

## **Leadership Council Minutes 04/10/16**

*In attendance: Chuso, Hoshi, Jun'nyo, Kinko, Shinyu, Zusei, Do'on & Rinsen*

### Potential Dance Event at Temple

Shreelina Ghosh, a practitioner of the ancient Indian classical Odissi dance based in Erie, would like to perform a classical choreographic work on the philosophy of Buddhism: "Panamami Buddham" at our Temple. Kinko is looking into it.

### Sangha Circles

Every group has met once. Shinyu will reach out to the hosts to see how it's going.

### Budget Update

We will follow-up on the progress of member pledges again in July as we did last year. Hoshi will work with our bookkeeper to create and distribute monthly reports.

### Jukai Formation

Zusei will print the flyers, and she is sending informational emails out to members who may be interested.

### Coffee

The Reverends expressed that they would like to have a nice, large coffee pot/urn at the Temple to use after Sunday services. Chuso will take care of this.

### 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of our Sangha

Our Temple opened on May 31, 2001. We discussed tying this celebration in with the Jukai ceremony and announcement of new Shoken Students in August. Will involve cake and coffee at the ceremony and we will invite the media. There will also be a Sangha Party at Hoshi's soon to follow in August or September.

### Capital Campaign

The Reverends have decided that the most important need (among many) for the community is to expand sesshin space at the farm over the next couple years. Leadership Council will develop a clear, workable plan over the next several months. We will update as we go.

ATTACHED: Guardian Council Meeting Notes 3/6/16

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Jun'nyo*

## Meeting Notes

Item	Description
Name/Title	Guardian Council (GC)
Date	03/06/16
Time	1:00-3:00
Location	Temple
Members Attending	Kaishin (chair), Kosho, Setsho, Shokai, Shonin
Also Attending	Reverends Rinsen and Do'on, Zusei (Leadership Council Liaison)

### I. Agenda 03/06/16 and Minutes 01/03/16

The Agenda was approved. Minutes had previously been approved.

### II. Registrar Issues

- Registration is working well, as is coordination between Registrar and Tanto.
- Training Coordinator will send email to all Shoken students after each sesshin stating the number of sesshin days held to date for the year and how many each student has done.
- Registration sheet for each sesshin will include who attended and what liturgy positions they filled. On the basis of this sheet, the Training Coordinator will update the training record.
- Registration sheet--containing attendance information, special dietary requirements, sleeping arrangements, medical conditions, etc.--will be printed out by Tanto and given to Rev. Do'on at each sesshin.

### III. Training Coordinator Issues

- Liturgy Coordinator position for each service is working well; however, not enough Shoken students are signing up.
- Need a list of who can give beginning instruction.

### IV. Beginning Instruction Training

- Every Shoken student should be competent in beginning instruction. Beginning instruction lasts for 30 minutes and takes place before service on Sundays and during the first sit on Wednesday evenings.
- A training video will be made and made available via private link to Shoken students.
- A laminated page with the talking points will be made available in the Temple, off which instructors can work.

- A training session will be held during the March sesshin. (Note 04/11/16: As this did not occur during March sesshin, it will be discussed at the April GC meeting.)
- After March sesshin, it will be decide if a training date is necessary or if the video and hard copy sheet will suffice. (Note 04/11/16: As this did not occur during the March sesshin, it will be discussed at the April GC meeting.)
- Potential instructors new to beginning instruction are welcome to sit in on beginning instruction sessions.

## **V. Jukai Gatherings and Open Sky Sits**

- Jukai Gatherings:
  - Format will be reviewed by Rev Rinsen.
  - A Doodle poll will be sent out to all Jukai members in order to set dates. Once scheduled, facilitators will be found and Jukai members emailed final details.
  - Different formats, such as a potluck gathering, can be explored.
  - Kaishin will host the April gathering and send out the Doodle poll for this. (Note 04/11/16: This poll was send out; few people responded.)
- Open Sky Sits:
  - Format has been: Verse of Kesa to open, sit from 9-5 or 6, and Vows to end.
  - Various options--holding Jukai Gatherings after Open Sky sits, holding the events in alternating months, having Open Sky in the morning and Jukai Gatherings in the afternoon--were discussed. It was decided to use the current formats for now and to review at the next Guardian Council meeting.

## **VI. Shoken Robes**

- About half of the Shoken students responded to the Robe Survey and, overall, approved of the robes' functionality.
- Jun'nyo and Kaishin are working on a possible modification to the design of the jacket. (Note 04/11/16: This has been postponed indefinitely and set as a low priority.)
- Repairs of robes and Raksus can be integrated into the Jukai sesshin.
- Concern about the cost of the fabric for small Shoken classes was expressed, given that the dying cost is \$550 regardless of the amount of fabric. It was decided to go for consistency of fabric and color and worry about this down the line. For small classes, it is possible there will be enough left over fabric from previous years. Fundraising possibilities were also mentioned.
- The flyer for the next round of Shoken is almost ready. Kaishin will prepare the email to which it will be attached shortly and it will be distributed to all Jukai members. Shoken initiates need to be announced by the Jukai sesshin and meet with the Guardian Council during spring/early summer. (Note 04/11/16: This information has been sent out to eligible Jukai members.)

## **VII. Sesshin Feedback**

- Anonymous post sesshin surveys will be distributed to Shoken students for feedback on issues such as bottlenecks in the schedule, places where the intensity dissipates, facilities, etc. Rev Rinsen is particularly concerned with issues that may not be apparent to the teachers. The link to the survey will be in the post sesshin email sent out by the Training Coordinator.
- Attendees experiencing any immediate issues during sesshin should bring them to the Tanto.

## **VIII. Keeping in touch with students**

Rev. Rinsen emphasized the need to maintain casual social contact with Shoken students so no one falls off the radar. Rev. Do'on stated that this would be valuable also post Jukai. It was decided to come back to this conversation at the April meeting.

## **IX. Leadership Council Items**

- Need for community outreach in, for example, the form of introduction to Zen meditation classes. Such projects can also be a source of grant funding for the temple.
- Membership is available year round and new members names will be read out by Ino during service.

## **X. Miscellaneous Items**

- Jordan to be asked to look at damage to the farm's basement door during sesshin work practice. Also, ask him if he has a chainsaw that Sho'on can use to cut down dead tree by the barn.
- The driveway at the farm is in bad condition, with many potholes. At the least, a sign needs to be put up warning people to drive carefully. The possibility of having gravel delivered and distributing it as part of work practice was mentioned.
- In order for Sunday to count as a sesshin day, commuters must be present during the morning activities on the farm before going to the Temple.