

SnowFlower Sangha Schedulers Meeting Notes

January 22, 2009 at the home of Susan and Steven Spiro

Present: Maureen Brady, Mary Gallagher, Lisa Glueck, David Haskin, Walt Keough, Efrat Livny, Cheri Maples, Mary Michal, Karuna Namenwirth, Susan O'Leary, Steven Spiro, Susan Spiro

The Meeting convened at 7:00 pm, and, after a brief sit, Susan O. reminded us of themes that will help us focus on our goals:

- How can we bring joy to Sangha?
- How can we open Dharma doors?
- Not too loose and not too tight

Our first topic of the evening was if and/or how to coordinate programming between Tuesday and Friday nights. After some discussion, we realized that we are more interested in connection between the Sangha meetings than in coordinating them through programming or speakers. We want everyone to be part of one large community and to feel equally comfortable attending or leading either. To that end, we made the following suggestions:

- During the announcement portion of the evening, the leader will announce the topic and speakers of the upcoming Tuesday and Friday gatherings.
- Each of us on the Schedulers' Council should make an effort to go to both meetings at least a few times a year. Members from other councils could also be encouraged to participate in both groups. We do not expect each of us to attend all meetings on a regular basis, but it will make helpful connections between the meetings and foster community.
- It is the responsibility of the scheduler to make sure leader has everything needed for the evening, to help set up, and coordinate passing of the key and bag. This is especially important when the leader is not experienced at leading the particular group (e.g.. even experienced leaders may need help setting up if they are leading the meeting they do not normally attend).
- The scheduler will write a brief statement for the newsletter to introduce their calendar cycle. This statement might include the theme, if there is one, or direction of the cycle.

We moved onto programming ideas and whether we want an "Arc" either for the year or for each cycle. We noted that we now have as regular parts of our cycles:

- Mindfulness Trainings in each cycle: Tuesday and Friday
- Ancestor's Prayer each New Year: Tuesday and Friday
- Tea on the Solstices: Tuesday

We discussed the option of a suggestion box and how it might be used by schedulers. We decided that each scheduler could announce to their group that they will be doing the scheduling and ask that any ideas, suggestions, or questions for the upcoming cycle be directed to them.

Karuna suggested one “Arc”. It was noted that while no one is bound to such a schedule, it is easily adaptable to almost any theme and could help remind a scheduler how to achieve balance in the programming:

- Mindfulness Trainings
- Metta or related subject from the Four Divine Abodes
- A Sutra
- Guided meditation or meditations and discussion
- Important concept...examples might be aimlessness, non-duality, inclusiveness
- Poetry, stories, chanting
- A basic text

It was decided to do an entire cycle on the Mindfulness Trainings in May and June. Cheri will plan Tuesday and Karuna will plan Friday. The cycle will be culminated in a Transmission Ceremony for our Sangha.

Some changes needed to be made in scheduling months. The calendar currently is:

Month	Tuesday	Friday
January/February	Maureen	Susan S
March/April	Lisa	Steven
May/June	Cheri	Karuna
July/August	Walt	David
September/October	Mary G	Susan O
November/December	Mary M	Efrat

We agreed that we have been making progress at involving new leaders and will continue in our efforts.

There will not be another meeting of this Council until after the Annual Meeting.

After a brief period of silence, the meeting adjourned at 9:00. Many thanks to the Spiro's for their wonderful hospitality and cookies!

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Gallagher