



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

Dear Friends of Abwoon,

Greetings and blessings on the turning of the year! This Scottish Hogmanay finds Natalia and me in a new home in the country, about an hour north of Edinburgh.

I am really enjoying the more relaxed rhythm that our new home and garden offer. This is allowing me to proceed with several projects that were incubated and begun during my sabbatical last year.



One of these new directions results from a request from my spiritual guide, the director of the Dervish Healing Order, Murshid Saul Barodofsky, that I help support this work, which aims to help us all become better channels for both self-healing and helping others. With his blessing, Natalia and I are beginning a three-session program on **"The Path of Healing: Energy, Mastery and Service."** This will be held the last weekend of October for the next three years. You can find details and an application form online at www.abwoon.com. This is an interspiritual program, open to all sincere seekers. We will also be hosting Murshid Saul here in Scotland for his **first UK healing retreat September 20-21** (details forthcoming).

You can find the rest of my program for 2014 at www.abwoon.com as well as at my UK site: www.eial.org. This includes another visit to South Africa for the annual March conference of the Academy of Self Knowledge, the community of Shaykh Fadhlalla Haeri, a very spiritual peacemaker and wise teacher. It also includes a new public workshop in Columbus, Ohio next autumn, focusing on recent work with the Aramaic Jesus and Sufism. I am also winding up, for now, the Abwoon Leadership Groups, with both the US and German groups finishing in the spring. My plans are for a new model of interspiritual leadership group to begin in spring 2015, focusing on the "nomadic spirituality" that has evolved through human history and which unites us in our diversity across cultures, both religious and secular.

One of the major events of the year will be a **pilgrimage with retreats** (co-led with Murshid Tansen O'Donohoe and Murshida Sophia Onnen) to **Lama Foundation and the Southwest Sufi Community in New Mexico**, respective locations of the **grave sites of Murshid Samuel Lewis and Murshid Moineddin Jablonski**. The **Lama retreat** will be **August 19-24**, and you can find details and online registration at www.lamafoundation.org. A weekend workshop will be held in Silver City, NM, August 29-31 with details at www.abwoon.com.

My retreat time last year also led me to look back in order to look forward more clearly. Life is change, and continued growth requires that one change with it.



In 1982, Tasnim Fernandez and I established one of the first distributed social networks in the world based on a spiritual practice: the Dances of Universal Peace. In the absence of the Internet, and even while many spiritual groups were buying land and raising money

to build physical shrines and centers, we chose to emphasize the 'nomadic' character of a spiritual practice that could be transported and conveyed wherever hearts and minds were open to receive it. The shrine was the heart, and the heart is portable. More than thirty years later, the International Network for the Dances of Universal Peace has spread around the world, exposing millions of people to one of the first, and most enduring, interspiritual practices.

My own work has taken a similar trajectory: focusing on building a network of empowered teachers and healers. It began with translations of Jesus' teaching and practice from the Aramaic language and then extended into the wider field of Middle Eastern spirituality and peacemaking, including translations from the Sufi and Quranic traditions. The former work has helped many ex-Christians and current Christians rediscover their spiritual roots, empowering them to 'do as Jesus did, and greater.' The latter has begun to do the same for those disaffected from what they feel to be an overly rigid Islamic upbringing or for those misinformed about the spiritual side of Islam.

During the past seven years, through Abwoon Resource Center, we have devoted our energies to establishing a wider circle of teachers passionate about sharing this healing and peacemaking work. Spring 2014 will see the completion of five Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Groups (AILP) in the USA and Europe since 2007. We now see the fruits of these groups as graduates share their own unique approach to the work in parishes, synagogues, mosques, retreat centers, healing centers, schools, camps, festivals and many other places.

During this period, the Abwoon Resource Center (ARC) has been providing books, recordings in tape and CD form, DVDs and other resources to facilitate the spread of the work. As the Internet has taken an increasingly prominent role in sharing resources, the need for sending physical resources around the planet has lessened. We see in this trend the possibility to focus more energy on supporting a network of teachers of the work, the living resources that have always been the real treasure.

No matter the volume of 'material' generated, only living, heartfelt people can share a spiritual approach to global and personal peacemaking and the consciousness of unity. Simply adding more networking without depth of content may create the impression that something is happening when it really isn't, distracting people from the processes of change that are necessary. What we see around us in many online social networks testifies to this. More volume of communication may only be a poor substitute for the communication that would

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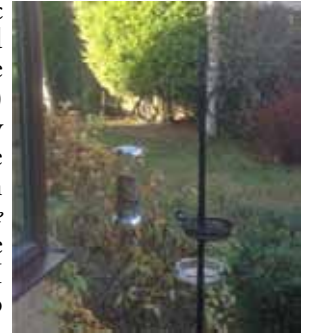
be most important in the moment. My main focus has always been to allow people to become stronger in themselves, more independent in their own soul power, and less dependent on 'big name' teachers.

Because of this, the Abwoon Resource Center is undergoing a radical shift away from physical resources to human resources:

- **We aim to phase out the delivery of physical books** within the coming months; CDs and DVDs will be phased out when current inventory is gone. Those who wish to purchase books will be directed to other online retailers with whom we cannot, in any case, compete. Providing physical CDs and DVDs produced by us will be handled as a 'legacy' service by a volunteer. (CD/DVD mailings will be once per week rather than the previous service of 5 days per week.) We will aim to provide the content of all CDs and DVDs online, either free or in some cases as paid downloads.
- **The ARC website is being rebuilt** to accommodate the new online-resource model and to add the capability for some graduates of the AILP programs to post their own workshops, retreats and other offerings directly related to the work. We aim for this to be online by the end of January. Networking resources in a wider field will continue to expand gradually through ARC's Facebook and YouTube pages, as well as my own author Facebook and LinkedIn pages and related sites.
- The other **functions of the ARC office in Columbus will be largely handled by volunteers** spread out throughout the network. If you have some experience in (or desire to learn by doing) audio and video editing and production, please let us know.

My own seminars and talks will continue in developing areas for the work around the world. Most of these need some financial support. In addition, I will continue to provide retreats in North America and Europe that aim to help both beginning and advanced students deepen in and share the work.

On my research and publishing to-do list are: a new eBook and printed edition of *The Genesis Meditations*; a new work in the area of 'nomadic spirituality'; an exploration of the 'Silk Road' connections of the Aramaic Jesus movements, early Islam and the other traditions of Middle Asia; a book ('talking' and written) of Sufi stories; and an anthology of the best prose work of my late teacher, Murshid Moineddin. I am also working on a follow-up to *The Sufi Book of Life*. Even if only some of these projects come to fruition, I have some wonderful new plants to tend here in the country!



Here at ARC, we welcome your support, in whatever way you feel to offer it, for all of what the new year offers. I wish you all the best — of satisfaction, health and balance — as you each continue to make a difference in your own lives. Breathing a gentle, rhythmic breath, whenever you remember, is the best form of peacemaking.

Love and blessings,
Neil

Keeping in Touch with You!

The Abwoon Resource Center communicates primarily through the Internet with news announcements through Constant Contact. This is a secure server and allows you to opt in or out as you wish. Please share your Constant Contact announcements with friends who might be interested in this work, so they can subscribe to the list themselves.

To receive our ongoing communications, please send an e-mail message to resourcecenter@abwoon.com.

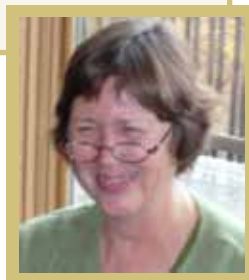
Prefer Postal Mail to E-mail?

To receive a copy of our annual newsletter by postal mail please send your name and postal address to:

Abwoon Resource Center
881 High Street, Suite 206
Worthington, OH 43085

You can also leave a message on the ARC voicemail at: 614-429-4009.

Mary Qahira Richardson
answers all phone messages
at ARC



Desert Flowers E-mail Study Group

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

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

ARC on YouTube

Abwoon Resource Center shares the research of its Founder and Spiritual Mentor, Dr. Neil Douglas-Klotz at YouTube.

To see videos about Native Middle Eastern spirituality and peacemaking — including work on the Aramaic words of Jesus, Hebrew and Native Middle Eastern creation mysticism and Sufism, visit <http://www.youtube.com/user/AbwoonResourceCenter>.

The Abwoon Circles and the Abwoon Resource Center

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

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



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

This work during 2013 (ongoing and special projects) included:

- **Bookstore operations:** Continued to provide an efficient and responsive on-line bookstore through the Abwoon website; sales this year were diminished from past years reflecting the increasing impact of the major online bookstore retailers. All ARC-produced CDs are offered for sale at amazon.com to reach a wider audience. The decision was made to discontinue hard-copy book sales online in January 2014. ARC-produced CDs will be sold online and fulfillment will be done through a volunteer. Resources will eventually be available to download in text, audio and video formats.
- **Communications:** Constant Contact continues as the primary communication tool with occasional announcements. ARC coordinates volunteers in creating and producing the annual newsletter and produces the hard copies to have available at events, to provide with bookstore orders and to send by postal mail. ARC receives and responds to queries through the **Contact Us** link at the website. These queries include requests seeking permission to quote or perform from Neil Douglas-Klotz' works, translation requests, requests for local networking, information about workshops, and even requests for personal spiritual counseling.
- **Networking:** Responded to requests for local contacts, as well as directed individuals to regional and national workshops (taught by Neil Douglas-Klotz or other AILP graduates), networked with other groups expressing interest in the Aramaic translation work as a support to their mission and programs.
- **Workshops and Events Book Tables:** Ohio-based events in 2013 included AILP workshops in the spring and fall in Ohio. Book tables were provided for Saadi's "Walking the Stars" retreat in Ohio, "Aramaic I Ams" retreat in Madison, WI, and the Jamiat Khas in New Lebanon, NY. Resources were sent to three other events taught by senior teachers in the Aramaic work.
- **Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program:** Provided administrative support to two AILP events (Modules 5 and 6) held in fall and spring 2013 respectively, at Procter Center in London, OH. Next spring will be the final module and there are no current plans for more AILP groups.

- **Video Recording and Archival Project:** Video and audio recordings are made at workshops where Neil Douglas-Klotz is the primary or sole teacher, whenever feasible. Continual efforts are made to recruit tech-savvy volunteers to assist with recording and editing. Digital recorded archives of USA-based events are maintained at ARC. In June, Lucy Oliver volunteered in the ARC office to organize all the existing AILP module recordings. Currently there are 21 video postings at the Abwoon Resource Center YouTube Channel (with 12 added during 2013). We continually search for volunteers to edit film in our aim to increase the numbers of postings. ARC seeks qualified and motivated volunteers to help with editing and posting video clips at social media sites.
- **Funding:** ARC continues to recognize the invaluable support of its two arms of support: first, the individual donors who love and support the Aramaic and Native Middle Eastern work of Neil Douglas-Klotz and secondly, the Kalliopeia Foundation for its annual grant that can be utilized for administrative support, the backbone of our existence.
- **Staff Changes:** Rachel Gardiner came to ARC in summer of 2012 and now is an expecting mother-to-be with anticipated delivery in April 2014. We will say goodbye to Rachel before April. This coincides with the closing of the on-line book delivery and the shift to volunteer fulfillment of CDs and DVDs. **Munira Elizabeth Reed continues on as the Executive Director of Shalem Center and will carry full responsibility for ARC once again. ARC will essentially return to an all-volunteer organization.** Again, we recognize and appreciate the work of Mary Qahira Richardson for answering all phone calls as a committed volunteer.



Given the changes planned for 2014, we appreciate your patience and understanding with timeliness of up-coming services. CDs and DVDs will only be mailed once per week. Volunteers will be responding to e-mails and other communications. Thus responses may not be as timely without the former level of staffing. There are many questions and requests that come through the office each week that may not be responded to.

On the other hand, as Neil's article notes, the emphasis shifts in 2014 to human resources. First, this shift will be in terms of various volunteers who will now shoulder responsibilities for the various outreach services including communications, recordings, social media, and other services. Second, there will be more focus upon those who are teaching and sharing these resources in outreach in local and regional settings. There are plans for a webpage where visitors can use links to other sites for viewing information about AILP graduates/teachers, who present this work.

ARC will continue to serve in support and coordination with these volunteers, networking with other like-minded persons and groups, developing and maintaining on-going Constant Contact communications, a portion of work in social media, and annual newsletter production. There will also be some continuing support to USA workshops/retreats through support of event registrars and co-sponsoring/serving as fiscal parent to certain designated events. Fundraising will continue to be part of the work of ARC to support personal projects and international outreach work of Neil Douglas-Klotz. Special projects, such as production of new resources, will be supported insofar as time and funding permit.

The Abwoon Resource Center staff includes the **Rev. Elizabeth Munira Reed, Director**, and **volunteer staffing**. They are happy to receive your questions, concerns, and feedback and are committed to the larger vision of Unity that this work serves.

New Healing Series Starting in 2014

The Path of Healing — Energy, Mastery and Service starts in 2014 to be presented in three weekends (Thursday – Sunday) once a year for three years with Saadi Neil Douglas-Klotz and Natalia Lapteva.

Weekend 1 (October 30 to November 2, 2014): Self-healing, Self-protection and Boundaries

We have designed this as the first of series of short courses to help regular spiritual practitioners deepen in the basic elements of practice. Each course aims to be both broad and deep—breadth in making connections with the ecological roots of human spirituality, no matter what the tradition may be called; depth in discovering what works to help our lives become more healthy, joyful, peaceful and compassionate. The first course, over three years, focuses on self-healing, self-protection and developing life energy and magnetism in everyday life.

Special focus for the three weekends:

- Self-healing, self-protection and boundaries.
- Breathing, healing body awareness; purification of mind and emotions.
- Becoming a channel for magnetism, tassawuri and attunement, sending blessing.

For details and application form, please see www.abwoon.com or contact leadership@abwoon.com.

Online Meditation Courses

Rev. Elizabeth Munira Reed has written two online meditation courses:

- *Breathing with the Divine Breath: Deep Inner Healing in "The Beatitude Way"*: This course has 12 sessions.
- *A Healing Journey with the Aramaic Lord's Prayer: Reclaiming the Mysticism of Jesus through His Native Language*: This is a 20-session course co-authored with Neil Douglas-Klotz.

Both courses have sessions based on the books and recordings of Neil Douglas-Klotz and are offered through SelfHealingExpressions.com. You can receive lessons by e-mail daily, once a week or every other week.

Please use the link at www.abwoon.com to go to www.selfhealingexpressions.com for information and registration. Abwoon receives a donation whenever the link from our site is used.

Please consider a donation to this work or consider ARC in your estate and will planning. For information, please contact Munira at munira@abwoon.com.

Local Abwoon Circles

Interested in more in depth work with Abwoon materials? Begin a local group!
Nothing required. Simply begin.

For help, consider purchasing *Abwoon Circles: Starting a Local Group* for models and suggestions for group sessions. Also look for local volunteer connectors listed at www.abwoon.com.

Donate to the Work of the Abwoon Resource Center

The outreach and communications work of Abwoon Resource Center is dependent solely upon the generosity of individuals and foundations. We are deeply appreciative of any gift, large or small, in support of ARC's programs and outreach.

In 2013 individual donations totaled \$16,037. Donations were designated to specific programs and projects — including new resources, AILP scholarships, general events scholarship fund, and Neil's discretionary fund.

Abwoon Resource Center is deeply indebted to the Kalliopeia Foundation for their continuing grant support. This support is primarily designated for administrative support since a majority of individual donations are designated to specific programs and projects.

Your donations are fully tax deductible. (Shalem Center, as the fiscal 'parent', is a 501(c)(3) organization.) You can donate by check, credit card, PayPal, or on-line bill pay. Call Rev. Elizabeth Munira Reed at 614-441-9773 for information.

To contribute to the work of ARC, submit:

- Credit card payment through PayPal. (Use the "Donate" page at www.abwoon.com or on the PayPal site use donations@abwoon.com.)
- Donor-initiated automatic monthly contributions through your online bank bill-pay.
- Automatic monthly donations with a credit card. (Call Munira at 614-441-9773 to set up through ARC.)
- Check payable to Shalem Center and marked "for Abwoon" sent to:
The Shalem Center
881 High Street, Suite 206
Worthington, OH 43085

If you need a receipt in addition to your cancelled check or credit card receipt, contact Munira at munira@abwoon.com.

Abwoon Mailing List

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

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