

## Cedar Rapids Zen Center – Jikyouji

MINUTES – Sangha<sup>1</sup> Meeting – October 27, 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, Mark Ahlstrom, Jenn Day

**COUNCIL** was held.

**MINUTES of July 22 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 10-27-19**

Checking (Hills) \$3,585.32

Savings (Hills) \$3,740.98

Savings (LACU) \$2.13

Savings (UICCU) \$5.75

NTF Savings (LACU) \$5,604.65

CD (UICCU) 2.67% \$24,118.76 09/24/20

CD (LACU) 2.82% \$33,788.56 11/30/20

CD (LACU) 2.67% \$22,983.10 06/04/20

NTF CD (LACU) 2.82% \$11,705.55 05/03/21

CD (UICCU) 3.26% \$11,138.69 06/17/23

Mutual Funds (ING) \$40,528.36 (Split 55.7% as NTF and 44.3% as CRZC)

**Total \$157,201.85**

The total amount within the NTF \$39,884.30 (NTF Savings + CD + Mutual Funds)

GoFundMe funds are now in account.

### **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 – none this month because of sesshin<sup>2</sup>.

- 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.

<sup>2</sup> Silent meditation retreat.

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- Getting new kitchen rugs – Zuiko will look at Target, Home Depot, Menard's, and Five Below
- Porch furniture – Myoho is working on cleaning the porch chair cushions

Projects needing attention – possible work day items

- Install new top on exterior stair rail.
- Peeling paint on the wall of the downstairs bathroom cabinet, repaint back corner of kitchen.
- Cabinet doors in downstairs toilet need to be planed.

Finished projects

- At sesshin – pruned apple tree, sewed setsu<sup>3</sup> tips, deep-cleaned the zendo<sup>4</sup>, and vacuumed the basement floor.
- Removed weed seeds and tidied up garden in back
- New snow shovel purchased.

New Projects

- Clean and cover porch furniture

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 and the entry
- Garage door may need replacement in the next few years,
- Explore possibility of making the Center handicapped 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>3</sup> Object used to clean bowls as part of the ritualized eating at Zen meditation retreats.

<sup>4</sup> Meditation hall

**Communications Report – Lauren Manninen**

**Mailchimp**

October 2019

448 Recipients (-1 from previous month)

19.3% Opened the email

86 opened from email

34 read newsletter from Facebook posting (a record!)

**Facebook Activity October 2019**

**Page views:** 121

**Page likes:** 709 +2 from last month

**Page Reach:** 2,844 (3x more than last month!)

**Engagements with our posts:** 951

**Most popular post this month** – Reached 493 people, 39 reactions, comments, & shares



**SUCCESSION PLAN** – None this month because meeting is 1 November.

**FUNDRAISING**

1. Buddha in my pocket – Jenn is having difficulty getting the back and front to line up. Zuiko said that Lauren might have some ideas.
2. Recipe book – Amy has received just a few responses to her email.

Kelly discussed the forum on Protecting Places of Worship that took place at the Cedar Rapids downtown library in October. Zuiko usually checks on people who come in during sitting and will continue to do so. The person who sits in the “last spot” in the zendo (facing the entryway) would likely be the first person to see it if something happened.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS for CRZC**

Monday Night Dharma<sup>5</sup> – November 4, 11, 18, 25 6:30 PM

Baika<sup>6</sup> Practice – November 8, 22

All-Day Sitting – November 17

Introduction to Zazen<sup>7</sup> - November 20 7:30 PM

Sangha Meeting – Sunday, November 23 following dharma talk

IRCLC Thanksgiving Service – November 25, People’s Unitarian Universalist Church

**NEXT MEETING: November 23**

Meeting adjourned at 11:39 AM

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Kruse

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<sup>5</sup> The nature of reality; Buddhist teaching

<sup>6</sup> Buddhist singing and percussion instrument practice

<sup>7</sup> The style of meditation we do at our Center, “just sitting”

## Appendix A

### Practice Report – October 27, 2019

#### General Impressions

Mid-autumn is here and we're all hunkering down. In Japan, the persimmons and pomegranates were ripening and the big red equinox lilies were blooming. And the cosmos, with their bright colors floating in the meadows. Let's take this time to pause and regroup our practice as we go into winter.



#### Center Activities

- Introductory evening – no one came. We're seeing a bit of a slump, but numbers are likely to rise soon.
- Sunday and daily sitting – Attendance on Sundays and weekdays is a bit down. That's usual in October.
- 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

- Sesshin with Shoryu Bradley – we had four participants along with Shoryu and Zuiko. All had come to October sesshin before and we made a solid, comfortable group. I was impressed with how we kept the spirit of silence. The silence was soft and flexible, encouraging our quietness but open to expression that was helpful or necessary.
- Zuiko and Myoho were in Japan September 25 – October 6. They practiced at Saikouji in Kameoka, visited Zuiko's teacher, Tsugen Narasaki at Zuiouji, and visited the temple where Zuiko practiced, Shogoji. They also saw many art treasures and other temples. People can see pictures on Facebook. Myoho got the opportunity to taste Japanese practice and Zuiko reconnected with old friends.

#### 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 November to help Cheolsoeng with a precepts ceremony. 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 the Succession Committee.

#### Zuiko's Activities

- Visited Anamosa on October 13.
- Visited Ft. Madison on October 24.
- 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.
- Secretary of Sanshinji's board of directors.

#### Other Items

- Amy will be giving the reading at the Thanksgiving service on November 25.
- Zuiko will lead all-day sitting at Anamosa on December 5.
- Rohatsu sesshin is coming on December 6 – 8.
- New Year's is on the horizon. There will be sitting on New Year's Eve and a ceremony and open house on New Year's Day. Would like to encourage people to bring treats for the open house.