



ROCHESTER ZEN CENTER
A BUDDHIST COMMUNITY

November 10, 2012

Dear Sangha,

Thanksgiving and Jukai

Enclosed is a schedule of activities for this year's Thanksgiving and Jukai (the ceremony of receiving the Precepts). Because the national elections have pushed our November sesshin back a week, we've had to forgo the fast day and famine relief ceremony we normally hold on the Thursday before Thanksgiving.

We will start Thanksgiving Day festivities with our annual Ceremony of Gratitude. Sitting begins in the zendo at 8:30 am, and the ceremony starts at 9:30, followed later in the day by potluck dinners in Sangha homes and at 6 pm in the Center's dining room. If you have extra space at your Thanksgiving dinner, if you plan to come to the dinner at the Center, or if you are looking for a home to go to, call the receptionist at the Center or email receptionist@rzc.org. If you are eating at the Center, please sign up in the Link (or call us) and indicate what category of dish you'll bring to share.

On Friday, staff and volunteers will set up the Buddha Hall for Temple Night. As in the past, there will be a memorial altar where members can place pictures and mementos of loved ones who have died. This year, it too will be in the Buddha Hall, along with other side altars installed with figures of Buddhas and Bodhisattvas from the Center's collection. Throughout the evening, members are free to come and go, to sit, to offer incense and prostrations, and to chant if they wish.

At 8:30 on Saturday morning, November 24, there will be zazen and teisho, followed by brunch and then dokusan for out-of-town members. The Jukai ceremony will start at 4 pm in the Buddha Hall. If you are a local member and have room in your home to offer to an overnight guest, please contact the Center's receptionist at 473-9180. A donation is appreciated from out-of-town members who would like to stay at the Center or at Chapin Mill.

If You Have Sewn a Rakusu,

Be sure to return it to the Center by Tuesday, November 20. To receive your rakusu you should have been a member of the Center (or an affiliate) for a year, be a formal student of Roshi, and have taken Jukai or plan to take it this Thanksgiving. After you get your rakusu back to the Center, Roshi will arrange to consult with you about the Dharma name he will inscribe on the back. Then you will formally receive the rakusu in a short ceremony right after teisho on Saturday.

Comings and Goings

Our cadre of trainees and staff has stayed remarkably stable for some time now, with plenty of bodies and energy. We've added one more trainee this quarter – Robert Massar – who arrived just before the October sesshin.

Access Project Completion

Thank you to everyone who helped us renew the entry to Arnold Park and make our zendo wheelchair-accessible. If you haven't been by the Center recently and would like to see the changes, check out pictures on the website at (<http://www.rzc.org/about/gallery/>). Thanks to Jon Schick, our architect, for a wonderful design, and to our contractor, Jeff Falco, for an excellent job.

Chapin Mill News

In the last few months we've completed a number of major maintenance tasks involving the long-neglected out-buildings at Chapin Mill. For years Andris Chapin had contended with a leak at the chimney where it passes through her third-floor apartment in the Mill House. Many tries over the past ten years failed to stop the leak. But late this summer we replaced the building's severely deteriorated roof, tearing off the old plywood as well as the shingles, and – with the help of our roofing contractor – we were finally able to find and fix the cause of the leak. Result: a happy Andris Chapin and a big sigh of relief for Wayman!

After that we took on the barn roof, which we had delayed replacing for as long as possible. So the barn now has a new long-life gray metal roof, very carefully vented, with new gutters and downspouts on the east and west sides.

We are also refurbishing the old Guest House. Several former residents reported that the mold and mildew problems there had made the Guest House a rather problematic place in which to live. So we gutted the interior in order to eliminate the mold and mildew; this work also provided us with an opportunity to install high-efficiency spray-foam insulation. New drywall is now installed and nearly ready to paint, but there is still plenty of woodwork and finishing that will need to be done.

And finally, the exterior of the Mill House has been repaired and repainted.

New Year's Celebrations

Our New Year's Eve ceremonies, with zazen, repentance, noise-making circumambulation, candle lighting, bell ringing, resolution reading and refreshments, will go from 8 pm on December 31 to a little after midnight. If you plan to come from out of town for the celebrations, please let the receptionist know by December 28.

Sangha Entertainment Night

This year, the Sangha Entertainment Night will be on Saturday, February 16. An easily entertained audience awaits your act!

Board of Trustees Meeting

The fall meeting of the Center's Board of Trustees was held on October 27-28. Draft minutes of the meeting will soon be available in the "Communications > Meetings & Finances" section of the Center's website at www.rzc.org/communications/meeting-minutes. One of the main items on this meeting's agenda was a broad strategic-planning discussion of the Center's current status with regard to matters such as membership, finances, staffing, and facilities, combined with a discussion of how we might best make improvements and adjustments in these areas as we move forward.

Another major item on the agenda was a review of the Center's current financial position. In planning for next year, the Board adopted a 2013 operating budget of \$461,500 for Arnold Park and Chapin Mill combined; details of the 2013 budget will be included with the meeting minutes. Despite significant attention to cost-saving measures such as reducing energy use, the Center will face an \$18,000 budget shortfall next year if membership contributions remain flat.

From the Financial Office

Many thanks to all those Sangha members who have continued to contribute generously to the Center despite the economic uncertainty of the past few years. If you have not yet sent in your contribution for the fourth quarter of 2012, it would be a real help if you did so before the financial office sends out 2013 membership pledge forms toward the end of November.

Special Dates for 2013

Sangha Entertainment Night: Saturday, February 16

Chapin Mill Work Retreat: Tuesday evening, June 25 – Saturday, June 29

SanghaPalooza: Friday evening, August 2 – Sunday, August 4

Founder's Day: Sunday, August 18

Sangha Picnic: Saturday, September 14

Sesshin Dates

Below are sesshin dates from December 2012 through December 2013; all are at Chapin Mill and led by Roshi unless otherwise indicated:

2012

December 4-8	4-day	deadline: November 19
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2013

January 5-12	7-day	deadline: December 13
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Feb 22-24	2-day – Wayman Kubicka	deadline: February 14
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March 30-April 6	7-day	deadline: March 7
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June 8-14	6-day – Amala-sensei	deadline: May 16
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July 20-27	7-day	deadline: June 27
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September 6-8	2-day – (to be announced)	deadline: August 29
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Sept. 28–Oct. 5	7-day	deadline: September 5
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November 2-9	7-day	deadline: October 10
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December 3-7	4-day	deadline: November 14
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- If you miss the deadline, it's all right to apply late. If there's room, you're likely to be accepted.

In the Dharma,



John Pulleyn
For the Center