March 2015

Hello TTS and MCPS members and friends,

This is the monthly update to both sanghas from the Dharma Gate Facilities Committee. Again this year we will hold a facilities upkeep weekend “retreat” covering both the building and the garden on March 7 and 8. This is a time for everyone to offer vital service in keeping our Center in good condition. This is truly an example of how many hands can make light work. It is enjoyable and community building to have members of both groups working side-by-side in silence and quiet conversation. Please join us whenever you can. The schedule is listed below.

**Fruit trees: What to do?** In a continuing effort to simplify and improve the garden we need to address the fruiting plants. Fruit trees can be very messy when the fruit falls and quite time consuming to prune properly (note the enumerable sprouts on the pear, prune and fig trees). The fruit can be good but often is blighted, unreachable, goes unused and becomes rodent food. The trees in our garden are quite old and declining in health. For these reasons we are considering removing them entirely, leaving the grape vines, though they too are quite messy as the fruit ripens. In the short-term we will probably remove another trunk of the fig tree. The longer term goal, if the fig remains, is to nurture one of the new sprouts of the fig to a lower, more manageable size where the fruit can be easily accessible.

Also factored into this thinking is an element of accessibility. The area where the pear and prune trees are located could become a ramp into the garden usable by walkers, wheelchairs and wheelbarrows. We have not yet agreed on this project so there is time for comments and questions: kayandlarry@gmail.com or ernestine.whittemore@gmail.com.

**Thanks** go to Ernestine and our guest, Christopher, for providing a new bench for the garden.

Springtime brings new blood to the Boards of both Sanghas. The current makeup of the boards is listed below.

**TTS:** President: Larry Keil kayandlarry@gmail.com

 Vice-President: Barbara Brooking barbiebrooking@gmail.com

 Secretary: Ace Davis candacedavis@yahoo.com

 Treasurer: Bill Holman billh@centurylink.net

 At-large member: Sean Walsh walshea@gmail.com

**MCPS:** President: Robbie Newell dharma\_moon2@hotmail.com

 Communications Coordinator - Caroline VanderHaar vanderhaarc@gmail.com

 Liaison between the Practice Committee and the BoD ( new position) Judith Bader jlynbader@gmail.com , jlbader@earthlink.net

 Board Secretary- To be announced

**DG Facilities Committee:**

 Kay Peters (TTS) kayandlarry@gmail.com

 Ace Davis (TTS) candacedavis@yahoo.com

 Ellie Graham (MCPS) elinoragraham@gmail.com

 Ernestine Whittemore (MCPS) Ernestine.whittemore@gmail.com

 John Flynn (MCPS) jlflynn4@yahoo.com

 Fran Kialpha (MCPS) FranKialpha@c0mcast.net

**Current Needs:** 4 chairs similar to those in the dojo, 1 expandable table for the kitchen (8 feet max at extension).

**2015 Facilities retreat schedule**

**March 7 & 8, 2015**

This schedule applies to both Saturday and Sunday. Sunday is the beginning of Daylight Savings Time so be sure to set your clocks ahead or you will miss sitting on Sunday.

8:30 – 9:30 Meditation.

9:30 -10:00 Orientation to jobs and stretching, change clothes.

10:00 – 12:00 Work (Silence).

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch and rest. (Quiet talking allowed) Bring some lunch to share.

1:00 – 4:00 Work (Quiet talking optional).

4:00 – 5:00 Deep relaxation and meditation. (This period is open to the needs of the participants.)

We will work both in the garden and in the house. Please bring gloves and any of your favorite tools. If you have a project you think needs doing, please let us know ahead of time: Kay Peters 322-8759, kayandlarry@gmail.com or Ernestine Whittemore 425-831-7741, ernestine.whittemore@gmail.com.

Respectively submitted, Kay