

2011 Events: Dr. Neil Douglas-Klotz

February 25-27: Oblate Retreat Centre, Crewe, England:

The Inner Heart of Healing: Meditation and Zikr

A Retreat with Saadi Neil Douglas-Klotz and Tansen Philip O'Donohoe

This year Saadi and Tansen will be building on the techniques shared in previous years at Crewe with an emphasis on healing and harmony of body, heart and mind. Healing is essentially based on rhythm and harmony in inner and outer aspects of our being. The meditation and the zikr practices will be directed towards releasing the inner obstacles living in the continuous experience of wholeness. In terms of the Spiritual lineage of Saadi and Tansen this weekend is auspicious in that it falls on the date the 10th Urs of Pir Moineddin Jablonski, the spiritual successor of Murshid Samuel Lewis, who dedicated the last decades of his life to healing practice. Some of the practices Saadi and Tansen share will reflect and honour the teachings of Pir Moineddin. As usual, we will also share Dances of Universal Peace, walking meditation, Sufi zikr, chant, breath practice and contemplation. All interweave to create an experience of renewed energy, joy and balance.

Contact: Tansen. Tel 01258 818067. **Email:** mail@philipodonohoe.co.uk

March 1-13: Pretoria and Cape Town, South Africa:

Tour of South Africa, including

conference on "The Sacred Origin of Languages."

Neil Douglas-Klotz presenting at annual conference as guest of the Academy of Self-Knowledge. Conference dates 4-6 March, with other presentations at nearby universities.

Contact and Information: <http://www.askonline.co.za/>

March 4-March 17: Edinburgh, Scotland:

2010 Edinburgh International Festival on Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace (MESP)

Workshops, performances, panels and talks by grassroots peacemakers, artists, storytellers, musicians and others, including Dances of Universal Peace and inter-spiritual meditation for peace. Featured presenters and workshop leaders will include Pir Shabda Kahn (who will lead a special two-day retreat, 5-6 March). Dr. Neil Douglas-Klotz will launch the new edition of his book *Desert Wisdom* with a day workshop on March 15 and an evening talk/forum event on March 17 (see below). There will also be externally organised Pre Events from 22 February – 3 March and a Middle Eastern Film Festival at the Filmhouse from 10 February - 21 February, and there will be Exhibitions and Displays from January – March 2010 (dates tbc) at venues across Edinburgh.

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2010@hotmail.co.uk

For details of the conference and festival, go to www.eial.org or www.mesp.org.uk

March 15: Edinburgh, Scotland:

A Day with Desert Wisdom:

Native Middle Eastern Spirituality and Life's Big Questions
with Neil Douglas-Klotz

Meditation, storytelling, poetry, chant, spiritual practice—ranging from the ancient Middle Eastern Goddess traditions through to Sufi poets Rumi and Hafiz. The book *Desert Wisdom* was first published in 1995 and again this year in a new, revised edition. Historically, some Middle Eastern voices (and interpretations of them) have been very influential in the development of Western culture. *Desert Wisdom* attempts to hear and experience all of these storytelling voices together, as they might have been in their “wild” forms. The meditations, chants or “body prayers” we will share are typical of Native Middle Eastern spirituality and intend to help us explore the themes or questions offered. The body prayers use elements common to all human beings: breathing, internal sound, visualization, body awareness and simple group movement. So no prior experience, other than breathing, is required. This event is offered as part of and a benefit for the 2011 Edinburgh Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace. Venue: Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh. Time: 9.30am for 10am-4.30pm. Cost: £50/£40 (Concessions) with additional bursaries available for anyone in need. No one will be turned away! For a Registration Form:

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2010@hotmail.co.uk

March 17: Edinburgh, Scotland:

MESP 2011 Forum on World Spiritualities

Dr. Neil Douglas-Klotz presenting on “Desert Wisdom: Hearing the Heart of Native Middle Eastern Spiritualities as it addresses the ‘Big Questions’ with panelists including the Rev Mary-Catherine Burgess, Alison Newall, the Rev. Jenny Williams, and David Lorimer. Forum on Revisioning “Sacred Language” and its Importance for Personal, Relational, Community and Ecological Health, Wellbeing and Healing. This event is offered as part of the 2011 Edinburgh Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace. Venue: Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh. Registration: 630-7pm. Talk/Forum: 7-9:15pm.

March 18-20: Fluehli Ranf, Switzerland:

Blessings of the Cosmos (Segen aus dem Kosmos):

Neil Douglas-Klotz’s book *Blessings of the Cosmos* appeared in German translation last year. The book Jesus’ best-loved benedictions, including: Invocations of light, joy, peace, and faith in the Beatitudes in Luke, and Jesus’ last messages to the disciples, including the “great commandment” on love, the “many mansions” teaching, and the blessing of “greater works.” During the annual German-language retreat at Flühli Ranf, Neil will share body prayer,

meditation and new Dances of Universal Peace connected with these important Gospel teachings and invite participants into the spiritual experiences offered by the Aramaic blessings of Jesus. This retreat is open to all, without prior experience. Only an open heart and mind, ready to move and dance with the One, are necessary. In German language.

Contact: Barbara Küng, Tel. 41 (0)41 921 20 41 or Regina Gerber, **Email:** regina.gerber@bluemail.ch

March 30-April 3: Finkenwerde, nr Berlin, Germany:

Annual Native Middle Eastern Retreat

with Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti and Murshida Gita Onnen

Spring Renewal: Following the Caravan of Blessing

In many of Jesus's sayings, he offers words of *baraka*—blessing and magnetism to his listeners. Celebrating the German publication of *Segen des Kosmos*, Saadi and Sophia will be sharing practice, meditation, storytelling, Dances of Universal Peace, Soulwork, dance, zikr and walking meditation connected to many of his best-loved sayings. We will also draw from the rich legacy of blessing-wasifa in the 99 Beautiful Names of Allah as shared by the Sufis. Other blessings from many of the world's traditions, will also assist us in clearing space for a new year of possibility, greater health, joy and peace. We will include a celebration of and practices of Pir Moineddin Jablonski in this 10th anniversary year of his passing. No experience is necessary and all are welcome. In German and English.

Contact: Gita Onnen, Tel. 49-(0)30-791-5211 and Anapurna von Kugelgen, Tel. 49-(0)30-313-9163.

Email: <mailto:brita.v.k@gmx.net>

April 28-May 1: Columbus, OH, USA

The Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program:

Module 1: The Aramaic Prayer of Yeshua

Deepening and leadership retreat for those interested in sharing the Aramaic Prayer of Jesus in the context of building interspiritual communities and ministry, as well as retreat work. Deepening for those wanting to establish a personal spiritual practice. Leadership training in body prayer, contemplation, chant, voice, walking meditation and the Dances of Universal Peace connected to this work. ***This is a three and a half year program, with enrollment limited to 35 people.*** This retreat is open to a limited number of participants who are not enrolled in the entire leadership program. *Prior reading and an application form are required.* See full information on the program at www.abwoon.com

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

Email: munira@abwoon.com

May 2-5: Columbus, OH, USA:
The Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program:
Module 7: Integrative Retreat

This is the final meeting of the second USA AILP group and is closed to the public.

May 6-8: Harrisburg, PA:
Annual Jamiat Ahm of the Sufi Ruhaniat International
“Love is the Divine Mother’s Arms”

A gathering of hearts touched by the message of Unity as gifted to the west by Hazrat Inayat Khan 100 years ago. Our purpose is to weave our common intentions and strengthen our capacity as bearers of the Message in our work, and in the world. Open to Sufi Ruhaniat initiates, members of the Dances of Universal Peace network and others by permission. Spiritual practice, zikr, Dances of Universal Peace, storytelling and walk, focused this year by Pir Shabda Kahn and Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti with contributions from many others.

Contact: Yasmin Germaine Haut **Email:** ghaut@caiu.org

May 19-22: Golzow, nr Berlin, Germany

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Module 1: The Aramaic Prayer of Yeshua

Deepening and leadership retreat for those interested in sharing the Aramaic Prayer of Jesus in the context of building interspiritual communities and ministry, as well as retreat work. Deepening for those wanting to establish a personal spiritual practice. Leadership training in body prayer, contemplation, chant, voice, walking meditation and the Dances of Universal Peace connected to this work. ***This is a three and a half year program, with enrollment limited to 25 people.*** This retreat is open to a limited number of participants who are not enrolled in the entire leadership program. See full description of the program, in German and English, at www.eial.org. Prior reading and an application form are required for the program. The program will be conducted in German and English language.

Contact: For information and application: www.eial.org/AILPDeutschland.htm or email: leadership@eial.org

July 2-9: near Hamburg, Germany:
2011 European Summer School of the Sufi Ruhaniat
Big Mind, Healthy Heart: Healing Life on the Sufi Way

The annual Summer School includes many elements:

*Classes for those on the Sufi path—beginners, middle and more advanced (including Sufi guides);

*Introduction to the Sufi lineage of Hazrat Inayat Khan, Pir Murshid Samuel Lewis and Murshid Moineddin Jablonski—for those exploring taking up Sufi practice;

*Guided retreat processes using Dances of Universal Peace, Sufi zikr and wazifa (mantric practice), walking meditation, body awareness and contemplation, Sufi Soulwork, Sufi healing practice, silence and Sufi teaching stories;

*A wonderful way to experience and share practice with the main Ruhaniat Sufi guides in Europe;

*Joyous community with seekers from a dozen countries and languages—“eating, dancing and praying together”

This year's special focus is on healing in its many different faces--not only physical healing but also finding greater balance in heart, mind and soul. We will draw from the lineage of our teachers in sharing various classes, including music and healing, balance and healing in everyday life, healing Walks, stories as healing, Soulwork, extended zikr and meditation. Hazrat Pir Moineddin Jablonski dedicated his life to healing in all of its forms, and this year we celebrate the tenth anniversary of his passing. Our teachers will include the main Ruhaniat Sufi guides and initiators in Europe: Murshida Gita Sophia, Khalif Tansen, Khalifa Baraka, Sheikh Jelaluddin, Sheikha Rahmana, Sheikha Alima and Sheikh(a)s Wali and Arienne and Murshid Neil Douglas-Klotz (director).

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

Contact: Edmund Dixon: edmunddixon@yahoo.co.uk

Registration: Qadima Sabine Brandt, Tel. 49-(0)30-47036782. Email: ayatsabine@web.de

See also the Sufi Ruhaniat European website at www.ruhaniateurope.org

September 16-18, Istanbul, Turkey:

Healing Pathways of the Heart in the Sufi Tradition

In the Sufi tradition, healing begins by finding our way back into contact with qualities of the divine seeded in us at the beginning of time, when we were all

in the heart of the Beloved. This workshop will focus on healing resources from the rich treasure of the "pathways of the heart" found in the Sufi practice of the 99 Beautiful Names. It is held in conjunction with the Turkish translation of the author's *The Sufi Book of Life* ("Sufi'nin Hayat Rehberi").

The focus for this workshop will be on the many pathways that deal with strength, renewal, releasing, trust, and increasing clarity in relationship with one's inner healing guidance in connection with the One. As resources we will use chant, heart meditation, walking meditation, dhikr, body prayer, teaching stories, and forms of sacred movement and body awareness common to many Sufi traditions. We will also experience the healing ritual of Hazrat Inayat Khan (1886-1927), a group meditation to send healing to those who have requested it.

The retreat aims to guide participants through a process that promotes freedom, growth and joy along with better understanding of oneself and others. It is not necessary to be a member of a Sufi tariqa or lineage to attend the workshop.

Contact: Banu Alagoz banu.alagoz@gmail.com

September 22-25, Bridport, Dorset, England

The Aramaic Jesus and the Sufis: Shared Paths of the Heart

Jesus' words, viewed through Aramaic eyes, reveal many aspects of his original way of prayer, contemplation and spiritual practice. Many of these carried over to ancient Arabic Christianity and into the early history of Islam. Historically, early Islam had a close relationship with Aramaic and Arabic Christianity, which share the same emphasis on the mystical and spiritual side of Jesus' teaching. Within the larger community of Islam, the Sufis expressed this mystical side, used some of the same practices and told many stories about Jesus, whom they still hold in high respect. As we explore this relationship, we aim to help build bridges between the differences we perceive within and between us.

This three-day workshop will feature chant (in Aramaic and Arabic), Sufi stories, meditation and movement, Dances of Universal Peace and Sufi zikr focused on the shared prayers of the heart that connect the Aramaic Jesus and the Sufis.

Jesus' wisdom teachings are still as relevant today as when he first said, "Love your neighbor as yourself." We love the neighbor within as we become more fully human, exploring the full potential of our power and love. This naturally expresses itself in a more vivid and enlivened daily life.

Resources for this retreat will include the author's books **The Sufi Book of Life**, **Blessings of the Cosmos** and **The Tent of Abraham**.

Contact: Othona Centre, mail@othona-bb.org.uk Tel. +44 (0)1308 897130 Website: www.othona-bb.org.uk

September 30-October 2: Edinburgh, Scotland

The Sufi Path in the 21st Century: 2011 Sufism Symposium Edinburgh

Co-sponsored by the Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace, EICSP, Scottish Charity, SC038996 (www.eicsp.org <<http://www.eicsp.org/>>) in conjunction with the International Association of Sufism (www.ias.org <<http://www.ias.org/>>)

An international gathering of Sufis with participants from schools, orders and tariqas worldwide demonstrating the diversity within and across this mystical school of the Islamic traditions. Art, music, poetry, storytelling, lectures, spiritual practice and discussion amongst world leaders in the Sufi tradition. The previous World Sufism Symposium in Edinburgh, in 2006, drew participants from Egypt, Bangladesh, Senegal, Holland, Germany, UK and USA.

Sufism is a diverse spiritual path, with expressions unique to many world geographical areas and cultures. At the same time, the Sufi path focuses on and expresses the ideal of "unity" based on at least 1,300 years of tradition. As such, Sufism represents a post-modern form of interspirituality that emphasizes respect and empathy, as well as the importance of deep relationship and social responsibility.

We invite proposals from representatives and members of Sufi lineages for short talks (20-25 minutes) from among the following panel themes: Sufism and Ecology, Sufism and Economics, Sufism and Multicultural Societies, Sufism and Women, Sufi Practice in Everyday Life, The Way of the Sufi (personal experience with and introduction to the Sufi path), Sufism and the Arts, Sufism and Health, Wellbeing and Healing, Sufism and Peace, Conflict, Reconciliation and Justice.

We also invite proposals for open sessions of Sufi practice—including meditation, music and chant, (30 minutes) to be shared among attendees.

The two-day conference will be launched with a World Sufi Concert on Friday evening, September 30, the birthday of Mevlana Jelaluddin Rumi. Proposals to participate in this are also invited, including details of technical needs.

Presenters are responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs.

To express an interest in participating, and to submit proposals:

Contact: Neill Walker, mesp2009@hotmail.co.uk, 0131 331 4469.

October 7-12: nr Fulda, Germany

The Soul of Inner Silence:

Zikr, Zen, Meditation, Soulwork

with Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti and Murshida Gita Onnen

The world's spiritual and healing traditions approach silence in various ways and under different names--meditation, contemplation, awareness, centering or body prayer, sitting zen, self-observation and stress relief--to name a few. All aim to bring us, more and more, into the present moment. Ultimately, being able to find our way more easily into a compassionate, inner silence can help us to attain more understanding, joy and empowerment in life.

In this retreat, we will share the practices and teachings of Murshid Samuel Lewis on meditation, as he experienced it in the Sufi, Christian and Zen traditions. We will also share the deep contemplative practice of Murshid Moineddin Jablonski called "Soulwork," which uses meditation to alchemically transform our inner nature. Moving Zikr, Dances of Universal Peace, and Walking Meditation will also help us to experience "meditation with open eyes" in order to bring conscious transformation into our everyday lives.

"If a person closes his eyes and sits doing nothing, he may just as well go to sleep. Meditation is not only an exercise to be practiced; in meditation the soul is charged with new light and life, with inspiration and vigor; in meditation there is every kind of blessing." --Hazrat Inayat Khan

This retreat will be followed by a retreat for initiated Sufi mureeds of the Sufi Ruhaniat International, from October 12-14. *Please note that the retreats this year begin and end on a Friday.*

Contact: Qadima Sabine Brandt, Tel.: +49 (0)30-470 36 783
Email: [AyatSabine@web.de](mailto:ayatSabine@web.de)

October 26-30: Camp Akita, Logan, OH, USA nr Columbus
The Soul of Sufi Zikr:
Remembering Our Divine Potential

Chanted, moved, breathed, in silence and in sound, the Sufi practice of Zikr invites us to nothing less than a complete awareness of the living potentials within our soul. In this journey, we may encounter ecstasy and expanded awareness as well as the most challenging aspects of our inner being. The lessons and teachings of Murshid Samuel Lewis on Zikr form the basis for this retreat, which is intended for Sufi mureeds, and others by permission.

This is the first time this zikr retreat has been available in the US. It has been offered in Europe for the past several years. During the retreat we will explore spoken, sung, silent and moving zikr from various Sufi tariqas and traditions that have influenced the tradition of zikr in the Sufi Ruhaniat as well as the Dances of Universal Peace. We will consider how zikr practice can help us live more invigorated and joyful lives. To integrate the experiences of zikr, we will work with sitting and walking meditation and share practices related to Sufi healing, including the Healing Ritual of Hazrat Inayat Khan. We will also further explore the Murshid Samuel Lewis teachings on breath, rhythm and heart for those sharing zikr and zikr dance.

Contact: Azimat Lane Schulz, azimatlane@gmail.com, 1-208-761-5399

**November 3-6: nr Columbus, OH, USA:
The Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program:
*Module 2: Native Middle Eastern Roots***

Deepening and leadership retreat for those interested in sharing the work contained in the book *Desert Wisdom* in the context of building interspiritual communities and ministry, as well as retreat work. Deepening for those wanting to establish a personal spiritual practice. Leadership training in body prayer, contemplation, chant, voice, walking meditation and the Dances of Universal Peace connected to this work. Included in this retreat: leading meditations from the book **Desert Wisdom**, including “Depths of the Self,” “Sound and Embodiment,” “Simple Presence,” “Heart Awareness,” and “Gratitude and Celebration” as well as leading the eight Native Middle Eastern chants and dances recorded as *The Native Middle Eastern Cycle*. See full description of the program in the Abwoon newsletter and online.

This is a three and a half year program, with enrollment limited to 35 people. This retreat is open to a limited number of participants who are not enrolled in the entire leadership program. *Prior reading and an application form are required.* See full information on the program at www.abwoon.com

Contact: the Rev. Elizabeth Reed, Shalem Center, Tel. 614-441-9773,
Email: munira@abwoon.com

**November 10-13: nr Prescott, AZ, USA:
*Returning to the Heart of the Dance:***

With Murshida Tasnim Hermila Fernandez and Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti

The Heart of the Dances of Universal Peace is rooted in spiritual transmission, the living connection of one soul to and through another toward the One. When Murshid Samuel Lewis first gave the Dances and Walks, he was solely concerned with spiritual awakening, not with creating phenomena (or something phenomenal). So returning to the living heart of the Dances involves deepening in our own heart-process rather than developing toward more variety, better technique and more charismatic performance. Living transmission is what empowered the early, most intensive and extensive growth of the Dances and Dance Network. Everything other than transmission can only be a contraction of that original impulse of love, light and life.

During the retreat, we will share Dance, Walk, meditation, body prayer, contemplation, breathing practice, storytelling, prayer—the entire fabric of spiritual practice from which Murshid Samuel Lewis was able to “pick Dances out of the cosmos.”

Contact: Lance Sandleben yaqinlance@gmail.com

**November 14, 2011 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.
The Shrine of Holy Wisdom in Tempe, Arizona
"The Hidden Gospel - Hearing Jesus With Aramaic Ears"**

**December 1-4: Hof Ruckhardtshausen, nr Öhringen, Germany:
The Abwoon Interspiritual Leadership Program:
Module 2: Native Middle Eastern Roots**

Deepening and leadership retreat for those interested in sharing the work contained in the book Desert Wisdom in the context of building interspiritual communities and ministry, as well as retreat work. Deepening for those wanting to establish a personal spiritual practice. Leadership training in body prayer, contemplation, chant, voice, walking meditation and the Dances of Universal Peace connected to this work. Included in this retreat: leading meditations from the book Desert Wisdom, including "Depths of the Self," "Sound and Embodiment," "Simple Presence," "Heart Awareness," and "Gratitude and Celebration" as well as leading the eight Native Middle Eastern chants and dances recorded as The Native Middle Eastern Cycle.

This is a three and a half year program, with enrollment limited to 25 people. See full description of the program, in German and English, at www.eial.org. There may be space for individuals who wish to take each module on an individual basis, although at present there is a waiting list. Prior reading and an application form are required for the program. The program will be conducted in German and English language.

Contact: For information and application: www.eial.org/AILPDeutschland.htm
or email: leadership@eial.org