

## 2024 Annual Friends of Indralaya Members Meeting

August 4, 2024 at Indralaya

The first of two annual members meeting, held in the Indralaya grove, was convened at 7:30 p.m. by Tessa Ormenyi, the Orcas Island Foundation board's elected members representative. The second meeting will be an online meeting scheduled for September 8, 2024 from 1-3 p.m. This will provide an opportunity for members to participate who were unable to be at the in-person meeting. The agenda will be the same for both meetings.

**Meditation** - Tessa opened the meeting with a meditation.

**Introduction** - Tessa

Tessa reviewed the meeting goal of sharing Board decisions with the boarder Indralaya community and hearing feedback. She highlighted how the community has adapted to the financial realities since the COVID shutdown. She noted opportunities to be nurtured by Indralaya and to be engaged through participation in programs, work parties, study and volunteering.

Tessa expressed the board's gratitude to the entire community, recognizing how the community really stepped up to donate and volunteer through uncertain financial and staffing times until a resident manager was hired. She recognized that the longevity of Indralaya is a testament to this experiment in which we are choosing to partake – engaging our whole community in theosophical living. To be in community with each other and with nature. To share work and responsibilities so we all have a role in the day-to-day operation of camp and in the future of Indralaya. To offer tranquility, peace, reflection, and service.

**Financial Overview** – Merry Bullock, Treasurer

Merry distributed as handout summarizing financial details for 2023-2024 year to date including 2024 program information: average attendance, average revenue per room per night and the average cost per room per night. Fees cover 81% of operating costs or 68% if the annual budget for capital expenses is included. Donations are essential to balance the annual budget.

In summary, Indralaya continues to recover from the losses suffered during COVID. Revenues are increasing but still not to pre-2019 levels. Construction of the new bathhouse is progressing but completion will depend on increased resources from program revenue and capital donations.

**Operations Overview** – Alec Grae, General Manager

Alec highlighted progress made during the past year:

Marketing – He is developing a plan which will include a generic announcement and flyer for each program, targeted distribution to TS organizations, and to organizations who hold similar

programs. He is focused on documenting the process and training leaders. Wants to develop a reciprocal relationship with other island organizations.

Retreat Guru – Alec recognized Merry’s assistance with the registration software transition. It has greatly improved ease of use. The company is providing technical assistance.

Program Attendance – Both Family Camps, Connections and the Harvest Work Party are over registered. Other programs have increased attendance from 2023. The new software allows him to better track financial information, volunteers and donations.

Facilities – Alec recognized the recent hiring of Lano Harrison as resident Facilities Manager and his understanding of the mission of Indralaya. Lano has already organized the shop and addressed further plumbing issues in the dining hall and basement. He is also re-establishing the irrigation system and adding safeguards to better monitor the water system. Alec and Lano are working on improving fire safety prevention with the fire department, will be implementing fire drills, and adding extinguishers and monitors in every cabin. The Department of Natural Resources assessed water quality in the bay in November and the heritage orchard has been assessed as well.

Stewardship Program – Alec recognized how critical volunteer stewards are to operating camp. They also participate in programs and activities. He encourages a team mentality among the stewards. He thanked Marilynne for handling the recruitment process.

Social media/Outreach – Facebook engagement is up over 700%. The reach has expanded by 20% with engagement expanded by 75%. Of users, 75% are women, 25% men; mostly over 55 years of age. Most followers are from Seattle, Orcas Island and Canada.

Focus for 2025 – More kitchen staff are needed. Alec will focus on recruiting new and younger head cooks. He also wants to improve the garden and composting systems.

**Lower Bathhouse Overview** – Marilynne Gardner, Board Facilities and Infrastructure Committee and Rolf Eriksen, Project Manager

Marilynne highlighted progress made on the Bathhouse and revenues required, noting the significance of capital donations in advancing this complex project. She recognized Amanda Levey as the project architect and Rolf Eriksen as the project manager. Rolf has also generously donated to the Bathhouse and works with volunteers to lower costs and develop skills to sustain and maintain camp’s facilities. It is exciting to see the progress on the portico roof, cedar siding and doors during Connections. The project budget has been a moving target given skyrocketing costs on the island as well as supply issues during and post pandemic. The timing and resources to complete the project will be part of the Board’s annual budget process this fall. Rolf spoke to the elements yet to be completed.

## Indralaya's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2027

Tessa led as brainstorm of members' ideas for celebrating Indralaya's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Summer 2027. People who might work on the proposal are noted.

- Interview people to be part of a film like Helen Bee created for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Marshall Peabody
- Create a documentary on Indralaya past, present and future. Nick Toren
- Sponsor a kayak trip to camp, possibly a fundraising event. Bryan Djunaedi
- Have a polar plunge.
- Recreate the hay pile in the meadow, hide coins for kids to find.
- Have a treasure hunt.
- Create a time capsule.
- Have elegant food feasts.
- Create a camp quilt.
- Plant a tree to commemorate the anniversary and bury a time capsule.
- Create a map and history of each camp cabin construction.
- Create a visual camp timeline banner highlighting key events.
- Create a scavenger/treasure hunt with one clue leading to another.
- Have generational panel talk about camp (similar to previous anniversaries).
- Show videos created for previous anniversaries.
- Schedule a weekend event.
- Begin to sell merchandise and stickers related to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the Indralaya website and at camp to generate interest.
- Plant a madrona tree to replace the iconic, aging madrona tree on the point.
- Email photos of vintage camp merchandise to [office@indralaya.org](mailto:office@indralaya.org)
- Have an activity in the grove during daytime.
- Create a new Indralaya song.
- Have a 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary volleyball game.
- Sell apple butter made from the camp's apples.
- Create a bingo card leading up to the event.
- Hold an auction.

The meeting closed with the beginning of campfire at 8 p.m.

Notes prepared by Marilynne Gardner, board secretary.