



Fall 2017

TRAINERS MENTORING CIRCLE

The mission of the TMC is to set standards and oversee the path to becoming a certified council trainer and facilitator in the "Ojai Foundation, Way of Council" lineage.

Autumn Greetings from your TMC!

This is our Fall report giving updates about activities on the path. Your TMC ~ Jack Zimmerman, Bonnie Tamblyn, Kate Lipkis, and Lori Austein ~ is happy to share important information.

Let's be in the loop together!

What's New?

Under the Tree: Congratulations to our new certified trainers who have completed the Trainers Path!

Anita Samaha, Arrowyn Ambrose, Kirsten Edelglass, Yamin Chehin & Stefani Valadez.

- **On the Trainers Path:** With enthusiasm, we welcome Rebecca Bruhn and Jeremiah Burrow, both mentored by Paul LeVasseur, onto the Trainers Path. We schedule calls several times a year for mentees to step onto the path and to complete. If you'd like to schedule a call, please contact Sarah Bryant at tmc@ojaifoundation.org.
- **Facilitators Path:** We call your attention to the new Facilitators Path which leads to a credential that can be helpful for facilitators intending to be paid for their work. If you have questions after reviewing the document, please contact the TMC. View doc at: <http://waysofcouncil.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Becoming-a-Certified-Facilitator.pdf>
- **Council Collectives, Groups and Paths:** Several groups have formed to support council carriers in developing and honing their skills as they seek opportunities to bring council to their communities.
 - **New England Council Collective:** This New England body of council carriers serves individuals, groups and organizations seeking to seed Council practices in and for the human and more-than-human worlds. Based in Putney, VT, we network with trainers and facilitators in New England and New York, and with the Ojai Foundation, Center for Council and School of Lost Borders. We offer frequent Council trainings at SIT Graduate Institute (School for International Training) and Marlboro College. We also offer specialized trainings upon request. Contact us at necouncilcollective@gmail.com
 - **Vancouver Practice Group:** This group serves those who have taken Council 1 and beyond, who seek to improve their skills on the Facilitators Path. Lori Austein brings all she was gifted from the Palms Council Project to this group and combines didactic pieces with opportunities for participants to facilitate councils in a supportive group environment. Whether participants choose to facilitate for their families or colleagues, or to become certified Council Facilitators or Trainers, they build skill and confidence. Contact Lori at [Lori Austein<leaustein@gmail.com>](mailto:Lori.Austein@leaustein@gmail.com)

- **The Facilitators Accelerator Path:** Participants receive practical, guided experience in facilitating an ongoing open circle that has met each month for fifteen years in Venice, CA. Attended by two senior trainers and a revolving cast of new and seasoned practitioners, this path offers guidance in planning, facilitating and debriefing the council, plus a series of tipsheets covering such issues as witnessing, time management, forming prompts and keeping confidentiality. More information can be found at <http://www.councilheart.com/offerings>
- **Storytribe:** “The Circle” is a community-based council practice held on the first Monday of the month from 7:30-9pm at Earth Altar Studio in Eagle Rock. It is centered on Benjamin Franklin’s 13 tenets of virtue, with a different virtue unpacked each month. November is Moderation. Two guest facilitators from Center for Council’s Trainers Leadership Initiative will co-lead. Please come to [1615 Colorado Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90041](#) and/or email arrowyn@mac.com for more information.

If you would like to feature your group in future TMC newsletter, please send us your information. We will be happy to share with the trainer body!

What's in the Works?

Fundraising for Administrative Support:

👉 If you’ve been a trainer for many years, you may have noticed you’re hearing more from your TMC this year. If you’re a Certified Council Trainer, chances are great that you were mentored by another trainer, and that this trainer worked with the TMC to help you along the way.

Our heightened activity has only been possible because we now have administrative help! We’ve been updating documents and creating new ones to help clarify our lineage and set standards for how to become a trainer, who leads advanced council trainings, how to be credentialed as a facilitator, and how to develop best practices as a mentor.

While the members of the TMC sit as volunteers, Sarah’s is a paid, very-part-time position. Your designated contribution to the TMC will help us sustain our administrative support. Each new mentee on the trainer path is asked to make a contribution of \$100 to The Ojai Foundation, designated to the TMC, so that we can continue as a vital support body for trainers. *Please show your appreciation for this work and help us keep the super-efficient Sarah on the payroll by making a designated contribution to the TMC.*

• **Certified Trainer’s Certificate:**

If you would like a certificate acknowledging your certified trainer status, we would be happy to provide it (especially if you can help in this fundraising effort, to the best of your ability.) ❤️ Just provide the year that you became a trainer in The Ojai Foundation lineage and we will send it along.

• **Certificates of Completion:**

Bonnie Tamblyn has created a modifiable acknowledgement of a council training completed for use by the trainer body. This certificate of completion can be adapted to show the names of co-trainers as well as program particulars. Please contact Bonnie at bonnietamblyn@gmail.com for assistance in preparing a certificate for your training.

~ REFLECTIONS ~

Addressing the art of mentoring for the past two years at the annual gathering has helped cut a pathway for the trainer who seeks to mentor others as facilitators and future trainers. Thank you to Alan Mobley and John McCluskey for formalizing their desire to be or continue as mentors on the TMC Path, joining Lori Austein, Gigi Coyle, Marlow Hotchkiss, Paul Le Vasseur, Kate Lipkis, Bonnie Mennell, Tom Nolan, Bonnie Tamblyn, Julia Wasson, and Jack Zimmerman, who have been operating in that capacity for a while or for decades. If you believe your name as a mentor should be registered with the TMC, please be in touch with us. We look forward to sharing a Mentors Path in the near future. As distinct from the Trainers Path which culminates with certification, the Mentors Path will be ongoing, as we all continue to deepen our skill in this vital area.

~MENTORING & the THIRD by Jack Zimmerman~

What has become clear over the years, and particularly during the mentoring day in July, is that the mentor /mentee relationship is a challenge to describe and that various experienced mentors have unique ways of characterizing the process. Generally there is agreement that the relationship is reciprocal (that is, the mentor is in a learning and deepening process as well as the mentee) and that their relationship is to varying degrees personal, professional and spiritual, depending on the particular people involved. This suggests that the notion of Third Consciousness can play a vital role in the mentoring process particularly if the M/M pair has known each other for a long time and/or in a variety of different settings. We have seen that when the M/M relationship is complex, it can be helpful for either the mentor or mentee to call for another experienced mentor to act as the Third for the original pair to provide another dimension of witnessing and guidance. It may even be a good idea for the primary mentor to call on a fellow mentor to serve in the role of the Third for the pair over the entire course of the M&M relationship. In such cases, the triad configuration can hold council periodically over the years to provide the needed expanded consciousness. Alternatively, if the original pair starts out alone, and their relationship becomes rocky, another mentor's presence may be necessary to complete the mentee's journey in a good way that will also improve both mentors' capabilities. The TMC has already begun to invite M&M pairs to consider a likely Third during the course of their M&M relationship. We will have more to say about all this, as well as more formal mentor training when we send out the first draft of the Mentors Path.

Reminders

- **TMC Email:** It is our desire to be of service to this community. We invite your communication including, questions, concerns, requests for support, celebrations, etc. Contact us at tmc@ojaifoundation.org. Gratitude to TOF for providing the TMC with this space.
- **TMC Documents:** You can find all of our revised documents on the Ways of Council website at www.waysofcouncilnet.

Becoming a Certified Facilitator (*Learn>Public Resources*)

Becoming a Council Trainer (*Learn>Public Resources*)

Leading Council Training 1, 2, and 3 (*Learn>Trainer Resources*)

Vision document for the TMC – CTAG (*Learn>Trainer Resources*)