

Abwoon

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

Valley of the Doves, Galilee

Dear Friends,

As some of you know, I am currently on sabbatical until March 2003. When my Sufi teacher Moineddin left his body in February 2001, I decided that it would be good to take some time out to take stock of where I am and recharge my batteries. It has taken the past year and a half to arrange this. During this time I am also taking a personal forty-day retreat.

Many people have asked about projects that I am currently working on. Here is what is in the pipeline:

- *Original Healing* — A Sounds True set of tapes on the Beatitudes, which is the same length as the *Original Prayer* series. This should be released in late Summer 2003. See the next-to-last page for an article about this tape series.
- *The Original Meditation of the Aramaic Jesus: A Shared Spirituality of New Beginnings for Jews, Christians and Muslims* — This book focuses on the shared creation stories of the Jewish, Christian and Islamic traditions and the spiritual practices that embody them. We're working with this in next year's Scottish summer institutes as well as workshops in the US next Fall, when the book is due to be released. See the next-to-last page for more information about this book.
- An extended interview about the Aramaic work will be published by Doubleday in January 2003 in William Elliot's *A Place at the Table*. More new academic articles also continue to be added to the abwoon.com web site.

Many thanks for your prayers during this time. I wish you all the best for the further unfoldment of your purpose in life.

Eth-phatah! Love and blessings,

Neil Douglas-Klotz

Dear Ones,

If you received our last newsletter and tried unsuccessfully to find *Asherah Rising* items on the web site, they were not posted 'til May. Please visit *Asherah Rising* at <http://www.abwoon.com/ashera.html> to see the beautiful hand-crafted and handwoven items such as purses and knapsacks. If anyone feels moved to help by selling items, let me know. I will get you in touch with Martina. Thank you all very much. The help is sincerely appreciated in very rough times.

Thank you for your addition to peace. Please do not let fear run your life as governments of the world want to happen. If you are moved by desire and heart to go on the Israel-Palestine trip you will not be disappointed. Walk the land of Jesus.

Peace, joy and blessings,
Kamae A Miller

Donations to the Work of the Abwoon Study Circle

Many heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed to the work of Abwoon Study Circle in the past year. Some people are making monthly or quarterly pledges to Abwoon. Others have given one-time donations as tithes from special surprise income. Others give small gifts as they are able. We are happy to receive a gift of any amount and appreciate all who have participated in this work through your monetary, service and in-kind donations.

Outreach Fund: There was \$3094 donated to the general outreach fund, mostly in response to last year's newsletter appeal. These funds helped to provide scholarships for people from non-hard currency countries to attend Abwoon-sponsored trainings and retreats. The work will spread in many countries as our ability grows to provide such scholarships for leaders who are deepening their attunement. Scholarship help is also provided to younger people with limited incomes. Finally, donations help provide the administrative work necessary to support this largely volunteer organism: Abwoon Study Circle.

Sabbatical Appeal: The sabbatical appeal in the last issue resulted in \$12,250 donated to provide support for Neil to take a six-month sabbatical from September 2002 to March 2003. This sabbatical included a forty-day retreat in Scotland during September and October. Your generosity enables the work to deepen through Neil's sabbatical time to focus various research, writing and other creative projects. The teaching schedule during the remainder of 2003 and through 2004 will reveal some of the works created during this much-needed sabbatical time.

Tax-Deductible Donations: We are able to receive donations for the work of Abwoon through The Shalem Center, a 501(c)3 organization located in Ohio. This means that your donations are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law, and each donor will receive a gift acknowledgment for tax purposes. Please make your check payable to *The Shalem Center*, mark it for *Abwoon* (and further note if there is any specific project within the work of Abwoon to which you would like it designated), and mail it to:

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

Alternatively, you may now make donations online. See the PayPal article on the next page.

Summer Institute in Scotland July 15–25, 2003 with Neil Douglas-Klotz, Kamae A Miller and Matin Mize

PART I: July 15–20, Tuesday–Sunday

The Original Meditation of the Aramaic Jesus: A Shared Spirituality of New Beginnings for Jews, Christians and Muslims

Annual Aramaic Jesus and Native Middle Eastern retreat with Neil Douglas-Klotz, Kamae A Miller and Matin Mize. The Retreat includes singing and dancing the Aramaic words of Jesus, new dances of creation from the Jewish and Islamic traditions, telling stories and sharing Sufi practices like zikr and wasifa.

Co-sponsored by the Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Learning, this part of the summer institute will explore Jesus' relationship with the indigenous spiritualities of the Middle East. Material from *The Original Meditation of the Aramaic Jesus: A Shared Spirituality of New Beginnings for Jews, Christians and Muslims* as well as Neil's other books will also be included.

Special areas of focus for 2003:

- New dances of creation from the Jewish and Islamic traditions
- Practices from the creation tradition of Aramaic Christianity, Kaballah and Sufism
- Singing and dancing the Aramaic Prayer of Jesus
- Wisdom stories from the three traditions

Participants are invited for one or both sections with a **limit of 36 people each section.**

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

Total Cost: £303 (US\$ 485) for each section before May 16 (including room and full board); £350 (US\$ 560) after if space available. Limit: 36 people. 10% discount for members of the International Network for the Dances of Universal Peace. Additional 10% discount for those who enroll for both sections. Some concession is also available for tented accommodations. Please enquire for additional concession and scholarship information. All cancellations less £75 (US\$ 120), those after June 16, less £125 (US\$ 200). No refunds on or after the first day of the retreat. **To Register:** send a paid deposit of £125 (US\$ 200) for each section payable to *Abwoon Study Circle* and mail to: Narada Ian Ramsey, Wee Darnhunch, Glenbuck, Muirkirk, Ayrshire KA18 3SD, Scotland, UK, tel. 44 (0)1290-661-082, e-mail: narada@abwoon.com

Donate Through PayPal

We now have the ability to receive donations through the PayPal web site. This is a secure web site where you can make payment for a donation using your personal credit card or by direct payment from your local bank account. If you are a registered user at PayPal, just log in and send your donations using the e-mail address:

donations@abwoon.com

If you are not currently registered with PayPal, please go to:

www.https://www.paypal.com/affil/pal=6V3A3ZW8J9RC4

to sign up. This is a free and secure service; you can send a credit card payment without registering your bank account for direct deduction. If you need specific help, please contact

donations@abwoon.com

PART II: July 21–25, Monday–Friday

Advanced Dance and Walk Retreat

Note: Part II of the retreat formally begins on Monday morning, July 21st. Please arrive the preceding evening for dinner and a ceilidh (traditional gathering of Scottish music and dance).

Co-sponsored by the UK Network for the Dances of Universal Peace and the Abwoon Study Circle, this retreat provides the opportunity each year for work on advanced Dances, Walks and Dance cycles.

The retreat in 2003 will focus particularly on:

- Body and breath awareness practices to deepen our experience of the dances (from Raden Ayou Jodjana, an original student of Hazrat Inayat Khan)
- Planetary Walks and working with individual astrological charts
- Classes on leading the Native Middle Eastern Dances
- Continuing work with longer cycle Dances, zikr dances, sound practices, Dance and Walk leadership issues and support/feedback for new Dance creation

While these advanced retreats are aimed at Dance leaders (and include mostly material from the Level II certification guidelines), they are also open to any Dancer who wishes to find new ways to enter the Dances and Walks more fully, with more freedom and joy.



Nazareth Thistle

Desert Flowers E-mail Study Group

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

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

For information, contact Carl Karasti
carlk@cpinternet.com

or visit

www.abwoon.com/listserve.html

Catalogue of Resources

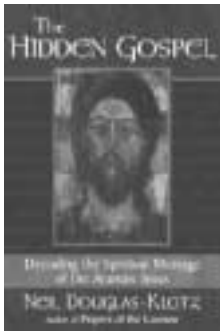
Books

NEW!

**THE ORIGINAL MEDITATION OF JESUS:
A Shared Spirituality of New Beginnings
for Jews, Christians and Muslim**
by Neil Douglas-Klotz

Due for release September 2003 in the US and Canada from Quest Books

This book focuses on an ancient form of meditation that unites the three religions of the Middle East: the creation of the universe and the archetype of the first human being. In experiencing the creation story as our own, personal story, we recreate and renew ourselves. Through practicing this Original Meditation of the Aramaic Jesus, we can access this power for self-renewal and deeper connection with the divine in our everyday lives. See the next-to-last page for details.



**THE HIDDEN GOSPEL: Decoding the
Spiritual Message of the Aramaic Jesus**
by Neil Douglas-Klotz

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

What emerges is a hopeful, nurturing, and very contemporary spiritual message. Neil Douglas-Klotz's lucid commentary guides us in applying

Jesus' ancient wisdom to our lives today. Each chapter includes meditative exercises and body prayers for directly experiencing the life-changing spiritual practice of Jesus' original mystical tradition. Paperback, \$14.95, £9.40. Quest Books (English), Koesel (German), Ankh-Hermes (Dutch).

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

"Neil Douglas-Klotz's reinterpretations of well-known phrases are insightful, penetrating, and in some cases dazzling. This book will change the way many people read the New Testament." —Leonard Shlain, M.D., author of *The Alphabet versus the Goddess*



**WISDOM COMES DANCING:
Selected Writings of Ruth St. Denis on Dance, Spirituality and the Body**
edited and with notes by Kamae A Miller

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

Delight in life, beauty and movement fill the pages of *Wisdom Comes Dancing*, a collection of previously unpublished writings by the mother of American modern dance. St. Denis, the teacher of Martha Graham and other American dance pioneers, was the most photographed woman of her era. Her essays, talks and poetry show a fiery passion and cool intelligence as she addresses topics such as her vision of the arts as a force for social justice and the role of women in peace-making. The book includes many striking photographs of St. Denis in dances inspired by great women prophets, humanitarians and goddesses of various traditions. Paperback, \$15.95, £10. (PeaceWorks). German edition available from Santiago Verlag (www.santiagoverlag.de).



**GIVING THANKS WITH
THE ARAMAIC JESUS**

by Tom Leonhardt

This book includes fifteen complete worship services based on the work of Neil Douglas-Klotz. The material is usable in a number of ways — from personal prayer to communal worship. Each service concentrates on a line of the Lord's Prayer or one of seven Beatitudes and suggests Dances of Universal Peace that are appropriate to the given theme.

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

— Dr. Neil Douglas-Klotz

Paperback, \$17. WovenWord Press.



**PRAYERS OF THE COSMOS:
Meditations on the Aramaic Words of Jesus**
by Neil Douglas-Klotz

A pioneering book in the movement to recover the wisdom of Jesus as a Native Middle Eastern person. The Lord's Prayer and Beatitudes in new, multi-layered interpretive translations, from the native language of Jesus. Paperback edition, \$13.00, £8. Harper SanFrancisco (English), Knauer (German), East-West (Dutch), Triom Publishers (Brasil).



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

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

From ancient Egypt through mystical Judaism and the Aramaic Jesus to classical Sufism, *Desert Wisdom* weaves a rich, colorful tapestry that allows these ancient voices to speak to us today. Use *Desert Wisdom* as a handbook of daily inspiration, oracle or sourcebook. Through writings, chants, meditations and body prayers, you will experience in your bones this sacred Earth tradition.

Hardback. \$20.00, £12.50. Harper SanFrancisco (US & Canada), Thorsons (UK), Santiago Verlag (Germany), Altamira (Netherlands), Record (Brasil).

Cassette Tapes

NEW!

ORIGINAL HEALING: Miracles, Health and Wholeness from the Aramaic Teachings of Jesus

a workshop with Neil Douglas-Klotz

Using Jesus' native Aramaic language as a lens, this tape series leads us through one of the great healer's best-loved talks — the Beatitudes (or "Blessed are..." sayings) and shows how this seemingly simple set of sentences reveals a profound approach to healing and wholeness.

Each saying takes you deeper and deeper into this divine source of healing. The tapes give you ways to access it in your everyday life, using body prayer and spiritual practice drawn from Jesus' own teachings with 24 specific meditations, involving body awareness, sound, breath and gentle movement. (See article on the next-to-last page.) **\$69.95, £44.**

Available from Sounds True, Abwoon Study Circle, or your local Internet source in late Summer, 2003.

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

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

a workshop with Neil Douglas-Klotz

If we could travel back to the world of ancient Palestine and hear Jesus teach in his own native tongue, what would we learn? These Sounds True tapes are not a reading of the *Hidden Gospel* book, but a live recording of a workshop with Neil that touches on the main themes of the book. These tapes were re-edited so that one can listen to them in 20-minute segments. They are very high quality and perfect for Abwoon Study Circles. These tapes do not repeat the material in the *Original Prayer* series. **\$18.95, £12.**

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

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



ORIGINAL PRAYER: Meditations and Teachings of the Aramaic Jesus

a workshop with Neil Douglas-Klotz

Original Prayer begins by exploring the many rich layers of meaning enfolded within New Testament scriptures written in Aramaic, the language that Jesus and his disciples actually spoke. Through specific insights revealed within the Aramaic Lord's Prayer, listeners learn over a dozen unique "body prayers," an ancient Middle Eastern form of meditation that engages the entire body in the contemplation of scripture. This is the same devotional practice used by the early Christians to delve into the Gospels — not as a scholarly exercise, but as a living, breathing experience of God. **\$69.95, £44.**

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

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

Prayers of the Cosmos Tape

A companion to the book's body prayers, gives clear pronunciations in language teaching tape style of the Aramaic Lord's Prayer and Beatitudes. Also all melodies to both sung clearly by Neil Douglas-Klotz. **\$13, £8.**

Desert Wisdom Body Prayers and Chants

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

Dancing with the Aramaic Jesus: The Lord's Prayer

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

Aramaic Spirituality

An interview with Neil Douglas-Klotz... the background and future of his work in translation and body prayer. **\$8, £5.**

Dancing with the Aramaic Jesus: The Beatitude Way

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

A Native Middle Eastern Cycle

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



Compact Discs



ABWUN

A mantric oratorio by the Overtone Choir of Düsseldorf from the melodies of Neil Douglas-Klotz

The original melodies for the various lines of the Aramaic Lord's Prayer were composed through Neil Douglas-Klotz in 1982–83, as part of his meditative research of the prayer. These melodies are used in a cycle of Dances of Universal Peace, which allows the sounds and feelings of the various lines to be prayed with the whole body. The beautiful arrangements of Christian Bollmann and the Overtone Choir enrich the multi-textual feeling of the prayer. In this new aural soundscape, the various threads of the prayer weave dynamically and allow the hearer to be bathed in an atmosphere of sacredness. 72 minutes. **\$18.99, £12.**

REMEMBRANCE OF LIGHT: Zikr Nur-i-Muhammad

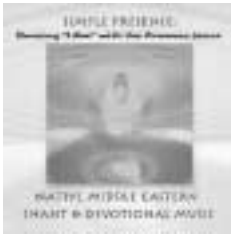
Sufi Devotional Music for Healing and Contemplation

by Neil Douglas-Klotz (Saadi Shakur Chisti)

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

63 minutes. **\$16, £10.**





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

Native Middle Eastern Chant & Devotional Music

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

The "I Am" statements of Jesus from the Gospel of John, as viewed from Jesus' native Aramaic language, point to a state of "simple presence"—a connection to the "I Am that I Am." Each feeling or experience mentioned is a doorway to this connection. This recording gives chants and music to a sequence of Dances of Universal Peace that use seven of these "I Am" statements in Aramaic. Listening to, chanting with and contemplating these chants can take the listener into the **shem** of Jesus—his vibration or atmosphere—and fulfill his advice to pray **b'sheme** ("with my light-sound-atmosphere"). 65 minutes. **\$16.99, £10.50.**

HEALING PIANO: The Aramaic Prayer

Themes and variations composed and performed by Akbar Eric Manolson

Inspired by the melodies of Neil Douglas-Klotz

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

61 minutes. **\$18, £11.30.**



THE OPENING:

Sura Fateha—A Prayer for Peace

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

\$15, £9. Web order discount: **\$13, £8.** Recorded in Gemany.

ANCIENT ECHOES

by San Antonio Vocal Arts Ensemble

In August 2000, Christopher and Covita Moroney set out on a 1,700 mile road trip to attend a retreat with Neil Douglas-Klotz after reading *Prayers of the Cosmos*. This inspired them to turn their creative attention to the music of the Middle East during the time of Jesus.

Their exploration has resulted in a CD by SAVAE (<http://moroneys.home.netcom.com/new/>) of ancient Aramaic and Hebrew chants based on Neil's writings and teachings. **\$17.**



Video

ABWUN: The Video with Christian Bollmann and the Overtone Choir of Düsseldorf

This video features parts of a live performance of the *ABWUN* mantric oratorio composed by Christian Bollmann from the original melodies of Neil Douglas-Klotz. The performance in Berlin, Germany organized in October 1999 by the local Dances of Universal Peace group, drew more than 600 people.

Most of the first twenty minutes of the oratorio is included in the video along with selected excerpts of the remainder. Excerpts of a short address by Neil Douglas-Klotz (in German) precede the performance. Perfect for Abwoon Study Groups. 35 minutes, **\$18, £11.30.**



PRAYERS OF THE COSMOS: Aramaic Teaching CD

CD version of the POC teaching tape, along with melodies for chanting the prayer and the beatitudes. **\$15, £9.** Web order discount: **\$13, £8.**

DANCING WITH THE ARAMAIC JESUS: The Beatitude Way

CD version of the The Beatitude Way tape. **\$15, £9.** Web order discount: **\$13, £8.**

Ordering Info for Abwoon Study Circle Resources

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

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

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

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

In United Kingdom & Europe, Abwoon books (in English), tapes and CDs may be ordered from: Abwoon Study Circle UK, Narada Ian Ramsey, Wee Darnhunch, Glenbuck, Muirkirk, Ayrshire, KA18 3SD, Scotland, UK, tel. 44 (0)1290-661-082, e-mail: narada@abwoon.com

Retail UK shipping and handling is £2.50 for the first item and 70p for each additional item. Make checks or money orders payable to Abwoon Study Circle UK.

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

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

In Holland, please contact: Wim and Arienne van der Zwan, Hans Memlinglaan 2, 3723 WJ Bilthoven, Netherlands. tel. 31 (0)30-225-0546, e-mail: zwan0060@wxs.nl for Dutch language editions of *Prayers of the Cosmos* (East-West Books), *Desert Wisdom* (Alta Mira), *Hidden Gospel* (Ankh-Hermes), the Desert Wisdom Body Prayer recording in Dutch and the rest of the musical recordings. Please also enquire here for information about Dutch-language seminars in this work by Wali van der Zwan.

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

Events in 2003

In North America

February 1: Boston, MA, USA. *Walking Inside Out and Outside In.* A workshop in astrological walks with Kamae A Miller. Walking our own charts, as well as those of Murshid Samuel Lewis, Hazrat Inayat Khan and Ruth St. Denis. Learn how we can overcome our seeming obstacles, making use of positive qualities, karma and dharma walks. Contact: Halima or Abraham Sussman at 617/876-5272 or sussman@thecia.net

May 9–11: Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. *Together Again!* — A Dances of Universal Peace retreat with Tasnim Fernandez, Neil Douglas-Klotz and Kamae A Miller. Using Dances of Universal Peace from all traditions, Walking Meditations and other spiritual practices from many world traditions, we will explore the themes of healing, embodiment, love and letting go.

For information: www.SufiOrder.Toronto.on.ca/together_again.htm
Registrar: Habib Maycock at 416/778-5318 or FredHabib@compuserve.com

May 15–18: Columbus, OH, USA. *Original Healing: Miracles, Healing and Wholeness from the Aramaic Teachings of Jesus* with Neil Douglas-Klotz and Kamae A Miller. At Methodist Theological School and sponsored with the Shalem Center. During this workshop, using Jesus' native Aramaic language as a lens, we will look at one of the great healer's best-loved talks—the Beatitudes (or “Blessed are...” sayings) and learn how this seemingly simple set of sentences reveals a profound approach to healing and wholeness. Will include chant, body prayer, contemplation and Dances of Universal Peace. Contact: Rev. Elizabeth Reed at 614/227-9978 or erreed2131@msn.com

August 2–9: Camp Kilowan, OR, USA. *The Song of the Soul* — Northwest Sufi Camp. Saadi Neil Douglas-Klotz, the main camp teacher, will share Sufi practices, Dances, Walks and meditations. Camp Director: Majida Nelson. Other teachers include: Jilani Julie Esterly, Jalil Buehl, Rani McGloughlin, Jamshed Storer, Shems Baker-Jud, Nur un Nissa Smith, Quan Yin Williams. Contact:

August 11–15: University of Creation Spirituality, Oakland, CA, USA. *Hidden Gospel: Decoding the Spiritual Message of the Aramaic Jesus and The Aramaic Lord's Prayer: Body Prayer, Chant and Dance.* Neil Douglas-Klotz teaching as part of the Doctor of Ministry Summer program. Participants must enroll for the entire week as “Introductory Opportunity” students and should expect some advance reading and preparation. Contact: Grace Hogan, Director of Admissions at 510/835-4827 ext. 14 or gracehogan@cscnt.org

October 16–19: Seattle, WA, USA. *The Original Meditation of the Aramaic Jesus: A Shared Spirituality of New Beginnings for Jews, Christians and Muslims* with Neil Douglas-Klotz. An ancient form of meditation unites the three religions of the Middle East. It focuses on the creation of the universe and the archetype of the first human being. It seeks to bring the energy and power of this “beginning-time” directly into the life of practitioners, so that they can experience the creation story as their own personal story. This retreat will use Dances of Universal Peace from the Aramaic Christian, Jewish and Sufi traditions, as well as sound practice, and meditation to reawaken the sense of boundless creative potential and deep peace in our lives. Contact: Farishta Karen Lindsay at 253/396-9656 or tacomadup@yahoo.com

October 31–November 2: Madison, WI, USA. *The Original Meditation of the Aramaic Jesus: A Shared Spirituality of New Beginnings for Jews, Christians and Muslims* with Neil Douglas-Klotz. See October 16 description. Contact: Basir Ken McCullough at 608/277-0340 or kmccullough101@cs.com

November 8–9: St. Louis, MO, USA. *Original Healing: The Aramaic Beatitudes and the Healing Ministry of Jesus* with Neil-Douglas-Klotz. Sponsored by Mercy Center. See May 15 description. Contact: Sharon Schmitz, RSM at 314/966-4686 or ssschmitz@igateway.net

November 14–16: Rowe, MA, USA. *The Original Meditation of the Aramaic Jesus: A Shared Spirituality of New Beginnings for Jews, Christians and Muslims* with Neil Douglas-Klotz. Sponsored by Rowe Camp and Conference Center. See October 16 description. Contact: Felicity Pickett, Rowe Center at 413/339-4954 or felicity@rowecenter.org; www.rowecenter.org

In Europe

March 21–23: Flüeli Rauf, Switzerland. *Genesis Now—The Original Meditation of Judaism, Christianity and Islam* with Neil Douglas-Klotz. Through music, Dances of Universal Peace, body prayer and meditation, we will explore themes of power, flow, breath, unknowing, deep healing, light and celebration. German/English. Contact: Barbara Küng at 41 (0)41-921-2041 or Regina Gerber at regina.gerber@bluemail.ch

April 18–23: Finkenwerde, nr Berlin, Germany. *Renewal and Resurrection: Easter with the Aramaic Jesus*—Annual Native Middle Eastern retreat with Kamae A Miller, Neil Douglas-Klotz and Gita Onnen. Singing and dancing the Aramaic words of Jesus, telling stories, sharing Sufi practices such as zikr and wasifa. German/English. Contact: Gita Onnen at 49 (0)30-791-5211 or Anapurna von Kügelgen at 49 (0)30-313-9163 or brita.v.k@gmx.net

May 2–4: Bilthoven, Holland. *Original Healing: Miracles, Healing and Wholeness from the Aramaic Teachings of Jesus* with Neil Douglas-Klotz. See May 15 USA description. Contact: Contact: Wali and Arienne van der Zwan at 31 (0)30-225-0546 or zwan0060@wxs.nl

June 28–July 5: near Hamburg, Germany. First Sufi Ruhaniat International Camp. Dances of Universal Peace, walking meditations, breath practices, Soulwork and music. Teachings from Hazrat Murshid Samuel L. Lewis and Hazrat Murshid Moineddin Jablonski. Guest teachers: Pir Shabda Kahn, Murshid Saul Barodofsky, Murshida Mariam Baker, Murshida Fatima Lasser, Murshida Kamae A Miller. Camp director: Murshid Saadi Neil Douglas-Klotz. For information, contact Wali van der Zwan at 31 (0)30-225-0546 or zwan0060@wxs.nl. For registration, contact Ayat Sabine Brandt at 49 (0)30-4703-6783 or ayatsabine@web.de

July 15–20: Wiston Lodge, nr Biggar, Lanarkshire, Scotland. Scottish Summer Institute, Part I: *The Original Meditation of the Aramaic Jesus: A Shared Spirituality of New Beginnings for Jews, Christians and Muslims* — Annual Aramaic Jesus and Native Middle Eastern retreat with Neil Douglas-Klotz, Kamae A Miller and Matin Mize. Singing and dancing the Aramaic words of Jesus, new dances of creation from the Jewish and Islamic traditions, telling stories, sharing Sufi practices like zikr and wasifa. Contact: Narada Ian Ramsey at 44 (0)1290-661-082 or narada@abwoon.org

July 21–25: Wiston Lodge, nr Biggar, Lanarkshire, Scotland. Scottish Summer Institute, Part II: Advanced Dance and Walk Retreat with Kamae A Miller, Neil Douglas-Klotz and Matin Mize. Special emphases this year: Planetary Walks and work with individual astrological charts. Classes on leading the Native Middle Eastern Dances. Continuing work with longer cycle Dances, zikr dances, sound practices, Dance and Walk leadership issues and support/feedback for new Dance creation. Contact: Narada Ian Ramsey at 44 (0)1290-661-082 or narada@abwoon.org

September 4–7: Haus St. Benedikt, Würzburg, Germany. *The Hidden Gospel of the Aramaic Jesus* with Neil Douglas-Klotz. Experiential retreat using meditation, body prayer, walking meditation and movement. Focus on the Aramaic Prayer and ‘I Am’ sayings with an emphasis on the Dances, Walking meditations and stillness in the serene atmosphere of Haus St. Benedikt (a Zen and Benedictine Center). Contact: Haus St. Benedikt at 49 (0)931-305-0410 or 305-0414 or orhaus.st.benedikt@t.online.de

September 26–28: Salisbury, England. *Original Healing: The Aramaic Beatitudes and the Healing Ministry of Jesus* with Neil Douglas-Klotz. See May 15 USA description. Sponsored by the Institute for Christian Spirituality at Sarum College. Contact: Peter Tyler at 44 (0)1722-424-801 or pmttyler@sarum.ac.uk

October 5–10: nr. Fulda, Germany. 2003 Advanced Retreat in the Dances of Universal Peace and Walking Meditations with Neil Douglas-Klotz and Kamae A Miller. Open to certified teachers, mentors and others by permission. German/English. This is followed by a retreat for initiated Sufi mureeds on October 10–12. For both events, contact: Michael and Alima Stoeckel at 49 (0)6408-7929 or Klangholz-Stoeckel@gmx.de

In the Middle East March 29–April 13: Galilee, Israel. *The Earth, Native Wisdom and Jesus.* A tour and pilgrimage to sacred natural sites associated with Jesus guided by Neil Douglas-Klotz, Deborah Oberg and Joe Grabil. This will be an extended version (4 days longer) of the tour offered in 2001. Includes Dances of Universal Peace, meditation, talks on native Middle Eastern wisdom and the earth, discussion, meetings with Jewish, Christian and Islamic peacemakers. Contact: Deborah Oberg at 309/828-2965 or dkoberg@aol.com

New Tape Series
Available in Late Summer

**Original Healing:
Miracles, Health and Wholeness
from the Aramaic Teachings of Jesus**

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

The stories of Jesus' healing miracles have inspired people of all faiths for almost 2000 years. His way of physically embracing and re-invigorating the poor and dispossessed has provided a model for many later Christian saints from St. Francis to Mother Theresa.

If we could stand on a Galilean hillside with Jesus during one of his healings, what would we experience? If we could hear his magical use of words, what changes could take place in our own lives?

Original Healing takes us into the world of Jesus' language, culture and psychology in order to open a door to his remarkable way of healing and working miracles.

**The Real Meaning of Blessing —
Unlocked Through the Aramaic Key to Jesus' Words**

Using Jesus' native Aramaic language as a lens, this tape series leads us through one of the great healer's best-loved talks — the Beatitudes (or "Blessed are..." sayings) and shows how this seemingly simple set of sentences reveals a profound approach to healing and wholeness. Each saying begins with the Aramaic expression *tubwayhun*, which invokes a state of wholeness, life energy and ripeness. Each saying takes listeners deeper and deeper into this divine source of healing and shows them how to access it in their everyday lives — using body prayer and spiritual practice drawn from Jesus' own teachings.

**The Experience of Healing —
Body, Mind, Emotions and Soul**

In Jesus' Aramaic language and Middle Eastern culture, reality was not separated into distinct categories like body, mind and emotions. Aramaic, in fact, doesn't even have a separate word for "body" apart from "spirit." Healing always included all levels and dimensions of one's being. Through 12 sessions and 24 specific meditations, involving body awareness, sound, breath and gentle movement, *Original Healing* shows us how to follow Jesus' healing way to reunite these often scattered dimensions of our lives, relationships and souls. It shows us how to prepare the way for miracles to happen in our own lives.

See the **Events** calendar for *Original Healing* workshops on May 2–4, May 15–18, September 26–28 and November 8–9.



New Book
Available in the Fall

**The Original Meditation of Jesus:
A Shared Spirituality of New Beginnings
for Jews, Christians and Muslims**

by Neil Douglas-Klotz

"The caravan of creation
set out long before us...
It is ahead of us,
moving through a mysterious reality
that has no boundary..."

An ancient form of meditation unites the three religions of the Middle East. It focuses on the creation of the universe and the archetype of the first human being. It seeks to bring the energy and power of this "beginning-time" directly into the life of practitioners, so they can experience the creation story as their own personal story.

The original meditation of Jesus and many early Christians was not on an apocalyptic or cataclysmic "ending," but rather on the life-affirming, creative "beginning" described in Genesis and the Hebrew Scriptures. They were not looking for an "Apocalypse Now!" to bring history crashing to a close, but instead tried to re-orient themselves to divine creation through the experience of "Genesis Now!"

References to this meditation can be found throughout the Gospels, as well as the Hebrew scriptures. It continues as a living experience throughout the writings of Christian mystics like Hildegard of Bingen and Meister Eckhart. It is, likewise, central to the practices of medieval Jewish mystics and Kabbalists as well as Sufis and other Islamic mystics.

This meditation is just as relevant today as it was 2000 years ago. It provides a key to discovering the mystical in everyday life. It builds a bridge of peace between the three religions of the Middle East. It affirms a radically different view of life in a world that looks to save its ecosystem and rediscover an authentic connection to the sacred.

This book guides the reader through both the background and practice of the Original Meditation, which offers nothing less than a vision of what it means to be fully human.

See the **Events** calendar for *Original Meditation* (or related) workshops on March 21–23, July 15–20, October 16–19, October 31–November 2 and November 14–16.

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

A sacred space has been created to provide professional religious workers, as well as interested others, the opportunity to share ideas and experiences they have had using the resources of Abwoon Study Circle in the context of their ministry. The intention is that people can come to know one another, share personal experiences in doing spiritual practices, as well as professional ideas. Individuals in this network would then be able to support one another as they encounter the challenges that sometimes occur in introducing this work into more traditional religious settings. Our hope is that, within the next year or two, we might sponsor an event for clergy/professional religious people to support those exploring the translation work and spiritual practices of the Native Middle East in deep ecumenism. An e-mail group at Yahoo has been set up to provide this on-going dialogue. If you have any specific questions or need help in accessing the group, contact Rev. Nancy Pfalzgraf at RevDancer@aol.com.

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

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Small Local Groups for Spiritual Practice and Study

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

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

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

For Support in Forming a Local Abwoon Study Circle Group

In North America contact:

Mary Richardson phone: 302/594-1080
11 Breeze Hill Rd. e-mail: for-the-beauty@rocketmail.com
Wilmington, DE 19807

In the UK contact:

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

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

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