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Dances of Universal Peace at Burning Man 2014

At this time of year, "turning over a new leaf" or "beginning again" are stronger themes than usual. But in reality, "new beginnings" can occur at any time. Some, like the birth of a child or the first day of college, are obvious markers: yesterday I was one person, today I'm someone else. Some are less marked, like the day before the New Year or a birthday look pretty much like the day after. Besides the obvious outer signs of a new beginning, are those inner moments of rebirthing when we wake up again - and again - to the new reality of this moment, and then this one. The slant of the light through the kitchen window, the quirk of a loved one's smile, the

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sound of our breath. Spiritual teachings say that every breath is a new beginning, letting God breathe into us, and then breathing out into God. Often the Dances too offer those moments of total awareness and new beginnings. How are new beginnings serving you at the start of this new year? How do the Dances play a role in this rebirth?

Volunteer  
For Leaders & Musicians  
Find the Dances

\*\*\*\*\*

Help us grow our network!



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" There are two mistakes one can make along the road to truth... not going all the way, and not starting ."

~\*~ Buddha ~\*~

Gratitude for Donations

DUPNA would like to thank the following circles and events for their dana from their events and gatherings to help further the work of DUPNA and outreach of the Dances. May you be blessed in return!

### Meditation on Ya Khaliq

Al-Khaliq is the only one who creates. It is the active, dynamic source of creation, and the continuous activity of creation. There is no beginning to it and no end, nor any rest in the middle. Every moment reveals al-Khaliq in action. A variation of al-Khaliq's root means to measure a piece of leather or any material and see that it is beautifully proportional in design before cutting it and sewing the pieces together.

~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

Prior to anything being made, al-Khaliq is the one who imagines all the possibilities. It is the innate disposition of God to imagine the universe. Metaphorically, it is like imagining all the possible letters that might be written with the ink in a bottle. Al-Khaliq is reflected in human beings, and as a consequence we have the innate ability to imagine the beloved.

Santa Cruz, CA circle

Music for Healing and Transition Conference in Texas

California Quarterly

Attunement as a Way of Being retreat in Colorado

From Physicians of the Heart by Wali Ali Meyer, Bilal Hyde, Faisal Muqaddam, and Shabda Kahn

Willits, CA Dance circle

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\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

Although no longer requiring memberships, the organization still accepts voluntary memberships and donations of any kind, which enable us to continue providing services such as the extensive website and these monthly

newsletters.

Please [click here](#) to make a donation to support and further enliven the work of DUPNA. Thank you!

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~\*~\*~\*~\*

### A Few Dances with an Attunement to Resolution

God Has Given Me the Power

Return Again

Any Bismillah Dance, especially "We begin in the name of Allah"

Ishe Olwa

Dissolving, Rebirthing

~\*~\*~\*~\*



Invocation at Lava Hot Springs

Featured Song of the Month:

Jaya Shiva Shankara



Indianapolis, IN Dance circle preparing our annual holiday card

### Deep Gratitude for Our Holiday Card Team!

Thanks to Francene Hart for her lovely image, Claire Dishman for her layout expertise, Tajalima Eileen Pappalardo for printing and organizational support.

We appreciate the Dance circles and individuals who addressed cards and donated postage, and all the generous donors who have supported our organization.

Deep thanks to the following circles and individuals:

- Helena, MT Dance circle
- Asheville, NC Dance circle
- Boise, ID Dance circle
- Prescott, AZ Dance circle
- Whidbey Island, WA Dance circle
- Pocatello, ID Dance circle
- San Diego, CA Dance circle
- Seattle, WA Dance circle
- Hamilton, MT Dance circle
- Indianapolis, IN Dance circle
- Mary Fran Uicker
- Peaceful Sisters Dance team of Michigan
- Carolyn Horvath
- Lucinda Abbe
- Violetta Reiser
- Hayat Donna Bain
- Bari John Ramsey
- Jill Moore

~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

We are always interested in new energy and enthusiasm for our holiday card project.

If you are interested in being a part of the team next year, [click here](#) to let us know!

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~\*~ ~\*~

" Bismillah ir-Rahman ir-Rahim - We begin in the name of Allah, who is Mercy and Compassion. All suras of the Koran begin with this phrase."

Often used as part of the Invocation at a Dance Meeting.

~\*~ ~\*~

## January 15th: Our Day of Celebration and Gratitude

Murshid Samuel L. Lewis was the originator of what became known as the Dances of Universal Peace; he also brought through the spiritual Walks and influenced a whole lineage of teachers and mentors.

Murshid SAM died on January 15, 1971. In the Sufi tradition, your day of death is your Urs, your wedding day with the Beloved (Rumi's Urs are celebrated on December 17th, as another example.) That date was chosen by the Peaceworks Center for the Dances of Universal Peace when it was officially organized in the early 1980s.

Dance circles worldwide mark this as a special day. How do you recognize it as such?

[Click here](#) to read more about Murshid SAM's life at the Sufi Ruhaniat website. [Click here](#) to read about Murshid at the DUPNA website.

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Jaya Shiva Shankara originated by Bruce Taqi Tribby led here by Bernie Heideman

"While listening to various classical Indian Musicians this traditional melody captured my attention. Within minutes I was drawn into the dance. The movements came effortlessly as I allowed the dance to guide me rather than attempt to choose my own movements. I was being danced by the dance.

Jaya Shiva Shankara is a dance exploring duality and non-duality in the same moment."

## Newly Certified Dance Leaders

We send blessings to the newly certified leaders within our region. We bow in gratitude to their service and devotion, and in joy at their stepping forward to do this work! This month we bless

Ferzin Irani  
(NC, USA)

" Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

~Saint Francis of Assisi~

Featured Video of the Month:





For The Beauty Of  
The Earth

Pir Shabda Kahn teaching and leading "For the Beauty of the Earth," at the Fall Ozark Sufi camp. A beautiful hymn in praise of All, a reminder that every moment is a possible new beginning, with gratitude.

~\*~

There are some great DUP videos out there, so if you have a good-quality Dance video you would like to share with the community, please send the links to [dupnamail@gmail.com](mailto:dupnamail@gmail.com) to be shared in upcoming newsletters.

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Upcoming Dance  
Camps & Events  
submitted to the  
DUPNA website  
from around our  
Region:

~\*~

[SoCal Dancing Hearts](#)  
[Winterly](#)  
with Sára Rain, Yarrow  
Nelson & Vanessa Hafiza  
Jan. 16-19  
Santa Barbara Mtns near  
Cachuma Lake, CA  
Contact:  
[Alexandra Steinicke](#)  
805-602-7711

~\*~

## Sufis to the Desert: Taking Our Mystical Practices to Burning Man

This is an abridged version of an article by Fazl Frank Olivier of California

This whole adventure began when I met Larry Harvey, the founder of Burning Man, through mutual friends, and shortly into the conversation, shared with him my vision of bringing a group of dervishes out to the desert and doing Sufi practices in a torch-lit circle. "Not for this year", I explained, as it was getting pretty close to festival time. He replied that it matched this year's theme "The Caravansary", and offered us a handful of comp tickets, and another dozen heavily discounted "participant" tickets to make it happen.

From an idea, to excited talk at Mendocino Camp, to the planning calls and emails, to the convergence: Allaudin Ottinger and 4 others were coming in from Kansas City. Other dervishes from Moab, Hawaii, Santa Cruz and the Bay area, and beyond, joined our endeavor. A testament to the organization, dedication, and spontaneity of our group considering many people spend most of a year preparing for Burning Man; it wasn't until 12 days before leaving that we got the final okay and confirmed tickets.

Expecting mostly a fun-house dance-party atmosphere (which is definitely part of it), I was pleasantly surprised by much of the incredible heart of what was already there. Our trip was awesome and challenging, and uncomfortable, and totally blissful.

Traffic was slow-going as we rolled onto the "playa", the hard dust cover that makes up the ancient lake bed where Burning Man happens. The traffic was split into about 12 parallel lanes, and we were making slow but steady progress towards the gate until the rain started. They stopped letting cars in. A thunderstorm passed,

then another. Then another. Nobody was moving. The dust that makes up the playa turns to a gluey mess in the rain; it will build up on car tires until they're too big to spin, plus rip up the playa. They stopped all traffic until the playa dried.

We were there for 18 hours. I heard next to no complaints from anyone. Thousands of people were delayed from their goal, and they rolled with it surprisingly well. Spirits were high, and as the playa dried enough to walk on, hours before we could drive on it, a festive atmosphere developed. An art bus with a major sound system was playing music, and people were dancing. Allaudin and I led Sufi dances for 15 people (the Kansas City contingent was stopped less than 50 yards from us). We had an impromptu zikr circle, and there was much rejoicing.

Finally we were in, and found our way to "Sacred Spaces" camp. You know that feeling that arises at Sufi camp of a community of the heart? It was already here, and grew as the rest of our 15+ person gang joined us throughout the next day.

That evening we loaded up our bikes with the freestanding torch rigs. Many of us wore the white Moroccan-style desert robes (think Obi-wan), giving our group a somewhat unified look. Many of us also had bright green Christmas lights on our bicycles, making it easier for our group to stay together amidst the many bicycles sometimes swirling around us. We rode out to the "Souk", a central "marketplace" (with no bartering and no cash exchanges) surrounding the 'man' at center of the concentric circles that make up Black Rock City. We set up a circle of torches and started our first official zikr. Allaudin took charge, Aziz and Malika joined in with turning, and the size of our circle fluctuated, as various groups joined our circle, and also left. Some people were clearly deeply moved by the practices.

The next day we were invited to the camp "Heart Tribe" where Allaudin led us and a fairly large group in dances and more. That evening we set up our circle of torches in front of the temple, a huge beautiful wooden structure, that also gets burned. There are notes written all over it to the recently departed, to whom the temple is dedicated. People going to the temple tend to be in a more meditative space, more conducive to what we were offering. As we were doing zikr, a group of people joined our circle dressed in "day of the dead" attire, carrying staffs with skulls and bones and other related props, which we piled at the center of the circle creating quite the centerpiece/altar, and Allaudin led us in singing, chanting, and more zikr.

Throughout the entire week, when we were in a circle, even with quiet chanting, the rest of the soundscape, including nearby art buses blasting disco music, and far-off rave music coming from 3 different directions, all seemed to disappear. There was only this here, happening now.

Overall, we had a great initial foray into bringing these practices to a ripe community. There is still a buzz among our participants, and talk of returning and building on this. The next step would be to create our own "Sufi" camp, with day and evening events, and to

Where the Gaze of Love  
Falls a Flower Blooms  
with Anahata Iradah

Jan. 23-25  
Phoenix, AZ  
Contact:  
Parvati  
602-412-7386

~\*~

Joining the Caravan  
with Amina and Arif

Feb. 21  
Roswell, GA  
Contact:  
Arif Leininger  
978-502-0247

~\*~

Joyful Journey Dance  
Retreat  
with Bernie Heideman &  
Sky Majida

March 6-8  
Joyful Journey Hot  
Springs  
San Luis Valley, CO  
Contact:

Sky  
928-536-3307

~\*~

Awakening Joy and  
Compassion: Integrating  
Limitless Freedom with  
the Impermanence of

Everyday Life  
with Pir Shabda Kahn

March 20-22  
Asheville, NC  
Contact:  
Tarana Wesley  
828-683-5296

~\*~

commit early enough to get into the "Who When Where" pocket calendar of events. People seemed open to what we were offering, with very low apprehension levels that sometimes arise when perceived religion is involved. I'm excited to see where this leads!

Wind Spirit Dance Camp  
with Darvesha, Tara  
Andrea, and Shivadam  
April 2-5  
Winkelman, AZ  
Contact:  
Shivadam Adam Burke  
602-224-0052

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to listen to a discussion about the DUP on the internet blog radio show, Texas Conflict Coach, with Shivadam Adam Burke.

~\*~

Pattie, the show's host, attended one Dance meeting prior to the interview, and her description of her experience may be helpful for those who have not yet attended the Dances.

Chant and Dance Retreat  
with Sára Rain and Jonas  
Koukl  
April 24-26  
Bailey, CO  
Contact:  
Sára Rain  
970-227-5275

**Website Wisdom**  
**by Shivadam Adam Burke,**  
**DUPNA's website manager**

Q: How do we update our local circle information on the website?

~\*~

A: One of the most important and valuable functions that your regional non-profit org, Dances of Universal Peace North America, provides is maintaining lists of Dance circles and one-time events that happen across the region.

Canyonlands Spring  
Dance Camp  
with Sky Majida and  
Bernie Heideman  
April 29-May 4  
Moab, UT  
Contact:  
Sky Majida  
928-536-3307

In order to best serve the Dance community - our circle leaders, organizers, existing dancers, and potential new dancers -, accurate and up-to-date information about the dates, times and locations of Dance circles and events is most beneficial.

In a recent review of our records, we found quite a number of Dance circle listings that are in need of updating, including some circles that no longer happen or that have changed dates or locations. And, there is some chance that there are other circles that do not appear on our website listings. We don't want to miss you!

~\*~

As we endeavor to most effectively support the Dances and our circle leaders, organizers and dancers, please help us by taking a moment to check your circle listings on our website and then submitting any updates needed there.

The Path of the Awakened  
Heart  
with Abraham and Halima  
Sussman  
June 12-14  
Prama Institute  
Marshall, NC  
Contact:  
Tarana Wesley  
828-683-5296

Begin by finding your circle listing(s) on our website. Just select your State or Province from our interactive "Find the Dances" map, here:

<http://dancesofuniversalpeacena.org/find-dances-of-universal-peace.htm>

~\*~

Please check the locations, dates and times. Also click the "Contact/Leaders" link and make sure that info is up-to-date, as well as any website you may have associated with your circle. If all of the information is correct and up-to-date, you need do nothing

[Click here](#)

more.

If any of the information needs to be updated, please click the "Update Circle Info" link in the right-hand column of your listing. This will populate a form with your existing circle info, which you can then easily update and submit.

If you discover that your circle is not listed, you may add your circle via this form: <http://dancesofuniversalpeace.org/addcircle.htm>

(Please note that DUPNA lists only those Dance circles which have at least one active member of the Leaders Guild. For more about the Leaders Guild, visit:

<http://dancesofuniversalpeace.org/mtgabout.shtm> )

Remember to bookmark the above links for ease of future use.

Thank you for all you do to support the Dances of Universal Peace!

Love,  
Shivadam & the DUPNA Board

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## Haiku on New Beginnings

morning mist  
how thin the veil  
between here and gone

~ Munira Judith Avinger

Next month's theme is .

Send your haiku to [dupnamail@gmail.com](mailto:dupnamail@gmail.com)

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## Parliament of World Religions

The Parliament is the oldest, the largest, and the most inclusive gathering of people of all faith and traditions. The next international gathering will take place in Salt Lake City, Oct. 15-19, 2015. Pir Shabda will be a presenter, and a proposal has been submitted for the Dances of Universal Peace.

[Click here](#) to read the DUP proposal. Over 40 Dancers have already registered!

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Parliament.

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to view a complete and detailed listing of Dance Camps and Events submitted to our website from around our region

~\*~



" Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step. "

~\*~ Martin Luther King, Jr. ~\*~

Sincerely,  
The board and staff  
Dances of Universal Peace North America



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