



Spring 2018

TRAINERS MENTORING CIRCLE

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

Spring Greetings from your TMC!

Spring brings the hope of rebirth and new growth, and it is our hope that you are thriving and tending to all that seeks to bloom through you. Our thoughts this past winter have been with The Ojai Foundation in recognition of all it means to so many. We are grateful for those who continue to steward the land and the mission toward renewal and healthy new growth. A campaign to restore and re-imagine the Land is under way. The foundation is preparing to host the Annual Gathering at the Ojai Foundation Land Sanctuary, July 7th & 8th with volunteer days of service before and council business meetings to follow the days after. Two conveners and three to four volunteer hosts are still needed for the Gathering.

☀️ Have something to offer? Please email: sirigunnarson@gmail.com
donations welcome here <https://ojaifoundation.org/donate-to-recover-and-reimagine/>

What's New?

At this time of growth and transformation of the North American Council Community, what is the mission of the TMC, if any, beyond our witnessing and guidance of the mentor/mentee pairs on the Trainers and Facilitators Paths? In particular, what is our role in the next cycle of TOF's development, and in the activities of Center For Council and Circle Ways, and their relationship to TOF? How do we fulfill our mission in the spirit of a wisdom circle?

In council, we work with the community and the culture in which we seed the practice. A simple example from *The Way of Council* is Jack's use of the model car as a talking piece at a car dealership. On a grand scale, organizations such as *Circle Ways* and *Center for Council*, and those running programs at *Snap Inc.* are charged with integrating council practice into existing real world settings.

The TMC holds the practice as written in *The Way of Council* and practiced for decades at The Ojai Foundation. We celebrate that this core practice is more vigorous and alive than ever, creatively applied in these new endeavors, and we trust that there are capacities in which the TMC can continue to serve this broader council community.

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TMC's role in the Expansion of Council

In our January council, the theme arose of TMC's role in the expansion of council, particularly in regard to council-based organizations.

Four actions came through strongly as a result of our discussion:

- 1) a recommitment that we adopt the practice of openness and "not knowing" as we go forward. The TMC does not know the best way forward but we commit to truly be in inquiry with all council carriers. For example, we want you to know that we're available should you wish to reach out regarding the mysteries of mentoring;

- 2) a commitment to being a traditional wisdom/learning circle for our fellow trainers and facilitators as we work together in integrity with the “spirit of council”;
- 3) a devotion to the practice of deep relational “Third Consciousness” in our relationship with each Mentor-Mentee pair as distinct from our being regarded as an authoritarian final hurdle to be cleared. As Leon Berg has termed it, the TMC is the gatekeeper of the lineage. We seek to sit humbly in our councils with Mentor-Mentee pairs, supporting through witnessing, or supporting via suggestions for expansion or growth, including a now frequent suggestion (since the Gathering last summer) of a second Mentor making the pair into a “triad”;
- 4) a commitment to support council organizations through our primary role in tracking Mentor-Mentee paths and in any other way invited by the organization.

An Offering

We intend offering, if it would be of service, a quarterly Zoom meeting to the trainer and mentee body. These meetings are in the spirit of an invitation to add your voice as we re-envision our roles with TOF and the practice after the fire. M&M pairs might offer updates or seek support from the wider circle. Trainers might bring questions and we all might offer witnessing reflections as a wisdom/learning circle. Let’s continue to develop our practice together. Our first open call will be on June 19th. Please contact Sarah (tmc@ojaifoundation.org) if you would like to receive a link to the call.

On the Path

Welcome to the Trainer’s Path Brendan Clark and Aimee Kelly with their mentor, Marlow Hotchkiss, and Michele Terry with Alan Mobley as mentor and Bonnie Tamblyn acting as their Third. Congratulations to Margaret Tarmy, our first Certified Facilitator, on her Path to Trainer Certification .

What’s in the Works?

The Listener Convener Circle (LCC) was originally formed in partnership and support for the TMC at the Ojai Foundation Gathering in 2016 as a working group with members Laura Whitney, Camille Ameen, Siri Gunnarson and Shay Sloan. After a year of work, a proposal and mission was sent out as an email and also presented at the next Gathering in 2017.

The mission of the LCC, together with the TMC, is to tend the flame of council in North America to connect various council-based organizations and support the practice and practitioners - facilitators and trainers of council - for the purpose of networking and information sharing.

A new constellation was then created, with Siri Gunnarson remaining from the first group, and Bonnie Tamblyn joining as a bridge to the TMC. Marlow Hotchkiss and Taylor Morgan have joined, and we are beginning to look again – what is the call? What is relevant now? What is needed to support the community of council carriers? New Ideas? We are still listening and have reached out to people to ask what they are seeing or any needs they may have. If you wish to share your ideas and needs, please connect with us at:

tmc@ojaifoundation.org. LCC inquiries in the subject line

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What is the genesis of the term Listener Convener Circle? (LCC)

Marlow Hotchkiss shared the history and concept of a Listener/Conveners Circle which was conceived at the Findhorn Foundation in 1994 by Diane and Robert Gilman - described in brief here.

“Consider empowering a small circle of Listener/Conveners, to serve as a ‘mirror’ into which the Community can look for feedback and reflection, from time-to-time, regarding the wellbeing of the Community-as-a-Whole. “

Reminders

- **Administrative Support:** Sarah Bryant continues to balance baby and the TMC with aplomb. If you are a trainer who has walked the path with the support of the TMC, or a mentor who has felt supported in your work with a mentee, you can give back to the TMC and the LCC by donating to the Administrative Support fund.
♥ *Thank you to the Angell Foundation for a recent gift designated to this fund.*
- **Trainer’s Path Fee:** To support the ongoing administrative work of the TMC, we ask mentees for an honorarium of \$100 over the course of their time on the Trainers Path. No one will be denied for lack of funds.
- **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: tmc@ojaifoundation.org.
♥ *Gratitude to TOF for providing the TMC with this space.*
- **Extra Support:** If any mentors or mentees feel they would benefit from a temporary or ongoing “third,” please contact us.
- **TMC Documents:** You can find all of our revised documents on The Ways of Council website at: www.waysofcouncil.net. Please see the Summer 2017 newsletter for a list of documents. Gratitude to Ways of Council for making that space available for our community. Mentors and mentees are encouraged to be familiar with the revised path documents.
- **Training Certificates:** Bonnie Tamblyn has created a beautiful certificate for use by the trainer body. The certificate is a modifiable acknowledgement of a council training completed and can be adapted for the signatures of co-trainers, as well as program particulars. Please contact the TMC for more details.