



VILLAGE ZENDO

Dear Village Zendo Sangha and Friends,

It's Summer Ango! And, again, we are trying something different than in 2020 and 2021, which were Zoomed Online. Before that, we practiced for many years at the Grail in Cornwall, and one year, 2019, at Wisdom House. This year we return to Wisdom House for a residential retreat, as well as continuing our online offerings for those who cannot join us in person. Of course, ideally, we meet all our life experiences as new and fresh, so let's be grateful and appreciate the differences this third year of the pandemic era brings us.

This year we will offer a ten-day residential retreat (July 25-August 4). We will of course continue our regular ZOOM meeting separately. Even with today's constraints, it is urgent that we find time to renew our practice. The angō officially begins on July 25 ending with our Shuso Hossen on October 30. We will have time to practice deeply, at Wisdom House, at home, or at the Zendo. There will be many openings and opportunities for us all to participate in studying and practicing, in accord with our deep dive into angō practice.

I am pleased to announce that our *shuso*, the 'practice leader' for this angō is *Shugo* – Jeff Berman - who will offer his leadership and model practice for us during this time. *Shugo*, who is a musician as well as audio engineer, will provide us with a steady beat for our angō practice. *Shugo's* letter, and his commitment form, are available on the Village Zendo's Summer Ango page.

As you may recall, *angō* 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. I hope you will participate in our retreat as you can, either in person at Wisdom House, or holding the sangha online on Zoom during this time. Indeed, 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 whatever aspects make sense for you.

Our unusual study text for this angō, selected by Ryotan Roshi, is "Komyozo Zanmai", a beloved short Soto essay by Dogen's successor, Koun Ejo. Take this opportunity to practice deeply and wisely. It can be found on the Village Zendo website.

Please take time to notice what is important in your life and do try to attend as much of the angō – in person and on ZOOM - 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. *Shugo's* letter, and his commitment form, are also available at that link. Take this opportunity to practice deeply and wisely.

Gassho,
Roshi