

Dear Village Zendo Sangha and Friends,

Ah, it's that time again: a period to intensify and deepen our practice. It is *Winter Ango!* Each year we set aside time in our lives to renew ourselves and our intention to see clearly. We do this by increasing our *zazen*, our study, and our interaction with sangha.

I am pleased to announce that our *shuso*, the 'practice leader' for this *ango*, is *Jiryu* - A. Jesse Davis. *Jiryu* has practiced here at the Zendo for many years and offered much in terms of stewardship. *Jiryu* serves on our internet team, our Sing-Sing team, and as liaison with Genro Sensei and the Street Retreats. And, of course, he serves as our staff photographer.

Now he will lead us in this *ango* period, serving as a model for practice in our daily lives and highlighting issues of importance to his practice. He has prepared a commitment form to help us with this.

As you may recall, *ango* means 'peaceful dwelling', and it is my hope that all of the sangha encounter our own peaceful dwellings in our hearts and minds. To that end, I encourage you to attend the retreats we have scheduled for *ango*, to work with the commitment form *Jiryu* has devised, to study the text, *The Ceasing of Notions\**, and to enter wholeheartedly into this time of invigorated practice.

The *ango* officially begins on December 26<sup>th</sup> and flows on into March 29<sup>th</sup>, ending with our Shuso Hossen. This is the traditional length of an *ango*, and gives us all time to settle into a deep winter practice.

Take time to notice what is important in your life and do try to attend our deep Year-End Retreat at Garrison. It is a time of introspection, of clarity and resolve. Sitting together in the hall, walking in the snow, taking time to rest, to watch the Hudson flow, and listening to our own nature – this is our annual practice of restoring and re-centering. For more information and to register  
<http://villagezendo.org/2014/07/year-end-meditation-retreat-2014/>

*Jiryu's* letter, and the commitment form are also available at that link. Please make your practice a reality, come back to your self, join the *ango!*

Gassho,

Roshi 圓教

*\*Ceasing of Notions, An Early Zen Text From The Dunhuang Caves*, is available at our bookstore and from Wisdom Publications and other on-line booksellers.