



Dances of Universal Peace International

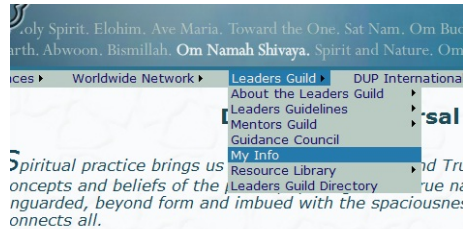
Toward the One United with All Love Harmony and Beauty May All Beings Be Well
Breath is the Holy Spirit Eat Dance and Pray Together Love Peace is Power May All Beings Be Happy

December 2012

Leaders Guild News and Update

Logging In is Easier! Leaders may now use any combination of upper or lower case letters when you enter your User Name at log-in.

(Formerly the User name had to be entered in all caps). Your password still must be entered exactly as you create it. If you have misplaced your log in information, you may write to our [Community Coordinator](#) asking her to email it to you. For more information on log in and use of the website, visit our [Website Enhanced Content](#) page.



Paying your Leader Guild Fees is easy. If you live in Australia, Germany, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland, United Kingdom or the United States/Canada simply remain current with your region membership dues by visiting your region's website or following the links on [this page](#). Your membership fees to these DUP regions *include your Leaders Guild fees*, which they pass on to us. Dance Leaders who do not live in one of these regions pay their \$30 annual fees directly to DUP International [here](#). Questions? Contact our [Community Coordinator](#) for more information.

The Guidance Council would like to thank, congratulate and acknowledge all the Walks and Dance leaders who in 2012 were certified and recognized as Mentors-in-Training, and as Mentors I, II, and III. Click [here](#) to view the list of these people on the In-The-Garden Yahoo Group. You will need to log in to Yahoo to view the list.

Joining the In-the-Garden Yahoo Group is simple and helps the Guidance Council stay in touch with you between these quarterly newsletters. The In-The-Garden group also provides a means for us to communicate with each other about our development and training as leaders of the Walks and Dances of Universal Peace. For information on joining, click

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Remember!

You can post your events and event flyers on our website Calendars:

[International Events](#)

[Dance Leader Training Events](#)

[here](#).

Dances of Universal Peace International has completed a 3-year reorganization process. We now want to reflect on what has been accomplished and ask ourselves



where the Guidance Council and Board of Directors could best direct their energies in the next three to five years. [Have a look at our visioning document](#) and send in your answers to the questions at the end. Your input will help us develop plans for a sustainable program, budget, structure and staffing. Thank you for your interest and help!

The DUP International Website is now translated and *on line* in [Spanish](#) and [Russian](#), complete with log-in capability for Leaders who speak these languages. Our sincere thanks to Sylvia Murillo and Natalia Waldman for their work on these translations. We expect a German version of the website to be completed soon. Watch for the coming language menu that will allow you to switch languages from any page.



Dancing in the Chapel,
Mana Retreat Center
New Zealand

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

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

Elements of Mastery:

The Dances as Sacred Transmission: Nurturing Growth for the Coming Generations

By Neil Douglas-Klotz

*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. **To revisit all the articles in this series, click [here](#).***



Looking at the earth's history of sacred traditions, a lineage holder by whatever name--whether shaman or zen master) is responsible for passing the torch to at least one other person, often several.

Sometimes a person's responsibility is clearly set at birth as is the case with the Dalai Lama). In other cases, a person's responsibility and accountability increases with involvement and commitment until the novice shaman discovers that behind the masters mask is her own face. In the religion of Old Europe, the Green Man withers and dies in the fall/winter only to be reborn as the light waxes again. But the Goddess--the underlying reality--persists through all faces. In the same way, the transmission of a genuine spiritual practice persists beyond those through whom the transmission passes.

We say that our work with the Dances is more than a pastiche of folk movements and chants from around the world. We strive to avoid the sacred/cultural strip-mining indicative of much of the recent New Age movement, which is the psychic counterpart to what Western society has done to the resources of native peoples and the earth. As such, it is important to tell the story of our own lineage, to uphold the value of sacred transmission and make common cause with other inheritors of native wisdom.

That our own transmission is rooted in Native Middle Eastern mysticism through the form called Sufism goes without saying. Yet Murshid Samuel Lewis also participated in a genuine, long-term spiritual apprenticeship student-teacher relationship) in Kabbalah, Buddhism and Hinduism. From this experience of traveling more than one path, as well as from his apprenticeship with sacred dance mentor Ruth St. Denis, he began the Dances and Walks.

The sacred human relationship--whether called apprenticeship, mentoring or the initiatic relationship--is essential to the genuine transmission of the sacred and has always been so. The stories, chants, practices, feeling, breath, and touch of the earth's traditions have always been conveyed person-to-person, because they were first conveyed from human beings in intimate touch with the cosmos. It was only when Western culture ascended into the cognitive mind that it began to operate under the delusion that wisdom could be conveyed by a book or even a seminar without an ongoing, intimate relationship and commitment through the embodied conveyor of that wisdom to the Source. (...more)

[Continue to the Full Article \(.pdf\)](#)

International Voices

In this first in a series of articles by prominent Dance Leaders around the world, we give voice to their vision of the role of the Dances in culture, to new ideas, current emerging issues and pathways to intercultural understanding.

The Dances and the Dawning of the New World

By Arjun Jorge Calero, Atlantida Ecovillage,
Colombia

"The book of bitterness has closed. A new cycle has definitely begun. It is obvious that there is a huge integrative movement going on. This may be indicative of the Aquarian Age, for something like this is certainly going on. The group has displaced the individual, but it is a dynamic, organic group, demonstrating "I am the vine and ye are the branches thereof." - Murshid Samuel L. Lewis, Sufi Vision and Initiation



"The next Buddha will not take the form of an individual. The next Buddha will take the form of a community; a community practicing understanding and loving kindness, a community practicing mindful living. This may be the most important thing we can do for the survival of the Earth." - Thich Nhat Hanh

THE TIDE

As humankind sinks into this generalized and planetary crisis it is a moral imperative to engage as deeply as one can into the transitional and regenerative processes that are taking us from despair to hope, from nihilism to activism, from selfishness to service.

Whether via global warming, species extinction, all levels of pollution, higher rates of natural catastrophes, acidification of the oceans and coral reef disappearing, or whether via rising hunger emergencies, revolutions and wars, nuclear plants failures, unsolvable economic crisis -and the list is so vast and diverse, we see that transitions and urgent times are calling at our door.

The DUP family, circles and network, are by nature, located at the core of this global shift, as they embody the spiritual, universal and communal paradigm. In fact, these are revolutionary aspects versus the current materialistic, homogenizer and individualistic approach of the global capitalist economy.

The change needed won't come in the form of a simple centralized or institutionalized solution. The change is already happening as silent, diverse, decentralized and amorphous world phenomena. It is like a gentle flood coming from within individuals, organizations and networks. It is a consciousness phenomenon. It is the realization of plain simple truths as "there is only one earth", "humans are a family", "more is not better", and of course, these lead to more deep and mystical realizations of oneness.(more)

[Continue to the Full Article](#)

