

Shadhiliyya Community Newsletter

May 2010

Edition # 10

Please print and distribute this newsletter at your community gatherings. Thank you.



Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim

As-Salaam 'Alaykum beloveds,

We are delighted to bring you this latest edition of the newsletter. This is the season when we welcome our Guide back into our midst and drink deeply from his presence. In this issue we look at who the Guide is and hear from beloveds some of their experiences of him. Enjoy!

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Announcements & Events

New times for weekly "Office Hours" and "Salat: The Ascension of the Believers".

The two webcast/teleclasses offered from the Mother Center by Imam Sa'id bin Yunus have a new day and time. Both will be offered on Saturdays instead of Sundays. Office Hours will be from 2:30-4:30 Pacific.

Sidi Welcome Weekend June 18-19 at the Retreat Center. Join us in welcoming Sidi back to the US! Call 707-965-0700x21 to register for the Welcome Weekend, Zawiyah and Sufi School West. June 18-28.

Sufi School Schedule coming soon!

Who is the Guide?

Interview with Amina al-Jamal by Salaam Guillot

Who is the guide? The Guide is the one who points you to the way to return to the One Who created you.

How does he help us? He helps us through being the example of the one who followed that path of return, and by giving us instructions on how to follow, and teachings that give us inspiration and knowledge of ourselves and our Creator.

Does he ever leave us? No. How is that possible? He is the real Guide and so his students are "his heart". Sidi says, "Be careful, my beloved, with every step, and know that you are walking on my heart."

How can we become better *murids* (students) to our guide? By worshiping Allah and following his [Sidi's] example and the examples of all the prophets.

How can we thank him? By our actions.

How can we serve him and give back to him? We serve him and give back to him by following his way.



Painting by Salaam Guillot

Stories of our Guide

"We had to have a khalwa at a Holiday Inn instead of [the] Namaste [Center] in Portland during a healing school session years ago. I went there and there was a strong heavy metal band practicing. I went to Sidi and I said, 'I am very concerned because they are scheduled to play in the room next to the ballroom of the khalwa.' He looked at me with this very benign, loving smile and he said, 'Wadude, everybody sings to his own Laila. Not to worry.' So we went ahead and had the khalwa anyway, but the interesting thing to me is that there was never any band that showed up! I have no idea why they didn't show up. I don't know if this was from the hand of the guide or hand of Allah or something unrelated. But we had our khalwa and there was no heavy metal band to be found." -Wadude Laird



"How about the khalwah were he got up and said, 'the angels have told me to do a little dance.' He then starts doing this little shuffle up and down the aisles." -Hussein DuBois



"A few years ago I had a dream in which my beloved died. We'd only been married a couple of years and I was extremely agitated about this "premonition", so I called Sidi. He told me that the dream meant that Allah wanted to give my beloved a new life, in other words, a good thing! He was quite positive, but my fears were not really eased and I continued to worry. The next morning, however, just as I woke, I felt a sudden, absolute sense of surety that what Sidi told me was the truth and my fears were false. At the same moment, I also realized that my guide had placed that reassuring understanding in me, completely silencing my fearful questioning mind and nafs. A sense of awe and profound gratitude for his compassionate intervention filled me, because otherwise I would have continued to doubt and worry about that dream for weeks. Subhanallah!" – Wahida Kass

"We were in Jackson Hole at Ibrahim Jaffe's house before the [Pope Valley] Land was bought. A man came, an old student of Sidi's from Santa Fe. Sidi asked the man to read from Music of the Soul. As the beloved read he began to cry - deep weeping. Sidi was blocked from my vision. I could feel the quality of the man's crying and I thought, 'he is healing right now.' Then I realized that we were all healing from it. As I had this tajalli in my heart, Sidi leaned back and made eye contact with me and nodded." -Haroun Schnebelt



Giving and Receiving with Ease & Abundance: The Scrip Program

We invite you to consider using a scrip (i.e. substitute \$) program to provide donations to SSC *without spending an extra cent from your budget!* This type of program has been around for a long time, and used with success by many non-profits around the country.

Please try it and see for yourself how easy it is to incorporate it into your daily/weekly/monthly shopping or occasional or gift shopping. It would be a huge blessing if you and your family would be willing to participate and help provide a regular flow of donations to SSC. Whether you are buying a cup of coffee, gas, groceries, computers, books or concrete, a percentage will go directly to benefit SSC!

If your local Sufi community has non-profit status, it can sign up for this program and collect the rebates for your community activities!



We loved hearing the consistent emphasis from presently enrolled beloveds on just how "easy" the program is and how happy they are being able to donate to SSC without spending

additional funds or affecting their income! We are excited to have more beloveds like you join in.

Some comments from participants:

“The program is extremely easy. I figured out what I spent on groceries each month, and just bought those cards with Safeway. I also use a Chevron gas card which you can buy more each month on line. It is all very easy. I just tell Nura (at SSC) what I want, give her a check, and in a couple days I have the cards.”

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*“I just figured out what I regularly spent on purchases at Starbucks, Shaw’s, CVS and Staples and then ordered the cards. I am going to buy AMC movie tickets, Borders and BestBuy cards for upcoming gifts too! Very easy.”*

In short, it's a simple but effective way to give. And if everyone participated, it would make a huge impact on our bottom line and our ability to deliver more benefits to beloveds and communities. It really costs us next to nothing to participate! For more information go to [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) or call Nura Mansfield at 707-965-0700x13 or email her at [nura@suficenter.org](mailto:nura@suficenter.org).

To place orders for scrip cards online you can create an account at [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) and enter the SSC enrollment code: [L9ACELCE24436](http://www.shopwithscrip.com). Then create an account with PrestoPay (similar to PayPal) to have the payment deducted from your bank account. That's it – go ahead and place your first order!

### *Sufi Cooks Have the Best Recipes!* *A Healing Cookbook Project*

To support the General Fund, the Razzaq Circle this year has undertaken to create a unique tariqa cookbook of healing recipes and

information. **So, we need and want your favorite recipes, pictures and prayers!** You



can download a submission form [at the website](#). Please take a moment to share at least one of your best dishes with us.

We want this to be a treasure trove of both fun and healing recipes, information on healing with food, prayers, and special recipes using ingredients from Sidi's healing books, art and photography and more. If you'd prefer to dictate a recipe to us, we're happy to take your call. Thank you! [cookbook@suficenter.org](mailto:cookbook@suficenter.org) or call Rahima Bonner at 760-735-8594.



### *Giving to the Shadhiliyya Sufi Center (SSC) is Sadaqa*

What is *sadaqa*? Sadaqa is voluntary charity which carries merit for the giver in the present and the hereafter. Many things are considered *sadaqa*. Consider this hadith:

"On every person's joints or small bones (i.e. fingers and toes), there is *sadaqah* (charity) every day the sun rises. Doing justice between two people is *sadaqah*; assisting a man to mount his animal, or lifting up his belongings onto it is *sadaqah*; a good word is *sadaqah*; every step you take towards prayer is *sadaqah*; and removing harmful things from pathways is *sadaqah*."

Giving to schools, hospitals, mosques and other organizations which give Allah's message are also *sadaqa*. Your contributions to the Shadhiliyya Sufi

Center qualify as sadaqa, and make it possible for our national organization to continue offering programs and support for students of this path, as well as meeting Sidi's charge upon us to spread the message of Unity in this country.

Your donation absolutely makes the difference between covering our costs for the year, or not. As you may have heard us say before, monthly donations are especially beneficial. **We have a 2010 goal of \$5,000 in monthly donations.**

So far we're at \$1,787 in ongoing monthly gifts with 7% participation by beloveds. And, as you may also have heard us say before, monthly donations in **any** amount are important! If 600 beloveds each contribute just \$8.33 per month we will reach our \$5,000 monthly goal!

And if cash is tight, don't forget about our new scrip program which can generate monthly income for us without touching your budget. If you purchase \$200 in scrip certificates for paying some of your *monthly household expenses*, that will generate an average of \$8/month in revenue for our organization. ([www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com)).

You can download a pledge form or make a donation right from the website at [www.suficenter.org](http://www.suficenter.org) | Support.

Jazakama'llahu-l-khayr.  
May Allah bless you with goodness.



## Local Community News

*We're saving a space for you! Send us your pictures and news.*

### The Mother Center



Spring is here! The kitchen gardens are planted and being lovingly cared for by Barrie and Mahbubba. ☒ The Mosque porch roof and windows are being replaced. ☒ The kitchen has a new stove, dishwasher, exhaust hood and food prep table! ☒ The Mosque has been freshly painted a periwinkle blue. ☒ We're deep in preparation for welcoming Sidi on June 18, then zawiyyah to begin writing his new book The Migration of the Truthful Traveler and finishing up with the first sufi school of the year Sufi School West June 24-28. Register now. ☒

### Report on Lot 2 Agriculture

*by Sa'id Boone*

"Abdul Hadi and I have ordered all the fencing materials we need to build a high quality perimeter fence around the entire field area on Lot 2. Construction will begin in the next month, insha'Allah.

I tilled in the winter cover crop and planted a spring cover crop of red oats to take advantage of the wet weather we have been having. The oats will grow to maturity giving us a lot of biomass and carbon to put back into the soil to

improve fertility and future crops.



There are currently no plans to start any production for

sales this summer as there is not enough labor or

expertise currently to do it. We will continue to build the soil and make it ready for when Allah opens the door for intensive production to begin.

The land can be very productive if there are people to work it. I'm so far away that it is hard for me to figure out how to plant something that needs care. There are not yet people living there that could care for something on a daily basis.

By next spring the field will be in very good shape to start intensive production of high value produce or herb crops if we find the right team of people to care for it.

I love the peace and quiet and the natural beauty and the quality of the sunlight at the New Land!"

*Farm of Peace/MidAtlantic*

[www.suficentereast.org](http://www.suficentereast.org)



The Farm has welcomed 15 new lambs this spring and two hives of bees! ☒



Everyone is invited to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual **Unity Music Festival**

– now a three day event. Lots of great artists, contra dancing, kids tent, and much more!

Come and enJOY! ([www.unity-music-festival.com](http://www.unity-music-festival.com)) ☒ The community has met recently to begin to manifest Sidi's request that we build a mosque. A circle is forming to hold the visioning and planning for this milestone project for our community.

*Palo Alto/San Francisco*

The Palo Alto/San Francisco Peninsula group has enjoyed hosting a series of great workshops this Spring. We are taking a hiatus from holding teaching

events during Sidi's visit and will begin our workshop schedule up again in Fall. We look forward to holding regular dhikrs in Fall, too. If you would like to be on the mailing list send your contact information to: [mudge.schink@mac.com](mailto:mudge.schink@mac.com). Everyone is welcome!

*LA*

[www.suficenterla.com](http://www.suficenterla.com)



*San Diego*

[www.suficentersandiego.org](http://www.suficentersandiego.org)



*Chicago*

[www.chicagosufi.org](http://www.chicagosufi.org)

*Michigan*

[www.sufiheart.com](http://www.sufiheart.com)

*Minneapolis*

*Boston/New England*

*Northeast*

[www.suficenternortheast.org](http://www.suficenternortheast.org)

*Florida*

[www.suficentersouthflorida.org](http://www.suficentersouthflorida.org)



Wichita

Austin

[www.suficenteraustin.org](http://www.suficenteraustin.org)

Portland

Seattle

Here in the Northwest, our community is laying plans to host Ibrahim Jaffe in the fall, inshallah. Our plan is for Ibrahim to come for a series of evening introductory lectures in the area, and then return several weeks later for a basic workshop. It's been quite a walking for our community and a blessing for how our discussions and planning are helping us build relationships and a solid foundation that supports us all.



### Shadhiliyya Circles News

#### Governance Circle/Board Update

We are (at last) getting close to finalizing the organizational changes that have been in the works for two years. Once we have completed changes to our bylaws in the next couple of months, inshallah, the One Hand One Heart Board will become the legal Board of Directors for the Shadhiliyya Sufi Center.

This new board is made up of representatives from the national tariqa (**National Admin Council**), the communities (**Council of Shadhiliyya Communities**), the University of Spiritual Healing and Sufism (**University Board**) and the **Mother Center Council**. Those councils

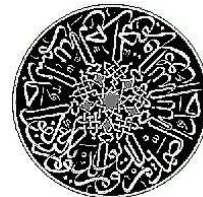
are formed by members elected from operational circles.

In the midst of organization change it can be difficult to remember why we are doing all this work. The answer is “to serve Allah and our Guide”! The reason we have been working so hard these past two and a half years is to create a loving, inclusive and strong container from which we can all be nourished and which inspires us to then share that nourishment with others, as Sidi so often reminds us to do.

We invite you to connect with Board members to share ways we can better meet the needs of our communities and the world in which we live. Email us at [board@suficenter.org](mailto:board@suficenter.org).

#### The new Board Directors are:

- Salima Adelstein, *Council of the Honest*
- Abdul Rahman Clark, *Council of Shadhiliyya Communities*
- Salih Cotten, *Mother Center Council*
- Abd al-Qadr Davies, *Moderator, National Admin Council*
- Hussein DuBois, *Mother Center Council*
- Yahya Howard, *Secretary, Council of the Honest*
- Khadijah Gigliotti, *National Admin Council*
- Rifqa Guillot, *Mother Center Council*
- Ibrahim Jaffe, *Council of the Honest*
- Wahida Kass, *Chair, National Admin Council*
- Bilqis Loeliger, *Council of the Honest*
- Amina Pryor, *Council of Shadhiliyya Communities*
- Nuh Ross, *University of Spiritual Healing and Sufism*
- Kamila Shenmen, *University of Spiritual Healing and Sufism*



#### Razzaq Circle

[Razzaq@suficenter.org](mailto:Razzaq@suficenter.org)

Our circle meets weekly to be a container for the fundraising needs of our national organization

and Mother Center, and to hold the awareness of Allah ar-Razzaq and al-Karim for all we are trying to accomplish in support of our guide, Sidi. This year we are working on how to make it easy for beloveds to contribute in different ways that are not necessarily a stretch for the household budget.

A new program (described above) is now in place which, inshallah, will enable more beloveds to support us. We appreciate your feedback letting us know what you think about the scrip program ([www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com)). Email us at [razzaq@suficenter.org](mailto:razzaq@suficenter.org). And stay tuned for more options coming soon!

We have recently been taking part of our meetings to make a prayer of Tawba for any mistakes we may make in looking anywhere but to Allah for our sustenance and support. It has been a blessing for our group to do this practice and we hope the blessing spreads outward to our brothers and sisters as well, inshallah.

The **special focus of this year's fundraising** is supporting important infrastructure repairs and upgrades at the Retreat Center. The kitchen stove has been replaced and a new exhaust hood and a commercial dishwasher installed, to the great relief of the kitchen staff! The electrical system is nothing short of *miraculous* in terms of what it accomplishes, but for safety and reliability we really need to upgrade it. The road needs new culverts and the Zawiyah building needs more support after this very rainy winter.

**Our heartfelt thanks to those who have contributed so generously so far this year** and if your heart is called to help with any of these projects, please contact Salih Cotten or Nura Mansfield. These projects will not be undertaken until funds are available. See a complete list of projects on the website at [www.suficenter.org](http://www.suficenter.org) | Our Community | Mother Center.

*We welcome anyone who has the himma to join this circle. Contact Wahida Kass, operational lead at [Razzaq@suficenter.org](mailto:Razzaq@suficenter.org).*



## *Miracles or Allah's Way of life?*

*by Zahra Lee*

We have all witnessed or experienced what seem like miracles due to Allah's involvement or presence. After a while we may begin to notice that what seem like miracles start to happen more and more frequently - so much so that it becomes almost "normal" or the expected outcome rather than the hope or desire of our specific prayers and reliance on Allah.

Our own voices, pictures and the shaytan can often distract or convince us otherwise, but Allah is the all powerful and amazing things happen when we or someone else is holding firm that everything is POSSIBLE thru Allah versus the challenges or obstacles.

Here is a real and recent experience that was truly a miracle - completely unexpected and seemingly impossible to these beloveds. "Miracles" continue to happen for these beloveds even with their continued life struggles, because they keep trying to keep that door open to Allah thru practices and community, and there is at least one Sufi teacher in their life standing firm in mirroring the greatness and endless possibilities of Allah.

*"The parents of a beloved were preparing to take the promise with Sidi. They both had himma about taking the promise, but they lived outside of the US*

and for various reasons, the date kept changing. However, because of their daughter’s walking and their intention to take the promise, a long standing and very challenging family dispute over property was suddenly resolved! To the great surprise and delight of the parents, the disputing family member appeared one day -- unannounced -- and handed over the deed to the property that had been contested for many decades. Alhamdulillah!”

PRAYER: O Allah, help me remember to rely on you completely for what I need and only you, not any person, client, company, economy, government or circumstance, just YOU. You are Al-Razzaq -- the Provider of all my needs on the material, spiritual and emotional.

**We'll be bringing you stories of "miracles" in upcoming newsletters. if you have one to share, please send it to [share@suficenter.org](mailto:share@suficenter.org).**

### *Help Wanted/Service Opportunities*

**Keeper of the Teleclass website page.** Are you a regular on one call or another? Want to give back something and help others take advantage of these wonderful offerings? We still need someone to keep the Teleclass website page and Google calendar updated. Only moderate technical ability needed! Contact Wahida at [share@suficenter.org](mailto:share@suficenter.org) if you can help.

**Community Representatives** invited to join the **Council of Shadhiliyya Communities**. The CSC is moving from a regional to a community based representation format. This council provides support and connection for communities, accelerates growth and forward movement throughout the national community, and represents the needs and perspectives of the local communities at the Board level. If you want to learn more or attend a meeting, contact Amina Melody Pryor at [aminamelody@gmail.com](mailto:aminamelody@gmail.com).

### *Resources*

*Free Teleconference Calls* - See the website for a current list of calls, including updated times and days.

*Free Offerings from The University of Spiritual Healing and Sufism* - Visit [www.sufiuniversity.org/free\\_tools](http://www.sufiuniversity.org/free_tools) for

- Spiritual Renewal and Infusion eClass
- Teleclasses- download “Your Spiritual Compass: Spiritual Goals for 2010”
- Newsletter
- Articles
- Audio/Visuals
- Prayers

*Ma'a Salaam!*



### *Credits*

This Newsletter is brought to you by your friendly neighborhood Communications Circle and Razzaq Circle.  
E-mail: [share@suficenter.org](mailto:share@suficenter.org)

### *Did you know?*

Communities and circles can send messages to the national tariqa list about non-profit events open to everyone. Just email your ready-to-publish announcement to [share@suficenter.org](mailto:share@suficenter.org).

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**The Communications Circle** would love your DIGITAL PHOTOS, especially candid shots of beloveds, Sidi, and other teachers, at Sufi events. Please help us enhance our newsletters and website with photos of our own people. (Send to Rifqa Jeanne Quereau, [jeanneq19@gmail.com](mailto:jeanneq19@gmail.com).)