



Center Director's Report from Brenda Salgado

August 20, 2015

Beloved Ones,

As I prepare to present on EBMC on a spirituality and social justice panel at the annual [Bioneers conference](#) in San Rafael, California, I am bowing in deep gratitude to the vision of our founders and to each one of you in our Sangha. It is because of each of you that we are increasingly being looked to on both national and international levels for innovative practices of access to a social justice-informed, living Dharma and as a meditation center that runs solely by Gift

Economics. *Please know that what we're co-creating is an inspiration and a substantive resource for many many other individuals and organizations around the world.* Within the context of today's social and ecological challenges, East Bay Meditation Center is a hotbed of mindful, emergent leadership and movement building.



Photo by Xiomara Castro

Please join us: Sept. 13 EBMC community meeting! 3-6 PM meeting, 6-7 pm dinner

Please save the date! At the EBMC community meeting on Sunday, September 13, 2015 we will be sharing a beta version of the new EBMC Website! We'll also celebrate the awarding of an honorary doctor of Sacred Theology (sacrae theologiae) degree to Mushim, one of EBMC's core teachers, from Starr King School for the Ministry. And we'll be sharing about the exciting ways that EBMC is being called into leadership in other settings. So come on down to the Center for a fun and informative time together, plus delicious food! EBMC will provide vegetarian food for our gathering.

Special Community Project: At the Sept 13 Community Meeting, we will be presenting Mushim with a special keepsake album to congratulate and celebrate her award. Sangha Members are invited to make a 6"x 6" scrapbook page with your message to Mushim to include in the album. We have pre-cut scrapbook paper available in the EBMC Library, or feel free to use your own. Entries must be received by Friday, Sept 11 to be included in the album.

Fundraising report: Dharma-thon and House Party 2015

At this summer's 5th annual Dharma-thon, we raised a little over \$17,000. Our goal was \$20K.

We give deep bows of thanks to the 20 Dharma-thoners and the 4 teams who raised this money and even more deep bows to all the Sangha members, family and friends who donated to the Dharma-thoners' fundraising Webpages! The Dharma-thon began with a beautiful morning at Lake Merritt in downtown Oakland on July 18 with free movement classes open to the public, attended by EBMC members and people who were strolling around Lake Merritt.



Developing mindfulness, flexibility and strength while enjoying the sunshine at Lake Merritt. Free yoga class, an EBMC Dharma-thon 2015 offering.

This was followed by an afternoon of enriching presentations and a community ceremony, followed by an intimate potluck dinner. I want to especially thank EBMC's development coordinator, Cassandra Shaylor, and our event coordinator, Mahogany Moton, for their fine work on this event.

We held a **house party** in May in a lovely private home in the East Bay. This gathering was co-sponsored by [Mindful Peacebuilding](#), and we are grateful for their friendship and support! We had around 18 attendees who listened attentively to the presentation about EBMC, and participated in a lively discussion. The food was delicious, and we are grateful to the hosts who graciously invited people to attend. We raised a little over \$2,500 at this special event. It was on this occasion that we unveiled our new Gift Economics infographic, designed by a professional graphic designer who donated their time and skills. You can see and download this infographic on the EBMC Website in the menu section titled "Giving." We saw old friends and made new ones, so this was a great networking opportunity for EBMC.

Looking to the future, stay tuned for an exciting October fundraiser featuring well-known speakers!

Budget report

We didn't quite make our spring and summer fundraising goals, but for the first time since I became Director, we have a three month reserve (whew!), and we're looking forward to our fall fundraising efforts. What will these funds go toward? In addition to our usual operating expenses as we continue to grow and serve many more people, our future goals include health care benefits for EBMC staff in 2016; reestablishing a development assistant/database manager position; and, a standard aspiration for any healthy nonprofit, working toward a six-month cash reserve of operating expenses for the Center.

Board recruitment

Several wonderful members of our Leadership Sangha (LSangha, or board of directors) will be finishing their terms of service at the end of 2015, including Kimi Mojica (board chair), JD Doyle and Christy Leffall. In my role as EBMC's center director, I've been honored to work closely with this outstanding group of Dharma-based activists and teachers, who have given so much to EBMC. You'll be hearing more about the upcoming board nomination process as recruitment efforts get underway in late September.

Abundance and blessings

Much of my own spiritual practice focuses on recognizing and highlighting the abundant blessings that surround us, intertwined with the conditions of loss, suffering and oppression that EBMC seeks to address. I see beauty and hope shining in every corner of our meditation center, and it inspires me to reflect that we're not even to the end of 2015, and that this year some of EBMC's teachers and Sangha members have been invited to the White House, to Rome to meet with Pope Francis, have been involved in direct action supporting the #BlackLivesMatter movement, and much more. Who knows what we can accomplish, as a community, before this year draws to a close? I remain deeply grateful to every member of this amazing spiritual community that we call EBMC.

Brenda Salgado
EBMC Center Director