



## ***News from the Board, 4/26/22***

### **Reopening Update - Watch for Details about Each Offering**

#### **In-Person or Zoom or Modified Hybrid:**

For the first time in two years, as you'll see on the schedule below, some of our offerings will be held in-person! We are also pleased to continue offering some of our courses and Dharma talks over Zoom so that those who have come to know us from afar, and those who don't feel comfortable coming in person, or aren't vaccinated, may still participate. At our May 5th in-person Dharma talk with Mark Nunberg, a volunteer (thanks Adam!) is going to run it as a modified hybrid so people at home can sign into Zoom and see and hear the teacher, but not comment or ask questions. If the test run on May 5th goes well, Adam will very kindly be on-hand to run each of the four Dharma talks currently scheduled (5/5, 5/25, 6/1, 6/29) at the Florence Civic Center as a modified hybrid. We also hope to post recordings afterwards. Stay tuned for details.

#### **In-Person Locations:**

For in-person offerings, please take note that the locations vary; some offerings will be held at IWM in Eastworks (Suite 242) and some at the Florence Civic Center or elsewhere.

#### **In-Person Dharma Talk COVID Protocols at the Florence Civic Center:**

At this time, our COVID protocols require proof of vaccination and N95 or KN95 masks. Seating is limited to 40 and is on a first come, first serve basis. Please note that giving dana on-line does not guarantee you a seat at the Florence Civic Center; seating will be first come first serve at the Civic Center. Chairs will be available; if you prefer to sit or lie down on a zabuton/cushion, please bring your own. Please also bring your own water bottle. To read more about our COVID protocols and the Florence Civic Center set up, please [click here](#).

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## Sangha Stewards - Deep Bow

Over the past two years, Green Metta sangha stewards have regularly been going to the center and watering the plants. With no courses, retreats, or Dharma talks being offered, the routine cleaning of the center came to a halt. In anticipation of offering our first in-person course since the pandemic started, a team of volunteers - Cathy Repetti, June Swanson, Walter Schiff, Ann Litke, and Donna Calacone - very generously stepped up to clean the center. In addition to tidying everything up (including the bulletin boards), and vacuuming, dusting, and floor washing, they took everything out of the shelves in the entrance way and dusted and vacuumed all the cushions/zabutons and chairs. Much gratitude to Cathy, June, Walter, Ann, and Donna for all their hard work.

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## Smith Students' Project

Smith Professor Jay L Garfield (Professor of Philosophy and Buddhist Studies; Director, Five College Tibetan Studies in India Program; Editor in Chief, Journal of Buddhist Philosophy), reached out to IWM earlier this year. As a result, two Smith students from their class on Buddhist Philosophy have been attending a number of open community meditation sessions at IWM and have interviewed a few sangha members and teachers about how they came to the dharma and the place of the dharma in their lives. The students plan to produce a podcast which will be available at some time later in the Spring.

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## Financial Update and Recurring Gifts

Expenses and income are snapshots of a moment in time (see table below). Interestingly, on March 31st of this year, Insight Western Mass had spent \$16,227, about 70% (\$11,013) of which was on people-related expenses. In comparison, last year on March 31st IWM had spent a whopping \$6 less: \$16,221. Thus far this year, IWM has spent \$2,556 more than we have received: \$13,671.

<b>YTD Overview of Income and Expenses: A Comparison</b>	<b>This Year</b>	<b>Last Year</b>
	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>March 31st</b>	<b>March 31st</b>
Registration/Donations connected to Offerings/Programs	\$8,023	\$8,461
General Support: One-Time Donations	\$503	\$1,694
General Support: Recurring Donations (aka Friends)	<u>\$5,145</u>	<u>\$4,350</u>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>\$13,671</b>	<b>\$14,505</b>
Staff, Taxes, Consultants, Mentoring, Teacher Supplements	(\$11,013)	(\$11,445)
Rent, phones, internet, systems, insurance, all other	<u>(\$5,214)</u>	<u>(\$4,775)</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>(\$16,227)</b>	<b>(\$16,221)</b>
<b>First Quarter YTD Balance (Deficit)</b>	<b>(\$2,556)</b>	<b>(\$1,716)</b>

Turning to the income portion of the table, it shows that IWM has received \$5,145 in dana given as general support on a recurring basis. These contributors (aka Friends) give donations ranging in size from \$5 to \$1000 on a recurring basis (most give monthly; a few give quarterly). At this time, IWM has 36 individuals who give regularly (33 via credit card; 3 send checks each month). Together, these 36 individuals contribute over \$25,000 annually providing the center with a stable funding source we know we can count on. We greatly appreciate this generosity, and welcome others to join in practicing generosity in this way.

[Click here](#) to give now!

And, as always, everyone is welcome at all of our offerings regardless of ability to donate. Many dharma centers encourage people to become “members” and provide these monthly contributors with tangible benefits, sometimes based on their level of support. At the December Town Hall, we began to explore a variety of ways to think about dana. And, IWM continues to welcome monthly contributions of any amount.

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## **Stewarding Our Sangha - Volunteer Opportunities (in-person and/or from home)**

### **In-Person Greeters/Zoom hosts**

For the past two years, we've been offering dharma talks, courses, and retreats, online; week-after-week, sangha members have leaned in and hosted virtually. As we continue to offer online dharma talks/courses/retreats, it would be great to have more Zoom hosts. And, as we start to offer some in-person dharma gatherings, we're now seeking in-person greeters too. If you're vaccinated and willing to wear a mask and are interested in learning more, we'll happily answer questions and provide training and materials.

Each month, a list of volunteer hosting opportunities is sent out, and if you're on the list of recipients, you simply sign up to host (in-person or via Zoom) as your schedule permits. Sangha member Cathy Repetti is taking a turn at coordinating Zoom and in-person hosts/greeters. To learn more or to volunteer, please email [volunteer@insightwma.org](mailto:volunteer@insightwma.org).

### **Additional Volunteer Opportunities**

If you'd like to be on a list of sangha stewards we can reach out to as tasks come up that need doing (some from the comfort of your home), please email [volunteer@insightwma.org](mailto:volunteer@insightwma.org). Tasks vary and include, but are not limited to, administrative/office work.

- Right now, we're looking for someone who would be willing to take all of the center's blankets to a laundromat and wash them. If you have the time, but not the money, IWM will happily reimburse you.

We are grateful for all the ways sangha members contribute to IWM. We'll keep you posted about additional volunteer opportunities as they arise.

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Please feel free to contact the Board at [leadership@insightwma.org](mailto:leadership@insightwma.org) with any comments, questions, or ideas.

With much care and metta,  
trellis, Lucy, Hal, Lauren, Holly, and Bernadine