



ROCHESTER ZEN CENTER  
A BUDDHIST COMMUNITY

May 20, 2017

Dear Sangha,

### **We're Getting Ready for Buddha's Birthday**

In just a week, it's our annual Buddha's Birthday weekend of music, stories, food, fun, balloons and an appearance – possibly – by the world's largest known land mammal. If you'd like to help out in the days leading up to, or during, our set-up and take-down, we'll be able to use extra hands. Give us a call or e-mail John Pulleyn ([john@rzc.org](mailto:john@rzc.org)). Everyone is welcome – family, friends, and dogs too!

#### *Temple Night*

Celebrations begin with our semi-annual Temple Night and Jukai on Friday, May 26. If you have a figure of a buddha or bodhisattva at home that you'd like to place on the main altar to steep in the charged atmosphere, bring it in.

#### *Saturday & Sunday*

On Saturday we have the Baby Buddha Ceremony, stories from the Sleeping Sage, an elephant parade, a vegetarian potluck picnic, Buddha's birthday cupcakes, and a laid-back edition of the Buddha Bazaar during the lazy afternoon.

The annual meeting this year will be held on Sunday morning at 9:30. If you'd like to join others in the zendo beforehand, feel free (as always) to do that. No need to wear a robe unless you're an out-of-town member going to dokusan that morning.

A full weekend schedule is included with this mailing, and posted on the Center's website [here](#).

### **Ralph Chapin Memorial Work Retreat**

We've already had five out-of-towners sign up for this year's work retreat. It's a great way to sit, work, eat, and mingle with others on this Path, especially if you're not able to get to the Center on a regular basis.

For those who are new, or who have never taken part, the work retreat is a bit like a mash-up of a training program and summer camp. Most of our work is done in the mornings, with clean-up and free time in the afternoons. Sittings are scheduled each morning and evening for those who can attend. A lot of us will be staying overnight – there are plenty of rooms, and you can even camp out if you like. The retreat starts with a sitting at 7 pm on Tuesday, June 27, and finishes with lunch on Saturday, July 1. Come for as much of the retreat as you'd like, and bring family and friends who'd like to help out. There's a wide variety of jobs – indoor and outdoor, skilled and unskilled. Each year when we look back on our week, we're impressed and grateful for all that we've been able to do together.

There are no training fees for the retreat, although donations toward the cost of food are welcome. Let John Pulleyn know if you'll be coming. You can e-mail him at [john@rzc.org](mailto:john@rzc.org) or call (585) 473-9180. Let us know your times of arrival and departure and, if you'd like to stay overnight, whether you need a place to sleep or plan to

camp. If you're coming with children, let us know their ages. It also helps to know about any skills or limitations you may have. Please bring your own linens and towels.

### **Annual Meeting**

The Center's Annual Corporate Meeting will be held during Buddha's Birthday weekend. We'll review the Center's financial and spiritual affairs and count ballots for the annual Trustee election. Those Trustees and Officers who are able to attend will be available to answer questions. All Sangha members are welcome at the meeting, which will be held in the Buddha Hall on Sunday morning, May 28, at 9:30. This year, the Trustee Nominating Committee has nominated incumbent Trustee Sensei Gerardo Gally and Sangha member Peter Greulich. Ballots and a brief biographical note for each of the two candidates have been sent to everyone who was a Center member as of the May 3 record date for the election. Please mail your postcard ballot to the Center or bring it to the meeting; ballots won't be available at the meeting itself. Past elections have been decided by a handful of votes, and one by a coin-flip after a tie.

### **2015 Annual Picnic**

Our annual picnic is scheduled for Saturday, August 19.

### **Founder's Day**

We'll hold our annual Founder's Day remembrance of Roshi Philip Kapleau the day after the picnic (on Sunday, August 20, which is our old teacher's actual birthday!)

### **Sesshin Dates**

Below are sesshin dates for the rest of this year; all are at Chapin Mill and led by Roshi unless otherwise indicated:

#### 2017

June 10-17	7-day		deadline: May 18
July 29-August 5	7-day	(Amala-sensei)	deadline: July 6
September 8-10	2-day	(Eryl Kubicka)	deadline: August 31
Sept 30-October 7	7-day		deadline: September 7
November 4-11	7-day		deadline: October 12
December 5-9	4-day	(John Pulleyn)	deadline: November 23

#### 2018

January 6-13	7-day		deadline: December 14
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Please bear in mind that if you miss the deadline for any sesshin, you may apply late. We always accept qualified applicants if there's room. Also, if you need to book a flight early and want to make sure beforehand that you'll be accepted to sesshin, you may ask for an early decision, and we will accommodate you if we can.

These dates are also listed in the Sesshin section of the Center's website.

In the Dharma,



John Pulleyn  
For the Center