



## ***News from the Board, 1/27/22***

### **Reopening Update**

Given the situation with COVID-19, February offerings will all be on Zoom.

### **Disability Justice**

Members of IWM staff and board are in the process of identifying next steps for a Disability Justice training that we can bring back to our sangha. In the meantime, we are pleased to announce that we have begun utilizing closed captions via Zoom, as part of our commitment to make IWM offerings more accessible. Closed captions are enabled in each meeting; if the Zoom host hasn't enabled it, please feel free to remind them.

### **Circle of Care**

IWM is collaborating with Jewish Family Services and Catholic Charities who are organizing Circles in support of over 200 Afghani refugees settling in Western Massachusetts.

- Lauren Isherwood is coordinating IWM's efforts. Please email [general@insightwma.org](mailto:general@insightwma.org) if you would like to be part of supporting our Circle or if you have any leads on housing for a family of five near a bus line.

As part of their Refugee Resettlement Project, Catholic Charities is also seeking support and you can follow up with them directly. Please contact Keegan at [k.pyle@diospringfield.org](mailto:k.pyle@diospringfield.org) if you:

- wish to donate new or very gently used items: adult and child bike helmets and locks; coffee tables and side tables; love seats or small sofas (under 6'); upholstered chairs; NEW twin mattresses; NEW pillows; brooms, mops, dustpans, wastebaskets, shower curtains and rings (new); flashlights; laptops and/or pads; large cooking pots; tea kettles; warm full sized blanket or comforters; women's dresses with long sleeves.

- wish to volunteer with your truck or trailer to help pick up donated furniture, and move families into their new homes.

## **Town Hall - February 9th**

Our 4th Town Hall in a series about sangha governance will take place on Wednesday, February 9th from 7-9pm ET. The focus of this Town Hall will be Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging. There will be a short presentation from our working group to explore alternative sangha structures, led by [Ruth Folchman](#) and [Lore Detenber](#), with information gathered from some other community Dharma communities. There will also be plenty of time for us to gather together and share our ideas, aspirations, concerns about this topic.

The previous 3 topics were: Community building, Leadership and teaching, and Dana, and recaps of those first 3 Town Halls in this series (August, October, and December 2021) can be found [here](#). And, here are the [spotlights](#) with Ruth and Lore that we shared in advance of the August and October Town Halls, and the [reflections](#) that we shared in advance of the December Town Hall.

All are welcome at the February Town Hall, even if you haven't attended previous Town Halls. Come listen, share ideas, and ask questions!

## **Finances and Transparency**

*Please note: the IWM Finance Committee is in the process of finishing up our year-end closing; the 2021 figures cited here may not be final (that said, we do not anticipate significant changes).*

In a recent newsletter, the Board noted that in the new year we would provide an update on the center's 2021 expenses and income as well as big picture information about all of the center's assets, including our restricted and endowed funds. In keeping with the spirit of the conversations our sangha has been having inside and outside of our Town Halls, we are providing this more in-depth update. And, as always, everyone is welcome at all of our offerings regardless of ability to donate.

## **Dana and Generosity**

Sangha stewards express generosity in support of our mission to offer the Buddha's teachings to all who are interested, to sustain and deepen meditation practice, and to bring wisdom and compassion into daily life. Dana is expressed in a multitude of ways and our center relies on and benefits from all the ways we contribute.

The Board wishes to express our gratitude to all who give so generously of their time:

- as teachers, practice leaders, peer leaders, facilitators (White & Awakening in the Dharma; Kalyana Mitta; White Caucus)

- through service on the Board or in various committees/task forces (programming; Beloved Community Builders; finance; governance; green metta/facilities; library; host/greeters)
- by supporting our day-to-day operations through administrative work, technology support, and as teacher liaisons

The Board is also grateful to all who express generosity by gifting financial resources in recognition of the fiscal necessities that come with the day-to-day running of the center and its sustainability.

### **Looking ahead**

In order to operate at the same level in 2022 as we have in 2021, we will incur higher personnel costs. In 2021, extensive volunteer service done by Board members and a Field Placement student exceeds what is sustainable for 2022 and beyond. While volunteers will continue to support IWM's day-to-day operations, additional financial resources will be needed in 2022 in order to maintain the center's current operations.

To read the full financial report, including the 2021 summary as well as an overview of all of the center's assets, [click here](#).

## **Staffing Update**

The Board wishes to express our gratitude to Elizabeth Morris, IWM's Outreach Coordinator, who has become an integral member of our sangha leadership team. After Keila Franks' Field Placement ended in mid-August, Elizabeth was willing and able to temporarily take on additional responsibilities in IWM's day-to-day operations. While we know Elizabeth is pleased to continue her White Caucus and Disability Justice work at IWM, the Board appreciates that Elizabeth, who lives in Wisconsin, is enjoying a lighter work load in the new year.

The Board is pleased to welcome Lisabeth as our new part-time Manager of Special Projects and Administration. Lisabeth, who lives locally and is working several mornings a week, started in time to overlap with Jessica Harwood who is now on maternity leave. Jessica has been a wonderful addition to the Programming Committee, and we look forward to welcoming her back later this spring. The Board is also grateful to the volunteers who work with our staff in support of IWM's day-to-day operations. The center relies on and benefits from the multitude of ways members of our sangha contribute.



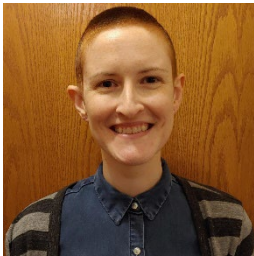
Lisabeth (also known as L) comes to IWM with a professional background in fundraising, communications, programming, and project management. L was first introduced to meditation while living and working at the Omega Institute where she had access to extraordinary opportunities, including practicing with the venerable Thich Nhat Hanh. Lisabeth is a writer, a beginning quilter, and an enthusiast

of the joyful possibilities that can be created with & in community. She is delighted to join the center as Manager of Special Projects and Administration.



Jessica Harwood is IWM's Programming Coordinator. She works with the Programming Committee to create the schedule for courses, retreats, and Dharma talks. Jessica has been attending classes and community meditations at Insight Western Mass since 2009. She has attended retreats at IMS and IMCW. Jessica is grateful to be doing this work with committed teachers and sangha members, striving to create diverse and inclusive programs. Jessica is currently

on maternity leave.



Elizabeth Morris is IWM's Outreach, Website, and Social Media Coordinator. Elizabeth, who works remotely part-time, manages IWM's online presence and promotion, including website, newsletters, and social media. In addition, Elizabeth is also a co-facilitator of IWM's white caucus, and she is working with the IWM Board on Disability Justice. Prior to working at IWM, she managed communications at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's

Department of Gender and Women's Studies. Elizabeth has had a personal meditation practice since 2008.

## Reminders about IWM's new URL and such

- Our new website URL – [insightwma.org](https://insightwma.org) – is up and running! If you have our old URL ([insightpv.org](https://insightpv.org)) bookmarked, it's time to change it! And, if you're trying to use the old URL and are still having issues, if you clear cache and then close your browser and then open it and try again, it should work.
- Sangha Stewards – especially those who open the room in Zoom – please continue to use the same login information you have until further notice. When we're ready to make a change in how hosts login to Zoom, we'll let you know.
- Questions: email us at [general@insightwma.org](mailto:general@insightwma.org)

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

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