



Wilmette Institute

November 2020 ENewsletter

A monthly electronic Newsletter with news of the Wilmette Institute, a schedule of online Web Talks, live events, and upcoming courses

Wilmette Institute News

[Wilmette Institute Reaches an Important Milestone](#)

The Wilmette Institute's application to affiliate with the Graduate Theological Union of Berkeley, California, has been accepted by the GTU Board. Details now must be worked out. If they are, the agreement will have huge implications for the development of the Wilmette Institute.

[First Tuition Fee Increase in Twelve Years](#)

The Wilmette Institute is raising its tuition in January 2021 to adjust for increased costs, but it still has ample tuition discounts (scholarships) for those who can't afford the costs. See the article for a new table of fees and a link to our new Student Handbook.

[Fund Raising Continues](#)

With the Wilmette Institute strengthening its relationship with United Theological Seminary, pursuing affiliation with the Graduate Theological Union, and working on a 125-page application to become an accredited institution of higher education, the need to support the Institute financially is greater than ever. [Read the Institute's appeal.](#)

[Web Talks](#)

The talks are live web video and are free. Just click to register, or go to our Facebook or YouTube page to watch live.

Upcoming:

Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020, 12 PM Eastern

[Interfaith Devotional and Climate Change Series](#)

This is a workshop with limited space--click for details

Now on YouTube and Sound Cloud:

Mikhail Sergeev

["The Issue of Self-Identity in Transhumanism and Baha'i Writings"](#)

Shahrokh Monjazeb

[Divine Wisdom Revealed: Beyond Baha'u'llah's Reprimand of the Two Powerful Ottoman Officials](#)

Derik Smith

["Supplanting the Prison Industrial Complex"](#)

Boris Handal

["Mirza Mihdi: La Rama Mas Pura"](#)

Participate in inspiring conversations at [Bahai.chat](#)!

Upcoming Program:

Patricia Locke Foundation

Working to impact lives in the Standing Rock Reservation

Saturday Nov. 14 2020 @ 2:15 PM EDT



Hosted by Rainn
Wilson. With Special
guests Kevin Locke,
Ceylan İşgör and more

register at
bahai.chat/join

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Chats of
Hope, Unity &
the Connecting
of Hearts.

Student News

[Click on the title to read more.](#)



["Diversity of Themes": An Imperishable Book](#)

Marco Oliveira of Lisbon, Portugal, produced a masterful PowerPoint summary of 'Abdu'l-Baha's *Some Answered Questions* as a final project for a course focusing on that important work.

["Aristotle in the Branding Corral"](#)

Povy Bigbee is one of a growing number of students who have taken the Wilmette Institute's course on **Writing Biographies and Histories** and have later succeeded in publishing their work. In October, Povy wrote to give us an update about her book *Aristotle in the Branding Corral*. . .



[Reflections on the Tabernacle of Unity](#)



One of Eric Stanton's goals was to do a more systematic, in-depth study of the Baha'i Writings. During the course on **The Tabernacle of Unity**, he was able to read the text of the *Tabernacle of Unity* twice. Through reading the supporting materials, he gained a better understanding of the context in which it was written. The aspect of this course that had the most profound impact on him "was learning of the trials endured by Zoroastrian converts to the Baha'i Faith."

[A New Student's Perspective](#)

Phyllis Funk is getting more out of the course Baha'u'llah's Revelation: A Systematic Study than she can express. She is taking her time to read, is googling a lot of definitions, and is experiencing a wide range of emotions. She is using the course for personal spiritual development so that she will be able to confidently share with others the goals of the Cause and attributes of God.



[A Second Second Chance](#)



Gwen T. Samuels, a poet and fiber artist who joined the WI learning community in 2018, recently published a memoir about her experiences contracting COVID-19 (she was on a ventilator 10 days), and her perspectives on prevention and healing. Her book is titled *A Second Second Chance: A Black Woman's Story of Recovery from COVID-19*.

["Hard Times Require Furious Dancing"](#)

Gwen T. Samuels, a student of the Wilmette Institute course **Racism in America: The Most Vital and Challenging Issue**, has had the honor of having two of

her quilts accepted in "We Are the Story"-a multi-site initiative of seven (7) quilt exhibitions sponsored by the Textile Center of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Gwen's quilt in the exhibit called "Racism: In the Face of Hate We Resist" is entitled "Hard Times Require Furious Dancing."



[Ancient Wisdom Renewed](#)



Bob Ballenger, a learner in the course **Baha'u'llah's Revelation: A Systematic Survey**, offers an essay inspired by his reading of the Tablet of Wisdom. He concludes that "philosophy is not one of those useless disciplines that 'begin with words and end with words,' but it offers real insights into the human condition and how to improve it. It is gratifying that Bahá'u'lláh had no problem in recognizing and praising the contribution of philosophy to humanity." He plans to take the Institute's course **Philosophy and the Baha'i Faith** in December.

[Tips for Sustainable Living](#)



[Plog and Plalk: Pick Up Litter!](#)

As you walk and jog, you can pick up litter, as they do in Sweden. . . - *Christine Muller*

[November and December Online Courses](#)



[Writing Biographies and Histories: Recording Stories of People and Places](#)

Nov. 12, 2020-Jan. 31, 2021

Writing Biographies and Histories: Recording Stories of People and Places is designed to help Baha'is who wish to compose a memoir about their own lives, produce a biography of a Baha'i mentor, or write the history of their local Baha'i community. 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 with support and advice from the faculty. The Wilmette Institute may be interested in publishing some short histories, biographies, and memoirs on its public website.

The Seven Valleys and the Arts of Transformation

Nov. 12, 2020-Jan. 6, 2021



The Seven Valleys and the Arts of Transformation focuses on exploring Bahá'u'lláh's The Seven Valleys through creative expression, both for those with background in the arts and for those with interest in but little or no experience in this approach. Each week, the learner will be responsible for reading materials related to elements and stages of spiritual development, and for exploring topics and questions through an artistic creation, such as a poem, drawing, or music. At the end of the course the learners will be asked to present an essay, collage or portfolio of art created in the course, or artwork that summarizes what they have learned and how this experiential process has influenced their personal growth.

Empower Your Marriage & Family to Thrive

Nov. 23, 2020-Jan. 3, 2021



Do you want the best for your marriage and family, but it's hard to juggle everything? This course will help you understand and organize your roles and responsibilities, establish your marriage and family unit as a secure foundation for the well-being of all in the family, nurture family spiritual habits and virtues, and have positive family unity through spiritual practices and service together. You will study spiritual principles from the Bahá'í teachings that apply, learn helpful information from science, and carry out practical application of your learning.

Charters of the Faith

Dec. 3, 2020-Jan. 13, 2021

Charters of the Faith, we will study three "Charters" of the Bahá'í Faith identified by Shoghi Effendi: Bahá'u'lláh's Tablet of Carmel, `Abdu'l-Bahá's Will and Testament, and His Tablets of the Divine Plan. We will read and discuss the full texts of these three charters, supplementing our reading with stories, photographs, and other materials and seeking to gain a deeper understanding of their significance and their application in our own lives. We will examine the "three distinct processes" that Shoghi Effendi states these three charters set in motion, "the first operating in the Holy Land for the development of the institutions of the



Faith at its World Center and the other two, throughout the rest of the Bahá'í world, for its propagation and the establishment of its Administrative Order" (*Messages to the Bahá'í World*, 84).

The course will conclude with a discussion about the Hands of the Cause of God and the role they played between Shoghi Effendi's death in 1957 and the election of the Universal House of Justice in 1963, and with the role that individuals play in protecting and expanding the Faith.



World Peace: The Baha'i Perspective

Dec. 10, 2020-Jan. 20, 2021

In 1985 the Universal House of Justice issued *The Promise of World Peace*, the first in a series of ground-breaking documents which addressed humankind's situation and needs. Thirty-one years later the message enshrined in *The Promise of World Peace*, known to many as "the Peace Message," is as cogent and urgent as ever. The world is increasingly embroiled in conflict, whether "hot" or "cold." Conflicts over territory, conflicts surrounding nationalist ambitions, conflicts that claim religious inspiration, tribal conflicts, conflicts of all kinds increasingly involve terrorist organizations, fundamentalist religious and ideological groups, nationalist groups, and so on, and are ever more intractable. 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." Much progress has been made in seeing the challenges facing humanity as "one common concern for the whole world," but, sadly, the governments of the world and the United Nations have failed to stem "the tide of conflict and disorder."

Philosophy and the Baha'i Faith

Dec. 10, 2020-Jan. 27, 2021

In **Philosophy and the Baha'i Faith**, 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.



365 Courses

Register anytime and study at your own pace!

Currently available:

- [Thinking of Relationships and Marriage?](#)
- [Are We Ready for Marriage?](#)
- [Engaging in Parental Consent for Marriage](#)
- [Enhancing Love, Friendship, and Service in Your Marriage](#)
- [Nurturing your Baby Spiritually During Pregnancy](#)



[Browse 365 courses](#)

Useful Links

Wilmette Institute Links

[Wilmette Institute: Public Website](#)

[Wilmette Institute: Course Delivery System](#)

[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](#)

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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www.bahai.us

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