

## Cedar Rapids Zen Center – Jikyouji

MINUTES – Sangha<sup>1</sup> Meeting – September 22, 2019 – Convened at 10:36 AM

Called to order by President Amy O'Brien Eble

**Present:** President Amy O'Brien Eble, Secretary Kelly Kruse, Treasurer Myoho Kendall,  
Resident Teacher Zuiko Redding, Robyn Groth, Lauren Manninen, Melanie Collins

**COUNCIL** was held.

**MINUTES of July 28 Sangha Meeting** – Motion to approve by Myoho – Second by Zuiko – Carries

**PRACTICE REPORT – Zuiko Redding** - See Appendix A

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Myoho Kendall**

### **Accounts as of 09-21-19**

Checking (Hills) \$2,697.58

Savings (Hills) \$3,739.57

Savings (LACU) \$2.13

Savings (UICCU) \$5.75

NTF Savings (LACU) \$5,204.01

CD (UICCU) 2.67% \$23,957.53 09/24/20

CD (LACU) 2.82% \$30,571.16 11/30/20

CD (LACU) 2.67% \$22,820.89 06/04/20

NTF CD (LACU) 2.82% \$11,622.93 05/03/21

CD (UICCU) 3.26% \$11,047.91 06/17/23

Mutual Funds (ING) \$40,492.19 (Split 55.7% as NTF and 44.3% as CRZC)

**Total \$152,161.65**

The total amount within the NTF \$39,381.09 (NTF Savings + CD + Mutual Funds)

### **BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT – Zuiko Redding**

Myoho's work list is at the back of the shelves in the entry for people to refer to. If you find things that need to be done, either let Myoho or Zuiko know or write it on a sticky note and attach it to the list.

Work day – August 24 – Annora, Robyn, Pete, Myoho, and Zuiko tidied up the back yard and gardens.

Next Work Day: November 9.

Active projects

- Re-cover dining chairs with material from Jenn.
- Refinish basement table.

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<sup>1</sup> A community of Buddhists that practices together. Also used to mean the community of all Buddhists in the world.

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- Getting new kitchen rugs – Zuiko will look at Target, Home Depot, Menard's. Discussion: Melanie suggested a store called Five Below that sells things for \$5 or less.
- Porch furniture – Myoho will take a cushion home and wash it.

### Projects needing attention – possible work day items

- Install new top on exterior stair rail.
- Peeling paint on the wall of the downstairs bathroom cabinet.
- Wash front of house.
- Cabinet doors in downstairs toilet need to be planed.
- Need new snow shovel – does anyone have an extra? Zuiko will buy one for the temple.

### Finished Projects

- New lock on garage door. Old one was broken when someone broke into garage.

### New Projects – None

### Pending short-term or small projects

- Purchase six-foot shelf boards for basement. Need three. – Zuiko will investigate at Habitat
- Check status of roof – shingles are beginning to chip
- Plane doors in office and library so they will shut
- Replace back gate by garage

### Pending long-term projects – Things that need to get done sometime

- Porch – clean and paint porch floor
- Painting: woodwork and walls in library, hall, office, Zuiko's room, and stairwell / touch up garage / touch up porch, paint porch deck.
- Fix ceiling in bathroom and probably Zuiko's sitting room. The plaster is falling down. Zuiko will contact Roger Brecht who did the kitchen for us for an estimate and possible work. Put off until next March.
- Roof – Long-term plan is to put on a new roof in 2019 or 2020.
- Refinish floors – Would be nice to begin with the zendo<sup>2</sup> and the entry.
- Garage door may need replacement in the next few years
- Explore possibility of making the Center ADA accessible.
- Replace fence on alley and possibly on side of house.
- Inspect and take care of gaps in limestone on foundation.

Did we miss anything?

We are still in need of people to help with this area or to take it over.

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<sup>2</sup> Meditation hall

**Communications Report – Lauren Manninen**

**Mailchimp**

August 2019

449 Recipients (+8 from previous month)

19.8% Opened the email

88 opened from email

17 read newsletter from Facebook posting

**Facebook Activity August 2019**

**Page views:** 71

**Page likes:** 707 +2 from last month

**Page Reach:** 660

**Engagements with our posts:**

**Most popular post this month** – Reached 177 people, 27 reactions, comments, & shares

\*\* Take- away from August – we did not have the weekly sayings for the majority of the month, which seems to drive over half the traffic to our page. We've resumed them and should see an increase in visitors.



**SUCCESSION PLAN – Amy O’Brien Eble**

Eric joined the succession committee.

1. A google drive was created and shared with the sangha, including the Succession Committee and the Advisory Committee. The drive holds reports, minutes, the Succession Plan and the charters. All other documentation related to succession will be held on the drive, and be easily accessible to all sangha members. Because we have this repository and the drive has been shared, regular emails with such documents attached will not be sent, to avoid redundancy and clutter. A reminder to review documents on the drives and another link to the drive will be sent to the sangha and Advisory Committee. Eric will update the CRZC website with a hyperlink to the drive, a list of Succession Committee members, and contact information for the committee. Discussion: Amy will send this information to Zuiko.
2. A Succession Committee meeting was held on Sept 20, 2019. The following are brief notes about what was discussed at the meeting. Full minutes are posted on the drive.
  - a. The committee amended and approved the charters for both committees.
  - b. The committee will begin to write a job description. Myoho will contact Zuiko asking for a list of her duties (and perhaps a formerly drafted job description).

- c. A timeline was established. 12-18 months for standard elements of the transition plan. An additional 6 months was anticipated for interviewing/hiring teacher.
  - d. Funding was discussed. There is \$1,000 in the budget for promoting the job. It was suggested that next fiscal year a budget for each promoting and hosting a teacher be established.
  - e. Tim will contact the Advisory Committee to ask how the Succession Committee can best present the requirements and responsibilities of the next teacher, and how to attract individuals to apply.
3. The next Succession Committee meeting will be November 1, 2019.

## FUNDRAISING

1. Buddha in my pocket (ask Jenn at next meeting)
2. Recipe book – Amy
  - Will send email out asking for recipes, collect through Google Docs
  - How do we want to distribute – print on demand, Zazzle?
  - Can be black & white to save money
  - Could possibly get grant
  - Zuiko has a sesshin<sup>3</sup> cookbook we could use

## ANNOUNCEMENTS for CRZC

Monday Night Dharma<sup>4</sup> – October 7, 14, 21, 28 6:30 PM

Baika<sup>5</sup> Practice – October 10, 25

Daruma Sesshin – October 18-20

Introduction to Zazen<sup>6</sup> - October 16 7:30 PM

Sangha Meeting – Sunday, October 27 following dharma talk

## NEXT MEETING: October 27

Meeting adjourned at 11:36 PM

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Kruse

## Appendix A

### Practice Report – August 25/September 22, 2019

#### General Impressions

Succession is gradually going along. I'm glad for this. With visiting teachers coming, you have a chance to talk with them about this.



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<sup>3</sup> Silent meditation retreat

<sup>4</sup> The nature of reality; Buddhist teaching

<sup>5</sup> Buddhist singing and percussion instrument practice

<sup>6</sup> The style of meditation we do at our Center, “just sitting”

I was at the Sotoshu<sup>7</sup> meetings September 4-6 and a lot is happening. We're setting up an American organization that will be an equal organization with Japanese Sotoshu. We will recognize each other's temples, teachers, and sangha members, and we will guide and support each other in spreading the dharma. So far, we have standards for certifying new teachers and for ranking teachers so that we can have senior teachers who can teach at training monasteries and be resources for local temple teachers. We are now beginning work on a constitution, organizational framework, and ethics policy.

We are also planning for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in 2022. There will be a dai jukai at Zenshuji in Los Angeles that will be open to all temple members in the country and I hope some of you can come. Dai jukai is a multi-day ceremony in which very venerable priests explain the precepts, participants chant devotional verses to Shakyamuni Buddha and other Buddhas, and consider their lives. This culminates in very solemn ceremonies in which we give up our transgressions and receive the precepts together. In the process participants center their spirits, understand the precepts, and meet and become acquainted with many other practitioners around the country. There will be more information as the time grows closer. Discussion: We should think about offering scholarship opportunities for sangha members with less means who would like to participate.

### Center Activities

- Introductory evening – No one came in August. Two people came in September. Kelly did the evening.
- Sunday and daily sitting – Attendance on Sundays and weekdays is steady. People have reappeared for noon and evening zazen. Thursday evening zazen seems to be popular.
- Baika practice – Three people these days. We have a steady group.
- Monday night dharma – We have five or six people. Discussion of *Every Moment is the Universe* is lively.

### Special Events -

- All-day sitting – We had a total of four people and Jisho Siebert led the day in both July and August. She gave fine talks on spaciousness of mind and on the Four Immeasurables. At the August sitting we folded cranes for the protest against the detention of immigrants.

### Sangha Members' Activities

- Kelly teaches the introductory evening.
- Tim Macejak, Tim Yukl, and Myoho visit Anamosa. Myoho and Cheolsoeng Doug Gentile visit Newton. Zuiko will visit Newton in September. Daishin visits Ft. Madison.
- Lauren manages our Facebook page and the two newsletters.
- Eric manages our web page and does technical support for our system.
- Gus writes thank-you notes to donors, supplies web site sayings, and mows the lawn.
- Amy is our Inter-Religious Council representative and chair of Succession Planning.

### Zuiko's Activities

- Ordained James Bettis at Clarinda on August 8.
- Visited Anamosa on August 11 and September 8. John Graves received the precepts on August 11.
- Visited Ft. Madison on August 22 and September 19 (Newton).
- Writing for Facebook page, monthly newsletter, and *Ancient Way*.
- Working on book on "Eight Awakening Points of Great People" to be published by Sanshinji's Dogen Institute.
- Member of Sanshinji's board of directors.

### Other Items

- Zuiko and Myoho will be in Japan September 25 – October 6.
- Shoryu will lead October sesshin.

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<sup>7</sup> The international Buddhist organization of which our Center is a member