

**Minutes of the SnowFlower Sangha Steering Council**  
**Wednesday, January 7, 2009 (meeting rescheduled from December 3, 2008)**

**Present:** Lisa Glueck, Suzanne Kilkus, Cheri Maples, Karuna Namenwirth, Karen Plum, Mary Michal, and Carol Rubin

The meeting of the Steering Council (STC) was convened at approximately 7 p.m. at Lisa Glueck's home. The meeting began with a brief meditation.

**1. Check-in for tasks from last meeting**

**A. Library budget and retreat income and expenses.** Karen contacted Jane Peckham and authorized additional library purchases beyond the budgeted amount. Karen distributed a handout summarizing all expenses and income from the 2008 retreat. Total expenses were \$11,592 and total income was \$13,590, leaving \$2,000 in revenue. \$520 was donated for 2009 scholarships and will be reserved for that purpose. Karen will provide a year end financial report to STC members before the April meeting.

**B. Sangha Social Justice Project.** Carol took the STC's ideas about a social justice project to the Caretaking Council and sent out a sangha wide invitation to the first meeting on November 15. About 15 members attended the meeting, voted in support of a sangha social justice project, with a particular interest in a prison reintegration project. A committee was formed to explore options. It met November 24, then was snowed out in December, and meets again on Monday, January 12, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Catherine Mandt's home.

**C. Date for Annual Business Meeting.** Karuna announced that the Friends Meetinghouse is reserved for Monday, July 27, 2009 for the Annual Business Meeting.

**D. Scholarships for fall retreat.** Karuna administered this new program. She noted that scholarships were provided to twelve people (five full scholarships and the remaining partial scholarships) including five that went to individuals who are not SnowFlower members) for a total expense of \$1355. We will further discuss the scholarship process before the next retreat to consider whether we need to make any changes; Cheri will invite David H. to join us for retreat discussion at next meeting.

**2. Love and Understanding System for Receiving Donations**

Mary reported that the Love and Understanding Committee was considering having all Sangha donations to the Love and Understanding Project be first sent to one person in the Sangha so that there would be a better understanding of how much our Sangha was contributing and for what specific services. There is no concern that the donations are being properly directed by Blue Cliff but rather that specific numbers would help the Sangha stay better connected to the larger sangha in Viet Nam. After discussion of the effectiveness of such a system and possible privacy concerns, the STC decided the proposal should be brought to the Annual Business Meeting for discussion. [ABM agenda item]

**3. Sangha Contact for Inquiring Mind Newspaper.** Given that this Vipassana newsletter still lists David Lawrence as Sangha contact, Jane Peckham has volunteered to be the Sangha contact. The STC approved and authorized payment of minimal newsletter dues if required.

**4. Taking and Posting of Minutes from all Councils**

At the July 2008 Annual Business Meeting (ABM), it was decided that minutes from each Council meeting are to be posted on the website (or at least circulated via the listserve). but this hasn't been consistently happening. Mary noted that Council note-takers should type their minutes up in Word and send their final version to David Haskin who then sends them to the volunteer webmaster. Carol will forward the STC's final minutes to David. Cheri will draft an email to listserve when the STC's minutes are posted.

**5. Emails from STC to Larger Sangha**

Members of the STC informally agreed that any email they are posting on behalf of the STC will be reviewed by any second STC member before posting.

**6. Sangha Social Justice Project**

This project is making progress. Stephanie Rearick from the Time Bank attended the Social Justice Committee meeting on November 24 to review that program. Each committee member has assignments to contact other relevant groups dealing with prison issues. We meet again on January 12, 2009.

**7. Brief Reports**

Carol reported that the Caretaking Council's first meeting since September is scheduled for January 28. Carol will take Karuna's suggestion to better educate ourselves about pronunciation of key terms to Caretaking Council; Karuna N. will update and share her list of pronunciations.

In Walt K's absence, Lisa and Karuna reported that Tuesday Sangha is flourishing, with around 20 participants each week, and sometimes more. Lisa volunteered to update and streamline the Tuesday night leader's instructions, and will ask Efrat L. to do the same for Friday night.

Lisa reported that the Scheduler's Council will be meeting January 22. Issues to be addressed include: a) to what degree to coordinate Tuesday and Friday topics; b) how to encourage and appropriately support new participants to give dharma talks; c) how distinct should time allocation for dharma talks be for Tuesday compared to Friday nights?

All felt that Friday night Sangha was going well.

Mary M. reported that enthusiasm continues among those working on the Love & Understanding project. The cards and photos of the Vietnam activities are a positive addition to making the project real to Sangha members and others.

### **8. New Business**

It was suggested that the Sangha consider a contribution to Trinity United Methodist Church and the Friends Meetinghouse when donations are evaluated at the Annual Business Meeting. [**ABM agenda item**]

Suzanne informed the STC that she has a teleconferencing number that she can offer to the STC if needed for an urgent matter or if a cancelled meeting needs to be rescheduled. quickly

### **9. Action Items**

- Karen will provide a year-end financial report to STC members before the April meeting.
- Cheri will invite David H. to next STC meeting to discuss retreat matters.
- Karuna will contact Jane Peckham to act as Sangha contact for The Inquiring Mind.
- Carol will forward final STC minutes to David H. for posting; Cheri will alert listserve.
- Karuna will update and share her list of pronunciation of key terms.
- Lisa will update and streamline Tuesday night leader instructions, and ask Efrat to do same.
- Lisa will take suggested items to Schedulers Council.

**The next meeting of the STC is Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Efrat's home.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Rubin, Secretary