

法縁  
HOEN-JI

THE ZEN CENTER OF SYRACUSE HOEN-JI

*266 West Seneca Turnpike Syracuse, New York 13207 (315) 492-9773 [www.zencenterofsyracuse.org](http://www.zencenterofsyracuse.org)*

Cover: Soh Daiko troupe performs at the Bicentennial Celebration of the Joshua Forman House October 17, 2010  
Photo by Diane Grimes

Dear Sangha and Dharma Friends,

November 21, 2010

With this year-end appeal, we wish you a holiday season as joyous as our recent celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Joshua Forman House, our home since 1996. The vibrant energy of the taiko drummers on the front of this card conveys the community-uniting spirit of our bicentennial events, which culminated in October's ceremony "Honoring and Giving Thanks to the Onondaga Waters," with leaders of the Onondaga Nation; the dedication of a large-scale sculpture by Seneca-Cayuga artist Tom Huff, conveying the interconnection between the Zen Center and the Haudenosaunee People; a sand mandala created by Tibetan monks from the Gaden Shartse Monastery in India, which was then dispersed into Onondaga Creek; an auction of fine works by area artists; and a weekend with the aforementioned taiko troupe, Soh Daiko, bringing our Capital Campaign to a resounding close.

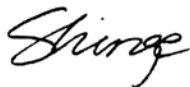
As I look toward expanding my work, becoming abbot of Dai Bosatsu Zendo in addition to my responsibilities here, I am buoyed by the serious yet exuberant practice of my students. We have a full complement of residents whose commitment and caretaking inspire us all, and a dedicated board of trustees. I know that our new Tisarana Council, composed of senior lay and ordained members of the Sangha, will be important partners on this incomparable Way.

The compassion that flows naturally from our practice manifests in the wider community. In addition to our work at Faith Hope Community Center, an after-school program in one of the poorest sections of Syracuse, we are engaged in Syracuse University's "Say Yes to Education" program for at-risk youth, and have teamed up with Imagine Syracuse to offer "Inner Peace, Creative Expression" workshops taught at the Zen Center by African American and Native American professional artists. We are in our fourth year of a pioneering program teaching meditation to people with brain injuries and developmental disabilities, and we lead meditation at Auburn Prison and the County Justice Center. Our urban ecology program, offered right here in our own nature sanctuary along Onondaga Creek, nurtures environmental awareness, responsibility, and ecological literacy.

In order to meet the considerable financial obligations that make our work possible, we humbly request your year-end support, so that we may continue to offer authentic Zen training, enhance our surrounding community's well-being, care for our beautiful facilities, and provide a place of serenity and true happiness for all. Your gift is crucial to what we do. Contributions are fully tax deductible.

The enclosed 2011 "Be Well, Be Safe" card has been on the Zen Center's altar. You may place it near the front door in your home, as a blessing for you and your family in the coming year, and to welcome visitors.

With palms together,



Shinge Roko Sherry Chayat, Abbot



**on ka ka kabi sam ma ei sowa ka**

***Be Well, Be Safe***

***2011***

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