



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 February 2020 News

### Student News

#### [Anti-Racism Work: Keep the Conversations Going](#)

Mike Kelley, a participant in the Wilmette Institute's fourth course on racism, shares his learning outcomes and how he is keeping the conversations going in Lubbock, Texas.



### Tip for Sustainable Living



#### [Cherish your old cell phones and computers!](#)

We spend 700 billion US dollars on consumer electronics in the world every year-that's 120 dollars per citizen on Earth. Learn more about the social and environmental costs before you purchase a new device.

#### [Web Talks](#)

The talks are live web video and are free. Just click to register or watch live

via our Facebook page or YouTube channel.



Sunday, February 2, 2020, 2 pm Eastern time  
Joan Hernandez, Vahid Masrour, and Jessica Kerr - with  
facilitator Nicola Daniels, Wilmette Institute Registrar  
["Transformative Leadership: Panel Discussion"](#)

Sunday, February 9, 2020, 2 pm Eastern time  
Steven Phelps  
["Overview of the Writings of Baha'u'llah"](#)

Sunday, February 23, 2020, 2 pm Eastern Time  
Brian Lepard

["Building a 'System the Like of Which Mortal Eyes Have Never Witnessed': Some Reflections on the Nature and Application of Baha'i Law"](#)

**Now on YouTube and Sound Cloud:**

Layli Maparyan

["African American Womanism and the Baha'i Faith in Dialogue: New Approaches to the Most Challenging Issue"](#)



Judy Hannen Moe

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

## [February-March Online Courses](#) 30% discount for first-timers in 2020

**One Common Faith**  
2/27 to 4/15

At the Wilmette Institute we believe that both a spiritual and intellectual approach to education is key to producing positive change in society, and driving our collective future.

**February 2020 Courses (video)**

[Anti-black Racism in the U.S.-  
The Most Vital and Challenging](#)



## Issue

February 6-April 8, 2020

This course will examine anti-black racism and racial prejudice in North American society in some of its most serious manifestations, explore the content and significance of relevant Baha'i authoritative texts, and consider how

Baha'is can initiate meaningful conversations and public discourse in a variety of contexts. It will explore definitions of race, racism, and prejudice, and examine such subjects as colonialism and slavery; the prison industrial complex; Black Lives Matter and policing issues; white privilege and bias/stereotyping; segregation, gentrification, and reparations; black women and social justice; and the Civil Rights Movement. Ultimately, participants will acquire tools to apply this knowledge to Baha'i community life and to use it in social-action projects.

## Cultivating Transformative Leadership

February 13-April 2, 2020

What does "leadership" mean, once it's been stripped of the mindset of domination? How do we go about transforming ourselves and the social environment we find ourselves in? Since its initial formulation 25 years ago, transformative leadership has been applied in education, health, youth programs, community development and in both nonprofit and for-profit organizations in five continents. The course questions existing mental models of human nature, society, and leadership that impede progress toward a just, united world community, proposing an explicit, principle-based framework that can bolster cooperative action in teams, organizations and communities. The course is open to all and is especially useful to those who are involved in social action or participating in the discourse of society.



**Video:** Panel Discussion Invite

Required Text: *Transformative Leadership: Developing the Hidden Dimension*, by Eloy Anello, Joan Hernandez, May Khadem (2014). [Google Books link](#)



## Discovering the Bab's Bayan: The Most Holy Book of the Babi Religion

February 13-April 15, 2020

## Discovering the Bab's Persian Bayan

is the first concise yet comprehensive online study of the Bab's "pivotal" and "doctrinal" work. Participants 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...." Learn about the "central message" of the Bayan and discover how the Bab as "the Promised Messenger of God" broke away from traditional Shí'a and Sunni doctrine by introducing new laws and ordinances for the next phase of the human spiritual development.

## The Badi' Calendar

February 20-April 2, 2020

The Bahá'í Faith has a unique calendar of 19 months of 19 days each, plus 4 or 5 days of Ayyam-i-Ha to bring the length of the year up to a full solar cycle. Through this calendar, "sacred moments are distinguished, humanity's place in time and space are reimagined, and the rhythm of life recast." The Universal House of Justice, in a letter dated July 10, 2014, has called "upon the Baha'is of the East and West to adopt . . . the provisions that will unite them in the common implementation of the Badi' calendar." The House of Justice has also fixed the start of the year on the first day of spring as it occurs in Tehran. In **The Badi' (Baha'i) Calendar** we will consider the purpose and nature of calendars in general, the organization of the Baha'i calendar (created by the Bab and called the Badi' calendar), the spiritual significance of the names of "the periods and cycles, months and days" in the calendar, and the purpose and timing of Baha'i holy days. We will also compare the Baha'i calendar to the Jewish, Christian, and Islamic calendars.



**Video:** Course Highlights

## One Common Faith

February 27-April 16, 2020

People of different faiths (including those with non-religious worldviews) increasingly dialogue with each other. Even so, interreligious conflict is still all too prevalent in the 21st century. Study of *One Common Faith* -

centred as it is on the bold assertion that "the time has come when religious leadership must face honestly and without further evasion the implications of the truth that God is one and that . . . religion is likewise one" - will give us concepts, understandings and tools for effective contributions to interfaith dialogue and to public discourse on the role of religion in society.

## [Re-Connecting As Marriage Partners](#)

March 9, 2020-April 19, 2020

Sometimes couples can lose some of their connection with each other in the course of busy marriage and family life, work, and service. Participants will learn practical ways to build greater closeness, intimacy, and unity, while strengthening their love and friendship. They will also assess and improve their practice of equality, justice, and respect in their marriage. Couples who learn new skills and approaches can stay together for the long-term.



## [How to Collect, Arrange, Maintain and Promote a Baha'i Archives](#)

March 12, 2020-June 3, 2020

Organized by the United States National Baha'i Archives and taught by three Baha'i archivists, **How to Collect, Arrange,**

**Maintain and Promote a Baha'i Archives** will introduce local and national Baha'i archivists to principles that will help them to organize and maintain their collections. Registration for the course is open to local and national Baha'i archivists (and to others only by permission of the National Archives). The course will include activities requiring access to archival materials in a Baha'i archives. Two units will cover basic archival principles; the acquisition, arranging, and processing of records and personal papers, including electronic records; nonpaper materials, including digital assets; reference services; exhibits; quarters for housing archival materials; and preservation. Another unit will involve your working on an archival project: either a survey of your archives or advanced work on a project of your choosing. A final unit will guide you through a final report and proposal to your Local or National Spiritual Assembly.

## [Economics and Community Building](#)

March 12, 2020-May 6, 2020

**Economics and Community Building** is designed to prepare learners to take action in community-building and economic development. We will analyze the world's economic conditions through an in-depth study of the Baha'i Writings and recent letters from



Baha'i institutions, as well as secular sources, and plan strategies for implementing their guidance to develop economic activities with moral and spiritual foundations. Topics include the economic significance of justice, economic well-being and prosperity, the impact of oneness on economic life, village and community economics, and applying the learning from the course.



## [Indigenous Perspectives on the Sacred](#)

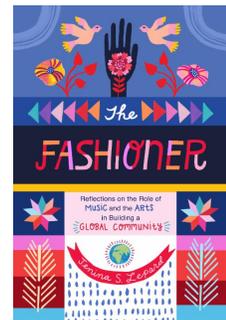
March 19, 2020-May 13, 2020

In **Indigenous Perspectives on the Sacred**, we will examine the common threads found in indigenous spiritual beliefs and practices and the universal message of Baha'u'llah. We will explore how Native American teachings and values reflect some of the more salient teachings and principles of the Baha'i revelation and in so doing will also inquire into how culture shapes our perceptions of reality and seek to gain insights into our inherent cultural biases. We will cover a range of topics: the historic culture clash between indigenous peoples and settlers; the use of language and symbolism in intercultural communication; the impacts of colonization and Christianity in the colonization process; and the effect both have had on native religion and spirituality and the implications for the spread of Baha'u'llah's message in indigenous communities. In our readings, discussions, and consultations, we will strive for expansive thinking and will also revisit 'Abdu'l-Baha's statement about the importance of the original inhabitants of North America and the Lakota prophecy about the rise of the Seventh Generation, reframing these statements in the context of the current Five Year Plan (2016-21).

## [The Arts and Community Building](#)

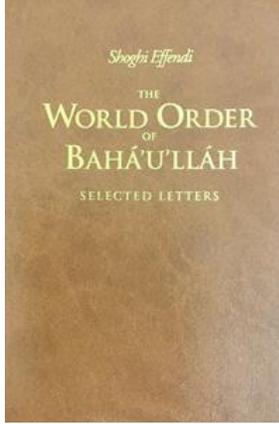
March 19, 2020-May 20, 2020

**The Arts and Community Building** is based on Jenina Leopard's book, *The Fashioner: Reflections on the Role of Music and the Arts in Building a Global Community*. We will take a theoretical look at the role of the arts in society and in the Baha'i Faith specifically as well as a practical look at how we can utilize various arts in core activities, feasts and holy days, and other aspects of Baha'i life. During the final two weeks of the course, learners will complete a final project based on their own ideas for incorporating the arts in at least one core activity.



## [Three World Order of Baha'u'llah Letters](#)

March 26, 2020-May 6, 2020



**The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh: Selected Letters**, a compilation of letters written by Shoghi Effendi, identify the essential character and distinguishing features of the Baha'i Faith in contrast to other political and religious systems. In studying the letters, we will examine what Shoghi Effendi identifies as the defects of the prevailing world order, the guiding principles of the Baha'i system that will bring about World Order, and the necessary steps world leaders must take to rectify these defects. We

will also study what Shoghi Effendi says about the ordeals we must traverse in order to realize a new phase in human thought and the important role that North America is to play before we reach the peaceful settlement of world affairs. This course is designed to strengthen our understanding of the times in which we live and our certainty that humankind will pass through a daunting period of world history, knowing that world peace, the dream of the great thinkers of all ages, is not only possible but inevitable.

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

March 30, 2020-May 24, 2020

How can we help children place love for Baha'u'llah and the desire to be of service to others as the foundation of their lives? This course enables parents to explore how they can foster a child's connection to the Baha'i Faith through developing spiritually uplifting routines at home, engaging in service within the home as well as in their communities, and aligning family activities with the current goals of their communities. Participants will be given positive parenting tools inspired by the Baha'i Writings as well as hands-on strategies for implementing spiritual practices at home.



## [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

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

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