

Community Meeting 13 December 2020

Present: LaDawn, Chris, Andre, Alan, Diane, Loretta, Kim, Michelle

Update on COVID status and future reopening plans.

- [Case counts](#) remain high. We're unlikely to reopen anytime soon.
- Chris mentioned an online [weekthun from Berkeley](#) and suggested offering the Center for people to use during the program if they couldn't attend in their homes; this may require more discussion if we have more than one person interested in using the Center.
- Andre reports that some Sarpashana attendees are not happy with the closure and don't want to participate online, but he is unwilling to hold meetings in person at the Center. They're discussing options for meeting outside.

Financial update, membership, and the question of lease renewal.

- Andre presented the financial update through November. Income is down a bit because we had no programs last month. YTD we're still breaking even.
- Projections indicate that we have enough of a financial cushion to reach the end of the lease under current conditions. We will have to be mindful as we move into 2021 to plan for the future, including possible moving expenses.
- The landlord has agreed to offer a discounted lease through February, at which time we will meet with him again to discuss the possibility of renewing the lease. The current full price rent is just over \$2000 per month.
- Could we ask the landlord for a month-to-month lease until we know what the impact of COVID and changes in Shambhala will be during 2021?
- [The Four Reminders](#) class is scheduled for January and we have 8 people registered so far, which will bring in some more income. Levels 4 and 5 will also be scheduled in the spring. Let Chris know if you have ideas for other programs.
- Some of our programs are compensating the teachers with Heart Gifts. Could we take the difference between payments at the patron price and the regular price and add that to the Heart Gift? Note that the patron price also subsidizes people using the generosity policy, and there are a number of people who do pay less, especially for Levels and IELs.
- We have dropped dues-paying members since the summer, from about 30 to about 22. Some members have increased their donations, which levels out membership income to some extent. Some members may have dropped off due to economic concerns; this supports the idea of asking for a month-to-month lease until the economy improves.

Open space discussion: What do you see as the future for Shambhala and your place in Shambhala?

- Chris reported that there may be some official word from Shambhala leadership in the fall, which might affect the future of Shambhala going forward.
- Attendees shared their thoughts on Shambhala.
- There was a survey sent to Center leadership to gauge community feeling across Shambhala; [the results were published this week](#). (Link requires a Shambhala account login.) A majority of Centers seem to want more engagement and reconciliation from the Sakyong but are holding together in the current environment for now.

Next meeting: Monday, January 11 at 6:30.