

July 2018 eNewsletter

News about Upcoming Courses, Webinars, Web Talks, Conferences, Learners' Actions, and Much More



News, Webinars,
Conferences,
Learners in Action

**The Universal House of
Justice / Baha'i World Center**

**Bicentenary of
the Birth of the
Bab: First
Directions from
the Universal
House of Justice**

Intensive activity is to be the main focus of Baha'is during the less than a year and a half before the

bicentenary of the Birth of Bab in October 2019. [READ>>](#)



**The Universal House of Justice on
Assessing the Credibility of Some
Websites on the Faith: A Web Link All
Can Access**

Last month we published a link available only to Baha'is in the United States to the letter from the Universal House of Justice, Department of the Secretariat, about guidelines for assessing "the credibility of some websites": spiritual qualities of "personal conduct," "firm reliance on the Covenant combined with a sound grasp of the Bahá'í teachings" and "thoughtful

Courses for Next Two
Months

July - August 2018

See New Anytime Course at the End of the List of Courses

**Third-Term Courses:
July - August**

reflection." This month we have a link that everyone can access. [READ>>](#)

New Edition of "[For the Betterment of the World](#)" Available Online: Prepared by the Office of Social and Economic Development in Haifa

Discussing core premises of social and economic development, a new edition of *For the Betterment of the World: The Worldwide Baha'i Community's Approach to Social and Economic Development* samples diverse project from around the world on education, health, agriculture, economic life, arts and media, and the advancement of women.

Counselors Talk about Community Building, Spiritual Transformation, and Social Change, Part 1

[Read about](#) (and subscribe to) and [listen to a recent podcast](#) that small groups of Counselors have had with the Baha'i World News Service. Represented are experiences in Cambodia, Kiribati, India, Norway, Spain, and Timor Leste.

Counselors Talk about Spiritual Transformation and Social Change, Part 2

Follow Part 1 of the Counselors

conversations with Part 2: a [podcast](#) that

includes [four Counselors from Africa](#) discussing "the work of selected Baha'i-inspired organizations in the field of education" and explaining "how the organizations draw on certain principles from Baha'u'llah's teachings to inform their approach to development. "



Wilmette Institute News



July's Web Talk: "Peace for Our Planet: A New Approach" by Roya Akhavan

A new Web Talk on the last stand of those clinging to outworn ideas and institutions and the forward march of the constructive process toward peace. [Sign up now.](#)

A Short Video for a Short July Course:

Study Buddhism to enhance your ability to carry on meaningful conversations

[Buddhism for Deepening and Dialogue](#)

A course in the Department of Religion, Philosophy, and Theology

Lead Faculty: [Anne Pearson](#)

Faculty: [Stephen Boyanton](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (July 1 - August 19, 2018)

In **Buddhism for Deepening and Dialogue** we will survey the life of the Buddha, His core teachings, and practices of the Buddhist tradition, as well as the historical development and dissemination of Buddhism over Asia and, much later, to the West. Throughout the course we will examine similarities and differences between Buddhist and Baha'i teachings, 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, colleagues, and neighbors.



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

[Watch the Video](#)

NEW COURSE

Learn how to budget time for family and for community

[Making Time and Service Choices as a Couple](#)

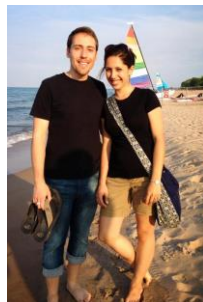
Another in the Department of Marriage and Family

Lead Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)

Faculty: [Fiona McDonald](#), [Fariba Vahdat](#)

Duration of course: Three weeks (July 8 - July 30, 2018)

You want to stay connected with each other and your families, and you also want to be of service to your neighbors and community. **Making Time and Service Choices as a Couple** will help you understand the



"Making Time and Service Choices as a Couple"

[Take 1:10 minutes to see](#) how anyone, single or young or old couple, can learn in three weeks the principles relating to managing work, family, and service. Take a short course and manage the rest of your life better.

Buddhism for Deepening and Dialogue: A Video Invitation to a July Course

[Check out this new video](#) to see the richness of the July course on Buddhism and its many variations and practices will be. Sign up now for a summer experience.



"A Closer Look at Storytelling": A New 24/7 Work-at-Your Own Pace Course Debuts on July 10

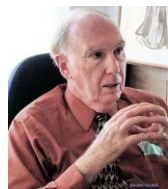
[Let this video inspire you](#) to become a storyteller-in-training by learning key principles, practices, and brain science (yes, that is part of it) to become a more effective storyteller.

Updated FAQs about the Wilmette Institute and Its Courses Now Available

The Wilmette Institute is announcing [updated FAQs \(with some videos\)](#) to help you understand better how it and its courses work. Five categories of questions help you find your answer quickly. Check out the FAQs.

Tutorials to Help Wilmette Institute Learners

The page of [tutorials](#) on the Wilmette Institute's main web page continues to expand. Click on <http://wilmetteinstitute.org>, then on the FAQ tab, then on Tutorials that will help you get started. You can also click on Tutorials at the top right of the main Web page. Revisit Tutorials from time to time to check out additions, including a new video on Messages and Notifications.



Letters to the Editor: Comments on "Interreligious Dialogue: Myths and Reality," an Interview with Professor Leonard Swidler

You missed the Web Talk

principles that relate to these choices and how to apply them in practical ways. This course is deliberately *very short* for those who are time challenged!

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

[Watch the Video](#)

Learn how to discuss federation as a solution to world upheavals

[Building a World Federation: The Key to Resolving Our Global Crises](#)

A course in the Department of Social Transformation

Lead Faculty: [Sovaida Ma'ani Ewing](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (August 15 - October 3, 2018)



As humanity passes through stages of collective growth and moves apace toward 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, proliferation of nuclear weapons, gross human-rights atrocities, and

mismanagement of critical natural resources. In **Building a World Federation: The Key to Resolving Our Global Crises**, we will examine how we can solve these and similar problems using 'Abdu'l-Baha's advice offered a century ago about establishing collective decision-making and implementing institutions that can and should evolve into a world federation of nation-states. We will also explore the lessons we can usefully glean from the American experience of establishing a federation as well as from Europe's ongoing experiment as it moves toward deeper integration. Finally, we will learn how to respond effectively to 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 upon their rights.

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

Understand more about Baha'u'llah's principles of progressive revelation and interfaith dialogue

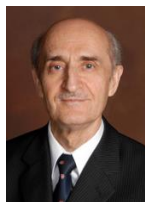
interview with Professor Leonard Swidler? See what listeners had to say and draw on Dr. Swidler's five plus decades of experience in interfaith dialogue. [READ>>](#)

Letters to the Editor: Dr. Benjamin Schewel's Web Talk on "Seven Ways of Looking at Religion"

"Seven Ways of Looking at Religion" is a pivotal Web Talk about pivotal concepts about religion and something you should know about for discussing religion with your friends. See what two listeners have to say about it. [READ>>](#)



Letters to the Editor: Bahá'í Perspectives on Materialism and Discontent by Abdu'l-Missagh Ghadirian



The Web Talk on materialism and Discontent drew a large audience of listeners and then many comments about the concepts discussed. It is available on the Wilmette Institute's YouTube channel. [READ>>](#)

Wilmette Institute Web Talks for July - August

[Access information about Wilmette Institute Web Talks and lists of talks from 2015 through 2018.](#)

["Peace for Our Planet: A New Approach"](#)

Sunday Jul. 1, 2018
Roya Akhavan

["Biotechnology, Benefits and Perils: The Need for Spiritual Perspective in Achieving Harmony of Science and Religion"](#)

Sunday July 15, 2018
Jena Khodadad

["Táhirih: Beyond Emancipation"](#)

Sunday, Aug. 19, 2018
Roya Akhavan

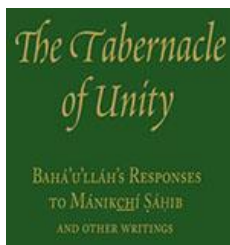
Learners in Action

The Tabernacle of Unity

A course in the Department of History and Texts

Lead Faculty: [Susan Maneck](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (August 20 - October 8, 2018)



The five tablets in **The Tabernacle of Unity** addressed to Zoroastrians and Zoroastrian Baha'is 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.

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

What is the Baha'i concept of the destiny of America?

The Destiny of America

Another course in the Department of Social Transformation

Lead Faculty: [Christopher Buck](#)

Duration of course: Seven weeks (August 25 - October 13, 2018)



Discussing the destiny of America is an excellent way to engage in spiritual conversations and in the public discourses of society (while avoiding partisan politics). To equip learners for such conversations, we will study passages from Baha'i sacred and authoritative texts on America's spiritual potential and destiny and its ideal world role. We

will also study statements on America by the Bab, Baha'u'llah, 'Abdu'l-Baha (including a newly authorized translation of "A Prayer for the confirmation of the American Government"), Shoghi Effendi, and the Universal House of Justice. In addition, we will examine selected chapters from *God & Apple Pie: Religious Myths and Visions of America* to obtain a broader outlook on the destiny of America from the perspectives of other religions, thus adding a comparative dimension to this course.

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

New Insights Help a Teacher Cultivate Empowerment and Oneness in a Majority Minority Classroom



A teacher in Harlem in the United States (and for a year in an international school in Tanzania), Luke Bolton finds himself choosing words more carefully, listening more

mindfully, and being more inclusive.

[READ>>](#)

Two Artists Contribute to Bahá'í Community Life, Giving Shape to Feelings, Making Music for the Eyes

Two Baha'is--one living in Aberdeen, Scotland, and one from Key West, Florida--are finding ways



to enhance their respective Baha'i communities by adding the arts to devotionals, study circles, and firesides.

[READ>>](#)

Take One Action and More Follow: Actions from the "Health Care and Social Action" Course Have Snowballed

Last month Rolando Maddela shared what he planned to do after tacking an online course. This month he tells us how one action has led to more actions. [READ>>](#)



Contributions to Social Action and Public Discourse

Living Responsibly--Shop Smart, Buy in Bulk: Make Your Daily Life a Beautiful Prayer

"Therefore strive that your actions day by day may be beautiful Prayers."-- 'Abdu'l-Baha
Another tip for living more



[Anytime Courses: Work At Your Own Pace](#)



[Video on Anytime Relationship Courses](#)

[Video on Storytelling Course](#)

LAUNCHES JULY 10

New Anytime Course. Work at Your Own Pace

[A Closer Look at Storytelling](#)

Duration of course: Register when you need to, 24/7/365.

Faculty: [Druzelle Cederquist](#)

Open to anyone wishing to become a more effective storyteller and to acquire the mindset of a "storyteller-in-training."



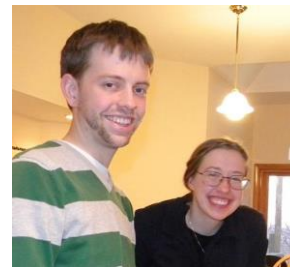
[Course Description](#) [Fees](#) [Course Schedule](#) [Register](#) [Financial Aid](#)

An Anytime Course. Work at your own pace.

[Thinking of Relationships and Marriage?](#)

Duration of course: Register when you need to, 24/7/365.

For singles not yet in a relationship and couples in the early stages of a relationship. Participants will be assigned a faulty-mentor.



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

An Anytime Course. Work at your own pace.

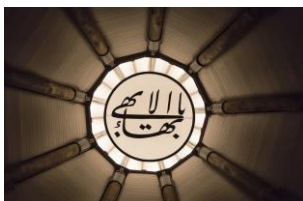
[Are We Ready for Marriage?](#)

responsibly and smarter: Buy in bulk to reduce the amount of packaging that comes into and goes out of your house for recycling by buying in bulk: Think rice, beans, lentils nuts, spices, and more.

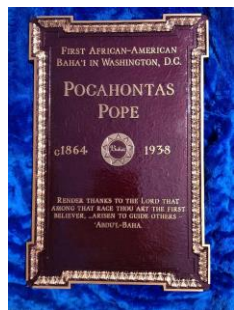
[READ>>](#)

News

The Greatest Name Symbol Raised to Dome of Local House of Worship in Colombia



The [Baha'i World News Service](#) announced that the Greatest Name Symbol was raised to the dome of the local House of Worship nearing completion in Agua Azul, Colombia. The Temple will be dedicated in July 2018.



Honoring Pocahontas Pope, the First African American Baha'i in Washington, D.C.

On the eightieth anniversary of the passing of Pocahontas Pope, the first African American Baha'i in Washington, D.C., a gathering was held

in Maryland to unveil a memorial marker for her. Read Pocahontas' tablet from 'Abdu'l-Baha and an account of her life and a dramatic monologue about her. Plus videos of the event. [READ>>](#)

Faculty and Web Talk Speaker News

Three Baha'is Receive Prestigious "New Shape" Prize

Arthur Lyon Dahl and Augusto Lopez Claros, both Wilmette Institute Web Talk speakers and Dahl a Wilmette Institute faculty member (together with Canadian Baha'i Maja P.C.E. Groff) received the "New Shape" prize from the Global Challenge Foundation. [READ>>](#)

Duration of course: Register when you need to, 24/7/365.

Open to couples seriously discussing marrying. Participants will be assigned a faculty-mentor.



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

An Anytime Course. Work at your own pace.

Engaging in Parental Consent for Marriage

Duration of course: Register when you need to, 24/7/365.

Open to individuals, couples, families, and community groups. Study is self-guided. Relationship coaches are available as needed for help. One couple had this to say: "The course helped a great deal to get my fiance and me even more on the same page with regard to how the Faith was guiding our preparation, and we both managed to get consent from our families. . . . We wanted to thank you all for all your help."



[Watch the video](#)

[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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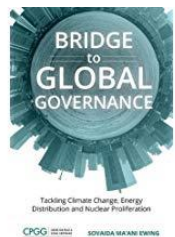
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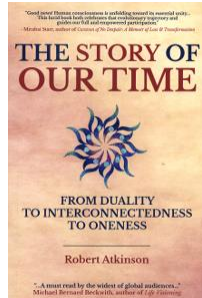
**Faculty Member
Sovaida Ma'ani
Ewing Publishes
New Book**

Dr. Sovaida Ma'ani Ewing, faculty for **Building a World Federation: The Key to Resolving Our Global Crises**

(see August course in this issue), has recently published *Bridges to Global Governance: Tackling Climate Change, Energy Distribution, and Nuclear Proliferation*. [Check out a blog](#) about the book.



**Robert Atkinson Book Wins 2017
Nautilus Book Award**



Robert Atkinson, who presented three Web Talks on his book, *The Story of Our Time: From Duality to Interconnectedness to Oneness*, has won a 2017 Silver Nautilus Book Award, which recognizes, promotes, and celebrates "books that support conscious

living and sustainability, high-level wellness, spiritual growth, and positive social change." The book is available from the [Baha'i Distribution Service](#).

Talks, Podcasts, and Events by Other Organizations

[Baha'i World News Service](#) / Podcast
Counselors' conversation on spiritual transformation and social change: Part 1

[Baha'i World News Service](#) / Podcast
Counselors' conversation on spiritual transformation and social change: Part 2

[Baha'i Chair for World Peace Annual Lecture 2018](#) / September 20, 2018
"Deconstructing Race/Reconstructing Difference: Beyond the U.S. Paradigm"
Professor Jabari Mahiri
Registration necessary.
University of Maryland, College Park,
Maryland, USA

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

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Conferences and Colloquia

['Irfan Colloquium](#) / July 3-6, 2018
English only
Center for Baha'i Studies, Acuto, Italy

[International Environment Forum
Conference Supporting the UN High Level
Political Forum](#) / July 9-18, 2018
Contact IEF Secretariat for information.
New York City, NY, USA

['Irfan Colloquium](#) / July 19-22, 2018
German only
Tambach Seminary Center, Tambach,
Germany

[Association for Baha'i Studies Annual
Conference](#) / Aug. 9-12, 2018
Sheraton Hotel, Atlanta, GA, USA

['Irfan Colloquium](#) / Oct. 4-7, 2018
Persian and English
Louhelen Baha'i School, Davison, MI, USA

[Baha'i Chair for World Peace Conference](#) /
Oct. 16-17, 2018
"The Future of Humanity: The Challenge of
Global Peace and Security"
University of Maryland, College Park,
Maryland, USA

[Parliament of the World's Religions](#) / Nov.
1-7, 2018
"The Promise of Inclusion, the Power of
Love: Pursuing Global Understanding,
Reconciliation, and Change"
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

[American Academy of Religion/Society of
Biblical Literature](#) / Nov. 17-20, 2018
Registration (Advance, through Aug. 23)
now open.
Denver, CO, USA

[Desert Rose Baha'i Institute](#) / Nov. 23-24,
2018
"Humanity's Continuing Spiritual
Renaissance"
Eloy, AZ, USA

[ebbf 29th International Annual Learning
Event](#) / May 2-5, 2019
"Rethinking Finance"
Registration not yet open.
Sign up for information

Geneva, Switzerland

WILMETTE INSTITUTE LINKS, SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS, AND OTHER LINKS

Wilmette Institute Links

[Wilmette Institute: Public Website](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Course Delivery System](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Deepen Webinars](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Student Projects](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Reference Materials](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Web Talks](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Email for Information](#)

Social Media Links

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.

[Wilmette Institute: YouTube Channel](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Facebook Page](#)
[Wilmette Institute: Twitter](#)
[Wilmette Institute: SoundCloud](#)

Other Links

[Association for Baha'i Studies, North America](#)
[Baha'i Chair for World Peace](#)
[Baha'i International Community](#)
[Baha'i World News Service](#)
[Bosch Baha'i School](#)
[ebbf \(Ethical Business Building the Future\)](#)
[Green Acre Baha'i School](#)
[Institute for Studies in Global Prosperity](#)
[International Baha'i Website](#)
[International Environment Forum](#)
[Irfan Colloquia](#)
[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

Fourth Term (September - December)

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

September 1 - October 19, 2018

NEW COURSE: [Fostering a Baha'i Identity in Children](#)

September 3 - October 21, 2018

[The Baha'i Faith: A Comprehensive Introduction](#)

September 10 - October 29, 2018

[Introduction to Baha'i History, 1844-Present](#)

September 15 - November 13, 2018

NEW COURSE: [Consulting as a Couple](#)

September 17 - October 8, 2018

NEW COURSE: [Sharing the Twin Birthday with Children](#)

September 17 - October 28, 2018

[Writing about the Writings: The Art and Craft of the Personal Reflection Piece](#)

September 25 - November 13, 2018

[Exploring the Book of Isaiah](#)

October 1 - November 19, 2018

[The Bab and Baha'u'llah: Two Lives, One Story](#)

October 5 - November 22, 2018

[The Baha'i Faith and Social Change](#)

October 10 - November 28, 2018

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

October 15 - December 3, 2018

NEW COURSE: [Building Intercultural Understanding as a Couple](#)

October 22 - November 19, 2018

NEW COURSE: [Communication Skills for Spiritually Minded Parents](#)

October 29 - December 16, 2018

November - December 2018 Course Schedule

Below is the Wilmette Institute's course schedule for November through December 2018. The schedule is subject to change.

Fourth Term (November - December 2018)

Writing Biographies and Histories:
Recording Stories of People and Places
November 1 - December 19, 2018

NEW COURSE: Economic Justice and the
Baha'i World Order
November 5 - December 24, 2018

Science, Religion, and the Baha'i Faith
November 10 - December 28, 2018

Introduction to Shi'i Islam
November 15 - January 2, 2019

Philosophy and the Baha'i Faith
December 1 - January 18, 2018

The Promise of World Peace
December 5 - January 23, 2019

Judaism for Deepening and Dialogue
December 15 - February 12, 2019

[Click here for the 2018 course schedule.](#)

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