

Cedar Rapids Zen Center – Jikyouji

**MINUTES – Sangha Meeting – November 22, 2015 – Convened at 10:45 AM**

Called to order by Vice-President Douglas Gustafson

**Present:** Vice-President Douglas Gustafson, Treasurer Gina Vavra, Secretary Kelly Kruse, Resident Teacher Zuiko Redding

**COUNCIL was held.**

**MINUTES of September 27 and October 25** – Motion to approve by Gus – Second by Gina - Carries

**PRACTICE REPORT – Zuiko Redding** See Appendix A

**TREASURER’S REPORT – Gina Vavra**

Hills Bank Checking:	<b>\$3,551.09</b>
Hills Bank Savings:	<b>\$4,827.20</b>
LACCU Teacher Fund:	<b>\$5,307.12</b>

Hills Bank 48-59 month CD	<b>\$22,084.55</b>
LACCU Maturity Date 7-19-16:	<b>\$21,440.62</b>
UICCU 49-60 month CD:	<b>\$21,129.64</b>
UICCU 37-47 month CD:	<b><u>\$10,065.42</u></b>
Total CDs:	<b>\$74,720.23</b>

Mutual Funds:	<b>\$30,918.10</b>
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**Grand Total = \$119,323.74**

Fundraising letter will be mailed out at Rohatsu Sesshin. The December meeting will include an overview of where we’re at financially, the third quarter report, and budget (Zuiko to file 941).

**WORK LEADER’S REPORT – Zuiko Redding**

If you see something that needs attention, let us know. If you’d like to do something about it, let us know that, too. Then do it. We need everyone’s eyes out there.

Work day – Cancelled because of snow

Next Work Day: December 12 or 19? (decided on 12)

Possible work: cleaning to prepare for New Year’s

Ongoing projects

- Basement sealing – nothing done
- Flaking paint on stairway ceiling – nothing done
- Paint the air intake in the zendo. Have bought paint and Eric will do.

Projects needing attention

- Clean and organize basement – Sally, Denny Novak, and Zuiko will begin sometime this month

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Finished projects

- Disposing of stump almost finished

New Projects – none *If you know of anything, let Zuiko know.*

Pending long-term projects – things that need to get done sometime

- Painting: woodwork & walls in library, hall, office, Zuiko's room, and stairwell / water-damaged areas in kitchen and stairwell – waiting for okay on these areas from Fitz / a few other places downstairs where paint is cracking / touch up garage
- Roof: Long-term plan is to put on a new roof in 2019 or 2020.
- Refinish floors – would be nice to begin with the zendo and the entry

Does anyone have something to add?

If someone would like to take over as work leader, let us know.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### 1. Cloud Backup System

- Motion to use Carbonite for one year by Kelly – Second by Gus – Carries
- Gus will email Eric about setup

#### 2. New Desktop PC

Desktop computer at Center is reaching end of life, replacement needed within

- 6 months
- Can no longer support modern antivirus software (such as Kaspersky), operating systems, or additional RAM
- Computers often go on sale around Christmas
- Gina has consumer guides
- Gus brought up idea of laptop with docking station; Zuiko says desktop is more suitable for purpose
- Motion to explore options and bring ideas back to next meeting by Zuiko – Second by Gus – Carries

#### 3. Discuss time for study group

- Monday nights starting 1 Feb, 6:30-8, sit from 6:30-7
- Zuiko will check with author on time for him to speak
- Book – *On Cold Mountain: A Buddhist Reading of the Han Shan Poems* by Paul Rouzer

#### 4. Reading and approving Ethics Policy

- Motion to table by Zuiko – Second by Gus – Carries
- Please look at policy and share any feedback

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#### 5. Zuiko's Health

Zuiko finished radiation treatments on Wednesday, November 18 and is feeling fine. The tumor is shrinking slowly and will continue to do so throughout the next few months. Zuiko's oncologist is pleased with her progress, and she has ordered a CAT scan for late January to assess the tumor's condition.

The radiation should have killed all the cells, but there is a chance a few will have survived. If this happens, there is a chemotherapy pill that should take care of the situation. Zuiko can look forward to a long and healthy life.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS for CRZC**

1. Sesshin (Rohatsu) – December 4-6
2. Introduction to Zazen – December 16 at 7:30 PM
3. Next Sangha Meeting – December 27 after dharma talk
4. New Year's Eve Celebration – Thursday, December 31 7:30-10:40 zazen  
10:40-11:10 Ryaku Fusatsu 11:10-12 noodles and social time

#### **NEXT MEETING: December 27**

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM

Motion to adjourn by Gina – Second by Kelly – Carries

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Kruse

#### **Appendix A:**

### **Practice Report – November 22, 2015**

#### **General Impressions**

My teacher once told me that if we even have one sincere practitioner, we have a magnificent sangha. As I look around I see that, while our numbers are small, their dedication is huge. We have a fine board with people who take their roles seriously and are level-headed and steady. We also have regular sangha members who make an effort to contribute by attending zazen and helping out either physically or financially. We are fortunate.

If you have not stepped up to help out, we encourage you to do so. It will help your practice as well as the community's practice. We all have many responsibilities - sometimes fitting our practice and our practice community into those is difficult. However, if it is not a priority, the Center will not continue. We need not take on great tasks that exhaust us. Simply coming to zazen two or three times a month or looking for things that take a few minutes to do then doing them keeps us going. The Center is us and if we're not there, it's not, either.

### Center Activities

- Introductory evening – seven people came and Kelly did the evening.
- Sunday sitting – attendance is getting better – a few more would help – having more people helps newcomers
- Daily sitting – At least one person for two of the noon sittings. Sometimes a person in the evening.
- Baika practice – three people. We sing as practice rather than to improve

### Special Events

- All-day sitting – two people besides Zuiko. Very quiet and solid with good talk.

### Sangha Members' Activities

- Tim Macejak gave a talk at Ascension Lutheran Church on November 8
- Gina Vavra will give a reading at the interfaith Thanksgiving service on November 23

### Zuiko's Activities

- *Zen no Tomo* - helping with translation – This is a little magazine published in Japanese. We hope to make it available to everyone, perhaps with a combination of Japanese and American writing.
- Editing translations for the Sotoshu web site
- Writing for Facebook page and announcements – gets the dharma out there

### Announcements

- Rohatsu sesshin – December 4 – 6.
- Jisho in February, Daishin in March – work on chanting in March
- Sotoshu baika person May 24
- Daigaku Rummé coming June 19 - Kathleen, too
- Han Shan speaker – study group – begin February 1 – six weeks book – *On Cold Mountain: A Buddhist Reading of Han Shan's Poems* by Paul Rouzer (first session at Paul Engle Center?)
- Calendar – 5 or 6 hard copies at Center to sell?