



March 7, 2015

ROCHESTER ZEN CENTER
A BUDDHIST COMMUNITY

Dear Sangha,

If Winter's Here Can Buddha's Birthday Be Far Behind?

Here in Rochester, March has come in like February, with new snow piled atop the old. But in less than three months, Buddha's Birthday weekend will be here! The weather is often more pleasant by then, and we don't expect, late in May, to see the elephant stumble into a snow bank. So save the dates (May 22 through 24), and stay tuned for further announcements.

Chapin Mill Work Retreat: Work, Zazen, and Summer Fun

This year's annual Ralph Chapin Memorial Work Retreat will start on Tuesday evening, June 23, and conclude with lunch on Saturday, June 27. Every year, some 40 or 50 of us come from near and far to help get the Chapin Mill buildings and grounds ready for another summer. Over the years, we've refined our schedule to balance work, sitting, and free time to spend with Sangha members and friends. Come pitch in if you can – we hope to see you there!

2015 Guest Lectures

This year we welcome Dr. An-yi Pan, Associate Professor in the Department of History of Art and Visual Studies at Cornell University. According to Dr. Pan's [page](#) on the Cornell website, "An-yi Pan researches Buddhist Art with special interest in the relation between Chinese intellectual participation in Buddhism and Buddhist painting, Buddhist architecture in relation to the precepts, monastic hieratical structure, liturgical as well as spiritual spaces, and the trans-continental blossoming of Buddhist teachings and art."

The first of three planned lectures is set for Sunday April 5th, in the Buddha Hall after brunch, around 11:15 am. The title is "Kannon and Zen." In this lecture An-Yi Pan will tell the story of how, mostly in the Chinese context, the Bodhisattva Kannon (or Guanyin, or Avalokitesvara), assumed an important role in Chan (Zen) practice.

Comings and Goings

The training program is hopping! Brendon Caroselli and David Musser have joined us for indefinite training periods, and we've had a number of other folks popping in for shorter stints. If you're interested in trying out a training program of any length, drop John Pulleyn an email at john@rzc.org.

Trustee Nominations and Spring Ballot

Each spring, the term of one of the three member-elected Trustees expires, and an election is held to fill the opening. (Two of the other three Trustees are elected by the Board of Trustees itself, and one Trustee is appointed by Roshi.) Under the Center's by-laws, an elected Trustee is limited to serving three consecutive terms, but again becomes eligible to serve after being off the Board for a year. This year, Tom Kowal's first three-year term will come to an end. The Center's Trustee Nominating Committee is looking for two names (one of which may be Tom's) to appear on the ballot. Suggestions for candidates are welcome from all Sangha members. If

you'd like to suggest a possible nominee, write to the Center, *Attention: Trustee Nominating Committee*, or send an e-mail message to nominations@rzc.org. Or you may directly contact any of the members of the Nominating Committee: Roshi, Business Manager Scott Jennings, Trustee Cecily Fuhr, and Sangha members Brenda Reeb and Deborah Zaretsky. Please submit any suggestions by March 31, so the Committee will have time to consider them. Ballots will then be mailed to all members, and the votes will be counted at the Center's annual meeting of members which takes place during Buddha's Birthday (and Memorial Day) weekend.

A Note from the Financial Office

Many thanks to all those who have responded generously and promptly to the 2015 annual membership pledge forms that the Financial Office sent out last November. (If you haven't yet returned your pledge form, it will help us if you do so as soon as possible.) Annual membership contributions are the main source of the money needed to pay the Center's bills, and the Sangha's continuing generosity through these recent years of economic uncertainty has been vital to the Center's financial health.

For the benefit of members who itemize their income-tax deductions, the Financial Office has also sent out statements detailing each person's financial contributions to the Center during 2014. If you haven't received your statement or have any questions, please contact our Business Manager, Scott Jennings (scott@rzc.org).

Rakusu Ceremony

During Buddha's Birthday celebrations over the Memorial Day weekend, there will be the customary rakusu ceremony. To receive a rakusu, you need to have been a member of the Center for at least one year, be a formal student of Roshi, and have taken the precepts. If you haven't taken the precepts previously, you'll have a chance on the Friday evening of Buddha's Birthday weekend. Order your rakusu kit and sewing instructions by sending your request, along with \$30, plus \$4 for shipping. (Also, add 4% sales tax to the total for all New York state addresses.) The Center follows the tradition in Zen of people sewing their own rakusus, which makes receiving and wearing it more meaningful. Be sure to give yourself plenty of time to sew.

On the Horizon...

Sangha Entertainment Night: 6 pm on Saturday, April 25

SanghaPalooza: Weekend of June 13

Chapin Mill Work Retreat: Tuesday evening, June 23 – Saturday, June 27

Founder's Day: Sunday, August 23

Sangha Picnic: Saturday, July 18

Sesshin Dates

Below are sesshin dates for the rest of this year; all are at Chapin Mill and led by Roshi unless otherwise indicated:

2015

March 21-28	7-day	deadline: February 26
May 30-June 6	7-day	deadline: May 7
July 25-August 1	7-day	deadline: July 2
September 11-13	2-day (Wayman Kubicka)	deadline: September 3
Oct 3-Oct 10	7-day	deadline: September 10
November 7-14	7-day	deadline: October 15
December 8-12	4-day	deadline: November 19

2016

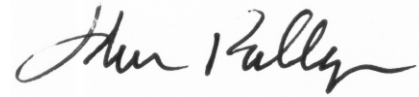
January 9-16

7-day

deadline: December 17

- If, for any session, you miss the deadline, it's all right to apply late. If there's room, you may well be accepted.

In the Dharma,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Pulleyn", written in a cursive style.

John Pulleyn
Head of Zendo