

## Circle Steward Notes from the August 19, 2012 Meeting

Present:

**Gary Belton**, Prison Circle Co-Steward, 2012 Day of Dana Steward

**Shogen Bloodgood**, ZP 1 & 2 Coordinator

**Sensei Daishin Buksbazen**, Teachers Circle Steward

**Myoho Fjeld**, Executive Council Steward

**Jitsujo Gauthier**, Co-Chiden Steward

**Jikai Golan**, Brown-Green Group Co-Steward

**Senshin Griffith**, Program Steward, Shared Stewardship Co-Steward, Day Group Steward

**Mukei Horner**, Zendo Steward

**Gessho Kumpf**, Resident Steward, ZP 3 & 4 Coordinator, Altar Flowers Steward

**Kaigen Levy**, Co-Tenzo Coordinator, Tenzo Circle Co-Steward

**Miguel Rojas**, Co-Tenzo Coordinator

**Plum-Hermit Swanger**, Shared Stewardship Co-Steward, Development Steward

**Faith-Mind Thoresen**, Co-Ceremonial Steward, Membership Steward, Grounds Group Steward, Facilities Steward

**Heart Mirror Trotter**, Brown-Green Group Co-Steward

**Kaizen Venners**, Tenzo Circle Co-Steward, Photography Circle Steward, Security Steward

Moderated by Plum-Hermit Swanger and Senshin Griffith

Notes by Senshin Griffith

The meeting was opened by Senshin and Plum-Hermit and everyone was welcomed.

Zazen.

Check-in Round. Everyone said their names and the name of the Circle that they steward along with other check-in comments.

Plum-Hermit reviewed some aspects of Shared Stewardship as practice and some foundational practices. (These ingredients are included in the General Notes at the end of the document).

This was an open meeting for the various Stewards to check in with what was going on in their spheres and share their experiences of the practice of Shared Stewardship. Stewards reported on recent doings and there was general discussion among the circle.

#### TENZO CIRCLE:

- Newly formed. Just had their first meeting with about 12 people.
- Lots of good ideas. Mostly about collecting all the ingredients.
- They will have a meeting with Roshi (their TC link) in late Sept.
- Seishin and Myosen are working on training sesshin tenzos
- Questions arose about Mission statement etc and other things they needed to do as a newly formed circle. Will get on surer footing before the open up the circle to more members.

#### PRISON CIRCLE:

- The Angulimala Circle has been dissolved. Three of those members now make up the newly formed Prison Circle. Again, Questions re: Mission statement etc and other things they needed to do as a newly formed circle.
- Other Circle Stewards shared the variety of ways a circle can operate. A general reminder to all to go back to the ZCLA Core Values.

#### ZP 1 & 2

- They have had trouble filling the slots.
- They will be re-evaluating the current structure.
- A general note that when a circle has been doing something for a long time, it's always good to relook at things every once in a while.
- Clarification that Plum-Hermit is the TC link.

#### DAY MANAGER PROGRAM

- Similar problem getting enough slots filled. They are having a meeting on Sept. 9 to reevaluate their situation.

## RESIDENT STEWARD

- Reflected on the differences between her new position and her previous one as Buddha Hand Council Steward.
- The BHC job was more where you could tick off items on a to do list. The RS position involves more listening, discernment and lots of individual meetings and interactions. Great opportunity for growth.
- Greater understanding of what we're doing here as a community and collective awakening. Seeing how individuals can transform.
- Just being aware of something can create space.
- She has lots of meetings with BHC, Roshi, individual residents.
- She works a lot with the BHC.
- New issues for the Residents include:
  - What new forms of training for Residents?
  - More training in Council requested. Some don't like it. Forms are getting ragged. Working with Roshi on having Council Holders.
  - Concern for Elder issues (driving, life plans, etc)
  - Ongoing pet issues
  - With the new hours change, clarifying that Residents still do 7 periods of formal sitting a week. No other complaints about the Hours change.

## EC STEWARD

- It helps to have strong stewards and linking
- Makes budgets with the Board and the Finance Committee
- Works with the Facilities Steward on Safety issues
- Is the Personnel committee of the Board, oversees the staff (hiring, firing, etc)
- Deals with outside Authorities like the Housing & Fire Depts. Make sure everything is up to code etc.
- Links often with Security Group and Residents
- A history of the formation of the EC was given

## TC STEWARD

- Most things pass through the TC
- They are also concerned with safety issues like the need for a fire drill
- Notices 2 energies:
  - Energy of Change
  - Energy of Continuity and Linking
- Anticipates taking a fresh look at the ZP 1 & 2 classes – perhaps a different time.
- Challenges of the TC turnover and the small group covering a lot. Bringing up and developing a new generation of teachers.
- Dealing with programs about setting boundaries (especially sexual)
- Working on getting guest teachers, scholars, and artists
- They step back and take the long view for the Zen Center, not just today.

## BROWN-GREEN GROUP

- Mukey is stepping down after Stewarding for several years. Jikai and Heart-Mirror will be interim Co-Stewards till True-Joy can step up as Steward in the new year. Jikai will be leaving at the end of the quarter.
- They have both a contemplative side and an action aspect.
- Some actions they are involved in include:
  - Signs for the teachers circle
  - Earth Day events
  - Butterfly garden
  - And other projects
- They are a small group now. They might be open to have a “Stringer Group” to those who are interested in the issues but can’t be as involved.

## GENERAL NOTES

- How soon to add in new members into positions, balancing:

- The value and need of just sitting with
- The value and need of learning positions and what we do here
- Reevaluating old programs
- Our own practice in it all
- Linking, cross-communicating, more interconnecting (but not too much)
- Learning from each other and teaching each other
- How to get people to step up, so many slots to fill, ex.:
  - ZP classes (1,2, 3, 4, )
  - Day Managers
  - Tenzos on the weekend
  - Tenzos for sesshins
  - Service positions (BH and Zendo)
- The old Japanese way of Zen: less explanations, just plunge, work has always been a part of Zen practice. Cozy consumer Americans pick and choose, busy lives, not-monastic. Having to beg them to step up, feeling it's an imposition. Even the way the request for people to do dishes. Some people have never done dishes. How to set the tone.

Other ingredients include:

The whole question of Shared Stewardship as practice and how we work with that; The foundational practices of Shared Stewardship, including the ZCLA Mandala and the Five Buddha Families, Council and the Three Tenets; Increasing our awareness and capacity for service; Collective Awakening and Wisdom; Working with others and ourselves; The relationship between 'getting people to do things' or 'getting things done' and the practice and koan of Shared Stewardship; Starting to articulate for ourselves and others what Shared Stewardship is and how it functions as an upaya for awakening.

Check-out Round

Chant the Four Vows