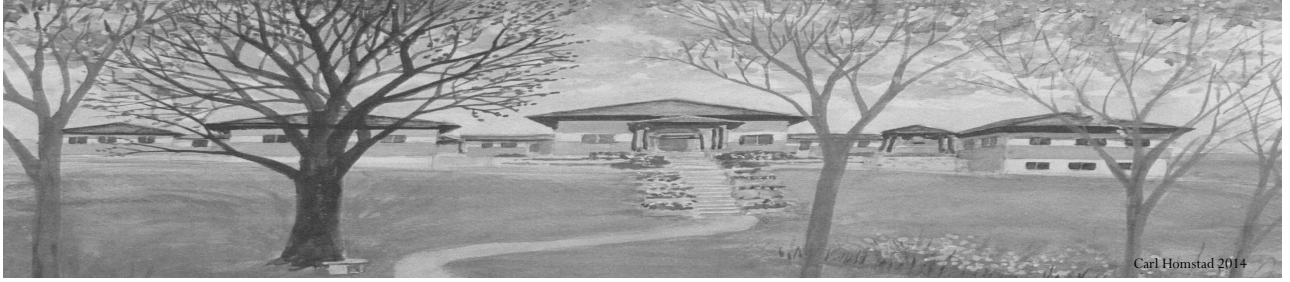


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RYUMONJI ZEN MONASTERY

Chopping Wood and Carrying Water

“*Chopping wood and carrying water*” has long been a familiar phrase for describing the Zen Way. It touches at the core of daily living.

Chopping wood and carrying water has been a daily event around here at Ryumonji. Three of our large walnut trees in front of the monastery had to be taken down this Fall due to old age, sickness and death. These were the trees along the entry path to the monastery. They were dropping dead branches along the pathway that could be lethal. The largest of the trees was over a hundred years old. It had a 12 and a half foot circumference. Two people could not reach around it. A lot of history there. The decision to take the trees down was not easy. We bow deeply in appreciation.

Some of the walnut wood can be milled for lumber. The rest will be used for firewood. There's a lot of wood to be chopped! Daily tasks can seem endless, but it's all part of daily living.

Day to day living is what keeps us grounded. We can have lots of ideas about who we are and what we want to do, but if we're not grounded we're just floating. Each day the *Universe* is manifesting itself to you!

Great teacher Eihei Dogen says, "*Zen is a matter of everydayness*". It requires uprightness and wholeheartedness. Open your eyes and see what needs to be done. Take care of what's under your foot. Zen Master Dogen also says, "*If you want to attain Suchness, you should practice Suchness without delay*". Practicing *Suchness* is a twenty-four hour practice. "*Chopping wood*" is Zen practice; and as cold wind blows, "*carrying water*" is on the end of a snow shovel and is also our Practice.

In Gassho,

Shoken Winecoff, Abbot

Ryumonji Happenings . . .



Shuso Ceremony for 2022 Summer Ango

The Shuso Ceremony is the second step of priest ordination. Rev. Gyoriki Herskamp from Germany was Shuso. He is a student of Rev. Shohaku Okumura. Rev. Konjin Godwin from the Soto Zen North American Office was *Joseki* (Soto Zen Representative) for the ceremony. She gave a commentary on Case 1 from the *Blue Cliff Record* Koan collection at the Hossenshiki tea on Saturday, July 16.

Taste of Ryumonji

Ryumonji revived its Taste of Ryumonji Fall Festival in 2022. This was the first time the event was held since 2019 due to Covid. On Sunday, October 9, guests were treated to fellowship, food, and music. In addition to the traditional craft sale, a silent auction was offered along with an outstanding pie auction. A large number of guests attended the event and greatly enjoyed themselves.

Ango Practice for 2023

In 2023, Ryumonji is expanding its Winter and Summer Ango to 90 days. This will offer more opportunities for both full time and part time attendance.

Winter Ango will begin with January Sesshin on January 20 and conclude with April Sesshin on April 23, 2023.

Summer Ango will begin with June Sesshin on June 16 and conclude with September Sesshin on September 17, 2023.

If you wish to register for either of the events, please complete the Event Registration form on Ryumonji's website.

2022 Ryumonji Calendar

Nov 18-20	Sesshin
Dec 1-8	Rohatsu Sesshin
Dec 31	End of Year Sesshin & New Year's Eve Celebration

2023 Ryumonji Calendar

Jan 1	New Year's Day Open House
Jan 20-22	Sesshin & Ango Opening
Jan 20-Apr 23	Winter Ango
Feb 17-19	Sesshin & Shuso Ceremony
Mar 17-19	Sesshin
Apr 8	Buddha Birthday
Apr 21-23	Sesshin & Ango Closing Lay Ordination Precept Ceremony
May 6	Spring Fling Open House
May 19-21	Sesshin
June 10	Family Day
Jun 16-18	Sesshin & Summer Ango Opening
Jun 16 –Sep 17	Summer Ango
Jul 21-23	Sesshin & Shuso Ceremony
Aug 11-13	Men's Retreat
Sep 15-17	Sesshin & Ango Closing
Oct 15	Taste of Ryumonji Fall Festival
Oct 20-22	Sesshin
Nov 3-5	Women's Retreat
Nov 17-19	Sesshin
Dec 1-8	Rohatsu Sesshin
Dec 31	End of Year Sesshin & New Year's Eve Celebration

For Registration, see Event Registration form on the Website.

Ryumonji Volunteer Work Days 2023

Work days are a great sangha activity and support for Ryumonji. Below are work day dates for 2023. Please join us if you can!

JAN 7	JUL 1
FEB 4	AUG 5
MAR 4	SEP 2
APR 1	OCT 7
MAY 13	NOV 11
JUN 3	DEC 9

Public Sittings

Thursday Evenings

7:30 p.m.

Sunday Mornings

9:00 a.m.

Public Sitting is available virtually and in person.

Please check the web site under *Virtual Practice* for the Zoom links.

RYUMONJI ZEN MONASTERY

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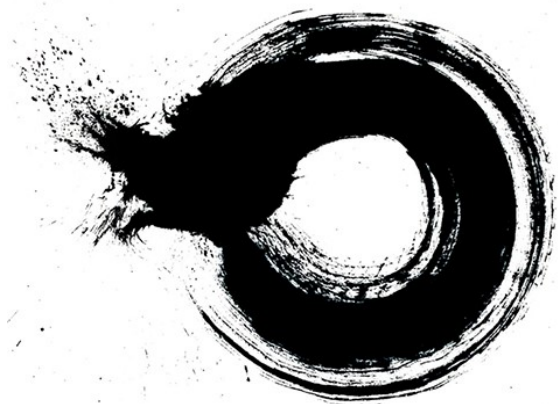
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100th Anniversary of Soto Zen Buddhism in North America

During the week of November 16-20, 2022, the Association of Soto Zen Buddhism celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the founding of Soto Zen in North America. Since the basic practice of Buddhism is to follow the Precepts and the Eightfold Path for living, the core of this anniversary celebration was a precept ceremony, called *Jukai-e*. It was conducted at Zenshuji Temple in Los Angeles. Zenshuji was the first Soto Zen temple in North America, founded in 1922. Since then, Soto Zen has grown to include over two hundred Zen Centers and Temples throughout North America.

Several of Katagiri Roshi's Dharma heirs, including Rev. Shoken Winecoff, Abbot of Ryumonji, had key roles in the ceremony. Katagiri Roshi was honored as one of the original founders of Soto Zen in North America, as his lineage has spread throughout the Midwest and beyond.