

USA Events in 2014

April 10-13: Proctor Center, near Columbus, OH. *The Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program Module 7: Integrative Retreat.* This is the final meeting of the third AILP group and is closed to the public.

Contact the Rev. Elizabeth Reed, Shalem Center, 614-441-9773 or leadership@abwoon.com.

A new multi-year leadership group in the USA focused on healing, self-protection and magnetism is forming to start in Fall, 2014. For details see *The Path of Healing* box on this page or visit: www.abwoon.com or www.eial.org.

April 17-20: Bishops Ranch, Healdsburg, CA. *The Resurrection of Life: Easter with the Aramaic Jesus.* During this retreat, we will use teachings and practices suggested by the words of Jesus in his native Aramaic language to deepen in our own sense of resurrection and renewal. Resurrection can occur whenever we forget the small self, allowing it to dissolve "like the dew drop into the shiny sea." Opening to the divine we can then allow ourselves to become channels for blessing and healing. This was the practice of Yeshua, whose spirituality we will explore through a mixture of teaching, silent meditation, chant and sacred movement.

The main thread will be the prayer of Yeshua (the "Lord's Prayer"), which we will meditate with, chant and use in a cycle of Dances of Universal Peace. The background for this is in Neil's first book *Prayers of the Cosmos* (HarperCollins 1990). In addition, the retreat will draw teachings and spiritual practice from his later work on Jesus's teachings, as found in *Blessings of the Cosmos* and *I Am: The Secret Teachings of the Aramaic Jesus*. Neil will also share some of his recent unpublished work-in-progress on the Jesus traditions in early Islam. The retreat is open to all.

For information, contact: Devi Mathieu at dmathieu@sonic.net or Azimat Lane Schulz at azimatlane@gmail.com.

August 19-24: Lama Foundation, nr Taos, NM. *These are My People:* Celebrating the Worldwide Transmission of Murshid Samuel L. Lewis with Saadi Neil Douglas-Klotz, Tansen O'Donohoe, Sophia Gita Onnen and other teachers from Europe and beyond.

MURSHID SAM
His broken shoes traveled
India, Japan, Chinatown,
the Haight. Everywhere
he went he said, "These
are my people."

--Moineddin

A retreat of the heart through Dances of Universal Peace, Zikr, Walks, Meditation, Soulwork, music and 'Sufi kirtan' led by Ruhaniat teachers from Scotland, England, Germany and beyond who are making a pilgrimage to Lama this year. For both Murshid Samuel Lewis and Murshid Moineddin Jablonski, the first two Pirs of the Ruhaniat Sufi lineage, their own life pilgrimages took them far from the comfortable places they originally called 'home.' They discovered and shared that the living tradition of Sufism is a nomadic one, and the practices that are most valuable, the remembrances most lasting, are those we carry with us, wrapped up (as the poet Kabir says) in our own heart-cloth.

For information and registration, contact: Lama Foundation through their website at www.lamafoundation.org.

August 29-31: Silver City, NM. *Circling Around the Earth.* A workshop with Murshid Saadi Neil Douglas-Klotz, Murshid Tansen O'Donohoe and Murshida Sophia Gita Onnen. This workshop includes new Dances of Universal Peace, Zikr, Meditation and Spiritual Practice inspired by the lineage of Murshid Samuel Lewis and Murshid Moineddin Jablonski. The main Dance and Sufi teachers of Europe, Saadi, Tansen, Sophia and others from around the world are making a pilgrimage to the dargahs of Murshid S.A.M. and Murshid Moineddin this summer. Together and separately, they have helped seed this transmission in places as diverse as Russia, Bosnia, Brasil and South Africa. This is a unique opportunity to experience with them new dimensions in the Dances and Walks in relation to deep ecology, interspirituality, healing the inner self and all-around heart-opening.

For information, contact: Mariam Weidner at 1-575-534-1441 or write to mariamweidner@gmail.com.

October 24-26: Martin dePorres Center, Columbus, OH. *Thousands of Ways to Kneel and Kiss the Ground:* New Pathways of the Heart for Our Human Journey Home. This public workshop will select resources from the rich treasure of the "pathways of the heart" found in the Sufi practice of the 'Beautiful Names' and elsewhere in the Native Middle Eastern spiritual tradition. For several decades, Neil has focused on 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* (Penguin USA). During this workshop, he will present from his recent research in this area, including further work with the theme of the "Aramaic Jesus and the Sufis." The retreat will include a new cycle of zikr, spiritual body prayer and body awareness, silent meditation, walking meditation, Dances of Universal Peace and Sufi teaching stories. The main intention is to help participants bring more heart-centered balance, rhythm and peace into everyday life. No prior experience is necessary, only a desire to experience what is offered with an open heart.

Contact the Rev. Elizabeth Reed, Shalem Center, at 614-441-9773.

October 30-November 2: Proctor Centre, nr Columbus, OH. *The Path of Healing — Energy, Mastery and Service* with Saadi Neil Douglas-Klotz and Natalia Lapteva. This first weekend of the three focuses on 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.

For details and application form, please visit www.abwoon.com or send a message to: leadership@abwoon.com.

The Path of Healing: Energy, Mastery and Service

The Path of Healing is a three-year program with limited enrollment. It consists of one module held in the fall of each year in Ohio 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. This course, over three years, focuses on self-healing, self-protection and developing life energy and magnetism in everyday life.

Main Themes:

1. Self-healing and self-protection;
2. Exploring the power of the breath;
3. Developing magnetism, concentration and a healing atmosphere;
4. Practices for developing healthy boundaries, countering co-dependent tendencies and becoming a container and channel for healing energy;
5. Advanced work with the Walking Meditations of Murshid Samuel Lewis: elements, centers, planets, symbols, inner self/selves, tassawuri;
6. Pathways of the heart, selected from the '99 Beautiful Names' that encourage healing and accomplishment through concentration and magnetism in everyday life;
7. Practices for mastering everyday life from Abdul Qadir Jilani;
8. Healing and the Soulwork of Murshid Moineddin Jablonski;
9. Spacious body awareness, from the teachings of Raden Ayou Jodjana;
10. Developing capacity as a vehicle of healing blessing and baraka.
11. Includes training in the Sufi Healing Ritual of Hazrat Inayat Khan, with additional requirements outside of the weekends.

Although each weekend will have a special focus, all sessions will include subjects from the list above, deepening in practice as well as elements of leadership. In each weekend, practices will include a selection of: walking meditation, breath and body awareness, sitting meditation, Sufi wasifa and zikr, practices from the Aramaic Jesus, chants and Dances of Universal Peace and teaching stories.

Special focus for the three weekends:

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

The program is in English. For details and an application form, please visit www.abwoon.com or send a message to leadership@abwoon.com.

European Events in 2014

February 21-23: Crewe, England, UK. *Exploring the Rhythms of our Lives.* Annual Sufi practice and Dances of Universal Peace retreat with Tansen Philip O'Donohoe and Saadi Shakur Chishti. This year at the annual Crewe retreat, Tansen and Saadi will explore the relation of rhythm to breath, walk, dance and stillness. Much of our spiritual practice makes use of rhythm, and perhaps this is what attracts us to it, as well as to spiritual retreat. For some hours or days, we have the luxury of returning to our own rhythm and our feeling of being 'at home' in the universe. During our retreat time together this year we will explore the arts and practical sciences of rhythm, from the rich teachings of Hazrat Inayat Khan, Murshid Samuel Lewis and others of our lineage. Our aim is to improve our sense of being in rhythm with ourselves and our hearts' desires, in everyday life. Open to all. Contact Tansen at 125-881-8067 or philipodonohoe@btopenworld.com.

March 1: Kilgraston, Perthshire, Scotland, UK. *Pathways to the Heart: Resources from the Native Middle Eastern Traditions* with Neil Douglas-Klotz. Cultivation of the heart and healing the heart, have always been at the centre of Middle Eastern spirituality — from the creation stories of the Hebrew Bible, through the teachings of Jesus viewed through his Aramaic language, to the wisdom of the Sufis. Neil will share meditation, walking meditation, gentle body prayer, and chanting from this rich resource.

Held at the Garden Cottage Retreat and Spirituality Centre. Contact them at adminorchard@btconnect.com or www.gardencottagespirituality.org.uk.

March 22-23: Gillis Centre, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK. *The Resurrection of Life: Teachings and Spiritual Practice of the Aramaic Jesus* with Dr. Neil Douglas-Klotz. (Offered as a benefit for the 11th Edinburgh International Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace.) Uses teachings and practices suggested by the words of Jesus in his native Aramaic language to deepen our own sense of resurrection and renewal. Resurrection can occur whenever we forget the small self, allowing it to dissolve "like the dew drop into the shiny sea." Opening to the divine we can then allow ourselves to become channels for blessing and healing. This was the practice of Yeshua, whose spirituality we will explore through a mixture of teaching, silent meditation, walking meditation, chant and sacred movement. The main thread will be the prayer of Yeshua (the "Lord's Prayer"), which we will meditate with, chant and use in a cycle of Dances of Universal Peace.

The retreat will draw teachings and spiritual practice from Neil's first book *Prayers of the Cosmos* and his later work in *Blessings of the Cosmos* and *I Am: The Secret Teachings of the Aramaic Jesus*. Neil will also share some of his recent unpublished work-in-progress on the Jesus traditions in early Islam. Contact Fateah Alice Saunders at alicefateah@btinternet.com or visit www.mesp.org.uk.

March 27-30: Othona Community, Bridport, Dorset, England, UK. *The Heart of the Healer: Life Energy and Attunement in Christian and Sufi Spirituality* with Neil Douglas-Klotz and Natalia Lapteva. Viewed through his native Aramaic Language, Jesus' words and stories in the Gospels reveal many spiritual healing practices that can benefit us today. Foremost among these is Yeshua's practice of attunement with devotion. Jesus' way of healing were rooted in ancient Middle Eastern traditions and many of his practices were continued in the Sufi tradition, as well as being echoed in the words of medieval Christian mystics like Hildegard of Bingen and Meister Eckhart.

This retreat will draw from this rich tradition, sharing meditation as well as breathing, body awareness, sound and gentle movement practices. Many of the practices will be in the form of walking meditations that one can use in everyday life. Both Aramaic and Arabic sacred phrases will be used to centre meditation and to awaken the awareness of self-healing potentials already within us. In drawing from other traditions, we will share a modern form of interspiritual devotional movement called the Dances of Universal Peace, with sacred phrases in various languages and also experience a Sufi healing ritual, a group meditation to send healing to those who have requested it. Contact Othona Centre at +44 (0)1308 897130 or mail@othona-bb.org.uk. Visit their website at www.othona-bb.org.uk.

May 3-4: Rawtenstall, Lancashire, England, UK. *Streams of Light: Breath and Thought as Carriers of Healing.* A Dervish Healing Order weekend with Neil Douglas-Klotz and Natalia Lapteva. This is an open weekend focused towards those who are interested in the work of the Dervish Healing Order in the UK. Neil and Natalia are the senior leaders of the Dervish Healing Order (DHO) in the UK (www.dervish-healing-order.org). As part of this work, the DHO shares practices of self-healing that increase health, well-being, magnetism, embodiment and compassion. Suggested donation: £140/110 concessions. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. Contact Edmund Dixon at edmundazidixon@gmail.com.

May 9-11: Fluehli Ranf, Switzerland. *Healing the Heart with the Aramaic Jesus* with Neil Douglas-Klotz. During this retreat we will revisit the key themes of Jesus' healing teachings as viewed through his native Aramaic language. We will draw from various chants and Dances of Universal Peace based on these words, including the Beatitudes, the Lord's Prayer and other sayings from the Gospel of John. We will intersperse the more active 'body prayer' with sitting meditation in order to deepen in the experience of Yeshua's spirituality.

In addition, Neil will offer various walking meditations and personal body prayer suitable for bringing Jesus' teachings on healing into one's everyday life. As a parallel practice, he will also offer the Sufi healing ritual of Hazrat Inayat Khan, a short interfaith guided meditation for those who have asked for healing. Contact Barbara Kung at 41 (0)41 921 20 41 or Regina Gerber at regina.gerber@bluemail.ch.

May 22-55: Golzow, nr Berlin, Germany. *The Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program Module 7: Integrative Retreat.* This is the final meeting of the three-and-half year German ALLP group and is closed to the public.

June 28-July 5: near Hamburg, Germany. 2014 European Summer School of the Sufi Ruhaniat: *Universal Peace: Source and Fuel for All Our Life-Potentials.* Main teaching staff will again include the main Ruhaniat Sufi guides and initiators in Europe: Murshid Tansen (Director), Murshida Gita Sophia, Murshida Baraka, Murshid Saadi, Sheikh Jalaluddin, Sheikh Rahmana, Sheikh Alima and Sheikh(a)'s Wali and Arianne, and Sheikh Rafia. Special guest this year: Pir Shabda Kahn.

If you wish to explore the Sufi path, the Summer School is a good place to start. The variety of classes as well as the relaxed, informal atmosphere and sharing with people from many different lands is invigorating. If you are steadily traveling the path and encountering challenges (as we all do), you can find here both guidance and a company of fellow travellers with open hearts and arms ready to embrace you. For detailed class list, please see the website.

Contact Edmund Dixon at edmundazidixon@gmail.com. For registration, contact Qadima Sabine Brandt at 49-(0)30-47036782 or ayatsabine@web.de. The Sufi Ruhaniat European website: www.ruhaniateurope.org.

October 10-12: Edinburgh, Scotland, UK. *Harmony: Hearing the Symphony of Life: Sufi Music and the Mysticism of Sound* with Philip Tansen O'Donohoe and Saadi Neil Douglas-Klotz. The weekend will begin with a Friday evening of "Sufi Kirtan," which uses traditional forms of music in new melodic and rhythmic ways. The intention remains, as it did for our Sufi ancestors, to open ourselves to the deepest connection with the divine Beloved. The evening is open to all.

This weekend workshop will continue to explore the ancient methods Sufis have used to experience music as a spiritual practice and prayer. In this way, one becomes 'an hollow reed,' as Mevlana Jelaluddin Rumi recommends. At the same time, we will explore and experience new Western styles of Sufi music linked to group movement and prayer, chanting, poetry, meditation, Dances of Universal Peace and storytelling. Saturday evening, Tansen and Saadi will guide workshop participants in an extended experience of Sufi zikr, using movement and music in various forms.

Contact Neill Walker at mesp2013@hotmail.co.uk or www.mesp.org.uk. For information or registration, contact Tansen at 01258 818067 or philipodonohoe@btopenworld.com.

November 17-21: Carmelite Retreat Centre, Boars Hill, Oxford, UK. *The Strong, Slender Thread of Guidance.* Annual guided retreat for Sufi mureeds and healing order initiates with Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti and Murshid Tansen O'Donohoe. The aim of this longer retreat is to help us all deepen our connection to and through guidance together, in strength and love, with our teachers and with our lineage. Practices offered will be zikr, wasifa, dance, meditation, walking concentrations, prayer, practices for magnetism and the healing ritual.

The retreat will be open to Sufi mureeds, initiates of the Inayati healing orders and others by permission. As places are very limited early booking is advised. Accommodation will be mostly in single rooms and some twin rooms. Contact Tansen at 125-881-8067 or philipodonohoe@btopenworld.com.

December 5-7: Hof Ruhau, nr Öhringen, Germany. *Awakening and Expanding our Heart Qualities.* Annual Retreat for Sufi Mureeds and Dervish Healing Order Initiates with Murshida Sophia Onnen, Murshida Baraka von Kügelgen and Murshid Saadi Shakur. Through practicing the divine presence — *Akhlak Allah* — we move and live consciously in the divine presence, inside and outside. As Murshid Samuel Lewis recommends, this helps free us from moral and psychological complexes and heals our soul toward natural joy. With prayer, Wasifa, Dances of Universal Peace, breathing and walking meditations, zikr, and the Sufi Healing Ritual.

Contact Qadima Sabine Brandt at qadima@sufiruhaniat.eu.