



SHAMBHALA

Making Enlightened Society Possible

TUCSON

Summary of Virtual Gatherings to Review the Findings Report July 19, 2020

Purpose of the Gatherings: to review and discuss the Findings Report and offer ideas for creating the future while we are living in Zoom world

Our Intent: to build a positive momentum forward and build on the success of the past

Listing of Participants for Three Gatherings held on July 15, 18, 19

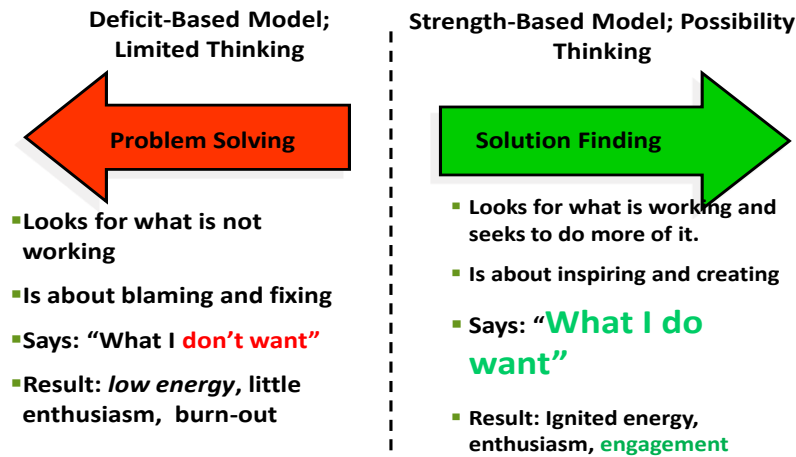
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|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Aurore Chabot | 7. Dinah Mason | 13. Kim Kelso ** |
| 2. Bernie Gay | 8. Emily Danies | 14. Lynn Wolf |
| 3. Cheryl Purvis | 9. Fred Stannard | 15. Mallika Rao |
| 4. Damon Gay | 10. Gary Jones * | 16. Marianna Cacciatore* |
| 5. Deb Maher* | 11. Jane Black | 17. Megan Neal |
| 6. Denise Holzman | 12. Katherine George | 18. Susan Delaney |
| 7. Megan Neal | | |

*Members of the Coordination Team **Shastri

Our Emphasis is on Solution Finding



A NEW Way of Being





Comments Regarding the Findings; Any Surprises?

For the most part no one was surprised by the findings. Comments included:

- Glad to see that there is interest in continuing classes
- Appreciation for the “solution finding” reframing
- It awakened more curiosity
- We are a microcosm of what is happening globally
- Glad to see there were diverse views
- People seemed open
- Drama has not been visible in sarpashana
- We had sudden and successive departures from the Council with little to no explanation
- There have been surveys in the past on things people wanted to see at the Center and it always ended up that not a lot of people wanted to help

Recap of Ideas; Immediate and Long-Term

Tucson Shambhala would be a peaceful place to practice and meditate

- Increase traditional Buddhist teachings
- Follow the Shambhala Sacred Path
- Follow the Rime Movement

“Shambhala has always been a blending practice with a history of adapting teachings.”

- Bring in more outside Shambhala teachers and teachers aligned to Shambhala teachings and principles
- Acharya or Buddhist monk as resident teacher
- Provide more online courses with links to other centers
- More study and practice

Improve how we are with each other

- Invite people to stay after event to get to know each other better

Encourage participation/volunteers

- Involve everybody, keep everyone informed, seek volunteers, use their skills
- Learn what other centers are doing
- Do a project in the community as a Sangha



The Magic Wand question



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Increase diversity, more outreach in the community

- *People of Color, LGBTQ*
- *Offer classes in Spanish*

Increase hospitality

- *More retreats*
- *Social activities; monthly potlucks and outings*
- *Be in nature; hikes, mediation, picnics*

Change (improve) our physical space

- *Landscaping and garden with the Buddha wall*
- *More traditional Tibetan feel (red room)*
- *Create a retreat center (long-term view)*
- *Create a Buddhist recovery center*
- *Have a bigger facility that serves as community center*

Update on Current Activities

- Morning Meditation
- Monday Night Reflections
- Sarpashana on Thursday night
- Protector Chants for the Pandemic
- Sunday Sits starting July 26
- Robust website with links to other Shambhala offerings throughout the global network.

Global Shambhala is Developing a Process for Dealing with Conflict and Abuse

Code of Conduct from Global Shambhala will provide guidance for managing conflict and issues locally with training in the methodology as well as a process for mediating concerns at a higher level. We will use this process for addressing any outstanding residual hurts and concerns.

Timeline

July - Sept: Completion of the Code of Conduct

Oct - Nov: Local Process Facilitator Training

Dec-Jan 2021: Roll-Out



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Poll for Zoom World Activities Based on Voting of Three Gatherings

1. Pema Book Study
2. Pema Video Series Online
3. Buddhist Teachings
4. People of Color Sit
5. Sacred Path; Level 1-2
6. LGBTQ Sit

Additional Suggestions for Improving our Offerings

- Have a basic *This is Shambhala* course that provides information on terms, background on Shambhala, information on the international structure and local structure and how we engage everyone.
- Create a Women's Meditation Circle
- Keep virtual gatherings going even when we come back to in-person gatherings. This would be particularly useful for the Sarpashana group which has been expanding participation since the COVID-19 outbreak
- We could re-do the garden in the back even during COVID, we could socially distance if the work were coordinated. We could get someone to do a design for the garden and perhaps work with other nonprofit groups (Trees for Tucson).
- Yoga could be offered via Zoom
- Another useful link for Shambhala offerings: <https://ocean.chronicleproject.com>

NEXT Steps:

- All members will be sent a link to join the Coordination Team meeting on Tuesday, August 18th from 6:00-8:00PM. If anyone would like to make a presentation, please send your request to Tucson.shambhala@gmail.com
- The Coordination Team will follow-up on creating Pema Chodron offerings by looking for facilitators, defining the approach and informing everyone when it might occur.
- Bernie has offered to do an LGBTQ sit and I can help him (Deb).
- We will review the list of volunteer offerings in the Findings Report and reach out to those who would like to help.



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Thank you all for your participation, we appreciate all your ideas and look forward to seeing the Center emerge from this pandemic time, stronger and more engaged than ever!

The Coordination Team

Deb Maher

Gary Jones

Marianna Cacciatore