* Attendees: John Foster, Joe Zurylo, Al Daggett, Vern Harrington, Efrem Marder, John LaFrance, David Hayes, Kathy McGrane, Lori Leff. On Conference Call: Natasha Pavlovic, Elisa Gonzalez, Robyn Kinsey

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

* Vern Harrington appointed Moderator
* Minutes Approved June thru September 2012
* Next Gakyil meeting November 11, Sunday, 12:30 PM

**Staff Updates (3 minutes)**

* Secretary (Via John LaFrance, Secretary *in absentia*):
  + Membership Report: Backlog of 80 members (can enter approx. 20 per day)
  + Planning to set up monthly membership payments through direct bank account deductions rather than credit cards due to the difficulties involved in tracking the latter.
  + Kathy needs info to amend the new Membership Form, TBD
* Geko:
  + Trying to connect stove in Thogal Cabin; possibly will get scaffolding
  + Winterization of schoolhouse newly complete, still cold
    - Casing on windows might need work; settling of insulation a problem?
    - Heating of hallways? Changing Zones; possible use of Fans?
    - Entire heating system in schoolhouse is flawed, based on the old central fireplace system, not a modern distribution system
    - Wall-mounted heating units suggested; also heating the basement and allowing heat to rise thru building. The question of heat for the building needs to be investigated and engineered, but heating the cellar would be good idea.
    - Could hire someone to audit the situation for energy efficiency; a high-efficiency blower system is suggested, along with possibly insulating the Gonpa ceiling.
  + Geko Position Discussed: David’s Timetable: he can possibly stay thru spring & potentially longer. Much appreciation for Dave’s efforts as interim Geko; can Dave commit to staying on thru the Retreat with Rinpoche 2013?
  + Tom Burton: Can he stay in dorm till his situation is more stable and help out?
  + Work Exchange so he doesn’t have to stay in his car. What function do we have if not to help each other out? Monthly re-evaluation: Dave will communicate with Tom
  + Tom Clark from Canada sent email to offer help will come up w/list of projects.
  + Financial needs; basement cleanup discussed. Solar cover from pool to be brought to schoolhouse for mouse protection

**Whole Gakyil (minutes)**

1. Increase participation
   1. Ongoing volunteer coordinator, a paid position? Marilyn MacArthur? Should we have just one Retreat Coordinator, instead of a Volunteer Coordinator & Retreat Coordinator?
   2. Communication and Networking Skills essential Need to put out request. A local person who knows the community would be preferred. Clearly defined position: Yellow will draft a notice.
2. Venue for 2013 Retreat
   * 1. Schoolhouse
     2. Cowell’s Gym: No Food? Shelburne Falls can’t accommodate that many lunches. 100 Brown Bags?
     3. Vajra Hall: How do we bus that many people to Khandroling?
     4. Tent for Yantra at Tennis Courts
     5. June 6-13 Retreat dates for venue
     6. Cost: $4/person each day –negotiating--$2500 total proposed

**Whole Gakyil (minutes continued)**

* + - 1. Appoint a person to evaluate all the logistics of the gym
      2. Efrem, Vern, Kathy, John Foster, Joe, Al all agree to go for walk thru, Kathy will coordinate
    1. Parking for Retreat Venue
       1. OK in Shelburne Falls
       2. Upper Field in Khandroling will be available (4WD needed if raining)
       3. Incentives to register
       4. Parking at Khandroling: Potential if there’s $$ AWD access is possible: 100 cars maybe?
       5. End of October land clearing begins: will see possibilities then? No plan for stumping & grading

1. DCA approach to Joint SSI meeting
   * 1. Agenda : 4 Loose Topics for Discussion; report on new SSI Organization; Tentative plan for dorm space
     2. Gakyil election
     3. Natasha & Elisa: sharing a position on blue
     4. Suggestions: Can promote online meetings
     5. PayPal monthly payment that members can sign up for to facilitate accurate money transfer
     6. Webair: webinar more than 25 people

# Yellow Gakyil (minutes)

1. Guest User Agreements are valid
   1. Phuntsog, Naomi: why have the agreements other than Phuntsog’s come into question?
   2. Perhaps SSI could pay for guest use; postpone discussion until after joint SSI Meeting
2. Bequest to Rinpoche of $54,000 directed to Rinpoche; will be sent to International Gakyil at Tenerife
3. Revisited volunteer coordinator position
   1. Membership form area for volunteer participation / project list for volunteers
      1. Secretary to make a list of members within 100 miles
      2. Types of work one could volunteer for

# Blue Gakyil (minutes)

1. Collaboration with SSI on Dorm Renovation
2. Request for money for Ads approved : $4,865
3. Retreat Registration Forms discussion:
   1. How did Newcomers learn about the Teachings?
   2. Possible volunteer job: “how was the retreat for you?” Survey sent?
4. Ticketing
   1. Reimbursement for tickets
5. Constantino: Spring 2014, Teaching Music for the Dance: communication @ upcoming retreats; Jim, Elio, Steve L., Nina
6. Email / Web Communications: Change Default on Sender of announcements to Blue Gakyil, not secretary
   1. Tsegnet Posts: from particular sender
   2. Have new online Blues Receive & Respond to flow of questions
   3. Minimum amount of info that the Secretary is familiar with
   4. Send Particulars for secretary that are highlighted
7. Possible Tape recording of upcoming weekly events?
8. North American Forum for Gakyil’s and Ling Coordinators to arrange for retreat planning collaboration

# Red Gakyil (minutes)

1. ATV Purchase shouldn’t come from Vajra Hall Account
   1. Perhaps get a new one with Payment plan $9,758 new
2. Reforestation Money will be available immediately
   1. No up front coverage of funds
3. New Memberships coming in soon
4. $10,000 diesel option approved by Gakyil
5. Maintenance Position
   1. Joe Spoke w/ Yuchen & facilities are in strong need of upkeep & organization of materials which are presently in disorder.
   2. Shed at Khandroling organized and locked
   3. Permanent position X hrs. / week to be paid $640/month (?) 1 day a week + materials
   4. Yellows will see if the money is available
6. Caretaker for farmhouse
   1. Options: Tom Burton, Nary, Bret, Sebastian
      1. Charge Rent? Nary may get a vehicle, he is #1 choice
      2. Joe empowered to talk with potential candidates
      3. List of expectations: Contract with caretaker
      4. Yuchen needs to be comfortable too.
      5. Caretaker Agreement & Document TBD
   2. Roof needed for Barn—TBD Dave