



## A Letter from Shahida

Dear Raphaelite Work community,

With this first edition of the *Raphaelite Reader*, practitioners and students of the Raphaelite Work are more connected. We can communicate now as a group! I am most grateful to Wahhab and Hayyat Dohrmann for their resourcefulness, commitment, expertise, and old-fashioned hard work to bring us the *Raphaelite Reader*, and our new connectedness. In addition, as you may have already noticed, we are announcing the Raphaelite Internet Forum, augmenting our communication opportunities.

I'd like to introduce myself to those of you I do not know. My name is Shahida, and I am supporting the Raphaelite Work through "coordinating" its different aspects. Right now, coordinating the Raphaelite Work means tending to its "professionalization," or setting up systems by which her infrastructure is enhanced, and professional aspects are developed serving the future of the work, and the Raphaelite practitioners and students. Some of the developing activities and the people contributing to them right now are:

- The Raphaelite Reader (Hayyat & Wahhab Dohrmann)
- Raphaelite Internet Forum (Ramana Smallen)
- The Raphaelite Work Student Handbook (Jalil Buechel)
- Setting up CEU's—starting with nursing (Sitara O'Reilly & Cynthia Hemenway)

Other activities to be tended to, after the above, are the "Buddy Manual", a system for professional supervision, a brochure describing Raphaelite Work which will be available to practitioners, and actions toward obtaining insurance covering our work. In addition, we are developing the Sufi Healing Order ministry and its relationship with RW practitioners. Beyond the professionalizing housekeeping in our future, our hope is to also develop the Raphaelite Work concepts and understanding further. This opportunity is available to all of us. As we reflect on our

*Shahida, continued.on Page 6*

## The Historical Self And The True Ego

By Himayat Inayati

In the last couple of weeks in his life with us, Pir Vilayat mostly slept or was quietly awake. He would respond to simple direct questions with a word or two at the most. However, eight days prior to his great transition Pir did utter three teaching sentences and I would like to share them with you. He said: **"You must overcome the ego." "The True Ego is the ego of God." "The false ego is only false until it is realized, then it is True."** This parting gift of Pir Vilayat's is an outline of a pivotal aspect of the Raphaelite Work. In the Raphaelite Work we have reframed this discussion by naming the "false ego" the "historical self" and the "True Ego" as "that identity which is rooted in a vaster ground of being". Additionally we have reframed Pir Vilayat's masterful dynamic of "overcome" as "mature", a dynamic more consistent with the Raphaelite Work. Both overcoming and maturation are ways of working with ego offered by Hazrat Inayat Khan. The metaphor of maturation is offered by Murshid in his comparison of the false ego to a green grape and the transit into True Ego to the ripened grape that softens, falls from the vine, and eventually becomes wine and then aroma. (*Sufi Message*)

The Raphaelite Work defines the historical self as that adaptive identity which is developed through the process of human individuation as it is usually understood. This identity (ego) is created by psychic structures that are oriented around defense and compensation for felt insufficiency. Further, these structures are developed and maintained through the psychological process of splitting. As you know, the Raphaelite Work operatively defines this process of splitting as: "not allowing."

I mention above "human individuation as it is usually understood", because I understand the normal definition of individuation of the human, which is: *to become fully operationally vested as a singular entity capable of mature awareness, reflection and behavior*, to be a truncated version of a natural process of human development. In its later stages, this natural process also supports the activation of being, and reaches its epiphany when the human experience touches upon the heart/mind of God and Divine Consciousness manifests within the context of human culture.

I have stated that the Raphaelite Work is in an embryonic condition, awaiting further refinement and expansion. Because our approach to ego maturation has been effective in beginning to clarify some of the more obvious areas of psycho-spiritual development the individual student needs to attend to, we are now gaining a more

*Historical Self, continued.on Page 8*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE . . .

<i>One-to-One Processing</i> .....	<i>Page 2</i>
<i>News from the Raphaelite Community</i> .....	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>From the Editors</i> .....	<i>Page 7</i>
<i>The Archangel Raphael</i> .....	<i>Page 9</i>
<i>RW Schedule of Events</i> .....	<i>Page 10</i>

# One-to-One Processing

## By Azar Baksh Weiner

One-to-One Processing augments the healing process of the Raphaelite Work. It may occur during the course of a healing session with the elemental sequences or as a separate session. There is a brief description of One-to-One Processing in the Raphaelite Work manual, and this article will offer additional suggestions and some material which has been presented at a One-to-One Processing training workshop in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Being present to the client is an essential aspect of both the elemental sequences and One-to-One Processing. There are many degrees of the practitioner being present, both to him/herself and to the client. When the practitioner can be present to him/herself in each of the five domains, then he/she will be more capable of being fully present to the client in each of these domains. Otherwise, the practitioner may only be present to some of the domains in him/herself and also present to only some of the domains in the client.

I believe presence involves more than just a passive type of presence. The practitioner brings to each healing session the uniqueness of his/her own being in relationship with the uniqueness of the client's being. When presence fully occurs between the practitioner and the client, what I call an engaging presence emerges that enables a much deeper level of healing to take place. This engaging presence also allows the client to feel safe to share material that arises during the course of a healing session. Material may arise in any of the five domains, and it is important to invite the client to share sensations, emotions, images, and shifts in energy that occur. As Himayat points out in the Raphaelite Work manual, One-to-One Processing is "non-directive, non-judgmental, and gentle. It does not include giving advice, sharing opinions, or personally involving oneself in the client's process."

Some issues may arise which are most appropriately addressed by suggesting that the client seek psychotherapy. For example, if intense feelings of depression or anxiety recurrently arise, or memories of an unresolved traumatic experience such as physical or sexual abuse emerge, One-to-One Processing would not be an appropriate modality to deal with these. In such cases, one needs to make the client feel supported while at the same time making it clear that the Raphaelite Work is not intended to address issues such as severe depression, anxiety, psychosis, or a personality disorder. When these situations occur, the practitioner can help the client return to a condition of stability by having him/her be present to the breath and to the heart center. One can also suggest that the client do a practice such as the Mother Earth practice.

Questions asked during the One-to-One process should be non-directive, such as "What are you experiencing now?" or "What are you aware of as you are present to the sensation you are experiencing?" If a client has already identified an issue he/she would like to work on during a session (such as anger or fear in response to a person or situation), I may invite the client to recall that situation during the course of working with the elemental sequence(s). Oftentimes material will then arise in one or more domains that can be worked with by One-to-One Processing. In particular, in parts of an elemental sequence when nothing seems to be happening, this may be a way of facilitating movement in an area of blockage (physical,

mental, emotional, or spiritual). I have had entire elemental sequences in which all of the material that arose was in one particular domain, such as vivid images in the mental domain or intense feelings in the emotional domain. It is best to have one or more separate One-to-One Processing sessions after sessions such as these. The Raphaelite Work manual outlines a protocol for these separate sessions, including an interview to assess the five domains, the invocation of Holy Beings, maintaining a supportive and healing presence, and closing with the prayer Nayaz.

On other occasions, One-to-One Processing may not play a significant part during the elemental sequences in a Raphaelite session, but material may arise during the post-healing interview when the client is asked, "Did this healing session bring up a piece of work you wish to be present to a bit more?" Depending on the client's response, One-to-One Processing may be helpful at that time or in a separate One-to-One Processing session.

Confidence in the practitioner's ability to utilize One-to-One Processing will increase with experience and with the help of supervision by a mentor who is experienced in One-to-One Processing. Training workshops in One-to-One Processing are periodically offered, and every Raphaelite practitioner would benefit from attending one of these workshops.

*Azar Baksh Don Weiner is a Shefayat in the Sufi Healing Order, a senior teacher in the Sufi Order, and a Ph.D. psychologist in private practice in Corpus Christi, Texas. He has recently published Upgrading the Operating System of the Soul - A Manual of Quantum Sufism (Xlibris, 2004), which has an extended foreword by Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan. He can be reached at AzarBaksh@aol.com.*

Real discipleship has just  
the same implication as lies  
in the word "baptism".  
It is a real baptism in itself,  
not just a ceremonial,  
an external.  
Spiritually it means  
to be our natural selves,  
neither exalted,  
nor pious, nor good,  
nothing but to be just  
our natural self.

- Hazrat Inayat Khan

# NEWS FROM THE RAPHAELITE COMMUNITY

*These reports from Raphaelite Work groups in the United States and Europe give a wonderful picture of how the RW is growing and evolving. The reports will be a regular feature in the newsletter, and we are most grateful to all our reporters for their submissions.*

## FLORIDA

**Currently we have 17 members** who are actively involved in one of 3 levels of this work: four people are taking the RW Training, eleven are working on completing their 40 healings or a paper for graduation/certification, and two people (Tajali Burge and Sitara O'Reilly) have graduated and are working to develop the RW in private practice or incorporate it with other work that they are doing, and continue to participate actively in the RW Community.

Members fall into 3 groups by the areas in which they live, which are Sarasota-Punta Gorda, St. Petersburg-Seminole-Dade City, and Ocala-Gainesville. These groups center themselves near three existing Sufi communities or teachers, and five members of our community have agreed to be bridges to the local Sufi communities. The purpose of the bridge person is to facilitate the sharing of information with these communities regarding RW activities and Sufi activities, and to be a resource for members of the Sufi community to contact for information about the Raphaelite Work and its activities in Florida.

Attendance at Interim Meetings is now required in order to graduate from the RW Training, and beginning in Sept. 2004, monthly Interim Group meetings will be held in each of the three areas noted above.

We are working diligently to expand our base, especially in terms of publicizing the RW and drawing new people to the trainings. As Sitara wrote in her communication to the Florida group, "Let's get engaged and make it happen. We have something very valuable here and it would be a great loss if it were no longer readily available to us. No one can do this for us. 'We are the ones we've been waiting for.' as the Hopis have said. Let's wake up and support one another in living our Haqq and realizing our potential."

The next three-day training weekend with Himayat will be Dec. 3-5, 2004.

*Reported by Sitara O'Reilly,  
essentialhealing9@hotmail.com*

## GERMANY

**The RW training in Germany** with Himayat began in 1999. It was a very large group with over 60 people. Now we are still around 30 persons with a deep interest in the RW; some have graduated, others are still doing their 40 healing sessions. Two years ago a new training group started, which is led by Munira Johne and Sirkar Erdmann. This year the connection to the Dutch group has begun, and some of them have taken part in the retreat with Himayat. So our RW group grows every year; that is necessary and wonderful, for it keeps us creative and lively.

I can't say how many graduates offer the RW in their communities, but I think that everyone is interested in doing it. We are at the very beginning and have to develop ourselves in and with this special art of healing in a careful way. It needs time to grow, and it grows.

We have some interim groups. One in the north of Germany is organized by Munira Johne. In the middle part of Germany, where I am the organizer, we have two small groups (one for the RW and one for the One-to-One Processing), and the people in the south have their meetings in Munich.

The very new material this year is the One-to-One Processing. We are all enthusiastic about this way of healing. While it seems so very easy, it also has so many facets and needs so much attention, release and presence, that we train it more than the hands-on work. We have been used to giving an immediate solution for problems to a client, and now he/she finds the way by his/her own. It is more solid and practicable, it is marvelous, and it is so obvious that presence nurtures.

The next retreat with Himayat in Germany is 3.-8.06.2005. We are very happy that Himayat does this long trip to Germany every year to train us and to help us to keep this work alive. Our whole group from all over Germany will meet January 15./16.01.2005, probably in Melle near Osnabrueck. This will be a meeting without a special trainer. In addition, two training groups will meet under the leadership of Sirkar Erdmann and Munira Johne. The first, which began last year, meets 11.-13.03.2005 in Bremen and 28.-30.10.2005 in Wuppertal. The second one has just started and meets 25.-27.02.2005 (Wuppertal), 26.-28.08.2005 (Bremen).

*Reported by Wahaba Bergemann,  
wahaba@web.de*

## HOLLAND

**We have an Interim Group** in Holland consisting of 4 persons, all leaders in the Raphaelite work: Arjuna Lange; Nuria Kousemaker, Zuleicha Zwaneveld, Saraswati Melles. This group originated during the training in the Raphaelite Work by Himayat in Belgium, which started in 1999 and ended in June, 2003.

We all practice the Raphaelite Work in our private practices in a one-to-one relation. Two of us were already Reiki-masters, and two are professional psychotherapists -- one psychiatrist and one psychologist. All four in this group are Sufi mureeds.

Our Interim Group started really practicing the work during our meetings January, 2003. We listen to the tapes of the workshops, gather all the practices and translate them into Dutch. We practice the different exercises and do the physical energywork. We speak about the practical issues concerning the ideas we have to start training groups. We are very happy with the curriculum we received. It will be of great help when we will start giving workshops ourselves.

We have planned to continue to train ourselves until the end of 2004 and to try to organize a first training group in the first half of 2005.

Some of the questions that we are working on at this time are: How will we select people? Can we find a juridical form to hold and support our organization? What will be the relationship between us as Raphaelite Workers and the Sufi Organisations that we belong to.?

It will be nice to meet some of you during the Leaders Training in May, 2005. Arjuna and I will be there.

With love, Saraswati Melles.  
*Reported by Saraswati Melles-Segaar  
melseg@planet.nl*

## CLEVELAND, OH

**The Ohio Raphaelite Group** -- sometimes referred to as the Cleveland Raphaelite Group -- began in an interesting way. Tajalli Leppla was at a Raphaelite training session at The Abode. She was thinking about asking Himayat Inayati to start a group in the Cleveland area when Himayat approached her with the same idea. However, Himayat intended to recruit someone other than

*Cleveland Group, cont. on Page 4*

*Cleveland Group, cont. from Page 3*

himself to conduct the Ohio work. Tajalli indicated her preference that Himayat would be the one to lead the new group, and Himayat agreed to do it. Our first meeting was in Tajalli's home. Himayat has faithfully held gatherings for us at six-month intervals since November 2001.

At our last gathering, we had 27 attendees. The group has been growing, albeit slowly. There are no graduates at this time other than Tajalli Leppla, who graduated from the training at The Abode, and no one as yet is working on their 40 healings. Tajalli practices the Raphaelite Work in the community-at-large, along with other healing modalities.

One means of presenting the Raphaelite Work to the larger community has been for participants to invite friends to the gatherings. In addition, Tajalli has presented introductory seminars at the Nakaia Wellness & Whole Life Center in Stow, Ohio, on several occasions. We would like to have seen faster growth in the group. Himayat originally planned to close it to new members after the third or fourth gathering, but it remains open. It is undoubtedly difficult for new members to catch up with all that we long-timers have been given.

Fortunately for all, especially newcomers, we have four Interim Groups scattered throughout the region. These typically meet once a month in someone's home and have proven their value to all who attend. Sometimes we have a homework assignment for the month – something that allows us to apply the Raphaelite principles in everyday life situations.

We attempted to start a local Raphaelite Work newsletter, but due to the small number of people in our group, we were not able to generate enough articles to put together an issue.

The spiritual bond that we enjoy leads us to have informal social gatherings such as potluck dinners, attending local lectures by spiritual leaders, and bicycle rides.

The strength of our group lies not in its size or its advancement in the work, but in the leadership we receive from both Himayat and Tajalli, and in the loving bond among its members. When I observe our group at a gathering, I see friends who know and care about each other, who manifest the results of choosing more life and more awakening, just as Himayat has taught us.

Our next gatherings are planned for Nov. 5-7, 2004 and March 18-20, 2005.

*Reported by David Bradshaw  
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## CARROLL COUNTY, MD

**We are a new group** meeting in a western suburb of Baltimore, and also accessible to Washington D.C. Our last weekend workshop was in July, 2004. We have eight members, one of whom was new in the July workshop. The teacher for our group is Richard Martin (Nur al Haqq). We have had 3 weekend trainings, so far, at quarterly intervals --in Jan, Apr., and July. Six people attended the first weekend, and since then at least five have attended all trainings, so we have a good nucleus.

I first learned about the Raphaelite Work by attending a brief "Introduction to Raphaelite Training" which Richard offered at no cost prior to the first training. While attending a Baltimore Sufi meeting I noticed a flyer announcing the Introduction and decided to attend. I spotted a one page flyer announcing it at a Baltimore Sufi meeting and attended.

We are bringing information about the Raphaelite Work to the larger community through such things as the flyer, as well as through personal contact by teacher and members. We have had an understanding that if we bring an interested party to a weekend, that first weekend is free. We have been meeting every three months, and at our last training we unanimously decided that we want the quarterly format to continue. My challenge is to remember more of previous trainings and have started keeping a notebook to try to get a little organized.

A striking feature of our group is that the type of bonding that is occurring seems unique. We each have differing experiences of, and reactions to, each diverse component in the trainings.

Because these individual differences have been nurtured and fostered, somehow our collective experience is enhanced and enriched in a sort of kaleidoscopic way. All kinds of connections are made. For my part, I felt my enthusiasm was waning about 3 weeks before our last training, but, in a chance meeting with various members, my enthusiasm surged. And they said the same thing. We started talking about the people and prior training components, and somehow much energy was ignited.

In order to foster contact among members, we made a list of email addresses at our first meeting. We are now in the process of developing an interim format to support our growth between the weekend trainings. The next training weekend for our group is October 23-24, 2004. This is fun.

*Reported by Aziz Matysiak,  
gm4343@msn.com*

## ASHEVILLE, NC

**The Asheville Raphaelite workshops** started around 1997 with a small group studying with Himayat. The current group that has been meeting since 2000 grew from this and currently has about 20 participants. The number fluctuates as new participants join the group and others decide this work isn't for them or life circumstances interfere. The participants come from Asheville, eastern North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Georgia. Our backgrounds are varied and include teachers, engineers, individuals working with some kind of healing modality, and business people. We meet twice a year and continue our work with interim small group meetings. These

*Asheville Group, cont. on Page 5*

## Raphaelite Leadership Institute

**Advanced Training & Focus Groups  
Asheville, NC – May 19-25, 2005**

**Mark your calendar now and plan to attend!**

**For more information, contact:  
healing@sufihealingorder.org**

small group meetings give us a chance to practice and help us to deepen our relationship with each other. They offer us an opportunity to talk about our concerns and fears, and to laugh at ourselves as we share our notes and sometimes wonder if we were in the same workshop.

Presently six people have begun their forty healings since our last workshop in the spring. Getting started seemed to be a hurdle for some of us. After sharing experiences with other participants I found that I wasn't the only one that started this work for personal development and healing. I know that I was very attracted to the work but couldn't see myself doing this with others. The thought of being a healer overwhelmed me and brought up a lot of fear and self-doubt. It was wonderful to find out I wasn't the only one, as it also came up for others in our interim group. By using breath, practicing presence, prayer, individual Raphaelite sessions and retreats we are learning to deal with whatever is getting in the way.

To help us keep in touch with our larger group, John Tal from Cary, North Carolina, has just initiated an on-line Raphaelite discussion group. This seems like a great way for sharing and connecting with our other participants more than twice a year. The next Raphaelite Workshop in Asheville will be on September 17-19, and we should have our first graduates in 2005.

*Reported by Yaqin Rankin  
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## TUCSON, AZ

**The Tucson, Arizona RW group** started with an introduction presented by Devi Tide in January, 2002. We had about 40 people in attendance and since then have had a core group of about 16. Devi's commitment to our small and intimate group is wonderful, and we all work very well together. Although right now we have no graduates, our first group will graduate in May, 2005. Then we will have at least a dozen people who will begin working on their 40 healings.

Earlier this year we held a tea to present the Raphaelite Work to the Tucson community, and gave an introduction. Growing this group continues to be one of the challenges.

The Raphaelite Work Retreat for this region is planned for November 11-14, 2004 at Rex Ranch ([www.rexranch.com](http://www.rexranch.com)). There is still room to attend this retreat, which will be led by Devi and will count as

the retreat requirement for RW certification. The next seminar is scheduled for April 29 - May 1, 2005, in Tucson, Az.

The key organizers for the Tucson group are Khanum Kardish and Hadia Kruck.

*Reported by Farishta Amundsen,  
angelnur2@yahoo.com*

## SEATTLE, WA

**The Raphaelite Work was birthed** about 12 years ago in Seattle. Some twenty Sufis and fellow travelers on the path were drawn to a workshop with Himayat, during which we practiced getting into the Big Heart and Hands-on Elemental sequences. Himayat said that he did not know where it would lead. And, from that introduction, we pledged, almost as knights, to be part of this pioneer study group for four years. Several members of the original group still attend the bi-annual 3-day workshops as the work continues to evolve. More than one hundred people have participated in the Seattle group over the years, and of this number, fourteen have graduated, three are certified in One-to-One Processing, two are certified RW Retreat Guides, and over twenty students are currently doing their 40 hands-on healings.

In the early years, friendships blossomed as we struggled with presence to physical discomforts, and also learned how to discern and be present to our respective emotional, mental, moral, and spiritual bodies. We engaged, along with Himayat, in an extended discussion and debate over the use of touch in the healing process, as it had not been a part of spiritual healing either in the Sufi Order or in the Sufi Healing Order up until that time. We bonded as we gathered in a retreat center in the foothills east of Seattle; parents in the group organized to provide activities for their children; and later we enjoyed a retreat – this time without children – at a center created out of cooperation between Christians and Jews. We met at various members' houses for several years, and in recent years we have been fortunate to meet at The Universel in Bothell, Washington.

As our personal process deepened and we ventured into core issues, there arose a demand for more support in this work. One-to-One Processing sessions and more

Raphaelite Retreat guides came as an answer to this need.

Our Interim Groups, required by Himayat, also are a big support in nurturing this work and fostering community. Devi Tide originally led the Seattle Interim Group, and in time she successfully passed along that opportunity to Study Groups whose members would take turns reviewing selected points of the RW. Seattle currently has a peer-led Interim Group, which has existed for several years. Six of the original members of the Seattle group met in Portland as a peer-led group for the first year. Jalil Buechel then began offering evening Introductions and 8-week Intensives to expand the group, which has evolved into a strong Interim Group which he and Ariana have led for several years. Last spring, Hayyat and Wahhab Dohrmann began an Interim group in Corvallis, Oregon, as well.

The Seattle Raphaelite Group, as this Northwest group is called, publishes a newsletter for its active mailing list, which now has about 100 names, and makes this list available to members in order to promote communication. The wonderful energy of this group is characterized by openness, loving support of members going through challenging times, warmth, and humor.

*Reported by Ariana Buechel  
arianna@teleport.com*

## BUFFALO, NY

**My husband Phil and I** and our neighbor, Rabia Fournier, have hosted a Raphaelite Work training group in our home for the past four years under the guidance of Devi Tide. Devi and two assistants who are Raphaelite practitioners, Khabira Hull and Michael Young, usually come early to do individual healing sessions. Out of 43 people who have attended at least one seminar, 23 remain involved. Of these, 21 have done at least one individual Raphaelite retreat, 19 are working on their 40 Healings, and 2 have just completed this requirement. Many of us expect to have completed the requirements for certification by next spring when we have our final session in this series, training in One-to-One Processing (April 9-10).

Most of us come from three geographic areas: Buffalo, Rochester, and Brampton Ontario, and so are able to easily meet with each other between sessions. Some have farther to travel:

*Buffalo Group, cont. on Page 6*

## Raphaelite Work CD

Many students and graduates have purchased the CD-ROM entitled *The Raphaelite Work: A Training Manual* and have spoken enthusiastically of its value to their development in the Raphaelite Work. The CD is being sold at \$49.95 to benefit the work of The Sufi Healing Order.

To order, contact The Sufi Healing Order and request the "Student Copy". A "Public Copy" is also available for non-students.

healing@sufihealingorder.org  
828.683.1219

### *Buffalo Group, cont. from Page 5*

Massachusetts, Ottawa, Kingston, and Ohio. Our group has included a medical doctor, a psychiatrist, a chiropractor, a hospice worker, psychologists and social workers, speech and occupational therapists, nurses, teachers, retirees, ministers, body workers, students, computer specialists, free spirits, and one new mother of twin boys, named Seraphin and Raphael. We have rejoiced at these births and also with the recovery of two of our members from cancer. And we have grieved for two who have passed on: Dilwara Latimer and Janine Maine. The strong sense of spiritual community that exists in our group has held us in these transitions.

Our journey together has been enriched by basically living together during the seminars, with many staying in our home. With most meals potluck, we feed each other delicious food and all help with clean-up. I

attribute the richness and ease of this process to the healing presence generated by our work together. The intensity of sharing space also at times brings up issues that activate our compensatory and reactive structures for acknowledgment, providing ready material for the healing work. Our training now includes very rich and open discussion as a whole group. We continually witness and marvel at the profound transformation in each other.

Some of us plan to continue with other modules of training in the Sufi Healing Order. We are currently planning to continue in our established rhythm and location and to invite new people for training in the Healing Ministry and training of Healing Conductors. A few of us are pursuing retreat guide training and further training in One-to-One Processing.

*Reported by Noor Nicolai  
nicolai@buffnet.net*

### *Shahida, continued from Page 1*

personal and professional experience with the Raphaelite Work, we are offered innumerable opportunities for original work in deepening our understanding of Raphaelite Work concepts, besides what has been offered to us by Himayat. And the *Raphaelite Reader* is one avenue we can use for practitioners to share our deepening understanding of this work.

Others are teaching the Raphaelite Work, in addition to Himayat. Devi Tide (USA), Jalil Beuchel (USA), Mahdiah Jacobs Kahn (USA), Ramana Smallen (USA), Munira Sabine Johnne (Germany), Sirkar Erdmann (Germany), and Nur-al-Haqq Martin (USA) have been facilitating RW large groups around the states and in Europe. There are also practitioners who have been using the Raphaelite Work in their professional practices: Saraswati Melles-Segaar in psychotherapy in Holland, Waliyah Grandison in homeopathy practice, Nur-al-Haqq Martin in Shiatsu practice, Salima Asmann in massage, and Shahida Whitney in spiritual formation work.

Himayat will be leaving his post as world-wide Kefayat in the Sufi Healing Order in June 1, 2005. Still a part of the Sufi Healing Order, Himayat will continue in his role as the international head of the Raphaelite Work. He is dedicating himself to developing his new work to further the Message.

My role as Raphaelite Work coordinator is to serve and nurture the Raphaelite Work, its students and practitioners. I hope that those in Europe and the United States will communicate with me about your needs, desires, questions, and visions for this beautiful work that brings us together. You'll find my contact information below. I'd love to hear from you!

In service,  
Shahida  
Light of the Mountains  
angelawhitney@mindspring.com; 828.683.9068

### A Personal Note From Shahida:

*Since I am at home while Himayat travels to teach and do SHO business, I am not well known to many of you. It's important that you know more about me, to assist you in the developing Raphaelite Work.*

*I am a mother of three, wife of Himayat, and keeper of the hearth here at Light of the Mountains. Our daughter Noor is doing community work in Boston, Alia is starting college in Cambridge, and 11-year-old Aiden, here at home, is an athlete, author, mathematician, and a funny, quiet guy.*

*For almost 10 years, I have had a wellness practice in Asheville doing polarity and Raphaelite Work, supporting people in healing, spiritual formation, and transformation. As a family nurse practitioner, I work in the community doing health promotion with our Asheville regional health system by taking the CareVan, a mobile exam unit, around to neighborhoods for health screening and education; and by being a health care provider in a middle school student health center. At Light of the Mountains, I offer personal retreats and One-to-One phone sessions. Himayat has asked me to coordinate the Raphaelite Work internationally to bring greater communication, collaboration, and integrity to our overall effort. In the Sufi Healing Order, in addition to being a Shefayat coordinating the Raphaelite Work internationally, I'm working with Devi on the curriculum for the Sufi Healing Order members and healing conductor training. In the Sufi Order, I am a spiritual guide.*

*The longest-lived thread throughout all my work is a passion for finding the ember that yet burns in the heart, blowing on it, making it burn more brightly, so that the work of life develops. I trust in "unfoldment" through guiding intelligence, and use "unfoldment" to allow the present to orient, inform, and guide. This is in alignment with the Raphaelite Work's presence to the process of Divine self-revelation. I am honored to work for the development of the Raphaelite Work. Let us all work together to allow our own blossoming through the Raphaelite Work, and it to blossom, in turn, through us. Again, I invite each of you to contact me with your questions, needs, and desires related to the Raphaelite Work.*

## FROM THE EDITORS

Hayyat & Wahhab Dohrmann

A very warm welcome is extended to all of you who have received this, the first issue of the *Raphaelite Reader*. Its conception and birthing have been an extraordinary experience for us, and it is our hope that you will all find in its contents items which will inspire, teach, inform and interest you as you pursue your study and practice of the Raphaelite Work.

Before we continue with the *Reader's* gestational history, we wish to give our heartfelt thanks to Shahida Angela Whitney, who has worked so closely with us on this project, for her trust, creative suggestions and unwavering support during the entire process. We are also indebted to all of our regional reporters, both in Europe and here in the states, for sending in their articles and helping us to update our contact information for their groups. And finally, our gratitude to Himayat, Shahida and Azar Baksh for their contributions of the articles in this issue.

Although the idea of having a national Raphaelite newsletter has been “out there” for some time, the concept became a reality during discussions held last May at the joint Sufi Healing Order and Raphaelite Work Leadership Camp in Asheville. Many of those in attendance at this gathering expressed an interest in finding ways of keeping lines of communication open among those engaged in the study and practice of the RW. We were already publishing a local newsletter for the Northwest Raphaelite Work group, so we volunteered to expand that concept and formulate such a vehicle for the whole RW network. Shahida offered to guide and support the effort ... and so, here it is!

We began our process with a Statement of Purpose for the *Raphaelite Reader*:

**The National Raphaelite Work Newsletter is created by and for graduates, teachers and students of the Raphaelite Work. Its purpose is:**

- to deepen our understanding of the RW through articles and inspiration.
- to elevate the effectiveness of our practice of the RW through guidance from our teachers and sharing from co-workers.
- to enhance our sense of community by providing opportunities for networking.
- to inform the RW community of events, policies and other news of interest.

During the months that it has taken to conceive, format, collect content and edit, we have been both blessed and challenged. First, we are ever more aware of the great treasure that Himayat has given us in the Raphaelite Work itself, and in his tireless efforts to bring its ever-evolving essence to so many groups. It has also been most exciting and interesting to “meet” and share information with the reporters for each of these groups. Their reports have given us a new appreciation for the many creative ways in which groups are working with each other and with their respective teachers to deepen and refine their study of the RW.

With many thanks to Mikail Davenport, this and future issues will be archived at the SHO web site. Publishing the newsletter electronically may create some difficulties for those who are not online, or for whom we lack contact information, so please bear with us as we iron out these and other “wrinkles” related to its distribution. While we would like to mail hardcopies to those who do not have email, the cost is prohibitive, so we are taking advantage of the opportunities afforded by the internet. We encourage you to work on ways to facilitate distribution among all members of your local groups, and ask that you share with us your ideas and solutions in this regard.

Our vision for the *RR* is that each of you will be so inspired by what you read here that you will wish to contribute suggestions, comments, articles and news for future issues, so that the *Reader* will grow in vitality and relevance to the work we are all doing. The next issue, due out in March, 2005, will include an article by Devi Tide on the subject of ministry and its relationship to the Raphaelite Work, more on One-to-One Processing, reports from groups not included in this issue, and information that will deepen your connection with and understanding of this wonderful process called the Raphaelite Work.

### ABOUT THE EDITORS

*For those of you who don't know who we are, which is most of you, we offer this brief introductory sketch:*

*We live on a peaceful acre of land outside of Corvallis, Oregon, where we try to keep up with the challenges of gardening in a climate that supports abundant growth of all kinds—from gorgeous flowers, produce and trees, to weeds, slugs and other assorted pests. We are parents to four adult children and four exceptional grandchildren, none of whom lives in Corvallis at this time, although two daughters who live in Portland are not far away.*

*We maintain a holistic healing practice in our home, combining energywork, breathwork, and counseling in a balanced way to support clients in their growth and transformation. Our RW training began three years ago, after we were inspired by attending a retreat with Himayat at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico. The training has greatly strengthened and deepened our abilities to “allow” and “be present” to ourselves and to our clients. As members of the Seattle training group, each of us has just finished our forty healings, and we hope to be certified to practice soon. In addition to attending the Portland interim group, we have just recently begun a peer-led group here in Corvallis.*

*Our other Healing Order activities include conducting Absent Healing Services weekly, and being active members of the NW Regional Executive Council. As Representatives and Cherags in the Sufi Order, we offer regular Universal Worship services and Mureeds classes.*

comprehensive awareness and understanding of some of the more subtle operational pieces involved. For example, we now understand that we can have a very clear, very definite experience of our historical self/adaptive ego within the physical, mental, emotional and moral bodies. This experience is developed as we become aware of non-allowing, rigidity within any or all of these bodies. Furthermore we now understand that these reactive and compensatory structures not only defend us against perceived threats from the outer world but also against perceived threats from the inner world. These include defending us against outer structures which have been internalized (i.e. values, superego, etc.) and, perhaps even more surprising to us, from our *haqq* and its manifold manifestations of essential qualities. We have observed that it is not always easy to allow manifestations of our *haqq* a true place in our life. We have observed individuals struggling against allowing qualities of being an accommodation within the general structure of self identification. I have called this the Noah Principle: refusal of the Divine Gift.

Another area where our understanding has become more clarified addresses how we have understood the True Ego. On the one hand we have understood that as more space is developed within an aspect of the ego, the ego becomes suppler, more subtle, more transparent, more capable of allowing, and more understanding of essential qualities of being. On the other hand we have consistently oriented the student to become aware of that identity which can be discovered in the domain of the heart: that identity which, contrary to the historical identity, has no sense of either birth or death, that identity which is rooted in a vaster ground of being. And we have practiced operating within the world of time-space with eyes open, from the perspective of this identity. We have understood this experience of being in the boundless place of the heart and fully operating within the context of time-space continuum to be as Rumi noted "in the world but not of it." Nevertheless, we have yet to clearly identify this sense of self as the True Ego. Nor have we carefully considered how this True Ego operates in either the outer or inner world.

In his book *The Man of Light in Iranian Sufism* (pp. 121-144), Henry Corbin discusses in brief the teaching of a remarkable man, Alaodawleh Semnani (1336). There are many fascinating esoteric subjects lightly touched upon in this article, entitled "The Seven Prophets of Your Being". The one that attends to the discussion in the Raphaelite Work about the transference from the historical ego to the True Ego is the *rare Mohammadan Pearl*. Shaykh Semnani notes that the embryo of the True Ego is conceived in the *qalb* (left breast latifa), which he calls the Abraham of your being. This embryo then circulates through the solar plexus (Moses), the right breast (David), the third eye (Jesus), and then manifests with full maturation in the heart center behind the sternum as the rare Mohammadan Pearl, or the True Ego. Shaykh Semnani goes on to give us keys to interpreting the esoteric meaning of the Quran, particularly as it addresses this issue of ego development. For example, he connects the various lataif/prophetic aspects of being with the Quranic Suras that discuss specific prophets. Therefore, when Moses (solar plexus) is having a discussion with Pharoah (who represents the nafs al ammara) we are discussing a story around purification of will.

In my next paper I will examine the relationship between the historical self, the True Ego, and spiritual realization.

## THE RAPHAELITE FORUM

**We are proud to announce** the Raphaelite Forum, where Raphaelite Work graduates, practitioners and students in the US and Europe can tune in to, and contribute to, an ongoing email discussion of Raphaelite ideas and issues. The on-line forum will offer the RW community opportunity to discuss topics with colleagues around the world whom they would not ordinarily encounter. Not only will the forum be a channel for the RW secretariat to communicate time-sensitive news of developments and plans to our Raphaelite community, but others may make Raphaelite-related announcements also. In addition to discussion of RW ideas and issues, at some future time we will most likely offer Raphaelite teaching in the form of on-line classes.

In case this idea is new to you, here's how it works. When you "subscribe" (which one does by just sending an "empty" email to the address below), all the emails from this forum are sent to you at your email address, in "real time" as they are sent by those writing to the Forum. When you reply to any of the emails, your response is sent to all on the Forum. You can benefit by "listening" to the conversation, and you can also respond to add to the conversation, and then get feedback from the group. It is a wonderful way to become better acquainted with each other and with the Raphaelite Work!

All RW graduates and students may subscribe to this forum. Please see the instructions below on how to do so. This forum is hosted by Ramana Smallen (contact info below). Please contact him with questions or suggestions. See you on the Raphaelite Forum!

- **To subscribe to The Raphaelite Forum**, send mail to: [raphaelite-subscribe@sufihealingorder.org](mailto:raphaelite-subscribe@sufihealingorder.org)
- **If you experience problems**, send mail to: [ramana3@verizon.net](mailto:ramana3@verizon.net)

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### *Tribute to Sharifa Buckley*

*By Jalil Buechel*

*When you find a friend  
who presses upon you  
hold them close and be with them.*

*If their pressing  
appears to cause you pain  
hold them closer and be ever more attentive.*

*Their pressing upon you  
is the flower pulled from the seed.*

*Their pressing upon you  
is the butterfly pulled from the worm.*

*Their pressing upon you  
is an understanding pulled from the vastness  
and made Real.*

*Their pressing upon you  
is the Beloved's pull  
upon the Real in you.*

# THE ARCHANGEL RAPHAEL

*Curious about how the connection was made with Raphael, many have asked Himayat, "Would you tell us how you came to name the Raphaelite Work and something about your relationship with Raphael?" This is his response.*

"When Pir Vilayat initiated me in 1979 as Kefayat of the Sufi Healing Order, he stated: 'In the name of the God, in the name of the Holy Spirit, in the name of the archangel Raphael, in the name of the Messiah...' Later, when I considered the over-all organization of our effort, I decided that I needed to attune to a being of greater light than myself. I chose the archangel Raphael because an archangel is a composition of all the angelic beings, all the beings of light that are related to a specific divine function.

"The archangel Raphael has three functions that I am aware of. One is organizing healing at all levels of life. The second function is that he is the archangel of science. And the third function – which is told in the Catholic Bible, in the Old Testament *Book of Tobit*, a book four pages long – is that Raphael is the companion of the traveler who is seeking wholeness and healing. He is Tobias' companion, and he doesn't really intervene so much as he facilitates a discussion and gives some orientation about how best to deal with Tobias' basic issues, which are the healing of his father, who has an incurable mortal disease, and also the de-possessing of his betrothed of the demon who has killed all of her fiancés up until him. Lucky for Tobias, he was able to do both, with the help of Raphael.

"I started the Raphaelite Institute back in 1983, and then handed that over to someone else, and realized soon after that, that if a person doesn't have the basic vision it is hard to for him or her to lead. I went on with guiding the Sufi Healing Order, and then, when I started what became the Raphaelite Work, I still felt that very strong resonance to Raphael and realized that, as the work began to take on integrity of its own, it was best to give it a name. Besides, people had already started calling it different things. I decided to name it in honor of the archangel, as an indication of its essential function."



**THE RAPHAELITE WORK** derives its name from one of the seven chief angels, the archangel Raphael, whose name means means "God has healed". Raphael's charge is to heal the earth, and especially to protect the young, the innocent, and travelers. He is the regent of the sun, Patron of Travelers, Chief of the Order of Virtues and Overseer of the evening winds; the angel of prayer, love, joy, providence, healing, light, science, and

knowledge; associated with rebirth and the season of spring. But above all, Raphael is the angel of healing.

The association of Raphael with healing may be derived from a story in the apocryphal *Book of Enoch* which claims that he healed the earth when it was defiled by the sins of the fallen angels. Elsewhere in the same book, Raphael is declared to be "one of the watchers", a guide in Sheol (the Judaic underworld), and "one of the 4 presences, set over all the diseases and all the wounds of the children of men." According to the *Talmud*, he is one of the three angels who healed Abraham of the pain of his circumcision. Another, most interesting story about Raphael's relationship with Tobias is described briefly by Himayat in the inset at left, and can be found in the Old Testament Apocrypha.

A legend taken from *The Testament of Solomon* says that when Solomon prayed to God for help in the building of a temple, the answer was given in the form of a magic ring, personally delivered to Solomon by Raphael. The ring, engraved with the pentalpha (5-pointed star), had the power to subdue all demons. Thus, it is said, that it was with the "slave labor" of demons that Solomon was able to complete the building of the temple. It was also Raphael who gave Noah, after the flood, a medical book said to have been the famous *Book of the Angel Raziel*. Raphael rules over Mercury, Wednesday and Saturday. He is the governor of the South and the element of Fire. He is often shown carrying a pilgrim's staff. In the Catholic Church, the Feast of St. Raphael is October 24.

*Editors' Note: We found this information in A Dictionary of Angels (Gustav Davidson), various web sites and miscellaneous sources.*

## RAPHAELITE WORK CALENDAR

Includes all RW training events which have been scheduled through 2005.  
Some events later in the year are awaiting confirmation and will be included in the next issue.

Location	Dates	Leader	Registration & Information
<b>MAY INSTITUTE Asheville, NC</b>	May 19-25, 2005	RW Leadership	Sufi Healing Order - 828.683.1219 healing@sufihealingorder.org
<b>The Abode New Lebanon, NY</b>	Nov 5-7, 2004	Devi Tide	Karima Gebel - 413.238.5887 kagebel@earthlink.net
<b>Asheville, NC</b>	March 4-6, 2005 Sept 23-25, 2005	Himayat Inayati	Sufi Healing Order - 828.683.1219 healing@sufihealingorder.org
<b>Austin, TX</b>	Feb 18-20, 2005 May 13-15, 2005 Oct 7-9, 2005	Himayat Inayati	Sufi Healing Order - 828.683.1219 healing@sufihealingorder.org
<b>Buffalo, NY</b>	April 9-10, 2005	Devi Tide	Noor Nicolai - 718.883.1275 nicolai@buffnet.net
<b>Carroll County, MD</b>	Oct 23-24, 2004 Jan 8-9, Apr 16-17, July 16-17, Oct 15-16, 2005	Nur-al-Haqq Martin	Aziz George Matsyiak - gm4343@msn.com
<b>Chicago, IL</b>	To be announced	Nur-al-Haqq Martin	Nur-al-Haqq Martin - 410.922.2606 yanur@yahoo.com
<b>Cleveland, OH</b>	November 5-7, 2004 March 18-20, 2005	Himayat Inayati	Sufi Healing Order - 828.683.1219 healing@sufihealingorder.org
<b>Germany (Eldagsen)</b>	June 3-8, 2005	Himayat Inayati	Munira Johne - 0421 77293 sabine.johne@nwn.de
<b>Lawrence, KS</b>	Oct 14-16, 2005	Himayat	Sufi Healing Order - 828.683.1219 healing@sufihealingorder.org
<b>New York City</b>	Oct 22-24, 2004 March 18-20, 2005 June 10-12, 2005	Mahdiah Jacobs-Khan	Majida Gowins - 914.963.9612 majida@optonline.net
<b>Sarasota, FL</b>	Dec 3-5, 2004 April 15-17, 2005 Dec 2-4, 2005	Himayat Inayati	Sufi Healing Order - 828.683.1219 healing@sufihealingorder.org
<b>Seattle, WA</b>	April 1-3, 2005 September 9-11, 2005	Himayat Inayati	Sufi Healing Order - 828.683.1219 healing@sufihealingorder.org
<b>Tucson, AZ</b>	Nov 11-14, 2004 April 29- May 1, 2005	Devi Tide	Khanum Kardish - 520.887.5916 kardish@comcast.net
<b>Washington, DC</b>	Oct 29-31, 2004	Devi Tide	Ramana Smallen - 301.330.1934 ramana@mindspring.com

The Raphaelite Reader is published by and for the Raphaelite Work community in the United States and Europe. This issue was published by Hayyat and Wahhab Dohrmann, with invaluable assistance and guidance from Shahida Angela Whitney. Thanks to all contributors and to those who sent information and database updates, and apologies for any errors or omissions. *The Raphaelite Reader* is meant to be a vehicle for interactive communication, so we welcome your participation. The next issue will be published in March, 2005, with deadline for submission Feb. 10, 2005. Content must be directly related to some aspect of the Raphaelite work. Please send articles, group reports, announcements, and changes in your personal contact information to:

Hayyat & Wahhab Dohrmann: 541.753.0926 ~ starlight@proaxis.com