

**Seattle Dances of Universal Peace  
Planning Meeting  
7/23/25**

**Present:**

Hassan (convener), Helen (scribe), Elizabeth, Ka, Phil Murad, Karim, Martha, John (VfP), Jennifer

**Opening Dance:** “Shalom Benediction”

**Announcements:**

8/16, 11-2, is Sufi Potluck Picnic and dances in Carnation.

Elizabeth’s mentees did a successful popup dance in a local park.

Sunday 9/7, 6-8, Mt Vernon dance will be led by Ka and Murad Phil.

Next outdoor dance will be on August 17, 4-6.

Recent Suquamish, Seattle, Pt Townsend “marathon” with Shivadam was lovely.

**Interim Committee report:**

No business

**Treasurer’s Report:**

We’ve had a few expenses for website renewals. Treasury has \$5140, of which \$442 is reserved for scholarships. Zoom account will be up for renewal soon; Elizabeth will be reimbursed.

**Webpage minutes:**

May minutes aren’t visibly posted as expected, but they will be re-posted shortly.

**Outdoor dances:**

We’ve had good attendance, 15-20 people. We all enjoyed guest leader, Shivadam, last time. Two more will be held, in August and September. Elizabeth gets there early to “stake out the territory.”

**Fall Vashon Retreat, November 7-9:**

Retreat Center is full, with waiting list; tent and cabin registrations coming in. We formally agree to go forward with fall retreat as planned.

Lighting issues: how to avoid using the overhead fluorescents? Ka has been bringing 5 torchiers. Her best one got broken last time, so she doesn’t want to bring her best ones. If she acquires others, they will need storage and transport to Vashon. Karim agrees to help with storage, Hassan and Phil can help with transport.

Fifteen leaders have said they want to be involved with planning/leading sessions.

**Next winter season of indoor dances:**

Contract with 7400 Woodlawn is signed. Hourly rate is now \$35/hr, so total for Oct-April is \$910. We agreed to pay \$455 by October 1 and \$455 by January 1, 2026.

We have reserved October 11, November 15, December 13, January 1 (2026), January 24, February 28, March 28, and April 25. All times are 12:15-3:15 except 1/1, which is 10:30-3:30.

October leaders: Karim and Hassan will lead on 10/11.

**Conflicts with regional dances:**

Khadija used to monitor potential conflicts. Last fall too many events were all packed within one month, which was too close to each other. Sufi leaders often include dances, so we have in reality one integrated community. How do we have more communication between our mutual groups? Could we consider a posting board, or an integrated calendar or ??? Subpage on North American website for coordination with other dance leaders? A calendar would need buy-in from various Sufi organizations as well.

Recently Pt Townsend dances gathered a decent circle, Bob Effertz scheduled a new Whidbey dance on the same day, and the Olympia dances were that same weekend. Local dances stay fairly local, but national leaders need a bigger scope for planning. Whatever coordination method we use would have to gather dates early, before rentals are confirmed. Building awareness takes time and it's impossible to avoid all conflicts. Hassan will consult with the other leaders of the Unity Zikr for ideas.

**Next meeting:**

Date: 9/17, 4:00 by zoom

Convener: Phil Murad

Scribe: Helen

Interim Committee: Phil Murad, Hassan, John

**Gratitudes:** for Martha for arranging for 7400, Pt Townsend/Whidbey zikr went off so well, park dance support, support at this meeting for so many years, watering gardens of goodwill so important, our local climate, beauty of park dances, Elizabeth and Hassan for leading them. This IS peace work.

**Closing Song:** "We Are Saying Thank You"