



Carl Homstad 2014

RYUMONJI ZEN MONASTERY

Kanzeon! Regarder of the Cries of the World

Kanzeon is the Bodhisattva of Compassion. She is you are. Take care of life as it is! It helps if you can the Regarder of the Cries of the World. This image see this in that and that in this. We may all learn a lot of Kanzeon stands in the Ryumonji dining room. It's from this moment in human history.

a personification of the great compassion of Buddhas and Ancestors. These are days when the world is crying in the midst of a pandemic COVID-19 infection. There is much suffering. We are all called to be regards of the cries of the world.

Kanzeon opens her eyes and heart to the sufferings of the world. As the Dalai Lama says, "We should be an oasis of caring and concern as you live your life." I feel that people are reaching out to each other. It's a sobering moment when the



bottom is dropping out of so many things and people are dying.

We talk a lot about being in the moment. But who wants to be in this moment? Yet this is where we are! Buddhas and Ancients have all lived their lives, being alive in the moment, beyond liking it or disliking it. True compassion is to handle the reality of what's in front of you beyond discrimination!

The heart of Zen practice is to take care of the moment. It's not just the moment while sitting on a meditation cushion. Zen master Dogen says the heart of zazen is non-thinking. It's to take care of all moments, beyond our take on things. It's wherever

I have a large calligraphy from Narasaki, Tsugen Roshi. He is the retired abbot of Zuioji Zen Monastery. I learned a lot from him. He gave this calligraphy to me when I left Japan. I put it up over the door of our main Buddha hall. It says, "A dragon roars in the deep cave . . . but all is silence." Who is the dragon? And what does it mean to roar? The dragon is 'the power within you and me', and the roar is 'the courage it takes to stand up in whatever situation we encounter', and the deep cave? The deep cave is 'the

universal oneness of all things beyond good or bad, right or wrong, like or dislike. Just be one with the vastness of universe. And then it says, "But all is silence . . ." All is silence means 'no commentary'. There is nothing to say. Quit thinking about it. Just take care of where things are. When it's time to live, please live. When it's time to die, please die. In the meantime, work for the benefit of all beings. This is the great compassion of Kanzeon to become a regarder of the cries of the world.

Rev. Shoken Winecoff, Abbot
Ryumonji Zen Monastery

Ryumonji Happenings . . .



2019 Winter Ango

Ryumonji held Winter Ango during January and February of 2020. Rev. Genpo O’Neal, guiding teacher of Compassionate Ocean Dharma Center in St. Paul, served as Shuso for the Ango. The Shuso Ceremony took place on Sunday, February 23. Many practitioners from the Twin Cities joined this event, including Tomoe Katagiri, widow of Ryumonji’s Honorary Founder Dainin Katagiri Roshi.

The Hossenshiki Tea took place Saturday, February 22. Rev. Konjin Godwin gave a teaching during the tea and served as Jokeshi for the ceremony.

Rev. Fudo Koppang

Fudo-san was one of Ryumonji's priests ordained by Shoken Roshi. He practiced in Japan with Shoken Roshi at the International Ango held at Shogoji Monastery.

Fudo-san died December 23, 2019.

Ryumonji Zen Monastery has suspended all public activities due to concerns about the spread of coronavirus and COVID-19. As soon as it is deemed safe, Ryumonji plans to resume its regular schedule. In the meantime, Shoken san is holding down the fort and staying safe. During these difficult days, please continue your practice.

2020 Ryumonji Calendar

Sesshins scheduled through July, Summer Ango, and 20th Anniversary Celebration have been cancelled. All other calendar events are tentative.

Aug 14-16	Men's Retreat
Sept 18-20	Sesshin
Oct 11	Taste of Ryumonji—Open House
Oct 16-18	Sesshin
Nov 6-8	Women's Retreat
Nov 20-22	Sesshin
Dec 1-8	Rohatsu Sesshin
Dec 31	End of Year Sesshin New Year's Eve Celebration

2020 Ryumonji Work Days

Formal group work days, normally held on the first Saturday of each month, have been cancelled until further notice.

If you are interesting in receiving information about future Ryumonji work days, please contact: volunteer@ryumonji.org.



Public Sittings are currently suspended and will resume when it is safe to do so.

Public Sittings

Thursday Evenings

7:30 p.m.

Sunday Mornings

9:00 a.m.

For orientation to zazen
please arrive 15 minutes early.

To receive future issues of the newsletter electronically, please e-mail: office@ryumonji.org

To register for retreats, sesshin or angos, please complete the Event Registration Form at www.ryumonji.org

**RYUMONJI ZEN
MONASTERY**



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Capital Fund Drive

With this year's capital fund drive in late spring we hope to correct an erosion control problem around the entry pond.

Due to recurring heavy rains, there has been a lot of water, silt, and gravel washed down the entry road from the fields above and into the entry pond. The pond used to be about four feet deep and a natural habitat for frogs and tadpoles. Now it is four inches deep and natural wildlife suffers.

The Board of Directors has approved a project that will include construction of a detention basin to collect storm water runoff and slow down the erosion that is flushing down into the pond.

If you can afford to help with this project, it will be deeply appreciated.