



ROCHESTER ZEN CENTER  
A BUDDHIST COMMUNITY

August 20, 2015

Dear Sangha,

In less than a week, we'll begin the Center's annual two-week break. We'll snap back to the regular schedule on Wednesday, September 9, just before the 2-day September sesshin, the first of four before the end of the year. Activity steps up in this final quarter of the year, and includes a three-week Term Intensive between the October and November 7-day sesshins and Thanksgiving, with the Ceremony of Gratitude and the Taking of the Precepts.

### **Comings and Goings**

Since last March, when we last accounted for leaving and arriving staff, we've had an influx of new trainees. In order of arrival, we've welcomed Gayle Alexander, Julian Díaz, Rick Smith (our former Affiliate Leader in Madison), Jack O'Shaughnessy, and Joey Wustner. We also had stints from Helen Gallagher and Conrad Frevert, from New Zealand and Germany, respectively.

And we've said good-bye to two staff members, Ben Taylor and Alex Comardo, both of whom we miss!

### **Fall Term Intensive**

On the evening of October 15, the Thursday after the October sesshin, we'll have the opening ceremony for the fall Term Intensive. If you've never done a Term Intensive before or want to refresh your memory, you can find information and enrollment forms on the website at <http://www.rzc.org/program-events/term-intensives/>. If you've ever thought about stepping up your sitting schedule or making changes to your daily routine, you will likely find it far more doable with the encouragement and support of others. This fall intensive runs for just three weeks; it ends on November 5, just before the November sesshin.

### **Rakus and Dharma Names**

If you're planning to receive a rakusu this fall, it's a good time to order your rakusu kit from the Center. If you don't have any sewing experience, be sure to give yourself plenty of time for the task! The cost of the kit is \$30, plus \$4.50 for shipping. (Also add 4% sales tax if it's delivered in New York State.) Anyone who has been a member of the Rochester Zen Center or one of its affiliates for at least a year, is formally a student of Roshi, and has taken part in a Jukai Ceremony (or is planning to attend Jukai at Thanksgiving) may receive a rakusu. Rakusu sewing instructions are available.

### **50th Anniversary "Save the Date"**

Our celebration of the Center's first 50 years is less than a year away. A lot of the events are already mapped out, including a free concert by Leo Kottke, the installation of a new sculpture in the courtyard of the Retreat Center (both around the 4th of July weekend), and a visit and lecture by Dr. Jon Kabat-Zinn in October.

## Spring Trustees' Meeting and Annual Meeting of Members

The Center's Board of Trustees held its annual spring meeting on May 16 and 17. Among the actions taken was approval of the 2014 financial report subsequently presented at the Center's Annual Meeting of Members held a week later during our Buddha's Birthday weekend. Although total membership contributions in 2014 (\$180,600) were lower than in 2013 (\$182,649), they were still slightly higher than the average for the five years 2009-2013 (\$178,449). In addition, 2014 Chapin Mill rental income (\$60,532) reached an all-time high, although sesshin income (\$59,694) was lower than in 2013 (\$65,447).

Overall, the Center's 2014 operating revenues were \$395,975, or 100 percent of the total budgeted. Total combined operating expenses for Arnold Park and Chapin Mill were \$461,804, or 99 percent of the total budgeted. The Center's Trustees and Officers – whose responsibilities include safeguarding the Center's financial well-being – were grateful that, after including as operating income a five-percent operating draw of \$57,371 from investments, the Center had an operating deficit of only \$8,458 for 2014, rather than the \$15,800 deficit that had been predicted when the 2014 budget was approved. Viewed alternatively, for 2014 the percentage operating draw from the Investment Fund required for no operating surplus or deficit was 5.7 percent, rather than our target of five percent. The Center's Investment Fund performed reasonably well in 2014, increasing by \$102,045, or 8.2 percent, before subtracting the five-percent operating draw of \$57,371. The Fund's net increase after subtracting the operating draw was \$44,674, or 3.6 percent of the Fund's beginning balance.

Among other items discussed at the meeting, the Board explored the possibility of Tom and Donna Kowal's living at Chapin Mill. The Center's Trustees and Officers believe that it would be beneficial for the long-term stewardship of Chapin Mill that Tom and Donna live on or near the property and that Tom learn as much as possible from current Chapin Mill Caretaker Wayman Kubicka, so that at such time as Wayman and Eryl Kubicka no longer serve as Chapin Mill's caretakers, Tom and possibly Donna might succeed them. At Roshi's request, the Board confirmed that, absent unforeseen extraordinary circumstances, Wayman and Eryl may continue living in the Farm House at Chapin Mill, even if one or both of them should retire from active service as Zen Center staff members. This decision to provide a retirement home for the Kubickas at Chapin Mill recognizes their many years of extraordinary service to and support of the Zen Center. However, Roshi and the Trustees reiterated that the Center is generally not in a position to provide housing or other support for staff members – including those who are ordained – who are no longer able to work because of disability or old age. The Board also heard reports from the chairs of the Center's standing committees and task forces and discussed plans for the Center's 50th anniversary in 2016. The main events of the fiftieth anniversary celebration will take place on the weekend of July 1-4, 2016, and will include the unveiling of a major sculpture to be installed in the Retreat Center's courtyard. This work, which is being given to the Center by an anonymous donor, will be created by sculptor Todd McGrain, whose other works include the centerpiece for the Arnold Park Founder's Garden.

On May 23, in conjunction with our celebration of the Buddha's Birthday, the Center held its forty-ninth annual corporate meeting of members. At that meeting Sangha ballots were counted, and Tom Kowal was re-elected to a three-year term as Trustee. (Three of the Center's six trustees are elected by the Sangha, two are elected by the Board itself, and one is appointed by the Abbot.) In addition, Roshi reported that the Board had re-elected Kathy Collina to a three-year term as trustee. Among other matters presented at the meeting, Tom Kowal, who serves both as Chair of the Zen Center's Board of Trustees and as Chair of the Facilities and Sustainable Operations Committee, reported that an energy-efficient hot-water recirculation system has been installed in 5 Arnold Park, a new high-efficiency furnace has been installed in the Buddha Hall, and the deteriorated Buddha Hall roof, which was at the end of its useful life, would be replaced. Through a utility company rebate program available to religious and other organizations, almost all the lights in the Arnold Park buildings have been replaced with energy-efficient and long-lasting LED (light-emitting diode) bulbs at no cost to the Center, and we hope to be able to do the same with the buildings at Chapin Mill.

Minutes of the Board of Trustees' and annual corporate meetings, including copies of financial reports and statements, are available in the Communications>Meetings & Finances section of the Center's website at <http://www.rzc.org/communications/meeting-minutes/>.

### Sesshin Dates

Below are sesshin dates through December 2016; all are led by Roshi at Chapin Mill unless otherwise indicated. Note that there is no June 2016 sesshin, due to the press of events around the 50th anniversary.

#### 2015

September 11-13	2-day (Wayman Kubicka)	deadline: September 3
October 3-10	7-day	deadline: September 10
November 7-14	7-day	deadline: October 15
December 8-12	4-day (John Pulleyn)	deadline: November 19

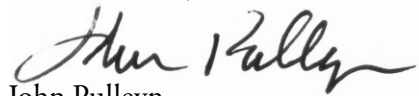
#### 2016

January 9-16	7-day	deadline: December 17
February 26-28	2-day (TBA)	deadline: February 18
March 19-26	7-day	deadline: February 25
July 23-30	7-day	deadline: June 30
October 1-8	7-day	deadline: September 8
November 12-19	7-day	deadline: October 20
December 6-10	4-day	deadline: November 10

Please bear in mind that if you miss the deadline you may apply late for any sesshin. We usually accept qualified applicants if there's room.

These dates are also listed in the sesshin section of the Center's website.

In the Dharma,



John Pulleyn  
For the Center

