



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

Dear Friends,

In a renewed spirit of hope and creativity, we welcome you to this year's edition of the Abwoon Circles newsletter.

The last few months have seen the world on a roller-coaster ride of fear and hope. In both the troughs and highs, we see how deeply intangibles like atmosphere, attitude, ideal and expectation affect the most practical elements of daily life. As I wrote in *The Genesis Meditations*, the stories we tell ourselves make a real difference in life. As the Buddhist saying goes, "we are what we think, having become what we thought." If we define our world based on fear and shortage, this is world we tend to create. If we define it based on hope and fulfillment, we leave that wake in the caravan of creation.



In this regard, the work we share through Abwoon Circles makes a real difference to the lives of many people throughout the world. Both personally, and through the Abwoon Resource Center (ARC), I regularly receive letters and e-mails of thanks from those who describe how this work has changed their lives and in many cases, the lives of their communities. We support a diverse and

diversifying network of interspiritual activists, who are laying the groundwork, not only for global change, but also for better personal understanding on a community-by-community basis.

As I wrote a year ago, "The growing sense of global unity is being supported on all sides, as the Internet makes possible a global response to what seemed previously to be local problems." As our network of spiritual activists and peacemakers grows, we are increasingly relying on e-mail and the Internet to connect with you and to share information and the publications of the Abwoon Resource Center:

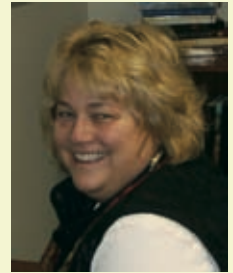
- A **total renovation of the abwoon.com website** is currently underway. After the rebuild, we will have a streamlined online store for our publications, a better doorway for those interested in the work, and improved networking facility for those sharing it to stay in contact with each other.
- In the future we will be relying increasingly on an **e-newsletter** to communicate **bookstore offers** and **special prices, new events** added to my schedule, **downloads** of music and **podcasts** of my talks and interviews, plus others news from the Resource Center. This will not only save mailing costs and paper, but enable us to more elegantly connect with Abwoon networkers worldwide. A few shorter e-newsletters throughout the year will be followed by a longer one at year's end that will communicate my schedule of events for the following year. Elsewhere in this issue you will find information about signing up for the e-newsletter, which is a simple and secure process. **We don't share our list with anyone**, so you need not worry about receiving a deluge of spam.

Articles ©2008 Abwoon Study Circle

Other news from the Abwoon Resource Center in the past year: The Kalliopeia Foundation has generously awarded a year of financial support to the Abwoon Resource Center in its education, training, and outreach work.

As of November 1, 2007, our former bookstore manager (now Abwoon Emeritus) **Selim Turnor** went into a second, long-deserved retirement. The former Abwoon bookstore is no longer located in Milpitas, CA but has relocated to Worthington, OH (near Columbus) at the offices of its nonprofit parent organization, **Shalem Center**.

Rev. Elizabeth A. Reed, Ph.D. (Munira) through her work as founder and Executive Director of Shalem Center has provided volunteer support to many aspects of the work Abwoon Study Circle over the past ten years. She is now paid from this year's grant for part time work as Managing Director for Abwoon Resource Center, a project of the nonprofit Shalem Center.



Amy Alwood is currently the half time Administrative Assistant for the Abwoon Resource Center. Part of her responsibilities include her work as the Bookstore Fulfillment Manager. **Mary Qahira Richardson** is the volunteer who answers all phone messages at ARC.

Other projects of the ARC currently include a video archiving project, development of training DVDs in Abwoon Leadership, management of two USA groups of the Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program, production of a spring public workshop, consultation with other local Abwoon event organizers, production of the annual catalogue /newsletter, Southern Libraries' Resource Placement, new resource development, and responding to inquiries to the resource center.

Many thanks to gracious individual and group donors who make the various projects and programs of Abwoon Resource Center possible! It is only through volunteers and generous donors that outreach and service can manifest.

My own **schedule for 2009** mainly features a continuance of past projects begun, like the Edinburgh International Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace, now in its sixth year and supported by the Scottish government, as well as the Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program, with three groups running in the USA and Scotland.

I have also begun to share a theme that has interested me for some time and takes further my work in creation stories, the Aramaic Jesus and the shared stories of Islam and Christianity. Historically, early Islam had a close relationship with Aramaic and Arabic Christianity, which share the same emphases on the mystical and spiritual side of Jesus' teaching. Within the larger community of Islam, the Sufis expressed this mystical side, used some of the same practices and told many of their own stories about Jesus, whom they held (and still hold worldwide) in great respect. As we explore this relationship in "**Jesus and the Sufis**," we aim to help heal the splits we perceive within and between us.

I have also agreed to be the main guest presenter at **Robert Bly's 35th Annual Conference on the Great Mother and the New Father** in early June in Maine. I attended the first of these conferences, dedicated to the importance of myth, poetry and a healthy cultural psyche, more than 30 years ago, and poet Robert Bly's work on translation was a very importance early influence on my own. I'm very enthused to share something of our Abwoon work with this community.

As always, we invite your prayers, support and participation at whatever level you feel moved to share. May all we are, and the many ways we serve, benefit the unfolding Reality of the cosmos!

Love and blessings,
Neil Douglas-Klotz

The Abwoon Circles and the Abwoon Resource Center

We support 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 engaged in:

- 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* and which is known in Hebrew as *malkuth* and in Arabic as *al-Malik*.

E-Newsletter

The Abwoon Resource Center is now sending news updates by e-mail through Constant Contact. We intend for this to become our primary communications tool! We invite everyone to join the e-mail list. You can unsubscribe or update your e-mail address at any time by clicking the links provided in each e-newsletter.

The first issue was sent last August. If you received this first ARC e-newsletter, then you are on our list. If you did not receive the e-newsletter and would like 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.

Desert Flowers E-mail Study Group

Desert Flowers is a community of people around the world using the readings, body prayers, meditations and insights that are offered by Dr. Neil Douglas-Klotz through his teachings and his books. We deepen our connection to the One by sharing our experiences by e-mail during fixed check-in times: quarterly for two-three weeks.

To join or for information, visit www.abwoon.com or contact Richard McMurtry at rmcmurtry@baymoon.com.

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. If you sign up through www.abwoon.com, the Abwoon Resource Center receives a commission.

This and other courses are available for \$34.95.

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

Limited time offer: December 1 to January 15

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

Donate to the Abwoon Work

Your help is appreciated in a variety of ways. You can designate gifts to specific areas of support such as programs and projects, administration, outreach work, and Dr. Douglas-Klotz's research and teaching. Many thanks to the people and organizations who have contributed to the work of the Abwoon Resource Center and Abwoon Circle outreach over the past year. We are grateful for all gifts — small or large.

For information, contact the Rev. Elizabeth Munira Reed of the Shalem Center at 1-614-441-9773 or contribute by:

- Credit card through PayPal.com (use donations@abwoon.com)
- Donor-initiated automatic monthly contributions
- Check payable to Shalem Center and marked “for Abwoon” sent to:
The Shalem Center
881 High Street, Suite 206
Worthington, OH 43085

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.

The Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program (AILP)

Three 3-year programs are currently underway in the US and Scotland, due to complete in 2010-11, when new programs will begin. Individual modules are open to a limited number of participants who are not enrolled in the entire program. Prior reading and an application form are required. The modules each focus on a particular aspect of the Abwoon Circles work and offer 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.

See the full description of the Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program online at www.abwoon.com. See the schedule at the end of this newsletter and the website for information about the individual modules being offered this year.

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

Catalogue of Resources

BOOKS

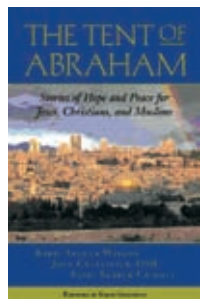
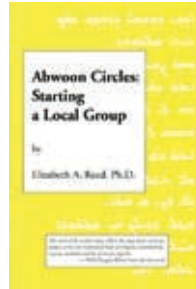
ABWOON CIRCLES: Starting a Local Group by Elizabeth A. Reed, Ph.D.

This manual is designed for people who have no or little group facilitation training or experience. It focuses on small group processes — including peer-led and facilitator-led groups.

The manual includes:

- Twenty-two short-term group models that may be followed as written or adapted for specific groups
- Lesson (or meeting) plans based upon all major Abwoon resources by Neil Douglas-Klotz, Ph.D. as of 2007
- Multiple lesson (or meeting) plans for most resources with various approaches for different groups
- Cross-referenced tables of resources and suggestions for leaders to create their own plans
- Insights and suggestions from experienced Abwoon Circle leaders

Paperback, \$27.00. Open Arms Publishing.



THE TENT OF ABRAHAM: Stories of Hope and Peace for Jews, Christians and Muslims by Rabbi Arthur Waskow, Joan Chittister, OSB and Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti With a foreword by Karen Armstrong

In recent years there has been an explosion of curiosity and debate about Islam and about the role of religion, both in the world and in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The numerous books published on these questions speak to issues of politics, history, or global security. None speaks to

the heart and the spirit, and yet millions of people experience these issues not as political, economic, or intellectual questions but as questions of deep spiritual, emotional, and religious significance.

Three key religious thinkers write about the story of Abraham as a way to deepen Muslim, Christian, and Jewish understanding. *The Tent of Abraham* provides readers with stories that can bring all the faiths together. Written by Saadi Shakur Chishti, a Scottish-American Sufi, Rabbi Arthur Waskow, an American Jew, and Joan Chittister, a Benedictine sister, the book explores in accessible language the mythic quality and the teachings of reconciliation that are embedded in the Torah, the Qur'an, and the Bible. It also weaves together the wisdoms of the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian traditions into a deeper, more unified whole.

The Tent of Abraham is the first book to tell the whole story of Abraham as found in Jewish, Christian, and Muslim sources and to reenergize it as a basis for peace.

Joan Chittister, OSB, is a lecturer and best-selling author of numerous books, including *Called to Question*. She lives in Erie, Pennsylvania. Rabbi Arthur Waskow is the director of The Shalom Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and author of numerous books, including *Seasons of Our Joy* (Beacon \$18.00) and *Down-to-Earth Judaism*. Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti (Neil Douglas-Klotz) is an internationally known Sufi scholar and writer.

Hardback, \$24.95, £15; Paperback, \$15, £10. Beacon Press.

NOTE: Prices in this catalog are standard prices. Special offers will be available through the e-newsletter. All orders through the Abwoon Resource Center or through the website are calculated based on the price in dollars.

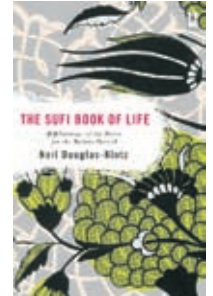
THE SUFI BOOK OF LIFE: 99 Pathways of the Heart for the Modern Dervish

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

Taking the centuries-old form of a “dervish hand-book,” 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 inspirational 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, Idries Shah, Irina Tweedie and Bawa Muhaiyaddeen.

Paperback, \$15.00, £10. Penguin Compass Original.

Visit www.sufibookoflife.com for more information.



BLESSINGS OF THE COSMOS: Benedictions from the Aramaic Words of Jesus by Neil Douglas-Klotz

Aramaic — the language Jesus and his disciples spoke — has captured the imagination of Christians around the world. Since the publication of *Prayers of the Cosmos*, Dr. Neil Douglas-Klotz has been recognized as a foremost expert at interpreting the native wisdom of the Middle Eastern spiritual traditions.

If we could travel back to the world of ancient Palestine and hear Jesus teach in his native tongue, what would we learn? Through his insightful translations from the Aramaic language that Jesus and his disciples actually spoke, Neil Douglas-Klotz uncovers the rich layers of meaning and wisdom found in Jesus' original words.

Blessings of the Cosmos presents Jesus' best-loved benedictions, including:

- His last messages to the disciples including the “great commandment” on love, the “many mansions” teaching and the blessing of “greater works”
- How to find the divine presence in unexpected places
- Invocations of light, joy, peace, and faith
- A wealth of body-based practices designed to bring spiritual energy and insight
- An 80-minute 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.

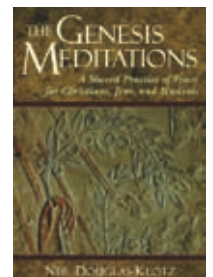
Hardback book plus CD, \$18.95, £12. Sounds True.

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 everyday lives.

Hardback, \$24.95, £15. Quest Books.

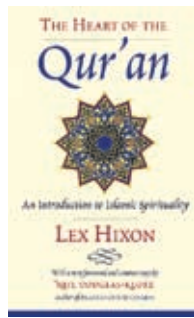


HEART OF THE QUR'AN

by Lex Hixon, edited by Neil Douglas-Klotz

Key passages of the Qur'an are rendered into English with a focus on their spiritual experience and meaning and reveal the Qur'an's teachings as one of the great wisdom traditions of humanity. Neil Douglas-Klotz has rearranged the passages thematically and provided commentary for each major theme. The result makes the teachings even more accessible by allowing the reader easily to find relevant readings for guidance on everyday issues such as love, gratitude, and prayer.

Paperback, **\$18.95, £10**. Quest Books.



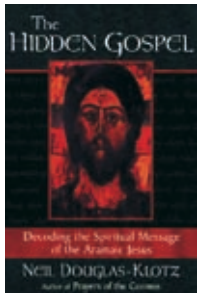
MURSHID: A personal memoir of life with American Sufi Samuel L. Lewis

by Mansur Johnson

Otis B. Johnson was a young college professor of English in the 1960's when he joined the exodus of hippies to California to meet someone his friend said could take them where they wanted to go the fastest. Where did they want to go? They wanted to meet the divinity, obtain God-consciousness, get enlightened, find love, experience samadhi, in short — they didn't know for sure.

What happened? Otis B. Johnson became Mansur Johnson during a three-year encounter with the world's first Guru-Roshi-Murshid, Samuel L. Lewis. *Murshid* shows in intimate detail how Samuel L. Lewis, the first Western-born Sufi teacher, Zen master, and practitioner of Indian cosmic metaphysics, accomplished his life's purpose. This book has previously unpublished photos of Murshid Samuel Lewis and his early students.

Paperback, **\$25.00**. PeaceWorks Publications.



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. It is in plain sight and found in Jesus' familiar sayings newly translated from Aramaic, the Middle Eastern language he spoke. What emerges is a hopeful, nurturing, and 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**. Hardback, **\$24.95, £15**. Quest Books (English), Koesel (German), Ankh-Hermes (Dutch).

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. You can use *Desert Wisdom* as a handbook of daily inspiration, an oracle or a source book. Through writings, chants, meditations and body prayers, you will experience this sacred Earth tradition.

Hardback. **\$20.00**. Harper SanFrancisco (US & Canada), Record (Brasil), Thorsons (UK), Santiago Verlag (Germany), Altamira (Netherlands).

Last hardback copies are available! Order Now!



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, £9**. Harper SanFrancisco (English), Knauer (German), East-West (Dutch), Triom Publishers (Brasil).



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.

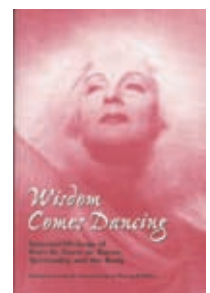
Paperback, **\$17**. WovenWord Press.

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**. (PeaceWorks). German edition available from Santiago Verlag (www.santiagoverlag.de).



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The Genesis Meditations

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. CD: 68 minutes. **\$15, £10**.

Desert Wisdom Body Prayers and Chants

A companion tape to the *Desert Wisdom* book with readings, guided meditations and some chants used in the body prayers. Tape. **\$5, £2.50**.

Dancing with the Aramaic Jesus: The Lord's Prayer

Live recording at Lama Foundation in New Mexico in 1989. This is a powerful, 100-voice rendition of the entire prayer cycle. CD. **\$15, £10**.

Prayers of the Cosmos

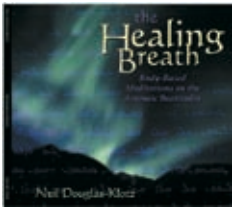
A companion to the *Prayers of the Cosmos* book, this gives clear pronunciations of the Aramaic Lord's Prayer and Beatitudes. Also, all melodies to both cycles are sung clearly by Neil Douglas-Klotz. CD. **\$15, £10**.

Dancing with the Aramaic Jesus: The Beatitude Way

Live recording at the site of the "Upper Room" at St. Mark's Convent in Jerusalem in 1993. This is a moving, devotional recording, which is wonderful for chanting and meditation. CD. **\$15, £10**.

CLOSE-OUT SPECIAL

All remaining *Prayers of the Cosmos*, *The Beatitude Way* and *Desert Wisdom* tapes are \$5 until sold out.



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 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 Resource Center, or your local Internet source.

Length: 6 CDs with accompanying booklet for **\$69.95, £40.**

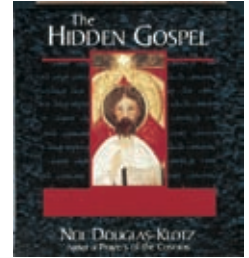
THE HIDDEN GOSPEL: Decoding the Spiritual Message of the Aramaic Jesus

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 CDs 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. The recordings were edited so that one can listen to the material in 20-minute segments. They are very high quality CDs and perfect for Abwoon Circles. They do not repeat the material in the *Original Prayer* series.

Available from Sounds True, Abwoon Resource Center, or your local Internet source.

Length: 3 CDs, 180 minutes, with accompanying study booklet. **\$24.95, £15.**



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 Resource Center, or your local bookstore or Internet source.

Length: 6 CDs with accompanying booklet for **\$69.95, £40.**

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, £13.**



REMEMBRANCE OF LIGHT: Zikr Nur-i-Muhammad

Sufi Devotional Music for Healing and Contemplation

by Neil Douglas-Klotz (Saadi Shakur Chishti)

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.

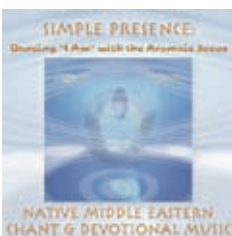
CD: 63 minutes. **\$15, £10.**

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. Has voice, guitars, violin, hand drums, piano, flute, cello, bass, accordion, 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. **\$15, £10.**

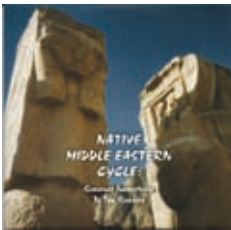


THE OPENING:

Sura Fateha — A Prayer for Peace

This CD has the first sura of the Qur'an, 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 *Desert Wisdom* book.

Neil Douglas-Klotz (Saadi Shakur Chishti) states, "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." CD: 36 minutes. **\$15, £10.** Recorded in Germany.



A NATIVE MIDDLE EASTERN CYCLE: Seasonal Invocations to the Goddess

Now back as a CD! Seasonal chants and Dances of Universal Peace drawn from several ancient Native Middle Eastern traditions: Egyptian, Babylonian, ancient Canaanite and ancient Hebrew. Includes: Anat Amenta, Belit Mati, Shaddai, Hokhmah Allatu, Innana Damuzi, Eyeh Asher Eyeh, Ast Amenti, Nintu Mami. Has voices and instruments.

CD: 61 minutes. **\$15, £10.**

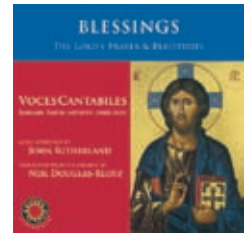
BLESSINGS:

The Lord's Prayer and Beatitudes

Choral settings of the teaching Jesus gave in the Lord's Prayer and the Beatitudes are sung by Voces Cantabiles, an internationally acclaimed choir, and based on English translations from the Aramaic by Neil Douglas-Klotz. Music by John Sutherland, Music Director at St. Mary's Rydal in the English Lake District.

(Visit <http://www.sutherlandsounds.co.uk/> to listen to sample excerpts.)

"John Sutherland's inspired artistry brings fully into liturgical form the ability to hear Yeshua with Aramaic ears." — Neil Douglas-Klotz
CD: 51 minutes. **\$20. (special, limited-time offering)**



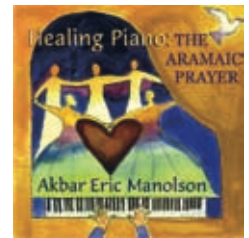
HEALING PIANO:

The Aramaic Prayer

Themes and variations composed and performed by Akbar Eric Manolson

Inspired by the melodies of Neil Douglas-Klotz.

This is a CD of **solo piano music**, subtle and dynamic, without vocal singing or additional accompaniment. The purpose of this music is both to relax and to energize. It offers you a new way to experience the inspiration and beauty of this ancient invocation.
CD: 61 minutes. **\$18. (special, limited-time offering)**



VIDEO **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 Bollmann 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 Circles. DVD: 35 minutes. **\$35.**



Ordering Information for Abwoon Resources

Abwoon Resource Center, 881 High Street, Suite 206, Worthington, OH 43085 USA. Tel. 1-614-429-4009, E-mail: resourcecenter@abwoon.com. The Abwoon web site www.abwoon.com offers secure, online domestic and international ordering for all of the listed publications and recordings (in US dollars). Amy Alwood is the new Bookstore Fulfillment Manager. You can contact her directly at amy@abwoon.com. Mary Qahira Richardson answers all phone messages at the Abwoon Resource Center.

Retail US shipping and handling through USPS is \$4.50 for the first item and \$1.20 for each additional item. Wholesale and international orders are charged actual shipping costs. Contact the office for obtaining faster delivery and for the wholesale schedule.



**Amy Alwood, Bookstore Fulfillment Manager and
Mary Qahira Richardson, Phone Coordinator (inset)**

In Australia, please contact Vajra Bennett, RMB 2592, Bucketty 2250, NSW, Australia. Tel. 61-(0)2-4376-1195, Fax: 61-(0)2-4376-1150, E-mail: inana2@activ8.net.au.

In United Kingdom & Europe, Selected English Abwoon books, tapes and CDs may be ordered from Carol Jones, Brynawel, 1 Heol Gwyndalis, Dihewyd, LAMPETER, Ceredigion, Wales, SA48 7PN, United Kingdom. Tel. 44-(0)1570-470066, E-mail: carol@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, Str. am Schoelerpark 26, D-10715 Berlin, Germany. Tel. 49-(0)30-86207078, E-mail: nurah@taenze-ndl.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, *The Hidden Gospel* (*Prophet aus der Wueste*, Koesel Verlag), the instruction booklet for *Dancing with the Aramaic Jesus: The Lord's Prayer* and other musical recordings. Please also enquire 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), *The Hidden Gospel* (Ankh-Hermes), the Desert Wisdom Body Prayers 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 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.

2009 Schedule for Dr. Neil Douglas-Klotz

European Events in 2009

February 21-22: London Centre for Spirituality, London, England. *The Aramaic Jesus and the Sufis: Shared Paths of the Heart.* For description, see Columbus, OH, April 17-18. Contact: London Centre for Spirituality at 44-(0)20-7621-1391 or info@spiritualitycentre.org or visit www.spiritualitycentre.org.

February 28 – March 15: Edinburgh, Scotland. *2008 Edinburgh International Festival on Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace (MESP).* Workshops, performances, panels and talks by grassroots peacemakers, artists, storytellers, musicians and others, including Dances of Universal Peace and inter-spiritual meditation for peace. Featured presenters and workshop leaders will include International Sufi School. See the full description online. Contact: Neill Walker: mesp2009@hotmail.co.uk. For details about the conference and the festival, visit www.eial.org or www.mesp.org.uk.

March 3: Edinburgh, Scotland. *The Aramaic Jesus and the Sufis: Shared Paths of the Heart.* For description, see Columbus, OH, April 17-18. This event is offered as part of the 2009 Edinburgh Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace. Location: Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh. Time: 9.30am for 10am-4.30pm. Cost: £20/£15 (Concessions). For a registration form contact: Neill Walker at mesp2009@hotmail.co.uk.

March 6-8: Oblate Retreat Centre, Crewe, England. *The Soul of Sufi Zikr: Shining a Light in the Unknown.* A retreat with Saadi Neil Douglas-Klotz and Tansen Philip O'Donohoe. See www.abwoon.com for a full description. Contact: Tansen at 44-(0)1258-818067 or mail@philipdonohoe.co.uk.

March 12: Edinburgh, Scotland. *Christian and Sufi Approaches to Spiritual Healing* with Rev. Prof. Stephen Wright and Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti. Themes and practices of spiritual healing including silence, contemplative prayer, breathing and body awareness, the healing power of ritual, laying on of hands, walking meditation and ways to open to the healing power of nature. Offered as part of the 2009 Edinburgh Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace. Location: Meeting Room, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh. Time: 9.30am for 10am-4.30pm. Cost: £20/£15 (Concessions). For a registration form contact: Neill Walker at mesp2009@hotmail.co.uk.

March 20-22: Fluehli Ranft, Switzerland. *Many Mansions: Yeshua's Last Teachings.* Our yearly Aramaic Jesus retreat will focus on his last talk with his disciples, as reported in the Gospel of John. In addition, we will be sharing Dance and body prayer from most of his "I Am" sayings in the Gospel of John, and comparing these sayings to his teaching in the Gospel of Thomas. This retreat is open to all, without prior experience. Only an open heart and mind, ready to move and dance with the One, are necessary. In German language. Contact: Barbara Küng at 41-(0)41-921-20-41 or Regina Gerber at regina.gerber@bluemail.ch.

March 25-29: Finkenwerde, nr Berlin, Germany. *Life: A Caravan of Adventure and Discovery.* Annual Native Middle Eastern Retreat with Murshid Saadi Shakur Chisti and Murshida Gita Onnen. To help guide our group practice, we will draw on living names of the One from the Sufi tradition as well as the "I Am" sayings of Yeshua in his native Aramaic language. With help from both Yeshua and the Sufis, we will share a process of spring renewal that aims to re-empower us for life's journey, joining the caravan of healers, teachers and wise women and men travelling ahead of us. Our way of practice will include Dances of Universal Peace, walking meditation, Sufi sound practice and wasaif, guided meditation and SoulWork. No experience is necessary and all are welcome. In German. Contact: Gita Onnen at 49-(0)30-791-5211 or Anapurna von Kügelgen at 49-(0)30-313-9163 or brita.v.k@gmx.net.

April 2-5: Wiston Lodge near Edinburgh, Scotland. *The Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program Module 4 — Genesis Now! The Original Meditations of the Aramaic Jesus.* Deepening and leadership retreat for those interested in sharing meditation, Dance and spiritual practice related to the shared creation tradition articulated in the books *The Genesis Meditations* and *Desert Wisdom* in the context of building interspiritual communities and ministry, as well as for retreat work. This includes especially the Genesis cycle of dances and chants (published on the *Beginnings* CD) and the Genesis daylong retreat. It also includes deepening for those wanting to establish a personal spiritual practice with this material. The three-year course also includes leadership training in body prayer, contemplation, chant, voice, walking meditation and the Dances of Universal Peace connected to this work. **This retreat is open to a limited number participants who are not enrolled in the entire leadership program.** *Prior reading and an application form are required.* Contact: Fateah Alice Saunders at 44-(0)131-664-6206 or alicefateah@btinternet.com.

May 15-17: DeWeyst, Holland. *The Aramaic Jesus and the Sufis: Shared Paths of the Heart.* Public workshop with Neil Douglas-Klotz. For a description, see Columbus, OH, April 17-18. Contact: Wali and Arienne van der Zwan at +32 86 38 78 82 or +31 (0) 30 225 0546; samark@peaceinmotion.info.

June 27-July 4: near Hamburg, Germany. *2009 European Summer School of the Sufi Ruhaniat International: "Embracing Life as the Teacher."* Classes in Sufi practice, zikr, breathwork, healing, advanced Dances of Universal Peace and walking meditation, SoulWork, sound and music, spiritual walk. **Special guest teacher: Pir Shabda Kahn** with the European Ruhaniat teachers. In English and German. Contact: Edmund Dixon: edmunddixon@yahoo.co.uk. Registration: Ayat Sabine Brandt at 49-(0)30-470-36782 or ayatsabine@web.de. See also www.ruhaniateurope.org.

September 11-13: Prague, Czech Republic. *Genesis Now! The Original Meditations of the Aramaic Jesus.* The workshop will use meditation, chant, Dances of Universal Peace and body prayer based on the books *The Hidden Gospel* and *The Genesis Meditations*. In English. Contact: Lída Chrást'anská at 42-(0)603-207-273; 42-(0)387-225-239 or chrastan@ipex.cz or Centrum Nesmen at info@centrum-nesmen.cz.

September 20-25: nr Fulda, Germany. *The Soul of Sufi Zikr: Remembrance of Completeness.* Chanted, moved, breathed, in silence and in sound, the Sufi practice of zikr invites us to nothing less than a complete awareness of the living potentials within our soul. In this journey, we may encounter ecstasy as well as the most challenging aspects of our inner being. The lessons and teachings of Murshid Samuel Lewis on zikr form the basis for this retreat, which is intended for Sufi mureeds or others by permission.

During the retreat, we will explore spoken, sung, silent and moving zikr from various traditions and consider how they can help us live more invigorated and joyful lives. We will also be working with sitting and walking meditation for integration and sharing practices related to Sufi healing including the Healing Ritual of Hazrat Inayat Khan. In this full-length retreat, we will further explore the lessons of Murshid Samuel Lewis' teaching on breath, rhythm and heart for teaching zikr and zikr dance.

This retreat will be followed by a retreat for initiated Sufi mureeds of the Sufi Ruhaniat International from September 25-27.

Contact: Ayat Sabine Brandt at 49-(0)30-470-36 783 or AyatSabine@web.de.

November 19-22: nr Edinburgh, Scotland. *The Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program Module 5 — Travelling the "I Am" Way: Yeshua in John and Thomas.* See description for Columbus, OH, USA, April 19-22. This retreat is open to a limited number participants who are not enrolled in the entire leadership program. *Prior reading and an application form are required.* Contact: Fateah Alice Saunders at 44-(0)131-664-6206 or alicefateah@btinternet.com.

USA Events in 2009

April 14-17: Columbus, OH. *The Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program Module 3 — Aramaic Beatitudes of Jesus.* (Second Group) Deepening and leadership retreat for those interested in sharing the Aramaic Beatitudes of Jesus in the context of building interspiritual communities and ministry, as well as for retreat work. Deepening for those wanting to establish a personal spiritual practice. Leadership training in body prayer, contemplation, chant, voice, walking meditation and the Dances of Universal Peace connected to this work. Special focus of this retreat is leadership guidance for the dances associated with the Aramaic Beatitudes and for the related body prayers in *Prayers of the Cosmos* and *Blessings of the Cosmos*. See a full description of the program at www.abwoon.com. **This retreat is open to a limited number participants who are not enrolled in the entire leadership program.** *Prior reading and an application form are required.* Contact: the Rev. Elizabeth Reed, Shalem Center at 1-614-441-9773 or munira@abwoon.com.

April 17-18: Columbus, OH. *The Aramaic Jesus and the Sufis: Shared Paths of the Heart.* Public workshop with Neil Douglas-Klotz. This two-day workshop will introduce, with chant, meditation and movement, the shared prayers and meditations of the heart that connect the Aramaic Jesus and the Sufis. Yeshua's words, viewed through Aramaic eyes, reveal many aspects of his original way of prayer, contemplation and spiritual practice. As Swiss theologian Hans Kung has noted, Eastern Syriac and Aramaic Christianity heavily influenced the beginnings of Islam. Historically, early Islam had a close relationship with Aramaic and Arabic Christianity, which share the same emphasis on the mystical and spiritual side of Jesus' teaching. Within the larger community of Islam, the Sufis expressed this mystical side, used some of the same practices and told many stories about Jesus, whom they still hold in high respect. As we explore this relationship, we aim to help build bridges between the differences we perceive within and between us. Jesus' wisdom teachings are still as relevant today as when he first said, "Love your neighbor as yourself." We love the "neighbor" within as we become more fully human, exploring the full potential of our power and love. This naturally expresses itself in a more vivid and enlivened daily life. Contact: the Rev. Elizabeth Reed at 1-614-441-9773 or munira@abwoon.com.

April 19-22: Columbus, OH. *The Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program Module 5 — Travelling the "I Am" Way: Yeshua in John and Thomas.* (First Group) Deepening and leadership retreat for those interested in sharing the Aramaic teachings of Jesus in the context of building interspiritual communities and ministry, as well as for retreat work. Deepening for those wanting to establish a personal spiritual practice.

This retreat focuses particularly on sayings of Jesus in the Gospel of John, comparing them to the Jesus related by the Gospel of Thomas. Looking at these sayings in their Aramaic sense reveals a striking similarity united by Jesus' emphasis on love, trust and self-knowledge as the cornerstones of the teaching and spiritual practice he leaves to his disciples. Special focus of this retreat is leadership guidance for the dances associated with the Aramaic "I Am" sayings, dances from Jesus' last talk with his disciples as well as the related Aramaic body prayers in *Blessings of the Cosmos*, *The Hidden Gospel*, *The Genesis Meditations* and *Desert Wisdom*.

This is a closed, ongoing group. **A waiting list exists for potential participants who are not enrolled for the whole program.** *Prior reading and an application form are required.* Contact: the Rev. Elizabeth Reed, Shalem Center at 1-614-441-9773 or munira@abwoon.com.

USA schedule continues on the last page.

USA Events in 2009 (continued)

May 31- June 7: Camp Kieve, Nobleboro, Maine. *Robert Bly's 35th Annual Conference on the Great Mother and the New Father.* With Neil Douglas-Klotz appearing as lead speaker and workshop facilitator at the conference — focusing on the Aramaic Jesus and the Sufis and his most recent work. For information visit: www.greatmotherconference.com.

October 22-25: Ashland, OR. *Touching the Inner Healer: A SoulWork Retreat.* With Murshids Mariam Baker and Saadi Shakur Chisti (Neil Douglas-Klotz). Many of our challenges in everyday life, center on our relationship to health and our physical bodies. In this retreat we will use sacred movement, Sufi zikr, Dances of Universal Peace, walking meditation, wasifa practice and guided group SoulWork to attain better clarity about being at home in the body, and the effect that our relationship to "body" has on our work and personal relationships. The retreat is limited to SoulWork practitioners, those who have previously experienced a personal SoulWork session or a guided SoulWork retreat, or by special permission. Numbers limited to 26 participants. Contact: Zahira Muhi Nadler or Raphael Birney at zahira@qwestoffice.net.

November 3-6: Lutheridge Conference Center nr. Asheville, NC. *The Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program Module 4 — Genesis Now! The Original Meditation of the Aramaic Jesus and the Traditions of Creation Spirituality.* (Second Group) See the description for April 2-5 at Wiston Lodge, Scotland and online at www.abwoon.com. **This retreat may be open to a limited number participants who are not enrolled in the entire three-year leadership program.** *Prior reading and an application form are required.* Contact: the Rev. Elizabeth Reed, Shalem Center at 1-614-441-9773 or munira@abwoon.com.

November 6-8: Lutheridge Conference Center nr. Asheville, NC. *Repair and Renewal: Healing Pathways of the Heart.* In this public workshop Neil Douglas-Klotz will select healing resources from the rich treasure of the "pathways of the heart" found in the Sufi practice of the 99 Beautiful Names. For several decades, he has specialized in adapting ancient Sufi practices to the everyday challenges of modern life and in 2005 produced a new translation of these practices in *The Sufi Book of Life*. The focus for this workshop will be on the many pathways that deal with strength, renewal, releasing, trust, being at home in the body, and increasing clarity in relationship with one's inner healing guidance. We will use chant, heart meditation, walking meditation, body prayer, whirling and other forms of sacred movement and body awareness. The retreat aims to guide participants through a process that promotes freedom, growth and joy along with better understanding of oneself and others. Contact: Lucy Oliver, 1-828-225-0515 or luz.oliver@gmail.com.

November 8-11: Lutheridge Conference Center nr. Asheville, NC. *The Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program Module 6 — Sufi Pathways: A Model for Interspiritual Work.* (First Group) Deepening and leadership retreat for those interested in sharing meditation, Dance and spiritual practice related to the Sufi tradition in the context of building interspiritual communities and ministry, as well as for retreat work. This includes especially the material articulated in the books *The Sufi Book of Life* and *The Tent of Abraham* and

emphases on the Service of Elemental Peace, the Elemental Heart Healing Meditations, and leadership of Sufi chant and walking meditation. It also includes deepening for those wanting to establish a personal spiritual practice with this material. The three-year course includes leadership training in body prayer, contemplation, chant, voice, walking meditation and the Dances of Universal Peace connected to this work.

This is a closed, ongoing group. **A waiting list exists for potential participants who are not enrolled for the whole program.** *Prior reading and an application form are required.* Contact: the Rev. Elizabeth Reed, Shalem Center at 1-614-441-9773 or munira@abwoon.com.

For detailed information about the **Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program** and for details and updates to the schedule, see www.abwoon.com.

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 resources, from the online store at www.abwoon.com. Also, for support in your endeavours, view the local volunteer connectors listed geographically on the website.

Abwoon Mailing List: Contact Subhana Elizabeth Ferrio by e-mail at eferrio@gmail.com with any updates or changes to your contact information for the Abwoon mailing list — including e-mail addresses. You can also contact her to be added to or removed from the Abwoon mailing list.

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