

**Seattle Dances of Universal Peace
Planning Meeting
9/11/24**

Present: Phil (convener), Elizabeth, Hassan, Helen (scribe), Ka, Jennifer (VfP), John

Opening Dance: Sri Ram

Announcements:

Next park dance will be 9/21, which is also International Day of Peace.

Ka and Hassan will lead Dances at picnic on Saturday 9/14 at noon, Carnation area.

Whidbey zikr is going to start up again on 4th Sundays.

Treasurer's Report:

We have received the annual insurance bill, due early October, for \$333, which is only a \$10 increase. After that is paid, we will have \$4386 in bank. We have paid rent at 7400 through December. Park dance donations have been generous, so we have enough for scholarships or unexpected expenses.

Interim Committee report: no action

Facebook report:

John has been the moderator of our Facebook page. He developed a script that confirms that remarks will be confined to a Dances topic, before authorizing membership. Someone recently "automatically approved" a new member. John will contact the other moderators as the first step in investigating how this happened. We express appreciation for only including interested parties, not marketing ventures.

Gayan Retreat:

Munajat will need to have the church opened on Friday night. John is willing to be there as host to open the doors.

There are now more options to pay at the door, or only attend part of the weekend if not available for the whole weekend. Gina Sala will be present for some parts of it.

On 9/28 Gayan will also lead a full day of drumming-- a workshop in the daytime and a celebration in the evening.

August 31 Park Dance review:

Wonderful! It was a delightful surprise to have Matthews family present. Nina led her first dance; she is an intern at Hawthorn Farm through the winter. Joe Karim led his first dance at WDC. Two new young dance leaders is a real gift to our circle.

Fall Regional Retreat:

Update: Retreat Center is filled. Martha is contacting the usual cabin retreatants. Leadership teams are being reorganized since one person dropped out.

Covid Policy: Elizabeth and Martha recommend that we just keep our current policy, in spite of a recent message from Darvesha about the less timely reliability of OTC tests. Folks will be asked to avoid crowds for several days before the retreat, to have a negative test on the day of arrival, and not attend if any symptoms are present. Masks will be optional, but we will have some available. We will stock a few extra tests for those who forget, or who develop symptoms while at the retreat.

Tech support: Matin's health may preclude his participation. Alternatives are being explored, for both people and equipment. Phil will keep checking with Matin.

Musician boshi: Hassan is willing to be backup if Matin is unable, and Phil is available as additional backup. Boshi will only need to organize last-minute signups, as each group will basically establish their own musicians.

Indoor dances:

October dance at 7400 will be 10/12. We rent 12:15-3:15, with the dance from 1:00-3:00. (Martha confirmed these times per the contract.)

Covid policy: We will ask folks to either test on that day or to wear a mask, as we don't want test availability to be a barrier to anyone coming. We will all try to get free tests when they are available, and our account could purchase a few to have updated ones. John will bring some extra N-95 masks. We will check in verbally with anyone not wearing a mask.

Leadership dates:

Oct 12—Hassan will be post.

Nov 9—Burton retreat is that weekend. We will try to change the date with 7400 to 11/2 or 11/16. Martha would be the person to contact the church. If this is possible, Jennifer will be post. Co-leaders would depend on whether/which date is an option.

Dec 14--Aramaic Lord's Prayer with Phil as post. Mariko and Christo from Oregon may lead with Phil.

Next meeting:

10/22 ,Tuesday, 4:00, by zoom

Convener: John

Scribe: Helen

IC: Phil, John, Jennifer

Closing song: "We are saying thank you"