Lots going on at SIMS in 2017 -- read on. Our thanks to Brandon Zahl and Alden Gannon for making newsletter links in this issue more reliable for all and for helping us link to photos and the slideshow from Rodney's January retirement party. (See Miles Yanick's article). We are also working on repairing links lost in past newsletters. Thank you for your patience.

**Board Report**  
By Barbara Erwine  
Our new Board is in place with Barbara as our President and new faces in other roles. If you look around the SIMS center on Tuesdays, you'll notice changes here and there, everything from handy info cards that list 2017 Tuesday night topics/speakers and events to a bit of new furniture. Barbara takes us "behind the scenes" for a deeper look at what's happening and what's planned.  
[Read more]

**Celebrating Rodney**  
By Miles Yanick  
If you weren't able to make the birthday/retirement celebration for Rodney or just want to revisit it, Miles has a wrap up from that celebration. He also shares links (that may open slowly due to file sizes) to photos taken that afternoon and even to the event slideshow, your chance to see Rodney in his Boy Scout uniform!  
[Read more]

**Catching the Right Thought Train**  
By Anushka Fernandopulle  
Anushka is giving a Friday dharma talk (May 19, 7-9 pm) and a weekend non-residential retreat (Saturday and Sunday, May 20-21, 9 am to 4:30 pm) at the SIMS Center. Here's a little preview of her down-to-earth, easy-to-follow teaching style.  
[Read more]

**Upcoming Events**  

**Steve Armstrong**  
Talk and Mini-Retreat: Contingency Plans for the Trouble Ahead -- Friday, April 28, 7-9 pm and Saturday, April 29, 9 am to 4:30 pm  
What can be most confidently relied upon when facing challenges, difficulties and the unknown? On Friday night, Steve will talk about the development of mind, and on Saturday, participants will practice awareness and the pragmatic application of the developed mind to the challenges we face.

**Beginning Classes and Practice Groups**  
Beginner or need a refresher? Check out Beginning Classes that start in April with Tuere Sala and Jerry Harter.  
Want more ongoing practice support? Consider the Thursday morning open sitting, the Thursday evening group, or the bi-weekly Sunday evening group for those under 40.  
Visit the SIMS website to find out more about these groups and other events.

**Keri Pedersen**  
Mind: a Residential Retreat for Young Adults, June 2 - June 9 at Cloud Mountain Retreat Center, Castle Rock, WA.  
Keri will join with Alexis Santos and Shelly Graf to lead a retreat specially geared to young adults (age 18 to 35). Cloud Mountain is offering the retreat at a significantly reduced fee thanks to generous donors from the Northwest Dharma community.  
[Read More]