



VILLAGE ZENDO

Dear Village Zendo sangha,

As we approach the mid-point of a year that has been agitating and challenging for many of us, it is time to prepare for our summer Ango from July 18 to August 2. In Buddhist tradition, this is a period of “peaceful dwelling” when the community turns inward and practices together in greater depth. Given our troubling times, it is an opportunity to settle in and reconnect with our true nature. Given our scattered attention, we can reengage with the teachings of wisdom and compassion in our daily life. Traditionally, this retreat was for ordained monastics, today it is available for householders like us.

This Ango will be led by our Shuso, Paloma Enmei Martínez-Cruz. Please see Enmei’s Shuso letter below. Enmei has been a part of the Village Zendo community for 29 years. She began with us as a graduate student in New York City and is now a professor of Spanish Literature and Latinx Cultural Studies at Ohio State. She began as a young person and is now the mother of a young adult. Throughout the years, Enmei has kept up her Zen practice and study. Despite the geographical distance, she comes back to join us on retreat. She is part of our morning online sangha and one of our online hosts. Her ongoing and committed householder practice is a model for us all.

To explore the possibilities for deep spiritual engagement in our everyday lives, our study text during this Ango will be *The Book of Householder Koans: Waking Up in the Land of Attachments*, edited by Roshis Eve Marko and Wendy Egyoku Nakao (Rhinebeck, NY: 2020). It has a fresh and frank approach that draws from the wellsprings of the White Plum teachings and is suited to our own contemporary experience.

Enmei has also produced an Ango Commitment Form designed to help you extend the edge of your practice. Please review it carefully and consider what kinds of commitments you would like to make to deepen your everyday activity and inquiry. When you have completed it, feel free to share it with me or any of the Village Zendo teachers.

I encourage you to register for our Ango, and to participate in it with full energy and sincerity. It offers us a rare opportunity to explore our ordinary lives as the messy, deluded realms they are and as the Buddha-fields they are.

Bows,

Shinryu Roshi