



## The Future

This is a time of transition. We've been challenged in many ways over the past few years, and now we want to use what we've learned to examine the best direction for the future. What is authentic for us, natural to us in the second decade of the twenty-first century in North America?

We want to stay open to new possibilities to strengthen the Zen Studies Society. We want to bring in new practitioners, and we especially want to invite all the many old-timers to come and be a part of this—we value your long years of practice, your depth of insight, and your many gifts and talents. We have such respect and gratitude for you.

Shobo-ji is a remarkable oasis in the urban wilderness; it's heart-warming to see the growth in numbers and in understanding, with the quiet, steady leadership of Spiritual Director Hokuto Dan Diffin and Resident Manager Zuiho Matthew Perez. Many ongoing programs, Dharma Talks, and special guest teachings are being offered, and we want to expand the audiences to include students from Hunter College and other New York City educational institutions.

At Dai Bosatsu Zendo, we'd like to broaden awareness of the Zen Studies Society's focus on ecology. We plan to bring students from colleges and universities to participate in Zen Ecology workshops and retreats, to have a naturalist lead a series of wilderness weekends, and to organize a symposium featuring well-known environmentalists.

Week-long retreats for people who are in the business and corporate world, medical field, and other stressful occupations will be held, with yoga and body work, hiking, teachings on Zen, and shorter zazen periods; they will be able to establish positive patterns, using their experiences here to bring a fresh, relaxed, creative, disciplined, and attentive approach to their professional and family lives.

We'll host personal and group retreats for writers, who may then share their newest work with us, inspired by the special environment that is Dai Bosatsu Zendo.

We are exploring possible changes to our schedule that could help us introduce these new programs. One might be to shift the timing of our training periods to create a longer Summer Interim. The spring kessei could start and end earlier, running from February to May and including two sesshins, March-On and Holy Days. Anniversary Sesshin would become a three-day focal point of our Summer Interim, to be held over the July 4th weekend. Fall kessei would start in mid-September and end with Rohatsu sesshin.

It is our hope that some serious participants in the new Summer Interim programming will decide to join us as residents. Kessei months will continue to provide rigorous Rinzai Zen training, as before, while also offering more personal time and opportunities for creativity.

We welcome your thoughts on these proposed changes. If you would like to share your ideas and suggestions, please email Choren Karin Drew, a member of our Advisory Council and Development Committee, at [lineagraphia@gmail.com](mailto:lineagraphia@gmail.com).

This is an exciting time for ZSS, and we look forward to sharing it with you.