



Opening Ceremony —

On April 14, the **90-day Practice Period** began and Zenki Kathleen Batson (shown bowing in photo) was installed as Head Monk or *Shuso*.

Way-seeking Mind Talks

Chris Censullo, Elvira Vilches and Mike McKillip will give talks about their path to Zen practice, on Tuesday nights at 7:45, after one period of zazen. Chris will give his talk on **May 7**. He received meditation instruction from Tibetan Buddhist and Vipassana Buddhist teachers, before coming to the zendo here four years ago. Elvira will give a talk on **June 4**. She began practice at the Zen Center in 2005 after attending two Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction programs. Mike will give a talk on **June 18**. He began sitting on his own in 2000 and came to the Zen Center in 2001.

Additional Morning and Evening Zazen

During the Practice Period, **April 14 to July 14**, we will offer an additional period of zazen on Wednesday mornings from 8:00-8:40. If the attendance is strong, we will consider adding this to our ongoing schedule. From **June 3 through July 10**, one period of zazen will be offered at 6:00 P.M. on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

Zendo Closures

The Zen Center will be closed on Memorial Day, **Monday, May 27**, and on **Thursday evening, July 4**, and **all day on Friday, July 5**.

At the end of the **90-day Practice Period**, the Zen Center will be closed **Monday-Saturday, July 15-20**.

Zoketsu Norman Fischer

On Tuesday evening, **May 14, at 7:45**. Zoketsu Norman Fischer, will visit and give a public talk on his new book, *The World Could Be Otherwise: Imagination and the Bodhisattva Path*. Copies will be available to buy and he will be happy to sign them. The talk will follow one period of zazen at 7:00. The talk will be followed by cookies and tea and a chance to talk with Zoketsu.

Edward Espe Brown

On Friday night, **May 17, at 7:45**, Edward will visit and offer a public talk on his new book, *The Most Important Point: Zen Teachings of Edward Espe Brown*. Copies will be available to buy and he will be happy to sign them. The talk will be followed by cookies and tea and a chance to visit with Edward.

Half-Day Silent Sitting

On **Saturday, May 4**, a Silent Half-day Sitting will be held from **8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.** This will be similar to an All-day Sitting, but there will be no chanting, no service, no floor bows, and no work period, only zazen and kinhin. There will be no meals, so please eat breakfast before coming. **Please sign up in advance** on the bulletin board or by contacting info@chzc.org. Guidelines will be sent via email. There is no fee.

Dharma Talks

Zenki Kathleen Batson, Head Monk for the Practice Period will give public Dharma Talks on Sunday mornings **May 5, June 9 and 23, at 10:30**; and on Tuesday night, **July 9, at 7:45**.

Kainei Edward Brown will give a public Dharma Talk on Sunday morning, **May 19, at 10:30**.

Gengo Akiba Roshi, Director of the North American Soto Zen School will give a public Dharma Talk on **Sunday morning, June 30, at 9:50**.

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All-day Sitzings

All-day Sitzings are planned for Sundays, **June 9, July 28, and August 28**, from 6:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. Each sitting will begin with orientation on **Saturday night at 7:30**, and will include instruction on the meal form and one period of zazen. The regular Sunday schedule, with zazen at 9:00 and 9:50 and Dharma Talk at 10:30, will be open to everyone. The day will include zazen, a lecture, *dokusan* and a work period, as well as breakfast and lunch. The fee is \$10 for members and \$20 for others. ***It is alright to sit half of the day, but please sign up in advance, and please speak to Josho Sensei if this is your first all-day sitting.*** For information on the oryoki meal form see: <https://kannondo.org/getting-started/oryoki/>

Study Group

The Study Group meets on Thursday evenings, from 6:45-8:00. We are reading and discussing *The Mountains and Waters Sutra, a Practitioner's Guide to Dogen's "Sansuikyo,"* a text by Master Dogen, with Shohaku Okumura's commentary. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge.

Children's Program

The Zen Center's Children's program offers children four years and older a place in the Zen Center sangha through a variety of activities, including meditation, story, craft, song, and movement, as well as participation in Zen Center events and celebrations throughout the year. In each meeting, the children have the space and time to practice living mindfully and to learn about Buddhist teachings and contexts while giving their parents an opportunity to meditate in the concurrent adult program. Given the holidays and school schedules for May, we do not plan any meetings from May through Labor Day, but childcare will be available for parents who are attending Sunday morning programs **upon request**. Please contact Maura High, maurahigh@gmail.com, if you'd like to arrange that.

Study Hall

On **Monday mornings, from 7:45 until 8:30 or 9:00**, during the Practice Period through July 8. This is a quiet Study Hall where we can study Buddhist writings, copy sutras, or to sew Buddha's Robe together. Everyone is welcome and tea will be provided. You are also welcome to bring tea or coffee with you. There will be no Study Hall on Memorial Day, May 27.

Aging Gracefully, Befriending Death

May 12, 11:15

This is an informal discussion group that provides the opportunity to share readings, information, and explore conversations among ourselves on these topics. Please contact Carol Klein at wmichael@nc.rr.com, Kris Garvin at krisgarvin@gmail.com, or Jeff Sherman at jeffsherman3333@gmail.com, if you have questions or would like more information. Everyone is welcome, regardless of age.

Sangha Network

The CHZC has a Sangha Network of volunteers to offer short-term assistance to those in the sangha who need help with simple tasks such as shopping, arranging for meals, or transportation, due to transitions in one's life including illness, disability, or death of a loved one. If you would like to volunteer or if you need assistance, please contact Carol Klein at wmichael@nc.rr.com, Kris at krisgarvin@gmail.com, or Jeff Sherman at jeffsherman3333@gmail.com.

Chinese Calligraphy and Brush Painting

Jinxu Zhao will teach Chinese Calligraphy on Sunday afternoons from **2:15-3:45**, and Brush Painting from **2:15-4:15**, on May 5 and 12, and June 2 and 16. Fees are \$30 per class, or \$110 for 4 classes. Please contact Jinxu at (919) 484-7524 or Jxznc@aol.com to register or for more information. Jinxu is also available to teach children's classes.

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Recovery Meeting

The Recovery Meeting meets on Tuesday nights at 7:30. This is a recovery group with a Buddhist perspective on the 12-Step Program which meets at the Chapel Hill Zen Center. The meetings begin with twenty minutes of silent meditation. For more information, contact: 919-265-7600 or ZenandRecovery@gmail.com.

Bhavana Community of Coastal Carolina (Wilmington)

On Sunday, May 12, Josho Pat Phelan will give a Dharma Talk. Silent meditation will begin at 6:15 PM and the Dharma Talk begins at 7 PM. The Bhavana Community meets at the Porter's Neck Yoga Co-op, 106 Marshall Court, Unit 120, Wilmington, NC.

Additions to the Zen Center Library

Marilyn McDonald, *A Brief History of Tassajara*; Sekkei Harada and transl. by Daigaku Rummé, *Unfathomable Depths: Drawing Wisdom for Today from a Classical Zen Poem*; Reiho Masunaga, *A Primer for Soto Zen: a Translation of Dogen's Shobogenzo Zuimonki*; Emmanuelle Giumelli, *See, Hear, Feel: Mindfulness for Children One Moment at a Time*; Trevor Leggett, *Zen and the Ways*; John Yates, *The Mind Illuminated: a Complete Meditation Guide*; Robert Aitken, *Zen Vows for Daily Life*; John Daido Looi, *Bringing the Sacred to Life: The Daily Practice of Zen Ritual*; Aiaho Brahm, *Mindfulness, Bliss and Beyond: A Meditator's Handbook*; David Richo, *The Five Things we Cannot Change; Zen Teachings in Challenging Times*; Ruth King, *Mindful of Race: Transforming Racism from Inside Out*.

Dharma Talk by Daigaku Rummé

Given at CHZC on November 25, 2018

It is a great pleasure to be back at the Chapel Hill Zen Center and an honor to give the Dharma Talk. This morning, I am going to talk about two stories from China. These stories provide a structure for me to speak about the question: what is it that must be done in Zen practice?

One of the great things about these stories is that if we put ourselves in the shoes of the person asking the questions, it's possible to really make these stories our own. The first story has to do with a monk named Hyakujo who was one of the great Zen masters in Chinese history and is well-known because he was the first person said to have formulated the standards for monastic life in China. At a certain time in Chinese history, the monks at Zen temples had to work to provide their food. They had to grow their own food, and consequently, work became an important part of their practice. This story about Hyakujo contains a well-known teaching attributed to him, "A day without working is a day without eating."

Our meal chant includes, "We reflect on the effort that brought us this food and consider how it comes to us. We reflect on our virtue and practice and whether we are worthy of this offering." Through the words in this chant, we are being asked to consider how the food we eat comes to us. Are we worthy to receive the offering of food we are going to eat? The Chinese character for rice can be read as "eight ten eight," in other words, the number "88." This is said to mean that it takes eighty-eight steps to bring rice to the table so we can eat it, and it indicates that it takes a lot of work to grow and produce rice. In the monastic standards, it specifically mentions that physical work was an important element of practice; that all people in the monastic community were expected to come out and work, even the abbot of the monastery. However, as Hyakujo got older – maybe around eighty years old, his disciples became concerned about him. They thought, "He's coming out every day with his hoe to work in the fields, weeding the vegetables and so on. So, why don't

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we hide his hoe? That way, he won't be able to work." The monks' plan sounded like a good idea but when Hyakujo came out the next morning and couldn't find his hoe, he said, "If I can't find my hoe, I'm not going to eat." His disciples then thought maybe that wasn't such a good idea. They explained to him that they thought he was getting too old to work. But Hyakujo said, "No. If I'm going to continue living and practicing here, I'm going to work in the garden." So, they returned his hoe to him and he continued working in the vegetable fields. This was the origin of his teaching, "A day without working is a day without eating."

I mention this story partly because in my own case, I lived for many years in a Japanese monastery and I've often thought about how important work is in the monastery. We had six or seven sesshin a year and zazen was, of course, part of the daily schedule, especially during the *angyo* or practice period. But there was also a lot of work to do. The environment surrounding the monastery was a little bit like the zendo here with many trees, but the monastery also was surrounded on three sides by mountains. There was a lot of sweeping to do to keep the temple gardens orderly, especially in the autumn. A lot of wood that had to be chopped and carried and stacked. We used wood in two different ways. One was to boil water in the kitchen. This hot water was used both for cooking and for hot water pots that were used in each of the rooms where people lived to make tea and coffee. The bath water was also heated with wood. So, it was a big job to cut, chop, and carry the wood that was used for those fires. We also had a big vegetable garden, and it was often my work to take care of this garden. We were busy in the vegetable garden from the end of February through December. The monastery was located in Fukui, and although sometimes there was a lot of snow, the winter was not a harsh there – perhaps like the winters you have here. The temperature rarely went below freezing, so we were able to grow two crops of vegetables every year. That was a lot of work, but I enjoyed doing it and enjoyed working in general.

One of the things I took away from monastic life in Japan was the value of physical work. A lot of the practice was with the body. For example, getting down on our knees and haunches and wiping the temple floors. The floors were not wiped with mops, but rather with rags. We would squat down near the bucket, take the rag, wring it out well, and get down and push it along the floor. I don't know if there was any intention for this activity to be physical exercise, but certainly it was exercise. We got good exercise that way and then there was all sorts of other work that had to be done. Westerners frequently came to the monastery and it wasn't uncommon for them to ask, "Why is there so much work? Why isn't there more zazen? I thought zazen is what we're supposed to do in the monastery." We would have to explain, "Well, we do have many sesshin throughout the year and we sit zazen every day, but we are also taught that working is zazen." My teacher was fond of talking about Zen within stillness. That was what we were doing this morning in zazen, right? In fact, "za-Zen" literally means "sitting Zen." So, it's easy to think that sitting quietly is zazen. But there is also Zen within activity. That's weeding the garden, sweeping up and carrying the leaves, making compost, cutting and chopping wood – all the things including cooking that take place in the kitchen. It's well-known that in the monastery there is all this work as well as the importance of cooking. In Dogen Zenji's *Standards for Eiheiji Monastery*, one of the chapters is "Instructions for the Cook." This was an important part of the monastic life and placed first in his book of monastic standards.

So, "a day without working is a day without eating," and I want to explain the importance of work. Now, this is not a criticism, but rather an observation that here in the West, we have a tendency, I think, to try to get the teaching by reading and listening to podcasts and so on. As I often say, we need to hear the teaching, and then it is necessary to think about the teaching. A big part of Japanese Zen practice is the importance of the body, of movement, of being one with work. Your work is Zen, regardless of whether you are

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doing physical work or work that requires thinking. That *is* Zen and to try to add something to it is extra.

One of the interesting things about this story, “A day without working is a day without eating,” is that these Chinese characters can also be read, “A day without doing *what has to be done* is a day without eating.” This way of interpreting these characters makes it a broader teaching. Then, it isn’t just about physical work, although it can certainly be understood that way. And yet, Hyakujo’s statement can be understood to mean, “Today, have I really done what has to be done?”

I lived for several years at City Center in San Francisco and often heard it said, “Just follow the schedule.” This was especially applicable at Tassajara Zen Mountain Center, where the schedule is quite strenuous. It’s even tougher, in some ways, than in a Japanese Zen monastery. My teacher liked to joke that Zen practice in America is even tougher than in Japan. That’s a good joke. He thought it was funny, because it’s easy for Americans to imagine that Zen practice in Japan is tough, and it is. But what we see here in America is that the schedule is often set. You get up at 4:00 am and go to bed at 9:00 pm, that that schedule is carved in stone. I often thought when I was training at Hosshinji that every day the schedule was different. The schedule was constantly changing, and the way that could work was that we had great trust in our teacher. We simply did what we were told to do. It wasn’t, “Why are we doing it like this?” which isn’t to say that that question didn’t arise, but we just went along with the changes that were made. One day the wake-up bell was at 5:00 am, the next day it was at 6:00 am, the next day at 4:00 am, and so forth. In any event, Hyakujo’s statement can be formulated this way, “Is there something that needs to be done apart from the daily monastic schedule?” In the zendo, we hear the bells: three bells to begin a period of zazen, two bells for kinhin, one bell to end kinhin or perhaps to signal a Dharma talk, and so on. But what must be done beyond the schedule? What is Zen practice beyond what we are told to do, or what we are expected to do?

We hear the teaching “A day without working is a day without eating,” or “A day without doing what has to be done is a day without eating.” What is the purpose of Zen practice that allows us to eat? When I was in Asheville before coming here, my nephew asked me, “What are you going to talk about?” I mentioned that I was thinking of talking about the Chinese story of “A day of not working is a day without eating,” and he shrugged his shoulders and said, “I’ve been working since I was sixteen years old.” For him, of course, if he doesn’t work, he also doesn’t eat. The conversation quickly went elsewhere.

The second story I would like to speak about is also a well-known Chinese Zen story, “Everyday mind is the Way.” I’d like to speak about this in the context of “What is it that has to be done every day?” This story, as many such stories, involves the student and the teacher. The student, in this case, was a man named Joshu. He later became, like Hyakujo, one of the all-time great Zen teachers in ninth-century China. However, in this story, he was a student. Maybe like you guys. Maybe like me. He wasn’t sure about practice or the teaching. So, he asked his teacher, Nansen, “What is the Way?” I’m sure many of you are familiar with this story. We can understand this to mean, What is the way of Buddha? What is the way of liberation? Please tell me, Joshu said, “What is the way of enlightenment?” Imagine that you are asking the master. Don’t just think of this as a story about Joshu, as if it were only his story. It could also be your story. We must have the confidence that we can also be Joshu because in some very basic sense there is no difference between you and Joshu. And Nansen gave a very famous answer, “Everyday mind is the Way.” Your everyday, ordinary mind, that’s the Way. The trouble with these great teachings is that we can get stuck there. It’s quite easy to say, “Oh, yeah, everyday, ordinary mind, of course, that’s the Way. Whatever I do, that’s the Way. He said it, they said it, Nansen said it. I’ve read it.” This is the same with a teaching like “beginner’s mind,” which I know in Suzuki Roshi’s lineage is often spoken of. It’s very easy to think, “Yeah, I know what ‘beginner’s mind’ is.” But these

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stories, these teachings of the Zen masters are really pointing to something that we cannot perceive. If we think, “I’m going to do this with beginner’s mind,” already that’s not beginner’s mind. The instant we think, “Everyday mind is the Way,” that isn’t everyday mind. And this is a problem. We often don’t realize that these words are pointing to a world that is completely empty, before thought, and that those people who have transmitted the Way have really made “everyday mind is the Way” their own. Consequently, they have let go of those words and teaching. They have realized, as we often say in Zen, that these teachings are simply fingers pointing at the moon.

When Joshu heard Nansen’s answer, he thought about that, Hmm... everyday mind is the Way. Well, why don’t I know that? Maybe he thought that. Or, greed, anger, and ignorance are also part of everyday life, so how can those things be the Way? Certainly, Joshu thought of many things and finally he was compelled to ask another question, “How can I find the Way?” This is a likely question. First, he had the question, “What is the Way?” Then, “You’re telling me that ‘everyday mind is the Way,’ but how can I really find it?” The teacher gave him a surprising answer, he said, “If you try to find the Way, you will only get further away from it.” In other words, if you have some idea of the Way – let’s say you’ve got some books about Zen at home; we all do, right? We’ve read these books and have an idea of what the Way is. But if we have a conceptual understanding of the Way and try to practice like this, Nansen is saying we will only get further and further away from the Way. Nansen is saying, “You are already in the Way. Your whole life itself is the Way. If you try to find it, you’ll go in the wrong direction.”

This had to be confusing for Joshu, the person asking these questions. He was certainly an earnest young man, said to be very young when this story took place. Who knows how long he thought about that answer. When we read about these stories, it may seem as if the questions and answers happened instantaneously, but it’s likely that he thought about that answer for some

time. And then, at a certain point, he was compelled to ask another question, “Well, if I look for the Way and I simply get further and further away from it, how am I ever going to make the Way my own?” And Nansen gave a very famous answer, “The Way is neither knowing nor not knowing. Knowing is delusion, not knowing is indifference. When you reach that place beyond doubt, you will find that it is as vast as outer space. How, then, can [the Way] be talked about in terms of right and wrong?” This was the condition by which Joshu awakened. In that instant, he really made the Way his own. And in that instant, both Joshu and the Way disappeared.

As human beings, we can think of either the past or the future. It is simply not possible for us to think about what is happening in the moment now, what we call “now.” That may seem puzzling. “I’m having a good time now” or not, that’s how we usually think about the present moment. But according to the Buddhist teaching, the instant we perceive the moment now, it’s already gone. The more we know from modern psychology, there is a gap between what we perceive and that actual experience of something. Whatever we perceive is no longer there. [Daigaku claps his hands.] “He’s clapping his hands,” by the time you perceive that sound, the sound is no longer there. But, as I was saying earlier, if we perceive “everyday mind,” from our point of view, from the ego’s point of view, then it’s very easy to think, “Oh yeah, everything is fine as it is. I’ll just do things as they have to be done.” There are well-known Zen teachings like “nothing to realize, nothing to attain.” You might think, “That’s the condition of ‘everyday mind.’” But if we perceive these teachings in this way, if we perceive “everyday mind,” we create a wall between the self and the way things are. In fact, it’s the self that creates that wall, and then that wall becomes even more important to you than what the teaching is pointing at. We get stuck holding onto or looking at the teaching and that becomes a barrier. Zen practice is really a matter of becoming the Way by grinding it up, by bringing an end to what is called “seeking mind.” Nansen’s teaching “Everyday mind is the Way” is telling us

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not to look for the Way outside of our everyday life. That our everyday life itself is the Way. And yet, we must take this one step further, otherwise, it's very easy to create a barrier which prevents us from realizing the Way. Joshu, on the other hand, was able, because of his questioning mind, to realize the Way.

Dogen Zenji, in the "Bendowa" chapter of the *Shobogenzo*, wrote, "For Buddhists, it is not a matter of debating the superiority or inferiority of a teaching or of choosing between the depth or shallowness of someone's understanding. All we must know is whether our practice is genuine or not." This is another way of expressing this matter of what it is in practice that must be done. What is the nature of our practice? Whether it is sitting in stillness or whether it is in activity, what is it that must be done? That's the question I would like to leave you with.

In my lineage, we have an important teaching, zazen is zazen. It's possible to find this teaching in only one or two places in the *Shobogenzo*, Dogen Zenji's great masterwork. "Zazen is zazen;" that zazen, whether in stillness or in activity, is to be the thing itself. If "I am" doing zazen, if I am sitting, I am working, I am sweeping, that's two things. Zazen is zazen. This points to the underlying oneness of all things, that our practice is really to eliminate that sense of separation between the self and other things. That our practice is to forget the self. That is the place where everyday mind is the Way, that place where the ego cannot enter, cannot interfere, cannot impose its own ideas of the way it thinks things should or should not be. So, we must make that effort to investigate the Zen teaching, "A day without doing what has to be done is a day without eating." What is it that must be done? Everyday mind is the Way, what does that mean? To really study the self with those questions is, I believe, what Zen practice is all about.

Thank you very much.

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CHZC Blog

The Chapel Hill Zen Center now has a blog with photographs from recent ceremonies and events. See: www.chapelhillzen.wordpress.com.

CHZC Listserv for Announcements

You are invited to join an email listserv now available via Yahoo for announcements about upcoming activities at the CHZC. If you wish to become a member of this listserv, please type "Subscribe" in the subject line and send an email to CHZCannounce-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. You can also go to: www.groups.yahoo.com/group/CHZCannounce and click the "Join Now" box. You may be requested to supply some information or to create a Yahoo "identity." Please note the options for making your email address public or for receiving marketing or other messages not directly from the listserv. It is your choice whether or not to receive other messages. Joining this list will not increase the amount of spam you receive. If you have any questions, please contact the list moderator, Lance at lashdown@yahoo.com.

Board of Directors for 2019

The Chapel Hill Zen Center Board of Directors are Kenneth Wilson, President; John Paredes, Vice President; Mike McKillip, Treasurer; Nell Kriesberg, Secretary; Tripp Spivey and Andrea Ashdown, Members-at-Large; and Josho Pat Phelan, *ex officio*.

Chapel Hill Zen Center



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Schedule

Sunday Morning *Tuesday Evening*

9:00 zazen	7:00 zazen
9:40 kinhin	7:40 kinhin
9:50 zazen	7:50 zazen
10:30 service	8:20 service

Monday to Friday

<i>Thursday Evening</i>	6:00 A.M. zazen
6:00 P.M. zazen	6:50 A.M. zazen

Meetings at 5322 NC Highway 86
2.5 miles North of I-40 exit 266
Josho Pat Phelan, Abbess

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*Like a lion unstartled by sound,
like wind uncaught in a net,
Like a lotus flower unsoiled with mud,
march alone like the horn of a rhino*

— Korean poem

Embracing diversity, the Chapel Hill Zen Center expresses the fundamental connection of all beings by welcoming everyone to the practice of zazen. May all beings realize their true nature.