

Shadhiliyyah Community News

May 2008

Edition #2



Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim

As-Salaam 'Alaykum beloveds,

Warm Greetings from the Communication Circle! This is the second edition of our new tariqa newsletter. We've been working hard and are happy to bring you this updated news from around the country.

In This Issue:

- Sidi is coming to the U.S. in 2008!
- News from the Shadhiliyyah Circles
- A Nationwide Listing of Free Shadhiliyyah Events

Come and join us! Do you like to have fun, be creative and serve Allah and your community all at the same time? You're in luck! The Communication Circle is currently open to new members! To join, contact noorupshaw@gmail.com with subject "subscribe to comcircle."

Credits

This Newsletter is brought to you by your Communication Circle:

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This Month's Newsletter:

Sidi Coming to the U.S. in 2008!

It is confirmed that Sidi is planning to come and visit us around the U.S. again this summer. The preliminary schedule is still being worked out, and Sidi has not yet set his arrival date. Until he does, we can only say that our hope is that he'll be here for the mid-July University session and will stay through Ramadan. As soon as we have more certainty, we will send a bulletin to everyone, masha'allah.

News from the Shadhiliyyah Circles

SSC Board

Salima Adelstein, Chairman, salima@sufiuniversity.org

Hadia Tirben and Rabi'ah Houle joined the Board at the May meeting, bringing the expanded Board to 24 directors and increasing the Northern California representation to nine beloveds. We welcome their presence and participation! The Board heard a preliminary proposal from the Governance Circle and, in light of the organizational changes which are coming in the next few months, voted to extend the terms of those directors who would normally be up for renewal at this time until July 24th. That is the deadline for the new governance model implementation and formation of a new board, insha'allah. Wholehearted approval was also given to proposals from the Running the Retreat Center, the Fundraising and Communications Circles. More information is available on the website under "Community News" /Board Minutes & Financials.

Beloveds can be on the lookout for a letter from the SSC Board, which will be mailed and emailed to everyone in the next two weeks. The letter describes what's been changing and outlines new commitments we are making to the tariqa. If you do not receive it within 2 weeks, we may not have your current mailing address or email address, so please contact the SSC office to be added to the list and to receive a copy. It will also be posted on the website.

Council of Shadhiliyyah Communities

Nur Hrabko, moderator, doctornur@gmail.com

The Council of Shadhiliyyah Communities, a four year old grassroots organization of elected members from local communities is helping implement new plans and coordination of new ideas for our tariqa which is in a seeming constant state of change. Nationally there are individual communities with their respective memberships, the mother center (aka The Shadhiliyyah Sufi Retreat Center), The National Tariqa Administration (aka SSC), USHS, a proposed national policy board, and numerous national circles and COH committees. Our latest goal is to help with the dissemination of information within our local communities and we are working with the communication circle to help accomplish that. We have also met with the leadership team from the USHS to further the one- hand- one- heart initiative and to see just how the tariqa and University can complement one another.

Governance Circle

Wahida Kass, moderator, jyoungkass@verizon.net

The Governance Circle is continuing to work on some of the finer points of its proposal for a new governance model for the tariqa. We presented our preliminary version to the Board and USHS Leadership mid May to gather feedback, and we will be working to address the questions raised as we continue toward completing the proposal by our July 24th deadline.

Diversity Circle al-Wasi (the All-Embracing)

Nur Hrabko, moderator, doctornur@gmail.com

Al- Wasi has had several new members and has been meeting regularly. We have discovered there is quite a learning curve as we are just beginning to get a handle on just how big a concept this is with the many different experiences and ideas that have been shared on these calls. My own concepts of diversity were quite naïve. There exists wide diversity within the tariqa presently; both within individuals, amongst individuals and collectively. We also

have just begun to recognize how much further we need to diversify collectively and as individuals in order to truly embrace the heritage and breadth of Islam and Sufism. This will only help as we travel The Path of Completion. It is without doubt a very exciting time to be a Sufi and to begin to embody the Quality of al-Wasi.

SSRC and the Northern California Mother Center Community

As we welcome and prepare for the summer heat and the arrival of our beloved guide Sidi, the Mother Center and new land are a-buzz with activity. Local beloveds work diligently to upkeep the retreat center and prepare for Sufi School and many of the other exciting summer programs. We are excited to have a new circle which is taking on managing the retreat center operations called the "Running the Retreat Center Circle" (RRCC)! The days are getting warmer and seeds are being planted on the new land, with hopes of a great harvest.

We have many hopes, dreams, and goals as a Sufi community charged with running and maintaining the Mother Center. Hopes of spreading the message; dreams of Allah's abundance showering down; and goals of building a thriving, loving, and sustainable community on the new land. As we learn to work together in even greater harmony and unity, it becomes clear to us that we still need more beloveds here to manifest this vision.

If you have dreams of creating and living in a sustainable Sufi community, then please consider joining us and planting your roots in the earth surrounding the Mother Center. We eagerly welcome new beloveds into our community. If you have passion and himma for farming, family, building, and living in unity, then this may be the place for you. We look forward to seeing you this summer!!! May Allah's peace and blessings be upon you.

**If you are considering moving to the Mother Center community, and have questions or would like more information, please contact: Laila Jaffe, lailajaffe1@aol.com, 707-965-0300

Community Land Circle

Contact: Maryam Hand at marhand@gmail.com

This spring, an online letter was sent to beloveds on the SSC mailing list outlining the focus of the Community Land Circle and inviting participation.

An online poll was conducted to assess interest in a community purchase of parcel #2 of the property owned in Pope Valley, (photos may be viewed at www.suficenter.org). Twenty two responses were generated: 17 Yes; 1 No; 4 Qualified.

“Qualified” answers are those expressing concerns that the land be self-sustainable and not a financial drain on the community now or in the future.

Next steps include a Community Land Circle Conference Call to build a vessel of light to support the purchase of parcel #2 as community-owned land.

We thank those who took the time to respond to the poll. We continue to welcome all who are interested in this project.

We will hold our first call to form an intentional vessel of light to hold the door open for Allah to send His Blessings, Mercy, and Abundance for the Community Land Circle project (to purchase Parcel #2 for use by the community, insha'llah.) All beloveds are welcome.

Community Land Circle First Call Wednesday, June 11, 8 pm EST

Conference Dial-in Number: (616) 347-8400
Participant Access Code: 657289#

Sidi Muhammad Press

Amina al-Jamal at Amina@Sufimaster.org

There are 2 new books in the process of being published, insha'allah. While the titles are not yet available, the first will be a healing book and will likely be available for the July session at USHS. It teaches about the use of many Ayurvedic herbs in the treatment of specified conditions. Though there are similar books to

be found on this topic, this comes to us from our guide and teaches from an ancient tradition of healing not present in many of the current titles on herbal remedies. The next book we hope to see this summer will be a teaching book similar to the much loved He Who Knows Himself Knows His Lord.

For more information about these and other titles at Sidi Muhammad Press, Amina welcomes email at Amina@Sufimaster.org or call her at (707) 765-0904

Communication Circle

<http://comcircle.nexo.com/shadhiliyyacommunityforum>

The Communication Circle recently received permission from the SSC to implement the first phase of our comprehensive communication plan. We are now in the beginning stages of revising and updating the SSC website. We plan to include a directory of local communities, with links to community websites, so when you're travelling, you'll know when and where the local dhikr is happening and who to contact. We'll keep you updated with what's happening in the tariqa circles, Council of the Honest committees, and other groups. We hope to create a forum space, where you can discuss issues of concern with your beloved brothers and sisters. We'll also include information about the path, teachings, and practices for new people as well as for seasoned travelers along the way.

We'll continue to send out our regular newsletters and special bulletins like this one to keep you informed about the exciting changes in the tariqa. We'll also be working behind the scenes to update the SSC database so that you can always stay in touch.

We'd love to hear from you about what you want to see on your tariqa website and in your tariqa newsletter. Talk with us at our nexa website: <http://comcircle.nexo.com/shadhiliyyacommunityforum> and let us know how we can serve you.

Call For Community Information and Photos!

But enough about us. Let's talk about you! We're currently compiling a comprehensive list of Shadhiliyyah communities, and we want to hear from you! We hope to publish your information in upcoming newsletters as well as on the SSC website, and even do feature stories on our communities. So, tell us about yourself! Send us some photos of the beautiful beloveds in your community with permission to publish them in the newsletter and on the web. When and where do you gather? Who are your contact people? Do you have a website link you'd like us to post for you? What else do you want people to know about your community?

Send your community information and photos to: Rifqa Quereau at Jeanneq19@gmail.com

Organizational & Administrative Outreach Circle

Hakima Debbie Graefer, moderator,
Debbie@healthyfastfood.net

UPDATE: While the Organizational & Administrative Outreach Committee is not currently meeting, Hakima Debbie Graefer is available for beloveds who might share ideas, develop vision, and direct the focus of this potential workgroup.

Free Shadhiliyyah Conference Calls

Here is the most updated (As of February 27th, 2008) of FREE Teleconference Calls that are being offered by beloveds in our community as well as some offerings by the University USHS.

West Coast:

Readings From Sidi's Books, A Quality, And Add Your Loved Ones To The Prayer Circle

7AM, PST (Every Day) Hosted by Sabur and Rahma Fee, danielfee@sbcglobal.net

***(641) 678-3405, when prompted enter the conference code 559#

Reading/Writing Sidi's Books

5PM, PST (Wednesdays) Hosted by Na'ama McCreedy, kmccreedy@mindspring.com (707) 963-0881

***(641) 678-3405, when prompted enter the conference code 559#

It is OK to be on the call if you do not have the book or are unable to write.

Reading the Quran

6:30PM, PST (Fridays) Hosted by Mahabba Arthur and Ibrahim Ali, mahabba@cox.net

***(641) 678-3405, when prompted enter the conference code 559#

This Holy Book is read beautifully in Arabic by Ibrahim, and read beautifully in English by Mahabba

Midwest:

Sufi Women's Healing Circle

Group prayer healings for women every other Tuesday. from 7:30 – 8:30pm CDT. Moderator: Laila Saratore, Healer: Jumanah Wakitsch. Contact Jumanah for more information at DebraWakitsch@comcast.net.

Next call is June 10th.

***218-486-1600 access code: 876280.

East Coast:

Morning Spiritual Practices

(Fajr, Wazifa, Al-Wird, the Jewel Supplication)

Early Morning – (Every Day, *Insha'allah*) This call time varies based on the east coast fajr time. Please call or e-mail Rauda Lazarus for the most recent starting times. (516) 887-3675, joanlaz@msn.com

***(605) 990-0300, access code 332106#

Thursday Night Dhikr

9 or 9:30PM, PST (Thursdays, *Insha'allah*) This call time varies. Please call or e-mail Rauda Lazarus for the most recent starting times. (516) 887-3675, joanlaz@msn.com

***(605) 990-0300, access code 332106#

University Of Spiritual Healing and Sufism

- ❖ See www.sufiuniversity.org for regular free and low-cost phone classes.
- ❖ FREE Teleclasses from the Sufi University: See: <http://sufiuniversity.org/Teleclasses/teleclasses.php>
- ❖ Recordings of FREE classes with senior faculty of the Sufi University: See http://sufiuniversity.org/audio/free_audio.php
- ❖ FREE 14-day spiritual renewal e-course offered by the Sufi University: See <http://sufiuniversity.org/spiritualrenewal.php>

Ma'a Salaam