

MADISON SUFIS



Special Event 2023

In-person Retreat
with
Tasnim and Saadi
March 30 -April 2, 2023
(see pg. 2)

Continuing on hiatus...

Dances of Universal Peace
Universal Worship
Sufi Songs and Teachings

Our journey through life's experience
is a continuous journey,
and the good and bad,
the right and wrong,
the rise and fall
of yesterday
you must leave behind,
and turn your back on them,
and go forward with new hope,
and with new courage and enthusiasm,
trusting to the almighty power of the Creator
in your spirit.

Hazrat Inayat Khan

Ziraat Lodge

Wednesday, August 10 In-person
6:00 p.m. * Outside

We will notify you of the location by email. Ziraat uses a metaphor of agriculture to develop the mind and experience deep ecology. Anyone is welcome.

** Please note the change from the usual time `*

Healing Service

Sunday, August 21 via Zoom
11:00 a.m. (Doors open at 10:45 a.m.)

You are welcome to join us for the Healing Service where we attune to the healing energy of the Divine Spirit. If you'd like to add someone's name to the healing list, please ask for his or her permission prior to contacting Gayatri. She would also be glad to send you a Zoom link to the service, if you'd like to join us.

Gayatri, annaswegan@gmail.com

Karima's Sunday Heart Gathering

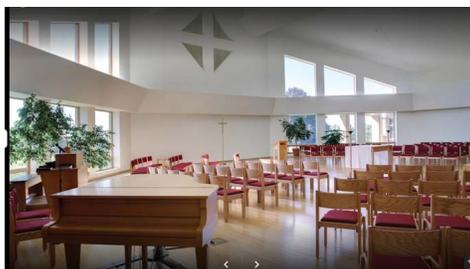
Sunday, August 28 via Zoom
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Friends of the Heart,
Come join for an exchange of how we are each doing these days of summertime. Time for meditation, readings, practice and offering our gratitude for community of friendships. May we visualize peace for one another, for community, country, the world in the many seen and unseen forms through all that is transpiring within and around us moment by moment. May we carry dearly the many ways to nurture our connections online; and in person with deepest of remembrance of the sacredness of the Message and how it is alive in each of our hearts and souls. Hope to see you on zoom in August. With gratitude for all of life, Karima

Karima, 608-338-0709



SAVE THE DATE
TASNIM & SAADI RETREAT
MADISON, WI
HOLY WISDOM MONASTERY
MARCH 30 – APRIL 2, 2023
INFO:
BASIR@MADISONSUFIS.COM





Dear Companions on the Path,

Peace be with you. I write to you from Bursa, Turkiye, where we are in the middle of a luminous retreat. It's a joy to be back with the huge-hearted Turkish community after two years of lockdown. Bursa is a city of great charm.

As you know, there are many dedicated friends on the path who serve our caravan in various ways. Some serve as Vice Presidents of the Activities, a role that involves great responsibility, diligence and care. Vice Presidents serve from between three to six years. Rotation allows revered, long-serving officers to move on to other modes of work on behalf of our community, and creates circulation within the system, which in turn supports diversity and dynamic intergenerational collaboration.

After many years of indefatigable service to the Inner School, Naima Brown is now stepping back from her role as North American Madar-ul-Maham (Inner School Vice President). Naima leaves behind a legacy of excellence, a legacy that is notably reflected in, among other things, the leader's training program she has meticulously built. Happily, Naima will continue to be a light to our community as a teacher and guide.

Succeeding Naima, we welcome now a partnership of co-Madar-ul-Mahams: Amida Cary and Miraj Jacob Ellenberg. Amida has led the North American Retreat Concentration for several years, Miraj is a long-standing teacher within our school, and they both have my deep confidence.

These are not the only current transitions. As you may know, Hassan Suhrawardi Gebel has served as North American Chancellor (Vice President) of the Knighthood of Purity since its revival in 2010. Hassan Suhrawardi's painstaking stewardship, together with that of Alia Sura in Norway, has enabled the Knighthood to become what it is today, a solidly-established chivalric fellowship with active members all over the world. Hassan Suhrawardi has served our community in several other capacities meanwhile, and thankfully we can continue to count on his sword even as he steps down as Chancellor. Hassan Suhrawardi's successor is Sarfaraz Jessica Berger. Sarfaraz was initiated in the Inayatiyya in 2004 and received the accolade of Knight of Purity in 2016.

Finally, I should let you know of a transition that will take place at the end of the year. After long years of wholehearted service to our shared cause as North American Bayt-ul-Haram (Vice President of Healing), Devi Tide is now passing on the torch. She will be succeeded by Raqib Kogan MD and Nur Alima Smith, who will serve as joint Bayt-ul-Harams. In addition, Raqib will be Kefayat of North America. Devi has poured enormous energy and care into Healing over the years. Fortunately for us all, Devi will remain a guiding light in our community, and her legacy is in excellent hands with Raqib and Nur Alima, who bring deep knowledge and heartfulness to their work.

I hope you will join me in expressing sincere appreciation to Naima, Hassan Suhrawardi, and Devi, and a warm welcome to Amida, Miraj, Sarfaraz, Raqib, and Nur Alima.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to all of you who have been sending your good energy and support to the North American Board of the Inayatiyya, the Astana, and the Abode Board at this time of transition at the Abode. Finding a sustainable outcome is a challenge that requires great care, and every bit of goodwill, patience, and understanding on the part of our community helps. The Trustees are volunteers who are devoting immense amounts of time. Their sole interest – our sole interest – is the flourishing of the work of the Message and its worldwide community, together with the health of the hallowed land and historical buildings at the Abode.

May the Message of God reach far, wide, near, and deep.

Yours ever,
Pir Zia



Excerpts from:

Solstices and Equinoxes: A Farmer's Meditations

by Henry Brockton

Illustrated by Hiroko Kinoshita

Between Summer Solstice and the Autumn Equinox

Tomato Stalking

I may not be a solar-powered being, but during the growing season I am definitely a solar-activated being. The sun pulls me gently from bed a little earlier each morning and lazy sweetly down a bit later each night. Today, the Summer Solstice, that means I woke at 4:15 in the morning and wasn't chased back home by the darkening sky until nine in the evening . . .

But now, on June 21, the summer solstice, the arc of the tomatoes is still rising, even while the ark of the sun in the seasons has reached its apex and will bit now begin the next horrible slide back toward the shortest day of the year, the winter solstice, December 23. Six months from now, I will be taking night walks, reading in front of the fire and sleeping long winter nights. But today at the height of the season, there's no time for walks or for reading, and barely time for sleeping. Plants are growing 17 hours a day and I am swimming flat out to keep up.

But today on this longest day of the season, I like to stop long enough to think my thanks to the sun for bringing me this far, to the plants for their self-nourishing ways by which they nourish me and all my fellow heterotrophs, and to all those who eat what I grow and thereby allowing me to do what I love to do: grow Good Food, which I define as food grown in a manner that is good for me and for my family, good for all who eat it and good for the very soil and environment that nurtures and nourishes it.

As the season flows from Summer Solstice to Autumn Equinox, each day I will raise to keep up with those unraveling balls of string I set a-rolling with the planting of each seed, trying to nudge them down the paths I choose. I will sweat in the hot sun. I will surf the strong current of the river of the seasons until the autumnal equinox, when night finally overcomes light, when I will once again pull my bark upon the bank to catch my breath.

But for tonight, at least as desk shadows draw down on the longest day of a long season, I can say a little sigh of relief that tomorrow the sun will let me lie in bed in the morning a minute longer and send me to bed at night a minute sooner.

Pir Shabda's July 2022 Messages

Beloved Family,

Let us all make prayers of protection and healing for the many people still contracting covid ~ YA SHAFEE YA KAFEE!

With the extreme heat wave sweeping our country and Europe, it urges us to become participants and contributors to reversing climate change and be part of living sustainably on our beautiful blessed shining planet that we all share. As the Essence enters the form we call our bodies, it borrows what is needed to make a physical body from the elements, earth, water, fire, and air, all from the body of Mother Earth. Our bodies are in resonance with the natural world as we are all made out of the same material.

This understanding should move us to feel an intimate relationship with everything which is alive since we share the same body. Further, just as we are motivated to take care of our "own" bodies, now we feel the responsibility and privilege to take care of our larger body, Mother Earth, in all Her manifestations. Once we feel and experience this great connection it will guide us and inspire us to wholesome actions to take care of "the GreaterOurSelf".

This principle should lead us to care for our fellow human beings in the same way we care for 'ourselves'. We aspire to manifest YA RAHMAN ~ YA RAHEEM, extending Loving Kindness and Compassion in all directions for all beings for all purposes.

This month let's recite YA WAHID, YA AHAD, YA SAMAD with the aspiration to experience and practice Oneness/Unity in every way imaginable.

At the beginning of the month, we had a deep, successful, and covid free Sufi Sesshin at Murshid Sam's Dargah at Lama Foundation.

There are about 10 spots left for the upcoming Sufi Camp at the Southwest Sufi Community land, which is on 1500 acres in the Gila Wilderness, an hour out of Silver City, New Mexico.

The Caravan in Turkey is now on a waitlist basis but the "Conference of the Birds Celebration" also in Turkey still has space.

Sending all love,

Shabda

<https://www.ruhaniat.org/index.php/shabda-blog/2943-march-2022-message>

Text and Commentary to Study

This month we continue reading *Githas, Series III*, by Pir-o-Murshid Hazrat Inayat Khan. Even though you may have studied this before you can read with fresh eyes.

Read and contemplate pages 18-30 on Mysticism and Esotericism.

To download the document *Githas, Series III* go to:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/162dcf2e401/c1aa734a-428a-44d5-8495-4468db55d79d.pdf>

Excerpted from Joe Miller in ***Great Song: Life and Teachings of Joe Miller***, p. 79-80,
Edited with An Introduction by Richard Power, Foreword by Coleman Barks.

Be Who You Are

I'm going to talk at random. I always do. Because it is the only way I seem to be able to talk. I sort of throw everything to the wind and try to take it from the intuition and pure love.

Pure love is the main thing. Love without the possessiveness. Can you feel that love? Can you touch that impersonal, yet highly personal love? You can't be impersonal unless you're personal! And when you're personal, you're impersonal Because when you're stingy, you're trying to keep it all for yourself. You don't have to do that. It's got to be universal love. Sooner or later, we'll all realize the whole world is one family, one beautiful family. That's the wonderful part of life.

If you don't shut off the thoughts that you have running wild in your mind, you can't meditate and you can't be at peace with yourself. Now there are other times when you touch this MIND, suppose you go to the theater and you hear music that's so wonderful that it lifts you right out of yourself. You ain't even thinking of who you are, you've become drunk on the music and you are right into the music and it's beautiful. That's what we want, the BEAUTY, the HARMONY within.

Another time your lower mind will shut off is when someone WHACKS you unexpectedly. They utilize that a lot in Zen. Then, for a minute, the guy has clearness of MIND. "What did ya hit me for?" He's there, he don't know it but he has turned this thinking off. Then, if he wished, he could turn to the heart and the heart would tell him something.

Or, another example, let's say you go to a show and you really get tickled. You start laughing, then the jokes get better and you're going, "WOW! Hilarious." Well, when you're at the top of your laughter, are you thinking about anything? Can you just turn it off? Try it sometime. Turn "off your thinking. Usually, you can't turn it off. You say, "It just keeps on going." Well, it does keep on going, if you let it. But the programmer for your computer is in the heart, and you can turn off all that software anytime you want. You're the only one who can do it.

BE WHO YOU ARE. Be. Feel your at-oneness with that I AM within you.

It's not something that you can get if you go someplace where someone says, "Well, if you lay down fifteen dollars and you stay here for a couple of weeks, I'll teach it to you." They can't. Nobody but you can bring you out of it. This is part of the New Age! You're not going out to temples of religions of the past, you're going into the temple of the Living GOD-yourself! We are all Gods in the making. I say these things to people. Why? Not because you'll dig it now. The chances are ten to one that you'll say, "Oh, that crazy old coot with the fuzzy "muff don't mean anything." But sometime when you are in a bind, maybe five years from now, maybe ten years from now, you'll reach back inside and that'll pop out. I'm placing it in your computers for that purpose, to use when needed.

We've all met before or we wouldn't be here now. We wouldn't be here in this room together. There wouldn't be enough people to come up and fill this room and listen to me if there wasn't some connection. All I'm trying to do is give you the benefit of what I have dug in this life. You've read this and you've read that and you've read the other, but you have to have an experience before it's real to you. We're probably living in the most materialistic time the world has ever known-everything is only measured by the THINGS that are here. But we're not our bodies, our lower minds or our feelings, we're not that. We are sparks of Immortality, something that you can't describe. You can give an idea of what happens with it, but you can't show a picture of it. And you don't see it when you come to it. You just feel such a vast relief that, "Ah, this is what I have been looking for all my life," that peace that passeth all understanding.

I know I'm NOTHING, no-thing, no-thing, not me, not me. I'm just a wild-assed spark of the Infinite functioning in the Finite! I can turn it on or turn it off any damn time I want to. I could drag you through a pool of sad-sack stories and have you crying tears as big as horse-turds. This is the magic that each one of us has within us.

My viewpoint is that you surrender yourself to your deeper spiritual SELF. And BE that spiritual SELF. BE WHO YOU ARE. And that's who you are! You're all GOD. You're carrying around the GENERATOR of FORCE within you. Use it. That's what you got it for. You just needed some silly-billy like me to come along and mention it to you.

It doesn't matter if I ever see any of you people again, you won't forget that reality within you. Because you haven't heard this from a famous minister that's a member of the Hierarchy, I'm just a jerk



August, 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Zirrat Lodge In-person Location TBD 6:00 pm	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 21st Urs of Joe Miller (1904 – 1992)	20
21 Healing Service via Zoom 11:00 am	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Karina's Heart Gathering via Zoom 11:00 am -12:30 pm	29	30	31			

Milwaukee Area Activities

Milwaukee Universal Worship Service

First Sunday, August 7
10:00 a.m.

Call Sara for info at 414-299-0218.

Love & Peace

Dances of Universal Peace Waukesha/Delavan WI Circle

We are continuing to hold the focus during these summer months of *Tuning to Natural Rhythms*. We will celebrate the holy days and holidays of this time of year again in a pair of ways.

The **Third Thursday August 18**, an evening virtual dance circle will be held beginning at 7:30 pm, via zoom.

On **Saturday August 20**, we will again meet in person for an outdoor connection to dance, hear one another sing in harmony, and pray in the shady protection of the gazebo at Linn Presbyterian Church, W3335 Willow Rd., Lake Geneva, WI. This afternoon gathering is planned for 1:30-4 pm.

Information, directions, links can be accessed through Pranja Patti Kies pattiburncake@hotmail.com or (262) 642-9289

Madison Sufis
PO Box 46463
Madison, WI 53744-6463