

Peace in Motion Newsletter March 2011

We are just back from our annual Winter Retreat in the Czech Republic. We stayed a bit longer in Prague to meet up with Pir Shabda, who did a short workshop right after our retreat. We didn't want to miss him, as we'll be in Riga when he visits Holland.

Our Retreat came after our sabbatical month of January. We again managed to keep January free from workshops, so could dedicate our time to continue working on the house and catching up with study, practice and the like. Ariënné fully digitalized our dance archive and we made the write-up of our newly inspired dances that we already shared with some, so we have it all in our little notebook. Handy for travelers, but it sure was a lot of work!

Looking ahead, the agenda again is pretty full. We are grateful that we are able – physically, mentally, socially and spiritually – to continue this work of spreading the Message of Hazrat Inayat Khan and Samuel Lewis. Of course our gratitude also goes to the organizers who make it all possible and keep the local circles alive. This way we all serve in our own way.

We also designed more seriously our Facebook pages (check for *Ariënné van der Zwan* or *Wali van der Zwan*, photos are posted on Ariënné's page), so we can post pictures of our events, for all to see or download.

Even Mullah Nasruddin now also has his own Facebook page. He didn't have much time, but already commented on the recent cry for democracy in Egypt. More to follow, inshallah!

Below you can find some notes on our recent trips and activities. At the end of this Newsletter, you'll find some photos (also of Shabda and his Art of Archery) and our agenda for the rest of this year. After sending to our mureeds and mentees, we'll post this newsletter on our website. We hope to see you at one of the events or summer Camps!

Enjoy!

*Unterbirkholz, March 8th 2011
Wali & Ariënné*

November: France

In November 2010, we visited France. Five years ago we ended our training program there. The training group was very small but highly motivated and many flew out to the camps to broaden, to our Winter Retreats to deepen and started their own circles. Five years ago, all qualified teachers in France were imported (one from Holland, Argentina and Germany each) and now France counts a number of French born dance leaders as well. Alhamdulillah!

It felt great to return and see how much the dance circles and the dance leaders have grown since then.

Our trip started in Triel sur Seine, a suburb of Paris, where we met with an enthusiastic group of dancers. As Paris has no local dance leaders, leaders from Brittany and even the South try to satisfy the needs of this circle. You can already see how at some point Paris leaders will emerge.



Wali was fighting with a cold (the change from the Sahara to Moscow, a few weeks earlier was too much!), but for the rest it felt great to be back in France.

Our midweek workshop in the Ardèche was canceled. Okay with us, as three new groups in 10 days would have been over the top anyway.

So, on we went to the Ariège in the deep South to visit Michel, who had co-organized Paris as well. Michel is turning his recently bought house into a dance center and invited us to come and offer a weekend.

As his new home is close to Lavaldeieu, in the middle of the land of the Cathars, where we did three camps in the early years of this century, we took the time to walk memory lane. How different everything looked this time of the year! On the previous page are two pictures of Montségur, the famous last hide-out of the Cathars, where we saw our first snow of winter.





Little did we know then how on our return snow would cover the whole of Europe with a thick blanket with thousands of trucks stranded. We were grateful that we had changed to winter tires just before this trip. And for finally buying a navigator. We wouldn't have made it through Paris otherwise!

We also visited Rennes-le-Chateau, the alleged place where Mary of Magdalene lived. Here's a picture of the famous devil in the local church. The four angels on top are making the gesture of the cross. The 'subtitles' read: by this gesture you will conquer him'.

Michel's house wasn't yet finished, so we danced in the temporary dance hall. We barely fitted all in, as Michel managed to round up quite a circle. With many people spending the night as well and the strong sense of community, the atmosphere was a mix of a beehive and a Khankah.

Great to experience, as we too are in the process of creating our Khankah, though our Khankah Samark will be more oriented towards retreat and personal study.

As a result of both weekends, one of the Rumi dances we picked up last year is now translated into French, while another is halfway. Rumi sounds great in French. This year around the same time, we plan to return to both Paris and the Ariège.



The group at Michel's



Brigitte dancing with birthday girl Carole

December

After France we enjoyed our first weekend home in quite some time and prepared for our annual December workshop in De Weyst, Netherlands. We focused on a mix of new and old dances and of course also sang Rumi in French. As we forgot our camera, we cannot offer any pictures. But the atmosphere was great.

Then quickly on to Germany for the last weekend of the German training program in Haus Regenbogen. This feels almost as much like 'home' as De Weyst, as we have been dancing there for some odd ten years too. Quite a few dance leaders from this training now have their own circles in, spreading the dances in their own fashion.

The closing of the year was for the New Year Retreat in Springhead, England. Our organizer fell ill early December, so we were in for some improvisation, but – as so often – this only bonded the people in the group. With lots of sharing, rituals and all taking our chores in the kitchen and walks in the beautiful garden of Springhead, the retreat had the intimacy of a Khankah. We shared lots, had a little house concert with harp music, listened to stories, had our ups and downs and quarrels (yes or no wireless?) et cetera.

Home sweet home

As usual, we stayed the month of January indoor, catching up with our other work, archiving and sorting out new dances, studying and practicing. We also found time to do the ceiling of

the retreat space with the generous help of Michael, a mureed living not too far away and preparing the wiring for the electricity. Hard work, but it is highly rewarding to put our own energy in the Khankah. Even though things didn't work out in the beginning, we did all with a smile and a happy face.

As we are making the newsletter, the walls are being plastered. So in a month or so the walls are ready for the paint job. Then the floor and then – even though we have many more things to add – the space is as good as ready for use. We hope this will be



this summer (*inshallah* and money allowing). Next week our son Jochem is coming over again to help us. He finished his studies and now is a certified carpenter and furniture maker.

Early February our daughter returned from India. She ordered for us wooden heart-and-wings. They arrived this week and

when we picked them up, the whole car smelt like India. Yes, she had stashed some extra Nagchampa incense in the box for us!

EU Winter Retreat



This was our first Winter Retreat on the new location in Skalka u Doks, a village 60 km north of Prague. New for the Winter Retreat, for we already knew the place from the Czech Summer Camp. We already experienced the beauty of the surroundings and weren't surprised when we heard the Czech call this area 'Czech Paradise'. Skalka 22, as the venue is officially called, offered us a cozy and comfy space, which made the retreat very intimate.

With people from 4 different countries and more Czech participants than ever, it really felt like East and West merging. The teachings of Hazrat Inayat Khan on the path of mastery in order to realize the One on earth by realizing our self deepened the retreat, as did the planetary walks. Like in the New Year Retreat, the intimacy of the group was felt, which strengthened our vision of the Khankah, as we will work at home with around the same kind of numbers as in these two retreats, this retreat being around twenty and our Khankah fit for 16 people.



As all liked the venue, we booked it again for next year. Here are the dates for your agenda: Feb. 18 – 25, 2012.

Pir Shabda in Prague

We stayed in the Czech Rep. to meet up with Shabda, who did a workshop on Monday evening and Tuesday. We had fun being his chauffeur, driving through Prague with our new navigator and shot some nice pictures. On Monday night we entered the dance room where archers were cleaning up. Shabda couldn't resist and took a shot. 5 out of 6 hit the bull's eye! He later told us he taught his kids how to shoot with a bow, so it was no beginner's luck. Here are some pictures. For more, check out Ariënne's Facebook page.



Year Program 2011 Wali & Ariëne

March

11 – 12

Zikr: die Kunst zur Erinnerung (Bremen, Germany) *An open dance evening and day, focusing on Zikr.*

German spoken. Contact Hans & Renate ☪ reneu@arcor.de

20

Nahrung für die Seele (Lindlar, Germany)

Open dance day, German spoken Contact Maria ☪ z.f.impulse@t-online.de

26

Wees voorbijganger (Become passers-by) (La Verna, Amsterdam, Netherlands) *Open Dance Day around the Aramaic work & the Universality of all traditions* Dutch spoken ☪ info@laverna.nl

April

2 – 3

The Art of Remembrance (Riga, Latvia)

After two years we return to hospitable Riga for a weekend of dance deepening. Contact Bashiran ☪ bashiran7@yahoo.com

17

Das Aramäische Vaterunser (Soest, Germany). German spoken Contact Annette ☪ Annetta-60@gmx.de

28 – 1 May

Deepening the Aramaic Work (Haus Regenbogen, Germany)

First weekend of Year Group focusing on the traditions of the Middle East through the Aramaic. Contact: ☪ haus-regenbogen@t-online.de

May

6 – 8

Weekend De Weyst: Kom, kom wie je ook bent

(Handel, Netherlands, Eindhoven area)

Dutch spoken. A dance weekend, loosely arranged around themes of Rumi

14 – 15

The Art of Remembrance (The World Peace Prayer Society, Allanton Sanctuary, Auldgirth, Dumfries (Scotland). With Maris Warrior Contact Maris ☪ sufilama@peacemail.com

28

Tanztag Bernried (Between Nurnberg & Passau)

Die Heilungskraft der Tänze

Contact Eva Dostal ☪ eva.dostal@gmx.net or 0176 239 11 799

June

4 -5

Dance Weekend Prague (Czech Rep.)

Enjoy the Prague Spring as warming up to the Czech Dance Camp.

Contact Zita Pavlishtova ☪ zi@druha.cz

10 -12

Weekend Portugal (São Teotónio, Alentejo)

We return after two years to the dedicated dancers of Portugal.

SUMMER CAMPS

July 2 - 9

EU Ruhaniat Summer School

Contact ☪ edmunddixon@yahoo.co.uk

August 3 - 9

Polish Sufi & Dance Camp (Gdansk area, Poland)

With Wali & Ariëne, Salik & Zuleicha

Sufi practices and deepening, Dances, Meditation, Kundalini Yoga

Contact Salik at termitt@wp.pl

August 12 – 19

Czech International Summer Dance Camp

With Wali & Ariëne (Germany), Lida (Czech Rep.), Aliela (Russia), Michel (France) & local teachers. Skulka u Doks (60 km North of Prague)

Contact Milada or Katka ☪ kbaierling@seznam.cz

Aug 27 – Sep 3

Mir Camp (Simeiz, Crimea, Ukraine) **Half donkey, half angel**

Enjoy the warm late August sun and the Black Sea and a retreat program around Rumi's animal stories, exemplified through Dance.

September

- 8 – 11** **Deepening the Aramaic Work** (Haus Regenbogen, Germany)
Second weekend of Year Group
- 17** **Das Aramäische Vaterunser** (Emden, Germany)
Dancing and singing the Lord's Prayer in Aramaic.
German spoken Contact Gabi ☎ g.escher@gmx.de
- 24 – 25** **Play it again for SAM!** (Khankah Samark, Germany)
Guitar training for dance musicians, first weekend
Open tunings, strumming techniques, rhythmic patterns, playing melody in standard tuning, arranging and finding chords etc. etc.
Open for those who sign up for the whole course (2 weekends in 2011, 4 in 2012) For more info, contact Wali ☎ wali@peaceinmotion.eu
- 29 – 2 Oct** **Zen & Zikr** (Springhead, UK)
Dancing and meditating, dancing and meditating. Our annual UK Sesshin in Springhead. Contact John Rees ☎ skylark@jsrees.orangehome.co.uk

October

- 9** **Tanztag Soest (Germany)**
Feiern was suns verbindet (A Celebration of Unity)
Dance event, honoring the universality of the different traditions
German spoken. Contact Annette ☎ Annetta-60@gmx.de
- 27 – 30** **Zen & Zikr** (Khankah Samark, Germany)
Come and visit Khankah Samark for a Sesshin, a retreat alternating dance and meditation, mostly in silence.
German/English spoken. Check with us for more info.

November

- 3 – 7** **Russian Fall Retreat** (Moscow area). Contact Aleila ☎ aliela@inbox.ru
A chosen opportunity to dive deep into the Russian spirit and dance circles. Excellent facilities in a Buddhist monastery. Fly to Moscow. Please check with us for more info.
- 12- 13** **Dance Weekend Paris.**
Contact Fabienne ☎ Fabienne.soude@wanadoo.fr
- 19 -20** **Dance Weekend Ariège**
Contact Michel ☎ michel.dumoutet@hotmail.fr
- 26 – 27** **Play it again for SAM!** (Khankah Samark, Germany)
Guitar training for dance musicians, second weekend
Open for those who sign up for the whole course. Dates for 2012 to be announced. Limited space, as we keep the group small.

December

- 9 – 11** **Weekend De Weyst** (Handel, Netherlands, Eindhoven area)
Dutch spoken Theme to be announced. Contact us
- 15 -18** **Deepening the Aramaic Work** (Haus Regenbogen, Germany)
Third weekend of Year Group
- 28 – Jan 2** **New Year Retreat Springhead (UK)**
Contact Janet Granger ☎ mail@janetgranger.co.uk

Wali & Ariënné van der Zwan
+49 (0)2294 993 78 41 (land line)
www.peaceinmotion.eu
samark@peaceinmotion.eu