

CTC 01-28-09

home of Susan Pearsall

attending: David Haskin, Susan Pearsall, Celeste Robins, Jim Roseberry, Carol Rubin, Susan Spiro

I STEERING COUNCIL ISSUES

[A] STANDARDIZING PRONUNCIATION OF NAMES AND TERMS COMMONLY FOUND IN OUR PRACTICE

The CTC feels that a list to aid pronunciation will be helpful to the Sangha, and we suggest that that the list could be posted on the Sangha web site.

We do not feel that this list should be mandatory, since certain members may mindfully use a variety of pronunciations, due to either personal preference or linguistic background. Nonetheless, we feel that standardizing pronunciation has a potential to harmonize group practice; and we also feel that it will be helpful to those unfamiliar with our vocabulary.

[B] MINUTES / NOTES / REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

We reminded ourselves that the 2008 Annual Meeting called for circulation of information regarding the meetings of the various committees.

Our committee will be careful to circulate our reports via the Sangha e-mail, and also to post them on our web site.

II MEMBERS' ISSUE -- DEDICATION OF MERIT

We have been told that certain Sangha members would like for the Tuesdays and the Fridays to recite the Dedication of Merit toward the end of each Sangha session.

We suggest that it might be helpful to introduce this form of practice to the Sangha members, prior to formal consideration and / or a vote on the issue.

We also suggest that the Schedulers consider this text as a potential topic for a Dharma talk

III SCHEDULERS' ISSUE -- CO-ORDINATION OF TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS

We encourage the unity of the Sangha. Thus we encourage care in announcing and publicizing joint events at each Sangha session. We also hope to see continued sharing of presenters.

IV CTC ISSUES

[A] RETREAT

We discussed the Sangha's current format for planning our annual retreats, and also explored potential ways for improvement:
What are / might be the roles of the Steering Council and the Care Taking Council?

What contributions might best be made by individuals? groups? committees?

[B] HYBRID MEETINGS / RETREATS

Several members of our Sangha have expressed an interest in exploring a form of practice that combines elements of both Shamatha and Vipassana.

We agree that this topic is suitable for mindful exploration; and we note that Thay has taught meditation practice, using both Shamatha and Vipassana.

We do not at all suggest that this newer [to most of us] form of practice should replace the practice of our regular meetings. Rather, we feel that the combined practice might well be explored through incorporating it into an occasional meeting or a retreat.

[C] FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

We had a short discussion of the various options for including children and families. It seems that a helpful first step would be to learn the level of interest and concern among our practitioners.

Susan Spiro and Carol Rubin volunteered to gather information. Any further action will await their findings.

FINAL NOTE: A bow of gratitude to Celeste, for a delicious pot of warm soup on a chilly evening!

NEXT MEETING

JUNE 3, 2009

6 PM

HOME OF CAROL RUBIN

report by Susan Pearsall