

## What we did at Olympia Zen Center in Year 2018



### 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 in Dec.
- Held regular monthly Board meetings.
- Hosted bi-weekly orientation for newcomers to Zazen.
- Continued Saturday morning study using the text *The Heart Sutra* translated by Red Pine and also *Zen Teachings in Challenging Times* edited by Dai-En Bennage and with various teachers' essays.
- 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

- Placed a new bell tower at the front entrance built by Steve Senna and Will Gensho Turner.
- Cleared and leveled the pasture on the north side of the property removing invasive yellow archangel with assistance of Thurston County Conservation and Americorps volunteers.
- Attended to tree trimming, removing dangerous limbs and trees, thinning brush in the woods.
- Tested septic system quarterly.
- Stained Gogo-An exterior restoring its beauty and protecting the wood.
- Maintained the beauty of the grounds with assistance of numerous volunteers for weeding and raking.

### Special Projects and Events

- Celebrated the Dedication of our new Columbarium, donated by Michael Long. At the Dedication, we placed the ashes of Amy Stock and Kay Geist, who were early founders and establishing members of our practice in the transition from Sawyer Street to our home on 39<sup>th</sup> Way NE.
- Held Funeral Ceremony and a 49 Day Memorial for June McAfee long-time practitioner, supporter, and friend of Olympia Zen Center who died July 6th in Tumwater.
- Hosted special guests for lectures: in January, Rabbi Marna Sapsowitz, retired rabbi of Temple Beth Hatfiloh, and Rev. Howard Ullery, retired pastor of Lacey Community Church in May.
- Celebrated the Wedding of Bob Witzl and Chelo Solis in January at their home in Olympia.
- Held a going-away picnic and games gathering for Will Gensho Turner in September leaving to participate in a training Ango at Toshoji Temple in Okayama, Japan, in order to complete a portion of his required monastic training for priesthood. He will resume graduate studies at St. Martin's in Jan.
- 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.
- Several members attended March for Our Lives on March 24 at the State Capitol.
- Hosted annual New Year potluck gathering to ring in the New Year.
- Held 5-Year Planning retreat at Olympia Zen Center in April.
- Hosted a drum and poetry performance by Marc Anderson, Buddhist traveling performer.
- 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 Paranirvana, Mahapajapati Day, various Bodhisattva Ceremonies, 49<sup>th</sup> Day Memorials.
- Held Annual Meeting to meet legal 501(c)3 requirements of the State of Washington. → turn page

### **Other Noteworthy Activities**

- Held a successful garage sale for fundraising, an annual event, hosted by Bob Witzl.
- Held monthly GO instruction with Jason Baghboudarian, an advanced GO student with the local GO Club of Olympia.
- 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 a Mountain Seat Ceremony and Hossenshiki (Dharma Combat Ceremony) at el Centro Zen de Mexico in Mexico City, also visiting the Museum of Anthropology and Teotihuacan.
- Attended the meeting of the Association of Soto Zen Buddhists in Los Angeles with the guest teacher Rev. Kenshu Sugawara of Aichi Gakuin University on the topic of Dharma Transmission.
- Edited and moved through the publishing process, the latest book by Temple Ground Press along with Fletcher Ward, designer, and Maura High, copy editor. *Zen Teachings in Challenging Times* is the sixth book published by Temple Ground Press, a subsidiary of Olympia Zen Center. TGP advocates for and promotes Soto Zen women teachers. This book contains essays by 25 Soto Zen women priest-teachers.
- Eidosan was named to the Roadmap Committee of the Association of Soto Zen Buddhists and therefore required to attend meetings at Zenshuji in Los Angeles at regular intervals. The Roadmap Committee is responsible for planning the transition to America's increasing responsibility for training and certification of Soto Zen priests and for its transition to certificated priest training at the newly built Tenpyozan at Lower Clear Lake, CA, administered by Akiba Gengo Roshi, No. America bishop.

### **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, and continue art practice.
- Publish the new book, *Zen Dharma Teachings* by Enji Boissevain, a Soto Zen women priest in the lineage of Kobun Chino Otogawa Roshi, by Temple Ground Press in mid 2019, Introduction by Gil Fronsdal.
- Continuing fireside/firepit gatherings for Sangha conversations, and summer picnic and other social gatherings.
- Planning a public event Open House and Art Exhibition.
- Eidosan attending Association of Soto Zen Buddhists meetings in Los Angeles
- Planning for Sangha anniversary in 2020 and 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Zendo in 2025.
- Eidosan will travel to Zurich in June for her grandson's high school graduation, and visit other zendos.
- We will especially continue our popular Saturday morning discussion group for conversation and study of selected Buddhist texts.

