



Wilmette Institute

October 2020 ENewsletter

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

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.



Sunday Oct 18, 2020, 2:00 PM Eastern Time
Mikhail Sergeev and Alexander Chumakov

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

Saturday, Oct. 24, 4:00 PM Eastern Time
Shahrokh Monjazebe

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

[Interfaith Devotional and Climate Conversation Series](#)

This is a workshop with limited space - click for details

Sunday, Oct. 25, 12 PM Eastern Time

Now on YouTube and Sound Cloud:

Derik Smith

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

Boris Handal

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

Participate in inspiring conversations

Chats of Hope, Unity & the Connecting of Hearts.



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Upcoming Programs

Racial Justice Series pt. 3

A conversation with the U.S. Baha'i Office of Public Affairs' Race Discourse Officers and Guests.

Saturday Oct. 10 @ 2:15pm EDT

A Conversation with the National Center for Race Amity

Saturday Oct. 24 @ 2:15pm EDT

Student News

The recent course **Anti-Black Racism in the U.S.--The Most Vital and Challenging Issue** generated a very large number of student reflections and decisions to act. Here is a selection of them.



Study Group Shares Plans for Action

Wandra Harmsen reports that a multinational study group hopes to start a spiritual writing workshop, a junior youth group via Zoom, and collaborate with a middle school principal on racial amity and justice.



Looking Within, Speaking Out

Judith Partelow of Dennis, MA reports: "I have come to accept that, although I always believed I was not racist, that growing up in a racist society as a white person has given me white privilege and many advantages that I took for granted as being the rights for all people. I've learned otherwise."

Removing the Veils

Cheresse Burke, an American living in Denmark, says: "I have learned so much about exactly how Black people have been disenfranchised in the US. Before, it was something I knew in a vague manner, but now I am armed

with facts and with many resources to read and recommend. I have also learned a lot about issues within the Bahá'í community, and how divided we are to racial realities thanks to many political veils over our vision."

Hall-mark of a True Baha'i Character

Samaneh Rodarte of southern California notes that "This course along with another that was taken simultaneously helped me navigate around resistant individuals/groups within the community. Specifically, I am not as distracted by or reactive to Bahá'ís who gaslight when the subject is raised."



Learner Reflects on Social Justice Conversations

Connie Price-Johnson of Tucson, AZ reports that "I especially appreciated the focus on learning and reflection on one hand, and the honest input from African American Bahá'ís about their experiences and their frustrations with white people within the Bahá'í community and in society in general."

Heartache and Inspiration

JoAnn Nadeau of Cape Cod, MA says that "I learned so much about mass incarceration and the way the prison system depends on a new form of enslaving people. I learned about microaggressions and the lasting damage they inflict on their victims.... I learned the way many African American Bahá'ís feel invisible and unheard in their communities and have for a long time, and what I as a white Bahá'í need to do according to Shoghi Effendi."

A New Pair of Glasses



Naree Chan of Oakland, CA reflects that "When I was twelve years old, I found out I needed glasses.... Now, more than a dozen years later, while studying the rich materials from this course, I am once again feeling I have upgraded the prescription on my lenses (or perhaps now need bifocals). In all my interactions and observations, I see the world, events, and activities around me through a new anti-black racism lens."

"Far from Fair"--Learner's poem chronicles injustice

Susan Bailey was inspired by the Anti-Black Racism course to compose a moving poem.

Wilmette Institute News

Fund Raising Continues

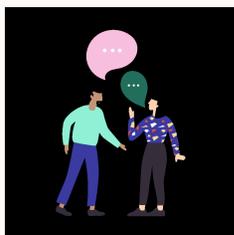
With the Wilmette Institute strengthening its relationship with United Theological Seminary, pursuing affiliation with a major consortium of religious studies schools, and working on a 125-page application to become an accredited institution of higher education, the need to support the

Institute financially is greater than ever. [Read the Institute's appeal.](#)

Volunteers Needed

The Wilmette Institute needs help with various things: editing, proofreading, and sometimes research. If you are interested, please write us at learn@wilmetteinstitute.org.

Tips for Sustainable Living



Fashion? Let it Go!

The fashion industry is extremely harmful to the environment-it is the second largest industrial polluter, only the oil industry is worse. The production of clothes consumes more energy than the aviation and shipping industry combined. . . - *Christine Muller*

October and November Online Courses



Exploring the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament

Oct. 8 - Nov. 25, 2020

In **Exploring the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament)** we will survey the Hebrew Bible's major books (including selections from the Pentateuch, the earlier and later prophets, the Psalms, and other writings) in the light of progressive revelation and in the historical contexts that they depict. We will also compare the Hebrew Bible with Baha'i scripture, paying particular attention to passages in the Hebrew Bible that have been "unsealed" (authoritatively interpreted) by the Baha'i revelation. Studying the Hebrew Bible in the light of the Baha'i writings aims to confirm one's faith and to provide opportunities for sharing the Baha'i revelation with others.

Building a New System of Global Governance

Oct. 15-Dec. 2, 2020

(Formerly **Building a World Federation**)

In **Building a New System of Global Governance** we will examine how we can solve the many problems the world faces today using 'Abdu'l-Bahá'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 linkages between the creation of a new system of global governance and Baha'u'llah's promised Lesser Peace relying on recent guidance from the Universal House of Justice that illuminates this subject. In addition, we will 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.



Navigating Media and Screen Time

Oct. 19-Nov. 22, 2020

Do you want more tools to help your child navigate society's intense media environment? In today's world socializing, personal expression, and dating often occur between texts and social media, raising new challenges and opportunities for children and teens. This course offers a safe space to critically examine the role screen time plays in their family. It will help participants learn how to address the common media-related issues facing their children and guide them to apply Baha'i principles to their time online.

Take this course and Baha'u'llah's Summons to Two Ottoman Prime Ministers and Get a 30% Discount on Both!

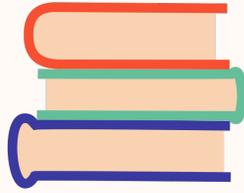
Exploring Baha'u'llah's Last Major Work: Epistle to the Son of the Wolf

Oct. 22-Dec. 9, 2020



In the course on Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, Baha'u'llah's last major work, which is a single letter containing His own anthology of His writings, we will read the book slowly over a period of six weeks, examining major themes of Bahá'u'lláh's revelation: God as the source of His revelation; Who Baha'u'llah is; why He came; proofs of His station; His general teachings; the sufferings He endured; humanity's responses to His revelation; and accounts of martyrs that illustrate the transforming power of the Baha'i Faith. Revealed for an enemy of the Baha'i Faith, Shaykh Muhammad-Taqi (surnamed "Son of the Wolf"), the book warns him about the consequences of his persecution of the Faith. Containing as it does Baha'u'llah's quotations from His own revelation, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf provides an excellent summary of themes He

considered important to understanding the Baha'i Faith.



Take this course and Epistle to the Son of Wolf and Get a 30% Discount on Both!

Baha'u'llah's Summons to Two Ottoman Prime Ministers: A Study of Suriy-i-Ra'is, Lawh-i-Ra'is, and Lawh-i-Fuad

Oct. 22-Dec. 9, 2020

This course will closely examine the three Tablets, Súriy-i-Ra'ís, Lawh' -i-Ra'ís, and Lawh' -i-Fu'ád, addressed by Bahá'u'lláh to the two powerful and highly influential 19th century Turkish Prime Ministers 'Álí Páshá (1815-1871) and Fu'ád Páshá (1814-1869).

Economic Justice in a World of Injustices

Oct. 29-Dec. 23, 2020

The topic of economics is vast and complex. It is commonly assumed that the economic health of a society is accurately represented by indices such as the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and that the human experience is all but irrelevant. Many people are intimidated by economics and some view it as problematic to the forward progress of humanity and the planet. In this course, however, we will view economics and economic justice from a totally different perspective: through the lens of distributive justice. According to the Baha'i Writings, economic progress is perpetuated by justice. Issues of economic justice are fundamentally about the ethics and moral foundation of income distribution. Distributive justice is often considered not to belong to the scope of economics, but there is actually an important body of literature in economics that addresses normative issues in social and economic justice.



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.



The Secret of Divine Civilization and Ottoman Reform

Nov. 19, 2020-Jan. 6, 2021

In *The Secret of Divine Civilization* we will study `Abdu'l-Bahá's first extensive description of Bahá'í social teachings, reading it slowly over a period of seven weeks. Elaborating on principles that Bahá'u'lláh enunciated in His tablets to the kings and leaders of the world, the treatise describes the true nature of civilization and provides a blueprint for the "future reorganization of the world." To develop the theme of universal peace, honest government, and religion as the true bases of world order, `Abdu'l-Bahá redefines the Islamic tradition that a learned person "must guard himself, defend his faith, oppose his passions and obey the commandments of his Lord."

Leaders, in particular, are called to a new standard of honesty and trustworthiness, a theme of particular interest during any election cycle. This course will thus look at the complementary processes of personal transformation and social development, leading to a reorganization of the world. It will also examine the book as an early example of public discourse and consider how we can use it to improve our own efforts in public discourse.

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.



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 \(Ethical Business Building the Future\)](#)
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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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