



1967-
2007

Water Wheel

Being one with all Buddhas, I turn the water wheel of compassion.
—Gate of Sweet Nectar

Zen Center of Los Angeles / Buddha Essence Temple

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JULY/AUG 2007

Old Spring, New Water

By Roshi Wendy Egyoku Nakao

A new Zen teacher has gushed forth from the old spring of the Buddha Ancestors. On June 16, 2007, Kipp Ryodo Hawley received Dharma Transmission from me, marking his passage as a fully empowered Zen teacher in the White Plum lineage.

During the week of the birthing, a hummingbird has been nesting high up in a redwood tree outside my living room window. Her nest is so well situated and protected by tree branches that it can only be seen from inside the house. This tiny nest, so carefully constructed with soft plants, sits firmly out of harms way near the tip of a redwood shoot, swaying gently in the breezes.

Day after day, I have watched in awe as the tiny beaks and heads of two baby birds emerge above the nest's rim. I have marveled at the constant, one-pointed efforts of the mother bird—flying to the flowers in our garden, drawing nectar, darting for insects, and returning and feeding, without pause.

Each time I see the tiny beaks open to receive, a swelling of gratitude swells up in me—isn't it so that I myself have been nurtured and fed and given everything needed to fulfill this life? Maezumi Roshi was fond of saying, "My life only exists because of the life of all of you." This is true for everyone. When did we learn how *not* to receive?

During this time of hummingbird birthing, Ryodo embarked on an intensive week of practice, much of it devoted to bowing to the lineage. The teacher also enters into the practice by creating and holding this intimate and timeless vessel for the successor. Sensei Ryodo has now stepped into a larger sphere—the arena of learning how to share the Dharma with others; how to continue letting go of his reference points; how to lead and follow; how to revere and serve the Three Treasures; how to offer continuous gratitude for life itself.



A thousand flowers bloom upon the empty seat.

Dharma transmission is not about accomplishments. It is stepping into a broader sphere where these practices must be continuously engaged with a clear mind and open heart in the service of others. In Zen, our so-called accomplishments—if, indeed, there are any—are merely a step in the journey of nobody going nowhere, serving every one with all our hearts, with all our love, and with all our might. Sensei Ryodo's twenty-seven-year journey has led him home.

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At the time of my own Dharma transmission, I was barely scratching the surface of my Dharma potential. And just as I practice continuously and have had the good fortune of witnessing the unceasing practice of my root teacher, Maezumi Roshi, and my Dharma Transmission teacher, Roshi Bernie, Sensei Ryodo's continuous practice is what matters. His potential has ripened; the entrustment completed—let the unfolding begin. May he enjoy many years of traceless service in the Buddha-dharma.

The Dharma Transmission ceremony is not one of secrecy, but rather a deeply private and intimate face-to-face moment between buddha and buddha, between ancestor and ancestor, between student and teacher. This moment of entrustment takes place in the womb of the Buddha Ancestors. Lest this sound too esoteric, let it be said that the Dharma Transmission is a simple communication between two people in the most ordinary of circumstances.

Dogen Zenji said, "An auspicious flower has ten million petals; bearing fruit depends on conditions." Whether one's life includes receiving and giving Dharma transmission is dependent on causes and conditions. It takes place outside space and time, yet is concretely manifested in space and time. We do not practice with a goal of receiving transmission—nothing is guaranteed. And yet, for those who have clarified the Great Matter of Life and Death and cannot help but live in this way, devoting one's life to serving others in the Dharma is the most natural activity.

As of this writing, the baby hummingbirds have not yet left the confines of their tiny nest. Throughout Zen history, disciples have gone forth to disappear into life before re-emerging to share the Dharma. At year's end, Sensei Ryodo will leave the nest of Normandie Mountain and devote time to his family and learn to flap his wings. As he has often shared, his devotion to his family and being with the Sangha, not to mention the demands of his work life, make him feel that he has not been able to adequately serve any of them fully. While we can all understand how he might feel this way, the fact is that Sensei Ryodo, a devoted lay practitioner for twenty-seven years, has been remarkably steadfast and sincere in his devotion to these key facets of his life.

The nest leaving is also important for the Sangha and for me. Not only does the new Sensei need to learn to fly on his own, but the Sangha now turns to the task of building a new nest. And the teacher needs to once again become new water in the old spring. This separation allows for teacher and successor alike to continue to plumb the depths of dharma, relinquishing reference points, and learning to serve and speak, not the elegant rhetoric of Zen, but from their living experience of Buddhadharma.



From left: New teacher, Sensei Kipp Ryodo Hanley after Dharma Transmission ceremony from Roshi Egyoku on June 16, 2007, with Roshi and Sensei Merle Kodo Boyd.

Sensei Ryodo was given the Dharma Transmission-name "Solitary-Heart." This name is not intended as a mere ceremonial name, but rather expresses an essence of his being that I would like to see him grow into—the all-one buddha heart that serves wave upon wave, leaving no traces. It is a name to ponder, inform, and inspire.

Sensei Ryodo has chosen to live his life as a lay person. As I often say to you, I work with whoever shows up to do the work—lay practitioner, priest, whatever role supports your aspiration to wake up. Although waking up takes place in the midst of the circumstances of your life, it is not dependent on circumstances. Let us not focus on the clothing. Although each style has its unique flavor and functioning, please remember that the style is not the most important thing. What matters is that you plunge 100 percent, holding nothing back, into awake living in the style of the buddha ancestors, however that manifests for you.

We may ask, "What is transmitted?" Truly, nothing is. And yet in the moment of awakening and in the moment of birthing in the Buddha's womb, a new buddha is born—with entirely new eyes, mouth, hands, heart, and guts. The lineage is you—the buddha ancestors are you yourself. To transmit this is intimate recognition of what life is. It is taking place all the time, everywhere, between you and you, others and you, and you and others.

Today I offer deep bows to the buddha ancestors and express my gratitude for the gifts of Dharma bestowed upon us all. I especially express my gratitude to Maezumi Roshi and Roshi Bernie Glassman for being new springs gushing forth old waters and the endless nourishment they provide. Prajna paramita! ■

Roshi Egyoku Nakao is the abbot and head teacher of ZCLA.

Proclamation for ZCLA 40th Anniversary

City of Los Angeles, State of California

May 19, 2007

Editor's Note: We were honored by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa with a proclamation in recognition of ZCLA's 40 years of accomplishments. The beautiful original document is now being framed and will be hung in the Sangha House for all to enjoy.

Whereas the Zen Center of Los Angeles / Buddha Essence Temple (Busshinji), was founded by the Venerable Baian Hakujun Daiosho and the Venerable Taizan Maezumi Roshi in the year 1967 in Los Angeles, and whereas;

Maezumi Roshi was a seminal figure in the establishment and spread of Zen Buddhism in the Western Hemisphere, and whereas;

The Zen Center is the spiritual base of the White Plum Lineage from which leaders emerged to establish Zen Centers throughout the United States, Europe, Mexico, and South America, and whereas;

The Zen Center founded The Kuroda Institute for the Study of Buddhism and Human Values which brought together leading American Buddhist scholars and has published major scholarly works on Buddhism for Western practitioners, and whereas;

The Zen Center, since its founding, has maintained open doors to all peoples, locally and internationally, for the study, practice, and transmission of Zen Buddhism, and whereas;

The Zen Center has a unique residential Zen Buddhist training program called Normandie Mountain for priests and lay people to live together in community, and whereas;

The Zen Center has served the greater community of Southern California through meditation programs in its jails and prisons, and has served its local neighborhood through donations to, and participation with, neighborhood food banks, and whereas;

The Zen Center has provided instruction in Zen Buddhism and meditation for visiting classes from Departments of Religious Studies in local colleges and universities, and other educational and cultural programs, and whereas;

The Zen Center has engaged in ecumenical dialogues

and interfaith retreats in the City of Los Angeles, and whereas;

The Zen Center has directed its energies to promote peace and non-violence as a way of life for its members, their families and their extended communities, and its surrounding environment in the City of Los Angeles, and whereas;

The Zen Center has actively pursued a course of environmental responsibility through the education of its members and its own operations, and whereas;

The Zen Center has established an organizational model of shared stewarding that is dedicated to the principles and practices of individual and collective wisdom and compassion, and whereas;

The Zen Center has as its mission an enlightened world in which suffering is transcended, all beings live in harmony, everyone has enough, deep wisdom is realized, and compassion flows unhindered, and therefore;

Now, therefore, I, ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA, Mayor of the City of Los Angeles, on behalf of its residents, do hereby recognize the ZEN CENTER OF LOS ANGELES / BUDDHA ESSENCE TEMPLE on its 40th Anniversary in recognition of its service to the City of Los Angeles.



As part of the 40th Anniversary events, a memorial service for ZCLA founders Baian Hakujun Daiosho and Venerable Taizan Maezumi Roshi was held in the garden. Officiated by Roshi Junryo Kuroda, son and brother of the Founders, the service was attended by Soto Shu dignitaries, White Plum teachers, and the Sangha.

Zen Programs On Normandie Mountain

You will find the latest program information at our new website www.zencenter.org. Please check it regularly. See our website calendar for the detailed daily program schedule. Program details and updates are also sent by email through [ProgramFlash](#).

 **Please register in advance.** Contact the office at info@zcla.org to register.

The **Dharma Training Fund (DTF)**. Through the generosity of the Sangha, the DTF is available to all Zen practitioners to supplement program fees. **No one is ever turned away for lack of funds.** If you find yourself in financial need for a particular program you wish to attend, please do not let finances keep you from attending. Inquire with Gemmon in the office for an application. Do not miss any opportunity to practice and study the Dharma!

Zazen Programs

Sesshin.* Sunday evening, July 22, 6:00 p.m. supper and registration; 7:30 p.m. (sesshin begins) **to Saturday, July 28, 9:00 p.m.** Led by Sensei Ryodo. “Sesshin” means “to collect one’s heart and mind.” It is highly recommended for deepening one’s practice. The schedule includes zazen, chanting, face-to-face meeting with Sensei, work, rest, and three vegetarian oryoki meals daily. We observe silence, maintain lowered eyes and samadhi, and refrain from social greetings. Overnight accommodations available. \$240; \$480 for nonmembers. 

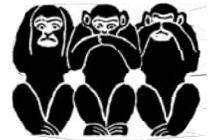
Zazenkai.* Friday evening, August 10, 7:30 p.m. to Saturday, August 11, 5:00 p.m. Led by John Daishin Buksbazen. Zazenkai is an all-day sitting. This is an excellent opportunity to spend a quiet practice day. The schedule includes zazen, service, work, meals, Dharma Talk, and face-to-face meeting with a teacher. Open to everyone. Fee: \$40; \$75 for nonmembers. 

*** Note: Zendo remains open for nonparticipants.**

Important Observances

- **Ven. Taizan Maezumi Roshi Annual Memorial Service** on Sunday, July 29, 8:30 a.m.
- **Obon—welcoming ancestors & feeding hungry ghosts** on **Sunday, August 19**, at 8:30 a.m.

Precept Practice



A **Day of Reflection** on the Zen Bodhisattva precepts will take place on **Saturdays, July 21 and August 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** We begin with recitation of the precepts, zazen, and a brief precept talk followed by a short work period and lunch. A Precept Circle is held from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. on the precept of the day. Open to everyone. **July 21** will be led by Pamela Emerald-Lake Porcaro on Precept #7: Not elevating oneself and blaming others; **August 18** will be led by Mike Solitary-Pine Ford on Precept #5: Not being deluded.

Atonement Ceremony. Thursday, August 16, at 7:30 p.m. During this ceremony of renewing the vows and precepts, we each have an opportunity to bear witness to our conduct in thoughts, words, and actions. Everyone is welcome to participate and renew themselves. Those who have received the precepts are asked to attend on a regular basis. Officiated by Maggie Jifu Gower.

Classes and Workshops

Creating Jizos for a New World. Saturday, July 7, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Led By ZCLA Artist-in-Residence 2007, Tom Matsuda (see next page). The history of the Jizo Bodhisattva form of Buddhist sculpture and its use in spiritual practice will be explored. This work incorporates the practice of caring for our families and one another in the face of the injustice, violence, and pain of our modern world. You will create our own Jizo Bodhisattva from self-hardening clay to help you realize the bodhisattva within us all. This retreat is open to everyone; no previous experience with sculpture or ceramics is necessary. *Workshop fee (includes the cost of materials): \$35; Children are free.*

(Continued on page 5)

PROGRAMS (Continued)

Sutra Copying. Friday, July 13, 7:30 zazen followed by sutra copying at 7:50 p.m. Sutra copying is a traditional Buddhist meditation practice. There are as many expressions of this practice as there are those doing it. Express yourself in your familiar handwriting or through a formal western and/or eastern calligraphy. All you need is paper, a pen, and your practice of mindfulness! A copy of the *Heart Sutra* will be available. And, you may bring any sutra you wish to copy. Everyone is welcome. Led by Jeanne Dokai Dickenson.

Rakusu Sewing Class. Sunday, July 17, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Instruction in sewing a rakusu, Buddha's Robe, for those who are preparing for the bodhisattva initiation ceremony with a Zen Center teacher. Participation by those who need to repair an old rakusu or who wish to sew one as a gift is also encouraged. Led by Evi Gemmon Ketterer. ☎

Shared Stewardship 2007. Sundays, August 12 and continuing on **October 7, 1:30-3:30 p.m.** This series explores the collective koan of Shared Stewardship, reviewing its basic principles, forms, and practices. We will also continue the active stewarding of the Center in these meetings. 2007 Shared Stewardship led by Jeanne Dokai Dickenson and John Plum-Hermit Swanger. Everyone is welcome.

Service Position Training. Saturday, August 25, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Don't miss this twice a year event! If you have ever wanted to learn or take on the practice of Buddha Hall service positions, this is an opportunity to learn them in a relaxed, but effective way. Past participants report having fun! Led by Gary Koan Janka. ☎

**Visit by Aama Bombo (Mother Shaman),
Tamang Shaman from Nepal**

Sunday, July 8, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Buddha Hall

Aama Bombo, a Master Shamanic healer from Boudnath, Nepal, will offer healings to the Sangha. Aama treats daily over fifty patients, who come to her home from Nepal, India, and Tibet for healings and consultation on spiritual issues. Aama was recently inducted into the International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers. Adults and children welcome. Customary donation is \$10-\$20. For more information on Aama, go to <http://www.grandmotherscouncil.com/aama.html>. Hosted by Roshi and Shingetsu Guzy.

STUDY TOPIC: During July and August, the theme for the talks will be on the BODHISATTVA WAY

ZCLA Artist-in-Residence

Thomas Matsuda, Sculptor

Friday, July 6
6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Exhibition Reception

Saturday, July 7
10:00 a.m. to noon
Contemporary Work of Tom Matsuda
Slide Show

1:30-4:30 p.m.
Creating Jizos for a New World
Workshop

Sunday, July 8
10:00 a.m. to noon
Buddhist Sculpture Carving
Demonstration and Talk

The Center welcomes sculptor Tom Matsuda as ZCLA's 2007 Artist-in-Residence. Join in all or part of this weekend artist's retreat.

Tom's formal studies began with contemporary American art, receiving his initial training at Pratt Institute where he now teaches.

Driven by his interest in Eastern philosophy, Tom apprenticed in Japan under the renowned sculptor Kaukei Eri for twelve years. His work appears in various temples and shrines, with exhibitions in many major cities throughout the world.

Tom will present both his contemporary work and Buddhist carved sculptures. He will lead a hands-on workshop on Saturday in which everyone will create Jizo Bodhisattva in clay. Open to everyone; no prior experience is necessary. Workshop fee is \$35 and includes the cost of materials. Children are free. ☎

Check out Tom's web site: www.tmatsuda.com



Sangha Rites of Passage

Dharma Transmission Ceremony from Roshi Egyoku

June 16, 2007

Sensei Kipp Ryodo Hawley
Transmission name: Solitary-Heart

Shared Stewardship Leave-taking

Brown Green Group Steward
April Ford

Tenzo-Coordinator
Reeb Kaizen Venners

Zen Bodhisattva Priest Ordination from Roshi Egyoku

June 10, 2007

Mike Solitary-Pine Ford

June 24, 2007

Deb Faith-Mind Thoresen

Shared Stewardship Entering

Brown Green Group Steward
Heather Faith-Mind Chapman

Tenzo-Coordinator
Raul Ensho Berge

New Members Entering Ceremony

May & June 2007

David Arrollado
Michael Sakamoto
Robin Temple
Z Zeller

New Residents Entering Ceremony

June 2, 2007

Jill King

Welcoming New Zen Bodhisattva Priests



From left, Gina Ford, Mike Solitary-Pine Ford who received priest vows on June 10th, and Roshi Egyoku.



Debbie Faith-Mind Thoresen receiving priest vows from Roshi Egyoku in the presence of the Sangha on June 24th.

—Photos by Jimmy Jakugen Chou

Your Gifts are Received with a Heartfelt Thank You!

Please let our staff know of the many bodhisattvas to appreciate. Have we missed anyone?

To Roshi Egyoku for her visionary and inspiring guidance for the White Plum Teachers' gathering and ZCLA 40th Anniversary celebrations

To **everyone** who contributed toward all the planning, implementing, and oversight of the 40th Anniversary and White Plum Teachers meeting;

Jimmy Jakugen Chou for ongoing professional photography services for web site, and ceremonies for Zen Priest Bodhisattva ordinations and Dharma Transmission;

Teacher's Circle, Roshi, Gemmon Ketterer, Kojun Hull and **everyone** who worked on the new sutra books;

Strawberry Dragon Zendo for prison presentation: **Sensei Nagacitta Buckley**, and **Berries: Gary Koan Janka, Deb Faith-Mind Thoresen, Gary Belton, and Mark Shogen Bloodgood**;

Planned Giving Committee for launching The Legacy Circle: **Patti Muso Giggans**, Board Fundraising Chair; **Rochelle Lindsey, Roshi, Dokai Dickenson**, and to production assistants: **Susanne Knell** and **Justin Dickenson**;

Michael Sakamoto for DVD copies of archival tapes; **April Ford**, departing Brown Green Group Steward, for many years of devoted and passionate service; and to **Heather Faith-Spring Chapman**, incoming Brown Green Group Steward;

Patricia Shingetsu Guzy for leading Zazenkai; **Gemmon Ketterer** for leading the Caregivers Retreat; **Deb Faith-Mind Thoresen** for ongoing work on grounds and donations in time and materials;

Plum-Hermit Swanger for donation of ceramic cups; **Terry Ryodo Rothrock** for donation of his beautiful ceramic incense bowls;

Peter Kuku Cunningham for presentation of his 'still films';

Heart-Mirror Trotter for organizing a prayer chain; **Sensei Kodo** for her teaching at ZCLA and for facilitating the Day Group Council;

Shirley Diamond-Heart Magidson for hosting ZCLA members at Physicians for Social Responsibility Gala Dinner;

Matt Nenshin Bowen for all his work and care with Kanzeon in the garden, and the other members of **Santa Monica Zen Center** who assisted him;

Kaizen Venners, departing Co-Tenzo Coordinator for care and oversight of weekend meals; and to **Raul Ensho Berge**, who enters this eight-month commitment to the Sangha;

Shingetsu Guzy for new rugs in the Zendo; **Koan, Dokai, Ensho, Shingetsu, Gemmon, Faith-Mind**, and **Plum-Hermit** for their service to **Roshi Egyoku** and **Sensei Ryodo Hawley** in various capacities during the Dharma Transmission week;

Welcome to new members: **Michael Sakamoto**, dancer, performing artist, who enjoys baking and snowboarding; New residents: **Tom Dharma-Joy Reichert**, attorney and gourmet baker; and **Elizabeth Bryer**, fashion-design teacher at LA City College.

Fond farewells to residents **Jessica Dharma-Lotus Armstrong** who has moved to Pasadena and **Matt Daiho Wagner** moving to West Los Angeles, closer to school. We also enjoyed the visit of guest resident **Jayne Dundes**.

Congratulations to **Shirley Diamond-Heart Magidson** upon receiving 2007 Healing the Planet Award from Physicians for Social Responsibility. ■

Upcoming Events September to December 2007

Sesshin:

Harvest Sesshin: **October 21 to 27**

Enlightenment Sesshin: **Nov. 30 to December 8**

End-of-Year Sesshin: **December 26 to 31**

Zazenkai: August 11

Tangaryo Day: September 8

Retreats, Classes & Workshops:

Shared Stewardship: **October 7**

Contemplative Care-giving for Caregivers:
September 21 to 23

Three Steps to Enlightenment: **November 3**

Day of Reflection: September 15, October 20, November 17, and December 22

ZCLA-Affiliated Sitting Groups

The Valley Sangha (Woodland Hills, CA)
led by Dharma-Holder Patricia Shingetsu Guzy

The Hill Street Sangha (Santa Monica, CA)
led by Dharma-Holder John Daishin Buksbazen

The Lincroft Zen Sangha (Lincroft, NJ)
led by Sensei Merle Kodo Boyd

The Laguna Hills Sangha (Laguna Hills, CA)
coordinated by Helen Daiji Powell

Contact us at info@zcla.org for information.

The *Water Wheel* is published by the Zen Center of Los Angeles / Buddha Essence Temple, which was founded in 1967 by the late Taizan Maezumi Roshi.

The ZCLA Buddha Essence Temple mission is to know the Self, maintain the precepts, and serve others. We provide the teaching, training, and transmission of Zen Buddhism. **Our vision** is an enlightened world free of suffering, in which all beings live in harmony, everyone has enough, deep wisdom is realized, and compassion flows unhindered. **Our core values** are available upon request.

Founding Abbot: Taizan Maezumi Roshi
Abbot Emeritus: Roshi Bernard Glassman
Abbot: Roshi Wendy Egyoku Nakao

Staff: Mary Rios, Business Manager; John Plum-Hermit Swanger, Operations Steward; Evi Gemmon Ketterer, Program Steward; Tom Yudo Burger, Guest Steward; Jeanne Dokai Dickenson, Development Steward. *Water Wheel* Editor, Dokai Dickenson; Assistant Editor, Burt Wetanson; Photographers, Jimmy Jakugen Chou, Yudo Burger, Dokai Dickenson.

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Address Correction Requested



White Plum Meeting & ZCLA 40th Anniversary



From bottom left, clockwise: White Plum teachers in celebratory mood; annual teachers council; and The Gate of Sweet Nectar pageant play cast of bodhisattvas and hungry ghosts.