

## **PSMC Council Meeting Thursday, February 12th, 2015**

### **Agenda**

*Attendance Members present: Lisa Stanley, John Smith, Michaela McCormick, Jason Bray, Chris Poor*

*Members absent: Corey Adkins, Jack Bodner*

Sit; Contemplation, raise Windhorse

Check in

Prioritize Agenda

Questions/discussion from Reports

[Leadership Calendar](#)

[January Meeting Notes](#)

[Tabled Items Doc](#)

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

Items that need to be accomplished this meeting.

- Leadership Feedback Report to Council @ 8:30 PM
  - Will be joined by David Parker
- Finalizing the Council Retreat; Date- Sunday, March 29th
  - Location - Bettina is offering her home- she will check with her family
  - Retreat agenda items:
    - Suggestions from Lisa - Mandala team building; i.e. bring our Council model for meetings, communication etc to our teams - hold regular team meetings in each sphere for visioning/input/needs within sphere?; coordinate our retreat agenda items with Master Calendar; planning future Town Halls; feedback from Director review vis a vis Council
  - **Broad Agreement:** Lisa: let's collect in a Google Doc and then we can cull out or prioritize
- Discussing Council Meeting Rescheduling
  - 1st Thursday would work for those present
  - **Broad Agreement:** Set up a Doodle to finalize
- Membership Tiers - proposal from Membership Team LS
  - Adopting new dues scale from SI, proposed in December '14 by Membership Director. Will be used internally to help members consider their dues scale, not publicly displayed. Lisa summarized the document.
  - **Broad Agreement:** Approved.
- Items to fund from 2014 overage funds; Monarch Retreat - less than \$2K (already approved); computer upgrades (see email sent to Council from Lisa with John Light's

recommendations) - \$350; Supporting \$500 John Smith's trip to the Monarch Retreat.  
LS

- Jack and Alice estimate that the overage is more than \$2,000
- There is an accumulation from previous years -- over and above 3 months operating expenses
- Bettina might need or use support, but is thinking about it.
- **Broad Agreement:** Approved \$850 for these items.
- Set date for Visioning Space gathering with Members
  - Bettina and Lisa need to figure out some steps for this
  - It would be after Shambhala Day
- Clarity on Membership and Getting an MI - MM
  - MM thought the policy was that you needed to be a member to have an ongoing MI. You could meet once.
  - LS: Council should not override the decisions of the MI.
  - Rayna oversees the MIs.
  - Look at the notes from the MI meeting.
  - We have members who don't have an MI and don't know how to get one.
  - We need an MI coordinator... who can communicate
  - We need data about members who don't have an MI or student who have an MI but are not members.

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

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

- Discussion of Membership Aspiration/Town Hall
  - look at more ways to communicate about the meeting, goals we shared there to absent Members/broader community. (Beyond the [blog post summarizing the January 31st event.](#))
  - set future dates for Town Halls LS
  - Directors consider doing a modified/mini-version of the Aspiration/Town Hall with the leaders/full team in each sphere? LS
  - What do we want to do with the notes? CA
- Regional Coordination MM
- Who can bring an agenda item to Council? are our meetings completely open to anyone who requests to come?
- Create local governance page on our website (post Council Master Calendar, info/pics of us and our roles, how to attend our meetings etc, accomplishments, projects in-progress or planned, and needs/volunteer opportunities within each sphere etc) LS

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

Items that can be discussed/accomplished if time allows.

- role of Council in helping manifest Nyida Days LS
- active succession planning LS
- Last communication re: Sakyong Ladrang - what does it mean? JB

## Member Reports:

### Director

Worked with Membership Coordinator/Team on the Aspiration/Town Hall Event 1/31 which was well attended, received numerous positive comments about it from Members. Developed proposal on adopting \$ tiers for membership, submitted to Council for approval. Met with David, Carol and John Smith to work on new membership language for our website.

Met with Teacher's guild to discuss teaching, needs and vision, at our Center. Jay Stewart offered to analyze data on our classes, teachers will provide Calendar Group list of programmatic suggestions/desires to Calendar Group by June for following year.

Met with subcommittee to discuss proposal re: head of Sh Arts Council becoming a Council seat. Many questions/issues identified and group feels need for further discussion within group, with Abbey and with Council.

Meeting with John Light, discussed computer upgrades and also clarifying our working relationship and communication needs with each other.

Phone meeting with Connie Brock in regards to the process with SI for a major Center move or purchase of building. Steps she outlined were shared with

Ongoing work with Bettina and others to manifest Sh Day, complex event. How could the Council as a team be more engaged with and lend support to various activities?

Met with Shastri Jacobson to share information from Connie Brock about possibility of us inviting folks we identify as potential future teachers to do the training for Group Leaders. This was done in Minneapolis successfully, they have a similar situation of an aging teachers guild with not enough new teachers coming along. This issue came up as a potential obstacle in moving to a more costly space vis a vis the need to increase revenue and offering more programs as one way to meet that need. It can also provide a sense of path to these individuals while the teacher training remains in limbo, and hopefully could support and bring new energy into the teacher group. Rayna is very interested and investigating the logistics.

Ongoing work with CG to refine the calendar, add programs and events.

Meeting with Sh Arts Council

Met with Doug McCanne to identify where we need more clarity around integrating the OSP program into our current systems (financial and programmatic); succession planning. He has no clear successor in mind but he was interested in the idea of breaking apart the role as he holds it so that there could be the teaching aspect, which he might want to continue with, and the administrative aspect to someone else (scheduling, staffing etc).

Worked with Mark Douglass, Rayna, Bettina to try to manifest a Children's Blessing ceremony as part of Sh Day week. A coordinator did not emerge, suggested we plan much further out to engage more families and also invite the community. Suggested they work with Jason as this is within his sphere.

Outreach - connected with person at NAYA (Native American Youth group); and will offer meditation workshop to

## Finance & Chagdzo

## Communications

### Overview & current issues

- The contact form has not been functioning -- apparently since August! It seems to be fixed but is still not working in all cases. Needs more investigation. In the meantime, I have extracted all of the contact messages and sent them by hand to the intended recipients.
- The Statistical copy of the SDB is in test mode and Portland is one of the testers. This month's Communication Profile report utilizes the new capabilities.
- Due to a spam attack on our Newsletter the newsletter signup form has been hidden.

### Overall administration

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### Communications profile

#### Readership for popular or Recent blog posts in the last 6 weeks

date	page views	avg minutes	Post Title
2015-02-08	5	9.0	Community aspiration and town hall
2015-02-08	12	2.1	Tibetan New Year – Losar (Shambhala Day)

2015-02-06	12	0.8	Stay in touch
2015-01-31	12	4.6	December Council Meeting Summary and Meeting Notes
2015-01-31	6	6.4	December Council Retreat Summary and Meeting Notes
2015-01-31	19	3.0	January Council Meeting Summary and Meeting Notes
2015-01-25	13	1.1	Announcing the Appointment of Jack Bodner as Center Chagdzo
2015-01-08	104	2.1	Why meditate?
2014-12-28	70	2.1	Reflection and feedback
2014-12-28	19	1.3	Upcoming arts happenings
2014-12-10	9	1.8	November Council Meeting Summary and Meeting Notes
2014-12-03	17	2.5	Why do I want to heal?
2014-11-09	23	2.0	Little changes that add up to enlightened society
2014-10-01	28	4.9	Encountering Ageism, Resisting Impermanence
2014-09-26	9	3.7	Heart of recovery is back!
2014-06-29	7	2.2	How to keep on helping
2014-06-08	5	0.0	Learning to accept people's care for me has been both a hard and a good thing
2014-05-07	6	0.6	Reflections about Aging in Shambhala
2013-12-09	5	9.5	Lisa Stanley teaching people to sit still 5 minutes a day
2013-10-14	6	3.4	Anemone Fresh moving to Portland from Karme Choling

### Consolidated email publications report

Date	From	Count	Stats	Subject
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Jan 05	Pub Team	1306	6.06% / 6.06%	Newsletter: Joy in Everyday Life; Shambhala Training Level I; Aging Group meeting; Shambhala Art I & II
Jan 08	Abbey Pleviak	1430		Shambhala Arts 1 and 2 on Feb 6-8 + Shambhala Arts Talk on Tue, Jan 13
Jan 10	Michaela McCormick	18		Refuge and Bodhisattva Vows
Jan 12	Pub Team	1308	6.28% / 6.28%	Newsletter: Aging Group meeting; Shambhala Art I & II; Don Season Mamo Chants; Shambhala Day;
Jan 13	Abbey Pleviak	13		follow up and feedback request for: Diversity in Everyday Life
Jan 15	Pub Team	1311	18.43% / 0.99%	This Month at Shambhala - February gatherings, programs, and events
Jan 15	Abbey Pleviak	27		Welcome to Portland Shambhala Newsletter
Jan 15	Abbey Pleviak	18		Welcome to Portland Shambhala Newsletter
Jan 15	Abbey Pleviak	12		Welcome to Portland Shambhala Newsletter
Jan 15	Abbey Pleviak	21		Welcome to Portland Shambhala Newsletter
Jan 15	Abbey Pleviak	17		Welcome to Portland Shambhala Newsletter
Jan 15	Abbey Pleviak	14		Welcome to Portland Shambhala Newsletter
Jan 15	Abbey Pleviak	6		Welcome to Portland Shambhala Newsletter
Jan 15	Abbey Pleviak	1432		Shambhala Ikebana Japanese Flower Arranging Spring Series begins Feb 15

Jan 18	Abbey Pleviak	112		Please RSVP: Shambhala Members Aspiration and Town Hall Meeting
Jan 19	Pub Team	1311	6.34% / 6.34%	Newsletter: Aging Group meeting; Shambhala Art I & II; Don Season Mamo Chants; Shambhala Day;
Jan 20	Lisa Stanley	3		Ikebana date change
Jan 25	Corey Adkins	242		Announcing the Appointment of Jack Bodner as Center Chagdzo
Jan 26	Pub Team	1313	5.26% / 5.26%	Newsletter: Shambhala Art I & II; Don Season Mamo Chants; Shambhala Day; Learn to Meditate Workshop; Everyday Qigong;
Jan 27	Abbey Pleviak	1432		Shambhala Arts 1 and 2 – Feb6-8 Friday Talk Open to All!
Jan 27	David Engelbrecht	116		Shambhala Day: Members' Oath Ceremony
Feb 01	Abbey Pleviak	1424		Shambhala Day Festivities, Practices, and Volunteer Needs!
Feb 02	Pub Team	1300	3.78% / 3.78%	Newsletter: Shambhala Art I & II; Don Season Mamo Chants; Shambhala Day; Learn to Meditate Workshop; Everyday Qigong;
Feb 02	Michaela McCormick	229		Refuge and Bodhisattva Vows
Feb 04	Abbey Pleviak	10		Shambhala Arts 1 and 2: Check In begins at 6:30pm on 2/6/15
Feb 04	Abbey Pleviak	4		Shambhala Arts 1 and 2: Check In begins at 6:30pm on 2/6/15
Feb 04	Abbey Pleviak	15		Info for Shambhala Arts Participants

Feb 04	Abbey Pleviak	78		Shambhala Community Practice Training Opportunities: SUN FEB 22: Foundations + Refresher
Feb 04	Abbey Pleviak	213		Shambhala Day Volunteer Needs! Welcoming the Year of the Wood Sheep!
Feb 05	Abbey Pleviak	1420		Shambhala Ikebana – Flower Arranging Series – Deadline to sign up WED Feb 11
Feb 09	Pub Team	1297	4.09% / 4.09%	Newsletter: Don Season Mamo Chants; Shambhala Day; Learn to Meditate Workshop; Everyday Qigong;

- **Calendaring**
  - issues
- **Website changes this month**

### **Feb 11, 2015 - John - Membership form and information**

- Edits to the [membership form](#)
- Edits to the [membership information page](#)
- Edits to the Financial page
- Add a Membership box on every page
- Notes in the [Membership Team meeting notes](#)

### **Feb 11, 2015 - John - Hide mailing list sign-up form**

- Ed Keizer requested that we block sign-ups because of a heavy amount of SPAM

### **Jan 28, 2015 - John - cleanup events spreadsheet**

- Remove recurring events from Jan - Feb as they were only for planning purposes
- Propagate formula for link to program page & prog edit page across all events

### **Jan 28, 2015 - John - Update links and text in Calendar-scheduling page**

- <http://portland.shambhala.org/community/members/calendar-scheduling/>

### **Jan 13, 2015 - John - Correcting entries in the “Contact Us” form and the Access Points Spreadsheet**

- Added Aging, Heart of Recovery, Membership Coordinator to the contact form and the [access points spreadsheet](#).



## Jan 11, 2015 - John - Added new Shambhala in the World page

- As per suggestion by David E from the December 19 email from Anna Weinstein about Unified Giving message

### Registration and Website Activity

name	date	count	Last week's pageviews	Total pageviews
Shambhala Art I & II	Feb 06	11	49	281
Ikebana (Japanese Flower Arranging) Class Series	Feb 15	4	40	156
Learn to Meditate Workshop: Turning the Mind into an Ally	Feb 21	12	61	242
Foundations of Community Practice: A Basic Training on the Roles of Umdze, Gatekeeper, and Host	Feb 22	1	13	29
Everyday Qigong: Finding Stillness in Movement	Feb 26	7	30	143
Who Am I? The Basic Goodness of Being Human	Mar 02	3	25	92
Learn to Meditate Workshop: Turning the Mind into an Ally	Apr 04	1	5	15
Shambhala Training Level II: Birth of the Warrior	May 08	1	10	41
Shambhala Training Level I: The Art of Being Human	May 15	2	2	22
Rigden: Unconditional Confidence	May 29	7	5	39

- **Contact form messages**
  - It seems to be broken. Working on it.

## Practice & Study

[Joy in Everyday Life](#) - Jan. 5 to Feb. 2 – 20 participants.

[Level I: The Art of Being Human](#) - Jan. 9 & 10 – 21 participants.

[Member's Only Event](#) - Jan. 31 – 27 participants.

[Shambhala Art I & II](#) - Feb. 6-8 – 11 participants.

*MI Coordinator* – Kristen Mullen is fully on board and engaged.

*Community Practice Coordinator* – Janie Paige is being trained by Kim Crossman and will replace her on Shambhala Day.

*Community Practice ROTA Coordinator* – Doug Dunlap is taking this over and will begin recruiting volunteers for the month of March.

*Vajrayana P & E Coordinator* – Still looking for someone to replace Jack in this role. Jack has recruited Brian Landever to coordinate the VPI's, Bruce Dodds and Timaree Bierle-Dodds to coordinate Werma Feasts, and Ray Sten to coordinate Padmasambhava Feasts and Milarepa Day this year.

*Way of Shambhala Coordinator* – Jay Stevens has told Michaela that he is resigning in May. Linda Pardun will be replacing him and Erica Thygesen, after being mentored more by Jay.

*General Programs Coordinator* – James Curran is considering taking this on. Michaela is not sure it's a good fit, but is pursuing the possibility.

*Weekthun Directors and Coordinator*- Rayna and Doug will be the co-directors, and Janie Paige will be the Coordinator. We need a cook or two – any ideas?

*Shambhala Sadhana Lung* - Shastri Rayna Jacobson gave this lung to 3-4 people on Jan. 24.

*Refuge and Bodhisattva Vows* – Michaela has sent out an invitation to take these vows on June 7 with Acharya Gaylon Ferguson to all members and friends, and has asked all MI's to check with their students for interest. As of Feb. 9, thirteen people have said they want to take one or both vows.

*Teachers Meeting* – On Jan. 29, Doug McCanne hosted this meeting, also attended by Michaela, Rayna, Jay, David, Lee, John, Lisa, and Ann. A wide-ranging and deep conversation. John took notes which Michaela can forward to those interested. (Also see Director's report.)

*Regional Coordination* – On Feb. 3, Michaela received an email from David Marshall in Vancouver, who sent the email to P & E Directors throughout the Pacific Northwest, saying those gathered at the recent Ritual Academy discussed this and suggesting we try to coordinate the events that aim to draw from the entire region. His specific request and suggestion is:

As a way of getting a conversation started, we would like to hear from each center which major events with a regional draw that the center feels some continuity and willingness to continue with (e.g., Seattle's early Spring Vajrayana weekthun, Nelson's Fall weekthun), and what major regional events you would like to see other centers provide on a regular basis. With this information, we could draw up a time-map of major recurring offerings and think about how to adjust and enhance that.

## **Societal Health & Well Being**

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

Met with subcommittee for Dharma Arts Rep.

Continue to work with Calendar team on loose ends.

Working on editing publicity for Shastri Ethan Nichtern's visit in May.

Working with Michaela and committee on Queer Dharma retreat - now August.

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

Approximately 22 attendees for Michaela's talk on Feb. 1st - "Begin Again."

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

Nothing to report.

Mark has expressed a desire to step out of his role as Family Council Chair. He would still like to offer some time and energy into family activities at the center, but no longer wishes to be in charge.

### **Young Meditators (Corey):**

Young Meditators met on 1-8 and 1-22. On the 8th we watched a movie, "Tulku" by Gesar Mukpo. On the 22nd we had a visioning pow-wow where we talked about the future of the group and brainstormed ideas. We agreed to do work to reduce the commitment of the facilitator role so that more people can feel comfortable filling it. A lot of energy and ideas were roused through doing a "Spark" exercise which I borrowed from the Ziji Collective. People were interested in- getting more guest speakers in, talking with Shastri Kranz about getting trained in Social Meditation, having regular discussions over readings brought in by members. A few groups committed to seeing through some of these ideas. We also committed to having a "Spark" session every few months to generate new ideas for meetings.

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

**Diversity (Michaela):**

Nothing to report.

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

**Community Care (Amy):**

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

**Deleks (Aletha):**

**Drala Hikes (Liz):**

Seems like it was just yesterday that we were slogging through a foot of snow making our way to Annie & David's house for the 2014 Drala Hike Planning Meeting. And here we are again — in February — and in need of a get-together to share our stories of the year that has passed and to line up the 2015 schedule for the adventures to come.

David and Annie have again graciously offered to open their house for a potluck meeting and the weekend of Fri, Mar 6 and Sat, Mar 7 are available. We can do a 5 pm potluck on either Fri or Sat and also have the option of a lunch gathering on Sat, Mar 7 if that is a better fit for everyone's schedules.

**Please RSVP to me ASAP with your order of preference and availability as well as type of dish you'd like to bring to share:**

- 1. Fri, Mar 6 @ 5 pm**
- 2. Sat, Mar 7 @ noon**
- 3 Sat, Mar 7 @ 5 pm**

Please note, even if you have not led a hike in the last year, I have included you on this list so that you can let me know in what way you'd like to participate this year. I will look forward to hearing from you soon.

## Culture & Decorum

### Kasung:

Preparing for annual maneuvers in Seattle this weekend. At least 3 of the squad (including myself will attend). Bettina Hetz will be presenting the Kasung Acharya's talk on protector principle and Don Season on 2/14 at the center. Three kasung attended the opening night of Mamo chants on 2/8. Preparations are being made for the Shambhala Day lhasang. Rusung Poor and the Dodds will be performing the ritual.

### Council Secretary

Put in a lot more work into the Director Feedback process, culminating in us sending out the questionnaire in late December, and gathering the responses and drafting a final report which was sent out last Friday, February 6th. You can see more details about the process in the report.

Finished planning for and hosted the Town Hall/Membership Aspiration event which seemed to go really well and generate a lot of lungta for the community. Felt like the effort to make this connection with the community was appreciated, and a lot of good ideas were generated that I'm excited to work with and foster.

Through this I talked with a few members who are interested in getting involved in helping with transparency- I will be having a meeting with Mark Douglass this coming weekend to talk over the subject.

I am emcee for Shambhala Day and met with Bettina to start planning this, and will get more work in after our meeting this Thursday.