

Zen Center

OF SAN DIEGO

ZCSD Newsletter

November-December 2022



ZCSD Year in Review and a Request for Your Support

Greetings to members and friends,

At ZCSD, the pandemic limited us to online sitting for many months until we could safely reopen the zendo. Thankfully, 2022 has been a time of gradual re-emergence. Throughout most of this year, we've been able to offer hybrid programming, and while many of our practitioners still prefer the safety and convenience of Zoom, others have been cautiously returning to the Center.

Our practice leaders, Chuck Sweet and Myoku, continue to train with highly seasoned teachers, whose wisdom and guidance are invaluable. In particular, Elihu Genmyo Smith, Joko's first dharma heir and the guiding teacher at Prairie Zen Center, works with them closely. Since taking on

2022 Sesshin Date

December 28–31, 2022

December Sesshin

Applications are now being accepted for the December Sesshin.

Participants may attend part-time or full-time.

Please apply [here](#).

2023 Sesshin Dates

March 10-13

June 8-12

September 8-11

December 28-31

The Sexual

**Misconduct Complaint
Procedure and Code
of Ethical Conduct for**

their roles, Chuck and Myoku have completed intensive training in healthy boundaries, and our Board of Trustees has revamped and published the Center's Policy of Ethical Conduct for Teachers/Practice Leaders (Teacher Trainees), as well as our Sexual Misconduct Complaint Procedure and a Commitment to Transparency and Communication. These documents are all available on the [Policies](#) page of our website.

This year, we've been very fortunate in receiving visits from several teachers: Anne Seisen Saunders, Elihu Genmyo Smith, Ed Mushin Russell, Vince Jensen, and Gregg Howard. Their generosity has been a big support to us, and we are most grateful. We were also glad to welcome Yamin Chehin and Alan Mobley, who facilitated an outdoor Council for us in June. This event gave the sangha a chance to talk in person for the first time in a while, and Alan and Yamin were caring guides. We also got together on various occasions just to bond and have fun—there were three heartwarming potlucks this year, thanks in large part to the efforts of Giza Braun.



Teachers/Practice

Leaders

can be found on the [ZCSD website under "Policies."](#)

[Announcements](#)

[Sesshin Application](#)

"A Bodhisattva's giving is not just overcoming miserliness and being generous to others; a pure wish to give is cultivated, and through developing more and more intimacy with it, such giving is enhanced infinitely." —*His*

Holiness the Dalai

Lama XIV



Through the months when gathering in person was not possible, two of our members, Ed Harpin and Ralph Nowacki, devoted hours of their time each week to tending the garden. And they did so with such care and diligence that many have remarked that the grounds look better now than they ever did!



As in the recent past, ZCSD offered four sesshins (in March, June, September, and December), and in 2023, the plan is to do the same, but with June scheduled as a four-day, which will be new. There will also be a short Spring Practice Period from March 11 to April 1 next year.

Ongoing Change in a Turning World

Though our sangha is quite small at the moment, we continue to support one another on the Path of Awakening, remaining committed to steady practice and cheered by new members and visitors as they arrive. The zendo, as noted, is open

(with some COVID-related protocols), and we offer a weekly sitting program and regular sesshins, with online participation still possible through Zoom.

We keep going with thankful hearts, embracing the Dharma and joyous in the knowledge that the gift of practice is a jewel available to all who step on the Path. We are deeply committed to providing a safe and nurturing space for practice, and we look forward to welcoming you at ZCSD, if you decide to attend.

Please Consider Making a Donation

Financially, we are managing, but only just. The ZCSD Board has identified a funds threshold that, if dipped down to, will trigger a “serious discussion” about the viability of staying on the Felspar property. So far, thanks to dues and sesshin fees, guest income, and some generous donations last winter, we have stayed above that threshold. However, our cushion is small.

We would like to express our deep appreciation to everyone who has made a financial gift to ZCSD in the past year. With inflation as high as it is, this has been another tough year for all of us, and we are very grateful for your support.

The practice and teaching at ZCSD have touched many people, and perhaps you are among them, whether you participate regularly in our programming, have benefited from it earlier in your life, or simply value the newsletter.

In this season of giving, we hope you will continue to support the Zen Center of San Diego or consider donating for the first time. You can give through PayPal online by clicking on the yellow “Donations” link on our home

page. <http://www.zencentersandiego.org>. Or you can send a check to 2047 Felspar Street, San Diego, CA 92109-3551. Donations to the Zen Center, as a nonprofit organization, may be tax-deductible. Gifts in any amount, however small, are greatly appreciated.

Joy has no tension in it, because joy accepts whatever is as it is. —*Charlotte Joko Beck*