

## Ziraat Council for North America and Oceania ( from June 2024 )



**Jamia Haqq Eila Paul (NZ)**  
**Dar-us-Salam (Co Vice President)**

Jamia Haqq of Tainui descent has been walking a spiritual path all her life. Introduced to the Inayatiyya in 1997 she was soon initiated by the late Murshida Halima McEwan at the Sharda Centre, Aotearoa/New Zealand. Through her Maori heritage, having a strong connection with nature drew her to the Inayatiyya's annual Summer Camp in Switzerland in 2002, where she was initiated into Ziraat by Pir Zia.

She is an Experienced Farmer (Ziraat Aotearoa), Representative, Shafiyat, Knight of Purity, Cherag (Marriage Celebrant), travels with the Grandmothers.

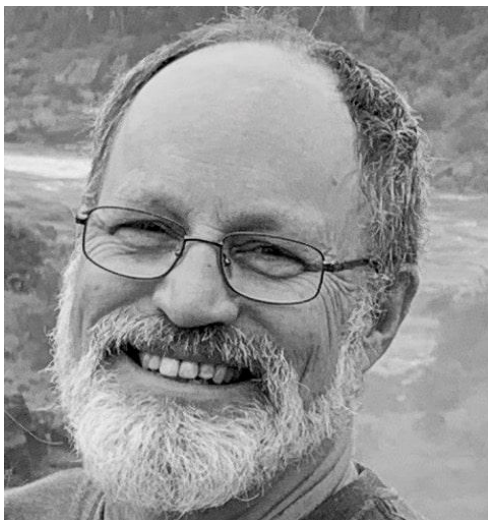
She has held a monthly lodge on zoom, for 4 yrs.



**Nehmat Bev Kyan (Aust)**  
**Dar-us-Salam (Co Vice President)**

Nehmat has been connected with the Sufi path for over 20 years. She discovered Ziraat while living at the Abode as a Kidmat volunteer assisting with the Healing Office administration and subsequently served on the board of the Healing Activity for many years. She is a graduate of the Alif and Na-koja-abad Suluk classes and leads the Ziraat Activity in Australia. She was initiated as an Experienced Farmer by Pir Zia in 2022.

Now retired, her professional life included a variety of education, administration, finance and IT roles. She lives on the East Coast, a little north of Sydney, and brings the Oceania Ziraat family and friends together regularly for a Lodge by zoom.



**Wali David Via**  
**(Emeritus Vice President)**

Wali has been following the Sufi path since 1978 and serves a number of roles within the Inayatiyya. He held the position of Vice President of Ziraat in North America and Oceania from 2021 to 2024 and continues as an active participant on the Ziraat Council.

Wali has spent his adult life farming organically and biodynamically at a commercial scale. He is now retired from farming, though the farm continues on in good hands ([wintergreenfarm.com](http://wintergreenfarm.com)). He spends as much time as he can in the wilderness, hiking, backpacking, climbing mountains, and kayaking, and playing with his grandchildren.

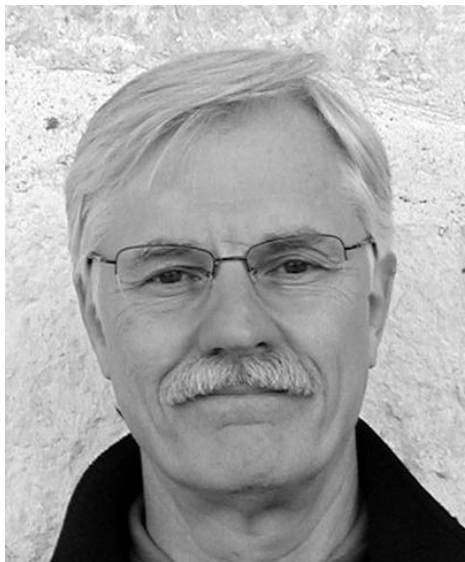
Wali is dedicated to providing opportunities for people to deepen their spiritual lives including their relationship with the natural world to foster the Earth's healing.



**Aziza Charlotte Barker-Stanton**

Aziza has been involved with the Sufi path since taking bayat in the Healing Order with Himayat Inayati in 1980, with Pir Vilayat Khan in 1982, and with Shahabuddin Less her longtime guide. A grateful graduate of the Andalib Suluk class of 2009-2011 Aziza holds the concentration of the Message as Inayatiyya North America Midsouth Regional Representative, Inner School Retreat Guide, Ziraat Farmer, Knight of Purity, Healing Conductor and is in the 2023-2025 Healing Retreat Guide Training. Aziza has been serving on the Ziraat Council for more than

Aziza lives with her partner of 25 years in the lands of the Lipan Apaches and Mayans in the Rio Grande Valley on the US/ Mexican Gulf Coast. She has a healing practice at her center Laguna Madre Yoga, Meditation and Dance Center on South Padre Island.



**Ata'allah Bill Meacham**

Ata'allah has been for many years a practitioner of meditation, yoga, chanting, Sufi Dances of Universal Peace and other spiritual disciplines. He credits those pursuits, along with emotional healing through Re-Evaluation Counseling, good diet, good exercise and a positive outlook on life with his continuing good health. He finds great inspiration in the Ziraat ceremony and in spending time in nature.

He is an independent scholar in philosophy and the author of the books *How To Be An Excellent Human* and *How to Exert Free Will* as well as numerous essays on philosophical topics as applied to everyday life.

His work is available on his website,  
<https://bmeacham.com>.



**Saraswati Andrea Burke**

Saraswati Andrea Burke has followed the Sufi path since first attending the Dances of Universal Peace in 1984. She took bayat with Pir Vilayat in 1986 and is grateful to have received guidance from leaders in both the Ruhaniat and Inayatiyya Sufi Orders. Murshid Wali Meyer has been her teacher in the Ruhaniat and Khalifa Kalama Reuter her Dance mentor. Devi Tide is her guide in the Inner School of the Inayatiyya tariqa and as a member of the Suluk Global Online class called Na-Koja-Abad. Saraswati is a Ziraat Farmer, a certified leader for the Dances of Universal Peace and a Cherag.

Saraswati lives with her husband, Junaid, on the Southern Oregon Coast. They have three children and one grandchild. Saraswati has served children and educators as a Teacher-Librarian and Information Technology Specialist. She is a yoga Instructor for children, a school garden coordinator, and steward of bees and native plants.



**Zebunissa Paméla Overeynder**

Zebunissa Paméla is a long-time Murid, initiated by Shahabuddin David Less in 1992. She currently serves as a Representative, Retreat Guide, Knight of Purity, Cherag and Farmer in the Ziraat Activity.

Decades of spiritual training and sangha leadership as a member of Thich Nhat Hahn's Order of Interbeing, and as a Sufi spiritual guide, meditation teacher and nature-based retreat guide has been the ground upon which all her understandings of the living world arise and are continuously nourished. The fruits of a nature-based spiritual practice, including the capacity for deep listening, respect, presencing, sympathetic resonance, and loving compassion for Earth are the basis of an intimate relationship with the living world.

She's passionate about being of service to the Earth and the human and more-than-human beings who are our kin and, on whose existence our own lives are grounded. She is also an author with a new book: *Sacred Kinship: Hearing the Call of the Earth* to be published in the fall of 2024.



**Widad Sabina Cox** – currently on leave

Widad is a teacher and guide in the Inayatiyya. She was first initiated in 1998 by Pir Vilayat and Pir Zia. Widad graduated from Suluk Academy's, Shama class in 2014. Following the Spirit of Guidance, her life rearranged itself to be able to live with a herd of horses, sent by Murshid, now known as The Herd of Light.

For the past 7 years, Widad and the Herd of Light have been offering Weekly Animal and Nature Assisted Awakening Gatherings via zoom, with kindreds from around the world tuning in and co-creating a sacred field of Alchemy. During these weekly gatherings, transmissions flow through from the Heart of Nature Consciousness, infused with frequencies intended to catalyze the awakening of the Human Consciousness.