

## **Still Mountain January Community Meeting**

January 11, 2015 @ 11:00 a.m.

- Meeting commenced at 11:05 a.m.
- Introductions done by all in attendance
- Meeting facilitated by Su Hansen, board president, beginning with a brief review of the agenda

### Report from David

The teachers' council has met once since the last community meeting. David also attended the most recent board meeting to address questions re: retreats and course offerings and how the board and TC will interact. Teachers' group has been thinking about possible offerings and also about bringing in guest teachers. The next SM event will be a retreat in October at the Howell Nature Center led by SM teachers. Retreat volunteers so far include Sara Ahbel Rappe, Sarah Ross and Sandy Norton. Currently, classes are being taught through Rec & Ed (Erica), and through Turner (Mary and Bilha). Other offerings include Hugh's Canton meditation and David's Wed/Thurs practice groups. David noted that he and the teachers have discussed an ethics policy, which he would like to see put in place within the next few months. All teachers have signed up to attend a dharma teachers meeting in June at Omega. David mentioned that he was interviewed by Crazy Wisdom re: Still Mountain and that this should appear in the spring issue of their calendar. David also noted that he is starting the chaplaincy program at Upaya in March, but that Still Mountain will remain a priority.

### Finances

Still Mountain funds are low, just \$400 above the \$1000 required bank minimum to avoid fees. Funds have been used thus far for Turner rental and for food (for the first community meeting). Additionally funds will soon be needed to purchase liability insurance, which is being investigated, and also for technical support. It was noted that while there is ongoing discussion of the roles of board vs. teachers, what's clear is that the whole community is responsible for envisioning and fulfilling the mission of Still Mountain.

Regarding dana, the planning committee made the decision that they would like Still Mountain to be run on a dana-only basis. Dana can be looked upon as an offering/nourishment to the community. No one should feel pressure, but each give what he/she can, realizing that this determines what Still Mountain is able to do/offer. Dana does not go to teachers but back to the organization. IMA2 has been able to operate very successfully this way. David noted that he has seen good results come from this in the past. Furthermore, it allows those who cannot afford to attend retreats to attend without stigma. One idea would be to let people know the overall cost of the retreat so people have some idea of what they might want to donate. Those present at the meeting were reminded that dana is generosity through the giving of time and money. It was acknowledged that members must be educated re: how a dana-run organization operates. IMA2 posts monthly their financial report- money coming in and going out. The pros and cons of posting dana/finances publicly on the website was briefly discussed.

### Refreshments

The board would prefer to have refreshments provided by individuals in the community for the monthly meetings, rather than have them provided/paid for by SM, as the organization can't financially support this. Su brought a sign-up sheet for the next 6 months; it was suggested/agreed that 3 people sign up for each month (2 for food, and 1 for coffee). Ideas could be put on the sign-up sheets for places to get coffee and bagels. People

also have the option of making something as opposed to buying. Yair and Hugh were thanked for providing today's refreshments; Linda Longo volunteered to provide all refreshments for the next meeting.

#### Email/Directory

There appears to be a need for a social email list (separate from the official list); uses for such were briefly listed/discussed. Another option would be using a free website online tool "Wiggio" a real-time bulletin board, where a group can post multiple threads, and individuals can respond only to those of interest. Pros and cons discussed of each model. Suggestion made of doing a demo/tutorial at next community meeting if Wiggio chosen. Another idea was multiple email lists, depending on interests. The importance of having a subject line on emails was mentioned, so people are able to easily delete if they don't want to read. General consensus was that simpler is better, and the board will proceed with discussion on a group email at the next board meeting. The group was reminded to not use the SM email that went out un-blinded; this should be deleted. Finally, mention was made of having a directory available to the community through the website (password protected). Su will talk to Carola and Jim re: how to do the directory.

#### Leading Sunday Sitzings

David explained that he will try to make 50% of Sunday sittings but needs to spend more time with his family. It would be helpful to have people sign up to lead Sunday sittings. After brief discussion, it was agreed that anyone from the community (as opposed to teachers only) could lead the Sunday sitting. David is willing to write down what's necessary to run the sittings- this could be made available on the website and in the form of a half sheet description. The person leading would also have the option of consulting with someone who has previous experience in leading. If David wants to sign up to lead, he will do so like anyone else would. Peg will lead next week and will talk to David/ Mariko/Jim about making a list of Sunday duties, a sheet for future sign up, and posting the information on website.

#### Announcements

-Judy Green volunteered to set up a SM insight timer group.

-Anita Sherman Moran noted that she was starting an Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Refuge Recovery group (a national recovery organization started by Noah Levine) that will meet Mondays @ 6:30 p.m. at Dawn Farm beginning January 19<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting concluded at 12:30 p.m. Next meeting February 8, 2015 @ 11:00 a.m.