perspectives on Agriculture and Food**, we will examine the

teachings of the Baha'i Faith on agriculture, food, and rural development; relate these teachings to contemporary public discourse on these issues; and suggest ways in which agricultural activities can be incorporated into the core activities, community-building, and emerging social action.

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

Delve into what Baha'u'llah says about the individual's relationship to spiritual reality

Baha'u'llah's Early Mystic Writings

A course exploring one aspect of the revelation of Baha'u'llah

Lead Faculty: [Necati Alkan](#)

Faculty: [Christopher Buck](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (January 22 - March 4, 2017)



In *Baha'u'llah's Early Mystic Writings* we will explore a theme that dominates Baha'u'llah's early writings and continues throughout His revelation: the relationship of the individual to spiritual reality--to God, to spiritual truths, to principles of personal development, and to laws of conduct. We will explore Baha'u'llah's *Rashh-i-'Ama* and some of His early poetry, *The Four Valleys*, *The Seven Valleys*, *The Hidden Words*, and the *Tablet of the Holy Mariner*. We will also read some Sufi texts that

provide historical and literary context for allusions Baha'u'llah uses in His writings. We will round out our study with extensive commentaries and study materials by Baha'is on Baha'u'llah's early mystic writings.

[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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Editors

Robert H. Stockman

September 15 - November 2, 2017
Introduction to the Qur'an

September 22 - November 9, 2017
Leaves of the Twin Divine Trees

The full tentative 2017 course schedule is here:
<http://wilmetteinstitute.org/ourcourses/2017-course-schedule/>

Betty J. Fisher

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