



VILLAGE ZENDO

Dear Village Zendo Sangha and Friends,

Welcome to our Annual Winter Ango Period. As you may recall, *ango* literally 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. Ango is a time to deepen our practice, both on the cushion, and in our ordinary lives. And angō is an opportunity to take our practice to a new depth. I encourage you to join in, and despite the challenges of these times, practice wholeheartedly for the traditional 90-day period that begins on December 26, 2021.

And again this year, we will begin our angō with a deep and quiet sesshin online, all together. We do not know what is ahead in terms of practicing physically together later in the year, but we do know that we can practice deeply during our year-end sesshin on Zoom. Please join in!

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 *Hon Go Brooks* – who will offer his leadership and model practice for us during this time. Hon Go has selected a powerful angō text, *Shodoka*, The Song of Enlightenment, an inspiring short piece that inspires us all to find our Way. You will find the text [at this link](#).

The angō officially begins on December 26 and continues until our Shuso Hossen on March 27. There will be many openings and opportunities for us all to participate in studying the arts and practicing them, in accord with the deep teaching of the Song of Enlightenment by Yoka Daishi.

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 on-line, taking time to practice, and listening to our own nature – this is our annual practice of restoring and re-centering.

More information and registration can be found on our [Winter Sesshin registration page at VillageZendo.org](#). Hongo’s letter, and his commitment form, are also available there.

Please take this opportunity to practice deeply and wisely.

Gassho,

Roshi