



# Wilmette Institute

An Online Bahá'í Learning Center

## January 2019 eNewsletter

News about Courses, Web Talks, Learners in Action, Social Action and Public Discourse, Conferences, and More



### News and Much More

#### Baha'i World Center

#### The Baha'i World, 2018 in Review: Progress and Insights

As the year 2018 closed, the Baha'i World Center wrote about the



accomplishments and insights in nine categories, from the arts and social transformation to persecution of Baha'is in Yemen. Usher the new Gregorian year in on a positive note by sharing the photographs and text with family, friends, and community.

#### National Spiritual Assembly of the United States

#### 80th Anniversary of The Advent of Divine Justice Prompts Letter from National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States

"The paramount matter of teaching the Faith and its inseparability from the 'Double Crusade'--to which Shoghi Effendi summoned the American Bahá'ís in a

### Courses for Next Two Months

January - February 2019

See the Register-Anytime Courses at the End of the

List of Courses

[Course Catalog](#)

### Winter-Term Courses

Learn more about contributing effectively to interfaith dialogue in your community

### Preparing for Interfaith Dialogue



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

Lead Faculty: [Anne Pearson](#)  
Faculty: [JoAnn Borovicka](#), [Ted Brownstein](#)

**Duration of course:** Seven weeks (January 5 - February 22, 2019)

At a time when the "world-

momentous letter eighty years ago--these are the themes of a [cover letter](#) and a [lengthy letter](#) that the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States sent to the American Baha'i community "honoring the anniversary of Shoghi Effendi's completion of his letter, which was published under *The Advent of Divine Justice*. The National Assembly's letter is the fourth in a series of letters. [READ>>](#)

## Wilmette Institute News

### January 13 Web Talk: "A Textual Analysis of the Persian Bayan, Part 1"

Kick off the new Gregorian year by learning the central message of the Bab's Persian Bayan. It is the first of five talks for the course **Discovering the Bab's Persian Bayan: The Most Holy Book of the Babi Religion**. [Sign up for the Web Talk](#). Then [Sign up for the course](#) (starts January 10).



### January 20 Web Talk: Three Interconnected Aims and Means of "True Education"



Glen Cotten discusses transformative (true) education as a [process of dialogue and inquiry](#) aimed at truth, beauty, and goodness.

### New, Deep Discount for Wilmette Institute First-Timers

The Institute has just made it easier than ever to try out online learning and to choose the course that's right for you. Pay only \$10.00 for your first course in 2019. [READ>>](#)

### New Electronic Course Catalog for the Wilmette Institute

The Wilmette Institute announces a new electronic Course Catalog on its home web page. Course entries contain more information. Use it to plan your online learning more effectively. Check out the new features. [READ>>](#)

### Focus on Study Groups: Helping You Plan More of Them

To help study groups function better, the Wilmette Institute has launched a survey about them to be followed by phone or video conferences to arrive at best

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 to engage in fruitful interfaith dialogue is growing. In **Preparing for Interfaith Dialogue** we will explore how to respectfully participate in dialogue with people of all faiths and no faith in a learning mode. Inspired by the Baha'i Faith'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 and will focus on sharing ideas, insights, and perspectives on interfaith relations to broaden our understanding and enrich our collective experiences and wisdom.

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

[Watch Video](#)

### NEW COURSE

Prepare for the 2019 bicentenary of the Birth of the Bab by exploring His Persian Bayan

## [Discovering the Bab's Persian Bayan: The Most Holy Book of the Babi Religion](#)

A course for the 2019 bicentenary Birth of the Bab

Lead Faculty: [Shahrokh Monjazeb](#)

Faculty: [Nima Rafiei](#)

**Duration of course:** Nine weeks (January 10 - March 20, 2019)



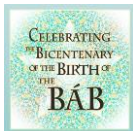
**Discovering the Bab's Persian Bayan: The Most Holy Book of the Babi Religion** is the first concise yet comprehensive online study of the Bab's "pivotal" and "doctrinal" work. The course will explore and examine the various themes and dimensions of this very lengthy book, which Shoghi Effendi describes as "that monumental repository of the laws and precepts of the new Dispensation. . . ." We will learn about the central message of the Bayan and discover how the Bab as the Promised Messenger of God broke away from traditional Shi'a and Sunni doctrine by introducing new laws and ordinances

for the next phase of human spiritual development. The course will also include five one-hour webinars conducted by the lead faculty. The first will be a public web talk, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern

practices. [READ>>](#)

### Web Talks Set for 2019 (Plus Nine Talks for the Bicentenary of the Birth of the Báb)

Browse the list of 2019 Web Talks. Make sure you don't miss ones you really want to hear. Pay special attention to the nine talks about the Bab, His life and writings. [READ>>](#)



### Deadline Extended for Survey on Courses for the Bicentenary of the Birth of the Bab

The deadline for the [survey on the courses for the bicentenary of the Birth of the Bab](#) has been extended to Saturday, January 5, 2019. This is your last chance to be part of the survey.

### Playlist of Wilmette Institute Interviews at the Parliament of the World's Religions

Relive some of the joy of the 2018 Parliament of the World's Religions in the fifteen interviews that Robert Stockman recorded at the Wilmette Institute's booth. [READ>>](#)

### What Listeners Say: Hogenson's Web Talk "First Western Pilgrimage"



A second chance to learn more about the beginnings of the Baha'i Faith in America: See what listeners say about the Web talk on the first Western pilgrimage, and watch the talk. [READ>>](#)

## Wilmette Institute Web Talks for December-January

[Check out Wilmette Institute Web Talks and lists of talks from 2015 through the present.](#)

*Web Talks relating to the Báb and in celebration of the bicentenary of His birth are called out in **bold type**. There are now nine such Web Talks.*

### **"A Divine Exposition for the New Age: A Textual Analysis of The Persian Bayan"**

Sunday Jan. 13, 2019

Time on Sunday, January 13, 2019, titled "A Divine Exposition for the New Age: A Textual Analysis of The Persian Bayan."

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

[Watch Video](#)

### NEW COURSE

Discover tools for guiding teens and children in applying spiritual principles to their media environment

## [Helping Teens and Children Navigate Media and Screen Time](#)

A new course on parenting and family life

Co-Faculty: [Justine Finn](#), [Chelsea Lee Smith](#)

**Duration of course:** One month (January 14 - February 17, 2019)



Could you use more tools to help your child navigate society's intense media environment? In today's world, socializing, learning, personal expression, and dating often occur in media, texts, and social apps, raising new challenges and

opportunities for children and teens. **Helping Teens and Children Navigate Media and Screen Time** is for parents, caretakers, and educators of children ages 8 to 18 years old. It will help you learn how to address the common media-related issues facing your children and guide them to apply spiritual principles to their time online and with media.

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

[Watch Video](#)

Add to your repertoire of skills for reading the Baha'i writings with more understanding

## [Finding the Hidden Gift: An Approach to Studying the Baha'i Writings](#)

A course in the independent section on arts and literature

Lead Faculty: [Sandra Hutchison](#)

Shahrokh Monjazeb

["Truth, Beauty and Goodness: Three Interconnected Aims and Means of 'True Education'"](#)

Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019  
Glen Cotten

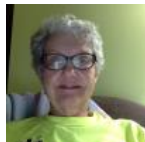
["Equality of Women = Prosperity for All"](#)

Sunday, Feb. 3, 2019  
Augusto Lopez-Claros and Bahiyih Nakhjavani

## Learners in Action

### Interfaith Learnings from the Book of Isaiah

Find out how a study of a book from another religion affected a student's spiritual life and understanding of the Baha'i Faith and prepared her for interactions with Christians. [READ>>](#)



### What Might an Interaction with a Non-Christian Religion Look Like? One Baha'i's Story



A faculty in the course on Buddhism suggested that the learners visit a Buddhist place of worship. Stewart Mathison ran with the suggestion. See where his journey took him.

[READ>>](#)

### What Can Fostering Baha'i Identity in Children Do for Kids- and for Parents?

Balance, patience, vision, a personal plan: All are part of Yalda Ravanbakhsh's new context for parenting two young children. We can all learn from her.



[READ>>](#)

## Contributions to Social Action and Public Discourse

### Tips for Sustainable Living: Do Not Idle Your Vehicle

Learn why you should never, ever idle the engine of your car or truck. Note the new section title, and check out the

**Duration of course:** Seven weeks (January 18 - March 7, 2019)



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

introduces students to a systematic method of studying Baha'i scripture using a number of literary and exegetical tools. In the course, we will view passages from Baha'i scripture through four "windows" on the meaning of divine wisdom: language, theme, structure, and the work as a whole.

We will also discuss briefly five other

"windows": biography, historical context, oeuvre (the place of a work in the entire body of the author's works), literary tradition, and world scriptural tradition. The course is designed to help students learn to read slowly and carefully and to assist them in developing tools for analyzing Baha'i texts systematically. All readings for this course will be provided online, with no purchase of books required.

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

[Watch Video](#)

Find out more about food security and how to make agricultural activities part of your life

## Baha'i Perspectives on Agriculture and Food

A course in the Department of Social Transformation

Lead Faculty: [Paul Hanley](#)

Faculty: [Kim Nagvi](#), [Gary Reusche](#), [Neil Whatley](#), [Robert White](#)

**Duration of course:** Seven weeks (January 20 - March 9, 2019)



Baha'u'llah describes agriculture as "a vital and important matter" that was foremost among the principles "conducive to the advancement of mankind and to the reconstruction of the world." Yet current agricultural policy often prioritizes yield and profit over health,

sustainability, and sociocultural features of rural communities, while the poor struggle to even 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 core activities, community-building, and emerging social action.

categorization of 24 tips for easy look-up.  
[READ >>](#)

### What Does It Mean to Participate in the Discourses of Society? First Podcast

Just how does one participate in the discourses of society? How does such participation work at the personal, local, national, and international levels. [Listen to a podcast](#) (23.37; first of two interviews) on the topic. Or [read a short article](#) of reflections.

### Second Podcast: Why Religion Is in the Spotlight Again

The second of two interviews about the role of religion in public discourse is now available. Baha'is from the national communities of Canada, Kazakhstan, and India talk about their experiences. [Read a short article](#) about the conversations. [Listen to the podcast](#).

### Migration: Focusing on Root Causes and Cooperation

Join the important conversation on global migration. Learn about the new Global Compact for Safer, Orderly, and Regular Migration. [Read a Baha'i World News Service article](#) and a new [Baha'i International Community statement](#) on the topic.

## Faculty and Web Talk Speaker News

### Wilmette Institute Faculty Chelsea Lee Smith Published "Garden of Virtues" for Kids

Plan ahead for Ayyam-i-Ha with *Garden of Virtues: A Guess-the-Virtue Book for Kids*. Featuring ten virtues, the book comes with an activity pack for parents and teachers to help in fostering personal development. Up to Ayyam-i-Ayyam, the hardcover edition is \$15.00, the softcover price at [Vervante](#).

## Talks, Podcasts, Events, and Video Libraries by Other Organizations

[Baha'i Chair for World Peace](#) / Video Library

Library of videos of talks from 2012 to the present

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

[Watch Video](#)

Study Baha'u'llah's early poetry and other texts that explore the connection between the soul and the divine

## Baha'u'llah's Early Mystic Writings

A course in the Department of Baha'i History and Texts

Lead Faculty: [Christopher Buck](#)

**Duration of course:** Seven weeks (January 25 - March 7, 2019)



Baha'u'llah progressively proclaimed His mission to "mystics, then divines, and then kings." Thus, in the three periods of His life, Baha'u'llah wrote as a mystic (1852-63), a prophet (1863-67), and a lawgiver (1867-92). In

### Baha'u'llah's Early Mystic Writings

we will focus on His proclamation to mystics by studying the following mystical texts, revealed by "the Mystic Dove" (Baha'u'llah): (1) *Mystical Poetry* (Sprinkling of the Cloud of Unknowing; Hallelujah, Glad-Tidings; Blessed Couplets); (2) *Mystical Journeys* (Attar's Seven Valleys; The Seven Valleys; The Seven Cities); (3) *Mystical Worlds* (Tablet of "All Food"; The Four Valleys); (4) *Mystical Wisdom* (The Hidden Words; Words of Wisdom); (5) *Mystical Allegories* (Tablet of the Holy Mariner--Arabic; Tablet of the Holy Mariner--Persian); Tablet of Samsun); and (6) *Other Mystical Tablets* (Tablet of the Cup-bearer; Tablet of Alchemy).

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

[Watch Video](#)

### NEW COURSE

Prepare for the October bicentenary of the Birth of Bab by learning more about His life

## The Life of the Bab

A course in the Department of Baha'i History and Texts

Lead Faculty: [Moojan Momen](#)

Faculty: [Peter Smith](#)

**Duration of course:** Seven weeks (February 5 - March 26, 2019)

---

[Baha'i World News Service](#) / Podcast  
["Why Religion Is in the Spotlight Again"](#)  
(28:41)  
"What does it mean to participate in the Discourses of Society (23:37)  
"Remembering Pioneering Environmentalist Richard St. Barbe Baker" (12:56)

---

[ethical business for a better future](#) / Podcasts  
Follow the link for podcasts

---

[U.S. Baha'i News](#) / SoundCloud  
"A Bahá'í on Decluttering: Living What I Believe"

---

## Conferences, Seminars, and Colloquia

---

[ABS Health West Working Group Seminar](#) / Feb. 1-3, 2019  
Follow the link above for registration and seminar details.  
Bosch Baha'i School, Santa Cruz, CA, USA

---

[Baha'i Chair for World Peace](#) / Feb. 12, 2019  
"Pursuing Racial Equity in Prince George's County, MD"  
Part of series on solutions to structural racism  
Free, registration required  
Atrium, Stamp Student Union, University of Maryland College Park, MD, USA

---

[ABS Media and Society Working Group Seminar](#) / Feb. 15-18, 2019  
Follow link above for registration, housing, and seminar details.  
Bosch Baha'i School, Santa Cruz, CA, USA

---

[Desert Rose Baha'i Institute](#) / Feb. 15-17, 2019  
Ninth Annual Artists & Scholars Symposium  
"Expanding Our Cultural Horizon through Arts and Sciences: A Challenge for Youth and Adults"  
Call for papers: deadline Jan. 16, 2019  
Registration, meal, lodging  
Desert Rose Baha'i Institute, Eloy AZ, USA

---

[Desert Rose Baha'i Institute](#) / Feb. 19-24, 2019  
"The Write Life: Retreat and Sharing for Writers"  
Facilitators: Anne Perry, Marlene Macke

---



**The Life of the Bab** covers with His early life; the declaration of His mission; His pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina; His return to Iran and His initial stay in Shiraz; His escape to Isfahan; His imprisonment in Azerbaijan; and His trial and execution in Tabriz.

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

---

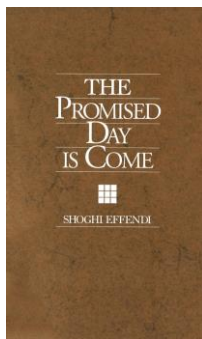
How does political and religious chaos pave the way to a future world of peace and how do we use disintegration to move us forward?

## [The Promised Day Is Come](#)

A course in the Department of Baha'i History and Texts

Lead Faculty: [Sherna Deamer](#)  
Faculty: [William Collins](#), [Betty J. Fisher](#)

**Duration of course:** Seven weeks (February 10 - March 30, 2019)



Shoghi Effendi's dramatic letter, *The Promised Day Is Come*, was written in the early months of 1941, when most of the world's countries had entered World War II, the deadliest conflict in human history. Its horrors could have been averted had humanity accepted the teachings of Baha'u'llah. Instead, humanity responded with either indifference or persecution. The War was both a retributory calamity to punish human perversity and a "cleansing process" to weld humanity into a single, world-embracing community. In this study of Shoghi Effendi's letter, we will learn how world leaders received Baha'u'llah's messages, the results of their responses, and the continuing processes of disintegration and integration. We will also reflect on our role in the current plan to lead humankind "out of the valley of misery and shame to the loftiest summits of power and glory."

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

---

Learn how engaged and married couples can enhance their relationship with unity and service

## [Enhancing Love, Friendship, and Service in Your Marriage \(for engaged and married couples\)](#)

A course in the Department of Marriage and Family

Limited to 16 participants. REGISTRATION CLOSED.

Registration, meal, lodging  
Desert Rose Baha'i Institute, Eloy AZ, USA

---

[ABS Law Working Group Seminar](#) / Feb. 22-25, 2019

Follow link above for registration, housing, and seminar details.

Registration deadline: Feb. 10, 2019.  
Vancouver, BC, Canada

---

[Baha'i Chair for World Peace](#) / Mar. 12, 2019

"Black Girl Labor as Magic: Toward an Understanding of Digital Black Feminism"  
Dr. Catherine Knight Steele

Free, registration required  
Special Events Room, Sixth Floor, McKeldin Library, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA

---

[Baha'i Chair for World Peace](#) / April 4-5, 2019

"Infrastructure and Happiness" (10 speakers)

Registration required  
Colony Ballroom, Stamp Student Union, University of Maryland

---

[International Environment Forum, 23d Conference](#) / April 7-11, 2019

(in partnership with the 23d World Conference on Health Promotion)

"Waiora: Promoting Planetary Health and Sustainable Development"  
Rotorua, New Zealand

---

[ABS Health East Working Group East Coast Seminar](#) / Apr. 12-14, 2019

Follow link above for registration, housing, and seminar details.  
Green Acre Baha'i School, Eliot, ME, USA

---

[ebbf 29th International Annual Learning Event](#) / May 16-19, 2019

"Rethinking Finance"  
Early Bird registration now open.  
Geneva, Switzerland

---

[Irfan Colloquium](#) / May 23-27, 2019

English and Persian  
Bosch Baha'i School, Santa Cruz, CA, USA

---

[Irfan Colloquium](#) / June 20-26, 2019

English and Persian  
Acuto, ITALY

Lead Faculty: [Susanne Alexander](#)

Faculty: [Wendi Momen](#)

**Duration of course:** Four weeks (February 11 - March 10, 2019)



In happy marriages, couples are intimate and loving companions who know each other well and who provide thoughtful service to each other. However, the press of busy lives can unconsciously lessen your connection. Engaged and married couples will deepen your understanding of each other with practical tools related to friendship, love, and service. You will choose couple practices to have as the culture of your marriage that enhance your unity and help you serve each other, your families, and outward to others.

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

---

How can a study of the Qur'an help you understand the writings of Baha'u'llah better?

## [Exploring the Qur'an](#)

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

Lead Faculty: [Susan Maneck](#)

Faculty: [Necati Alkan](#)

**Duration of course:** Nine weeks (February 15 - April 19, 2019)



The Qur'an is the divine revelation on which the religion of Islam is based. Shoghi Effendi has emphasized the importance of Baha'is studying the Qur'an: "They must . . . approach reverently and with a mind purged from preconceived ideas the study of the Qur'an which, apart from the sacred scriptures of the Babi and Baha'i revelations, constitutes the only Book which can be regarded as an absolutely authenticated Repository of the Word of

God" (*The Advent of Divine Justice* 49). In a letter written on his behalf, Shoghi Effendi advises "the friends to make a thorough study of the Qur'an, as the knowledge of this sacred Scripture is absolutely indispensable for every believer who wishes to adequately understand and intelligently read, the writings of Baha'u'llah" (*Directives of the Guardian* 63). In **Exploring the Qur'an**, we will examine Baha'i references to the Qur'an and study a summary of the Qur'an and the tenets of Islam. Then we will study how the Qur'an describes itself and delve into several topics in the Qur'an: the nature of God; divine unity; the Prophets of God; and the Latter Day. Finally, we will discuss some Qur'anic verses as they relate to the Baha'i Faith. All readings for this course will be provided online, with no purchase of books required.

[`Irfan Colloquium](#) / July 18-21, 2019  
German  
Tambach Seminar Center, Tambach,  
GERMANY

[Association for Baha'i Studies Annual Conference](#) / Aug. 8-11, 2019  
Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA

[`Irfan Colloquium](#) / October 10-13, 2019  
English and Persian  
Louhelen Baha'i School, Davison, MI, USA

[American Academy of Religions/Society of Biblical Literature](#) / Nov. 23-26, 2019  
San Diego, CA, USA

## 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 Reference Library](#)  
[Baha'i World News Service](#)  
[Baha'i World News Service Podcasts](#)  
[Bosch Baha'i School](#)  
[ebbf \(Ethical Business Building the Future\)](#)  
[Green Acre Baha'i School](#)  
[Institute for Studies in Global Prosperity](#)

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

### NEW COURSE

How can you nurture a spiritually based family and nurture your own spiritual identity?

## Embracing a Spiritual Identity of Motherhood

A course in the Department of Marriage and Family

Co-Faculty: [Chelsea Lee Smith](#), [Penina Hitti](#)

**Duration of course:** Six weeks (February 18 - March 31, 2019)



Come be inspired as a mother to embrace the noble role you have in raising your children while also maintaining the sacred space for nurturing your own independent spiritual identity. **Embracing a Spiritual Identity of Motherhood** will utilize the arts as well as stories

of Baha'i women in history to help participants analyze critically the social forces playing on their decision-making processes, examine dichotomies facing mothers in modern day society, redefine the definition of what "service" is, develop a positive mindset, and create a vision for their families based on our spiritual reality.

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



[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

**Bold type** highlights courses celebrating the 2019 bicentenary of the Birth of the Bab.

### Winter Term (March)

[Economics and Community Building](#)

March 1 - April 26, 2019

[Racism in America: The Most Challenging Issue](#)

March 5 - May 6, 2019

[Indigenous Perspectives on the Sacred](#)

March 10 - May 4, 2019

[The Arts and Community Building](#)

March 15 - April 25, 2019

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

March 25 - May 12, 2019

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

March 25 - June 16, 2019

### Spring Term (April - Mid-June 2019)

[Climate Change](#)

April 1 - May 26, 2019

[Baha'i Institutions, the Community, and the Individual](#)

April 5 - May 23, 2019

[Sustaining Eleven Billion People: Challenges for an Ever-Advancing Civilization](#)

April 15 - June 2, 2019

[From Mysticism to Prophecy: Gems of](#)

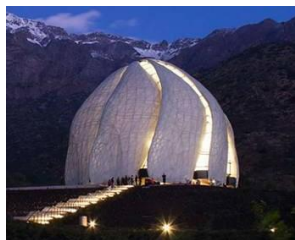
Study the symbol of the "teachings of the new Day of God" and a "collective center of society to promote cordial affection"

## The Institution of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkar

A course in the Independent Section of Baha'i Community and Administration

Lead Faculty: [Candace Hill](#)

**Duration of course:** Seven weeks (February 25 - April 15, 2019)



Baha'u'llah, in His Kitab-i-Aqdas, instructs Baha'is to build Houses of Worship, which are dedicated to the praise of God: "The House of Worship forms the central edifice of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkar (the Dawning-place of the Praise of God), a complex which, as it unfolds in the future, will comprise in addition to the House of Worship a number of

dependencies dedicated to social, humanitarian, educational, and scientific pursuits." This course will examine the institution of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkar; explore authoritative texts by Baha'u'llah, 'Abdu'l-Baha, Shoghi Effendi, and the Universal House of Justice about the institution; review the completion of continental Houses of Worship in Turkmenistan, the United States, Uganda, Australia, Germany, Panama, India, Samoa, and Chile and the development of the next seven local and national Houses of Worship now being planned; and explore how the devotional character of a future House of Worship in your community can evolve and flourish.

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

## Register-Anytime Courses: Work At Your Own Pace



[Video on Anytime Relationship Courses](#)

[Video on Storytelling Course](#)

An Anytime Course. Work at Your Own Pace

## A Closer Look at Storytelling

[Divine Mysteries and Other Early \(Baghdad Period\) Tablets by Baha'u'llah](#)  
April 18 - June 5, 2019

[The Bab and the Babi Faith, 1844-1863: Rediscovering the Dawnbreakers](#)  
April 25 - June 12, 2019

## May - June 2019 Course Schedule

*Below is the Wilmette Institute's course schedule for May through June 15, 2019. The schedule is subject to change. **Bold type** highlights courses celebrating the 2019 bicentenary of the Birth of the Bab.*

### **SPRING TERM (April - Mid-June 2019)**

**NEW:** Baha'i Principles of Business Ethics  
May 1 - June 25, 2019

Gifts of the Spirit: The Spiritual Practice of Creative Writing  
May 5 - June 18, 2019

Conscious Parenting of Younger Children  
May 10 - June 13, 2019

Shoghi Effendi: His Life and Ministry  
May 15 - July 2, 2019

**NEW:** Youth: Learning about Baha'i-Based Relationships  
May 20 - June 16, 2019

Exploring the New Testament  
May 25 - June 12, 2019

Introduction to Islam  
June 1 - July 19, 2019

Baha'i Theology  
June 5 - August 13, 2019

Introduction to the Kitab-i-Iqan  
June 15 - August 9, 2019

**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 faculty-mentor.

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



An Anytime Course. Work at your own pace.

## Are We Ready for Marriage?

**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](#)



**SUMMER TERM (July - August 2019)**

Education and the Baha'i Faith  
July 1 - August 18, 2019

**The Bab's Qayyumu'l-Asma:  
Commentary on the Qur'an's Surih  
of Joseph**

July 15 - August 15, 2019

The World Order of Baha'u'llah  
July 20 - September 6, 2019

Communications Skills for Spiritually  
Minded Parents  
July 22 - August 22, 2019

Exploring the Book of Revelation  
July 25 - September 11, 2019

Science, Religion, and the Baha'i Faith  
August 5 - September 22, 2019

**The Writings of the Bab**  
August 25 - October 12, 2019

[2019 Course Schedule](#)

[Course Catalog](#)

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 fiancé 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."



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

An Anytime Course. Work at your own pace.

## [Nurturing Your Baby Spiritually during Pregnancy](#)

*Faculty:* [Swathi Baskaran](#), [Chelsea Lee Smith](#)



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

Open to mothers, fathers, and other family members planning for the changes ahead. Five units.

[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.

Information from the eNewsletter may be copied or reproduced, provided that the following credit is given: "Reprinted from the

eNewsletter of the Wilmette Institute," followed by the issue's date. Recipients are encouraged to forward the eNewsletter to friends. If you have questions, please email us at [learn@wilmetteinstitute.org](mailto:learn@wilmetteinstitute.org).

*Editors*

Betty J. Fisher  
Robert H. Stockman

*Production*

Robert H. Stockman  
Niki Daniels

*Contributors*

Stewart Mathison  
Christine Muller  
Fran Otto  
Yalda Ravanbakhsh

---

Wilmette Institute, 1233 Central Street, Evanston, IL, 60201-2886 USA

Phone 1.877.WILMETTE (1.877.945.6388) - Fax: 1.847.733.3563

Email: [learn@wilmetteinstitute.org](mailto:learn@wilmetteinstitute.org)

Web: <http://wilmetteinstitute.org>

Moodle: <http://courses.wilmetteinstitute.org>

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

© 2019 National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States

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

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

[SafeUnsubscribe™ rstockman@usbnc.org](mailto:rstockman@usbnc.org)

[Forward this eNewsletter to a Friend](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [wi@usbnc.org](mailto:wi@usbnc.org)