

## Report of Activities of Olympia Zen Center in Year 2016



### Regular and Ongoing Practice

- Continued morning and evening Zazen schedule and monthly day-long Sesshin.
- Offered annual Full Moon Sesshin July 12 to July 17 and week-long Rohatsu Sesshin December 6 to December 12.
- Held regular monthly Board meetings, and Annual Meeting in January.
- Hosted bi-weekly orientation for newcomers to Zazen including students from South Puget Sound Community College during the World Religions quarter.
- Continued Saturday morning study using the texts, *Unfathomable Depths* by Sekkei Harada and *The Eightfold Path*, edited by Jikyo Cheryl Wolfer and published by Temple Ground Press.
- Provided instruction in various forms of practice positions for all who requested.
- Maintained [www.OlympiaZenCenter.org](http://www.OlympiaZenCenter.org) website, Facebook page, blog, and began weekly email announcements of current events.

### House and Outdoor Projects

- Replaced and upgraded outdoor water shut-off valves and installed water back-pressure devices in accordance with new emergency safety requirements.
- Installed new utility sink in guest/residence bathroom.
- Replaced failed dishwasher in the teacher's residence.
- Attended to tree trimming, removing dangerous limbs and trees, thinning brush in the woods.
- Tested septic system quarterly.
- Landscaped and spread bark at entrance near driveway.
- Trimmed bushes, drained and cleaned small pond.
- Spread new gravel in sensitive areas of driveway and parking lots.
- Repaired leaking roof of tool shed.
- Maintained the beauty of the grounds with assistance of numerous volunteers for weeding and raking.

### Special Projects and Events

- At least 40 people and the full Sangha sewed a 25 Row Okesa in honor of Niho Tetsumei Roshi's 77<sup>th</sup> birthday in October, an auspicious year in the Japanese culture.
- Welcomed and assisted Shoen Tokunaga Sensei, Master Calligrapher, visiting Olympia with her sister-in-law. Tokunaga Sensei presented *China & Japan: Traditional and Contemporary "Silk Roads"* with translator, artist and teacher, Fumiko Kimura Sensei, at The Evergreen State College in May.
- Celebrated Shuso Ceremony for Robert Ryozen Witzl after a one month Practice Period.
- Celebrated Jukai Precepts Ceremony for William Turner.
- Continued to support Faith Action Network, which advocates for social action in the legislature. Mickey Olson is our main advocate in this activity.
- Held several Volunteer Work Days in various months to help keep the gardens beautiful.
- Hosted annual New Year potluck gathering to ring in the New Year.
- Held annual poetry night in the spirit of priest-poet, Ryokan.
- Celebrated Ryokan's life at annual ceremony on December 21.
- Held Annual Meeting to meet legal requirements of the State of Washington.



## Other Noteworthy Activities

- Held a successful garage sale for fundraising, an annual event.
- Held a summer party to celebrate the sangha which included a bocce ball tournament with prizes and pizza.
- All bills and mortgage payments were paid in full and on time with gratitude to the faithful work of our sangha and our generous donors, with particular gratitude to the work of our treasurer, Adam Shea and our president, Eva Neske.

## Eidosan's Activities

- Led morning and evening Zazen, numerous monthly one-day, and extended Sesshin.
- Offered a variety of ceremonies for memorials, public intentions, and other causes.
- Directed and helped sew the twenty-five panel Okesa in honor of Niho Roshi's 77<sup>th</sup> birthday with Allyson Essen doing the lion's share.
- Led the process of the Spanish translation of *Kakurenbo* with El Centro Zen de Mexico, A.R., and La Comunidad Budista Zen Jardin de Luz, Madrid, published by Temple Ground Press.
- Coordinated the publishing of *The Eightfold Path*, edited by Jikyo Wolfer and designed by Fletcher Ward for Temple Ground Press.
- Attended the meeting of the Association of Soto Zen Buddhists at Zenshuji in Los Angeles, Sept. 6-9, with visiting teacher Rev. Yusho Sasaki, first woman Director of Soto Zen European Office.
- Traveled to Japan with Jikyo Wolfer, October 18<sup>th</sup> to deliver the Okesa to Niho Roshi at an event which included his family, Entsuji Sangha, the city mayor, and post office official; visited Suzuki Seido Roshi's Toshoji training temple; visited friends and sangha members in Australia and New Zealand, and included a visit with Ekai Korematsu Roshi, now head of Melbourne Zen Center in Australia, an old friend and Dharma brother from Kobun Roshi days of 40 years ago.
- Attended Faith Action Network's Legislation Day at the Capitol in February.
- Directed Practice Period and trainings for Bob Witzl, Shuso, and other trainings for practice positions.
- Made spiritual welfare visits to various housebound Sangha in their homes.
- Organized the visit, coordinated with Evergreen, prepared the teaching details, coordinated the translation of Sensei's speech with Kimura Sensei for Tokunaga Shoen Sensei and sister-in-law.
- Visited Jikyo Wolfer's Joyous Refuge Sangha in Port Angeles, June 5-8.
- Served as a college Assessment professional for the curriculum studies of an American student in long-term practice at a temple in Japan.
- Transmitted the Precepts in June at a Jukai for William Turner receiving the name Tetsuyu Gendo, Wisdom Function, Subtle Way.
- Signed into various Webinars for personal trainings.
- Read and evaluated colleague's manuscript prior to submission to publisher.
- Created and maintained Temple Ground Press website.

## A Few Aims For 2017

- William Turner has become a full-time resident as of October and will receive Novice Priest Ordination on January 21, 2017.
- Ongoing training for Sangha to move into leadership practice positions.
- Continue to care for practice, land and gardens of Ryoko-an and Gogo-an.
- Continue to offer Precepts study and support for people preparing for Jukai, continue art practice.
- Repaint the exterior of the temple and restore the trail on the Path of the Ancestors.

