



Dear Friends,

As the chair of the Board of Directors and a long-time IDP community member, I'm incredibly excited about what we have created throughout the past two years and are creating every day we participate in the IDP. Our burgeoning classes, events, activities – and especially the 24-hour Sit – reveal the potential for the IDP to be a truly transformative community, both for our members and the world at large.

To further that aspiration, I'm proud to join our Membership Director and fellow Board Member Antonella Pavese and IDP Director Ethan Nichtern in presenting this **new membership plan**. As this community of like-minded practitioner grows, I see our resources and relationships expanding interdependently in ways we can't even imagine now. But it all starts with a committed core, a core we are asking you to join right now, in excitement and wonder at who we, the IDP are now, and what we and the world can become.

Yours in the Buddha, dharma, and sangha,

Ellen Scordato
Chair of the Board



Membership: Practice & Community

Membership in the Interdependence Project demonstrates an intention to help strengthen the core of our growing community, as well as a commitment to your own practice of mindfulness and compassion. The ability for our work to ripple outward to a larger world - both our personal and collective work - is based on developing a vibrant, healthy, and growing core. In 2010 and beyond, we have many opportunities to make a huge impact on the larger world. At the same time, we simply cannot build our community on programming revenue alone. Defining IDP Membership has become an organizational necessity. Our new membership structure comes with many benefits, including, of course, program discounts and access to increased resources. No matter where you are, we hope that if you believe in the IDP, you'll become a member at the level that suits you. However, if this not the right time, please consider making a one-time donation, deductible to the full extent of law, to support our development.

The Good News and The Urgency of Membership: In 2009, *IDP's total revenue grew by 55% over the previous year!* However, only 41% of this revenue came from programming. 33% came from donations from people like you – either monthly or one-time. While we are doing really well from the perspective of a new non-profit, we actually need our revenue to continue growing at a similar rate in order to establish and sustain a **new center** to help reach many more people in the larger community. *Note: Preliminary 2009 Financial Report and 2010 Projected Budget Available on Request.*

The Meaning of Membership: First and foremost, **to be a member of IDP is to connect to furthering your own path** of awakening to interdependence through mindfulness and compassion, as well to claim a stake in our community's shared path. To become a member is to **offer** to the community (both financially and in terms of contributing service); as well as to **receive** (we'll eventually be able to provide all the benefits that come from the interwoven network of a resourceful community – see below for future ideas.)

In terms of **benefits**, what we can offer now is just a fraction of what we hope to offer in the future as our network of like-minded practitioners grows. First of all, we will have an annual Members meeting each Spring where IDP Members can give feedback to leadership and help us chart the direction of the organization and its programming, based on the community's desires and needs. Of course, we are also offering you substantial course discounts, free events, increased home-listen options and a members' only library of online resources, and other goodies. But in the future, we see membership as a broad gateway to provide a whole network of relationships and services to the community. Think of how good a members' book library will look in our new center. Or how about an IDP CSA (community-supported-agriculture) share? The more our core community strengthens, the more we will be able to provide, both to each other, and to others in our larger society.

In terms of contribution, we are asking Members to commit **to a recurring monthly donation/dues structure**. The various options are listed below. These donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. **This system is different** from what we have done in the past, when we have gently requested people to donate monthly, but without formal structure or definition of what was being asked for and offered in return.

We want to be incredibly clear that if you **cannot afford** the stated levels of membership but want to be a member, **we are offering non-financial, service-based membership in our community**. There are many areas in which your skills, energy

and intelligence can be useful as we build all the many facets of IDP's vision. If you are interested in Membership, but cannot afford these levels, just contact us, or approach a staff or Board member (see list below if you aren't sure who we all are) and we will work it out to everyone's mutual benefit.



Benefits of Membership

Global Membership: \$10/Month or more – *(Perfect for those who connect with us online or via our podcast)*

- Membership Card – With “Five Practices of Membership” (see below).
- IDP’s “Awake” Poster
- 40% Discounts on Homestudy Options for IDP courses and lectures
- Access to Online Library of All IDP Lectures (including HCD courses) 3 months after recording
- Invitation to give feedback to IDP leadership to be reported and discussed at the annual members’ meeting each Spring
- Access to Online “Members Forum” that is dedicated to organization feedback.

Full Member: \$25/Month or more *(Perfect for those who are part of the local community)* – **Note that this Membership is \$15/Month for Full-Time Students*

- All the benefits of Global Membership Plus:
- 1/3 off most Buddhist/Meditation classes and lectures and retreats
- Free admission to Salons, Open Meditation (Silent Sundays), Members Events, and select Arts Workshops
- T-shirt and “Awake” Poster (two new t-shirt designs coming soon!)
- Access to Online Library of **All** IDP Lectures (including HCD courses) 3 months after they are recorded
- Invitation to Annual Members Meeting each Spring to give feedback to leadership and help steer direction of IDP in the coming year.

Couples Membership: \$40/Month or more

- All benefits of Full Membership for both members of couple

Sustaining Member: \$50/Month or more

- All Benefits of Full Membership Plus:
- **1/2 off** most Buddhist/Meditation classes and lectures and retreats

Visionary Member (Unlimited Membership): \$150/Month or more

- All benefits of Sustaining Membership Plus:
- **Free!** Most Buddhist/Meditation classes and lectures and retreats
- Invitation to IDP Leadership/Steering Events including annual IDP Patrons dinner

IDP Supporter: \$5/Month

- Gain the knowledge that you are helping us attain a more stable basis from which to expand outward

Setting Up Your Membership/Donation

The new system is much easier for the user than the old. Simply visit

<http://theidproject.org/donate> and enter your monthly contribution amount, or call the office at 917-675-7151 and we will be happy to take your info over the phone. Note that we use a paypal interface to process donations online, but you do NOT need a paypal account to use this interface, it works with any major credit/debit card, or you can use your bank account.

You will immediately be added to the members database. In late January, 2010, we will start distributing Members' packets.

(These are intended ongoing contemplations for members, rather than prescribed actions with any specific parameters)

- 1) A commitment to the practice of **sitting meditation** as the basis for our path.
- 2) A commitment to the practice of **mindfulness in daily life**, which manifests as a desire to cultivate wholesome habits and creativity in yourself.
- 3) A commitment to the practice of **lovingkindness (metta)** in daily life, which manifests as an underlying attitude of gentleness toward yourself and care for the welfare of others.
- 4) A commitment to participating in and **building community**, both at the IDP and wherever compassionate communities exist.
- 5) A commitment to the practice of **responsible consumption** as the humble foundation of our participation in the world.

IDP Staff and Board of Directors

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