

# MADISON



## Save the Date

**In Person Retreat  
with  
Pir Shabda Khan**

**October 20 - 22, 2023**

**Tai Chi Center  
Madison, Wisconsin**

(flyer pg. 6)

**Sufi Ruhaniat  
International  
Jamiat Aam**

**In Person Gathering**

**April 25-28, 2024**

**Holy Wisdom Monestary  
Madison, Wisconsin**

## *The Path of Noor*

If you seek to follow Noor,  
Let your subtle heart be pure.  
If you would behold her light,  
Let your conscience shimmer bright.

Noor will greet you where you stand  
And conduct you to her land,  
But you must be spry of foot  
And shake off your dust and soot.

Noor will guide your way aright  
Through the perils of the night,  
Out beyond this waste of gloom,  
*Outre-mer*, where sweet peas bloom.

Follow her and keep apace.  
Thus, in time you'll reach the place  
Where Simurgh sings in the trees,  
Harmonizing with the breeze.

There a brook of nectar flows  
And the weary find repose  
In the shade of fragrant vines,  
As the whole of nature shines.

She will smile upon you then  
And uplift her aëdic pen  
To indite a song of deeds,  
Stringing words like prayer beads.

In that tale you'll find your soul  
And espy the endless goal.  
Harken then unto her code  
Till the final *Tamam Shud*.

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## September Activities

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### **Dances of Universal Peace**

**3rd Friday - September 15**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Hybrid\***

*Long Dance Night*

Tai Chi Center  
1304 S. Midvale Blvd

Join us in person or watch for an email with our link so you can participate via Zoom.

Jamila Joy, [jamila@madisonsufis.com](mailto:jamila@madisonsufis.com)

### **Ziraat Lodge**

**Wednesday, September 13**

**In person**

**4:30 p.m.**

Ziraat uses a metaphor of agriculture to develop the mind and experience deep ecology. All are invited to my backyard. One can call in if not in person. Contact me if you have any questions.

Noor Rachel, [Rachel.roang@gmail.com](mailto:Rachel.roang@gmail.com)

### **Healing Service**

**Sunday, September 17**

**via Zoom**

**11:00 a.m.**

(Doors open at 10:45 a.m.)

You are invited to join Noor Rachel for the Healing Service, a sacred attunement to the Divine Spirit of Healing established over a century ago by Pir-o-Murshid Inayat Khan. We shall take this time together to offer healing, blessing, ease and solace to those in need through prayer and silence.

If you'd like to add someone's name to the healing list, be sure to ask for his or her permission prior to contacting Noor Rachel or Gayatri. You may also request a Zoom link to the service from any of the conductors.

Noor Rachel, [rachel.roang@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.roang@gmail.com)  
Gayatri, [annaswegan@gmail.com](mailto:annaswegan@gmail.com)

### **Karima's Sunday Heart Gathering**

**Sunday, September 24**

**11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**- TBD**

Welcoming in the Autumn Equinox during this gathering and the bounty of what has been revealed thru summer within the heart and soul. Healing practices, meditation, practices honoring Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, music and gratitude for the bounty thru these times.

I will let you know if this will be in person or on Zoom.

Please call a week in advance if you are new.  
Karima, 608- 338-0709

### **Sufi Songs and Teachings**

**Wednesday- September 27**

**7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

**Hybrid\***

This class for Mureeds continues on the 4th Wednesday. Info and a zoom link will be sent in advance of the class.

Jamila Joy, [jamila@madisonsufis.com](mailto:jamila@madisonsufis.com)

### **Our Covid protocols are still in place.**

Please perform a self-test with a negative result before attending in person indoor events or choose to attend via zoom.

**Hybrid\***

**Events can be attended in person or via Zoom.**

## Overlooked No More: Noor Inayat Khan, Indian Princess and British Spy

New York Times, Nov. 28, 2018

By Amie Tsang

Noor Inayat Khan was not what one would expect of a British spy.

She was a princess, having been born into royalty in India; a Muslim, whose father was a Sufi preacher; a writer, mainly of short stories; and a musician, who played the harp and the piano.

But she was exactly what Britain's military intelligence needed in 1943.

Khan, whose name was in the news in Britain recently as a proposed new face of the [£50 note](#), was 25 when war was declared in 1939. She and her family went to England to volunteer for the war effort, and in 1940 she joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force and trained to become a radio operator.

Able to speak French, she was quickly chosen to go to Paris to join the Special Operations Executive, a secret British organization set up to support resistance to the Germans from behind enemy lines through espionage and sabotage.

Khan was the first female radio operator to be sent by Britain into occupied France, according to her biographer, Shrabani Basu.

Khan had worked hard to overcome her fear of weapons during combat training and improved her ability to translate Morse code, but colleagues in her intelligence network still had doubts. Some wondered if she was too young and inexperienced. They pointed out that she had carelessly left codes lying around and that she had unthinkingly revealed her British background by pouring milk into cups before the tea.

They also questioned whether she had the right sensibility for the job, having been raised under Sufism, a mystical form of Islam.

"Not overburdened with brains but has worked hard and shown keenness, apart from some dislike of the security side of the course," a superior officer, Col. Frank Spooner, wrote in her personal file. "She has an unstable and temperamental personality and it is very doubtful whether she is really suited to work in the field."

Still, she had excellent radio skills, which the special operations unit desperately needed, so in June 1943 she was sent to France, where she assumed the name Jeanne-Marie Renier, posing as a children's nurse. Madeleine was her code name.

Within 10 days of her arrival, all the other British agents in Khan's network had been arrested. The S.O.E. wanted her to return to Britain, but she refused, saying she would try to rebuild the network on her own.

She ended up doing the work of six radio operators. She moved constantly to evade detection and dyed her hair blonde to avoid being recognized. She knocked on the doors of old friends, asking them if she could use their homes to send messages to London from a wireless set that she carried around in a bulky suitcase.

Her work had become crucial to the war effort, helping airmen escape and allowing important deliveries to come in. "Her transmissions became the only link between the agents around the Paris area and London," Ms. Basu wrote in her biography "Spy Princess: The Life of Noor Inayat Khan."

*79th Urs of Noor-un-Nisa Inayat Khan  
January 1, 1914 – September 13, 1944*

## Overlooked No More (cont.)

In recognition of her bravery and service, she was awarded the George Cross by Britain and the Croix de Guerre, with gold star, by France.

Noor-un-Nisa Inayat Khan was born on Jan. 1, 1914, in Moscow to Hazrat Inayat Khan and Ora Ray Baker, an American who had changed her name to Amina Sharada Begum after her marriage. Khan's father, a musician and philosopher who was known as [Inayat Khan](#), was in Moscow at the time on an extended stay with his group, the Royal Musicians of Hindustan, who had been invited to perform in Russia.

Her father was also a descendant of an 18th-century ruler of the Kingdom of Mysore, in southwest India, making Noor a princess. Inayat Khan was raised in Baroda, in west India, but left the country to introduce Sufism to the west. (He met his future wife while lecturing in San Francisco.) Sufism emphasizes the renunciation of worldly things, purification of the soul and the mystical contemplation of God's nature.

During World War I, the family moved to Paris and then to London, where Noor's three siblings were born. The family returned to Paris in 1920 and eventually settled in Suresnes, west of the city. Inayat Khan died while on a pilgrimage in India. With her mother overwhelmed by grief, Noor, at just 13, was left to look after the family.

Even as she managed the house, Noor wrote short stories, dedicated poems to the family and enrolled at École Normale de Musique de Paris. She also studied child psychology at the Sorbonne. After finishing school, Khan produced an English translation of the Jataka Tales, fables about the previous incarnations of the Buddha, and established herself as a writer. Her book "Twenty Jataka Tales" was published in 1939.

Khan [never made it home](#) from the war. Just as she was about to leave for England in October 1943, she was captured by the Gestapo. She tried to escape but was caught and sent to a German prison in Pforzheim, on the edge of the Black Forest, where she was chained in solitary confinement, fed the smallest rations and beaten.

On Sept. 12, 1944, she was sent to the Dachau concentration camp and tortured there. She and three other S.O.E. women were executed the next day. She was 30.

Her cousin Mahmood Khan Youskine remembered her as a refined and dainty young woman who had told him charming stories about rabbits and urged him to play the piano. "The remarkable thing was, within that fineness was also that steely strength of will," he said in a telephone interview, the "kind of attitude that she displayed in her military career toward the Germans." He attributed her determination to her upbringing in the Sufi tradition.

That sense of duty is also evident in her writing, said her nephew Pir Zia Inayat-Khan, who has helped get her work, including a retelling of Homer, published. "The theme of sacrifice comes up again and again in her writing," he said by phone. "It's as if she had already anticipated her own martyrdom."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/28/obituaries/noor-inayat-khan-overlooked.html>

On August 29, 2023 Britain's Queen Camilla unveiled a portrait of SOE Operative Noor-un-Nisa Inayat Khan and announced the name of a room in her honor at the Royal Air Force Club.

Click here to view Noor's portrait:

<https://www.gettyimages.com/detail/news-photo/britains-queen-camilla-unveils-a-portrait-of-soe-operative-news-photo/1631445805>



The Zephyr August, 2023

16 August 2023

Dear Companions on the Path,

There is something numinous about a place of striking natural beauty. The visitor is transported from the mundane world to the Earth of Visions. The Zenith Sufi Summer Camp in Ticino, Switzerland, is such a place. Amidst the brays of donkeys and the screeches of kites, white tents rise through swirling mists into a sapphire sky. The wildflowers that spangle the mountainside are as numerous as the stars with which they converse. At the Camp, Heaven and Earth are in close touch.

Pirani Sartaj and I have just come down the mountain. The Camp is now many miles away, but the memories we carry with us will not soon fade. We will not forget the many cheerful words exchanged over steaming bowls of tea or the long silences when words disappeared into the three akashas. We will long remember the haunting and rousing music of Sinan, Mehmet, Ali, Ophiel, Tammo, Fereshta, and Tarana, Jeremy's glowing theatrical interpretation of *Parzival*, and the soaring zikrs of Cheikh Sufi and Shaykh Hamdi.

The first week was a colloquy on the challenges and rewards that come with the observance of a daily spiritual practice. In the second week we immersed ourselves in Ziraat, the greening of the Earth and ourselves. We paid our respects to the elementals of the mountain, gave ourselves to the work of cultivation, and undertook conjunction with the Kalima-Sakina (Logos-Sophia) through seven terrestrial domains. There can be no doubt as to the potency of the seeds that have been entrusted to us.

One day Cheikh Sufi, Pirani, and I were ascending a steep pasture. Above us on the slope were dozens of grazing cows. Suddenly a cowherd appeared and blew his whistle, sending a dog running and barking into the herd. All at once the cows began stampeding down the hill, hurtling straight toward us. There was nothing to do but stand together and face the impending juggernaut; we were now entirely at the mercy of the charging behemoths. But just look! As they reached us they abruptly slowed their steps. They surrounded us, breathing hard and sniffing our bodies with deep pants. At last they licked us, making it clear that a bond of friendship had been established. This done, they galloped away.

Dear friends, I hope that you, too, are having a magical summer – or winter, if you are in the southern hemisphere. If you are struggling, my prayer is that there is peace in the midst of the struggle, and that your angels are watching over you. I hope to see you again before long. It was a pleasure, before Camp, to see friends at Omega Institute, and in the coming weeks I look forward to seeing some of you in [Katwijk](#) and [London](#).

*May you sip the Water of Life  
And walk in meadows of clover  
May all the fairies smile at you  
And may your chalice run over*

Yours ever,  
Pir Zia 16 August 2023



# Pir Shabda Kahn

OPENING TO THE INNER LIFE :

CULTIVATING OUR HUMANITY

Applied Spiritual Teachings • Practice • Breath • Zikr Meditation •  
Dances of Universal Peace • Spiritual Walk

October 20, 21, & 22, 2023 - Madison, WI

Pir Shabda Kahn brings gentleness and humor in transmitting the rich lineage of Sufism since 1969. He has been the Pir - spiritual director - of the Sufi Ruhaniat International since 2001. This universal Sufi lineage traces from Hazrat Inayat Khan and Murshid Samuel Lewis.

As Pir of the Sufi Ruhaniat International, Shabda directs the Jamiat Khas (the Ruhaniat leader circle), directs the SRI Board of Trustees, and is the spiritual guide for the Dances of Universal Peace worldwide. He travels the world throughout the year spreading the Sufi Message of Love, Harmony and Beauty. He brings warmth, rich experience, and clarity through his service as Pir. He shares his teachings and music to support seekers on their path to awakening.

*"Sufism is a mystic path...based on the Awakened human Heart recognizing its Unity with the Divine. The signs of this experience are the emergence of love, tolerance, compassion, and courage. The Sufi attempts to be in the world but not of it, where one's inner condition is not based on circumstance. Sufism is universal in nature and honors all the great Messengers from the world's religions. It is not based on the way, path, or vehicle one takes to arrive at this Experience. So even though its current forms take many shapes from the mystic side of Islam, it can be claimed by no religion. - Shabda Kahn*

**Friday:** October 20 - 7 to 9 PM ||| **Saturday:** October 21 - 10 AM to 5 PM |||| **Sunday:** October 22, 10 AM to 3PM

**Location:** Tai Chi Center of Madison - 1304 S. Midvale Blvd. - Madison, WI

**Registration: Weekend:** \$195 for entire event includes lunch on Saturday and Sunday.

**Friday night only:** \$35 ~ **Saturday only:** \$125 (includes lunch) ~ **Sunday only:** \$100 (includes lunch)

To register online with credit card, go to <https://www.madisonsufis.com/special-events> - otherwise you may mail in the form below with a check.

**Scholarships available:** Contact Basir at 608-338-0709 or E-mail: [basir@madisonsufis.com](mailto:basir@madisonsufis.com)

**Housing:** Recommended hotels are below. Use Block code: "Madison Sufis" to make reservations at special rate before Oct. 5th.

**AmericInn** call: 608-833-4200 for reservations. **Info:** <https://tinyurl.com/AmericInnWyndhamMadisonSufis>

**Best Western:** Register online: <https://tinyurl.com/BestWesternMadisonSufisRes>

**For further information:** Contact Basir at 608-338-0709 or E-mail: [basir@madisonsufis.com](mailto:basir@madisonsufis.com)

To register by mail, detach and mail this form along with registration fee (checks payable to Madison Sufis)

**Mail to:** Madison Sufis / P.O. Box 46463 / Madison, WI 53744-4643

Check enclosed for:

(\$195) Entire Weekend     (\$125) Saturday only - includes lunch     (\$100) Sunday only - includes lunch     (\$35) Friday only

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ST/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 <i>Labor Day</i>	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Ziraat 4:30 pm  Noor Rachel's backyard  <i>Noor Inayat Khan 1914-1944</i>	14	15 Dances of Universal Peace  Tai Chi Center 7:00-9:00 pm  <i>Rosh Hashanah begins at sunset</i>	16
17 Healing Service  via Zoom 11:00 am  <i>Rosh Hashanah ends at nightfall</i>	18	19	20	21	22	23  <i>Autumnal Equinox</i>
24 Sunday Heart Gathering  TBD 11:00 am  <i>Yom Kippur begins at sunset</i>	25  <i>Yom Kippur ends at nightfall</i>	26	27 Sufi Songs and Teachings  Hybrid 7:00-8:30 pm	28	29	30  <i>Rumi's Birthday 1207</i>

## Milwaukee Area Activities

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### The Waukesha Dance Circle

Dances of Universal Peace will hold a circle in  
UUU Congregation's Waukesha sanctuary and stretch  
as well to a hybrid extended circle on

**September 21 at 7pm.**

We will follow the theme of **Welcome . . .**

in the offerings of Dances shared, and enthusiastically welcome in all who  
are curious to know what this form of singing and moving with a prayer may  
open for them. This is always the case, yet at this time the energy will be  
magnified, amplified so that the welcome in our gathering is unmistakable.

Registration is not required although RSVP is helpful.  
No cost; free will offering accepted.

Contact Prajna Patti Kies  
[pattiburncake@hotmail.com](mailto:pattiburncake@hotmail.com) or call (not text) 262 642-9289.

### Milwaukee Universal Worship Service

First Sunday, September 3

10:00 a.m.

Call to receive a zoom link.

Love and Peace

Sara Farishta, 414-299-0218  
[angelwork99@gmail.com](mailto:angelwork99@gmail.com)

Madison Sufis  
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