

Wet Mountain Sangha

Steering Committee Meeting

October 17, 2008

Jan Meserve's House

Present: Kate Jarrett, Merrilee Barnett, Diana Capen, Jan Meserve, Doug Messner, David Cockrell, Darryl Murphy, Linda Stone, Tracy Foltz

1. We started with a check-in on hopes for the Sangha for upcoming months.
 - a. Among the more prominent ideas that emerged was **training**: An Intro-type class, but all-day or half-day with some Sangha business, and a lunch. Maybe this could happen after the Wed. night sitting, although there was only mixed support for this idea. The Intro would be focused on "why *our* forms of Buddhism". The altar organization would be discussed, for example, along with its origins. Other traditions would include the bell sequences, walking meditation, and the liturgy and its origins. There was enthusiasm to learn more about the Sanbo Kyodan lineage and its specific traits. Darryl volunteered to put together an outline of such an orientation workshop for the next Steering Committee meeting. David volunteered to do a dharma talk on the Sanbo Kyodan lineage during November.
 - b. A need for more support for the **Dorcy Program** was discussed. Doug asked for volunteers to come and do dharma talkettes on Monday nights.
 - c. Additional ideas brought out in the check-in included: Start another study group. Possibly a listserve, for those who are in a period when they can't be present very much, a way to be in touch with the interactions. Maybe post a koan once a month, or a Sangha blog. David volunteered to look into establishing these venues through the web host and Dreamweaver.
 - d. Two new **book study groups** will be starting soon. The first new book group will be led by Jan, and the first meeting will be the last Wednesday of the month -- 10/29 9:30am at the Center for Inner Peace--for about an hour to create guidelines, design, format, dates/times to meet. And then schedule into November selecting a day that seems to fit for most. The book will be *A Year to Live: HOW TO LIVE THIS YEAR AS IF IT WERE YOUR LAST* by Stephen Levine. Merrilee is also interested in facilitating a study group, focused on *Buddhism without Beliefs* (Stephen Batchelor). No dates have been finalized, and Merrilee indicated that it may begin after the first of the year.
2. Full-day Sitting November 8: Sarah Bender, Sensei will join us for the sitting, and it will be held at David Cockrell's house, 225 Midnight Ave. The schedule has yet to be finalized, and Jan will send a draft of it to Sarah for her approval prior to marketing. David will produce a flyer for broad distribution and posting on the website as soon as the details are nailed down. Doug suggested that all new people get a personal invitation to come.

Meal Coordinators: Linda, Donna, Tracy

Liaison: Kate

Cantor: Merrilee

Time Keeper: Tracy

Greeter: David

3. Dorcy Center Program: The group meets faithfully. Leaders are Doug (primarily), Linda, Jan, and Darryl. There are about eight regulars as a base. The half-hour period in the middle still has a dharma talk period with much discussion. The new focus will be alternative approaches to health. Joyce did a presentation on massage last week. Recently there has been one new person. Jim Wickers, Beth, Joyce and Bob. It was suggested that the group may pick up more of its own leadership, and some of the regulars may be able to assume more responsibility. Doug asked Tracy to come and talk about naturopathy, and she agreed.
4. Announcements at the end of the meeting: Ideas for including newcomers: They can bring flowers, make water and incense offerings.
 - a. Training: An orientation workshop was discussed again. Why do we ring the bell 4 times; what is on the altar; why the various forms?
 - b. Welcome Packet: Jan will get the SMS packet and begin to evaluate it.
 - c. All-day sit info should go on the website ASAP.
 - d. Kate will put together notes on handling new people from Sarah and share.
 - e. Kate is now handling our Sangha communication program. She has compiled a full email list for the Sangha and needs input before dividing it into an active members list and others.

Minutes respectfully submitted by David Cockrell, one-time/interim/seat-of-the-pants/get r done secretary pro tem.