

AN OPEN LETTER FROM MUIZ TO THE COMMUNITY, OCTOBER 8TH 2008

Beloved of the One,

I'm writing to you today to alert you to the fact that the continued existence of the Santa Rosa Monday Night Sufi Circle and Dances of Universal Peace at Monroe Hall is in jeopardy.

For the past 3 years, the circle has been teetering back and forth between having sufficient attendance to cover the costs of rent and insurance, and being short of that minimum amount.

Attendance which for several years had been regularly a dozen, to a dozen and a half, dropped off 3 years ago, and since that point, has been steadily only 6 - 8 at each class. Most of the current regulars are the core group which has supported the circle from its beginning, 10 years ago. There is another group of 8 to 10 who used to attend regularly, but who now come much less frequently, and unfortunately are never all there on the same evenings, and then is an even larger group of occasional attendees who we might see 4 - 5 times a year, plus the infrequent, one time, drop ins.

Over time, the rent at Monroe Hall has increased, as have all things, going from \$45 for the evening to \$60, plus approximately \$15 insurance. To keep pace with this increase in fees, I increased the suggested donation for the class from \$7 to \$10 a few years ago. When attendance was higher, there used to be enough in the donation basket to pay for rent and insurance, plus a bit left over for gas money and a meal for the musicians, and maybe a meal or some gas money for myself if I was lucky, but with the reduced attendance and increased rental fee, this hasn't been possible for a long time, and whenever the donations in the basket are short, I pay for the difference out of my own pocket.

Last year, in an attempt to boost attendance above the economic survival/loss level, Betsy began sending out a regular reminder to everyone on the

contact list, which unfortunately has had no visible effect on attendance levels.

I've been meditating on this for quite some time, and have finally decided that the situation needs to change significantly, or the circle cannot continue. In addition to being unwilling to subsidize it financially, I'm also not getting back what I put out energetically. The space is too large for only 6-8 people.

This is not to say that the prayers and the heart spaces of the 6-8 who do attend regularly aren't valid or pure or gratefully received -- not at all ... that energetic is always deep and potent, but we could do the same pure effort in someone's living room, and not have the burden of having to energetically and financially engage the entire hall.

I realize that everyone's life is quite busy, my own included, and also that there are so many different types of events and classes being offered in Sonoma County, that it has become a major challenge to manage our calendars.

At the same time, I want you all to know, that if you love this circle, if it is important to you that it continue (even if you haven't been attending lately), if you want to see it continue, then you need to support it actively -- by showing up on a regular basis, by putting money in the donation basket, and by adding your own energy, your own heart concentration, and your own Presence, to the effort. You also need to promote it by spreading the word, by mentioning it to those who used to come, by encouraging them to begin coming regularly again, perhaps by arranging car pooling so that everyone doesn't have to drive separately, and of course by inviting new people to come, etc.

For this effort to go forward, for the circle to continue, for me to feel confident that there is sufficient interest and active support to justify signing the contract to rent Monroe Hall again for 2009, regular attendance MUST double.

So please take this information into your hearts

and meditate on it, and determine how valuable it is, to you and to your inner life, for this concentration to continue. If you feel it is important, then I'm asking you to make a verbal commitment and pledge to support the circle with your regular attendance.

If by the end of October, I get email, telephone, or in-person communications from at least 14 people who are willing to commit to supporting the circle with their presence and donations for a year, then I will sign the contract with Monroe Hall for calendar 2009, and the circle will continue.

Rather than identifying the 6 - 8 who have been regular in the past, and by default also identifying those who haven't been regulars (for whatever reason) I'm asking EVERYONE to search your hearts and see if you are willing to commit to attending regularly in 2009. If you are, let me know by October 31.

If the continued existence of the circle is not that important to you, if for whatever reason there aren't at least 14 people willing to commit to supporting it, then it is obvious that it is time for the circle to end.

Without commitments of support, the 3rd Monday in December will be the last meeting at Monroe Hall. I'll let the Monroe Hall manager know that we won't be renting the space in 2009, and I'll release the concentration.

I've made the end of October the deadline for this decision, since there has been a request by Monroe Hall's manager to let her know our intentions for 2009.

All Light and Love,

Muiz