

NOTES –ASSAYA SANGHA TOWN HALL – FEBRUARY 1, 2025

Community questions and responses organized by slide

Slide 2

- Jeanie was open to suggestions regarding navigation of the website.
 - Question: Where are Assaya's dharma talks located.
 - Answer: Dharma Seed, however only some of the teacher's talks are allowed at this time due to Dharma Seed's process. The other teachers are not at this time but we've been working on that. Audio and video need to be hosted by another website. Our website can't deal with that.

Slide 3

- Volunteers are needed: Contact Deb
 - Photographer
 - AV onsite person for Monday nights.
 - Set up and breakdown room for Monday nights.
 - Social Media Team: YouTube, Facebook, Instagram (2=3)
 - Retreat Coordinators: For 1/2days, fundraiser, full days (3 or more)

Slide 6 - 9

- Questions regarding budget and cash on hand: Explained to cover 6 months of expenses, teacher development, dedicated space. There was a positive response from participants.
- Question: How do we track unpaid labor and in-kind donations?
Answer: This is an all volunteer sangha. Those that need to spend their own money for covering Assaya activities are reimbursed,
 - Teachers are compensated for their time teaching. There are funds available for teacher development.
 - The board members are not compensated.
 - Suggestion: Kate needs to be compensated for all the time she spends.
- Question: Is BIPOC group a separate entity?
 - Answer: Kate. Affinity offerings are not for everyone but it doesn't mean they are separate from the full community. They are for those that identify with that specific affinity. Offering this kind of held space is a part of our full offerings not separate. It helps give an easier entry for minority groups to join the fuller community. Assaya has affinity meet-ups for LGBGQ+ and BIPOC on Mondays before the main sit. We will have affinity daylongs this year and continue the BIPOC sit on Fridays.
- Question: How many women show up for each event?
 - Answer: At this time we do not have a way of counting who attends. We need volunteers who can capture the attendance and send that information back to us.

Slide 10 – 13

Question: For those who can only participate on Zoom , how can we be more included in everything.

- Answer: We try to engage all Zoomers, however we have limited AV resources to do this. Assaya needs to upgrade AV in order to have seamless sits and events. It's been an ongoing issue due to limited storage space and not having a dedicated meeting space.
- Question: How do we increase porousness for Zoomers?
 - Answer: – With the morning sits, Wednesday and evenings, there is always an opportunity to learn more about each other getting into small groups and exchanging information.
- Question: What are the social and earth justice plans for the sangha for 2025
 - Answer: As with last year, we will be having opportunities for sangha members to participate in peaceful actions. Last year, we sent out postcards for Get out the Vote. We are also talking about ways we can partner with other organizations involved in activism that is aligned with our values.