

Shramadana Project Meeting Minutes
Triangle Insight Meditation Community

by Mary Mudd for 16 November 2016

Attendees: Cathy Cole, Gordon Livermore, Gerri McGuire, Sharon Jamison, Mary Mudd, Kathy Shipp, Barbara Shumannfang, Hilda Sucipto, Ron Vereen, Karen Ziegler

We discussed the following agenda items:

1. **Update on Mindfulness Training a DCRC** –The DCRC coordinator who was organizing DCRC groups has left the organization. We will not pursue this initiative at this time.
2. **Update on Service to the Episcopal Center** – Ron Vereen will follow-up with Sam Laurent on the status of Duke’s review and approval of having landscaping work done at the entrance to the center.
3. **Update on “Media Night”** – Gerri McGuire reported that the October showing of the film, “Being Mortal”, was successful with good feedback from about 20 participants including attendees outside the sangha. There will be a follow-up event regarding preparing advance directives. Next media night will be held in early 2017. Gerri and her team are open to film suggestions. One recommendation is the documentary, “Cowspiracy”.
4. **Speaker System Set-Up & Take-Down** –We now have a small group of people who are familiar with performing this task and have been using a Doodle poll to sign-up for Wednesday evening dates. I will create a poll for the first quarter of 2017.
5. **Caring Circles** – An announcement explaining the Caring Circles group was included in the last newsletter, but since then, only two people have asked to be added to the email group of Caring Circles potential volunteers. Gordon Livermore announced it again at the end of the weekly meeting. He will also request that it be put on the Facebook page.
6. **Sangha Tiny Library** – Barbara Shumannfang has created a tiny library of books on the shelf in the closet. The idea is that anyone can borrow any of these books and return them when finished reading. The Brantleys have donated additional books to this library. Ron Vereen will send Barbara contact info for Sam Laurent and Barbara will ask if we can move the library to a bookcase/shelf in the hallway or conference room where it will be more accessible to our sangha members as well as other groups using the center. Barbara will also look for a bookcase we can use.

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7. **Follow-Up on Weekend with Rev. Angel Kyodo Williams** - Karen Ziegler attended the post-event meeting with Shambala and Zen Center members. Most of the weekend volunteer work was done by TIMC members. We discussed engaging Shambala or DR Works as a consultant to do anti-racist training for our sangha. Ron Vereen will meet with the other TIMC teachers this weekend and will discuss this idea with them. Ron also mentioned interest in bringing David Loy here to speak on *Eco Dharma*.
8. **Quarterly Community Gathering and Potluck** – Barbara Shumannfang suggested we initiate quarterly potlucks with other Buddhist groups in the area. We will target February for this and develop a list of contacts for the various groups.
9. **Questions to Review with Regard to Volunteer Activities** – We discussed the list of questions provided by Barbara Shumannfang to reflect on and minimize the white savior complex. We will add them to the SP page on the TIMC website and Barbara will contact Michelle Johnson of DR Works training so see if she can add a dharmic spin.
10. **Ways to Help the African-American Community** – Gordon Livermore is interested in finding ways to help this community. We discussed *Real Durham* and *SURG* as two community groups which provide some help. Gerri McGuire discussed how recently she has been finding places/opportunities to be with African-Americans and other people who are different from her just to be there and observe and investigate her feelings and responses.
11. **Next Retreat** – Ron Vereen mentioned that he will be away next May, and there are no available dates in April or June for a TIMC retreat. He discussed this with Jeanne Van Gamert, and they agreed that we will plan to have our next retreat in October 2017.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be in February. I will send a Doodle poll closer to that time. Our sub-groups (retreat planning, media night, caring circles) will meet more often, as needed. If you have another topic on which you want to meet before then, we will schedule an additional meeting.