

Leadership Council Minutes 02/14/2016

In attendance: Rinsen, Do'on, Kinko, Shinyuu, Zusei

Annual Canvas Update

As of February 22, we had 65 members had joined/renewed for 2016 with pledges totaling \$51,465. Our goal for 2016 is \$74,412 in membership pledges.

Sangha Circles

Sangha Circles – which will foster peer-to-peer connections between community members in the context of Dharma study -- will launch during Spring Ango. Each group will meet once per month during Ango. Shinyuu will put together a call for facilitators, who will receive training before the first meeting. The temple space is available to host Sangha Circles if any of the facilitators cannot host at their homes.

Romantic Relationships Policy

The new policy on Romantic Relationships was adopted at the last Leadership Council meeting and will be added to the Bylaws on the website.

Shoken Policy

Leadership Council officially adopted the Shoken Policy document -- which was written and previously adopted by the Shoken Students – and will add it to the Bylaws on the website.

2016 Shoken Formation

Shoken Guardian Council and Leadership Council are working together on a flyer and email describing the 2016 Shoken Formation process and requirements for interested Jukai members.

2016 Jukai Formation

For the first time, in 2016 we will have an administrative coordinator for the entire Jukai process who will handle Facebook group management, communications with initiates, advertising, and responding to practical questions from initiates. Zusei will serve as coordinator this year. A class Facebook group and flyer describing the process will be available soon, and we will begin mentioning Jukai at services.

In past years, we have asked for a \$550 donation from each Jukai initiate to cover materials and retreat costs. As costs for the August sesshin have been folded into annual membership fees, the requested donation will be \$350 this year.

Attracting new members

Continuing our efforts to advertise the monthly orientation events, Chuso and Zusei will work on rewording the Facebook advertisement. We will consider dropping the suggest donation and promoting the event as free.

To recognize new members and draw attention to the path to membership for visitors, we will begin a practice of publicly thanking all new members each week by name at Sunday service. Membership coordinator, Jun'nyo, will give the names to the Service Coordinator.

Spring Ango

The Spring Ango theme is Creativity. Zusei will create a calendar invite and follow-up with people who have mentioned interest in running programs during Ango.

GHBT Family Support Council

Meeting notes

February 7, 2016

NEXT MEETING DATE: SUNDAY, March 6, 2016, FROM 1:00-2:00 P.M.

Review of Last Meeting

· Reviewed the action items from last time:

- ✓ Rolita Noble researched information on the Stewards of Children training program and will share her findings with the group on the secret Facebook group.
- ✓ Heather Gallant refined Gary's draft mission statement into mission/vision/action plan for this group.

Group Discussion

- **Family Game Night:** We held the first kids/teen game night for Saturday, January 23 at the Temple. About 20 children and many parents attended and had a blast! We discussed timeline for cleaning off the windows and the idea to have vinyl stickers on the windows for future safety.
- **Stewards of Children training:** Rolita contacted the facilitator in Toledo but hasn't heard back yet. She also contacted a friend who is qualified to lead them and is expecting an answer back any day. There is a \$10 online individual training that anyone can complete if interested, but the group consensus was that we still want to have a group training, depending upon cost. They are changing their organization name to From Darkness to Light. There is a moving video on their website (http://www.d2l.org/site/c.4dICIJOkGcISE/b.6242551/k.D3FC/Stewards_of_Children_Child_Sexual_Abuse_Prevention_Training.htm).
- **Insurance coverage:** We discussed what is covered by the Temple's insurance policy. Rinsen clarified that insurance is through Templeton and that it covers both on-site and off-site activities. Kinko will connect with Hoshi to determine 1) what kinds of liabilities the insurance covers and 2) find out if they require trainings like the Stewards of Children before having children's events.
- **Leadership:** In addition to the leadership positions outlined at the last meeting, Rinsen suggested the group elect a President for the Council to act as a point person for sangha members to contact with questions and to keep Rinsen informed of what is happening. Renso was nominated and agreed to serve in this role.
- **Future dates and master calendar:** Renso reported that Kyoan was taking requested dates from some parents to determine the best February event date. They planned to connect on 2/8 regarding dates. Rinsen suggested that Renso also get permission to view the Temple master calendar from Jun'nyo. Ideally, the Council will iron out master calendar dates for the whole year before the March meeting.
- **Parent classes:** Rinsen highlighted that we need 3 things to move forward with parent classes: 1) dates, 2) areas of interest from parents, 3) facilitators/presenters for each topic. Heather volunteered to put together an anonymous online survey for sangha members to complete that identifies their challenges and/or topics they would like to hear more about at the parent classes. We discussed what questions to include in that survey. Rinsen offered to lead a parent class in February with a topic or question followed by free-flowing conversations among the parents.
- **Website changes:** Renso will ask Jun'nyo to create a new tab on the Temple website for the Family Support Council.
- **Camp update:** Renso shared that Sue gave her a book on Dharma camp that relates very closely to what we were discussing. We need to iron out a schedule and proposed budget for camp (wants, hopes, needs). Renso suggested a Friday night set-up with no formal activities that night so that Saturday could be completely geared toward activities. Rinsen asked that camp culminate in the attendees sharing their experiences at the Sunday service following camp. Some activities proposed include archery, horseback riding, yoga, walk in Oak Openings, arts and crafts, and scavenger hunt. Budget expenses to explore include food, activity, art/craft supplies, other supplies, and Porta Potties (\$75 each for the weekend, probably need 2-3). For meals, we discussed having an oryoki lunch and a late afternoon/early evening

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activity making “stone soup” (each family brings an ingredient for the soup with enough to share with everyone, then spends time together preparing the food, reading the picture book *Stone Soup* (perhaps the Zen version by Jon J. Muth), hearing a talk by Do’On or Rinsen on dana (giving generously) and/or samu (caretaking together) and eating together.

- ***Refining mission/vision statements and action steps:*** Heather worked on refining Gary’s draft mission statement into a mission/vision statements and action steps, but accidentally left them at home on the printer. ☺ Here they are for further refinement by the Council:
 - *Mission Statement:* To provide physical, educational, social and emotional support to families in a Zen Buddhist context
 - *Vision statement* (How do we imagine the world will be different due to our efforts?): Our vision is a culture where the Buddha Dharma has been actualized for youth and families.
 - *How will we do it?*
 - We will provide opportunities to share our challenges and joy of keeping The Teachings alive. We will work to release some of the pressures that are also part of The Way. The three jewels of this pursuit are:
 1. Classes and teachings on parenting in the Buddhist context
 2. Events for families to help them become more involved in the sangha
 3. Mutual parent support network for families who need help managing the day-to-day challenges of caring for children.

Action items and next steps:

- Renso will check the Temple master calendar to confirm a consistent date/time for monthly Family Support Council gatherings (e.g. “third Saturday of every month”). She will also begin building the event calendar for the year (i.e. camp and afternoon kids’ Jukai retreat). She’ll share date options for camp with Heather to include in the sangha family survey.
- Renso will ask Jun’nyo to update the website to add a Family Support Council tab.
- Kinko will connect with Hoshi to determine 1) what kinds of liabilities the insurance covers and 2) find out if they require trainings like the Stewards of Children before having children’s events.
- Heather will research vinyl stickies for the sliding glass doors and bring info to the next meeting.
- Heather will put together an anonymous online survey for sangha members to complete that identifies their challenges and/or topics they would like to hear more about at the parenting classes. Brithany will review it before we send it to Jun’nyo for an email blast and posting on FB.
- Kinko and the cleaning team will wipe down the sliding glass doors on Sunday before service.

Meeting attendees:

- Rinsen (Jay Weik)
- Shogen (Channing Cecil)
- Kinko (Cheryl Baughman)
- Renso (Stephanie Holbrook)
- Samson Holbrook
- Rolita Noble
- Brithany Pawloski
- Shannon Holbrook
- Heather Gallant

Guardian Council Up-Date

February 2016

Dear Shoken Students:

I hope this letter finds you well. In any given month that the Guardian Council does not meet in person, I will send out a letter like this to keep you informed on the various projects that are developing in the Shoken community. In the months that we do meet, our meeting minutes will be included in the Leadership Council meeting minutes.

Online Resources

At the top of the Shoken facebook page you will find a document that has links to various items of regular interest to Shoken students, particularly Sesshin registration and sign-ups for Service Co-ordinator and Temple orientation support.

Sesshin and Registration:

The first Sesshin since the Shoken ceremony was held last weekend. It was well attended and there were a lot of grey robes. It was incredibly powerful. Given our new funding model, it is essential that you register well in advance for sesshin. The ideal recommendation is to register now for all the sesshins you will be attending this year.

Jukai and Open Sky

We are trying to offer Open Sky and Jukai Community Gatherings. each month and help will be needed to host these and put them on. Basically these are single day sits at the temple that we do without a teacher and in tongaryo style. The host determines if lunch is "out" or oryoki at the temple. For more information or to host an Open Sky, reach out to Setsho.

Manuals

Rinsen is leading the effort to create manuals on how to perform positions at sesshin and regular services. We will be picking away at this at Sesshin based on observations that come up as we try to navigate the schedule. What you will soon see emerging are documents of observations. At the start, they will be far from comprehensive, but they will be accurate and will trump issues of conflicting approaches of how things have been done at one time or another. As time goes on, they will become more and more comprehensive.

Liturgy Book

The revision of the actual content and layout of the actual liturgy book (book of chants and dedications) has not yet begun and we will let you know how this will unfold.

Policy Document

We are still waiting for official word that the LC has finished with its review of the policy document we passed on to them. However, what has emerged so far is just a matter of tweaking language to be consistent and accurate.

Intro to Sesshin

We are talking about and planning with the teachers what an intro to sesshin might look like. The purpose is to provide an easy to reach first step for people interested in sesshin but who fear it might be too “advanced” for them. The intro will take place during sesshin and will have a meeting at the beginning and end to touch base and to share experiences.