



# Water Wheel

*Being one with all Buddhas, I turn the water wheel of compassion.*

—Gate of Sweet Nectar

---

Zen Center of Los Angeles / Buddha Essence Temple    Vol. 9 No. 6    2550 Buddhist Era    NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2008

---

## Living ‘Not Two’

By Roshi Wendy Egyoku Nakao

The Fall Practice Period began with over one-hundred practitioners who have made commitments to deepen their Zen practice in the midst of everyday living. The theme is “practice and work are not two.” “Work” is used in many different ways—as in what one does to earn a living, as in the inner growth of psychological and emotional work, and as in spiritual work, the work of living awake all-together from moment to moment.

The thrust of our theme is that nothing is separate—separation is a false view. Zen practice is lived in everything that you do and everywhere that you are. It may take awhile before you actually experience this truth in every facet of your life. The fact is that there is no place, no time, and no circumstance in which you are separate.

For those who have spent their life fragmented and armored, it’s scary to listen to the wholeness within and live in accord with its truth. There is a wholeness that is seeking expression through you. Sooner or later, the protective shell cracks and crumbles. Even at times like these, you can make the choice that liberates — how will you allow wholeness to arise, regardless of how you feel about the circumstances of your life?

A vow can help you find the right relationship to the wholeness arising in yourself-and-others. I encourage you to reflect on an essential vow for your life, although it may take time for the vow to clarify. The movement of life is towards its essential nature of wholeness, which is the heart of the vow. A vow serves to re-align you with not-two, with the whole that is seeking its expression through you.

Wholeness—our collective life together—can seem conceptual, until you have a direct experience of it. Such



*Persimmons ripening together at Normandie Mountain.*

was the case for those who came together to sew an okesa, a robe of liberation, for my 60th birthday (*see page 4*). The robe itself is not only the life of each of you, but also the lives embedded in the fabric, and connecting beyond. I wear the robe of liberation, which is the connection brought forth by the not-two wholeness of the robe.

Each Zen practice commitment reflects a movement within each person to live a life of not-two. By holding steady in our commitment to practice together — by committing time, energy, and love to Zen practice—seeds are emerging within each of us to live collectively this life of not-two. Thank you for your Zen practice! ■

### INSIDE

- 2 Precious Life, Precious Vow by Dharma-Holder Shingetsu Guzy
- 4 The Life of the Sangha Robe by Evi Gemmon Ketterer
- 5 Dana Book: Annual Appreciation of Donors
- 7 Programs
- 9 Sangha Appreciation & Rites of Passage
- 10 Day of Dana

---

*Roshi Egyoku is Abbot and Head Teacher of ZCLA.*

# Precious Life, Precious Vow

By Dharma-Holder Patricia Shingetsu Guzy

*I am 66 years old, it is autumn. I have lived a long life.  
Moonlight shines brightly on my face.  
We don't need to discuss the koans.  
Just listen to the wind in the cedars outside.*

The nun Ryonen Genso wrote this poem in 1711, just before she died. A couple of months ago, I too reached the age of 66, when I came across her poem. Her words went deep into my heart and once again I was reminded of the preciousness of life.

How do we take care of this precious, fragile life? Do we “listen to the wind in the cedars outside”? Touch the unwashed hand of the homeless woman reaching out to us? Hear the mournful cry of a mother as she holds her sick child close to her breast? Open our heart to the vastness of this life, with all its joy and suffering? Or do we retreat into the shadows of our small self?

This is where our taking up a vow can really guide us. A vow reminds us to let go of our small egoistic self and shift into the True Self, the vast unobstructed view of a Buddha. To get a glimpse of Just This! Life As It Is, without turning away.

During this Fall Practice Period, we are invited to make a commitment to zazen and studying with a teacher. We are also working with what Roshi is calling “practice and work are not two.” This is an opportunity for us to reflect on areas in our lives that perhaps we have neglected to see as practice. We also make a vow and commit to giving up, letting go of our old conditioning – the condition of “I-me-mine.”

The dictionary defines vow as “a solemn promise or pledge, dedicating oneself to an act, service or way of life.”

When first we take up this vow, we may not have any idea what it means. We may come to it in the same way we do to other promises or commitments we have made. But this Vow (this Precious Vow, I call it) asks us to wake up from our usual way of seeing things. This vow is



*Shingetsu*

the one where we drop the “I-me-mine” and direct our energy to encompass all beings, everything. We don’t get to pick and choose with this Vow. This vow has us accept things and people, including ourselves, just as they are!

Being free of this small self is not such an easy thing to do. Just when we think we have won the battle, things change and the “I-me-mine” rears its angry, anxious, disappointed self once again, and we are reminded of how stuck we are in our old ideas of how things should/ shouldn’t be.

During zazen, we might get a glimpse of how vast and open our minds really are. Our thoughts come and go without our bidding, and the small self disappears in the spaciousness around us. There is a feeling of well-being, of arriving at our True Self, our home. And the contrast with our daily lives seems too much to take. We find ourselves bickering with our co-workers, yelling at the dog, or having a bout of road rage.

Perhaps it is in these moments that we can remember our vow. Take a backward step, let go, and instead of getting caught up in the madness, give ourselves over to the vow and have it carry us forth. It means we must trust in both the vow and ourselves. Let go, let vow!

About 18 years ago, when I first began this practice, I hadn’t a clue about what I was doing or where I was going. I only knew that, for reasons I could not understand back then, a deep openness and feeling of contentment would come upon me whenever I came to the Center and sat with the Sangha in silence. This feeling would last for several days, and then my everyday life would show up, and confusion, anger and anxiety would cram them-

*(Continued on page 3)*

*(Continued from page 2)*

selves into my mind and fill up the open vastness that I had experienced on the cushion. For many years, I equated the Zen Center with what I thought to be “real” zen practice, and my everyday life as struggle and disappointment. There was always a gap between me and my life. Over the years, I have learned to feel the anxiety, be it, and not to run away from it, feel the heat of anger envelop me without drowning in it, and watch the confused thoughts in my mind (if I stop to notice them) drop away. My life is the same as it was, yet totally different. Now, some of the time it is Just This!

Don't get me wrong. I still get disappointed and some days are a real challenge. But remembering that everything is impermanent, and each moment is a miracle, a mystery, no matter how difficult things are, I can still “listen to the wind in the cedars” or the song of the birds in my yard. This is listening to the Dharma and I come home again.

This Practice Period we are in is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to come home together. To wake up to this extraordinary gift of the Dharma that we share. A time for Just This One Precious Life, This One Precious Vow. Sharing our lives, practicing together, waking up together, and seeing ourselves as other and other as ourselves. In one of Rumi's poems, I am reminded of the Sangha;

*Be with those who help your being,  
Don't sit with indifferent people  
Whose breath comes cold out of their mouths,  
Not these visible forms; your work is deeper.*

It's easy to let our anger or disappointment dictate our actions, only to find ourselves filled with remorse when we see the damage we have done to ourselves and others. When we expand our zazen to include the whole of life, we sit on our cushions, upright in the chaos of everyday activities, and bow deeply to all of it.

Those who are young in years may think they have a lot of time before aging. Perhaps it will happen 20 or 30 years later. But let me assure you, 66 years is a blink of an eye!

I feel this whenever I look back on my life. Time flies. Life and death live side by side. I regret the many years of living without having known the Dharma. Back then, I had no way of knowing that there was a different way to experience life. Now that we, all of us, have the blessing of the Dharma, we should not waste another moment, swimming around in the fish bowl, when the ocean is where we really live. Zazen is the opportunity to closely study our fish bowl. The Sangha that sits together swims together!

I want to share some words of one of my favorite writers, John O'Donohue. “Once you start to awaken, no one can ever claim you again for the old patterns. Now you realize how precious your time here is. You are no longer willing to squander your essence on undertakings that do not nourish your True Self; your patience grows thin with tired talk and dead language.”

**Time swiftly passes by and opportunity is lost.  
Let's not squander our lives.**

Thank you all for your practice and support of one another. ■

## A Call to The Legacy Circle

All those who join ZCLA's Legacy Circle between now and December 2008 will be named a Founding Member in recognition for their commitment to the continued teaching of the Dharma.

Naming ZCLA as a beneficiary in your bequest is one of the simplest ways to practice dana and extend generosity into the future.

We will be making available further information about The Legacy Circle to ZCLA members in the near future.

**The Legacy Circle**  
Jeanne Dokai Dickenson  
213.387.2352

## Head Trainee Entering



*From left: Head-Trainee Penelope Luminous-Heart Thompson and Roshi Egyoku.*



# The Life of the Sangha Robe

By Evi Gemmon Ketterer

The Sangha collectively created a pamsukula okesa (a robe of liberation made of rags), which we presented to Roshi Egyoku on the occasion of her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The okesa is the robe of the Buddha; it is the manifestation of the Buddhadharma, the lineage, and life itself. We who wear the okesa borrow it just as all elements are borrowed to manifest this body-mind—the okesa cannot belong to anyone, for it is the robe of Not-knowing. It is sewn by fools like you and me, manifesting the wholeness of Sangha in all of its diversity.

The central tenets of okesa sewing are set forth in Dogen Zenji's essay "Kesa Kudoku" (Merit of the Robe). He writes that the Buddhist robe is the same as the Buddha's teaching. The robe we sewed for Roshi maintains the intention and tradition of the Nyoho-e okesa of Dogen Zenji's time.

During August and September, ninety members and friends of the Sangha, from across the country and from

as far away as Great Britain, contributed pieces of fabric with special meaning to them. Six Sangha members participated in the cutting and dyeing of the fabric and the design of the robe; thirty-nine people worked on sewing the pieces together.

The lovingly completed Sangha robe, with its accompanying bowing cloth, were presented to Roshi Egyoku on Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. The entire process of the robe's creation was chronicled in a beautiful book of full-color photographs. Roshi also received the written story of each piece of donated fabric, which reflected our love and wish to give our most precious fabric—a heartfelt companion of cloth, a piece with special meaning held close to our hearts.

Every morning, we chant that we "wear the robe of liberation, a formless field of benefaction," but the truth is that we are the robe itself. Every time we see Roshi wearing the Sangha okesa, may we be reminded that we can trust ourselves as thus, as she trusts the Sangha. May we all feel touched again and again by the love and spirit from which the robe arose. ■



The Sangha Robe  
Manifesting Sangha wholeness—  
Truly no receiver, no giver, no gift!

*Upper left: Collective awakening arises from sewing together the Robe of the Buddha. Above: Evi Gemmon Ketterer offers the Sangha Robe to Roshi. Below left: Each person who contributed pamsukula cloth for the Robe related the story of their fragment in a letter or card of love. Here Roshi enjoys the story of a 122-year-old woman, shared with her by Burt Wetanson. Center: Roshi wrapped in the Sangha Robe.*

# DANA BOOK

## DANA PARAMITA DONORS November 1, 2007 to October 15, 2008

### Message from Roshi Egyoku

I feel deep gratitude for each and every person, seen and unseen, who offers dana paramita to the Zen Center of Los Angeles. Each of you creates the well-being of ZCLA.

Dana paramita is the perfection of giving—the offering of time, goods, services, and money for the nourishment of Life. These acts of giving call forth the best that we are because every gift, whether we are conscious of it or not, honors the intimate connection and inter-being that is the fabric of the life we are all living together.

Thank you for your generosity! All of us giving together create Normandie Mountain, day after day, sharing the gifts of practice with all who enter this temple gate and with all beings everywhere.

May the realization of deep wisdom and compassion be yours.

I bow to you in deep gratitude.

### Annual Donor Memorial Service

On the first Saturday of February, the Zen Center observes a memorial service for all of its donors who have passed. Please join us for this occasion.

### Gifts Given in Loving Memoriam

Merle Anderson Boyd  
Mother of Sensei Merle Kodo Boyd

Ananda Colombo  
Niece of Raul Ensho Berge

Barton Roen, ZCLA Member

### May the Vows Of Our Donors Be Realized

The Angell Foundation (Grant)

### The Angulimala Prison Project

Larry Barber  
Nagacitta Buckley and the Metropolitan  
Detention Center of Los Angeles  
Teido Cartee  
Gary Koan Janka  
Diane Katz  
Jill King  
Julian Moody  
Lourdes Jisen Reybin  
Reeb Venners  
Jennifer Jusen Warner  
Ty Jotai Webb ■

### General Donations

Anonymous friends  
Concetta Getsuren Alfano  
Jerome Altshuler  
Jessica Dharma-Lotus Armstrong  
and General Mgm't. Company  
Anthony Barnert  
Merle Kodo Boyd  
Paul Brabeck  
John Daishin Buksbazen  
Teido Cartee  
Sherry Roko Chayat  
Mitsuko Cude  
Michel Delaune  
Werner Ehlenberger  
Darla Myoho Fjeld  
H.H. Frankiel  
Ruby Soko Fujiwara  
Richard Gould-Saltman  
Claire Greaves  
Katherine Senshin Griffith

Gary Koan Janka  
Thomas Kopache  
Annette Korbin  
Arno Kroner  
Victor Legge  
Tom Matsuda  
Anthony McAdoo  
Sylvia McCormick  
Stephen Seiko Parks  
Tom Dharma-Joy Reichert  
Marilyn Rosen  
Eloise Ryan  
Eido Shimano Roshi  
Bernard Kakushin Silvers  
Deb Faith-Mind Thoresen  
James Soshin Thornton  
Willy Waard  
Nina Reiju Wasserman  
Z Zeller ■

*Continued on page 6*

## May the Vows of Our Donors Be Realized

### Annual Fund

Anonymous Friends  
Concetta Getsuren Alfano  
David Alford  
Marilyn Almond  
Michael Altshuler  
David Arrollado  
Tom Enjo Arthur  
Jane Bainter  
Katy Keisen Behrens  
Mark Bettinger  
Francis Bowles  
Harry Rokai Brickman  
Barry Briggs  
Irene Brown  
Elizabeth Bryer  
John Daishin Buksbazen  
Carolyn Campbell  
Chinlee Chang  
Heather Faith-Spring  
Chapman  
Cliff Shishin Collins  
Diane Comey  
Jason Davis  
Eric Dickenson  
Jeanne Dokai Dickenson  
Charles Dittell  
Renata Dobryn  
Alan Drengson  
George Durakovich  
Charles Duran  
Werner Ehlenberger

Eberhard Fetz  
Darla Myoho Fjeld  
William Fletcher\*  
Dana Fraser  
Peggy Faith-Moon  
Gallaher  
Marc Koshin Giet  
Patti Muso Giggins  
Richard Gould-Saltman  
James Bodhi-Song  
Graham  
Claire Greaves  
Katherine Senshin  
Griffith  
Douglas Sencho Gower  
Margaret Jifu Gower  
Edward Hairfield, III  
Paula Hall  
Roger Hawkins  
Kipp Ryodo Hawley  
Linda Hawley  
Brigid Hogan  
Martin Hynek  
Gail Imler  
David Jackson  
David James  
Peter Johnson  
John David Johnston  
William Yoshin Jordan  
Taurke Joseph  
Diane Katz  
Marilyn Kaufhold  
Evi Gemmon Ketterer

Howard Lee Kilby  
Jill King  
Thomas Kopache  
Arno Kroner  
Lorraine Gessho Kumpf  
Jerry LaRocco  
Ellen Reigen Ledley  
Victor Legge  
Brenda Hobai Liu  
Shirley Diamond-Heart  
Magidson\*  
Stuart Martinsen  
Craig Miller  
James Milner  
Julian Moody  
Joanne Seigetsu Morey  
Russell Nakao  
Wendy Egyoku Nakao  
Lee Nedler  
Lisa Neil  
Khoa Nguyen  
John Nomura  
Patricia Enkyo O'Hara  
Peter Ott  
Stephen Park  
Gregory Penderghast  
Lourdes Jisen Reybin  
Mary Rios  
Dale Roche  
Marilyn Rosen  
Terry Ryodo Rothrock  
Richard Schulhof  
Brian Tetsudo Seymour

Marcia Fumyo Seymour  
Gail Shemo  
Brent Sogen Shigeoka  
DeWayne Gojitsu Snodgrass  
Sheila Snow  
Hannah Seishin Sowd  
Harold Stanton  
Frank Styduhar  
K.A. Sumida  
John Plum-Hermit Swanger  
Julie Swayze  
Ed Emyo Swiatek  
John Syson  
Marion Taylor  
Deb Faith-Mind Thoresen  
Penelope Luminous-Heart  
Thompson  
Grace Tiessen  
Susan Tritt  
Reeb Kaizen Venners  
Willy Waard  
Jenny Jusen Warner  
Nina Reiju Wasserman  
Amy Suigetsu Watanabe  
John Watts  
Martin Ocean-Peak Weiss  
Burt Wetanson  
Marie Wickizer  
Wendy Williams  
Timothy Yamamoto  
Ilga Ziegler ■

\*deceased 2008

### Dharma Training Fund

Michael Altshuler  
Tom Enjo Arthur  
Joanne Blair  
Hilary Bradbury  
Elizabeth Bryer  
Heather Faith-Spring  
Chapman  
Morgan Zo Callahan  
Elizabeth Jiei Cole  
Diane Comey  
Karl Dardick  
Jeanne Dokai Dickenson  
Justin Dickenson  
Susie Reiju Dorian  
Alan Drengson

George Durakovic  
Herb Eisenberg  
Mike Solitary-Pine Ford  
Susan Eko Fukushima  
Patti Muso Giggins  
Lynda Golan  
Margaret Jifu Gower  
Cassie Ocean-Heart  
Guarino  
Patricia Shingetsu Guzy  
Edward Hairfield III  
Kjerstin Hatch  
Larry Yoan Heliker  
Karin Hilsdale-Rodes  
Brigid Hogan

David Jackson  
Evi Gemmon Ketterer  
Howard Lee Kilby  
Jill King  
Thomas Kopache  
Annette Korbin  
Paul Limm  
Mark Lucas  
Rosa Ando Martinez  
Thomas Meier  
Joe Enjo Migliore  
Wendy Egyoku Nakao  
Lee Nedler  
John Nomura  
Julia Seirin Norstrand

Marian Roscheck  
Aija Samloff  
Gail Shemo  
Brent Sogen Shigeoka  
Sheila Snow  
John Plum-Hermit Swanger  
Julie Swayze  
Marion Taylor  
Penelope Luminous-Heart  
Thompson  
Norick Toomanian  
Susan Tritt  
Reeb Kaizen Venners  
Johnnald Villavicencio  
Jennifer Jusen Warner  
Al Zolynas ■



# Zen Programs at Normandie Mountain

## Face-to-Face Meeting Schedule

Roshi holds FTF for members Wednesday evenings, Friday dawn, and Saturday and Sunday mornings. Changes to her schedule are posted in the DharmaFlash each week. On Saturdays, FTF meetings are rotated between Dharma-Holders Patricia Shingetsu Guzy and Gary Koan Janka. On Sundays, between Dharma-Holders John Daishin Buksbazen and Raul Ensho Berge. Please note that all of the Teachers Circle members are also available by private appointment.

## Dharma Training Fund


Through the generosity of the Sangha, the **Dharma Training Fund (DTF)** is available to all Zen Practitioners to supplement program fees. No one is ever turned away for lack of funds. If you find yourself in financial need for a particular program you wish to attend, please do not let finances keep you from attending. Inquire with Dokai in the office for an application. Do not miss any opportunity to study the Dharma!

*See our calendar at [www.zcla.org](http://www.zcla.org) for the daily program schedule and for additional program details and updates.*

 Please register in advance. Contact the office at [info@zcla.org](mailto:info@zcla.org) to register.

## Fall Practice Period


### Fall Practice Period continues through December 31.


Led by Roshi Egyoku at ZCLA Normandie Mountain, Sensei Kodo Boyd at Lincroft Sangha (NJ), Sensei Daishin Buksbazen at Ocean Moon Sangha in Santa Monica (CA), and Dharma Holder Shingetsu Guzy at Valley Sangha in Woodland Hills (CA). For schedules and other information, refer to the ZCLA website. Zen practitioners are invited to join the Practice Period for a few hours, a day, a month, or the rest of the period. No fee for meals: Please sign up or call the office in advance for Thursday eve supper and weekend breakfasts. 

## Zazen Programs

**Zazenkai.\* Friday evening, November 7, 7:00 p.m. registration; 7:30 p.m. (zazenkai begins) to Saturday, November 8, 5:00 p.m.** Led by Sensei John Daishin Buksbazen. Everyone is encouraged to come to this silent and restful day with zazen, service, work, meals,

Dharma Talk, and face-to-face meeting with Sensei. Open to everyone. Fee: \$40; \$75 for nonmembers.

**Buddha's Enlightenment Sesshin.\* Sunday evening, December 5, 6:00 p.m. supper and registration; 7:30 p.m. (sesshin begins) to Saturday, December 13, 9:00 p.m.** Led by Roshi Egyoku. Buddha's Enlightenment (Rohatsu) Sesshin is a powerful annual retreat marking the awakening of the Buddha. The retreat is in silence, with sitting and walking meditation, eating formally as a community, dharma talks, face-to-face meeting with a teacher, liturgy, and samu. Sesshin provides a powerful container supporting the unification of body and mind, and our individuality with the community and the world. Please join us for this special event. Overnight accommodations available. \$320; \$600 for nonmembers. Part-time participation welcome. 

**End-of-Year Sesshin.\* Friday evening, December 26, 6:00 p.m. supper and registration; 7:30 p.m. (sesshin begins) to Wednesday, December 31.** Led by Roshi Egyoku. This relaxed year-end sitting retreat is an opportunity to enjoy your creative and meditative mind. The schedule offers a time for us to reflect and refresh ourselves for the New Year. Please note the schedule for December 31 below and check the website for the sesshin schedule. If you wish to combine the Painting Retreat and Year-End Retreat, please register through website and contact Gemmon for details (See page 6). Sesshin alone: \$180; \$340 for nonmembers.   
**\*Note:** Zendo remains open for non-participants.

*(Continued on page 8)*

### Schedule for December 31, last day of 2008

Please join us!

*The Year-End Retreat ends at 1:00 p.m. The afternoon and evening schedule, as follows, is open to everyone:*

3-5:00 p.m. Sangha Year-End Council

5:00 p.m. Sangha Members Annual Memorial Service followed by informal supper

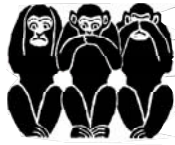
### Schedule for New Year's Eve (Best New Year's Event in Los Angeles!)

7:30 p.m. Atonement & Fire Ceremony with Roshi

9:00 p.m. Ringing of 108 Bells

9:20 p.m. Revolving the Sutra Service followed by a celebratory meal for the New Year.

## Precept Practice



A **Day of Reflection** on the Zen Bodhisattva precepts will take place on **Saturday, November 15, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**November 15** will be led by Cliff Shishin Collins on Precept #5: Not being deluded.

**December 20 Day of Reflection has been replaced by Day of Dana at ZCLA.** (See page 10).

Open to everyone.

**Public Face-to-Face with Roshi. Sunday, November 16, 11:00 a.m. and Thursday, December 4, 7:30 p.m.**

Roshi will speak on a practice theme and invite everyone to engage in a face-to-face dialogue with her.

## Classes and Workshops

**Conversation About Practice. Sunday, November 2, 11:00 a.m. to noon.** This new offering will be led by a member of the Teachers Circle. We will engage in a conversation about practice with topics posed by the facilitator and/or participants.

**Working-Together Practice. Saturday, November 22, 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Also from **11:00 a.m. to noon, Wednesday through Friday** during Practice Period. This day we will care for the Sangha House kitchen and dining hall. Fushinzamu is a wonderful opportunity to express our zazen as samu and group practice. It is also a chance to work with people who might have different jobs and thus to bring the Sangha closer together. Led by Faith-Mind Thoresen and Koan Janka. You may contact Faith-Mind or Koan through the Center's office, or just show up!

**Bon Voyage to ZCLA pilgrims** who journey to Buddhist sacred sites in northern China. We bow with them as the first Western group to participate in the annual ceremony commemorating Bodhidharma at his burial temple, Empty Form Temple. May they return safely from their travels.

### Resident Training and Guest Residencies.

Occasionally, space is available for longer-term resident training and shorter-term guest stays. If you are interested, please inquire at [info@zcla.org](mailto:info@zcla.org) and you will be directed to the appropriate contact person.

## A Special Retreat

### Creativity Without Limits Painting Retreat

led by Michele Cassou

**December 27 to Dec. 29**  
**9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m**

Join artist Michele Cassou and her assistant Carol Levow ([www.michelecassou.com](http://www.michelecassou.com)) and experience a revolutionary way of unblocking your creativity: The Point Zero Method. This unique self-questioning method leads into the wild, untamed place within us where there are no judgments or rules.

Full-time participation in the Painting Retreat is required. You may also embed the Retreat into the Zen Center's End-of-Year sesshin schedule and add sesshin time before and after the Retreat.

The retreat is limited to 25 participants. The Center will keep 15 spaces reserved for ZCLA members until December 3rd.

See ZCLA website, [www.zcla.org](http://www.zcla.org), for more information, fees, and registration, or call office at 213. 387.2353. ☎

### ZCLA-Affiliated Sitting Groups\*

**The Laguna Hills Sangha** (Laguna Hills, CA)  
coordinated by Helen Daiji Powell

**The Lincroft Zen Sangha** (Lincroft, NJ)  
led by Sensei Merle Kodo Boyd

**The Ocean Moon Sangha** (Santa Monica, CA)  
led by Sensei John Daishin Buksbazen

**The San Luis Obispo Sitting Group**  
(San Luis Obispo, CA)  
coordinated by Mark Shogen Bloodgood

**The Valley Sangha** (Woodland Hills, CA)  
led by Dharma-Holder Patricia Shingetsu Guzy

Contact us at [info@zcla.org](mailto:info@zcla.org) for information.

\*ZCLA-Affiliated Sitting Groups are led by independent Dharma Teachers (Senseis) or practitioners who are actively practicing at ZCLA. Those interested in leading a ZCLA-affiliated sitting group may apply to the Teachers Circle.



## Your Gifts are Received with a Heartfelt Thank You!

Please let our staff know of the many bodhisattvas to appreciate. Have we missed anyone?

**Roshi Egyoku** for leading the Sangha in the transformational nine-month exploration Under the Bones of the Master;

**Mark Shogen Bloodgood** for service as Board of Directors Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer;

**Perry Oretzky** and **Rigoberto Rodriguez** of the Angell Foundation for joining us in September Bones session;

**Evi Gemmon Ketterer** for leading the project of the sewing of the Sangha Robe offered to Roshi; and to **all Sangha members and friends** who contributed fabric, stitches, and love;

**Deb Faith-Mind Thoresen** for leaderful direction and hard work with the sprinklers, landscaping, gardening;

**Mary Rios** for her persistent and reliable upkeep of fundraising database;

**Rosa Ando Martinez**, **Jeanne Dokai Dickenson**, **Gemmon**, and **Nina Reiju Wasserman** for representing Sangha at Shirley Diamond-Heart's memorial tribute;

**John Heart-Mirror Trotter** for coordinating Prayer Chain for Janet Moon-Wheel Witkin;

**Koan Janka** for repairing the pathways around the grounds;

**Elizabeth Bryer** for coordinating food service for the Interfaith Dialogue tea, and to all who assisted: **Perry Self**, **Dokai**, **Yudo Burger**, **Faith-Mind**, and **Luminous-Heart Thompson**;

**Lynda Golan** for re-staining the Buddha Hall entrance and shoe rack;

**Tom Yudo Burger** and **Luminous-Heart** for pruning and cleaning Pundarika courtyard tree;

**Koan** for bottlebrush tree in the wild space;

**Dokai** and **Koan** for Service Position training session;

**Gemmon** for repairing lacquer of Buddha's oryoki bowls;

To new Board of Director Officers: **Patti Muso Giggins** as President; **Hillary Radiant-Vow Stephenson** as Secretary; and **Tom Dharma-Joy Reichert** as Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer;

**Lynda Golan** for exhibition of her art in Sangha House;

**Dokai** and **Ando** for support of Rosh Hashanah services with Shir Hadash;

**Deborah Tull** for our 'green' education with the Sustainability workshop series;

**Ilga Ziegler** for scrubbing insides of flower vases.

**Hearty welcome** to new members **Yoko Bajra**, Vice-President of Calsoft Systems and grand cook, and **Sita Slavov**, Professor at Occidental College. **Congratulations** to **Peggy Faith-Moon Gallaher** as founding faculty member of the newly formed School of Community and Global Health at Claremont Graduate University.

## Sangha Rites of Passage



### HEAD-TRAINEE ENTERING CEREMONY

Penelope Luminous-Heart Thompson  
October 4, 2008

### SHARED STEWARDSHIP — Leave-taking

**Board of Directors Treasurer &  
Chief Financial Officer**  
Mark Shogen Bloodgood

**Executive Circle**  
John Heart-Mirror Trotter

**Co-Tenzo Coordinator**  
Jill King

**The Angulimala Prison Project &  
Altar Flower Group**  
Lourdes Jisen Reybin

### SHARED STEWARDSHIP — Incoming

**Board of Directors President**  
Patti Muso Giggins

**Board Treasurer & Chief Financial Officer**  
Tom Dharma-Joy Reichert

**Board Secretary**  
Hillary Radiant-Vow Stephenson

**Brown-Green Group**  
Judy Frisk

**Buddha Hand Circle**  
Lorraine Gessho Kumpf

**Co-Tenzo Coordinator**  
Jenny Jusen Warner

**Altar Flower Group**  
Lynda Golan . Ilga Ziegler

**Altar Cleaner Group**  
Lynda Golan  
Trent Moyer

### MARRIAGE CEREMONY

October 18, 2008  
Tom Dharma-Joy Reichert & Andrew Halladay

The *Water Wheel* is published by the Zen Center of Los Angeles / Buddha Essence Temple, which was founded in 1967 by the late Taizan Maezumi Roshi.

**The ZCLA Buddha Essence Temple mission** is to know the Self, maintain the precepts, and serve others. We provide the teaching, training, and transmission of Zen Buddhism. **Our vision** is an enlightened world free of suffering, in which all beings live in harmony, everyone has enough, deep wisdom is realized, and compassion flows unhindered. **Our core values** are available upon request.

Founding Abbot: Taizan Maezumi Roshi  
Abbot Emeritus: Roshi Bernard Glassman  
Abbot: Roshi Wendy Egyoku Nakao  
Staff: Mary Rios, Business Manager; Margaret Jifu Gower, Operations Steward; Evi Gemmon Ketterer, Program Steward; Tom Yudo Burger, Guest Steward; Jeanne Dokai Dickenson, Development Steward. *Water Wheel*: Editor, Dokai Dickenson; Assistant Editor, Burt Wetanson. Photographer: Jimmy Jakugen Chou and Yudo Burger. The *Water Wheel* is published bi-monthly in paper and electronic formats. Contact the Editor at (213) 387-2352 or [dokai@zcla.org](mailto:dokai@zcla.org). The *Water Wheel* is also available through electronic distribution.



## ZCLA Buddha Essence Temple

923 South Normandie Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90006-1301  
[www.zencenter.org](http://www.zencenter.org)

Address Correction Requested

## Day of Dana at ZCLA

### Saturday, December 20, 2008

Friday, Dec 19, 7:30 - 9:00p.m. — Food preparation  
Saturday, Dec. 20

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. — Set-up and assembly

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. — Lunch, program and  
distribution of dana bags

Twenty-three years ago, Roshi Egyoku enriched ZCLA's holiday celebration with assembly of Dana Baskets for families-in-need in the neighborhood. That joyful celebration has evolved into our Day of Dana.

Come one, come all to this year's third annual Day of Dana with our friends from Caminos de Esperanza and their leaders, Nancy Spear and Fidel Sanchez, for a day of generous exchange of rituals, songs, and humor. After preparing for the food bag assembly on Friday, bags will be distributed to each family at the end of the program on Saturday.

The food offerings are made possible through your generous donations of money, time, and skills. Donations of toys, cookies, and other delights for the children are



*Day of Dana: Chanting the meal gatha in Spanish and English.*

also welcome. Financial donations can be made online, in the office, or by making your check payable to "ZCLA," marked "Day of Dana." Food is also solicited from neighborhood stores.

Everyone is encouraged to lend a hand in whatever way you can: shopping, preparing meals, hosting guests. Join in the stuffing of the food bags—a traditional ZCLA fun time together.

For questions and suggestions, please contact our Program Steward at [info@zcla.org](mailto:info@zcla.org). ■