

Abwoon

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

2004 Newsletter/Catalogue

Valley of the Doves, Galilee

Dear Friends,

It was wonderful to see so many friends of Abwoon while Kamae and I were in the US for six weeks. You certainly made the fall tour of *Genesis Meditations* a joy, and I loved sharing all of the new dances and meditations with you. The "annex" of the tour will be in March and April of 2004, when I will be in Prescott, AZ, Oakland, CA and Columbus, OH.

This fall, I also met many new friends, jumped on a merry-go-round of radio talk shows, and even made it on a few TV shows (in one case, squeezed between a round of diet books and the weather). There is certainly a lot of work to be done! Just breaking down the stereotypes that many people hold of Islam, Christianity and Judaism seems to be the work of a lifetime. Not to mention working with Western media's "sound bite" mentality, which encourages us all to make quick responses without really feeling or thinking things through.

On the good news side, just as we were going to press with this newsletter, I learned that *The Genesis Meditations* was voted a "Best Spiritual Book of 2003" by *Spirituality and Health* magazine. Links to the full review, and any others that have come in since mid-November can be found at www.genesismeditations.com. The site also contains a sound clip of a live radio interview with Matthew Fox and links to the full color art for the book by Fatima Lassar.

My publisher wanted me to simplify the basic message of *Genesis Meditations* for publicity purposes in few sentences. This led me to thinking about the way that stories—and the ways we hear them—organize our lives. For instance, if there were to be a nightly news report about *The Genesis Meditations*, it might sound something like this:

"Today a researcher from Edinburgh, Scotland revealed that neither Jesus, nor the Jewish prophets nor Muhammad believed in either a 'judgment day' or an apocalypse as most people conceive of it. Instead, they were focused on a living moment of creation at the beginning of time. According to the Scottish author Neil Douglas-Klotz, this misunderstanding resulted in everything from colonialism to the ecological crisis. His "Genesis Now!" theory, he says, provides a way for Jews, Christians and Muslims to find common ground and share prayer together. Klotz has already been criticized by fundamentalists of all traditions. But more on this story later...."

Humour aside, as I pointed out in the book, the stories we tell ourselves and the way we tell them, create our destiny. The stories that we hear on the news (even the story above) usually jump to conclusions and ignore principles. In the way they're told, they say that ends are more important than beginnings, where we're going and what we want to accomplish more important than where we've been. They become a part of a culture in which the 'ends' justify


the means, and so even the means themselves seldom accomplish the ends they envision (like the radio talk show host who proposed to me that the solution to Middle East peace was simply to 'kill all the terrorists').

Is there a way we can get beyond this sort of thinking, which leads globally to arrogance and more rounds of violence based on fear? Our shared creation stories don't give us a pat solution—that would be more 'end-gaining.' Instead they give us a way to approach each other and create the fabric out of which peace can come. We could see this the necessary psychological and spiritual training for our politicians and diplomats. Some of these 'outer' applications of the creation practice might be:

1. **Beginnings unite. Endings divide.** Let's focus first on the principles (literally 'the beginnings') on which we already agree, as well as on the many times and places where Jews, Christians and Muslims have lived and do live together in harmony. Too much modern diplomacy begins from the place of focusing on the very specific, and conflicting, goals that each party holds (the "billiard ball diplomacy" school).

2. **Darkness and Light dance: what we don't know about each other could be our saving grace.** We often presume that we know all about our 'enemy,' but in reality what we know is our stereotype of them. Darkness simply means 'what is unknown' in Hebrew; light means 'what is known.' When we allow ourselves to really listen to the 'other,' then darkness and light dance and new creation is possible. On the ecological level, allowing darkness to be darkness means valuing the wild in nature, and not feeling that we need to sacrifice wilderness for cultivation or human use.

Continued on the next to the last page..



**Honoring the Divine Dancer:
The Sacred Dance Legacy of
Ruth St. Denis**
*with Kamae Amrapali Miller
and others*
January 17-18, 2004
National Museum of Dance and Hall of
Fame in Saratoga Springs, New York

For more information see the description and
contact information on the Events page or
go online to www.freewebs.com/feva

*Middle Eastern photograph ©2001 Neil Douglas-Klotz; Beatitudes retreat
photo ©2003 Jim Jamil Hinds; Articles ©2003 to Abwoon Study Circle*

Summer Institute in Scotland

July 13–23, 2004

with Neil Douglas-Klotz and Kamae Amrapali Miller

Genesis Now! ...At the Table of Holy Wisdom

The annual Wiston Summer Institute is an opportunity for those who are interested in deepening in and learning to share the Dances of Universal Peace, Walking Meditations, contemplations and processes associated with the work of Neil Douglas-Klotz and Kamae Amrapali Miller as well as the work of their teachers, Murshid Samuel L. Lewis and Murshid Moineddin Jablonski. The ten-day format, in a beautiful setting in the Scottish Borders, allows for more time to share, assimilate and embody this work than is available in a shorter weekend workshop or retreat. Each retreat includes one or more of the Aramaic Jesus and Native Middle Eastern Dance cycles (Aramaic Prayer, Beatitudes, I Am Sayings, Middle Eastern cycle and Creation cycles). This year's retreat focuses on:

- Meditations from Neil's new book *The Genesis Meditations: A Shared Practice of Peace for Christians, Jews and Muslims*
- New creation dances, chants and body prayers in Aramaic, Hebrew, Arabic and Greek
- Leadership training for those working with Abwoon Study circles and Dances of Universal Peace circles
- Group Soulwork and wasifa walks
- Walks of Attunement to the Messengers and Prophets, Female and Male
- Element Walks and the Elemental Peace Ritual

While these advanced retreats are aimed at those who have some experience of this work (Aramaic Jesus, Dances of Universal Peace, Walking Meditation), they are open to all. Dances of Universal Peace leaders will find mostly material from the Level II certification guidelines; however, the retreat is open to any Dancer who wishes to find new ways to enter the Dances and Walks more fully, with more freedom and joy.

Note: We are encouraging participants to attend the entire ten-day retreat; however, there is some possibility for those with advanced experience of the work to join us halfway through. There is a limit of 40 persons for the retreat, so please take advantage of the early discount and register early.

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

Total Costs: All costs include full board for ten days and are in UK pounds sterling. The cost for the 10-day retreat if you register before May 13, 2004 is as follows: Shared rooms £610. Shared rooms for members of the INDUP (International Network for the Dances of Universal Peace): £540. Camping: £468 (no INDUP discount applies). To register send £150 deposit cheque (payable to *Abwoon Study Circle*) to Narada Ian Ramsey at 'Wee Darnhunch', Glenbuck, Ayrshire, UK, KA18 3SD.

Note: If you are unable to send payment in UK pounds sterling, please add the equivalent of £10 to cover currency conversion costs. If booking after May 13, 2004, please add 10% to the above charges. All cancellations incur £75 cost before June 13, £125 between June 13 and July 13. No refunds after the retreat begins.

Other related weekend workshops at Wiston Lodge in 2004 (see the Events listing for details):

March 5-7: *Genesis Now! A Shared Practice of Peace for Jews, Christians and Muslims*

May 7-9: *Original Healing: Life, Empowerment and Miracles in the Aramaic Teaching of Jesus*

October 15-17: *At the Table of Holy Wisdom*

Please contact Narada Ian Ramsey at 44 (0)1290 661 082 or narada@abwoon.com for information.



Original Healing workshop, Mercy Center, St. Louis, MO

Desert Flowers E-mail Study Group

The Desert Flowers e-mail study group is an occasional discussion group that provides members a focus with the body prayers and spiritual practices from *Prayers of the Cosmos*, *Desert Wisdom*, *The Hidden Gospel* and *The Genesis Meditations*. Practices are directed by Neil Douglas-Klotz.

To join, all you need is the ability to send and receive e-mail.

For information, contact Richard McMurtry
rmcmurtry@igc.org

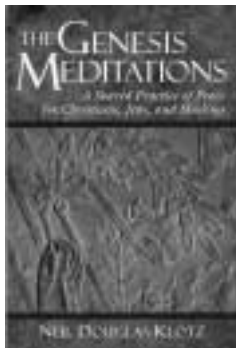
or visit

www.abwoon.com/listserve.html

for more information.

Catalogue of Resources

Books



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

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, £17. Quest Books.

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

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

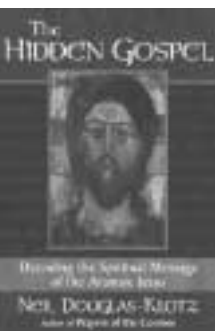


GIVING THANKS WITH THE ARAMAIC JESUS

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. Woven-Word Press.

“This book seeks to re-invigorate Christian liturgy based on the understanding of Jesus as a native Middle Eastern spiritual teacher. It provides practical steps and living poetic insights that can bring the unity back into communion. It shows that nothing is lost and everything is gained by considering Jesus as a wisdom teacher for all traditions and all seasons.”



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

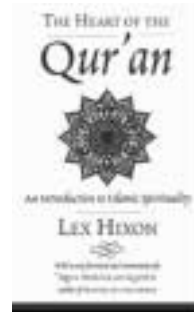
by Neil Douglas-Klotz

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

What emerges is a hopeful, nurturing, and very contemporary spiritual message. Each chapter includes meditative exercises and body prayers for directly experiencing the life-changing

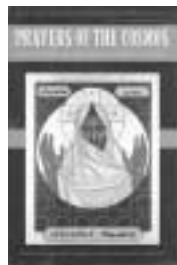
spiritual practice of Jesus' original mystical tradition. Paperback, \$14.95, £10.99. Quest Books (English), Koesel (German), Ankh-Hermes (Dutch).

“This book is a gift to all those wanting to enter into the spirit of the historical Jesus and the mystic Christ. By honoring the people of Jesus' land and their poetic language, it brings a needed balance to the historical Jesus movement. It undoes rigid and dualistic translations of the Christian Scriptures and thereby awakens, challenges, and makes fresh the Good News that, after all these centuries, is still news.” —Matthew Fox, president of the University of Creation Spirituality.



HEART OF THE QUR'AN by Lex Hixon. Edited with commentary by Neil Douglas-Klotz **New**

900 key passages of the Qur'an rendered into English with a focus on their spiritual experience and meaning, revealing the Quran's teachings as one of the great wisdom traditions of humanity. In this new edition, Neil Douglas-Klotz has rearranged the passages thematically and provided commentary for each major theme. The result makes the teachings even more accessible, allowing the reader easily to find relevant readings for guidance on everyday issues such as love, relationships, work, justice, gratitude, self-knowledge, and prayer. Quest Books, paperback, 246 pages \$18.95, £13.



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

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

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



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

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

From ancient Egypt through mystical Judaism and the Aramaic Jesus to classical Sufism, *Desert Wisdom* weaves a rich, colorful tapestry that allows these ancient voices to speak to us today. Use *Desert Wisdom* as a handbook of daily inspiration, oracle or source-book. Through writings, chants, meditations and body prayers, you will experience in your bones this sacred Earth tradition. Hardback. \$20.00, £12.50. Harper San Francisco (US & Canada), Thorsons (UK), Santiago Verlag (Germany), Altamira (Netherlands), Record (Brasil).



WISDOM COMES DANCING: Selected Writings of Ruth St. Denis on Dance, Spirituality and the Body

edited and with notes by Kamae A Miller

“Ruth St. Denis' writings articulate the mysticism inherent in her devotion to dance and her belief in humanity's ability to attain enlightenment. ...exalted prose and poetry...” —Library Journal

Delight in life, beauty and movement fill the pages of *Wisdom Comes Dancing*, a collection of previously

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

Audio

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. 68 minutes, \$15, £10 (or \$13, £8 online). **SPECIAL until 12/31/03 order the book and CD online for \$33, £22.**

Desert Wisdom Body Prayers and Chants (Tape)

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

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

Live recording at Lama Foundation in New Mexico in 1989. Powerful, 100-voice rendition of the entire prayer cycle. \$13, £8. **Companion Booklet** with fully notated music, movements and background. \$8, £5.

New

Prayers of the Cosmos (Tape/CD)

A companion to the book, gives clear pronunciations of the Aramaic Lord's Prayer and Beatitudes. Also all melodies to both sung clearly by Neil Douglas-Klotz. \$13/\$15 (CD \$13 online), £8/£10.

Dancing with the Aramaic Jesus: The Beatitude Way (Tape/CD)

Live recording at the site of the "Upper Room" at St. Mark's Convent in Jerusalem during 1993. Moving, devotional recording, wonderful for chanting and meditation. \$13/\$15 (CD \$13 online), £8/10.

A Native Middle Eastern Cycle (Tape/CD now available)

Seasonal chants and Dances of Universal Peace drawn from the ancient Middle Eastern Goddess traditions. Includes Belit Mati, Shaddai, Hokmah Allatu, Innana Damuzi, Eyeh Asher Eyeh, and others. Beautiful voices and instruments. \$13/\$15 (CD \$13 online), £8/£10.



**Available
Spring,
2004**

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

a workshop with Neil Douglas-Klotz

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

Length: 6 cassettes, 9 hours, with accompanying booklet for \$59.95, £40 or 6 CDs with accompanying booklet for \$69.95, £48. Available from Sounds True, Abwoon Study Circle, or your local Internet source in Spring, 2004.

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

a workshop with Neil Douglas-Klotz

If we could travel back to the world of ancient Palestine and hear Jesus teach in his own native tongue, what would we learn? These Sounds True tapes are not a reading of the *Hidden Gospel* book, but a live recording of a workshop with Neil that touches on the main themes of the book. These tapes were re-edited so that one can listen to them in 20-minute segments. They are very high quality and perfect for Abwoon Study Circles. These tapes do not repeat the material in the *Original Prayer* series. \$18.95, £12.99.

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

Length: 2 cassettes, 180 minutes, with accompanying study booklet.



ORIGINAL PRAYER: Meditations and Teachings of the Aramaic 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. \$69.95, £40.

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

Length: 6 cassettes, 9 hours, with accompanying booklet.



ABWUN

A mantric oratorio by the Overtone Choir of Düsseldorf

from the melodies of Neil Douglas-Klotz

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

CD: 72 minutes. \$18.99, £12.99.

REMEMBRANCE OF LIGHT: Zikr Nur-i-Muhammad

Sufi Devotional Music for Healing and Contemplation

by Neil Douglas-Klotz (Saadi Shakur Chisti)

Bathe in the light of Unity with this CD, which celebrates the One in a six-part cycle of music and sacred words. A celebration of the unity of light and the diversity of sound from the Sufi tradition. The six parts include: 1) Bismillah ir-Rahman ir-Rahim: We begin in the Name, Sound and Vibration of the Sun and the Moon of Love. 2) Basir Allah, Sami Allah: Celebration of seeing and hearing the One all around us. 3) La illaha illa 'llah hu: There is no reality but the One. 4) Hu Hu Hu Allah: From the center of sound there is only Unity. 5) Allah Huma Salle Allah Nuri Mohammed: Blessings of Unity on the light of the perfection of humanity. 6) Peace and Blessings on all Prophets and Lovers of the One and Il Allah Hu Canon – Only Unity Exists. CD: 63 minutes. \$16, £10.





SIMPLE PRESENCE: Dancing "I Am" with the Aramaic Jesus

Native Middle Eastern Chant & Devotional Music

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

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

HEALING PIANO: The Aramaic Prayer

Themes and variations composed and performed by Akbar Eric Manolson

Inspired by the melodies of Neil Douglas-Klotz

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

CD 61 minutes. \$18, £11.30.



THE OPENING:

Sura Fateha—A Prayer for Peace

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

CD \$15, £10. Recorded in Gemany.

ANCIENT ECHOES

by San Antonio Vocal Arts Ensemble

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



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 Bollman from the original melodies of Neil Douglas-Klotz. The performance in Berlin, Germany organized in October 1999 by the local Dances of Universal Peace group, drew more than 600 people. Most of the first twenty minutes of the oratorio is included in the video along with selected excerpts of the remainder. Excerpts of a short address by Neil Douglas-Klotz (in German) precede the performance. Perfect for Abwoon Study Groups.
35 minutes, \$18, £11.30.

Ordering Info for Abwoon Study Circle Resources

Ask about the discount schedule for Abwoon Study Circles, dance leaders and small book stores.

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

The Abwoon web site <http://www.abwoon.com> carries all of the listed publications and recordings.

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

In United Kingdom & Europe, Abwoon books (in English), tapes and CDs may be ordered from: Abwoon Study Circle UK, Helen Evans, 5 Barley Way, Horncastle, Lincolnshire, L9N 5SS, tel: 01507 524673, e-mail: helen@nelevanas.freeserve.co.uk

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 address Nurah-Majid Ruth Jaeger, NdL Secretariat, Bülowstr. 90, 10783 Berlin, Germany. tel./fax 49 (030)863-99-436, e-mail: NdLNetz@yahoo.de for German translations of *Prayers of the*

Cosmos (*Das Vaterunser*, Knauer Verlag), *Desert Wisdom* (*Weisheit der Wueste*, Santiago Verlag) including the Body Prayers recorded in German, *Hidden Gospel* (*Prophet aus der Wueste*, Koesel Verlag), the instruction booklet for the Dancing with the Aramaic Jesus (Lord's Prayer) tape and the rest of the musical recordings. Please also enquire here for information about German-language seminars in this work by Gita Onnen and Neil Douglas-Klotz.

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

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

Events in 2004

In Europe

March 3-4: Edinburgh, Scotland. *Conference on Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace* sponsored by the Edinburgh Interfaith Center for World Spiritual Traditions. Talks and workshops by members of various spiritual traditions, including Neil Douglas-Klotz. Contact: Neill Walker at njwalk810@hotmail.com

March 5-7: Wiston Lodge, nr Edinburgh, Scotland. *Genesis Now! A Shared Practice of Peace for Jews, Christians and Muslims*, an interfaith spiritual retreat led by Neil Douglas-Klotz. Will include meditation, chant, Dances of Universal Peace and body prayer based on the book *The Genesis Meditations*. Contact Narada Ian Ramsey at 44 (0)1290 661 082 or narada@abwoon.com

March 12-15: Flüeli Rauff, Switzerland. *Jesus—Original Prayer of the Heart*, the annual residential retreat in the Aramaic spirituality of Jesus with Neil Douglas-Klotz and Kamae Amrapali Miller. German/English. Singing and dancing the Aramaic words of Jesus and the Hebrew creation stories. Delving into deep knowledge of Creation and Holy Wisdom. Contact Barbara Küng at 41 (0)41 921 20 41 or Regina Gerber at regina.gerber@bluemail.ch

April 9-14: Finkenwerde, nr Berlin, Germany. *Rejoining the Caravan of Creation: Easter with the Aramaic Jesus*, the annual Native Middle Eastern retreat with Kamae Amrapali Miller, Neil Douglas-Klotz and Gita Onnen. Singing and dancing the Aramaic words of Jesus, meditating and chanting with the creation stories in Hebrew and Arabic, sharing Sufi practices such as zikr, wasifa walk and the Elemental Peace Ritual. German/English. Contact Gita Onnen at 49-(0)30-791-5211 or Anapurna von Kugelgen at 49-(0)30-313-9163 or brita.v.k@gmx.net

May 7-9: Wiston Lodge, nr Edinburgh, Scotland. *Original Healing: Life, Empowerment and Miracles in the Aramaic Teaching of Jesus*, an interfaith spiritual retreat led by Neil Douglas-Klotz. Complete cycle of Dances of Universal Peace to the Beatitudes in Aramaic. Will include chant, meditation, Dances of Universal Peace and body prayer. Contact Narada Ian Ramsey at 44 (0)1290 661 082 or narada@abwoon.com

May 28-30: Bad Herrenalb, Germany. *The Original Prayer of the Heart of the Aramaic Jesus* with Neil Douglas-Klotz. Focus on the Jesus' original way of prayer and meditation on creation through Dance, Walk and meditation. Will also include a talk on "Der Prophet aus der Wueste" by Neil on 29 May (Saturday) and Dances of Universal Peace on 30 May. In German language only. Contact Förderkreis für Ganzheitsmedizin, Sägwesenplatz 4, 76332 Bad Herrenalb, Germany. Tel. 49-7083-3845, Fax. 49-7083-2307, E-mail: Foerderkrs@aol.com

June 9-13: Haus St Benedikt, Würzburg, Germany. *Original Healing: Life, Empowerment and Miracles in the Aramaic Teaching of Jesus*. See May 7-9 listing for details. Contact Haus St Benedikt at +49 (0)931 305 0410 or info@haus-benedikt.net or go to www.haus-benedikt.net

June 26-July 3: near Hamburg, Germany. *Second Annual Sufi Ruhaniat International Camp* with Dances of Universal Peace, walking meditations, healing, breath, soulwork, sound and music. Teachings from Hazrat Murshid Samuel L. Lewis and Hazrat Murshid Moineddin Jablonski. Special guest teachers: Murshid Wali Ali Meyer and Murshida Mariam Baker and European Ruhaniat teachers. Camp director: Murshid Saadi Neil Douglas-Klotz. For information contact Wali van der Zwan at 31 (0)30/225-0546 or zwan0060@wx.nl or for registration contact Ayat Sabine Brandt at 49-(0)30-47036782 or ayatsabine@web.de

July 13-23: Wiston Lodge, nr Edinburgh, Scotland. Annual 10-day retreat and institute. See full listing on the second page. Contact Narada Ian Ramsey at 44 (0)1290 661 082 or narada@abwoon.com

September 17-19: De Weyst, S. Holland. *Genesis Now! A Shared Practice of Peace for Jews, Christians and Muslims*, an interfaith spiritual retreat led by Neil Douglas-Klotz. See March 5-7 listing for details. Contact Wali and Arienne van der Zwan at +32 (0) 86 38 78 82 or a&w@peaceinmotion.info

October 3-8: nr. Fulda, Germany. *2004 Advanced Retreat in the Dances of Universal Peace, Walking Meditation and Group Soulwork* with Neil Douglas-Klotz and Kamae Amrapali Miller. Emphasis on support for new Dances of Universal Peace, walks and processes that support a full, embodied and ensouled approach to the work of Murshid Samuel L. Lewis

and Murshid Moineddin Jablonski. Open to certified teachers, mentors and others by permission. German. This is followed by a retreat for initiated Sufi mureeds (October 8-11). For both events, contact Michael and Alima Stoeckel at 49-(0)6408-7929 or Klangholz-Stoeckel@gmx.de

October 15-17: Wiston Lodge, nr Edinburgh, Scotland. *At the Table of Holy Wisdom*, a weekend of Sufi meditation, zikr and group Soulwork with Neil Douglas-Klotz and Kamae Amrapali Miller. Walking Meditation, Sufi zikr (remembrance practice), Dances of Universal Peace, contemplation and movement focused on the sifat-i-Allah, a new vision of the traditional Sufi practice of the 99 Names of Unity. Open to all. Contact Narada Ian Ramsey at 44 (0)1290 661 082 or narada@abwoon.com

In North America

January 17-18: National Museum of Dance and Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, New York. *Honoring the Divine Dancer: The Sacred Dance Legacy of Ruth St. Denis* with Kamae Amrapali Miller and others. A weekend festival celebrating the life, legacy, and birthday of Ruth St. Denis, the American modern dance pioneer and inspiration for the Dances of Universal Peace. Presentations, performances and a workshop for all participants to experience the dance of the spirit and the spirit of the dance that Miss Ruth envisioned! Including a session of Dances evoking the divine feminine led by Kamae Amrapali Miller and a cycle of new Dances created and led by Elizabeth Muller, based on Ruth St. Denis' poetry. See www.freewebs.com/feva for complete details and registration information.

March 19-21: Prescott, AZ. *Genesis Now! A Shared Practice of Peace for Jews, Christians and Muslims* with Neil Douglas-Klotz. Will include meditation, chant, Dances of Universal Peace and body prayer based on the book *The Genesis Meditations*. Contact Alia Michaels at 928/442-9571 or aliamm@aol.com

March 22-26: University of Creation Spirituality, Oakland, CA. *Genesis Now! Early Creation Mysticism in Judaism, Christianity and Islam* (Seminar) and *Original Healing—The Aramaic Beatitudes: Body Prayer, Chant and Dance* (Art-as-Meditation class) with Neil Douglas-Klotz. These are part of the UCS Doctor of Ministry program. Closed classes. Potential participants must enroll for the entire week as "Introductory Opportunity" students and expect some advance reading and preparation. Contact Grace Hogan, Director of Admissions, at 510/835-4827 Ext. 14 or gracehogan@csnet.org

March 26-28: University of Creation Spirituality, Oakland, CA. *Genesis Now! A Shared Practice of Peace for Jews, Christians and Muslims*, a weekend public workshop with Neil Douglas-Klotz. See March 19-21 listing for details. Contact Grace Hogan, Director of Admissions, at 510/835-4827 Ext. 14 or gracehogan@csnet.org

April 1-4: Columbus, OH. *Genesis Now! A Shared Practice of Peace for Jews, Christians and Muslims* with Neil-Douglas-Klotz. At Methodist Theological School and sponsored with the Shalem Center. See March 19-21 listing for details. Contact Rev. Elizabeth Reed at 614/885-2411 Ext. 2131 or ereed2131@msn.com

September 10-12: Garrison Institute, New York (one hour north of New York City). *Families of Abraham Retreat 2004* with four spiritual leaders: Phyllis Berman, Dr. Neil Douglas-Klotz, The Rev. Robert Corin Morris, S.T.B, and Rabbi Arthur Waskow, director of The Shalom Center. We will gather on the second anniversary of 9/11 at Garrison Institute, on the Hudson River, a beautiful and comfortable place with a spiritual ambiance that welcomes many faith traditions. Contact The Shalom Center at shalomctr@aol.com or online at <http://www.shalomctr.org/>

November 12-18: San Antonio, TX. *Genesis Now! A Shared Practice of Peace for Jews, Christians and Muslims* with Neil Douglas-Klotz and Kamae Amrapali Miller. From Friday-Monday, Nov. 12-14, public workshop and interfaith retreat with chant, body prayer, meditation and Dances of Universal Peace based on *The Genesis Meditations* book. From Monday-Wednesday, Nov. 14-17, a retreat on meditation and sufi pathways of the heart (The 99 Names of Unity) for initiated Sufi students. A one-day residency on Thursday, Nov. 18 followed by a concert with San Antonio Vocal Arts Ensemble focused on the material in their *Ancient Echoes* album. Contact Covita Moroney at 210/494-3674 or moroneys@ix.netcom.com or Elizabeth Ferrio at 281/821-9059 or eferrio@houston.rr.com

Dear Friends ...continued from page 1.

3. **When Darkness and Breath make love, their child is Consciousness.** Rather than trying to control each situation, and imposing our own solution, our own ideal world (or 'new world order') on the other, we need to allow ourselves to let go of the arrogant assumption that we have the solution. If our diplomats simply allowed themselves to breath together, into their shared ignorance of each other, then genuinely new solutions could and would be born.

4. **For new creation with Wisdom, all voices must have a place at the table.** When Holy Wisdom issues invitations to her dinner party, she makes a place for everyone—rich and poor, high and low, light and dark. Only when everyone is welcomed to the table can new solutions arise and real agreement result.

5. **The only 'original sin' is the belief that we know what is good for another.** When we begin from the place that we think we know what is good for someone else, then we've 'eaten the fruit' that will put us out of the garden that we share with our own highest guidance and the widest community of life.

6. **Practicing our creation stories as an experience teaches us to value this moment with each other.** Merely thinking about them displaces our attention to fears of a divided future. Ultimately, for there to be peace, diplomats and politicians need the same training in psychology and self-awareness that therapists do. They also need to learn how to sit in the seat of the 'other,' to understand another's story from their own point of view. Elementary training in breathing awareness and consideration of themselves as spiritual beings is essential.

7. **First things first.** Especially in the Middle East, this means (as Samuel L. Lewis pointed out) safeguarding the holy places of all traditions, that is, the places that remind people of their shared communal story and their orientation to shared beginnings. The direction of prayer, meditation and contemplation in all traditions is toward the source of wonder and devotion, the "Genesis Now!" moment.

If we begin to do this, then we might in the next generation eventually hear nightly news bulletins like the following:

"Today, the economy again remained about the same—it didn't grow, it didn't decrease, and it didn't need to. The result was that 1,000 species were saved, ten million trees and plants appeared in the wild again after fifty years, and a million more people received food, water and shelter. Our ancestors travelling ahead of us would be very happy: as far as our records go back, this is the most demonstrably compassionate day in human existence. The Gross International Compassion Index is at an all-time high."

Donations

Outread and support work of Abwoon Study Circle relies upon the donation of time and resources by those whose lives have been touched by this work. It was a blessed and abundant year in 2003 as many people generously gave to the Sabbatical Fund for Neil Douglas-Klotz.

During 2003 we received donations of \$10,275, including a \$2,500 grant from the Shefa Fund and a \$5,000 grant from the Oneness Project. The Sabbatical Fund received \$1,945 during 2003, which when added to the previous year's contributions, totaled \$10,474. We are grateful to all who have lent such strong support to the work of Abwoon Study Circle.

Neil had six months free of teaching and travel to devote his time and energy to research, writing and creative projects. The *The Genesis Meditations* book, a companion CD to the book, and a Genesis Meditations website (www.genesismeditations.com) were just some of the results of this sabbatical. Also he edited another book, Lex Hixon's *Heart of the Qur'an*, also published by Quest Books. Of course, there were the on-going academic projects through Neil's work in the Mysticism Group of the American Academy of Religion. Also, the recent book tour and workshops contain new Creation chants and dances that are inspiring many.

Besides the Sabbatical Fund, others are giving to Outreach or to specific programs as there are a variety of areas to which you can designate your contributions. Each gift represents more than just money, for there is a clear heart connection that comes with every offering. Gifts come in many forms. Two people regularly tithe to Abwoon, seeing it as part of an on-going life commitment. Some have given when an unexpected windfall has come to them, sharing their new-found abundance. Others give small gifts of \$10.00 or \$5.00 or less, sometimes digging deeply into shallow pockets. Another person made a leather etching of the Aramaic Prayer that was sold at an auction and donated the proceeds. This year we had the first inquiry for placing Abwoon into someone's estate planning. We will soon receive \$210 from Amazon.com for purchases through the genesismeditation.com web site. Please purchase through the web site for a donation to be made to Abwoon.

The needs are always present. So please consider Abwoon as part of your year-end giving or as part of your plans for charitable contributions in 2004.

Donations can be made on-line through PayPal (by using the e-mail address: donations@abwoon.com) or make out a check, payable to Shalem Center, marked for Abwoon and mail it to:

Shalem Center
885 High Street, Suite 106
Worthington, OH 43085

Sacred Space — A Networking Opportunity for Clergy and Professional Religious Workers

A sacred space has been created to provide professional religious workers (as well as interested others) the opportunity to share ideas and experiences they have had using the resources of Abwoon Study Circle in their ministry contexts. The intention is that people can come to know one another, share personal experiences in doing spiritual practices, as well as professional ideas. Individuals in this network would then be able to support one another as they encounter the challenges that sometimes occur in introducing this work into more traditional religious settings. Our hope is that, within the next year or two, that a clergy/professional religious event might be sponsored to support those exploring the translation work and spiritual practices of the Native Middle East in deep ecumenism.

An e-mail group at Yahoo has been set up to provide this on-going dialogue. If you have any specific questions or need help in accessing the group, contact Rev. Nancy Pfalzgraf at RevDancer@aol.com.

To join either send an e-mail to: sacredspace-subscribe@yahoo.com or sign up online: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sacredspace>
(Using this method does not require that you have a Yahoo ID.) (This option requires a Yahoo ID.)

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Small Local Groups for Spiritual Practice and Study

We have heard from many who, after a personal encounter with the one of the translation resources of Neil Douglas-Klotz, write or speak of a transformation or opening in their spiritual lives. Often the question is "What can I do next?" Ultimately, since this work encourages and supports direct experience with the One Being, the next step is simply to deepen in one's knowledge, understanding, or experience through other resources. (See the catalogue section of this mailing for some available resources.)

Joining with others who share a similar longing for connection with Divine Reality can support one's process. Forming a local group, even with just one or two other spiritual seekers, can enliven and deepen the next stage in the journey. No one needs to be an "expert" in the translations, pronunciations, body prayers or spiritual practices. All that is required is an open heart and desire for connection — inner and outer, above and below, seen and unseen.

Abwoon Study Circle has produced a brochure on local group formation that is provided free upon request. Currently, our Abwoon networkers are Mary Richardson (North America) and Rev. Leslie Foot (UK) whom you can contact by e-mail. They provide

For Support in Forming a Local Abwoon Study Circle Group

In North America contact:

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

In the UK contact:

Rev. Leslie Foot phone: 44 (0)1458-832-247
45 The Roman Way e-mail: 100273.117@compuserve.com
Glastonbury
Somerset BA6 8AB
England, UK

support for those seeking to find an existing group, encourage those who want to begin a new group or link inquirers to others who have worked with the Abwoon materials for some years and are resource people in a general geographical area.

Please contact these networkers if you have an existing group. This information is valuable to us as we try to connect those in search of spiritual community familiar with Aramaic and Native Middle Eastern translations and spiritual practices.