



# South Wind

the Newsletter of the KansasZenCenter

January—March

## Sangha Notes

Congratulations to Christina Hauck for receiving tenure in the K-State English department.

Congratulations to Bill Lucero on the birth of his grandson A.J. on October 14.

Congratulations to Judy and Bob Wright on the renewal of their marriage vows at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Leavenworth.

Prairyerth Zen Group held a 49 day ceremony for Kemper Straley's mother on October 14. Our condolences.

The dharma room has been completely repainted and given a new door. Many thanks to Dennis Duermeier, Clark and Marie Lafever, Ted Mehl, Jan Schaake, Liatris Studer, Daniel Swint, and Fiona Yap

A room in the house is still available. If you are interested in living in a serious practice environment, please call Dennis at 785-749-5744.

Deep gratitude to the KZC reorganization committee: Marie Lafever and Judy Wright (co-chairs), Katherine Bailey, Aaron Binderup, and Liatris Studer. In an amazingly short time they have come up with a thoughtful and workable version of the by-laws (to be voted on at the annual meeting). They are planning a more thorough look at how to improve KZC administrative functions. Dues-paying members should have received a letter about their work; if you did not, please contact Aaron Binderup at the Zen Center. Again, many thanks.

## Buddha's Enlightenment

*(Hit)*

*Shakyamuni Buddha sat the whole night through with no enlightenment. Do you believe that?*

*(Hit)*

*Next morning at dawn he looked up and saw the morning star and got great enlightenment. Do you believe that?*

*(Hit)*

*If you say no enlightenment, you wallow in Samsara. If you say enlightenment, you go straight to hell. What can you do?*

**KATZ!**

*Even the truest belief is a stake tethering a blind donkey to the ground.*

Thank you all for being here this morning. We gather here to celebrate Shakyamuni Buddha's great enlightenment, a solemn and joyous occasion. Oftentimes I think that we do fine with the solemnity but maybe not quite so well with the joy, and that's been on my mind lately for a variety of reasons.

A few weeks ago, I gave a talk and told a story that I had heard of a woman, a vipassana teacher who had an interesting encounter. She had been to a conference and was being driven to the airport afterwards on a bus. It was very early in the morning and all the other passengers were asleep. She was up front with the bus driver who was also very sleepy. In the interest of self-preservation she was engaging him in conversation. She found out he was from Pakistan and was a Muslim so they talked about practice for a while.

At some point in the conversation she asked the man about prayer and how he prays and what it means to him to pray. He said, "Oh, you have to pray like you've been dropped into the middle of the ocean and you don't know how to swim."

# Buddha's Enlightenment Week

## (Buddha's Enlightenment - continued)

I told that story in the course of my talk and also repeated something Dae Soen Sa Nim had once said; we have to practice as if we owed a million dollars and we don't have a cent. Mmmm, strong. Later on someone came to me, very disturbed, and said, "That's awful. I feel like I'm drowning. I feel like I'm being crushed by debt. What are you talking about? What is this teaching?" So we talked about it and I was able to reassure her about what I was trying to say, but it really made me think...how does this teaching come across, how are we perceived?

Around the same time, I watched a cop show on TV about a crime committed in a zen center. The police were investigating and it was fascinating to see how the zen students were portrayed. They were all very slender, austere, dour, humorless and very resentful that the police were intruding into their "spiritual practice." I thought, "Well, that's not the way zen is. I've never had the kind of experience with this practice or with anyone I've met in it. Where does that perception come from?"



One thing that occurred to me as I pondered was that none of us, or very few of us anyway, were born into this tradition. Dae Soen Sa Nim came to the United States in 1972 and more or less brought full-blown practice to us. We've been practicing for many years but it's not what we grew up with so the emotional response, for me, for example, is still grounded in my Catholic upbringing.

This became very clear to me when I went to Korea on the first Whole World is Single Flower trip. We spent one night in a very small temple, apparently that of a friend of Dae Soen Sa Nim's...a very small place. It was highly decorated with lanterns everywhere. Dae Soen Sa Nim gave a Dharma talk to the Korean Sangha there. I was sitting back a ways watching and was very moved by the scene, by the beauty of it. Even without understanding the language, I could see it was obvious the people loved Dae Soen Sa Nim and he was responding to it...lots of smiling and laughter. Watching from afar with another person, I was trying to explain why I was so moved, why

it seemed so familiar. Finally I realized it was because it reminded me of Christmas Eve at home.

In my family on Christmas Eve when we would go to bed, there would be no decorations, no tree, no presents, nothing. At midnight my parents would get us up and bring us all downstairs and say, "Look, Santa Claus came and see what he did." Pow, there it was in front of us. The tree had appeared, the presents had appeared, the decorations, the lights, everything was there all of a sudden. I treasure that memory, the simple childlike joy we felt going downstairs at midnight. Somehow, watching Dae Soen Sa Nim teach in Korea reminded me of that, created some sort of emotional echo of my earliest experience of magic and the spiritual.

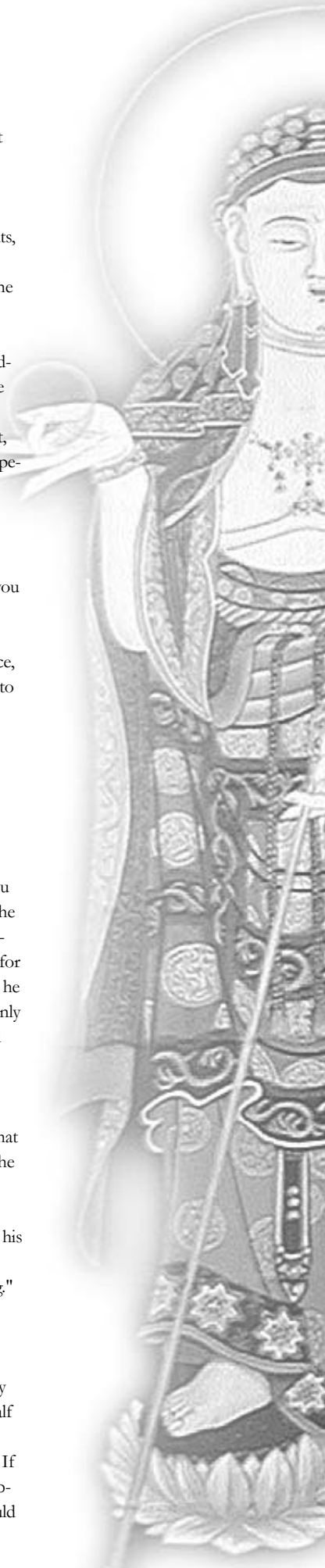
The same emotional resonance came to my mind last week while I was watching Dickens' A Christmas Carol...the 1950 version with Alastair Sim. Say what you will about his movie, it's one of my all-time favorites. I still cry every time I watch it. We see Scrooge, and he's just been through Hell. If you have any kind of practice, if you make any kind of ongoing, concentrated effort to look at yourself and to examine your mind, you see

**"Outside the door is the land  
of stillness and light."**

everything Scrooge was shown over that one night. You see your suffering, you see the suffering you cause all the beings around you through your anger, greed and ignorance. He saw it all in one night, bang, and is pleading for mercy by the end. But then there is the moment when he wakes up, Christmas morning. He wakes up and suddenly realized, "I'm still alive! I've still got a chance, I can still change." That's just such a great moment.

There is a line of Dae Soen Sa Nim's poetry, "Outside the door is the land of stillness and light." I think of that line when Scrooge throws open his window and sees the quiet street, London, Christmas morning, nobody's about, fresh snow, it's just pristine...he sees it as if for the first time. He's suffused with joy, joy in his life and his chance and his possibility. He begins dancing around, singing, "I don't know anything, I never knew anything." Then he stands on his head, terrorizing his maid, who thinks he's gone mad.

However, Scrooge doesn't remain simply joyful. His joy becomes sympathetic joy. His joy becomes joy on behalf of all the other beings he meets. His joy comes from them. If they are joyful, if they are happy, he is happy. If they are sad, he is sad. So it's very clear, there's no problem with anything he does after that. That's how I would



# Kzc Calendar

## Regular Practice Schedule

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**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 (kong-an interviews)  
Sunday 9:30 to 11:30 am, dharma talk at 11:00, beginner's introduction 9:00 am  
Wednesday 7:00 to 8:00 pm, 6:30 to 7:00 pm special chanting

**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 second Thursday of the month)

**Kansas City Zen Group** - Unity Church on the Plaza - 816.361.2584 (Greg)

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

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### Foundations of Zen Class - Open to the public

January 29, February 5, 12 and 19 - 7:00 - 8:00 pm. This is an introduction to Zen practice.  
Held at KZC and taught by Judy Roitman JDPSN and Dennis Duermeier JDPSN.  
The \$60 class fee includes the one-day February 16 retreat.

### Compass of Zen Class - For dharma teachers and teachers in training

February 3 & March 3 - 5:00 - 6:30 pm. This is a continuation of the class from fall 2001.  
You can start with any class. Held at KZC and taught by Judy Roitman JDPSN.  
For more information call 785.842.7010

### 4 Day Retreat with Judy Roitman JDPSN - January 2-6

Retreat at KZC begins at 6:30 pm January 2 ending 10:00 am January 6.

### Precepts Ceremony — January 6 - 11:00 am

Potluck lunch following the ceremony.

### Annual Meeting - January 26

At KZC. Meeting begins at 7:00 pm Saturday January 26.  
Preceded by a pot-luck dinner at 6:00 pm

### 1 Day Retreat with Dennis Duermeier JDPSN - February 16

Retreat at KZC begins at 6:00 am and ends at 4:00 pm

Please register for retreats at least five days before a retreat. Failure to do so will result in a \$10 late fee. Two-day retreats cost \$48 for dharma teachers and teachers in training, \$60 for members, and \$90 for non-members. Four-day retreats cost \$80 for dharma

teachers and teachers in training, \$120 for members and \$160 for non-members. To register send in the attached registration form or call 785.331.2274. For more information, call Rebecca at 785.478.3478 or email her at [otte@prodigy.net](mailto:otte@prodigy.net).

# Visit the Kzc Website

[www.kansaszencenter.org](http://www.kansaszencenter.org)

Please visit our website for the latest information about practice schedules, interviews, classes, retreats and upcoming events at the Kansas Zen Center, Prairyerth Zen Center, Kansas City Zen Group and Tall Grass Zen Center.

**kansas Zen center**

*"To pass through this gate,  
do not attach any thinking to the mind."*

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Welcome to the Kansas Zen Center. The Kansas Zen Center was founded in 1978 in Lawrence, Kansas and is affiliated with the Korean Uchi School of Zen Buddhism.

## Welcome

KZC members meet at 1423 New York Street for regular daily/weekly practice and frequent retreats. There are also satellite Zen centers in Topeka, Kansas City, and Manhattan.

The heart of the Korean Uchi School of Zen and the Kansas Zen Center is Zen practice. We invite you to practice with us.

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*"In the great work of life and death,  
time will not wait for you."*

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## Practice

**Regular Practice Schedule**

**Lawrence**  
Kansas Zen Center  
1423 New York St., Lawrence, KS 66044, 785.331.2274

Monday through Friday 6 to 7 am  
Saturday 6 to 8 am  
Sunday 9:30 to 11:30 am Dharma talk at 11, introduction for beginners at 9  
Wednesday special chanting 6:30 to 7 pm  
Wednesday 7 to 8 pm (long as interviews twice a month)

**Topeka**  
Prairyerth Zen Center, at the Ukrainian Unversalnt Fellowship  
4715 SW 21st Street, Topeka, KS 66619 (913) 471-3479 (913) 471-3479 (913) 471-3479 (913) 471-3479

Tuesday and Thursday 6 to 7 am  
Thursday 6:30 to 7:30 pm (long as interviews second Thursday of the month)

**Manhattan**  
Tall Grass Zen Center  
785.537.7855

**kansas Zen center**

*"If in this lifetime you do not open your mind,  
you cannot digest even one drop of water."*

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## Events

**Compass of Zen Class - For Dharma teachers and teachers in training**  
December 2, February 3, March 3, April 14, and May 3 - 100 - 6:30 pm  
This is a continuation of the class from last spring. You can start with any class. Held at KZC and taught by Judy Holman JDPFN.

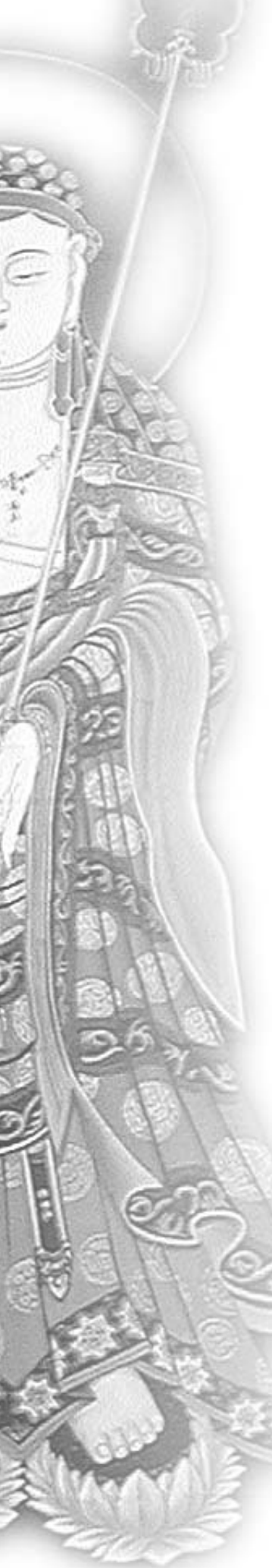
**Foundations of Zen Class - Open to the public**  
January 29, February 5, 12 and 19 - 7:00 - 8:00 pm.  
This is an introduction to Zen practice. Held at KZC.  
Taught by Judy Holman JDPFN and Dennis Duermeier JDPFN.  
The \$60 class fee includes the one-day February 16 retreat.

**4 Day Retreat with Judy Holman JDPFN**  
January 2 - 6  
The retreat begins at 6:30 PM January 2 and ends at 10:30 am on January 6. At KZC.

**Precept Ceremony**  
January 6 - 11:00 am  
Potluck lunch following the ceremony.

**Annual Meeting**  
January 26 - 7:00 PM  
Preceded by a potluck dinner at 6:00 PM

**1 Day Retreat with Dr. Dennis Duermeier JDPFN**  
February 16  
The retreat begins at 6:00 am and ends at 4:00 PM.



like us to approach practice. Anyone undertaking practice soon understands it's demanding. If you maintain it, you do have to look at yourself very closely and oftentimes that's not easy. But also there is a possibility. Joy, sympathetic joy, compassion can appear. Then you can enjoy your life. Then no problem.

Finally, one more story from the first Whole World is a Single Flower trip. Part of the experience was a week long tour by bus around South Korea visiting temples. It was a real whirlwind. Everyone on the bus, drive to a famous temple, see the famous Buddha, back on the bus, drive to the next temple, see the famous scripture, back on the bus, drive to the next temple, and so on. People were getting a little tired of the bus.

One morning, we were leaving a temple very early. The bus was in a parking lot below a tall wall. Behind the wall was a terrace upon which sat the temple proper. I was standing on the wall looking down on the bus, muttering and grumpy about the upcoming ride. Suddenly, behind me I heard someone calling. I turned around and saw a monk whom I had not seen before.

## “But I will remember that five minutes until the day I die...”

Since there was no one else about, apparently he was calling me. I walked over, a little uneasy, and bowed. Neither of us spoke the other's language. There was a seat beside him which he patted, so I sat down. He split an orange, gave me half, and we ate silently. Then I had to go; it was time to leave and get on the bus. We bowed again, smiled and I left and have never seen him since. But I will remember that five minutes until the day I die, because walking into his presence I was immersed in a peace and simple humanity that was palpable.

Something in me melted and felt "Ahhh, finally. It's okay, I'm who I am, he's who he is and we don't have to pretend anything to each other." It was, simply, a joy to sit beside him. It wasn't teaching in the sense we ordinarily think of it in terms of a Dharma talk or a kong-an interview, or anything like that. It was just the fruit of practice manifest in this world...something we can all share.

That's really our job as zen students, as inheritors of this lineage. So I hope, I encourage everyone to undertake your job in a joyful spirit so that your joy can become sympathetic joy. Then you can really feel happy for another person's good fortune without feeling that secret sense of envy that we all have. And you can also feel sad if someone else is sad without that little niggling satisfaction

in their misfortune. It's possible. We can all do it. Thank you very much.

*(Hit)*

*Shakyamuni sat down and vowed not to get up until...something.*

*(Hit)*

*That morning he got up.*

*(Hit)*

*So is this broken vow? Not broken vow?*

*KATZ!*

*Please find out. Thank you.*

Formal Dharma Speech given by Dennis Duermeier JDPSN at the Buddha's Enlightenment Day Ceremony at Providence Zen Center on 12/02/00

## KZC Notes

Please send both snail and e- address changes to Rebecca Otte, c/o the Kansas Zen Center. If you're not getting the newsletter or announcements, it's probably because we don't know where you are.

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

The annual meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. Saturday January 26 at the Zen Center, preceded by a potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m.. This is an important step in our reorganization process, and Zen Center members are encouraged to attend.

## 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.

Guiding Teacher: Judy Roitman JDPSN, 785.842.7010

Abbot: Dennis Duermeier JDPSN, 785.749.5744

Director: Rebecca Otte 785.478.3478