

## **PSMC Council Meeting Thursday, January 8th, 2015**

### **Agenda**

*Attendance Members present: Jack Bodner (JBodner), Corey Adkins (CA), Chris Poor (CP), Jason Bray (JBray), Lisa Stanley (LS), John Smith (JS, Virtually)*

*Members absent: Bettina Hetz*

Sit; Contemplation, raise Windhorse

Check in

Questions/discussion from Reports

Prioritize Agenda

### **Agenda Items- High Priority**

Items that need to be accomplished this meeting.

- Proposal to seat member of Arts Council on Governing Council
  - The Council discussed this at length and details of this discussion will be shared when ready.
- Council participation in Membership event (Jan 31). CA & JS.
  - Membership reflection
  - Town hall
  - Corey will send out a document reflecting on our goals from the December retreat sometime after this mtg. Pulled from this meeting as it would not give enough time for Council to review.
  - JDS: Let's show up!
  - MM: A goal for the meeting is to whet their appetite for another meeting.
  - Make sure the meeting is recorded.

### **Agenda Items- Moderate Priority**

Items that need to be accomplished soon, preferably this meeting.

- Andrew Holocek program LS
  - JB?: Biggest issue is whether we commit financially.
  - LS: A feeling of wanting to do it in Fall of 2015. Would be offsite but still affect our calendar. Holocheck's fee as well as costs for hosting it would be projected around \$4,000 in total. He's attracted big numbers where he's done this. Attracting 40 people at \$100 each we would break even. It's a collaboration, extending ourselves further out, working with other communities. Tergar feels they could easily rouse 20 or 30 people.
  - Ray Sten has agreed to be the coordinator for the program.
  - Would have shared staffing with Tergar.
  - JBray: Who's handling registration of the event? Ann is working it out.

- LS: Feels very confident that we will break even, with the amount of interest in Tergar's community. A lot of potential collaboration.
- Friends Meeting house: 2 rooms capacity of 120. Can cancel up to 2 weeks before the event.
  - LS: Can still keep looking for spaces.
- LS: Only upfront cost would be the space and his flight.
- **Broad agreement** to make the commitment to fund this program with the caveat of making sure the logistical details are held well and sorted out.
- Making P & E Director a Paid Position in 2016 MM
  - MM: Will be stepping down on Shambhala Day 2016. Has been looking for someone she can mentor, because the position requires so many hours per week, around 20, and doesn't know anyone with a regular job who could do that. Feels like in order to attract someone we will need to offer pay. Wants us to begin to talk about this soon so that we can begin attracting someone to the position and Michaela can begin mentoring that person.
  - LS: Huge financial outlay, especially at the same time looking at a new center. Are there ways of making it a more manageable position?
  - Needs to be a Vajrayana practitioner.
  - JDS: Would help if Michaela could be systematic in looking at how they handle this in nearby centers.
    - **LS Proposal:** Subcommittee could do some research, look at models that distribute the duties in different ways.
      - CA: Suggests having some community members involved in the subcommittee.
      - **Broad Agreement**
      - Members: MM, JDS, JBodner, Ask Shastri Rayna.
  - JBray: Do we have a working job description that includes all of the things Michaela does at this center? Would be helpful in terms of looking at what she does, and what we would be asking people to do. **Action Item**
  - JDS: Look at this issue and any equivalent or related issues about administrative work at our next Council Retreat. Complex issues we normally take up in retreat.
  - LS: We don't know what might be coming that affects governance structure from the changes happening at top.
- ~~Brief Update on Director Feedback CA~~
  - Please read Council Secretary's report. No need to review in Mtg. CA
- Changing Council Meeting Days?
  - **Broad agreement** to look into it. Corey will send out a doodle to see if it's possible.
- Practices of Community Responses: How do we want to continue this discussion? CA
  - We committed to continuing this discussion. Should we set how, where, when we want to continue discussing this?

- JDS: Sharing it with Jack. It's a document we could process and use effectively.
- LS: Would be willing to look at what came in, come back to Council with some themes, questions? See if we want to take it up in a meeting. Or Council Members could take a look at it and see if anything comes up.
- **Table** and revisit after our next meeting.

### **Agenda Items- Low Priority**

Items that can be discussed/accomplished if time allows.

- Membership and Getting an MI MM
- Rusung recruitment LS- Re-posted by CA from 12/14 Agenda
- Review 2Q of Leadership Calendar CA
- Check in from commitments RE: Communication CA
  - Do we want to share Practices of Community or Thich Nhat Hanh triangle reading with our teams?
- Check in on commitments RE: Fundraising CA
  - We made a commitment to all help with fundraising this year in our December retreat. What are some ways we can act on this in near-term, full year. Can we help with Shambhala Day?

### **Member Reports:**

#### **Director**

Online Mandala Council meeting on Jan 6th with SI governance leaders to discuss the new changes the Sakyong is initiating and the focus on governance and wealth. Letter shared with Council for discussion in Jan 8th meeting.

Meetings with David, Membership Team, and Corey to plan for our first Members' Aspiration and Town Hall event on Jan 31, 2015. This is in keeping with the new incentives from SI and supports Council goals of better communication/transparency with our Members.

Working with Corey created a Master Calendar for Council activities to help us be better organized and plan ahead.

Ongoing revisions and updates to the 2015 Calendar, and reflection with the members of the Calendar Group on how to improve our communication and process.

Abbey and I purchased tables to replace the old heavy folding tables, and a desk for the Kasung. We are also working with Laurie to build our storage space. All was within our 2014 budget.

Successful, well attended Shambhala Principle program with Shastri Hines. Children's Day was wonderful with new families taking an active role in the event. Smaller attendance this year but the energy was very good.

December Council Retreat - planned with Corey and Council input. We successfully completed our agenda including identifying our main areas of focus for 2015, including actively starting work on finding a new space for the Center.

Took final week of vacation/retreat at end of Dec

## Finance & Chagdzo

Lisa

Completed recruiting, interviewing, Council review process for seating Jack Bodner as our local Chagdzo. I will administer his Oath on Shambhala Day and we can celebrate

Working with Alice we completed the 2015 budget process/draft, which was presented to Council and approved in our December retreat.

Delighted to say we are off to a good start in regards to 2015 projected class enrollment #s - 26 for LTM, 19 for JIEL, 18 so far for Level 1.

## Communications

### Overview & current issues

- Chaired December's SI "Steering IT in the Mandala" meeting
- Consulted with Victoria on their implementation of

### Overall administration

- Stable team, except for Laura Byrd who has not been active

### Communications profile

- **SDB Email messages this month:**

Date	Recipients	Sender	Subject
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Dec 30	6	Abbey Pleviak	Shambhala class Learn to Meditate: Check In begins at 8:30am on Sat, Jan 3
Dec 30	8	Abbey Pleviak	Shambhala class Learn to Meditate: Check In begins at 8:30am on SAT, Jan 3
Dec 28	145	Corey Adkins	An annual feedback process for the Portland Shambhala Center Director
Dec 23	1409	Abbey Pleviak	Shambhala Retreat: Level 1: The Art of Being Human begins Friday, January 9th
Dec 21	70	Abbey Pleviak	next Shambhala Retreat: Joy in Everyday Life, begins Jan 5, 2015
Dec 22	1391	Abbey Pleviak	Shambhala Retreat: Learn to Meditate, Turning the Mind into an Ally: Sat, Jan 3
Dec 11	1393	Abbey Pleviak	Shambhala Holiday Gift Drives for Community Solutions and SMYRC
Dec 11	17	Abbey Pleviak	Correction: Check in For Shambhala Principle, Fri, Dec 12, 6:30pm
Dec 10	15	Abbey Pleviak	Shambhala Principle:Shambhala Community: Check In begins at 8:30am on Sat, Dec 13
Dec 10	17	Abbey Pleviak	Shambhala Principle: A View of Social Change: Check In begins 6:30pm on Fri, Dec 12
Dec 09	1401	Abbey Pleviak	Shambhala Principle Retreat this weekend: please register if you plan to attend!
Dec 05	1402	Abbey Pleviak	Celebrate and Co-Create Winter Solstice and Children's Day! Potluck, Arts, Gifts, Joy for Kids of All Ages!
Dec 04	20	Abbey Pleviak	Shambhala Class Learn to Meditate: Check in at 8:30am on Sat Dec 6
Dec 04	8	Lisa Stanley	Ikebana Class this Sunday
Dec 01	1411	Jason Bray	You are invited - The Shambhala Principle with Shastri Ben Hines, Dec. 12-13
Dec 01	1406	Abbey Pleviak	Shambhala Class: Learn to Meditate, Turning the Mind into An Ally on Sat Dec 6

- **Mailchimp emails**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Total Recipients</b>	<b>Total Opens</b>	<b>Total Clicks</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Dec 29	1285	73	134	Newsletter: Learn to Meditate Workshop; Joy in Everyday Life; Shambhala Training Level I; Aging Group meeting
Dec 22	1303	435	65	Newsletter: Community Nyinthun 12/28; Learn to meditate Workshop 1/3; Joy in Everyday Life 1/5-2/2; Shambhala Training Level I 1/9-10;
Dec 15	1286	430	16	This Month at Shambhala - December/January gatherings, programs, and events
Dec 15	1292	424	64	Newsletter: Community Solstice Celebration (Children's Day Included) 12/20
Dec 08	1305	477	85	Newsletter: The Shambhala Principle 12/12; What is the Shambhala Community 12/13; Community Solstice Celebration(Children's Day included) 12/20

- **Website changes this month**

- Dec 27, 2014 - Adding Amy Aycrigg to the Sangha Business directory business
- Ongoing - November - December, 2014 - David Engelbrecht - Updating teacher photos

- **Google Analytics:**

Here are currently running and upcoming programs together with the amount of attention "pageviews" that they are getting on our website. Looks like

<b>program name</b>	<b>date</b>	<b>registrat ion</b>	<b>last week pageviews</b>	<b>weeks ago pageviews</b>
Joy in Everyday Life	Jan 05	13	63	155
Shambhala Training Level I: The Art of Being Human	Jan 09	13	109	211
Aging Meeting (Off Site)	Jan 25		19	22
Padmasambhava Feast	Jan 29		2	1

Member's Only Event	Jan 31	4	3
Sadhana of Mahamudra	Feb 03	5	2
Shambhala Art I & II	Feb 06	34	17
Dön Season Mamo Chants	Feb 08	6	1
Ikebana	Feb 15	2	6
Neutral Day	Feb 18	2	1
Shambhala Day	Feb 19	16	1
Learn to Meditate Workshop: Turning the Mind into an Ally	Feb 21	3	12
Everyday Qigong	Feb 26	5	2
Milarepa Day	Feb 28	2	1
Who Am I? The Basic Goodness of Being Human	Mar 02	10	35
Shambhala Training Level I: The Art of Being Human	Mar 06	4	13

Programs in the SDB with no calendar activity (Google Analytics Page loads)

<b>code</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>program.name</b>
APO	Jan 17	Vajrayana Practice Intensives
C12	Jan 20	Sadhana of Mahamudra
OEO	Jan 23	TBA
FWE	Feb 01	Werma Feast
APO	Feb 14	Vajrayana Practice Intensives
C12	Feb 18	Sadhana of Mahamudra
OEO	Feb 22	Umdze Training
FWE	Mar 01	Werma Feast

C12	Mar 05	Sadhana of Mahamudra
APO	Mar 14	Vajrayana Practice Intensives
NIK	Mar 15	Ikebana
FEP	Mar 19	Padmasambhava Feast
C12	Mar 20	Sadhana of Mahamudra
CAO	Mar 21	Spring Arts Festival
OEO	Mar 27	TBD
APO	Apr 03	Shambhala Sadhana Lung
PND	Apr 04	Parinirvana Day CTR

- **Blog posts this month**

- Why Meditate? January 8, 2015 by Dale Bennett
- Upcoming arts happenings, December 28, 2014 by John David Smith
- Reflection and feedback, December 28, 2014 by Corey Adkins
- Holiday Gift Drives, December 12, 2014 by Abbey\_Pleviak



## Practice & Study

[The Shambhala Principle: A View of Social Change](#) and [What would a Shambhala social movement look like?](#) Dec. 12 – 13 – 18 participants.

[Diversity in Everyday Life](#) – Oct. - Dec. - 8 participants

[Contentment in Everyday Life](#) – Nov. - Dec. - 13 participants

[Community Nyinthun](#) – Dec. 28 – 8 participants

[Learn to Meditate](#) - Jan. 3 - 26 registered

*Refuge and Bodhisattva Vows to be Offered* - Acharya Gaylon Ferguson will be here in late May and early June to offer classes on the refuge and bodhisattva vows on June 1 and 3, and to lead the vow ceremony on June 7.

*Program on "Wisdom and Compassion: The Bodhisattva Path* – Acharya Ferguson will offer this program on June 5-7.

*Guide Training* – The Guide Training originally planned for January in Seattle has been postponed until May 8-10. About a half dozen of our members plan to attend.

*New Community Practice Coordinator* – Janie Paige has enthusiastically agreed to succeed Kim Crossman in this role after Shambhala Day.

## Societal Health & Well Being

### **Director (Jason):**

Catching up on emails after some vacation time. Still working on July-December calendar entries in the events spreadsheet.

Met with David Engelbrecht to discuss his proposal for a new practice and study group - see below.

### **Queer Dharma (Jason & Michaela):**

Approximately 12 attendees for Michaela's talk titled The "Me" Game - Sunday January 4th. Queer Dharma participants continue to enroll in curriculum classes and show much interest in all the center has to offer.

### **Family Council (Mark Douglass):**

Fun solstice/children's day celebration on 12/20! Lots of new babies and toddlers in the community, so will likely schedule next year's celebration earlier in the day.

Am working with Brenda McCoy in finding a day for a family retreat this spring. Would take place offsite at the Montessori school in Hillsboro - arts and crafts, nature activities, time to meet one another and talk about our lives as parents. More to come....

**Young Meditators (Corey):**

The Young Meditators Group met once on December 11th. The meeting was guest facilitated by Ruth Hampton, who talked about her year and a half stay at Gampo Abbey, and shared some of her favorite teachings and experiences related to this stay. I was unable to be in attendance due to Council Meetings but Rob reported that there was around 10 attendees, and that there was a lot of great participation and discussion, the topic seemed to be engaging.

The 25th meeting was cancelled because it fell on Christmas Day.

We have two upcoming meetings this month, January 8th and 22nd. For the 8th the group will be watching the movie [Tulku](#) by Gesar Mukpo, the Vidyadhara's son. I am tentatively planning on having the meeting on the 22nd be our "Vision planning" meeting where we talk about some potential format changes to the group, pending on whether some key members of the group will be able to make that meeting, so there may be some changes to announce in next months reports.

**Heart of Recovery (AJ & Ruth):**

On December 17th we had 6 participants (3 new) and had a lovely discussion about teachers (moments) we tend to avoid and how our addiction may play a role in that avoidance.

**Diversity (Michaela):**

nothing to report

**Ageing, Death & Dying (Ann):**

Graceful Exits and Preparing to Die program with Andrew Holecek proposal here:

[https://docs.google.com/a/portland.shambhala.org/document/d/154ud9abyiOvcUd\\_fDYm2HatAKK3TgLKyx4eSxb16-3s/edit?usp=docslist\\_api](https://docs.google.com/a/portland.shambhala.org/document/d/154ud9abyiOvcUd_fDYm2HatAKK3TgLKyx4eSxb16-3s/edit?usp=docslist_api)

**Community Care (Amy):**

No report

**No Longer Alone (David) - On indefinite break**

David has submitted a proposal for the formation of a new practice and study group:

I want to replace NLA with a practice and study social support group. A couple weeks ago, I talked to John Smith about my idea. Gardner will be the next MI I talk to. My argument against NLA is what people living with mental illness want is a community that does not reject them. The group I propose would not exclude anyone. The group would be open to anyone living with mental illness or not living with it who are interested in meditation or Buddhism.

I propose it be on the 3rd Sunday of the month (like NLA) at 2pm.

I would promote it on Meetup. On Meetup, there is a huge world of people interested in Buddhism and meditation.

The name of the group I propose is Meditation Warriors.

I would be the coordinator.

Format:

30 minutes of sitting meditation (during this time, the MI would give initial meditation instruction).

60 to 90 minutes of book study and conversation. I would pick a book and buy several used copies on Amazon. It would be more than just a book study. This part of the program would help people connect with each other and the teachings through conversation (it would be more intimate than classes or open sits). This would fit in with Practice of Community. It would be a gateway into Portland Shambhala and our Sangha.

**Deleks (Aletha):**

No report

**Drala Hikes (Liz):**

On break

**Culture & Decorum**

**Kasung:**

Had an on line meeting with Commander Crapella and NW Rusungs. There may be a be a NW gathering on 2/14 in Seattle. Nothing firm announced. Getting things together for Shambhala day lhasang team. I am starting a new job and will see if I can get the day off.

## **Council Secretary**

Lots of work on the Director Feedback process (lots and lots and lots), but it's currently out and going. We have so far received 7 responses, with one of those being from a member of the subcommittee. We've had 2 members so far "opt-in" to the process. We'll be sending out a reminder email this Wednesday the 7th, and then the survey itself closes on Monday the 19th.

My work on the Director Feedback has put some other Council Secretary work on the backburner, so apologies if I haven't been as on top of things as usual.