

BKS Iyengar Yoga Association
Annual General Meeting
November 20, 2020
10:00 am
Via Zoom

Present: Terri Damiani, Deb Peake, Rose Rodden, Helmi, Louie Ettlign, Christine Rondeau, Bridget Donald, Tanya Marusech, Bibigul Amirova, Sue Fraser, Andrea Fulkerson, Anita Webster, Deborah Brakely

Regrets: Nancy Zrymiak, Faye Fayerman

- 1. Meeting called to order 10:00 AM**
- 2. Opening remarks and President's Report: Terri Damiani**

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the B.K.S. Iyengar Yoga Association (Vancouver). Thank you for joining our first virtual meeting.

The AGM is a recap of the Association year's events and finances. It is a chance to share news, challenges and successes. Our year 2019/2020 can be summed up in a few words: COVID-19, fluid, pivot and transmission.

In preparing for the 2020 workshop season the Association purchased a new event manager, Event Espresso, for registration. Tanya put in many volunteer hours of setting up the program to suit our needs. Then the virus cancelled all our workshops for the year, starting with Carrie Owerko just two weeks prior to the April 3-5 weekend, then Ann Kilbertus in June. Our hope of changing Ann's workshop from spring to fall was dashed by summer. Community studios were closed and teachers quickly pivoted to the various online platforms. With Christine's efforts the Association tried to keep our website up to date with new offerings and cancellations. Nancy kept the Instagram account bubbling promoting the Iyengar Yoga brand. The global Iyengar community's resilience and creativity were impressive and inspiring.

By late spring virtual Iyengar workshops were offered from near and far. Pacific Standard Time meant sometimes getting up at 5am to participate live. The pandemic did not stop the yoga practice, but enhanced the meaning of our practice. The ability to be fluid, to change, to adapt was taught on the mat. The challenge faced in the asana gave a methodical approach to the challenge now presented in life. The yogi's nervous system and immune system were prepared.

The Board worked quietly to make changes for the up-coming 2021 year. We are delighted to be hosting our first live online workshop with Gabriella Giubilaro. Gabriella has taught in Vancouver so many times it is fitting the inaugural workshop is with her. The workshop will be March 19, 20, 21, 22 form

9am-11:30am PST. Originally intended to be in Vancouver, Gabriella is sad to miss the cherry blossoms, but she is joyful to teach us virtually. We have also confirmed Garth Mclean for November 12, 13, 14; there is hope it will be in-person, but if not then we will meet on screen. More information will be available closer to the date.

The Association would like to acknowledge two new people as honorary members:

Linda Shevloff has been involved in many capacities in both the local, national and even international Iyengar yoga communities for decades. She remains a vital part of our teaching membership and a matriarch to the Association. We thank Linda for being a treasured guide and acknowledge her considerable contributions.

Susan Sutherland, a life-long student of yoga, has studied with teachers as far back as Maureen Carruthers, one of the founding members of this Association. Numerous teachers followed after Maureen and Susan's practice continues to this day. Her promotion of Iyengar yoga through her own experience is appreciated.

Current Board of Directors:

Terri Damiani, President, after five years this will be her last year on the Board.

Christine Rondeau, Membership Secretary, Website Admin and general go-to

Bridget Donald, Treasurer, this was her last year, however, she has agreed to continue to sign cheques in the interim until a replacement Treasurer volunteers.

Bibigul Amirova, Social Media and Member at Large

Nancy Zrymiak, Social Media and Member at Large

Deborah Peake, Workshop and Member at Large

Tanya Maruesch, Workshop and Member at Large

It is important to keep new faces and different perspectives on the Board, it keeps it fresh and new.

Standing for nomination 2020/2021 season:

Andrea Fulkerson is a certified teacher on the sunshine coast. She brings diverse life experience, including prior Board service, this combined with her love of yoga and her passion for writing will assist the Board to continue forward.

Faye Fayerman will also be joining the board, a long-time student of Iyengar yoga in both Canada and the United States. Faye is an artist and misplaced New Yorker having a Canadian experience. Thank you to both for stepping forward as mentioned, it is great to have many different perspectives shaping the Association.

Concurrent with the pandemic the USA showed the simmering racism, caught on video for everyone to witness. It has given rise to understandable outrage to change the status quo. These events have encouraged institutions, organizations and individuals to self-examine. The yoga sutras encourage transformation by self-study. The B.K.S. Iyengar Yoga Association (Vancouver) is included in this work of examination for bias and judgement, conscious or unconscious. We want to be allies to all people addressing injustice and creating equity in our communities. If you have suggestions or experience in this area, contact the Board we would love to hear from you.

A reminder we are your platform—send photos, stories, news, events—we will post appropriately. We are approachable and would love to connect with you.

3. M/s/c Last year's AGM minutes approved
4. M/s/c Nominees Andrea Fulkerson and Faye Fayerson elected to the board for 2020/21
5. Membership Report: Submitted by Christine Rondeau

We have fewer members this year than previous years, probably because many people sign up when a workshop is coming. Only one person sent a cheque this year; everyone else signed up online.

2018 – 2019 membership year: 142 members

2019 – 2020 membership year: 108 members (as of November 6, 2019)

2020 - 2021 membership year: 85 members (as of November 18, 2020)

Of the 83 memberships purchased in 2020:

New members : 0

Renewals : 85

Certified Teachers : 45

Teacher Trainees : 12

Students : 28

Family Memberships : 5

Single Person 78

Paid online : 82

Paid via cheque : 1

Four certified Iyengar teachers have not renewed their memberships and have been removed from the website.

6. **Workshop Report: Terri Damiani**

Workshop Committee Members: Deborah Peake, Terri Damiani (Registrar), Tanya Marusech (Technical/Logistics)

2020 Workshops

Instructor	Date	# of unpaid registrants	# of paid registrants		Total
			Members	Non Members	
Carrie Owerko	April 3-5	0	70	0	-300
Ann Kilbertus	June 12-15	0	0	0	0

All 2020 workshops were cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic. A small debt was incurred from charges and venue rental. The Carrie workshop was sold-out within the first few days of opening registration. The refund policy was updated March 12th to allow for full refund (less \$25) up to 48 hours before workshop began. Refunds were sent after the Minister of Health mandated closures and restrictions.

Finances

Year	Workshop	Revenue	Expenses	Instructor Share (incl. withholding tax)	Association Share
2019	Gabriella Giubilaro*	11,704	5,039.37	4,665.24	1,999.39
	Garth McLean	5,720.49	1,799.88	5,720.49	2,451.64
	Total	17,424.49	6,839.25	10,385.73	4,451.03
2018	Jawahar Bangera Gulnaaz Dashti*	20,443	2,795.08	13,393.51	4,565.18
2017	Gabriella Giubilaro* John Schumacher	22,084	4,515.55*	11,795.97	4,906.14
2016	Jawahar Bangera Gulnaaz Dashti	30,245	5,405.71	14,974.27	8,279.77

	Mayhar Raz*				
2015	Gabriella Giubilaro* Father Joe	21,306	4,018.86	11,524.76	5,762.38
2014	Gabriella Giubilaro* Jawahar Bangera Chris Saudek Rebecca Lerner	28,429.5	4,822.07	17,277.71	6,329.72

*Includes Teacher training

**No hosting or travel expenses

Note, these are calculations based on the calendar year not the association's fiscal year, thus will not correspond with the association financials.

It is important to note that although the association's share varies, it is the development opportunities we provide to the community that is key.

Future Workshops

Gabriella Giubilaro March 19-22, 2021

Garth McLean November 12-14, 2021

Thank You

- ❖ Gratitude to Tanya for all her effort in setting up the new event registration system, it worked great! Also gratitude to Tanya for all the refunds she processed, the system worked great!
- ❖ We look forward to hosting workshops once again in 2021. We are always open to recommendations for visiting teachers, if you have experience of someone you think would be beneficial to our community--we would like to hear about it!
- ❖ Special thank you to the membership for your support and interest, without you there would be no workshops, virtual or live. Your financial commitment allows us to offer bursaries for study and the teachers to study with, you enrich our community.

7. Financial Report: Bridget Donald

It was a quiet year financially due to the workshop cancellations. We ran a small operating deficit of just over \$700. Our largest expense was our annual insurance premium (\$1845), and our second largest was last year's AGM, for which we rented a room at Trout Lake Community centre and hired a catering company. The AGM expenses from last year are under the category "Office and Administrative". Revenue from memberships was up last year from the previous fiscal year, probably because of people anticipating the workshops in the spring. The financial statements for Oct 1, 2019-Sept 30, 2020 have been prepared by our accountants and will be available on the web site once signed by two members of the association board.

8. Social Media Report: Christine Rondeau, Bibi Amirova, Nancy Zrymiak

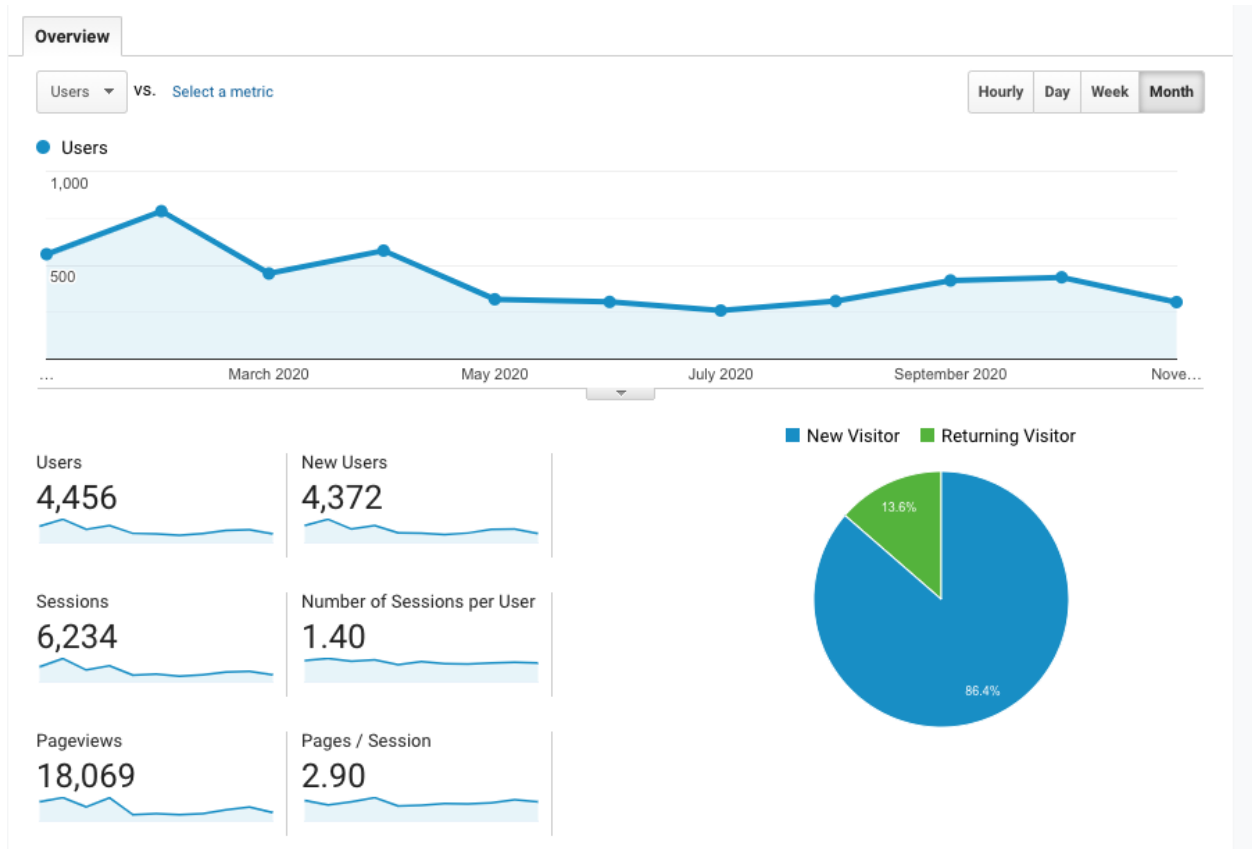
Our social media goals for 2019-2020 were as follows:

1. Promote new Social Media channels and special events via our newsletter.
2. Promote Iyengar teaching on our social media platforms by:
 - posting inspirational and educational content such as quotes and photos of B.K.S.Iyengar, Geeta, Prashant, Abhijata as well as YouTube teachings by the Iyengar family.
 - posting upcoming workshop information, particularly by teachers in our Association, but also other online workshops that may be of interest to our teachers and students.
3. Promote the Iyengar method and teachers via articles and announcements on our blog.
4. Promote Vancouver Iyengar teacher's knowledge using videos and interviews with certified teachers and members.
5. Support our members, teachers, and greater community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Outcomes:

1. Facebook "Likes" 1,337 "Followers" 1,655, Instagram Followers steadily increasing 1,137
2. Added virtual classes as a "region" to our list of teachers on our website.
3. The blog, set up in March 2019 now features 26 blog posts. These posts are a combination of articles, videos, tips, interviews, and insights and were submitted by teachers and members of our association. Once published, these were also promoted on Facebook and Instagram.
4. Our current newsletter list has 585 subscribers. Our open rate is ~55%. Many new subscribers are subscribing directly from our website.

5. Our YouTube channel was launched just a few weeks ago and features an interview with the Association President, Terri Damiani. Plans are to publish interviews on a monthly basis and feature various members of our community.



2021 Goals:

1. Increase diversity and inclusion in our content and bring about awareness in our Iyengar Yoga Association and community.
2. Increase unique content.
3. Continue to inspire and connect.

Call to Action:

Please subscribe to our media channels and leave your comments.

If you have any articles you would like to submit, please send them to us.

Thank you!

9. Merchandise Report – Terri

Due to cancellation of workshops, there are no sales to report. There has been discussion within the Board of discontinuing the sales T-shirts.

10. Closing discussion:

Appreciation was expressed for the Association's communication during the pandemic

There was a suggestion that we find ways to reach out to student in our local community who may be studying online with anyone in the world now but supported us in our classes for years (Louie)

One participant said that the spiritual community she's involved in is having meetings discuss systemic racism over Zoom. She has been inspired to have these kinds of conversations – not just about racism or diversity – but to have meetings to reach out to people in our community. How to use our discomfort to grow.

Another community member mentioned a podcast from Detroit on bring underrepresented groups into the community. How can we do this? Teachers would have to receive training for free – then they can teach in their own communities. Difficult to know whether there's interest in those communities until you try.

There was a brief discussion of IYAC's areas vs those of the local association. IYAC has accepted the new guidelines for teacher training/ assessment whereas some other countries have not readily accepted them. The question arose of whether the local association could play a role in clarifying their guidelines for teachers but it was confirmed that that's not currently our role. Perhaps a topic for ongoing discussion.

Meeting adjourned 11:15 AM