



SILVER SPRING ZENDO
ONE HEART SANGHA

Annual Letter
June 2009

Dear Friends:

I am glad to report that our strong commitment to the sangha has supported us through another year. This annual sangha letter is to let friends, members, and others who practice with us in spirit and in person know how much this commitment to the sangha means to all.

We are grateful. The Council voted last year to request dues donations at \$20-\$25 a month, or \$240-\$300 a year. We have 28 regular dues-paying members and generous donations and dana at our all-day sittings. While our bank balance is sufficient to pay for rent, insurance, supplies, website, teacher training and mailing, the sangha Council voted that a priority was offering financial assistance for attendance at sesshins to those who could not otherwise afford them to encourage longer times of sitting practice. Deepening practice is our heartfelt wish for all beings. Please contribute generously.

A contribution envelope is enclosed in this mailing. We encourage grouping monthly dues into fewer checks for our treasurer, so biannual dues of \$120-\$150 or quarterly dues of \$60-\$75 made out to Silver Spring Zendo c/o Frank Jenkins is helpful. Also, if you donate cash, please clip a note to it informing us that you wish to receive a end-of-year tax receipt. Last note on dues contributions: if you need an update on how much you have paid for the year so that you can round out your contributions, please email our treasurer at FrankJenkins@westat.com.

In February, the sangha Council voted as officers for a new term: Martine Palmiter, president; Susan Efird, vice president; Frank Jenkins, treasurer; and Pele Newton, secretary. We thank those who served last term for their leadership. Our current Council members are: Barbara Lewis, Martha Campbell, Daniel Bruner, David Novello, Michael Koppel, and Bill Dietrich.

Our three sesshins in 2008 were well attended, and our weekly meditation attendance increased, opening up new ways of practice. These included tending our zendo space and working as a sangha to coordinate service roles, setting up an introduction to Zen practice times, maintaining and distributing newcomer packets, and planning longer sesshins. Our activities this past year included considering how to archive our sangha's history, having the officers and Sensei attend the Zen Peacemakers annual meeting, inviting Roshi Norman Fischer to give a dharma talk at our July evening sitting, offering a 108 days of sitting practice that culminated at our January sesshin at Holy Trinity, and offering monthly text study, summer and fall potlucks, and Zen movie nights. Our sangha even received the attention of two news reporters!

I would like to gratefully thank several folks: Barbara Lewis for providing containers and organization for our zendo and altar supplies; Kay Johnson for diligently reminding us of our monthly service roles; Susan Eford and Barbara Lewis for planning our sesshins; Pele Newton for setting up the library; Frank Jenkins for taking care of our member lists; Val Finnell for setting up our website; Roberta Hucek for her generous donations of food at our all-day sittings; David Novello and Bill Dietrich for handling our nonprofit status and incorporation papers; Martha Pele and Kay for coordinating our potlucks; and Craig O'Brien for serving as acting secretary when needed. And I would like to thank many other folks who contributed to the life of the sangha. And nine bows and gassho to all who practice and sit in peace and gratitude--and to our teacher, Sensei Myoan Rose Mary!

Sensei reminds us all that personal intensives or private sittings with the teacher at the Woodside Zendo are always an option and with enough lead time, your sitting time can be announced so that others may join you. Please consult with Sensei. Also, our website has up to date information at www.silverspringzendo.org. To register for activities, please email registration@silverspringzendo.org. Also, please see the Zen Peacemakers website www.zenpeacemakers.org for affiliated practices.

Our next potluck is at the Woodside Zendo on June 28 and our next sesshin will be at Holy Trinity from September 2-6. In addition, Sensei Grover Genro Gauntt of Hudson River Sangha and Zen Peacemakers will lead a street retreat for the sangha next spring. Much gratitude to everyone.

Gratefully,



Martine Palmiter
One Heart Sangha