

Visioning- Perspectives from the Past and Present

There appear to have been three or four previous initiatives that resulted in vision statements for Deep Spring Center. They should be in section eight of your Board Book.

The first (undated) was entitled "A Possible Vision of Deep Spring Center in Five Years" by Corty, Sam and Sandy. It appears to accurately reflect where we have actually arrived.

The next effort was initiated in the fall of 2004. Cassie, Diane, Mary, Barbara and Ann surveyed the Sangha about what they appreciated, what they would like to see offered and what might need to be given loving attention. Their document is "Visioning Deep Spring Center Five Years and Beyond". Again, we continued to meet most of the needs expressed from the Sangha. Desired activities that have been partially manifested have been added to the current list of dreams and concerns, which is attached.

The next major effort to update our vision happened in 2005. Those involved in the initiative, for the most part are not identified. It may have been the work of the board. We had a visioning tree growing on one wall of the center. There was an evolution of leaves created by Sangha members and groups. In the Board book is a "web mapping report" of the tree, a narrative report on the project and two pages of data compiled by Linda Longo. One page identifies the "leaves" that represent the "Essence of Sangha" and the second page, "Sangha Activity Leaves" is a synthesis of the remaining thoughts. Some needs seemed to be appropriately addressed by the Social Committee and are listed under that Committee name. Remaining comments and requests might more appropriately be met through other committees or through other means ..

During the sangha meeting in the spring of 2007 we identified and honored the ways Deep Spring Center activities have impacted individual lives. Those who attended the meeting participated in a "Time Line" activity, which depicted in words and pictures where it all began and what has happened along the way. As part of that, we had an opportunity to identify dreams and concerns for the future. You will find a listing of these attached.

Deep Spring Center continues to grow in our offerings of classes, teacher training, sitting opportunities, spiritual/body wellness activities, retreats, support groups, mentoring, quest speakers, fund raisers, social activities, bookstore, lending library, and dharma offerings on the web site and in the newsletters. We have grown through the dedicated efforts of our Guiding teacher, the teacher group, the board, our office manager, sangha members, and many volunteers, some who have been doing this work for more than fifteen years. Gratitude abounds for all of this.

Dreams and Concerns Identified in 2007 (and before)

Improve communication within the organization

Concern that the organizational bureaucracy will increase to a point that Deep Spring will collapse (how to avoid too many emails, rules, and policies).

How to get more volunteers and/or how to deal with burnout in volunteers

Have Aaron talks offered on CD, have materials more readily available

More and more "community"

Support for people who are ill and/or dying

Offer classes to draw young people (children, teens and young adults)

Offer Programs for families

Offer more spiritual diversity in teachings

Have a more systematic way of welcoming new people and offer spiritual mentoring

Have a class on parenting as spiritual practice

Create a Deep Spring Cookbook for sale

Address whether DSC wants to do fund raising activities

Allow outreach to happen organically

Own space and/or move to a bigger space

Own a space to have retreats

Own a space- retreat there, teach there, live there, and die there

Have a small intentional eco-spiritual community where there are Deep Springers living a new world into being.

Share some activities with other like-minded groups

DSC: Sangha Activity Leaves
SOCIAL COMMITTEE ASSESSMENT

OTHER Committees:

- #leaves	leaf item
3	1. GET LISTED ON VARIOUS LOCAL Website LISTS
2	2. WIDER USE OF NEWSLETTERS something a list serve to communicate w/ members
1	3. CONDUIT TO INDIVIDUAL for community service information
1	6. INTEGRATING NEW PEOPLE INTO SANGHA: have more formal-organized way
2	7. SPONSORMENTOR PROGRAM FOR NEWCOMERS: new people coming into a group or a practice
4	8. MENTORING COACH PARTNERS: in meditation, for new people
3	16. SERVICE: focused on Sangha (realistic view of resources)
5	17. COMMITTEE WORK IS SERVICE: thank you
2	18. BALANCE FUTURE VISION w/ PRESENT WORK: serving the teachings
3	4. A WAY TO LEARN ABOUT MEMBERS talents/interest. (talent bank: create ways of networking)
4	5. TALENT INVENTORY w/in Sangha, and networking
1	25. PROGRAMMING: offered on a Dana basis. ?(classes)
1	26. DHARMA-ART PROGRAM
4	27. CHILDREN'S PROGRAM
1	28. ANNUAL METTA SERVICE for whole world
1	29. METTA PRAYER GROUP: taking requests
1	30. HELPING PEOPLE CREATE NEW SITTING GROUPS (with materials)
1	31. RETREAT
1	32. PERSONAL RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES: relationship with B&B, Sunnyside, Room in our building
1	33. BRING SPIRITUALITY TO KIDS & TEENS: skits, Jakahtatules classes
14	34. TRANSCRIBE ARCHIVE DISTRIB Aaron's TEACHINGS

OUTREACH Committee: but Soc Comm may include these in their activities

- 1 19. FALL CLEANUP PROJECT
- 1 20. NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP AGAIN
- 1 21. HURON RIVER CLEANUP DAY & PLAY DAY: Earthday April 22d
- 1 22. OUTDOOR SERVICE PROGRAMS: 'Dharma Compost'
- 1 23. VISITING SHUT-INS/NURSING HOMES: just to 'be'

SOCIAL Committee:

- 8 9. SOCIAL HOME: more food (classes, sangha mtgs, picnics)
- 7 11. MOVIES @ KRIS KURNITS & other social activities
- 5 15. RITUAL GROUPS/CEREMONIES
- 5 10. DONUTS & DHARMA: (historical?)
- 4 12. JOYFUL GATHERINGS: picnics, canoeing/park, summer playday
- 4 14. DSC SERVICES TO MEMBERS: around rituals in life (funerals, marriages)
- 1 24. ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF DSC: Events, Dating, Soup for the sick

- 7 13. KAL Y ANA MITRA GROUPS: (spiritual friends groups)-is this under another committee?

DSC: Sangha Activity Leaves
ESSENCE OF SANGHA

1. Casts a broad net
2. Inclusiveness
3. Welcome all
4. Diversity of People & Offerings
5. Seek & Share
6. Center of Light
7. Inner Community
8. Creating Sanctuary
9. Open Heartedness
10. Love
11. Community of Learners & Seekers.
12. A group that helps us come to harmony.
13. The group energy nurtures the deepening of our practice.
14. To provide a safe & suitable environment for practice of the teachings.
15. A community of friends, support & fun.
16. Support for the individual & differences among individuals. People are equally welcome.
17. Safety
18. Commitment to loving kindness.
19. Laughter
20. Support for parents, child care.
21. Hope
22. Support from others to continue my spiritual path.
23. Fellowship- sangha.
24. Plans decided by concensus of sangha.

- * The essence of Sangha is that it is a community, a sanctuary where learners & seekers find support through spiritual friendship and deepening practice.
- * Sangha is individuals-families, children, young and old finding connection.
- * The qualities of the essential Sangha are love, hope, harmony, fun, inclusiveness, safety, laughter & diversity.
- * It is open and welcoming and egalitarian and committed to loving kindness.

A point for real sangha discussion are the terms "non-denominational" and "multi-denominational".