

From: Zen Studies Society <office@zenstudies.org>

Subject: Happy New Year

Date: January 4, 2016 at 9:18:27 AM PST

To: [REDACTED]

Reply-To: office@zenstudies.org



January 4, 2016

Dear Sangha members and Dharma friends,

As the New Year begins, we wish to express our deep gratitude to all whose generous support and strong practice made the successful events and achievements of 2015 possible.

Last year began with a heating crisis that, with your help, led to the replacement of the ancient and unreliable furnaces at DBZ with a new, bio-sustainable, efficient system. Profound sesshins and all-day sittings were held at DBZ and NYZ, providing opportunities for deep and transformative practice. Samu volunteers and program participants attended DBZ weekend after weekend, some returning after years of being away. Many other events brought our community together: a wedding held at DBZ for more than 100 guests brought joy to everyone in attendance; several funerals and interments took place at Sangha Meadow, attended by families who expressed their gratitude for the support they found here; a warm and festive Thanksgiving celebration at DBZ was attended by more than 60 Sangha members and friends, and about the same number participated in our traditional New Year's Eve ceremony.

Finally, in the last week of 2015, an ongoing challenge was overcome: the years-long legal dispute with former Abbot Eido Shimano Roshi was resolved. The settlement, which was reached with the assistance of a professional arbitrator, demonstrates the ongoing governance of ZSS based on Buddhist principles and organizational Best Practices, and has helped secure a bright future for our temples and our Sangha.

Our growth, depth of practice, and momentum in 2015 were remarkable. And now, in the coming year, we will celebrate an important milestone: the 40th anniversary of the formal opening of Dai Bosatsu Zendo on July 4, 1976. Our Anniversary Sesshin will conclude on Saturday, July 2, with a talk by honored guest Shunan Noritake Roshi, Abbot of Reiun-in, Myoshin-ji, Kyoto; July 3 will include presentations, musical performances and a celebratory dinner. At dawn on Monday, July 4, we will walk to the Sangha Meadow to pay homage to honorary founders Soen Nakagawa Roshi and Nyogen Senzaki, and will circumambulate Beecher Lake.

As we move forward, we remain firmly committed to maintaining an atmosphere of integrity, clarity, and responsibility within our organization, and to making our temples inspiring, encouraging, and welcoming places of practice for all. Again, we are deeply grateful for your support, and we wish you and your family health and happiness in the New Year. May 2016 bring continuing enthusiasm and ever-deepening practice.

Let True Dharma Continue!

The Abbot and Directors of the Zen Studies Society

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