

Pir-o-Murshid
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SELECTED EXPERIENCE

CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF WISDOM TRADITIONS

Naropa University

Boulder, Colorado – October 2024 to Present

Promoted to Core Faculty and Chair of the Department of Wisdom Traditions, overseeing the Master of Divinity program, Master of Yoga Studies program, B.A. Religious Studies program, and B.A. Yoga Studies program.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Contemplative Outreach of Colorado

Denver, Colorado – August 2024 to Present

Contemplative Outreach of Colorado is an organization founded in 1987 in Denver, Colorado to promote the practice of Centering Prayer. It is comprised of the Center for Contemplative Living in Denver, Colorado, and the Snowmass Retreat Center in Snowmass, Colorado.

CHAIR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES, INSTRUCTOR

Naropa University

Boulder, Colorado – July 2023 to October 2024

Promoted to Instructor and Chair of the B.A. Religious Studies program in the Department of Wisdom Traditions, and currently serving as Co-Chair of Wisdom Traditions.

FOUNDER/DIRECTOR

The Keating-Schachter Center for Interspirituality

Boulder, Colorado – January 2023 to Present

The Keating-Schachter Center for Interspirituality exists to support the study of the world's wisdom traditions, and to sponsor interspiritual dialogues with leading spiritual teachers and thinkers, month-long residencies of noted spiritual teachers in the university setting, retreats for religious studies and divinity students with these same teachers, interspiritual dialogue among students, and other learning opportunities at our affiliated institutions and facilities, including Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado.

VISITING INSTRUCTOR

Naropa University

Boulder, Colorado – May 2022 to July 2023

Promoted to Visiting Instructor in the Department of Wisdom Traditions and Master of Divinity program teaching “Interspiritual Dialogue,” “Religion and Mystical Experience,” “Contemplative Islam,” “Sufism,” “Contemplative Judaism,” “Kabbalah and Consciousness,” “Contemplative Christianity,” “Integration Lab,” “M.Div. Capstone,” “B.A. Capstone,” “B.A. Retreat,” as well as various independent studies courses.

CO-FOUNDER

HeartFire Events & Festivals

Boulder, Colorado – January 2019 to Present

HeartFire Festival is a new paradigm in festival culture, combining the best elements of the conscious music and performance art scene with genuine spiritual teaching and workshops, held in reproducible, smaller scale, substance-free events that maintain a sacred atmosphere for all participants. HeartFire is an interspiritual summit for exploring the intersection between art, spirituality, and sacred activism.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

The Abode, an Eco-Sufi Village

New Lebanon, New York – November 2016 to July 2017

The Spiritual Director of the Abode was the spiritual counterpart of the Abode’s Executive Director, a member of the leadership team, and liaison with the Inayati Order *pir*, responsible for Sufi education, practice, and ritual life at the Abode (creating educational models and curricula for guests and residents, teaching public and private classes, organizing and coordinating Sufi spiritual practice and ritual, offering individual spiritual guidance to members of the Abode community, as well as offering instruction in Sufi spiritual practices and leading community rituals when called upon to do so.

TEACHER-IN-RESIDENCE

The Abode, an Eco-Sufi Village

New Lebanon, New York – August 2016 to November 2016

The Sufi teacher-in-residence at the Abode was to be a living exemplar of the Universalist Sufi path of Hazrat Inayat Khan, giving public talks, offering spiritual guidance, as well as instruction in Sufi practice.

CO-FOUNDER

The Charis Snowmass Dialogues

Boulder, Colorado – June 2016 to Present

The Charis Snowmass Dialogues (formerly The Future of Religion & Interspirituality Dialogues), held in monasteries and spiritual communities around the country, are modeled on and continue the lineage of the Snowmass InterSpiritual Dialogues (2005-

2015), themselves the successor to the groundbreaking Snowmass Interreligious Dialogues (1984-2005) convened by Father Thomas Keating, the founder of the Center Prayer movement, who has given his blessing to this new incarnation of dialogue-retreats.

TEACHER-IN-RESIDENCE

The Abode, an Eco-Sufi Village

New Lebanon, New York – September 2015 to October 2015

The Sufi teacher-in-residence at the Abode was to be a living exemplar of the Universalist Sufi path of Hazrat Inayat Khan, giving public talks, offering spiritual guidance, as well as instruction in Sufi practice.

CO-FOUNDER

Charis Foundation for New Monasticism & Interspirituality

Boulder, Colorado – January 2015 to Present

Charis Foundation for New Monasticism & InterSpirituality (Charis Foundation) is dedicated to the emergence of a newly conceived contemplative life that embraces the ideals of the world's wisdom traditions. Charis strives to support the development of an interspiritually-based new monasticism through a strategic array of programs and partnerships. Through its activities, Charis Foundation wishes to support interspiritual seekers of all types (whether part of the ever-growing "spiritual-but-not-religious" or members of traditional religious paths) in their desire to commit to a disciplined contemplative life while remaining connected to the world and its needs, especially as related to social and ecological justice.

PIR-O-MURSHID

The Inayati-Maimuni Order

Boulder, Colorado – July 2014 to Present

Empowered as the *pir-o-murshid* or head of the Inayati-Maimuni lineage of Inayati or universalist Sufism of Hazrat Inayat Khan, responsible for its transmission to future generations.

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Naropa University

Boulder, Colorado – May 2013 to May 2022

Adjunct faculty in the Department of Religious Studies and Master of Divinity program teaching "Religion and Mystical Experience," "Contemplative Islam," "Sufism," "Integration Lab," "M.Div. Capstone," "B.A. Capstone," "B.A. Retreat," "Kabbalah and Consciousness," as well as various independent studies courses.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Desert Foundation

Denver, Colorado – April 2013 to Present

The Desert Foundation is an informal circle of friends exploring the wisdom of the world's deserts with a special focus on peace, respect and reconciliation between the three Abrahamic traditions which grow out of the desert: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

CO-FOUNDER & CONSULTANT

Post-Holocaust American Judaism Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder
Boulder, Colorado – June 2011 to August 2016

The Post-Holocaust American Judaism Collections are focused on examining Judaism and the Jewish-American experience from roughly the late 1940s to the present. The material collected aims to shed light on the religious, cultural, and social movements of American Judaism as well as to illustrate various philosophies of Judaism and Jewish organizations in the relevant period.

OWNER & PUBLISHER

Albion-Andalus Books
Boulder, Colorado – January 2010 to Present

Albion-Andalus Books publishes unique works touching on religion, spirituality, philosophy, psychology, and the arts, seeking to foster a greater depth in literature, and to promote a greater understanding and integration of these pursuits.

FOUNDER & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Spectrum: A Journal of Renewal Spirituality
Boulder, Colorado – August 2005 to March 2017

Spectrum: A Journal of Renewal Spirituality first appeared in the fall of 2005 as an on-line journal seeking to further the process of spiritual renewal through new teaching and commentary on mystical spirituality and deep ecumenism. In 2012, *Spectrum* was re-launched as *Spectrum: Spirituality, Culture, and the Arts*, and in 2021, after a hiatus, became *Spectrum: A Journal of Interspirituality*.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Reb Zalman Legacy Project
Boulder, Colorado – February 2005 to July 2011

The Reb Zalman Legacy Project was begun by the Yesod Foundation in 2003 to preserve, develop and disseminate the teachings of Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi. The major goal of the original project was to establish an archive of Reb Zalman's papers and other media at a major university that would then be widely accessible to researchers at all levels. That archive was first created at Naropa University and later moved to the University of Colorado.

CO-FOUNDER & KHALIFA

The Inayati-Maimuni Order
Boulder, Colorado – May 2004 to July 2014

The Inayati-Maimuni Order is committed to a path of spiritual development based upon both Sufi and Hasidic principles and practices. In this order, the Sufi lineage of Hazrat Inayat Khan (1882-1927), the first Sufi master to bring Sufism into the West, has been joined to the Hasidic lineage of Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi (1924-2014), founder of the Jewish Renewal movement. But because it is not the first time that these two mystical paths associated with Islam and Judaism have been brought together, the Inayati-Maimuniyya endeavor to connect to and renew the spirit of the original Egyptian Sufi-Hasidism practiced by Rabbi Avraham Maimuni of Fustat (1186-1237), who successfully combined these paths as far back as the 13th-century. For this reason, we are called the Inayati-Maimuni *tariqa*, honoring both Hazrat Inayat Khan's vision of Sufism as a universal approach to spirituality and Avraham Maimuni's radical innovation which made a peaceful marriage between Jewish Hasidism and Islamic Sufism in a time of conflict between the Abrahamic traditions. Founded in 2004 by Pir Zalman Sulayman Schachter-Shalomi, ז"ל, and his *khalifa*, Pir Netanel Mu'in ad-Din Miles-Yépez, the community is currently led by the latter, and based in Colorado.

EDITOR OF PRINT AND WEBSITE PUBLISHING

The Spiritual Paths Foundation

Woody Creek, Colorado – May 2002 to December 2005

EDUCATION

DOCTOR OF DIVINITY

Dr. Zalman Schachter-Shalomi

Boulder, Colorado – June 2000 to December 2013

Issued a special Doctor of Divinity (*Divinitatis Doctor*) degree and ordination by Rabbi Dr. Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, noted scholar of Hasidism, Kabbalah, and the psychology of religion, pioneer in interreligious dialogue, and the founder of the Jewish Renewal and Spiritual Eldering movements, in December of 2013, as an acknowledgment of “mastery as a scholar-practitioner of religion” after more than a decade of direct study and apprenticeship, following the medieval model of doctoral education and apprenticeship in ecumenism, spiritual counseling, and mystical spirituality.

IJAZAT-NAMA — MURSHID

Pir-o-Murshid Zalman Sulayman Schachter-Shalomi

Boulder, Colorado – August 2002 to January 2007

Issued an *Ijzat-Nama*, a formal document of authorization, to act as a Sufi *murshid* or *shaykh* by Pir-o-Murshid Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, the head of the Inayati-Maimuni lineage of Inayati or universalist Sufism of Hazrat Inayat Khan. The *murshid* or ‘guide’ is an acknowledged master within a Sufi lineage, responsible the transmission of its teachings and practices, second only to the *pir* or head of the lineage.

KHILAFAT-NAMA — KHALIFA & CHIRAGH

Murshid Zalman Sulayman Schachter-Shalomi, Murshid Atum O’Kane, Pir Puran Bair
Boulder, Colorado – April 2000 to August 2002

Given *Khilafat-Nama*, ordination as a *khalifa* or successor and deputy, to Pir-o-Murshid Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, the head of the Inayati-Maimuni lineage of Inayati or universalist Sufism of Hazrat Inayat Khan, as well as an ordination to function as a *chiragh* or ritual functionary of the Inayati-Maimuni lineage. Training in the basic teachings and practices of Inayati Sufism was conducted by Murshid Thomas Atum O’Kane, and the practice of Sufi meditation by Pir Puran Bair.

GRADUATE STUDIES

The Naropa Institute & Naropa University

Boulder, Colorado – August 1998 to June 2000

Graduate study in Naropa’s three-year program in Indo-Tibetan Buddhism, concentrating on Buddhist philosophy and psychology, tantric disciplines, and the meditative techniques of the practice lineages with Dr. Judith Simmer-Brown, Dr. Reginald Ray, and Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche. Secondary study of Contemplative Religion and Contemplative Judaism with Rabbi Dr. Zalman Schachter-Shalomi.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Michigan State University

East Lansing, Michigan – August 1996 to June 1998

Undergraduate studies in the History of Religions and Comparative Religion, with a specific emphasis on Qur’an Revelation and Jewish Philosophy with Dr. Alford T. Welch, and the Non-Dual Philosophical and Tantric traditions of Hinduism with Dr. John Allen Grimes and Dr. Paul Muller-Ortega.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Lansing Community College

Lansing, Michigan – August 1993 to June 1996

Undergraduate studies in English Literature and Philosophy.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Books

Author

- *A Poisoned Cup: The Sufi Path of Love.* [In Progress]
- *The Force and the Future: From Chauvet Cave to Star Wars: Art, Evolution, and a Spiritual Futurism.* [In Progress]

- *The Friends of God: Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi's Encounter with Islam and Sufism*. [In Progress]
- *Mirror of Love: Meditations on the Sufi Path of Love: Book III: Commentary*. [In Progress]
- *The End of Religion and Other Writings*. Des Moines, New Mexico. Charis Mandala Publishing, 2023.
- *Mirror of Love: Meditations on the Sufi Path of Love: Book II: Commentary*. Boulder, Colorado. Albion-Andalus Books, 2022.
- *Mirror of Love: Meditations on the Sufi Path of Love: Book I: Inspirations*. Boulder, Colorado. Albion-Andalus Books, 2022.
- *The Merging of Two Oceans: Nine Talks on Sufism & Hasidism*. Boulder, Colorado. Albion-Andalus Books, 2021.
- *In the Teahouse of Experience: Nine Talks on the Path of Sufism*. Boulder, Colorado. Albion-Andalus Books, 2020.
- *The Santero Ideal: The Art of Colorado Santera, Teresa May Duran*. Boulder, Colorado. Albion-Andalus Books, 2018.

Co-Author

- *The Shared Sacred Story of Interspirituality*. [Forthcoming, The Fetzer Institute, with Rory McEntee, Brenda Salgado, Alejandra Warden, Matthew Wright]
- *The Union Between Us: The Friendship and Correspondence of Thomas Merton and Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi*. [In Progress, co-author Rabbi Or Rose]
- *God Hidden, Whereabouts Unknown: The Holy Ari and the 'Contraction' of God: Third Edition*. Boulder, Colorado: Albion-Andalus Books, 2021. (co-author, Zalman Schachter-Shalomi)
- *Foundations of a Fourth Hasidism: A Manifesto*. Boulder, Colorado: Albion-Andalus Books, 2014. (co-author, Zalman Schachter-Shalomi)
- *A Hidden Light: Stories and Teachings of Early HaBaD and Bratzlav Hasidism*. Santa Fe, New Mexico: Gaon Books, 2011. (co-author, Zalman Schachter-Shalomi)
- *A Merciful God: Stories and Teachings of the Holy Rebbe, Levi Yitzhak of Berditchev*. Boulder, Colorado: Albion-Andalus Books, 2010. (co-author, Zalman Schachter-Shalomi)
- *A Heart Afire: Stories and Teachings of the Early Hasidic Masters*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Jewish Publication Society, 2009. (co-author, Zalman Schachter-Shalomi)

Translator

- *My Love Stands Behind a Wall: A Translation of the Song of Songs and Other Poems.* Boulder, Colorado. Albion-Andalus Books, 2015.

Editor

- Inayat Khan. *Gathekas: A Universalist Sufi Catechism.* Boulder, Colorado. Albion-Andalus Books, 2021.
- *One God, Many Worlds: Teachings of a Renewed Hasidism.* Boulder, Colorado. Albion-Andalus Books, 2015.
- *Living Fully, Dying Well: Reflecting on Death to Find Your Life's Meaning.* Boulder, Colorado, Sounds True, 2009.
- *The Common Heart: An Experience of Interreligious Dialogue.* New York, New York. Lantern Books, 2006.
- *The Way of Contemplation & Meditation.* Woody Creek, Colorado: Spiritual Paths Publishing, 2002.

Co-Editor

- *Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi: Essential Teachings.* Maryknoll, New York. Orbis Books, 2020. (co-editor, Or N. Rose)
- *Living from the Heart: Universalist Sufism in America.* Boulder, Colorado. Albion-Andalus Books, 2020. (co-editor, Chuck Davis)
- *Into My Garden: Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi's Legacy of Songs and Melodies.* Boulder, Colorado: The Reb Zalman Legacy Project, 2007. (co-editor, Eyal Rivlin)

Forewords

- "Foreword: The Merging of Two Oceans." Gregory Blann. *When Oceans Merge: The Contemporary Sufi and Hasidic Teachings of Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan and Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi.* Rhinebeck, New York: Adam Kadmon Books, 2019.
- "Foreword." Zia Inayat-Khan. *Tree of Lights: The Chishti Lineage of Hazrat Inayat Khan.* Richmond, Virginia. The Inayati Order, 2018.

Articles

- "The Yogi School: Bringing the World's Wisdom to Naropa University." *Naropa Magazine.* 50th Anniversary Edition. 2024-2025: 40-46.
- "Paradigms of Ecumenism as a Spiritual Practice: Father Thomas Keating and Swami Atmarupananda Discuss the Theory and Practice of Dialogue." *Journal of Ecumenical Studies.* Vol. 43, No. 1. Winter, 2008: 67-89. (First interviews ever published by JES.)

SELECTED EVENTS

2021-2024

- September 28, 2024 – Talk, “The Snowmass Dialogues,” The Contemplative Outreach 40th Anniversary Conference, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia.
- August 30, 2024 – Talk with Judith Simmer-Brown, “Naropa’s Legacy of Interreligious Dialogue,” Naropa University, Boulder, Colorado.
- July 23-26, 2024 – Facilitator & Participant, “Shared Spiritual Heritage BIPOC Learning Cohort Dialogue,” The Fetzer Institute, Kalamazoo, Michigan.
- July 5-10, 2024 – Teacher, “Charis Circles Training Retreat,” Charis Mandala, Des Moines, New Mexico.
- June 7-9, 2024 – Teacher, “The Path of Sufism Retreat,” Caravanserai Inayat, Des Moines, New Mexico.
- May 25, 2024 – Guest Talk, “Rumi and the Path of Love,” Center for Contemplative Living, Denver, Colorado.
- April 2, 2024 – Presenter, “Torah and Dharma Dialogue,” Naropa University, Boulder, Colorado.
- February 15-18, 2024 – Facilitator & Participant, “Shared Spiritual Heritage BIPOC Learning Cohort Retreat,” The Fetzer Institute, Kalamazoo, Michigan.
- February 8, 2024 – Guest Talk, “Sufism and Queer Spirituality,” Naropa University, Boulder, Colorado.
- November 2-7, 2023 – Facilitator, “Contemplative Living and Life in the World,” Charis Snowmass Dialogue, All Souls Interfaith Gathering and High Acres Farm, Shelburne, Vermont.
- October 26, 2023 – Keynote, “From Chauvet Cave to Star Wars: Art, Myth, and a Spiritual Futurism,” Contemplation By Design, Stanford Medicine, Stanford University, San Francisco, California.
- August 18, 2023 – Co-Presenter, “New Monasticism and Interspirituality,” Parliament of the World’s Religions, McCormick Place, Chicago, Illinois.

- August 15, 2023 – Presenter, “Charis Meditation: An Interspiritual Practice for Life in the World,” Community of Freedom Gathering, The Fetzer Institute, Kalamazoo, Michigan.
- August 7-10, 2023 – Facilitator & Participant, “BIPOC Spiritual Innovation Learning Cohort Retreat,” The Fetzer Institute, Kalamazoo, Michigan.
- June 26 to July 1, 2023 – Retreat Leader, “Charis Circles Traing Retreat,” St. Benedict’s Retreat House, St. Benedict’s Monastery, Snowmass, Colorado.
- May 22-26, 2023 – Delegate, Ashoka Foundation’s “Soularize Conference 2023 for Spiritual Changemakers,” Fish Interfaith Center at Chapman University, Orange, California.
- March 26-28, 2023 – Presenter, “The Shared Sacred Story of Interspirituality,” The Shared Sacred Story Project, The Fetzer Institute, Kalamazoo, Michigan.
- March 2023 to Present – Member, The Fetzer Institute’s Shared Spiritual Heritage Bipoc Learning Cohort on “Spiritual Innovation,” The Fetzer Institute, Kalamazoo, Michigan.
- January 26, 2023 – Podcast Interview Subject, “Art as Revelation: The Artist as a Spiritual Archetype with Netanel Miles-Yépez,” The New Monastics Podcast.
- November 19, 2022 – Presenter, “Thomas Keating and the Snowmass Dialogues,” Contemplative Outreach of Maryland and Washington.
- October 21-23, 2022 – Guest Teacher, “Sufism—The Way of the Heart,” Opening the Heart Lectures, Naropa University, Boulder, Colorado.
- September 2022 – Podcast Interview Subject, “Netanel Miles-Yépez: Comparative Religion,” Mindful U at Naropa University.
- June 26-27, 2022 – Presenter & Co-Organizer, “The Merging of Two Oceans: Reb Zalman, Islam, and Sufism” at In Search of Renewal: Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, Jewish Diversity, and Interreligious Engagement Colloquium, Endicott House, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dedham, Massachusetts.
- May 5-9, 2022 – Presenter, Respondent & Co-Organizer, “The Interspiritual Milieu” at The 1st Annual Thomas Keating Interspiritual Seminar, High Acres and All Souls Interfaith Gathering, Shelburne, Vermont.
- March 11-13, 2022 – Guest Teacher, “Sufism and the Religion of Love,” Breeze of Simplicity Lectures, Naropa University, Boulder, Colorado.

- December 4, 2021 – Presenter, “John of the Cross and the Song of Songs: Mysticism, Eroticism, and Centering Prayer,” Contemplative Outreach of Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas.
- October 28, 2021 – Livestream Interview Subject, “An Intimate Dialogue with Netanel Miles-Yepez,” Extended Campus, Naropa University, Boulder, Colorado.
- October 2021 to Present – Interspirituality Team Co-Leader, The Fetzer Institute’s “Shared Sacred Story Project,” The Fetzer Institute, Kalamazoo, Michigan.
- October 21, 2021 – Presenter, “Dying Before Death” at Science and Nonduality (SAND) Conference on Living and Dying, Sebastopol, California.