



SHAMBHALA

Making Enlightened Society Possible

MILWAUKEE



2014 YEAR-END SUMMARY

March 2015

Dear Shambhala members and friends,

The Year of the Wood Sheep is fully underway after a wonderful kick-off of community gatherings for Shambhala Day to practice, hear the Sakyong's address, contemplate membership, and celebrate! We have plenty to look forward to this year including our first-ever offering of "What is Real?" (Basic Goodness 3) along with other Way of Shambhala programs, our traditional and seasonal celebrations, and a visit in the autumn from Acharya Richard John.

I am especially looking forward to sharing and advancing ideas and plans for community building begun by the governance council over the past several months. We've been exploring the notion of mandala — which is the "structure of Shambhala society and its leadership ... It means literally "center and circumference" and refers to the vision that each aspect of the society reflects the brilliance of the whole ... Every person has a place in the mandala, and every place is essential to the bigger picture." (Introduction to Shambhala Culture, p. 50).

The principle of "mandala" accommodates the reality of many different parts and continuous change that all comes together as one and reflects a common view that is profound and brilliant. In Shambhala, that view is the notion of basic goodness, the notion that we each can experience ourselves, each other, and our world as fundamentally good.

A common way that we first encounter this experience is the study and practice of Shambhala dharma in the Way of Shambhala programs. However, ultimately we encounter and experience our own and others basic goodness when we relate as a community

During her visit in early March, Acharya Susan Chapman spoke with some of us about the notion of **community as path**. The idea is that in working together to bring about the activities of our Center, in getting to know and care for each other, relating to each other as a community, we can realize basic goodness in ourselves, each other and society. Acharya Chapman encouraged us to explore how we relate as a community.

In the coming months, we will have opportunities to connect with each other in programs, events, celebrations, and the week-to-week activities of the Center. There will be opportunities for conversation about who we are as Shambhalians, what our center is about, and what is important.

So that we may all have a sense of the current ground of the Center, I offer the year-end summary that follows. This is a snapshot of the practice & study, protection, financial, and other activities of our Center over the past year. Please read it with an eye toward what our community is about. If you have questions or comments, please contact me or any of the council members. I hope you may be curious and inspired, and that you will share your inspiration and ideas in the coming months.

Yours in service,
Leslie Shippee, Center Director

The Shambhala Meditation Center of Milwaukee exists to provide instruction for anyone who wishes to learn how to meditate and live more mindfully. We're here to provide opportunities for those who want to deepen their practice and study on the Shambhala Buddhist path. Finally, we're here as a gathering place for all who aspire to a good human society so that together we can make the vision of a sane and kind world, Enlightened Society, a reality in Milwaukee and beyond.

— Statement of Purpose, Shambhala Meditation Center of Milwaukee

PRACTICE & EDUCATION

REGULAR PUBLIC SITTING

Through our established weekly programs, including:

- Tuesday Night open house
- Wednesday open meditation
- Saturday Cafe Shambhala
- Sunday morning meditation

we provided many opportunities for people to receive meditation instruction and to practice and study together.

THE WAY OF SHAMBHALA

We helped people to establish a personal meditation practice and integrate more mindfulness in daily life by offering the Way of Shambhala weekend programs and In Everyday Life (IEL) programs:

- Two Level 1 (The Art of Being Human) programs
- One Level 2 (Birth of the Warrior) program
- One Meditation in Everyday Life
- One Contentment in Everyday Life
- One Joy in Everyday Life

FIRST OFFERING OF BASIC GOODNESS SERIES

For the first time in Milwaukee, we presented two of the three classes in the Basic Goodness Series:

- Who Am I? The Basic Goodness of Being Human
- How Can I Help? The Basic Goodness of Society

THREE ACHARYA VISITS

We also hosted three Acharyas. In February, Susan Gillis Chapman shared teachings on mindful communication and offered teaching on mahamudra for advanced students. In April, Richard John gave Refuge and Bodhisattva vows and teaching on extraordinary perception. In October, Eve Rosenthal led us in a weekend intensive of the Basic Goodness of Society.

OTHER PROGRAMS

In addition, we offered Arts and other programs as well as advanced practice opportunities including:

- One Ikebana class (Nalanda Gate/Arts)
- Lojong (mahayana mind training)
- Advanced training and Shambhala Meditation “lung” or transmission (pronounced ‘loong’) for Shambhala Guides
- Periodic gatherings of advanced students for practice of the Shambhala Sadhana, Stroke of Ashe, and Vajrayana feasts



PROTECTION



Our Shambhala Buddhist path offers precious opportunities for us to be awake and aware of innate goodness in ourselves and in our world. These opportunities arise in a mandala that includes the generosity of our teachers, our own exertion, and the dedication of gentle dharma protectors.

The Dorje Kasung are specifically tasked with helping to encourage a wakeful and gentle environment in which the teachings can flourish. In addition to ongoing practice and staffing activities, 2014 offered several opportunities for members of the Dorje Kasung to manifest as and grow in their role as protectors, including Acharya visits from Susan Chapman, Richard John, and Eve Rosenthal. As part of a regional effort, the Milwaukee Dorje Kasung squad also assisted with the Sakyong's Chicago visit in March. Squad members continued to deepen their understanding and practice of protectorship through retreat, by engaging in online teachings, and through the comradeship of gathering together.

COMMUNITY, GOVERNANCE & OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

In 2014, we saw these additional highlights:

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED

Development and launch of a NEW website. For some time, individual Shambhala center web sites have been moving to a new platform that allows for greater alignment with the Shambhala Database. Also, this brings the Milwaukee web site into line with the consistent appearance and content shared by the majority of Shambhala web sites. The full capabilities of the website are still being explored, so stay tuned!

THREE FULL MOON ZIJI DINNERS HELD

Our new tradition of Full Moon Ziji Dinners continued during 2014 with gatherings in January, March and October.

ANNUAL CELEBRATIONS

We also observed the traditional Shambhala celebrations of Shambhala Day, Harvest of Peace, and Children's Day as well as the Sakyong's birthday in November and the parinirvana (anniversary of death) of Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche in April.

These are some of the activities, events, and accomplishments that shaped 2014, the Year of the Wood Horse, for the Shambhala Meditation Center of Milwaukee. Our offerings were varied and extensive. None of it would be possible without the support of time, expertise, and financial support provided by so many of you. Thank you for your generosity!



FINANCE



CHANGES IN PROGRAM PRICING & NEW GENEROSITY POLICY

In 2014, we made some small adjustments to our program pricing to integrate a fuller view and practice of generosity. By moving away from a member versus non-member model to a full price and patron price, we invite EVERYONE to participate in the activity of generosity. Our refined generosity policy reflects this change.

We have a generosity policy to make our offerings available to all who wish to participate. If the program price is an obstacle for you, please consider what works for you, and offer as much of the program fee as you can. For those who can offer more than the program price, we have a “patron price”. Your generosity in offering the patron price helps cover the costs for others who are not able to pay the full price.

MEMBERSHIP

We also made adjustments to our view of membership, which is directly related to our financial status. Mr. Paul Shinkle graciously accepted the role of

Membership Coordinator and has been working to invite new members and to engage existing members. Perhaps most importantly, Paul is helping people to understand that membership is an expression of appreciation for what the Shambhala Meditation Center of Milwaukee provides. By committing to a regular meditation practice, volunteering to give time, energy, and talent, and by contributing financially, members directly and explicitly help make Shambhala available to others.

UNIFIED SUPPORT OF SHAMBHALA

These changes in program pricing and membership are part of an ongoing shift in how Shambhala is sustained. As Shambhala has expanded around the world, becoming a global presence, the needs for funding have grown and changed. Now, individual Centers and Groups are evolving to view themselves not only as communities focused on local needs but also, and moreso, as vital parts of the global Shambhala presence.

For several years, our Center has been among those Centers and Groups who have financially supported the Shambhala mandala. We have contributed a small amount as a Center each year to support the activities and services that are provided by the center of the Shambhala mandala. Individual members of Shambhala centers also provide financial support as they are able. In 2014, the total contribution from Milwaukee was a little over \$10,000. Of that amount, \$2,400 was contributed by the Center.

Over time, as we continue to shift our thinking to be more aware of how we as one Shambhala community can impact all of Shambhala, the changes we have made in program pricing and membership can help us increase our support overall.

Below is a summary of our financial activity for 2014. It is intended to provide some ground for conversations, financial and otherwise, about our community going forward.

2014 SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

Total Revenue	\$63,838.58
Total Expenses	\$58,056.30
Net Income	\$5,782.28

REVENUE

Dues & Donations	\$29,081
Programs	\$25,311
Other	\$9,447
Total Revenue	\$63,838.58

***Note:**

- Revenue comes primarily from dues, donations and program fees.
- Dues & donations includes \$4,430 from fundraising in Spring 2014

EXPENSES

Mortgage & interest, utilities & property insurance	\$21,136
Operating expenses*	\$9,821
Stipend to Center Director	\$8,400
Honoraria for teachers	\$5,640
Publicity and cleaning services	\$4,720
Books, program expenses	\$4,806
Center support transferred to Shambhala International	\$3,533
Total Expenses	\$58,056.30

***Note:**

- Operating expenses include maintenance, snow removal, bank charges, web/newsletter, supplies, etc.
- Center support transferred to Shambhala International includes \$1,103 raised during Harvest of Peace

If you have questions about finances, please contact myself, director@milwaukeeshambhala.org, or Mr. Jon Hamilton, finance@milwaukeeshambhala.org.

APPENDIX

2014 CENTER LEADERSHIP & COORDINATORS

We ended 2014 with the following Governance, Leadership, and Operational roles.

- Center Director – Mrs. Leslie Shippee succeeded Ms. Deborah Zarate.
- Director of Practice & Education – Mr. Steven Shippee succeeded Mr. Bill Hebbert.
- Dorje Kasung (Rusung) – Ms. Jessica Bizub succeeded Mrs. Leslie Shippee.
- Chadgzo – Mr. Jon Hamilton continues in this role.
- Communications Director/Webmaster – Mr. Gary Reinke accepted this new role.
- Representative from the Office of Culture & Decorum – Ms. Sarah Osborne retired and the role is currently not filled.
- Director of Societal Health & Wellbeing – Ms. Tavita Martinez retired and the role is currently not filled.
- Secretary to the Governance Council – Ms. Diana Luepke retired and the role is currently not filled.
- Publicity Coordinator – Ms. Napa Chayaworakul continues in this role.
- Audio/Visual Coordinator – Mr. Aaron Shricker continues in this role.
- Library – Mr. Aaron Shricker and Ms. Mary Ellen Kerfus succeeded Ms. Diana Luepke.
- Membership Coordinator – Mr. Paul Shinkle accepted this role.
- Coordinator of Meditation Instructors – Mr. Dan Kaemmerer continues in this role, currently on leave.
- Coordinator for Café Shambhala – Ms. Marilynne Hahn continues in this role.
- Coordinators for Tuesday night Open House – Mr. Mike McCauley and Mr. Sam Potratz succeeded Ms. Jessica Bizub.
- Way of Shambhala Coordinator/IELs – Mr. Chris May and Mr. Greg Reichelt succeeded Mr. Steven Shippee.
- Vajrayana Coordinator – Ms. Sarah Osborne holds this role.
- Facilities & Building Maintenance – Mr. Paul Shinkle is vacating this role.
- Ashe Society Coordinator – Ms. Susan Schroeder and Ms. Arti Gottschalk continue in this role.
- Shambhala Sadhana Coordinator – Mr. Frank Fasciano succeeded Mrs. Leslie Shippee.

