

July 23, 2013

Dear Sangha,

We hope you are enjoying a happy, healthy, and fulfilling summer. As we look toward fall, our year-round residents and I have been discussing how best to maintain the vitality of practice at DBZ as we move through this exciting but demanding transitional time. We must always be responsive to present circumstances and make adjustments that are needed. This flexibility enables us to grow and ensures the continued health of our beautiful practice and monastery

To allocate our energies as effectively as possible, we are taking the step of **canceling this fall's Golden Wind Sesshin and holding Harvest Sesshin a week earlier, from October 26 to November 2**. This will be a seven-day sesshin. Of course Rohatsu Sesshin dates are always the same: November 30-December 8. We sincerely hope that this will not cause inconvenience, and that you will be able to join us for sesshin and for our other summer and fall programs.

It was a pleasure to share the profundity of Anniversary Sesshin with many old-timers and a number of new students. The final day's Atonement and Purification Ceremony and listening circle were moving and healing experiences for us all.

We are enjoying a full Open Space series during this Summer Interim. Many people who have never before experienced the beauty of this mountain and the quiet power of our practice are feeling how very special this place is, and making plans to return.

The Zen Studies Society Board will be holding another Board and Advisory Council retreat in the fall, this one to refine our vision for the future of DBZ and to explore ideas for future programming and scheduling. In that regard, it was helpful to have former Vice Abbot JunPo Denis Kelly at DBZ with his Hollow Bones Sangha for a guest sesshin in June. We were inspired by their playfulness and joy. They loved being at DBZ, and are already planning to come back next year.

We hope to see you again soon for O-Bon, the beautiful and essential Buddhist ceremony honoring our deceased loved ones, which takes place this year on Saturday, August 10. If you can, please join us August 6-9 for O-Bon preparation and Mizu Segaki practice, and stay on for the ceremony.

You are also invited to come to Hoen-ji, our Syracuse temple, for my 70th birthday celebration on Saturday, October 5. The Sangha there will be sending out more information on this event soon. You are also invited to come to Hoen-ji, our Syracuse temple, for my 70th birthday celebration on Saturday, October 5. The Sangha there will be sending out more information on this event soon.

As always, we humbly ask for your continuing support and counsel. We look forward to sharing our ever-deepening practice in the months and years to come.

Gassho,

Shinge