



ROCHESTER ZEN CENTER
A BUDDHIST COMMUNITY

December 12, 2017

Dear Sangha,

Winter has arrived with the first snowstorm of the season. Here's what's coming up as we head into a New Year.

Annual Cleaning of the Temple

On Thursday, December 28, with staff back from the holiday break, we'll begin our preparations for the New Year, starting with our annual Cleaning of the Temple at Arnold Park. We start with a short chanting service at 9:45 am and finish with pizza at 12:30 pm. Give us a call if you'd like to take part!

Just after the start of the New Year, on Wednesday, January 3, we'll roll up our sleeves again for Temple Cleaning at Chapin Mill. Join us if you can! We'll begin out there at 9 am and finish at 12:30.

New Year's Celebrations

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

Sangha Entertainment Night

This year, the Sangha Entertainment Night will be on Saturday, March 3. Here's your chance to "strut and fret your hour upon the stage." Music, comedy, drama – we're looking for anyone willing to get an act together and share it with the rest of us. To sign up, contact Trueman (cpto628@gmail.com).

February 2-day Sesshin

We have a two-day sesshin (one of two offered each year) that will begin Friday evening, February 23, and end after noon on Sunday, February 25. Deadline for applications is Thursday, February 15.

Board of Trustees Meeting

The fall meeting of the Center's Board of Trustees was held on October 20-21. 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. At the meeting, the Trustees heard reports from the chairs of various Center committees, such as the Finance Committee and the Committee on Facilities and Sustainable Operations, and reviewed the Center's current financial position. At the end of the third quarter, the Center's total operating income and expenses were as expected in view of the 2017 budget and past-year, third-quarter financial results. In planning for next year, the Board adopted a 2018 operating budget of \$440,500 for Arnold Park and Chapin Mill combined, which represents a half-percent decrease from the 2017 expense budget; details of the 2018 budget will be included with the meeting minutes.

From the Financial Office

Many thanks to all those Sangha members who have continued to contribute generously to the Center this year. If you have not yet sent in your contribution for the fourth quarter of 2017, it would help if you send it as soon as you're able to.

Special Dates for 2018

Sangha Entertainment Night: Saturday, March 3

Chapin Mill Work Retreat: June 26 – 30

Sangha Picnic: August 18

Founder's Day: August 19

Amala-sensei will lead the October sesshin: September 29 – October 6

Sesshin Dates

Below are sesshin dates through December 2018; all are held at Chapin Mill, and all are led by Roshi unless otherwise indicated.

2018

January 6-13	7-day	deadline: December 14
February 23-25	2-day (TBD)	deadline: February 15
April 7-14	7-day	deadline: March 15
June 9-16	7-day	deadline: May 17
July 28-Aug 4	7-day	deadline: July 5
September 7-9	2-day (TBD)	deadline: August 31
Sept 29-October 6	7-day (Amala-sensei)	deadline: September 6
November 3-10	7-day	deadline: October 11
December 4-8	4-day (TBD)	deadline: November 16

Please bear in mind that if you miss the deadline you may apply late for any sesshin. 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