



When we returned to Moscow from Tashkent, I received news that our dear friend Michael Selim Turnor had passed. Selim ran the Abwoon Study Circle bookstore for many years, before the bookstore moved from California to Ohio. An ex-Navy safety inspector, he used all of his organizational ability to daily answer orders and information requests received in the early days of the Study Center.



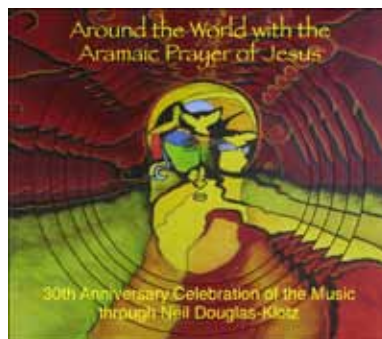
Selim and Saadi in the 'early years'

Selim retired in 2006 to pursue his avid interests of gardening and fishing. Many of us remember him at the annual Lama Dances of Universal Peace Camps in the 80s and 90s, always willing to be of service, putting up tents, clearing fire brush and, of course, running the bookshop, which he transported in his white truck with camper van. He is also responsible for one of the few, in my opinion, authentic Native American Dances, with his native language version of "Niney na huna..." (We Circle Around), which came out of his deep personal study with several Native teachers. It was a great privilege to know him, and I wish him a good road, and good fishing, on his further blessing way.

When I return from sabbatical, I have a shortened lecture and retreat schedule in 2013. Look online for what is on offer, and I hope to see many of you somewhere along my travels!

Love and blessings to you all,
Neil

Around the World with the Aramaic Prayer



Around the World with The Aramaic Prayer: 30th anniversary celebration anthology is a CD of the best of the musical arrangements of Neil Douglas-Klotz's music to the Aramaic Prayer of Jesus over the past thirty years. It includes improvisations, arrangements, and contributions by musicians from around the world

including Robert Gass, Allaudin Mathieu, Omar Faruk Tekbilek, Glen Velez, Angelika, Eric Akbar Manolson, Christian Bollman and the Overtone Choir of Dusseldorf, the Czech group Le'Harmonija.

65-70 minutes available from www.abwoon.com

Dear Friends of Abwoon,

Greetings and blessings to you all! By the time you receive this, I will have completed a personal retreat in the Scottish Highlands.



As most of you know, I am on sabbatical until April 2013 to pursue new research and also to deepen in my own spiritual practice. One of my teachers once remarked that, if one were going to do spiritual work serving people, particularly in public life, then one's own spiritual practice needed to be like an iceberg: what you see above the surface is only a small part of what's below.

As I write this, Natalia and I have just returned from Uzbekistan, a trip which was part of my research for a future project. We visited many places along the old Silk Road: Khiva, Bukhara, Samarkand, Tashkent. Of course, it's much changed. This whole area was, until the rise of Chingaz Khan in the 1200s, a major centre for Aramaic Christianity. For at least 500 years, there were more Christians in Central Asia than in Western Europe. In addition, there are many famous Sufi sites and tombs.



As part of my interest in storytelling, I was also pleased to find that Bukhara is (at least according to the Uzbeks) the birthplace of Hodja Nasruddin.



I AM: The Secret Teachings of the Aramaic Jesus

Perhaps the most essential teachings given to us by Jesus came in the final year of his life on earth. Known as the “I AM” statements and found only in the Gospel of John and the Gnostic Gospel of Thomas, these radical truths were offered to connect each one of us to the original source of Jesus’ deeper power. But to fully understand and embody these profound insights, we must hear them in Jesus’ native tongue. On *I AM: The Secret Teachings of the Aramaic Jesus*, we go on a journey to the Holy Land of Jesus’ time. Listeners learn 24 specific meditations that combine music, Aramaic chant, and breathing awareness practices to attune us to Jesus’ words and help us “become fountains of healing and inspiration, as Jesus was.”

Available from Sounds True:
6 CDs for US \$69.95 (Also available from www.abwoon.com)
Digital Download for US \$48.97



Abwoon Resource Center YouTube Channel

Abwoon Resource Center shares the research of its Founder and Spiritual Mentor, Dr. Neil Douglas-Klotz, on Native Middle Eastern spirituality and peacemaking, including work on the Aramaic words of Jesus, Hebrew and Native Middle Eastern creation mysticism and Sufism through online videos.

Visit <http://www.youtube.com/user/AbwoonResourceCenter?blend=1&ob=0> to view available videos.

Desert Flowers E-mail Study Group

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

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

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 Email?

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 Wisdom, 2nd Edition

Desert Wisdom: A Nomad's Guide to Life's Big Questions from the Heart of the Native Middle East

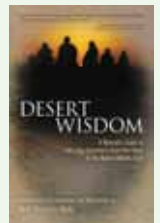
by Neil Douglas-Klotz

Part oracle, part meditation book, and part Aladdin's cave of Middle Eastern myth and sacred story, *Desert Wisdom* offers a way to hear the ancient, visionary voices of the Middle East that generated three (or more) of the world's great religions.

Visit www.abwoon.com to order for \$18.95.

The second edition of *Desert Wisdom* includes:

- Seven new translations from the Aramaic words of Jesus
- Ten new translations from Hebrew sources
- Three new translations from the Qur'an
- Material reorganized for better use as an oracle
- Meditations rewritten and keyed to “Life's Big Questions”
- All notes and commentary revised and updated
- New “Quick Start Guide” and Preface
- Complete indexes to meditations and textual strands, plus a new general index
- Translations from the first edition revised and updated with improved transliteration of original text



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:



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

- 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*.

This work during 2012 (ongoing and special projects) included:

- **30th anniversary of the Aramaic Lord’s Prayer Work:** 2012 marked the 30th year of Neil Douglas-Klotz’s work with the Aramaic Lord’s Prayer. In celebration of this milestone year, a number of creative and dedicated volunteers created projects produced through ARC. These included: reproduction of a notecard with the Aramaic Prayer for distribution, a yearly calendar with thoughts for the day (for a copy, send a message to: ctomerlin@neo.rr.com), production of the “Around the World with the Aramaic Lord’s Prayer” CD, first-time webcast held with interview and reflections by Neil Douglas-Klotz (recordings of the webcast available for purchase) with over 300 people participating from around the world, and the production of a DVD “The Aramaic Prayer of Jesus” available on the YouTube channel of ARC.
- **Bookstore operations:** Continued to provide an efficient and responsive on-line bookstore through the Abwoon website; sales were comparable to last year’s which we consider a success in present economic climate and given the closure rate of small bookstores in the USA. More of ARC resources are being added for sale through the amazon.com site to reach a wider audience. During 2013 we will be exploring the desirability and feasibility of other outside fulfillment options.
- **Communications:** Constant Contact continues as primary communication tool, with occasional enews announcements. ARC coordinates volunteers in creating and producing the annual newsletter and produces the hard copies for events, provided with bookstore orders and sent through postal mail. ARC receives and responds to queries through the “Contact Us” link at the website. These include seeking permission to quote or perform from Neil Douglas-Klotz’ works, translation requests, requests for local networking, information about workshops, and even 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 Booktables:** Ohio-based events in 2012 included AILP workshops in the spring and fall in Ohio and the Module 8 reunion as well. Sent resources for booktables at events in Idaho, Massachusetts and California.
- **Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program:** Provided administrative support to Module 8, a reunion event, for AILP graduates, also for the final module for AILP USA Group #2, and the spring and fall modules for AILP Group #3.
- **New Resource Development:** Continued to work with Neil Douglas-Klotz to produce more resources for supporting individuals and groups who are “building communities of peace.” During 2012 ARC cosponsored with Sounds True the new six-CD set “I AM: The Secret Teachings of the Aramaic Jesus.” Also this year Neil Douglas-Klotz recorded and ARC produced a new CD “Around the World with the Aramaic Lord’s Prayer.” A short DVD made by Anahata Iradah was reproduced as a gift for the fund drive from the 1992 Aramaic Peace Pilgrimage to the Middle East.
- **Video Recording and Archival Project:** Both video and audio recordings are made at workshops where Neil Douglas-Klotz is the primary or sole teacher whenever possible. Recording archives are maintained at ARC. Audio recordings are made of each AILP Module and provided to participants due to the generosity of an individual donor. Currently there are nine video postings at the Abwoon Resource Center YouTube Channel and we hope there are volunteers to edit film to increase this number sizably during 2013. ARC continuously searches for 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 Kalliopeia Foundation for its grants to support our existence. We also deeply appreciate the work of the “Abwoon Angels” — especially during this past year as there were three sets of fund-raising letters and communications sent to our community members. These funding requests focused on sabbatical support for Neil Douglas-Klotz as well as for designated programs and other projects of ARC. These efforts had matching grants for the sabbatical (from Angels) and for operational expenses (from Kalliopeia). See the donations article on the back page for more information.
- **Staff Changes:** Amy Alwood left Abwoon Resource Center this summer. Rachel Gardiner is now the bookstore manager and administrative assistant. We were sorry to see Amy go and send best wishes as she completes her degree with a full tuition grant and a job in the department. Rachel is a graduate of Ohio State University. She not only has skills as a photographer, but she also has many other talents that make her a great match for the varied tasks that can come up as part of working at ARC.



Amy Alwood



Rachel Gardiner
Bookstore Manager and
Administrative Assistant

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

News from AILP

The Abwoon Interspiritual movement has reached a milestone: Three groups have now completed the full three-and-half-year program (2 in USA and 1 in UK). There are two groups now over the half-way mark (1 USA and 1 Germany). In Ohio, this year "Module 8" was held in April as a reunion and deepening retreat for graduates. For those who have inquired, there is no new group planned to start in 2013. (There have been no plans made about future AILP groups until Neil Douglas-Klotz completes his sabbatical in April, 2013.)

The AILP program consists of two modules held each year, spring and fall. Each module focuses on a particular aspect of Neil Douglas-Klotz' Abwoon interspiritual work and offers leadership training in body prayer, contemplation, chant, voice, walking meditation and the Dances of Universal Peace connected with that aspect, as well as deepening for those who want to establish a personal spiritual practice.

Visit www.abwoon.com for the full description of the AILP program. Individual modules are open to a limited number of participants who are not enrolled in the entire program. However only those enrolled in the full program may attend Module 6 or 7.

For information, please contact:

- The Rev. Elizabeth Reed, at Shalem Center at 1-614-441-9773 or munira@abwoon.com for information about modules offered in the US.
- Qadima Sabine Brandt at Sabine-Brandt@freenet.de for modules offered in Germany.

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 an end-of-the-year donation to this work or consider ARC in your estate and will planning. For information, please contact us.

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

Many people are unaware that the work of Abwoon Resource Center is dependent solely upon the generosity of individuals and foundations. We are grateful for any donation of whatever size given to support ARC's programs and outreach.

During 2012 the "Abwoon Angels" (Ellen Bush, Pat Lloyd, Constance Heinderich) worked diligently in fundraising efforts for Neil Douglas-Klotz' six-month sabbatical and for operational and program support of ARC. Total donations during 2012 (as of Nov. 30) are \$45,590 with \$14,250 of that designated as sabbatical support for Neil Douglas-Klotz. Also, we are continually grateful to the Kalliopeia Foundation for a grant that supported the formation and continues to sustain ARC, this year totalling \$22,250.

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

To contribute to the work of ARC:

- 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 Rachel at 614-429-4009 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 Rachel at rachel@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.