

To the Lexington Community,

As many of you are aware, Lucia Gilchrest, our seemingly tireless and endlessly patient center director, will retire on Shambhala Day. Lucia has loyally served the community as director for three and a half years and it is with great sadness that we release her unto her next adventure! Please rest assured that Lucia is looking forward to actively serving the community in other ways.

Additionally, Craig Sargent, our temporary Head of Practice and Education (P&E), will step down at the New Year. Craig is also already tremendously busy working with the center's Community and Culture Committee and is involved in several other Shambhala outreach projects.

We as a community must now attempt to fill the shoes of these two wonderful people in their volunteer positions. To begin that process, a "Search Committee" was appointed by the Lexington council. That committee is composed of myself, Randy Pratt and, most recently, Susan Smith-Sargent.

The job of the Search Committee is to confidentially explore the interests and capabilities of interested community members and to pass that information on to the Lexington council. Based on that, the council will deliberate and make their recommendations to Shambhala International. Because these are council positions, Directorship and P&E leadership appointments are decided and formally posted by the Sakyong and the International Head of Practice and Education, respectively.

So, at this stage, if you or anyone you know in the local membership is interested in knowing more about either position, please feel free to approach one of the Search Committee members, either in person or via phone or email. We have already spoken to many of you and at least one excellent candidate for Center Director has come forward. The mystery regarding who might be our next P&E Head remains unsolved though.... could it be you?!?

We welcome your thoughts and questions. Please don't underestimate your abilities and don't be shy to talk to any one of us about either position. Personal qualities and motivation are considered foremost, rather than experience. Any council member will confirm that they have each had to climb the initial learning-curve mountain, but there is support for that and the rewards are rich. As well, both positions have been refined over the years by the incomparable Lucia Gilchrest and our recently retired P&E Head, Susan Smith-Sargent, so we now have accurate job descriptions to share. We would each like to be a source of information for you, if nothing else, so please feel free to ask!

With kind regards,

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