*Guru Yoga*

* Appoint a Moderator: Cindy
* Approve Previous Meeting Minutes: March and April Minute Approval
* Present at Meeting: Liz Wickhart, Karen Prestwood, Matt Hayat (briefly), Cindy Thibeau, Amanda Pollock, Diane Kramer, Dominik Niceva, Jeremy Keaton and Tim Fisher.
* Next Meeting Date: June 12th 2016

**Staff Updates**

**Secretary**

**Google Calendar**

* A shared Google Calendar has been created for DCA office tasks. This is to help coordinate the duties of the Yellow Gakyil, the Bookkeeper, and Secretary primarily but will serve and function for the whole Gakyil. The Secretary, Bookkeeper and Yellow Gakyil are administrators while the rest of the Gakyil and Geko can simply view this.
* The goal of this Calendar is to bring regularity to our bill paying and create an even flow for our Vendors and for ourselves so we are not falling behind and getting overwhelmed.
* Basecamp could serve a similar purpose and we pay for access to that. This is a start however, maybe we will transfer over to Basecamp but this seems easy for many to use
* Side note: Our Quickbooks is looking very good recently and that is thanks to John Shannon. We have cleared out all of our old balances and are up to date.

**New Members Program**

* Tim met with Ed Hayes for support and inspiration on the New Members Program. The meeting went very well and Ed’s main suggestion was to make a more Graphic centered Newsletter that isn’t bogged down with excessive text.
* The plan is to create a Newsletter that houses these graphics or videos to help us engage with newer members and practitioners. These Newsletters, while being simple and straightforward, will also include links to more text based resources and information that will be helpful to understand what is going on. Links will include our Tsegyalgar East page for New Members, our Facebook page, our Tsegyalgar East Blog New Practitioners Resource page, and of course Dzogchen.net. It will also include links to whatever Event page is pertinent to the time.
* Another leg of the New Members Program would be to have SMS Teachers host Q&A sessions for newcomers where they can inquire about practices (without being put on the spot) and explore what questions their fellow practitioners have as well. Jim Valby is now the Supervisor of SMS for North America It would be helpful to hear from him on this.
* Simple Format: Book a teacher, create deadlines for questions, Blue Gakyil reviews the questions and sends them to the teacher, and then the teacher can talk. It can be recorded and transcribed it. Then we can list these answers online. We can make a “Frequently Asked Questions.” Nancy can make a page for this which is not on any of the navigation bars. It seems WebEx would serve this purpose for now. IF the Teacher doesn’t have to travel then we will have more engagement from them. And this will make it nice and intimate. We will set up a donation page for these Teachers, they should be compensated for these days. Jim spends a lot of time considering how to respond. It takes a lot of thought and time.
* Tim is developing a template to provide to Prisoners who are reaching out to us. Once this gets going we will look for Karma Yoga volunteers to PenPal these people if they are interested/have the ability to receive regular correspondence.

ACTION ITEM: Tim will put together a NewsLetter Sample for the Gakyil

ACTION ITEM: We will get in touch with Teachers. Gakyil will guarantee some payments. We know everything that it takes for this. Start with every other month, 6 a year. We have 3 or 4 teachers in the United States. WebEx can host

**Geko:**

**Khandroling Retreat Cabins**

* Rinpoche’s Cabin Update: Someone will help Jeremy set up the staging at Rinpoche’s Cabin this week. And next week we will put the roof on, it will take one day. We will take the roof off, put a waterproof seal on it, then we put the roof back on it. This is to prepare for the weekend of June 5 and 6. We should make this a Karma Yoga weekend. I want to time it so that people can clean up what we through off the roof. And we can clean the Cabin in general.
* We will try to get a dumpster placed at the Khandroling parking lot so we can dispose of everything. This will cost around $400.
* That weekend is the same as Rinpoche’s Pranayama Retreat and I want to webcast it in the Gonpa. Maybe we can announce that but they have not announced the schedule yet so we will wait.

**Khandroling Farm Coop**

* Farming is happening: There’s been a little bit of participation there. We have been focusing on the blueberries. Nary is planting more. We are lining the beds to avoid weeding. We need to plant about 200 cuttings. In 3-5 years we can make 10-30,000 on Blueberries.
* Last year we got 20-30lbs of raspberries. This year we will have more and sell them in plastic clamshells. Helen at Bakers (in Conway) and McCuskers (Shelburne Falls) will maybe sell them as well as community members. A percentage of sales will go to DCA. Nary has the leftover money from the original Coop. The plan was to take the money from anything this year and put it back into the Coop because we have an account for the Coop, then a percentage of it will go to DCA.
* We don’t have a 5 year plan but blueberries will be up and running. We have at least 300 at this point, if we have 1,000 blueberry bushes then $100,000 per year that can be made.
* We should contact Yuchen for the old Coop Website files that should be saved.
* C61B program has limits for how much land we are cultivating. There are 8 acres total that are potentially farmable at lower Khandroling but we are only using probably half an acre right now.

**Whole Gakyil**:

* The link for the Cabin Fund Raising buttons has been posted. We can edit them as we go to be more specific depending on what projects are at hand.
* Call for study of retention of new members over the last 3 years from Diane. She has suggested that Tim go back and find out our retention rate for new Members since 2014. This knowledge will have an impact on the New Members Program; we will be able to see its effectiveness. It will be in the next Membership Report.
* Request from Yellow for 5-Year Plan for Maintenance: Jeremy has done a lot of this already. Cindy volunteers to assist. Jeremy says it’s difficult and complicated to consider things happening that far in advance but he will do his best. Amanda volunteers to help as well. Dominik requests a similar list like the one for the Schoolhouse about a 5 year plan for Khandroling. We have a good picture of the Schoolhouse but not Khandroling.
* We need a list of what is needed for the land and for Rinpoche’s house. From those facts, we can make a plan. We don’t need to be so specific with numbers because the maintenance fund should constantly be replenished and so we shouldn’t focus on keeping it to technical.
* The group that went to Kundrolling and performed Khaita for the NYC Dance Parade had lots of fun. The people were awesome. They helped a lot and the parade was hilarious.

ACTION ITEM: Cindy, Jeremy and Amanda will be making a plan over the next few months.

**YELLOW GAKYIL:**

* Total financial picture: if we gather no more money then we will make it through the remainder of the year but the future is uncertain. We will enter 2017 with 47k (last year we entered 2016 with 100k) so we are doing alright.. We need to cut some costs. We are spending huge amounts on property and financials. By the end of March we spent $22,000 and another $15,000 for liability and insurance over the year. Last year we spent about $80,000 on property plus about $15,000 in insurance and liability. Last year we spent $52,000 in expenses on the Schoolhouse but we made $21,000 so it covers half of itself.
* Liz brings up a point that we have a lot of money and are we using in a way that pays itself. Obtaining a new property would cost us the same if not more than what we are spending. We are underusing our cabins that are contributing to our income and the new property would produce more income from additional cabin rentals. We want to maximize our ability to utilize our resources.
* The land is underutilized and we could design more retreats and more events to bring people. Maybe Tsultrim Allione could come here. We are the epicenter of Vajra Dance, and we are not the only Vajra Dance, entertainment wise, I know this will sound strange, all across our country there are many different Vajra dances, our Teachers students (Oregon, Colorado) participate in other kinds of Dance. We could cultivate a Dance retreat that is centered on Vajra Dance, Yantra yoga, as well as other kind of Dances and Yoginis. We could incorporate other kinds of Dance and entertainment to bring people.
* When it comes to events and community, it is a retreat land; there is not much parking, no bathrooms. We cannot really house events; it is mostly a land for personal retreats. We cannot host events that bring in more than 200 people according to past experience.
* Diane suggests establishing a fundraising team: There’s lots of potential development and maybe a new property. We need organization and money to do all of this and so we should establish a team. We need a graphics person, a few writers, and a few phone callers and personal emailers. It’s too big a job for Dominik to do alone; she also has Membership to deal with. This is for volunteer. Dominik will do the graphics so there is no cost to the community.

**RED GAKYIL**

**Conway Roof Grant**

* Right now, Caroline has pretty much finished the application. She is on retreat. She is going to get me the final draft of everything we have on it, we have gotten letters from the Bakers, Marilyn McArthur, and Phuntsog of the value of the building to the community. As soon as we have the final draft I will scan them and send to everyone. It will be within the week. I have called Vanguard and they have come to do imitation slate which has a 50-year warranty. It seems like we are in a good position to get the grant.
* Are there limitations to receiving the grant? The only restriction that they said in the past is that they want it to be a slate roof. They want it to remain looking like a historical building. The grant is inclusive for whatever the costs are.

**Potential Properties**

* Photos of the Provost’ Khandroling property will be provided to everyone online.
* When the Gakyil votes on this we need the financial picture. First of all, we need members to buy for it us. Second, what are the utilities and taxes and what is the potential income? We need a maintenance plan. It has to be self-sustainable. The community will provide a list of all the info the Gakyil needs and it will be provided to the committee who is in charge of collecting this info.
* As for the Schoolhouse, one option: DCA can be the property owner while having SSI taking over the maintenance and repairs and still rent it to them and retain ownership and equity without having to do all of the payments. There are many different ways of doing this.
* There is a request to the community: Everyone, please send ideas for what the Community sees for this (Provost) property and how it will generate income.
* Our cabins can only be rented to Dzogchen practitioners. That is true all around the world; this is something to keep in mind about the new property.

**Summer Celebration Coordinating**

* We will potentially need a van for the summer celebration. Some think we will have access to 4 wheel drive vehicles. If we need to rent we will do it 2 weeks before and in the meantime we find people, if we can, to volunteer their 4 wheel drive vehicles.

**BLUE GAKYIL**

**Summer Celebration**

* We need to send out some more newsletters. So far 3 people have committed. We need to do some more advertising. These can include inquiries about who will volunteer their 4 wheel drive vehicles. We need to remind people of what we need from them.

**IDC Alignment**

* We heard from Enrico last week and he has edited all the documents. He asked for our revised bylaws which were sent to him and now we are waiting to hear back. We are waiting for the bylaws and then he will send us what he hopes will be his final form.
* There are copies of the original charter. We scanned it. If there’s a certified copy we will provide it to Merigar
* We hope to have an answer by the end of the month so we can vote in June. But it’s hard to say, it could take 6 months. But it sounds like Enrico wants to move forward and David has approved everything. From a text perspective we are 99% fine but we need appropriate wording that Enrico wants and then we can have a community vote. Karen will stay with the IDC process until it is complete.

**The State of Blue**

* Matt has needed to miss some meetings and hopes to attend again in the near future.
* Karen and Liz sent their letters of resignation, Karen leaves first of July and Liz will leave at the end of July. Now is a good time to send an email for Gakyil election.
* Blue is a good color to find people for and a good distance color so hopefully we will have options. The email will include what the position entails. We will also notify of the positions on the **Red** and **Yellow** Gakyil as well.
* According to the IDC, in the past it was up to 3 years, and now the new election is for 3 years and the possibility to stay on for another 3 years but then they cannot be on the Gakyil for 6 years after that.
* Liz offers to be a friend of Blue. There’s a huge learning curve and she will help fill those voids as a Friend to Blue.