

**Seattle Dances of Universal Peace
Planning Meeting
11/29/23**

Present: Hassan, Phil (convener), Helen (scribe), Ka, Elizabeth, John, Martha, Zarifah, Jennifer (VfP), Joe D,

Opening: "Give Thanks"

Check-ins were deferred due to the long agenda versus available time.

Announcements were also deferred.

2023 Fall Retreat: Celebration and Review

Financial summary: We have approximately \$475 profit, with a few possible checks still coming in. Scholarship donations were especially generous.

Evaluations: About 20 were returned, not summarized yet.

Celebrations: Food was wonderful! Variety of leaders. Zikr especially phenomenal, smooth interactions among zikr leaders. Varied program with 5 different groups. A joy to work with all those dance leaders. Many mature, talented, responsible leaders. This retreat has historically been dedicated to inclusion of other (or of many) regional leaders, and that has contributed to the high quality of regional leadership. Some dances only appropriate for large groups were included.

A beautiful job was done coordinating musicians, but our dedicated volunteer, Nuria Mubeen, thought it could be arranged mostly ahead of time. Then good musicians arrived without warning and were hard to include, which was confusing. We discussed several possible ways to mitigate this situation, but agreed that some last-minute shuffling will always be part of the situation. Maybe just sign musicians up upon arrival? Maybe leaders could arrange for their own musicians? Appreciation for Brian's holding of that role. We will need to find a new coordinator if Nuria doesn't want to do it again.

In summary, the retreat was an incredible experience. Much gratitude for Martha and Elizabeth and Nuria as main planners. It's a big job to hold all that energy and manage such complexity.

Fall retreat 2024

Next year we could potentially have one more day with three more dance sessions. It was a question asked at the closing circle (sign of how much people loved this retreat). How would we want to organize it, how open to how many leaders, etc.? A task force will be needed to consider the leadership and musician situation, as well as the financial implications, etc.

If we did have an extra day, would we want 10/31 to 11/3 or 11/7 to 11/10? We don't know what other events like Jamiat Kas, Amara's retreat, and other Camp Burton events would be conflicting. We can take the question up at next meeting.

COVID Protocol for 12/16 and 12/31

Clearly Covid is still going around. Last Whidbey zikr everyone was required to send evidence of negative Covid test to a registrar, but this raised some negative feedback about requiring proof. Trust issues were at stake. Mansur's zikr used honor system with same request. At the fall retreat people were asked specifically whether they had tested, and we had spare tests available. We could have someone at a greeting table to ask directly and have tests available. Is there enough time to do all this when it's only a short event? Many free tests are available at libraries or with individuals, so we could have a supply available. Joe volunteered to be the greeter.

We discussed the options of posting signs, a sign-in with written signature, or offering the choice of wearing a N-95 mask. In the end we decided to verbally confirm a same day negative test for each participant, and to offer a test for those who forgot. We can revisit this policy later if we get push-back.

Indoor Events at Emmaus Table

Rental agreement was signed. Details can be shared later.

Ka and Phil will prepare something for the Emmaus Table newsletter outside this meeting.

The remaining agenda items were tabled for a week:

- Security for the Global Peace Dance
- Promotion/Newsletter/Liaison with 7400 Woodlawn
- Zoom options
- Scheduling musicians and leaders
- End of year donations

Next meeting

Wednesday 12/6, 4:30pm

Phil will continue convener role, Helen will scribe.

Closing Dance:

"Soli Deo"