



VILLAGE ZENDO

Dear Village Zendo Sangha and Friends,

Whew! What a time this is! So many vital matters calling for our attention, for our care, for our complete awareness.

Now, more than ever, our practice serves us, serves those around us, and all we encounter. It is vital that we find time to renew our practice during our Summer *Ango*! Each year we set aside time in our lives to renew our intention to live a meaningful life -- 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 *Eko* – *Karen Eko Walker* – who will offer her leadership and model practice for us during this time.

As you may recall, *ango* means 'peaceful dwelling', and it is my hope that all of us who participate will encounter our own peaceful dwellings in our hearts and minds. And this year, we need to do this more than ever! This will be our first *All Online Ango*.

To that end, I encourage us all to attend the retreats, study sessions, and zazenkais that we have scheduled for *ango*, to work with the commitment form that Eko has devised, to study our *ango* text, Dogen's "Painting of a Rice Cake" and to enter wholeheartedly into this time of invigorated practice.

The *ango* officially begins on July 20 and flows on into August 9, ending with our *Shuso Hossen* on that day. There will be many openings and opportunities for us all to participate in studying the arts and practicing them, in accord with Dogen's profound teaching.

Please take time to notice what is important in your life and do try to attend as much of the *ango* as its possible for you. It is a time of introspection, of creativity, clarity and resolve. Sitting together on line, making and appreciating art and music and Dharma together, taking time to practice, and listening to our own nature – this is our annual practice of restoring and re-centering.

Please make your practice a reality, come back to your self, join the *ango*!

Gassho,

Roshi