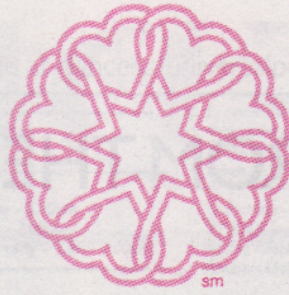


ISSUE 2, WINTER 2003/2004



THE DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE

North American Journal



Photo by Bob Spencer

North American Journal OF THE DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE

Issue No. 2, Winter 2003/2004

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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 elsewhere in this issue. For information regarding the Dances, events, or our publications, contact the Regional Networker or administrative office at the address above, and website.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

HERE IT IS, THE SECOND ISSUE of the North American Journal. Thanks to the persistence of the Journal Coordinator (Kathryn) Sky and a gutsy decision by the Coordinating Council and — last but not least — to the volunteers and contributing writers and photographers who stepped forward at the last minute to take on this task — all this made it possible to create and produce another issue of this publication.

Readers of the Inaugural Issue published last fall will remember the contest “Name this Journal.” Thank you for all the creative entries. The Council agonized over them for several cycles of email pondering, but could not decide on one that really expressed what this Journal is all about. Maybe we are too young in this effort to really know, so we stayed with the North American Journal title for the time being.

There is much to tell about our very much alive, ever-growing community of dancers, there is much to do for us in this world where too few people truly dance for peace, within and without. The Coordinating Council has made considerable progress in strengthening the North American organization and structure since taking on responsibility for this Region. Mansur Richard Conviser, the new chair of this group, reports in detail about all that has been accomplished and what is still in progress.

Now it is up to you, dancing readers, to let us know how this Journal fits in with your expectations. We are guessing what you want out of it. You are the ones to correct our course if we are steering away from what you want and need to see and read. And also please tell us what really spoke to you in this issue — do you want more interviews (and who are you curious about?), more history of individual dances, of certain groups and events? Are you elated at finding a new dance not yet officially published, described and with its music? Did you always want some tips on how to give and receive feedback as a new mentor or as a dance leader? Or any other aspect of dancing, leading, or organizing?

All suggestions are welcome, as well as all contributions in your favorite form — the written word will remain our main course, but all other creative efforts such as photography and art will find their way into future issues. We would like to collect a good selection of material to choose from. Be open, come forward and risk, whatever there is to risk. As we did for you.

Peace,
Peter Slonek
Wilmette, Illinois

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.

NEWS

FROM THE NORTH AMERICAN COORDINATING COUNCIL

Mansur Richard Conviser

The NACC and the North American Network Staff

The North American Coordinating Council (NACC) is a volunteer organization that meets monthly by telephone and (usually) once a year in a face-to-face meeting, with many e-mails in between, to provide administrative and organizational support for the Dances of Universal Peace in North America. The International Network (IN) of which our North American region is a part did not exist as a separate entity until the late 1990s. Since then, much of what the NACC has been charged to do is to clarify the organizational structure and relationships, financial and otherwise, of the North American Region with the IN and Peaceworks Publications. The NACC been moving in that direction slowly but methodically; in this column, I would like to bring you up to speed on our activities, particularly within the past year. As you will see, there are many ways in which you could help to strengthen the Dances in North American and around the world by volunteering to support these efforts. We would welcome your assistance.

Though most of us are volunteers, there are several (modestly) salaried people who help us with our work. In Seattle, Martha Bracken manages the PeaceWorks office, which handles membership services and fulfills publication orders, the latter with the assistance of Sheila Hoopman. In Humboldt County, CA, Ananda Hazzard serves as our financial advisor. And in Durango, CO, (Kathryn) Sky serves as our volunteer coordinator.

Changes in the NA Region's Corporate Status

Because of our shared heritage, the International Network and the North American Region (NA) have been part of the same non-profit corporation. Last year, the IN asked that NA form its own corporation. Led by our treasurer, Rafiq Nuri Yarri Soteris, and a volunteer, Kathryn Greeson, both from Colorado, we drew up documents forming a separate non-profit corporation for NA. One question has been whether Canada and the United States should become separate regions within NA; we have decided to remain together. A number of circles in NA have inquired whether the new organization could include local chapters. These chapters could benefit from the NA corporation's non-profit status in a variety of ways: their own non-profit status, the acceptance of tax-deductible donations, bank account(s) in the chapter's name, and possibly liability insurance, an issue that is still being investigated. Farrunnissa Lila Rosa of North Carolina has been assisting in the writing of policies for chapter formation and operation, and she has offered to coordinate the administration of chapters during their first year of their existence. Local circles or groups of circles wanting to form chapters should contact Farrunnissa at:

NurLuna@aol.com.

We anticipate that our corporation will be formed in early 2004.

Improving Communications

Another main focus for the Council has been communications. As we wrote you in a fundraising letter last August, we have decided to update the website and our databases; our goal is to make the system more responsive to members and leaders and to facilitate the integration of four separate databases that are now maintained by four different people. Our fundraising letter has thus far netted about \$2,250 of the \$10,000 that we anticipate will be needed for this effort, so keep those stuffed letters coming in!

One aspect of our communications is the North American Journal that you are reading right now. We brought the Journal into existence last year in response to IN's decision to cut back the publication of *We Circle Around* to once a year. This year's Journal reflects two changes. The first is its incorporation of the annual events brochure, to help reduce production and mailing expenses. The second is the institution of an Editorial Board of Council members—currently Peter, Rafiq Nuri, and me—to assure that the Journal provides an appropriate record of the Dances in North America.

The Publications Catalog that you probably received several months ago is produced independently, overseen by Peaceworks Publications, chaired by Kabira Kirby (recently moved from North Carolina to Oregon).

Considering The Status of PeaceWorks Publications

Over the past year there has been considerable discussion regarding whether Pubs should become a separate and independent organization; currently its finances are intertwined with those of the NA region. There are honest differences of opinion about the optimal organizational relationship between NA and Pubs, and so discussions are ongoing. Since Pubs also publishes works for Sufi Ruhaniat International (SRI), it seems appropriate that SRI be included in those discussions. Carol Hanson of Idaho, who stepped down as NA Chair in June after more than two years of service, continues to represent NA on the PeaceWorks Board of Directors, which will also be included in future discussions on this subject.

Realigning and Resizing North American Sub-regions into Clusters

Yet another area in which the Council is overseeing changes is in the size and alignment of (sub-)regions within North America. At the large planning meeting we sponsored in Santa Fe in February 2002 (with generous financial assistance from the ONEness Project), there was a strongly shared sentiment that some of the NA regions were large and difficult to administer. In one sense, this represents the success of the Dances in North America over the decade since those regions were formed; circles continue to proliferate in cities and towns in which they did not previously exist. Hence we have been working on developing new clusters that generally cover smaller geographic areas than the current regions. We have worked out a proposal for sixteen clusters (in place of the seven regions) and have been contacting current Regional Networkers and Area Connectors to

see whether they would be willing to serve as Cluster Coordinators. We hope to have this transition completed by early in 2004.

Other Issues: A Review of Membership Benefits, and PanAmerican Planning

Several other areas of focus remain. The Membership Committee is beginning to address some of the questions raised at the Santa Fe meeting regarding membership dues, benefits, and categories; some of the other IN regions have a more costly membership category for leaders that carries with it additional benefits, such as liability insurance and regular dance leader trainings. At the IN meeting in June 2002, it was suggested that there be periodic meetings with several regions grouped together. We were asked to help coordinate a PanAmerican meeting involving dancers and leaders from North and South America. The Council has asked Grace Marie of Ft. Collins, CO, to oversee the planning of the PanAmerican meeting, tentatively scheduled for early 2006.

Opportunities for You to Make a Difference by Volunteering

I would like to close by listing more specifically some of the areas in which the NACC is seeking assistance for the coming year. At the end of 2003, two Council members are stepping down—Nur Allah Carol Orban of Minnesota, who has had oversight of the Seattle office and has served as liaison with Pubs, and SierraLynne White of California, who has been our liaison with the Mentor Teachers Guild and the Volunteer Coordinator. Sky is temporarily handling secretarial duties, and since I assumed the Chair position in June, I've continued as Regional Networker for North America. Hence the following posi-

tions are available.

- Secretary
- North American Regional Networker
- Liaison with Seattle office
- Liaison with PeaceWorks Publications
- Liaison with Mentor Teachers Guild
- Liaison with Volunteer Coordinator

As you can see, there are many opportunities to serve the organization that supports the Dances. If you are interested, please drop a line to Sky, our Volunteer Coordinator, at skyness@gobrainstorm.net.

Thank you! ♥

DancingPeace eGroup

OPEN FOR DISCUSSION

The purpose of this discussion/ mailing list is to create a forum on which members of the Dances of Universal Peace Network worldwide can correspond with one another about experiences and questions relating to the Dances. The eGroup provides an opportunity for dancers and dance leaders to share and to learn from each other, to appreciate one another's contributions to Murshid Samuel Lewis' vision of "eating, praying, and dancing together," and hopefully to help foster greater connectedness within a growing community of dancers. We hope to support our worldwide Dance family by creating more people-to-people connections, thus serving as antidotes to feelings of isolation. To join the DancingPeace email discussion list, send a request with your name and email address to:

DancingPeaceowner@yahoogroups.com

or go to:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dancingpeace/>

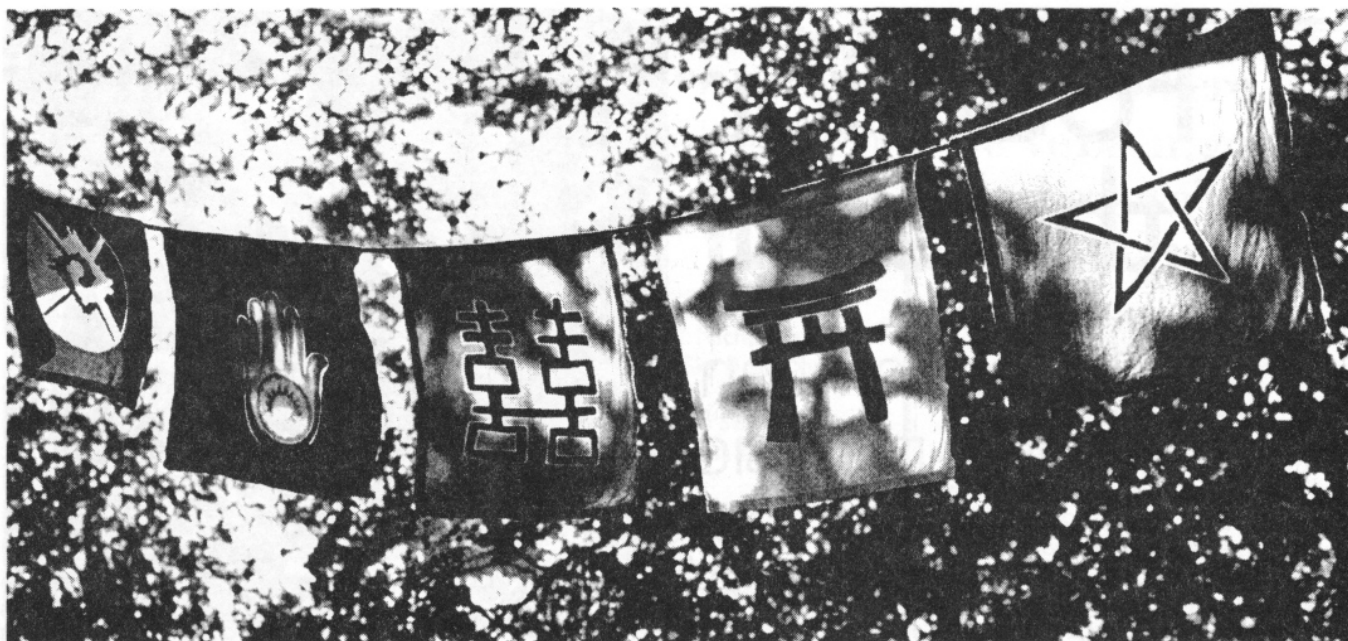


Photo by Dale Vishal

Zikr of the Morning Breeze

C G G C G C C F C G C G G C
 La il - la - ha il Al - lah, La il - la - ha il Al - lah.
 1. 2. 3 - 4.

C F C F G G C F C C C G G C
 La il - la - ha il Al - lah, La il - la - ha il Al - lah.
 5, 7. 6, 8.

Take hands in a circle:

1. Two steps back - LB, RB
2. Two steps in - RF, LF
3. Circle walks right.
4. On repeat, circle walks left.
5. Drop hands, walking back four steps and slowly bowing - emptying out.
6. Complete turn to left.
7. Walk in four steps with palms up, arms rise - in exultation.
8. Complete turn to right.

Music - Shabda Kahn
Movements - Leilah Be

Food for the Soul

Shabda Khan
talks about music

by (Kathryn) Sky

"Music, the word we use in our everyday language, is nothing less than the picture of our Beloved."

Hazrat Inayat Khan—
The Sufi Message of Hazrat Inayat Khan, Volume II

SHABDA KAHN is the Pir, or Spiritual Director, of the Sufi Ruhaniat International, the Sufi lineage from which the Dances emerged. He is a direct disciple of Murshid Samuel Lewis and has been a student of Indian Classical Vocal Music Raga singing for thirty years. Traveling throughout the world spreading the Sufi Message of Love, Harmony and Beauty, Shabda shares his love for music and his understanding of it as a path to God. He also shares new Dances, gathered from all parts of the world, encouraging circles to sing in harmonies as they dance, fostering a greater awareness of the musicality of the Dances Samuel Lewis birthed more than 35 years ago.

Although Murshid Sam was not an accomplished musician, he loved music and wanted his students to study it. He said that if there were anything in his life that he would like to have studied, it would be Raga. His students, including Shabda, formed the original Sufi Choir, directed by Allaudin Mathieu. Murshid Sam came to early rehearsals and encouraged the choir to bring joy and spread the Sufi message through music. The choir performed and recorded together until 1978.

Hazrat Inayat Khan, Murshid Sam's teacher and the Sufi mystic who brought the message of Universal Sufism to the west beginning in 1910, was born in 1882 into a very traditional musical family, and was a famous Indian classical musician by the age of 19. He was also a deeply spiritual being. As Pir Shabda explains, "You can't separate music and spirituality, especially in India,

especially amongst Sufis. Music is a most beautiful and spiritual path for human beings. The Indian raga system was developed by rishis, wisdom teachers who uncovered secrets of the musical scale, of using music to open the heart, with much subtlety and tremendous variation."

"Sufis call music 'food for the soul,'" Shabda says. Hazrat Inayat Khan wrote extensively on music, even after his path shifted from musician to Sufi teacher. Volume II of his Sufi Message is dedicated to sound and music and has become a "musician's bible," according to Shabda, known far beyond the Sufi community in musical circles among jazz musicians and others.

Hazrat Inayat Khan saw music as a path to perfection. "So," Shabda says, "the question becomes, what kind of music, and how does one musicalize one's life? Hazrat Inayat Khan wrote of Indian music's being the most beautiful and refined music and the quickest way to God, so I decided to study it."

His study began in the 1960s, at City College in New York, where he attended classes by Sitar maestro Pandit Ravi Shankar and the Tabla maestro Ustad Alla Rakha. Shabda didn't register for the classes, but he attended every one of them. "I didn't understand any of it, but I loved all of it." After he had read Volume II and been inspired to study Raga, someone gave him a tamboura, with the words, "Here, I think this is for you."

Shortly after that, around 1972, in an interview to receive guidance with Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan, Hazrat Inayat Khan's son, Shabda played the tamboura and sang for him.



Photo by Dale Vishal

Pir Vilayat said, "Your name should be Shabda [eternal sound]." "And that," Shabda says, "is how I got my name."

"The music of life shows its melody and harmony in our daily experiences. Every spoken word is either a true or a false note, according to the scale of our ideal. The tone of one personality is hard like a horn; while the tone of another is soft like the high notes of a flute."

Hazrat Inayat Khan

Next Shabda was inspired to study the Rudra Veena, an Indian classical instrument, invented by Lord Shiva, that Hazrat Inayat Khan said was dying out, thinking he would learn it and help to preserve its lineage. He found a teacher, but events conspired to send him in a different direction when he met the late Pandit Pran Nath, the master North Indian Classical Vocalist, who brought the oral transmission of Chisti Sufi vocal music to the western world (the Chisti lineage is Hazrat Inayat Khan's lineage as well). Pandit Pran Nath was brought to the Sufi Choir by another member to give a group singing lesson. Shabda turned from being a stringed instrument player to singing. He spent 24 years, beginning in 1972, developing as a vocalist under Pandit Pran Nath's guidance.

"When you learn the harmony of the notes, you gradually learn to harmonize your life. It softened me. From being a pushy person I am slightly less pushy, less controlling, more musical. What you learn from music can communicate to life.

"My teacher would say, 'You must sing with confidence. If you don't sing with confidence, the note is wrong, even if it's right.'

"To sing, you have to be right at the outer surface of your being, fully embodied. And paradoxically, in order for the note to be deep and beautiful, you must sing from the deepest part of your being, so you learn intuition, listening, finding expression from that deepest part. The musical notes themselves are the geometry of the universe; they organize your being."

Now when Shabda travels, besides seeding new Dances from other parts of the world and encouraging an expression of their musicality, he offers raga classes in the mornings at camps. "Raga is one of the greatest arts man has developed in history. It is not well known in the West and only now is undergoing a rebirth in India."

He feels that he is sharing a treasure with people. It's highly unlikely, he says, that exposure to raga sing-

"When we pay attention to nature's music, we find that every thing on the earth contributes to its harmony."

Hazrat Inayat Khan

ing will inspire people to dedicate their lives to it, but many people have gleaned something from it that has helped them in their lives. He hopes that he is passing on to many people the use of music in their daily regimen, for enjoyment and for purifying the heart.

"And the Dances and music? Why is this such a secret?" Shabda laughs. "It's so deep, so beautiful, and we have such a good time." His focus on the musicality of the Dances helps to strengthen them. "The finer the quality of the music, the singing and



Photo by Nicholas Leonardo

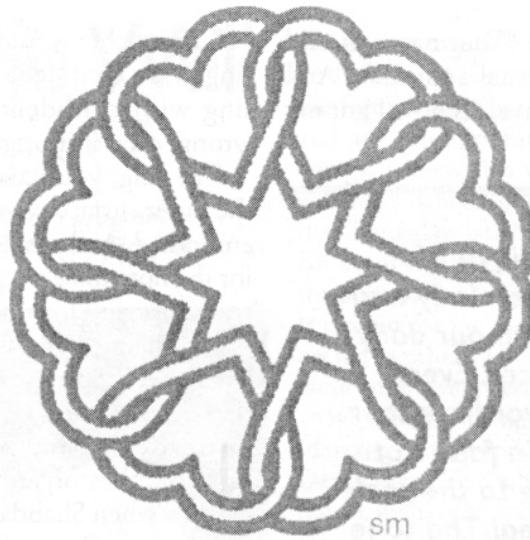
Cambridge, Massachusetts dance meeting in March, 2003, facilitated by Shabda Khan

the quality of the voice, the better the Dances will be."

Hazrat Inayat Khan bequeathed to the Dances a zikr, the Melodic Zikr, whose structure and melody come from his beloved classical training. The pitches, or notes, are from Rag Bhairavi, the only raga that can be sung 24 hours a day. As a classical musician, Hazrat Inayat Khan would have been uncomfortable hearing a morning raga sung in the evening, for example. The form of the melodic zikr phrases, A A B A, follows the 16 beat teen-tal raga format. "It's a beautiful zikr that connects us back to Hazrat Inayat Khan and the lineage, and to the raga system, which is centuries and centuries old, a system that Sufis have contributed greatly to," says Shabda.

Dancers already know, of course, the connection between music and the Divine. Every time we sing and dance together, every time we hear a devotional phrase singing in our hearts, our own connection deepens and our lives become richer. It is a connection that Shabda helps us to recognize and to strengthen through his own devotion and his teachings within the Dance community. May his sharing continue for many years. ♥

(Kathryn) Sky, Durango, CO, is a certified Dance Leader, the main point of contact for her ministerless (by choice) spiritual fellowship, Unity in Spirit, and the Volunteer Coordinator for both the North American Region and the International Network for the Dances of Universal Peace. She also leads kirtan and a Sufi study group, participates as a planner and leader of interfaith prayer services, writes poetry, serves on the board of a local religious non-profit, and reads mystery novels in her spare time. Her life being her service, she is, of course, broke.



The a DOING

by Joann Calabrese

ON THAT SATURDAY morning before we drove out to the prison, I had myself worked into a frenzy, wondering if this was a good idea. We had sorted through a lot of red tape and waited for almost a year before receiving approval to take the Dances into the Cambridge Springs State Correctional Institution, a minimum-security women's prison, in early October, 2003.

Sister Natalie, the person who organizes the Saturday morning activities, told me to be prepared that some women just sign up for activities so they can be with their girlfriends. Well of course they do — when you are in a non-nurturing place like a prison, you'd have to learn how to work the system—but I was worried that people would come who just had NO interest at all, and that would be hard. And THEN she told me to be prepared that women might challenge me about leading a chant from their spiritual tradition, specifically Islamic or Native American, as in 'what right do you have to do that.' This made me nervous ...

Well, none of those things became an issue. We had 14 women, they were a little nervous at first, and they

struggled with some of the movements...they laughed a lot...and then they got into a "groove" each time with each dance. A couple of the women were just beaming when we finished.

Clem Federowicz, my friend and partner, who accompanied me to the prison and brought his drums and shakers, observed that if the women had not worn the uniforms, it could have been any dance circle.

She warned me to be prepared that women might challenge me about leading a chant from their spiritual tradition, specifically Islamic or Native American

We did the Tara dance and the Radhe dance, which I led recently in Florida. I really love those two dances. Some of the women seem SO young...it's sad. One older woman had to sit out a number of the dances. She couldn't do the spinning, but she came up to me later and said she loved it and she was coming back.

Dances in Women's Prison:

TIME BY DOING THE DANCES

She just seemed so little and so frail, and I thought, what could she possibly have done to be here? In the chapel where we were dancing, there was a sign on the wall with a list of names that says 'please pray for these women on death row.' That was sobering.

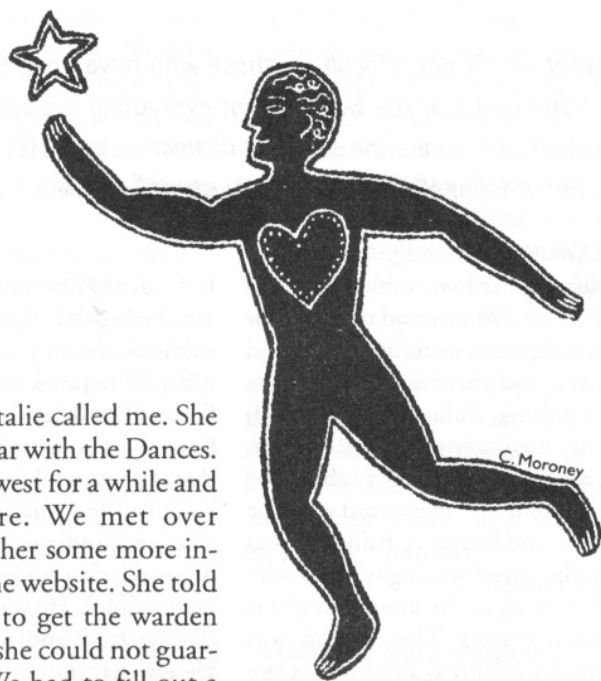
All in all, it went really well; most of the fourteen women were very receptive and said they were coming back next month...and of course, that will be the real test...who comes back.

How did I get the idea to do this? I'm service-oriented. I am in social work, and by day I work as a case manager with people with disabilities. I also worked for nine years at a women's shelter. After reading some postings on the listserve about the Dances in prisons, I thought about offering them at the Cambridge Springs State Correctional Institution, which is located close to Erie. It is a minimum-security women's prison.

Clem has a friend who worked there as a psychologist. He encouraged us to contact the warden. He thought she might be open to the idea. I wrote a letter citing all of the benefits, and then did not hear anything for a number of months.

Then Sister Natalie called me. She was actually familiar with the Dances. She had lived out west for a while and had danced there. We met over lunch, and I gave her some more information from the website. She told us she would try to get the warden to approve it, but she could not guarantee anything. We had to fill out a packet of information to apply to be volunteers as well as be approved to lead the program. Sister Natalie told us it could be months, and it was! I think six months went by, and I was going to call Sister Natalie, but it was summer and gardening season, so I waited. She called us in August with approval!

Joann Calabrese, a certified Dance leader living in Erie, PA, a small city on the big Lake with the same name, has been leading Dances for several years. She also facilitates a drumming/chanting circle there. She has been steadfast in her love of the Dances, despite little support in her area as far as other circles go, big seminars to bolster her resolve, etc. Joann can be reached at jocal23@yahoo.co.



We are now scheduled to present the Dances once a month on Saturday morning. There are a number of other enrichment activities offered on Saturday mornings, and the women have a choice which one they want to sign up for. As I said, we had 14 women, and I am hopeful they will return next month. ♥

The Refined Art of Giving & Receiving Feedback

by Anāhāta Iradah

including excerpts from guidelines developed by three different mentors

"The great way is not difficult for those who have no preferences. When hope and fear are both absent everything is clear and undisturbed, but make the slightest distinction and Heaven and earth are set infinitely apart, infinitely apart." The 3rd Zen Patriarch

FEEDBACK is a huge part of our existence, as inexorable as the law of karma. We give and receive feedback with every interaction in subtle and gross ways, and there is no way to escape this pulsing, vibratory aspect of life. I recall my meditation teacher, Shinzen Young, telling a Dharma story about the body sensations he experienced when he was in Asia, and he was verbally attacked by the unbalanced serving woman who was functioning as the attendant of his meditation master. The woman was shrieking as she hurled abuse across the compound courtyard at my teacher, who cringed with embarrassment because everybody could hear. There was no justification or reason for the attack.

"Don't worry," the meditation master later told my teacher, "one day you will be invincible." My teacher was bemused at this response and of course had a strong preference that the embarrassing circumstance had not occurred.

Many years passed, and my teacher went deeper and deeper into his practice of Vipassana meditation. His investigation of the body/mind process led him into profound states of equanimity and the acceptance and awareness of "just what is."

One day, several years later, in a public forum in Los Angeles, he was verbally attacked again. The attack, as unfounded as the first one, produced a completely different response in his body/mind. He felt and heard the words and accusations, but it was as if his body was so porous that nothing could "stick". His equanimity unruffled, his responses articulate, clear and undistorted, he suddenly understood what his teacher had meant by "Invincible". He was able to feel the attack so fully and to digest it so completely that nothing needed to congeal or solidify. There was the activity of response without a person with a solid sense of "I" being driven to defend a position.

My teacher made it clear that in no way did this mean that he didn't appropriately defend himself and take care of the business at hand. But he explained that it is our job as meditators on the spiritual path to evolve to a place of mastery, where we can act with clarity and from a place of real power. To do this we must master the art of opening up and embracing all of life instead of closing down and turning away.

What has this got to do with The Refined Art of Giving and Receiving Feedback? In my mind...everything!



Photo by Dale Vishal

THESE MUSINGS arose from reading the well-crafted guidelines by three active dance leaders, in which they each articulate their preferred systems of giving and receiving feedback within the Dances of Universal Peace. Whilst I agree with what they say, and the excellent intentions behind them, I am a little cautious about tying the subject up too tightly. I feel it needs space to breathe.

When we reflect deeply upon our lives, I am sure that many of us would agree that some of the feedback we initially resisted the most has led ultimately to the deepest learning.

Feedback in every circumstance of life often catches us off guard or with our psychic field wide open. But it is precisely when we are that open that we can make profound choices about how we hear and what we do with what is coming our way. Our spiritual mastery at this very moment is called upon. If we are able to integrate and digest the experience without hitting back, getting defensive or blaming, then the corresponding laws of Karma that are set in motion due to our skillful means will allow clarity to shine upon the circumstance and the potential of true healing to arise.

Shinzen, my meditation teacher, says Pain + Resistance = Suffering. The part of that equation that we have the most control over is our Resistance. The more we can open to any pain, with a commitment to "feel it through" and fully

digest it, the less we will suffer.

There is a magnificent true story of a highly accomplished Tibetan Yogi crossing the battle lines of the Chinese army as he and his students, family members and villagers attempted an escape from Tibet. The bullets were all around them and the master told the entourage to hold on to some part of him or his robes as they headed right through the crossfire. When they were

***...it behooves us to
make things as safe
and harmonious as
possible, as this sets
up an atmosphere of
mutual respect.***

out of harm's way and could investigate their clothing, they saw hundreds of flattened bullets in the folds of the Yogi's white robes and their own clothing. That is Mastery, and it said that as human beings we all have within us the seeds of wisdom and compassion that can blossom into true understanding.

WE MUST TRAIN in readiness to be able to manifest a fluid sense of self that is able to transform the arrows of pain into waves of equanimity. Having said all of this, and in reference in particular to giving and receiving feedback within our domain of the Dances of Universal Peace, I agree that it behooves us to make things as safe and harmonious as possible, as this sets up an atmosphere of mutual respect.

This fits more onto the side of the equation of learning to open fully to the sensation of pleasure. This takes just as much training! It is a real pleasure to see so many people within the dance community sincerely using the dances to elevate the circumstances of humanity. Three dance mentors sent their Guidelines and suggestions of how to set up win-win scenarios by using refined methods to sincerely help and assist dance leaders in their path of growth. Their efforts to have skillful communication produces in me that deep sense

of pleasure when humans beings truly honor and see each other. I am sure their students feel the waves of warmth and acceptance that come when someone takes the time to find the clearest, kindest way to assist them on their path.

Below I have selected short excerpts from each of these three dance leaders' guidelines on feedback. They are willing to make their material available to you, and I encourage you to request it. To tie this all together, I will say that it is wonderful when we encounter the loving embrace of guides and teachers who nurture and encourage us. But being open means being open to all, ultimately without preference.

MARIAH DEAN

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THE PURPOSE OF A FEEDBACK session is to develop the dance leader, the mentee. Think about the messages you want to deliver in advance of the feedback dialogue. Limit your message to a few points. Do not bury the message in a lot of words. Think about what specific messages you want the person to walk away with. Be direct, concise, and tactful.

Be timely. Deliver the feedback as soon as possible after the event so the specific behaviors are fresh in everyone's mind. The feedback session should be a dialogue. Create opportunities for the mentee to participate in the exchange. Pause regularly for questions, clarification and comments. Give them a chance to respond while you actively listen. Use questions such as:

- What questions do you have about what I've said so far?
- What is your reaction to my comments?
- Is this useful to you?
- Are there other areas on which you would like me to comment?

Watch for reactions: Tears, face flushing, lips tightening, breathing pattern changes, defensiveness, anger. Do not keep giving feedback if you see any of these things. Pause and allow space for the leader to be with his/her feelings, but you need to remain unemotional. Be supportive and caring, but stay focused. Listen. Remember, if they feel attacked, it may be in your delivery. If they are defensive, you may have been criticizing, instead of giving feedback. In closing:

- Ask for a summary to be sure that the person has received the right messages.
- Clear up any mis-impressions.
- Be sure you understand what the person has said to you.
- Plan a follow-up conversation if appropriate.
- Thank the mentee for being open to your feedback.

RADHA TERESKA BUKO

Burlington, VT · radhatereska@adelphia.net

BECAUSE OF THE INTIMATE NATURE of our work, a mentor often finds her/himself mentoring someone who also fits the category of friend. How do you tell your friend that you feel their haircut is just plain awful? Or how do you discern between objective criticism and personality discord?

Feedback is a term used in training for a report to the learner on how his/her behavior is affecting or impacting others. In other words, someone shares with the learner how s/he is perceived, what image s/he gives, and how the one offering the feedback reacts to him/her. It is a method of helping a person to consider changing his/her behavior or maintaining and developing positive aspects. It is the process of providing information through which an individual can discover the impact of his/her actions upon individuals.

A primary step to offering feedback is to examine how you feel about getting feedback yourself and whether you feel qualified to offer feedback as a mentor teacher. This is where goal setting and needs assessment help give you the confidence to speak clearly and with earned authority. There are two schools of feed-

back: The Praise and Build Confidence way and the Cut to the Chase and Nip the Problem in the Bud way. I prefer a healthy dose of the first with a dash of the second. A simple formula: In a pinch (when remembering an outline is a factor), try this two-step model:

First, ask the mentee for a self-evaluation. Experience often is an immediate teacher, and it's more effective for the mentee to recognize his/her own behavior than to be told from the outside.

Second, using the principle "form follows function," focus the feedback on the results of the behavior: When you did (state behavior), I felt or thought (state reaction or impact.) Giving and receiving feedback is an art and can develop a sacred relationship between two people. After all, we are exchanging energy in the process.

Receiving feedback from a mentee is an essential tool for improving and testing training models. Include time during a training session or workshop to ask for feedback. (Sample questions appear in a manual which is available from Radha Tereska on request.)

1. Listen to understand
2. Ask for clarity
3. Refrain from immediately offering explanations for your behavior
4. Check out feedback from another trusted source
5. Reflect and decide what you can/would like to do
6. Specify what kind of feedback is valuable to you
7. Thank your feedback giver.

DEVI DEJARDIN

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THE SETTING OF EXPECTATIONS "up front" makes the giving of feedback so much more valuable. In other words, there should be no surprises at the feedback stage. I look at feedback as the final step in a cyclical process that begins with (1) setting expectations (in this first step I, as mentor, would include some comments about feedback being part of the process), then moves to (2) the practice and analysis, and then concludes with (3) feedback about "how it went." I have avoided so much heartache by taking time with the very first step.

1. Make your feedback specific and clear. Make sure the mentee knows what was effective and/or what needs to change. For example, saying, "Good job, Mary!" is not as specific as, "Mary, during the opening walk I liked the balance of words and silence." Ensure that feedback is factual rather than judgmental.
2. Avoid feedback overload. Concentrate on one thing at a time and make it simple. Feedback that covers too much tends to overwhelm the receiver and blurs the message you are trying to communicate.
3. Make your corrective/developmental feedback future-oriented. People cannot correct something done in the past, but they can work on improving a skill for the next interaction. It is important to direct corrective feedback to a future event. "The next time, you might try...."
4. Learn the power of motivational feedback. Even if it seems obvious, compliment a job well done. If you tell a mentee that s/he is good at something, the mentee is more likely to focus on improving that skill than to be satisfied with the present level of performance.
5. Separate motivational from corrective feedback. Motivational feedback is most powerful when it is given publicly; corrective feedback is most effective when given privately to help focus the receiver's attention on the behavior rather than on his or her embarrassment or resentment.
6. Motivational feedback is most effective when given as soon as possible after the event; corrective feedback is very effective when given as a reminder just

before the trainee does a presentation. State the importance of the feedback. Before giving feedback, identify the reason for sharing it. Identify why it might matter to the mentee.

7. Offering suggestions is most effective if the ideas come from the receiver, but you, as the mentor, are clear in your own mind about what you would like to see and have some specific suggestions to offer. Ultimately it is up to each mentee to evaluate feedback and decide what changes s/he will make.

One way to make feedback easier to give and receive is to change your own view of what feedback is. Feedback is "not judgment but information." ♥



This photograph of Ruth St. Denis was a gift -given by her to Murshid Samuel Lewis, and is preserved in the Sufi Islamia Ruhaniat Society archives. Lewis was deeply influenced by his contact and spiritual apprenticeship with Ruth St. Denis, a feminist pioneer in the modern dance movement in America as well as in Europe.



Welcome to the Prophet

by (Kathryn) Sky

SHABDA HEARD THIS CHANT first in Morocco, at a men's zikr, where they sang innumerable verses of it in Arabic; Shabda found it beautiful but didn't see a way to share it with others until they began singing the refrain, "La illaha il Allah hu..." and he thought, "Okay, now I've got it." But at the time, he didn't know much about the history of the song.

He wanted to introduce it at a California Sufi camp a few months later, where there was a young man from Jordan, at his first camp. Shabda went up to him early in the camp, to ask him what he knew about the song. Shabda says, "I started singing ... I didn't even get to the

fourth note and he was crying, streaming tears. 'We sang this all the time,' he said. 'This is one of my favorite songs.'"

Shabda learned that this song is like a national anthem in Morocco. In Nubia, Egypt, and the entire Middle East it is known and loved. Two of the verses have been translated into a formal kind of English and are published here together with the music.

The song itself goes back to the time of the Prophet Mohammed, when it was created as an homage to the Prophet. Mohammed didn't start his life as a prophet. He was orphaned at a young age and raised by his uncle. As a young man, he led camel caravans across the desert.

Welcome to the Prophet

La il - la - ha il - Al lah - hu, - La il - la - ha il Al -

lah, La il - la - ha il Al - lah hu, Mo-ham - med Ra - sul Al - lah.

1. Oh the white moon rose o - ver us, From the val - ley of Wa -
2. Oh, you who were raised a - mong us, Com - ing with the call to be o -

da, And we owe it to show grate-ful-ness Where the call is to Al - lah.
beyed, You have brought to this ci - ty no - ble-ness: Wel - come best cal - ler to God's Way.

Take hands in the circle; movements are similar to those in the Kalama.

On 'la illaha', take three steps back, starting on the left foot; on 'il Allah hu', take three steps forward, starting on the right foot. Repeat these movements twice more. On 'Mohammed Rasul Allah', turn individually to the right.

The movements are the same for the two verses.

Words and music: Traditional
Movements: Shabda Kahn

He led the life of a mystic in the world, living in Mecca, who also spent time in the desert alone, on retreat.

During one of these retreats, the angel Gabriel came to him and said, "Recite the name of Allah." Mohammed was not quick to comply - at that time in Arabia, there was a tradition of soothsayers and psychics, who were looked down upon by the mystics, so when Gabriel appeared to him, covering the whole sky until it was black, Mohammed thought he was being possessed as a channel and tried to resist. He said, "I was squeezed and squeezed and squeezed until I couldn't hold back anymore - I had to recite."

That is how the Divine message started coming to him, a message that included not only recitation of Allah, the One, but also social reform. Mecca at that time was a trading center, based on a tribal sys-

Although some fundamentalist sects of Islam interpret the Prophet's writings to say that the playing of music is forbidden, the Sufis say that this song, in all its beauty, is proof that Mohammed loved music.

tem that allowed slavery, raiding and killing between tribes, and a power-based system of control. The message Mohammed brought included freedom for the slaves, an end to the custom of raiding, protection for widows and orphans, and rights for women, including the right to own property, run a business, and choose a husband.

Mohammed was not an educated



Hazrat Inayat Kahn, renowned Indian classical musician and the Sufi teacher who brought the message of Sufism to the west. Photo courtesy of Omega Publications.

man; in fact, he couldn't read. But the message he dictated, as it had been given to him, was a language of such beauty and refinement that many people (who would not want to be following some "psychic kook") were attracted to it.

Those in power, of course, were not. They saw Mohammed as a threat who was trying to upset the balance. At a certain time, Mecca became a dangerous place for the Prophet and his followers. Eventually, many of them left Mecca, journeying first to Abyssinia, where they were given refuge by the Christian king after they showed how much Jesus and Mary were revered in their message and in the Quran. From there they moved on to the Wadah valley, where they founded a new city, Medina.

The Prophet was instructed to stay in Mecca, however, even under this tremendous duress, in order to spread his message of God, of community, equality and peace, and he did so, along with his most trusted companion, Abu Bakr Siddiq. There is a story told of how Mohammed walked down the main

street of Mecca daily; a woman who was so disgusted by this person who seemed to have come to upset things threw the entrails of whatever animal she was then cleaning at him. This happened every day. Then one day she wasn't there. Mohammed had a feeling that something was wrong, that she must be ill, so he stopped at her house to inquire about her well being.

There came a time when Mohammed's life was in danger. He learned of an assassination plot against him. He and his companion left Mecca heading for Medina, but they were pursued. Only after a thrilling escape and many delays did they finally approach Medina, where his followers were lining the roads eagerly awaiting him, especially the women, all of them singing this song to welcome the Prophet.

Although some fundamentalist sects of Islam interpret the Prophet's writings to say that the playing of music is forbidden, the Sufis say that this song, in all its beauty, is proof that Mohammed loved music. ♥

Wilderness Dance Camp 2004

August 16 - August 22

Camp Wapiti near Tooele, Utah

Celebrating the Great Outpouring through Dances of Universal Peace,
spiritual walk, silence, meditation, practices, classes, zikr, drumming, and thanksgiving.

The Great Outpouring

Shaddai blesses you

Blessings from the heavens above

Blessings from the deep below

Blessings from the breasts and the wombs

Blessings from the grains and flowers

Blessings from the ancient mountains

Blessings from the bounty of the everlasting hills

Wilderness Camp 2004 returns to Camp Wapiti (Wa-pi'-ti), situated in Settlement Canyon 35 miles west of Salt Lake City. Our dancing tent will be in the center of a large field, adjacent to a heated swimming pool. Sleeping cabins and tenting sites are both available. Airport shuttles will be provided to camp. Vegetarian organic meals will be served, along with supplementary fish & chicken salads. Saddiq Doug Sparks returns to direct a superb children's camp for kids aged four and over.

Asha Greer - Special Guest, Spiritual Elder

Darvesha, Spiritual Director

Narayan Eric Waldman, Munir Peter Reynolds, Bernie Heideman,

Connie Zareen, Grace Marie

Ukyl Forest Shomer, Ziraat (Sacred Ecology); Adrianna Heideman,

"The Work of Byron Katie"; Wayne Talmadge, Big Top;

Ayat Kindschi, Karma Yoga Mistress; Lauren Burrei, Hospitality

Asha Greer, our spiritual elder, is an artist, a nurse, and a grandmother. She is a founder of the Lama Foundation in New Mexico (where Murshid Sam chose to be buried). Her practice of the Japanese Tea Ceremony ranges from comical pageants to deep meditations. It is the ever-quivering splendor (pleasurable or painful) of everyday reality which quickens her life and she is dedicated to passing on whatever might be helpful to whomever might be interested. She has a tendency to cloud watching.

Registration is only \$360 for current Peaceworks members if postmarked by 7/15/04
(\$385 for non-members) Children's registration \$160 (under 3 free).

Make checks payable to Oneness Project
PO Box 7025, Bozeman MT 59771
or register on-line at www.onenessproject.com

Registrar: Diana Anthony-Aven
email: diana@onenessproject.com
telephone: 406-587-5246

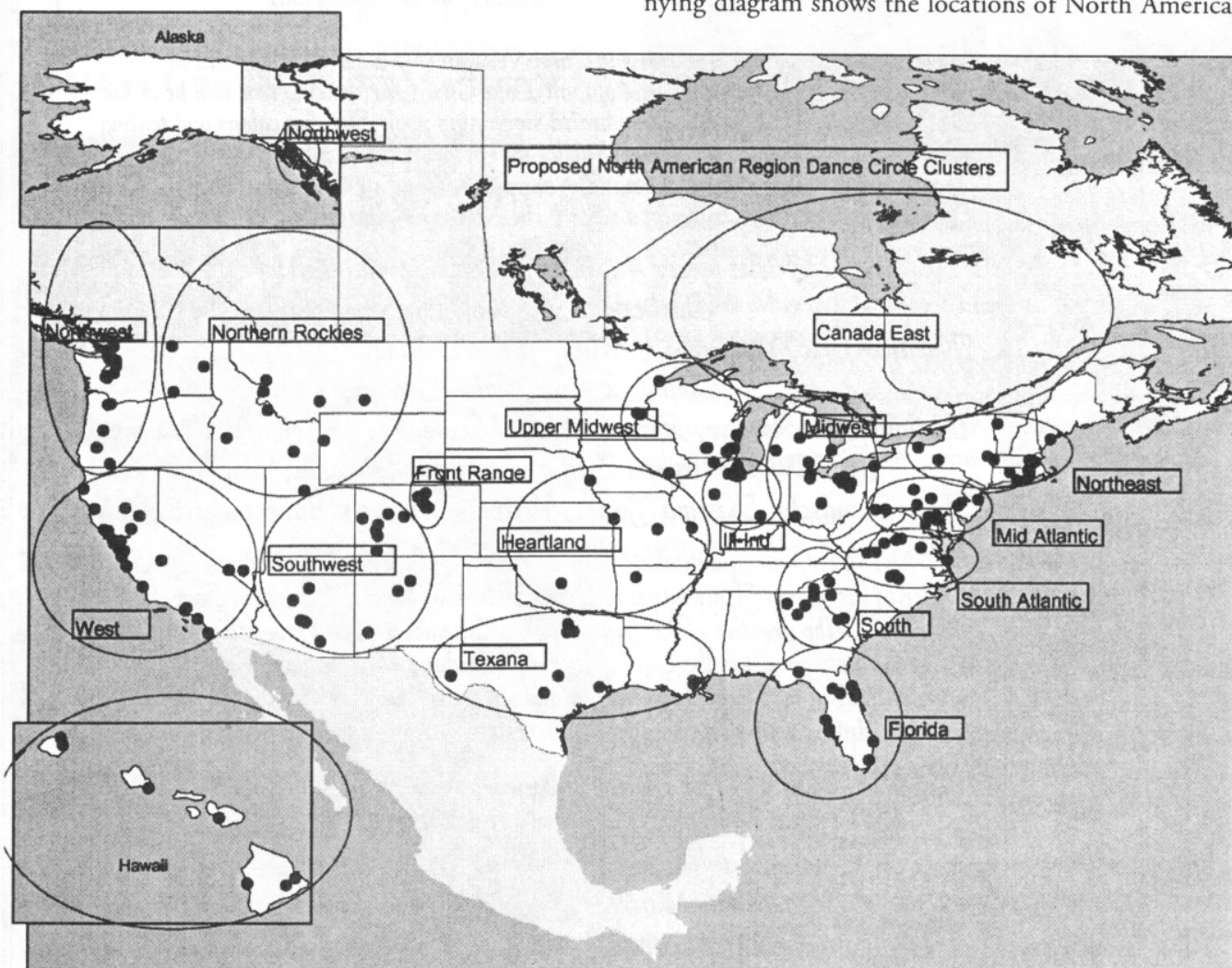
From Regions into Clusters

Subdivisions of the North American Region

Mansur Richard Conviser

THE CURRENT (sub)regions within the North American Region of the International Dance Network were formed about a decade ago, based upon the distribution of Network members on the North American continent. Since that time, many new leaders have been certified, and circles have formed in many parts of North America that did not have them before.

At the February 2002 planning meeting in Santa Fe for the North American Region, a substantial majority of those present felt that it was time to revisit the regions with an eye toward creating smaller clusters of circles covering, in general, smaller geographic areas. Toward that end, I have been working with a volunteer, Sam Ndubuisi, to create geomaps showing the locations of Network members, leaders, and circles. The accompanying diagram shows the locations of North American



circles in the United States (and on our website) as of March 2003; unfortunately, the software we used did not allow us to map the locations of the Network's Canadian circles.

On the basis of these maps, we have proposed a set of 16 clusters in place of the seven current regions (Northwest, West, Rocky Mountain, Midwest, Northeast, South, and—recently added—Hawaii). Two of the proposed clusters—West and Hawaii—are the same as the current regions; another—Northwest—differs from the current region only in reassigning the circles east of the Cascade Mountains. The former Rocky Mountain region is slated to be subdivided into three clusters—Northern Rockies (including parts of Canada), Front Range, and Southwest. In place of the former Midwest region, four clusters have been proposed—Midwest, Upper Midwest, Illinois-Indiana, and Heartland. In place of the South region, we've proposed three clusters—Texana (Texas and Louisiana), Florida, and South (the latter including Georgia, South Carolina,

and western North Carolina). The Eastern region is slated to become four clusters—South Atlantic, Mid Atlantic, Northeast, and Canada East. If you have any observations or concerns regarding proposed cluster boundaries, please send me an e-mail; on the basis of feedback already received, we have dropped plans for a Canada West cluster.

Cluster Coordinators will have the same responsibilities as the current Regional Networkers and Area Connectors—to help publicize regular circles and special events in their areas, and to serve as conduits for information to and from the North American Coordinating Council. We are currently working on designating coordinators for all of the clusters; several current Regional Networkers and Area Connectors have expressed a willingness to continue to assist the Network in this way. It is our hope that it will be easier within these mostly smaller clusters to coordinate and publicize Dance activities. We plan to have the new cluster structure in place by early 2004. ♥



Dancers from Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Texas gathered in the "East Texas Piney Woods" for the annual spring dance weekend, Ya-Hu. Photo by Covita Moroney

Congratulations to Martha on her 10-year Anniversary!

The NACC gratefully expresses its appreciation to Martha Bracken for ten years of dedicated service to the Dances of Universal Peace in the role of Office Manager in the Seattle Office. Martha has gracefully survived administrative restructurings, changes in personnel, the "mitosis" split between IN and NA, several office moves, bats and leaky ceilings, and the arrival of the computer age and email, and still manages to hold things together for us. Words cannot express the fullness of our appreciation. May your connection with the Dances continue for a long time and always be fulfilling.

YA FATAH!

North American Coordinating Council.

EVENTS

2004 NORTH AMERICAN EVENTS

DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE

April 9–11: Lava Hot Springs, Idaho.
EASTER DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE
RETREAT with leaders from around the region at Senior Citizens Center. Organic food provided; hot pools, lodging at your own expense. Contact: Diana Anthony-Aven, P.O. Box 7025, Bozeman, MT 59771 diana@onenessproject.com

April 23–25: Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota.
ANNUAL SPRING DUP AND SUFISM RETREAT
"Be Who You Really Are!" Tasnim Fernandez and Friends. Contact: John Hakim Bushnell, 4604 Columbus Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407 612-827-4424, ruhusir1@aol.com



Dancers in a puppy pile listening to the story of a Tibetan myth. Wilderness Camp, Utah, August 2003. Photo by Dale Vishal.



Villanova University Aramaic Day led by Jeanne Ayesha Lauenborg with music by the Sanctuary Band directed by Dan Mason. Photo by Maureen Mason

April 30–May 2: Hickory Corners
(near Kalamazoo), Michigan
MIDWEST ANNUAL SPRING DUP RETREAT
 at the Kellogg Biological Station; Friday is (optional) regional leadership training day, retreat runs Friday evening through Sunday noon. Contact Registrar Annie Horzen: 920-467-3886 dancinannie@milwpc.com, or Ali Paul Meyer 989-799-5033, Paulme220@pol.net

July 1–4: Salterpath, North Carolina, USA.
"THE OCEAN REFUSES NO RIVER" at the Trinity Center, with Tasnim Hermila Fernandez and Saraswati Mimi O'Neill. Transformation through Dance, Sound, and Sufi practice, beachfront on the beautiful Atlantic coast. Contact: Habiba Debi Niswander, DUPT-reg@cox.net, or call 252-756-6088 between 9 am and 9 pm ET.

The listings on p. 18 & 19 are advertisements paid for by the organizers. Please visit www.dancesofuniversalpeace.org/events to find a complete listing of worldwide dance events

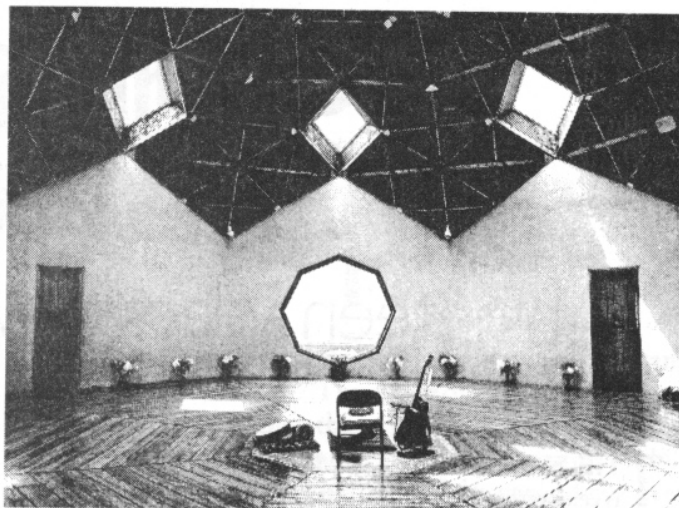
July 12-18th: Washington, D.C. area
CREATIVE ARTS FOR PEACE CAMP
 Peace through the arts for children, families, educators & playful spirits. Dance leadership training. Staff includes Wali & Arienne van der Zwan, Radha Buko, Kathryn Ashera, Ayesha Lauenborg and others. Join the circle! Registrar: Jeanne Alima Ross, unity@accessvt.com, 802-482-2836, www.PeaceDance.org

August 16-22: Camp Wapiti, near Salt Lake City, UT
UTAH WILDERNESS DANCE CAMP 2004 with Darvesha, Asha Greer, Narayan Waldman, Bernie Heideman, Munir Reynolds, Connie Zareen. Contact: Diana Anthony-Aven, P.O. Box 7025, Bozeman, MT 59771, diana@onenessproject.com

October 1-8: at beautiful Camp Keanae, Maui, HI
15th ANNUAL FALL SUFI CAMP ON MAUI with Pir Shabda Kahn and Leilah Be. Come join us for a week of Dances of Universal Peace, Zikr, Meditation, waterfalls, natural swimming pools, and gourmet vegetarian food. \$495 full week tuition. For information and registration call Jason D. Groode at 808-879-5554. Tuition Assistance Programs Available.



Lin Reams (NM), Kathryn Sky (CO) and Joetta Lawrence (MT). Canyonlands UT spring retreat, May 2003. Photo by Bob Spencer.



The dome at Lama waits serenely for the Dance circle to appear. "Touching the Stone" retreat, Lama Foundation, NM, June 2003. Photo by Bob Spencer.

November 12-14: San Antonio, TX
"GENESIS NOW! A Shared Practice of Peace for Jews, Christians and Muslims" with Neil Douglas-Klotz and Kamae Amrapali Miller. This urban retreat will include chant, body prayer, meditation and Dances of Universal Peace. Contact: Covita Moroney, 210-494-3674, moroneys@ix.netcom.com

December 3-5: Lava Hot Springs, Idaho.
25TH SEMI-ANNUAL DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE RETREAT with leaders from around the region at Senior Citizens Center. Organic food provided; hot pools, lodging at your own expense. Contact: Diana Anthony-Aven, P.O. Box 7025, Bozeman, MT 59771, diana@onenessproject.com

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR THE DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE

INTERNATIONAL CORE COUNCIL AND OFFICERS

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Northern California Quarterlies

Celebrating
nineteen years of weekend dance camps

By Sharon Abercrombie

THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA QUARTERLY is celebrating its 19th birthday this year. Possibly the oldest continuously running Dances of Universal Peace weekend dance camp in the world, the Quarterly has much to celebrate.

It has served as a safe, friendly container for nervous first-time leaders to step into the center of the circle and present dances. Many of those fledglings, like Violetta Reiser and Ayat Kindshi, have gone on to become seasoned leaders – Violetta in San Francisco, and Ayat in nearby Mill Valley. The retreats have likewise served as the training ground for new drummers and open-tune guitarists to practice their skills.

In those very early days, the weekends provided an equally welcoming incubator space for Saadi Neil Douglas-Klotz, the Quarterly's founder, to lead new dances and share his emerging scholarship work around the Aramaic sayings of Jesus. 'Old-timers' who were there from the very beginning experienced his awesome creativity in the making, as Saadi introduced some of the wonderful dances which to this day are circle favorites, such as Shining, Undying, Kyrie Eleison, Abwoon, and his early Inanna dances. In retrospect, these weekends turned out to be history in the making.

For all of us, old-timers and newcomers alike, we remember rushing to leave work early, your cars crammed with potluck suppers, dancing clothes, sleeping bags, guitars and drums, enduring Friday afternoon gridlock traffic, to get to those weekends, wherever they happened to be! The hassle was always worth it, even when we had to move from our beloved Pescadero in the middle of the 1990's because the facility had grown too small for the increasing number of participants.

The next place, La Honda, "the camp from hell," was a true spiritual exercise in alchemy, as we were forced to turn base metal into gold on the spot, practicing patience, especially when one of the toilets stopped working, spring rain turned the ground into a slippery sea of mud, dinner was late that first Saturday night because the stove broke down, and the dance space was dreary, dark and grim.

We quickly learned to be inventive. For the next two remaining quarterlies there, we brought lamps, banners, flowers and colorful saris to soften and beautify the space. Dave Norris, Nancy's resourceful son, found a football-stadium-sized carpet for us to dance upon. Thankfully, the Quarterly



California Quarterly, April, 1986. Group photo by (late) Ted Gabbay

then moved to two splendid new homes – our current ones – the Quaker Center, located in a Redwood forest near Santa Cruz for our fall weekend, and Isis Oasis, near Geyserville for our spring events.

Wherever it has been, however, the California Quarterly has always served as a relaxed haven to dance our prayers, reconnect with old friends up and down the California coast, bring new dances back to our own circles, and just simply to bask in the "baraka" of the Ruhaniat Sufi path.

Like other newly emerging movements, the California Quarterly was a process, which developed, changed and flowed, unfolding according to the needs of the day. Noted Saadi, the Quarterlies were a continuation of the early days of the Dances, when Murshid SAM had a Saturday night Advanced Dance class at the Mentorgarten.

"Wali Ali carried it on and passed it to me, when he left the Bay Area. The folks who began coming to that class were from many distances around the Bay Area, so we moved the class to Saturday daytime. Then in 1982, we moved it around to different Sufi centers in the Bay area: Sami Mahal in San Rafael, Noor Mahal in Petaluma, Farid's Khankah in Berkeley, and of course Mentorgarten, with guest leaders from those centers. At this point we were having the class all afternoon with a potluck at the end. This went on for some years, and we recorded most of the Dances of Universal Peace Vol. 3 tapes at these classes."

BY THE EARLY 1980'S people wanted more time for in-depth work with the Dances, and they were also coming from farther and farther away. So at that point, Saadi moved his session to Venture Lodge in Pescadero, in 1984, as a quarterly retreat. For several retreats, "we just danced and meditated on what we wanted the gatherings to be. After that, I began a two-year sequence of more intense presentations on attunements to various traditions. We then proceeded to have special guests come in to present: Tasnim, Murshida Vera and others helped to energize and inspire folks."

It was also the preparation ground for Saadi's first group pilgrimage to the Soviet Union in 1989. And over the years, when other new summer camps began — Lama and Mendocino — the Pescadero gatherings dropped to three, so dancers could attend the others, too.

So what are some other memories of the Quarterly? This writer sent out queries, and these are some of the responses:

Twenty-four years ago, Violetta Reiser had never heard of the Dances of Universal Peace. Living and working and walking the spiritual path in her native Zagreb, Croatia, the former Yugoslavia, she had joined the Theosophical Society. Synchronicity brought the dances into her life in the person of Emilio Trampuz, a fellow theosophist and a head of the Theosophical Society of Yugoslavia then. According to Violetta, Emilio had met a guy whom everyone called "Sufi Barry" while he was working as a volunteer at the Theosophical Society's International Headquarters. The editor of the Society's worldwide journal, Emilio was enraptured by these powerful circle dances. When he returned home to Croatia, he introduced them at a subsequent Theosophical summer camp. Violetta happened to be there. She, too, was enthralled by this new form of prayer. Emilio continued to lead the dances when everybody returned back to Zagreb. "We would meet at my studio apartment on Monday nights, and since it was such a small place, we would mostly sing the melodies with occasional slow dance. Now

and then we were able to rent a bigger space. And of course, every year there was Theosophical summer camp," said Violetta.

That lasted three years. When Emilio decided that he needed to follow these beautiful dances to their birthplace in San Francisco, Violetta realized that there wouldn't be anybody left to lead them — and "I couldn't live without them any more." So she joined Emilio on the trip that was supposed to last only for six months to a year. That was in 1984. "Well, I am still here," quipped Violetta.

When Saadi started the Pescadero Quarterly, she volunteered to serve as registrar and continues in that role today. In all these years, she has only missed one. What are some of her favorite memories?

"I was new and needed to learn a lot. The environment was so safe that I, even though scared out of my mind, would try something new." Violetta recalls how "how glad we were to be together, no matter where. We slept in rooms, male/female. On the living room floor, in tents...we had two showers for 45 people."

Her worst recollection: "One very hot summer, a couple of harmless snakes ended up swimming in the pool. One of the cook's daughters grabbed a snake and came toward me. I am afraid of snakes totally; as a symbol they are fine, just don't give them to me," said Violetta. "The kid kept coming toward me holding the wretched thing in front of me. I lost it. I screamed at the poor kid and I really scared her. She was pouting at me for the rest of the day!"

Those little snakes, however managed to wiggle into Violetta's creative unconscious. They emerged several years later as "Ama Usum," a dance honoring the Sumerian Goddess Inanna, in her embodiment of the Serpent, the symbol of transformation and change.

Quarterly recollections from other participants add up to a rich, colorful tapestry. Ardisura Carol Griffin remembers in those early days how she, Nancy Norris, Michael Selim Turnor and other leaders would meet at the

Presidio cafeteria in San Francisco to plan the Quarterlies.

Weekends themselves were an egalitarian team experience. Ardisura recalls, "When Saadi was introducing his work, we were included in the experimentation. There was something about his openness, inclusiveness, and graciousness that helped us to feel we could take charge. Empowerment for Ardisura showed up in her creation of the "Unbroken Flows the Rhythm" dance.

Empowerment also meant not being afraid to take risks. Ayat Kindshi recalls the time in 1993 when Ardisura led the Helveti cycle when she was eight months pregnant with Kira. "She didn't hold back in the vigorous section and I was sure all the bouncing up and down was going to bring that baby out right there."

Ayat has other great memories. She can still picture "the long kitchen table



Darvesha Victoria MacDonald, August 2003. Photo by Dale Vishal.

we all managed to sit around as a large happy family, the late night soaks on the hot tub when we couldn't stop singing." She remembers the "rich experiences of the many teachers; Shabda and Sara Morgan telling stories of Murshid Sam. Saadi, Darvesha, Violetta, Sylvania, Selim, Christoff and many others who experimented and birthed new dances."



Dancing at the California Quarterly, July 1986. Photo by (late) Ted Gabbay

The legacy of leaders includes Muiz Brinkerhoff, Ardivisura, Malika Merrill Endres, Nancy Norris, and Michael Selim Turnor, she recalls.

Ayat earned her chef's hat at the quarterlies, when she volunteered to cook for the large gatherings at Pescadero. "I had to think creatively many times. There was the smoky black bean soup for dinner. While fixing their own lunch, someone mistakenly turned the burner on under the soup and it burned. I managed to save most of it, and someone actually asked how I got the great smoky flavor in the soup. Another time one of the refrigerators froze most of the lettuce and I wandered about gathering wild miner's lettuce for our salad."

In 1990, Nancy and Darvesha assumed the weekend leadership.

Assuming the mantle "was a real stretch for me," recalls Nancy, modestly. A veteran leader herself since discovering the Dances in 1982, Nancy recalls with gratitude the good rapport she enjoyed with Darvesha, "who helped weave the dances around a theme" and "Selim, who took care of the practical stuff, like starting the wood fire." One would never have guessed the experience was a stretch for her.

This writer, who began attending the Quarterlies in 1994, remembers Nancy as a quiet, gentle, grounded leader with an amazingly large repertoire of dances who not only co-focused the dance sessions themselves, but also was always

present from the first moment of Friday night registration check-ins, paying special attention to newcomers, making certain everyone felt comfortable with their surroundings. On Saturday afternoons she showed up at the feedback dance sessions for new leaders, and, if all this wasn't enough, taught classes in open tune guitar. Even though new leaders would feel nervous presenting dances, Nancy served as a patient, calming presence, easily bringing to mind Julian of Norwich's reassurance that "all will be well." Underneath our panic, we knew it would be. And it was.

If the Dances are Violetta's spiritual life, Buddhism has been Darvesha's. When Darvesha first encountered the dances, she felt as if she had entered into "a moving zendo, a musical mandala. Here I could continue practicing Vipassana, but now, in sound, relationship and movement," she reflected.

Darvesha had already brought movement into her awareness practice. After encountering Buddha Dharma, she began studying with Charlotte Selver, Emilee Conrad, Ana Halprin, Gabrielle Roth, and others. It was a return to a childhood love of dance but now as practice rather than performance, she realized. "The dances uniquely offered an emphasis on sound and on the movement that emanates from the spirit and feeling of the words."

The Dances also provided for her

something she had not found anywhere else: a container for therapeutic work that had not been completed. Here, in the mirroring of partnerships, she found a safe place to show grief, and "to reprogram an old pattern of hiding."

When Darvesha moved to Montana in 1993, she and Nancy continued on with the quarterlies. "At this point, Ardivisura excused herself to become a full-time mother," said Darvesha. "I loved facilitating these quarterlies, always feeling that my vow is found within the words of St. Thérèse of Lisieux: 'I want to spend my heaven doing good works on earth.'"

Eventually, with so many newly emerging California leaders stepping into the circle, "it no longer made sense for me to continue, and I stepped out in 2000." Malika Merrill Endres, a gifted long-time leader, became the new co-facilitator and carried the group energy forward with her inspired Hindu concentrations. Malika retired this past year, and we shall miss her.

Where does the Quarterly go from here? At this writing, Muiz Brinkerhoff is scheduled to lead dances for January, and after that, who knows?

That question is okay with Darvesha, who, echoing SAM and Saadi, observes: "We are encouraged by our leaders to find the spirit of our guidance, not from one individual, but from the group: all of us working together." And so the Dance goes on. ♥

(Sharon Nurjehan Abercrombie, the writer, was once dubbed, "an Aramaic junkie" by Saadi, and she carries the title with humble joy. Nurjehan is currently a member of the dance leading team for the Berkeley meeting and has taught the Dances at women's spirituality retreats as well as ecological spirituality workshops throughout California. In recent months, she and SierraLynne White have been leading dances throughout the Bay Area at several interfaith mini-sessions previewing the upcoming Parliament of World Religions in Barcelona.)

SNAPSHOTS FROM LOCAL CIRCLES

"Art of Peace" Duluth, Minnesota

In spring 2002, a group of dedicated artists organized a beautiful day of peace activities at the First United Methodist Church of Duluth. It was a success, and, with war with Iraq looming this past spring, 2003, the event was repeated to an even more enthusiastic welcome. The day began with singing songs of peace and dancing around a Maypole. Local artists of all ages displayed visual art; performers sang and played music all afternoon; creative and participatory activities were provided for children and adults. The day culminated with a performance of modern dance, drama, and songs by the Peace Choir. The Duluth Dance Circle offered an hour of Dances in the chapel, led by Suria Gelb, Carl Karasti, and Salima Rael Buerke. In addition to several of our regular dancers, we were overjoyed to introduce the Dances to 20 new people. - Carol Nur Allah Orban

"Shabbat Shalom" Pembroke, Ontario

In Pembroke, our six-year journey together has been a rich one. We now have two and sometimes three dance leaders. Our musicians have appeared and blossomed. Our voices ride the strings of Ken's guitar and Margaret's accordion and recorder. Our footsteps are supported by the beat of Jean's drum. The opening cords of "Shabbat Shalom" sound from Margaret's accordion. The circle begins moving and joyfully welcomes the Shabbat bride.

- Joanne Murray

"Questions and Answers" Providence, Rhode Island

Q: How do you feel about the Dances of Universal Peace? Why do you come?

A: "I experience sublime beauty; I sense a natural rhythm inside when I feel more at home with myself and with others. Awkwardness vanishes; a

majestic harmony surfaces, and my restless nature disappears. I feel a real intimacy in relationship with my circle of friends as I gaze in their eyes. My soul's hunger is fed. Words are inadequate to express the beauty and unity with all." Maureen Anderson

A: "I come to this special circle to join with others on a common journey towards peace. Shedding the negative experiences of the day, allowing them to be replaced with love (a sense of oneness)." Jennifer Galt

Q: What was one of your favorite moments at tonight's dance meeting?

A: "I felt exhilaration and ecstasy while turning tonight. I felt divine presence and gave way to it naturally. My heart was tender, open, and I felt one with everyone. All judgment fell away, and a deep source of silence sprang from the depth of me." Maureen

A: "Looking into the eyes of my fellow dancers, sharing their laughter and feeling connected to them and, in turn, all people." Jennifer

- Nicholas Leonardo



A Dances gathering in Las Vegas, Nevada. Photographer unknown.

"Dancing with Angels" Hyde Park, Mokena, Park Forest, and Plainfield, Illinois

Because our circles are relatively small, there have been many times when we want to do a partner dance but do not have an even number of people. Therefore, we have developed the tradition of inviting an angel to be an unseen partner. Frequently, one or more of us has the very distinct feeling that the angel with us is our beloved Ed Malik Dixon, who started three of our Dance circles. We can see his laughing eyes and feel his loving presence, and we are blessed yet again by this great man.

- Nancy Pfaltzgraf

"The Beauty Way" **Portland, Maine**

When I sing and dance, I feel my soul opening up, and at times, a pure ecstatic joy washes over me. No matter what is going on in my life, the Dances of Universal Peace are a safe refuge, like a beautiful garden filled with flowers, fountains, suns, moons and stars. During the partner dances, over and over again I see reflected in each person's eyes the fear, compassion, potential, unconditional love, divinity and truth mirroring my own emotions. One night during "The Beauty Way" I saw the effect: we were not only singing and dancing, but being the words, the music and the meaning of opening up to the perfection of each minute and allowing ourselves to embrace it fully, in all our beauty.

- Annie Seikonia

"Spirit of Peace" **Las Vegas, Nevada**

In the expanse of the southwest desert, on the edges of the 24-hour-a-day town of Las Vegas, Nevada, a circle offers spiritual insight, release and communion through the Dances of Universal Peace. Over the years, readings from many sources and spiritual traditions have been used to set the tone for the evening or complement specific dances. This year, we have added more readings with musical backing by Sandip, Ayesha, or David, and some dancers have offered their own contributions and songs. Woven into the evening is a period of meditation to sitar, tablas, didgeridoo, or autoharp, during which the dancers remain still or dance (if so moved). Most changes for the circle this year have focused inward, and although our dancers hold the center with the dances, we have learned the spirit of peace takes many forms and, therefore, has expanded our horizons for ourselves, our community, and our world.

- David Buesch, with metta

"International Flavor" **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

One of our two dance circles has been ongoing since the time of the Gulf War, starting on Valentine's Day in 1991. We always mark that Anniversary because we remember that the intention behind starting up this circle was to offer a safe place for our community to gather and sing our prayers for peace in languages from the Earth. We are blessed with a sacred space that is within a Quaker School where many other activities take place. Our circle has always had an international flavor, with people attending it from Iran, Senegal, Denmark, Russia, Israel, Turkey, Holland and other places on the earth. Elena Mondress, age 12, has been dancing since she was six; she and her mom, Joan, are apprenticing with me to lead the dances in her school and elsewhere.

- Jeanne Ayesha Lauenborg

"Healing the Land, Healing our Hearts" **New York City**

Our hearts have been ever so moved since 9/11 for that area right around the World Trade Center. Many of our beloved teachers have come through Sufi Books, so very close to the World Trade Center, including Saadi, Allaudin and Sarmad, and Shabda, as well as Jelaluddin Loras, et al. I have been invited to lead the Dances of Universal Peace there (at Sufi Books) on a regular basis. A Dance in the spring drew about forty people, and with the depth of that response, we will be sharing the Dances there on a bi-monthly basis. All of this is with the intention of gathering the beloveds, and sharing in our prayers of healing of the land and of our hearts.

- Jeanne Ayesha Lauenborg

"Heart of the Dances" **Lama Foundation** **Taos, New Mexico**

The Lama Foundation, high in the mountains above Taos, NM, has been a home for the Dances since the days of Murshid Sam, who came there to teach and Dance and garden, and whose maqbara (gravesite) sits serenely on a hillside overlooking the main retreat area.

It has been an intentional community since the days when it was founded by Asha Greer, Ram Das and others in the 1960's, and it continues to maintain its spiritual center, with a beautiful hobbit-like meditation room and glorious dome dancing space, organic gardens, prayer flags, resident staff, private retreat huts, and workshops that range from natural building techniques to meditation to the Dances of Universal Peace. Dances, meditation and Shabbat celebrations are a continuing part of life at Lama.

In the summer of 2003, a number of Sam's original disciples joined with about 50 Dancers and Sufis for a week at Lama. Shabda, Tui, Allaudin, Fatima, Sarah, and Asha told stories of Sam's vision, his eccentricities, his love and dedication to peace, and his visits to Lama. Participants ate delicious organic meals, danced at Sam's maqbara, meditated in the Lama dome, celebrated Shabbat, attended Asha's tea ceremonies, and endured Lama's coldest June in many years without even noticing (well, without noticing much).

Lama: the site of the Dances' secret heart, a pilgrimage point for those dedicated to the Dances. Everyone is welcome there; come, return to the land of your soul.

- (Kathryn) Sky

Local and regional gatherings and contacts are listed at:
www.dancesofuniversalpeace.org
Visit the Dances of Universal Peace site to get connected.

Striving for Spiritual Competency

through the Dances of Universal Peace

Increasing compassion for those from religious and ethnic cultures different from our own

L. Salima Rael, a certified Dance leader and chaplain in a hospice program in Duluth, Minnesota, recently led an in-service utilizing the Dances to teach "Spiritual Competency". She defines Spiritual Competency as having compassion for and connection to those from religious and ethnic cultures different from our own. She chose that term because she believes "it's as possible as and no worse really than 'cultural competency' which gets bandied about these days ..."

Her basic premise in developing this presentation was that spirituality in its essence is universal. It transcends and exists within organized religious bodies and traditions. God (Truth,

Dancers hold the space for those tending Murshid S.A.M. and Murshida Vera Corda's Maqbara sites.

Universal Intelligence) is One, we are One. It does not mean we are the same, yet we are One. Each soul has the life of the divine driving it to the realization of that self-same divine truth of being, whatever expression of life experience it is drawn toward.

She writes: "It does not matter if we're religious, spiritual, humanist or atheist. Most of us are all of these if we are honest. We all seem to have a will to do good, to love, to cherish and to relate to others in some way (connectedness) and to find meaning and purpose in it all (faith)."

During the presentation, Salima Rael told the participants "to experience and explore the spiritual understandings embedded in a religion's culture or tradition by learning about and participating in sacred circle dances with the chants and songs from the world's treasure house of spiritual traditions, including Native American, Judaic, Christian, Islamic, Hindu, Buddhist, and more."

Salima touted the benefits of participation to include the freedom to:

- think and feel in new ways.
- gain insight and openness to the experience of your own and others' spiritual expression within a tradition that may be unfamiliar to you.
- enhance creativity and imagination.
- deepen connections.
- heal unnecessary divisions, fears and misconceptions between peoples of different faith experiences.
- explore and appreciate other cultures' spirituality, values, and beliefs experientially.

Salima Rael reports that the first in-service at her place of work went as well as she had expected: The two men who came left early on, before or during the first dance. All of the women—except some who had to leave early—stayed and gave both good and constructive feedback on do's and don'ts for an upcoming repeat presentation at the Regional Social Services Convention. The presentation is one and one half hours long. If you would like more info, email Liana Salima Rael Buerke, at: lsalimarael@msn.com ♥

Photo by Bob Spencer



At the Edge of the Well

Deepening in the Dances of Universal Peace

By Davka Jessica Schurtman

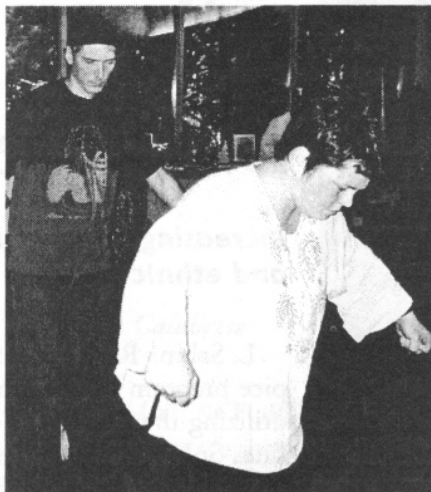
j_paramita@yahoo.com

SOMETIMES THE PLANETS align just so, and mysterious forces come together to create something special. This must have been the case for At the Edge of the Well, a three-year retreat program of deepening in the Dances of Universal Peace. Our circle of three mentor-teachers and seventeen participants from Oregon, Washington and California, dancers, dance leaders or leaders-in-training, comes together three times a year in an old growth forest just outside of Portland. Because of the continuity of the circle, we deepen not only in the Dances, but also in our relationships with each other.

The inspiration for At the Edge of the Well initially surfaced at a Mentor Teachers Guild training workshop. "At one point in the workshop, Jamshed (Ken Storer) and I caught each other's eyes across the room and had the same thought in that moment: wouldn't it be wonderful for us to collaborate on an in-depth training program right here in Oregon! ... We included Heather [Hoppe] very early in the process because we knew we wanted an expert in the walking practices of Murshid Samuel L. Lewis. This 'esoteric school of the Dances of Universal Peace' is a comprehensive, affordable program of 'dance education' that doesn't require participants to travel all over the globe", relates facilitator Devi Elena DeJardin.

"I feel blessed and honored all the time; to be working with such a group of people is an honor, it brings me to tears. Working with Jamshed and Devi is exceedingly easy and effortless. We're all on the same wavelength—no one's ego trips are in the way; we're all really in synch," says Heather. As if to illustrate this point, Devi echoes the same sentiments almost exactly: "What makes our circle so special is the extraordinary mix of people

A three-year retreat program in an old-growth forest in Oregon



Mars walk of the planets; pictured front to back: Davka Schurtman, Michael Hagmeier. Photo by Jamshed Ken Storer.

who answered the invitation. We are a very special group that has been intended to be together since ...? As a facilitator, I am brought to tears at least once (and usually many more times) during every session: the depth of commitment to the process, the devotion, the grace of presence, the INTENTION of everyone there is absolutely awesome. As facilitators, I see the job of the three of us as creating and holding the container. What is unfolding in that container is the gorgeous lotus blossom that is the participants."

Every part of this program is thoughtfully and skillfully designed, from the formation of temporary clans, allowing us to experience creation and dissolution in one weekend, to assigning us different roommates each retreat, promoting greater unity by allowing us to interact on a deeper level with people with whom we are less familiar. Barbara Trites, one of the participants, says, "What makes our group special is the collective harmony. When we get together one would not know that 60% of the people dance together regularly. Everyone is an insider sharing the lavish warmth equally."

Coming together to dance with this attuned group is profound, as we move our feet in synch, harmonize our voices, and are conduits for the free flow of energy. I knew this would be the case when we danced our first dance, that first Thursday, last November. What I am surprised by and so grateful for is the personal healing I am experiencing. It is a gift for me to feel so deeply connected to others. For me, this group is a family in the very best sense of the word.

We are truly living S.A.M.'s vision of "dancing, eating and praying together." Devi notes, "For whatever mysterious reason, we have been called together. Our specific purpose shall be revealed." ♥

In Recognition of your Service...

Cheryl Darling has retired from the NACC after five years of amazingly energetic service. Cheryl, who dances in the Chicago area, helped shepherd the North American Region into a new era after the "mitosis" of IN and NA, and continued to provide perspective, history, and a sense of mission to the council. She kept track of everything! Her computer contained every email, and she could find any detail someone needed; we could be sure it would come flying to us within 24 hours, even when she was spending half her life in hotel rooms! Cheryl was never afraid to speak up, to burst bubbles, to question assumptions, to point out inconsistencies. Her work as treasurer was invaluable. We've missed her huge smile, her warm hug, and her amazing energy. Thank you, Cheryl!

Many thanks to **Carol Hanson**, who recently stepped down as Chair of the NACC. Over the past 4 years, Carol has provided continuity, connectivity, love, and diplomacy as the NACC has worked to create an autonomous, responsive region of the DUP. We thank Carol for her willingness to fill many roles: besides serving on the Council in several capacities, she has been on the PeaceWorks Inc. board and has been a vital liaison for us. Her down-to-earth management helped the NACC get through some difficult stages. We send Carol our love & light.

Volunteers, PeaceWorks-Dances of Universal Peace North America (PW-DUP, NA)

The growth and nurturing of the Dances, and the network's service to all the Dancers in North America cannot be done without the volunteers. Many thanks to everyone listed here (and to anyone we might have overlooked...): may your way be open, your future bright and your connection with the Dances full of joy.

NA COORDINATING COUNCIL

Carol Hanson, Latifa Jennifer Till, Mansur Richard Conviser, Nur Allah Carol Orban, Rafiq Nuri Yarri Soteris, Peter Slonek, SierraLynne White. Cheryl MacLeod Darling (retired 2003).

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South Region: FL: Diana Kanoy; LA: Amina Horton-Deane; TX: Nirtana Terilee Thompson

West Region: CA Central Coast: Yarrow Michael Nelson; CA Chico, Paradise: Joy Mendoza; CA East Bay: Sharon Abercrombie; CA Grass Valley, NevCty: Ellen Kaf-i-Mariam Fietz-Hall; CA Humboldt: Ananda Hazzard; Los Angeles: Tasnim Hermila Fernandez; CA Mendocino: Malika Merrill Endres; CA Sacramento Valley: Joyce Bahati; San Francisco: Violetta Reiser; Santa Barbara: Bill Prothero; CA Sonoma: Tui Wilschinsky; CA South Bay: Nancy Norris; NV: Jeanne Gutterman, Kirsten Barrett

NA WEBSITE AND DATABASE SUPPORT

One time Events Database: Terry Matthews, Farrunnissa Lila Rosa. East

Good where
we've been, good
where we're
going to!

To Cheryl Darling,
Carol Hanson,
Nur Allah Orban
& SierraLynne White

Many heartfelt thanks for your service on the North American Coordinating Council for the Dances of Universal Peace, where your dedication, inspiration and heart helped hold the space for the Council during these years of evolution and change. You have each brought your gifts and uniquely given of yourselves in service to the One. We bow at your feet.

May your future be bright with new possibilities and your faces grace our Dance gatherings for years to come.

YA FATAH!

the North American Coordinating Council

Region Website Editor: John Reed;
Rocky Mountain Region Website Editor:
Glenn Harvey

HOLIDAY CARD ADDRESSING, 2002 & 2003, LEADERS & CIRCLES

Aeolea (Wendy) Burwell (both years), New York; Annie Horzen, Wisconsin; Carol Hanson, Idaho; Carolyn Horvath, Ohio; Cheryl Botts, New York; Donna Schiller (both years), Illinois; Farrunnissa Lila Rosa, North Carolina (both years); Greg Boster, Florida; Janice Jemila Felisko, Florida; Jennifer Latifa Till, Virginia; Judith Kubish, Wisconsin; Lucinda Willes, Wyoming; Rebecca Nada Davis (both years), Idaho; SierraLynne White, California; Tajali Theresa Tolan, Wisconsin; Tom and Katya Taylor, Florida; Violetta Reiser, California.

OTHER

Bylaws: Kathryn Greeson; Holiday card production: Kabira Kirby; Working Assets donation recipient package: Josephine Bhakti Giaimo, Jami Frank Milan; Cluster geomapping: Sam Ndubuisi

PW-DUP-NA STAFF

Database and website: Dave Nur-al-Haqq Walker; Financial Manager: Ananda Hazzard; Office: Martha Bracken; Volunteer Coordinator: (Kathryn) Sky

Circle Outreach

Be inspired: arrange your own outreach dance event

THANKS TO ALL those who took the Dances outside of their regular circles and let us know what they did. May their efforts, as well as the efforts not listed here, bear fruit, and may these examples serve as inspiration to us all (See also Joann Calabrese's story of bringing the Dances to a women's prison in this issue!).

Benefit for "Doctors Without Borders," Community Cultural Project. Dances led by Malika Oudes and Lu Hafiz Leland. Malika Oudes (509) 486-4045 or moudes@tonasket.wednet.edu. Tonasket, WA

Earth Charter Conference. Dances led by Jeanne Ayesha Lauenborg, SufiCaravan@aol.com or (610) 544-2778. Philadelphia, PA

July 4th Weekend. Dances led by Jeanne Ayesha Lauenborg and dancers during Interfaith Service in the Episcopal Christ's Church. 350 people did body prayer in their pews and danced in the aisles. Contact: Jeanne Ayesha Lauenborg SufiCaravan@aol.com or (610) 544-2778. Philadelphia, PA

London Grove Quakers, after their Meeting for Worship, requesting a focus on healing for their own community after the US declared war on Iraq. Eighty people, including twenty-five children, attended. Dances led by Jeanne Ayesha and Sarah Latifa Lauenborg, SufiCaravan@aol.com or (610) 544-2778. London Grove, PA

Open Center at the Children's Aide Society. Dances led by Jeanne Ayesha and Sarah Latifa Lauenborg, SufiCaravan@aol.com or (610) 544-2778. New York City, NY

Outdoor Science Camp for 40 eager 7th graders. Best group ever! Dances led by Robin Mallor, robin@intouchmi.com. Lapeer, MI

Quaker Friends High School. Dances led by Jeanne Ayesha Lauenborg, SufiCaravan@aol.com or (610) 544-2778. Wilmington, DE

Quaker School of the Spirit, at the close of their two year period of study with a student body from across the US. Dances led by Jeanne Ayesha Lauenborg, SufiCaravan@aol.com or (610) 544-2778. Aston, PA

Quarterly meeting of the New England CORPUS (The National Association for an Inclusive Priesthood). Led by Elaine McGillicuddy, elaine@portlandyoga.com Framingham, MA

Tamarack Folk Dance Club Winter Solstice dance last December. Contact Carol Nur Allah Orban, carolo@cpinternet.com or 218-365-3346. Duluth MN



Drummer Brian McAdams gets help from a novice percussionist. Canyonlands (UT) spring camp, May 2003. Photo by Bob Spencer.

Theosophical Society, New Jersey Chapter. Dances led by Jeanne Ayesha Lauenborg, SufiCaravan@aol.com or (610) 544-2778. Wilmington, DE. Union, NJ

Tonasket Barter Faire. Dances led by Malika Oudes and Skeeter (Michael Pilarski). Malika Oudes (509) 486-4045 or moudes@tonasket.wednet.edu. Tonasket, WA

Unitarian Universalist Church Saturday evening event. Dances led by Elaine McGillicuddy, elaine@portlandyoga.com Portland, ME

Unitarian Universalist Young Adults Gathering. Dances led by Jeanne Ayesha Lauenborg, SufiCaravan@aol.com or (610) 544-2778. Summit, NJ

Waldorf School back-to-school picnic. Dances led by Robin Mallor, robin@intouchmi.com. Detroit, MI

West Chester University. Neil Douglas Klotz spoke on Mysticism followed by Dances led by Saadi Neil Douglas-Klotz and Jeanne Ayesha Lauenborg. Contact: Jeanne Ayesha Lauenborg, SufiCaravan@aol.com (610) 544-2778. West Chester, PA

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Dances led by Jeanne Ayesha Lauenborg, SufiCaravan@aol.com or (610) 544-2778. Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA

Women's Retreat. Friends' Meeting House. Dances led by Elaine McGillicuddy, elaine@portlandyoga.com Portland, ME ♥



Small Things with Great Beauty

An Update on the Children's Project

by Kathryn Ashera Sprowls

THE CHILDREN'S PROJECT of the Dances of Universal Peace is just beginning its work of supporting the many strands of dancing with children throughout our global network. These strands extend around the world in the small ways that children are involved in the Dances of Universal Peace. It is as simple as a child showing up at a dance circle, or someone sharing a dance or its song in a classroom or home. "Small things with great beauty," as Mother Teresa said. These strands weave back into the past, as when Murshida Vera began the Children's Universal Worship and circle times with the Dances, when pioneers such as Anahata Iradah went into the schools, and Radha Buko published the first children's newsletters and monograph.

Today the Children's Project is breaking new ground. We have just created a colorful website: PeaceDance.org, which has a message board and a dozen or so pages detailing the events, resources and dance leaders linked in this work. If you would like to add yourself to the list, or to bring up a topic you'd like to discuss, please visit our website and share your particular interests and activities.

In addition, we have begun videotaping some of the dances most often used with children toward the creation of a teaching tape, and eventually, a DVD. On another front, "All My Relations," the sequel to "I Open My Eyes," continues to move toward publication in the beginning of 2004.

Creative Arts for Peace Camp

ALL OF THESE STRANDS, old and new, are being woven into the first North American camp focused on children, families, and educators. From July 12-18, 2004, in the Washington, D.C. area, all are welcome to come be members of our miniature global peace village. Playful spirits of all ages will have an opportunity to eat, dance, pray and play together. Dance leaders, educators, parents, artists and religious education instructors, and children of all ages are welcome. Teens and tweens will have special multi-media projects and tiny ones will be part of a parent's co-op lovingly encircled by the family clan. The Creative Arts for Peace Camp will be a playful exploration of the Dances of Universal Peace, storytelling, music, new games, poetry, movement improvisation, visual and tactile arts, and community celebration. Periods of inspired reflection and inner beauty will be incorporated into our colorful tapestry.

We have reserved a wonderful site, Claymont, which is 50 minutes from the Capital (Washington, D.C.) Beltway and the Dulles International Airport. Shuttles will be accommodating our many traveling guests. Claymont is a wooded 355 acre

community in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley of West Virginia just minutes from the river. Dedicated to conscious living, it incorporates organic gardens, multiple classrooms, an octagonal dance space with a wood floor, a children's school, art studio, open and wooded spaces, fire circles, walking paths, and sacred spots. Its historic mansion and exceptional grounds make it a true treasure! The Great Barn and multiple camping locations give us the flexibility to accommodate up to 120 people. Some locations are air conditioned. You can read more about it at:

www.claymontsociety.org.

Pied Pipers will include Arienne and Wali van der Zwan, bringing the flavor of the European Peace Through the Arts camps. Radha Buko, Ayesha Lauenborg, Safia Slack, and other dance leaders and mentors who work with children will join together with artists, educators and families to create a very playful celebration.

We will explore one or more of the major faith traditions of the earth each day, celebrating what is sacred and alive together through a variety of dances, rituals and the arts. We will seek to nurture our creative spirits through participation in a wide variety of art experiences, both

individual and collaborative. All will be part of a clan that spends time together learning, sharing and growing.

There will be a special emphasis on dance leadership training for those working with children of all ages, giving us tools and experiences to share with children that will create intercultural understanding, facilitate alternative conflict resolution, support positive social interactions, decrease bullying and violence, enhance self-esteem and promote peaceful well-being. By bringing together dance leaders, artists and educators with expertise in working with children, we hope to inspire ourselves and others to facilitate children's unfoldment in all of these areas. We intend to build new connections and collaborations amongst those working with children. ♥

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Camp Director:
Kathryn Ashera Sprowls
SpiralRose@aol.com

Camp Registrar:
Alima Jeanne-Joy Ross
unity@accessvt.com

ONGOING DANCE CIRCLES

All circle listings are subject to change.

CANADA

Edmonton - Riverdale Community Hall - 9231 100th Ave - 2 Mondays a Month - 7:30pm
 Denman Island - Denman Elementary School - One or Two Sundays per month - 7:15pm
 Nelson - Girl Guide Hall - 4th Friday
 Victoria - Quaker Meeting House - 1831 Fern St - 1st & 3rd Tuesdays - 7:30pm
 Winlaw - Thread's Guild - One Friday a Month
 Kingston - St. James' Anglican Church - Barrie St south of Union - 2nd Friday
 (3rd Friday in Apr 04) - 7:00pm
 Ottawa - First Unitarian Church - 2nd Tuesday - 7:30pm
 Ottawa - Bells Corner United Church - 3rd Saturday - 7:00pm
 Pembroke - Marguerite Center - 2nd Sunday - 7:00pm
 Toronto - Unitarian Church - 79 Hiawatha Rd - 3rd Saturday - 1:30pm
 Toronto - Bloor Street United Church - 300 Bloor St W - 1st Friday - 7:30pm
www.dancesofuniversalpeace.toronto.on.ca
 Montreal - 3433 Aylmer - 2nd Tuesday - 7:30pm
 West Brome - 129 Wells Rd - 1st Saturday - 7:00pm

ALASKA

Juneau - Unity Room - Valentine Building - Seward St - 2nd & 4th Saturdays - 7:00pm

ARKANSAS

Deer - Heartsong Shrine - Next to Ozark National Forest - 1st Saturday - 7:30pm
 Fayetteville - St. Paul's Episcopal Church - New Parish Hall - 224 N East St - 2nd and 4th Fridays - 7:30pm

ARIZONA

Cornville - The Earthship - Last Saturday - 7:00pm
 Gilbert - The Omega School - 18208 S. 154th St - 3rd Sunday - 7:00pm
www.wpo.net/sufijohn/
 Phoenix - Southwest Institute of Healing Arts - 1100 East Apache Blvd (near Rural)
 2nd & Last Saturdays - 7:30pm - www.wpo.net/sufijohn/
 Prescott - Prescott College Chapel - 220 Grove - 3rd Saturday - 7:00pm
www.PrescottDances.org
 Show Low - Unity Church - 1233 Fawnbrook Rd - 4th Sunday - 1:00pm
 Snowflake - Horizon House - 2nd Sunday - 2:00pm
 Tempe - Bodyworks Studio - 1801 S Jen Tily Lane - Ste B-8 - 1st Friday - 7:30pm
www.wpo.net/sufijohn/
 Tucson - Quaker Friends Meeting Hall - 931 N 5th Ave - 2nd Saturday - 7:00pm

CALIFORNIA

Berkeley - Durant House - 2330 Durant Ave - 3rd Friday - 7:30pm
 Carmel Valley - Community Church - Carmel Valley Rd - 2nd Saturday - 7:00pm
 Chico - Subud Hall - 574 E. 12th Street - 4th Saturday - 7:00pm
 Eureka - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship - 3471 Jacoby Creek
 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays 7:00pm -
 Fresno - First Congregational Church - 2131 N Van Ness - 1st Friday - 7:00pm
 Laguna Beach - Neighborhood Congregational Church - 340 St. Ann's Drive
 Every other month - www.lagunadances.com
 Laytonville - Malika's home - 46890 Hwy 101 - 1st Sunday - 10:30am
 Los Angeles (Santa Monica) - Forbes Hall - 1721 Arizona Ave - 4th Friday - 8:00pm
<http://www.churchofall.us>
 Los Angeles (Studio City) - Unitarian Church - 12355 Moorpark St (5 blks west of Laurel Canyon) - 2nd Friday - 8:00pm - <http://www.churchofall.us>
 Marin (San Rafael) - Turtle Island Yoga Center - 526 3rd Street (across from United Market)
 1st Fridays - 7:30pm - <http://www.geocities.com/peacedance2003/>
 Middletown - Harbin Hot Springs - 2nd Wednesday - 7:30pm - <http://www.sufisonoma.org>
 Nevada City - Nevada County Library - 980 Helling Way - Various Sundays - 6:00 pm
 Palo Alto - Unitarian Universalist Church - 505 E Charleston (near Middlefield)
 2nd & 4th Saturdays - 7:30pm -
 Pleasant Hill - ReUnion Center - 140 Mayhew Way - 2nd Saturday - 7:00pm
 Sacramento - First Christian Church - 3901 Folsom Blvd - 4th Friday - 7:30pm
 Sacramento - Sierra 2 Community Center - 2791 24th St - Curtis Hall - 2nd Friday - 7:30pm
<http://www.sacramentodancesofuniversalpeace.org>
 San Diego - San Diego Center for the Moving Arts - 3255 Fifth Ave - 1st Sunday - 7:00 pm
 San Francisco - Mentorgarten - 410 Precita (near Cesar Chavez & Harrison)
 1st Monday - 7:30pm
 San Jose - Center for Spiritual Living - Clark St (off Willow) - 1st & 3rd Sundays - 7:30pm
 San Jose - 1st Unitarian Universalist Church - 160 N. 3rd St - 1st Friday - 8:00pm
 San Luis Obispo - SLO Senior Center - Mitchell Park (Santa Rosa & Buchon)
 1st Saturday - 7:15pm
 Santa Cruz - The Garden - 3070 Prather Lane - Every Sunday - 7:00pm - www.SufiEvents.com
 Santa Rosa - Monroe Dance Hall - 1400 W College - 1st & 3rd Mondays - 8:00pm
<http://www.sufisonoma.org>
 Sebastopol - Open Hand Studio - 7151 Wilton (just left of Rite Aid) - 2nd & 4th Saturdays
 7:15pm - <http://www.sufisonoma.org>

COLORADO

Boulder - Community United Church of Christ - 2650 Table Mesa - Every Friday - 7:15pm
 Boulder (Dancing Deeply) - Star House - 3464 Sunshine Canyon Dr
 2nd & 4th Saturdays - 7:15pm -
 Crestone - location TBA - Once a Month
 Denver - Temple Events Center - 1595 Pearl St - Every Wednesday - 7:15pm
 Denver (Lakewood) - Full Moon Bookstore - Garrison & 6th Ave - 2nd Thursday - 7:15pm
 Denver (Southeast) - First Universalist Church - NE corner Hampden & Colorado Blvd
 1st Sunday - 4:00pm -
 Durango - Mason Center - 12th St. off E. 3rd Ave - 2nd & 4th Saturdays - 7:00pm
www.frontier.net/~sss/
 Estes Park - St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church - 880 MacGregor Ave
 1st Saturday - 7:30pm
 Fort Collins - Masonic Temple Building - 225 West Oak St - Every Thursday - 7:30pm
<http://www.riverrock.org/peace>
 Grand Junction - Church of Religious Science - 3rd Thursday - 7:30pm
 Greeley - St John's United Church of Christ - 3815 W. 20th St - 4th Tuesday - 7:30pm

Hotchkiss/Paonia - Memorial Hall or Blue Sage - Once a month - 7:30pm
 Leadville - St. George Episcopal Church - 4th and Pine - 3rd or 4th Sunday - 6:30pm
 Montrose - Lion's Park Clubhouse - 7th & Nevada - Once a month - 7:30pm

CONNECTICUT

Ledyard - Dragon's Egg - 401 Shewville Rd - 2nd Sunday - 5:00pm
 Manchester - Unitarian Universalist Society East - 153 West Vernon St - 2nd Sunday - 1:00pm
 New London - All Souls UU Congregation - 60 Huntington St (near Garde Theatre) -
 Friday a Month - 7:30pm

FLORIDA

Gainesville - Sanctuary Yoga Center - 1204 NW 10th Ave - 1st & 3rd Fridays - 8:00pm
www.a-rest.com/DUP.htm
 High Springs (near Gainesville) - Wellness Spa - 340 NW 1st Ave - To Be Announced - 7:00pm
 Lake Worth - 410 N A St - 3rd Saturday - 7:30pm - www.a-rest.com/DUP.htm
 Miami (Coral Gables) - Religious Society of Friends - 1185 Sunset Drive - 1st & 3rd Tuesdays
 7:30pm - www.a-rest.com/DUP.htm
 Ocala/Marion County - Dancing Peacock Paradise - CR 315 - Ft. McCoy - 4th Saturday - 3:00pm
www.a-rest.com/DUP.htm
 Ormond Beach - Unitarian Church - 56 N Halifax - 1st Sunday - 3:00pm
<http://www.a-rest.com/DUP.htm>
 Sarasota - Rising Tide International - Swift & Grafton - 1st Saturday - 8:00pm
<http://www.risingtideinternational.org/>
 St. Augustine - Tris' Dance Room - 8432 US Hwy A1A S - 2nd Sunday - 3:00pm
www.a-rest.com/DUP.htm
 Tallahassee - Unitarian Universalist Church - 2810 N Meridian - 1st Saturdays - 7:30pm

GEORGIA

Athens - Athens Yoga Center - 2nd Sunday - 7:00pm
 Atlanta (Decatur) - Friends Meeting House - 701 W. Howard Ave - Every Wednesday - 7:30pm
 Augusta - Unitarian Universalist Church - 3501 Walton Way Ext. - 1st Saturday - 7:00pm
 Clayton - Kat Cow Studio - 100 Earl St - 2nd Friday - 7:00pm - <http://claytondances.homestead.com>
HAWAII
 Big Island - Kona - Paleaku Gardens - Last Friday
 Big Island - Puna - Occasional Dates
 Big Island - Volcano - Cooper Center - Last Sunday - 7:30pm
 Kauai - Kilauea - Varying sites around the island - Near full moon - <http://www.timory.com>
 Maui - Kihei - Kihei Community Center - Lipoa St. and Piilani Hwy - 1st Friday - 7:15pm
 Oahu - Honolulu - Niu Valley Intermediate School - Halemaumau St - 1st Saturday - 7:30pm

IOWA

Iowa City - Varies (call) - 1st & 3rd Saturdays (Sep-Jun) - 7:00pm
<http://peacedances.50megs.com/home.html>

IDAHO

Boise - 1520 N 12th St (at Eastman) - 2nd & 4th Fridays (Sep-Jun) - 7:30pm
 Pocatello - Whole Health Cooperative - 303 N 12th St - 3rd Saturday - 7:00pm
 Salmon - Episcopal Hall - 103 Andrews - Occasional Dates

ILLINOIS

Bloomington/Normal - Unitarian Fellowship - 1613 E Emerson - One Saturday a Month - 7:15pm
 Chicago (Hyde Park) - University Church - 5655 S. University - 3rd Thursday - 7:00pm
 Evanston - Unitarian Church of Evanston - 1330 Ridge Ave. - 3rd Sunday - 6:30pm
 Mokena - Namaste House - 11113 Bryant Rd - 1st Friday - 10:00am
 Naperville - First Congregational United Church of Christ - 25 E Benton - 3rd Tuesday - 7:00pm
 Oak Park - SHEM Center for Interfaith Spirituality - 708 N Harvey - Occasional Dates
<http://www.shemcenter.org>
 Oak Park - First United Church of Oak Park - 848 Lake St - 1st Saturday - 1:00pm
 Park Forest - Unitarian Universalist Community Church - 70 Sycamore Drive at Western Ave
 2nd Sunday - 3:00pm
 Plainfield - Plainfield Congregational United Church of Christ - 24020 W Frase Rd
 3rd Sunday - 1:00pm
 Rockford - Unitarian Universalist Meeting House - 4848 Turner - 4th Friday - 7:00pm

INDIANA

Bloomington - Unitarian Universalist Church - Fee St and the Bypass - 3rd Mondays - 8:00pm
 Hammond - Unity Church - 740 River Drive (at Calumet) - 3rd Monday - 7:00pm

LOUISIANA

New Orleans - First Unitarian Universalist Church - 2903 Jefferson Ave @ Claiborne Ave - 1st
 Wednesday - 7:30pm

MASSACHUSETTS

Acton - Everyday Yoga Studio - 3 Kingman Rd - 4th Saturday - 8:00pm
http://dance_acton.tripod.com/
 Amherst - Varies - call - Occasional - 7:15pm
 Arlington - Theosophical Society - 21 Maple - 2nd Saturday (Oct-Mar) - 8:00pm
 Cambridge - Cambridge Friends Meeting House - 5 Longfellow Park - 1st & 3rd Fridays
 (Sep-Jun 4) - 7:30pm
 Cambridge (Deepening of the Dance) - SOMA - 4 Upton St - 4th Thursday - 7:30pm
 Cambridge (Walking Meditations) - SOMA - 4 Upton St - 2nd Thursday - 7:30pm
 West Newton - First Unitarian Society - 1326 Washington St - Last Saturday - 7:30pm

MARYLAND

Baltimore - Govans Presbyterian Church - 5824 York Rd (next to the Senator Theater)
 3rd Wednesday - 7:30pm - <http://www.peacedance.org>
 Cumberland - Harmonious Connection - 110 Harrison St - 4th Monday - 7:00pm
 Friendsville - Wihinape Natural Foods - 132 Walnut St - 2nd Tuesday - 7:30pm
 Glenwood (Cooksville) - Howard County Library - Glenwood Branch - 2350 Rt. 97
 1st Sunday (Sep-Jun) - 4:00pm - <http://www.peacedance.org>
 Marriotsville - Bon Secours Retreat Center - 1525 Marriotsville Rd - 1st Friday - 7:30pm
<http://www.bonsecours.org/bssc/specprgs.htm>
 Oella - Westchester Center - 2414 Westchester Ave - 2nd Sunday - 4:30pm
<http://www.peacedance.org>
 Oella (Family Circle) - Westchester Center - 2412 Westchester Ave - 2nd Sunday
 3:00pm - <http://www.peacedance.org>
 Washington Grove (near Gaithersburg) - McCathrin Hall - Chestnut and Center St
 4th Sunday - 4:00pm - <http://www.peacedance.org>

MAINE

Portland - Portland Yoga Studio - 616 Congress St - 2nd or 3rd Saturday - 7:00pm
www.portlandyoga.com

MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor - Ann Arbor Friends Center - 1420 Hill St. - 1st Friday - 7:00pm
 Ganges/Fennville - Lakeshore Interfaith/Mother's Trust - 122nd St - 3rd Sunday - 3:00pm
 Midland - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship - 6220 N Jefferson - 2nd Saturday - 7:00pm
 Port Huron - St. Paul's Episcopal Church - 3201 Gratiot - Port Huron - Quarterly - Call - 7:00pm

MINNESOTA

Duluth - Friends Meeting House - 1802 E. 1st St - 1st Saturday - 7:00pm
<http://peacedances.50megs.com/home.html>
 St. Paul - Friends Meeting House - 1725 Grand Ave - 1st - 2nd & 3rd Sundays - 7:00pm
<http://peacedances.50megs.com/home.html>

MISSOURI

Jefferson City - Unity Church of Peace - Business Route 50 W - 1st Saturday - 5:00pm
 Kansas City - St Mary's Episcopal Church - 13th and Holmes - Every Thursday - 7:30pm
 St. Louis - Taproots School for the Arts - 4021 Iowa Ave - 2nd Saturday - 7:30pm

MONTANA

Billings - First Congregational Church - 310 N. 27th - Occasional Dates
 Bozeman - Unity Church - 1919 Fairway Drive (Westridge Center) - 2nd & 4th Sundays - 7:00pm
 Hamilton - Common Ground Center - 258 Roosevelt Lane - 2nd & 4th Saturdays - 7:30pm

NORTH CAROLINA

Asheville - Jubilee Center - 46 Wall St. - 2nd Sunday - 7:00pm
 Boone - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship - 381 E King St - 3rd Saturday - 7:30pm
 Chapel Hill - Unity Church of Peace - 8800 Seawell School Road - 4th Saturday - 7:30pm
 Franklin - Unity Church of Franklin - 80 Heritage Hollow Dr - Last Thursday - 7:00pm
<http://franklindances.homestead.com>
 Greenville - East Carolina University - Mendenhall Auditorium 244 - One Sunday a Quarter - 4:00pm
 Raleigh - Raleigh Friends Meeting - 625 Tower St - 2nd Saturday - 7:30pm

NEW JERSEY

Freehold - Freehold Yoga Center - 3 West Main Street (above Dunkin Donuts) - Occasional Dates
<http://hometown.aol.com/dancingpeace786>

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque - Winged Hearth Abode - 30 min from center of town; 45 from Santa Fe
 2nd Friday - 7:00pm
 Santa Fe - Unitarian Church - 107 W Barcelona (at Galisteo) 1st & 3rd Sundays (Sep-May) - 5:00pm
 Silver City - The White Church - 609 Arizona - 2nd Saturday - 7:00pm

NEVADA

Las Vegas - Religious Science Church of Las Vegas - 5317 Smoke Ranch Rd - 4th Friday - 7:00pm
<http://raincloudpub.com/dupsn/>
 Pahrump - Haven Selah Retreat Center - 1680 N Blagg - 4th Saturday - every other month - varies
<http://home.earthlink.net/~allisonand/dupsn/>

NEW YORK

Albany - Unitarian Universalist Society - 405 Washington Ave - 2nd or 3rd Saturday (Sep-Jun) 7:30pm
 Binghamton - Unitarian Universalist Congregation - 183 Riverside Dr (next to Lourdes Hospital)
 2nd Wednesday - 7:00pm
 Buffalo - Unity Church - 1243 Delaware - 1st Thursday - 7:00pm
 Ithaca - Foundation of Light - Turkey Hill Rd. - 1st Saturday (Sep-May) - 7:15pm
 New Lebanon - The Abode of the Message - 1st Friday - 7:30pm
 New York City (Tribeca) - Sufi Books - 227 W Broadway - Bi-Monthly - 7:30pm
<http://hometown.aol.com/dancingpeace786>
 Orchard Park - Unity Southtowns - 2881 Southwestern Blvd - Last Wednesday - 7:00pm
 Rochester - Friends Meeting Hall - 84 Scio St - 2nd Saturday - 7:30pm

OHIO

Bath - Crown Point Ecological Learning Center - 3220 Ira Rd. - 3rd Friday - 7:00pm
 Bowling Green - St. Tom's Parish - 425 Thurston St. - 1st Saturday - 7:00pm
 Cincinnati - First Unitarian Church - Reading and Linton - 1st Friday (Oct-May) - 7:30pm
 Cleveland - Hope House - 1709 W. 69th St. Cleveland - 1st & 2nd Fridays - 3rd Thursday - 7:00pm
 Cleveland Heights - The Church of the Redeemer - 2420 S Taylor Rd - 4th Friday - 7:00pm
 Columbus - Community Resources Center - 14 W Lakeview Ave - 2nd Friday - 7:30pm
 Elyria - Crystal Era - 608 Middle Ave - 2nd Sunday - 5:00pm
 Kent (child friendly) - United Church of Christ - Horning Rd & Route 59 - 1st Friday - 7:00pm
<http://www.kiko-cozy.com>
 North Canton (child friendly) - The Yoga Place - 6990 Whipple Ave - 2nd Saturday - 6:45pm
<http://www.kiko-cozy.com>
 Toledo - Ursuline Center - 4035 Indian Rd. - 3rd Sunday - 3:00pm
 Oklahoma City - Theatre Upon a Star/DanceSwan Studio - 3022 Paseo
 1st & 3rd Wednesdays - 7:15pm

PENNSYLVANIA

Erie - Unitarian Universalist Congregation - 7180 New Perry Highway - Occasional Dates
 Harrisburg - Quaker Meeting House - 6th and Herr - 2nd Saturday - 7:30pm
 Lancaster - Quaker Meeting House - 110 Tulane Terrace - 4th Sunday - 2:00pm
 Philadelphia (Chestnut Hill) - Second Wind Center - 98 Bethlehem Pike - 1st Saturday - 8:00pm
<http://hometown.aol.com/dancingpeace786/myhomepage/faith.html>
 Philadelphia (Media) - Media Friends Meeting - 125 West Third Street - 2nd Saturday
 8:00pm - <http://hometown.aol.com/Dancingpeace786/myhomepage/faith.html>
 Reading - Unitarian Universalist Church - 3rd Sunday - call
 State College - Friends Meeting Hall - 611 E Prospect - 4th Sunday - 2:00pm

RHODE ISLAND

Providence - St. Martin's Episcopal Church - 50 Orchard Ave - 4th Friday - 7:30pm

Providence - St. Martin's Episcopal Church - 50 Orchard Ave - 2nd Friday - 7:15pm
 Wakefield - All That Matters - 315 Main St - 2nd Sunday - 7:15pm

SOUTH CAROLINA

Aiken (Augusta - Ga) - Unitarian Universalist Church - 3501 Walton Way Ext.
 1st Saturday - 7:00pm
 Greenville - Safe Haven Spiritual Center - Pelzer - Equinoxes & Solstices

TEXAS

Alpine - Alpine Recreation Center - 704 W Sul Ross Ave - Every Sunday - 4:00pm
 Austin - Unity Center of North Austin - 9603 Dessau Road - 2nd Tuesday - 7:00pm
www.sufidance.org
 Dallas - Cosmic Cup - 2912 Oak Lawn Ave - 1st Tuesday - 8:00pm
 Denton - St. Andrews Episcopal - 1306 W. Hickory @ Fry - 2nd & Last Tuesdays - 8:00pm
 Ft. Worth - CCDS - 7525 John T. White Road - 1st Friday - 8:00pm
<http://home.swbell.net/vajra108/sufianddancecalendar.html>
 Houston - First Unitarian Universalist Church - 5200 Fannin (at Southmore)
 2nd Sunday - 3:00pm
 San Antonio - Center for Spirituality and the Arts - 2nd Sunday - 5:00pm

UTAH

Salt Lake City - St. Paul's Episcopal Church - 261 South 900 East - 2nd Saturday - 7:00pm
<http://www.utahdup.org/>

VIRGINIA

Afton - Rockfish Valley Community Center - 190 Rockfish School Lane
 2nd Friday - 7:30pm
 Blacksburg - Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship - 1301 Gladewood - 3rd Saturday - 7:30pm
 Charlottesville - Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church - 1st Wednesday - 7:30pm
 Lexington - Lylburn Downing Community Center - 300 Diamond St - 1st Friday - 7:30pm
 Oakton - Unity of Fairfax Church - 2854 Hunter Mill Rd - 2nd Saturday - 7:30pm
<http://www.peacedance.org>
 Richmond - The Round House - Byrd Park - 3rd Friday - 7:30pm
 Roanoke - Christ Episcopal Church - 1101 Franklin Road (at Washington)
 2nd Friday - 7:30pm
 Virginia Beach - Fellowship of the Inner Light - 620 14th St - 2nd Saturday - 7:30pm

VERMONT

Burlington - Once a Month - <http://homepages.together.net/~ross/dup.htm>

WASHINGTON

Anacortes - Pilgrim Congregational Church - 2802 Commercial Ave - 2 Wednesdays a month - 7:30pm
 Bellingham - Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship - 1708 1 St - 2nd Friday (Sep-Jun) - 7:00pm
 Lopez Island - San Juan Islands - Occasional Dates - 7:30pm
 Olympia - Unity Church of Olympia - 1335 Fern St SW - 1st Thursday - 7:30pm
 Olympia - The United Churches - 11th and Washington - 3rd or 4th Sunday - 7:00pm
 Port Townsend - Occasional Dates
 Seattle - Keystone Church - 5019 Keystone Pl N - Every Wednesday - 7:30pm
 Seattle - Keystone Church - 5019 Keystone Pl N - 2nd & 4th Saturday - 7:30pm
 South Whidbey - Whidbey Institute Community Room - 8898 SR 525 (Clinton)
 Last Sunday - 7:00pm
 Spokane - Unitarian Universalist Church - W 4340 Ft. George Wright Dr
 2nd & 4th Thursdays - 7:00pm
 Tacoma - Center for Spiritual Living - 206 North J St - 3rd Friday - 7:30pm
 Tonasket - Community Culture Project - 411 Western Ave - Quarterly - 7:00pm
 Tri-Cities - Divine Fellowship - 15 S. Cascade - Kennewick - 3rd Tuesday - 7:30pm

WISCONSIN

Madison - Gates of Heaven Synagogue - 312 E. Gorham St. - 1st & 3rd Friday - 7:00pm
<http://peacedances.50megs.com/home.html>
 Milwaukee - Milwaukee Friends' Meeting House - 3224 N. Gordon Pl. - 3rd Friday 7:00pm
 Milwaukee - Brookfield - Unitarian Universalist Church West - 13001 W North Ave.
 2nd Friday - 7:00pm - <http://peacedances.50megs.com/home.html>
 Mukwonago - UU Church of Mukwonago - 216 Main Street (Hwy E) - 4th Friday - 7:00pm
<http://peacedances.50megs.com/home.html>
 Sheboygan - Unity Church - 2409 N. 8th St. - Once a Quarter - 1:00pm
<http://peacedances.50megs.com/home.html>
 Viroqua - Old Main Building - 311 E Decker St - 4th Friday - 7:00pm

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown - Unitarian Church - 429 Warrick St (off of University Ave)
 1st Saturday (Sep-May) - 7:30pm
 Jackson Hole - St. John's Episcopal Church - Fellowship Hall - Once a Month - 7:00pm
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/JHDUP/>

Join the Network!

Your membership entitles you to our semi-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. There are three ways you can join: 1.) online at <http://www.dancesofuniversalpeace.org/na/network/join.html> 2.) by mail at PeaceWorks - 6310 NE 74th Street, Suite 209E, Seattle, WA 98115-0994 USA; or 3.) call us at (206) 522-4353.

Yearly Memberships:

BENEFACTOR - \$500 / FRIEND - \$100 / COUPLE - \$80
 ASSOCIATE - \$80 / REGULAR - \$55 / LOW INCOME - \$35

Dancing under the eclipsing full moon in the Wash at Canyonlands, May 2003. Photo by Bob Spencer.



PEACEWORKS

Center for the Dances of Universal Peace, Inc.

Post Office Box 55994

Seattle, WA 98155-0994

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