

Colorado Peacemakers Quarterly Meeting
May 17, 2020. 3:30 PM.

Attendees:

1. Paul Gyodo Agostinelli, Sensei
2. Greg Seizan Clark
3. Karin Kempe, Roshi
4. Bob Knott
5. Connie Lane
6. Lisamarie Lumi McGrath
7. Jason Senshin Ruby
8. Joel Tagert
9. Billy Wynn
10. David Loy
11. Amy Strickland

Agenda and Notes

1. **Gates of Sweet Nectar** – Lisa Marie and Senshin
2. **Introductions and brief check-in** Greg Clark
 - a. All attendees introduced themselves and shared how the COVID crisis has affected them.
3. **Orientation to CO Affiliate** Paul Gyodo Agostinelli, Sensei
 - a. About 2.5 years ago, several groups – Ecodharma, Eon Zen Center, Zen Center of Denver, Willow Farm Contemplative formed a ‘Maha Sangha’
 - b. Karin Roshi led the group then turned over leadership to Gyodo, Sensei
 - c. Met four times a year, have had retreat and will hope to have one this year.
 - d. Colorado Maha Sangha made a conscious decision to make an alternate structure, not an affiliate based approach, but more a Maha Sangha approach.
4. **Report from member groups** Billy Wynne
 - a. Billy reached out to Judy’s House (for bereaved families),
 - b. Amy discussed prison ministry but being unable to do so now during COVID-19.
 - c. Bob – Extinction Rebellion demonstration last fall, flash mob picketing at Union Station.
5. **ZPI leadership update** Geoff Shōun O’Keeffe (shared by Lumi)
 - a. Sit together daily 9-9:30
 - b. Council
 - c. Womens’ Only council
 - d. Householder Koan work through ZPI
 - e. ZPI meetings last hour to hour and a half. Many to do with climate.
 - f. Also afternoon sits –
 - g. Many hives are on the ZPI website.
 - h. David shared Ecodharma activities, including virtual retreat.
 - i. Last formal activity - Dinner at Judy’s House
 - j. Karin reminded us that even if we can’t go out, we can make monetary donations

- k. David mentioned Asian Buddhist relief organizations: Buddhist Global Relief and International Organization of Engaged Buddhists
6. **Recommendations for Affiliate priorities, Hive page, website and outreach** Billy
- a. Billy shared information about Hive, Colorado Peacemaker website.
 - b. Gyodo mentioned putting our upcoming actions and practice on the Hive website.
7. **Opportunities for service in the time of COVID** Greg
- a. Greg - shared providing personal items to homeless people.
 - b. Connie - serving can be in different pictures: individual, sangha, larger sangha. She would like to develop a picture of what this picture looks like to share with our own groups. Ways to be involved. She is member of group to feed an ER, hospital staff. Food banks are hurting. So many to be involved.
 - c. David - Find ways to address 'Institutional Dukkha', e.g. Extinction Rebellion. ExR is shut down now due to covid, but doing training.
 - d. Amy - should we build a 'resource page'?
 - e. Karin indicated that ZCD started a listserv. Didn't want to use our website for that purpose. This year will be very busy with political activism.
 - f. Billy has a list of 'post-covid' activities. Maybe from Mile-High United Way. Here is a link to virtual volunteer opportunities in the Denver metro area:
<https://volunteer.unitedwaydenver.org/search/virtual>
 - g. This link is to support charities in need during COVID:
<https://volunteer.unitedwaydenver.org/event/173571-Support-Nonprofits-Impacted-by-COVID-19>
 - h. Gyodo Sensei- mutual aid networks are arising that may warrant our attention.
8. **Initial discussion regarding our annual retreat, typically held in August** Gyodo-Sensei
- a. August timeframe. Varying between 14-28 participants.
 - b. Time to think of doing this again in August. Perhaps at Willow Farm or EcoDharma.
 - c. David isn't sure that EcoDharma will even open this summer. Also not sure there are openings in schedule.
 - d. Gyodo Sensei - has a date reserved at Willow Farm. But it could be virtual.
9. **Any other items** Billy
- a. -
10. **Council** Gyodo Sensei
- a. Had 30 second reflection from each member.
11. **Close and set next meeting** Greg
- a. Perhaps have practice in August and an organizational meeting in September. We will follow up by email.