

Phoenix Shambhala Center Community Meeting

August 27, 2018

6:30 – 8:45 P.M

Present: Amy, Del, Pavel, Kim, Stuart, Lynn, Pavel, Andre, Michelle, Mark, Steve R., Noah, Bev, Ron, Marty, Muffie, Pollux and LaDawn on Zoom

I. Sitting Practice

II. Introductions

III. Amy

- Invitation for Updates from Everyone
- All Invited to:
 - Ask Clarifying Questions
 - Request Items for Follow-Up Discussion
 - Identify Take-Aways – Next Actions
- Request to All to Speak and Listen Mindfully
 - Speak for Yourself, Rather than for Others

IV. Center Director Update – Amy

- Open for Change
- Commitment to Wisdom of All and Basic Goodness
- Letting Go of Hierarchy
- Please Show Up – Share Your Wisdom So We Can Learn from Each Other

Follow-Up Items:

Discuss changing the current structure and schedule of the Council Meetings.

V. Director of Practice and Education – Del

- Summer Wake Up Call
 - Look Beyond “Normal”
 - Change in Approach to Programing
 - Listening, Supporting, Creating Community and Conversations for the Sangha
 - Asking “How can the Programs benefit the community?”
 - Creating a More Transparent Approach to Programing
 - Less Focus on Moving People Through the *Way of Shambhala* Levels
- Fall, Winter Spring Programming – Mahayana Programs
 - *Way of the Moon* at a Regional Level
 - Lojong Training – Mind Training
 - Vows – Refuge and Bodhisattva
 - Shambhala Arts Program (Levels 1-5)
 - Body Movement, e.g. QiGong
 - In Everyday Life Programs (Meditation, Contentment, Fearlessness and Wisdom)
 - October: Learn to Meditate
 - Diversity and Inclusivity Trainings
 - Winter Weekthun

Follow-Up:

- *Member expressed concern about programming Way of Shambhala, given the current situation, although Levels I and II could be supportive. Would like to see more Buddhist-Centric programming.*
- *Member offered Improv Comedy Opportunities: “Being Present and Saying Yes”*
- *Amy: Question about how to support local sangha members who are looking for a Level II, III, IV or V.*
- *Del: She will support people in finding those programs.*

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Take-Aways / Next Actions

- **If you want a particular program or approach to program, please talk to Del.**
- **Need for a Discussion about Lineage Photos in the Shrine Room**

VI. Rusung of the Dorje Kasung – Lucia

- Dorje Kasung here to protect the teachings and the students.
- As Rusung, she will provide opportunities for trainings for the entire community:
 - Physical Security Trainings
 - CPR, Basic First Aid
 - Practical Emergency Plans in the Community
 - Emotional Security Training
 - Mental Health Trainings

Follow-Up:

- *Member: Expressed the deep desire that the Dorje Kasung are part of the community, not separate from the community.*

VII. Pavel

- Completed Enlightened Society Assembly (ESA)
 - Had a "firmware upgrade."

VIII. Shastri -- Kim

- Will be much more available and with a more flexible schedule in the fall.
- Will be doing Educator Circles

IX. Membership – Stuart

- Relying on sangha (locally and the wider sangha).
- Membership is stable.

X. Council Member-at-Large -- Lynn

- Council Role is Note-Taking
- Focused on Showing Up and Practicing

Follow-Up:

- *Discuss the idea of a Desung presence in the sangha.*

XI. Societal Health and Well-Being – LaDawn

- Deleks – Wants to gather people's suggestions and ideas about how we can spend time together as a community.
- Deleks with Dekyongs (facilitator) is one way to do this
 - Chris and Noah are Dekyongs
- Geographic Gatherings – one way to join together as community
- Affinity Group Gatherings – another way
 - Chris and Muffie's Book Discussion

Take-Aways/Next Actions

- **Email LaDawn with any suggestions for community-building.**

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- **Note from Michelle: If you need to contact someone and don't have their email address, contact the [Center by email](#) and she will forward it to the appropriate person.**

XII. Chagdzo – Andre

- Working on [financial analysis for Phoenix Center](#).
- Read the Shambhala International [Community Financial Report](#).
- Wants to improve communications and invites community questions.

Follow-up:

- *Question: Are you (Andre) planning to send a communication about Financial Report from Shambhala U.S.A. and Canada? Andre: Yes –if needed.*
- *Blog posting (Phoenix.Shambhala.org) – most recent post is from Andre*
- *Question: Will we continue to send \$200/month to Shambhala International?*

Take-Away/Next Action:

Need for Discussion about Phoenix Center's contribution to Shambhala U.S.A.

XIII. Publicity Coordinator – Michelle

- Seeking contributions for the Blog.
- Request that all of us “Like” Phoenix Shambhala Facebook Posts
- Coordinator of Saturday Salon – gave a review of recent Salons.
 - These are going well.

Take Aways/Next Actions:

- **Please send her any ideas you have of topics you'd like to see on the blog, on our social media pages, or activities at the Saturday Salons.**
- **If you're not getting email and you think you should be, contact her.**

XIV. Community Member – Mark

- Former Rusung of Phoenix
- Holds Dorje Kasung office and supports Rusung in Five City Centers
- Many Dorje Kasung Conversations Currently Happening to Examine and Create Change, Learning from the Experience.
- Great opportunity for change – to create Enlightened Society

Follow-Up:

- *Member Questions: Can we be in the loop of understanding what is emerging with regard to change in the Dorje Kasung?*
- *Mark: Yes.*

XV. Community Member – Steve R.

- Appreciative of this meeting.

XVI. Community Member – Muffie

- Third Year of Hosting with Chris the Bi-weekly Book Discussion Group
- Hosting Shambhala Sangha Members in Guest Bedroom

Follow-Up:

- *Money Phoenix sends to the Center of the Mandala – should we continue?*

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Take-Away/Next Action:

Need for a discussion of the large picture of the Sakyong and Sakyong Wangmo in the Community Room

XVII. Community Member – Noah

- Here to offer his opinion about any discussion items.
- Serves as a Dikyong: Likes the idea of Neighborhood Deleks with Unique Neighborhood Characteristics

XVIII. Community Member – Bev

- Reflecting and questioning the power structures in Shambhala and the potential negative consequences.

XIX. Community Member – Ron

- Seeing his choices – and would like to see change – curious.

XX. Community Member – Marty

- Focusing on the sangha – here and curious. Deeply grateful.

The Group Identified these Discussion Items:

- Structure of Council Meetings (Monthly) and Community Meetings (Quarterly)
- Lineage Pictures in Shrine Rooms
- Sakyong/Sakyong Wangmo Photo in the Community Room
- Phoenix Center's \$200/ month contribution to Shambhala U.S.A.

Suggestions for Tonight's Discussion

1. Stuart – Discuss the pictures
2. Kim – Would like to leave knowing the date of the next meeting.

Discussion of the Lineage Pictures in the Shrine Room

- Debate about the pictures: they represent lineage and are significant to many, but others have reported that the pictures make them feel uncomfortable, and they may send an immediate, negative message to newcomers to the Center.
- Preference for the decision to be based on a more thorough understanding of the needs of the community – not based on guessing or based on the opinions of a few.

Next Step:

[Harvest of Peace](#) – On September 23, we will hold another community meeting to complete this discussion and decide:

- What to do the Lineage Photos Above the Shrines?
- What do to do about the Sakyong and Sakyong Wangmo's Photo in the Community Room
- What to do about the Phoenix Center's \$200/Donation to Shambhala U.S.A.