



VILLAGE ZENDO

Dear Village Zendo Sangha and Friends,

It's Summer Ango! And again this year, completely different from last year, or the years before! Of course, ideally, we meet all our life experiences as new and fresh, so let's be grateful and appreciate the differences this second year of the pandemic era brings us.

This year we will blend a week-long residential retreat (August 6-14) with an ONLINE retreat (August 17-22) culminating in our Online Shuso Hossen Ceremony. We are called to allow these changing times to serve us by integrating our practice in new ways. Even with today's constraints, it is urgent that we find time to renew our practice. 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 angō is *Mukei – Willie Smith* – who will offer his leadership and model practice for us during this time. Mukei has selected a powerful angō text, Dogen's "Instructions to the Cook." Like Mukei, this study encourages a wholehearted and thorough practice in every aspect of our life.

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 *hybrid, part residential, part online Ango*. To that end, I encourage us all to attend the retreats and online study sessions, as well as the week-long sesshin at Wisdom House, if that is possible for you.

The angō officially begins on August 6, ending with our Shuso Hossen on August 22. 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 angō as its possible for you. It is a time of introspection, of creativity, clarity and resolve. Sitting together in person and on-line, taking time to practice, and listening to our own nature – this is our annual practice of restoring and re-centering.

Mukei's letter, and his commitment form, are also available on our website. Take this opportunity to practice deeply and wisely.

Gassho,

Roshi