



Sufi Newsletter

South African Newsletter 019
December 2017 to February 2018

Inside This Issue

- Page 1** A note from the Editor
Page 1 Extract from The Sufi Message
Page 2 Highlights of 2017
Page 9 Sufi Prayer for the New Year
Page 10 Universal Worship Dates

"If people but knew their own religion, how tolerant they would become, and how free from any grudge against the religion of others."

By Hazrat Inayat Khan



A note from the Editor

As 2017 is coming to a close and as we look forward to welcoming in 2018 I look back from a Sufi perspective as always with gratitude and love at what has happened over the last year in our space. I thought I would share a few highlights from each month of 2017 as a gentle reminder of what a blessed year it was.

Enjoy this edition of the newsletter and we will meet again in 2018.

Wishing you a compassionate, safe, happy and blessed season, and a year ahead filled with love, laughter and respect for all who share our planet.

Love & Light

Caroline

Extract from The Sufi Message

From the teachings of Hazrat Inayat Khan – The Way of Illumination:

"Each individual composes the music of his own life. If he injures another, he brings disharmony. When his sphere is disturbed, he is disturbed himself, and there is a discord in the melody of his life. If he can quicken the feeling of another to joy or to gratitude, by that much he adds to his own life; he becomes himself by that much more alive. Whether conscious of it or not, his thought is affected for the better by the joy or gratitude of another, and his power and vitality increase thereby, and the music of his life grows more in harmony."

The Sufi Volumes are available for purchase at the Sufi centres around the country.

Highlights of 2017

January:

Written by Waldo van Essen:

There is a large amount of greatly appreciated work being done by many people to further that great Cause, namely the Sufi Message.

This includes the more visible regular activities being the Universal Worship twice a month and the Wednesday evening meetings. There are also the following activities on an as required basis, such as Temple management, secretarial work, the newsletter, the work of the treasurer, maintaining the website, drawing up the activity schedules, interfaith work, house blessings, private interview and private prayers for those in need and the different adaptations of the Universal Worship such as receptions of members or infants, funerals, ordination of cherags and weddings. Over the years a good 20 Sufi weddings have been performed, some at the Temple, some at suitable venues in Tulbagh, Constantia, Wellington, and Johannesburg, on Table Mountain and in Pringle Bay. Even if very few of the attendees became mureeds, the spirit of the Message has reached many souls.

It is indeed most gratifying and a precious privilege to be involved in this work in the world that is currently so exclusively and excessively focused on earthly, fleeting matters, and in this way touch so many souls with treasures that are eternal!!

February:



In line with the United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week, The Cape Town Interfaith Initiative (CTII) hosted its annual public event 'Prayers for the City' on 5 February 2017 at the V&A Waterfront Amphitheatre which Waldo and Frances took part in.

It was an afternoon of spirituality, cultural celebration, artistic expression and prayers for the City of Cape Town for 2017.



Sufi's throughout the world commemorated the 5th February -Visalat Day of Hazrat Pir-o-Murshid Inayat Khan (the day Murshid passed on to the higher spheres.)

"I have seen all souls as my soul, and realized my soul as the soul of all."

By Hazrat Inayat Khan

March:



On the 19th March at the Sufi Temple Anja, Rukmini and Harold hosted Dances of Universal Peace (led by Rukmini).

They shared dances and chants inspired by and honouring many of the world's faith traditions.

Light refreshments were served afterwards in the garden.

★ ★ ★

The afternoon of the 26th March was spent in Waldo's beautiful home where an amazing lunch was enjoyed and where a number of the Cape Town Sufis discussed the administration, housekeeping duties and responsibilities relating to the Sufi Movement in Cape Town being apportioned.



April:

The Gauteng Sufis welcomed everyone to the Bi Annual National Sufi Retreat from 15 to 22 April 2017 at the well-loved and familiar Good Shepherd Retreat in the Magaliesberg, Gauteng.



May:



We rekindled our Children's service which is being facilitated by Lauren Kotzé.

Family Day is provided on the first Sufi Sunday of every month. All children are welcome to join in the Sufi kid's room for a service of their own where a candle lighting ceremony is done, just like the one in the Temple.

Each child is involved in the ceremony and it is explained why this ceremony is so important.

Then usually a story is read from one of the religions and a craft activity takes place to make it all come to life.

June:



June 7th 2017 will be remembered for prosperity as the day when the great fires started sweeping through, and decimating the Knysna area beyond belief! Up to six hundred structures were destroyed in the Knysna/Plett area and seven lives were lost in the fires.

What was amazing was the amount of aid that flowed into the area, and how people rallied to help each other to provide food and clothing and accommodation and help in searching for lost pets. The word that comes to mind is COMPASSION - there was, and still is, so much compassion for all those in need.

This brought to mind the words Words by Murshid, from the Gayan:

"Be contented with what you possess in life; be thankful for what does not belong to you;

But try to obtain what you need, and make the best of every moment of your life."

Photo: "Flowers from the ashes" courtesy of the Eco Atlas blog.

July:

Sufi's throughout the world celebrated the 5th July, Viladat Day (Murshid's birthday).

★ ★ ★



July was time for Summer School 2017 in Katwijk, Netherlands and was highlighted by the blue sky and clouds, so familiar in the paintings of the Dutch Masters.

The title: SILENT VOICE I hear you.

Murad Hassil, Left: Murshid Nawab Pasnak & Murshida Nuria Sabato.

August:

The inner school meetings which are held at the Sufi Temple in Cape Town on Wednesday evenings for mureeds resumed, after their July winter recess, during which "only" the Healing and Confraternity services were held.

September:

Waldo wrote that on the 9th September the wedding of Rita and Tom was held in Pringle Bay. The happy couple live in Australia while some of the family live in Pringle Bay. It was a most sincere and happy occasion.

★ ★ ★

On the 13th September Sufi's celebrated Hedjirat day (the day Murshid and his companions left India to deliver the Sufi Message to the world).

★ ★ ★

The Peace Pledge Project Symposium was held in The Hague, Netherlands from the 11th to the 14th of September. The main theme was spreading the message of Loving Kindness and Compassion through the whole of humanity and included:

Virtues of the Heart sessions, involving interfaith inspiration, dialogue and sharing educational best practice, held at the Universal Sufi Temple, Katwijk, and Water for Life - 70 Years of diplomatic friendship between The Netherlands and India' sessions, involving politicians, business and spiritual leaders, held at The International Peace Palace, The Hague.



★ ★ ★

On the 22nd September Frances spoke at the interfaith meeting at the kind request of Brahma Kumaris at their immaculate Cape Town premises.

October:

By Waldo van Essen:

There were three shows in Cape Town which were worth noting because they all had a real spiritual and uplifting content. They were all three produced by South Africans.

- ★ One was a performance by a renewed Cape Town choir called **VOX**. To continue the choral legacy of the St George's Singers, led for over fifty years by Dr Barry Smith, a new singing group has been formed under the direction of John Woodland in 2015. This was a moving and deepening experience led by John Woodland who gave a pre-concert talk, when he mentioned that sometimes ONE NOTE is enough to lift one to the higher spheres!
- ★ Secondly the play **Shakespeare in Love**, put on at the Fugard Theatre. This South African premiere features 20 actors, and a dog, and is directed by the Fugard Theatre's resident director Greg Karvellas.

It is a play about Shakespeare's life and the author must have had a real appreciation of all Shakespeare's inspiration and wisdom:

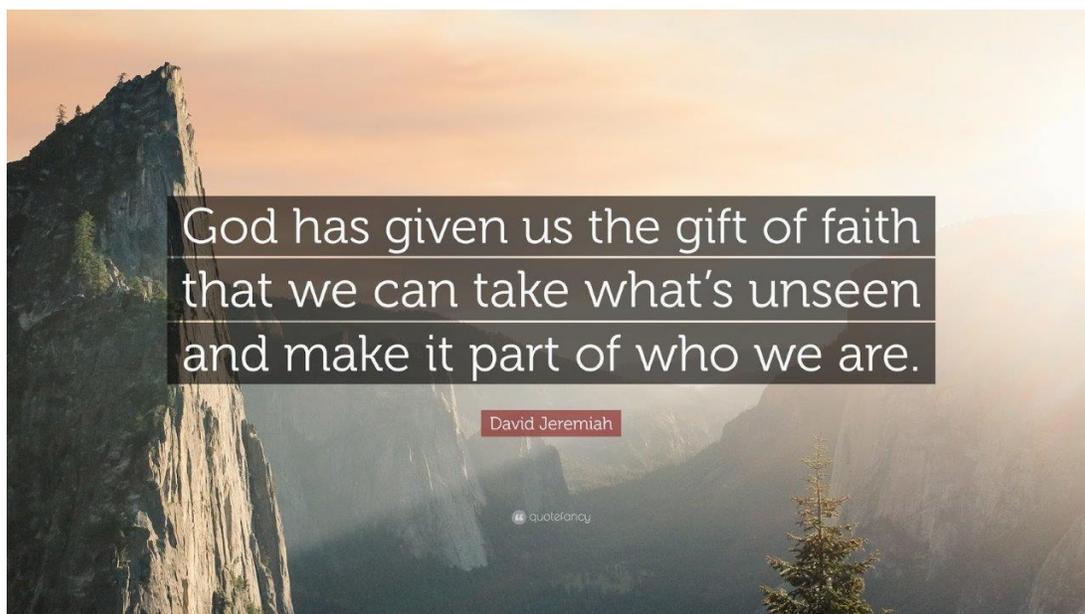
"Love is not love which alters when it alteration finds, or bends with the remover to remove: O no! It is an ever fixed mark that looks on tempests and is never shaken."

- ★ Then the debut feature film by South African director Fin Manjoo called **Woodwind**.

This film has been selected in the official competition at the 10th Cape Town International Film Festival. Woodwind is nominated for the Grand Prix Best Film, Best Director, Best Debut Film, as well as Best South African Film and is also in contention for other cast and crew awards, to be determined by an international jury.

It is the story of an individual from Cape Town who lands up in India and after many struggles in this currently disharmonious world, finds union with the Beloved, the Eternal Being. This is beautifully depicted at the end of the film in a most meaningful and moving manner. Our friend Naresh Chauhan supplied all the Indian music for the film.

These three examples show that the world, despite its ever increasing superficiality, is deepening and in the process becoming more meaningful, giving one great hope for the future and seem to be in total harmony with the Divine Sufi Message of God for this epoch.



November:

On the 26th November Universal Worship enjoyed live classical Indian music, played by Naresh Chauhan well-known Cape Town Sitar player who says: "If you wish to surprise yourself with achievements in a short space of time, always practice with the intention to improve, to achieve something or for perfection. Just idle and mindless repetition of action with the hope that perfection will automatically follow will disappoint you. This applies to anything really, not necessarily just music."

Photo by Wouter van Warmelo



"Each human personality is like a piece of music, having an individual tone and rhythm of its own."

By Hazrat Inayat Khan

December:

Participants in the Cape Town Sufi activities are encouraged to make an annual contribution to the Sirkar Sufi Trust according to their means.

The Sirkar Sufi Trust is responsible for the running and maintenance of the Temple and supports the Sufi activities held there. Needless to say, anyone, anywhere else, is also welcome to contribute!

Bank Details:

Bank:	Nedbank
Branch & Code:	Constantia 198 765
Account Name:	Sirkar Sufi Trust
Account Number:	105 160 1088
Reference:	Your name
SWIFT Number:	NEDSZAJJ

Cheques please to be made out to the Sirkar Sufi Trust & can be handed in at services or posted to 183 Campground Road Newlands 7708. Cash can be handed in at services.

Sufi Prayer for the New Year

"O Thou, who abidest in our hearts most Merciful and Compassionate God Lord of Heaven and earth,

We forgive others their trespasses and ask Thy forgiveness of our shortcomings.

We begin this New Year with a pure heart and with clear conscience, with courage and hope.

Help us to fulfill the purpose of lives under Thy Divine Guidance.

Amen."



Universal Worship Dates for Cape Town

10h30 to 11h30

The Sufi Temple

183 Campground Road, Newlands

December 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

January 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

