



# 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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## Great Dragon Mountain

By Roshi Wendy Egyoku Nakao

While preparing the photo essay *ZCLA Legacy*, I reviewed Maezumi Roshi's last written words to his first disciple, Roshi Glassman. Before his signature, Maezumi Roshi had written "Dairyuzan Busshinji." We have known that Busshinji, Buddha Essence Temple, is ZCLA's temple name. But Dairyuzan, Great Dragon Mountain, our mountain name, was a discovery. When we nicknamed ZCLA "Normandie Mountain," we were likely reaching for our mountain name, unaware that a powerful name already existed. Now the image of a great dragon, coiled under the earth ever watchful, inspires us to realize not only the spiritual strength of this mountain, but also the strength of our individual and collective reality.

For the past eight years, we have been experimenting with and exploring how, in practical ways, our organization can be structured and operated along the very Zen Buddhist principles that we espouse—no self, mutual interdependence, precepts, all-inclusion, and so forth.

Last year, forty of us undertook a nine-month lab entitled "Under the Bones of the Master," during which we explored the usual themes around organizations — gender, hierarchy, patriarchy, and such—using a container based on the practice of The Three Tenets. Towards the end of the lab, we realized that these were dead-end themes. The impulse to transcend the limitations and sense of separation created by these themes propelled us forward, and, at that point, we leapt into collective wisdom and collective awakening.

Upon enlightenment, Shakyamuni Buddha declared, "I, the great earth, all beings, all together, are enlightened." And yet, our model of practice has been for people to awaken individually and then take that awakening, one by one, into the world. Our challenge is: can we all



*Dairyuzan, Great Dragon Mountain, our mountain name rediscovered! (Chinese paper cut)*

awaken together — what does it look like when a Sangha collectively stays awake to whatever is going on? How do we encourage collective wisdom to arise? Can we deeply experience the no-self together in the forms we create that speak to this "all together, are enlightened"? How do we function, in a very practical everyday way, as this vast universally connected reality that we all share so intimately?

This year, we begin a new phase in our journey—a three-year undertaking in which I will work closely with the Sangha to explore collective stewardship, awakening and wisdom (2009-2010), followed by a sabbatical for me and an opportunity for the Sangha to stretch and deepen the practice of these principles (2011). I look forward to this amazing journey together. ■

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*Roshi Egyoku is Abbot and Head Teacher of ZCLA.*

# Zuise: Celebrating Our Dharma Relations

By Roshi Wendy Egyoku Nakao

On December 18 and 19, 2008, I participated in *Zuise* ceremonies at the two main Soto Zen training temples in Japan, Eiheiji and Sojiji. The purpose of this ceremony is to serve as Honorary Head Priest for the day as a way of paying respects to the founders of the Japanese Zen Soto School, Eihei Dogen Zenji, the founder of Eiheiji in 1244 in the mountains of Fukui Prefecture, and Keizan Jokin Zenji, the founder of Sojiji in 1324. A fire destroyed the original Sojiji, which was then moved and rebuilt in urban Yokohama in 1907.

The elaborate ceremonies of *Zuise* can easily obscure its underlying importance, which is best described by the Japanese word *in-nen*. *In-nen* refers to the notion that every event occurs because of indirect and direct causes. I like to refer to it simply as karmic relations—the many intricate, seen and unseen relationships that are always at play in supporting one's life. It was as though the glistening web of all that led to the moment of *Zuise* and of a Maezumi Roshi—his coming to the West, the hard and blessed work of planting Dharma seeds, and all that has flowed from that, came suddenly into view.

*Zuise*, performed after a priest has received Dharma Transmission, involves several ceremonies, which begin with offering incense in the monastery's Founder's Hall. Traditionally, the Founder's Halls at Eiheiji and Sojiji are treated as an inner sanctum with restricted access, but open to the *Zuise* participants. The other ceremonies include officiating at the early morning ceremonies in the Buddha Hall and Dharma Hall and a beautiful ritual during which one receives the *Zuise* certificate from the Zenji and the implement for officiating. The morning is concluded with a special breakfast prepared just for *Zuise* participants, a notable feature of which was an elaborate flower made of seaweed.

As the first Dharma successor of Maezumi Roshi, Roshi Glassman became one of the first Americans to perform *Zuise*. The Japanese Soto School has long faced the challenging question of how to integrate Western-trained Dharma teachers into their system. For a time, Westerners were allowed to do *Haito*, a ceremony similar to *Zuise* but without the privilege of offering bows and incense at the Founder's Halls at each monastery, upon completion of a one-month special sesshin in Japan.

Roshi Gengo Akiba, Bishop of the North American Soto School and colleague of Maezumi Roshi, has

worked steadfastly for the past fifteen years towards enabling Western-trained teachers to do *Zuise*. Over the past ten years, Akiba Roshi has asked me to do *Zuise*. When he came again to see me last summer and explained that there were seven Western-trained teachers who were being allowed to do the full *Zuise*, without the requirement of the one-month sesshin and not the lesser ceremony of *haito*, I thanked him for his kindness and agreed to go.

The path, however, was a bumpy one, not just for the decade it took to convince me, but also because my Dharma Transmission teacher Roshi Glassman had, in the meantime, quit the Soto Zen School and disrobed as a priest, thereby becoming a lay person. Roshi Glassman fully anticipated the disturbance this would cause, but he remained steadfast in his support of my *Zuise*. The formalities of dropping Roshi Glassman from the Sotoshu needed to be attended to, as well as the question of who would sign my papers for *Zuise*. Roshi Junyu Kuroda, Maezumi Roshi's younger brother and Abbot of Kirigayaji in Tokyo, stepped in and became my *Zuise* teacher, with the full blessing of Roshi Glassman. Thus, quite unexpectedly, I gained a new teacher, which has been a delightful karmic occurrence, and the intricacies of *in-nen* further revealed themselves.

(Continued on page 3)



Roshi Egyoku, holding the ceremonial whisk, upon completion of *Zuise* at Eiheiji, on December 18, 2008.

So on December 18 at Eiheiji and December 19 at Sojiji, I joined Sensei Daniel Taigen Leighton (Ancient Dragon Gate Temple, Chicago) and Sensei Jean Seijo Le Clerc (Paris) for Zuisse. Our guide, the able and calm Rev. Kiko Tatedera saw to our care, as did the hospitable monks at both monasteries. At Eiheiji, we were greeted by the 500-year-old cypress trees planted by the fifth abbot, Giun Zenji, and unseasonably warm December weather.

Each monastery has its own flavor and variation in details. Since Maezumi Roshi trained at Sojiji, I was most familiar with their style. At Eiheiji, we wore our brown transmission okesa with the top corner folded and tucked in, and used a ceremonial whisk or hossu, a stick with long hair attached. At Sojiji, we wore red okesa with the

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***“ . . . We present this certificate with high hopes for your continuing devotion to . . . the diligent effort to illuminate and enlighten all beings. ”***

—Zuisse Certificate

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top corner worn over the left arm and used a nyoi, a red lacquered ceremonial stick with a lotus face, representing the Buddha's face. At Eiheiji, we turned to the right; at Sojiji to the left; at Eiheiji we purified ourselves with incense; at Sojiji with water, and so forth. We wore red slippers at both monasteries, too small even for my feet, which I often lost along the way as we speedily shuffled—sometimes running—through the underground passages that connected the great halls at Sojiji and climbed hundreds of steep stairs to the great halls at Eiheiji. It was a lot to remember and we did our best, continuing through all missteps, deeply immersed in the sanctity of tradition.

At Eiheiji, we sidestepped high up onto Dogen Zenji's altar—his image is deeply recessed, but one can feel a presence. Keizan Zenji's altar is also high and shows him with his five disciples—we bowed to all of them, on slippery floors that made awareness not an option. One of the most moving ceremonies for me was being greeted by the Zenjis of each monastery. The Zenji, Chief Priest, read each of our certificates, and we went forward to receive them, all in a prescribed manner. Then we were served a special tea — a cup of warm water and a pair of unseparated chopsticks with a slice of delicious pickled plum at the tip. We stirred the plum into the water three times, ate the plum, then drank the tea. Then came celebratory cakes, over which we placed our certifi-



*At Sojiji, December 19, 2008, with Zuisse teacher Roshi Junyu Kuroda, and holding the ceremonial nyoi.*

cates from the Zenji, followed by the hossu at Eiheiji, and the nyoi at Sojiji. We were now ready to officiate.

At Eiheiji, Roshi Hoitsu Suzuki, son of the late Venerable Shunryu Suzuki, came by to congratulate us. Rev. Hakujun Kuroyanagi, who had spent many years at Zenshuji in Los Angeles and an old friend, came from his home temple in Nagano to guide our stay. But the most striking moment of in-nen arose for me as we were rounding a corner enroute to the Zenji's quarters at Sojiji. We sped past a monk—his eyes were shining, his smile beatific and all of a sudden, I saw that it was Maezumi Roshi, and I became completely disoriented. I felt my body swerve towards him and was about to call out to him, and then he was gone.

Recently at ZCLA, I was gardening after morning service. Walking in my boots up from the gardening bins, I encountered Sensei Bill Yoshin Jordan, who is remodeling the dokusan rooms. His face was pale. “Egyoku,” he said, “for a moment I thought you were Maezumi Roshi walking towards me.” “I know,” I replied, “I saw Roshi at Sojiji.”

When I returned from Japan, I went to Zenshuji to thank Akiba Roshi and share my experiences with him. He was greatly relieved that his promise to Maezumi Roshi to “look after me” had been fulfilled. I apologized for giving him such a hard time. Time will reveal whether any of my successors will one day do zuisse. However it goes, these karmic affinities find their expression in one way or another. In-nen — so much is at work on our behalf, how could it ever be obscured? ■

# Stewarding the Buildings and the Soil

By Bill Earth-Mirror Corcoran, Executive Circle

You may have noticed improvements to ZCLA's buildings and grounds in recent months. The Executive Circle, which is responsible for ensuring that the temple grounds and facilities are safe and in good condition, has approved or recommended to the Board a number of repairs and renovations. Our members and staff have done excellent work balancing priorities in a constrained fiscal situation and moving these projects along.

The crumbling retaining wall at the corner of Normandie and San Marino had to be torn out and replaced at a cost of \$12,000. The Dharma Hall had peeling paint and the underlying wood was suffering damage. The Hall cost \$8,300 to patch and beautifully repaint. With a generous gift facilitated by Sensei Nagy from the Leonard J. and Ethyl L. Smith Charitable Foundation, we have begun a similar process for the Buddha Hall. Estimated cost is \$3,800.

At the heart of the Center is the dokusan room, where we meet our teacher and ourself in face-to-face interviews. Sensei Bill Yoshin Jordan, guiding teacher of the Santa Monica Zen Center and an experienced contractor, is renovating the exterior and interior of the southeast corner of the Zendo, which suffered extensive damage from water and mold. We will soon have a reconfigured set of rooms for face-to-face meetings at an approximate cost of \$45,000.

The Executive Circle has approved replacing the battered chain link fence at the corner of Irolo and San Marino. Our goal is a continuity of fencing along the Center's property facing Irolo Street.



*From left: Mary Rios, Business Manager; Executive Circle: Rosa Ando Martinez, Deb Faith-Mind Thoresen, Tom Pine-Ocean Cleary, and Darla Myoho Fjeld, Steward; Not pictured: Bill Earth-Mirror Corcoran.*

Following a bad fall by one of our members, the Center replaced the uneven paving stone path in front of the Sangha House with a smooth concrete sidewalk. Clearly we must be proactive in identifying and removing safety and security hazards.

Without gifts and donations beyond membership fees, we would be unable to make structural repairs without taking on additional debt. Meeting the cost of these repairs has only been possible through a generous endowment and the gifts of members. But the necessary projects

*(Continued on page 5)*



*Once zendo renovations are completed, the dokusan room (shown in stripped down condition) and an additional room will be available for face-to-face meetings with teachers.*

STEWARDING (Continued from page 4)

undertaken in the last six months have reduced our reserves for this kind of work. Therefore, the Executive Circle will redouble its efforts to carefully weigh priorities and steward the Center's finances with care.

When you notice repairs and improvements to our shared body — the temple grounds and buildings — please take time to express your gratitude to our donors, staff, and all those who directly care for the temple.

It is always risky to single out individuals, but we feel it is important to acknowledge the contributions of Mary Rios, ZCLA's Business Manager. She has graciously taken on a great deal of work for the benefit of us all. We must also recognize the hard work and generous efforts of Deb Faith-Mind Thoreson and Charles Duran in sustaining the basic maintenance and improvements of Great Dragon Mountain.

Should you have the ability to contribute financially or plan a gift to the Center, please know that it will be used well to keep the Dharma wheel turning here at ZCLA. ■



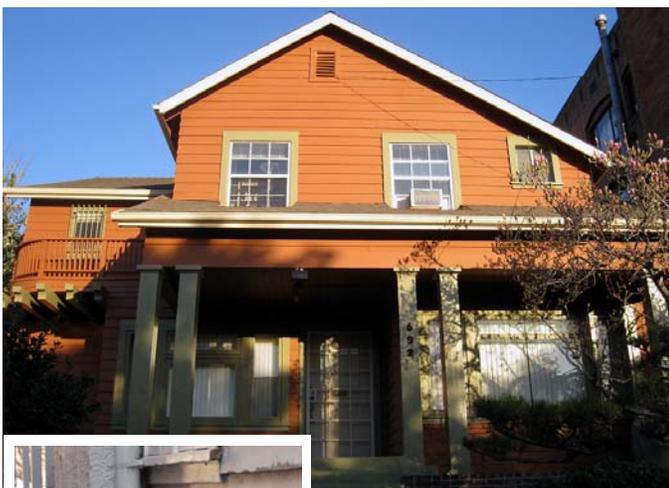
*Left, Deb Faith-Mind and Roshi planting exterior garden of Nilotpala at corner of Irolo and San Marino.*



*At right, Mary Rios, ZCLA Business Manager, inspecting scraping and caulking of the Buddha Hall.*



*At left, new retaining wall, fence, and newly-planted flower bed at the corner of Normandie and San Marino.*



*Above, repainted Dharma Hall, facing Irolo Street.  
Left, meticulous prepping of Dharma Hall by Misong Painting and Roofing.*

## **The Buildings and the Grounds Protect the Dharma**

Gratitude and a deep bow to all of you who have contributed in so many ways this past year to the Center's well being. It continues to be a difficult financial time for many people. We ask that you continue to care for your family and friends and then to consider a generous contribution in support of ZCLA. A number of existing repair-building projects in need of funding are:

- Safety fence for Dharma & Buddha Halls;
- Painting Pundarika wall; Dining room floor;
- Sangha House porch; Painting the dining room;
- Gutters of various building; Some grounds works;
- Retaining walls in front of Dharma Hall, Buddha Hall, behind Pine House.

For more information as well as for procedure to dedicate funding to a particular project, contact the Development Steward, Dokai Dickenson, at [developmentsteward@zcla.org](mailto:developmentsteward@zcla.org).

# Zen Programs at Normandie Mountain

## Face-to-Face Meeting Schedule

Roshi holds FTF for members Wednesday evenings, Friday dawn, and Saturday and Sunday mornings. Changes to her schedule are posted in the DharmaFlash each week. On Saturdays, FTF meetings are rotated between Dharma-Holder Patricia Shingetsu Guzy and Sensei Kipp Ryodo Hawley. On Sundays, between Sensei John Daishin Buksbazu and Dharma-Holder Raul Ensho Berge. Please note that all of the Teachers Circle members are also available by private appointment.

## Dharma Training Fund

Through the generosity of the Sangha, the **Dharma Training Fund (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 Dokai in the office for an application. Do not miss any opportunity to study the Dharma!

*See our calendar at [www.zcla.org](http://www.zcla.org) for the daily program schedule and for additional program details and updates.*

☎ Please register in advance. Contact the office at [info@zcla.org](mailto:info@zcla.org) to register.

## Zazen Programs

**Wall-gazing Day.\* Saturday, March 14, 6:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come to this silent and restful half-day of sitting. A **Chant Circle**, held at 8:30 a.m., is dedicated to all who have died and suffered in the seven-year war in Afghanistan. Zazen is scheduled every hour on the hour, with ten minutes of walking meditation at ten minutes to the hour. No interviews or talks. Includes breakfast and lunch. Fee: Dana. ☎

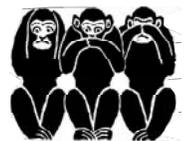
**Tangaryo. \* Saturday, March 14, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** In tandem with **Wall-gazing Day** (see above). All members are encouraged to come to this silent and restful day. The first half of the day will follow the Wall-gazing Day schedule above; the second half-day will be an unstructured zazen schedule with no timekeeping bells. 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.) Lunch is included. Fee: Dana. ☎

**Spring Sesshin.\* Sunday evening, March 26, 6:00 p.m. supper and registration; 7:30 p.m. (sesshin begins) to Saturday, March 28, 9:00 p.m.** Led by Sensei Ryodo Hawley. A silent retreat with sitting and walking meditation, eating formally together, dharma talks, face-to-face meeting with Sensei Ryodo, liturgy, and samu. Sesshin provides a powerful container supporting the unification of body and mind, and our individuality with the community and the world. Part-time participation welcome. Fee: \$40; \$75 for nonmembers. ☎

**Zazenkai.\* Friday evening, April 10, 7:00 p.m. registration; 7:30 p.m. (zazenkai begins) to Saturday, April 11, 5:00 p.m.** Led by Sensei John Daishin Buksbazu. Everyone is encouraged to enter The Great Silence with zazen, service, work, meals, Dharma Talk, and face-to-face meeting with Sensei Daishin. Open to everyone. Daily fee: \$40; \$75 for nonmembers. ☎

\* Zendo remains open for non-participants.

## Precept Practice



A **Day of Reflection** on the Zen Bodhisattva precepts will take place on **Saturdays, March 21 and April 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**March 21** will be led by Terry Ryodo Rothrock on Precept #6: Not talking about others errors and faults;

**April 18** will be led Jeanne Dokai Dickenson on Precept #7: Not elevating oneself and blaming others. Open to everyone.

**Priest Ordination. Sunday, April 5, at 2:00 p.m.** James Soshin Thornton will receive the Zen Priest Bodhisattva Vows from Roshi Egyoku. Soshin is a long-time Zen practitioner and member of the Zen Center. Everyone is invited to witness Soshin receive his vows..

The head shaving ceremony will take place at **6:30 a.m.** in the Buddha Hall, followed by a simple breakfast. Members are invited.

**Atonement Ceremony. Thursday, April 16, 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. Those who have received the precepts are asked to attend on a regular basis. Roshi Egyoku will officiate.

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**Ceremony for Receiving the Precept. Saturday, April 18, 1:30 p.m.** Larry Barber, Betsy Brown, Diane Katz, and Jill King will receive the Precepts from Roshi Egyoku. Everyone is invited to witness and support these Sangha members in this rite-of-passage.

## Special Observance

**Buddha's Birthday Service, Sunday, April 12, 11:00 a.m.** in the Center's Wild Space Garden. Join in celebrating the birth of us baby Buddhas. Raul Ensho Berge will officiate. A tiny 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.

Earth Day will be celebrated on this day. Stories of Siddhartha Gautama as a child growing up surrounded by the natural environment will be shared and enacted, led by Katherine Senshin Griffith. The Easter Bunny will leave naturally dyed eggs for the children; an organic lunch and Buddha's birthday cake will follow. Children, friends, and family are welcome. Please contact Gemmon in the office, [info@zcla.org](mailto:info@zcla.org), if you can join in the fun of decorating the Buddha's house.

## Guest Speaker

**Chozen Bays, Roshi, M.D. Sunday, April 5, 11:00 a.m. to noon.** Chozen Roshi will speak about her recently published book, *Mindful Eating*, about our relationships with food, including how we become conditioned to approach eating based on various cultural factors of conditioning. See next column for information about her weekend workshop presentation at ZCLA.

## Classes and Workshops

**Conversation About Practice. Sunday, March 1, 11:00 a.m. to noon.** Held on the first Sunday of most months, this conversation is led by a member of the Teachers Circle. The leader introduces a topic and leads the Sangha in a conversation. Roshi Egyoku will lead this session.

**Sexual Abuse: Shadow and Healing Through the Life Span. Sunday, March 15, 1:30-3:30 p.m.** Moderated by Concetta Getsuren Alfano. The Education Subcommittee of the Many Hands and Eyes Circle-Prison Project will present a workshop and panel aimed at educating us further on the scope and trauma of sexual abuse throughout the lifespan. A first person testimony will also be presented. This is an important workshop for the Sangha, so please attend. For further information, contact Getsuren through the office.

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## The Sacred Art of Eating Workshop

led by Roshi Jan Chozen Bays, MD

April 3 and 4

Friday, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Saturday, 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.

"Eat when hungry, sleep when tired." This ancient Zen saying is a simple prescription for a satisfying life. But for many people, simply eating is anything but simple. It is ironic that in a land of plenty, many people suffer from a disordered relationship to food.

Using the tools of insight and mindfulness, a more wholesome connection to hunger, food, and satisfaction will be renewed. Delicious vegetarian meals and laughter are included.

Roshi Chozen is a dharma heir of Taizan Maezumi Roshi and lived and practiced at ZCLA for many years. She leads Great Vow Zen Monastery and Zen Community of Oregon.

Cost: \$65 members, \$90 nonmembers. See ZCLA website, [www.zcla.org](http://www.zcla.org), for more information, fees, and registration, or call office at 213. 387.2353. ☎

## ZCLA-Affiliated Sitting Groups\*

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

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

**The Ocean Moon Sangha** (Santa Monica, CA)  
led by Sensei John Daishin Buksbazen

**The San Luis Obispo Sitting Group**  
(San Luis Obispo, CA)  
coordinated by Mark Shogen Bloodgood

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

Contact us at [info@zcla.org](mailto:info@zcla.org) for information.

\* ZCLA-Affiliated Sitting Groups are led by independent Dharma Teachers (Senseis) or practitioners who are actively practicing at ZCLA. Those interested in leading a ZCLA-affiliated sitting group may apply to the Teachers Circle.

**First Aid Class for Disaster Preparation. Tuesday, April 14, 7-9:00 p.m.** The class will cover major injuries like broken bones, bleeding, burns, and treatment for shock. Everyone is invited. Residents and staff are especially encouraged to attend. Led by Evi Gemmon Ketterer.

**DHARMA CHATS.** Held on the last Sunday of most months at 11:00 a.m, Dharma Chats are led by Sangha members on various topics of interest. **Sunday, March 29** led by Ellen Reigen Ledley on “Exploring codependence/compassion.”

### 2009 Precepts & Jukai Series

This year, Dharma Holder Shingetsu Guzy will hold the precepts and jukai series at the Valley Sangha. ZCLA will hold its next precepts series in 2010.

We encourage interested members to enroll in this series. The precepts can be taken from any of the Center’s preceptors, regardless of who has led the classes.

#### Zen Precepts Study Series Thursday evenings,

**June 1, 18, 25, July 2, 9 & 16, 7:30-9:00 p.m.**

This series will explore the Zen Bodhisattva Precepts and will be taught at The Valley Sangha by Dharma-Holder Pat Shingetsu Guzy. Any member may take this series regardless of whether one decides to formally receive the precepts. This series is a prerequisite for all those who will receive the precepts (Jukai). Tuition: \$175 for members; \$300 for nonmembers. ☎

#### Jukai (Receiving the Precepts) Class Series Thursday evenings, August 13 & 20, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

This two-class series is for those who wish to receive the precepts. Taught at The Valley Sangha by Dharma-Holder Pat Shingetsu Guzy. The Precepts Series is a prerequisite for these classes. The class topics include the Lineage, bowing practice, the Jukai Ceremony, the Rakusu (the Buddha’s robe), and the mudra of Gassho. Tuition: \$70 for members; \$120 nonmembers. ☎

Register through the Zen Center office. Contact Gemmon for information about a combined class package with reduced fee.

### Stitching the Buddha’s Robes— Collective Robe Sewing

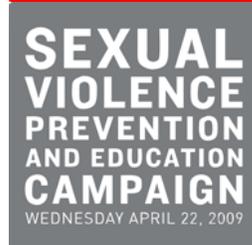
In May 2009, Dharma Holders Raul Ensho Berge and Patricia Shingetsu Guzy will receive Dharma Transmission from Roshi in separate ceremonies. Ensho’s ceremony is scheduled for **Saturday, May 2**, and Shingetsu’s for **Saturday, May 9**.

Roshi invites each of you to offer stitches for Ensho and Shingetsu’s Dharma Transmission robes. Gemmon Ketterer is overseeing the preparations of the robes.

#### March-April 2009 Sewing Schedule

Saturdays: Mar. 7 — 10:30 a.m. to noon  
Mar. 14 & 21 — 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.  
Sundays: Mar. 1 & 22 — 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.  
Tuesdays: Mar. 3 through  
April 14 — 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Gemmon at [programsteward@zcla.org](mailto:programsteward@zcla.org).



The Zen Center of Los Angeles will join PEACE OVER VIOLENCE as it presents its 11th Annual Denim Day in Los Angeles this year. Denim Day USA is a campaign to raise awareness and educate the public about rape and sexual assault. This day we unite against the sexual assault of girls, women, boys and men.

Nationwide, participants wear jeans as a visible sign of protest against the myths that still surround sexual assault. Join thousands of supporters of Denim Day USA by wearing jeans this day to take a stand against rape, sexual assault and dating violence—especially among teens.

For more information, see [www.denimdayinla.org](http://www.denimdayinla.org) or [denimdayusa.org](http://denimdayusa.org).

**STUDY TOPIC:** Beginning in March, the theme for Dharma talks will be on *The Record of Transmitting the Light: Zen Master Keizan's Denkoroku* (translated by Francis H. Cook). This text is a collection of 52 enlightenment stories based on the traditional accounts of Zen transmission between successive masters and their disciples, beginning with Shakyamuni Buddha through Koun Ejo. Copies of the text are available in the ZCLA Bookstore.

## Resident Training Opportunities

Occasionally, space is available for longer-term resident training in the form of studio, one-bedroom or two-bedroom apartments, and shorter-term guest stays in guest housing. If you are interested in more information and/or would like to submit an application, please inquire at [info@zcla.org](mailto:info@zcla.org) and you will be directed to the appropriate contact person.

## Head Trainee Gojitsu Enters "See As Is"



*Roshi Egyoku and Head-Trainee DeWayne Gojitsu Snodgrass. Gojitsu was installed as Head Trainee on February 1, 2009 for a year of training. Roshi presented him with a fan on which she wrote "See As Is."*



## Sangha Rites of Passage

### BOY SCOUT METTA BADGE

Adam Worden  
January 2009

### NEW MEMBER ENTERING CEREMONY

Kei Billington  
February 7, 2009

### NEW RESIDENT ENTERING CEREMONY

Lynda Golan  
February 7, 2009

### SHARED STEWARDSHIP — Leave-taking

**Zendo Steward, Steward of ZP 1 & 2,  
Steward of Resident Samu**  
Gary Koan Janka

**Steward of Brown-Green Group**  
Heather Faith-Spring Chapman

**Co-Tenzo Coordinator**  
Elizabeth Bryer

**The Angulimala Prison Project**  
DeWayne Gojitsu Snodgrass

### SHARED STEWARDSHIP — Incoming

**Zendo Steward**  
Evi Gemmon Ketterer

**Steward of ZP 1 & 2**  
George Mukei Horner

**Day Managers**  
Betsy Brown . Terry Ryodo Rothrock  
Reeb Kaizen Venners

**Board of Directors  
Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer**  
Tom Dharma-Joy Reichert  
**Member:** John Daishin Buksbazen

**Steward of Resident Samu**  
Tom Yudo Burger

**Steward of The Angulimala Prison Project**  
Penelope Luminous-Heart Thompson

**Brown-Green Group**  
Steward: George Mukei Horner  
Diane True-Joy Fazio . Lynda Golan

**Co-Tenzo Coordinator**  
Carla Flowing-Mountain Schmitt

# The Legacy Circle

On January 31, 2009, ZCLA, inaugurated The Legacy Circle (TLC) with a tea for its Founding Members. The Legacy Circle is comprised of Zen Center members and friends who have made a commitment to the future of the Center by naming ZCLA as a beneficiary. The Founding Members are those who joined the TLC launch from 2006 to 2008.

The occasion was celebrated with a tea in the Pine House, hosted by Roshi Egyoku and the Fundraising Circle. Each founder was acknowledged with an appreciatory gift of the newly published *ZCLA Legacy: A Tribute to Founding Abbot Venerable Koun Taizan Maezumi Roshi*. This beautiful and inspiring book can be ordered through our online bookstore (please see page 12). Founding members enjoyed a delicious food and exquisite woodwind music offered by ZCLA member Stefan Hass.



*The Founding Members of the Zen Center's Legacy Circle at the Founders Tea.*

Over the years, legacy gifts have made an important contribution to the continued practice and teaching of the Dharma at Great Dragon Mountain. The Center is truly grateful for the foresight and generosity of everyone who has made legacy gifts from which the Sangha and Center have greatly benefited in past years.

We encourage everyone to consider a legacy gift to ZCLA. Anyone who leaves a legacy gift to Zen Center can be recognized as a member of The Legacy Circle.

Please contact Dokai Dickenson Development Steward, 213.387.2352, [developmentsteward@zcla.org](mailto:developmentsteward@zcla.org) for more information. ■

## The Legacy Circle Founding Members

Anonymous  
Jessica Dharma-Lotus Armstrong  
Mark Shogen Bloodgood & Karla Dare  
Betsy Brown  
Daniel Nagacitta & Gail Buckley  
John Daishin Buksbazen & Concetta Getsuren Alfano  
Sean Pine-ocean Cleary  
Elizabeth Jiei Cole  
Jeanne Dokai Dickenson & James Bodhi-Song Graham  
Charles Duran  
Marc Koshin Giet  
Patti Muso Giggans  
Margaret Jifu Gower & Douglas Sencho Gower  
Gary Koan Janka  
Evi Gemmon Ketterer  
Ed Etsudo Kimble

Lorraine Gessho Kumpf  
Ellen Reigen Ledley  
Joanne Seigetsu Morey  
Wendy Egyoku Nakao  
Helga Shobai Oswald  
Tom Dharma-Joy Reichert & Andrew Halladay  
Carla Flowing-Mountain Schmitt  
Richard Schulhof  
DeWayne Gojitsu Snodgrass  
Lana Soshin Spraker  
Stephen Sutor  
Edward Emyo Swiatek  
John Plum-Hermit Swanger  
John Heart-Mirror Trotter  
Nina Reiju Wasserman  
Ty Jotai Webb ■

## Your Gifts are Received with a Heartfelt Thank You!

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

**Mary Rios** for her care and supervision of in-progress buildings and grounds projects;

**Gary Koan Janka** for the many projects that he has generously carried out over the years;

**Deb Faith-Mind Thoresen** and the **day workers** for their hard work of planning, gardening, and rock moving; and **Tom Yudo Burger** and **Roshi Egyoku** for planting the golden barrel cactuses;

**Margaret Jifu Gower** for her contributions and efforts as Operations Steward;

Sangha Guardians: **Reiju Wasserman**, **Burt Wetanson**, and **Charles Duran** for their many contributions to the upkeep and operations of the Center;

**The Founding Members of The Legacy Circle** for including ZCLA in their estate plans;

**Roshi** for The Angell Foundation final report and for the valuable help of **Patti Muso Giggans**, **Bill Earth-Mirror Corcoran**, **Lorraine Gessho Kumpf**, **Evi Gemmon Ketterer**, **Jifu**, **Jeanne Dokai Dickenson**, **Eberhard Fetz**, **Burt**, and **John Plum-Hermit Swanger**;

The Fundraising Committee for creating The Founding Members Legacy Circle Tea: **Steward Muso Giggans**, **Roshi**, **Rosa Ando Martinez**, **Dokai**, **Gemmon**, and **Jifu**;

**Roshi** and **Gemmon** for creating The Legacy Circle gift book;

**Stephan Hass** for musical offerings at The Legacy Tea;

**Tom Yudo Burger** for building and grounds cleanup projects;

All the **many hands and eyes** that have brought the Center's projects to completion;

**Reeb Kaizen Venners** as coordinator of security rounds, and the **Resident Circle** for doing the rounds;

**Pat Shingetsu Guzy**, **Yudo**, and **Muso** for coffee donations;

**Nem** and **Yoko Bajra** for electric tea kettle for retreats;

**Brown-Green Group** for composter maintenance and hosting the film "Flow—For Love of Water";

All the many bodhisattvas serving in Shared Stewardship Circles that keep the Center functioning: **Buddha Hand Circle**, **Executive Circle**, **Teachers Circle**, **Fundraising Committee**, **Finance Committee**, **Shared Stewardship**, **Co-Tenzos**, **Curriculum Circle**, **Chiden & Altar Cleaning Group**, **Flower Group**, **Many Hands and Eyes**, and so many more;

**George Mukei Horner**, **Tom Dharma-Joy Reichert**, **Kaizen** and **Yudo** for Center photography;

**Penelope Luminous-Heart Thompson** for leadership in creating the Right Response Circle and Limited Access Agreement;

**Jill King**, **Lynda Golan**, and **Luminous-Heart** for filling in as parking stewards;

**Gemmon**, **Sensei Ryodo** and **Roshi** for their development of the Center's members website;

**Faith-Mind** for breathing new life into the Grounds Circle and its members **Ty Jotai Webb**, **Ando**, **Mary Rios**, **Roshi**, **Lynda Golan**, **Andy Handler**;

**Muso**, **Dharma-Joy**, **Bob Swan**, and **Darla Myoho Fjeld** for their work on the Board's Finance Committee and preparation of the 2009 Budget;

**Myoho** and Executive Circle members **Ando**, **Earth-Mirror**, and **Tom Pine-Ocean Cleary** for taking on staffing and personnel matters;

**Gemmon** for bringing the Center's Disaster Planning to near completion, along with **Pine-Ocean**, **Jotai**, **Charles**, **John Heart-Mirror Trotter**, **Roshi**, **Hillary Radiant-Vow Stephenson**, **Burt Wetanson**, **Kaizen**, **Mukei**, and **Jill**;

For work on the Curriculum Catalog: **Roshi**, **Gemmon**, and the **Curriculum Circle**;

**Faith-Mind** and **Myoho** for leading the recent Sangha Councils;

**Sensei Bill Yoshin Jordan** for all his work and care in the repair and rebuilding of the east wing of the Zendo;

And to **Trent Moyer** for much work on Center buildings.

**Hearty welcome back to Sensei Ryodo** from his one-year sabbatical; **welcome** to new members **Kei Billington**, teacher with LAUSD and jazz singer; **Jason Patti**, involved in entertainment production, **Sentha Sivabalan**, mother of a three-year-old and software developer, **Joel Latimer**, MFT with Kaiser Permanente, and **Gerry Parham**, in media production and a Project Manager at Kaiser Permanente.

**Congratulations to James Soshin Thornton**, selected by the *New Statesman* for 2009 as one of ten people who could change the world through his lifelong work as an environmental attorney and advocate for the Planet Earth; **Lana Shoshin Spraker** honored by the UCLA Dept. of Dance at "The Reunion Tour" highlighting the work of eighteen graduates from the UCLA Department of World Arts and Cultures;

**Joan Hogetsu Hoerberichts Sensei** honored as Outstanding Woman in Buddhism for 2009 for her creation of the Sri Lanka project to help tsunami victims; **Adam Worden**, son of Dana Earth-Moon Worden, upon receiving his Metta Badge from the Boy Scouts;

We enjoyed a visit by **Shinge Roko Chayat Roshi**, spiritual director of Zen Center of Syracuse, and her husband, **Andy Hassinger**. ■

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; 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, Tom Dharma-Joy Reichert, Gemmon and Dokai. The *Water Wheel* is published bi-monthly in paper and electronic formats. Contact the Editor at (213) 387-2352 or [dokai@zcla.org](mailto:dokai@zcla.org). The *Water Wheel* is also available through electronic distribution.

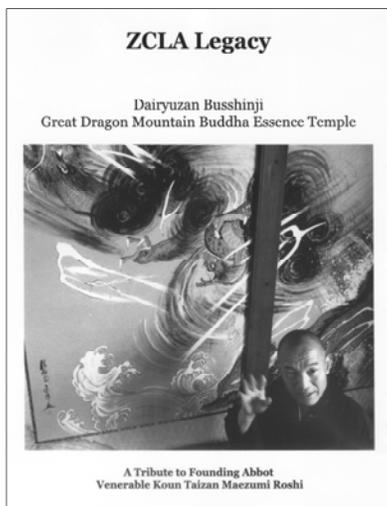


## ZCLA Buddha Essence Temple

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Address Correction Requested

## ZCLA Legacy Book



*ZCLA Legacy: A Tribute to Founding Abbot Koun Taizan Maezumi Roshi* was created by Roshi Egyoku and Gemmon Ketterer. The book features photographs of Maezumi Roshi's life, his teachers and Dharma connections, and his Dharma work in the West. Some of these photographs from the ZCLA Archives have been rarely seen, such as the

photograph of Maezumi Roshi and Shunryu Suzuki Roshi in the late 1950's. Roshi Egyoku has written captions with interesting information about aspects of the Center.

We encourage you to purchase a copy of this treasure. Copies are available through the ZCLA online bookstore at [www.zencenter.org/EmptyShelf/books.php](http://www.zencenter.org/EmptyShelf/books.php). ■

## ZCLA Members Website

By Evi Gemmon Ketterer

The Members website has been extensively updated. You will now find:

- Better features for overseeing and downloading dharma talks;
- Interactive Mandala with links to ZCLA's Circles which include their meeting minutes;
- Updated Center resources list;
- Extended teaching files on liturgy, including annual calendar, daily and special service texts, gathas and verses;
- Option to download all Center application forms and fundamental documents;
- A new site by the Brown-Green group to support our practice with the environment;
- More study texts and e-books to download; and
- Many texts and information on practices offered at ZCLA, as well as the Curriculum Catalog.

For your members log-in information to access the Members section of website, contact Gemmon at [programsteward@zcla.org](mailto:programsteward@zcla.org). ■