

What we did at Olympia Zen Center in Year 2017



Regular and Ongoing Practice

- Continued morning and evening Zazen schedule and monthly day-long Sesshin.
- Offered annual Full Moon Sesshin in July and week-long Rohatsu Sesshin Dec. 5 to Dec. 11.
- Held regular monthly Board meetings.
- Hosted bi-weekly orientation for newcomers to Zazen.
- Continued Saturday morning study using the text *The Eightfold Path* with essays by various teachers, edited by Jikyo Cheryl Wolfer, and published by Temple Ground Press.
- Provided instruction in various forms of practice positions for all who requested.
- Maintained OlympiaZenCenter.org website, Facebook page, and newsletter of current events.

House and Outdoor Projects

- Had the exterior of the temple painted and hung new doors on the Zendo entrance and residence.
- Attended to tree trimming, removing dangerous limbs and trees, thinning brush in the woods.
- Tested septic system quarterly.
- Trimmed bushes and trees, cleaned small pond and restored waterfall.
- Maintained the beauty of the grounds with assistance of numerous volunteers for weeding and raking.

Special Projects and Events

- Priest Ordination of Will Gensho Turner on January 21, 2017. Family came from Texas for the event. Will moved into Olympia Zen Center and continues training and practice in residence.
- Submitted a review and inventory of our temple to Shumicho Soto Headquarters in Tokyo for the issuance of the recognition of a Special Overseas Temple Designation which was conferred in August.
- Had special guests for lectures: Retired Senator Karen Fraser speaking on “Integrity in Government.” And, Don Johnson, Professor Emeritus at SPSCC, speaking on topics from his forthcoming book on Martin Buber, “The Meaning of Spiritual Dialogue in Martin Buber’s Teachings.” And, Annie Clay, Retired Chaplain with Sound Home Hospice speaking on “Care of the Dying in Buddhist Practice.”
- OZC held a one-day retreat for beginners in Zen practice in October led by all Sangha.
- Three board members received webinar training from Church Mutual Insurance Company, our liability insurers, on maintaining a safe and secure temple and defusing potential disruptors.
- Four members attended Faith Action Network’s Legislative Day at the Capitol in February, meeting representatives and senators to advocate for compassionate legislation in the State of WA.
- Joined together to celebrate the life of Richard Mendenhall, long time supporter of Olympia Zen Center who died February 18th in Olympia.
- Several members joined the “Women’s March” and the “March for Science” in Olympia in January and in April.
- Several members attended a film on the Dalai Lama’s birthday hosted by Lama Jamyang Tsaltrim of The Nalanda Institute in Olympia.
- Held our 2nd annual picnic and bocci ball tournament at Olympia Zen Center in August.
- Held a ceremony for the new gate to the trail donated by Doug & Lynne Maxwell in September.
- As a community, several attended the new Al Gore film, “An Inconvenient Sequel” to stay informed and supportive of issues regarding climate change.
- Hosted annual New Year potluck gathering to ring in the New Year. → turn page

- Celebrated Ryokan's life at annual ceremony on December 21 and held annual poetry night in January.
- Celebrated various ceremonies on the liturgical calendar: Buddha's Birthday, Buddha's Enlightenment, Buddha's Parinirvana, Mahapajapati Day, various Bodhisattva Ceremonies, 49th Day Memorials.
- Held Annual Meeting to meet legal 501(c)3 requirements of the State of Washington.
- Steve Senna and Will Gensho Turner began in September to lead once a week support of practice at Cedar Creek Corrections Center in Rochester.

Other Noteworthy Activities

- Held a successful garage sale for fundraising, an annual event.
- 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, Steve Senna.

Eidosan's Activities

- Led morning and evening Zazen, numerous monthly one-day, and extended Sesshin.
- Attended the Mountain Seat Ceremony, with Will Gensho Turner, to give the opening congratulations from the American Zen teachers community to Rev. Nomon Tim Burnett at Bellingham Zen Center.
- Published the second in a series of journaling workbooks in the Dharma, *Zen Journal Guides: The Three Treasures*.
- Gave a Dharma talk in Seattle at the Seattle Soto Zen gathering led by Rev. Eko Jeff Kelley in June.
- Attended the meeting of the Association of Soto Zen Buddhists in Los Angeles with the guest teachers Rev. Kenshu Sugawara of Aichi Gakuin University, and Mrs. Yuko Okumura on the topic of Okesa.
- Gave a four week session/teaching of Shodo for beginning students in use of the brush with kanji.
- Spent six weeks in Palo Alto on a personal writing retreat and attended a brief part of sesshin with Rev. Vanja Palmers at Jikoji Zen Center in Los Gatos.

Plans for 2018

- 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.
- Publish the new book on *Practice in a Time of Challenge* by Soto Zen women priests to be completed by Temple Ground Press in September, 2018, edited by Maura High, Introduction by Dai-En Bennage, and to be released at the SZBA conference in October 2018.
- Again, offering sesshin for beginners led by Sangha.
- Launching fireside/firepit gatherings for Sangha conversations.
- Planning a public event Open House and Art Exhibition in summer.
- Planning a new Ryokan Lecture with an outstanding teacher in October.
- Attending Association of Soto Zen Buddhists and Soto Zen Buddhist Association conferences in June and October.

