

MOON ON THE WATER

Volume 1, Issue 1

Newsletter of the Great Lake Zen Center, Milwaukee, WI

March 1999

Mind Road

Zen Master Dae Kwang

“The mind road has no end,” says a common Zen teaching phrase. Zen Master Seung Sahn’s collection of kong-ans, *The Whole World Is A Single Flower*, has an instructive case in this regard: number fourteen, “Where does the bell sound come from?”

One day, as the big temple bell was being rung, Buddha asked Ananda, “Where does the bell sound come from?”

“The bell.”

Buddha said, “The bell? But if there were no bell stick, how would the sound appear?”

Ananda hastily corrected himself. “The stick! The stick!”

“The stick? If there were no air, how could the sound come here?”



“Yes! Of course! It comes from the air!” Buddha asked, “Air? But unless you have an ear, you cannot hear the bell sound.”

“Yes! I need an ear to hear it. So it comes from there.”

Buddha replied, “Your ear? If you have no consciousness, how can you understand the bell sound?”

“My consciousness makes the sound.”

“Your consciousness? So, Ananda, if you have no mind, how do you hear the bell sound?”

“It was created by mind alone.”

By the time this story is finished, Ananda has traveled far down the mind road. In fact, the bus has come to the last stop. The bus driver has gotten off and is in the diner having a cup of coffee and a cigarette. Ananda is still sitting there, thinking.

Unfortunately, much of our life is like this. We spend much of our time in a world of ideas and their associated emotions rather than waking up to the truth of right now.

Zen Master Kyong Ho, Zen Master Seung Sahn’s great-grandteacher, concluded one of his most famous dharma speeches by saying, “My only wish for you is that you free yourselves of all conceptual understanding.” This is Zen. If you are thinking, then everything in life is a problem. If you cut off all thinking, then your every action is the truth. You and the whole universe have already become one. This is clear mind, non-attachment thinking, the true way. It has no opposites.

Kong-an practice is such a powerful meditation tool because it brings us to the end of our mind road. It allows us to directly experience this moment, not just an idea! The kong-an is not special; it is our everyday life, moment to moment. So, where does the sound of the bell come from? Will you please get off the bus! ❖

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

Founder: Zen Master Seung Sahn
Guiding Teacher: Zen Master Dae Kwang
Co-Director: Laura Otto-Salaj, DT
Co-Director: Peter Neuwald, DT
Treasurer: Jeff Ligman
Secretary: Lynn Ziegler
At-Large Member: Susi Childress
Publicity: Joanne Toman

Regular Practice Schedule of the Great Lake Zen Center

Every Monday and Thursday at 7:30pm

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

Beginners Welcome!

Unless noted otherwise, Introductions to Zen are offered the first Thursday of each month.

For more information contact:

Laura Otto-Salaj 414.629.9868 (evenings)

414.456.7754 (days)

or

Peter Neuwald 414.771.2490



Mind Cleaning Opportunities

Peter Neuwald

I don't like this! I like that! Do I have to chant? Why can't we chant more? I *really* hate bowing! That teacher is too picky about form! This teacher is not meticulous enough! Blah, blah, blah our minds go. It's amazing how much mind clutter we have. The clutter isn't very important, nor is it very interesting. What is important is our action.

So, I have some wonderful news! We have plenty of cleaning materials to help tidy up all that clutter!

Moving Day!

On **Monday, March 8th** at **7:30pm** we will move from the First Unitarian Church, 1342 N. Astor St. to our new location at 6439 W. North Ave.

Introductions to Zen

Introductions to Zen will be held, as usual, on the first Thursday of each month at our normal meeting time of **7:30pm: April 1st** (no April Fool's joke!) and **May 6th**. Note, however, that we will have no June introduction.

One Day Retreats

On **Saturday, March 13th** you have two options. The Wausau Zen Group is offering a one day retreat led by Tony Somlai, Senior Dharma Teacher and abbot of Racine's Original Root Zen Center. If you can't make it to Wausau, we are offering a one day retreat here in Milwaukee from **9am to 4pm**. *Beginners are especially welcome.* A formal vegetarian meal will be provided.

Homeless Shelter Help

On **Monday, March 15th** the Great Lake Zen Center will be helping out at the **First Unitarian Church, 1342 N. Astor Street** (corner of Astor and Ogden), in its role as an emergency overflow shelter for the homeless. Ideally people would be available from **6:30pm until 10pm**, although shorter times are acceptable. Duties include escorting guests, helping with snacks and cleanup, and generally interacting with the guests and helping them feel comfortable. Volunteers should also bring a snack (fruit, cheese and crackers, baked goods, etc.). During this Heart Kyol Che intensive period, this is a wonderful opportunity to do some "only help" activity for others. What is the difference between the homeless guests and each of us? Maybe a couple of paychecks. Let Peter know if you are interested in helping out with this. **Note that we will NOT hold practice at our center on North Avenue due to this activity.**

GLZC Buddha's Birthday Celebration

Our sangha will hold its celebration of Buddha's Birthday on **April 8th** at **7:30pm** (our regular practice time). *Children are very welcome, as are family and friends!* The celebration is one of the two Buddhist "holidays" we celebrate in our school. As usual, treats, tea and juice will be provided!

Public Talk with Zen Master Dae Kwang (Tentative)

Schedule permitting, we hope to have a public talk with Zen Master Dae Kwang on **April 15th** at **7:30pm**. This is a wonderful opportunity to come hear our guiding teacher and ask whatever questions you may have. In addition to being the guiding teacher of the Great Lake Zen Center, Zen Master Dae Kwang is an ordained monk and abbot of the Kwan Um School of Zen in Providence, Rhode Island, as well as guiding teacher of the Original Root Zen Center in Racine, and centers in Singapore, Toronto, and British Columbia. *The talk is free and open to all.*

Please call to check prior to verify that the talk is scheduled. Better yet, just show up! If there is no talk, you can join us for our regular practice!

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Appearing

Laura Otto-Salaj

One day in the spring of 1993, sitting at lunch with Tony Somlai, Abbot of the Original Root Zen Center in Racine, Wisconsin, he said there was going to be the opportunity to practice with other people in Milwaukee once a week on Thursday nights. The next week, a number of people appeared, knocked at the door of an apartment building on the East Side, and climbed three flights of stairs just to sit motionless for a half hour and hear a Dharma talk about Zen practice. Sitting, chanting... A couple of weeks later, a visit by Do An Sunim, a monk from the Kwan Um School of Zen, where some questions were answered and others appeared in their place.

Sitting, chanting, moving with Jenö and Jacii to their new apartment in Riverwest. Should the altar go here, or here? Sitting, chanting... Knocks on the door, sangha growing, some people staying, some moving on. Moving to the Unitarian Church when the sangha grew, sitting, Dharma talks, chanting... Ringing of the doorbell, people coming and going, oh, time to have practice two nights a week, talks with Do An Sunim--later Zen Master Dae Kwang, retreats, Kido chanting, sitting, walking...

Somewhere in all of this, the name Milwaukee Zen Group appeared, and later, Dae Ho Soen Won, or Great Lake Zen Center. A new building appears. Now comes *Moon on the Water*.

There is a story about a nun who practiced very hard. One moonlit night she was carrying water in an old bucket made of bamboo. Suddenly the bamboo broke, and the bottom fell out of the pail. As the story goes, BOOM!--at that moment her mind opened! Her enlightenment poem was:

*In this way and that I tried to save the old pail
Since the bamboo strip was weakening and about to break
Until at last the bottom fell out.
No more water in the pail!
No more moon in the water!*

So, tap tap tap on the keyboard, Moon in the Water appears! And you are just reading words, how wonderful! So much has come together to make this newsletter happen. Our profound thanks to all who have helped this end up in your hands, and to you for being interested enough to read this first issue, and perhaps ask a big question, chant, bow, sit... Our only hope is that something in this newsletter helps someone, somewhere. ❖

We're Moving!

After practicing in the First Unitarian Church for the past four years, and our sangha has finally found a place to call our own. As you read this newsletter, it is likely that we have already moved into our new home at **6439 West North Avenue in Wauwatosa** (on the southeast corner of 65th Street and North Avenue). Moving into this space will afford us more opportunities for practice, especially for

people who wish to do weekend or solo practice. Look for an expansion of our practice schedule in the near future!

To get to our new digs:

From the South or East: take I-94 West to 41 North until the freeway ends; turn left (west) onto Lisbon Avenue and then turn left again onto North Avenue; follow North Avenue west to 65th Street. We're on the left (south) side of the street (southeast corner of 65th and North).

From the West: Take I-94 East to 45 North. Exit from 45 onto North Avenue (east), go east to 65th Street. We're on the next block just east of 65th Street on the right (south) side.

From the North: Take 45 South to North Avenue, exit (east). Go east to 65th Street. We're on the next block, on the right (south) side. ❖

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Milwaukee Buddhist Community Celebration of the Buddha's Birthday

The Great Lake Zen Center is once again participating in the second annual celebration of the Buddha's Birthday along with other Buddhist organizations in the Milwaukee community. The celebration will be held on **May 1st** from **1pm - 4pm** at the **Italian Community Center**, 631 E. Chicago. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate with other Buddhists in the Milwaukee community from various traditions. *Children, friends and family are heartily welcome!*

Friday Night Extended Practice

There will be an extended practice on **Friday, May 14th** from **7pm - Midnight**. Friday night extended practices are a wonderful way to top off the week!

Rummage and Bake Sale!

Mark **June 5th** on your calendar! The Great Lake Zen Center will be holding a Rummage and Bake Sale on that day (probably from 9am - 4pm, but stay tuned for the exact times). **June 3rd** we will have work practice at **7:30pm** to prepare for the sale. The sale will be held at Lynn Ziegler's house, 1801 South 75th Street, across from the West Allis Public Library. If you have items to donate or can make bakery to sell, please let Lynn know. She can be reached at 414.259.9052.

Public Talk with Zen Master Dae Kwang

Zen Master Dae Kwang will be giving a free public talk on **July 9th** at **7:30pm** at the **Wellspring Conference Center, Newburg, Wisconsin**. This is another wonderful opportunity to hear our guiding teacher and ask your questions of him. This public talk will kick off a YMJJ weekend retreat (see next item). For information about how to get to the center, call Laura at 414.456.7754 (days) or 414.629.9868 (evenings).

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SOME CENTERS IN THE KWAN UM SCHOOL OF ZEN

THE KWAN UM SCHOOL OF ZEN

99 Pound Road
Cumberland, RI 02864-2726
401.658.1476

ORIGINAL ROOT ZEN CENTER

600 21st Street
Racine, WI 53403
414.638.8580

ISTHMUS ZEN COMMUNITY

c/o Cate Pfeifer
817 1/2 East Johnson Street
Madison, WI 53703
608.257.7970

WAUSAU ZEN GROUP

5107 River Bend Road
Schofield, WI 54476
715.355.7050

KWAN UM ZEN COMMUNITY OF CHICAGO (CONTACTS)

Bob Kemp, Hobart, IN	219.942.6050
Margaret Mckenzie, Wheaton, IL	630.665.2721
Ron Kidd, Chicago, IL	773.327.1695
Trudie Dreyer, Woodstock, IL	815.338.7459
Harold Rail, Woodstock, IL	815.337.9897

YMJJ Retreat with Zen Master Dae Kwang

We will have our second YMJJ weekend retreat led by Zen Master Dae Kwang on **July 10th – July 11th** at the **Wellspring Conference Center, Newburg, Wisconsin**. The retreat starts early on Saturday morning, so accommodations are provided for Friday and Saturday nights.

Kido Chanting Retreat (Tentative)

A one day Kido chanting retreat is tentatively scheduled for **September 5th or 12th**. Stay tuned for more information on this!

For more information on any of our activities, contact Laura at 414.456.7754 (days) or 414.629.9868 (evenings), or Peter at 414.771.2490.

Special Notice!

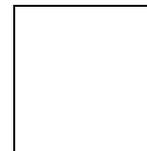
Over the next few issues will be updating our mailing list. **If you want to continue to receive the newsletter, please send us the following information:**

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