

Abwoon

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

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our annual newsletter. Highlights for this next year include:

- The publication of the long-awaited sequel to my book *Prayers of the Cosmos*. The new book, *Blessings of the Cosmos*, features translations of the Aramaic Beatitudes in Luke's version, a large portion of Yeshua's farewell talk with his disciples in the Gospel of John (including the "great commandment"), an Aramaic interpretation of the "Ave Maria" (what Mary heard the angel say...) and the Blessing of Snakes and Doves. *Blessings of the Cosmos* will be published in hardcover by Sounds True in March 2006 and will include a CD with body prayers from the book.
- The publication of *The Tent of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar* by Beacon Press in July 2006. This has been a joint project over many years with my friend Rabbi Arthur Waskow of Philadelphia. We were joined a year ago by Sr. Joan Chittister and the book features an introduction by Karen Armstrong. In *Tent*, the three of us reinterpret the stories of this famous family triangle as found in the Bible and Quran, finding in them a new "stereo" story that can be heard as a full spectrum peace melody for Jews, Christians and Muslims.

As you know, in 2005 I began to work with Murshida Mariam Baker, the successor to my spiritual teacher for carrying on Soulwork, a holistic approach to spiritual practice as well as a method of psycho-spiritual practice. You can find a short article by Mariam on Soulwork on the next to last page. Many of you will be familiar with the basic approach to this work, which I introduced in my 1995 book *Desert Wisdom* as "Depths of the Self" and continued in my other books using an image from Yeshua's creation spirituality: The Table of Holy Wisdom. I will continue this work with Mariam in 2006 in several retreats, as well as with Murshida Gita Onnen, a very skilled practitioner of it and a wonderful teacher in her own right, at our annual Wiston Scottish Summer retreat. The Wiston event will also include teachings and practices from both of my new books.

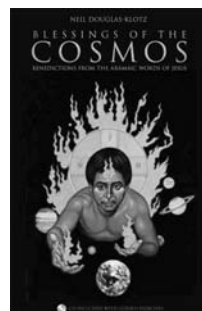
I will also be taking an extended tour of Australia and New Zealand in April and May, the first in six years. That tour will include work from *Sufi Book of Life* and *Genesis Meditations* as well as the new books. It will be great to see my friends "down under" again.

Our annual Edinburgh Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace is now in its third year. Consider joining us in bonnie Scotland for this winter event from the end of February to the beginning of March. Featured speakers this year will include the "green" Greek Orthodox Bishop Kallistos Ware and Muslim scholar Tariq Ramadan.

Ramadan has described his goal as an independent European Islam: "We need to separate Islamic principles from their cultures of origin and anchor them in the cultural reality of Western Europe.... I can incorporate everything that's not opposed to my religion into my identity," he says, "and that's a revolution." The dedicated website for the festival is www.mesp.org.uk or see my institutional website at www.eial.org.

I wish all of you love, peace, rest and joy for the new year and hope to see many of you in my travels in 2006.

Love and blessings,
Neil Douglas-Klotz



Blessings of the Cosmos *Benedictions from the* *Aramaic Words of Jesus*

by
Neil Douglas-Klotz

Available
March 2006

In this all-new collection of Jesus' Aramaic benedictions and practices, *Blessings of the Cosmos*, Neil Douglas-Klotz presents Jesus' best-loved benedictions, including:

- His last messages to the disciples, including the "great commandment" on love, the "many mansions" teaching, the blessing of "greater works," and more
- Finding the Divine Presence in unexpected places
- Invocations of light, joy, peace, and faith
- Body-based practices designed to enhance spiritual energy and bring insight
- One-and-a-quarter hour CD with many guided prayers in Aramaic

Whether for personal inspiration or use in communal worship and rites of passage, with *Blessings of the Cosmos* readers now have a heart-opening prayer book that will ever deepen their experience of the Divine.

Hardcover plus CD: US \$18.95
ISBN 1-59179-417-X

Summer Institute in Scotland

Living Blessing

July 11–21, 2006

with **Murshid Saadi Neil Douglas-Klotz, Murshida Gita Onnen and Sheikh Matin Mize**

The annual Wiston Summer Institute is an opportunity for those who are interested in deepening in the rich resources of Native Middle Eastern Spirituality and Mysticism: the Aramaic spirituality of Jesus, Kaballah, Sufism and indigenous traditions. It is open to all, and focused on those wishing to learn to share the meditation, chant, contemplations, sacred movement and other processes associated with the work of Dr. Neil Douglas-Klotz (Saadi Shakur Chishti) as well as the work of Murshid Samuel L Lewis and Murshid Moineddin Jablonski. The ten-day format, in a beautiful setting in the Scottish Borders, allows for more time to share, assimilate and embody this work than is available in a shorter weekend workshop or retreat. Each retreat includes one or more of the Aramaic Jesus and Native Middle Eastern Dance cycles (Aramaic Prayer, Beatitudes, I Am Sayings, Middle Eastern cycle, or Creation cycles).

This year's retreat will focus on:

- Soulwork, a Sufi approach to individual spiritual practice, group meditation and counseling begun by Murshid Moineddin Jablonski. (See the article on the next to last page of this issue.)
- The Aramaic Beatitudes in Luke and associated practices from Neil's new book *Blessings of the Cosmos* (Sounds True, March 2006).
- Practices to develop "depths of the Self" and other practices from Desert Wisdom connected with the inner meditations on the Table of Holy Wisdom. These will be done, in the second half of the institute, in the form of a "sesshin" alternating silent moving and sitting meditation.
- Meditations, stories, and practices from Neil's book *The Sufi Book of Life* (Penguin 2005).
- In the second half of the institute, leadership training for those working with Abwoon Study circles and Dances of Universal Peace circles.
- Leadership training for those interested in certification in Soulwork (counts as one training retreat).
- The Elemental Heart Healing Meditation and the Elemental Peace Ritual.

A special guest this year is **Murshida Gita Onnen** from Germany, an advanced teacher of Sufism, a Senior Mentor in the Dances of Universal Peace and Walking Meditations, and one of the first people to be certified in Soulwork in Europe. We will also be joined again by our dear friend **Sheikh Matin Mize**, who will share his expertise with Sufi drumming, zikr practice, and walking meditation.

While advanced retreats are aimed at those who have some experience of this work (Aramaic Jesus, Soulwork, Dances of Universal Peace, Walking Meditation), they are open to all. Dances of Universal Peace leaders will find mostly material from the Level II certification guidelines; however, the retreat is open to anyone who wishes to experience the Dances and Walks as spiritual practices useful for including more life energy and love in everyday life.

There is a limit of 45 persons for the retreat, so please take advantage of the early discount and register early.

Note: We encourage participants to attend the entire ten-day retreat. The first half of the institute ends Sunday at lunch, with the afternoon off and an evening of Scottish music and dance to begin the second half. There is some limited possibility for those with advanced experience of the work to join us halfway through if space permits.

Location: Wiston Lodge is a 130-year-old listed country house, set on a hill in the beautiful Upper Clyde Valley, which is evolving into an ecological center focused on working with the next generation. It includes: 55 acres of wood and parklands, plus access to superb local hill walks, and an organic farm. It is easily accessible from the south by both coach and car (Junction 13, M74); or from the north via Edinburgh (about 45 minutes south by bus or shared taxi). For visitors from the U.S., please check flights into Edinburgh or Glasgow. Detailed transport information will be provided at registration. In addition, the Edinburgh Festival begins just following the institute, so participants may plan to stay on longer.

Total Costs: All costs include tuition, full board for ten days, and are in UK pounds sterling. Shared rooms: £650. Shared rooms for members of the INDUP (International Network for the Dances of Universal Peace): £590. Camping: £488 (no INDUP discount applies). If you are unable to send payment in UK Pounds Sterling add the equivalent of £10 to cover currency conversion costs. **You may also book online at the abwoon.com website** (www.abwoon.com/workshops) using a credit card, *only* available online, which facilitates foreign currency conversion. **If booking after May 10th 2006, please add 10% to the above charges.** All cancellations incur £75 cost before June 10, £125 between June 13 and July 10. No refunds after the retreat begins.

Registration: Send a deposit cheque of £150 payable to *Abwoon Study Circle* to Anna Keith at Woodside of Allanton, Auldgirth, Dumfries, DG2 0SA, Scotland, U.K. Please contact Anna at +44 (0)1387 740230 or anna@keith.vispa.com for information.

Desert Flowers E-mail Study Group

Desert Flowers is an occasional e-mail discussion group that provides members a focus with the body prayers and spiritual practices from *Prayers of the Cosmos*, *Desert Wisdom*, *The Hidden Gospel* and *The Genesis Meditations*. It is directed by Neil Douglas-Klotz. To join, you must be able to send and receive e-mail.

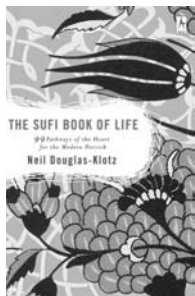
For information, contact Richard McMurtry at rmcmurtry@igc.org or visit www.abwoon.com/listserve.html.

Web-based Meditation Course

Rev. Elizabeth Munira Reed has edited and supplemented a 20-session, web-based healing meditation course based on the books and tapes of Neil Douglas-Klotz. You can receive lessons twice a week, once a week or every other week.

Visit www.SelfHealingExpressions.com for information and to register. This and other courses are available for \$34.95.

Catalogue of Resources



THE SUFI BOOK OF LIFE: 99 Pathways of the Heart for the Modern Dervish

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

Taking the centuries-old form of a “dervish handbook,” this is a guide to life and love updated for the twenty-first century. This book offers a fresh interpretation of the fundamental spiritual practice found in all ancient and modern Sufi schools — the meditations on the 99 Qualities of Unity. This accessible guide is a handbook that explains how to apply Sufi principles to modern life with inspira-

tional commentary that connects each quality with contemporary concerns such as love, work, and success, as well as timeless wisdom from Sufi masters, both ancient and modern, such as Rumi, Hafiz, Shabistari, Rabia, Inayat Khan, Indries Shah, Irina Tweedie and Bawa Muhaiyadden.

Paperback, **\$15.00**. Penguin Compass Original. Visit www.sufibookoflife.com for more information.

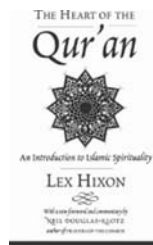
HEART OF THE QUR'AN

by Lex Hixon

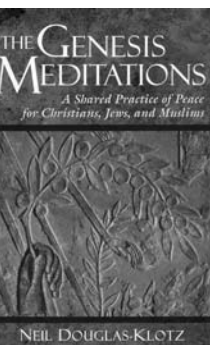
edited with commentary by Neil Douglas-Klotz

900 key passages of the Qur'an rendered into English with a focus on their spiritual experience and meaning, revealing the Quran's teachings as one of the great wisdom traditions of humanity. In this edition, Neil Douglas-Klotz has rearranged the passages thematically and provided commentary for each major theme. The result makes the teachings even more accessible, allowing the reader easily to find relevant readings for guidance on everyday issues such as love, relationships, work, justice, gratitude, self-knowledge, and prayer.

Quest Books, paperback, 246 pages **\$18.95, £13**.



BOOKS



THE GENESIS MEDITATIONS: A Shared Practice of Peace for Christians, Jews and Muslims

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

This book focuses on an ancient form of meditation that unites the three religions of the Middle East: the creation of the universe and the archetype of the first human being. In experiencing the creation story as our own, personal story, we recreate and renew ourselves. Through practicing this original meditation, we can access this power for self-renewal and deeper connection with the divine in our every-

day lives. Hardback, **\$24.95, £17**. Quest Books.

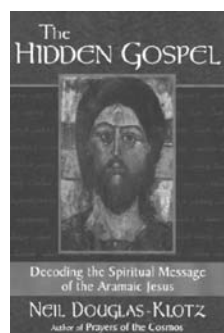
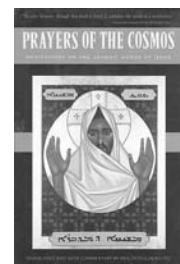
“This is truly a book for our times, revealing the common root of Judaism, Christianity and Islam and making it available in a wise and practical way.” — Joan Borysenko, Ph.D.

“By the time we finish his book, we are ready and able to join body, heart, mind and spirit into a healing wholeness—indeed, the wholeness of Creation.” —Rabbi Arthur Waskow

PRAYERS OF THE COSMOS: Meditations on the Aramaic Words of Jesus

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

A pioneering book in the movement to recover the wisdom of Jesus as a Native Middle Eastern person. The Lord's Prayer and Beatitudes in new, multi-layered interpretive translations, from the native language of Jesus. Paperback edition, **\$13.00, £8.99**. Harper SanFrancisco (English), Knauer (German), East-West (Dutch), Triom Publishers (Brasil).



THE HIDDEN GOSPEL: Decoding the Spiritual Message of the Aramaic Jesus

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

The Hidden Gospel of Jesus is... not buried in the sands, not locked in a secret library, not being channeled by a new messiah. The Hidden Gospel is in plain sight. We find it in Jesus' familiar sayings newly translated from Aramaic, the Middle Eastern language he actually spoke.

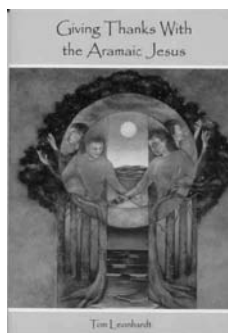
What emerges is a hopeful, nurturing, and very contemporary spiritual message. Each chapter includes meditative exercises and body prayers for

directly experiencing the life-changing spiritual practice of Jesus' original mystical tradition. Paperback, **\$14.95, £10.99**. Quest Books (English), Koesel (German), Ankh-Hermes (Dutch).

GIVING THANKS WITH THE ARAMAIC JESUS

by Tom Leonhardt

This book includes fifteen complete worship services based on the work of Neil Douglas-Klotz. The material is usable in a number of ways — from personal prayer to communal worship. Each service concentrates on a line of the Lord's Prayer or one of seven Beatitudes and suggests Dances of Universal Peace that are appropriate to the given theme. Paperback, **\$17**. WovenWord Press.



DESERT WISDOM: Sacred Middle Eastern Writings from the Goddess to the Sufis

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

From ancient Egypt through mystical Judaism and the Aramaic Jesus to classical Sufism, *Desert Wisdom* weaves a rich, colorful tapestry that allows these ancient voices to speak to us today. Use *Desert Wisdom* as a handbook of daily inspiration, oracle or sourcebook. Through writings, chants, meditations and body prayers, you will experience

in your bones this sacred Earth tradition. Hardback, **\$20.00, £12.50**. Harper SanFrancisco (US & Canada), Thorsons (UK), Santiago Verlag (Germany), Altamira (Netherlands), Record (Brasil).

WISDOM COMES DANCING:

Selected Writings of Ruth St. Denis on Dance, Spirituality and the Body

edited and with notes by Kamae A Miller

Delight in life, beauty and movement fill the pages of *Wisdom Comes Dancing*, a collection of previously unpublished writings by the mother of American modern dance. St. Denis, the teacher of Martha Graham and other American dance pioneers, was the most photographed woman of her era. Her essays, talks and poetry show a fiery passion and cool intelligence as she addresses topics such as her vision of the arts as a force for social justice and the role of women in peace-making. The book includes many striking photographs of St. Denis in dances inspired by great women prophets, humanitarians and goddesses of various traditions. Paperback, **\$15.95, £10.99**. (PeaceWorks). German edition available from Santiago Verlag (www.santiagoverlag.de).



A U D I O

The Genesis Meditations (CD)

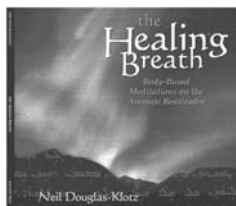
Companion CD to the book. You can learn to say and chant the words to 14 chants in Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek and Arabic related to our shared cosmic creation stories. Each phrase or word is repeated several times, with space for you to repeat it for easy memorization or to use with the meditations in the book. 68 minutes, **\$15, £10** (or **\$13 online**). **SPECIAL order the book and CD online for \$36.**

Desert Wisdom Body Prayers and Chants (Tape)

A companion tape to the book with readings, guided meditations and a selection of the chants used in the body prayers. **\$13, £8.**

Dancing with the Aramaic Jesus: The Lord's Prayer (CD)

Live recording at Lama Foundation in New Mexico in 1989. Powerful, 100-voice rendition of the entire prayer cycle. **\$15, £10.** **Companion Booklet** with fully notated music, movements and background. **\$8, £5.**



THE HEALING BREATH: Body-based Meditations on the Aramaic Beatitudes

a workshop with Neil Douglas-Klotz

Using Jesus' native Aramaic language as a lens, this tape series leads us through one of the great healer's best-loved talks — the Beatitudes (or "Blessed are..." sayings) and shows how this seemingly simple set of sentences reveals a profound approach to healing and wholeness. Each saying takes you deeper and deeper into this divine source of healing. This set gives you ways to access it in your everyday life, using body prayer and spiritual practice drawn from Jesus' own teachings with 12 in-depth sessions, which include 24 meditations involving body awareness, sound, breath and gentle movement.

Available from Sounds True, Abwoon Study Circle, or your local Internet source.

Length: 6 cassettes, 9 hours, with accompanying booklet for **\$59.95, £40** or 6 CDs with accompanying booklet for **\$69.95, £48.**

THE HIDDEN GOSPEL: Decoding the Spiritual Message of the Aramaic Jesus

a workshop with Neil Douglas-Klotz

If we could travel back to the world of ancient Palestine and hear Jesus teach in his own native tongue, what would we learn? These Sounds True tapes are not a reading of the *Hidden Gospel* book, but a live recording of a workshop with Neil that touches on the main themes of the book. These tapes were re-edited so that one can listen to them in 20-minute segments. They are very high quality and perfect for Abwoon Study Circles. These tapes do not repeat the material in the *Original Prayer* series.

Available from Sounds True, Abwoon Study Circle, or your local Internet source.

Length: 3 CDs, 180 minutes, with accompanying study booklet. **\$24.95, £14.**



ORIGINAL PRAYER: Teachings and Meditations on the Aramaic Words of Jesus

a workshop with Neil Douglas-Klotz

Original Prayer begins by exploring the many rich layers of meaning enfolded within New Testament scriptures written in Aramaic, the language that Jesus and his disciples actually spoke. Through specific insights revealed within the Aramaic Lord's Prayer, listeners learn over a dozen unique "body prayers," an ancient Middle Eastern form of meditation that engages the entire body in the contemplation of scripture. This is the same devotional practice used by the early Christians to delve into the Gospels — not as a scholarly exercise, but as a living, breathing experience of God.

Available from Sounds True, Abwoon Study Circle, or your local bookstore or Internet source.

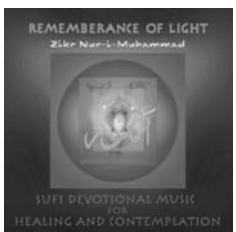
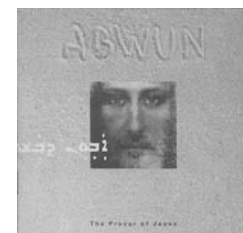
Length: 6 cassettes, 9 hours, with accompanying booklet. **\$59.95, £40** or 6 CDs with accompanying booklet for **\$69.95, £45.**

ABWUN

A Mantric Oratorio by the Overtone Choir of Düsseldorf from the melodies of Neil Douglas-Klotz

The original melodies for the various lines of the Aramaic Lord's Prayer were composed through Neil Douglas-Klotz in 1982–83, as part of his meditative research of the prayer. These melodies are used in a cycle of Dances of Universal Peace, which allows the sounds and feelings of the various lines to be prayed with the whole body. The beautiful arrangements of Christian Bollmann and the Overtone Choir enrich the multi-textual feeling of the prayer. In this new aural soundscape, the various threads of the prayer weave dynamically and allow the hearer to be bathed in an atmosphere of sacredness.

CD: 72 minutes. **\$18.99, £12.99.**



REMEMBRANCE OF LIGHT: Zikr Nur-i-Muhammad

Sufi Devotional Music for Healing and Contemplation

by Neil Douglas-Klotz (Saadi Shakur Chisti)

Bathe in the light of Unity with this CD, which celebrates the One in a six-part cycle of music and sacred words. A celebration of the unity of light and the diversity of sound from the Sufi tradition. The six parts include: 1) Bismillah ir-Rahman ir-Rahim: We begin in the Name, Sound and Vibration of the Sun and the Moon of Love. 2) Basir Allah, Sami Allah: Celebration of seeing and hearing the One all around us. 3) La illaha illa 'llah hu: There is no reality but the One. 4) Hu Hu Hu Allah: From the center of sound there is only Unity. 5) Allah Huma Salle Allah Nuri Mohammed: Blessings of Unity on the light of the perfection of humanity. 6) Peace and Blessings on all Prophets and Lovers of the One and Il Allah Hu Canon – Only Unity Exists.

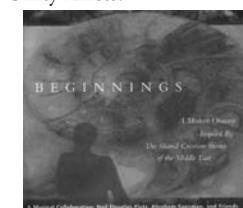
CD: 63 minutes. **\$16, £10.**

Beginnings: A Modern Oratorio Inspired by the Shared Creation Stories of the Middle East

A Musical Collaboration by Neil Douglas-Klotz, Abraham Sussman and Friends.

Enjoy as a companion to the book *The Genesis Meditations*, for listening, contemplation and movement. Voice, guitars, violin, hand drums, piano, flute, cello, bass, accordian, horns and harp.

CD: 80 minutes. **\$15, £10.**





SIMPLE PRESENCE: Dancing “I Am” with the Aramaic Jesus

Native Middle Eastern Chant & Devotional Music

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

The “I Am” statements of Jesus from the Gospel of John, as viewed from Jesus’ native Aramaic language, point to a state of “simple presence”—a connection to the “I Am that I Am.” Each feeling or experience mentioned is a doorway to this connection. This recording gives chants and music to a sequence of Dances of Universal Peace that use seven of these “I Am” statements in Aramaic. Listening to, chanting with and contemplating these chants can take the listener into the **shem** of Jesus—his vibration or atmosphere—and fulfill his advice to pray **b’sheme** (“with my light-sound-atmosphere”). CD 65 minutes. **\$16.99, £10.**

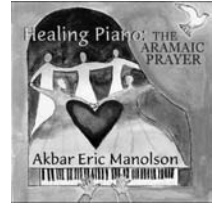
HEALING PIANO: The Aramaic Prayer

Themes and variations composed and performed by Akbar Eric Manolson

Inspired by the melodies of Neil Douglas-Klotz

In 1997, Neil Douglas-Klotz invited Akbar Manolson to create a keyboard arrangement of the Aramaic prayer for healing, to reach a wide audience. The result is this recording. The purpose of this music is both to relax and to energize. This is a CD of **solo piano music**, subtle and dynamic, without vocal singing or additional accompaniment. It offers you a new way to experience the inspiration and beauty of this ancient invocation.

CD 61 minutes. **\$18, £11.30.**



THE OPENING:

Sura Fateha—A Prayer for Peace

This CD has the first sura of the Quran, with its emphasis on love, unity and surrender to the One Being, in musical form for chanting. An expanded translation of the Sura appears in the book *Desert Wisdom*. “These melodies came through while on a personal retreat during the passing of my own Sufi guide, Moineddin Jablonski, in February 2001 and are dedicated to him. The melodies contain much of his feeling and emphasis on embracing both the shadow and light in one’s own being, with joy and acceptance. I encourage it to be used as a chanted prayer for peace.”—Neil Douglas-Klotz (Saadi Shakur Chisti)

CD **\$15, £10.** Recorded in Gemany.

ANCIENT ECHOES

by San Antonio Vocal Arts Ensemble

In August 2000, Christopher and Covita Moroney set out on a 1,700 mile road trip to attend a retreat with Neil Douglas-Klotz after reading *Prayers of the Cosmos*. This inspired them to turn their creative attention to the music of the Middle East during the time of Jesus. Their exploration has resulted in the *Ancient Echoes* CD by SAVAE with ancient Aramaic and Hebrew chants based on Neil’s writings and teachings. See www.savae.org for information about SAVAE and more about the *Ancient Echoes* CD. **\$17.**



V I D E O



ABWUN: The Video with Christian Bollmann and the Overtone Choir of Düsseldorf

This video features parts of a live performance of the *ABWUN* mantric oratorio composed by Christian Bollman from the original melodies of Neil Douglas-Klotz. The performance in Berlin, Germany organized in October 1999 by the local Dances of Universal Peace group, drew more than 600 people. Most of the first twenty minutes of the oratorio is included in the video along with selected excerpts of the remainder. Excerpts of a short address by Neil Douglas-Klotz (in German) precede the performance. Perfect for Abwoon Study Groups.

35 minutes, **no longer available as a VHS tape. Will be re-issued as a DVD. See www.abwoon.com for availability.**

Ordering Information for Abwoon Study Circle Resources

Main office: Abwoon Study Circle, P.O. Box 361655, Milpitas, CA 95036-1655 USA. tel. 1-408-945-9854, e-mail: selim@abwoon.com

The Abwoon website www.abwoon.com offers secure, online ordering internationally for all of the listed publications and recordings.

Retail US shipping and handling through USPS is \$3.95 for the first item and \$.95 for each additional item. Wholesale and international orders are charged actual shipping costs. Contact the office for faster delivery and wholesale schedule.

In United Kingdom & Europe, Abwoon books (in English), tapes and CDs may be ordered from: Abwoon Study Circle UK, Helen Evans, 5 Barley Way, Horncastle, Lincolnshire, L9N 5SS, tel. +44-(0)1507 524673, e-mail: malika@abwoon.com

Retail UK shipping and handling is £2.50 for the first book (or £1 for the first tape or CD if no books are ordered) and 70p for each additional item. Make checks or money orders payable to Abwoon Study Circle UK.

In Germany, please contact Nurah-Majid Ruth Jaeger, NdL Secretariat, Bülowstr. 90, 10783 Berlin, Germany. tel./fax +49-(030)863-99-436, e-mail: NdLNetz@yahoo.de for German translations of *Prayers of the Cosmos* (*Das Vaterunser*, Knauer Verlag), *Desert Wisdom* (*Weisheit der Wueste*, Santiago Verlag) including the Body Prayers recorded in German, *Hidden*

Gospel (*Prophet aus der Wueste*, Koesel Verlag), the instruction booklet for the Dancing with the Aramaic Jesus (Lord’s Prayer) tape and the rest of the musical recordings. Please also enquire here for information about German-language seminars in this work by Gita Onnen and Neil Douglas-Klotz.

In Belgium, please contact: Wim and Arienne van der Zwan, Les Vennes 44, B-5377 Heure (Somme-Leuze), Belgium. tel. +32-(0)86-38-78-82, e-mail: a&w@peaceinmotion.info for Dutch language editions of *Prayers of the Cosmos* (East-West Books), *Desert Wisdom* (Alta Mira), *Hidden Gospel* (Ankh-Hermes), the *Desert Wisdom* Body Prayer recording in Dutch and the rest of the musical recordings. Please also enquire here for information about Dutch-language seminars in this work by Wim van der Zwan.

In Brasil, please contact: Sabira Christina Dora Schkölziger, Caixa Postal 96947, 28.601-970 Nova Friburgo, RJ Brasil. tel. +55-(0)22-2542-1337; fax: +55-(0)22-2542-2052, e-mail: sabira@uol.com.br for Portuguese language editions of *Prayers of the Cosmos* (Triom Books), *Desert Wisdom* (Record) and some recordings. Please also enquire here about Brazilian Portuguese-language seminars in this work by Sabira Christina Dora Schkölziger.

In Australia, please contact Hannah & Vajra, RMB 2592, Bucketty 2250, Australia. tel. +61-(02)43761195, fax: +61-(02)43761150, e-mail: inana@ozemail.com.au

Events in 2006

In Europe

March 1-4: Edinburgh, Scotland. *2006 Edinburgh International Conference on Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace* co-sponsored by the Edinburgh International Centre for World Spiritual Traditions and the Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Learning. Talks and workshops by grassroots peacemakers, artists, storytellers, musicians and others, including Dances of Universal Peace and inter-spiritual meditation for peace. Part of the *2006 Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace* from 13 Feb. to 5 Mar. Contact: Neill Walker at njwalk810@hotmail.com. For details of the conference and festival, visit www.eial.org.

March 10-12: Findhorn, Scotland. *All Wisdom's Children: Meditations with the Great Mystics of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.* Spiritual retreat led by Neil Douglas-Klotz. Meditation, chant, Dances of Universal Peace, body prayer including spiritual practice based on *The Sufi Book of Life*. Contact: Maris Warrior at +44 (0)1309 690690 or maris@findhornbay.net.

March 24-26: Fluehli Ranf, Switzerland. *Jesus-Sophia: The Aramaic Beatitudes and The Table of Holy Wisdom.* Our annual retreat will take a new look at the Beatitude sayings of Jesus as viewed through his native Aramaic language. Using meditation, movement, walking contemplation and Dances of Universal Peace, we will explore the complete set of sayings and its conclusion as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew. This will lead us into some of the primary meditations and ways of prayer of Jesus himself: the inclusion of all voices in love and respect at the table of Holy Wisdom. Contact: Barbara Küng at 41 (0)41 921 20 41 or Regina Gerber at regina.gerber@bluemail.ch.

March 30-April 3: Finkenwerde, nr Berlin, Germany. Annual Native Middle Eastern retreat with Murshid Neil Douglas-Klotz and Murshida Gita Onnen. Singing and dancing the Aramaic words of Jesus, meditating and chanting with the creation stories in Hebrew and Arabic, sharing Sufi practices such as zikr, wasifa walk and the Elemental Peace Ritual. Special focus on *The Sufi Book of Life* and *Blessings of the Cosmos* (2006). German/English. Contact: Gita Onnen at 49-(0)30-791-5211 or Anapurna von Kugelgen at 49-(0)30-313-9163 or brita.v.k@gmx.net.

June 6-11: nr Tallinn, Estonia. *Living and Dancing in the Heart of the One: Dance, Walking Meditation and Spiritual Voice Retreat.* with Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti (Neil Douglas-Klotz), Maris Warrior and Silje Devi Seppik. Contact: Silje Devi at siljeseppik@hotmail.ee.

Junež 24-July 1: near Hamburg, Germany. 2006 European Summer School of the Sufi Ruhaniat International. *The Path of the Heart.* Classes in Sufi Practice, Breathwork, Healing, Advance Dances of Universal Peace and Walking Meditation, SoulWork, Sound and Music, Spiritual Ministry. Based on the teachings of Hazrat Inayat Khan, Hazrat Murshid Samuel L. Lewis and Hazrat Murshid Moineddin Jablonski. Special guest teacher: Murshid Wali Ali Meyer, plus European Ruhaniat teachers. Camp director: Murshida Gita Onnen. For information, contact Wali van der Zwan, at samark@peaceinmotion.info or 31 (0)30/225-0546. For registration, contact Ayat Sabine Brandt at 49-(0)30-470-36783 or ayatsabine@web.de. Also, visit the Sufi Ruhaniat European website at www.ruhaniateurope.org.

July 11-21: nr Edinburgh, Scotland. Annual 10-day Retreat and Institute: *Living Blessing.* Sponsored by the Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Learning. Teachers: Murshid Neil Douglas-Klotz, Murshida Gita Onnen, Sheikh Matin Mize. Guided retreat including Sufi meditation and movement; Soulwork; the Elemental Peace Ritual; the Aramaic Beatitudes of Jesus (Luke's version); meditations, stories and practices from Neil's books *The Sufi Book of Life* and *Blessings of the Cosmos*. Leadership training for those working with Abwoon Study Circle and SoulWork (counts toward certification) as well as the Dances of Universal Peace and Walking Meditations of Murshid Samuel L. Lewis and Murshid Moineddin Jablonski. Contact: Anna Keith at +44 (0)1387 740230 or anna@keith.vispa.com.

September 1-3: De Weyst, Holland. *The Sufi Book of Life.* The ancient Middle Eastern path of Sufism contains a treasure of world spirituality: the 99 pathways of the heart (Asma ul Husna). Like the I Ching, these pathways are both "names" of the divine and spiritual practices. They also serve

as aids to one's own intuition on the path of life, which is ultimately a path of love and passion. The retreat will dive deeply into this practice and use meditation, Dances of Universal Peace, walking meditation, movement, and Sufi zikr (remembrance) practice. Contact: Wali and Arienne van der Zwan at +32 86 38 78 82, +31 (0)30 225 0546 or samark@peaceinmotion.info.

September 9-10: London, London Centre for Spirituality. *Original Prayer: The Aramaic Lord's Prayer and Spirituality of Jesus.* Contact: London Centre for Spirituality at 020 7621 1391 or info@spiritualitycentre.org. Also, visit www.spiritualitycentre.org.

September 14-16: Edinburgh, Scotland. International Association of Sufism Symposium. A meeting and conference of Sufis and Sufi schools and orders worldwide. Public lectures, panels concerts and workshops on Sufi spirituality, music, practice and life. Contact: www.ias.org or neillw@hotmail.com.

September 24-29: nr. Fulda, Germany. Weeklong Retreat: 2006 European retreat and training in Soulwork with Murshida Mariam Baker and Murshid Saadi Douglas-Klotz. Includes Sufi movement, meditation and the practices of Murshid Moineddin Jablonski. In German and English. For Sufi mureeds or by permission. This is followed by a retreat for initiated Sufi mureeds of the Sufi Ruhaniat International (29 Sept.-1 Oct.). For both events, contact: Ingrid Mettert at +49 (0)7948-941256 or mail@ingrid-anahita.de.

In North America

April 7-9: Columbus, OH. *Blessings of the Cosmos: Benedictions from the Aramaic Words of Jesus.* Meditation, Dances of Universal Peace, chant and the Aramaic Prayer of Jesus. Teachings and practices from Neil's new book, *Blessings*, released March 2006 from Sounds True. Contact: Rev. Elizabeth Reed, Shalem Center at 1-614-885-2411 Ext. 2131 or munira@abwoon.com.

August 3-6: Trinity Center, Salterpath, NC. *Blessings of the Cosmos: Benedictions from the Aramaic Words of Jesus.* Meditation, Dances of Universal Peace, chant and the Aramaic Prayer of Jesus. Teachings and Practices from Neil's new book of the same name, released March 2006 from Sounds True. Contact: Farrunnissa at 1-919-361-2383 or NurLuna@aol.com.

August 13-19: Lama Foundation, nr Taos, NM. Retreat in Dance and Walk for Mentors and Certified Teachers of the Dances of Universal Peace with Tasnim Fernandez and Neil Douglas-Klotz. Contact: Farrunnissa at 1-919-361-2383 or NurLuna@aol.com.

November 2-5: Ashland, OR. *Sufi Meditation, Movement and Soulwork.* Soulwork retreat and training with Murshida Mariam Baker and Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti. Walking Meditation, Sufi zikr (remembrance practice), Dances of Universal Peace, contemplation and movement focused on the Soulwork spiritual practice and way of inner contemplation of Murshid Moineddin Jablonski. For Sufi mureeds or by permission. Contact: Zahira Muhi Nadler and Raphael Birney at zahira1@earthlink.net.

November 9-12: Harrisburg, PA. *Sufi Meditation, Movement and Soulwork.* Soulwork retreat and training with Murshida Mariam Baker and Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti. Walking Meditation, Sufi zikr (remembrance practice), Dances of Universal Peace, contemplation and movement focused on the Soulwork spiritual practice and way of inner contemplation of Murshid Moineddin Jablonski. For Sufi mureeds or by permission. Contact: Jemila Melissa Sandoe at 1-717-677-7613 or jemila@supernet.com.

In Australia and New Zealand

April 14-May 14: Tour of Australia and New Zealand

For information on events in **Australia** (April 14-30 and May 11-14), contact Hannah at inana@hunterlink.net.au.

For information on events in **New Zealand** (May 3-7), contact Shafia at shafia4peace@xtra.co.nz.

Sufi Soulwork by Mariam Baker

Rooted in Kahuna wisdom, and Sufi psychology of the micro and macrocosm of human existence, Soulwork is a tool for healing and integration of human nature. It is not psychotherapy, although there is similarity with the Jungian psychotherapy of foundational archetypal fields. There are overlapping parallels to Gurdjieff and the work of the Enneagram, the Diamond Heart approach, and Latifa systems. We find the roots of this work in Ibn l'Arabi and Jelaluddin Rumi as well as other Sufi mystics.

Soulwork, as developed by Moineddin Carl Jablonski is a way of freeing the body, heart, and soul into greater presence and embodied spirituality. It is not a way of imagination, rather a way of experience. It follows the Sufi principle that each human being is here with the ultimate and primal impulse of the fulfillment of the Soul's purpose on the earth in the now. It is both an approach to spiritual practice, applicable to many paths, as well as method of psycho-spiritual counseling.

It is different than traditional psychotherapy in that sessions occur significantly less frequently. There is the need for absorption time between each session to allow for integration of supra-conscious, subconscious and conscious reality. Sessions may occur bi-weekly for several months, or the participant may work on a monthly or even annual basis to receive the benefit of this work.

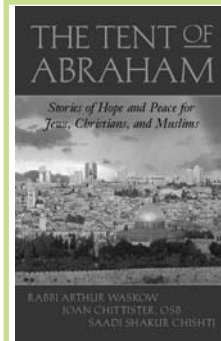
Sessions last approximately one to one and a half hours and carry deep interior communion with the inner family at Hokmah's Table. (See *Desert Wisdom* and other books by Neil Douglas-Klotz.) The basic template of seven is used as a starting point, although some sessions very quickly move into their own unique model. The basic template includes HIGH SELF, MALE, FEMALE, CHILD, DOCTOR SELF, MENTAL JUDGE and ASTRAL JUDGE. Personal ancestors may also appear and participate in this dialogue and healing.

The participant is guided by the skilled practitioner into dialogue and communion with each member of the inner family. From a place of deep listening and stillness, established through breathwork, there is the framework of safety and guidance that is focused and held by the practitioner. The inner family has opportunity for communion and dialogue within the framework of safety and guidance.

Why is this so? Through the assistance of the trained facilitator, the participant is guided into the place between the two worlds, between sleeping and waking; conscious and unconscious, allowing access to both subconscious and supraconscious. The participant can then dialogue within this larger perspective of reality. From a place of deep relaxed breath and grounding, there is access to inner guidance and the wisdom that lives within each human being. On the group level, meditation, walking, art, movement, dance, breath writing and poetry all become expressive components of this work.

Moineddin Carl Jablonski (Jan. 1, 1942 – Feb. 27, 2001) was a post-modern shaman. Successor to Murshid Samuel Lewis, he served as CEO and Pir of the Sufi Ruhaniat International for thirty years. An honest and humble man, he was faced with extreme physical challenge in this lifetime. The last twenty years of his life focused on integration and understanding of human nature: the masculine and feminine, the primal subhuman, subconscious, conscious and suprahuman or supraconscious reality. His life is his teaching. Judged and condemned by some, embraced and honored by others, he followed a path of inner listening and integrity.

Moineddin lived the principles that he received from his teacher Murshid SAM. He worked within the Inayati Chistia lineage. He touched a secret yearning within the heart, nurturing others on a path of inner discovery and guidance, and a broader experience of human and divine existence. Stressing the continuum of the inner and outer, balancing the complexity of the spiritual and the material worlds, he devoted his life to the simplicity of Breath and Walk as the science of liberation. His breadth of vision traversed the galaxies. Moineddin had an experiential understanding of the multi-dimensional magic carpet woven of all Life.



*The Tent of Abraham:
Stories of Hope and Peace for Jews,
Christians and Muslims*

As Revealed by Jewish, Muslim, and
Christian Traditions of the Stories of
Abraham, Hagar, Sarah, Ishmael and Isaac
by

Rabbi Arthur Waskow
Saadi Shakur Chishti (Neil Douglas-Klotz)
and Sr. Joan Chittister

with an introduction by Karen Armstrong

Coming July 2006 from Beacon Press

Donate to the Abwoon Work

Abwoon Study Circle and the work of Neil Douglas-Klotz is financially self-sustaining, not financed by outside means. Gratefully, over the years there has been ongoing support from small individual donations: from interested friends and lovers of Abwoon as well as from a few individual and private foundation grants. If your family has a private foundation and would like to donate to this work, please call Rev. Elizabeth Munira Reed at Shalem Center 1-614-885-2411 Ext. 2131.

During 2005 a total of \$17,606.88 was contributed to this work. This included a special grant from the Kalleopeia Foundation designated for the 2005 Edinburgh Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace.

Your gift can be used in many ways. Any undesignated donation will be used by the most current need while designated funds go 100% to where the donor requests. Designated gifts can be received for outreach work of Abwoon, scholarship support, personal support to Saadi Neil Douglas-Klotz or Kamae Amrapali Miller, the Edinburgh Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace, administrative costs for Abwoon resourcing work, or to any other specified project or program. You can contribute by:

- Credit card through PayPal.com (use donations@abwoon.com)
- Donor-initiated automatic online check payment
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Shalem Center
885 High Street, Suite 106
Worthington, OH 43085

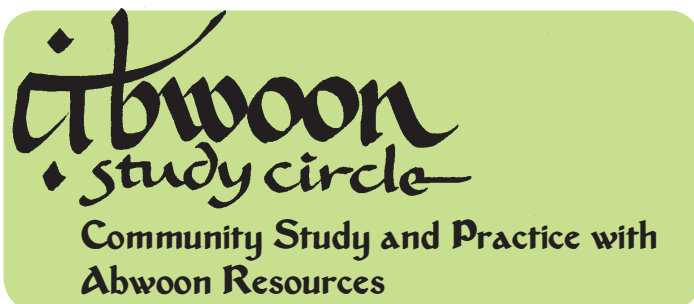
Please remember Abwoon Study Circle in your holiday and year-end giving plans. All contributions are tax deductible through the Shalem Center, a 501(3)(c) nonprofit organization. For specific questions contact Rev. Elizabeth Munira Reed at Shalem Center 1-614-885-2411 Ext. 2131 or munira@abwoon.com.

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Many people inquire about how to begin working with the Aramaic translations and spiritual practices in the Abwoon Study Circle resources. There is no single response to this question. Each person who receives a heart opening through this work may respond to different content or a style of study and practice.

There is a growing list of persons willing to serve as a supportive contact to others who want to find out more about the translation and spiritual practices of Neil Douglas-Klotz through the work of Abwoon Study Circle. You can download the most current listing by visiting www.abwoon.com/contact.htm and clicking the **here** link in the *For help setting up and supporting an Abwoon Study Circle* section.

These volunteers may be past or present leaders of Abwoon Study Circle groups. Some may simply be lovers of this work and have attended workshops or retreats or worked individually with the resources in a very deep manner.

No one necessarily claims to be an “expert” in the content. They share a heart connection to this work and its expansive impact on their spiritual lives. (If you are willing to be listed as a contact for support or referral, please contact Qahira Mary Richardson. This list is updated online as necessary.)

For Support in Forming a Local Abwoon Study Circle Group

In North America contact:

Qahira Mary Richardson phone: 1-717-600-1080
60 Quail Run Rd. e-mail: for-the-beauty@rocketmail.com
York, PA 17402

In the UK contact:

Rev. Wahab Leslie Foot phone: +44-(0)1458-832-247
45 The Roman Way e-mail: wahab.foot@ukonline.co.uk
Glastonbury
Somerset BA6 8AB
England, UK

In Australia/New Zealand contact:

Hannah phone: +61-(02)43761195
RMB 2592 fax: +61-(02)4376115
Bucketty 2250 e-mail: inana@ozemail.com.au
Australia

If you do not find a person or an existing group near you, consider starting your own local Abwoon Study Circle. You do not have to have any particular leadership skills, just the desire to connect with others to delve more deeply into this work. There are resources that do not require particular leadership skills but only the ability to play a cassette tape or CD and follow along.

For support in local group formation, contact one of the people listed in the above box. These people can provide referrals to resources, a free introductory pamphlet on starting a group, and general support in your new endeavors with Abwoon.