



## Olympia Zen Center

Rev. Eido Frances Carney, Teacher & Abbess

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December, 2017

Dear Friends in Dharma,

This year, Olympia Zen Center received the Mountain Name *Shin Getsu Zan*, Heart Moon Mountain, and was designated a Special Overseas Temple by the Soto Zen Headquarers in Japan. It is a great honor and we are heartened and proud to sit Zazen here on these sacred grounds, which we have faithfully cared for all these years.

Several years ago, your generosity made it possible for us to restore the leaky roof, which we promptly did. And, your donations allowed us to paint the exterior, which sorely needed to be done. And, before Thanksgiving we replaced the doors to our Zendo and residence, modernizing the architecture and the gateway to our place of practice. Thus, we care for and offer our sacred space for now and for future generations.

But that's not all. A black, granite columbaria has been placed next to our Bodhidharma tree, visible from the east windows of the Zendo, made possible by a generous donation from Michael Long. There is room for the placement of ashes for 48 people. Our temple is deepened by this presence as we practice to bear in mind that "birth-and-death" is part of our everyday awareness as we clarify the Great Matter in our Soto Zen tradition.

Hundreds of people come throughout the year to taste the heart of Zen and incorporate the mind of practice into their daily lives. Each year we ask you to help us keep this temple jewel alive and healthy. Your gift touches people who courageously search for a way to cope with the injustices and suffering they see and experience. This year our new door reminds that all are welcome and we ask you again to help support our temple where the mind of turmoil may be transformed to one of peaceful insight.

At our New Year Ceremony, all donors' names are recited during the chanting of *The Heart Sutra* and all names are written in calligraphy on our donor board and placed on the wall in the Zendo throughout the entire year. As we walk by, our eyes fall on your names and you are brought into the minds and hearts of practice throughout the year. I send you my blessings for a stable, safe, and healthy year in 2018. May we all find the wisdom to focus within and not be unsettled by false appearances. Keep strong and carry a belief in our ability to bring compassionate, wise, and relevant response to the social, ecological, political, climatic, and spiritual needs of our society and our global world. Living in gratitude is the heart of healing and happiness.

And it is with deepest gratitude for your support that I wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year 2018.

In Dharma,

Rev. Eido Frances Carney