



Join

PIR ELIAS AMIDON

in Walton, Oregon, for a Labor Day Weekend Retreat on

Love and Nonduality

PRACTICES OF THE AWAKENED HEART

August 31 – September 3, 2018

The Eugene Sufi Council is pleased to announce a Labor Day weekend retreat with Pir Elias Amidon, spiritual director of the Sufi Way. The retreat will be held at Big Bear Camp Retreat Center, a beautiful and rustic gathering place in the Coast Range near Eugene, Oregon. This retreat will be a wonderful opportunity to deepen and celebrate our awakened hearts in the midst of nature's beauty. All are welcome.

Pir Elias is well known for his books and teachings on nonduality, based in the tradition of universal Sufism, and for his direct and experiential approach to spiritual realization.

In many contemporary teachings of nonduality, the subject of love is considered to be dualistic and conditional. In this retreat we will turn that view inside-out and experience directly the essence of Being as a loving essence.

Most succinctly, the retreat's focus will be on deepening our capacity to love and on using that capacity for the well being of all. Pir Elias will guide us in ways we may experience both the cosmic, unconditional nature of love and its intimate presence and healing power in our lives.

Although there will be some sessions of talk and discussion, the retreat will be primarily experiential. We will learn Sufi practices for receiving and intensifying the stream of love through our hearts, including guided meditations, musical meditations (*zikr*), body prayers, dance (*nirtan*), poetry (*alankara*), nature meditations, and the four fountains of the awakened heart: *awe, intimacy, praise, and gratitude*.



Logistics

Big Bear Camp Retreat Center is located near Walton, Oregon, about 30 miles west of Eugene. The camp is an adventurous, off-the-grid, solar-powered facility. Accommodations are for the most part shared spaces in yurts and the main house. You may also bring a camper or your own tent. Detailed information may be found at www.bigbearcamp.org. Upon registration you will also receive information about accommodation details and what to bring. The retreat will begin with dinner at 6:00 PM on Friday, August 31, and conclude after lunch on Monday, September 3. Vegetarian and gluten-free options will be available at all meals. The cost for the retreat includes tuition, all meals, and simple accommodations (no available electricity), or camping spaces for residential participants (see <https://bigbearcamp.org/>).

Cost and Registration

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT REGISTRATION (by July 15): \$375 for residential participants and **\$335** for non-residential participants. A deposit of \$100 is due with your registration. **Balances are due August 1.**

FULL REGISTRATION (after July 15): \$410 for residential participants and **\$350** for non-residential participants. A deposit of \$100 is due with your registration. Balances are due August 15. If you register after August 15, full payment is expected prior to or upon check-in on Friday, August 31.

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABILITY: Partial scholarships might be available after August 15th. Please inform the registrar when making the \$100 deposit that you wish to be placed on the scholarship wait list.

SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS: Donations to be used for scholarships are welcome. Please let the registrar know if you would like to make a donation.

CANCELLATION POLICY: A minimum number of participants is required to ensure the success of this retreat. Although unlikely, the retreat will be cancelled August 15 if there are not sufficient registrations, in which case you will be notified and payments will be returned. If you cancel by August 15 and a replacement registration can be found, your payment will be refunded minus a \$50 administration fee. No refunds for cancellations after August 15.

TO REGISTER: Send an email to the registrar, Malika, at awakenedheartretreat@gmail.com or call her at (541) 359-7772, indicating you would like to register for the retreat. Deposits and balance payments can be made online at www.eugenesufi.org. If you wish to pay by check, let Malika know by email or phone. She will also be able to answer any questions you might have about the retreat.

Pir Elias Amidon is the spiritual director of the Sufi Way (www.sufiway.org), a contemporary and non-sectarian inner school in the lineage of Sufi Inayat Khan. He has also studied with Qadiri Sufis in Morocco, Theravaden Buddhist teachers in Thailand, Native American teachers of the Assemblies of the Morning Star, Christian monks in Syria, Zen teachers of the White Plum Sangha, and contemporary teachers in the Dzogchen tradition. Pir Elias is the author of the books *The Open Path – Recognizing Nondual Awareness*, and *Free Medicine – Meditations on Nondual Awakening*, and co-editor of *Earth Prayers*, *Life Prayers*, and *Prayers for a Thousand Years*. He has worked for many years in the fields of peace and environmental activism in the Middle East and Southeast Asia, and with indigenous tribes in Thailand and Burma on issues of cultural continuity and land rights.