

Community Meeting June 23, 2019

Present: Lynn, Maryann, Lucia, Pavel, Loretta, Barbara, Marty, Muffie, Kim, Chris, Mark, Sydney

Agenda topics:

Report out from the teams

PE Report:

We did a check in about the Kindness Circles:

Sunday Lojong Circle (Jim) – going strong – next gathering July 7 after sitting

Monday Friendship Circle (Pavel) – Sadhana of Kindness will be offered Monday July 1 7pm

Tuesday circle is regrouping (Barbara) – will now have 5 people and decided to read Pema's books and other readings for the Year of Deepening Compassion. Switching to Monday for July.

All Kindness Circle dates are posted on website.

Upcoming Programs -

Paramitas weekend August 17 and 18 PLUS the 4 Sundays afterward at 1230 – 230.

Level 1 September 20 – Adana Barbieri – confirmed and on the website

Level 2 Late November/Early December

Christmas 2019 Weekthun – Kim – related to the Boddhisattva – Lojung

Christmas 2020 Weekthun – Acharya Susan Chapman

Ideas for upcoming programs:

We had an idea to offer extended sitting sessions for members and the public once or possibly twice a quarter = we are calling it a **Half Day-tun**. The sitting session will consist of 6 hours of shamatha/half hour lunch – fundraising aspect. We discussed having these on Sundays and the “marathoners” will start at 9am participate in regular Sunday sitting and then continue through noon time. Take a half hour lunch break then start at 1230 for another 3 hour session. We would like to develop a fundraising aspect to it – or at least ask for specific donations for those participating.

We also discussed offering additional Dharma talk nights (emphasis on the Dharma of Experience) which would be open to non-MI/long term members who want to talk about specific topics related to practice and every-day life such as - anger at work, dealing with my aging parents and practice, etc.

We will call the series **Conversations about Meditation and Life** – several meeting participants offered topics: touching the earth, aging to sageing, climate, pain – Freedom from Pain – Noah Levine - Mark spoke on Karma and Rebirth – Victory over War – Ego

We intend to Record the talks and use them to post on FaceBook and Meet UP as Marketing tools.

Kim is looking at her calendar for an Educator Circle in the FALL – October Sunday -

Michelle's report: Outstanding items for communications

Outstanding issues

- **How to reach people?** The open rate on our emails is low (around 30% for bimonthly newsletters). Is email the best way to reach people when all our inboxes are full? Should we

keep/expand our variety of platforms (email, social media, flyers in the Center, announcements after sitting)?

- The blog was rated as a low-priority item during a previous working group meeting by the council. We are currently **rotating between three blog posts** – the [FAQ](#), [Heart of the Buddha programs](#), and [Learn to Meditate](#) programs – which are updated and republished as needed to push them to the front page.
 - Chris suggested that we could still run various other posts on the blog as they come up, such as Meet the Sangha and other topics that people want to write about, but we won't seek out contributions to publish on a schedule.

Plans for the Communications & Marketing Team

- **Team members may act as a backup** for Michelle, TBD.
 - She has shared the document where passwords are kept for social media, Gmail, and the Center's Shambhala Online account.
 - She reviewed who has database access and what permissions they have. Pavel (as membership lead) and Chris (as P&E lead) will test their logins and make sure they can do what they need to.
 - No one was interested in expanding posting on Facebook and Twitter (such as tweeting on Sunday mornings about sitting).
- **Pavel will gather suggestions** from business marketing presentations that may be applicable to our needs.
- **We will continue to seek out suggestions for how to reach people.**

Space Update from Barbara – Barbara is creating a list of things that have to be done to maintain the center. She will send it out to those who volunteered to be on the space/admin team. And will post the list in the center. It includes buying supplies. (Muffie, Loretta, Maryann, Lynn and Chris offered to help)

PUBLIC sign-up sheet for things that need to be done – include more people – Please check out the volunteer board – announce every Sunday \\ library.

Protection: No updates from Protection team this month. More to come.

Steve – letter from City of Scottsdale – business – Steve communicated we are non profit – couple of forms to fill Arizona Corporation Commission. Cynthia McKay or David Brown, contact for Shambhala international.

Finances – we did not have a finance report available to everyone. We discussed finances in general the need for a guarantor meeting.

Lucia knew the Terms of Lease – don't establish minimum amount of Guarantors – Lucia summarized meeting w Cindy Roy who was going to study the lease and provide us feedback but we never heard back from Cindy.

Barbara – discussed some options. Barbara is willing to coordinate meeting/interaction with current guarantors. Then when we have new guarantors ready Barbara can reach out to Richard and make necessary changes/amendments to the lease. We noted there are 2 years left on the lease.

Loretta volunteered would like to be Leadership Team Member at Large .

Kim made some recommendations for meeting decorum:

Tighten the meeting times – everyone who comes to the meeting commits to staying the whole time.

Next Steps:

Leadership team to meet in July and discuss finances, fund raising, increasing income.

Next Community Meeting August 11, 12:30 – 2.

Team meetings continue through summer.