



ROCHESTER ZEN CENTER
A BUDDHIST COMMUNITY

April 23, 2019

Dear Sangha Member,

Your postcard ballot for this spring's Trustee election is enclosed with this letter. The Center's Trustee Nominating Committee has selected Rebecca Gilbert and incumbent Trustee Jonathan Hager to run this year. The candidates' statements, photographs, and contact information are on the back of this sheet.

In addition to the Trustee to be elected by the Center's members this spring, the Center's other five Trustees are:

- Chris Pulleyn (appointed by the Abbot; term ends May 2019)
- Gerardo Gally (elected by the Center's members; term ends May 2020)
- Tom Roberts (elected by the Board of Trustees; term ends May 2020)
- Betsy Friedman (elected by the Center's members; term ends May 2021)
- Kathy Collina (elected by the Board of Trustees; term ends May 2021)

THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CENTER'S TRUSTEES

Under New York law and the Center's by-laws, the six-member Board of Trustees "shall set administrative policy for the Center and shall ensure that the Center is administered in a fiscally responsible manner that effectively furthers the Center's stated purposes." The roles and responsibilities of Trustees include the following (a complete list is posted on the Center's website at www.rzc.org/trustee-responsibilities in the "About > Policies and Bylaws" section):

- Oversee compliance with ethical and legal standards
- Develop and implement long-term operational strategy
- Oversee and approve the Zen Center's annual operating budget
- Oversee and review investments, including investment policy
- Provide guidance on matters of operations and staffing
- Ensure that the Center's governance and management structures are effective
- Oversee the Center's legal affairs, including approving changes in the Center's by-laws
- Act as a sounding board for the Center's Abbot on any matter for which he or she seeks advice
- Serve as a collective ombudsman for the Sangha's interests and concerns related to the Zen Center
- Establish committees, charter them, and appoint at least the committee chair

Each spring, the three-year term of one of the three member-elected Trustees expires, and an election is held to fill the opening. (Under the Center's by-laws, two of the other three Trustees are elected by the Board of Trustees, and one Trustee is appointed by Roshi.) The Board elects its chair from among its members; the current chair is Chris Pulleyn.

Please return your ballot before the annual meeting on Sunday morning, May 26, or bring it with you to the meeting, which will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the Buddha Hall. No ballots will be available at the meeting itself.


Scott Jennings
Corporate Secretary and Business Manager

The fine print: If you return the enclosed ballot to the Center before the May 26, 2019, Annual Meeting, but are not present in person at the Meeting, the Center's Corporate Secretary will cast your vote by proxy at the Meeting in the manner that you have marked on the ballot. If you (1) return the ballot to the Center before the Annual Meeting and are present in person at the meeting, or (2) turn in the ballot at the Meeting before the polls close, the ballot will constitute your vote in person.



Jonathan Hager

Jonathan joined the Rochester Zen Center in 2011. A regular at morning sittings, he is also an active member of the Center's Zen of Living and Dying group and is helping to shape end-of-life education and services at the Center. He sits on the Center's Finance Committee, and in 2017 Jonathan began working with Excellus BlueCross BlueShield in an effort to increase support for meditation in the health-care community. The result was the Hello Pain program, developed by Center Trustee Chris Pulleyn. Jonathan has co-taught this eight-week program seven times since then, working with local cancer centers, Lifespan eldercare, and underserved inner city health centers.

Jonathan arrived in Rochester in 1990 to attend the University of Rochester School of Medicine and completed his residency in internal medicine at the University's Strong Memorial Hospital. He has been a primary care physician for nearly 20 years and has also been working in addiction medicine, serving a population of poor, inner-city patients with opioid addiction. This is incredibly rewarding, posing frequent challenges involving problem-solving and interpersonal conflict relating to heavily addicted and desperate patients, often with serious psychiatric afflictions.

Jonathan has had a number of volunteer roles during his time in Rochester. He volunteered for St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center, providing primary medical care to an uninsured working population. He taught inpatient internal medicine to medical students at the University of Rochester and served on the Monroe County Medical Society Quality Collaborative Committee, Lung Cancer Screening Committee, and Tobacco Treatment and Dependence Committee.

Jonathan has been married to his wife, Sylvia, for 23 years and has two wonderful teenage daughters (should we talk about problem solving and conflict resolution here?). He enjoys playing squash, working in the garden, and travel of all sorts. His approach to problem solving and decision making starts with a deep empathy for the "other" view, and he tries to start from the premise that the other view, rather than his own, is correct. Easier said than done! Jonathan can be reached at hagerpark@gmail.com.



Rebecca Gilbert

Rebecca found her spiritual home at the Rochester Zen Center in 1999. Meeting Roshi Philip Kapleau and committing to Zen practice with Bodhin-roshi set her on a journey into the wisdom of the Buddhadharmā. Her first ten years of practice included periodic term intensives and attending sesshin a few times per year. Within the collective generous wisdom of the Rochester Zen Center Sangha, Rebecca experienced a depth of healing and transformation that surpassed explanation. The Dharma offered a path to joy and fulfillment through all the normal and extreme ups and downs of life.

Rebecca's second decade of practice pivoted toward family life, with marriage and the birth of her two sons. The challenges and intensity of family life came to feel like a continuous sesshin, and she found her practice emerging in unexpectedly beautiful ways more often "off" the mat than "on." This year marks the beginning of her third decade of practice, with a renewed commitment to her personal practice and an intention to help the Center find paths toward sustainability and membership growth by investing in the younger generations of its Sangha.

Rebecca is the Principal Flutist of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and Adjunct Professor of Flute at Nazareth College. Her previous community service includes serving as Program Chair for the Rochester Flute Association, Chair of Orchestra Committee of the Rochester Philharmonic, and Musician Representative to the Board of the Rochester Philharmonic. She is currently serving on the Rochester Zen Center's Youth and Family Task Force and is excited about this opportunity to instill youthful energy into the Center's programs and activities.

Guiding qualities Rebecca has developed in her work as a professional performing and teaching musician include deep responsive listening, collaboration, and consensus building. Some of her hobbies include yoga, triathlon fitness training (swimming, biking, running), and dancing (ballroom, swing, tango). Rebecca lives in the Highland Park neighborhood of Rochester with her husband Gavin Rigg and sons Julian (age 9) and Malcolm (age 7). She can be reached at Rebeccalottecca@rochester.rr.com.