



South Wind

the Newsletter of the KansasZenCenter

October - December

Sangha Notes

Congratulations to Nan Loyd and Paul Leffingwell on their marriage July 27.

Condolences to Todd Wyant on the death of his father, Marion Wyant.

Thanks to the sangha for their special chanting for Cathy Preston and Clark La Fever during their illnesses.

Thanks to Betsy Forcade for her Feng Shui consultation and report on the KZC Dharma room.

Many thanks to Jan Schaake, Steve Stevenson, and all for repainting the house foyer and stairway... it looks fabulous! Also thanks to all who contributed money to the project.

Loretta Pyles has recently resigned from the Board of Directors. Loretta, thanks for all your years of dedication to the KZC board.

Bon Voyage to Judy Roitman, Stan Lombardo, Liatris Studer, Fiona Yap, and Dennis Dueremier, for their upcoming trip to the Whole World's a Single Flower conference... have a wonderful trip.

Congratulations to Liatris Studer and Fiona Yap for taking 10 precepts and to Daniel Swint for taking 5 precepts.

A special

9-11 49-day memorial ceremony was held at KZC September 11.

Many thanks to Margaret Mara and Christina Hauck for organizing the KZC yard clean-up.

Welcome back to Steve Stevenson who recently moved into the Zen Center.

The sixth kong-an of "The Whole World is a Single Flower"

"The Lotus Sutra says that all dharmas come from complete stillness. If you just go straight practicing you have already arrived at Buddha's Hall."

This is the sixth kong-an in Dae Soen Sa Nim's contemporary compilation *The Whole World is a Single Flower*. If we pay attention to this kong-an it can heal us: complete stillness is always with us; sincere practice is always available; Buddha's Hall is our home. But if we hold onto it too tightly, like everything else it becomes just another dead thing.

"The world is already complete stillness. Then where do the sun, moon, and stars come from?"

A word about the Lotus Sutra. It's the sutra most closely associated with both Tien-Tai Buddhism (a philosophical branch of Buddhism blending many practices together) and Nichiren (which takes chanting the Chinese or Japanese name of the Lotus Sutra as its major practice). When I started practicing I thought of Zen as very pure, having nothing to do with such practices or such sutras. But why make such distinctions? A chapter from the Lotus Sutra (the one about the miraculous saving power of the bodhisattva of compassion) is chanted by Japanese Zen groups. And here we have a kong-an taken from this sutra.

Dae Soen Sa Nim asks three questions. The first is: "The world is already complete stillness. Then where do the sun, moon, and stars come from?" The second is: "What does 'just go straight practicing' mean?" The third is: "What is Buddha's Hall?"

the Sixth Kong-an

Kong-an (continued)

The sixth kong-an of "The Whole World is a Single Flower"

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Maybe our life is falling apart. Whose doesn't at some time or another? Maybe we're more than a little crazy right now. Who isn't now and then? But this world is already complete stillness. Can we perceive this?

This world is already complete stillness, but if you look at the sky you see the sun, moon, and stars. If you look in your heart and mind you may see trouble or you may see happiness. Where did all of this come from? What is its substance? And the stillness itself - what is its origin? its substance? What is the relationship between this stillness and our lives? This is very important. Don't get stuck anywhere.

Everyone who practices knows what "just go straight practicing" means, I guarantee this. Not everyone knows they know it, but everyone does. But our minds get so complicated! We're a mass of problems and solutions and dreams and fears and ifs and oughts and should haves and shouldn't haves. We obsess, we space out, we scatter ourselves in 100 directions at once. We don't believe in ourselves, so we deny what we already know. Zen may not be easy, but it's very very simple. Just go straight practicing, that's all.

Every large temple complex has several halls. Maybe there's a sutra hall and a meditation hall and a Buddha hall. We only have a dharma room and an interview room, so what does Buddha's Hall have to do with us? Buddha's Hall may seem esoteric, but stay with it. This is at the heart of all Buddhist teaching. Can we recognize Buddha's Hall? Can we live there? Everything that has gone before points to this question, and this question points to everything that has gone before.

Then there is Dae Soen Sa Nim's commentary:

The Bible says God made everything. Buddhism says mind made everything. Philosophers say consciousness made every-

Dennis Duermeier JDPSN to take leave of absence

Dennis Duermeier, JDPSN, is taking an indefinite leave of absence from teaching at the Kansas Zen Center in Lawrence. I will miss his strong and clear presence.

He will continue to teach at the KZC in Kansas City and in Florida.

Dennis has had an enormous impact on the Kansas Zen Center. About 20 years ago it was largely Dennis' idea to make it a true residential Zen center. So six people - Dennis, his first wife Carol, my husband Stan Lombardo and me, Jim Binger (now the monk Dae Kwang Su Nim, abbot of the Kwan Um School of Zen), and Frank Norman - bought 1115 Ohio. The Zen Center moved from practice in strange places (like above Jennings Daylight Donuts on Massachusetts Street) to strong, regular practice with a remarkable group of people.

Four of those original residents eventually got inka, and two of them are now Zen masters. This is a rare thing to have happened among six people so far from any major centers of Zen practice. I know of no similar place where anything like this has happened - and Dennis' energy had a lot to do with it.

As Dennis' family grew, people moved out and 1115 Ohio became the Duermeier family home, but it still remained the Kansas Zen Center for a number of years. Raising three kids with people - often strangers - constantly coming into your home for Zen practice cannot have been easy, and I am grateful to Dennis and his family for hosting the Zen center for so long.

One of the great pleasures of practicing for a long time with people is to see them grow in their practice and, in Dennis' case, in his teaching. I was privileged to be able to sit two days of the recent 5 day retreat in July that Dennis led. He is a wonderful teacher, and I will miss his teaching in Lawrence. It is always a pleasure to learn from him. It has been an honor to have him as a co-teacher, and I will be happy for him to return whenever he wishes.

I encourage anyone who has any questions to talk to Dennis; he has told me that he will be happy to do this. Meanwhile, he is still teaching in Kansas City, and will be available for interviews there.

Judy Roitman, JDPSN

www.kansaszencenter.org
info@www.kansaszencenter.org

Kzc Calendar~ Check the Kzc website for most current schedule

Regular Practice Schedule

There will be no interviews from October 1-13 due to WWSF conference travel.

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 7:00 to 8:00 pm, (kong-an interviews 2nd Wednesday of each month)
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 first 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

Whole World is a Single Flower Conference - October 5-6 Kye Ryong Sahn, Korea

2 Day Retreat with Judy Roitman JDPSN - November 15-17

Retreat at KZC begins at 6:30 pm November 15 and ends at 12:00 pm November 17.

Compass of Zen Class - For anyone having taken 5 precepts.

Classes are after practice Sunday November 3 and Sunday December 1. Held at KZC and taught by Judy Roitman JDPSN. For more information call 785.842.7010 or email info@kansaszencenter.org

Public Dharma Talk in Lawrence - To Be Announced

Judy Roitman JDPSN will give a public dharma talk. Please check our website for time & date.

Buddha's Enlightenment Week - December 9 - 15

Morning practice will be from 5:00 am to 7:00 am Monday-Friday with late entry at 6:00 am. There will be a short kido from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm Friday, December 13. A Buddha's Enlightenment Day ceremony will be at 11:00 am on Sunday December 15. Zen Master Dae Kwang will visit.

5 Day Retreat with Judy Roitman JDPSN - January 7-12

Retreat at KZC begins at 6:30 pm January 7 and ends at 10:30 am January 12.

Precepts Ceremony - January 12

11:00 am at KZC. There will be a potluck lunch following the ceremony.

(If you want to take precepts, please contact Judy Roitman by December 15)

Please register for retreats at least five days before a retreat. There is a \$10 late fee. 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. Two-day retreats cost \$68 for dharma teachers and teachers in training, \$80 for members, and \$110 for non-members. Five-day retreats cost \$170 for dharma teachers and teachers in training, \$200 for members and \$275 for non-members. To register send in the attached registration form or call

785.331.2274. You can also register via the KZC website at www.kansaszencenter.org

No one will be turned away for lack of funds. Scholarships or work exchanges can be arranged with the teacher leading the retreat. If you can not sit and entire retreat as scheduled, please talk to the retreat teacher to make arrangements. For more information, call Betsy or Tim at 785.843.1605 or email us at info@kansaszencenter.org