*Guru Yoga*

* Appoint a Moderator: Cindy
* Approve Previous Meetings Minutes: March needs to be fixed, February is approved.
* Present at Meeting: Anastasia Ezequelle, Tim Fisher, Jeremy Keaton, John Shannon, Diane Kramer, Dominik Niceva, Cindy Thibeau, Amanda Pollock, Liz Wickhart, Karen Prestwood and Matt Hayat.
* Next Meeting Date: May 22 2016

ACTION ITEM: Karen will review and edit March Gakyil Meeting Minutes with Tim.

**Anastasia Presents Summer Celebration Update:**

* Anastasia has reworked the schedule but hasn’t sent it out yet. She has been incorporating everyone’s feedback. It’s not easy to make the schedule. She will send it out again to everyone soon. Two Karma Yoga days before lunch, two after lunch. This will provide flexibility.
* One thing that got lost in the mix is the bags. For the Logo, a White Ah may be better than a Longsal. We could also try the Mandala image. It’s cheaper to do just one color, though, so one symbol may be best. Rinpoche has scolded us for using sacred images on common items before. Maybe we can just have Khandroling typed out on the bag. It would be good to leave it without a date because then it limits the use of the items, we can sell them if we don’t use them all.
* Do well sell them or hand them out? The plan is to have the bag replace the folders that we hand out at an event. Everyone agrees that we should give them away. How many do we make? We are guessing 50-75. We can get 72 for $6 .48 each. Initial cost is $466. IF we get more than the cost will go down even more. Anastasia will check on this. We can split the colors, half blue and half red. She has sent out pictures. It’s a strong bag, it will last.
* The design “Land of the Dakinis” may have a nice look to it, a nice graphic. It might be nice to mirror the sign that Joe has created and that way it will reflect the land. However, Dominik thinks that the sign is too classic and she wants to create something a little different and cooler. She will show us the graphic and we can decide. There are other bags that have different colors, lavender could be a good color for Goma Devi. There are other ones but the blue and red are strongest. When is the latest we can place the order? 3 weeks from now to be comfortable.
* The budget is estimated to be $5,000 or less. We will make $15,000-$20,000 on this event. We are going to make a google spreadsheet for the costs.
* We can do an auction perhaps. Anastasia thinks it could be on the last day but maybe people will leave early. After the final Ganapuja we can do an Auction at 2pm is the idea. Karen thinks that auctions exclude people because things get very expensive. A silent auction would be better but it was hard last time. We could do a raffle. For instance, if there are 3 items that we could raffle off, maybe get $10,000 for each for these items. They auction precious items usually and mostly get purchased by wealthy Russians and Chinese. We can sell raffle tickets and that will be best. We can hone our raffle. Anastasia likes the idea of a silent auction.
* Ed Hayes has donated items and there are items in the office. We will set up a table with items and sell tickets there. Three different raffle tickets, 3 price tiers and the three colors.
* Anastasia wants a commerce area by the pond. Caroline will likely set up a table or van by the pond. We can have items to sell and other vendors and the raffle table! We have to consider if we need a tent for this area. The tent would be a nice central showcase for ATMA, SSI, Khaita, all of our subsects.
* The food will ideally be served and eaten by the pond. There is a platform there that would be good for this. 30x30 are the dimensions. So the Pond zone will be the commerce and vendors. Jeremy says we have 4 tables under the Gonpa. I don’t know if its SSI property which is only important if we need new ones. Caroline bought a lot last year. There are a few more tables in the Gonpa and some on Khandroling. The perimeters of the Vajra Hall can be used for table placement. If it rains though it will get wet.
* Ed Hayes is good at knowing how much we need to buy for 50 people. He’s good at knowing what large groups of people need. There are 2 pujas during this event. The 3rd day in (Tuesday 8/2) and the final day (Sunday 8/7).
* Khaita should be included even though it is under SSI. We will have to fly people in for Khaita and that will be costly. It may be cheaper to invite Adriana because there is a procedure about inviting. Naomi can help and we will split the cost with SSI, bringing one person from Europe is cheaper than 3 USA teac hers. The idea is after this major event the teacher will stay one week after the event and do an event on the practice (Khaita). This sounds good to everyone.
* As soon as the schedule gets done we should write this up beautifully and include some pictures and get people excited about it.
* When are we going to open the registration? The registration can be started sooner and it should be because it will give us an idea for numbers. We can also show how many people signed up and it will draw more momentum. Let’s ask Nancy to set up that page, it has the info on the program and registration button. We can use the same button from last year. We will look at it and see if we can use the same button.
* We should do the page this week. It’s not complicated. We have the content and we can add that as well. The schedule is not finalized but we will use what we have so far and send that with some other Blue content. Do we want to do some sort of fundraising beforehand to pay for this or should we use the registration fees? Anastasia is doing a great job!

ACTION ITEM: Tim will collect and photograph the items available for Auction that are in the office.

**Staff Updates**

**1. Secretary**

**Progress Report**

* Tim discusses what he was been accomplishing over the last few months. Lots of getting acquainted with the ins and outs of DCA. This includes general office duties (emails, collecting monies, helping members, organizing our physical and digital files etc)
* Together with John Shannon, Tim is making strides towards becoming a (mostly) paperless office. This will reduce clutter and create a streamlined system for automatic and regular payment cycles for our Vendors.
* Prison Letter inquiries. How to deal with this: Write to them and suggest open texts like The Crystal and the Way of Light. They can also receive Transmission if they are provided internet access. There are others who have dealt with this in the past, explore how they have done this.
* Special Case Members and 2015 Past Due Membership fees have also been a task for Tim
* New Members Program has begun but it’s still in its infant stages. Tim is working to create a simple, direct process for helping people who are new to our Community integrate the Teachings and become familiar with other members as well as our activities.
* Gathering and consolidating Retreat materials to assist Anastasia.

ACTION ITEM: Write to Blue and Reach out to Ed Hayes and Anna because they will be able to help get in touch with Practice Groups and consolidate information and perhaps provide better contact info.

**2. Geko**

**Schoolhouse Update**

* Jeremy got a thermal imaging camera and has been able to focus on where we are losing heat. Jeremy has built walls in the schoolhouse hallways to help insulate the building (First on the Gonpa side, now on the opposite side)
* He is going to try and sell Kathy McGrane’s car. Neil Murray says that it’s in good condition and so we could sell it. He also wants to scrap the Honda CRV that Joey and Leila left for Khandroling.
* The ceiling of the Gonpa had leaks in it and he has been filling it in with insulation.
* Jeremy has created charts tracking out electric and propane since 1999. This has been the cheapest winter .The electric bill will be about $1,000 less this year due to the lighting. Also we have a lower rate.
* The ceilings of the schoolhouse need to be painted. It’s a not too much to hire someone.

**Khandroling Retreat Cabins Update**

* Joe is at the sign right now. The posts are in. The roof assembly has been put there. Sign will go up next week.
* Other than that we are opening the bathhouse. We are performing routine maintenance on the equipment. We need a new weed Wacker. The septic needs to be pumped. Sean and Jess are not coming to be Land Geko’s this summer as far as Jeremy knows. Sareley will come in June and won’t be doing as much work; she is planning to have more of a Retreat experience. It will be calmer here.
* We have Karma Yoga during the Summer Celebration. The skills that Jeremy needs in terms of helpers: Cleaning the Schoolhouse while he is at Khandroling. But who has similar skills to Jeremy? Joe Zurylo, Jim Smith and John Foster are more available. Cindy has some people in mind. Cindy will try to get some people to volunteer to clean the Schoolhouse.
* People with technical skills would be helpful and are required for Rinpoche’s Cabin roof is being repaired. Jim smith is going to restore the Stupa. John Foster is going to help on Rinpoche’s cabin, so are Jim and Joe. Red will look for a second Geko for late July/August. We will need someone to clean the Mandala. Lots of scrubbing. It takes 3-4 hours with a few people. Lots of effort. To get the most people there we need to do it on the weekend, this is if we are going to utilize karma yoga. Cindy will make announcement on Tsegyalgarnet for this.
* Jeremy is also going to put up signs to discourage people from disturbing others while on retreat in the Mandarava and Thogal cabins. Also bathhouse new bathhouse signs will be created.

3. **Bookkeeper**

* We received very minimal training for a job that we was doing for 4years. When we started Donation letters, we had to create all of this from scratch. Explaining how we are having to go through and discover everything and learn the quirky system and redo all of these things.
* Example, things are removed from specific places but they are not what we think. Ie funds coming from Paypal vs our bank account. Ed Margola re-classes the items (Guest User Fees) Ed has to reclassify things because of the way that we enter our one time payments. John is working with Ed’s team to address this so they don’t have to extra work.
* There are missing deposits that are being made, such as our Mortgage payments. We use a vertical version of QB. These issues need be fixed but there are many more issues that manifest when trying to solve them.
* There are a lot of checks that were from 2015 that were supposed to be paid but were not and so we are catching up and therefore we don’t know our budget because we are spending money we thought we already spent.

ACTION ITEM: John will work with Ed and Mike to straighten out the P&L.

**Whole Gakyil**

**IDC Payment**

* Dominik makes a statement. IDC requests payment from us for 1st quarter. We still haven’t collected all of these funds but they are collecting. 2.
* I sent a response to Tim. We still have incomplete 2015 payments. 2 problems, either IDC is not responding to the notes when they are inputted. People who haven’t paid, what do we do? We will try to help members to complete their payments. There are 3 ways that payments stop, someone changes account, money gets forgotten, people are broke, or the low amount that the Gakyil agreed to we cannot close.
* We are asked to send almost $10,000 to IDC for membership but we are waiting on their Response for the Bylaws. We are holding the wires until we advance our legal situation in the meantime. Dominik though is that by withholding their money then their process will speed up in affirming our bylaws. We should just send the money according to Cindy and Amanda and Karen.

**Schoolhouse Roof and Plans for the Future**

* Roof issue is a big issue. Cindy is leaning towards fixing the roof. Amanda is definitely for fixing the roof. Jeremy has done a very good assessment. It is $65,000 to do this according our Geko.
* There are a lot of things coming into play that will generate funds that will go towards that. The money from Paper Lotus, people will be purchasing these and it will raise money for the Schoolhouse. We will not see this right away, though, but it is a fundraiser that has perpetual motion. It will be launched this Fall.
* Amanda sits on the board of Conway they all state they are happy that we are integrating with the Community. If we can work it out so that the mortgage is under SSI name instead of DCA then we are eligible for educational grants. If we focus on keeping the Schoolhouse in SSI’s name then the right parameters would be met to make us eligible for local town grants.
* We could maybe reach out to the community and see if people will pay 20/month towards fixing the Schoolhouse.
* One alternative would be to move the DCA office to Rinpoche’s house. Jeremy is making it clear that we need to move forward with the roof one way or another.
* Another idea is to give the mortgage to SSI and let them take care of the roof. Maybe SSI could ask the Chinese and Russian International SSI Communities to help us financially with the Schoolhouse mortgage. It costs us $2,000 a month to run the Schoolhouse.
* SSI is its own entity and we are responsible for ourselves spiritually, physically, and mentally. But we are not responsible for them, we collaborate with them. Of course we collaborate but we are not responsible. This discussion has occurred for very long. In the past they don’t want to take over the mortgage because it includes Rinpoche’s house and they don’t want to pay for it.
* Another possibility is to put both of our names to the Mortgage. The bank will most likely not give SSI a mortgage, but joint ownership is more likely to segue into this process. Amanda would like an SSI consultant.
* We do not make more money than Shang Shung. But we have many more property to maintain. Every 2 years we fix the Schoolhouse. The money for the roof/other Schoolhouse expenses could be used to fix the retreat cabins. We have more interest than preserving one property. We have members that cannot commit to 20/month so it all depends on how many can/will.
* Our plan is sending a survey to the Community explaining the whole situation. This will ask the members how they will feel about keeping the Schoolhouse, and those people who are saying that we should keep it, maybe we should ask those people specifically step up to the plate financially. We have nothing but Membership dues for income. If we can’t do it all then we have to prioritize.
* SSI is an international community. They can maybe have the International community assist in maintaining the properties. The gar is not a building. There are businesses that shrink and act according to their budgets; we must work with circumstances. If this is a business we will need to shrink in order to grow. We don’t need to maintain a building that only 10 people use.
* There is a large view and a local view, we could argue for a long time, but it’s better to understand what people want and in order to do that we’ll have to integrate. This is a 20 year conversation.
* Important data to keep in mind: There are codes that if we were to get busted for them, then we could get charged upwards of $100,000. We know the current inspector but at some point that will stop being our fail safe. It will be expensive to get this building up to code, something to take into consideration. It is an unavoidable task for the future.
* We will send out the survey. We will send this out to all the Members. We will evaluate how members feel globally. If we decide to fix the roof then what members will support this?
* Jeremy has a printout of the grant that he and Caroline worked on previously. He will provide Amanda with this. Could Jeremy create cost expectations of what it will cost us to bring things to code and fix the schoolhouse to be proper? Yes, but for now he knows the 2nd story emergency exit is something that will get us fined, but to fix it will cost 8k. The first floor Handicap Accessible entrance also must be brought to code for an equal cost. Amanda leaves to go to work.

ACTION ITEM: Amanda will research Grants for SSI. Get data from the town of the Conway.

**Blue Gakyil Report**

* Enrico, the IDC rep working with us on the bylaws, is experiencing a family emergency and so communications with him are limited for the time being.
* We are waiting to hear back on the Communications course from Gene. All of the programs are set. They are being worked on.
* The new project will be working with SSI to get Khaita teacher and course.
* Also, the Tsegyalgar East Newsletter has been held up. They were held up because of the minutes. Is there anything else that should be added? We are almost done with Dzamlingar announcement.
* We have a list of items that people can log into the Google Spreadsheet. Liz will get a blurb from Yellow and add that in the announcement so the community will know about Dzamlingar. We should include that we are not paying for the cost of the house; the ownership company is doing that. We pay for the furnishings, which are $20,000 roughly; this will be paid back by rentals over the next 10 years.

**Red Gakyil Report**

* Cindy has been working with Anastasia on the Summer Celebration
* We have been having Khandroling Farm Coop meetings. The planning stages are going well.

Yellow Gakyil Report

* Current Financial Picture: about 111k in bank account, and $10,000 in Paypal. Our money supply will start to slow down. The P&L is a mess so we can’t answer that honestly.
* The long term plan is to reduce Ed’s involvement and have John do more because right now between the 2 we are paying the same as we paid Debbie.
* IDC MMS (Our 15% that goes to IDC): We will proceed with payment and do things nicely and we will check with Ling to get their money.
* Jeremy is going to use the money that we get from Osterman to get materials for Rinpoche’s Cabin. According to Jeremy we still need more money to complete this. Ben is cutting the trees around the Guardian cabin and they are doing a good job keeping it clean. We still have $3,500 and that’s more than enough to pay for materials and labor to continue on with the roof,
* After the roof we will need over $13,000 to finish Thogal cabin as well. We can have people buy specific items for the cabin. Then people know what their money goes to. This would be like a wedding or baby shower registry. IDC does this for Tenerife. We can mirror this. The progress in the cabin we are winging it because once we start constructing things could get more expensive because we may be discovering more issues etc.
* We have a Lowes connection. A community member who is giving us discounts. Go fund me will be used to help us pay for these repairs.