

Schedulers' Council
Meeting Notes – August 17, 2009

- **Next Meeting Date Set**

Friday, January 29, 5pm – 6:45pm, Friends Meeting House Library (Karuna has secured the site – thank you!)

- **Discussion: How are dharma talks/discussions going?**

Overall, participants very pleased with quality of talks – and certainly with discussions. Agreed that things are going really well & we're blessed beyond measure. Conversation included some concern that, occasionally, talks may be more intellectual/esoteric for some tastes; suggestion to be aware that we have many new folks, & to keep that audience in mind when choosing topics/leading. Guideline is that foundation of talks include a Thay teaching & how it applies to our life/practice; consider balance in programming. Appreciation also voiced for diversity & richness of topics, including inclusion of teachings from Teachers in addition to Thay.

Specific Ideas for Future Dharma Talk Topics:

1. *The Heart of Understanding* book on the Prajnaparamita Heart Sutra– perhaps lead on a chapter a week.
2. **The three Sutras that Thay recommends we read on a regular basis** (he says put one under your sleeping pillow):
 - *Breathe, You Are Alive*, Sutra on the Full Awareness of Breathing, which is the Anapanasati Sutra (16 Gathas).
 - *Our Appointment With Life*, The Buddha's Teaching on Living in the Present, which is the Bhaddekaratta Sutra.
 - *Transformation and Healing*, Sutra on the Four Establishments of Mindfulness, which is the Satipatthana Sutra.
3. Right Mindfulness – chapter 11 from *The Heart of the Buddha's Teaching*.
4. From Caretaking Council, idea to have no topic one night, but have discussion on how our practices are going.
5. Walking Meditation.
6. Each cycle could include MT recitation, metta or related subject from Four Immeasurable Minds, a basic Sutra Thay has written about, a guided meditation, poetry, stories, chanting, etc.

- **Room Configuration for Friends Meeting House**

It's up to the leader on how to configure the room. Suggestion made for circular configuration. Now that we've been doing this for a few weeks, it seems to be working well, although perhaps more chairs should be removed – it seems there are increasing numbers of folks with cushions on the floor. Schedulers to work with leaders to fine-tune this in future – ask leaders if they need help with set up/break down.

Schedulers to advise leaders on this and offer assistance.

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- **Overall Reminders/Guidelines for Schedulers**

1. As Schedulers, please keep our eyes out for new people and extend ourselves to them.
2. When recruiting leaders, consider pairing new with more experienced members; reminder to look for ways to incorporate new folks. One way could be to have new folks do an “easy” topic, like reciting the 5MT. Let leaders know they're not alone.
3. Okay to be creative when coming up with topics – chanting, singing, movement, having three sits instead of two (less talking), etc.
4. Continue with MT Transmission Ceremony once a year, at end of June.
5. Continue with Ancestors Prayer near the New Year, Buddhist Basics at beginning of year, and

- The Rose Ceremony around Mother's Day.
6. Recite 5 or 14 MT once/cycle.
 7. Continue to schedule Intro Classes once/cycle from 6:30-7:00pm: the first Tuesday of even months and first Friday of odd months.
 8. Remind leaders to announce "Welcome to SnowFlower" pamphlets when new folks are attending. Also let leaders know that, if they wish, they can make some type of announcement at end about option to leave in silence with no anti-social stigma attached – have the circle not break for a moment, allowing people to leave in silence if they wish.
 9. Try to attend Sangha during your scheduled cycle.
 10. Have copies of current newsletter on bench – or in supply area, if you won't be there on a given evening.
 11. **Write a brief statement for the newsletter to introduce your schedule.**
 12. Reminder, for reference, past Schedulers' Council notes are at <http://snowflower.org> under [Info, Meeting Notes](#).
 13. [FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE NOT AVAILABLE ON NOVEMBER 6. Sangha will be held at Trinity.](#)

- **Schedulers' Calendar**

TUESDAY SANGHA:

Jan - Feb: Maureen Brady (maureen@mindfulnessandjustice.org)
 March - April: Mary Gallagher (marygal@tds.net)
 May - June: Cheri Maples (cmaples@charter.net)
 July - Aug: Walt Keough (wkeough@sbcglobal.net)
 Sept - Oct: **Need A Volunteer to Fill This Slot!**
 Nov - Dec: Savitri Tsering (savieeee@yahoo.com)

FRIDAY SANGHA:

Jan - Feb: Susan Spiro (steven@stevenspiro.com)
 March - April: Steven Spiro (steven@stevenspiro.com)
 May - June: Karuna Namenwirth (bnamenwirth@yahoo.com)
 July - Aug: Linda Jordan (thisislinda@sbcglobal.net)
 Sept - Oct: Steve Fleck (sgfleck@charter.net)
Nov - Dec: Efrat Livny (elivny@sbcglobal.net)