**Yoga Society of New York, Inc.**

**Executive Committee**

**(Special) Meeting Minutes for**

**Saturday, February 21, 2016**

**Lakehouse, Time: 10:30 am**

**Present:** Carol Rollinger (Kiranavali), Dr. Scott Moss (Kamala Kanta), Margaret Dillsaver (Purnima), Donna Carlisi-Ayad, Silvia Donates (Sarasvati), Bruce Bulkin (Shantananda)

Shant's heartfelt letter has not gone out to everyone yet...It went to about 300. There's another 500 people ready to go. Alex will send it out this week. Shant has gotten 3-4 beautiful responses so far: Arjuna Verma (who read it to his dad) responded, Cynthia Koppel (who helped get Mt Madonna off the ground) responded. She wants to help. Shant shared the Mt. Madonna story of putting out fundraising energy - Board became unified and raised over 1 million. Linda Montano responded - recommending that we suggest people leave bequeaths to the Ashram in their Will.

If we're going to expand, we need the transition of teachers. Indira and Bharati are strongest Sanskrit teachers. We want to make sure Guruji's emphasis on meditation & Sanskrit continues. This is a topic for the YSNY-ISEWU Joint Meeting, how to encourage younger teachers, like Naren B., to include meditation in his classes.

Carrying Guruji's legacy forward: we should be consistent with how our programs are put out (looking to the future). Guruji wanted our enlightenment. Keep infusing our programs and meetings with the energy of meditation and Sanskrit. It will evolve...to be a combination of what people would love to see here.

Our Process - We all need to speak our mind; we shouldn't be worried about disagreeing, allow each other's opinions but know from our heartfelt efforts will come the right answers.

Nice if Board can begin empowering others and not need to be involved in the day to day.

New Idea:

Shant would love to see a "Children's Development Center" here. There are children around in our Ashram community and we need to put it out that kids are welcome here. People want to have their kids grounded in the tradition we offer.

With our growth will come the need for more workers, and they need our support: salaries, housing, etc. We need more people involved on the "guest services" level so the Board can manage the growth. Need to create a plan for change, a plan for evolution... We need to be able to pay people who step up into Management and other roles.

We don't want to lose the concept of self-less service as well as giving salaries.

The unmanifest God is in us...would be good in our meetings if we can "ask" the Guru (God, inner Self) for guidance. Going into the "silence" - asking the higher self, for wisdom. And Guruji did say "pray for problems" - they are here to take us beyond. The answers to all problems are in the "silence."

We don't want to create different "camps" - the workers and the devotees. We want everyone to feel that they are here for their own transformation. We need to be mindful on many different levels. People come here with all different types of concerns and sensitivities.

When we show the "world" that we're not "dysfunctional," it will also encourage others to give and bequeath to the Ashram. We don't know where the money will come from but it will come for our future development...Shant told a great story about Bhagavandas (story about milk). For whatever reason, we're here together, at this time, as a group (who will both agree and disagree at times), to help the Ashram.

This type of meeting is very valuable...sharing coffee / tea and coffee cake, relaxed atmosphere, having heartfelt discussion.