

Teachers Circle Notes

February 4, 2012

The Teachers Circle met Saturday February 4th. With the departure of Sensei Ryodo and Sensei Koan, the TC now consists of Roshi Egyoku, Sensei Daishin and Sensei Shingetsu. With Roshi Egyoku's return from her sabbatical year, a new turning of the ZCLA Dharma wheel has begun.

ACTION ITEMS:

The TC undertook an extensive review of the first quarter of the 2012 calendar. There are items to note:

- NEW CLASS:** Beginning April 19th, Roshi Egyoku will be offering a class on the Ten Oxherding Pictures. The classes will be held on the third Thursday evening of each month, concluding by the end of the year.

- SCHEDULE CHANGE:** The final weekend of each month will be a Bare Bones schedule, meaning no afternoon activities.

- SPRING SESSHIN:** May 23 – 26th. In response to members' requests, we will add a longer Spring sesshin. In May, there will be a four-day Wall Gazing sesshin, in which we will sit with no Face-to-Face meetings, kyosaku, or Dharma Talks. This format will be an extension of our Wall Gazing days, based on the Antaiji sesshin model – a “sesshin without toys”. The schedule for this sesshin is under development.

- DHARMA TALKS:** In addition to the members of the Teachers Circle, the following Sangha members will begin giving Dharma talks (as distinct from Personal Practice talks) during the first quarter: **Plum Hermit, Senshin, Gessho, Luminous Heart, and Shogen**. A set of guidelines for giving Dharma talks will be provided, as a way of deepening each student's practice and study.

- TEACHERS STATEMENT OF ETHICS:** A newly-formulated policy regarding Teacher-Student and Teacher-Teacher relationships is set forth. This policy is approaching final form, and will be made available once approved and adopted. We will post it to all members once it is approved by the TC, Abbot, and Board of Directors. Look for it on the ZCLA website.

•**PRECEPTS CLASS DATES**

This year, the Precepts series will be offered concurrently on Tuesday evenings,

at ZCLA with Sensei Daishin and at the Valley Sangha with Sensei Shingetsu,

from 7:30 – 9:00 PM on April 10, 17, 24, and May 8, 15.

NOTE: Bonus Class: May 22 (Valley), June 5 (ZCLA).

•**STEPPING DOWN, STEPPING UP:** After five years as Steward of the Teachers Circle, Sensei Shingetsu has turned these duties over to Sensei Daishin, who is now the new Steward of the TC.

Respectfully submitted,

In gassho,

Daishin