



Red Cedar Zen Community

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www.redcedarzen.org

August 16, 2018

Dear Friend of Red Cedar Zen,

I'm writing to ask for your financial support. As you know, Red Cedar Zen Community is a home for Zen Buddhist practice in the Soto tradition in Bellingham, Washington. Under the leadership of our guiding teacher, Nomon Tim Burnett, we offer a regular weekly zazen schedule and a robust slate of classes and retreats. This work we do is supported entirely by retreat fees and by donations from members and friends like you.

Our practice values the groundedness that comes of mindful repetition—but we can also get excited about new stuff. Some developments since I wrote to you last summer:

- We inaugurated [The One Who's Not Busy](#), an inexpensive midsummer work sesshin on Samish Island led by Guiding Teacher Nomon Tim Burnett.
- We began to hold monthly sits at [Hidden Mountain Zendo](#), a yurt zendo in a peaceful clearing in several hundred acres of woodlands.
- Ryushin Andrea Thach has offered classes on the [Vimalakirti Sutra](#) and the [Teachings of Suzuki Roshi](#), and Shudō Chris Burkhart a class on [Dōgen's Genjo Koan](#).
- Other workshops we've added to our Zen studies roster: Zen [sewing classes](#), a workshop on [pronouncing the Japanese](#) we chant, and a hugely popular course on the [Dharma of Anger](#) led by this year's *shuso* (head student), Nōgen Connie Martin.
- We've signed on as a Support Congregation with [Family Promise of Whatcom County](#), an interfaith community that helps homeless families regain their footing by providing shelter, meals, and community.
- We've continued to ground our practice in the teachings of "these mountains and rivers" through a robust and popular [Wilderness Program](#).

You can learn more about these events and offerings [here](#).

Red Cedar Zen Community is a 501c(3) non-profit charitable religious organization. Our tax identifier (EIN) is 26-0387536.

Mission Statement: Red Cedar Zen Community follows the Soto Zen style of Shunryu Suzuki.

We support practice with a spirit of cooperation, extending the essence of Buddha's teachings into everyday life.

Donations from our friends and members are vital to Red Cedar's work. They help us keep the lights on. They help us offer scholarships to those who couldn't attend workshops or sesshin otherwise. And, this year and over the next couple of years, donations will be especially helpful as we consider whether to renew our existing lease at Red Cedar Dharma Hall, or make moves to purchase our current property, or look elsewhere in town for a building to purchase or a property on which to build.

The easiest way to make a donation is to go to our [Appeal Page](#) and click "Donate."

Or, you can send a check made out to "RCZC" to Red Cedar Zen Community, PO Box 5193, Bellingham WA 98227. Please write "Annual Appeal" on the check.

All donations are fully tax deductible. We'll send a receipt early in the new year.

Each year, as we write to ask our broad circle of members and friends for financial support, we're mindful of the regular contributions our members already make. To all of you giving what you can as membership dues—thank you for your generosity.

And if you're not one already, I encourage you to consider becoming an RCZC member. Benefits include discounted program and retreat fees, participation in our mentoring program, and closer study with Nomon Tim Burnett and other teachers and senior students. You can learn more about membership [here](#).

The first of the six *paramitas*, or perfections, is *dana*, giving. The Buddha taught that in *dana paramita*, giver, recipient, and gift become one. If Red Cedar's work has touched you in this way, I hope you'll consider making a donation, of whatever amount feels right to you.

Deep bow,



Kyushun Christopher Patton
Vice-President, RCZC Board