



Community Building Working Group (CBWG) Summaries of Two Community Calls July 21, 2023

First Call

Welcome and Meditation

Update on Progress of CBWG

- CBWG Mission Statement developed (Attachment 1).
- Expanding TA Community Building Working Group
- Community page on website (<https://trilliumawakening.org/community-page/#>), including Suggestion Box, will list projects/volunteers
- Talking to teachers about a wider range of TA events on upcoming TATC calls
- Community events to honor end of life – Bill M leading an End-of-Life Support project

Community Building Discussion

Participants were split into breakout rooms to discuss their experiences of community. Here are some of the things they suggested were important to forming community:

- Importance of small groups where there is opportunity to know the participants more deeply, develop trust and intimacy, develop soul friendships, and create a safe space.
- Importance of peer-led small groups where there is no sense of hierarchy.
- Feeling of intimacy is different in each group, depending on those present and structure of meeting.
- Importance of play in meetings, emphasis on sovereignty, and acceptance of edgy feedback.

The participants also raised these questions:

- How do small groups interface effectively with the larger TA community?
- How do we learn to hold feelings and vulnerabilities with safety when interaction becomes intense?

- How do we foster intimacy in larger groups with different individuals present?

Polling of Group on Possible Initiatives Based on Survey

Starting with the 10 initiatives identified in the survey that was done (see Attachment 2), participants were polled to identify the top five initiatives Here are the results:

1. Mutual Support Forum
2. 24/7 sacred online space
3. Closed mutuality circles
4. Book/study groups
5. More practices and practice groups

Reactions to Discussion and Brainstorming

Participants were invited to comment based on everything that had been covered, and to brainstorm for new ideas. Here are the main points that came out:

- Conflict resolution is important; VAX/no VAX needs attention.
- The optimal state is play that gets to edges and refines our WBR toward a goal of sovereignty.
- Addressing power dynamics in the TA community needs more attention; current power differential is too wide.
- Standardized formats, no cross talk, and discouraging edgy feedback mute authenticity.
- Collective conscious mutuality is our unique relationship with others and requires a level of WBR wellness, an evolutionary space we are moving toward. Beginners need more structure as they grow in integration in the community.
- We are in the beginning stage of groups for those of all interests. Exciting.

Open-ended Questions

A. Which of the 10 previously identified initiatives (Attachment 2) are you interested in working on?

The responses from the *first and second calls together* are listed in Attachment 3.

B. Are you interested in building local community, working with any teachers/mentors who are in your area?

The responses from the *first and second calls together* are listed in Attachment 3.

C. How can we get more people on these calls?

Weekend meetings for working people
Encourage people to watch videos of past calls
Offer raffle prizes
Not about marketing; attraction, but not promotion

Take-Aways From This Meeting

- A general sense of enthusiasm and excitement around the meeting structure, flexibility, and space of co-creation.
- Sovereignty, play, a flatter organization with closer ties between participants and teachers, and a heart-centered approach are important.
- While change may be needed in our structure, we first need to find out how current structure is meeting needs of community members. Let's not take away what works.
- Before intimacy in a group can occur, there is a need to address past issues with honesty and respect, not glossing over them, to promote healing. Important to address polarities in the community.
- Excited about possibilities for democratic spirituality with individual guru dissolving, and the group becoming the guru.
- Glad to see risk taking in an environment safe enough to encourage participation.
- A blossoming of our work is taking place as we enter the next stage of our evolution with soul friendship connections.
- Community is created during the Sacred Summer Celebration, but there must be easier ways.
- Love, aliveness and willingness to go out on a limb as our collective wisdom and playfulness emerge.

Second Call

Welcome and Meditation

Update on Progress of CBWG

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- Talking to teachers about a wider range of TA events on upcoming TATC calls
- Community events to honor end of life – Bill M leading an End-of-Life Support project

Community Building Discussion

Participants were invited to recall times when they felt in sync with everyone in their community, and to share the qualities of those experiences. They were divided into three breakout groups, and after that, shared the following recollections with the entire group.

- Small enough to be intimate, large enough to be diverse; even though dispersed via Zoom, have bodies in the “room” together.
- Sense of shared values, free to be ourselves as integral parts of community.
- Shared memories and the joy of recalling them knits individuals together, while witnessing personal growth.
- A common task, such high school choir, where the group had a shared focus and shared purpose.
- We-space exercises help.
- Invitation to help toward achievement of a common goal; having an investment in the game.
- Transfiguration Retreats (TRs) felt very safe with a sense of community, with individuals on the same wavelength, allowing everyone to deepen.
- A sense of fulfillment to be part of a community to help the world as we weave our gifts together.
- Continuous availability of space, meeting guidelines, and cultural tensions all present challenges.
- Polarity work is needed to see value from each direction and angle.

This question was also raised:

- How will safety be ensured in groups meeting without a teacher?

Polling of Group on Possible Initiatives Based on Survey

Starting with the 10 initiatives identified in the survey that was done (see Attachment 2), participants were polled to identify the top five initiatives. Here are the cumulative results for the first and second calls:

1. Mutual Support Forums
2. Book/study groups
3. 24/7 Sacred Online Space
4. Closed mutuality circles
5. More practices and practice groups

Reactions to Discussion and Brainstorming

Participants were invited to comment based on everything that had been covered, and to brainstorm for new ideas. Here are the main points that came out:

- In order to attract people, we must know what they need in community.
- Synergy between expansion and enlivenment/enhancement of what is already here is attractive.
- How to identify people who aren't on the TA mailing list.
- It would be helpful to have lists of TA participants by local area, to make it easier to have local events, and perhaps even a password protected directory.
- Might have evenings of introduction done by teachers and mentors.
- Utilize community centers, bookstores, yoga studios.
- Have bulletin boards; have consistent messages that we "broadcast"; next door is global.
- Have men's and women's mutuality groups.
- How can the TA dharma be used by the community?

Open-ended Questions

- A. Which of the 10 previously identified initiatives (Attachment 2) are you interested in working on?

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- B. Are you interested in building local community, working with any teachers/mentors who are in your area?

The responses from the *first and second calls together* are listed in Attachment 3.

C. How can we get more people on these calls?

- Use video clips, more effective than email.
- Ask each person present at a Community Call to encourage at least one other TA participant to attend the next call.
- Have a synopsis of what we are doing so participants will know what they are getting into.
- Start with a fun activity followed by discussion.
- Need to experience community together.

Take-Aways

- Appreciating the creative space of being together and the play of it.
- Saw the magic of community unfold before our eyes today; inspiring to be here.
- TA may have something to offer again. Appreciative of initiatives undertaken by CBWG.
- Loved the breakout rooms; lively and beautiful.
- Realizing that it takes time to feel TA; want to stick with it; TA matters.
- TA people stunning, such clarity here.
- Keeping TA going is slow work; always wanted this community forum to come alive; teachers need community and community members need teachers.
- A palpable passion for the work is evident; brainstorming was great.
- Felt the visceral sense for the co-creation, respect, and gratitude for everyone.
- Exploration of this human space, beautiful and sweet, makes me feel cared for.
- Synergy and co-creation evident in both calls today, and though very different, juice and aliveness of community happened in each.
- Hearts being able to meet and touch, heart-warming.
- Extremely courageous for TA to move from teacher-based events to co-creation.
- Inspired by everyone; were community building in that brainstorming session.
- Faith in TA to affect us and the planet.
- Magic and synergy.
- Finding a home again; there is a place for me here.

Attachment 1

Mission Statement-CBWG

The mission of the Trillium Awakening Community Building Working Group is to co-create a thriving community, in which each member is not just empowered, but also a source of empowerment, committed to Trillium Awakening's mission. Our strategy encourages **organic growth, fueled by the individual talents and energies of community members.** We do not seek to change Trillium's teachers or organizational structure, but to catalyze a shift towards deeper engagement, mutuality, and collaboration.

Attachment 2

10 Initiatives Identified in a Survey Carried Out by the CBWG

1. Mutual Support Forum
2. Study/book groups (e.g., explore one's Gene Keys in a group)
3. 24/7 online "sacred space" for connection, mutuality and community-building (with open Zoom room)
4. More "Closed" online mutuality circles (which provide consistency and trust)
5. More practices and practice groups
6. Longer in-person retreats (a week or more)
7. 2 to 8-week online courses (live and evergreen) with various teachers
8. Online platform for Bulletin Board and Contact List
9. Sharing our Awakening Journeys
10. Outside community service projects (homeless shelters, social justice, etc)

Attachment 3

Volunteers for Top Initiatives and Building Local Community⁽¹⁾

- A. Which of the 10 previously identified initiatives (Attachment 2) are you interested in working on?

Mutual Support Forum- Allen B., Don, Fred, Elaine, Jill, Rossi, Sandra, Sara

Study/Book Groups- Allen B., Cynthia, Don, Elaine, Fred, Jill, Phil

24/7 Sacred Online Space/ Online Bulletin Board and Contact List (Membership)- Phil, Ralph H, Rossi, Victor

Closed Mutuality Circles- Bobby, Cynthia, Deidre, Victor

More Practices and Practice Groups- Bobby, Fred, Jill, Luke, Rossi Victor

In Person Retreat- Sandra

Online Courses- Fred

Awakening Journeys- Don, Fred

- B. Are you interested in building local community, working with any teachers/mentors who are in your area?

Cynthia, Dean, Don, Elaine, Jacob, Rossi, Sara, and Rossi

(1) These are responses from the *first and second calls together*.