



Water Wheel

Being one with all Buddhas, I turn the water wheel of compassion.
—Gate of Sweet Nectar

1967—2007
40TH ANNIVERSARY

Zen Center of Los Angeles / Buddha Essence Temple

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Happy 2007: Our 40th Anniversary!

By Roshi Wendy Egyoku Nakao

Happy New Year to you! In 2007, the Zen Center of Los Angeles will mark its 40th Anniversary. Founded in 1967 by the Venerable Baian Hakuju Kuroda Daiosho and his son, the Venerable Taizan Maezumi Honored One, ZCLA is one of the first Zen training communities in the United States.

The lineage derived from Maezumi Roshi and Kuroda Roshi is called the White (*baku*) Plum (*bai*) Lineage, using the characters from Kuroda Roshi's name. The lineage holders in the White Plum line today number over 60 teachers, spreading throughout the United States, Europe, Mexico, and Japan.

From May 17 to 20, members of the White Plum Asanga (the organization of White Plum teachers) will gather at Normandie Mountain for their annual meeting. On Saturday and Sunday, May 19 and 20, a sangha-wide celebration will be held to commemorate our 40th anniversary. Please reserve the weekend, as this will be a special and unique gathering.

Next year also marks ten years since my return to Normandie Mountain as Head Teacher, and eight years as Abbot. As previously announced, I will take a four-month sabbatical from July through October 2007.

The sabbatical is made possible by the wonderful maturing of the Sangha over the past years. John Plum-Hermit Swanger has been entrusted with the oversight of staffing and the Day Group with the day-to-day operations of the Center. I will serve them in an advisory capacity. Next year, Gary Koan Janka, as representative of the Teachers Circle, will begin to train in program planning oversight during my sabbatical, and TC members will take on more classes and interviews during my absence. Please give them your support.



2007 is the Year of the Fire Pig. Well, we couldn't find a pig, but

In June 2007, I will give Dharma Transmission to Dharma Holder Kipp Ryodo Hawley. A Zen practitioner since 1978 and a ZCLA member since 1980, Ryodo received Jukai from Maezumi Roshi in 1981. He will be a lay Dharma successor. In April, Ted Teido Cartee, who was first ordained by Sato Roshi of Zenshuji in 1967, will renew his vows. In June, Mike Solitary-Pine Ford and Debbie Faith-Mind Thoresen will also receive tokudo (priest ordination) from me.

The months ahead will be full of activity and flowering in the Sangha, as we all grow into new realms of commitment and responsibility. My heartfelt thanks to you all for your practice and support. Let's continue our dedicated practice in 2007! ■

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Pinnacle of the Human Heart

By Roshi Wendy Egyoku Nakao

In the *Tenzo Kyokun, Instructions to the Cook*, Dogen Zenji expounds on nurturing, or parental, mind by saying that a tenzo (cook) ought to regard the Three Treasures of Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha, with the concern and benevolence of a parent for their child. He says:

Irrespective of how poor and destitute they may be, the parents love and rear their child with care. ... Irrespective of whether they are shivering in cold or suffering in heat, the parents cover or shelter their child from cold and heat. The parental wish is indeed the pinnacle of the human heart.
[translated by Shohei Ichimura]

Dogen Zenji goes on to say that a tenzo ought to carry out even the most trivial task, such as checking the quality of water for washing rice, with the utmost concern and benevolence for the sangha, just as parents care for and love a child.

The implications for us in our everyday life are clear: approach all activities with a nurturing mind, taking care to perform our tasks with care and love. In fact, we learn to arouse this caring mind as a fundamental attitude toward Life itself.

A few months ago, a newspaper article from *The Epoch Times* entitled “Chinese Garbage Collector is Adopter of 21 Abandoned Children” was left in my mailbox. The article tells about how Hu Tongkai, a poor garbage collector from Kunming City in Yunan Province, “found a bloody infant girl in 1996 with her umbilical cord still attached and trembling in a carton when he was sweeping the streets at an intersection in Kunming.” Weighing only three pounds, the premature baby was saved when Hu Tongkai rushed her to a local hospital. He later adopted her and named her Jingjing.

At the time of adopting Jingjing, Hu already had taken in seven abandoned children. Because he could not afford to support them, he increased his work by sweeping streets during the day and collecting garbage at night. The care of the children required so much of his time that he was constantly late for work, and so his salary was reduced.

Hu was married with two children of his own, but his wife did not understand her husband’s actions. In 1997, she took their sons and left him and has not communicated with him since. Nevertheless, Hu continues to care diligently for these children, even going house to house on his garbage collecting rounds, seeking the birth families of the abandoned children. He has been able to

return many children to their families, as the families were ashamed of what they had done.

When word of Hu’s benevolence spread to his hometown, none of his family or friends understood him. His younger brother argued with him, insisting that Hu should not adopt abandoned children when he could hardly support himself. Hu said, “But this is a *life*—many people would rather raise pets than adopt the orphans. Aren’t those little lives more important than pets?”

As word has spread of Hu’s incredible parental mind, many people have come forward to help him. He continues to diligently search for the birth parents and also to care for the children he has adopted. He says he keeps a

“... this capacity for caring is innate to each of us, whether we think ourselves capable or not.”

notebook listing the names and addresses of all his benefactors, so that someday he will be able to repay those who have helped him and the children.

For each of us, whether parents or not, our practice calls upon us to attain this pinnacle of the human heart, a deeply caring attitude that becomes simply the way we go through our days without thought of consequence or reward. In fact, this capacity for caring is innate in each of us, whether we think ourselves capable or not.

A few weeks ago while working at our neighborhood food pantry, a woman came in for food and told us that she had to use the toilet. She said that the toilet was so filthy that she just could not bring herself to use it. After some back and forth about finding another toilet, the director of the food pantry, without hesitation, pulled on some rubber gloves and kindly inquired, “Would it help if I cleaned the toilet for you?” Witnessing this exchange, I was struck by this expression of parental mind—clearly, only a person living with a parental heart would offer as she did.

All of us have this capacity; all of us care deeply. When we reflect upon the larger context of our life, we see that each of us is serving the heart-mind of each other. We may not always know how to best express parental or nurturing heartmind, and yet it is our practice to do so. ■


Roshi Egyoku Nakao is the abbot and head teacher of ZCLA.

Zen Programs On Normandie Mountain

January Bare-Bones

A January barebones schedule begins 2007 (Year of the Fire Pig) with open (no timekeeper) zazen, dawn and evening, during weekdays. Regular weekend service and zazen and Sunday morning introductory classes ZP1 & 2 will continue, as well as Day of Reflection. Teacher interview schedules will be posted in DharmaFlash. There will be no talks. You are encouraged to use this month for reflection and making your personal vows for the coming year.

See our calendar for the daily program schedule. Program details and updates are sent by email through DharmaFlash.


 **Please register in advance.** Contact the office at info@zcla.org to register.

The **Dharma Training Fund (DTF)**. Through the generosity of the Sangha, the 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 practice and study the Dharma!

Zazen Programs

Zazenkai.* Friday evening, February 9, 7:30 p.m., to Saturday, February 10, 5:00 p.m. Led by Roshi.

Zazenkai is an all-day sitting. This is an excellent opportunity to spend a quiet practice day. The schedule includes zazen, service, work, meals, interview, and afternoon class with Roshi (theme to be determined). Open to everyone.

Fee: \$40; \$80 for nonmembers. 

***Note:** Zendo remains open for zazen during Zazenkai.

Precept Practice

A **Day of Reflection** on the Zen Bodhisattva precepts will take place on **Saturdays, January 20 and February 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** We begin with recitation of the precepts, zazen, and a brief precept talk followed by a short work period and lunch. A Precept Circle is held

from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. on the precept of the day. Open to everyone.

January 20 will be led by Hillary Konchal Stephenson on Precept #6: Do Not Talk About Others' Faults and Errors. **February 17** will be led by Dharma-Holder Maggie Jifu Gower on Precept #3: Do Not Be Greedy (Chaste Conduct).



Atonement Ceremony. Thursday, February 22, at 7:30 p.m. During this ceremony of renewing the vows and precepts, we each have an opportunity to bear witness to our conduct in thoughts, words, and actions. Everyone is welcome to participate and renew themselves. Those who have received the precepts are asked to attend on a regular basis. Officiated by Rev. Ensho Berge.

Special Observances

YEAR-END FESTIVITIES

Sunday, December 31st

Everyone welcome to celebrate the arrival of 2007!

Our year-end festivities are special—join us.

3:00 p.m. Head Trainee Rakusu Presentation.

Debbie Faith-Mind Thoresen will receive her blue Head Trainee rakusu

3:15 - 5:00 p.m. Year-End Sangha Council.

Join this fun council of sharing your year with the Sangha.

5:00 p.m. Annual Memorial Service.

Remembering deceased Sangha Members. Followed by an informal supper.

7:30 p.m. Zazen/Year-End Atonement Ceremony

9:15 p.m. Ringing of 108 bells and the Revolving-the-Sutras New Year's Service.

10:00 p.m. Celebratory Meal for the New Year.

Sensei Nyogen Senzaki Gravesite Visit. Sunday, January 21, at 11:00 a.m. Annual New Year's visit to the Evergreen Cemetery gravesite of Zen pioneer Nyogen Senzaki and Japanese-American Buddhist ancestors. Carpool from Normandie Mountain.

(Continued on page 4)

ABBOT'S VISIT TO RESIDENT QUARTERS

Roshi Ekyoku will visit resident quarters to offer incense and bows on Sunday, January 28, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, followed by lunch at 11:45 a.m. with residents and any members who wish to join.

PROGRAMS (Continued)

Annual Major Donor Memorial Service. Saturday, February 3, 8:30 a.m. The Center holds the annual memorial service for deceased major donors to the Center. We encourage everyone to offer incense and gratitude to the many people whose generosity upon passing have contributed so much to ZCLA.

Parinirvana Service. February 10, 8:30 a.m. We will commemorate the Parinirvana of Shakyamuni Buddha.

Retreat, Classes and Workshops

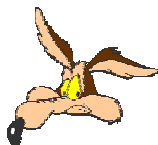
Contemplative Caregiving for Caregivers Retreat. Friday eve, February 2 through Sunday, February 4. Contact leader Evi Gemmon Ketterer for requirements and registration information; Also, refer to ZCLA web site: www.zcla.org.

Brown-Green Group. Sunday, February 11, 1:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join this exploration of environmental concerns and shared readings.

Health Care Circle. Sunday, February 11, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. All are welcome to come together to develop ideas and projects for the coming year.

Shared Stewardship 2007. The 7th year of Shared Stewardship class will begin on Sunday, March 11, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Jeanne Dokai Dickenson and John Plum-Hermit Swanger will steward this year's series.

Institute of Sacred Mischief & Contemporary Clowning (i.smacc)



with **Master Clown Moshe YooWho Cohen**
Artist-in-Residence

7:00 to 9:30 p.m.:

Mondays, February 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5:
Contemplative Clown

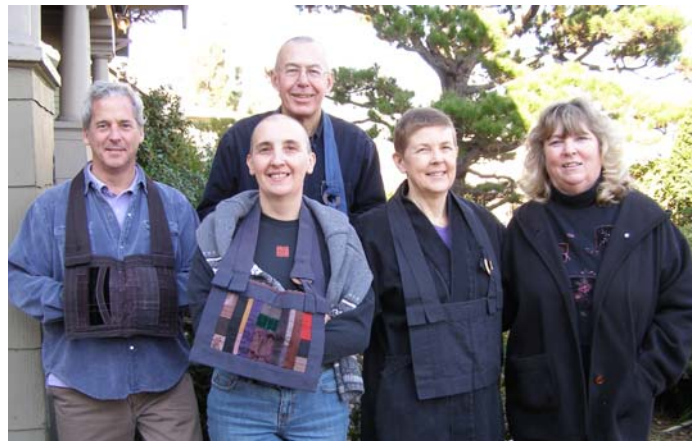
Tuesdays, February 6, 13, 20, 27, March 6:
Movement Theater/Physical Humor

Wednesdays, February 7, 14, 21, 28, March 7:
Sacred Clown

Mr. YooWho kicks off the second year of the Institute of Sacred Mischief and Contemporary Clowning (i.smacc) with a clown/action six-week intensive open to practitioners on all levels.

Connect/reconnect to your world of humor and clown by engaging in active improvisation and explorations. Fee: One session: \$25; Five sessions:

THE DAY GROUP



In back, Koan; from left, front row, Plum-Hermit, Gemmon, Dokai, and Mary.

Roshi has entrusted the daily operations of the Center to the Day Group and the oversight of Center staff to John Plum-Hermit Swanger. The Day Group members are Jeanne Dokai Dickenson, Mary Rios, Evi Gemmon Ketterer, Gary Koan Janka, and Plum-Hermit.

The Day Group will continue its daily morning meetings and will incorporate council practice into that schedule. Mary will attend these meetings and council once weekly, and her considerable experience and guidance will be integrated into the Day Group's activities in a more consistent way.

Dokai will focus her energies on publications, fund development, special projects (such as the 40th Anniversary event), and supporting Roshi's work. Dokai will step out of her long-time role of overseeing Center programs.

Gemmon will step into the Program Coordinator position, serving as the primary point person for Center programs. Many thanks to Tom Yudo Burger for his tenure as Program Support Person.

In addition to his usual duties, Plum-Hermit will assume responsibility for staff operations. Koan will serve as the liaison between the Day Group and Teachers Circle and will work with Roshi to learn program scheduling. ■

ZCLA-Affiliated Sitting Groups

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


The Hill Street Zendo (Santa Monica, CA)
led by Dharma-Holder John Daishin Buksbazen

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

Contact us at info@zcla.org for information.



JANUARY 2007—2549 BE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day 	2	3	4	5	6
Dawn — Open Zazen —>						
<div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Bare Bones Month Open Zazen Weekdays All Month </div>						
<div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; width: 80%;"> Winter Recess: No Timekeeper in Zendo </div>						
Evening — Open Zazen —>						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Dawn — Open Zazen —>						
(Office Closed)		(Office Closed)				
<div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; width: 30%;"> Winter Recess: No Timekeeper in Zendo </div>						
Evening — Open Zazen —>						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Dawn — Open Zazen —>						
(Office Closed)		(Office Closed)				
<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> Martin Luther King Day </div>					Saturday Schedule * Zen Practice 3 Day of Reflection led by Hillary Kong Chal Stephenson Precept # 6: Not Talking About Others' Errors and Faults 1:30-3:00 Precept Circle	
Evening — Open Zazen —>						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Dawn — Open Zazen —>						
(Office Closed)		(Office Closed)				
ZP 1 & 2 Sunday Schedule** (No Dharma Talk/Snack) 11:00 a.m., Evergreen Cemetery visit for Nyogen Senzaki Roshi					7-9:00 p.m. Resident Circle	
Evening — Open Zazen —>						
28	29	30	31			
5:25 p.m. Zazen/Service —>						
(Office Closed)		(Office Closed)				
ZP 1 & 2 Sunday Schedule** (No Dharma Talk/Snack) 9-10:20 Zazen/Dokusan 10:30-12:00 Junjo for Residents with Roshi 11:45 Lunch with Residents in Sangha House		7:15 p.m. Service		<div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> * Saturday Schedule 8:30 a.m. Service 9-11:00 Zazen/Interview 11:15 Samu 12:15 Lunch ** Sunday Schedule 8:30 a.m. Service 9-10:20 Zazen/Interview No Dharma Talk/snack </div>		
7:30-9:00 p.m. Zazen —>						




FEBRUARY 2007—2549 BE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>* Saturday Schedule 8:30 a.m. Service 9-11:00 Zazen/Dokusan, Interview 11:15 Samu 12:15 Lunch</p> <p>** Sunday Schedule: 8:30 a.m. Service 9-10:20 Zazen/Dokusan, Interview 11:00 Talk 12:15 Snack</p>	<p>i.smacc (Institute for Sacred Mischief and Contemplative Clowning) Workshop Schedule with Artist-in-Residence, Master Clown Moshe Cohen</p> <p><u>Evening classes, 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.</u> Mondays, February 5, 12, 19, 26, Mar 5: Contemplative Clown Tuesdays, February 6, 13, 20, 27, Mar 6: Movement Theater/Physical Humor Wednesdays, February 7, 14, 21, 28, Mar 7: Sacred Clown</p> 			<p>1</p> <p>5:25 a.m. Zazen 6:30 Service</p> <p>4:30 p.m. Fundraising Meeting 6:00 p.m. Executive Circle 7:15 Service 7:30 Zazen/Teisho: Roshi</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Service 7:30-9:00 Zazen</p> <p>Begin RETREAT: Contemplative Caregiving for Caregivers with Gemmon Ketterer</p>	<p>Saturday Schedule 3</p> <p>New Members Series #1 Annual Donor Memorial</p> <p>1-30-3:30 Teachers Circle</p> <p>8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. RETREAT: Contemplative Caregiving for Caregivers with Gemmon Ketterer</p>
<p>ZP 1 & 2 4</p> <p>Monthly Memorial Service</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Teisho: Roshi</p> <p>1:30-4:30 p.m. Board of Directors</p> <p>CAREGIVING RETREAT continued</p>	<p>5</p> <p>(Office Closed)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>(Office Closed)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5:25 a.m. Zazen 6:30 Service</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Service</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Service 7:30 Zazen/Dharma Talk: Ryodo Hawley</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Registration for Zazenkai 7:30-9:00 Zazen</p>	<p>Buddha's Parinirvana Service—8:30 a.m.</p>  <p>Zazenkai</p> <p>led by Roshi</p> <p>1:30 to 3:30 Class with Roshi</p>
<p>ZP 1 & 2 11</p> <p>Sunday Schedule 11:00 a.m. Dharma Talk: Daishin Buksbazen 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Health Circle 1:30 Brown/Green Group 9:00 to 4:00 p.m. Kesa Sewing Class with Gemmon Ketterer</p>	<p>12</p> <p>(Office Closed)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>(Office Closed)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5:25 a.m. Zazen 6:30 Service</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Service</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Executive Circle 7:15 p.m. Service 7:30 Zazen/Teisho: Roshi</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Service</p>	<p>Founders' Service 17</p> <p>Saturday Schedule Zen Practice 3 Day of Reflection</p> <p>Led by Maggie Jifu Wolfe-Gower</p> <p>Precept #3: Do Not Be Greedy: Chaste Conduct</p> <p>1:30—3:00 p.m. Precept Circle</p>
<p>ZP 1 & 2 18</p> <p>Sunday Schedule 11:00 a.m. Dharma Talk: Shingetsu Guzy 1:30-3:30 Curriculum Circle</p>	<p>19</p> <p>(Office Closed)</p> <p>President's Day (Observed)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>(Office Closed)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5:25 a.m. Zazen 6:30 Service</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Service</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:30 Atonement Ceremony Officiant: Ensho Berge</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Resident Circle 7:30-9:00 p.m. Open Zazen</p>	<p>Saturday Schedule 24</p>
<p>25 ZP 1 & 2</p> <p>Sunday Schedule 11:00 a.m. Dharma Chat with Brown/Green Group: Generosity: An Antidote to Greed</p>	<p>26</p> <p>(Office Closed)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>(Office Closed)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>5:25 a.m. Zazen 6:30 Service</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Service</p>			



TENTATIVE

MARCH 2007—2549 BE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>* Saturday Schedule 8:30 a.m. Service 9-11:00 Zazen/Dokusan, Interview 11:15 Samu 12:15 Lunch</p> <p>** Sunday Schedule: 8:30 a.m. Service 9-10:20 Zazen/Dokusan, Interview 11:00 Talk</p>				<p>1</p> <p>← 5:25 a.m. Zazen 6:30 Service →</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Executive Circle 7:15 Service 7:30-9:00 Zazen/Dharma Talk: TBD</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30 Service →</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Service</p> <p>7:30—9:30 p.m. Shadow Energy Class (1) with Roshi & Shingetsu Guzy</p>	<p>Saturday Schedule 3</p> <p>9:00 a.m. New Members Entering Ceremony</p> <p>1:30-3:30 Teachers Circle</p>
<p>ZP 1 & 2 4</p> <p>Monthly Memorial Service</p> <p>Sunday Schedule 11:00 a.m. Newcomers/ New Members Class with TBD</p> <p>1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Kitchen Cleaning</p>	<p>5</p> <p>(Office Closed)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>(Office Closed)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>← 5:25 a.m. Zazen 6:30 Service →</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Service 1:30-3:00 Precepts Class (1)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:15 Service 7:30-9:00 Zazen/Dharma Talk: TBD</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Service</p> <p>7:30—9:30 p.m. Shadow Energy Class (2) with Roshi & Shingetsu Guzy</p>	<p>Founders' Service 10</p> <p>Tangaryo Day</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Introduction 8:30 a.m. Service</p> <p>9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.</p>
<p>ZP 1 & 2 11</p> <p>Sunday Schedule 11:00 a.m. Talk: TBD</p> <p>1:30-3:30 p.m. Shared Stewardship (1)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>(Office Closed)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>(Office Closed)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>← 5:25 a.m. Zazen 6:30 Service →</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Service 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Precepts Class (2)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Executive Circle 7:15 Service 7:30 Zazen/Talk: TBD</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Service</p> <p>7:30—9:30 p.m. Shadow Energy Class (3) with Roshi & Shingetsu Guzy</p>	<p>Saturday Schedule 17</p> <p>Zen Practice 3 Day of Reflection</p> <p>Led by TBD Precept #: TBD 1:30—3:00 p.m. Precept Circle</p>
<p>ZP 1 & 2 18</p> <p>Sunday Schedule 11:00 a.m. Talk: TBD</p> <p>1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Priests Council</p> <p>Daylight Savings Time Begin</p>	<p>19</p> <p>(Office Closed)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>(Office Closed)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>← 5:25 a.m. Zazen 6:30 Service →</p> <p> Spring Equinox</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Service 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Precepts Class (3)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:15 Service 7:30 Zazen/Dharma Talk: TBD</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Service</p> <p>7:30—9:30 p.m. Shadow Energy Class (3) with Roshi & Shingetsu Guzy</p>	<p>Saturday Schedule 24</p> <p>1:30-4:00 p.m. Service Position Training</p>
<p>ZP 1 & 2 25</p> <p>Sunday Schedule 11:00 a.m. Dharma Chat with Earth-Mirror Corcoran: Sesshin and Your Practice</p>	<p>26</p> <p>(Office Closed)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>(Office Closed)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>← 5:25 a.m. Zazen 6:30 Service →</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Service) 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Precepts Class (4)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Registration for Sesshin 7:30-9:00 Zazen</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Introduction to Sesshin</p>	<p>31</p>

2006 Fall Practice Period

We acknowledge the following practitioners who made practice commitments for the 2006 Fall Practice Period. Thank you for your practice and support of each other.

Katy Keisen Behrens
 Gary Belton
 Raul Ensho Berge
 Mark Shogen Bloodgood
 Merle Kodo Plum-Dragon
 Boyd
 Craig Daigetsu Brandau
 Daniel Nagacitta Buckley
 John Daishin Buksbazen
 Tom Yudo Burger
 Teido Cartee
 Heather Faith-Spring
 Chapman
 Tom Pine-Ocean Cleary
 Cliff Shishin Collins
 Bill Earth-Mirror Corcoran
 Jeanne Dokai Dickenson
 Justin Dickenson
 Charles Duran
 Diane True-Joy Fazio
 Darla Myoho Fjeld
 April Ford
 Mike Solitary-Pine Ford
 Susan Eko Fukushima

Peggy Faith-Moon Gallaher
 Patti Muso Giggans
 James Bodhi-Song Graham
 Katharine Senshin Griffith
 Cassie Ocean-Heart Guarino
 Patricia Shingetsu Guzy
 Tim Wisdom-Moon
 Halphide
 Kipp Ryodo Hawley
 Al Hoagland
 George Mukei Horner
 Derek Hutchison
 Gary Koan Janka
 Ariana Julian
 Diane Katz
 Lyndon Kay
 Evi Gemmon Ketterer
 Lorraine Gessho Kumpf
 Ellen Reigen Ledley
 Marlene McCurtis
 Rosa Ando Martinez
 Julia Seirin Norstrand
 Troy Perry
 Pam Emerald-Lake Porcaro

Helen Daiji Powell
 Lourdes Jisen Reybin
 Kathy Myoan Solomon
 Hannah Seishin Sowd
 Wendy Egyoku Nakao
 Terry Ryodo Rothrock
 Michael Judge-El Smith
 Lana Shoshin Spraker
 Hillary Kongchal Stephenson
 John Plum-Hermit Swanger

Penelope Luminous-Heart
 Thompson
 Debbie Faith-Mind Thoresen
 John Heart-Mirror Trotter
 Reeb Kaizen Venners
 Daiho Matt Wagner
 Nina Reiju Wasserman
 Burt Wetanson
 Ty Jotai Webb ■



Head Trainee Faith-Mind returning the shippai (sword) to Roshi after Dharma Combat.



Congratulations to all! The Sangha celebrates following a rousing Dharma Combat with Head-Trainee Deb Faith-Mind Thoresen on Sunday, October 29, 2006.

Photos by Jimmy Jakugen Chou

Shared Stewardship

Shared Stewardship Class

By John Plum-Hermit Swanger

For the sixth consecutive year, Roshi led members of the Sangha in a year-long series of Shared Stewardship gatherings. These gatherings are an on-going opportunity to explore the practice, forms, and functioning of Shared Stewardship. They are also a forum for exchanging information, linking the many Circles that comprise the Center. Twenty to 40 stewards attended the seven gatherings held in 2006.

The primary focus this past year was to begin a new visioning process for the Center's next five to ten years. We carefully reviewed the Center's mission and vision statements and its core values. We looked at all that has been accomplished and whether the core values developed in 1999 still reflect ZCLA's intentions and practices.

Out of this process, we developed a draft of expanded core values that include an emphasis upon environmental awareness and practices. We are also developing a "statement of inclusion" and a "statement of Sangha life" as well as a list of core practices, including zazen, liturgy, study, and atonement, along with more recent practices of council, circles, the Center mandala, and Shared Stewardship.

In addition, we explored and held council on a number of important Sangha issues, such as ecological concerns and treatment of rats, roaches, and termites at the Center; the question of sponsoring a Change Your Mind Day in LA and funding from the Lenz foundation; end-of-life planning and Planned Giving; and the Strawberry Dragon Zendo's prison outreach dharma work.

In all this, we continue to practice actively engaging the great differences of life and opening ourselves to the great collective wisdom of life.

Sincere thanks to all who have contributed over the years to the vitality and variety of our Shared Stewardship practice. Shared Stewardship gatherings, which will continue in the coming year, are open to everyone. ■

Board of Directors

By Gary Koan Janka and Raul Ensho Berge, Co-Presidents

A significant theme of our cycle of five meetings this past year has been to build Council practice into our work together. Council is a core practice at Normandie Mountain which enables us to work as one body by deepening relationship and understanding. Our deliberations and decision-making flow more smoothly as a result of this foundational practice.

We have decided this year to begin to apply some of the bequest we received in 2003 from Dolores Ejun Lowell to some long needed maintenance and improvement projects. Under the direction of Plum Hermit Swanger, the main driveway has been replaced, a

new entrance and arbor built for the Jizo garden, and other repairs have been made. There remains a long list of other projects which the Board and Executive Circle will be reviewing.

Another continuing process is the redrafting of the Center's by-laws. We continue to make slow but steady progress on them and have come to conceptual agreement on most of the items which require modification. We anticipate completing this task in 2008.

We are also interested in adding one or two members to the Board to replace those who have left. Since it is our goal to have a Board which reflects the diversity of the Sangha, it would be helpful if our new members were women, but we are open to anyone who would like to serve. Individuals from the larger community are also welcome. If you have an interest in doing so, or would like to suggest someone, please contact Ensho or Koan.

In closing, your Center is healthy. While there is always more to do than we have the resources for, we continue to fulfill our mission: "... providing the teaching, training, and transmission of Zen Buddhism." We offer our gratitude to all who have contributed time, resources, and energy to make the Center what it is. It would not be possible without a strong and committed Sangha. ■



From left, John Plum-Hermit Swanger, Steward of Executive Circle, with Board Co-Presidents Raul Ensho Berge and Gary

Day of Dana

By John Heart-Mirror Trotter

On Saturday, December 16th, the Sangha hosted ZCLA's 21st Day of Dana. Members packed food, toys, and school items into 72 eco-friendly canvas shopping-bags which were distributed at day's end to 36 families from our neighborhood..

This year's Day of Dana was a departure from past tradition. Instead of us delivering Dana baskets to our



At left, Lilly Berge-Brodie and Rosbi, with Nancy Spear, Director of Esperanza, and Dana Day coordinators, John Heart-Mirror Trotter and Jessica Dharma-Lotus Armstrong with Amanda Johnson.

neighbors, Nancy Spear and Fidel Sanchez, directors of Esperanza Center, invited 36 families to the Zen Center for a day of food, fun, and friendship. The Esperanza Center is a local grassroots social action group with the mission of assisting families-in-need in the neighborhood.



The sea of brimming Dana Bags containing food, toys and school supplies.



Beaming faces swinging under the pine tree.

*“ ... Esta comida
es en regalo del universo ... ”*

— Meal Gatha

We enjoyed dancing, clowning, face painting and getting to know one other. (Alas, the breaking of the piñata was rained out.) A wonderful meal was enjoyed by all. Our new friends brought tamales, *pupusas* (a Central American dish), and beverages. Tenzo DeWayne Gojitsu Snodgrass masterminded other tasty additions to the lunch celebration. Fidel Sanchez led a sing-a-long in Spanish and English.

Deep gratitude to the many people who shared their time, money, energy, and imagination to bring forth this newly evolved Day of Dana. ■



The afternoon rain brought friends and neighbors into a packed Sangha House to enjoy music and singing with Fidel Sanchez.

Your Gifts are Received with a Heartfelt Thank You!

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

- To **Tom Yudo Burger** for six months of devoted, spirited, and creative service as Program Support; Day of Dana Coordinators: **Jessica Dharma-Lotus** and **John Heart-Mirror Trotter** for master-minding the joyous Day of Dana, their hard work and effort in creating and filling the food bags;
- To Day of Dana Team: **Roshi**, as our Roshi and all that entails; **DeWayne Gojitsu Snodgrass** as tenzo who created a spectacular meal; **Tom Yudo Burger** for program support and ever-available sounding board; **Rosa Ando Martinez** for toys and hosting; **Evi Gemmon Ketterer** for cookies and general support; **Raul Ensho Berge** for translation, hosting, and looking after the crowd; **John Plum-Hermit Swanger** and **Deb Faith-Mind Thoresen** as Manjusri's swords, cutting directly into what was needed at any given time; and **Jeanne Dokai Dickenson** for hosting and program support;
- To **everyone** who assisted and participated in making this day joyful for all with their time, energy, and hard work;
- Everyone who donated so generously for Day of Dana: **Charlotte Armstrong**, **Paul Brabeck**, **Sensei Nagy Buckley**, **Craig Daigetsu Brandau**, **Daishin Buksbazen**, **Cliff Shishin Collins**, **Bill Earth-Mirror Corcoran**, **Dokai**, **Maggie Jifu Wolfe-Gower**, **Doug Sencho Gower**, **Edward M. Hairfield, III**, **George Mukei Horner**, **Koan**, **Diane Katz**, **Lorraine Gessho Kumpf**, **Ando**, **Roshi Egyoku**, **Julia Seirin Norstrand**, **Annette Ostergaard**, **Stephen Seiko Parks**, **Lourdes Jisen Reybin**, **Terry Ryodo Rothrock**, **Gojitsu**, **Ed Emyo Swiatek**, **Plum-Hermit**, **Faith-Mind**, **Penelope Luminous-Heart Thompson**, **Heart-Mirror**, **Reeb Keizen Venners**, **Ty Jotai Webb**;
- The cookie-making team for Dana bags, headed by **Gemmon Ketterer** with **Heart-Mirror**, **Dharma-Lotus**, **Larry Barber**, **Katy Keisen Behrens**, **Carla Flowing-Mountain Trotter**, **Luminous-Heart**, and **Nina Reiju Wasserman**;
- Local merchants donating food for Day of Dana: **Ralphs** on Western Ave., **Papa Cristos** on Pico Blvd, and **Target**;
- Kipp Ryodo Hawley**, bodhisattva of ZCLA systems and development of new web site;
- Ellen Kirk**, the artist who has given the new web site its dazzling new look;
- Roshi** for guiding Shared Stewardship all these years;
- Teachers Circle** for its open-hearted guidance and witnessing in the Dharma;

- Roshi** for hosting the Priests Gathering;
- Tom Pine-Ocean Cleary** for his generous support of, and to **all those** who have left dharma books and magazines for, the Strawberry Dragon Prison Project;
- Altar Cleaners Stewards **Carla Flowing-Mountain Trotter** and **Conrad Butsugen Romo**; Altar cleaning group: **Craig Daigetsu Brandau**, **Hillary Kong Chal Stephenson**, **George Mukei Horner**, **Gemmon**, **Dharma-Lotus**, **Burt Wetanson**, **Koan**, **Heart-Mirror**, **Faith-Mind**, **Gessho**, **Reiju**, **Ando**, and welcoming incoming **April Ford**;
- Guest speaker: **Dr. William Bodiford** from UCLA;
- Kipp Ryodo Hawley** for leading Three Steps to Enlightenment Retreat;
- Jeanne Dokai Dickenson** for producing Annual Fund mailer, and **Koan** for mailing;
- Day Group** for its day-to-day caring for the Center, and to **Heart-Mirror** who has joined the daily morning meetings throughout Fall Practice Period.

Welcome to new members: **Terry Ryodo Rothrock**, **Chinlee Chang**, **Bradley Baumkirchner**, **Jenny Warner**, **David Arrollado**, and **Larry Barber**. ■



Sangha Rites of Passage

Staffing Oversight

John Plum-Hermit Swanger

Congratulations and deep gratitude.



Zen priest and far-flung ZCLA member Peter Mugan Schellin. Mugan lives in Arroyo Grande, CA and writes, "This photo was not posed; Zeke bows to me after zazen every day, each time I sit."

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.

Our 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.

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Abbot Emeritus: Roshi Bernard Glassman
Abbot: Roshi Wendy Egyoku Nakao
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Address Correction Requested

Upcoming Events March to August 2007

Sesshin:

Introduction to Sesshin: March 29 to 31
Spring Sesshin: May 24 to 26

Zazenkai: April 14, June 9 and August 11

Tangaryo Day: March 10 and September 8

Retreats, Classes & Workshops:

Shared Stewardship: March 1, June 10, August 12, October 7

Shadow Energy Class: March 2, 9, 16 & 23

**Institute for Mischief Making and
Contemplative Clowning (i.smacc) Buddha's
Birthday Intensive Workshop:** April 7 & 8

Core Beliefs Class: Saturday, April 28

Contemplative Caregiving for Caregivers:
June 1 to 3

Precepts Class: March 7, 14, 21, 28 and
April 4 & 11

Day of Reflection: March 17, April 21, May 12, and
June 16

Buddha's Birthday: April 8

ZCLA 40th Anniversary: May 18 to 20

ZCLA Bookstore's

"Crazy Wisdom Crazy Prices Sale"

- Clearance sale on all Red Dot gift items!
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