



# South Wind

the Newsletter of the KansasZenCenter

Spring – Summer 2003

## Sangha Notes

Welcome back to Deb Wibe who has been with us for the spring semester while finishing her MA in philosophy at KU. We'll miss you when return to North Dakota.

Thanks to Jan Schaake and for his extraordinary work on the new gravel path.

Thanks to Liatris Studer for her ongoing work in the garden and to Steve Stevenson for the new vegetable garden.

Many thanks to all who participated in the Buddha's Birthday celebration at KZC.

Congratulations to the new 5-preceptees as of April 13—Kathy Dasta, Jane Gnojek, Sean Nichols, Audrey Bosley, Dennis Bosley.

Congratulations to Deb Wibe and Christina Hauck for receiving their long robes and becoming dharma teachers.

Bon Voyage to Loretta Pyles and Ed Canda for their upcoming trip to Korea and Mongolia.

Congratulations to Mary Yadon for her upcoming re-marriage to Dick Yadon.

Congratulations to the *better living through chemistry sisters* Cathy Preston and Betsy Forcade, for their remarkable progress during very challenging courses of treatment for cancer and hepatitis C.

## In Troubled Times

As I write this, the first full week of war in Iraq has just been completed. War is a terrible thing. Everybody knows that. Yet somehow human beings keep doing it. Years later people shake themselves as if waking up from sleep — did we really do this to each other? How could it have happened? Or they hold on to grudges, generation after generation, for thousands of years. Or they are haunted by demons throughout their lifetime, reminding the rest of us, even in times of relative peace, of the horrors lying just beneath the surface of what we think of as our normal lives. Or they forget and are surprised all over again when bombs drop and human bodies are destroyed.

**The great way is not difficult.  
Just don't make distinctions.**

*The Hsin Hsin Ming*

Many human beings spend a lot of time trying to analyze why this war or that one happened, but the fundamental reason is that people make distinctions. The traces of these distinctions play themselves out inexorably. This is a major aspect of karma. So 25 years ago Iran was our enemy and Iraq our friend — did you know that Saddam Hussein was given the keys to the city of Detroit in 1980? And now Iraq is our enemy, even though Iran is not quite yet our friend. The Turks are waiting along the Kurdish border, and the Kurds are looking over their shoulders at the Turks. Nigerians are murdering Nigerians — whole villages are being destroyed there. North Korea rattles its cage — or maybe it's rattling ours, hard to tell. Seeds of karma blossom and create more karmic seeds. It has been like this for hundreds of thousands of years. Everyone wishes that it wasn't, but it's hard to give up the cherished distinctions that keep the whole thing going. It's hard even to see what they are.

**In original nature  
There is no this and that.**

*The Temple Rules*

# In Troubled Times

## Troubled Times (continued)

War and peace themselves do not exist. They are convenient names for aggregates of experience. War is a convenient name for one aggregate of individual events. Peace is a convenient name for a different aggregate of individual events. The events that make up our notion of peace have the pleasant quality of seeming, relative to the events of war, non-events.

So we have moments of peace in the midst of war, when the day is beautiful and for a moment the guns and bombs are silent. And we have moments of war in the midst of peace, when something terrible happens from political motivation. That's what terrorism is, an outbreak of war in the midst of peace. Our lives go back and forth between the two: now peace, now war, now peace, now back again to war...

But the truth is much more direct and clear. It has nothing to do with war or peace.

**All phenomena of existence have mind as their precursor, mind as their supreme leader, of mind they are made. If with an impure mind one speaks or acts, suffering follows him in the same way the wheel follows the ox who pulls the cart... Through anger, anger is never appeased, through non-anger is anger appeased – this is an eternal and unvarying law.**

*The Dhammapada*

What every human being wants to know is: what should I do? Buddhism is very interesting because it doesn't tell us. Buddha simply laid out the consequences of our actions.

We can read this as prescriptive, as telling us what to do. But we can also read it as descriptive: if you do this, that will happen. It's like knowing that if you jump off a cliff you will fall. Of course. But if you've come to a cliff because you're being chased by a horde of marauding elephants, falling may be the appropriate thing to do.

The impure mind Buddha speaks about in the quote from *The Dhammapada* is the mind ruled by karma, the ignorant mind that believes the self exists and must be protected at all costs. Our times are troubled — all times are troubled — because the impure mind too often leads the way. And then, yes, suffering will follow in the same way the wheel follows the ox who pulls the cart. Our ignorance is fed by this suffering. We speak and act from our pain. And so it goes, on and on.

This cycle manifests itself in our personal lives, in our families, in human organizations, in entire societies. How can we break this cycle? Buddha did it through practice, and his fundamental teaching is that, through practice, all of us can do it too.

Judy Roitman, JDPSN

## KZC Donations

Thanks to all for your generous donations to the Kansas Zen Center this year. Gifts may be given in honor, memory, appreciation, etc.. of people, occasions.... This month gifts were received:

- In gratitude to Tim & Betsy for all they do for KZC.
- In celebration of the new gravel path.

Your gifts are greatly appreciated.



## Buddha's Birthday Poem

Once upon a time,  
a beautiful baby boy was born in India.  
The birth announcement said:  
"Mr. and Mrs. Gautama announce  
the birth of their son, Siddhartha.  
He weighed seven pounds, eight ounces  
And was 21 inches long."  
His daddy, Suddhodana, hoped he'd be a king.  
His mama, Mayadevi, only knew him for seven days.

Before the young prince was even 30 years old,  
he already had it all—  
a DVD, and SUV and a PH.D.

But then he got the existential itch,  
and the Great Question would not relent.

So Siddhartha searched, and searched,  
and searched.

And then one day,  
he just sat...

through thick and thin,  
he just sat, and sat, and sat, and sat

...and eventually, and inevitably,  
by natural process,  
he understood.

What, then, did Buddha understand?

KATZ!

Opening presents on his birthday, smiling,  
"thanks, it's just what I've always wanted."

Loretta Pyles

# KZC Calendar— Check the Kzc website for most current schedule

## Regular Practice Schedule

**Kansas Zen Center** - 1423 New York Street, Lawrence KS - 785.331.2274

Monday—Friday 6:00 to 7:00 am  
Saturday 6:00 to 8:00 am late entry at 7:00 am (kong-an interviews)  
Sunday 9:30 to 11:30 am dharma talk at 11:00 - beginner's introduction 9:00 am  
Wednesday 6:30 to 7:00 pm special chanting  
7:00 to 7:30 pm sitting

**Prairyerth Zen Center** - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 4775 SW 21st St., Topeka KS  
785.478.3478 (Rebecca) or 785.232.5958 (Bill)

Tuesday & Thursday 6:00 to 7:00 am  
Thursday 6:30 to 7:30 pm (kong-an interviews first Thursday of the month)

**Kansas City Zen Group** - Unity Church on the Plaza - 913.551.7792 (Bill)

Tuesday 7:00 to 8:00 pm, (kong-an interviews the first Tuesday of every month)

**Tall Grass Zen Center** - Manhattan KS - 785.537.8713 (Christina or Margaret)

Tuesday & Friday 6:00 to 7:00 am  
Wednesday 7:00 to 8:00 pm

## Kansas Zen Center Special Events

### Foundations of Zen Class - April

For anyone with an interest in Zen. Presented on three consecutive Monday evenings April 14, 21, and 28 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Cost is \$30 for the series. For more call Tim 785.843.1605 or tim@kansazencenter.org.

### Compass of Zen Class - Ongoing

For anyone having taken 5 precepts. Classes are after practice Sundays almost monthly. Sunday classes are May 4, June 1, July 6 September 7, October 5, November 2. There will be no CoZ class in April, August or December. For more information contact Tim.

### 2 Day Retreat with Chong Hae Su Nim JDPSN Abbot of the Providence Zen Center- May 23-25

Retreat at KZC begins at 6:30 pm May 23 and ends at 12:00 pm May 25.

### 2 Day Retreat with Judy Roitman JDPSN - September 19-21

Retreat at KZC begins at 6:30 pm September 19 and ends at 12:00 pm September 21.

### 2 Day Retreat with Judy Roitman JDPSN - October 17-19

Retreat at KZC begins at 6:30 pm October 17 and ends at 12:00 pm October 19.

Please register for retreats at least five days before a retreat. Retreats are \$40 per day for KZC members and \$55 per day for non-members. Retreats are \$34 per day for dharma teachers and dharma teachers in training. To register call 785.331.2274. You can also register via the KZC website at www.kansazencenter.org.

No one will be turned away for lack of funds. Scholarships or work exchanges can be arranged with the Guiding Teacher. If you can not sit an entire retreat as scheduled, please talk to the retreat teacher to make arrangements. For more information, call Tim at 785.843.1605 or e-mail us at tim@kansazencenter.org.

## KZC Notes

Please send both surface and e-mail address changes to tim@kansazencenter.org or call 785.843.1605.

We are now accepting tax deductible memorial and honorary donations. These include gifts to the KZC in the memory of loved ones or to commemorate special events such as graduations, birthdays or anniversaries. Please contact Marie LaFever at mlafever@synergyservices.org for details.

Contributions to the KZC are tax deductible and may be sent to the Kansas Zen Center at 1423 New York Street, Lawrence, KS 66044.

## Kansas Zen Center

The Kansas Zen Center is a non-profit organization founded in 1978 in Lawrence, Kansas. KZC is affiliated with the Kwan Um School of Zen Buddhism an international organization with more than sixty centers and groups founded by Zen Master Seung Sahn, the first Korean Zen Master to live and teach in the West.

Teachers: Dennis Duermeier JDPSN, 785.749.5744  
Judy Roitman JDPSN, 785.842.7010  
(guiding teacher)

President: Clark LaFever 816.686.6899  
Secretary: Betsy Forcade 785.843.1605

1423 New York, Lawrence, KS 66044



The whole universe is on fire.  
Through what kind of samadhi can you escape being burned?

