

## Cedar Rapids Zen Center – Jikyouji

**MINUTES – Sangha Meeting – November 27, 2016 – Convened at 10:39 AM**

Called to order by President Eric Higgins-Freese

**Present:** President Eric Higgins-Freese, Vice President Douglas Gustafson, Treasurer Gina Kendall, Secretary Kelly Kruse, Resident Teacher Zuiko Redding, Travis Hunt

**COUNCIL was held.**

**MINUTES of 23 October** - Motion to approve by Gus – Second by Zuiko – Carries

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Gina Kendall**

### Accounts as of 11-27-16

Checking (Hills)	\$3,129.18			
Savings (Hills)	\$7,214.27			
Other Savings (UICCU,LACCU)	\$7.13			\$10,350.58
N. T. F. Savings (LACCU)	\$2,916.39			\$2,916.39
CD	\$21,584.36	04/01/17		\$21,584.36
CD	\$10,292.40	07/16/18		\$10,292.40
CD	\$22,472.30	04/12/19		\$22,472.30
CD	\$28,931.22	05/25/19		\$28,931.22
Mutual Funds (ING)	\$32,430.34			\$32,430.34
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$128,977.59</b>

- Zuiko received some donations for the Center from colleagues in Japan when she went there to visit.
- The next CD to mature will be on April 1<sup>st</sup>, so we'll talk soon about our plans for it.

### BUILDING AND GROUNDS 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 – November 19 – did garden work and indoor cleaning and maintenance – we had five people and got lots done. Need to do more chipping – wood wasn't dry enough yet.

Next Work Day: December 17

Possible work: cleaning for New Year's (Open house preparation usually begins around the 27<sup>th</sup>)

Pending projects

- Basement sealing – Zuiko will call possible contractors.
- Flaking paint on stairway ceiling – does anyone know a good handyman?

Projects needing attention

- Small branches hitting the house and gutters need to be cut. Zuiko is thinking to call Mark Lam, our arborist.

## 2 | Jikyouji – Sangha Meeting Minutes

- Computer – take out password on laptop. Nadine and Zuiko have to change it each month and can't remember it. Remove filter keys on netbook. Zuiko was trying to disable the narrator but instead turned on the filter keys.

### Finished projects

- Furnace fan replaced.
- Front yard ready for winter.
- Weatherstripping on front door re-glued, entryway floor oiled.
- Upstairs cleaned.

### New Projects

- None

### 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.
- Possible finishing of basement corner into discussion/class space.
- Flaking paint on stairway ceiling.

Did we miss anything?

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

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### *How spending for the new teacher might look*

- Might be spending more in the future, new person would probably need off-site apartment
- Might be spending less in the future due to many teachers having income through other ministries (webmaster, calligraphy teacher, etc.)
- Have \$400/month, probably need \$24K per year for 2 years
- Gina to do market research on apartments, food costs, and health insurance
- Eric – might want to buy a house now and rent it out until it is needed
- Things are moving in a positive direction

### *Possibility of installing solar panels*

- Terry Dvorak of Red Lion Renewables approached Zuiko after an Interfaith Power and Light event in Des Moines
- Net metering – meter runs backward during times when solar panels are capturing more energy than the house needs, forward when the opposite is true (like at night)
- Motion to have assessment done by Zuiko – Second by Eric - Carries

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS for CRZC**

All-Day Sitting – December 4

Monday Night Dharma – December 5, 12, 19

Introduction to Zazen - December 21

Next Sangha Meeting – Sunday, December 18

New Year's Eve Celebration – Saturday, December 31

7:30 – 10:40 PM zazen, 10:40 – 11:10 Ryaku Fusatsu, 11:10 – 12:00 noodles and social time

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS of other events in the Cedar Rapids area**

Intersections – “We Survived, Now What?” – December 2 11:45 AM, First Presbyterian Church, \$10/person

Intersections – The Decline of White Christian America – January 6 11:45 AM, First Presbyterian Church, \$10/person

Interreligious Council of Linn County Annual Meeting – December 15, Christ Episcopal Church, \$10/person, Middle Eastern food with vegetarian option available

### **NEXT MEETING: December 19**

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM

Motion to adjourn by Eric – Second by Gus – Carries

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Kruse

### **Appendix A:**

## **Practice Report – November 27, 2016**

### **General Impressions**

I had a fruitful trip to Japan. I was really happy to see my 91-year-old teacher in good health and getting over a broken hip. He will be just fine, though his road has been long. He and my friend Mugai-san send their regards to everyone, along with the tea cakes that we ate earlier in the month.

We have a particularly difficult situation these days with our country so divided and so much rancor among people. Let us always work to be a haven to whomever comes.

### **Center Activities**

- Introductory evening – Three in November.
- Sunday and daily sitting – More people lately. The usual folks along with newcomers – a nice mix – the newcomers can get taken care of by the others. Want to start doing the World Peace Ceremony every month again.
- Baika practice – Two or three these days, and we have a good time. Next meeting is December 8 – Thursday and the Buddha's Enlightenment Day.
- Study class – Meets on Monday evenings at 6:30. We do thirty minutes of zazen, then an hour of discussion. We have begun *The Six Perfections* by Dale Wright. We're reading and discussing just a few pages at a time and the discussion has been very insightful.
- All-day sitting – We had three sitting pretty much all day and another two or so in the middle of the day.

### **Special Events**

- Inter-Religious Council Thanksgiving Service – Monday, November 21 in Whipple Auditorium in the Cedar Rapids Library. Zuiko gave the sermon on healing our differences. About 300 people attended.

### **Sangha Members' Activities**

- Tim Macejak and Tim Yukl are still visiting the Anamosa group. Checked in with Tim Y. this month – about five men attend when he leads. They're not all the same as the men who attend when Tim M. or Zuiko is there. We're reaching about ten men altogether.
- Gina is serving as our representative to the Inter-Religious Council.
- Gus found a new quote for our web page.

### **Zuiko's Activities**

- October 25 – November 1 – Visiting her teacher in Zuioji and participating in a friend's installation. There are pictures on Facebook.
- November 13 – sitting at Anamosa
- November 16 – talk at Cornell College
- November 24 – sitting at Ft. Madison
- Editing translations for the Sotoshu website
- Writing for Facebook page and monthly newsletter

### **Announcements**

- Rohatsu sesshin will become an all-day sitting. We'll sit on Sunday, December 4 and have a special ceremony commemorating Shakyamuni's realization after zazen at 9:40. Eric will change the announcement on our website.
- New Year's Eve sitting and New Year's Day open house – regular Sunday activities cancelled
- December 8, 22 – baika
- Mondays (5, 12, 19, 26) – discussion

## ***Communications Report – October***

### ***Facebook***

12 posts were made to the CRZC page in October, up from 10 in September.

Page likes as of October 31 stand at 529, up from 523 on September 30.

The best-performing post in terms of reach was

- “Asking for help” with a reach of 744, 14 likes, 1 love and 12 shares.
- “Equanimity” reached 451 people and had 3 likes and 2 shares.

The Facebook link to the October newsletter reached 322 people.

1,600 people worldwide were reached by at least one post this month, up from 1,434 in September.

### ***CRZC Currents***

The October issue of *Currents* went to 306 subscribers, up from 295 in September. One hundred recipients (32.9%) opened the publication, as compared to 102/34.8% last month. The current average open rate for religious publications at MailChimp is 24.6%.