

2020 AGM

Minutes of The 2020 Sufi Movement In Canada/Sufi Circle Canada Annual General Meeting

The meeting was held as a video conference on Monday, October 5, 2:00pm MDT.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Azima Martha Toy, Qahira Fran Becker, Kuan Yin Cindy Pujos-Michel, Akbar Lody Kieken, Nirtan Carol Ann Sokoloff, David Murray

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sitara Karen Minish, Sharda Murray

INVOCATION

The Invocation was recited by Nirtan.

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Nirtan.

APPROVAL OF 2020 AGM Agenda

Moved by Fazalunissa that the agenda, as described by Nirtan, be approved.

Seconded by Kuan Yin

Passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF 2019 AGM Minutes

David read from the 2019 Minutes. The motion to approve the 2019 Minutes was unanimous.

The movers were not recorded.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

After our Annual General Meeting of 2019 I was nominated as President by the Board and agreed to serve in this capacity. It has been a privilege to lead our organization as we progress in several key transitions. These include the following events:

1. A transition on the Executive of the organization, accepting with appreciation the moving onward of former Secretary, Jelaluddin Gary Sill and Treasurer Fazulunnisa Carole Harmon. I assumed the President's position, and Azima Martha Toy kindly took over as Treasurer. David Murray agreed to serve as Secretary, and has been instrumental in assisting with records and communications. Jelaluddin has kindly continued to maintain our informative website.
2. We welcomed new board members Qahira Fran Becker and Azima Martha Toy and have been very grateful for their contribution. Continuing Board members include Kuan Yin Pujos-Michel and Akbar Kieken.
3. We progressed in transitioning from our legal organization of Sufi Movement in Canada to our operating functioning as the Sufi Circle Canada. We worked, as a Board, to define and refine the meaning and role for each of these aspects. At this time we are using the legal name of The Sufi

Movement in Canada for administrative matters concerning our incorporation as a society. As well all financial transactions continue to take place under this name. All outward matters including events, publications, communications, website and all activities are primarily under the auspices of Sufi Circle Canada, as agreed and named by our members.

4. Our previous and current Treasurer's were diligent in transferring our financial records with bookkeeping help from Akbar Lody Kieken. The official address of our organization has now been changed to the address of New Treasurer Azima Martha Toy in Calgary, Alberta. An accountant was hired to create books which can be easily self-managed in the future.

5. Our Board also examined our position in relation to various International Sufi organizations including the International Sufi Movement. We affirmed our wish to stay in friendly contact on an informal basis with all the groups working for the Sufi Message of Spiritual Liberty as articulated by founder Pir-o-Murshid Inayat Khan. Some of these organizations are also in transition. We agreed to focus on Canadian efforts at this time. We believe we can best serve the Message through strengthening the work in our own country.

6. We agreed as a policy to welcome as members and friends any Canadian sufi from any of the streams from the Inayat Khan branch of Universal wisdom, and to offer support to these individuals and their sufi communities.

7. The Board established an Esoteric Committee consisting of Kuan Yin, Akbar, David and Qahira to consider matters related to Initiation. The Board agreed to adopt the recommendations of this Committee that qualified leaders of Sufi Circle Canada may offer 'Initiation into the Sufi Message' to those who apply.

8. In April 2020 the newsletter 'Heart to Heart' was revived in a digital form, with contributions from many individuals. I undertook the editing and design of the first one and Kuan Yin offered to be Guest Editor for the second edition which went out in late September. I will continue to act as a facilitator, gather the material, copy edit and design, but I welcome a Guest Editor for the next edition or the one after that. Contact casjazz@islandnet.com to discuss or call me at (250) 385-3378.

9. The Board explored the subject of Membership and decided to offer the opportunity to be a part of Sufi Circle Canada as either a Member or a Friend, at an individual's discretion. The Friend category encompasses those in other places or of other affiliations who wish to have an informal tie, while members are included in the decisions of the organization. The Board decided to waive any fees for inclusion in Sufi Circle Canada while accepting donations towards our efforts.

10. The Board initially wished to arrange a Fall 2020 gathering but adjusted our dates due to the health lockdowns. We are optimistically planning a gathering at the Bethlehem Centre, Nanaimo for June 25-27, 2021, and we shall see how events unfold. All are welcome and we will share information closer to the date.

11. The corona-virus has impacted all aspects of life including Sufi work. Many of us had meetings that involved singing and dancing and physical closeness which became activities we were advised to avoid for health. While many groups have been successful with online gatherings so far we have mainly used the digital approach as a way to continue to meet and further the purposes of our organization.

Looking Ahead:

- continue to refine matters concerning Sufi Circle Canada / Sufi Movement in Canada
- produce and distribute Heart to Heart in the Spring and Fall
- plan Conference of the Birds 2021 and consider a Zoom outreach opportunity
- continue exploring Esoteric questions pertaining to training

Thank you to all the Directors for their enthusiasm, support and efforts on behalf of Sufi Circle Canada. I'd like to encourage all of our supporters to please offer your services in whatever way you believe you can. The more hands on deck the more we can try to do. It's a big country when you think of it, and there's plenty of people and places in need of the Sufi Message. Tell us how we can support you in your efforts. I believe that is how Sufi Circle Canada can best of of service.

respectfully submitted
Nirtan Carol Sokoloff
Victoria, BC

SECRETARY'S REPORT

I willingly accepted the role of Secretary in 2018, following the capable hands of Jelaluddin. My role is to facilitate our regular Board meetings and post minutes on our website. We are using ZOOM for all our meetings.

In addition to being the meeting recorder, I have taken on the task of updating our database. We now have 2 main categories, Members and Friends. Members are welcomed to participate in the AGM and vote on matters as they arise. We currently have 25 Members and 65 Friends. The task of updating the database is ongoing. There are probably still a few glitches such as out-of-date emails and a few omissions that I will try to resolve in the coming months.

I arrange email contact with the Members regarding the AGM and with both Members and Friends for the newsletter and other announcements over the year as they arise. This has raised a few challenges since my email server thinks I am sending spam with so many email addresses and temporarily shuts down my outgoing mail.

My thanks are extended to Jelaluddin and Fazalunissa for the work they did over the years to help us get to where are today. I sense that there is a new enthusiasm for contact among Friends of the Sufi Message, especially when there are no organizational obligations. This is a growing trend and one that will increase interest in learning more about the Sufi Message of Spiritual Freedom. Moving forward is both exciting and challenging. We want to stay in touch with old friends and also offer opportunities for new Friends and Members to participate in our activities. So, if you are interested you can spread the word and share our newsletters.

Respectfully submitted
David Murray
Edmonton, Alberta

TREASURER'S REPORT

See attached Excel Report – Balance Sheet, Income Statement, Notes to the Financial Statement.

Respectfully submitted
Azima Martha Toy
Calgary
[Link to the Excel attachment](#)

CENTRE REPORTS

Banff Centre Report

This past year has been quieter for our Banff and the Bow Valley Sufis due to Ayaz's illness which began in January, 2020 and to the coronavirus in general which has been with us since March/April, 2020.

Our main activities over the year have centered on Sufi readings. We completed 2 books, Memories of a Sufi Sage and Volume VII of the Message series, In an Eastern Rose Garden. We also continued on with our Healing Lists and the Spiritual Healing Activity.

In December we had our annual Sufi Christmas Party attended by Banff, Bow Valley and Calgary Sufis. A lovely time together before the Coronavirus hit us all.

Ayaz, my beloved husband passed away on June 29th, 2020 and things have been even quieter since then. We are all hoping that we may see another Sufi Retreat next year in 2021. We shall have to wait and see.

Sending our love to all of our Sufi friends as we enter the fall months.

Respectfully submitted by Kuan Yin Pujos-Michel
And the Banff, Bow Valley Sufis.

Edmonton Centre Report

The Sufi Circle Canada Edmonton Centre has remained active over the past year. We hold weekly evening meetings on Mondays at my office/gallery, which can include wasifas, pranayama breathing practices. The evenings end with the singing zikar. Attendance can be sparse but is dedicated.

In fall 2019, we also hosted the Dances of Universal Peace which were led by Khabira Auni Amini. Attendance at the final Dances included many long-time sufis from the community. There is an appetite to continue the Dance after the pandemic when we again safely gather.

My Board participation continues as the National Representative of the Sufi Circle Canada within the International Sufi Movement. Our friendships are a source of inspiration and the International Council participation will continue through 2020.

Sending warm greetings to the SCC members across Canada.

Respectfully submitted by David Murray

Victoria Centre Report

The Victoria Centre was percolating at quite a happy energy level following the Conference of the Birds Board retreat and gathering organized at the Bethlehem Centre, Nanaimo at the end of June 2019. In the Fall of 2019 I was invited to offer a one-day workshop in Courtenay and presented a program called 'Elements of the Way' to a very sweet group in that region, mostly assembled through the efforts of Mubarak Adrien Symonds of the Inayati Order. Our Victoria monthly meetings for Dances of Peace and Sufi Thought continued with the exception of August, when the Quaker Meeting Hall where we meet, was closed. Our meeting in March took place but we were already aware of the concern re. the corona-virus and we held a different kind of meeting, more sitting and singing, and reading - than dancing.

After that, due to lockdowns, our meeting space had closed and our activities, such as group singing and dancing, were inadvisable. I took that opportunity to engage in a period of solitude and retreat, which has been quite productive. I was delighted to help the re-birth of the sufi newsletter Heart to Heart, which has now released two issues featuring art and poetry and articles and recipes from Canadian mureeds and friends. We created the idea of a guest co-editor for each issue, and I was very pleased to work closely with Kuan Yin Pujos-Michel on the most recent issue. I have also spent this period of reflection continuing research for the re-publication of "A Light Unbroken" a long poem based on the life of Noor Inayat Khan.

During this period I have maintained individual correspondence with local participants, and our

Sufi lending library of Message volumes remains available.

It is my hope to find a way to resume offering small group Sufi experiences in Victoria, BC in the near future - preferably in real time and space - as I believe we are in need of human connections at this time of enforced isolation.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

Moved by David that the reports, with the exception of the Financial Statement, be accepted. Seconded by Kuan Yin. Passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Moved by Akbar that the Financial Statement of 2019 - 2020, ending on May 31st, 2020 be accepted. Seconded by Sharda. Passed unanimously.

Moved by Kuan Yin the accountant's (Lori DeWitt) invoice for \$550 be accepted and paid. Seconded by David. Passed unanimously.

It was agreed that a thank you card and small gift be sent to Lori at Christmas.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Sharda and seconded by Kuan Yin that the Directors on the Board continue as-is for the next year. Passed unanimously.

The next newsletter will be published in late winter 2021 (March 31). Deadline for submissions is February 1, 2021. Nirtan is looking for a guest editor.

The SCC will send out a card of appreciation to all the donors in 2020. Azima will report on the names and addresses of the donors. David will prepare a draft design for review.

The Esoteric Committee will be revived to address the issuance of certificates for initiations.

DATE OF NEXT AGM

Moved by David that the next AGM be held **Monday, September 20, 2021**. Seconded by Kuan Yin. Passed unanimously.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Moved by David to adjourn the AGM. Passed unanimously..

Meeting ended at approximately 4:00pm MDT.