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# MOON ON THE WATER

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Volume 3, Issue 2

Newsletter of the Great Lake Zen Center, Milwaukee, WI

April, 2001

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## Two Questions from Fox Lake Correctional Institution

by Peter Neuwald

On March 19th, I finally made the first of my monthly visits to Fox Lake Correctional Institution (FLCI). I say "finally" since it has taken months to get a regularly-scheduled day each month for my visits. As the chaplain, who has been very helpful, said, "Things move slowly here." FLCI is located in rural Wisconsin, west of the Horicon Marsh. When I first visited the prison, the geese were flying south out of the marsh. On this latest visit, they were flying north.

Back on my first visit, one of the inmates asked why I was doing prison ministry. This is a fair question. I often ask myself why I am doing what I am doing at any given time, or, really, "Why do anything?" This is a very useful question to ask ourselves. If I am truly honest with myself, this little question can be used as an alarm clock going off to wake me up. Sometimes I find that my motivation is tied to some attachment I have. Ding! Wake up time! When asked why I did prison ministry, I answered that I came to FLCI for the same reason that I go the Great Lake Zen Center -- to practice with others on this path.

On this latest visit, there were about fifteen inmates who had come to our gathering. Just like those who come to our Zen center in town, they came for many different reasons. Some came just to check it out. Many came with great questions. Some came because they already are Buddhists and wanted to stoke up a practice with others at the prison. One person in the latter group has been a true Bodhisattva. It's interesting to use the term "Bodhisattva" since he was raised in the Theravaden tradition and the Bodhisattva path comes from the Mahayana tradition. He had sent away for a lot of Buddhist books and literature for the fledgling sangha and was instrumental in getting it off the ground. On my way out he asked, "What can I do to help?" This inmate was raised in the Theravaden tradition, but his action was clear Bodhisattva action. He helped to confirm that, originally, there is no Theravada, no Mahayana, no Zen. "Not for me" action is simply that; there are no traditions involved.

So, from the fledgling sangha at Fox Lake Correctional Institution, we get two questions: "Why do anything?" and "How can I help?" The second answers the first.

*Editor's Note: Peter Neuwald is donating vacation time to make regular visits to FLCI in order to help this new sangha with their practice. We can help Peter and the inmates by donating money for cushions and other supplies, or by donating books, magazines, and mala beads.*



## Annual Rummage Sale

Saturday, May 19

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Work Practice/Set-up Friday, May 18

5:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Our third annual rummage sale will be held at GLZC on Saturday, May 19, from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM. We will be holding a work practice the night before, on May 18, from 5:30 until 9:00 PM. Pizza will be delivered at 6:00 PM to sustain the workers. Donated items may be brought to GLZC and stored there, but we request that you price them as you bring them in to save time the night of the work practice. Pricing stickers are available on the table in the community room. If you have any large items that you would like to have picked up, please let Peter or Laura know. This fundraiser is a major source of income for GLZC, and revenues are used to help us fund YMJJ's and Zen Master visits. Please help us with this effort by donating items, working on either the 18<sup>th</sup> or the 19<sup>th</sup>, or by purchasing items at the sale. Be sure to ask your friends, families, and neighbors if they have any items they would like to donate. An added bonus at the sale this year will be fresh-baked cookies for sale, provided we have a working oven by that date. So come on out and support your Zen Center!

## Art/Work Practice Scheduled

Saturday, April 28, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

On April 28 we will work on a variety of creative projects to brighten the Zen Center and help all sentient beings. We will be working on a mosaic for the community room, a mural for the kitchen wall, mala beads for the prison Sangha and possibly for the rummage sale, and planting of seedlings for sale at the rummage sale. Anyone is invited to come and participate for as long as you are able. Artistic talent is not required! Just bring your *try mind*. Donations of black plastic and wood beads, beading cord or elastic, small pots, potting soil, and acrylic paints and brushes would be appreciated.

## Donations Needed!

We are continuing to collect food donations for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin and books and magazines for the prison sangha. Please deposit your donations in the receptacles at the Zen Center. Peter is also asking for cash donations to buy meditation cushions for the prisoners. If you would like to donate, please place your donation, clearly labeled, in the begging bowl in the community room. Make checks out to GLZC.

# Miller Park Interfaith Blessing

*By Laura Otto-Salaj, DT*

GLZC was lucky enough to be invited to participate in an Interfaith Blessing of Miller Park, held on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The purpose of the ceremony was to remember the workers who died during its construction, as well as to bless the new ballpark structure and recognize the tremendous effort required to build it. I went, not really knowing what would happen.

The ceremony was very meticulous and inclusive, conducted around a large brick-and-stone structure containing hundreds of tall taper candles. One large candle with four colored stripes sat at the back of the brick base. While Native American practitioners drummed, the wives of the four men who died each took a candle, lit it from the large candle, then placed her candle back in the base. Representatives from different faiths – literally from Baha'i to Unitarianism—then spoke, giving messages of unity from each faith. Hearing the words from so many different practices—each giving the same message of coming together, great effort, and only helping—was truly profound. The Buddhist representative was Tonen O'Connor from Milwaukee Zen Center, and representatives from GLZC, Shambhala and the Mindfulness Meditation Practice Center rounded out the Buddhist contingent. My thanks to those who planned the ceremony, in the hope that it helped the families of the workers who died, and that this stadium may be used to help in other ways.

## Pick 'n Save We Care Program

GLZC is now registered with Pick 'n Save grocery stores as a tax-exempt charitable organization in the We Care Program. Pick 'n Save will donate to our Zen Center a portion of all sales that are scanned on a Pick 'n Save Saver's Club card keyed to the GLZC number. So the next time you go into a Pick 'n Save, apply for a new Saver's Club card at the service counter and identify GLZC as the beneficiary by giving them this number: **#279415**. This money should be very helpful in offsetting some of our operating expenses.

## Two YMJJ Retreats Scheduled at Wellspring

*July 20-22 with Bill Brown, JDPSN*

*October 5-7 with Zen Master Dae Kwang*

GLZC and the Isthmus Zen Community are co-sponsoring a YMJJ retreat July 20-22 at Wellspring Retreat Center in Newburg, WI. Bill Brown, JDPSN and guiding teacher of the Isthmus Zen Community, will be leading this retreat. Wellspring is an organic teaching farm with excellent energy for our practice. Accommodations are available on site and will be included in the price of the retreat. Mark your calendars and please plan on joining us for some very strong practice. Watch for registration information in the next newsletter.

GLZC is also planning a YMJJ retreat at Wellspring October 5-7, led by GLZC guiding teacher Zen Master Dae Kwang. Following the YMJJ will be a precepts ceremony in Milwaukee. Several of our Sangha members will be taking five or ten precepts, and some of our DTT's will receive long robes and become Dharma Teachers at this ceremony. Anyone interested in taking precepts in October should talk to Peter or Laura as soon as possible.

### Extended Practice Scheduled

*Friday, May 4*

*7:00 PM - Midnight*

On Friday, May 4, there will be an extended period of practice, beginning at 7:00 PM and ending at midnight. There will be a short Dharma talk, special and regular chanting, and several periods of sitting and walking meditation. Try to come for all or part of this special practice session, and turn up the flame on your practice!

### New T-shirt Designs Needed

We are in the process of searching for a logo or new designs for GLZC T-shirts. If you would like to design or suggest a logo, please bring your ideas to the Zen Center. Also, anyone who knows a good silk-screener, please E-mail or send that information to us.

## Ecumenical Buddha's Birthday Celebration

*Saturday, May 12*

*Noon until 4:00 PM*

The fourth annual Ecumenical Buddha's Birthday Celebration, sponsored by the Buddhist Peace Fellowship, will be held from noon until 4:00 PM at the Mitchell Park Pavilion. Most of the Buddhist groups in Milwaukee will be participating in the celebration, each contributing a part of their tradition to this collaborative effort. GLZC will be opening the altar and chanting the Heart Sutra in Korean. There will also be the traditional bathing of the baby Buddha. Don't miss this rare opportunity to celebrate with Buddhists of other traditions.

# Zen Master Dae Bong's Wisconsin Visit

By Susi Childress

Zen Master Dae Bong, guiding teacher of Kye Ryong Sahn International Zen Center/ Mu Sang Sa in Korea, paid a visit to the Wisconsin KUSZ Sanghas from March 5 through March 11. A full week of activities were planned for Sunim, and happily, many of the KUSZ students in Wisconsin were able to spend some quality time with this excellent, clear teacher.

Following Sunim's arrival in Milwaukee on Monday, March 5, we enjoyed dinner at Shahrazad followed by practice and interviews at GLZC. On Tuesday Sunim spoke to three Sociology and two Psychology classes at Kettle Moraine High School. The students were very interested in Sunim's teaching, and they marveled at his youthful appearance and *cool clothes!* Dae Bong Sunim said he has new respect for teachers, and he promises not to give his teachers so much trouble in his next lifetime! On Wednesday Sunim "hung out" with Laura and her daughter, watching Disney videos and grocery shopping for Pokemon popsicles. Following a great Mexican dinner at Pedrano's on Wednesday night, Laura and Dae Bong Sunim gave a public talk at the First Unitarian Church, and Sunim showed slides of the new international Zen Center in Korea. Thursday morning Sunim traveled to Madison to give another public talk and visit with the Isthmus Zen Community, then he traveled to Wausau on Friday for more visiting and public speaking. On Saturday afternoon he returned to Milwaukee and another great dinner and finally a well-deserved rest. Sunim left us on Sunday morning to fly out to Los Angeles.

The opinions of the Sangha members who were fortunate enough to meet Dae Bong Sunim and spend time with him were unanimous: he is a very clear teacher, he is a lot of fun to be with, and we hope he comes to visit us again sometime. Thanks to all the people who gave Sunim a place to stay; to the members who drove Sunim to his appointments; to those who helped set up and clean up for the public talks; to those who cleared their schedules to spend time with Sunim; and to those who helped arrange Sunim's schedule while he was in Wisconsin. Many lives were touched by Sunim's teaching, thanks to your efforts.

## GLZC Has a New Web Address

GLZC now has a new internet address: [glzc.org](http://glzc.org). It can be accessed with either [www.glzc.org](http://www.glzc.org) or [glzc.org](http://glzc.org), depending on what browser/version you utilize. This new URL is linked to our existing URL, so all existing links will work as well as the new one. We also have a new e-mail address: [info@glzc.org](mailto:info@glzc.org).

## Buddhist Peace Fellowship Listings

The Buddhist Peace Fellowship will be placing an ad in the Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel once a month, listing the practice schedules of Buddhist groups in Milwaukee. The notice will be placed in the Saturday edition's religious section. Cost for this service will be spread among the various Sanghas in the BPF. The Buddhist Peace Fellowship is also developing a Buddhist website. This site will contain links to the various home pages of the member Sanghas.

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## Moon On the Water Mailing List Update

**From your Board of Directors:** With the increasing cost of printing and mailing the *Moon on the Water* newsletter, we are asking that anyone interested in continuing to receive the newsletter to complete and return this form. If you do not return the form, we will drop you from the mailing list. Our newsletter will continue to be available on our web page or at GLZC free of charge. If you would like to continue to have the newsletter mailed to you, please consider making a donation to help us with the costs. Thank you.

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to keep receiving the newsletter.      \_\_\_\_ No, I no longer want the newsletter.

\_\_\_\_ Here is a donation to help with the newsletter.      \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Make checks payable to GLZC)

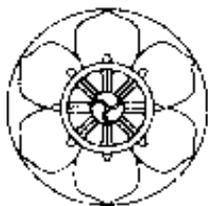
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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*is published by the*

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The Great Lake Zen Center is affiliated with the Kwan Um School of Zen.

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Co-Director: Peter Neuwald, DT  
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Editor/ Member At-Large: Susi Childress

### **Regular Practice Schedule of the Great Lake Zen Center**

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30pm;  
Saturday at 7:00am

Other special events as described elsewhere in the newsletter. Unless otherwise noted, all events are held at the Great Lake Zen Center.

*Beginners Always Welcome!*

Unless noted otherwise, *Introductions to Zen* are offered on the first Thursday of each month. Dharma Talks are offered on the last Wednesday of each month. Both are at 7:30PM.

