



## **ZRS Quarterly Newsletter**

Vol. 3 March 2018

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### **President Greeting**

*Liaoran Tess Grey, Current Board President*

Dear Sangha family and friends,

It may seem difficult to believe, but we are reaching the end of the true depths of another strange Wisconsin winter. Before we know it, spring will be upon us, with all of its slightly muddy splendor.

As the outside world becomes a little more welcoming, our lives all tend to get more busy and full. We shake off the mild hibernation of the winter and find our evenings and weekends full of activities, family get-togethers, sporting events, and time spent in our yards and gardens. This is a beautiful thing and a season of renewal--for me, things start to feel a little more possible in spring than they tend to feel in the chill of January or February.

As I get pulled in more directions all the time due to the weather, personal commitments, and social opportunities, I find it helpful to set aside time every day to consider my meditation practice. It is altogether too easy for me to get "caught up" and neglect it if I don't! Without a doubt, the keystone of my personal practice is involvement at the zendo and attendance at services--seeing all of your wonderful faces and being reminded of the treasure of sangha is a very precious thing. If you find yourself feeling overwhelmed or struggling to drop into Clear Deep Heart/Mind this spring, consider stopping by

for a service, yoga class, or other Zen River programming opportunity.

Enjoy the spring--a particularly lovely reminder of impermanence!

Liaoran Tess Grey

### **Sharing the Dharma**

*Taiso Hannya Byran Bartow Roshi,  
ZRS Head Priest*

Celebrating This Sangha

The three refuges or jewels of Zen Buddhism are Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha. In our service we have a slightly more poetic reflection of these. These are differentiated in communication and may be best understood as interdependent facets of complete Buddhist practice. Our practice is a manifestation of the Buddha's awakening. And not just the Buddha, this practice in this time continues the practice of those who have come before. So in this way the ancestors' practice is present with us, and we recognize this by lighting the ancestor candle during our service and talks.

Traditionally, sangha was the community of nuns or monks who practiced together. In interdependence, sangha encompasses a broader community... ultimately all being. Zen River Sangha continues the practice of our founders, Vicara, Manju, and Daruma. And they were continuing the practice of Junpo, who is continuing the practice of Eido, and so on. We are blessed by the support of all who practice.

As a sangha, each of us contributes in many ways. Buddha nature is manifest in this sangha relation. Practicing, this sangha honors the generosity and practice of our ancestors and benefactors. We can offer gratitude to this entire sangha relation in taking refuge.

Reishin's practice is continually manifest in Zen River Sangha through the generosity which gives a home for practice at 2989 Spencer St. in Appleton. And we have a dharma friend in Kensho, a Hollow Bones Priest, from the Denver/Boulder area. Kensho, an unseen sangha member has made very generous contributions which have helped to make it possible for us to have this home for our community. Kensho will visit during the first week on May.

Here, together we have made a home for practice, through the generosity of everyone. Our financial contributions and our commitment to practice--including work practice in all forms--are melded in this sangha relation. Our motto continues to be: "Your presence is your most important contribution."

We will hold a half-day sit on May 5 and conclude with a ceremony that honors the founders and all contributions that manifest in this sangha--Zen River. Of course this includes you, and there is a seat for you if you can join us.

I want to conclude with a moment of reflection on the passing of Junpo's teacher and the founder of our root monastery, Dai Bosatsu Zendo of the Zen Studies Society, where Junpo received formal Zen training. Just following this is a note from Shingei Roshi on the passing of Eido Shimano.

Blessings,  
Taiso

*Dear Zen Studies Society Sangha,*

*With a heavy heart I must inform you of the sad news of the passing of Ven. Eido T. Shimano Roshi, while he was in Japan. Early this morning I received a telephone call from Fujin-san Formhals. She said that at Shogen-ji Junior College, in Gifu, he had delivered a teisho on Dogen's Life-Death that she felt was the best teisho she had ever heard him give.*

*Some time ago, Eido Roshi had asked that Sogen Yamakawa Roshi, abbot of Shogen-ji, conduct his*

*funeral service in Japan. There are still many details to be arranged. We will keep you informed once we know the arrangements for the service there and at Dai Bosatsu Zendo.*

*Let True Dharma Continue!*

*Gassho,  
Shinge Roko Sherry Chayat Roshi, Abbot*

### **ZRS Board Updates**

*Liaoran Tess Grey, President*

*Kai Hui Jill Buckmaster, Treasurer*

*Jian Zhi Peter Tolly, Secretary*

The Zen River Board of Directors is pleased to take this opportunity to give a short update on recent activities and current projects. We appreciate the publication of this newsletter, which is an outgrowth of our new committee structure and only possible with the volunteer work of those on the newsletter committee.

Other committees include Zendo Cleaning, Zendo Opening, and Building & Grounds. The committees would appreciate volunteer assistance, so please check out the "Committees" page on the website for more information.

### **A message from your treasurer**

For those of you that are curious about how things are going financially, quarterly financial reports, as well as a 3-year comparison of our monthly average regular income and expenses, are posted on the ZRS bulletin board.

### **Sangha in Action**

*Activities and Opportunities at ZRS*

### **ZRS Rummage Sale April 28**

Are you looking to clear out your attic, basement, or closets of gently used items that others could benefit from?

We are looking for your donation of clothes, furniture, books, household items and knick knacks for our first annual rummage sale and fundraiser for the sangha. It

will be part of the larger Annual Irish Road Neighborhood Rummage Sale.

Please contact Jill or Renee if you have items to donate or if you would like to help with setting up Friday evening and selling Saturday during the day.

*You can also come to shop!  
Fieldcrest Drive, Fox Crossing (Jill & Bill's House).*

Contact Jill [treasurer@zenriver.org](mailto:treasurer@zenriver.org) or Renee [myoshin@zenriver.org](mailto:myoshin@zenriver.org) if you have items to donate. All proceeds to be donated to ZRS.

### **Henna Fun and Thanks!**

By Myoshin



Thank you to Annie Quick-Laughlin for offering her home for our Henna Event in December. We had a great time visiting, learning the ancient art of Henna and experimenting with our newfound skills on each other. What a great opportunity to connect with members of the Sangha and their family.

If you have an event idea, class or practice request please feel free to contact any or our priests in the contact information at the end of the newsletter or Myoshin-Renee [myoshin@zenriver.org](mailto:myoshin@zenriver.org)

### **Sangha Expressions**

*Experiences, Poetry and Prose from ZRS  
Family and Friends*

#### **Wave-play**

**By Jian Zhi**

The way the world warps  
on the slope of a breaker—

the movement of moon  
through matter

unstoppable by the mind's  
graph paper:

only the bob of faces  
on the surface will suffice.

#### **Wang Wei**

**Submitted by Liaoran**

We like our poems in Zen, so I'll offer a piece by Wang Wei that I read the other day, perfect for this new season:

*Dear flat rock  
facing the stream  
Where the willows are sweeping  
over my wine cup again  
If you say that the spring wind  
has no understanding  
Why should it come blowing me  
these falling flowers?*

### **Events at ZRS**

**2nd and 4th Wednesdays** - 6 p.m. Men's Deeper Truth; closed meeting.

**Mar. 23 Friday** - Women's Native American Healing Talking Circle. Closed Circle but welcoming to women who need healing in a safe and open environment. 5 pm potluck and 6 pm circle. Please contact Renee Taylor if you are interested in attending. [Myoshin@zenriver.org](mailto:Myoshin@zenriver.org) or 920-749-1945

**Mar. 25 Sunday** - Fall Yoga with Denise Leong, CYT, RYT 9 a.m. Gentle Beginner Class, and 10:30 Intermediate Class, Multi-Style Hatha. Contact Denise at [reishin@zenriver.org](mailto:reishin@zenriver.org) for future dates

**May 5 Saturday** - ZRS Half day sit. Stay after the regular 7:30 am sit for extended practice and a ceremony of gratitude for our benefactors. For more information contact Liaoran.

### **Events beyond ZRS**

#### ***Hollow Bones Upcoming Events***

**15-Mar-2018** - Zen with Len- Anxiety to JOY Retreat -led by Rev. Kensho Len Silverston - Castle Rock, CO - March 15-18, 2018

**25-Mar-2018** - Hollow Bones - 90-Day Mondo Zen Transmission Online with Jun Po March 2018

**05-Apr-2018** - MKP - 4-Day Integral Mondo Zen Retreat - Yokoji Zen Mountain Center, CA - April 5-8, 2018

**29-Apr-2018** - Integral Zen - 8-Day Illuminating Zen Retreat - Batavia, NY - April 29-May 6, 2018

**08-May-2018** - Hollow Bones - Mondo Zen Teacher Training - led by Jun Po Roshi - Green Lake, WI - May 8-13, 2018

**18-May-2018** - Green Tara Sangha - Week-end Zen Meditation Retreat - De Pere, Wisconsin - May 18-20, 2018

**09-Jun-2018** - Hollow Bones - Silent Zen Sesshin - led by Jun Po Roshi - Dai Bosatsu Zendo, NY - June 9-16, 2018

#### **\*Visit our Sister Sangha - Green Tara**

Green Bay – Bay Area Yoga Center  
2020 S. Webster Avenue  
Sunday: 7:30 to 9 a.m.

Thursday: 7:10 to 8:10 p.m.

Saturday: 7:30 to 8:10 a.m.

Contact John at 920-562-9727

### **Getting Connected**

#### **Connect with us Online**

<https://www.facebook.com/ZenRiverSangha/>

<https://twitter.com/ZenRiverSangha>

<https://www.meetup.com/Zen-River-Sangha/>

#### **Get Involved by Joining one of our Committees**

Email [info@zenriver.org](mailto:info@zenriver.org) or reach out directly:

- ❖ Building & Grounds - Manju
- ❖ Zendo Cleaning - Reishin
- ❖ Zendo Opening - Myoshin
- ❖ Newsletter - Jian Zhi
- ❖ Fundraising & Community Outreach - Liaoran

#### **Supplies We could Use**

- Tea candles
- Tea (various flavors)
- Coffee
- Napkins
- Paper towel
- Toilet paper
- Creamer
- Sugar
- Environmentally friendly cleaning products
- Other items for donation, please contact Liaoran at [info@zenriver.org](mailto:info@zenriver.org)

#### **Zen River Teachers**

Taiso Hannya Byran Bartow Roshi  
Reishin Dai Nei Denise Leong  
Manju Usra Bill Frackelton  
Liaoran Bo Re Tess Grey

#### **Board of Directors**

Liaoran, President  
Jian Zhi, Secretary  
Kai Hui, Treasurer

#### **Join Us**

Weekly Services:

Thursday evening 6:30-8:30 pm

Saturday morning 7:30-9:30 am

Zen River Sangha | 2989 W. Spencer St. Appleton,  
WI 54914 | Lincoln Parkway Mall  
Contact: [Zenriver.org](http://Zenriver.org) | [info@zenriver.org](mailto:info@zenriver.org)