

ISSUE 6, WINTER 2007/2008

THE DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE North American Journal

Let There Be Peace On Earth



And Let It Begin With Me

Buddha Heart by Lupe Graine www.lupegraine.com

North American Journal OF THE DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE

Issue No. 6, Winter 2007/2008

JOURNAL STAFF

Aeolea Wendy Burwell (NY), Editor and Board Liaison
Jan Lizza (NY), Layout Design & Production
John Bari Ramsey (VA), Events/Advertising Coordinator
Kathryn Májida Sky (AZ), Journal Coordinator
Mansur Richard Conviser (MT), Dance Editor & Notator

PW-DUPNA Editorial Board

Aeolea Wendy Burwell (NY)
Donna Bain (VA)
John Bari Ramsey (VA)
Taj Eileen Pappalardo (OH)

Editorial Assistance

Kathryn Májida Sky (AZ)
Anjahli Patti Stratton (HI)
Khadija Lynn McRee (FL)

PW-DUPNA STAFF

Regional Administrator: Pamela Yamuna Devi Pierce (CA)
Volunteer Coordinator: Kathryn Májida Sky (AZ)
Financial Manager: Janice Tasnim Burton (NY)
Web Support: Dave Nur-al-Haqq Walker (CA)

PeaceWorks - Dances of Universal Peace North America (PW-DUPNA)

PO Box 1401, Blythe CA 92226-1401
(760) 922-2551

NAoffice@dancesofuniversalpeace.org
www.dancesofuniversalpeace.org/na
North American Website Coordinator:
NAweb@dancesofuniversalpeace.org
One-Time Events Listings:
NAevents@dancesofuniversalpeace.org

PW-DUPNA OFFICERS/BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Mansur Richard Conviser (MT)
pitchfixer@mac.com

Treasurer: Jim Grant (CO) jmgDUP@comcast.net
Secretary: Patsy Boyer (ID) patsy_dup@yahoo.com
Aeolea Wendy Burwell (NY) aeolea@juno.com
Lucinda Willes (WY) lucinda@wyom.net
Khadija Lynn McRee (FL) lyndeluke@msn.com

LIAISONS within BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NA Regional Networker/INDUP Council Member:
Lucinda Willes

Information Technology (IT): Patsy Boyer
NA Journal: Aeolea Wendy Burwell
Volunteer Coordinator: Patsy Boyer
Office: Jim Grant

NA Publications: Mansur Richard Conviser

The N.A. Region is affiliated with the Inter'l Network
for the Dances of Universal Peace (INDUP)
PeaceWorks Center for the Dances of Universal Peace, Inc.
PO Box 55994, Seattle WA 98155-0994, USA
(206) 522-4353
lnooffice@dancesofuniversalpeace.org

NA Regional Networker/INDUP Council Member

Lucinda Willes, 1540 Percheron Dr., Jackson WY 83001
(307) 739-9847 lucinda@wyom.net

INTERNATIONAL CORE COUNCIL (PW INC OFFICERS/BOARD OF DIRECTORS)

Chair: Hafiz Bill Thompson (UK)
billthompson@metronet.co.uk
V.P. & Treasurer: Yaqin Lance Sandleben (AZ, USA)
lsandleben@qwest.net
Secretary: Kathryn Májida Sky (AZ, USA)
skyness54@gmail.com

Noor Habib Philip Gulliver (Germany) gullisa@t-online.de
Nuria Ginger Lee (MT, USA) nuria@onenessproject.com
Sylvia Murillo Diaz (Colombia, S.A.) fibati58@hotmail.com
Shafia Stevens (New Zealand) shafia@xnet.co.nz
Trainee: Farishta Karen Lindsay (WA, USA)
tacomadup@yahoo.com

EDITOR FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The theme for this year's Journal rose to the surface of my mind in the early hours of one morning this past July while attending North America's Regional meeting. It rang crystal clear and I intuitively knew our search was over. What wasn't clear to me until much later was that the seed had been planted the night before by the luscious rich voice and talented guitar of Grace Marie. One person; her inspiration, her talent coupled with such a simple concept, so rich in the embodiment, is the true reflection of what it takes for all of us. For each of us to step up and speak our truth, to be strong and join with others of like mind is what it will take for Peace to spread around the world. There is nothing else.

This inspiration also deeply resonates when I think of my dear friend Ayesha. She worked tirelessly while keeping the larger picture in her sights. I was inspired by her while we walked this path together and I continue to be inspired by her memory.

And we all have the opportunity to do the same – in any and every part of our lives. Obviously there are issues ranging from the global to our families and everything in between from which to choose. At times the arenas may choose us if we are able to answer the call. It may not matter exactly where we express this concept as much as the fact that we do realize and embody it.

I would be remiss here if I didn't mention the opportunities that exist within PeaceWorks Dances of Universal Peace North America (PW DUPNA) to step forward and express your individual talents for the greater good. Will volunteering to assist PW DUPNA with the website, with next year's Journal, on the Board or any other much needed area contribute to the spreading of World Peace? It just might.

Please consider yourself invited.....With love, Aeolea



Photo: Sierra Salin

The horn blowers, Mendocino Sufi Camp, July 2007.

THE STATE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN REGION

BY MANSUR RICHARD CONVISER, PRESIDENT, PW-DUPNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This will be my last column for the North American Journal as President of the Board of our PeaceWorks Region; my term of office expires in October 2008. I appreciate having had the chance to serve the Dances in this way. Those of you who have been continuing members of PeaceWorks know that there have been many changes in our organizational structure over the past several years. Most of them have been accomplished; one of the main projects that is still under construction is a revision of our website. (We could really use some volunteers who are web-savvy!)

We greatly appreciate the support that you, as members, have shown to the North American Region, both financially and materially. One measure of the generosity of your support is that the Region's income through September 2007 has slightly exceeded its expenditures, despite the unusual expenses associated with the North American Regional Meeting that we held in Claymont, West Virginia, in July. About 30 people attended and participated actively in the meeting—not only the Board, the staff, and representatives of affiliated groups (the Mentor Teachers Guild [MTG], Oneness Project, Sufi Ruhaniat International [SRI], and the International Network), but also about 15 people who facilitate communication and events throughout North America—from New England to Florida, the Northwest, and Hawaii. These are people we've been calling "Cluster Coordinators" and "Area Connectors." Some of our active members have never liked the name "Clusters" for groups of circles within the same region of North America, so we're having an ongoing discussion about a possible name change. Regardless of what we call them, however, potential activities involving these smaller groupings of circles were a major topic of discussion at the Regional Meeting.

Before the Region underwent its reorganization earlier in this decade, it used to send seed money out to what are currently the Clusters to help them

issue newsletters, develop local websites, sponsor events, or whatever else they chose to do. One of the success stories we heard at the Regional Meeting concerned the Pacific Northwest Cluster, which used to have several face-to-face meetings a year, sponsored Dance events, and through its financial success was able to provide scholarships to help people attend those events. Many of those attending the Regional Meeting felt that this could provide a model for the development of our Network—to help bring to life the organizational structure that exists, in some places, just on paper. One idea that was discussed was to send caravans to help organize and activate Clusters that have not had this level of activity. Activating Clusters in this way could provide new opportunities to train Dance leaders and musicians; it could also promote the development of new Dance booklets featuring Dances developed by leaders who reside in various parts of North America. It was suggested that Clusters could become Chapters within the North American Region, allowing them to benefit from the Region's nonprofit status and providing a framework for financial accountability. The Region could apply for organizational development grants to help support the work of caravans in helping Clusters to become more active. Several volunteers came forward at the meeting to work on Cluster development—Donna Bain, Safiya Crane, and Taj Eileen Pappalardo.

Another set of ideas that got a lot of attention at the meeting concerned how to support the development of new leaders. The Mentor Teachers Guild looks after the certification of new leaders, which is intended to assure appropriate spiritual transmission through the Dances. But currently, nothing prepares new leaders to be a part of the organizational Network. A group of attendees at the Regional Meeting volunteered to work on resources that could be sent out to Dance leaders when they are newly certified. (All new leaders are asked to become members of PeaceWorks.) These materials would include information about the Network and affiliated organizations, how to grow and advertise Dance circles, as well as tips on how to share leadership (including sharing with new Dance leaders)—and that includes not only leading Dances, but also helping non-Dance leaders who set up and organize Dance circles. Several people volunteered to work on these "local issues"—Jemila Felisko, Shirin Julie Purcell, Anjahli Patti Stratton, Patty Wells, and Lucinda Abbe Willes.

There was also a lot of discussion at the meeting about outreach—something that has been featured in articles in past years' North American Journals. I recently had a very positive experience in leading a Dance at a Festival of Peace sponsored by a Tibetan Buddhist community here in western Montana. After I gave a brief introduction to the Dances and their history,

I invited attendees to join me in *Om Nama Amitabhaya*, a Dance developed by Australian leader Zebunissa Anna Parker. To my delight, about 3/4 of the roughly 80 attendees joined in, including the leader around whom the community has formed. Among the outreach issues discussed at the Regional Meeting were reaching out to other subpopulations, increasing leader sensitivity to issues of diversity and disability, and developing materials showing how Dances may benefit various groups. Several people volunteered to be resource people for working with people with

cont'd on page 9

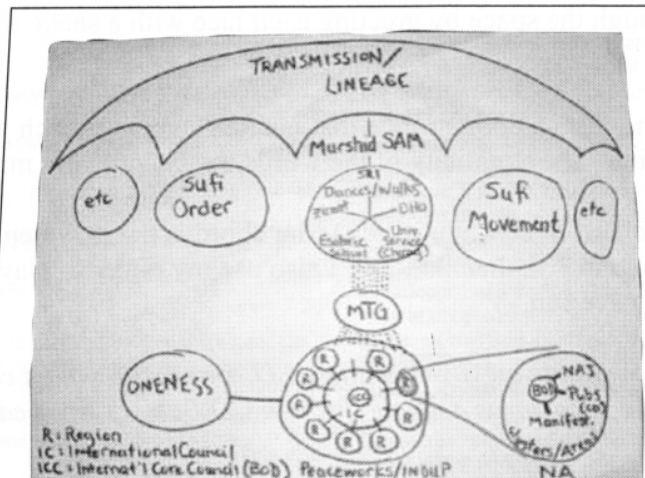
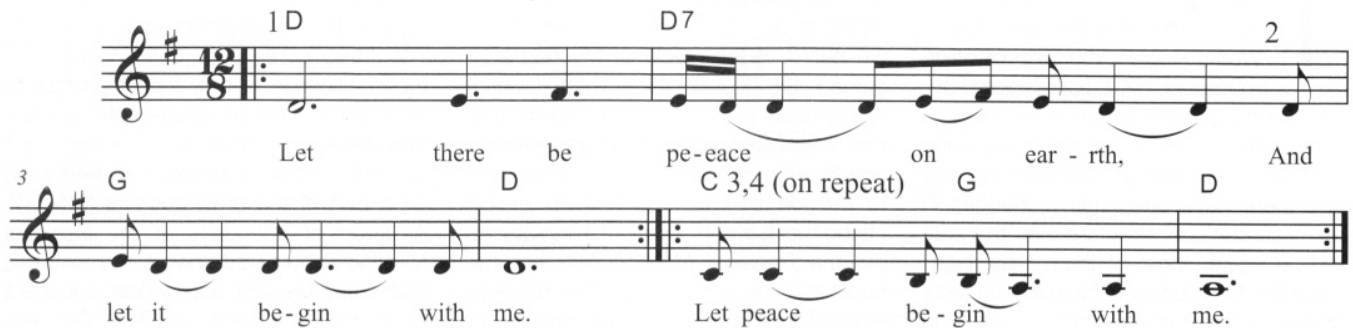


Chart drawn up at the Regional meeting in July 2007 showing current relationships among the various organizations affiliated with the Dances.

Let There Be Peace

Music and Movements: Grace Marie

*Standard tuning, key of D Major, with an upbeat, bouncy feel



1. Establish partners. Circle begins by facing the center, holding hands. Begin walking to the right with the right foot stepping first on "Let", with a steady R, L, R, L. The right foot should fall on the words "Let", "there", "peace" and "earth".
2. Circle stops and all continue singing. The partner on the left side of the partnership will travel to face the partner on the right in greeting and affirming the statement of "and let it begin with me" and rejoin the circle by the end of the phrase.

Repeat 1 and 2

3. The circle faces the center and walks toward the center, beginning on the right foot for 8 steps, with arms coming behind and, by the end of the 8 steps, around the waists of those on both sides, affirming the community commitment of "Let peace begin with me."
4. The circle then begins the expansion of taking the phrase with them as one moves out into the world, by stepping back 8 steps, beginning with the right foot. Join hands by the end of the eighth step, ready to start from the beginning.

I end this dance moving through the space by greeting each face with a snake movement and completing it with a spiral to the center.

The words of this dance come from a popular tune that is often sung at church gatherings, with many words that follow its beginning. The simplicity of the words has become my mantra and daily reminder.

*Note on playing the guitar chord in D Major: The D Maj chord is the prevalent chord, with a walkdown on the 5th string at the 3rd, then 2nd fret. I also use my pinky to play the 1st string up to the 3rd fret. Play with it and have fun.

*The recorded music is available on Grace's latest CD, **One Love**, which can be purchased from Grace at www.kundagrace.com or as a single through CD Baby at www.cdbaby.com/gracemarie.*

To listen to audio clips of the Dances featured in this Journal, as well as others,
please visit: www.dancesofuniversalpeace.org

PW-DUPNA FINANCIAL REPORT - 2007

The accompanying pie charts show summary income and expense figures for the most recent year for which they are complete, 2006. Our total income in 2006 was \$44,882, while expenditures totaled \$35,353, for a net income of \$9,534.

We planned a 2007 budget based on the previous year's activity, anticipating income of just over \$48,000. As of the end of September, we had received income of approximately \$37,000. This included over \$11,000 in grants from the Oneness Project, approximately \$20,000 in memberships, and approximately \$3,000 in fundraising, mostly from the 2006 Holiday card project.

We recently completed a switch in our business banking from Wells Fargo to Shore Bank, which specializes in non-profits and makes socially conscious loans in local communities. From their web site: "We strive to meet three objectives simultaneously: building wealth for all in economically integrated communities, promoting environmental health and operating profitably."

As of the end of September 2007, our balance of monies on hand was \$31,300 in Self-Help CD's, \$4,600 in Shore Bank checking, and \$16,150 in a Shore Bank Money Market account.

In July 2007 we held a Regional meeting, attended mostly by various coordinators in the NA network and hosted by the Creative Arts for Peace camp in West Virginia. This was jointly funded by both PW-DUPNA and, through a grant, the Oneness Project. Attendees were required to pay for half of their travel costs for getting to the meeting, and we attempted to provide most of the rest of the funds needed (for airport shuttles and for room and board). Due to the expense of this undertaking and the fact that it was a planning meeting, the Board of Directors did not meet for a separate in-body planning meeting in 2007.

Our Information Technology expenses are mainly for web site maintenance. Amida Harvey of the U.K. is working on the redesign of our web site.

Our Office expenses consist mainly of bank fees; contract services; payroll: wages/software; telecommunications: internet/phone; and printer expenses.

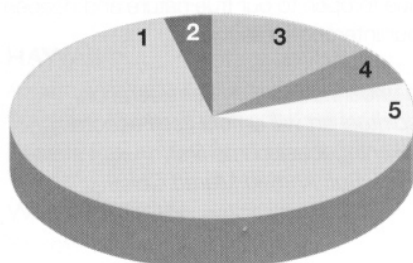
The Membership-related expenses consist of:

- 1) The share paid from NA membership dues to the IN organization (required). (It may be of interest that about 90% of our membership expenses in 2006 [\$7,894 of \$8,674] consisted of these dues paid to IN.)
- 2) The cost to print and ship the North American Journal to current NA members.
- 3) Office supply costs to contact members by mail.

You may contact the NA office for a full financial report, which has a more complete breakdown of income and expenses.

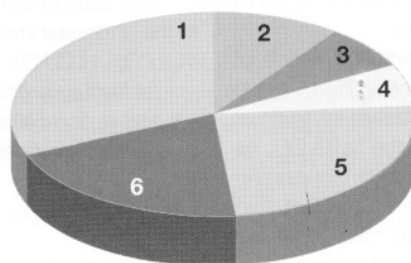
The 2007 budget is presently on track, with income and expenses being closely aligned. The finance committee is planning the 2008 budget, and several expense increases are anticipated. The Board considers any and all ideas for fundraising and increasing membership to cover expenses and enhance the services to members and the work of PeaceWorks in spreading the Dances. We are continually grateful for all memberships and donations; these are an important part of what powers PeaceWorks and gets this Journal into your hands. ■

2006 Income, PW-DUPNA



1. Memberships \$30,447
2. Miscellaneous \$1,731
3. Fundraising \$6,157
4. Circle Leader \$2,718
5. Oneness Grant \$3,829

2006 Expenses, PW-DUPNA



1. Payroll \$11,077
2. Board \$3,607
3. Fundraising \$2,446
4. Information Technology \$2,388
5. Membership \$8,674
6. Office \$7,161

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

LAYOUT EDITOR & JOURNAL COORDINATOR for next year's NORTH AMERICAN JOURNAL

Please consider contributing your creative & organizational talents in the publication of the North American Journal for the Dances of Universal Peace. Share your ideas, your skills, and your talent. We look forward to hearing from you!

Layout Editor:

Communicates with Editor and Journal Coordinator for receipt of all approved and finalized submissions • confers with Editor regarding basic layout ideas • designs page layouts, selecting fonts, preparing images and other artwork for placement • submits final pages for review to Editor and Editorial Board • prepares digital file and submits to printer • reviews & approves press proof • keeps Editor appraised of production progress and final submission to printer

Journal Coordinator:

Solicits contributions from potential authors, artists, poets, and photographers • maintains contact with contributors until all submissions are received • coordinates conversations with editorial staff • forwards submissions to Editorial Board for review • posts photograph submissions on Yahoo photo website for review and selection by Editorial Board • keeps track of selection status for all submitted material • solicits contributor bios as needed

Please direct all inquiries to:

Kathryn Májida Sky
928-537-0126
skyness54@gmail.com

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE AND EXTENDED COMMUNITY FROM THE MTG GUIDANCE COUNCIL

Dear Friends and Lovers of the Dances ~~

We, the newly formed Guidance Council of the Mentor Teachers Guild, are writing with an update following recent changes made within the MTG. The MTG is a body of senior teachers of the Dances who are entrusted to guide and nurture the transmission given to us by Murshid Samuel Lewis. In keeping with Murshid SAM's vision, the Dances have taken root and spread throughout the world as a way to joyfully cultivate self-mastery and to directly experience our innate connection to each other and to the One Being. Now, after approximately 15 years' existence, the MTG, steered by the Guidance Council, is looking at what has been accomplished in fulfilling its mission, and where we go from here.

We begin with a brief history which we hope will be helpful, especially for our newer friends in the Dance work.

When the Sufi Ruhaniat International (then SIRS) gave its blessing that the Dances might expand beyond the initiatic relationships held in the Ruhaniat, the Center for the Dances of Universal Peace came into being, in 1982. With incorporation in 1986, the International Network for the Dances of Universal Peace was organized, and in the early 1990's the Mentor Teachers Guild was established to support the continuing growth and expansion of the Dances of Universal Peace through training and supervision of Dance leaders.

The Dances are currently held in trust by the Sufi Ruhaniat International (SRI), the Mentor Teachers Guild (MTG), and the International Network for the Dances of Universal Peace (INDUP), also known as PeaceWorks.

For many years the MTG was co-chaired by Saadi Neil Douglas-Klotz and Tasnim Hermila Fernandez. In January 2006, upon their retirement from that post, a Guidance Council of 18 mentors was formed to continue supporting and guiding the work of mentor Dance leaders throughout the world. Most recently, the MTG Guidance Council (MTG GC) was re-formed with five members. It is we who are writing you this letter! We are honored to serve the Dance community in this capacity at this time.

The Dances and Walks embody a living spiritual practice of direct experience and transmission. It is the possibility of every Dance leader to carry and nurture this living stream of spiritual growth and refinement. It is the responsibility of the MTG GC, as well as each member of the MTG, to guide leaders by supporting learning opportunities and upholding standards of conduct and human relationship that are in keeping with the mission of the Dances of Universal Peace. All together we form this diverse International Dance Network!

The work ahead for the Guidance Council begins with taking a deeper look at the entire system of mentoring. We intend to review, evaluate and rewrite where needed all MTG documentation, including the Dance Certification Guidelines, the Way of Working Guidelines on mentoring and supervision relationships,

and the Ethical Guidelines. There is much updating that is needed.

We want to impress upon those of us who train others that ours is a mandate that exists to preserve the intention and integrity with which Murshid SAM brought this form into being. And, we hope to infuse mentor and Dance leader training with an emphasis on the importance each of us must place on our own inner development and our capacity to see ourselves clearly.

There is no end point to the development of the human being, and no end point for the training of a Dance leader. At best the mentoring relationship serves as a vehicle for the continuing development of the human soul, long after formal certification has been accomplished. It is this profound relationship that we are aiming for at the core of the transmission of the Dances of Universal Peace.

While the Dances serve many as mystical practices for inner development, they also serve community and the development of sangha. From this perspective, the vocation of Dance leadership includes a wide range of social responsibilities. Training in communication skills, conflict resolution, mediation, team building, and healthy relationships, may help us become more active peacemakers in our own communities. The Guidance Council plans to take an active role in guiding and supporting this training, in accordance with the theme of this issue of our journal, "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me."

We all share in common a love for the Dances of Universal Peace. Dance leaders, mentors and dancers, we hope that you will take time to reflect on this message. We are at a vital

juncture in our development as an international community. We seek your input and feedback, one and all, far and wide. Let us know how things are progressing in your circles – what is working and what is not, the blessings and the challenges. We welcome and encourage your reflections and suggestions.

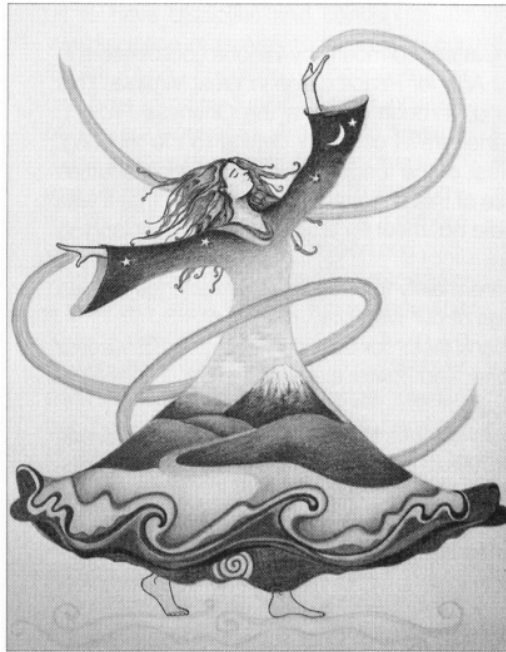
May each of us continue to open to our true nature and deepen in the understanding of our interconnectedness.

*As humanity grows in understanding, in consideration,
and in compassion, spiritual art will unfold itself accordingly.
Humanity's heart-awakening must come first.*

- Sufi Ahmed Murad Chisti

All love,
The MTG Guidance Council

Darvesha Victoria MacDonald (Chair) darvesh@starband.net
Anahata Iradah anahatara@mac.com
Halima Sussman sussman@thecia.net
Malika Merrill Endres malikama@sonic.net
Tansen Philip O'Donohoe philipodonohoe@btopenworld.com



"Rainbow Woman" by Lupe Grainne (HI)
www.lupegainne.com

SELF REFLECTIONS FROM THE NORTH AMERICAN MTG GUIDANCE COUNCIL

Darvesha

Mentoring is a natural outgrowth of my longtime commitment to helping others realize that all beings are interconnected, and that a life dedicated to the Creative Matrix is in our own best interest, and what makes us happy. When I'm not in a Dance Mandala, I can most likely be found in a vegetable garden in the middle of the Gila Wilderness doing what Gary Snyder calls, "Practice of Place." I am a sheikh in the Sufi Ruhaniat and a Buddhist practitioner.

Anahata

When I picked up my first musical instrument at the age of seven, I was sure that I had entered the angelic realms. This is where I hope to transport others through my ministry of music and dance. I spend my time teaching, authoring DVD's, producing documentaries about spirituality and sacred dance, recording music and studying and practicing meditation in the tradition of Shinzen Young. I have incorporated the profound teachings of Buddhism into all my work. Currently I am transitioning from the paradise of Hawaii to the exuberance of Brasil. I teach with gentleness and open-heartedness, and with music and the poetry of my understanding, leading students into the breadth and depth of the human heart.

Halima

In 1970, by grace, I found myself at a sufi dance meeting with Murshid SAM in Marin County, CA. This encounter changed my life – the spark of that moment still lights my way. The Dances and Walks have been the foundational practice of my spiritual journey. I have lived in Cambridge, MA for the last 35 years with my husband Abraham, our four sons, and a large and varied community. I am a clinical Social Worker, former midwife, passionate gardener, student of life, teacher to some. My husband and I guide the local Ruhaniat center, SAMA.

Malika

As a young girl, I studied dance of many forms, including the modern dance of Martha Graham and Ruth St. Denis. Discovering the Dances of Universal Peace some years later was a natural next phase of my life in dance. I met Saadi and Tasnim in the early 80's and played an instrumental administrative role in helping them to bring the International Dance Network into being. I have been recognized as a senior mentor of the Dances and transmitter of the Walking Meditations of Murshid Samuel Lewis. I initiated and developed the Dance circles in Sacramento and Mendocino County, CA and in southern Nevada. For several years I co-facilitated the California Quarterly. I also co-led dance training retreats in Mexico and was one of the pioneers of dance mentoring in South America. Currently, I lead the Dances in Santa Rosa, CA and other venues, lead mentoring retreats for dance mentees working with me, and teach a sufi studies class under the Sufi Ruhaniat International umbrella.

Tansen

I live in Dorset, England but often travel to many other countries with the dances. For 15 years the dances have been my main work and source of income. This has been a great blessing. Though I concentrate a lot on dance leader trainings, a significant focus of my work is using the Dances as a spiritual tool to increase people's capacity for living life fully and successfully. Having been around this long, I have held a number of organizational posts: Peaceworks Board of Directors; European Networker; ICC Chair, UK Network Management Committee; Ruhaniat Board Trustee and various roles for the MTG.

*It is the possibility of every dance leader
to carry and nurture this living stream
of spiritual growth and refinement...*

THE NORTH AMERICAN MENTOR TEACHERS GUILD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

We all dance upon the web woven by those who work within the organizational structures. Serving administration is like putting compost into the earth, nourishing that which sustains.

In North America, as the Dances have evolved, there has been less and less participation in administration by mentors, even though it was stipulated in the agreements between PeaceWorks and the Sufi Ruhaniat International, as well as in the charter for the Mentor Teachers Guild (MTG), that mentors be involved with organizational decision-making.

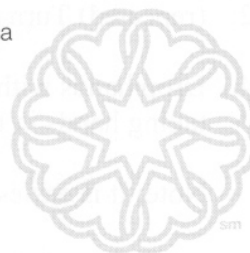
I began wondering how to bring mentors back into the process. About five years ago, while I was serving on the MTG International Advisory Committee (a committee that no longer exists), it occurred to me to replicate that committee here in the North America (NA) region.

The function of the NA MTG Advisory Committee has been to ensure some participation by the MTG with the North American Board of Directors (NA BOD). For most of its history, Malika, Anahata and I have served on NA MTG Advisory Committee, with Malika doing the bulk of the work over the last 3 years. Over time we have created operating guidelines so that one of us participates in each of the NA BOD monthly teleconferences and attends annual in-body Board meetings.

At this time, it is our hope that several NA bodhisattva mentors will step forward and offer to serve as working members of the NA BOD, which would make the NA MTG Advisory Committee unnecessary. But if that doesn't happen, it is time for other NA mentors to replace those of us who have been serving on the NA MTG Advisory Committee.

NA mentors who are ready to help in this way may contact any member of the NA BOD, Kathryn Májida Sky, Volunteer Coordinator for NA (see page 2 for contact information), or any of the three of us now serving on this committee.

Darvesha Victoria
On behalf of
the NA MTG
Advisory
Committee,
Fall 2007



Ruach Elohim

Music: Shlomo Carlebach
Movements: Halima Sussman

* Chords for guitar in Am, capo third fret

1 Cm/Am* Ab/F G7/E7 Cm/Am

Ru - ach, Ru - ach, Ru - ach, Ru - ach,

9 Cm/Am Ab/F G7/E7 Cm/Am

Ru - ach, Ru - ach, Ru - u - ach. - - -

17 2 Cm/Am Ab/F 3 1 G7/E7

Lai lai la lai lai la lai lai la lai, Lai lai la lai lai la

23 Cm/Am 4 2 G7/E7 Cm/Am

lai. Lai lai lai la lai.

Ruach Elohim is Hebrew for the breath or spirit of God. The breath that flows through all beings interconnects us, like a current connecting all the particles in the ocean of life.

Select a partner and note the line of progression. Then hold hands in the circle, standing close (shoulder to shoulder), with arms relaxed and down.

1. Take small rocking steps backwards, beginning back on the right foot (on “Ru-”), then left (on “-ach”). Continue expanding and breathing the circle outward, alternating R and L steps. Turn and face your partner after the last “Ruach”.
2. Take both hands with your partner in front of you, turning clockwise with a gentle waltzing motion, progressing to the next partner at the end of the last “lai”.
3. Turn clockwise with this new partner, again progressing to another partner at the end of the last “lai”.
2. (repeated) Turn clockwise with this new partner, ending up in the progressed position.
4. Drop hands with this third partner, face center, and all come in towards the center of the circle, taking hands in the circle as you get close, shoulder to shoulder, ready to begin again.

Note: It is easiest to teach the partner part of the dance first.

BRILLIANCE

I have abandoned the words,
shaken them from me
like brittle twigs and limp leaves
gathered as I've walked through
the underbrush.

Now in the expanse of light
I breathe, wordless,
and let it all come.

There is no more to say.

Kathryn Májida Sky
White Mountain Lake, AZ

Desert Sunrise. Photo: Lauree Feldman

Ruach Elohim

BY HALIMA SUSSMAN

The dance is a simple expression of this experience and emerged spontaneously after an extended time immersed in singing the chant. Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, who originated the chant, opened many hearts to the experience of joy and depth of prayer through singing and movement. In the late 1960's, Murshid SAM often visited Reb Shlomo's center in San Francisco, The House of Love and Prayer. In this Dance, we have the experience of breathing together, being rocked in the gentle sway of the breath. We move (are being moved!) from being close together and contracted into an expanded state; we then move and meet in the expanded flow; then we return to being close together, ready to begin again. THIS is the breath that counts! ■

Halima is a senior mentor of the Dances of Universal Peace and currently serves on the Guidance Council of the Mentor Teachers Guild. She lives in Cambridge, MA.

This Ruach dance is included on the CD entitled, "In Peace - A Call to Unity," a collection of original and old favorite DUP chants with Abraham and Halima Sussman and Friends. The CD is available for \$15 plus postage from SAMA, 6 Upton Street, Cambridge, MA 02139. sussman@thecia.net or www.northeastisufis.org

The State of the North American Region cont'd from page 3

disabilities or those in special populations—Aeolea Burwell, Safiya Crane, Hayrah Fatah, Tajali Gallagher, Amina Rae Horton, Sister Marie Kopin, and Khadija McRee.

Three other sets of issues were discussed at the meeting. One concerned clarifying relationships among the various organizations affiliated with the Dances—the MTG, the International and North American Networks, SRI and other Sufi orders, and Oneness. Those of you who subscribe to the DancingPeace listserv (to join, you can go to the following URL: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dancingpeace>) are aware that a Unity Council has been formed to discuss possible future changes in the relationships among these organizations. The chart shown on page 3—a photograph of what was drawn up at the meeting—gives some idea of the current relationships among them.

A second set of topics for discussion concerned rules, regulations, and financial accountability. Among the issues raised were making personal contacts to augment mailed notifications that membership renewals are due, sending good wishes (and membership materials) to organizers prior to their events, and asking mentors to remind their mentees to share 10% or more of circle and event profits with the Network. Karima Melody Lubich volunteered (once again) to help with membership issues.

A final set of issues discussed concerned visioning the future. Ideas raised included encouraging members to leave legacies supporting the Dances, improving inter-group communications, improving the balance between old and new leaders and Dances, encouraging the development of more local events, doing outreach with the Dances to more already-formed groups, and continuing to grow inside as well as outside.

It was heartening to experience the enthusiasm and creativity with which this larger circle of Network members discussed issues and ideas for the Network's development at our July meeting. The Board is grateful for this infusion of energy and ideas, and we look forward to working with all of our members to strengthen the Network; improve its service to Dance leaders, musicians, and dancers; and spread the Dances and their message of peace within and without. ■

Mansur Richard Conviser is a Dance leader, violinist, and the President of the PW-DUPNA Board of Directors. He lives in Missoula, Montana.



Photo: Lucinda Willes

Dancing feet at the 2007 North America Regional Meeting, Claymont Retreat Center, West Virginia.

Student, tell me, what is God?

He is the breath inside the breath.

~ Kabir



In Honor and Memory of Jeanne Ayesha Lauenborg

BY NAOMI WILANSKY

Jeanne Ayesha Lauenborg was my friend and mentor. We met about 17 years ago when she came to Newark, DE where I was living and shared the Dances of Universal Peace for the first time in our community. I was hooked after that first Dance. She took me under her wing and we went together to weekend workshops that blew me away. She took me to my first Ithaca retreat, which I still attend and where I grew up as a Dance leader and in my life year after year. I followed in her footsteps years after she stopped leading the Dances in Newark by starting that circle back up. And she certified me in Cape May in 1999 with a ritual that surprised and touched me before I left the East Coast to become a Mid-Westerner.

The Dances help make the world a smaller place and we felt our connection through them even though we spoke only on rare occasions after my move. Three and a half years ago she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She underwent a radical operation and terribly depleting treatments. She didn't show a lot of people how badly she was feeling, she didn't want pity or to fail people. However, she allowed our relationship to become a more mutual one during that time and cried about maybe not making her only daughter's wedding that summer. She did attend Sarah's wedding and even got to hold her newborn grandson three years later, a week before she died.

During her illness, she had to stop her massage practice and went back to crocheting hats to sell, which she had done as a young adult traveling the world in spiritual exploration. She left quite a legacy with her hats. She had four suitcases full of her handmade hats and I had the great honor of selling them this summer at the Ithaca retreat, just days after she died.

They were all different, unique and I could feel her whimsical spirit all around us; blessing each person who even tried one on. She wanted them sold in order to leave a trust for her grandson, and this ongoing effort has been somewhat successful.

Her focus was to LIVE and that's just what she did. She lived through recurrences of the cancer, days and weeks of not being able to keep anything down, chemo treatments that made her sick and made her hair fall out several different times, emotionally painful down-sizing moves that added to her feeling of loss of control. And when she would have a Dance to lead, she would leave her refuge, pull herself up by her dance shoes and share the Dances in a way that no one knew how poorly she was feeling and then go home and crash.

She felt her mission was to spread the Dances she loved so much far and wide and to connect people with and through them. She loved to tell stories related to

her deep history on the path and to connect her friends and acquaintances. When I visited her for one final incredible week, among many other things that she related to me, she shared her love of connecting people and continued to do so very close to the end. Friends and acquaintances were yarn and she was the needle crocheting us all into quite a whimsical, colorful hat. For those who are reading this who knew Ayesha, I invite you to think about this quality and think about who you know because of Ayesha.

She gave freely of her time and energy to the International Network for the Dances of Universal Peace (INDUP) when she was well and the organization supported her in various ways after she became ill. Members of INDUP were very responsive to requests that came from Sarah and others for prayers and more tangible needs. Dance leaders made events free to her, offered invitations and even sometimes provided transportation making it possible for her to attend. She was able to sell her hats and participate in the Dances as her energy allowed. She was grateful for these opportunities that contributed to her feeling alive, loved, and supported.

I am grateful for Ayesha's life and for what she taught me. I am especially grateful for what I learned from her through how she faced her death. There is never a good time to find out you are dying and Ayesha had so much to live for. But in the end she was able to accept that she was on her way out of this physical world. From that place of knowing she was able to welcome people as she always had but in an even deeper way. With the knowledge

cont'd on page 27



Ayesha – with her daughter Sarah Latifa, grandson Jonathan, and son-in-law Chris Taylor – the week before she died.

Drum of Creation

Let me be the drum you play
The drum you play to create the world
The sounds we make together
Manifest life.

Wild drumming of hoof beats across the steppes
Tender thumping of heartbeats in lovers, embrace
Steady beating of spring rain
Sudden crashing of desert thunder.

Let me be the drum you play
The drum you play to create the world
The sounds we make together
Manifest love.

I respond to every nuance of your caress
Tapping fingers play, teasing smiles from my lips
Driving beats and bodies gyrate, passions rise
Spiral rhythms and the dancer's hips roll, sublime.

Let me be the drum you play
The drum you play to save the world
The songs we sing together
Manifest unity.

Play, until your heart and hands are one
Play, until the line between drum and drummer
Blurs
Within our song of love.

Andrea Fontaine
Denver, CO

I laugh and say:
 "I'm the chosen one of God."
 I laugh and say:
 "You're the chosen one of God."
 I laugh and say:
 We're the chosen ones of God."
 Is there a problem with everyone
 being the
 chosen ones of God?

Lee Sagari
 Sedona, AZ

Ashem Vohu... A Collaboration

BY LILA FLOOD

I first heard the words *Ashem Vohu* almost 30 years ago. I had no idea what they meant or even what tradition they were from, but I was aware that they had a deep effect on my heart and my state of awareness as I repeated them over and over.

Over time I came to understand the source and meaning of the phrase and about five years ago when I was remembering that first encounter, a new melody came through using those words. I loved the melody and kept singing it, trying to find the right movements, but nothing felt right. This is often the case with me. The music comes easily, but not the moves.

Fortunately, I am blessed to have a wonderful friend and collaborator, Murshida Leilah Be. This is one of several Dances we have co-created. A few months went by before I had the opportunity to sing *Ashem Vohu* for Leilah. It took her only a few minutes to create the exquisitely beautiful movements for the first half of the Dance. Once that had been worked out, I knew what the second half should be, and the Dance was complete. ■

Lila Flood is a Certified Dance Leader and music teacher in Volcano Hawaii and can be reached at 808.985.9109.

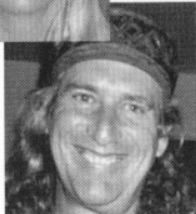
CA Events DUP (formerly "CA Quarterly") presents:

Irresistible Beauty of the Beloved

with Murshida Leilah Be & Bodhi Be

April 18, 19 & 20, 2008

Institute of Noetic Sciences - Petaluma, CA



In every human heart there is luminosity, the Radiance of Being. As we are present in each moment with reflective loving Presence, that Light is experienced, bringing ease and joy. Utilizing the transformative power of The Dances of Universal Peace, we will generate an atmosphere where our hearts receive nourishment. In this way we find tranquility & illumination in the Irresistible Beauty of the Beloved.

Be touched by the beauty & magic of hearts united.

Join us for this journey into the Sacred.

DANCE RETREAT & DANCE LEADER TRAINING Fee includes meals: Double \$225/person. Single \$275/person.

REGISTRAR: Violetta Reiser, 127 Gates St., San Francisco, CA 94110

415-821-0938; cadances@hotmail.com

There will be NO Karma Yoga. Limited financial assistance is available.



Ashem Vohu

Words: Traditional Zoroastrian
Music: Lila Flood
Movements: Leilah Be and Lila Flood

1 Cm Bb 2 Cm Bb 3 Cm

A - a - shem vo - o - hu, A - a - shem vo - o - hu - u, A - a - shem

Bb 4 Cm Bb 5 Cm Bb

vo - o - hu, A - a - shem vo - o hu - u. A - a - a - she-em vo - o - hu - u,

6 Cm Bb 7 Cm Bb 8 Cm

A - a - a - she-em vo - o - hu - u, A - a - a - she-em vo - o - hu - u, A - shem vo - hu.

The words *Ashem Vohu* are the first words of a long prayer from the Zoroastrian religion, which is more than 4000 years old and has been called the first monotheistic religion. *Ashem* may be translated as “the light of God” and *Vohu* as “that light residing in your heart.” Or the phrase may be translated as “may the light of God guide your heart.”

1. Face a partner in the circle. Dip your right hand down in front of you and then raise it overhead, joining palms with your partner on the way up.
2. Still touching partner's right palm, make 1/2 turn clockwise. While turning, both partners gradually bring their left palms up to touch and enclose their already joined hands (representing the light of God).
3. Keeping hands together, lower them gradually to the heart level. (This action will cover and then reveal your partner's face.)
4. Face the center and join hands with the circle.
5. Take four steps to the center, beginning with the right foot. As you move, bend arms at the elbow until forearms are parallel with the floor. This will create the shape of a multi-pointed star, representing the sun, an important symbol to the Zoroastrians.
6. Sidestep to the right (R, close L, R, close L).
7. Take four steps back, starting on the right foot, lowering arms.
8. Turn and face your next partner, placing both hands on your heart and looking into your partner's eyes.

The mood of the first half of the dance is gentle, with a feeling of sharing a precious communion with your partner. The music should be on the quiet side, with a spacious feeling to the rhythm. The second half is strong, with a sense of power and joy. The music should increase in volume, and the rhythm pattern can become more lively, but the tempo does not get faster.

Getting the **BIGGER** Picture

BY PATSY BOYER



The Regional Meeting for PeaceWorks DUPNA – Claymont, WV, July 7-9, 2007

"I'll begin with the end: "We've got to do this again very soon!" The network is not the organization, it is the connection between the people...it is the vehicle for weaving our hearts together.

We want to be together, it fills our hearts!

Once again, we come together and uncover our essential connection.

Naming ways to make it more current, more tangible, more visible. Remembering the common essence of who we are; harvesting how we are different, seeing again (and again) how we're the same. Listening to what news we can bring to each other; wanting ever more growth and connection.

We, the Board of Directors of PeaceWorks, Dances of Universal Peace North America (PW DUPNA), planned this meeting in preparation for the International meeting planned for October 2008. We were responding to a request from the International Network for the Dances of Universal Peace (INDUP) to be ready for the 2008 meeting since the other regions had already met.

Our region covers a very large geographic area. PW DUPNA includes the United States, Canada and Mexico. We invited representatives from all across the region. Twenty people came from a cross section of the United States but no one from Canada or Mexico-yet. We had two representatives from the newly appointed Mentor Teachers Guild Core Council (MTG), people who had danced with Murshid SAM, and folks representing INDUP and Oneness Project.

As I arrived at Claymont (also the location of Creative Arts for Peace Camp in West Virginia), I began remembering the bigger

picture as I found myself with friends and strangers who felt like friends already through our common devotion to the Dances. I was very aware of how each of us were bringing our energies to this unique mosaic.

At the beginning of the meeting, questions leapt out right away about our alphabet soup as well as the seemingly confusing relationships between Sufi Ruhaniat International, other Sufi organizations, Murshid Sam, Oneness Project, INDUP, PW DUPNA, PW Publications and MTG, to name a few. Are we first cousins or second cousins once-removed or a completely different family? And what the heck is our purpose and how do we work together to realize it?

And as the meeting continued, our relationships became more defined, undeniable and vitally important to embrace in order to support the Dances. My heart opened more, understanding increased and I knew I was in the right place.

It seemed that we had each left our homes and then came back again! We revisited relationships, acknowledged our connections and reevaluated our relatedness. This was a coming together of people who have experienced openings in their minds and hearts in and through the Dances. What we have in common is that we have seen changes in our lives which we know emanate from participating in and honoring the Dances. Because of this we want to make sure that this environment is available for others as well. We are making the open invitation to those coming after us: Here is beauty, please take it. Please join us.

We know there are many pathways and that this particular one brings love, harmony and beauty. ■

Patsy Saphira Boyer lives in Boise, ID. She is a Dance Leader and Mentor and has served as Secretary for the BOD of DUPNA since September 2005. She is also serving on the DUPNA Events Committee and the Youth Committee of Oneness Project.

Leading Dances of Universal Peace as a

BY NATHALIE SORENSEN

One of the requirements for certification as a dance leader is to follow a spiritual path and to go deep. Neil Douglas-Klotz explains it this way in his introductory letter, "About the Mentor Teachers Guild and Dance Leader Certification." He writes: "The Dances and Walks are first and foremost spiritual practice in motion, rather than artistic or cultural performances. For this reason, we ask that all certified teachers pursue a deep, experiential study of themselves through a spiritual path."¹

When I became a mentee of Yasmin Germaine Haut in the fall 1999, I was actively searching for a spiritual practice in which I could go deep. In the winter of 2000, I found my practice and my sangha and joined the Toronto Zen Centre. This practice of Zen Buddhism has become more and more important in my life since then. From the beginning I have found that the "going deep" in Zen Buddhism is beautifully balanced by the honoring of all the sacred traditions as we do in the Dances of Universal Peace. It is not only a matter of harmony and balance but of the one actively informing the other.

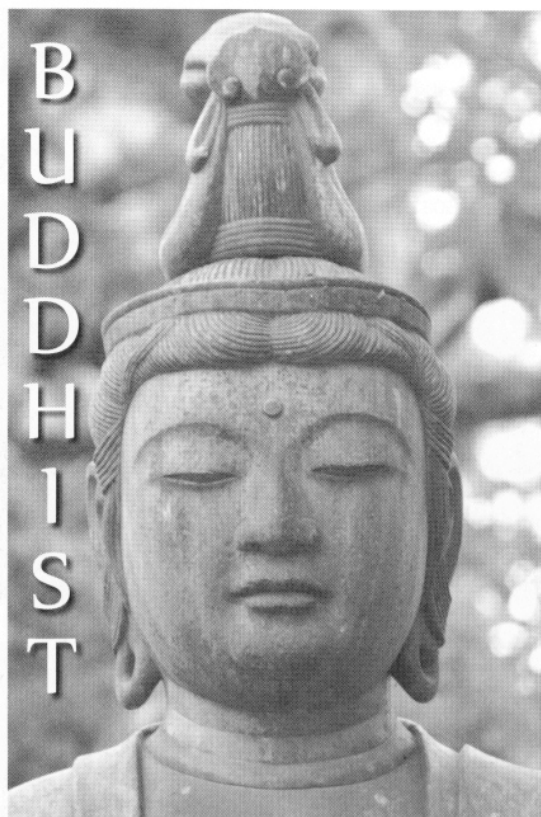
Since my Zen practice has become so central in my life, I have been asking myself this question: How can I lead the dances from my center as a Zen Buddhist?

In June 2005, Tasnim Fernandez came to Kingston to lead a weekend workshop featuring Dances of Universal Peace and other teachings and practices born in the tradition of Sufism. Our group was joined by dancers from around our whole area; and despite very hot weather, we had a wonderful weekend. All of us were strengthened and blessed by Tasnim's leadership. We not only learned several Sufi practices from a Master, but experienced a leadership of total integrity; that is, Tasnim's Sufi practice was absolutely embodied in her dance leadership. Here was a shining example of leading the dances from the core of one's spiritual practice.

After this experience, I wanted to follow her example. I wanted to integrate fully my Zen Buddhism with my dance leadership. Of course I had experienced other leaders whose spiritual practice was integral to their leadership, most notably, of course, Saadi, Neil Douglas-Klotz. These leaders were Sufi. Was there any difference between leadership from a core of Sufism and a core of Buddhism? I asked myself.

There are obvious differences between Buddhism and Sufism. As one deepens in the practice of one's chosen tradition, these differences are often highlighted. It is important to honor these differences, of doctrine, of emphasis, of ritual and practice. The One is not a mindless blending of differences into a featureless, tasteless mush. This is not a trivial issue. To take one important difference between religious traditions: Buddhism denies the existence of the Deity worshipped in theistic religions. How can I honor both the particular qualities of my Zen Buddhism and the sparkling magnificence of the One which encompasses all?

¹Douglas-Klotz, Neil. (1997). "About the Mentor Teachers Guild and Dance Leader Certification" [On-line]. Available: Peaceworks: International Network for the Dances of Universal Peace.



Senso-ji Temple, Tokyo, Japan. Photo: Lauree Feldman

That all the traditions are paths to the One is of course central to our practice of the Dances of Universal Peace. The Christian mystic Bede Griffiths used this image to illustrate the relation between the One and the many religious traditions which have grown up through history to try to express their various understandings of this One great mystic reality at the core of each of them. Speaking to the writer, Andrew Harvey, he held out his hand and stretched out his five fingers and pointing to his thumb he said, "This is Christianity," and then along the other fingers he said, "This is Taoism, this is Buddhism, this is Hinduism, and these are the shamanic traditions. All may seem when you look at them, very, very different;" but then he trickled the fingers of his other hand right down into the palm of the hand that he had extended and said softly, "but when you arrive at that non-dual realization that is at the heart of the heart of all of the traditions, then you know the truth that they are all aspiring for."²

Part of the answer to my question is obvious. A dance leader cannot help but lead the dances from the core of his or her inner being. To the extent that I embody my Zen Buddhism, that is the embodiment from which my leadership will spring; just as Tasnim's leadership springs from her Sufi practice. The more complex issue is how to honor the beautiful and instructive differences between religious traditions while demonstrating their absolute unity. A figure of speech often used in Mahayana Buddhism to illustrate the relationship between the absolute and the phenomenal may be helpful here. Under the influence of wind, a body of water becomes disturbed and forms waves. Here the water stands for the absolute, and waves stand for the phenomenal manifestation in time and space of this absolute. Thus, while we see waves, their true substance is the water: even though

cont'd on page 27

²Harvey, Andrew. (2001). *The Direct Path*. Cassette Recording. 1-56455-856-8. Boulder, Colorado: Sounds True.



The sacred journey brought me again to the Holy Land. There are many ways I could report on my experience...what is my motivation, my purpose in making this journey? What were the experiences, from all the different angles? Why tell you??? It was not a simple tourist excursion for me. It was not even a spiritual seeker's pilgrimage per se.

Something more happened on this journey that I want to tell you about. This time I traveled as a Dance leader sponsored by the Oneness Project and the International Network of Dances of Universal Peace. My senior Dance mentor Narayan (now Aryeh) Waldman and I traveled to the Holy Land to share the Dances with groups of Jewish, Muslim and Christian Israelis, Palestinians and Internationals. My son, Kelsey, a multimedia communications student, traveled with us on a college scholarship to document the events. Our troupe was hosted and guided by Eliyahu McLean, Rodef Shalom, founder of Jerusalem Peacemakers and the Abrahamic Reunion, and Maureen Brodie, dancer/organizer. Also joining us were Damian Leuthold, drummer, Joy Morris, Dance leader from Utah, and Lucy Risdale from Australia.

Our first event was at Kol Ha Neshama Synagogue in Jerusalem. We found challenges of every sort; our Hebrew was sadly deficient and our westernized versions of songs were ...well, very westernized (many thanks go out to our translators, musicians and the good humor of the participants). Many experienced nervousness about singing words in different languages and from different traditions. Narayan Aryeh's *Shema Ysrael* was the most welcome Dance in every circle, even by those who seemed sensitive to the sacred phrase. *All My Relations*, of Native American sentiment, was the other most well-received Dance. In spite of difficulties, a wonderful time was had that first evening, delightful relations were formed, and we adapted and learned as we went along.

The second day we were headed into Barta'a in the West Bank and my fears came up. I was not so afraid of car bombs or personal danger. I was afraid more of my compassion. I was afraid that I would meet people – Palestinian people! – and learn their stories, that I would see sadness and plight and feel ashamed or confused and worse yet be seen as a traitor by Jewish family and friends.

What happened was so very simple. We were greeted with joy and gladness. I saw people caring for other people. I saw GOOD WILL and I felt and saw Peace happening. Our Israeli Jewish friends are friends with Palestinians, both Muslim and Christian. We danced with women and children in

cont'd on page 24

Above: The International Peace Center called "House of Hope" in the village of Shafa'amr. Seated from left: Eliyahu McLean, Eric Narayan Waldman, Elias Jabour and Damian Leuthold. Photo by Kelsey Sheely.

BOOK REVIEW

by Kathryn Májida Sky

On with the Dance!

by Ariënne and
Wim Wali van der Zwan

This book is a gem. I didn't see it until recently. With nearly ten years' experience leading at local circles and Dance camps to my credit, I wish I had seen it ten years ago. Although my Dance leading journey has been comparatively painless, it has had its moments – the kind that generate complete panic, especially in the early days – and this book names most of those moments and the kinds of preparation and practice (spiritual and otherwise) that can prevent or mitigate them.

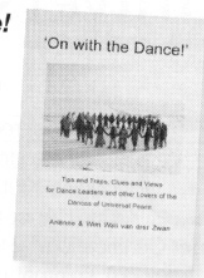
Providing a balanced mix between the spiritual and the practical, Wim Wali and Ariënne have covered a multitude of topics that are of concern to new Dance leaders. They subtitle the book: *Tips and Tricks, Clues and Views for Dance Leaders and other Lovers of the Dances of Universal Peace*. Some tips are delightful, such as: "Make your mistakes beautiful." Some are practical, like their checklist on the special challenges of leading partner Dances. There is a wealth of well-organized information for leading Dances and setting up Dance circles, and an excellent ten-page history of the Dances.

Wali and Ariënne work with many beginning Dance leaders in Eastern Europe, but the concerns are the same anywhere. A mentor friend quipped that with this book she can stop talking to her mentees; she'll just have them read the book instead! It was a joke, of course, but there's admiration there too: this book is an invaluable assist for new Dance leaders, and a reminder for more experienced ones as well. Thank you, Wali and Ariënne, for taking the time to bring it all together! Please visit their web site, www.peaceinmotion.eu for more information about their lives and work.

To order in the U.S. or Canada, contact:

Peaceworks
PO Box 1401, Blythe, CA 92226
naOffice@dancesofuniversalpeace.org
Telephone: (760) 922-2551

Illustrated paperback, 92 pages
\$19 (includes shipping)



EVENTS

2008 NORTH AMERICAN EVENTS DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE

March 7 - 9, 2008

Prescott, Arizona

ARIZONA WEEKEND RETREAT WITH SHABDA

Dances of Universal Peace and Sufi practices, to open the way to more love, freedom and peace, led by Pir Shabda Kahn.

Email: lsandleben@qwest.net or www.prescottdances.org

Contact: Yaqin Lance Sandleben, (928) 445-6506

March 21 - 23, 2008

Lava Hot Springs, Idaho

LIVE! AT LAVA SPRING RETREAT

Dances of Universal Peace, spiritual walks, zikr, and natural hot water springs. Eat, dance and pray together with others from the intermountain west; leaders include Munir Peter Reynolds, Narayan Eric Waldman, Bernie Heideman, and Zareen Connie Delaney. Concurrent Children's Program and Young Adult gathering. Lava Senior Center, Lava Hot Springs, Idaho.

Email: shahar@onenessproject.com

Contact: Shahar Solander, registrar, (406) 363-7211

Oneness Project, PO Box 1141, Hamilton, MT 59840

March 21 - 23, 2008

Lava Hot Springs, Idaho

YOUNG ADULT DANCE RETREAT FOR YOUTH AGES 16-23

Sacred Dance, spiritual practices, zikr, and natural hot water springs! Concurrent with Live! At Lava Retreat. Young Adult Sangha mentors Katiehamida Wiese and Daniel Kirchhof will join old and new friends for this weekend of eating, dancing, and praying together with other young folks from the intermountain west.

Email: shahar@onenessproject.com

Contact: Shahar Solander, registrar, (406) 363-7211

Oneness Project, PO Box 1141, Hamilton, MT 59840

April 18, 19 & 20, 2008

Institute of Noetic Sciences, Petaluma, California IRRESISTIBLE BEAUTY OF THE BELOVED

Murshida Leilah Be and Bodhi Be

Northern California Dance Retreat & Dance Leader Training

Email: cadences@hotmail.com

Contact: Violetta Reiser, registrar, (415) 821-0938

127 Gates Street, San Francisco, CA 94110

August 4 - 10, 2008

Luccock Park Camp near Livingston, Montana DIVINE CURIOSITY

Wilderness Dance Camp 2008

Leilah Be, Spiritual Elder, will join us this year, along with Zareen Connie Delaney, Munir Peter Reynolds, Narayan Eric Waldman, Darvesha MacDonald, and Bernie Heideman. Concurrent Children's Program and Young Adult gathering.

Email: shahar@onenessproject.com

Contact: Shahar Solander, registrar, (406) 363-7211

Oneness Project, PO Box 1141, Hamilton, MT 59840

December 5 - 7, 2008

Lava Hot Springs, Idaho

LIVE! AT LAVA DECEMBER RETREAT

Dances of Universal Peace, spiritual walks, zikr, and natural hot water springs. Eat, dance and pray together with others from the intermountain west; leaders include Munir Peter Reynolds, Narayan Eric Waldman, Bernie Heideman, and Zareen Connie Delaney. Concurrent Children's Program and Young Adult gathering. Lava Senior Center, Lava Hot Springs, Idaho.

Email: shahar@onenessproject.com

Contact: Shahar Solander, registrar, (406) 363-7211

Oneness Project, PO Box 1141, Hamilton, MT 59840

December 5 - 7, 2008

Lava Hot Springs, Idaho

YOUNG ADULT DANCE RETREAT FOR YOUTH AGES 16-23

Sacred Dance, spiritual practices, zikr, and natural hot water springs! Concurrent with Live! At Lava Retreat. Young Adult Sangha mentors Katiehamida Wiese and Daniel Kirchhof will join old and new friends for this weekend of eating, dancing, and praying together with other young folks from the intermountain west.

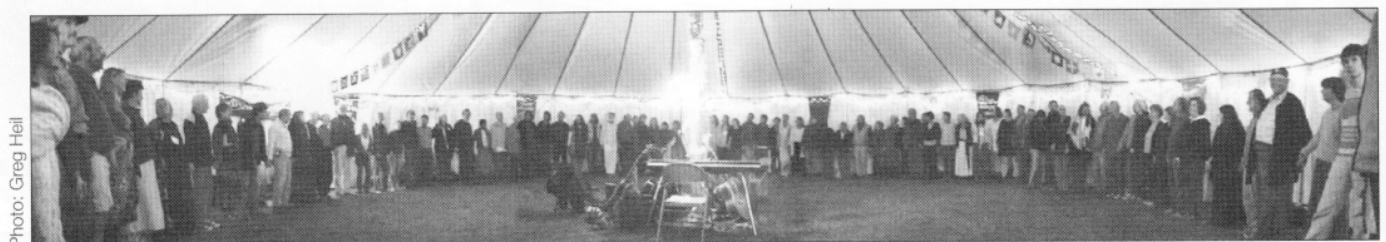
Email: shahar@onenessproject.com

Contact: Shahar Solander, registrar, (406) 363-7211

Oneness Project, PO Box 1141, Hamilton, MT 59840

Love is not approached by thought at all...

- Rumi



Wilderness Dance Camp's full circle under the big tent, 2007.

Photo: Greg Heil

Vision at Canyonlands Dance Retreat

I am sitting off at a distance, chilled and footsore. Putting my shoes back on and wrapping a blanket over my shoulders, I sit, content to watch the Dances from afar. The waxing gibbons moon shines down, illuminating the path back out toward the road. Down the path I can just barely see a small, bearded old man in a long robe, prayer beads at his neck, barefoot, bathed in moonlight, strolling towards me nonchalantly, hands in the pockets of his robe, whistling softly.

He comes and sits in the vacant chair next to mine. My hand is palm up on the armrest of my chair and he lays his hand over mine.

"Are you having fun tonight?" he asks, smiling.

"Yes," I say, "it's very lovely."

"This next one is for you, Cyndy. Come join us." He gets up and walks toward the Dancers and I follow him, but I stop, just at the edge of the cave and watch, transfixed.

The Dancers are huddled in a tight cluster, arms around one another. I want to join them but am reluctant to enter their circle, as if it is an enchantment that might be broken.

Sam puts his arms around a couple of the Dancers and seems to dissolve into the circle, as if a bit of his essence is entering each of them. The Dancers are moving slowly, singing "We are the hands of God," and the face of Sam is grinning widely, immensely pleased, hovering like a Cheshire cat above the circle.

Cyndy Hodo, Moab, UT



Afternoon Dance circle at "Dance Toge"
Photo: Kathryn

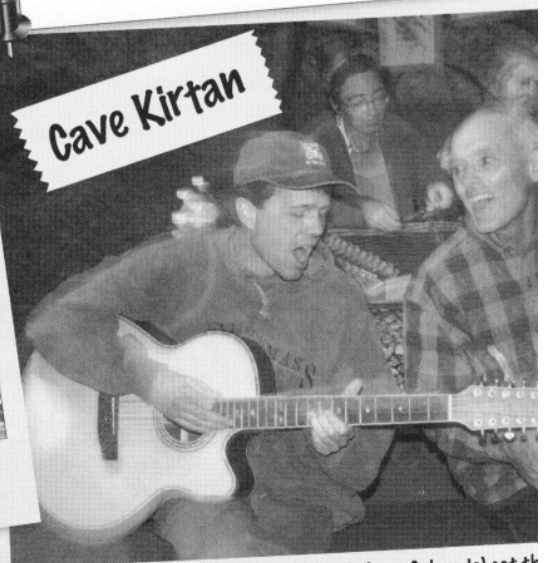
Parlor Sufis and Prayer Beads

For the fourth consecutive year, California Sufi visited Georgia to share Sufi practices and dances. This year, Mariam was joined by Sarmad Barry B and drumming practices. A lovely group of attentive community which came to be called the "Parlor" held in the parlor of a Victorian home. The "Parlor" members of the Atlanta and Peachtree City communities often get together at Fair Atlanta and vicinity often get together at Fair afternoon of swimming, dancing, eating, sitting. retreat there were 25 participants, some sleeping and some tenting in the formal gardens out back.



Light and Shadow at the Canyonlands Dance Retreat in September, 2007.
Photo: Katrina Davis

Cave Kirtan



Scott Medina and Brian McAdams (both from Colorado) set the Canyonlands Retreat, Canyonlands National Park, Utah. Photo: Kathryn

Putting my
rs, I sit,
bons moon
e road.
d man in a
n moonlight,
ts of his

. My hand is
d over mine.

ets up and
, just at the

ound one
er their circle,

and seems to
tering each of
re the hands
ensely pleased,

in September, 2007.



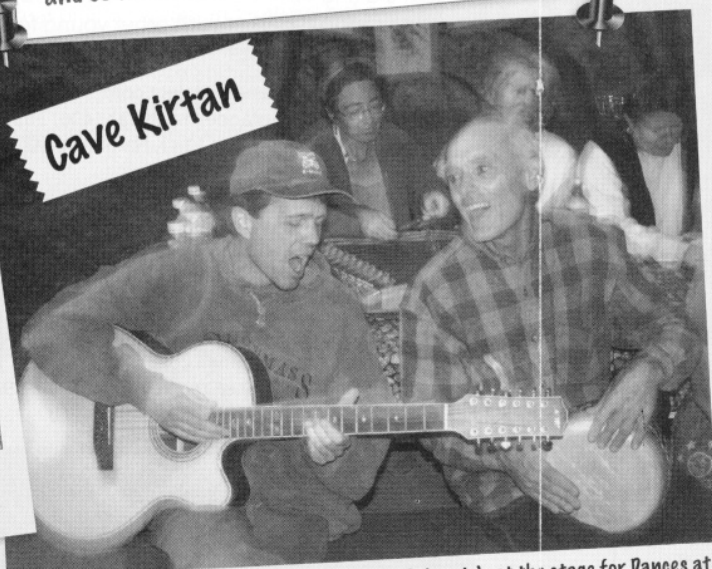
Afternoon Dance circle at "Dance Together Colorado" in Denver - May 2007.
Photo: Kathryn Májida Sky

Dance Tog
Dancers,
in Denver on
The organize
participate;
day of the ev
offered by th
day of peace
The progr
the day. Paren
children were
started at 2 p
followed: if th
enough food fo
on til 8 p.m. Or
things about th
month. The Pea
helped make it
Prince, Kari Tor
and Stu Allen. Fo
the Oneness Proj
musicians. We've
our next event. H
and I believe it ac
tribes together a

Parlor Sufis and Prayer Beads

For the fourth consecutive year, California Sufi teacher and Dervish Murshida Mariam Baker visited Georgia to share Sufi practices and dances at the "Black Cat Khankah" in Hogansville. This year, Mariam was joined by Sarmad Barry Bernstein who provided music, Rumi poetry and drumming practices. A lovely group of attendees danced, prayed and ate together, building a community which came to be called the "Parlor Sufis" as most of the practices and talks were held in the parlor of a Victorian home. The "Parlor Sufis" were joined Saturday night by other members of the Atlanta and Peachtree City communities for dinner and dancing. Dancers from Atlanta and vicinity often get together at Fair Oaks, this historic home in Hogansville, for an afternoon of swimming, dancing, eating, sitting on the porch, and more dancing. At the last retreat there were 25 participants, some sleeping in the house, some in the guest cottage, and some tenting in the formal gardens out back!

Cave Kirtan



Scott Medina and Brian McAdams (both from Colorado) set the stage for Dances at Canyonlands Retreat, Canyonlands National Park, Utah. Photo: Dale Blindheim



Dancing in the cul-de-sac, Lake Claire co-housing, Atlanta, Georgia - Summer 2007. Photo: Betty Jo

Road Trips '07



her Colorado" in Denver - May 2007.
n Májida Sky

acher and Dervish Murshida Mariam Baker
t the "Black Cat Khankah" in Hogansville.
rnstein who provided music, Rumi poetry
es danced, prayed and ate together, building
ufis" as most of the practices and talks were
Sufis" were joined Saturday night by other
unities for dinner and dancing. Dancers from
aks, this historic home in Hogansville, for an
on the porch, and more dancing. At the last
g in the house, some in the guest cottage,
!



stage for Dances at
to: Dale Blindheim



Dancing in the cul-de-sac, Lake Claire co-housing,
Atlanta, Georgia - Summer 2007. Photo: Betty Jo Stevens

Dance Together Colorado!

Dancers and dance leaders from all over Colorado converged in Denver on Memorial Day Weekend 2007 to gather as one. The organizers invited 35 certified or supervised Dance leaders to participate; ten volunteered, and eight could actually make it the day of the event. Over 100 people enjoyed the variety of dances offered by those 8 dance leaders who contributed to creating a day of peace and community.

The program was designed so the entire family could enjoy the day. Parents were encouraged to bring their children and the children were encouraged to join the dance circle. The celebration started at 2 pm with Dances until 4. A break for a huge potluck followed: if there were 100 people who gathered that day, we had enough food for 200! Dancing recommenced after dinner and went on til 8 p.m. Organizer Anne Stanwick wrote, "There were many things about this event that filled my life with peace and joy that month. The Peace came from my reliance on the many friends who helped make it a success, including Jeff Lewis (co-chair), Debbie Prince, Kari Tornow, Larry Holgerson, Linda Cooper, Dale Blindheim and Stu Allen. Fortunately, through the generous support of the Oneness Project we were able to compensate our talented musicians. We've also established a fund to help support us with our next event. It was the first gathering of this type in the state and I believe it accomplished what we set out to do. Gather the tribes together as one!"



hmmmm...cake at the potluck!
Photo: Kathryn Májida Sky



Jeri Ann Hampton and the "parlor Sufis" with
1001 prayer beads! Weekend w/Mariam Baker,
Hogansville, GA. Photo: David or Kathy Barnes

Road Trips '07

Wilderness Dance Camp 2008

Divine Curiosity

Passion Play of The Universe

August 4-10, 2008

Camp Luccock, Livingston Montana

Connie Zareen



Leilah Be

Come to Wilderness Dance Camp 2008 for a week of inspired dancing and creative fun. Through Dances of Universal Peace, inspiring talks and rolling laughter we will start to unveil the divine nature of our innate curiosity and ultimately reveal the Universe's passionate call for more consciousness.

What if...

- * We were living at the most exciting time in history?
- * Crisis was a divine tool for creativity?
- * Global warming was an opportunity to come together in a new way - never before imagined?

We'll find out this week in the pristine mountain setting of Camp Luccock at the northern tip of Yellowstone Park. Six days of dancing and delicious natural food will be shared in a beautiful setting along with skills classes for dance leaders, Sufi talks with Murshida Leilah Be, inspiring meditation, and peace dance vigils throughout the camp to incorporate more certified dance leaders into the camp.

PeaceWorks members \$435 (postmarked by 6/14/2008)

Non-members \$460

Children \$180, Teens, and Young Adults \$200

Leilah Be

Zikr Leader Extraordinaire and Sufi Murshida.

Leilah Be has been leading Dances since the early 1980's, and she brings a depth of devotion and realization that takes dances and zikr into a realm of spiritual beauty.

Connie Zareen *Camp Director and playful pirate!*

Munir Peter Reynolds *Challenges us with the edges of our vision.*

Darvesha MacDonald *Goddess with a passion for deep ecology.*

Eric Waldman *Brings us together as one conscious unit in Dance.*

Bernie Heideman *Moving us further toward ultimate possibilities.*

Registrar: Shahar Solander, PO Box 1141, Hamilton, MT 59840
shahar@onenessproject.com 406.363.7211

Dance as a Spiritual Practice

BY CIMARRON

Since this Journal's focus is on "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me," I'd like to relate a recent experience I had. Then I'll share some thoughts on how I imagine the dance can be used as a spiritual practice to move towards greater awareness and peace.

Recently I attended a dance circle where the leader had a creative format: we first danced 2-3 very energetic dances full of spinning and free movement, then we began a series of slower more meditative dances strung together non-stop much like a musical medley. As we progressed, I could feel myself relaxing, softening, centering, and going deeper within to come to an inner still point. Next I moved into what I can only describe as a trance-like state where I could feel the circle of dancers become as one organism – I no longer sensed separate individuals and for the next few moments my connection to people, the room, sounds, and even the sensation of up and down, became blurred. Finally, I "fell into" this feeling of incredible lightness of being, as if I were no longer physical, but just light, glowing with other lights. This then became all one light – a space of peace and Oneness. I believe that this is the magical realm of the transcendence of the small self and the enchantment of moving into the purifying presence of the One. These are precious moments of deep peace, a seed kernel we can hold within our hearts and radiate out into the world. This is the reason why I dance: to move Toward the One.

Over the past several months, I have been reflecting upon how the Dances of Universal Peace are my main spiritual practice. To me, the dance is a brilliant practice vehicle. We could consider a

and awareness into my life is by asking myself a lot of questions. I ask these on the way to the dance, while in the dance circle, and following the dance. I'll share these with you, as I see them as examples of choices we can make and action steps we can take to "practice" in an active way.

Attending a dance circle allows me to practice being part of a community. Here's an example: It's Friday night, the dance



Photo: Khadija Julia Goforth

Northeast Sufi Camp, summer 2007.

spiritual practice to be any system that we use to move towards greater awareness. Being receptive; listening with concentration; radiating presence; embodying intention; developing patience, kindness, and self-discipline; awakening the heart; moving toward unity with the community and all of humanity; these are many facets of the dance which, when examined, could be seen as a training ground for awareness.

Personally, one of the ways I use the dance as a practice to bring more peace

starts in two hours, and I'm tired from a busy and stressful week. Can I rouse myself to go and support the dance? Do I choose to remember that the dance leader has made a 100% effort to consistently provide a dance for me to attend? Can I show gratitude for the gift of my local circle by practicing discipline and generosity and bring my presence to the circle?

Once I arrive at the dance, I can check in with myself. Perhaps I drove a little too fast to get here, so can I slow down? Can

cont'd on page 32

Poetry Flag

I hold Your words next to my heart
for that is where they have
arisen from.
What I'm feeling now
really can't be
put into words...
Only tears and laughter
can come close
to what I wish to say.

Lee Sagari
Sedona, AZ

The cooler breezes blow.
Afternoon clouds
and monsoons.
River this color today
That color tomorrow.
Only spirit holding
things together.
The unattached breath
Here and gone
Now.

Bob Spencer
Durango, CO

If you feel you may need to move
to another state to improve
your life situation,
you're right.
I recommend the State of Grace.
It's the best in the Union.

Lee Sagari
Sedona, AZ

Ahavah Raba Ahavtanu

* Chords for guitar in Am, capo third fret

Words: Traditional Hebrew
Music and Movements: Amina Linda McMakin

With a great love, God has loved us. This beautiful phrase from the Jewish morning prayer service *Sacharit* is a translation of the Hebrew phrase *Ahavah raba Ahavtanu*. It reminds us that we're always in the love of God, which is given and received unconditionally and which is revealed through acts of compassion and kindness.

As Nan Fink Gefen wrote in *Discovering Jewish Meditation*, "In Jewish mysticism, we are taught that love is part of ongoing creation. It emanates from and exists within the Divine and is available to us.

We don't manufacture love ourselves; it already exists. Thus we don't have to feel the strain of creating it anew. Instead, we enter into the stream of love by opening our hearts so that we receive it, and it radiates through to others."

The frequent "Ah" sounds contained in this chant allow us continually to open our hearts to the vibration of God's love so that we may more easily experience it and radiate it out to others.

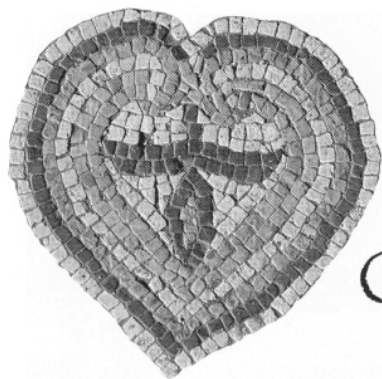
Select partners, then form a circle, holding hands and facing center.

1. Grapevine step to the right, beginning by stepping right on the right foot, crossing in front with the left foot, right with the right foot, and crossing behind with the left foot. On the repeat, reverse direction, stepping left with the left foot, crossing in front with the right, etc.
2. Face your partner.
3. Open arms as widely as possible from the heart, palms facing partner, in the same way that a child expresses how much s/he loves someone ("I love you THIS much!). Touch palms lightly together and make one full turn on the rest of the phrase, feeling that love stretching out infinitely.
4. Continue turning with partner for a half turn, progressing.
5. Turn or spin to next partner, arms still opened expansively.

Repeat 2-5 with a second partner, turning or spinning to face center on 5. Join hands in circle to begin the dance again.

Variation: On 2 and 3, face partner for the duration of the phrase, basking in God's great love.

On 4, make a half-turn, progressing, and continue with 5 above.



Dancing in God's Great Love

BY AMINA LINDA McMAKIN

Ahavah raba ahavtanu – with a great love God has loved us” has become a form of Zikr for me since I discovered the phrase several years ago. In the mid-90’s I became interested in the Kabbalah and studied with a teacher and group of students in the Greenville area for about four years. During this study, I was drawn to the Hebrew divine names of God and various sacred phrases and found them to be very powerful as spiritual practice. Also during that time, (and before I knew of the Dances of Universal Peace) I began to combine music and simple movements for some of the names and phrases and shared them with the group.

After the members of the study group went their separate ways, I continued to pursue my own study and practice and was particularly interested in finding an effective meditation method that I could practice without the group. I ran across a book, *Discovering Jewish Meditation*, by Nan Fink Gefen, which was subtitled, *Instruction and guidance for learning an ancient spiritual practice*. One of the themes was called “Chesed Meditation – opening your heart to more easily experience love.” In the narrative preceding the meditation exercise, she referred to the Ahavah phrase, saying it “....expresses the love of God [which is] a gift, one that is unconditionally given and received.”

I worked with this meditation and phrase for some months during a time when I was recovering from a serious illness, and found great comfort in its meaning. But, as often happens in spiritual practice, I moved on to other practices after a while until one day, a couple of years ago, I picked up the book again. It fell open to the Chesed pages, and the phrase captured my attention again. This time, the phrase kept running around my brain and was soon accompanied by a melody. Naturally, I began to move with it and the movements to this dance are the ones that came through almost immediately.

Dancing, singing and teaching this phrase to others continues to deepen it in my being and is a blessing of joy for me. I am grateful to the North American Journal for helping me spread its message “far and wide.” ■

Amina Linda comes from a musical family and has sung, danced and played musical instruments most of her life. In the '60's she taught herself how to play guitar so she could sing folk music and eventually performed in D.C. and North Virginia for several years. Her first experience with the Dances of Universal Peace in 1997 led her to become a certified dance leader and mentor. Since then, she has led a monthly dance circle in Greenville, SC, and a quarterly Equinox/Solstice dance event at her home in nearby Pelzer. She coordinates and leads outreach dance circles in Charleston & Columbia, SC and is DUP Area Connector for the state of SC. She has published a book of dances that she originated over the years.

Over the past 10 years, she has sponsored annual dance events, retreats and dance-leader training classes at Safe Haven, her home and small retreat center in Pelzer. (864) 947-7028.

Above: 7th-century mosaic from Madaba, Jordan. Photo: Lauree Feldman

THE NIGHT GARDEN

In the hush of the night garden,
I look deep into the well of tears.
I find reflected the crescent moon
and the smoldering gaze
of the red-eyed planet.

The field beyond the garden
is dark and still.

I hear crickets and the surprise
of a deer who has discovered
my presence.

I stand on a rock and survey the night.
Like Adam, I speak the names of things.

Dark field
Singing crickets
Startled deer
Red planet
Shining moon

I pause and my words fall
into the darkness.

There are not tears enough
for the world in all its broken beauty.

I sit on the rock and close my eyes.
The moonlight shines in my mind
and I return sorrowing to You,
giver and taker of all there is.

This is Your night,
one dark blossom from the garden of nights.
I cannot ask for more.

Judith Munira Avinger, Lac Brome, Quebec
(from *Hidden/Caché*, Borealis Press, 2003)



Photo: Sierra Salin

Conch blowers Marc Horwitz (UT) and Nathan Wasserman (AZ) at Mendocino Sufi Camp, July 2007.

the clinic and school where healthcare, childcare and education were the program. I led a group of Israeli and Palestinian women singing *Shalom/Salaam*, the *Yaruban Ishe Oluwa* and *All My Relations*. Narayan Aryeh and the children joined us later for an Arabic and a Mayan song. Delight was flowing all around. Everywhere we went we were met by people of good will and open hearts from all sectors. Amazing how a guitar speaks universally.

We attended a delightful Shabbat in the Galilee and held a weekend Dance workshop there. Our ever-growing troupe then visited Kibbutz Harduf and danced in a meadow in the moonlight under an open Beduin tent. We stayed in the gracious home of Bedouin elder Abu Amin (essentially the governor of his village and an important peacemaker of the region for four decades). He and the group shared stories of peaceful relationship building over the past decades between the villages and the leaders. We were invited next day to see a performance, "1001 Nights," presented in English by a joint Israeli and Arab schools' drama group. These students have formed abiding friendships and spoke of their dedication to that peace.

The men in our group stayed on to dance with the students and then went to the village Shafa'amr to meet with Elias Jabour, author of *Sulha: the Palestinian Traditional Peacemaking Process* and director of an International Center for Reconciliation. It was very inspiring to learn of the good will being put forth by people



Resting in the Holy Land. From left, Damian Leuthold, Eric Narayan Waldman and Susan Nechama Sheely, outside the Kol ha Neshama Synagogue in Jerusalem.

We visited the Sea of Galilee, and spent time swimming and learning about ecological concerns of the area. At the Mount of Beatitudes, Narayan Aryeh led the *Aramaic Lord's Prayer* and 1st and 7th *Beatitudes*.

We stayed with our friends Yehudit and Reuven who shared stories of Murshid Sam; we sang and talked with candlemakers and prayed deep into the night. Some members of our party headed back to Jerusalem; en route they passed a car blown up just moments earlier, a harsher reality on the ground.

Our trip also included lively discussions of the histories, geographies, difficulties, proposed solutions and strategies for healing and reconciliation, and the various complexities of the region...all very complex indeed.

At Segol Festival on Dor Beach near Haifa, Narayan Aryeh and I led a couple of Dance workshops; and Kelsey and Damian performed some firespinning. In Furedis, we met Palestinian peacemaker, Ibtisam, who took us to a building site for their new Peace Center, which we dedicated with *My House Shall Be a House of Prayer for All People* and shared and learned about the women's empowerment programs she has started there for literacy, education, jobs, childcare, etc.

There is so much more to tell, but this is the basic story; my motivation is to share some of the grass roots, positive relations being built in the Holy Land and positive actions that we witnessed that the dominant media may not report. I also hope to inspire others who have hope and who move from a sense that all beings are sacred and all life is sacred and our *Shalom* depends upon that realization, which should guide all our actions.

Last, but not least, please join with me in sending love and prayers to my cousin, Rivka in Haifa, who could only be with us for a brief time. Her pain is all our pain, the family she cares for is not able to leave when times are difficult. For them and for all our loved ones near and far, I dedicate these efforts to work toward the greater and lasting peace. ■

Susan Nechama is a Durango Colorado Dance leader. She devotes herself to family, physical therapy work, deepening in Jewish spiritual practice and to interfaith efforts in her community and abroad.



Dance circle at Merhav'Ya Center, the home of Rabbi Ohad Ezrahi in the village of Rosh Pina in the Galilee.

from all different points of reference, the common effort to lay aside our differences, who is right or wrong, who is to blame, and to move ahead with reconciliation and healing and building a present and future peaceful way.

Our women's contingency went on to Nazareth where we celebrated the opening of a Women's Center bringing together Israeli and Palestinian Jewish, Muslim and Christian women. The gathering of this group had been a dream for three years. The Dances were very successful as an opener to building relationships. We sang sacred phrases from different traditions in Hebrew, Arabic, Spanish, Sanskrit, Hawaiian and English. In a listening circle each of the women shared feelings, and a profound gratitude was experienced by all. It was very moving and my sense is that something very powerful happened and will be happening there.

FILM

Yeru Shalom, the trailer to the film Kelsey Sheely is making from his trip to Israel, is viewable on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzqNBcOZdeg>

LET THE FEAST BEGIN

Let the Feast Begin
Like a squirrel saving nuts
for a rainy day
I've hoarded my blessings
fearing famine
fearing I'll wake up
in the dead of winter
with a terrible hunger
and now I've got nuts galore
too many to eat alone
come
open up my hiding places
those secret pantries
reveal my bounty
spread the table
invite everyone
let the feast begin

Kirtan Manwoman
BC, Canada

QUAN YIN*

In the time of unspeakable grief,
she waits.

Not knowing villain or victim,
she watches.

Her arms open wide,
invisible
except for the light,
which does shine through
the dark cloud,
the dark dream,
the dark night,
she listens.

Judith Munira Avinger
Lac Brome, Quebec

*She Who Hears the Cries of the World,
9/14/01, from **Hidden/Caché**,
Borealis Press, 2003



Quan Yin. Photo: Hilal Roxy Pickering

SPEAKING OUT Against Stereotypical Thinking

by Lucy Zarifah Oliver

On July 10, 2007, I was unhappy about a political cartoon appearing in the local Asheville, NC daily paper. The picture showed a Middle-Eastern looking physician asking a patient to say "Allah" as he placed a tongue depressor in the patient's mouth; and the caption said: "How to tell if your physician is a terrorist." I felt moved to respond. I wrote a letter to the editor. The length of the letter exceeded the 200-word maximum for letters, so the editor encouraged me to increase the length to meet the 400-word minimum for a guest column, which was published on July 30. I began by saying I was distressed with the cartoon, which I found to be both ignorant and misleading, and continued as follows:

Allah is the Arabic word for the Holy One, and is shared by Arabic speakers whether Muslim or Christian, and possibly other faiths naming the Holy One. The English word God derives from the German word *gut*, which means good. Speaking the word *Allah* will open the throat appropriately for a physical examination, while speaking the word God or most of the Hebrew names for the One who is Many and is not to be named won't achieve the desired medical result.

Jews, Muslims, and Christians are all People of the Book, and share a common heritage of similar stories found both in the Jewish Bible and the Koran. To depict all Arabic speakers as terrorists is not only ignorant and misleading, but is also moving away from tolerance, peace, and understanding toward indiscriminate blame and mass hysteria. The percentage of Muslims who are terrorists is probably less than 5%. There is nothing in the Koran or the basic tenets of Islam to support hatred and violence. However, as we all know, any sacred scripture can be quoted out of context to support a variety of positions. Most of us are probably cognizant of how much controversy has been generated within the Christian church over various interpretations of both the Jewish and Christian scriptures. Christians have a long history of specific passages leading

to splits and schisms. We should remember most Christians read their scriptures in translation, which opens interpretation to even more disagreement. While Jewish scholars read the Bible in Hebrew, the centuries of Midrash show a similar variety of exegetical approaches, though perhaps not as much schism.

My studies and experience as an interfaith seeker and leader have led me to believe no one person can speak for the Jews, the Christians, or the Muslims. I would encourage you to be more careful about publishing material that stereotypes an entire faith group. One common stereotype of Jews is of scholars huddled over a pile of books, devoting their lives to study of the Torah; yet we know that not all Jews are scholars, even though I would venture to guess the percentage of Jews who are scholars is much higher than the percentage of Muslims who are terrorists. Jesus quoted directly from the Hebrew scripture when he encouraged his followers to love one's neighbor as oneself. Later epistle authors also encouraged the fledgling Christians to love one another. The centuries have shown this stereotype of Christians loving each other to be one that hasn't held up. Therefore, a depiction of all Muslim physicians, Muslims as a whole, or Arabic speakers of whatever faith, as terrorists can only be assessed as ignorant and misleading. ■

Lucy Zarifah Oliver leads dances in Asheville, NC. Her heart's desire is unity among The Tent of Abraham faiths. She believes such unity, along with peace and tolerance, will manifest when the women of the three faiths open their hearts to each other in sharing their individual faith journeys.

Jesus, Won't You Come By Here

*Chords for guitar, capo second fret

Words and Music: Traditional Christian
Movements: Abram VanDover

1 D/C* G/F

Je - sus won't you come by here, oh-oh, Je - sus won't you

D/C 2 D/C 3 A/G

come by here, Je - sus won't you come by here.

4 D/C G/F D/C

Now is a nee-ded time, oh-oh, Now is a nee-ded time,

5 D/C A/G A/G 6 D/C

Now is a nee - ded time.

This Dance is a simple, yet powerful and heartfelt invocation of the healing presence of the great teacher. Also, we are reminded that this presence can be found within our own hearts. The Gospel songs provide a means of expressing the deep longing for the Divine and the weariness of life in the world.

As we sing, we may feel inspired and uplifted, as well as a sense of togetherness.

1. Holding hands in the circle, take four “modified sidesteps” (see below) to the right.
2. Take four steps in to the center, raising hands (at their highest point on “by”).
3. Take four steps out, lowering hands.
4. Holding hands in the circle, take four modified sidesteps to the left.
5. Let go of hands and take four steps back (out), raising the hands to the heart.
6. Take four steps in while lowering hands, and then join hands.

The “modified sidestep” used in this Dance is accomplished by turning the body halfway towards the direction of travel. As the leading foot steps out, lean the upper body into the step a little. As the trailing foot is brought up to meet the leading foot, the body returns to upright. This creates a rocking motion not found in a standard sidestep.

One may add variety to the Dance by having men and women alternate in singing, by having the dancers hum, and by going on the breath, if music is available. As we embrace this Dance, we can remember to honor the contributions of the many souls who have carried the Gospel tradition forward to the present time.

that the end was near, she was honest about that fact, even when people were hesitant to say that they were coming to say goodbye. She was very clear about what they were doing and appreciative that so many people came. She was expressive to those who had had conflict with her in the past. She was able to let them know that anything that they were struggling with in their hearts about their relationship with her was clear; washed away.

It's amazing how death has a way of making all those little things in daily life seem so little and helps us recognize that the love we feel for each other is bigger than all the conflicts. I often think about the Native American saying, "Today is a good day to die." The sentiment reminds us to strive to live life with no unfinished business; that every day should be a good day to die because you have lived each moment with integrity, clarity and nothing to regret. Ayesha, in surrendering to the fact that the body that had housed her spirit for 60+ years was giving out, approached each day and each person with an open heart and the honesty, clarity and forgiveness that come with it.

I think much of her ability to surrender, even in the face of how much she wanted to live, came from her years of doing the Dances of Universal Peace and her Sufi practice. She wanted so much to beat her disease, not only for herself and her family but also so that she would not fail everyone else by going the "traditional route" with surgery and treatments. In the end she surrendered to that fact she was not able to beat the cancer. And while I admire her desire not to fail those she loved, I also see the way she lived with her illness and the way she faced her death as success.

She raised her beautiful daughter in the Dance circle and on the path of Sufism. She leaves behind her daughter Sarah, who is an amazingly beautiful being (and very talented Dance leader), her son-in-law Chris, and her grandson Jonathan. In an incredible picture taken during the last week of her life, that brings tears to my eyes every time, Ayesha has her grandson in the crook of her arm. If you look closely, you'll see them locked in some sort of insiders' gaze, with the same eye closed; both so near the very thin veil.

She was buried in a Sufi way with the help of a Sufi order in their cemetery on a beautiful piece of land in Pennsylvania. That is where her body lies, but her spirit is alive and well in the Dances that she loved and in those who remember her, and especially in her daughter and baby grandson. May her memory be a blessing and may her grandson's life also be a blessing.

Most of the Dances I lead, I learned from Ayesha. When I was in Ithaca this past summer, we had a group sharing about Ayesha that validated in our small group how much she had touched each of us in her living and in her dying. At that gathering I led the Dance of gratitude, *Sufi Ahmed Murad Chisti, Shakur Allah Shakur*, and I had a clear image of Ayesha and Murshid SAM above us laughing big belly laughs together. That was a powerful image and it is how I like to remember Ayesha. ■

Naomi Wilansky is a Dance leader, wife to a wonderful musician, mother to a nine-year-old dancing/singing girl, social worker in private practice and Jewish woman very involved in her synagogue working to make "he/she is a good Jew" be as common a phrase as, "he/she is a good Christian" in Normal, Illinois.

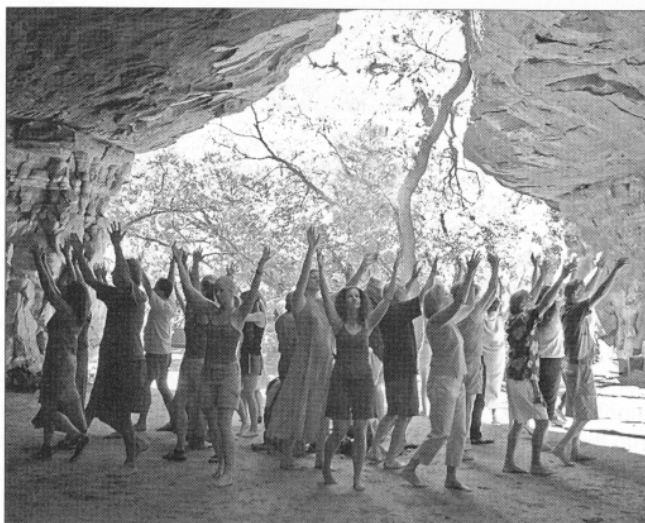


Photo: Bob Spencer

All Praise to the One, Canyonlands Dance Retreat, September 2007.

Leading Dances of Universal Peace as a Buddhist cont'd from page 15

water manifests itself as waves, it never loses its intrinsic nature as water. At the same time, it indubitably appears as waves.³

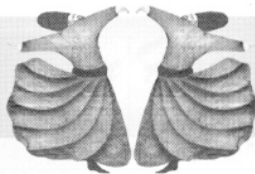
If we substitute the variety of religious traditions for the waves and the One for the water, this analogy can illustrate how both the differences (waves) and the One (water) exist together in absolute unity. Thus to recognize and celebrate all the enchanting variety of religious traditions is really to show the One in its magnificence and splendor. This has been my own experience. As I deepen in my practice, the differences between spiritual traditions are highlighted, and so is their fundamental unity. My sense of the beautiful particularity of the individual person, ritual, custom, or religious phrase coexisting with the absolute indivisibility of the One grows stronger. In fact, the word "co-exist" is not adequate, really, to express the total identity of the individual and the whole in which the individual never loses its unique particularity, and the whole seamlessly encompasses each and every particularity.

This realization, I think, gives dance leaders great freedom of expression. While some leaders may emphasize dances from their own traditions, incorporating teachings and practices from that tradition as appropriate, we know that this does not mean a lack of universality, but quite the opposite, it is showing the One in the depth and singularity of a particular understanding. All of us know that each dance led from the heart of our individual beings and of our own particular spiritual paths is a prayer to the One at the core of them all. This in no way denies the importance of knowing and leading dances from many religious traditions, which is a key requirement of dance leaders. A dance leader, leading from the core of his or her spiritual path, shows equally how the dances from her own tradition and the dances from all the traditions display the One in all its majesty. ■

Nathalie Sorensen, a newly certified Dance Leader, has been one of the leaders of the Dances in Kingston, Ontario, since 1994. A retired college teacher, she is a photographer, poet and gardener.

³Cook, Francis H. (1977). *Hua-yen Buddhism The Jewel Net of Indra*. University Park and London: The Pennsylvania State University Press.

Co-Creation



BY ANJAHLI PATTI STRATTON

I live in the middle of the Pacific on the big island of Hawaii, the home of an active volcano close to where Lila Flood leads monthly dances. On the Kona side of the island, (where the world class coffee originates) we also meet once a month to celebrate the Dances of Universal Peace. We have several dance leaders who travel off-island frequently, a leader from Europe who is with us six months of the year, plus the occasional visiting dance leader. Together we co-create a dance meeting every month allowing space for fresh ideas and new leaders to step into the circle for the first time. Our dance mentor, Amara Wahaba Karuna, who lives here as well, holds dance leadership training sessions on a regular basis.

Our starting point is always: Who's available to lead this month? What follows is: Who will be the coordinator? And then: What is the theme of the dance meeting this month? The process isn't necessarily seamless or harmonious. That is our challenge. Peace is an easy reflection of loving, compassionate people; but not always made manifest in the moment. We have feelings. And these feelings, together with expectations, lead us to the false –

the nitty-gritty of why we're on earth dealing with the physical plane. To dance your prayers and recognize the divinity in every person and all situations means conflict resolution is key when a shadow-side issue raises its ugly head.



Photo: Dale Blindheim

Calligraphy by Hakima Tomi Greentree (MO)

What if we have time for one Zikr dance near the end of our program, and the person who had that slot last month wishes to lead the same Zikr again, but I really want to lead a Zikr dance. We could (and we did) get into a mental/emotional tangle at the rehearsal, which carried on for a couple of days. How do these situations play out? My first reaction was to contact my mentor. Amara suggested explaining that it is preferable to vary the dances; so I phoned the dance leader with the best of intentions for harmonious communication, only to end up in a bitter argument. That wounded place inside, when push comes to shove, resorted to shouting out my bottom-line irrational defense. "Well, my mother used to tell me I was (too terrible to mention)." The patterned response that lets someone know we're damaged goods, and how could we possibly deal with this situation in any other way. So here we were, dealing with unresolved childhood experiences while striving in our adult lives to create "the perfection of love, harmony and beauty."

This is our challenge, to hear and acknowledge the wounded places in our hearts. To accept *La illaha il Allah*, and to accept that the collective consciousness is the sum total of every wound, every joy, every broken balloon and every bowl of ice cream. Everything is the Divine.

The compassionate heart, the one that remembers (eventually) to let go of the hurt and truly grow. The merciful mind that is able to finally look at troubled thoughts to create a new pattern in response to life. The Dances of Universal Peace are such an amazing training ground to develop and practice true leadership skills beyond teaching a song and dance. That is our challenge and co-creation is a wonderful practice to lead us from the false to the real.

On the following page are the guidelines we find useful to co-create a dance meeting. ■

A TEACHING FROM HAZRAT INAYAT KHAN

There are two ways in which we may attain control over our activity. The first is confidence in the power of our own will; to know that if we have failed today, tomorrow we will not do so. The second is to have our eyes wide open, and to watch keenly our activity in all aspects of life. It is in the dark that we fall, but in the light we can see where we are going. So it is in life: we should have our eyes wide open to see where we walk.

We should study life, and seek to know why we say a thing, and why we act as we do. We have failed perhaps hitherto because we have not been wide awake. We have fallen, and felt sorry, and have forgotten all about it, and perhaps may have fallen again. This is because we have not studied life. A study of life is the greatest of all religions, and there is no greater and more interesting study. Those who have mastered all grades of activity, they above all, experience life in all its aspects. They are like swimmers in the sea who float on the water of life and do not sink. 🐟

COMMENTARY BY MURSHIDA LEILAH BE

First we have to have an interest in understanding why we say the things we say and act in the ways we do. We have to be motivated to gain control over our thoughts, words and actions. Certainly we all think that we are. One may quickly think, "Of course, that's important to me." We must pause and seek to understand our minds to be certain that we are willing to do the work that it will take to know the mind and to release reactive tendencies. Be the watcher, the witness of all that you say and do, of all the thoughts that come and go. Otherwise we just keep stumbling over the same difficulties and the results will not change. In what way can we bring the light of awareness to that which is not awake? What is it that motivates us to say what we say and to do what we habitually do? A state of well being naturally arises when we can let go of habitual activity that is not beneficial to us. Bliss awaits those who do so. 🐟

HELPFUL GUIDELINES FOR CO-CREATING A DANCE MEETING

General

- One person to coordinate the DUP meeting
- Coordinator contacts leaders/musicians to set rehearsal time and venue
- Set schedule of dances after input from all leaders

Rehearsal

- When possible, set a time before dance meeting
- Coordinator to contact leaders/musicians about when and where
- If not able to make the rehearsal, practice the dance(s) you select
- All dance leaders to be present at venue one half hour before dance meeting
- If not able to make rehearsal, contact coordinator to advise of dances

Musicians

- Dance leader may choose who is to play for each dance selected
- Please attend rehearsal and/or be at dance meeting one half hour early to rehearse

DUP MEETING

Rehearsal

- Gather half an hour early at venue
- Prepare altar (pictures of teachers, flowers, sacred items, candle), musicians tune
- Leaders and musicians circle to attune with invocation/prayers
- Review program, practice dance snippets
- Welcome early-birds

Opening

- Please start on time
- Walk * Invocation * Welcome everyone * Brief history of DUP

Dances

- When it is your turn to lead, you may choose another selection
- Please do not interrupt another leader except to ask a question
- Seal each dance with a phrase or word: Amin, Amen, Svaha, Blessed Be, etc.

Readings

- Please only short readings that add to the attunement of a dance

Musicians

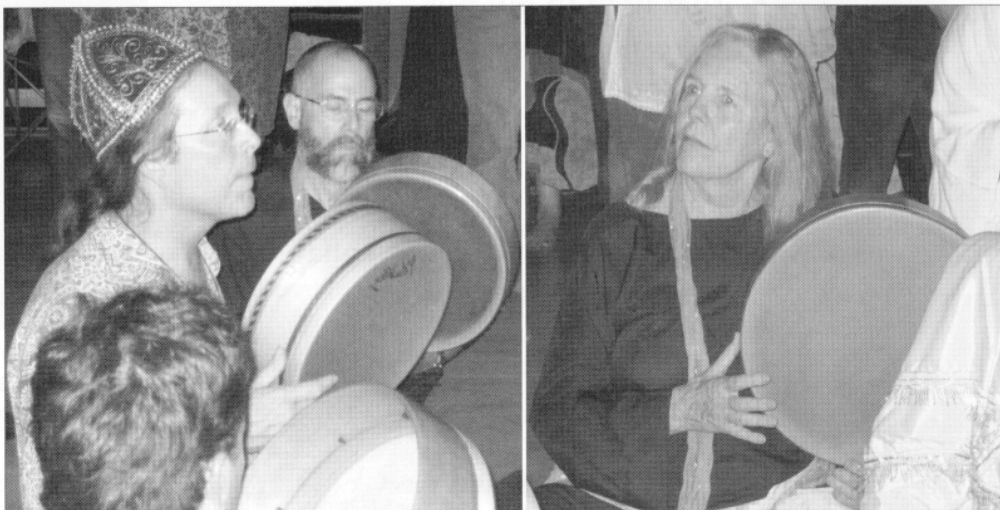
- Dance leader may choose who is to play for each dance selected
- Please attend rehearsal and/or be at dance meeting one half hour early to rehearse
- Important!** Please keep eye on leader for tempo change, voices or musicians only, etc.

Closing

- Be mindful of time, please end dancing ten minutes before end time
- Close circle chanting *Hu* while bending at the waist
- Thank people for attending DUP
- We ask for a suggested donation to cover rent and to maintain dances
- Ask for announcements – Please only brief Sufi/DUP related announcements
- Dervish Kiss * Hugs

Anjahli is a massage therapist and coffee farmer who divides her time between the island of Hawaii and the Blue Mountains of Jamaica.

Photos: Neshamah Emi Miller



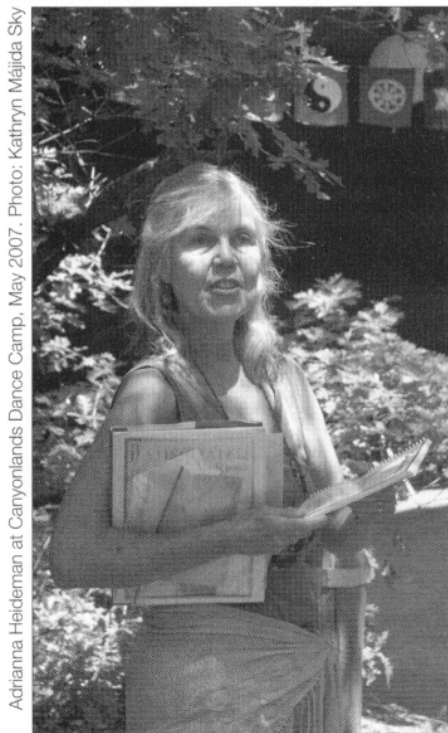
Allaudin Ottinger and drummers (left) and Asha Greer (right) at the Mendocino Sufi Camp, July 2007.

Syncopated Bismillah

Words: Traditional Islamic
Music and Movements: Fattah Kriner

1. Take hands in circle. Circle moves to the right beginning on the right foot on the first "lah" with a rocking motion (step in with right foot, back with left).
2. Drop hands and turn individually in a clockwise direction.
3. Turn individually in a counter-clockwise direction, ending up facing the center of the circle and taking hands.

*Fattah Kriner is a singer/songwriter living in Kansas City, MO. "Syncopated Bismillah" is the title song on his CD **Bismillah**, a collection of original dances. To purchase it, contact him at: Fattahkc@aol.com*



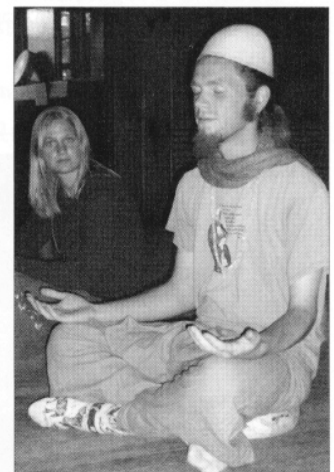
Adrianna Heideman at Canyonlands Dance Camp, May 2007. Photo: Kathryn Majida Sky

Between the victim and the rebel
there is a way called freedom.
I'll meet you there.
And we will smile about the chains
that used to bind us,
triggers that fired the same old pain.

Here in this stillness,
we stand and breathe.
In the middle, the tiny space
between resistance and collapse,
beauty and brokenness,

In that place of freedom
we move, we love, we laugh.

Adrianna Heideman
Hotchkiss, CO



Robin Tala (IN) wearing Murshid SAM's Egyptian dervish hat while Rebecca Marson (MO) looks on.

Photo: Dale Blindheim

GRATITUDE

FOR OUR MANY VOLUNTEERS

This network, which supports the Dances of Universal Peace in North America, is mostly staffed by volunteers, who give however they can to nurture and support the Dances that we love. Many thanks to you all, may you be blessed!

PW-DUPNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mansur Richard Conviser (MT), Lucinda Willes (WY), Patsy Boyer (ID), Jim Grant (CO), Aeolea Wendy Burwell (NY), Khadija Lynn McRee (FL)

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Database and Web: Dave Nur-al-Haqq Walker (CA); Mentor Teachers Guild (MTG): Darvesha Victoria MacDonald (NM), Malika Merrill Endres (CA), Anahata Iradah (Brazil); Retired PW-DUPNA Board members: Carol Hanson (ID), Peter Slonek (IL)

NA JOURNAL STAFF:

Aeolea Wendy Burwell (NY), Jan Lizza (NY), Kathryn Májida Sky (AZ), Pamela Yamuna Devi (CA), Mansur Richard Conviser (MT), Donna Bain (VA), John Bari Ramsey (VA), Taj Eileen Pappalardo (OH), Anjahli Patti Stratton (HI), Khadija Lynn McRee (FL)

CLUSTER COORDINATORS AND AREA CONNECTORS:

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

HayraFatah, Safiya Crane, Quan Yin Lynne Williams, Khalila Cindy Zarzycki, Qahira Beejee Peco Barton, Lyn Wandell, Robert Gluckson, Shemmaho Jephi Sioux, Joanna Sales, Jerry Rounsley

HAWAII

Amara Wahaba Kuruna, Anjahli Patti Stratton, Karen Backinoff, Kachina Pamela Palencia, John Saucedo

WEST REGION

Yarrow Nelson, Joy Mendoza, Sharon Nurjehan Abercrombie, Ellen Kaf-I-Mariam Fietz-Hall, Ananda Bev Hazzard, Tasnim Hermila Fernandez, Lynn Davis, Joyce Belinda Bahati, Violetta Mihaela Sophia Reiser, William A. Prothero, Tui Wilschinsky, Nancy Norris, Jeanne Guttermann

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

Rebecca Nada Davis, Hamida Sandy Susut, Gonnie Siebel, Lucinda Willes, Jimmy Aalen, Grace Marie, Bernie Heideman, Kathryn Májida Sky, Lance Yaqin Sandleben, Joyce Carlson, Cathryn Swan, Darvesha Victoria MacDonald, Tara Andrea Brunjes-Swierkosz and Maboud Charles Swierkosz, Ahad Cobb, David Vargo

MIDWEST REGION

Allaudin Dean Ottinger, Elizabeth Latifa Muller, Carl Karasti, John Hakim Bushnell, Paul Matejcek, Ken Basir McCullough, Cheryl McLeod Darling, Donna Schiller, Sylvia Majid Middlebrooks, Betty Tasnim Demers, Jane Sky, Carolyn Horvath, Tom Leonhardt, Hilal Basha Jane Smirniotopolous, Yasmin Germaine Haut, Joann Calabrese, Sura Gail Tala, Ella Peregrine

EAST REGION

Kathryn Ashera Sprowls, Melody Safia Lubich, Sky Bear Daniel Flesko, Patty Wells, Yasmin Germaine Haut, Joann Calabrese, Farid Robert Gruber, Diane Olden, Aeolea Wendy Burwell, Charles Demorest, Mylene Poitras-Demorest, Nicholas Leonardo Lizza, Michael Malik Rosenblum, Jeanne Alima Ross, Elaine Beatrice McGillicuddy, Munira Judith Avinger

SOUTH REGION

Amina Rae Horton, Khabir Don Kitz, Diana Anahita Kanoy, Jemila Janice Felisko, Ella Johnson, Nirtana Teri Lee Thompson, Amina Linda McMakin, Shirin Julie Purcell, Lucy Zarifah Oliver

OTHER VOLUNTEERS:

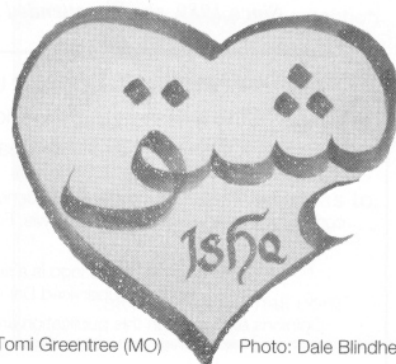
Tasnim Janice Burton (NY), Financial Manager; Grace Marie, assistance with facilitation and agenda for the 2007 regional meeting

HOLIDAY CARD VOLUNTEERS:

Amara Wahaba Karuna, artwork; Brian Dina, layout and design. Holiday Card Circles: Donna Schiller and the Morton Grove circle (IL); Aeolea Wendy Burwell and the Rochester circle (NY); Lucy Zarifah Oliver and the Asheville circle (NC); Violetta Reiser, San Francisco (CA); Joy Mendoza and the Chico circle (CA); Rebecca Nada Davis and the Boise circle (ID); Martha Bracken and the Seattle circle (WA); Kathryn Májida Sky, White Mountain Lake (AZ); Robin Mallor and the Columbiaville circle (MI); Lucinda Willes, Jackson (WY); Jim Grant and the Fort Collins circle (CO); Mary Frances Uikcer, IHM

REGIONAL MEETING ATTENDEES:

PW-DUPNA Board of Directors, Pamela Yamuna Devi (CA), Donna Bain (VA), Tasnim Janice Burton (NY), Safiya Crane (WA), HayraFatah (WA), Jemila Felisko (FL), Dan Gallagher (WI), Farid Gruber (NY), Amina Rae Horton (LA), Sister Marie Kopin (MI), Melody Lubich (VA), Robin Mallor (MI), Grace Marie (CO), Amina Linda McMakin (SC), Malika Merrill Endres (CA), Phil Noterman (WA), Taj Eileen Pappalardo (OH), Shirin Julie Purcell (NC), Donna Schiller (IL), Kathryn Ashera Sprowls (VA), Anjahli Patti Stratton (HI), Abraham and Halima Sussman (MA), Tajali Tolan (WI), Patty Wells (MD)



Calligraphy by Hakima Tomi Greentree (MO)

Photo: Dale Blindheim

I come into the present moment with others, or am I still reviewing what happened at work or with my family? Can I bring a heart of love and openness to the circle or am I spreading confusion and disharmony? Am I able to listen to others and make an effort to blend my voice with everyone else, or am I trying to stand out by loudly singing a harmony or counterpart? Am I patiently listening to the dance leader explain the dance, or am I spontaneously shouting out questions? These are ways I can demonstrate kindness, peace, and consideration of others.

While I'm in this special circle, can I observe ways to assist the dance leader? Am I able to bring patient and compassionate assistance to less experienced dancers? If I already know the dance, do I remain respectfully quiet and allow the dance leader to teach it while curbing my own desire to chatter? Perhaps it's a dance I know well, do I sing like a rote parrot with my mind wandering off, or can I infuse the familiar words with a new depth of meaning bringing them to life imbued with emotion and clear mental focus? Do I always seek to stand next to my best friend, or can I position myself amid several new dancers? Additionally, how do I move my body? Are my movements conscious and filled with intention that reflects the meaning of the words? Does the person next to me feel like they're dancing next to an elephant or a feather? Do I move with gentleness and grace? These are ways to practice self-discipline, and peaceful cooperation.

And on a deeper level, can I radiate presence? As I dance with each partner, am I soft in my gaze, remembering to see the Beloved before me? Am I moving towards unity, or am I projecting something toward the other because I don't like the way they look? Am I consciously moving toward connecting through my heart with each partner? Am I able to radiate: "We are One," or "You are a beautiful representation of Spirit," or "There is nothing but God?"

Just keeping these intentions in my awareness is a practice of radiating presence and brings a loving heart of compassion into the circle as I consciously embody clear intentions.

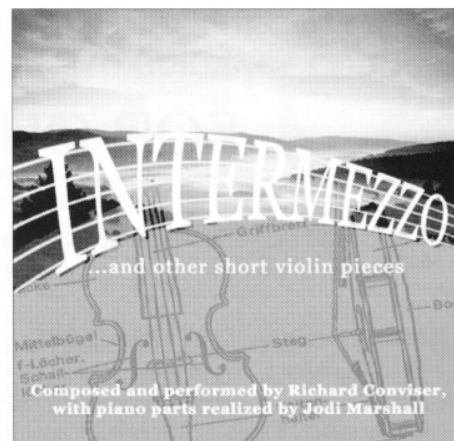
After the dance circle, the questions continue. Do I carry a sense of love and peace home to my family or roommate? Do I demonstrate peace and patience with my co-workers? Do I radiate calmness and awareness of the One when the evening news comes on?

I'm aware also that the dance circle gives us the opportunity to actively participate in the oral tradition. This very special form (largely lost in our culture), requires us to have discipline and concentration. We discipline ourselves to listen with our full attention. Focusing in concentration can help with fine-tuning of pronunciation of different languages. A desire to develop these abilities demonstrates our openness and receptivity and is our gift to the community of the circle. I believe that the more we can deepen into concentration and contemplation, the more we can move towards a peaceful state. In the future, perhaps "dance deepening" workshops could be developed that would help us discover even more tools that we might use to bring greater depth to both our personal practice and to our dance circles.

In a society where individualism and independence are practically drilled into us, the dance circle allows us to practice community and ritual. As everyone's right foot steps into the circle simultaneously, we can move out of the small self and become part of a single "multi-celled" organism – many hearts become one heart, many hands become one circle. Connecting energetically with others in this way allows us the opportunity to release our narcissism and create a unique energy field of peace and harmony that spreads healing and unity as it goes out into the world.

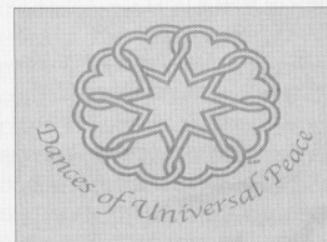
Perhaps these shared insights and questions will inspire you in your "practice" in the dance circle. ■

Cimarron is a certified reflexologist and calls the Colorado Front Range region her home. Since 1989, she has attended many dance circles and camps.



Now available, a new CD of original pieces for violin and piano by Mansur Richard Conviser. 75 minutes of music to listen to or move by. \$16 postpaid. Please mail orders to 2780 Lorraine Drive, Missoula, MT 59803 or send an email to pitchfixer @mac.com

Dances of Universal Peace T-Shirts, Pins etc...



T-shirts are 100% cotton,
Columbia Blue, short sleeves
\$15/members; \$20/non-members

Colorful banners, heart pins
& beautiful greeting cards, too!

For more info or to order,
contact the PW-DUPNA office:
(760) 922-2551

naoffice@dancesofuniversalpeace.org

PeaceWorks - Dances of Universal Peace, North America Board of Directors' Statement of Purpose:
We serve the message of peace, love, and harmony by joining hands with Dancers across the North American region to create sacred community in the service of universal peace.

PeaceWorks, a non-profit, public benefit corporation, was founded in 1982 to offer the Dances of Universal Peace to the global community, continuing this legacy of Samuel L. Lewis. For membership information, see above. For information regarding the Dances, events, or our publications, contact the Regional Networker or the administrative office.

The circle of hearts logo is a service mark registered to PeaceWorks, Inc. Its use is limited to official business and members who are supervised Dance leaders. Contact the administrative office for a copy of the full logo policy statement.

Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual writers and not of the International Network for the Dances of Universal Peace, the International Council, the PeaceWorks, Inc. Board of Directors, or of the Mentor Teachers Guild for the Dances of Universal Peace.

JOIN THE NORTH AMERICAN REGION OF THE DANCE NETWORK!

Your membership entitles you to our annual international newsletter, your regional newsletter, the membership directory, registration priority, and discounts on Dance events. There are many additional reasons why people join. Often mentioned is the sense of helping to support the Dances so that more people can share in the experience. *For Canadian rates, contact the office.*

THERE ARE THREE WAYS YOU CAN JOIN:

Online: www.dancesofuniversalpeace.org/na/network/join.html

Mail: PW-DUPNA Office, PO Box 1401, Blythe, CA 92226-1401 USA

Call: (760) 922-2551

YEARLY MEMBERSHIPS: Benefactor - \$500 | Friend - \$100 |
Couple - \$90 | Associate - \$80 | Regular - \$60 | Low Income - \$40

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS: Individual - \$2,000 | Couple - \$3,000

HEART PINS

Receive a FREE*
heart pin with
membership purchase,
through October 2008.



Encourage your family and friends
to become NA Network Members
today! If you are already a member
and would like to purchase a Heart
Pin, they are available for \$5 each.
To order, contact the Regional
Administrator at the PW-DUPNA
office: (760) 922-2551.

**Offer good only for
new memberships, not renewals,
while supplies last.*

ONGOING DANCE CIRCLES

For complete details, please visit:
www.dancesofuniversalpeace.org/na/dances

CANADA

Banff: Occasional Dates. Lisa Nur-Alima Hurst-Archer, 403-762-2383;
hurstarcher@yahoo.ca

Edmonton: 2nd & 4th Thur, 7:30pm (Sep-Jun). Brenda Khalisa Spencer,
780-467-1285; brendas@connect.ab.ca

Nelson: 1st Sun, 3pm. Stuart McKinnon, 250-825-0012; NelsonDances@shaw.ca

Parksville, Vancouver Island: Twice a Month. Joanna Sales, 250-752-4816;
joanna@glasswing.com

South Slokan: One Sun a Month. Shemmaho Jephi Sioux, 250-355-2591;
shemmaho@gmail.com

Vancouver: 3rd Fri, 8pm (Sep-Jun). Amir Peter O'Loughlin, 604-874-5323;
peterchloe@shaw.ca

Victoria: 1st Tue, 7:30pm. Nirtan Carol Sokoloff, 250-385-3378; casjazz@islandnet.com

Kingston: 2nd Fri, 7pm (Sep-May). Connie Brobeck, 613-634-8910;
connie.brobeck@queensu.ca

Ottawa: One Sat a Month, 7pm. Marlene Shafia Qalbee Neufeld, 613-594-9248;
neufeldm@magma.ca

Pembroke: 2nd Sun, 7pm. Joanne Murray, 613-333-5534; joandken@fyrelytte.net

Toronto: 1st Tue, 7:30pm. Qahira Jo Oppenheimer, 416-778-0473;
jo_oppenheimer@hotmail.com

Montreal: 2nd Tue, 7pm. Helga Schlee, 514-484-9314; hschlee@yahoo.com

West Brome: Occasional Dates. Munira Judith Avinger, 450-263-6685;
javinger@serti.com

ALASKA

Juneau: Every Sun, 6:30pm. Aatoon Nina Massey, 907-463-4627; aatoon@alaska.net

ARIZONA

Cottonwood: Last Sat, 7pm. Cathryn Tezha Swann, 928-634-1696;
shakura@commspeed.net

Phoenix (Tempe): 2nd & Last Sat, 7:30pm. Joyce Carlson, 480-250-1888;
painter4hire@cox.net

Prescott: 3rd Sat, 7pm. Lance Yaqin Sandleben, 928-445-6506;
lsandleben@qwest.net

Sedona: 2nd Sat, 7pm. Cathryn Tezha Swann, 928-634-1696;
shakura@commspeed.net

Snowflake: 2nd Sun, 2pm. Wren Kothrade, 928-536-4910; kothrades@hotmail.com

Tucson: 3rd Sat, 7pm. Janine Jamia Walter, 520-979-0278; yamalika@yahoo.com

ARKANSAS

Deer: 1st Sat, 7:30pm. Khabir Don Kitz, 870-428-5503; doorguide@yahoo.com

Fayetteville: 2nd & 4th Fri, 7:30pm. Sebastian Brian Jones, 479-527-9130

CALIFORNIA

Berkeley: 3rd Fri, 7:30pm. Frank Fazl Olivier, 510-525-0565; frank@funnyfrank.com

Chico: Once a Month, 7pm. Joy Mendoza, 530-891-8789; paradisesufi@yahoo.com

Eureka: 1st, 3rd & 5th Sun, 7pm. Ananda Bev Hazzard, 707-826-7575;
ananda49@suddenlink.net

Fairfax: (zikr/dances) 1st, 3rd, & 5th Wed, 8pm (Sep-Jul). Kyra Epstein,
415-690-9603; kyra@kyraepstein.com

Fresno: 1st Fri, 7pm. Ellen Bush, 559-431-1462; milandra@comcast.net

Laguna Beach: 1st Sat, 7:30pm. Habiba Olivia Batchelder, 949-494-7539;
lagunadances@cox.net

Marin (San Anselmo): 1st Fri, 7:30pm. Ayat Kindschi, 415-383-3018;
peacedance2003@yahoo.com

Nevada City: Various Sun, 6pm. Ellen Kaf-i-Mariam Fietz Hall, 530-478-0320;
ringsofbeing@hotmail.com

Palo Alto: 2nd & 4th Sat, 7:30pm. Jan Fisher, 650-368-6121; janfisher@aol.com

Paradise: Once a Month, 7pm. Joy Mendoza, 530-891-8789; paradisesufi@yahoo.com

Pleasant Hill: 2nd Sat, 7pm. SierraLynne White, 925-685-2409;
pathwork@comcast.net

Potter Valley: 3rd Sun, 10:30am. Carol Crandall, 707-743-1624;
homeartscience@juno.com

Sacramento: 2nd Fri, 7:30pm. Joyce Belinda Bahati, 916-832-4630;
chaplainbahati@yahoo.com

Sacramento: 4th Fri, 7pm. Christine Manz, 916-457-5855; cmanz@surewest.net

San Diego: 2nd Sat, 7:30pm. Louise Jacobus, 619-667-3511;
louisejacobus@earthlink.net

San Francisco: 2nd Sun, 1pm. Neshamah Emi Miller, 415-453-3003;
neshamah.emi@sbcglobal.net

San Francisco: 4th Sun, 11am. Perry Wali Pike, 510-323-2632;
perrito_wali@yahoo.com

San Jose: 1st Fri, 8pm. Marilyn Saravati Carstens, 408-265-8937;
marilynn.carstens@sbcglobal.net

San Jose: 1st Sun, 7:30pm, (Oct-Jun). Selim Michael Turnor, 408-945-9854;
selimturnor@cs.com

San Luis Obispo: One Sat a Month, 7:30pm. Yarrow Nelson, 805-438-3662;
yarrownelson@gmail.com

Santa Cruz: Every Sun, 7pm. Nancy Norris, 831-336-8461; healingvib@aol.com

Santa Cruz (Aptos): 1st Thur, 7:30pm. Junayad Jim Moore, 831-426-6388;
coachng@pacbell.net

Santa Rosa: 1st & 3rd Mon, 8pm. Muiz Brinkerhoff, 707-526-4905; muiz@sonic.net

Sebastopol: 2nd & 4th Sun, 11am. Tui Wilschinsky, 707-829-8212;
ishq@sbcglobal.net

Willits: 1st Wed, 7pm. Lynn Davis, 707-459-9085; slynnedavis@earthlink.net

COLORADO

Alamosa: Occasional Dates, 4pm. Anne Stanwick, 303-575-9660;
anne.stanwick@gmail.com

Boulder: Every Fri, 2nd Sat (Dancing Deeply), 7:15pm. Timothy Dobson,
303-440-5714; timothyDUP@gmail.com

Denver: 1st & 3rd Sun, 7pm. Sara Rain, 970-224-4797; rain@trigoddess.org

Denver: Every Wed, 7:15pm. Timothy Dobson, 303-440-5714; timothyDUP@gmail.com

Denver: (Women's Circle) 4th Tue, 7pm. Sara Rain, 970-224-4797; rain@trigoddess.org

Durango: 2nd & 4th Sat, 7pm. Susan Sheely, 970-779-0979; sss@frontier.net

Estes Park: Occasional Dates. Mary Ellen Garrett, 303-415-2770;
mellenmail@yahoo.com

COLORADO cont'd

Fort Collins: 1st & 3rd Tue, 7:15pm. Sára Rain, 970-224-4797; rain@trigoddess.org
Fort Collins: Every Thur, 7:30pm. Grace Marie, 970-498-8422; grace@ezlink.com
Grand Junction: 2nd Sat, 7:30pm. Bernie Heideman, 970-872-2172;
 heideman@paonia.com

Hotchkiss: Once a Month, 7:30pm. Bernie Heideman, 970-872-2172;
 heideman@paonia.com

Leadville: 3rd or 4th Sun, 6:30pm. Alison Lufkin, 719-486-9408; lufkinali@hotmail.com

Loveland: 2nd Tue, 7pm. Sára Rain, 970-224-4797; rain@trigoddess.org

Nederland & Ward: Occasional Dates. Sandy Cruz, 303-459-3494

Salida: 1st Fri, 7:30pm. Bob Screws, 720-365-1715; wonder_bob@msn.com

CONNECTICUT

Ledyard: 2nd Sun, 5pm. William Shems Guillow, 860-444-7817; smguillow@snet.net

New London: 4th Sun, 6pm. Wm Shems Guillow, 860-444-7817; smguillow@snet.net

FLORIDA

Gainesville: 2nd Fri, 8pm. Cindy Bergbower, 352-373-7963;
 headandheart@hotmail.com

Jacksonville: Occasional Dates. Judith Elia, 321-917-1579; judithelia@aol.com

Lake Worth: Occasional Dates. Greg Amin Boster, 561-588-8286; bosterg@bellsouth.net

Miami (Coral Gables): 1st & 3rd Tue, 7:30pm (Sep-May). Hank Poor, 305-252-3540;
 hpoor@bellsouth.net

Ocala/Marion County: 4th Sat, 3pm. Diana Anahita Kanoy, 352-546-1017;
 FLRetreats@gmail.com

Orlando: Once a Month, 4pm. Steve Hawkins, 407-889-7403; orchidspecial@aol.com

Ormond Beach: Once a Month, 3pm. Jemila Janice Felisko, 386-253-2284;
 jemila11@bellsouth.net

Sarasota: 1st Sat, 8pm (Sep-May). Susan Safiya Slack, 941-378-9849;
 peaceinacircle@gmail.com

Tallahassee: 1st Sat, 7:30pm. Tom Rahim Taylor, 850-656-9321; ttaylor@fsu.edu

HAWAII

Big Island/Kona: Last Fri, 6pm. Patti Anjahli Stratton, 808-989-2135;
 pjstrat@hawaii.rr.com

Big Island/Puna: 2nd Weekend, 7pm. Amara Wahaba Karuna, 808-982-6755;
 amara@mindspring.com

Big Island/Volcano: Last Sun, 7:30pm. Lila Flood, 808-985-9109; lilaflood@yahoo.com

Big Island/Captain Cook: Occasional Dates, 6pm. Carla Jamila Nur Hannaford,
 808-323-3945; heartconnect44@cs.com

Kauai/Kilauea: Once a Month. Karen Backinoff, 808-828-0416;
 backinoff@hawaiiantel.net

Maui/Makawao (zikr): Most 2nd & 4th Sats, 7:30pm. Leilah Be, 808-573-8334;
 leilah@ipuka.org

Maui/Wailuku: Last Fri, 7pm. Kachina Pamela Palencia, 808-874-7412;
 kachina@mauigateway.com

Oahu/Honolulu: 1st Sat, 7:30pm. John Sausedo, 808-247-3594;
 jwsausedo@hotmail.com

Oahu/Kailua: Occasional Sun, 5pm. Valerie Noor Karima Payton, 808-383-2616;
 yoursmile@hawaii.rr.com

IDAHO

Boise: 2nd & 4th Fri, 7:30pm. Rebecca Nada Davis, 208-338-1384;
 nadamusic@hotmail.com

Moscow: Occasional Dates. Saladin Frank Pelfrey, 208-882-1355;
 walkingthewoods@verizon.net

Pocatello: Occasional Dates. Carol Hanson, 208-232-3464; dance4pc@earthlink.net

Salmon: Occasional Dates. Connie Zareen Delaney, 208-756-3076;
 connie@salmonidaho.com

ILLINOIS

Bloomington/Normal: Occasional Dates, 7:15pm. Naomi Wilansky, 309-825-8818;
 nwilan@yahoo.com

Chicago (Hyde Park): 3rd Thur, 7pm. Rev. Nancy Zoelzer Pfaltzgraf, 708-478-8478;
 revdancer@comcast.net

Mokena: 1st Fri, 10am. Nancy Zoelzer Pfaltzgraf, 708-478-8478;
 revdancer@comcast.net

Naperville: 3rd Tue, 7pm. Ann Kuhn, 630-552-8201; annofplano@mymailstation.com

Oak Park: Occasional. Joseph Kilikevice, OP, 708-848-1095; josephshem@aol.com

Oak Park: 1st Sat, 1pm. Pat Fitzgerald, BVM, 708-386-4667; fitzpl4@aol.com

Park Forest: 2nd Sun, 2pm. Pat Hakima Segner, 708-748-2217; patsegner@yahoo.com

Plainfield: 3rd Sun, 2pm. Rev. Nancy Zoelzer Pfaltzgraf, 708-478-8478;
 revdancer@comcast.net

Rockford: 1st Sat, 7pm. Dori Aziza Kearney, 815-874-2923; goldynlady@aol.com

INDIANA

Bloomington: 3rd Mon, 8pm. Sura Gail Tala, 812-336-4050; suragail@hotmail.com

Evansville: Occasional Dates. Lezlie Ward, 812-868-0176; hellowards@sigeom.net

IOWA

Des Moines: 1st Sun, 5:30pm. Morgan Rivers, 515-473-6240;
 morgan@healingpartners.biz

Iowa City: 2nd Sun, 6:30pm (Sep-May). Alima Virginia Melroy, 319-338-1778;
 virginia-melroy@uiowa.edu

KANSAS

Topeka: 2nd Wed, 7:20pm. Kathleen Erickson, 785-271-2378; kaepz@sbcglobal.net

LOUISIANA

New Orleans: Occasional Dates. Amina Rae Horton, 504-866-1114;
 raeannhorton@yahoo.com

MAINE

Portland: 2nd or 3rd Sat, 7pm. Elaine Beatrice McGillicuddy, 207-797-2151;
 elainebeatrice@maine.rr.com

MARYLAND

Accident: 2nd Tue, 7pm. Patty Wells, 301-746-8526;
 pattywells@conceptassociates.com

Eldersburg: 1st Fri, 7pm. Richard Nur-al-Haqq Martin, 410-215-0328;
 yanur@yahoo.com

Friendsville: 2nd Tue, 7:30pm. Patty Wells, 301-746-8526; nrg@gcnetmail.net

Oella: 2nd Sun, 4:30pm; Family Circle: 2nd Sun, 3pm. Peggy Adams, 410-465-1914;
 adamsmpd@comcast.net

MASSACHUSETTS

Acton: 4th Sat, 8pm. Michael Malik Rosenblum, 978-263-8233;
 rc@mikerosenblum.com

Cambridge: 1st & 3rd Fri (Sep-Jun 6), 7:30pm. Auliya Westcott, 617-776-5767;
 awestcott@aol.com; Abraham Sussman, 617-876-5272; sussman@thecia.net

Cambridge: Dance Deepening, 2nd Thur, 7:30pm. Abraham Sussman,
 617-876-5272; sussman@thecia.net

MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor: 1st Fri, 7pm. Sylvia Majid Middlebrooks, 734-996-1332;
 smidd@comcast.net

Benzonia: Occasional Dates. Betty Tasnim Demers, 231-882-4933;
 betty@llamameadows.com

Farmington: 2nd Sat, 7pm. Mary Frances Uicker, IHM, 248-354-5948;
 mfuihm@worldnet.att.net

Ganges/Fennville: 3rd Sat, 3pm. Jane Sky, 616-887-5138; skyjane55@yahoo.com

Grand Rapids: 3rd Fri, 7:30pm. Jane Sky, 616-887-5138; skyjane55@yahoo.com

Kalamazoo: Occasional Dates. Tom Holmes, 269-330-4267; tom@wingedheart.org

Midland: Occasional Dates. Paul Ali Meyer, 989-799-5033; paulme220@pol.net

Mt. Pleasant: Occasional Dates. Sr. Marie Kopin, CPPS, 989-772-9453;
 mkopin@winntel.net

Oxford: 3rd Sat, 11am. Clifford Dean Scholz, 248-410-1762; cmsch@juno.com

Port Huron: Occasion Dates. Concepcion Gonzales, 810-364-3326;
 fullcircle@advnet.net

MINNESOTA

Duluth: 1st Sat, 7pm (Sep-May). Andrea Suria Gelb, 218-727-8340;
 gelba@co.st-louis.mn.us

St. Paul: 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Sun, 7pm. John Hakim Bushnell, 612-827-4424;
 ruhusir1@aol.com

MISSOURI

Columbia: 2nd & 4th Fri, 7pm. Hakima Tomi Greentree, 573-474-4974;
 stargazer2@centurytel.net

Kansas City: Every Thur, 7:30pm. Allaudin Dean Ottinger, 913-432-3365;
 dottin4303@aol.com

St. Louis: 3rd Fri, 7:30pm. Unity Christ Church.

MONTANA

Bozeman: 3rd Sun, 7pm. Florence Aliya Guest, 406-587-1804;
 Florence@meta4multimedia.com

Hamilton: Zikr, 2nd Wed, 7:30pm. Brian Vayu Jameson, 406-363-4026;
 tsitlali@montana.com

Hamilton: 4th Sat, 7:30pm. Star Subhana Jameson, 406-363-4026;
 tsitlali@montana.com

Missoula: Generally 3rd Fri, 7:30pm (except Jan). Richard Mansur Conviser,
 406-251-3010; pitchfixer@mac.com

NEVADA

Las Vegas: 1st Thur, 7pm. Linda Drucker, 702-240-6275; shantilin@cox.net

Pahrump: Sat after 1st Thur, Alternate Months. Oma Barbara Strasser, 208-255-2273;
 wellnessbiz@earthlink.net

Tecopa Hot Springs: Occasional Dates. Oma Barbara Strasser, 208-255-2273;
 wellnessbiz@earthlink.net

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Barrington: Occasional. Julie Malika Serrano, 207-384-4828;
 onebismillah@msn.com

NEW JERSEY

Summit: Occasional Dates. Andre Uwais Bernard, 973-635-0042; arnd2@aol.com

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque: 3rd Fri, 7pm. Shahida Mary Rose Bennett, 505-265-9662; axis505@aol.com

Santa Fe: 1st Sun, 5:30pm (Oct-May). Maboud Charles Swierkosz, 505-438-0820; maboud@cybermesa.com

Silver City: 2nd & 4th Sat, 7pm. Darvesha Victoria MacDonald, 505-574-2733; darvesh@starband.net

Taos: 2nd Sun, 7pm. David Vargo, 505-737-2111; davypresence@hotmail.com

NEW YORK

Albany: 2nd or 3rd Sat, 7pm (Sep-Jun). Farid Robert Gruber, 518-392-9718; farid@taconic.net

Bridgehampton: 4th Sat, 5pm. Deirdre LaPenna, 631-725-7343; deidrehum@verizon.net

Buffalo: Occasional Dates, 7pm. Anna Marie Sinatra, 716-627-6545; angelanna2222@yahoo.com

Buffalo: 3rd Wed, 7:30pm. Linda Noor Nicolai, 716-883-1275; nicolai@buffnet.net

Ithaca: 1st Sat, 7:15pm. Diane Olden, 607-272-7582; dianeolden@hotmail.com

New Lebanon: 1st Fri, 7:30pm. Sarmad Michael Tide, 518-794-0096; sarmad@sufiorder.org

New York City: 3rd Fri, 7:30pm. Khadija Julia Goforth, 646-924-9957; halway@comcast.net

Northville (Riverhead): Occasional Dates. Deirdre LaPenna, 631-725-7343; deidrehum@verizon.net

Orchard Park: Occasional Dates, 7pm. Anna Marie Sinatra, 716-627-6545; angelanna2222@yahoo.com

Rochester: 2nd Sat, 7:30pm. Aeolea Wendy Burwell, 585-423-0563; aeolea@juno.com

NORTH CAROLINA

Asheville: 2nd Sun, 7pm. Lucy Zarifah Oliver, 828-225-0515; luz.oliver@gmail.com

Boone: Occas. Fri, 7:30pm. Akal Dev Sharonne, 828-264-1384; akaldev@yahoo.com

Charlotte: Occas. Sat, 7:30pm. Akal Dev Sharonne, 828-264-1384; akaldev@yahoo.com

Durham: 3rd Sat, 7:30pm. Shirin Julie Purcell, 919-490-6401; forjuls@aol.com

Franklin: Last Thur, 6:30pm. Celeste Dickson, 706-212-2054; solstice@alltel.net

Raleigh: 2nd Sat, 7:30pm. NurJehan Lukah Kavlock, 919-859-3051; lukahk@gmail.com

OHIO

Bath: 3rd Fri, 7pm. Tom Leonhardt, 216-651-4362; hope.space@yahoo.com

Columbus: Occasional Sat, 7pm. Thallia Tasnim Blight, 614-486-9530; centralohiosufi@yahoo.com

Elyria: 2nd Sun, 5pm. Jessie Ferriols, 440-775-1210; jferriols@verizon.net

Rocky River: 1st Sun, 4pm. Eileen Taj Pappalardo, 440-543-6422; pappalosa@aol.com

Toledo: 3rd Thur, 7pm. Judy Lee Nur-un-nisa Trautman, 419-475-6535; jltrautman@sbcglobal.net

Yellow Springs: 3rd or 4th Sun, 3pm. Thomas Nuraddin Malcolm, 937-767-2293; tgm@sbcbglobal.net

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma City: 1st & 3rd Wed, 7:15pm. Elizabeth Latifa Muller, 405-630-0895; onedancer1@mac.com

OREGON

Ashland: 2nd & 4th Tue, 7:30pm. Khalil Mark Elliott, 541-482-4902; khalil33@charter.net

Bandon: 2nd Fri, 7pm. Mujahid Mark Havill, 541-982-4285; mkhavill@yahoo.com

Breitenbush: Every Thur, 7:30pm. Jamshed-Ken Storer, 503-854-3320 x228; jamshed@breitenbush.com

Eugene: 1st & 3rd Fri, 7pm. Khalila Cindy Zarzycki, 541-688-4134; cindyzar@mindspring.com

Medford: 3rd Tue, 7:15pm. Zahira Muhi Suzanna Nadler, 541-535-3338; zahira1@earthlink.net

North Bend: 4th Fri, 7pm. Rabi'a Laurie Neeno, 541-756-4834; chipmunks33@hotmail.com

Portland: Every Tue, 7:30pm. Michelle Mu'mina Metzler, 503-419-7856; michelle.mumina@gmail.com

Salem: 3rd Thur, 7pm. Pamela Rabi'a Prichard, 503-881-8253; pam_purr@hotmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA

Chambersburg: 1st or 2nd Sat, 7:30pm (Sep-Jun). Rashid Robert Revicki, 717-766-2182; rashidrevicki@hotmail.com

Erie: Occasional Dates. Joann Calabrese, 814-455-3325; jocal23@yahoo.com

Harrisburg: 2nd Sat, 7:30pm. Yasmin Germaine Haut, 717-329-2133; ghaut@caiu.org

Reading: Occasional Dates. Marcia Rahmana Graff, 610-926-4485; mgraff@epix.net

State College: Occasional Dates. John Cierpilowski, 570-748-3227; cierp@yahoo.com

RHODE ISLAND

Providence: 2nd Fri, 7:15pm. Nicholas Leonardo Lizza, 401-232-5422; nicholasleonardo@verizon.net

Providence: 4th Fri, 7:30pm. Ellen Kalama Lara, 401-245-8841.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Charleston: Occasional Dates. Rev. Peter Lanzillota, 843-723-4617; revpeluuc@bellsouth.net

Columbia: Once a Month. Marguerite Frongillo, 803-743-0731; frongillo@biol.sc.edu

Greenville: Last Sat, 6:30pm. Amina Linda McMakin, 864-947-7028; lindamcmakin@aol.com

Greenville (Pelzer): Quarterly at Equinoxes & Solstices, 7pm. Amina Linda McMakin, 864-947-7028; lindamcmakin@aol.com

TEXAS

Austin: Occasional Dates. Ata'allah Bill Meacham, 512-291-4300; bmeacham@bmeacham.com

Ft. Worth: Occasional Dates. Nirtana Teri Lee Thompson, 817-838-9155; nirtana77@swbell.net

UTAH

Cedar City: Occasional Dates. Oma Barbara Strasser, 208-255-2273; wellnessbiz@earthlink.net

Moab: Occasional Dates. Patrice Mott, 435-259-1540; ammaspatrice@yahoo.com

Salt Lake City: 2nd Sat, 7pm. Jimmy Aalen, 801-272-8313; Jim.Aalen@datamark.com

St. George: Occasional Dates. Oma Barbara Strasser, 208-255-2273; wellnessbiz@earthlink.net

VERMONT

Burlington: Monthly. Radha Tereska Buko, 802-658-2447; radhatereska@adelphia.net

Essex Jct.: 1st & 3rd Thur, 7pm. Jeanne Alima Ross, 802-482-2836; unity@accessvt.com

Hinesburg: 4th Fri, 7:30pm. Jeanne Alima Ross, 802-482-2836; unity@accessvt.com

Montpelier: 2nd Sun, 4pm. Jeanne Alima Ross, 802-482-2836; unity@accessvt.com

VIRGINIA

Alexandria: 1st Thur, 7pm (Sep-Jun). Ruthann Pippenger, 703-400-1814; thedanceof life@verizon.net

Blacksburg: 4th Sat, 7:30pm. Vajida Paula Markham, 540-953-5587; paulatmarkham@msn.com

Charlottesville: 2nd Sun, 7:30pm. Latifa Jennifer Till, 434-242-6510; jtill@bridge-innovate.com

Lexington: 2nd Tue, 7:30pm. Mirabai McLeod, 540-463-1760; mirabai888@yahoo.com

Oakton: 2nd Sat, 7:30pm. Kathryn Ashera Sprowls, 571-201-8417; spiralrose@aol.com

Richmond: 3rd Tue, 7:30pm. Alan Farid Schintzius, 804-353-4901; faridalan@fusioncafe.biz

Roanoke: 2nd Fri, 7:30pm. Diana Elliot, 540-344-6036; dwolf@davishelliot.com

Virginia Beach: 2nd Sat, 7:30pm. Melody Safia Lubich, 757-313-4962; dancekarima@netzero.com

WASHINGTON

Bothell: 3rd Sun, 5pm. Brian Dina, 425-485-2019; brian@briandina.com

Centralia: 3rd Thur, 7:30pm. Ardeth Marie K. Ellis, 360-736-7175; ardethellis@aol.com

Lopez Island, San Juan Islands: Occasional Dates, 7:30pm. Asha Lela, 360-468-2838; ashalela@rockisland.com

Olympia: 1st Thur, 7:30pm. Safiya Crane, 360-943-2623; safiyaturn@msn.com

Olympia: 3rd or 4th Sun, 7pm. Jo Jibrla Thornton Curtz, 360-352-2209; jo@nuprometheus.com

Port Angeles: Last Fri, 6pm. Latifa Beatriz Giraldo, 360-461-5188; nobleamiga@yahoo.com

Port Townsend: 3rd Thur, 7:30pm. Vakil Forest Shomer, 360-385-6114; ziraat@olympus.net

Seattle: Every Wed, 7:30pm. Hayra Fatah, 206-546-6092; hayrafatah@gmail.com

Spokane: 1st & 3rd Thur, 7pm. Bruce Khidr Calkins, 509-220-5160; BrusedBooks@turbonet.com

Tacoma: 2nd Sun, 5pm. Farishta Karen Lindsay, 253-882-7166; tacomadup@yahoo.com

Tri-Cities: Occasional Dates, 7pm. Janet L. Tyler, 509-547-3927; jlytler@charter.net

Whidbey Island: Last Sun, 7pm. Linda Lindsay, 360-331-5471; llindsay@whidbey.com

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown: 1st Sat, 7pm (Sep-May). Sky Bear, 724-966-9141; dskybear@juno.com

WISCONSIN

Madison: 1st & 3rd Fri, 7pm. Ken Basir McCullough, 608-277-0340; kmccullough101@yahoo.com

Milwaukee/Brookfield: 1st Thur & 2nd Fri, 7pm. Judith Kubish, 414-221-9293; judithkubish@mcleodusa.net

Mukwonago: 3rd Fri, 7pm. Paul Matejcek, 262-642-9227; paul_dup@centurytel.net

Sheboygan: Occasional Dates. Annie Horzen, 920-467-3886; dancinannie@milwpc.com

Viroqua: Occasional Dates. Richard Yahia Smith, 608-269-2694

WYOMING

Cheyenne: 3rd Fri, 7pm. Audrey Buntin, 307-638-4938; albuntin@msn.com

Jackson Hole: Monthly, 7pm. Lucinda Abbe Wiles, 307-739-9847; lucinda@wyom.net



Northeast Sufi Camp 2007 Photo: Khadija Julia Goforth

PEACEWORKS

Dances of Universal Peace, North America

P.O. Box 1401

Blythe, CA 92226-1401

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-profit
Organization

USPOSTAGE

PAID

Blythe, CA

Permit #19

