

## Community Meeting December 7, 2014

- Board Report:
  - Judy Green has resigned as Treasurer and from the Board. The requisite paperwork will be processed and a new Treasurer appointed.
  - Richard King volunteered to create a format for financial reporting and take on the responsibility of Treasurer (and Board member). This offer was unanimously accepted by all present.
  - Phil put forward the suggestion to consider reducing board membership from 5 to 3. No decisions were made at this time.
  
- Teacher Report:
  - Susan reported that the teachers have a very positive collaborative relationship and that Christie and Dawn are currently being trained as new teachers. There will not be regular beginning classes in January and February since the current teachers will not be available. The hope is that our new teachers will eventually be able to assist with this gap.
  - There is a recognized need for a next-step after students finish the beginning class and Susan had a couple of suggestions to help fill that need:
    - Establishing a system of Practice-Buddies to team up for mutual support for continuing meditators - and particularly for people new to the sangha to help them feel connected to each other and to the larger group
    - Once-monthly open discussion meeting before the Sunday sitting, to give people an opportunity to talk and ask questions about their practice.

Both suggestions were discussed and enthusiastically received by the group. Susan has graciously volunteered to facilitate the monthly pre-sitting discussion groups. They will be held on a still-to-be-determined regular Sunday of every month.
  
- Discussion of Sunday Sitting Format:
  - There was some suggestion that a change in the format might be more "user-friendly" for new meditators. Beginning class members have not been transitioning to the Sunday Sitting.
  - Suggestions included shortening the sitting time from 45 to 30 minutes and breaking up the sitting time with an opportunity for new meditators to move to another space for some guidance from a teacher while others continue to meditate.
  - There was an acknowledgement that the above suggestions of a practice-buddy system and a monthly open discussion about practice, might help to take care of the new meditators issue and no change in the format is currently contemplated.
  
- Formation of Spiritual Friends (Kalyana Mitra) Groups:
  - Terry brought forward the suggestion that another way to support practice and also form bonds within the community is the formation of Spiritual Friends Groups. The Gliedts, Connors and a few others have been in a group that has been meeting monthly

for more than a dozen years. It has been an invaluable source of friendship and support.

- What are we hoping to receive from the sangha and what are we willing to give to make that happen? The question was posed as a continuation of a discussion from the previous month.

There was a general consensus that, particularly with the new suggestions of practice-buddies and the monthly open practice discussion, along with the current activities of the sangha, peoples' needs are being met.

- Child Care:

Lou reported that he has been making inquiries and researching options into a way to provide child care during the Sunday sitting. Unfortunately, at this time, there does not seem to be a satisfactory solution. It has not been possible to find a suitable space nearby that would meet our needs.