

2012 Community Meeting Notes

- Dec 16 2012 meeting

We will meet at 9 am the first Sunday of every month before the sitting, decisions will be made by those attending the meeting.

Next community meeting is Sunday Jan. 6 at 9 am.

The aim is to make communication as transparent as possible, and make it easy for people to plan activities they would like to offer or attend. A volunteer will step forward to facilitate the meeting and also to be the information person to gather topics that need to be discussed. [Tom Slank](#) has volunteered to do this, please email Tom if you would like something added to the discussion list.

- Sunday, Dec. 9 2012 meeting

Mats and cushions

We have met our goal and have funds to purchase 12 mat and cushion sets. Tom and Hugh will make ordering arrangements. Thank you everyone!

- *Giving and Receiving*

Here's a brief recap of the meeting discussion:

- let's look for community service opportunities. Some of us would like to participate as an IMAA group.
- continue offering meditation classes.
- book discussion group / peer led.
- have retreats, we have two weekend retreats now open for online registration on the web site.
- forming 'spiritual friends' groups to meet once a month to get to know like minded people.
- use more of a collective model than a teacher running the organization model, empowering individuals to make things happen that they'd like to take part in.

- *Organizational needs*

- Susan stated her value is to have the minimum structure needed to support our activities. Right now, things are simple, we have no overhead.
- Likes the model of no class or retreat fees, offering everything on a donation basis.
- the purpose of organizational structure is to keep communication clear and transparent, everyone knows how decisions are made and can fully participate.
- others pointed out the needs to have responsibility for retreat costs, etc.

After speaking a couple of weeks ago about looking at a mission statement and a vision, it became clear that the questions to focus on right now, as we explore who we are and what we want to envision for 2013 are these:

What do I want to receive?, and
What do I want to give?

At the sitting some of us wrote out answers that occurred right away, and I will begin posting these on our online bulletin board.

Please feel free to send in your answers - and to answer more than once as new things come into your heart. Email them in to the email address at the bottom of each web page, and they will be posted.

After we've had the opportunity to collect and review our responses, we'll know better where we want to go in the coming year.

what do I want to give?	what do I want to receive?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consistent presence • presence - coming to sittings • time (in moderation), presence, honesty, and open heart • My presence here. As i learn and become more confident and as I become aware of what I can offer, I will. • my authentic real self - support to community • consistent attendance at Sunday morning sitting, help with occasional outside events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support and experience to increase depth and wisdom to take out into my life and work • sangha - sense of shared values • more silence, less talk • teaching-community-acceptance: structured support for sitting/meditation practice (Sunday sitting and occasional retreats) • knowledge, skills and support. To develop my meditation

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- time and money
- effort in providing business/administrative support to keep this opportunity thriving
- support the others I am practicing with - class- friends
- my presence at class and the intensive
- teach/time /friendship
- attentive listening, commitment to deepening practice in cooperation with others.
- Time to some group volunteer projects that benefit the community - like a program that helps the elderly or housebound. Not suggesting we start our own necessarily, but become involved in existing programs as a group.

- practice. This can happen through direct instruction, modeling, stories, opportunities to gather together, resources/materials.
- classes - dharma friendship
 - support for my practice /class/friends
 - I find the class very very useful. I love the frequency and intensity, and Susan as a teacher. Maybe we could evolve into a student led class. I also would like the January intensive again.
 - The opportunity to sit each week with other meditators. The opportunity to support and share with others the fruit and frustrations of practice.
 - consistent Sunday morning sittings. Occasional outside events (potlucks, field trips, etc.)
 - sense of community, practice support.
 - the continued support of Sunday sitting and sharing. Opportunity for classes and retreats.
 - Special classes or sessions occasionally: breathing, guided meditation, book talks, speakers, etc.
 - Deepen my practice - friendship/spiritual
 - I like it just as it is- less structure is good. I have no need for potlucks or more friendship opportunity - just meditation.
 - safe sitting, book study group, spiritual movies, 4 x year gathering social , inquiry class/practice, library/CD/DVD member exchanges? volunteer opportunities

- Sunday, Oct 21 after sitting meeting

Retreat organizer report

Terry is working on the web site, we need a registration form and sign up procedure.

Mats and cushion

Are we ready to purchase some? Tom and Hugh.

classes

What are our needs outside of the Sunday sitting?

- SEPTEMBER 16 BUSINESS MEETING NOTES:

INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you to Marta, Hugh and Richard for filing a DBA and getting a checking account set up. They will meet to add signers to the account. Hugh is stepping forward to be treasurer until the end of 2012.

RETREATS: two weekend dates are planned for 2013 at De Sales Center. We need to set up registration and other details.

Terry stepped forward to lead the retreat planning for this, Hugh and Marta will meet with Terry to put the organizing in place. They will report back to us what they have planned. Terry will also work to set up a registration option online.

MATS AND CUSHIONS: Rather than save up and make one big purchase of mats and cushions at the end of the year, it seemed better to perhaps buy a half dozen at a time as needed. Phil suggested a small notebook to keep track of how many people show up each Sunday, and how many are in chairs and how many using cushions. If more chairs are needed, we want to help pay for them. Such a notebook is in the back room with the bell. Tom agreed to look around online and get a sense of the cost per set, as several people are interested in donating a cushion-mat set to IMAA, and will report back.

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- Sunday, Sept 9 after sitting meeting

Retreat dates and schedules

There was support to schedule a spring and fall retreat at De Sales Center. Please see new retreat page added to the site for details about weekend retreats.

- Sunday, August 26 after sitting meeting

Donations:

will be split between Harmony Yoga and IMAA. Hugh agreed to be responsible for splitting and keeping track of donations. Richard and Marta filed a DBA for our group in order to open a simple checking account to deposit donations in. Our first need is for mats and cushions for the Sunday sitting.