

Community Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2025

Present online:

Gakyil members Marsha Ellison, Al Daggett, Ellen Halbert

Community members Paula Barry, Jim Smith, Naomi Zeitz, Katya Schmookler, Mark Alton-Follansbee, Carisa O'Kelly, Martha Tack, Gerry Steinberg, David Leskowitz, Emily Luhrs

Present in gonpa:

Will Shea, Cindy Thiebeau, Gerard Miller, David Hayes

Guru Yoga

Agenda

- 1) **Election of new gakyil members:** • Al nominated Gerard Miller for yellow gakyil and Mark Alton-Follansbee seconded the nomination. Gerard summarized his past experience with fundraising and financial management and his past work for the community (see Gerard's statement listed online with gakyil reports) He stated his intention to seek new ways to increase fundraising, to increase our budget to \$500,000, and expressed a sense of urgency about increasing our income and collaboration. Gerard was elected unanimously to the yellow gakyil, with the position of Treasurer for the community. • Marsha nominated Katya Schmookler for blue gakyil, and Naomi Zeitz seconded. Katya summarized her experience with copywriting and communications and her work for Shang Shung Tibetan Medicine program, teaching Khaita, and blue gakyil work in Moscow and with the sangha in Colorado. (See Katya's statement online, listed with the gakyil reports). Katya was elected unanimously to blue gakyil. Marsha will retire in September.
- 2) **Yellow report:** • Al stressed that we need income and must minimize spending, and urged people to participate and pay for the three upcoming events this summer. • Next quarterly financial statements will come out in July. • Al will retire at the end of June but will continue as a friend of yellow and support Gerry as needed.
- 3) **Red report:** • The report was provided online before the meeting. • Need for more tech support was stressed, since some members of the tech team have moved away or are unavailable. • Efforts to create a usable dark retreat space are stalled due to the need for someone local to spearhead the effort. Challenges to creating a convertible space in the farmhouse were discussed, with some

members expressing a wish to continue this. • Marit's report on the Memorial Garden was summarized (see Marit's update listed with the gakyil reports) including work begun, future plans, and sample plaques for names and dates of deceased members. • Dominik's plan for a Historical Landmark Site and garden was discussed as a way of commemorating the original Vajra Dance mandala, with information about Vajra Dance, and space for a portable mandala surrounded by seating and garden areas that would complement the Memorial Garden.

- 4) **Blue report:** • The report was provided online before the meeting. • Full calendar of weekly practices was discussed, including offerings by local teachers. • Ganapujas of Tsegyalgar and Kundrolling are held separately for now. Kundrolling is trying to rejuvenate the Ling and make a new gakyil. Members from Tsegyalgar East and Kundrolling are connected and can serve on each other's gakyils. • Three upcoming summer events were discussed. It was clarified that the barbecue and auction during Michael Katz's Rushen of the Voice will be Saturday July 12, not Sunday as announced. Pros and cons of having an online component were discussed, including tech challenges, and the fact that most registrants will be on Zoom. • Paula would like to set up a 2-3 day course of Yantra Yoga for beginners in July. Marsha, Katya and she will meet to plan further. • Members were urged to participate in Igor's retreat as well as Dance Dance Dance. • The community was informed that Yeshe has been invited to teach next summer and he replied positively. He will let us know his availability when he makes his schedule in August.

Dedication of Merit