

Seattle Dances of Universal Peace
Planning meeting
11/19/2025

Present: Jennifer (convener), Elizabeth, Helen (scribe), Phil, Hassan, John, Karim, Martha, Ka (VfP)

Opening Dance: Thy Light is in All Forms

Announcements:

12/13 Aramaic Prayer, led by Karim and Phil
GPD noon-3 on 1/1,
Mt Vernon Dance 12/7 6-8pm
Mevlevi Sema 12/14

Treasurer's Report:

We will have some amount of profit from camp but details are not yet finalized. Insurance and rent have already been paid, so we will have a surplus.

Review Fall Vashon Retreat (November 7-9):

The written evaluations have not been tallied yet. We also received lengthy feedback from two leaders and a group of new leaders. We considered several changes in how future retreats could be organized. Several members spoke in support of our present method as generally being unique, well-received, and satisfying.

One concern was lack of a well-structured theme or wave-form to the entire weekend. After some discussion we realized we could ask the five poles to meet ahead of time and craft a coherent arc to the weekend. This would have to be done early enough for a flier to be created before the spring retreat.

Another concern was the balance of experienced and newer leaders. We could create some clearer expectations/guidelines (such as limiting non-certified leaders to one dance or only familiar dances), or we could allow for fluidity, intuition and inspiration by leaving the flow of each session up to the poles.

An afternoon session with one experienced leader's deep concentration was much appreciated and could be structured again.

Some of the wording on the flier and the evaluations should be updated.

Do we want to cap the number of attendees? We will need to consider that at a future meeting

Financial picture: Final bills, deposits and refunds are not all completed yet. Both income and expenses were higher, since we had 84 people, while last year we had 66 attendees. We will likely have a healthy profit after it is all calculated. We received \$1100 in donations and gave away eight scholarships at \$100 each. The held-over scholarship fund thus now comes to \$742.

Music Boshi: Hassan served in this role for the second time. This year most leaders had already selected their musicians, which worked well. An on-site person is useful for problem solving (replacements, last-minute requests) but does not need to organize for all the groups.

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Break to share gratitudes:

Cohesiveness of this group and fidelity to the ideal of inclusivity. Stirring of pot with new suggestions. Extra-ordinarily skilled organizers. Notetaker support. Large number of attendees, including a dozen new people. Fresh dance leaders coming up.

Review Dances Oct 11 and Nov 15: deferred.

Winter Indoor Dances:

Jan 24—Ka? Karim? Phil?

Feb 28—Jennifer and ?

March 28—Ka and Matin

April 25—Elizabeth and Hassan

Covid policy will remain unchanged: those who desire may wear masks. Please stay away with any symptoms.

Lighting: No torchieres were in place at 7400 at last dance, though the church has two which will be moved to the Community Room. We have permission to bring one more in December which may be able to remain there.

Concerns regarding Social Media:

A concern raised at an earlier meeting is resolved. There are no objections to Instagram announcements.

Deferred topics: Check-ins, but we will take care to include them at future meetings. Also deferred is the topic of a stated closure time for our meetings to provide for more consistent attendance.

Next Meeting:

Wed 1/7, 3:00 by zoom

Convener: Martha

Scribe: Helen

IC: Martha, Jennifer, Ka.

Closing Song: Alleluia