

# COMMUNITIES

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## 'Rumi Returning' to be shown Friday

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SOUNDERTON — No matter what our creed, our race, our belief — we are all one together.

We belong to the universal.

That is the philosophy promoted by Rumi, the 13th Century poet, theologian and mystic, considered to be the most popular poet in the United States today.

He promoted Sufism, an inner, mystical dimension of Islam that believes in the reparation of the heart and turning it away from all else by God: not one thing defies Him and all we do is motivated for the love of Him.

Cynthia Lukas and Kell Kearns told the biography of Rumi in their 2007 documentary called "Rumi Returning: The Triumph of Divine Passion." It was picked

up for broadcast on PBS in September 2008 and has been shown in more than 330 PBS stations across the nation.

It will also be shown at a special viewing at Generations of Indian Valley Oct. 23, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Lukas and Kearns will be in attendance and lead an interactive discussion on Rumi. Oasis Restaurant in Lansdale will offer Mediterranean and Middle Eastern fare, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The cost is \$40 a person and includes dinner.

"The message of 'Rumi Returning' is all about brotherly and sisterly love, in the sense that Rumi believed in tolerance of people of all faiths, and universal love and peace among all peoples," said Lukas, co-producer and writer for a nonprofit documentary

media organization based in Santa Fe, N.M. "The climax of our film is a poem that reads along the lines of, 'I am neither Christian nor Jew, neither Zoroastrian nor Muslim, I am not from east or west, not from land or sea ... I belong to the universal.' His message throughout all his poetry is of interfaith unity and respect for all no matter where they come from, where they are going, and who they are."

Kearns said the Rumi mysticism has become a powerful force in the world.

"There just seems to be a hunger among people, almost a step of conscious evolution," Kearns said, co-producer with Heaven on Earth Creations and director of the film. "People are tired of the conflict that surrounds different religions, and here is this voice from hundreds of years ago that has it all to-

gether."

After the documentary premiered on PBS stations, Heaven on Earth Creations was inundated with phone calls about questions of Rumi's life.

One of the areas in the country that resulted in a lot of calls was the Philadelphia area.

"Philadelphia was always a receptive audience," Lukas said. "Maybe that's because it's the City of Brotherly Love."

Lukas and Kearns wanted to bring the film to the Philadelphia area. Fortunately, Ella Roush, of Roush Associates, contacted them, and all three helped organize the Oct. 23 event.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, or UNESCO, had pronounced 2007 as the International Year of Rumi.

"When they did that, we knew something was going on here about Rumi being a unique voice to speak to so many people," Lukas said. "He's a way of being a bridge between the East and West at a time when the West has been troubled by the face of Islam. He was saying the opposite of what people in the West generally think of Islam."

Rumi, Lukas said, educated the West about Islam and inspired the East about Sufism.

"It's to live life united with the divine," she said. "This is the way Rumi lived his life. At his school in Konya, Turkey, he taught his students about the way of love, peace and unity."

Lukas and Kearns believe that Rumi's spirit has returned.

"He wrote, 'some day, like

the rain, my love will fall down and the world will turn green with that love.' Because of the renaissance of an interest in Rumi around the world, we've seen it," she said.

She said a screening of the film in Monterrey, Mexico resulted in the 1,100 interfaith leaders from around the world in attendance to give it a standing ovation.

"They saw he embodied this whole embrace of all faiths and all cultures and all peoples," Lukas said. "That's the kind of message we need now in today's world is one of peace among peoples' intolerance for different ways of life and points of view."

A registration form for the event is available at [www.generationsofiv.org](http://www.generationsofiv.org), or contact Donna Haskins at [dhaskins@generationsofiv.org](mailto:dhaskins@generationsofiv.org) or at (215) 723-5841 to register.