

Cedar Rapids Zen Center – Jikyouji

MINUTES – Sangha¹ Meeting – August 29, 2021 – Convened at 10:20 AM

Called to order by Jeff Mallory

Present: President Jeff Mallory, Secretary Kelly Kruse, Resident Teacher Zuiko Redding,
Andrew Lenards

COUNCIL was held

PRACTICE REPORT – Zuiko Redding - See Appendix A

TREASURER'S REPORT

Accounts as of 8-21-21

Checking (Hills) \$12,267.14

Savings (Hills) \$2,478.03

Savings (LACU) \$35,829.78

- LACU Savings Allocation: 65.8% CRZC, 34.2% New Teacher Fund

New Teachers Fund (LACU) \$14,432.22

Savings (GreenState CU) \$5.75

CD (GreenState CU) 0.95% \$24,938.64 10/25/2021

CD (LACU) 0.648% \$31,935.59 05/03/22

CD (GreenState CU) 3.26% \$11,790.17 06/17/23

Mutual Funds (Cetera) \$52,271.60 (Split 55.7% as NTF and 44.3% as CRZC)

- \$52,245.29 Mutual Fund
- \$26.31 Cash, Money Funds, Bank Deposits

Total \$185,948.92 (June total: \$185,311.42)

The total amount within the NTF \$55,786.63 (NTF + NTF CD + 55.7% of Mutual Funds)

Still talking about changing our investment strategy. Should have vote about formally empowering Ryan to propose new way forward – send to board.

Method to use for calculating Total amount in New Teachers Fund

1. Take 55.7% of total mutual fund ($52,271.6 \times 0.557$) = 29,100.63
2. Add this amount to LACU New Teacher Fund = 14,432.22
3. Add this amount to the fully matured NTF CD amount (matured, now 34.2% of LACU Savings) = \$12,253.78

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

BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT – Zuiko Redding

Work day – August 21 – cleaned the zendo² and entry, kitchen, powder room, and basement room. Thanks to Pete and Yayoi.

Next Work Day: September 11 – Possible projects – yard work, cleaning library and basement, painting the porch floor.

Active projects

- Gutter repair and house painting – Tryon Contracting will be painting the house to repair derecho damage in September or early October.
- A tree for Tim Bryant. Tim was a long-time member of the Anamosa group who died of Covid in late November. Let's remember him with a tree or bush, perhaps a new one in the right-of-way. The Anamosa men decided on a gingko tree.
- Zuiko has arranged with Tryon to replace upstairs porch storm windows in the fall.

Projects needing attention – possible work day items

- Getting rid of old porch furniture – Zuiko will put out on curb next week. If no one takes it, she will call Denny for a recycle run.
- Paint porch floor
- Clean library
- Yard work
- Sanding projects in office - see "Pending short-term projects"

Finished projects

- Install new top on exterior stair rail. Ryan did this. Many thanks to him.
- Ryan also brought new porch furniture that will be much more comfortable in our space. Thanks!!

New Project – Paint porch floor.

Periodic projects

- Pour vinegar into furnace water exhaust tube – every 2 – 3 months – September, 2021
- Change furnace filter – September, 2021
- Check battery water – sump pump – October, 2021

Pending short-term projects

- Eight-foot shelf boards for basement. Need several. Zuiko will get them from Home Depot or Restore.
- Sand doors in office and library so they will shut – we have sandpaper and a pad sander.
- Sand credenza drawer in office so it will shut.
- Replace fence by side of house.

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

- 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.
- 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.

² Meditation hall

- Inspect and take care of gaps in limestone on foundation

Communications Report – August 2021 – Zuiko Redding

Currents stats

- 487 sent – 485 successful deliveries
- 230 unique opens – 47.2%
- 6 clicks – 4.3% (all were on the all-day sitting schedule)
- 372 total opens (about double July's)

Facebook stats - 2021

July

- 4 – The circle of practice – 132 reached, 17 engagements, 1 share, 6 likes, 1 comment
- 11 – Not standing out – 156 reached, 19 engagements, 2 shares, 12 likes, 1 comment
- 18 – Expressing reality – 136 reached, 19 engagements, 1 share, 10 likes, 2 comments
- 25 – Not expressing the truth – 140 reached, 13 engagements, 1 share, 6 likes

Average reach – 141

August

- 1 – Learning to express the truth – 155 reached, 19 engagements, 1 share, 12 likes, 1 comment
- 8 – Claiming our inheritance – Kelly Kruse – 153 reached, 15 engagements, 0 shares, 11 likes, 1 comment
- 15 – Yogacara and Sawaki Roshi – Doju Layton – 126 reached, 7 engagements, 0 shares, 5 likes
- 22 – Don't be eager to speak – 207 reached, 18 engagements, 3 shares, 9 likes

Average reach – 157

Gray typeface – counted in last month's report

Highlighted – most popular posts

SUCCESSION PLAN REPORT

- Zuiko has been sending emails to other teachers
- Jisho has possible lead
- Maybe Doju? Jeff has already reached out

NEW BUSINESS

1. Fundraising
 - Got about \$1K already from appeal letter
 - Donate your printer cartridges; Amazon Smile
 - PayPal has charity program too; Jeff will research
2. Elijah the kitty has joined the Jikyoji family
3. Inter-religious Council board retreat
 - How to go online for safety without alienating longtime members?
 - Zuiko will do "Buddhist Minute" for Council website, could do educational event
 - Bryan probably has a POC at the UU church for us

ANNOUNCEMENTS for CRZC

Monday Night Dharma³ – Mondays on Zoom 7:00 PM

Introduction to Zazen⁴ - 3rd Wednesday of each month 7:30 PM, Zoom/in-person hybrid

Baika⁵ practice - Fridays right now, please tell Zuiko if you want to join but can't do it at that time

All-Day Sitting – 19 Sep - Hybrid

Sesshin⁶ – 15-17 Oct – Hybrid

NEXT MEETING: September 26, 2021

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Kruse

Appendix A

Practice Report –

August 29, 2021

General Impressions –

Though COVID transmission is high in Linn County, I'm trying to keep our doors open. We now have the vaccine, so we're a bit better protected. We're getting a number of new people these days, too. It was nice last Sunday to be able to chant with two other people. Perhaps your chanting was stronger with three of us to chant with.

And here's a practice opportunity, a way of being more connected and of taking care of the center. You can take care of the altar, ring the zazen bell, work with the technology, and do many other things. Doing these things helps our practice, too. We learn to pay attention and respect all things by changing the candle, dusting and arranging the altar, offering incense, and ringing the bell. Even though you may be unable to be here in person, there are things you can do. Some things can be done over Zoom. If you're interested, please contact me.

With an integrated sangha there are no work periods on Sundays, so we need people to come and help with keeping the zendo, discussion area, and entry clean and well-maintained. People could sign up to come at convenient times, or we could do some of that after Sunday activities finish.

I am planning to audit a course in Japanese for translation of Buddhist texts from the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley. IBS is a Buddhist graduate school and seminary begun by the Pure Land denomination in America. It's now open to people from all Buddhist denominations. Class will be held on Fridays from 11:30 – 1:00 p.m. I will need someone to lead Friday Zoom zazen or we'll need to move it to Tuesday or Wednesday.

Center Activities

³ The nature of reality; Buddhist teaching

⁴ The style of meditation we do at our Center, "just sitting"

⁵ Buddhist singing and percussion instrument practice

⁶ Silent meditation retreat



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- Introductory evening – Kelly did the evening on site and we had two participants.
- Sunday sitting – Attendance on Sundays brings five to ten participants on Zoom and one or two in person.
- Daily sitting – There’s now Zoom sitting at 12:15 on Fridays. Tune in!!
- Baika practice – Annora and Zuiko practice semi-monthly on Friday afternoon. We invite others to join us.
- Monday night dharma – Six to eight people meet by Zoom. We’re discussing *Trust in Mind* by Mu Soeng.

Special Events

- End of ango⁷ on August 15.
- Talk by Doju Layton on August 15.

Sangha Members’ Activities

- Kelly teaches the introductory evening
- Inmates continue to sit in the prisons, though our regular visitors can’t be there.
- Andy King manages our Facebook page and the *Currents* newsletter.
- 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.
- Brian Brandsmeier and Kelly Kruse are our Inter-Religious Council representatives.

Zuiko’s Activities

- Writing and posting summary of each Sunday’s dharma talk to sangha members and on Facebook and the website.
- Monthly letters to inmates accompanied by copies of dharma talk summaries.
- 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

- All-day sitting on September 19.
- Sesshin with Shoryu Bradley on October 15-17. Discussion – unsure how much will be in person vs. online yet, but sesshin will happen.

Calligraphy by Koshu Itabashi Roshi — *While losing, we win. It’s a secret skill.* To allow ourselves to lose or to accept loss is an ace up our sleeves. We allow our opponent some dignity and perhaps they become softer toward us.

⁷ Period of more intense practice, often to commemorate something