

THE NALANDA INSTITUTE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 21, 2007

Held at the home of Jan Vleck.

In attendance: Geshe Jamyang, Jan Vleck, Dick Carlson, Alaya Griffith, Bob Saunders, and Carol Dean.

AGENDA

- 1) Treasurer's Report
- 2) Calendar review
- 3) White Tara Teaching by Dagmo Kusho
- 4) Board Teleconference Calls
- 5) December Special Event: Geshe Jamyang's 20th Anniversary
- 6) Super Saturday 6/16
- 7) Publicity
- 8) Annual Retreat 5/11-5/13
- 9) Dharma Store
- 10) Dharma Center: real estate update
- 11) Nalanda Library
- 12) Practice Leaders
- 13) Lama Lungrik update
- 14) Pledge members

1. Treasurer's Report:

None; Larry was not here.

2. Calendar review

Reviewed upcoming events, including Thursday night leaders. Still need someone to lead Tara practice on 3/29 (5th Thursday)

Enlightenment Month: May 17-June 15 according to the Sakya lunar calendar (may be 1 day later in US due to time zone differences?) Enlightenment Day is the 15th day of lunar month: Thursday 5/31 per Sakya, maybe Friday 6/1?

3. White Tara Empowerment & Teaching Sunday 4/29/07 9a-3p

White Tara empowerment and teaching by Dagmo Kusho will be on Sunday, April 29th at the Coach House. The times sent to NW Dharma News are 9am-3pm, but Dagmola will not be able to arrive until about 10am. We decided to keep the 9am start, and use the first hour introducing the activities and perhaps holding a short practice. We don't know who will come, but felt we should anticipate there will be at least some who will appreciate hearing some context.

0900-0945 Order of events for the day: empowerment, teaching, then practice (lunch break on your own, exact time depends on Dagmola)

What is an empowerment? What is a teaching?

What does White Tara represent?

Etiquette—saffron water, how to greet her, katas, envelope offerings

**Jan V will work with Geshe to determine the content of this introduction, perhaps setting up a teaching for interested Nalanda leaders

Publicity:

**Bob S will send email to mailing list this weekend

**Bob S will work with Carol D to do flier by Sunday 3/24, using Sakya web material **Alaya G will contact the hospice group

**Bob S will contact InterFaith Works [Claire may have done this already]; there was less Board interest in listing with Food Coop or Green Pages and it may be too late for them anyway. Jan V has been in email and phone contact with Adrienne at Sakya Monastery but many Sakya people are traveling till the end of the month. We discussed many logistics details (Carol D kept detailed notes because she is coordinating the event), but a main one is to be sure Nalanda ends up with at least 30 White Tara sadhanas for future practice. Carol is doing the lunch.

**Larry C will have to be asked to get cash for envelope offerings (\$30 for gas, \$25 for chauffeur, \$50 for any monks or nuns—should find out who will be coming with Dagmola; anyone who comes with her is part of the official party.

4. Board Teleconference Calls

Alaya G alerted the Board to a problem with some local phone carriers refusing to connect calls to the free conference call center. We don't know who would be affected by this, but will go ahead with call on

Next Wed 4/4 at 8pm

Alternatives: if we lose this teleconference service, an alternative would be email with "reply all" response

5. December Special Event ??Saturday 12/1/2007

On 12/4/1987 Geshe Jamyang arrived in US. We discussed ideas for a 20th anniversary event to honor Geshe Jamyang and his teaching activities, using it as a major fundraiser to advance his work by supporting the Dharma Center (i.e. Nalanda Institute). Jamyang supports this concept.

The general concept would be about 200 people at a \$50/plate dinner using paid caterers. Jan V has been in contact with SPSCC catering and hasn't heard back from New Market, but will try to use student-related business and facilities in keeping with the theme of honoring Geshe Jamyang as a teacher in our community. (is there a room charge?)

Events would include: Tibet slide show, silent auction

Target supporters: TESC, BHR, Nalanda past and present, others?

Need to start collecting auction items--hit up businesses, etc.

6. Super Saturday 6/16 what time? 10-5

Yes, let's do have an informational booth, with brochures from book groups, etc. No charge for space if we are not selling things.

**Claire to mail in application

Need volunteers, plans for rain/wind. We may have a canopy.

7. Ads in Daily O

Yes to Kathleen's suggestion that we try to use free listings (such as Kathleen used for the event at their house): routine Thurs night, plus special events

8. Annual Retreat: Fri 5/11-Sun 5/13 Lama Migmar

Planned for Friday 1000-Sunday 1200 at Gwinwood (reservations already made).

Lama Migmar will buy his own ticket and we will reimburse. Jamyang has discussed teaching topics with Lama Migmar. "Transforming Ordinairiness into Enlightenment" Teachings will progress from general Theravadan thought (understanding the ordinary), through Mahayana ideas about mind and emotions (including Lojong), to Vajrayana tantric schools, visualizations, and deity practices.

**Jan V and Bob S will try to draft an outline/syllabus and review with Jamyang.

**WHO? Need flier for mailing to Dharma centers around Seattle/Portland/Idaho/Vancouver BC Sakya Center; need to decide price

9. Dharma Store (attachment)

Dick C did inventory last weekend (attached) and will make jewelry display boards. What is purpose of inventory? To allow us to decide whether there are changes in direction we want to take with stocking items, to know what to try to sell soon, to decide what to stock up on when group is in Tibet (or Carol D in Mongolia).

Bring back to next agenda.

****WHO?** Bring goods to events (White Tara and Retreat)

****Jan V** or any Board member announce on Thursdays need for storekeepers

10. Dharma Center (real estate report attachment)

Bob S met with Brad Kisor, the commercial real estate agent at Coldwell Banker. He presented an analysis of 3 properties in the State/4th corridor

- 1) McCormick: for sale again, now overpriced at \$350 (up \$90k from last year)
- 2) 4th near Eastside: Jan and Bob toured it; it's a teardown
- 3) vacant lot on State St: build temple with rental properties

Jamyang recommends continue exploration on outskirts of town; town would come to us. Maintain Vietnamese temple as our city location. Do more programs, and growth will come. Discussion: out of town—one trouble is that 2 acres is probably too small for a facility that will be open to public because need public water system, septic, etc....

11. Library

Bruce Fogg has the Nalanda library. Carol D is interested in resuscitating it as a resource.

****Bob S** see if you have a contact number for Bruce.

12. Who can lead practices?

Let's record a list of who is trained to lead various practices. List should be periodically reviewed by Geshe Jamyang and the Board to keep it current--perhaps at planning retreat?

****Jan V** will ask Jamyang for his list

13. Lama Lungrik

Lama Lungrik has a visa interview at the US Consulate in Chennai on 4/4. Jan V has corresponded by email with the Consulate, and sent another letter directly to Lama Lungrik repeating Nalanda's invitation and offering any needed documents. The Board endorsed the letter and reaffirmed its commitment to seeking a resident ordained monk to provide ceremonies in the Sakya tradition of Tibetan Buddhism, care for our shrine objects, etc.

14. Pledge Members

The Board agreed that we should maintain a formal list of pledge members, updated at least yearly. Pledge members should have some benefits, for example to be provided with personal copies of the White Tara sadhana without charge.

****Larry**, can you do this?

**Next Board Meeting Will Be Held April 18th 7PM at Jan Vleck's house
NE corner of 17th and Jefferson (504 17th Av SE)
705-2527**