



Insight Meditation Community

OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

December Sangha News

Our New Guiding Teachers Council

We are delighted to announce that Candace Cassin, Jean Esther, Michael Grady, and Manny Mansbach have stepped forward to form a Guiding Teachers Council (GTC) for our sangha. They will collaborate with the Board & Staff on building our vision for the future as we work to diversify our teaching pool and offerings, and create a sustainable and equitable organizational structure. After a couple of years with no one in this position, we are extremely grateful to these teachers for their generosity in taking up this work, especially given all the service they have collectively and individually provided the sangha in so many ways over so many years. We are eager to begin our work together!

Kate Johnson: The Dharma of War and Peace

Recording from talk on November 11

Kate was unable to come in person, but delivered her talk via Zoom to 20 people gathered at the Florence Civic Center and another 21 people online. The talk was moving and powerful, focusing on how to apply the precepts about not causing harm to the situation in the Middle East. It was, again, wonderful to be gathered with other sangha members in person, as well as the chance to schmooze and

share reactions during the break and after the talk. If you would like to listen to a recording of Kate's talk, you can [sign up here](#).

Engaged Dharma

If you missed our statement on the unfolding devastating situation in Palestine/Israel, you can read it [here](#).

If you would like to join a Buddhist contingent of a local Interfaith Ceasefire movement, please fill out [this form](#).

If you're new to IWM...

...We want to share that it's our intention each month to create various opportunities to deepen our practice and grow our connections. In addition to Wednesday night Dharma talks and open community practice (or other special Wednesday offerings), we offer courses and retreats throughout the year. During the week, there are daily opportunities to practice in community. There are currently two affinity groups (Queer & Trans Practitioners; BIPOC Practitioners) that meet monthly as well as opportunities to connect around Engaged Buddhism. In addition, there are two ongoing *kalyana mitta* (spiritual friendship) groups as well as three groups that started as courses and have been meeting for years. See below to learn more about what's coming up this month.

Feedback

If you have comments, questions, or ideas you'd like to share, please contact us: leadership@insightwma.org.

With much care and metta,
IWM Board