

Report of Activities of Olympia Zen Center in Year 2009



Regular and Ongoing Practice

- Continued morning and evening Zazen schedule without interruption.
 - Offered monthly day-long sesshin.
 - Practicing Rohatsu Sesshin from December 2 to December 8.
 - Offered Special Practice Period during the month of July.
 - Held regular Board meetings.
 - Hosted weekly orientation for newcomers to Zazen including students from South Puget Sound Community College.
 - Continued Saturday morning practice with study using the text DOGEN ON MEDITATION AND THINKING: A REFLECTION ON HIS VIEW OF ZEN by Hee-Jin Kim and began study of new text by Allen G. Johnson, PRIVILEGE, POWER AND DIFFERENCE.
- Provided instruction in various forms of practice for all who requested.
 - Maintained www.olympiazencenter.org website.
 - Began a new blog of current events for Olympia Zen Center:
www.olympiazencenterevents.blogspot.com
and a new blog of teachings and life observations by Eido.
www.olympiazencentereidoblog.blogspot.com
 - Hosted various solitary retreats in Gogo-an and in the residence.

House and Outdoor Projects

- Continued removal of noxious weeds and raked heaps of leaves and cleaned garden for winter.
- Maintained the beauty of the gardens with the assistance of numerous volunteers.
- Dedicated two plaques on the Path of the Ancestors. One for “All Those Who Have Come Through This Gate” and the second for the “Nameless Who Have Died in Difficult Circumstances.”

Special Projects and Events

- Held Practice Period in the month of July with C.J. Jikyo Wolfer as Shuso which culminated in our Intensive Retreat and first Shuso Ceremony on July 26th, 2009 attended by Rev. Master Eko Little, Abbot of Shasta Abbey who was Jikyo’s Training Master during her monastic training at Shasta Abbey.
- Celebrated Jukai Precepts Ceremony in Olympia for June McAfee.
- Attended Soto Zen Conference for priests trained in Japan in Los Angeles at Zenshuji Zen Soto Mission.
- Celebrated Jukai Precepts Ceremony in Lindau, Germany for three students.
- Prepared personal well-being health kits for homeless men and women in Olympia.
- Sangha held various meetings at Olympia Zen Center to consider our health and welfare and to design future approach to transition as Eido announced her intention to retire.
- Hosted a Donors’ Meeting in support of financial continuation at a critical passage during economic downturn.
- Hosted Rev. Daigaku Rumme for consideration of new abbot of OZC which did not come to fruition.
- Continued support of monthly meetings on topics in Buddhism with residents at Panorama City in Lacey, WA.
- Hosted annual New Year potluck gathering to ring in the New Year.

Other Noteworthy Activities

- In demonstration of the Dharma, as always, all of our bills and mortgage payments were paid in full and on time with gratitude to the faithful work of our Sangha members and our generous donors. ➡ please turn the page

Eidosan's Activities

- Announced intention and hope for retirement as the 70th birthday looms.
- Led daily and weekly Zazen, monthly sesshin, and Rohatsu Sesshin at Ryoko-an.
- Supported individuals' practice through Dokusan and training and led several wellness services for the sick, and memorial services for deceased relatives and friends.
- Attended Board and committee meetings in support of the activities at Olympia Zen Center.
- Continued to produce calligraphy and paintings and offered many in gratitude for donations.
- Delivered a lecture for the Community Education Series for Panorama City residents on Women in Religious History.
- Delivered a lecture at Centralia College a cultural education program on "Simplicity."
- Gave a slide show presentation to Panorama City residents on the architecture of Zen Temples in Japan.
- Led Workshop on Ryokan and Creativity at Deep Spring Temple, Pittsburgh, PA with Rev. Kyoki Roberts, Abbess.
- Delivered talks in classes on world religions at South Puget Sound Community College.
- Continued occasional prison dharma work with visits to McNeil Island Correctional Center.
- Attended meetings related to the development of Thurston County Reentry Coalition, a faith-based initiative to support services for men and women reestablishing their lives in the community.
- Attended and facilitated monthly meetings of the Eastern texts study group at Panorama City.
- Traveled to Zurich, Switzerland to see family and grandchildren. Led a Ryokan retreat at Felsentor, Lake Luzern, Switzerland and with Tenkei Coppens Roshi at Zen River in Northern Holland. Led a one-day retreat with our affiliated Sangha at Wind & Wolken Sangha, near Schleswig in Northern Germany.
- Spent one month at Kannon-do in Mt. View, California as substitute teacher for Keido Les Kaye Roshi during his sojourn to Africa.
- Continued teaching responsibility for the Wind & Wolken Sangha in Northern Germany near Schleswig. our sister/brother Sangha relationship.
(wind-wolken-sangha.blogspot.com/Sangha)

Activities For the Future

- Continue to search for creative ways to build Sangha and to allow Eido to retire, to assist her in retirement while at the same time care for the presence of our lineage at Ryoko-an.
- Eidosan will travel in the spring to Europe to see family and to two Zen centers: Wind & Wolken Sangha in Germany, and Felsentor near Luzern, Switzerland, leading Sesshin and offering teachings on Ryokan.
- Continue to care for the trees and leaf raking in autumn and weeds in spring, provide training opportunities for current students, pave the way for new residents to live-in and be leaders in practice, offer Precepts Study and sewing circle for people preparing Rakusu for Jukai, offer introductory classes for people new to Zen practice, continue calligraphy and art training.
- Hoping to continue planning of construction of a Columbarium, a place for the care of funeral ashes along the Path of the Ancestors depending upon the economic atmosphere and our financial stability.

