Teachers’ Schedule

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 4</td>
<td>Ayya Sobhana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 11</td>
<td>Phillip Moffitt</td>
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<td>Jul 18</td>
<td>Phillip Moffitt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 25</td>
<td>Ashley Sharp</td>
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<td>Aug 8</td>
<td>Ashley Sharp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 15</td>
<td>Donald Rothberg</td>
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<td>Aug 22</td>
<td>Donald Rothberg</td>
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<td>Aug 29</td>
<td>Donald Rothberg</td>
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<td>Sep 5</td>
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<td>Sep 12</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 19</td>
<td>Lisa Dale Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 26</td>
<td>Lisa Dale Miller</td>
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The schedule can change without advance notice. The latest schedule can be found at [www.marinsangha.org](http://www.marinsangha.org).

Marin Sangha is pursuing a return to in-person meetings while maintaining our Zoom connection. See the article below for details. For details on how to attend Virtual Sangha, go to [www.marinsangha.org](http://www.marinsangha.org) and click on the “News” button to get to the Virtual Sangha instructions.

Post-Pandemic:
Where Do We Go From Here?

On Sunday, June 27, Marin Sangha convened on Zoom for an all-Sangha meeting to discuss how to proceed in the post-pandemic future. Eighteen sangha members, which included the Board, participated. After a brief sit, Cory Bytof, our Board Chairperson, gave a presentation that included the results of the recent email survey, an explanation of how the Board selects and schedules teachers, and a review of St. Luke’s new post-pandemic rules. Here are the links to the survey results and the presentation:


Cory also presented the Board’s recommendations for when the sangha returns in person. They included the following:

- Only vaccinated people can attend
- No masks required
- Hybrid Zoom and in-person meetings when teachers can attend
- Zoom-only when teachers cannot attend
- Everyone agrees to wipe down own chair

- Volunteers will help with setup and cleanup (which will include wiping down bathroom fixtures)
- Potentially hiring someone to set up
- Less setup – only dana boxes, no big back table setup

Sangha members discussed these matters in breakout rooms, followed by a recap of the major themes. Nothing permanent was decided, except that everyone agreed contact tracing and proof of vaccination were not necessary, as long as no one specifically requests it at a meeting. However, a number of concerns were raised and clarified, and, provisionally, the sangha will go along with the Board’s recommendations listed in this article. One clarification concerned how the sangha will conduct “hybrid” in-person and Zoom meetings: The sangha will meet in person, with the Zoom option, only when the teacher will be on site. Otherwise, we will just meet on Zoom.

One of the most important issues was Zoom versus in-person meeting. Some members differed significantly as to how often they want to meet in person, raising every option from all-hybrid to Zoom only. More than one sangha member brought up the importance of unstructured socializing, which allows people to have spontaneous conversations and connect with many more participants than Zoom permits. On the other hand, Zoom provides the sangha with the opportunity to invite teachers, as well as practitioners, from all over the country. One of our primary teachers, Dawn Scott, will be spending significant time on the East Coast, and Zoom will allow her to continue teaching here on a regular basis. Another advantage of Zoom is the convenience of not having to drive anywhere or set up and close down the room.

Any ongoing arrangement will depend on not only what our members and teachers need, but also what St. Luke requires. For instance, how much rent should we pay if we only meet, say, once or twice a month? A related issue is that many of our members are increasingly unable to drive, especially at night, and would prefer Zooming or meeting in the afternoon. However, the church already rents the room for most Sunday afternoons. Several members offered rides on an ongoing basis, which seem to be at least a partial solution going forward.

Another key issue that arose was an expressed need to simplify setup. It doesn’t seem possible to simplify the audio any more than it is, but several members questioned the need for the dais and back table. Recent photos of the setup in the Bayview Room don’t show tables any longer. In addition, the Board has considered hiring someone to do the setup for us, possibly a member of the Monte de Sion group, which meets in the time slot before our sangha. There was a lot of support...
for hiring either an outsider or a sangha member, and sangha members are encouraged to refer people to the Board if they know anyone who might be willing to do this. Another suggestion was that we meet in the sanctuary, with its built-in dais and sound system, but some people do not feel comfortable in pews.

Related to the setup issue is that of takedown. When we asked for volunteers to coordinate takedown at least on a month by month basis, no one stepped up to the task. This remains an ongoing problem.

The tentative plan is to try out a hybrid version, where the teacher is in person and sangha members can either attend in person or use Zoom. The Board will go early and set up and work out some of the details. Whatever we do, we will need to stay flexible since we don’t know what will transpire with the virus nor the guidance from the church or the County Health Department. Please remember to check the website each week to see if we are meeting that week in person or on Zoom only: http://marinsangha.org.

The meeting ended with our usual metta practice and dedication of merit.

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Marin Sangha Newsletter

Dear Marin Sangha friends,

Our Sangha remains on good financial footing, thanks to the generous Dana we all contribute. We paid our insurance premium of $708.00 in January, down slightly from 2020. We continued to pay rent to St Luke at a 50% reduction; total rent paid to St Luke for the first six months of 2020 is $2,140. Our kindly webmaster, Bill Coffin, has managed to keep our webhosting fees to a modest $10/month; that, along with payment for another year of Zoom Pro, brought our online fees to $221.14.

With the return of onsite residential retreats to Spirit Rock, our two Katanutta offerings for 2021, one to Veta Jacqulin and one to myself, were quickly paid out, for a total of $1,100. One 2020 Katanutta offering of $550 has yet to be claimed.

We began the year with $8,528.74 in our checking account and at mid-year we are at $8,640.59. In savings, we began the year with $6,710.40; the current balance is $6,713.72.

There are many ways to contribute to Sangha through donation of time or money. We are truly fortunate in that we have Sangha members who contribute their time and expertise to do things on a volunteer basis so we don’t have to expend funds. We are so grateful for everyone’s contributions!

For those interested in ongoing charitable contributions, one can donate online, and can even set up a monthly or other regularly occurring donation through our Marin Sangha PayPal account. Just click on the Donate tab on the MarinSangha.org website to get there. Marin Sangha is a 501(3)(c) nonprofit organization, so your donations are (usually) tax deductible.

As we have seemed to do since our incorporation, we are doing well financially. We’ve managed to meet all our financial needs due to the generosity of many Sangha members, and we’ve been able to continue our practice of Katannuta offerings once again for residential retreats for lucky Sangha members. Thank you for all your time and contributions to Marin Sangha.

In Deep Gratitude,
Linda Howerton-Pritchett
Treasurer, Marin Sangha
l.howerton@sbcglobal.net

Deep Bows and Sincere Thanks

For more than a decade our long-time sangha member Lucia Chaudron, as part of the sangha newsletter team, has made a tremendous contribution to our quarterly newsletter. With her skills in formatting and production, Lucia, every three months, would make sure all the submissions and sangha news, and any photos, were put in the right columns, in the right order, in the allotted spaces, with the appropriately sized fonts. Paper copies would be delivered to the back table of our in-person meetings. Thank you, Lucia!

Lucia loved working with the excellent team and contributing this service. We bow deeply and thank her sincerely for more than ten years of sharing her skills with us! We hope she enjoys her retirement from these efforts.

The Newsletter Staff

Member Profile

Due to the COVID Pandemic we were not able to publish a member profile this quarter. Stay tuned and take good care of yourselves.

Anyone may submit a profile or ask any questions about this project by calling Mary Paige, at 415-771-8767, or email her at: drmarypaige@gmail.com

Sangha Member Contributions
Submitted by Patti Breitman:
I’ve fallen in love with a new anthology of poems, edited by James Crews, called How to Love the World: Poems of Gratitude and Hope. Familiar poets (Jane Hirshfield, Naomi Shihab Nye, Tony Hoagland) and many new (to me) poets are included here, and every poem opens my heart the way a long metta retreat does. Here’s one of my favorites:

Listening For Your Name

As a father steals into his child’s half-lit bedroom slowly, quietly, standing long and long counting the breaths before finally slipping back out, taking care not to wake her,

and as that night-lit child is fully awake the whole time, with closed eyes, measured breathing, savoring a delicious blessing she couldn’t name but will remember her whole life,

how often we feel we’re being watched over, or that we’re secretly looking in on the ones we love, even when they are far away, or even as they are lost in the sleep

no one wakes from— what we know and what we feel can fully coincide, like love and worry, like taking care in full silence and secrecy, like darkness and light together.

David Graham

Poems Submitted by Deborah Temple:

Where Does the Temple Begin, Where Does It End?

There are things you can’t reach. But you can reach out to them, and all day long.

The wind, the bird flying away. The idea of God.

And it can keep you as busy as anything else, and happier.

The snake slides away; the fish jumps, like a little lily, out of the water and back in; the goldfinches sing from the unreachable top of the tree.

I look; morning to night I am never done with looking.

Looking I mean not just standing around, but standing around as though with your arms open.

And thinking: maybe something will come, some shining coil of wind.

or a few leaves from any old tree – they are all in this too.

And now I will tell you the truth. Everything in the world comes.

At least, closer.

And, cordially.

Like the nibbling, tinsel-eyed fish; the unlooping snake. Like goldfinches, little dolls of gold fluttering around the corner of the sky of God, the blue air.

Mary Oliver

Ongoing Activities

Due to COVID restrictions, the following Sangha activities are modified as appropriate. Please refer to the Sangha website for further information where available.

New Members

If you are new to Marin Sangha, welcome! More information about Marin Sangha can be found at our website www.marinsangha.org. You are also welcome to join the Marin Sangha groups.io or go to our FaceBook page as other ways to find out more about our Sangha. We look forward to seeing you again.
Circle of Caring

We are energizing Marin Sangha’s Circle of Caring. This is an opportunity for members to give and receive services from fellow members. The services might range from telephone calls for regular check-ins, transportation to or from sangha, shopping or laundry assistance, providing occasional meals, and many other offerings. If you are interested in being a part of this community, or if you have suggestions or comments about how best to organize this effort, please contact Jann Powell by calling 415-456-1969 or by e-mail at jmpowell3@comcast.net.

Sunday Dinner

Due to COVID Restrictions our Sunday dinners at a local San Rafael restaurant are not happening. No doubt they will resume at some point in the future. Stay Tuned!

Third Sunday Social Gathering


Sangha Website

Don’t forget the Marin Sangha website, www.marinsangha.org. There you will find the schedule for upcoming guest teachers, the current copy of the newsletter, additional news, and, above all, the recorded Dharma talks for each Sunday’s meeting. There is also information on joining groups.io, Facebook page, and email list. Thanks to Bill Coffin, our webmaster, for putting it together and maintaining it. Check it out!

Marin Sangha on Facebook

If you would like to join, just log on to your Facebook account and type in Marin Sangha in the search bar. Once on the Marin Sangha Facebook page click the green “join” button. Bill Coffin or Mary Kelly will approve your request, usually within the day. There is also a link to the Facebook page on the Marin Sangha website at www.marinsangha.org.

Member Directory

The Marin Sangha Directory is now available for all members. A copy of the Directory is currently available from Lucia Chaudron. If you are already in the Directory, please check and verify that the information is correct.

The Directory will be updated quarterly where possible. If you would like to add your name to the Directory or correct/update your information, please complete the sign-up sheet on the table or contact Lucia at lmchaudron@comcast.net.

Committees Contacts

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Circle of Caring</td>
<td>Jann Powell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jmpowell3@comcast.net">jmpowell3@comcast.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chanting Group</td>
<td>Linda Howerton-Pritchett</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:l.howerton@sbcglobal.net">l.howerton@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
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<td>Lucia Chaudron</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:lmchaudron@comcast.net">lmchaudron@comcast.net</a></td>
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Sangha Newsletter

The Sangha Newsletter team is always looking for submissions to the newsletter. If you have a favorite poem, a good photograph or a Dharma lesson that you would like to share with the sangha please contact Deborah Temple at deborahtemple@rocketmail.com. All submissions are subject to editing.

Marin Sangha Board of Directors

| Cory Bytof          | President          |
| Linda Howerton-Pritchett | Treasurer       |
| Mary Kelly          |                    |
| Barbara McHugh      |                    |
| Bill Coffin         |                    |
| Margaret Wallace    | Secretary          |
| Veta Jacqulin       |                    |

Marin Sangha Newsletter

Submissions Contact: Deborah Temple
Managing Editor: Barbara McHugh

Contact Deborah at deborahtemple@rocketmail.com for submissions. All submissions must be in by the 15th of the last month of the current quarter. All submissions are subject to editing.

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