

Caretaking Council 2011 Overview

If there was a theme to our work over the last year it might be characterized as welcoming and supporting newcomers. Some of these projects included fine-tuning our Mentoring and Kalyana Mitta Group coordination, including clearer definitions of what is the work of the Coordinators and what is the responsibility of the CTC for these two sangha sponsored efforts. Included in this was a suggestion to the Schedulers Council that panels be set up for a Tuesday and a Friday evening dharma discussion about Kalyana Mitta groups.

Another of our efforts was a discussion with the facilitators of our Introductory Sessions about how they approach them and suggestions they might have about them. A summary of that discussion is now available for anyone doing an Introductory Session and a suggestion was made to the Schedulers Council about having these sessions begin at 6:15 rather than at 6:30 as they have been. In the future we hope to get feedback from Newcomers about what has been helpful about the sessions for them and what they might suggest be changed or added to the sessions.

We also explored the idea of a Newcomer's Group similar to a Kalyana Mitta group which would be facilitated by 2 long-term practitioners. If members of the group would like to study some specific key points of the Dharma (such as the Four Noble Truths, Noble Eightfold Path, etc.), the experienced practitioners in the group may volunteer to lead such sessions or to invite other experienced practitioners from sangha to talk about the subject of interest at a session of the group. At the 2012 ABM, a coordinator for a Newcomer's Group will be sought.