

**Dances of Universal Peace International  
Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Telecon Minutes**

**September 18, 2012, 3:00 pm mountain time**

*(Action Items in Italics)*

**BOD Members Present:** Kabir Stuart McKinnon, Darvesha Victoria MacDonald, Maitreya Jon Stevens, DiAnahita Diana Kanoy

**BOG Members not Present:** Arjun Jorge Calero

**Staff present:** Munir Peter Reynolds (Executive Director) Martha Bracken (Office Manager); not present: Sky Majida Roshay (Administrative Assistant);

*Toward the One,  
the Perfection of Love, Harmony and Beauty, the Only Being;  
United with all the Illuminated Souls who form the Embodiment of the Master,  
the Spirit of Guidance.*

Munir welcomed all. After a short attunement and reviewing the agenda, the meeting began.

**1. Approval of Minutes from April 26, 2012**

Annual Meeting - Kabir moved and Maitreya seconded approval of the Annual Meeting minutes. Passed by consensus.

Board of Directors Meeting minutes - Darvesha moved and Maitreya seconded approval of the board meeting minutes. Passed by consensus.

Flag comments need to be cleared.

**2. Discussion of Visioning Document**

Munir introduced the draft September 2012 Vision document which the Administrative Committee reviewed last week and was then sent to the full board. He invited comment. The following are notes of the discussion:

**Maitreya** – I appreciate the clear, concise document and seeing what has been accomplished as well as the questions that were brought up. We've already mentioned Arjun's letter. He offers some exciting possibilities, including funding from NGOs or networking with the ecovillage network. Arjun has great facility for extending the DUP through groups that already have community. I sometimes feel that the DUP are riper elsewhere internationally than here in the US. We see many different forms of dance the USA. Not a main goal of ours, but it would be inspiring to pursue this. I'm also glad that we are having more conversation with the SRI board. It's good to be more in touch with what they are doing. We're all on the same team. We want to utilize resources and spread the message.

**Kabir** – I'm already enjoying the process we're proposing in this document. We've asked ourselves the question about having a thoughtful pause and see what happens next. I've been

beginning to wonder what will emerge from the DUP at this point in the history of the practice. Are we trying to recreate a form all the time that may want to move on? Dance Circles that are held and led in a traditional way can achieve a lot with spiritual depth. But, the dance circle as a form may need to evolve. In addition, the DUP can serve community gatherings, e.g. around solstice or equinox, that would introduce something to a group that would be fresh and new. I feel that the younger generation sees a great potential in the DUP, but not necessarily in the way they have been offered in the last 30 or 40 years. If we really begin to think broadly, there may be all kinds of things that can happen. I have spoken with Tara Andrea about her work in Germany. She has some inclinations in a similar direction to what we have been saying here. If we as a board we can hold this idea open broadly and deeply enough the inspiration will arise for the synergies Arjun mentions. The vision of Murshid Sam in creating these dances still has a leading edge. I'd like an opportunity to get out ahead of that in our own thinking. We ought to make space for what wants to arise.

**DiAnahita** – I affirm what Maitreya said. I'm trying to use my creative ability to make things happen in a way so that people are benefitted and want to come back to the DUP. What should DUP IN look like in the next five years? Our board is comprised of mostly North Americans. How can include people from other countries on the board?

**Munir** – I think about ways to move the Dances out into the international arena, into venues where they may not have happened, while keeping the depth of the spiritual practice. Murshid Sam taught the Dances in the context of spiritual awakening... DUP International began in the early 1980's sponsoring a camp in Pescadero, CA. Do we want to look at sponsoring some kind of gathering?

**Darvesha** – The DUP *are* being used in the context of spiritual awakening. And we have camps popping up every other weekend. The stage is glutted and the weekends are all using the DUP for spiritual practice.

I like the idea of settling back and see what comes. We said this in the administrative committee meeting and then here Arjun says the same things! Kabir was using Equinox celebrations as an example. We've had congregational chanting and people are including Dances there. (On the other hand)... everyone tells me that their Dance circles are shrinking. I like the idea of holding an open field and seeing what comes, leaving room for magic. Arjun is taking the DUP to the ecovillage movement, whether we participate in that or not. Now he is attending ecovillages and doing this in Europe.

**Martha** – I like what everyone is saying and I appreciated the easy-to-read material. I was blown away by what we set out to do and what we've done. I am very appreciative of everyone's help in this and excited by what Arjun wrote. Future and change will knock at the door...it is an unavoidable fact.

**Arjun** (via email) - hello all, I am writing this message because I am not sure if I can make it today for our conference. I am in Norway, and today I will receive a group of young leaders from afro communities arriving from Colombia for an intercultural experience on sustainability. I will travel with them into an ecovillage in Norway, which I don't know yet, so the Internet conditions or international phone calls will be challenging. The local time for the conference will be 11 pm.....But I will try it!!!!

1. I have read the minutes from last meeting and agree!!!

2. Vision Doc.: congratulations, very professional, clear, concise, concrete, and transmit sense of marvel and respect for all that have been accomplished in these transition. Well done!!! (*Munir - The Exec Director's time is distributed among the programs appearing in the pie chart, as he works on all of these areas and helps to make them happen.*)

-page 8, budget pie charts: I don't see the executive director honoraries stated in the page 7 table, in the expenses pie chart.

-as adds on to results on goal 3 in appendix -cohesion leaders guild-: the facebook group: Danzas de Paz Universal Latinoamerica has already 379, many of them dance leaders with active publications (events, photos, videos, inspiring text) from different circles and leaders. Mainly mexico, venezuela, colombia, chile, brasil, spain.

- Is INDUP eligible to receive funding for projects from agencies funding NGO's?? this is the main channel for funds for many networks I know. They are non-profit organization applying for projects with public and private institutions. (*Munir - We are a public benefit nonprofit organization and therefore are certainly able to apply for grants from public and private institutions. I would like to explore this with you.*)

- Open Questions posted page 5 the future: my personal opinion is that it is time to allow natural cycle of expansion/contraction to unfold. After all this inhalation, energy, new projects, tools, web page changes, leaders fees, and big expenses, it would be lovely to allow the beginning of an exhalation period, relax, enjoy, celebrate the achievements and new structures and functioning flows, evaluate, monitor, recover, save money.

And it is in that relaxation that the space for the new vision, for future, for dreaming, is created. Future and change will knock at our door, it is an unavoidable fact.

New vision, new dream, new plans derive directly from new awareness. So my call will be to open relax space for this new awareness. Keep it simple as it is now and start asking ourselves and the whole community of leaders and mentors, including the guidance council and the SRI, questions to allow unfolding of imagination, of collective dreaming for collective intelligence, questions as "what is the higher vision you have for the DUP as part of the present chaotic and transitional times for society?" or "how can the INDUP embody the collective intelligence potential of the extended dance community and integrate in its structure and functions the the most refine principles of organizational theory : flowing, organically growing, de-centralized, smart, fractal, rhizomatic, adaptable organisation?" or "what is the role of INDUP and the DUP in the silent revolution undergoing globally?"

3. Following the previous, and as a real teaser: This is the time of Alliances!!!!

Everybody out there with a reasonable awareness looking forward to improve networking.

Resilience and Thriving comes from cooperation.

Is INDUP ready for entering into partnership and alliances outside the winged heart horizon?

Well, GEN, the Global Ecovillage Network, is present in the 5 continents and encloses roughly 10.000 ecovillages around the earth. They are all living an earth based spirituality -ziraat, SAM the gardener- and fertile soil for the message to grow. DUP area powerful tool for community building.

You can check on them at [www.ecovillage.org](http://www.ecovillage.org)

I also see benefits for INDUP and our family to enter into this partnership that are beyond "a new market" for our lineage, and it has to do with helping our family to ground on the land and social tide. How are alliances built? I made best friends with the present president of GEN, a very deep woman, KoshaJoubert, and we talked about this. So the door is open to exercise if we want.

If I cannot make it to the meeting, I will appreciate for someone to read this lines at the time of the round of thoughts. And if any of you can record the call without lots of labor, I would be so happy to hear it. I am sorry for all these noise I am introducing, love you all, **Arjun**

**Kabir** – First, I agree with DiAnahita’s comment...holding a way to broaden our constituency in the governance. I’d like to see this. I’m glad for the reminder that the DUP are a practice. We don’t need just more experiences for first-timers. The DUP don’t seem to be flourishing in some ways...but I also see that there is interest. Many have come into the Sufi path via the Dances. Over the next period of time our focus might be one of receiving a lot of input, and digesting and seeing where we want to go next...rather than thinking up more things to offer. There would be a huge amount of communication in that. We have to stimulate the input we would like to see. There is this wealth of Dance related retreats etc. We’ll have to see if the Leaders Guild increases in size. I can only go by my personal experience, but I see a lot of interest in this practice. I don’t know how to interpret the signals just yet. We could do another round of everyone here?

**Maitreya** – I’ll just echo many things I’ve heard, like that a more international flavor board will help us understand what others are craving and what kinds of gatherings work for them. And what forms can come out rather than just usual dance meeting. I want to see how communications continue with SRI.

**DiAnahita** – I’m for going with the flow and being open, rather than making things happen. I like the idea of promoting or backing an international dance camp – where the leaders are from many places. I went to the one in Vermont and thought it was wonderful. I would like to see something like that happening again. It was rejuvenating! People from many countries are leading the Dances. I remember that event as being the only place I just couldn’t dance any more...my feet were too sore. And it had lots of opportunities for special workshops on the DUP. It was fabulous, thrilling and educational. Of course, it’s a given that the DUP are a spiritual practice. And, it’s fun and joyful too. I went to a DUP meeting of regional networkers. We danced one dance a day...too busy making decisions! Can you imagine that?

**Maitreya** – I like the idea of international retreats...Riding the Wave – I loved it so much. How to make it happen? What are the best airfares for South America? Europeans are more seasoned in the dancing....don’t know if we want to target them? Try to do it in the most cost-effective way. Is this in our interest?

**Kabir** – It occurs to me to think about how to include international guests at existing camps. We could suggest to organizers that they include guest leader from some other part of the world. Then you’re jumping off an event that is already being organized.

**Darvesha** – I brought South Americans to a number of Wilderness Camps and we know how rich that was for all of us. And the leaders get to travel further, to piggyback on that. It goes a long way to move leaders around. It adds a lot of punch.

**Kabir** – I just want to say I intended to add on to what DiAnahita said. Also Arjun has proposed a source of funds we never seriously considered. I don’t know that NGO world but if we can find some who are interested in what we are doing, that would be wonderful.

**Martha** – I was just remembering that we had set aside funds for the 2008 conference that never happened. We set aside \$4000. The first thing I thought of was an international gathering of

some sort. Fundraising could be helped – it would be easier to support travel of leaders for something like this.

**Darvesha** – I was opposed to the 2008 gathering, and still feel the same way. I know who gets together. The “choir” gets together and gets to know each other better, but the expense and fuel, etc and all that doesn’t feel visionary to me anymore. I love the idea of helping to get more cross-fertilization going. All the dancers catch the flavor when someone new comes to their event.

**DiAnahita** – I meant to get the dance leaders together too.

**Darvesha** – At a gathering of 100 people in a region, it will be mostly the same leaders. But when an international leader comes to one of these events, then everyone gets the benefit of it. It seems to me a more fertile thing to be doing. And then, as I say, we’re just overloaded with events in this part of the world. I question why we would take on putting on events. It’s the last thing that’s needed right now. Organically there are more foreigners going to more events. It’s not something we need to do.

**Kabir** – Good point. We need to have conversations with Dance regions too. We could put forward a vision that would encourage regions to think about adding international flavor to events. In Nelson, we have money coming in more than we can spend on events, etc. If we got a vision of this, we wouldn’t need a lot of help to make it happen.

**Darvesha** – I’m for inspiring people and putting this out there. Planting this seed is what I’m talking about.

**Kabir** – One thing I want to make explicit. With our reserve fund we’re probably viable for 2 or 3 years without much changing. I’m not suggesting as a strategy that we spend so much more than our revenues that we go out of business. But we do have a period of time in which we do not have to do too much. The picture starts to look quite different if the LG numbers change up or down. In a period of time we might have to talk about raising fees. In the next year, we could set aside questions about financial viability.

**Maitreya** – Are the questions in this document the ones we want to have? For instance how we structure the organization may not be of interest or a useful thing to ask about...

**Munir** – Good point! We see the document as a work in progress. The questions may change as a result of this meeting....

**Kabir** – If anyone one the board has ideas about how to focus the document we would love to have your input.

Munir thanked everyone for their participation and turned to the last agenda items.

**3. The Administrative Committee** approved paying Munir’s registration for attending the Jamiat Khas in November. Munir will talk with SRI members about our work and what they see is important going into the future. He mentioned work on the Russian website, which is nearing completion and that he is about to begin work on the German version of the website.

**4. Next meeting** Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 pm mountain time

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 mountain time.