



# Dances of Universal Peace International

*Toward the One United with All Love Harmony and Beauty May All Beings Be Well Spirituality Joy  
Breath is the Holy Spirit Eat Dance and Pray Together Love Peace is Power May All Beings Be Happy*

## January 2012

### Leaders Guild News and Update

**\$30,000 Raised!!!** Our deepest thanks go to the [Friends of Dances of Universal Peace International](#) for responding overwhelmingly to our appeals for our [Campaign for 2012](#) and [Fee Support Fund](#). This wonderful response - 50% over our goal - is a testament to our collective love for the Dances and to the direction that DUP International has taken over the last two years. See our tentative plans for use of the funds in our [Goals and Activities for 2012](#).

**320 Dance Write-Ups and recordings now in the Resource Library!** This includes 45 dances from the previously published UK and Europe volumes and from the children's collection "I Open My Eyes to You." To access the latter write-ups, put "children's" in the search box. Visit our new web page describing how to access the [Website Enhanced Content](#).

**Call for Nominations.** The [DUP International Board](#) is looking to fill several 3-year board positions beginning in April 2012. If you or someone you know are interested in our work and would like to contribute your time to a dynamic and forward-looking service organization, [see the additional information on our website](#) and submit your nomination by February 22, 2012. A principle of Aikido is "doing good in secret." If you're drawn to this, this board is for you!

**Change Coming in Leaders Guild Fee Policy.** A change in policy is coming that asks all mentored leaders to be current with their leaders

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Dances with Youth in  
Brazil

guild fees by June 30, 2012. [See the article below](#). If you are current with your region dues or have paid your leaders guild fees directly to DUP International, no worries!

**Financial Hardship?** Don't have the funds right now to pay your annual \$30 Leaders Guild fees? Remain a Leaders Guild member in good standing simply by filing a Fee Support request to Office Assistant Martha Bracken. Martha will add your name to a list of Leaders receiving support from our [fee support fund](#). To file a request, [send an email to Martha](#) giving the reason(s) you need financial assistance for your fees.

**Our Thanks** to to Allaudin Sandy Hill, Vancouver BC and Halima Sussman, Cambridge MA for their outstanding service on the Board of Directors since fall, 2009. Allaudin as Vice President has offered leadership in our region committee and in the area of publications. Halima's leadership was instrumental in getting the new website on line. Thanks and best wishes to Allaudin and Halima!

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Dances of Universal  
Peace International  
PO Box 55994,  
Seattle, WA 98155-  
0994 USA  
(206) 367-0389

[Seattle Office](#)  
[Director's Office](#)  
[Community Coordinator](#)

# Elements of Mastery:

## Embodied Spirituality

By Darvesha Victoria

*This article continues our Elements of Mastery column in which we explore the art, craft and spiritual practice of Dance leading and mentoring. Mentors are invited to submit their reflections on this topic to the Guidance Council.*

Gradually, after living the whole of my adolescence and young adulthood in chronic post trauma shock, I began to thaw.....as I slowly got an inkling of what Sufi Inayat Khan calls the "Inner Life", I felt probably what all those feel who have been redeemed, born again, or converted. Whether or not I had found THE Secret of Life, I for sure had found the secret of MY life.



Somewhere along the way I found the Dances and they became for me one vehicle to ride into the Inner life.....and then eventually a platform from which to teach this discovery. The Dances call us home to the body, the senses and the breath. Coming to our senses and being present in the body may be impossible for most of us to sustain, but it can remain as a background aspiration. For myself, I only have glimpses.....moments. But it is here that I have learned about completion and satisfactoriness, peace and ecstasy. It is here where I've reconnected with this aliveness that I am, and where I've come to directly experience Life....this complex system that both sustains us and of which we are.

When we can relax into this 'belonging', we intuitively know and understand life's rules.....how we must and want to behave. When we connect with our largest context, we begin to cooperate and know to water the root.

We receive the air that we breathe, the water we drink and the food that we eat. This is what we depend on, and that which we are. Everything matters. Everything is us. The more we are in touch with ourselves the more we will understand the natural morality that we are born into. The more ecstasy and peace we feel the more we will know what to do and how to do it in a good way. The Dances are not an end; they are a method that helps us discover the Inner Life. And once we know ourselves as Life itself, we spontaneously begin to cooperate and co-create with Life, uniting in perfect being.

## Change Coming in Leaders Guild Fee Policy

by Darvesha Victoria and Munir Peter Reynolds

**"To be an active member in good standing of the Leaders Guild requires remaining current with one's annual Leaders Guild fees."** - Leaders Guild Guidelines, "Agreements"

If you are not up to date with your Leaders Guild fees, this article is for you!\*\*

(\*\*Note: For convenience, the payment of one's Dance Region dues in most cases includes the applicable Leaders Guild fee, which is then remitted by the Region to DUP International on the member's behalf. Otherwise, the Leaders Guild fee can be paid directly to DUP International through our website. See [Joining Your DUP Region](#) for further information, or contact the [Community Coordinator](#).)

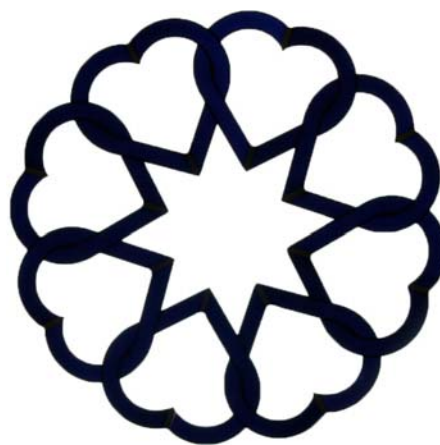
DUP International's work is sustained through dance leaders everywhere paying modest annual fees to create a pool of resources that comprises most of the organization's budget. Leaders Guild fees - along with a considerable volunteer effort - make possible such resources as the on-line Dance Library and the directory of dance leaders, as well as supporting the Guidance Council, those senior teachers who nourish and guide this precious living lineage on behalf of us all.

Our Leaders Guild Agreements require remaining current with one's annual Leaders Guild fees in order to qualify as an "active member in good standing." And yet, during the past two years of re-visioning DUP International, our database shows no fee payments for more than a quarter of our estimated 1,200 Dance leaders worldwide.

In some cases, there are questions about the currency of contact information, or even whether the person is actively leading the Dances. But in a number of instances, there is ongoing dance leading but no response to our communications.

Recognizing that continuation of this situation undermines the wellbeing of our organization, we asked our Community Coordinator, Sky Májida Roshay, to undertake a Leaders Guild Rejuvenation Project: to contact all of the mentored leaders of record who are not current with dues and determine their current status and future interests. Sky has been working on this since March of 2011, and through her efforts we have restored contact and fee payment with active leaders in some cases while discontinuing Leaders Guild membership in others, where the person is not currently interested in continuing. This is a tedious, expensive and time-consuming effort. We estimate we will complete this work sometime in 2012.

Since the new website went online in September 2010, we have allowed access to the password-protected resources for all Leaders Guild members of record, regardless of whether the person was shown as being current with Leaders Guild fees. The great majority of the users of these resources are indeed fee-paying active members in good standing, and through offering a "grace period" we



Stained glass window  
in ceiling of Mana Chapel,  
Coromandel, New Zealand

intended to provide a time for everyone to see what we are doing, sample our website resources and - in most cases we hoped - come forward as supporting members.

**On June 30, 2012, the grace period will end.** As of that date the Guidance Council is asking all mentored leaders to be current with their Leader Guild fees. **Thereafter, only fee-paying Leaders Guild members will be extended the benefits of Guild membership such as access to the password-protected resources on the DUP International website.** In most cases, payment of Leaders Guild fees is accomplished through [joining the Dance Region in which you reside](#) and paying the membership



dues applicable to dance leaders. The Dance Region collects Leaders Guild fees from dance leaders in that Region and then periodically remits payment to DUP International. Those who live in an area not covered by a Dance Region can pay the Leaders Guild fee to DUP International directly.

**Those who cannot pay their fees for financial reasons need only file a [fee support request](#).** If you are unable to afford or can only pay a portion of your Leaders Guild fees, simply go this page and file a request with us. Your request will be kept confidential. DUP International will remit your fees using funds generously contributed for this purpose by other Leaders Guild members.

**If you are not current with your Leaders Guild fees on or before June 30, 2012, you will no longer be a member in good standing of the Leaders Guild. What that means is this: You may, if you wish, continue to lead the Dances of Universal Peace - as Murshid SAM has said, these are for everyone. However, you will not be able to access the resources for dance leaders in the password-protected area of the DUP International website. Further, you will not have permission to use the Dances of Universal Peace logo or to represent yourself as an affiliate of this organization. You will not be listed as a dance leader in the records of DUP International or Dance Regions, nor will these organizations list or promote your dance circles or events. Your Leaders Guild membership is easily reinstated in the future, simply by electing to pay your fees.**

This may be a decision point for some folks. We all have to make decisions in life, and in this case it is a matter of whether to stay with the body of those committed to leading the Dances in the living stream of Murshid Samuel Lewis. We wish everyone well in whatever choices they make. The success of our Fund Raising Campaign for 2012 shows that many people care deeply about this work, particularly about the direction DUP International has taken in furthering the Dances. Now we ask all mentored leaders to make the same commitment to this work, through payment of Leaders Guild fees.

Blessings for Peace,



Munir Peter Reynolds,  
Executive Director



Darvesha Victoria, President,  
Chair, Guidance Council