



THE ZEN STUDIES SOCIETY
DAI BOSATSU ZENDO KONGO-JI

SHINGE ROKO SHERRY CHAYAT ROSHI, ABBOT

November 5, 2011

Dear Sangha and Friends in the Dharma,

We have just completed Harvest Sesshin at Dai Bosatsu Zendo. We began in the midst of a surprise snowstorm, and ended in the golden light of dusk over Beecher Lake.

Indeed it has been a harvest. Eighteen bodhisattvas sat together. We have been well nourished by the Dharma, and our hearts are overflowing with gratitude. How rare it is to find this kind of nourishment in the tumult of day-to-day concerns.

The authentic Rinzai Zen training offered at Dai Bosatsu Zendo Kongo-ji and our urban temple, New York Zendo Shobo-ji, has been life-changing for generations of Dharma seekers from all over the world. We also see the inspiring enthusiasm of new students, including many young people who may have few material resources, but are rich in vigorous determination and strong motivation.

These have been challenging times for the Zen Studies Society. Our coffers need to be replenished. Although we have been consistently frugal, reducing our expenditures by 50% this year, a number of capital expenses have been, or will soon be, necessary.

Heavy rainfall and intense storms such as Hurricane Irene washed away much of the road at DBZ this year; fortunately, a bodhisattva who wishes to remain anonymous donated \$10,000 to repair it. Our two 25-year-old wood-burning furnaces needed overhaul. Two washing machines finally staggered to a halt and were replaced. We purchased and installed a (used) high-capacity propane tank to save on vendor pricing. In the spring, Ulster County will mandate the installation of water purification systems in all guest lodgings, and we will also need to repair the leaking roof of our wood barn.

Appliances at New York Zendo will have to be replaced, as well as the sidewalk in front, and refurbishing is needed in the Dharma Hall-kitchen area.

The Zen Studies Society moved into its Carriage House at 223 East 67th Street forty-three years ago, and the land for Dai Bosatsu Zendo was purchased in 1970. Forty years ago, the first sesshin at DBZ was held in the existing Beecher House. Our founders and innumerable Sangha sisters and brothers worked tirelessly to develop the practice at these beautiful places. Now it is up to us to ensure that it will continue, for the present Sangha, for new students of the Way, and for future generations.

We know this is a time when you are besieged by fundraising letters, but our donor base is small, extremely significant, and deeply appreciated. This is a practice that affects you directly. May we count on your continued support?

With profound gratitude,

Shinge Roko Sherry Chayat

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