

Gakyil members present: John La France, Mark Follansbee, Al Daggett, Marsha Ellison, Ellen Halbert, Martha Tack

Community Members present: Lauri Marder, David Hayes, Brett Bourman, Dominik Niceva, Helena Bankovic, Vern Harrington, Nancy Paris, Christopher Dye, Gerry Steinberg, Sean Quinn, Johanna Bennett, Emily Luhrs, David Leskowitz, Nick Boutros, Cindy Thiebeau, Robyn Kinsey, Caroline Hotaling, Bernard Fauques

Guru Yoga

Agenda Items:

- 1) Martha and Ellen were approved as new gakyil members, thanks were expressed to retiring members Mark and John.
- 2) Yellow report: Mark reported we are solvent and have had balanced budget the last 3 years. Bookkeeper statements are now timely and cleaned up. M&T bank account closed. We now have Greenfield Cooperative and Bank of America accounts. B of A has \$45,000 in checking and \$22,000 from PayPal for Tsegyalgar house in Dzamlingar. Greenfield Coop has \$98,000 reserve and accounts for Khandroling (approximately \$3000) and the Vajra Hall (approximately \$5000) and mortgage loan of around \$30,000. Upcoming payments are \$16,000 for Khandroling taxes and \$825/ month Conway mortgage. Dzamlingar house is paid off but due to mistakes in Dzamlingar's understanding local tax regulations it was fined. Some income from Tsegyalgar house now goes to help pay those fines and taxes. Kyu has been managing Tsegyalgar house and has been extremely helpful.
- 3) Red report: John needs info to record officers for our Massachusetts corporation file. John has been president and was commended for helping Gakyil maintain focus and always reach consensus
- 4) Blue report: Robert Derr wanted programs for dark retreat cabin and to revive use of cabin
- 5) Are there different organizational structures that would encourage greater participation?
Ideas offered: • Rinpoche spoke of helping community members start their own businesses—we could develop a program for this. • In light of recent deaths in community, have programs about death and dying. • Create committees for specific purposes, look at ways to expand global participation, especially at Khandroling. • Individuals need to feel they have a stake, personally take on projects they feel passionate about and present to gakyil, spearhead efforts and attract supporters as Jim Smith did with the stupa; gakyil can help fund and advertise. • Need more people to lead practices; make calendar for leader sign up to avoid last minute scrambling; Adriano's leader training very helpful but not necessary to lead, people need help and a good model to feel comfortable leading.
- 6) How do we sustain the community into the future? **Ideas offered:** • Our Master's energy sustains us, through group practice such as Vajra Dance and other practices, opportunities to get together and share, gakyil participation • Dark retreat cabin could be a source of income; need to renovate existing cabin and/or build new dark retreat cabin(s); attendants for dark retreat needed; invite a teacher to instruct about dark retreat, invite other dharma centers to participate and use the cabins; could existing cabin have historical status?

- 7) How can we preserve Khandroling forever? **Ideas offered:** • Attract interest by creating a welcoming energy and comfortable facilities (glamping); be more inviting, hold activities often, maybe once a month. • Choose one project to focus energy on so it will be completed.
- 8) Other items: Equipment and electronics need work/ repairs; schoolhouse needs work, accommodations could be upgraded; possibly convert dorm space into separate rooms to generate income and attract interest. Gakyil to consider all ideas offered in creating 2024 budget.
- 9) **Dedication of Merit**