



### Sangha Notes

- Condolences to Steve Olson on the death of his mother. And we mourn our friend and neighbor Hal Sears, one of the original members of the group of Zen practitioners that became the Kansas Zen Center.
- Congratulations to Tom Davis for his new job with the FDIC in Dallas. He gets the prize for longest commute to the Kansas Zen Center.
- Congratulations to Won Jin Jin for his new job as an aeronautical engineer in Daejon, Korea, too far to commute to the KZC. His helpful presence is greatly missed.
- Work on the yard restoration continues. We had two official workdays, a number of smaller unofficial ones, and many more times when one or two or three people showed up to work on a major (or minor) project.
- Workday participants include Charles Vitale, Jane Gnojek, Larry Miglionico, Rita Sooby, Wonjin Jin, Wenda Davis, Edna Baginsky, Bill Bunn, Blake Wilson, Steve Olson, Stan Lombardo, Judy Roitman, Andrew Clark, one of the neighborhood kids and a martial arts student (whose names we didn't write down, apologies and thanks). Andrew, Blake and Stan built the new stone wall. Ben Graham, helped by Stan, built the beautiful new fence for the gate and renovated and installed the Zen Center sign. Ben built and Stan paid for the new sidewalk. Stan and Rita spread mulch. Charlie, Stan, Judy, Edna, and Jane did addition planting. Larry continues his excellent care of the pond.

### A Man of Great Strength

*Stan Lombardo (Zen Master Hae Kwang)*

The Mu Mun Kwan is the classic collection of 48 kong-ans compiled by the Chinese monk Mu Mun in 1228. Here is the twentieth case, "A Man of Great Strength."

Master Song Weon said, "Why is it that a man of great strength cannot lift his leg?"  
Again he said, "It is not with his tongue that he speaks."

Kong-ans have a way of throwing us off balance, and as such are useful training for the difficult situations we face in life. When we are challenged, can we keep our feet beneath us and our wits intact? This was one of the first kong-ans I was given to work on. Being a rational person, my initial approach was to find a reason why a strong man could not lift his leg. Maybe it's stuck in a crevasse, maybe he has had it amputated, maybe he's been drugged. Our minds can come up with an inexhaustible supply of plausible scenarios. But plausible scenarios, as I soon learned when I presented them to my teacher during an interview, are not the point in kong-an practice any more than they are in the rest of our life. The point, always, is to go to the heart of the truth, and then, as my teacher used to say long before it became a Nike slogan, just do it.

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### KANSAS ZEN CENTER

The Kansas Zen Center is a nonprofit organization founded in 1978 in Lawrence, KS. KZC is affiliated with the Kwan Um School of Zen, an international organization with more than 60 centers and groups. The Kwan Um School was founded by Zen Master Seung Sahn, the first Korean Zen Master to live and teach in the West

### MAKING A DONATION

Donations 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. A receipt that may be used for tax purposes will be mailed back to you. Thank you for all your support!

### BECOMING A KZC MEMBER

Becoming a member of the Kansas Zen Center also makes you a member of the Kwan Um School of Zen. KZC Membership is \$25/month for individuals and \$35/month for families. Membership dues help support your Center, the School and the transmission of Zen teaching.

Members receive the KZC newsletter, the Kwan Um School newsletter, Primary Point magazine and discounts on retreat fees, and they have the right to vote in the annual election of officers and board members. For more information on becoming a member, please visit our web site at [www.kansaszencenter.org](http://www.kansaszencenter.org).

(Sangha Notes continued)

- Way back in the winter, Rita, Stan, Larry, Judy, and Wonjin shoveled snow. Kurt Baucom of Sunrise Garden Center and David Douglas of Douglas Lawn Care have done much of the paid work and have generously shared their wisdom. And Charlie deserves special thanks as our yard czar.
- Thanks also to Larry, Jane, Charlie, Bill, and Rita for quietly taking care of the house and the dharma room in so many ways.
- There have been some changes in board responsibilities. Edna Baginsky became recording secretary after Tom's move to Dallas (he remains on the board as a member-at-large), and Blake Wilson is our communications guru, relieving Jane Gnojek, who was doing communications on top of being treasurer. Thanks to Tom and Jane, and to Edna and Blake, for their excellent work.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:  
[kansaszencenter.org](http://kansaszencenter.org)**

*Great Strength* continued from page 1)

As the title of this kong-an collection suggests (Mu Mun Kwan means No Gate Barrier), there is nothing here that obstructs our free and correct activity. Song Weon may be telling us as much when he says, "It is not with his tongue that he speaks." So what can you say, what can you do?

Mu Mun adds a poem to the statement of the case:

*Lifting his leg he crushes the Scented Ocean.  
Lowering his head, he looks down on the Four Dhyana Heavens.  
There is no place to put this gigantic body.  
You please add another line.*

Is Mu Mun leading us on a wild goose chase with his talk of the Scented Ocean and the Four Dhyana Heavens? In the Avatamsaka Sutra our cosmos floats in the Scented Ocean, the sea of consciousness; the Four Dhyana Heavens are successive realms of liberation achieved through meditation ("dhyana" is the Sanskrit word from which "zen" derives). What do these abstruse and fantastic notions have to do with ordinary Zen practice, with the practicalities of how we lead everyday lives of compassion? Perhaps everything. As it says in our Temple Rules,

*If you break the wall of your self  
You can become infinite in time and space.*

Without that kind of vast mind, that kind of gigantic reach, how could we ever fulfill the First Vow? Sentient beings are numberless. We vow to save them all. Yes, we have to proceed one step at a time and always in this present moment, with whatever presents itself and with whomever. But we have to do this with a mind that is no less open and interconnected than the universe itself. We all know this in our hearts; we all sense the infinite within us. So we have to cultivate that kind of awareness as well. Mu Mun points us in that direction, and then he invites us to write the last line of the poem. How will you finish his poem?

## Upcoming Events

SATURDAY JULY 24,  
6 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., 1 Day Retreat and Workshop led by Guiding Teacher Judy Roitman JDPSN, and Stan Lombardo (Zen Master Hae Kwang). Meals will be provided. Participants must attend the entire day.

THURSDAYS AUG. 26<sup>TH</sup> AND SEPT. 2  
7 p.m., Foundations of Zen Class.  
Taught by Stan Lombardo (Zen Master Hae Kwang). \$20 for both parts.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 11  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 1 Day Retreat, orientation for beginners at 8:30 a.m. Led by Stan Lombardo (Zen Master Hae Kwang). For all levels of practitioners. Participants in the Foundations of Zen class get a \$10 discount on fees.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>  
6:30pm through Sunday November 21<sup>st</sup>, noon, 2 Day Retreat Led by Guiding Teacher Judy Roitman, JDPSN.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 12  
10:30 a.m. Buddha's Enlightenment Day Ceremony. Luncheon following.

TUESDAY JANUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>  
6:30PM TO SUNDAY JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>, NOON, 5 Day Retreat.

All events are at the Zen Center  
1423 New York Street, Lawrence Kansas

Please visit [kansaszencenter.org](http://kansaszencenter.org) for information on retreat fees.

## Practice Schedule

KANSAS ZEN CENTER  
1423 New York St., Lawrence, KS 66044  
[infor@kansaszencenter.org](mailto:infor@kansaszencenter.org)

### SUNDAY

Beginner's orientation 9:00 a.m.  
Morning practice 9:30-11:30 a.m.  
Dharma talk 11:00 a.m.

### WEDNESDAY

Special chanting at 6:30 p.m.  
Evening practice 7:00-8:00 p.m.

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY  
Morning practice 6:00-7:00 a.m.

### SATURDAY

Morning practice 6:30-8:00 a.m.

Kong-an interviews are the second Wednesday and fourth Sunday of every month.

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KANSAS CITY ZEN GROUP  
Unity Temple on the Plaza  
(816) 459-3129 [info@kansaszencenter.org](mailto:info@kansaszencenter.org)

### TUESDAY

Evening practice 7:00-8:00 p.m.  
Kong-an interviews are the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
Introduction to Zen class 7:00 Contact Charlie Vitale at [csonv1@msn.com](mailto:csonv1@msn.com) or (816) 679-0046 to pre-register for this class.