



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

Vol. 8 No. 2 2549 Buddhist Era MARCH/APRIL 2007

The Zen Koan

By Roshi Wendy Egyoku Nakao

Let's demystify the Zen koan. We are beginning an exploration of group koan work, and I thank you all for your openness and willingness to explore together.

One of the key teaching methods at ZCLA has been training with koans. It comes to us through our founding teacher, Maezumi Roshi, who himself completed koan practice in two lineages. He practiced the koan systems of his lay Rinzai teacher, Koryu Osaka Roshi, and one of his Soto teachers, Hakuun Yasutani Roshi. Finding this a powerful way to open the wisdom eye, Maezumi Roshi combined the systems of both his teachers into a training form for his students.

In a typical scenario, a student is given a koan by the teacher. The student practices with the koan and then presents her understanding of it in face-to-face meetings with the teacher. With a fresh mind, she enters the empty cave where the teacher waits and presents her understanding, not with explanations, but by engaging her entire being. Because this is done in private, there is a sense of mystery around it and also, in the old days, a sense of competition with the practice of others. The competition and drama around the koan practice of our early years makes for good Zen stories, but seem amusingly immature these days!

Koans are a powerful practice, both for opening the wisdom eye and embodying and refining the hands of compassion. Let's take a brief look at what a koan is, what it is meant to do, and how one practices it.

We speak about "koan training," "koan study," "koan practice," and "koan introspection." The subtle distinctions here are that training with koans demands that you not only open to an intellectual understanding of the koan, but also embody—*show with your body*—the mani-



A boulder enjoying the Center's fountain hosting a sangha of birds, resting in the cool water.

festation of the koan itself. "To realize" means "to bring into vivid, concrete existence." So when we speak of a koan realized, we mean conceptual understanding, bringing the koan to life through the body in face-to-face meetings, and in actually living day-to-day, all coming to fruition.

The word *koan* itself has several meanings. The common meaning is a public (*ko*) case (*an*), expounding the universal principles of unconditional (absolute) and conditional (relative) reality and the intimate relationship of the two. This is in contrast to *shi-an*, or one's self-centered view of reality. *Shi* refers to my own ideas, my personal

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version of reality that is not life as is (*keo*), but rather life as I think it is. In undertaking koan training, you cut through your own version of reality and open up to what is. But you don't stop at opening up; you keep going until the koan saturates you so thoroughly that the endless refinement of living out reality becomes a way of life—the koan way.

Another meaning for koan of which Maezumi Roshi was very fond is “to make the unevenness even,” or to unify the evenness (the absolute-unconditional-intrinsic buddha nature) and the unevenness (the differences-relative-conditional dharma nature) in embodied action (the alive unified sangha nature). The evenness is that which is common to all life—our intrinsic buddha nature; the unevenness is our differences—the unique way that each of us manifests. Making the unevenness even does not mean to smooth out your edges and make yourself the same as everything else. Rather, it means that your unevenness and your evenness are inextricably intertwined and cannot be separated. Furthermore, the way each of us experiences the evenness is through our unevenness!

Take the simple koan, “Hide yourself in a pillar.” When we undertake this koan as a group, we see immediately that there are as many manifestations of a pillar as there are people. You manifesting as one with a pillar does not absolve me of doing so. Each person can only experience pillarness for his or herself, each person pillars differently. For one person, pillaring is completely liberating and joyful; for another, claustrophobic and suffocating; for yet another, overwhelming memories of being in a body cast as a child. We meet ourselves, however we are. This is not a matter of good or bad; we simply train with our condition, whatever it may be.

We see clearly that there is no uniform way to be one with a pillar and there is no wrong or right way. There is only you pillaring pillarness; or pillarness pillaring you; or pillaring you-pillarness. What fun! It is not, as some assume, that you become a stiff, uptight version of who you think you ought to be. Rather, uptightness will begin to let go of you, as the koan takes hold of you.

Typically, you begin training with a koan as though it were something outside of you. Your task, at this point, is to swallow the whole koan by constantly repeating it and sitting with it until it saturates you thoroughly. We say, “become one with” the koan—pour yourself totally into it. When you do this, the koan is also pouring itself into you. At first, you will not be so aware of this reciprocal action of the koan. But as koan training goes on, you will experience the mutuality of working on a koan and the koan working on you.



Roshi Seisen (left) and Roshi Egyoku courting the dark side in

***“... when you pour yourself
into the koan, the koan is
pouring itself into you.”***

This marvelous interplay of mutuality leads to the koan growing inside of you, so that at some point, everything you do is framed by the koan. When conditions are ripe and you have exerted all your effort, a flower blooms—the flower of the unity of yourself as the wholeness of life opens up for you as you yourself!

This wisdom experience must then be embodied as activity. Many of the early koans demand, “Show me! Show me!” For some, this is a daunting task as self-consciousness falls away layer by layer, as you fumble in bringing the koan to life.

The Three Tenets of Not-knowing, Bearing Witness, and Action are an excellent framework for koan training. When you plunge into a koan, you enter the arena of not-knowing. Often, you actually don't know what to do! And as you knock about, bumping into the walls of limitation you have unconsciously set up, Not-knowing reaches out to you. As you meet your own conditions—self consciousness, need for approval, feeling stupid and insecure, life experiences long forgotten appearing from the depths—you Bear Witness by plunging back into the koan over and over again. Then wisdom emerges. In a moment of not withholding, without a sense of me and the koan, you suddenly experience a resolution to the koan. Now you must move to Action—to activity. We have called this action by various names: loving action, healing action, appropriate action. I don't know the best name, but the point is that koans demand that you live your aliveness through activity—this very body of yours, unique and different from all else, fully and freely functioning as one! ■

(To be Continued)

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

On Penetrating Openness

Teisho by Taizan Maezumi Roshi

Roshi Taizan Maezumi (1931-1995) was the founding abbot of ZCLA and a seminal figure in Zen Buddhism in the West. To mark the 40th anniversary of ZCLA Buddha Essence Temple, we share this teisho with you.

Regarding openness, we have the famous expression “forget the self.” You might not feel there is much similarity between openness and forgetting the self, but it seems to me that they are two sides of one coin. When you are truly open unconditionally, at such a moment, you are forgetting the self. If you have something to hang on to, that much you are not open completely. You have something which could be called “the self.”

When we are open—forgetting the self—there is no division between inside and outside. This is what openness is, no division between yourself and externals. In this way, we can appreciate life in its fullness. Such fullness, Dogen Zenji calls “zenki” or “full function.”

I think this openness is one of the wonderful characteristics of the American temperament. The point is, how unconditionally can you be open? We often talk being open, but what kind of openness are we talking about? It is the same with “forgetting the self.” It is easy to talk about, but how much do you fully forget yourself? When you do, this is the state of samadhi.

This thorough openness is itself the best wisdom. When you truly are open, you’re able to be one with another person. It does not matter if the person is a close friend, stranger, or an event. Dogen Zenji says. “To forget the self is to be confirmed by ten thousand dharmas”—confirmed by everything and anything; the unity of ourselves and external existence and phenomena, not only in relation to human beings, but in relation to *anything*.

So how much can you truly be open? How completely can you forget yourself? It’s difficult. We can explain shikantaza (literally “Just sit!”) as openness. Just sit! When you truly just sit, this is the condition of openness. Then, being totally open, your self identifies with all space and time.

Dogen Zenji says, “On this body, put the Buddha



Maezumi Roshi

Seal.” The Buddha Seal is this openness. No conditioning. No division between yourself and the object. When you really do this, you become “the Buddha Seal itself, the whole space becomes subtlety itself.” So how to be open, and if you are this much open, what else do you need?

When you are open, life is not a matter of you should not expect something else to happen, but rather, you *do not need* to expect anything. This is the so-called state of being intrinsically enlightened. When you are in realization of being intrinsically enlightened, then you simply go ahead and do whatever you need to do. This enlightened action is totally open and full, and oneself as such is not necessarily consciously recognized. The point is, how much can you be in this way? This is why Dogen Zenji says: “Imprint the Buddha Seal upon your body and mind.” Imprint the Buddha Seal, not the self-concerned human seal.

In one way or another, it is very hard to take care of this conscious awareness. We usually think we are aware, but we are actually not aware and are doing the very thing that binds us. So even during so-called shikantaza, are you doing something other than forgetting the self? Forgetting the self—being truly open—is a most difficult part of practice.

When your practice of shikantaza is not at all shikantaza, there is some kind of maneuvering, some kind of self-gesture, some kind of action of one’s self. So, even doing so-called shikantaza in this way is not shikantaza, because you are not forgetting yourself. This is why you cannot have satisfaction in your practice and in your life. So you see, this openness is an interesting aspect to penetrate. ■

Teisho by Taizan Maezumi Roshi. May 17, 1990, Zen Center of Los Angeles.

Zen Programs On Normandie Mountain

You will find the latest program information at our website www.zencenter.org. Please check it regularly. See our 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

Tangaryo.* Saturday, March 10, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

All members are encouraged to come to this silent and restful day of unstructured zazen; no bells, no teacher. You set your own schedule. Silent, informal lunch will be provided. If you are a member who has not yet sat tangaryo, contact Lorraine Gessho Kumpf through the office. (All members are required to participate in one Tangaryo.)

Fee: Dana; Zendo open for non-participants. ☎

Introduction to Sesshin.* Begins on Thursday evening, March 29, ending Saturday, March 31, at 9:00 p.m.

Led by Dharma-Holder Gary Koan Janka. This two-day sesshin is designed for newcomers to sesshin practice.

Instruction is given on all aspects of sesshin.

Sesshin, “to unify the mind,” is an essential practice for the deepening of one’s zazen. Also for experienced sitters and those who haven’t sat a sesshin for a long while. The schedule will be posted and sent by ProgramFlash. Fee is \$80; \$150 for nonmembers. ☎

Zazenkai.* Friday evening, April 13, 7:30 p.m. to Saturday, April 14, 5:00 p.m.

Led by Dharma-Holder Kipp Ryodo Hawley. 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. ☎

*** Zendo remains open for nonparticipants.**



Precept Practice

A **Day of Reflection** on the Zen Bodhisattva precepts will take place on **Saturdays, March 17** and **April 21, 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. **March 17** will be led by Lourdes Jisen Reybin on Precept #8: Do not be stingy with the Dharma; **April 21** will be led by Peggy Faith-Moon Gallaher on Precept #5: Not being deluded.

Atonement Ceremony. Thursday, April 19, 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 Gary Koan Janka.

Priest Ordination. Sunday, April 15, at 11:00 a.m. Teido Cartee will renew his vows as a Zen priest with Roshi Egyoku. One of the first Americans to receive Soto priest ordination, Teido was ordained by Sato Roshi in 1967 at Zenshuji in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles. Everyone is invited to witness Teido’s renewal of the vows.

The head shaving ceremony will take place at 6:30 a.m. in the Buddha Hall. Members are invited.

Classes and Workshops

Kitchen Cleaning. Sunday, March 4, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Led by Reeb Kaizen Venners and Gary Belton. Join the Sangha for a thorough cleaning of the Sangha kitchen. Come for laughter, degreasing, and singing along to your various iPod mixes. Ice cream sundae break halfway through. Come for all or part-time.

Service Position Training. Saturday, March 24, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Led by Gary Koan Janka. Learn about and practice the various Buddha Hall service positions. Everyone is invited to come to this biannual hands-on class where each person receives instruction in at least two of the ritual positions. Past participants have reported having fun. Come and see for yourself!

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PROGRAMS (Continued)

Shared Stewardship 2007. The 7th year of Shared Stewardship class will begin on **Sunday, March 11**, continuing on **June 10, August 12** and **October 7, 1:30-3:30 p.m.** Jeanne Dokai Dickenson and John Plum-Hermit Swanger will steward this year's series. We will explore 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. Everyone is welcome.

Bowing Backwards for Buddha's Birthday. April 7 and 8. Master Mischief-maker YooWho (Moshe Cohen) offers the Sangha this workshop of creating clown ritual to honor, celebrate, 'enhumor' and 'aliven' Buddha's Birthday. Workshop: **Saturday, April 7, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Sunday, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon** with the performance of Buddha's Birthday ritual. Sliding scale: \$77-\$144. Call Gemmon in the office for more information.

Zen Precepts Study Series

Series dates (all Wednesday evenings) and time:

7:30 to 9:00 p.m.
March 7, 14, 21 and 28
April 4 and 11

This class series will explore the Zen Bodhisattva precepts and will be taught by Dharma-Holder Raul Ensho Berge. Students who have previously taken the series may audit. This series is a prerequisite for all those who will Receive the Precepts. The series may be taken by anyone, regardless of whether you would like to formally receive the precepts. Tuition for Series: \$200 members; \$400 nonmembers (sliding scale); dana requested of those who audit. ☎

Receiving the Precepts Class Series

Series dates and time:
June 6 & 13, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

This two-class series includes review of the lineage and bowing practice, the Jukai Ceremony, the rakusu (the Buddha's robe), and the mudra of gassho. Required for those Receiving the Precepts from the Center's Preceptors. ☎

Tuition for Series: \$60 members; \$140 nonmembers.

Please call the office for more information, including discounted tuition packages available, and registration for both class series.

April 29: class offered on sewing a rakusu (Buddha's Robe). ☎

Earth Day. Sunday, April 22, 11:00 a.m. Dharma Talk by Bill Earth-Mirror Corcoran on "Earth Sangha: How do We Live It?" From **1:30 to 3:00 p.m., the Brown/Green Group will conduct an Eco-workshop** on the nuts and bolts of getting off junk mail lists, making natural home cleaners, and learning the wonders of hydrogen peroxide. Everyone welcome.

Special Events

Buddha's Birthday Service & Sacred Mischief-Making

Sunday, April 8 at 11:00 a.m.

Join us in celebrating the birth of Shakyamuni and all of us baby buddhas! Dharma-Holder Maggie Jifu Gower will officiate. The Sacred Mischief-makers led by Mr. YooWho will offer a ritual at the end of the service, followed by a celebratory lunch.

For Buddha's birthday, a house decorated with flowers will be erected in the garden. Come decorate at 7:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to bring a small bouquet of flowers as an offering during the service. Children, friends, and family are welcome!

Please contact Gemmon in the office, info@zcla.org, if you can join in the fun of decorating the Buddha's house.

Strawberry Dragon Zendo Prison Project Presentation

with **Sensei Daniel Nagacitta Buckley** and the **SDZ Prison Project 'Berries'**

Saturday, April 21
6:30-7:30 p.m. Tea
7:00-8:00 p.m. Presentation

The ZCLA/SDZ Prison Project serves Buddhist and non-Buddhist inmates in several California penal institutions. Everyone is welcome to learn more about this on-going service area. Join in dialogue with Sensei Nagy and the 'Berries': Gary Koan Janka, DeWayne Gojitsu Snodgrass, Mark Shogen Bloodgood, Deb Faith-Mind Thoresen, Peter Mугan Schellin, and Gary Belton. Family and friends are welcome. Please let the office know that you are coming at programsteward@zcla.org. ☎

Practicing with Shadow Energy

Taught by **Roshi Egyoku Nakao**
& **Dharma Holder Patricia Shingetsu Guzu**

**Friday evenings,
March 2, 9, 16 & 23
7:30 to 9:30 p.m.**

Shadow material is the aspects of ourselves that we disown by repressing, acting out, or projecting. These classes explore the nature of shadow energies, both dark and light, and practices that can help us integrate them into wholeness. The four-part series is designed for experienced practitioners. The classes include lecture, practices, and council.

Series is limited to 12 full-time participants.
Admission is by permission of Roshi.
Please contact Roshi at wen@ix.netcom.com
to register.

Fee: \$120

*Dharma Training Fund are available to Zen practitioners.
Please inquire in our office for an application.*

The Zen Koan: a Group Exploration

Taught by **Roshi Egyoku Nakao**

**Saturday, April 28
1:30 to 4:30 p.m**

We will continue our exploration of demystifying the Zen koan by experimenting with group koan practice.

Through this context, the primary principles of dharma are enlivened through each of us. You are welcome to join in this experiment, whether you are a koan practitioner or not.

Fee: \$30

*Dharma Training Fund is available to Zen practitioners.
Please inquire in our office for an application.*

**Mark your calendar: ZCLA 40th
Anniversary Celebration May 18-19!
See page 12 for event schedule.**

Circles

Health Care Circle. Sundays, March 18 and April 15.

We will follow up on the Dying Well workshop held last September, and how to continue this educational process. We will explore how to identify the needs of the Sangha and brainstorm about the future. Come and learn how you can support the health and safety of ZCLA. Everyone is welcome.

STUDY TOPIC: KOANS. During March and April, we will continue the exploration of the Zen koan.

Upcoming Events May to December 2007

Sesshin:

Mid-Summer Sesshin: **July 22 to 28**

Harvest Sesshin: **October 21 to 27**

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

Zazenkai: June 9 and August 11

Tangaryo Day: September 8

Retreats, Classes & Workshops:

Shared Stewardship: June 10, August 12,
October 7

Contemplative Care-giving for Caregivers:
June 1 to 3

Three Steps to Enlightenment: November 3

Day of Reflection: May 12, June 16, July 21, August 18,
September 15, October 20, and November 17

White Plum Asanga Meeting: May 17-18 (WPA only)

ZCLA 40th Anniversary

Celebration Day and Conference: May 19

Celebration Dinner: May 19

The Spirit of Sangha & Gate of Sweet Nectar:
May 20

Day of Dana: December 15

ZCLA-Affiliated Sitting Groups

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

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)
Led by Helen Daiji Powell

Contact us at info@zcla.org for information.



MARCH 2007—2549 BE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>* Saturday Schedule 8:30 a.m. Service 9-11:00 Zazen/Dokusan, Interview 11:15 Samu 12:15 Lunch</p> <p>** Sunday Schedule: 8:30 a.m. Service 9-10:20 Zazen/Dokusan, Interview 11:00 Talk 12:15 Snack</p>			<p>1</p> <p>5:25 a.m. Zazen</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Executive Circle 7:15 Service 7:30-9:00 Zazen/Teisho: Roshi</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30 Service</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Service</p> <p>7:30—9:30 p.m. Shadow Energy Class (1) with Roshi & Shingetsu Guzy</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Saturday Schedule</p> <p>New Members Series #2 9:00 a.m. New Members Entering Ceremony and Shared Stewardship Entering & Leave-Taking Ceremony</p> <p>1:30-3:30 Teachers Circle</p>
<p>4</p> <p>ZP 1 & 2 Monthly Memorial Service</p> <p>Sunday Schedule 11:00 a.m. Newcomers/ New Members Class with Gemmon Ketterer</p> <p>1-5:00 P.M. Kitchen Cleaning</p>	<p>5</p> <p>(Office Closed)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>(Office Closed)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Service 7:30-9:00 Precepts Class (1)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:15 Service 7:30-9:00 Zazen/Dharma Talk: Koan Janka</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Service 7:30—9:30 p.m. Shadow Energy Class (2) with Roshi & Shingetsu Guzy</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Founders' Service</p> <p>Tangaryo Day</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Introduction 8:30 a.m. Service</p> <p>9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.</p>
<p>11</p> <p>ZP 1 & 2</p> <p>Sunday Schedule 11:00 a.m. Teisho: Roshi</p> <p>1:30-3:30 p.m. Shared Stewardship (1)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>(Office Closed)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>(Office Closed)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Service 7:30-9:00 Precepts Class (2)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Executive Circle 7:15 Service 7:30 Zazen/Dharma Talk: Ryodo Hawley</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Service 7:30—9:30 p.m. Shadow Energy Class (3) with Roshi & Shingetsu Guzy</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Saturday Schedule</p> <p>Zen Practice 3 Day of Reflection</p> <p>Led by Lourdes Jisen Reybin Precept #8: Not being stingy with the Dharma 1:30—3:00 p.m. Precept Circle</p>
<p>18</p> <p>ZP 1 & 2</p> <p>Sunday Schedule 11:00 a.m. Dharma Talk: Daishin Buksbazen</p> <p>1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Priests Council 1:30-3:00 Health Care Circle</p> <p>Daylight Savings Time Begin</p>	<p>19</p> <p>(Office Closed)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>(Office Closed)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Spring Equinox</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Service 7:30-9:00 Precepts Class (3)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:15 Service 7:30 Zazen/Dharma Talk: Jifu Gower</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Service 7:30—9:30 p.m. Shadow Energy Class (4) with Roshi & Shingetsu Guzy</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Saturday Schedule</p> <p>1:30-4:30 p.m. Service Position Training</p>
<p>25</p> <p>ZP 1 & 2</p> <p>Sunday Schedule 11:00 a.m. Dharma Chat with Bill Corcoran: Sesshin and Your Practice</p> <p>1:30-3:00 p.m. Board Planned Giving Meeting</p>	<p>26</p> <p>(Office Closed)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>(Office Closed)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Service 7:30-9:00 Precepts Class (4)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Registration for Sesshin 7:30-9:00 Zazen</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Introduction to Sesshin Led by Dharma-Holder Koan Janka</p>	<p>31</p>





APRIL 2007—2549 BE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ZP 1 & 2 1 Monthly Memorial Service Sunday Schedule 11:00 a.m. Talk: Sensei Daniel Nagacitta Buckley	2 (Office Closed)	3 (Office Closed)	4 5:25 a.m. Zazen 6:30 Service 7:15 p.m. Service 7:30-9:00 Precepts Class (5)	5 6:00 p.m. Executive Circle 7:15 Service 7:30 Zazen/Dharma Talk: Shingetsu Guzy	6 7-9:00 p.m. Residents Circle 7:30 Open Zazen	Saturday Schedule 7 New Members Series #3 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 8, 8:00 a.m. to noon Bowing Backwards for Buddha's Birthday: i.smacc workshop with Moshe YooWho Cohen </div>
ZP 1 & 2 8 Sunday Schedule  Buddha's Birthday Celebration Service 11:00 a.m. 11:30 Sacred Mischief-Making Noon Lunch <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">Easter</div>	9 (Office Closed)	10 (Office Closed)	11 5:25 a.m. Zazen 6:30 Service 7:15 p.m. Service 7:30-9:00 Precepts Class (6)	12 7:15 Service 7:30 Zazen/Teisho: Roshi	13 6:30 p.m. Registration 7:30 Zazen	Founders' Service 14 Zazenkai 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. led by Dharma-Holder Kipp Ryodo Hawley 1:30-3:30 p.m. Class with Ryodo
ZP 1 & 2 15 Sunday Schedule 11:00 a.m. Priest Ordination for Teido Cartee 1:30-3:00 p.m. Health Care Circle	16 (Office Closed)	17 (Office Closed)	18 5:25 a.m. Zazen 6:30 Service 7:15 p.m. Service	19 6:00 p.m. Executive Circle 7:15 Service 7:30 Ceremony of Atonement, Officiant: Daishin Buksazen	20 7:15 p.m. Service	Saturday Schedule 21 Zen Practice 3 Day of Reflection Led by Peggy Faith-Moon Gallahe on Precept #5: Not being deluded 1:30—3:00 p.m. Precept Circle 6:30-8:00 ZCLA/Strawberry Dragon Prison Project Tea and Presentation
ZP 1 & 2 22 Sunday Schedule 11:00 a.m. Talk: Bill Earth-Mirror Corcoran 1:30-3:30 Curriculum Circle 1:30 Eco-Workshop in Sangha House 	23 (Office Closed)	24 (Office Closed)	25 5:25 a.m. Zazen 6:30 Service 7:15 p.m. Service	26 7:15 p.m. Service 7:30 Zazen/Dharma Talk: Rev. Hyun Chul Kim	27 7:15 p.m. Service	Saturday Schedule 28 1:30-4:30 Class on The Zen Koan led by Roshi
ZP 1 & 2 29 Sunday Schedule 11:00 a.m. Dharma Chat: Heather Faith-Spring Chapman, Does God have BuddhaNature? 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting 1:30-4:30 Rakusu Sewing Class	30 Center is Closed for SPRING RECESS	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>* Saturday Schedule 8:30 a.m. Service 9-11:00 Zazen/Dokusan, Interview 11:15 Samu 12:15 Lunch</p> <p>** Sunday Schedule: 8:30 a.m. Service 9-10:20 Zazen/Dokusan, Interview 11:00 Talk 12:15 Snack</p> </div>				



Tentative

MAY 2007—2549 BE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Saturday Schedule 8:30 a.m. Service 9-11:00 Zazen/Dokusan, Interview 11:15 Samu 12:15 Lunch</p> <p>** Sunday Schedule: 8:30 a.m. Service 9-10:20 Zazen/Dokusan, Interview 11:00 Talk 12:15 Snack</p>		1	2	3	4	5
Center is Closed for SPRING RECESS						
6	7 (Office Closed)	8 (Office Closed)	9	10	11	12 Founders' Service New Members Series #4 Zen Practice 3 Day of Reflection led by Faith-Spring Chapman Precept #9: Not being angry 1:30—3:00 p.m. Precept Circle 3:30 to 5:30 Rakusu Sewing Class
Center is Closed for SPRING RECESS			7:15 p.m. Service	5:25 a.m. Zazen 6:30 Service 7:15 Service 7:30 Zazen/Teisho: Roshi	7:15 p.m. Service	
13 ZP 1 & 2 Monthly Memorial Service Sunday Schedule 11:00 a.m. Newcomers/ New Members Class: John Plum-Hermit Swanger Mother's Day 	14 (Office Closed)	15 (Office Closed)	16	17	18	19  ZCLA 40th Anniversary Celebration with White Plum Teachers All-day By reservation
			7:15 p.m. Service	5:25 a.m. Zazen 6:30 Service 6:00 p.m. White Plum Teachers Dinner & Meeting (WPA only)	All-day White Plum Teachers Meeting (WPA only)	
			7:30-9:00 p.m. Zazen			
20  ZCLA 40th Anniversary Celebration All Morning through Lunch 	21 (Office Closed)	22 (Office Closed)	23	24	25	26 Saturday Schedule
			7:15 p.m. Service	5:25 a.m. Zazen 6:30 Service 7:15 Service 7:30 Zazen/Dharma Talk: Kodo Sensei	7:15 p.m. Service	
			7:30-9:00 Zazen			
27 ZP 1 & 2 Sunday Schedule 11:00 a.m. Dharma Chat: TBD	28 (Office Closed) Memorial Day	29 (Office Closed)	30	31		
			7:15 p.m. Service	5:25 a.m. Zazen 6:30 Service 7:15 Service 7:30 Zazen/Dharma Talk: TBD		
			7:30-9:00 p.m. Zazen			

2006 Annual Fund Donors Appreciation

Message from Patti Muso Giggans, Board Fundraising Chair

The response to our 2006 Annual Fund appeal has been the most successful ever! Deep bows to all those who have contributed to the annual fund which enables ZCLA to operate programs all year long. Thank you also to those who have contributed via direct donation or via a pledge to the 40th Anniversary Campaign.

In honor of this special year, we are encouraging everyone to consider making a contribution to the 40th Anniversary Campaign. This year we will be honoring the history, the lineage, the teachers, and the teaching of the past four decades. We invite everyone to consider participating in the 40th Anniversary Campaign for ZCLA during 2007. Please see insert (page 13 of *e-Wheel*.)

ZCLA 40th Anniversary Gifts

David Arrollado
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Carolyn Campbell
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Jeanne Dokai Dickenson
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Individuals were notified
when gifts were made in
their honor.

2006 Annual Fund Gifts

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Henry Allen Bullock ■ Ananda Colombo
Lupe Cuellar ■ Dot and Julian Evans
Margaret Greggs ■ Connie Fjeld Hedburg
Robert Lynch ■ Taizan Maezumi Roshi
Roland Mills

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 **Kipp Ryodo Hawley**, ZCLA's new Information Technology Manager who continues expertly supporting the office computer systems and creating new web site;

John Plum-Hermit Swanger for many months of envisioning, organizing, and implementing beautiful office renovation; and to **Roshi** for offering the Pine House as office space during the renovation;

Everyone who supported the Center's security crisis, including: **Roshi** for patient and tenacious leadership throughout; **Raul Ensho Berge**, **Tom Yudo Burger**, **Derek Hutchinson**, **Gary Koan Janka**, **Conrad Butsugen Romo**, **Charles Duran**, and **Ty Jotai Webb** for security support; **Teido Cartee** for generous contribution towards ZCLA's security expenses; **Peggie Reynas** of Peace Over Violence for anti-stalking advocacy; **Patti Muso Giggans** for Peace Over Violence support; **Nancy Swain** for "Safe Response to Stalking"; **Tom Dharma-Joy Reichert** for legal referral; **Plum-Hermit** for grounds security follow-up; the **ZCLA resident trainees** for coming together in harmony as One Body with many hands and eyes; and to **Moshe Cohen** and those in the community-at-large who provided assistance and support in many ways throughout.

April Ford, **Koan Janka**, **Deb Faith-Mind Thoresen** for proposal and implementation of new composter;

Roshi Egyoku and **John Daishin Buksbazen** for co-editing the newly re-published *The Hazy Moon of Enlightenment*; and **Dharma-Joy** for legal assistance with the publishing contract;

Nina Reiju Wasserman for all her help with office move and packing bookstore stock; and to **Burt Wetanson** and **Reiju** for the fresh new look of our Bookstore;

Mary Rios for her generous hands-on support of Center's database;

Mark Shogen Bloodgood for his recent tenure as Board Treasurer (taking a leave-of-absence); and to **Jim Milner** for stepping in as interim Board Treasurer;

Yuigyo Kamimura for bravely plunging into sorting and scanning our photo archives;

Gary Belton for volunteering with Strawberry Dragon Zendo Prison Project;

Sayaka Kamimura for assisting with okesa sewing class; **Muso**, **Dokai**, **Roshi**, **Koan**, **DeWayne Gojitsu Snodgrass**, and **Rochelle Lindsey** for Planned Giving committee work;

Roshi, **Dharma-Joy**, **Ensho**, **Koan** for their persistent and fruitful work on the Center's by-laws and to **Bill Earth-Mirror Corcoran** for help early on;

Weekend Tenzos: **Jessica Dharma-Lotus Armstrong**, **David Arrollado**, **Gary Belton**, **Lilly Berge-Brodie**, **Raul Ensho Berge**, **Elizabeth Bryer**, **Heather Faith-Spring Chapman**, **Jeanne Dokai Dickenson**, **Evi Gemmon Ketterer**, **Lorraine Gessho Kumpf**, **Rosa Ando Martinez**, **Lourdes Jisen Reybin**, **Conrad Butsugen Romo**, **DeWayne Gojitsu Snodgrass**, **Hannah Seishin Sowd**, **Penelope Luminous-Heart Thompson**, and **Reeb Kaizen Venners**.

Tom Yudo Burger for support of parking for programs; **Susan Eko Fukushima** and **Patricia Shingetsu Guzy** for Dharma books and magazines for SDZ prison project.

Welcome to new members: **Arno Kroner**, animator with Disney Animation, father, and native of France; **Karen Lanoix**, family physician from Vancouver; **Francis Maile**, stay-at-home dad, Chinese language student, and computer guy; and to new resident **David Jokai Blackwell** who practiced at Yokoji Zen Mountain Center where he served as Chief Administrator. We also enjoyed the visit of **Jane Dundes** from Colorado.

Congratulations to **Roshi Bernie Glassman** upon conferring inka to **Roshi Anne Seisen Saunders**, Abbot of Sweetwater Zen Center in San Diego, CA., and Dharma Transmission to **Sensei Paul Genki Kahn**, teacher of High Mountain Crystal Lake Zen Community in New Jersey. All were practitioners here in the 1970's. Thank you all for your work in Dharma! ■



Sangha Rites of Passage

Shared Stewardship
Interim Board Treasurer
Jim Milner

Board Treasurer
On Leave-of-Absence
Mark Shogen Bloodgood

Information Technology Manager
Kipp Ryodo Hawley

Guest Steward
Tom Yudo Burger

Tenzo Resource Steward
Hillary Kongcha'l Stephenson

Death
Barton Edward Roen
1946 - 2007

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, Tom Yudo Burger, Dokai Dickenson.

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ZCLA Buddha Essence Temple

923 South Normandie Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90006-1301
www.zencenter.org

Address Correction Requested

Happy 40th Birthday, ZCLA!

Saturday, May 19 and Sunday, May 20

This year, ZCLA turns 40 years old! For a human being, turning 40 may be a time of mid-life angst, but for an organization which will endure for many centuries, it is still in its infancy. Nevertheless, in forty years, ZCLA has some remarkable achievements to its credit.

Begun in 1967 by Maezumi Roshi and his father Baian Hakuju Daiosho, ZCLA is the founding temple of the White Plum sangha in the United States. Today, Maezumi Roshi's dharma successors and students are spread throughout Mexico, Eastern and Western Europe, and South America. Maezumi Roshi also founded the Kuroda Institute, a group of American Buddhist scholars.

We will be celebrating the remarkable work of Maezumi Roshi and of the sangha on Saturday, May 19, all day, and Sunday, May 20, until midday. The annual White Plum teachers' meeting will also be held at ZCLA during the celebration week.

Save these dates! We only turn 40 once!



The good old days in the hot tub. ZCLA Archive Photo

40th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, May 19

Founders' Memorial Service
Panel Discussions with White Plum Teachers
Lunch • Celebratory Dinner & Fun

Sunday, May 20

Zazen • Open Mike: what ZCLA means to us
Gate of Sweet Nectar • Farewell Lunch.

Registration for both days is required.
Saturday: \$100 • Sunday: \$50



**1967
2007**

ZCLA 40TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

I am making a one-time gift a pledge to commemorate ZCLA's 40th Anniversary in the amount of \$ _____.

- Enclosed is my check payable to ZCLA in the amount of \$_____.
- Please charge my donation of \$_____ to my VISA MasterCard
 Credit Card # _____
 Pin # _____ Exp. Date _____
- Bill me monthly for _____ months.
- Set up an automatic charge on my credit card.

I am making this gift in memory or in honor of

(print name of honoree)

(address of honoree)

(We will send your honoree a letter informing him/her of your generosity without specifying the amount of your gift.)

Tell us how you wish to be acknowledged:

- Please list my name as _____.
- I wish to remain anonymous.

Estate planning:

- I would like more information about including ZCLA in my estate.
- I have included ZCLA in my estate.

For estate questions, please call or email Patti Muso Giggans, (Board Planned Giving Chairperson), 310.391.3992 or patti@peaceoverviolence.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFT TO ZCLA!

I wish to receive the *e-Wheel*, the electronic version of our newsletter *Water Wheel*.
My e-mail address is _____.

Information Card No. D6503 on file, City of Los Angeles, CA. For questions, please call Development Steward, Jeanne Dokai Dickenson at 213.387.2352.

Please mail to:

**Zen Center of Los Angeles
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