

### Other Noteworthy Activities

- 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 former treasurer Adam Shea and our new treasurer Bob Witzl and our past president, Steve Senna.

### Eido san's Activities

- Led morning and evening Zazen, numerous monthly one-day, and extended Sesshin.
- Attended the meeting of the Association of Soto Zen Buddhists at Zenshuji in Los Angeles with the guest teacher Rev. Kenshu Sugawara of Aichi Gakuin University on the topic of Great Jukai Ceremony. Zenshuji is preparing for its 100 Anniversary of Soto Zen practice at Zenshuji in the United States. To celebrate this occasion, Zenshuji will host a week-long Great Jukai Ceremony and other ceremonies related to the temple's history.
- Signed a contract with Temple Ground Press and Daigaku Rumme and Keiko Ohmae for publication of a book by the renowned deceased teacher Gien Inoue Roshi. The working book title is *A Commentary on Dogen's Zenji's Gakudo Yojinshu*, translated by Rumme and Ohmae. The book will contain a biography of Gien Roshi and an Introduction by Kando Inoue Roshi, one of Gien Roshi's sons. The book is scheduled to come out in mid-2020.
- Eido san 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.
- Published a Buddhist fiction work entitled *The Buddha of Eastern Parkway*, a novel which is available on line or at independent bookstores.
- Traveled to Zurich in June for her grandson's high school graduation, then traveled through Scotland with two other Zen teachers, Shinshu Roberts and Daijaku Kinst.

### Plans for 2020

- Olympia Zen Center will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of practice at Ryoko-an. Plans for the celebration are underway with the main event to be scheduled July 25<sup>th</sup>. Full Moon Sesshin will be scheduled two weeks earlier from July 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Ongoing training and encouragement for Sangha to move into leadership practice positions.
- Continue to care for practice, land, Columbarium, and gardens of Ryoko-an and Gogo-an.
- Continue to offer Precepts study and support for people preparing for Jukai.
- Continuing fireside/firepit gatherings for Sangha conversations, and summer picnic and other social gatherings.
- Planning a public event Open House and Art Exhibition through South Sound Open Studio to feature the paintings of Allyson Jozen Essen, May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.
- Eido san attending Association of Soto Zen Buddhists meeting at Zenshuji in Los Angeles.
- Eido san, Allyson, and Will attending the Soto Zen Buddhist Association conference at Great Vow Monastery from September 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>.
- We will especially continue our popular Saturday morning discussion group for conversation and study of selected Buddhist texts. As mentioned above, we are reading Sekkei Harada Roshi's *The Essence of Zen* for our study.
- Plans for a Sangha celebration of Eido san's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday at the end of April, date and time TBA.



## What we did at Olympia Zen Center in Year 2019



### 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 two texts: *The Mountains and Waters Sutra* by Shohaku Okumura; and, our present study, *The Essence of Zen* by Sekkei Harada.
- 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

- Continued care of the pasture on the north side of the property removing invasive yellow archangel and also on the west side as it approaches the wetlands.
- Attended to tree trimming, removing dangerous limbs and trees, thinning brush in the woods.
- Tested septic system quarterly.
- Maintained the beauty of the grounds with assistance of numerous volunteers for weeding and raking.
- Landscaped the surroundings of the Columbarium with a retaining wall and plantings.
- Hired a contractor to restore the bathroom used for residents and guests on the resident's side of the house.
- Purchased a new computer and updated our software with gratitude to Fletcher Ward for installation.

### Special Projects and Events

- Held ceremony to place the ashes of June McAfee in the columbarium. June was a long-time practitioner, supporter, and friend of Olympia Zen Center who died July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in Tumwater.
- Celebrated Jukai Ceremony on April 20<sup>th</sup> for Ahmer Nizam (Buddha Seal, Dharma Trust) and Chad Harvey (Noble Intention, Cave Mountain).
- Several members attended the Women's March on January 19<sup>th</sup> and several joined the Climate Action Demonstration at the State Capitol.
- Hosted annual New Year potluck gathering to ring in the New Year.
- 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, 49<sup>th</sup> Day Memorials.
- Held Annual Meeting to meet legal 501(c)3 requirements of the State of Washington.
- Held the annual Sangha summer potluck and games picnic on August 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Hosted a drum and poetry performance by Marc Anderson, Buddhist traveling performer on July 3rd.
- On February 13<sup>th</sup> we hosted high school students and their parents from St. Andrews United Methodist Church who were studying Buddhism as part of their world religions study.