

Community Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2026

Present (online): Gakyil members Gerard Miller, Katya Kuzmitskaya, and Ellen Halbert
Community members Dominik Niceva, Cindy Thiebeau, Will Shea, Martha Tack, Larry Howe, John La France, Efrem Marder

Guru Yoga

Agenda

- 1) **Yellow report:** The full report was provided online to members before the meeting and was summarized. We have \$131,000 in the bank, of which \$44,000, is in the operating account, and \$87,000 is in reserves. \$31,000 is in checking. We have spent \$45,000 so far this year, which is 21% less than this time last year. Our major fundraisers (sweepstakes and 2 auctions) and income-generating retreats are still to come. Second quarter report from our accountant is not ready yet, so the numbers in the report come directly from our accounts. Efforts to clarify and coordinate financial reports from accountant with ours are ongoing. Better digital platforms for managing accommodations booking and events payments are being developed.
- 2) **Membership report:** The full membership report was provided online before the meeting and was summarized. Total members now is 210, which is 22 fewer than last year, and about \$16,000 less income, but by year end we will likely catch up. 79 non renewals were contacted and currently non renewals number 67. Each year we have about 50 new members, but often they don't renew, and some members renew later in the year. We were notified that our share of membership dues to IDC can be paid in US dollars rather than euros, which will save us considerable money. As we have not yet received a bill from IDC with the new account in US dollars, we still need to pay first and second quarter member dues to IDC. **Member suggestion:** provide auto-renewal for membership. It was explained this is impossible because the member platform is global and some areas (eg, Europe) cannot offer auto renewal. Also family membership is currently impossible.
- 3) **Sky gazing project fundraiser and forestry plan:** Fundraiser suggested by a local SMS teacher to cut trees near Vajra Hall and restore panoramic views for Namkha Arte was discussed, especially as it impacts our forestry plan. Yellow gakyil will solicit volunteers for a forestry committee, in order to develop and maintain a long range plan of stewardship for our forest and wildlife.
- 4) **Solar power potential:** Solar powered battery storage for Khandroling should be investigated. We receive requests for solar panels on Vajra Hall roof; however

rooftop solar was considered upon completion of Vajra Hall and we were advised a better option is mounting panels in nearby field, that can move with the sun. A local contact in the solar business could provide site-specific recommendations.

- 5) **Grants as funding source:** We need to look for grants to fund large infrastructure projects. A member who suggested Franklin Land Trust as a possible grant source will follow up with them regarding Khandroling.
- 6) **Red report:** The full report was provided online to members before the meeting and was summarized. **Water collection** at the Vajra Hall was identified as a priority by members present, as well as on the Project Priorities Survey sent to all members. Methods are being investigated to capture rainwater falling from VH roof in ground level gutters and pipes that would funnel it to the holding tank that serves the bath house. Large Vajra Hall projects with estimates pending include sealing beams for preservation, repairing mandala coating. Meeting will be scheduled with the contractor at summer's end. Dog fight incident on Khandroling led to planned **Dogs must be on leash** signage for liability protection. A nonmember using Togyal cabin without authorization reinforces need to keep cabins locked, and add removable chain across road. Recently completed projects were summarized, including schoolhouse foyer bathroom rot remediation, second floor fire escape door replacement, internet upgrade, Khandroling cabins painted. Projects underway and planned for completion this year include stupa entrance stonework and garden improvement, repairs on porch and deck of Rinpoche's house. **Member suggestion:** For Khandroling, a group of interested members should work on a consolidated plan of design for infrastructure, signage, and garden areas, to be implemented in phases as funding allows. The member who suggested this will solicit volunteers. A landscape designer could be consulted for garden areas.
- 7) **Blue report:** The full report was provided online to members before the meeting and was summarized. Full weekly schedule of practices online was itemized, including Green Tara practice with Dr Phuntsog Wangmo which attracts about 100 participants each session. Goal to provide one program per month has mostly been met, except in May when Migmar's visit was delayed. **SSR** schedule is very full, with Green Tara, Vajra Dance and Yantra Yoga, and a presentation by SMS teacher Oleg Troyanovsky. A community member has volunteered to start and stop the ATIMONLAM recording in the gonpa for those not attending the afternoon sessions, and/or provide training in how to sing the Song of the Vajra. Katya will also offer Khaita at the end and during SSR if there is time and interest. Programs for remainder of 2026 include DDD, Chod with Enzo Terzano online, a weekend teaching in person with Steve Landsberg, and possible Umdze training with Sebastien Remy. 2027 plans include an online program with Arnaud Coquillard in January, possible in person teaching from Oliver Leick, and

the postponed program of Migmar, including stupa authentication and Sa-Che course. Katya suggested programs could be increased to 2 per month if support is available, but it was pointed out this would be a hardship for tech support and the small local sangha, unless online only. **Member suggestions:** 1) contact SMS teacher Jakob Winkler for possible program 2) avoid scheduling the same programs repeatedly each year and instead approach topics from new and different angles, eg from quantum physics as presented recently in Dzamling Gar. 3) Paora's book Earth Mirrors, relating his Māori heritage to his experiences of Dzogchen and on Khandroling could be basis for a program if he were to come next year. Paora gave the pdf of his book to the community and after some editing it could be printed and sold for community benefit. 4) New ways to reach faraway members are needed. These could include a newsletter, social media posts with video of local activities, and providing ganapuja training so new members can participate in the online practices.

Dedication of Merit