



Wilmette  
INSTITUTE

e News

The monthly electronic Newsletter provides news of the Wilmette Institute, a schedule of online Web Talks, and upcoming courses

## Wilmette Institute December 2019 News

### [New Solution-Based Courses for 2020](#)

The Wilmette Institute is pleased to announce its 2020 Course Schedule. Read on to discover the revised Mission, Guiding Principles, and Learning Outcomes which will influence Wilmette Institute course curricula for 2020 and beyond.



### [Help for Busy Learners, and New First-Timer Discount](#)

Sign up for the Institute's reminder program, and never miss another early registration deadline. All community learning courses now eligible for first-timers' 30% discount.

### [December Courses to Advance Peace & Justice \(video\)](#)



## Student News

### Learner Reflects Deeply on the Tablet of Ahmad



Ruby Edgar's second course with the Wilmette Institute was **Writing about the Writings: The Art and Craft of the Personal Reflection Piece**. Ruby chose to study Baha'u'llah's Tablet of Ahmad, written during His exile in Adrianople. The tablet was addressed to one of Baha'u'llah's most ardent followers, who had suffered numerous acts of persecution for accepting the teachings of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh.

## Tip for Sustainable Living



### Avoid Excessive Packaging

In the US, packaging accounts for about 30 percent of all waste. How can you reduce your use of packaging? Imagine the volume and weight of avoided waste and the reduction in global warming if you tried the tips we provide!

### Web Talks

The talks are live web video and are free. They are held at 2 p.m. on a Sunday, unless otherwise indicated.

December 15, 2019

Judy Hannen Moe

["Aflame with Devotion: a Book Summary"](#)

## Now on YouTube and Sound Cloud:

Michael Day, ["The Shrine of the Bab: Recent Research Findings on its Establishment, Completion and Embellishment"](#)

Anne Pearson, ["Sacred Cows, Krishna, and the Baha'i Faith: Decoding Hinduism"](#)

Armin Eschraghi, ["The Bab's Tablet about the Special Prophethood of Muhammad"](#)

Steven Phelps, ["Overview of the Writings of the Bab"](#)

Todd Lawson, ["The Qayyum al-Asma, The Surih of Dominion \(Mulk\)"](#)



AFLAME WITH DEVOTION

The Hannen and Knobloch Families  
and the Early Days of the Bahá'í Faith in America

JUDY HANNEN MOE



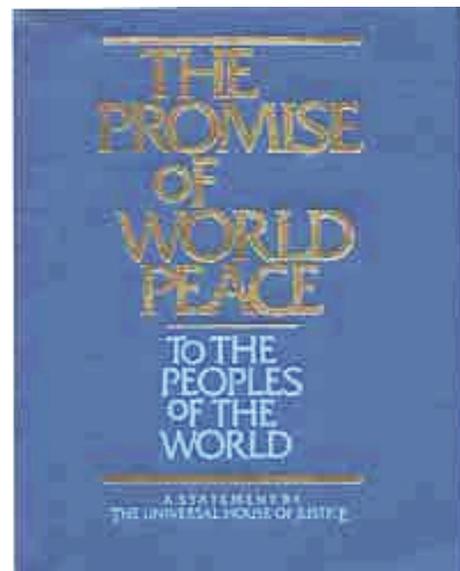
## December-January Online Courses

**Pay just \$10 for your first course (2019)  
30% discount for first-timers in 2020**

### World Peace: The Baha'i Perspective

December 1, 2019 to January 11, 2020

This course offers an opportunity to study and reflect upon the Universal House of Justice's 18th January 2019 message to the Bahá'ís of the World about peace, alongside The Promise of World Peace and a number of non-Bahá'í sources. We'll also consider some of the more recent messages of the Universal House of Justice that illuminate world conditions and call on us to give our utmost to our community-building efforts and to "offer the insights arising."



The aim of the course is above all to help us to build our capacity to engage in public discourses and social action - in other words, our transformation as individuals and as members of communities and institutions. ...these are the surest ways you can hasten the fulfillment of the promise of world peace.



## [Zoroastrianism for Deepening and Dialogue](#)

December 9, 2019 to January 26, 2020

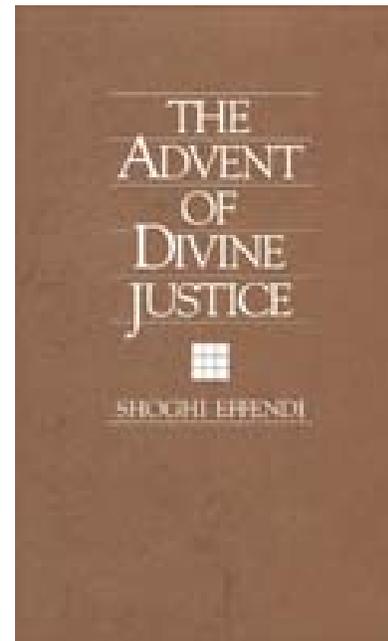
Zoroastrianism, an ancient religious tradition founded by Zoroaster, or Zarathustra, some 500 to 1,000 years before Christ, is the focus of this course. We will examine Zoroaster's life, what has survived of His words, His teachings, the subsequent developments of the Zoroastrian tradition, references to Zoroastrianism in the writings of Bahá'u'lláh

and `Abdu'l-Bahá, and the relationship of Zoroastrianism to later religions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and the Bahá'í Faith). We will study Zoroaster and the divinely ordained religion He founded to deepen in the basics of Zoroastrianism and its relationship to the Bahá'í Faith and to prepare for dialogue with adherents of Zoroastrianism.

## [The Advent of Divine Justice](#)

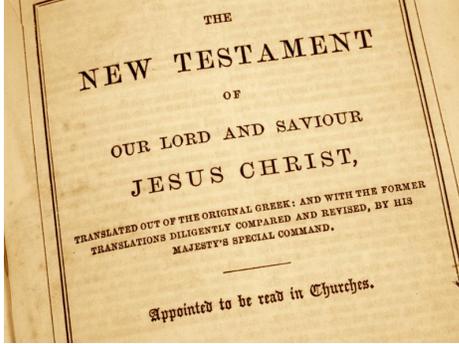
December 12, 2019 to January 29, 2020

Shoghi Effendi wrote *The Advent of Divine Justice* in 1938 during a time of tremendous turmoil in world affairs. Today we find ourselves once again in the midst of breathtaking national and international change. Therefore, returning to the Guardian's brilliant analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the American Bahá'ís, to his unerring guidance for their success in contributing to the rejuvenation of their country and in the unfolding of a new world order, and to his assurances of America's "unspeakably glorious destiny" is essential for gaining perspective on the needs of the hour. His lengthy letter explains the spiritual prerequisites for success in any undertaking (rectitude of conduct, a chaste and holy life, and freedom from racial prejudice) for prosecuting 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Divine Plan, the requirements for teaching, and the "double crusade" each Bahá'í must conduct to "prepare . . . for the time when the Hand of Destiny will have directed them to assist in creating and in bringing into operation that World Order" (par. 59). As the Universal House of Justice writes in its December 29, 2015, letter launching the current Five Year Plan (2016-21): This is an urgent call for action-"the urgency . . . impelled by the world's desperate condition." For making the most of our contributions to the Five Year Plan in all arenas of service and beyond, study of *The Advent of Divine Justice* could not be more imperative.



## [Christianity for Deepening and Dialogue](#)

December 15, 2019 to February 8, 2020



In **Christianity for Deepening and Dialogue** we will explore major themes that form part of Christian belief and compare them with the Bahá'í Faith: conceptions of God and the trinity; Christian rites, the Eucharist, and baptism; the kingdom of God; faith in miracles; the Crucifixion; and the Resurrection. We will begin with an introduction to the Bible and

its organization and will also cover politics and religion. Using Bahá'í, Islamic, and academic perspectives, we will examine the themes in the Gospels' original context and then explore them in their modern forms. We will be studying Christianity for the purposes of deepening and dialogue—that is, for understanding the basics of Christianity as a divinely revealed religion and for learning how to share the Bahá'í perspective with a variety of Christians in an informed and respectful manner.

## **Introduction to the Kitab-i-Aqdas**

January 9 to March 4, 2020

Shoghi Effendi has written that the Aqdas "may well be regarded as the brightest emanation of the mind of Baha'u'llah, as the Mother Book of His Dispensation, and the Charter of His New World Order." We will read the Kitab-i-Aqdas and supplemental texts related to it, while studying several of its main themes: covenant, succession, and manifestation; Baha'i institutions, including the rulers and the learned, the Universal House of Justice, Houses of Worship, Feasts, Holy Days, and the Baha'i calendar; the nature and purpose of Baha'u'llah's laws; Baha'u'llah's ordinances; prohibitions and punishments; Baha'u'llah's proclamations to kings, rulers, places, and groups of people; education and transformation; and teaching the Baha'i Faith.

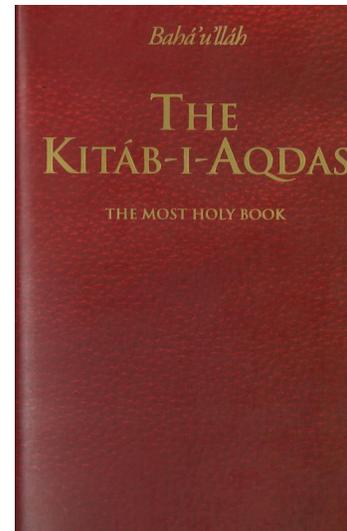


Photo c. Jonathan Pendleton  
on Unsplash

## **Strengthening Married Individuals**

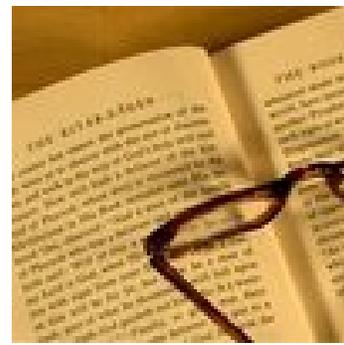
January 6 to February 16, 2020

When individual partners strive to be emotionally and spiritually healthy, it contributes to the strength of their marriage. We invite individuals to refresh their understanding of the Baha'i teachings about marriage and gain insights into how their feelings, thoughts, words, actions, self-respect, happiness, and spiritual practices affect themselves and their marriage partner. As individuals increase in well-being, they benefit their marriage.

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

January 16 to March 4, 2020

**Finding the Hidden Gift: An Approach to Studying the Bahá'í Writings** introduces students to a systematic method of studying Bahá'í scripture using a number of literary and exegetical tools. In the course, we will view passages from Bahá'í 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 Bahá'í texts systematically.



All readings for this course will be provided online, with no purchase of books required.



## [Promoting Moral Excellence in Business](#)

January 16 to March 11, 2020

**Promoting Moral Excellence in Business** allows learners to explore and redefine the fundamentals of a new business and management paradigm founded on revolutionary spiritual and moral principles

drawn from the Baha'i Revelation. We will first review current understanding of business ethics, then challenge commonly held assumptions in business and management. We will take time to rethink the purpose of business, examine the meaning of such spiritual and moral values as unity, justice, nobility, and service, and explore how these values and operational principles such as consultation apply in a business environment. We will then explore groundbreaking concepts of leadership, power, and corporate governance.

The course is for anyone interested in starting a business, improving their business, transforming their work environment, providing innovative and transformational consulting services or sharpening their social entrepreneurship skills.

## [Communications Skills for Spiritually Minded Families](#)

January 20 to March 8, 2020

Family unity is linked to the quality of respectful and effective communication between all family members. Inspired by quotations from the Bahá'í Writings as well as stories from the life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the



course materials invite you and your family to explore different techniques for communicating effectively, understand the importance of encouragement, foster a learning mode, and implement and carry out family meetings.

This course is appropriate for those with children 14 years old and under.



## **Baha'i Perspectives on Agriculture and Food**

January 23 to March 12, 2020

Baha'u'llah described agriculture as a "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.

Required textbook (not included in course fee): *The Spirit of Agriculture*, Paul Hanley (ed.), George Ronald, 2005. See details by clicking on course title above,

## **365 Courses**

Register anytime and study them at your own pace!

Currently available are:

- [Thinking of Relationships and Marriage?](#)
- [Are We Ready for Marriage?](#)
- [Engaging in Parental Consent for Marriage](#)
- [Building Intercultural Understanding as a Couple](#)
- [Making Time and Service Choices As a Couple](#)
- [Enhancing Love, Friendship, and Service in Your Marriage](#)
- [Creating Marriage Well-Being from the Beginning](#)
- [Nurturing your Baby Spiritually During Pregnancy](#)



**More on 365 courses**

## **Useful 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](#)

[Desert Rose Baha'i Institute](#)

[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](#)

## **ABOUT US**

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### **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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