Laughing Rivers Sangha

Continuing Care Committee, February 15th 2009, hosted by Harald Songoro

Present: Bill Meoni, Denys Candy, Pat Cassidy ,Harald Songoro

1) This year the CCC will recognize the special importance of Sangha Building for both our collective and individual practices.

2) Vesak in Pittsburgh

CCC has asked Sangha members for volunteers to replace Jennifer who is stepping off the CCC and for liaison person(s) between our Sangha and the other Buddhist Sanghas in Pittsburgh in view of organizing a Vesak Celebration in Pittsburgh .

Pat has offered to look into Vesak.

3) Follow-up on the 2008 Annual Sangha meeting

Harald has asked Scott A about the Annual Sangha meeting minutes

a) Issues with respect to the format and content of the Tuesday's night sitting:

Rather than trying to address contradictory requests to modify the Tuesday's night sitting the CCC prefers to reaffirm that the format and content of  the Tuesday's sitting should naturally flow from the guiding principles of our practice.

Therefore facilitators are not asked to follow a script in a rigid manner but are invited to practice with some of the tools that our tradition offers.
Facilitators are invited to ask feedback and support from other facilitators in learning these tools.

At the same time it is suggested to explain (if it's not already done) during the orientation the absence of rigid scripts compared to other traditions and that facilitators are also learning.

b) Annual ceremony for the deceased

A formal ceremony based on Plum Village chanting book for the deceased will be organized by the Sangha a particular Tuesday in October. The facilitator will be assisted by 2 OIs that will start to plan for the ceremony in September .

If you wish to participate in organizing that ceremony please contact me

c) Order of Interbeing

Twice a year a Tuesday's night sitting will be dedicated to the Order of Interbeing in order to present our tradition to the Sangha .
Suggested readings are "Interbeing" and "Learning True Love" from Sister Chang Kong

Denys will start the next time is leading

d) Activities for families

The two previous Sangha socials at Matt&Carry's home and at Carlos were a lot of fun for kids  (and older kids too)
The CCC welcomes suggestions from families to organize  additional kid-friendly activities

5) LRS website

Bill reported that after this upcoming retreat the internals of our website will be all pimped up  allowing more interaction
and more frequent updates.

6) Outdoor activities

Martha is currently looking for more opportunities for outdoor activities

7) Next CCC meeting will be at Bill's home in Fox Chapel on Sunday 29 March from 10am to noon (To be confirmed)