



Detroit Zen Center
수덕선원

December 1, 2020

Dear Friend,

Warm greetings to you from the Zen Center. It has been a pleasure serving this past year, and we truly hope you know how important your support is to our work, and very foundation. In this pandemic we have continued to work and are even more committed in the New Year to serve. We will expand our public green space, retreat & temple-stay offerings (if the pandemic abates), and serve an ever-growing need for spiritual inquiry. **I am writing to ask if you will formalize your support, either through an annual or monthly membership contribution, or through a one-time contribution.**

We offer several types of membership, which holds no requirements, but ensures the Center will survive and prosper. In 2020 I began stewarding Zen Center memberships and I would be happy to meet with you on Zoom to discuss membership or simply introduce myself. We also have a straightforward way to sign up, at: www.detroitzencenter.org/membership. Your donations are tax-deductible. We are a 501(c)(3), serving this greater community since 1990.

Covid has impacted us significantly. First, in recognizing that many are furloughed or unemployed our Abbot directed all our public offerings and membership to be offered at no cost for those with hardship. As we move into 2021 we are not sure how many existing annual members will be able to renew. Second, Living Zen Organics (our organic food distribution, store & café), has closed. Our Temple-Stay program, set to launch this past May, is on hold, as is the Public Green Roof (set to begin serving tea & offering tours this past June). Living Zen Organics was the Center's primary revenue source. We have received a small grant from the State, and have applied for a grant from the Southeast MI Resiliency Fund to expand our public green spaces.

With our Abbot & Vice-Abbot at the helm, we work daily on the buildings, grounds & in service to members in need. We have offered Zoom meditations, limited in-person meditations & monthly retreats, curb-side groceries & meals, counseling, residency for students with hardship, dharma talks, walking meditation at Elmwood Cemetery & the Ford House, and a 'Blue Collar Zen Podcast'. Our recent grant application would fund a 'Green Corners Initiative': allow us to hire a master gardener, develop the rain gardens, green roof, and a vacant lot across the street (adjacent to our Peace Garden), unifying our Public Green Space & Green Stormwater Infrastructure. We have support from the City, Superintendent of Schools and local students to build a program of field trips, public tours, education & volunteering. It should be a wonderful year!

Suzuki-Roshi, who helped bring Zen to the West, once said: "To shine one corner of the world, that is enough. Not the whole world, just make it clear where you are". His words have become our motto. Hamtramck was ranked the poorest City in Michigan last year. Sitting in the center of Detroit, our population is underserved, and the presence and work of the Center here means a lot – made possible by folks like you.

Thank you for your past, present and future support, in whatever form it may take.

Anshim

Anshim Michael Piper, Dharma Student