



... toward peace through the wisdom of
the middle eastern traditions

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on another year, I am seeing and feeling progress on many levels of our work as we continue to support a genuine interspiritual impulse in humanity. With climate change and the needs of our home planet in the forefront, we need more than ever to unite beyond apparent differences. In the often-mistranslated words of Genesis 1:28, we need to learn to manage our humanity in number and diversity, help all of creation fulfill its purpose in life and rule *alongside* of and *within*, not 'over,' the whole natural world.



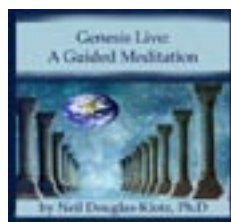
In addition, in order to awaken the inner and outer visions that we need at this time, the wisdom of all spiritual traditions can and must be tapped, beyond the historical differences of culture and politics. Those who are savvy in the use of these two — culture and politics — have often used the spiritual impulse in humanity for their own purposes of collecting power and wealth. It is against such unripe collective concentrations of self-aggrandizement that Yeshua and all of the Middle Eastern prophets spoke most directly.

Next year, the first two Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program (AILP) training groups in Scotland and the USA come to completion. Over the three and a half years we have been together I have been gratified to see the gifts of the Abwoon work spreading through the empowered and energized leadership of the passionate teachers, ministers, practitioners and guides in these groups, in so many varied contexts. I could never have imagined much of what has been accomplished and seeded so far, which is exactly what I had hoped when we began. When we allow our own creativity to connect directly, not simply in thought, to the Original Creation, we re-create the possibility out of which all the worlds evolved. In the words of the sacred tradition often quoted by Sufis, the universe arose because the Holy One was a "hidden treasure" and wanted to know itself through us in a deeper, more intimate way — a way only consciously entered through the path of love and wisdom.

With the first two groups completing, two new groups will begin at the **end of November 2010 in Germany** (in English and German) and **spring 2011 in the USA**. Get information and an application for the German group at the Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Learning website (www.eial.org) and for the USA group from www.abwoon.com.

My **schedule for 2010** continues, as before, to support many of the communities most active in the work. In the USA, my two main public workshops will be on **Green Sufism** (Columbus, OH in May) and **Jesus and the Sufis** (Madison, WI in November). In addition, I will be presenting from *The Sufi Book of Life* and teachings from the Aramaic Jesus and Creation at the long-standing Mendocino Sufi Camp in Northern California in July. In early May, I will also be offering two courses, on "The Hidden Gospel" and "Sufi Pathways of the Heart" **near Toronto, Canada** for Wisdom University. In Europe, we will be celebrating "Easter with the Aramaic Jesus" with one of our senior teachers, Gita Sophia Onnen, and her community near Berlin. Next year I will also be directing and teaching the all-group class at our Ruhaniat Sufi Summer School in Germany June 26–July 3. Here we present a whole range of classes from the tradition of our teachers, including meditation, walking meditation, healing, psychology, Dances of Universal Peace, Sufi zikr and more. A full list of classes and registration information is online at the www.sufiruhaniat.eu website.

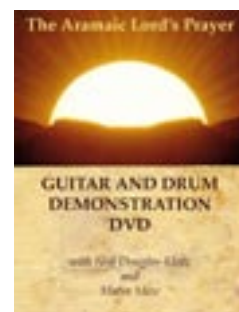
As promised last year, the **Abwoon Resource Center** now has a new website, which has increased access to our recorded and printed work to many more people than ever before. Downloads of all of our CDs are now possible, and I have also begun to post free podcasts of selections of some of the talks and classes I have given over the years. The website also features an extensive **library** section, which contains many of my past articles, both academic and mainstream, along with directions and musical notation for many of my Dances of Universal Peace. Under the direction of the Rev. Elizabeth Reed, and with the able assistance of Amy Alwood and many volunteers, the Abwoon Resource Center connects with and helps people use our work all over the world. Our **new e-newsletter** has also allowed us to move away from a printed annual newsletter and reach many more people internationally than our printing and postage budget will allow. The e-newsletter goes out 3-6 times a year and updates subscribers on new resources as well as late additions to my teaching schedule. Please send an e-mail message to resourcecenter@abwoon.com to be added to the list.



New resources include "**Genesis Live**," a guided meditation with chant through all the creation chants; a **new, completely re-recorded version of the Prayers of the Cosmos teaching CD** (which now contains the music for all the Beatitudes), and a **wonderful new live recording of the Aramaic**

Prayer cycle, recorded at the 25th anniversary gathering in Columbus a few years ago.

Because so many people have asked for guidance in playing the guitar and drum for the **music to the Aramaic Prayer** and the other chant/dance cycles connected with this work, we have produced a **DVD**, which shows **Sheikh Matin Mize** on drum and myself on guitar, playing through the



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Letter from Neil Douglas-Klotz continued from page 1.

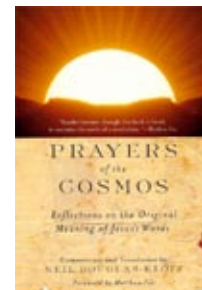
material, with close-ups of our hands on the instruments. Anyone who already knows the basics of dumbek or guitar can pick up what we are doing and improve their accompaniment of the chants. This is, hopefully, the first of a series of DVDs of all the cycles, including the Beatitudes, Genesis, Native Middle Eastern and “I Ams.” Everything has been recorded and we are only waiting for some grant funds to do the very costly and time-consuming editing necessary.

Over the summer, I also worked with Abraham Sussman and the team that produced the “Beginnings” CD to record a new project including many of the new chant melodies associated with the Aramaic Jesus. The new CD, tentatively entitled “**The Bridge**,” will be out in **spring 2010** and will include the sung versions of the Aramaic “Ave Maria” (Shlama l’ki Maryam) as well as “Abba Abada,” “Ad-Dunya Qantaratun,” “Ina d’Tayeb,” “Alaha Abaru” and a number of new arrangements of other Aramaic Jesus and Sufi chants.

All of this has been helped by the generous support of so many of you, in both time and financial resources, along with the organizational support of the Kalliopeia Foundation and the Wolcott Foundation.

We invite your continued support, meditation and prayer as the journey continues. Next year will be the **20th anniversary** of the release of my first book *Prayers of the Cosmos*. The revolution that it began continues! May all we are, and the many ways we feel creation moving through us, help all beings fulfill their purpose in life!

Love and blessings,
Neil Douglas-Klotz



The Abwoon Circles and the Abwoon Resource Center

The work at Abwoon Resource Center supports a network of spiritual activists — ministers, teachers, meditators, retreat directors, therapists and healers — who are creating interspiritual communities around the world. Under many different names, these “Abwoon Interspiritual Communities” are actively working towards similar goals including:

- Realizing and spreading the global consciousness of unity;
- Bridging understanding between the traditions of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar through shared story, meditation and interspiritual ritual;
- Building communities of peace through the celebration of sacred diversity;
- Sharing the vision of purpose, creativity and empowerment that prophet Yeshua calls *malkuta*, which is known in Hebrew as *malkuth* and in Arabic as *al-Malik*.

This work during 2009 (both ongoing and special projects) included:

- **Bookstore operations:** providing an efficient and responsive on-line bookstore through the Abwoon website.
- **Communications:** presenting a newly designed website and its ongoing maintenance; also the use of periodic e-mail announcements through Constant Contact.
- **Workshops and Events:** producing the annual spring event in Columbus, OH and a fall event in Asheville, NC; providing support to other event organizers.
- **Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program:** providing administrative support to the two USA AILP groups and beginning the work to form a new group in spring 2011.
- **Southern Libraries Resources:** continuing to place resources in libraries in southern states made possible through an individual donor. (Also providing free resources to prison ministries, as we are able.)



Rev. Elizabeth A. Reed, Ph.D.
(Munira) Managing Director
for Abwoon Resource Center, a
project of the Shalem Center.

- **Networking:** responding to inquiries (from the website, postal mail, and phone calls) for information on resources, local contacts, workshops, and groups on the Abwoon work; responding to those seeking support and permissions for using inspiration from this work in creative projects.
- **New Resource Development:** working with Neil Douglas-Klotz to produce more resources for supporting individuals and groups who are “building communities of peace.” These resources include a new edition of the *Prayers of the Cosmos* teaching tape, a new CD of the Aramaic Lord’s Prayer (25th anniversary year recording), *Genesis Live* (meditation CD), and a DVD demonstrating guitar and drum musicianship for the Aramaic Lord’s Prayer. Through the generosity of donors, we have state-of-the-art recording equipment and are now able to provide workshop recordings of Neil Douglas-Klotz’ live teachings in the USA. We acknowledge the support of George Rohrer in providing consultation and training in audio recording. Other DVDs are envisioned — an introductory session by Neil Douglas-Klotz to his Aramaic work, a possible academic class in the Aramaic work, and more musicianship DVDs on other dance cycles.
- **Archiving:** acquiring equipment and training volunteers to do audio and video recording of Neil Douglas-Klotz’ teachings. (This is another donor-funded project.)
- **Funding:** grant writing to secure funding for new programs as well as ongoing operations; formation of Abwoon Angels group to look at long-range funding.



Amy Alwood
Bookstore Manager and
Administrative Assistant

The Abwoon Resource Center staff includes the Rev. Elizabeth Munira Reed, Director, and Amy Alwood, Bookstore Manager/Administrative Assistant. They are happy to receive your questions, concerns, and feedback and are committed to the larger vision of Unity that this work serves.

New Online Meditation Course on the Aramaic Beatitudes

Rev. Elizabeth Munira Reed has written a second online meditation course to be offered through SelfHealingExpressions.com. This course, which is entitled *Breathing with the Divine Breath: Deep Inner Healing in "The Beatitude Way,"* will be available around December 15th. These 12 sessions are based on the books and recordings of Neil Douglas-Klotz. You can choose to receive lessons by e-mail twice a week, once a week or every other week.

The first Aramaic online course is a 20-session course on the Aramaic Lord's Prayer co-authored with Neil Douglas-Klotz.

Visit www.SelfHealingExpressions.com for more information and to register. However, if you register through the link at www.abwoon.com, the Abwoon Resource Center receives a donation. These and other courses are available for \$34.95. By using the current 2-for-1 offer you can send a course as a gift to a friend for free.



Desert Flowers E-mail Study Group

Desert Flowers is a community of people around the world using the readings, body prayers, meditations and insights offered by Dr. Neil Douglas-Klotz. It is open to all and there is no charge to join this online group.

We deepen our connection to the One by sharing our experiences by e-mail during fixed check-in times, "meeting" quarterly for two-three weeks. To join or for information, visit www.abwoon.com or contact Richard McMurtry at rmcmurtry@baymoon.com.

Articles ©2009 Abwoon Study Circle

Abwoon Resource Center
SPECIAL HOLIDAY EVENT
FREE SHIPPING for orders over \$40.00

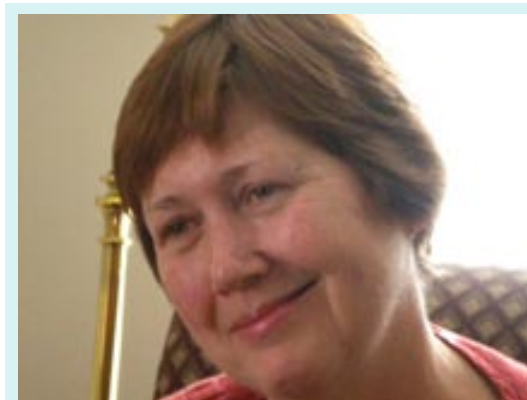
Limited time offer through January 16
For this offer only:
ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY E-MAIL OR PHONE
Pay by check, PayPal or credit card

Keeping in Touch with You!

The Abwoon Resource Center wants to stay in touch with you! We do most of our communications through the Internet. This year we began sending occasional news announcements through Constant Contact as an e-mail message. This is a secure server and allows you to opt in or out as you wish. Please share your Constant Contact announcements with friends who might be interested in this work so they can opt in if they choose.

To receive our ongoing communications, please send an e-mail message to resourcecenter@abwoon.com and include the e-mail address where you would like to receive your copy of the e-newsletter.

With this newsletter, we have eliminated our postal mailings to save trees and resources. However, we want to stay in touch with anyone who is interested in this work. So if you or someone you know does not have access to a computer or the Internet, please send your name and postal address to Abwoon Resource Center, 881 High Street, Suite 206, Worthington, OH 43085. We will send a copy of our annual newsletter by postal mail.



Mary Qahira Richardson answers all phone messages at ARC

New AILP Groups To Form in 2010 and 2011

Three Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program (AILP) groups are currently in progress, two in the USA and one in the U.K. This program is three-and-a-half years in length with attendance at two modules per year taught by Neil Douglas-Klotz. The current groups will be concluding over the coming year-and-a-half. A new group is scheduled to begin in Germany in Fall 2010 and another USA group is planned for Spring 2011. Applicants have already been accepted to both groups and this application process is open to all who have had prior experience with Neil's resources.

Prior reading and an application form are required. Each module focuses on a particular aspect of the Abwoon Circles work and offers leadership training in body prayer, contemplation, chant, voice, walking meditation and the Dances of Universal Peace connected with that aspect, as well as deepening for those who want to establish a personal spiritual practice.

Visit www.abwoon.com for the full description of the AILP program. Individual modules are open to a limited number of participants who are not enrolled in the entire program. However, with USA Group #1 concluding its program, no "one-off" applicants will be accepted for its final module this spring 2010.

Please contact the Rev. Elizabeth Reed, at Shalem Center at 1-614-441-9773 or munira@abwoon.com for information about modules offered in the US. For modules in Europe, please contact Fateah Alice Saunders at 44-(0)131- 664-6206 or alicefateah@btinternet.com.



USA AILP 1, Asheville, NC — November, 2009

Abwoon Mailing List

Please send any updates or changes to your contact information in an e-mail message to resourcecenter@abwoon.com.

Subhana Elizabeth Ferrio maintains the database for Abwoon and regularly updates the postal mail and e-mail address changes that we receive. To contact Subhana directly concerning your information send an e-mail to subhana@abwoon.com.

Note: You may opt in or out of the Constant Contact e-newsletter directly through a link in any of our e-mail news announcements.

Local Abwoon Circles

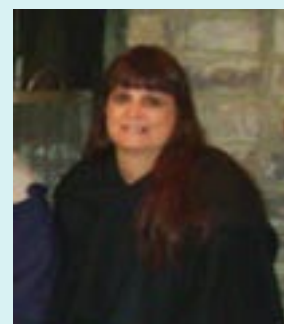
If you are interested in working more with the resources and materials of Neil Douglas-Klotz we encourage you to begin a local group.

Simply begin! Nothing is required to start a local Abwoon Circle.

If you need help, you can purchase *Abwoon Circles: Starting a Local Group*, which contains multiple models for study sessions based on most available resources, from the online store at www.abwoon.com. Also, for support in your endeavours, find a local volunteer connector in the list on the website.



Joyce Jivani Carlson
West Coast Abwoon Networker



Linda Salima Kinney
East Coast Abwoon Networker

Donate to the Work of the Abwoon Resource Center

The generous support of individuals and foundations continues to expand the work of the Abwoon Resource Center. Many thanks to all who have contributed to ARC and its outreach over the past year. We are grateful for each and every gift — large or small — and ask that you include ARC as you consider end-of-year contributions or as part of your long-range estate planning. For more information please contact the Rev. Elizabeth Munira Reed at 1-614-441-9773.

To contribute to the work of ARC:

- Credit card payment through PayPal. Use the "Donate" link on the left side bar at www.abwoon.com (or use donations@abwoon.com).
- Donor-initiated automatic monthly contributions through your online bank bill-pay
- Check payable to Shalem Center and marked "for Abwoon" sent to:

The Shalem Center
881 High Street, Suite 206
Worthington, OH 43085

You can designate your gift for a specific project or program or we will use it where the need is the greatest.

Please remember the Abwoon Resource Center and Abwoon Circle outreach in your holiday and year-end giving plans. All contributions through the Shalem Center, which is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, are tax deductible. If you require a receipt for your donation, please let us know.