* Attendees: Lori Leff, John Foster, Joe Zurylo, John LaFrance, Vern Harrington, Kathy McGrane, Jacqueline Gens, Robyn Kinsey, John LaFrance, Soledad Suarez, Andrea Lawrence, Harold Graves

***Guru Yoga, Song of the Vajra***

* Vern Harrington appointed Moderator
* Approved February 19 Meeting Minutes
* Next Gakyil meeting April 22nd, Sunday @ 12:30 PM

**Staff Updates (3 minutes)**

* Secretary:
  + Membership Renewal/Retreats Breakdown
    - Total Members Processed to date: 250; of these, 4 are Meritorious, 33 are Sustaining,   
      123 are Ordinary, 90 are Reduced. There are also 12 paid Retreat Registrations so far for the July Retreat.
  + Working with Debbe Duggan several hours each week establishing new QuickBooks protocols, general instruction in QuickBooks
  + Lev Gordon, a practitioner from DC in Russia, wants symbolic items from Tsegyalgar to place in Russian Stupa that is being built; John Foster to follow up with Harold this coming week
  + Discussion about arranging items in Basement to accommodate Papermaking work; vacating Rinpoche’s House June 1st ; Secretary to find a temporary Summer Sublet
  + Discussion of Papermaking Project Tuesdays Noon to 4PM
* Geko:
  + Andrea says goodbye and thanks the Gakyil and Community
  + Welcome back Soledad!

**Whole Gakyil (minutes)**

1. General Updates on the July Retreat
   1. Kathy Reserved a tent for the School at July Retreat 30’ x 45’
   2. There are 2 entrances to the Cafeteria on the backside
   3. Discussion of availability, use of Tables and Chairs for Mohawk School
      1. Mohawk has 60-70 chairs approximately, maybe 6 or 7 serviceable tables
      2. Decision: better to bring our own tables and chairs, either renting or buying, rather than use only the Mohawk chairs/tables
      3. Discussion of cost of Table/Chair Rental vs. Purchasing
         1. Example: an 8 foot table costs $10 per day to rent; possibly just as cost effective to purchase tables.
         2. $78 to purchase a table at BJs
         3. Red and Yellow to follow up on cost of Renting vs. Buying tables & chairs, and quantity needed
   4. Summer Encampment Discussion
      1. Encampment begins on May 31st
      2. $1,400 to $1,500 for gas refrigerators, might need 2
      3. “Orange” (i.e., Red and Yellow) to have a meeting for the Summer Encampment
      4. Miranda Shannon is creating a document for Childcare

**Whole Gakyil (Continued from Previous Page)**

* 1. Report on Bement School & Discussion of Accommodations
     1. $30/night per person, $60 per room
     2. July 5th to 11th is the availability, so it won’t be available for SMS Retreat
     3. Discussion about security [are there lockers available for secure storage of personal belongings?]
        1. Rooms are not locked, Building will be locked
     4. Document describing Bement School Dorm being prepared by Blue to go online
     5. No one will be allowed to sleep in the Gonpa
     6. Beaver Lodge can accommodate 9 people
     7. Marilyn is point person for Accommodations
     8. Add hotels/inns in Brattleboro/Springfield to the Accommodations Page on website

# Blue Gakyil (minutes)

1. Discussion of SMS retreat / Documentation for Karma Yoga
   1. Robyn and Lori’s SMS announcement discussed
   2. TBA—Discussion of fees to be posted for SMS
      1. Blue to ask Salima about the SMS fees and discounts for clarification
      2. Discussion of posting an SMS notice vis-à-vis: “Please let us know if you’re planning to re-take the SMS Level 1 training”
      3. SMS Level 1 is presently listed as $275 fee, $75 for returning members
      4. SMS Docs on Merigar’s site are different from Tseg East
2. Retreat Communication Protocols
3. Postering
   1. Dominik is making Posters for the retreat; make payment with Credit Card for the posters
4. Lori and Jacqueline doing a week long retreat on the land
5. Discussion of inviting Senior Teachers for Fall and Winter Retreats
   1. Jim Valby possibly not available to teach next year
   2. Blue would like to see some new teachers come and teach SMS
   3. Prima Mai, Nina Robinson, Constantino, Tsultrim discussed
   4. Discussion of doing “Herb Walks” on the land with Phuntsog

# Red Gakyil (minutes)

1. Discussion of Red’s Finances for the Encampment/Retreat: How much are we going to need?
   1. Breakdown of some Red expense items connected to the Encampment:
      1. Shower repair @ bathhouse
      2. Screened Tent
      3. Water System
         1. $300 to $400 for water tank
      4. $1400 for Gas Refrigerator
         1. Decision: $2,000 of seed money to start working on encampment agreed upon
2. Budget / Fundraising Discussion for Rinpoche’s House
   1. Deck already paid for
   2. Landscaping Discussion:
      1. Plant Grass seed
      2. Soil and Grading
      3. Need a backhoe to cut a Swail for water drainage
         1. $350 for backhoe
         2. $500 Driveway/Gravel

**Red Gakyil (Continued from Previous Page)**

* + 1. Discussion of a possible Kitchen Garden for Rinpoche’s House
       1. Ploughing and preparation; Roto tiller
       2. Stumps to be pulled
  1. Stockade Fencing around Propane Tank: $200
  2. Dumpster needed for removal of unwanted materials from Barn / Milking Shed
     1. $800 for 35 foot dumpster
  3. Discussion of Covering for the Barn Door
  4. Lights for the shed/Motion Detectors : $100
  5. Shower for Rinpoche’s Room
     1. Bidet
     2. Touchup Paint
     3. Water Leaking in Bathroom
  6. Discussion of TV for Rinpoche
  7. Discussion of CO2 detectors: do we need to replace them?
  8. Broken Window Pane in kitchen area
  9. $1500 or more for Rinpoche’s House Approved: Yes

1. Swimming Pool Discussion
   1. Atlanta, GA wants to donate for a Pool
   2. Efrem wants to donate for a pool
   3. A projected cost of approximately $5,000 for Pool
2. Forestry Project: to be followed up on later
3. Sand for Pond on Khandroling
4. Discussion of a possible Camera Mount for the Ceiling of the Vajra Hall
   1. Prima Mail wants to teach 12 spaces dance on the Longsal Symbol: can a camera mount be installed on the ceiling for the purpose of filming the dance? To be followed up Later

**Yellow Gakyil (minutes)**

1. Anna on the SSI Books
   1. Books have been arriving for the retreat
2. Paola Meeting? Blue and Yellow to discuss later
3. Discussion about Nancy Paris’ contributions to our website
   1. Website our main avenue for communications
   2. Propose offering Nancy a Free Retreat
      1. Decision: Yes
4. Vajra Hall fundraising
5. Discussion about DCA donation for My Reincarnation / Zohe Films
   1. Proposal: DCA donates $350 & a statue for the Film
      1. DCA has several Goma Devi Statues that can be used for Fundraising
6. Rinpoche approves 8 foot Longsal Symbol for the top of the Vajra Hall
7. Products to sell at Retreat as way of Fundraising for Khandroling, SSI
   1. Tee shirts, Hats, special hand-made paper discussed
8. Marit possibly to decorate/interior design for retreat
9. Gakyil Unanimously Approves Modifying Terms of the Loan for the Schoolhouse as follows:
   1. Principal: $170,000
   2. Term: 20 Years
   3. Rate: 4% interest
      1. Monthly Payment: $1,035.00
10. Discussion of DCA’s Line of Credit with Bank of Western Massachusetts
    1. Yellow to Follow Up