

Shramadana Project Meeting Minutes
Triangle Insight Meditation Community

by Mary Mudd for 8 March 2017

Attendees: Leslie Killeen, Gordon Livermore, Gerri McGuire, Mary Mudd, Barbara Shumannfang, Howard Staab, Ron Vereen, Karen Ziegler

We discussed the following agenda items:

1. Update on Service to the Episcopal Center – Sam Laurent has responded to Ron with the following suggestions for service by TI:

- a. Painting this summer in the great room – doors, trim and north and south walls. We could do this as part of a meditation day or day of silence.
- b. Providing resources to students who have become interested in meditation during their Lent activities. We can offer guidance and use of cushions. Another idea expressed was to offer to build some open shelves/cabinet on the south wall to use to store the cushions rather than the little closet.

Ron will follow back up with Sam about these ideas.

2. Update on "Media Night" – Gerri McGuire reported that last's week's showing of the documentary film, "Overburden", was well received. We now own a copy of this video and will make it available in the Tiny Library. Next media night will be April 14 and the documentary film, "Even Though the Whole World is Burning" will be shown. Media night will continue to be offered quarterly.

3. Caring Circles – A few changes have been made to the email set-up for distributing messages to Caring Circles volunteers. The process for people to request being added to the email list for volunteers, and for people requesting support has not changed. We now have three moderators: Gordon Livermore, Howard Staab and Mary Mudd. Our technical resource, Mary Ka Powers, is also receiving the requests and monitoring the system as we get started. Gordy will update the newsletter information about Caring Circles. We also discussed adding a request form for support in the Tiny Library, and encouraging sangha members to talk with one of the moderators if they have a need for some help.

4. Sangha Tiny Library – Barbara Shumannfang has not heard back from Sam Laurent about moving the library to the hallway. Ron Vereen will follow-up with Sam on this. Barbara will also be in touch with Hilda Sucipto about obtaining a bookcase to use there.

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- 5. Follow-Up on Discussion of Future Events with Other Buddhist Groups-**
Ron Vereen has contacted David Loy who could come in November or December for an event around environmental issues/climate change. It might be possible to host him along with a co-sponsor from the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke. This could be a day or half-day event. Ron will discuss this with other teachers on March 26 at the meeting of Buddhist Teachers. If we decide to proceed with this event, we will reach out to the sangha at large to ask for volunteers for a sub-group to plan and carry-out the event.
- 6. Quarterly Community Gathering and Potluck** – Ron Vereen will mention this idea, also, at the March 26 meeting of Buddhist Teachers.
- 7. Questions to Review with Regard to Volunteer Activities** – We reviewed the list of questions provided by Barbara Shumannfang to reflect on and minimize the white savior complex, and we agreed to spend 10-15 minutes at our next SP meeting to discuss them with regards to being SP members. We also think it would be good to offer the list of questions to the Racial Affinity Groups for contemplation. Each group can decide whether or not to use these questions. There were representatives from three RA groups at our meeting, and we agreed to offer the questions to those RA group members. Barbara will contact Sarah Tillis to find out if there is a fourth RA group, and if so, who the contact person is for that group so we can offer the questions to that group, also.
- 8. Potential Fall Trip To DC to the National Museum of African American History and Culture** – Ron Vereen discussed briefly the idea of a group trip to Washington DC to tour the new museum and include time for contemplation and discussion of the exhibits. Volunteers to help plan this are Howard Staab, Karen Ziegler and Mary Mudd. One place for possible housing in DC is the William Penn Quaker House. Leslie Killeen will check on the details and possibility of renting it for this trip.
- 9. Newsletter** – We briefly discussed reducing the size of the monthly newsletter by removing some duplicate and detailed information, and by possibly changing the format to a briefer, bulleted style with the ability to go to additional links for more detailed information.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be in June. I will send a Doodle poll closer to that time. Our sub-groups (media night, caring circles, DC Trip) will meet more often, as needed.