

**PSMC Council Meeting Thursday, March 13th, 2014**  
**Agenda**

Sit; Contemplation, raise Windhorse  
Check in  
Prioritize Agenda  
Questions/discussion from Reports

**New Business:**

- Support for Eugene group: *The Eugene Shambhala Group is currently searching for a new space. A member of this group has contacted us to ask for support for the group to help them cover some of their increased costs while they grow into their new space.*
  - Discussion of a previous donation given by a member of the Eugene group to our Building Fund, and whether discussion that was made at the time of that donation about a cooperative agreement between the two centers allows us to give to them through our building fund.
    - Discussion of whether this falls into restricted funds or as a general bottom line donation. Who does the donation go to? Questions about tax laws, which vary state to state.
    - Expression of making sure we are holding the Portland community's intent with the Building Fund (helping purchase/lease a new building for the Portland community) if we are thinking about making a gift from there to the Eugene center. Some discussion of what expenses have fit under the building fund umbrella in the past.
    - Suggestion to ask SI Legal Counsel Alex Halpren about the possibility of transferring money from our restricted building fund into their restricted fund, ways we could potentially give to another center.
  - Acknowledgement that the Eugene group is a feeder into Portland Shambhala, provides us with attendees to many of our programs.
  - **Broad agreement** to give \$200 from our overages/operating budget and communicating to them about looking into giving more from our building fund. Secretary will help draft letter to Eugene and work with Director.
  - Offers to provide guidance to the group on matters of fundraising and publicity.
  - **Needs follow up** to email Alex Halpren and discuss details on giving to Eugene.
- Presentation on timebanking by Brian Landever: *A community member, Brian Landever, contacted the Council about starting a Timebanking program in the community. Timebanking is way of logging and encouraging community service and community building. Participants can either offer services or request services, and for each hour of services offered they receive one credit, which they can then pass along when they request the services of another member. Brian wrote an article for the Shambhala Times on this subject, which you can read [here](#).*

- View: Community building exercise. Brian envisions it as fitting with the Sakyong's vision in the Shambhala Principle of building a community. Practicing generosity.
    - Everyone's work is equally valued.
    - A practice of adding value to the community, not taking away anything.
  - Brian has offered to get the website set up, write invitations to the members, hold the role.
  - Can be decided how much or how little participation is needed to be part of this system. A lot of leeway with how this fits with membership.
  - Can be set up so that it is community exclusive.
  - Questions of what happens when goods get involved- some jobs involve parts or components, and how does that fit?
    - Brian: This will be up to the person offering services.
  - Up to the Council to decide how this will be used, and how this will work within our community.
  - Question of how does this fit with our community care group? Might be good to check with them on how this would fit with their efforts.
  - Can be set up as a pilot with members & friends first, then expand.
  - **Broad agreement** to start this as a pilot program for members and friends, with the details worked out by the council, and to broach the subject with the community care group.
    - Will be a later agenda item after Council does some work looking into Brian's proposal and asking him any questions that come up.
- Check in re: Unified Giving: *The council just completed an online meeting with Anna Weinstein, director of the Office of Center and Group Support. In that meeting, the Council discussed with her the rollout of the new Unified Giving model of Shambhala, and how this rollout will effect us as a center. More information on Unified Giving can be found [here](#).*
    - **Tabled** for next meeting to have more documents available.
    - [Some notes](#) from the meeting with the Council
    - Some discussion of details of the Unified Giving Model.
    - Change in how we think about SI personally. How do we make SI's work and importance visible to the community?
      - Holding the understanding of skepticism within the community, how can we make this a conversation, not just "selling" it to the community.
    - Resource / links
      - <http://portland.shambhala.org/what-we-offer/registration-information/>
      - <http://funding.shambhalatimes.org/>
      - <http://funding.shambhalatimes.org/files/2013/10/2013-narrative-budget.pdf>
  - Alice's final Council meeting
    - Alice gives us brief of what she has been working on. Getting things cleaned up. Getting us on the new chart of accounts. Getting a financial summary out to the community.

- Bookkeeper position [announcement](#)
- **Needs follow up** Having Financial Director recruitment on the Council agenda. How can we put this out, make it available?
- Teachers' Class Load
  - Need to think this through before the 2015 calendar
  - Calendar Group to think through
  - **Tabled** till a later date to have more information

## Old Business:

- Program Food Budgets

## Member Reports:

### Director

Major uplift of the Office, is on budget, with Abbey and volunteers, lots of positive feedback! We find it easier and much more pleasant to work in. John Light will research a new printer/copier with desired features e.g. wireless, Mac and PC compatible, duplex printing, auto feed.

Worked with Jason on Shambhala Day which felt very uplifted and cheerful. We had 15 new members who wanted to take the Oath, many were unable due to lateness of events. David Englebrecht was introduced as new Membership Coordinator. Corey took Council Oath and Alice her Retirement oath. John Smith gave the SI Fundraising pitch, our total in SI donations to date is \$2040. Ann Cason announced as winner of the Sakyong's poetry contest.

New Members are now receiving immediate welcome email from David and SDB is sending their contact info to us. Items the team is discussing: communication with each other, with new members and those who cancel; keeping members status current; creating new membership forms and making easily available; Willa suggested monthly pot luck gatherings for new members at current members houses, volunteered to host the first one in April; new member's mentor program, gathering ideas from older members.

Prison program meeting with Doug McCanne. We discussed having the program fold into our budget as an outreach program, income/expense including projections would flow through general budget process, i.e. not separate fundraising. He'd like to come to a Council meeting to discuss.

Follow-up to meeting with Alice and Abbey, Alice has created a new format for class income/expenses tracking budget to actuals. Abbey will use for her reports, will give us information more quickly on how performing. We are currently about \$1500. above our projected class income for classes that have been reported on. Some significantly higher enrollment #s for

several classes, BG1 (+16) and LTM (+11). Ikebana (+6) and BG2 (+13 so far!); not reflected in report yet.

Bookkeeper JD was completed and posted. We have two promising candidates, one application. Interviews will occur quickly after the deadline of March 18.

Met with Young Meditators; talked a bit about leadership, Shambhala governance model and form for Sh meetings (Corey will share documents with them). As well the vision/purpose of the group and what each person wanted to offer to the group. About seven in attendance with Rebecca facilitating; reflected on how that mirrors how much the group has developed.

Meeting re: Bookstore/Library. Strong desire to move our lending Library to the Annex and expand the Bookstore space. There has been constant frustration over lack of space for Bookstore displays/materials. We hope expanding it and creating better displays will serve the community better (more materials, easier to find by class etc) and possibly increase this revenue stream. Lending materials, esp those for use at the Center only, would be both accessible and protected and easier to peruse. Purging of collection seems desirable.

Outreach presentation at NW Dharma Associations' Annual Gathering, the overall theme was "The Arts as Buddhist Practice". Well attended and connected with other key figures in the larger Buddhist community.

## Finance

## Communications

Sender	date	Subject	Sent
Michael McCormick	3/13/2014	Staffing Shambhala Art 1/2	151
Michael McCormick	3/13/2014	Inviting Weekthun Meals	180
Abbey Pleviak	3/12/2014	Shambhala Arts Fest: Registration Now Open, Welcoming Offerings for Performance Salon, and Volunteers Still Needed	568
Abbey Pleviak	3/11/2014	Milarepa Day this Saturday, March 15! Volunteers Needed for Set Up/ Clean Up. Full Schedule Within.	570

Abbey Pleviak	3/11/2014	Registration Reminder: Shambhala Arts 1 and 2 begins Friday, March 21	570
Abbey Pleviak	3/11/2014	Shambhala Bookkeeper Position: Application Deadline next Thursday, March 20!	570
Abbey Pleviak	3/9/2014	next Shambhala weekend retreat: Level II: Birth of the Warrior, begins April 11	119
Abbey Pleviak	3/6/2014	Shambhala Class Basic Goodness 2: How Can I Help? starts this Monday, March 10	21
Abbey Pleviak	3/6/2014	Celebrate Shambhala Arts in March! Shambhala Arts Class and Spring Arts Festival	571
Michael McCormick	3/6/2014	Parinirvana Day Coordinator	103
Abbey Pleviak	3/4/2014	Portland Shambhala Announces a New Paid, Part-Time Position: Bookkeeper	517
Michael McCormick	3/3/2014	Wealth or Death?	180
Michael McCormick	3/1/2014	Staffing Spring Weekthun	180
Abbey Pleviak	2/28/2014	Shambhala Registration Reminder: Wisdom in Everyday Life: Class At Risk for Cancellation	7
Abbey Pleviak	2/27/2014	Free Event this Sat, March 1: The Arts as Buddhist Practice	572
Abbey Pleviak	2/26/2014	Last Call for Neutral Day and Shambhala Day Volunteers!	153
Jack Bodner	2/25/2014	Tomorrow: Special Recorded Talk by Sakyong + Mamo Chants	1354
Abbey Pleviak	2/25/2014	Shambhala Class: Basic Goodness: How Can I Help? begins March 10th: Prerequisite of Meditation Instruction	575
Jason Bray	2/25/2014	Basic Goodness I - completion requirement	5

David Engelbrecht	2/21/2014	RSVP for Member's Oath	105
Abbey Pleviak	2/21/2014	Next Shambhala Everyday Life Retreat: Wisdom in Everyday Life, Begins Wed, March 5	15
Abbey Pleviak	2/21/2014	A Warm Invitation to Shambhala Day, Year of the Wood Horse Activities!	576
Abbey Pleviak	2/19/2014	Shambhala Level 1: Art of Being Human -- Still a few seats left!	577
Abbey Pleviak	2/19/2014	Shambhala Day -- Almost there! Still need help with Neutral Day, Set Up, and Clean Up!	153
David Engelbrecht	2/19/2014	Member's Oath Ceremony	105
Abbey Pleviak	2/19/2014	Still Looking for Help: Neutral Day + Shambhala Day!	143
Lisa Stanley	2/15/2014	Ikebana Class tomorrow!	17
Lisa Stanley	2/14/2014	Love and dharma	152
Abbey Pleviak	2/13/2014	Shambhala Celebration of Wood Horse Year! Help Make it Happen!	152

## Practice & Study

*Community Nyinthun* – 7 participants.

*Level I* – Rescheduled due to weather. 14 participants.

*Outrageous/Inscrutable* – Directed by Shelley Pierce from Seattle. 10 participants.

*Fearlessness in Everyday Life* – 7 participants.

*Teachers Gathering* – Feb. 15 dinner at Rayna's house. A sumptuous meal, especially the orange liqueur flan made by Rayna. A very thoughtful, rich discussion with each teacher sharing what s/he is getting out of teaching and what is most challenging. General agreement that interactions with students is the most rewarding part, and learning how to listen and best

respond to them and address their concerns in empowering ways is the most challenging. All looking forward to developing teaching skills more. All agree that the teaching load is too heavy for the number of teachers we have and must be addressed.

*Dialogue on Values* - Group met for the first time on Feb. 26, and included Erica Thygesen, Doug Dunlap, Ann Sihler, Jason Bray, Rebecca Jamieson, Doug McCanne, Jay Stewart, and Michael McCormick. The conversation was deep, personal, and heartfelt, touching on what “values” are, where we get them, what values we choose, the risk of living our values, and concern about imposing our values on others. We also explored the universality and/or practicality of “caring,” what “compassion” is and where it comes from, and whether there is a general recognition, in the world and in our sangha, that we need each other. The conversation revealed a curiosity about what motivates us, about each other, and about our own stories of learning and acting on, or not, our values and caring for others. Despite great appreciation for the discussion, we are having difficulty finding dates to meet three more times in this pilot phase of the project.

*Practice and Education Secretary* – Dawn Coleman has joined the committee as its secretary. She was present at our March 4 meeting where she took copious notes and made valuable contributions to our discussion. A very welcome addition.

*Weekthun Coordinator* – Corey Adkins has taken on the job of Weekthun Coordinator, and is on the job. Thank you, Corey!

## **Societal Health & Well Being**

### **Director:**

Participated in the first Dialogue on Shambhala Values - lots of great discussion. Looking forward to going further with the group.

Coordinated Shambhala Day with Lisa, Abbey, and a wonderful crew of volunteers that pulled it all together beautifully!

Looking forward to staffing Basic Goodness II - so far 23 registered!

### **Diversity:**

Report on the activity of the mandala-wide Diversity Working Group (DWG) that Michael McCormick is a member of and that is chaired by Shastri Charlene Leung:

The DWG has produced video presentations by each of its six members to be shown to the Kalapa Council, the governing body of Shambhala International, expressing our aspirations that the Council take on the issue of diversity in Shambhala by beginning their own personal work on the issue and making it a priority for the mandala. Our presentations include an immediate and

decades long timeline for including this work as an essential element in creating enlightened society. It is hoped that the Kalapa Council will view the videos sometime this spring.

### **Community Care:**

Our next meeting is Sunday, March March 23. Meanwhile, community volunteers have been providing meals and home help for Marj and Dale Hollocher and their newly arrived twin babies. This will be ongoing for a few months, at least. All are invited to participate.

### **Young Meditators:**

Rob lead the group on 2/13 and he says "Here's the info from 2/13: We had 19 participants, including several new people. We stayed close to our regular format, did a group writing practice and had three long-time members share about their experience with meditation. I forgot to solicit donations. : / "

Corey facilitated on 2/27, and lead the group in a Dharma Art reading and activities. There were about 9 participants.

### **Queer Dharma:**

No meeting this month in lieu of Shambhala Day. Michael is in contact with potential Shambhala teacher to lead a Queer Dharma retreat and additional programming in August.

### **Heart of Recovery:**

Last session there was a mix up and we were not put on the schedule yet so it was just me and one other member. It was a great opportunity to share resources, so the mix up worked out =) Tonight we had 3 returning members and four new members who seemed excited about the group and plan on returning. There was a slight mix up with space. One of the teachers for the class going on in the main shrine room was using the small shrine room as well which is where we usually meet. We did not want to disturb him or her. I totally understand that the classes are major source of revenue for the center and I know it was not intentional. So, my little flexible group gathered chairs in the tea room area and did our thing. We are trying to practice some meditation as part of our group though, so having the small shrine room available in the future would be much appreciated.

### **Family Council:**

We continue to have no participation in Kids Club or Parenting as Path. I will likely discontinue both groups after June 22 pending the introduction of new programs in the fall.

The Sunday practice coordination team has agreed to partner with me in hosting a Bodhi School program.

AJ Rock and Kim McCoy have volunteered to help me design and think through details for the program. The goal would be to begin advertising it at the Buddhist festival in June. Publicity details, including exact dates/times/age groups, should be ready by late April.



I am also beginning some low-level planning for a series of intergenerational nature outings modeled on the Shambhala Mountain Center's Four Seasons program. These would occur offsite on "off days" from the Bodhi School schedule, and would be coordinated so as not to conflict with the Drala hike schedule, so shouldn't conflict with scheduled center events.

### **Drala Hikes:**

The drala hike leaders braved the snow and ice Saturday (2/8/14) to come together to plan the 2014 Drala Mediation Hike schedule for the coming year. People bussed, carpooled, and crunched through the snow to get to David and Annie's cozy house for the gathering.

Everyone brought tasty dishes to share, and after a glass of wine, we headed down memory lane to review the ups and downs and of 2013 drala hiking season. And then we got to the planning of the upcoming year and all the wonderful hikes people have in mind to lead in 2014 (ideas in the works; a multi generational hike on Sauvie Island, a full moon hike this summer in the Gorge, a meditation hike during the August sangha camp out at Timothy Lake, a summer hike on the coast, and much more!)

We hope you will join us this year for another great hiking season! And if any of you are inspired to join this spirited group and become a hike leader as well, please contact the Drala Hike Coordinator Liz Howell.

### **Deleks:**

No Report

### **No Longer Alone:**

No Report

### **Desung**

### **Kasung**

### **Council Secretary**

Met a community member who does photography on Shambhala Day, Mary Ellen Grace, and discussed the possibility of her doing photography of the Council for our bulletin board and website. You might see her next Council meeting! With ample warning of course. Took on the role of Weekthun Coordinator as Michael mentioned.