

Kwan Um School of Zen

Two Essential Things in Zen Practice

*Talk given by Zen Master Dae Kwang
at a meditation conference in Singapore in October 2008*

Before enlightenment, Buddha was attached to name and form. That includes most of us, too. Then, after enlightenment, he detached from name and form. That's the enlightenment of the Sixth Patriarch. Right? He heard: When thinking arises in your mind, don't attach to it... boom—enlightenment. Next, the Sixth Patriarch and the Buddha used name and form to help other people. The teaching of the Sixth Patriarch and the Buddha is a special kind of teaching, pointing directly to what you really are. However, the intent is not to explain it to you. It's designed to encourage you to practice and find out for yourself.

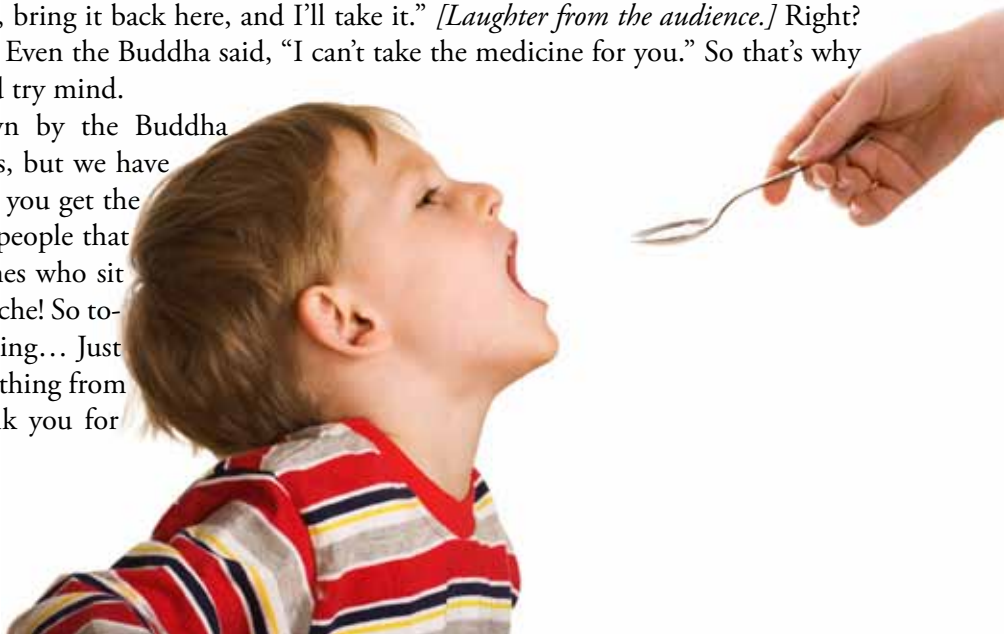
The Buddha practiced for a long time and attained enlightenment. Bodhidharma sat in a cave in northern China for nine years. At this conference this morning we are going to sit for an hour and ten minutes *[laughter from the audience.]* Those three things are actually the same. Six years under a tree, nine years in a cave, and here for an hour and ten minutes are the same. What makes them the same? Two things: One—why do we sit? Anything that you do as a human being should be clear; why are you doing it? We call this vow or intention. So, when we practice, we practice to find our true self and help the world. We don't practice to get something special.

Secondly, you need to have a strong “Do it” mind. Sometimes it's not so easy. You sit... it's very boring. Also, your legs hurt. You'd rather be outside seeing the end of the Singapore marathon outside rather than sitting here looking at the floor *[laughter from the audience.]* As we say in Buddhism: The mind jumps around like a crazy monkey. Because of this, you need to have a strong “I'm going to do it!” If you put these two things together, clear intention, and a “Do it” mind, then it will have a result, guaranteed! But what we are actually doing is very simple. Just let go of our thinking, return to just here, just now.

KATZ! *[Everyone in the room jumps.]*

There! I just did it for you. But moment-to-moment, when you are practicing, and in your daily life, you have to do it. As the Buddha said, “I have 84,000 kinds of medicine for human beings' suffering, but I cannot take it for them.” It's like when you are sick and you go to the doctor. They take your pulse, maybe they look at your tongue. Maybe they take your blood pressure. Then, if there's something wrong with you, they say, “Oh, take this medicine.” They write out a prescription. Then they say, “Go to the pharmacy and buy this medicine. Then go home and take it.” They never say, “Go to the pharmacy, buy the medicine, bring it back here, and I'll take it.” *[Laughter from the audience.]* Right? The doctor never says that. This is the same. Even the Buddha said, “I can't take the medicine for you.” So that's why we need these two things: clear direction and try mind.

We have an incredible gift handed down by the Buddha through our lineage of Chinese Zen masters, but we have to do something. If you do something, then you get the result. It's very simple with meditation: the people that get results are the people who do it. The ones who sit around just thinking about it just get a headache! So today, you are going to do some actual practicing... Just do it! Then you get the result. Wanting something from it? That will create a big problem. So thank you for coming and listening, and DO IT!





Kido in Berlin Zen Center: Dog nature—Buddha nature



Berlin's youngest practitioner—Only just do it!



December 2008 Yong Maeng Jong Jin at Bratislava Zen Center led by Chong An Sunim JDPS



Zen Master Bon Yo and Bratislava sangha after the April Yong Maeng Jong Jin

What's New?

Berlin Zen Center is adjusting to its new role as the head temple of the European Kwan Um School of Zen (it became the head temple in May last year.) So in March, we celebrated a Kwan Seum Bosal kido in our Center, inviting the whole European sangha. Although only a few people could come, we chanted together for hours. “Hummel” (German for bumblebee), the young German shepherd dog of the Wöhrle-Chon family (Mukyong PSN & Muchak PSN), visited the Zen Center for the first time and followed the kido with great curiosity. So it was a quite funny and intense kido afternoon with a great dance party afterwards. In March we also started a session of meetings at the Berlin sangha during which everybody was invited to discuss their visions of the Berlin Zen Center, what they would like to change, how to improve the organizational work of the Berlin Zen Center, etc. It was great to see that quite a lot of our Berlin members attended this meeting, and gave a lot of very good suggestions, with the power and will to work on it. We are working on having such organizational and visionary sangha meetings regularly because we feel that this first meeting made quite a difference to our Berlin sangha. Right now we are looking forward to the one-week Yong Maeng Jong Jin with Zen Master Wu Bong starting next week, in which members of the whole European sangha will participate—and of course to the European sangha meeting which will take place just after the Yong Maeng Jong Jin (in the beginning of May.) It is the second European sangha meeting we will celebrate in the Berlin Zen Center and it is a quite interesting and intense time of preparations for the meeting and all our guests. In spite of the work, it is great to see how this together-action brings all of us closer to each other—just like a big family. Welcome to the Berlin Zen Center!

In December 2008, **Bratislava Zen Center** hosted Chong An Sunim JDPS, for the first time in many years. He gave a public dharma speech in downtown Bratislava. Fourteen students sat three days of Yong Maeng Jong Jin in the rooms of the Zen Center. Everybody tried very hard to help and support each other to keep a strong practicing mind and keep as much silence as possible so as not to disturb our neighbors. As a result, the practice was very mindful and calm. After the retreat we had a Buddha's Enlightenment Ceremony, followed by a feast made by Janka, our best cook, and her student helpers. In April, as soon as we received the information about JW's death, we started a Ji Jang Bosal ceremony for him, chanting every seventh day, continuing until the 49th day. In April, Zen Master Bon Yo, our guiding

*Top and middle: Wedding of Brno sangha members Ondras and Vera, officiated by Chong An Sunim JDPS
Bottom: Brussels sangha with Zen Master Bon Yo*

teacher, led an annual three-day retreat. Flowering Bratislava welcomed our guiding teacher with her cheerful and keen style of teaching, as well as twenty-eight students not only from Bratislava Zen Center, but also from Kosice, Povazska Bystrica, Martin, Brno, and other cities. Bon Yo Soen Sa Nim gave a dharma talk both before the retreat, and in its middle. The practice was very intense and sincere. After the retreat Zen Master Bon Yo led a precepts ceremony, so we now have two more five precepts students, two new dharma teachers in training (David Brnak and Milan Poliak), one more dharma teacher (Daniel Nater) and one more senior dharma teacher (Peter Kosut, the Bratislava Zen Center director.)

In **Brno Zen Center**—as usual—we are experiencing good times when more people are coming to practice, and quiet times, when the dharma room looks rather empty, both coming like waves on the ocean. At the moment, there are three residents in the Zen Center. The sangha is not big, but is more and more like a family now, with two babies born in the past six months and another one expected this summer. We also had a beautiful Zen wedding in August; the ceremony took place in a mountain meadow and was officiated by Chong An Sunim JDPS. We have a one-day Yong Maeng Jong Jin every month and three or four Yong Maeng Jong Jins with a teacher each year. A couple of years ago, we added a new type of event to our calendar and started a new tradition of outdoor weekends for the sangha. These are informal events with practice, much together-action, outdoor games and fun. The next such weekend will take place in June; this time we will add some workshops that will be led by Jo Potter JDPSN. If that sounds interesting to you, grab your backpack and come spend some time with us! Everybody is welcome!

For more than a year, the **Brussels Zen Center** has been offering residential training. When we found our current location, we couldn't believe it: it is in the center of Brussels, and at the same time, at the border of a protected environmental area. After morning practice we open the curtains and the



dharma room is filled with soft spring sunshine. Then we start looking for our neighbors: about twenty cows in a huge field on the hill in front of our building. Some time ago, a cow visited the field for the first time and had a life-changing experience. Our front door has a round mirror, and when the cow discovered it, boom! Enlightenment! The cow stood there in front of the mirror for hours: MOOOOH! MOOOOH! It was so funny! To honor her attainment, we have granted her free membership for the rest of her life. Recently, something strange has happened. The outer world has discovered that we exist! Within a time frame of six months we had a radio interview, a TV interview,

Near right: Nancy Hathaway at the Zen Master Su Bong Memorial Pond at Cambridge Zen Center
Far right: The Cambridge sangha after the April precepts ceremony at Providence



two interviews in local magazines, and we were invited to host ten Zen workshops as part of a wonderful exposition on Korean art. There were several national treasures that had never traveled outside Korea. It was world class, so really unfortunate if you missed it! We were lucky that Hyon Gak Sunim JDPS was invited for the opening of the exposition. We had a public talk and private interviews with him, plus some drinks on the Grande Place in the center of Brussels. The foundation of our sangha is together-action. Several members proposed to help in different ways: buying flowers on a regular basis, offering a coffee machine and curtains, a proposal to organize workshops to cover some topics of the *Compass of Zen*. Somebody proposed to help with public relations. Our members from Antwerp came over for the TV interview in Brussels. (You know that when the TV is there, the dharma room needs to be full!) All this appeared very naturally. These are the things that make us most happy. Now that we have a residential center we practice every morning and several times a week in the evening. This changes a lot! When you know that somebody is waiting for you to start 108 bows, it is much easier to find the courage to get up. At the same time, the family feeling of our small sangha became much stronger. It is a real joy. At first, we were concerned that the Zen Center wouldn't have enough money to survive; if we don't have residents, we go bankrupt. But so far, with some help of Hwa Um Soeng Jung, we are doing pretty well. We can advise anybody who wants to start a residential center to give it a try. After all, you can always rent out rooms to non-practitioners. Currently, there are three Zen students living in the Zen Center. Soon we will have one or two vacancies. Feel free to contact us if you are interested. Remember, one of our members already attained enlightenment. You could be the next!

Cambridge Zen Center welcomes Mark Horan and M.J. Kenny and Michelle de Tarnowsky, our new residents this spring. It's great to have them with us. As spring turned into summer, our summer crew began arriving at CZC. We are delighted to have Namhee Chon JDPSN's sister, Hyun-He here as a summer resident. She is an artist living in Berlin. Carla Bosch, a high school student from Berlin who spent last summer with us and was a joy to be around, will be back for more hard training. Also, Anika Page from Berlin Zen Center is spending a month with us on her first visit to the States. And Tim Gard, a German Ph.D. student doing research on meditation will spend the summer with us. "Der Frühling kommt, das Gras wächst von selbst." (Spring comes, the grass grows by itself.) An officer from the Boston University Zen Society, Mike Bruffee, will tackle hard training while he attends summer school. We say a fond "see you around" to Nick Doolittle, who has moved to a location nearby. Heartfelt congratulations to Mark Horan, Mark O'Leary, and Niama Jacobs on taking five precepts at the Buddha's Birthday celebration on April 5, and to Seth Margolis, M. Tiffany Reed, and Michael Schmidt on becoming dharma teachers in training. All beings are grateful for your assistance. Our Yong Maeng Jong Jins have been well-attended with enthusiastic spirits and we are grateful to our guest teachers: Ji Do Poep Sa Nims Nancy Hedgpeth, Ken Kessel, Linc Rhodes, and Steve Cohen, and Zen Masters Wu Kwang, Bon Haeng, and Bon Yeon. We are so lucky to have the opportunity to study with so many excellent teachers. We look forward to a special visit from Namhee Chon JDPSN and from Zen Master Soeng Hyang in the fall. The College Retreat in March led by Zen Master Bon Yeon had participants from Brown, Boston University, Tufts, Northeastern, Suffolk, Rhode

Island School of Design, and even one thirteen-year-old high school student! They seemed quite amazed by the powerful new experience. Kudos to Lela Besom on her first time serving as head dharma teacher. Our senior dharma teachers Tom Johnson, Lorianne DiSabato, Tracy Dolge, Jennifer Magrone and Raimondas Lencevicius continue to generously instruct through interviews, dharma talks, and teaching courses. Thank you all for your continuous support! One Harvard professor brought members of her 150-student Intro to Buddhism course to the Zen Center, and Zen Master Bon Haeng taught them in three separate sessions in order to fit them all in the dharma room! We also hosted a number of children's classes—a fascinating experience for them thanks to Andy Wood and Michael Schmidt. Many thanks to Natalie Watson, our head dharma teacher, who provided inspiration for dharma teachers in their Intro Class teaching. She also initiated an audit to help us conserve energy and go more “green”, and never fails to offer her assistance and follow-through whenever asked. Two honorary members of CZC are making their way here—Jennifer Magrone and Tom Turk are happily awaiting the birth of their second child, and Natalie Watson and Allan Breedlove will soon become first-time parents! We wish you much joy with your little Buddhas! Our garden has never looked better since Andy Wood took the helm with Erica Jensen by his side. Lattice work behind the dharma hall was installed to make the storage area more attractive and a new compost bin was built and installed in the garden area. A project to beautify our small parking lot with an arborway of flowering trees and decorative stones is underway with our resident architect Michael Fiorillo drawing up plans. The teacher's and guest rooms have had a boost with a few Asian antiques and Tibetan rugs, and a glowing granite Garden Buddha now stands solidly in our reception room, welcoming all newcomers. Flowers are greeting us at every turn in the Zen Center these days as Sharon Graham works her magic. From the teacher's room to the dharma room, the bright colors help us to wake up to the moment. The magnificent billowing new white curtains Sharon has sewn add a new ambiance. The New Year brought the law of impermanence home to us beginning with the death of Zen Master Bon Yeon's mother, Ray McLaugh-

lin, on January 25th. She is remembered in the new plaque on the wall of Providence Zen Center. We are so sorry for your loss. Our hearts were broken by the tragic news of JW's death on April 7. A spontaneous healing kido was led by Tad Bailey on hearing the sad news that night. Words can't express our sorrow for this enormous loss. Those who knew him feel immense gratitude for all he did so graciously for us individually and for our School over many years. We will miss him dearly.

Cape Cod Zen Center continues steady progress on our new dharma room (and interview room, etc.)—almost done! This winter and spring, we finished all interior painting, have all electric lights and heat working, and have a beautiful floor now installed. We should be in there, practicing, by the time this newsletter goes to print!

Two of our members, Matt Egan and Soo Kyoung Lee, were married in January in a Korean ceremony at the **Chogye Sa Temple** in New York. Zen Master Wu Kwang and Myo Ji Sunim JDPSN officiated. Our long-time head dharma teacher, Paul Majchryk received inka at the April sangha weekend at Providence Zen Center. During the Annual Lotus Lantern Celebration of Buddha's Birthday in Union Square in Manhattan, on May 1, Ildon Sunim led a group doing 1,000 bows for a harmonious and peaceful world. There is a Zen Center residency available beginning July 1, 2009. The location of the Zen Center is in the East Village area of Manhattan. If interested, please email our abbot, Steve Cohen JDPSN at steven.cohen@aya.yale.edu.



*Matt Egan and Soo Kyoung Lee
with their families at their January wedding*



*Left to right:
Delaware
Valley March
Yong Maeng
Jong Jin with
Zen Master
Soeng Hyang;
the garden at
Empty Gate
Zen Center*

The first part of 2009 has been an exciting time for the **Delaware Valley Zen Center**. In March, we had a wonderful one-day Yong Maeng Jong Jin led by Zen Master Soeng Hyang, and in April, one with Zen Master Dae Kwang. Our founding member and Abbot, José Ramirez, received inka on April 4th during Buddha's Birthday weekend at Providence Zen Center. Congratulations on this tremendous achievement, Poep Sa Nim. Delaware Valley Zen Center is getting ready to celebrate its ten-year anniversary in July!

At **Dharma Zen Center**, the bodhi tree in front is shedding its leaves in preparation for new ones. Much has changed since the bodhi tree shed its leaves last year. We have three new residents who joined senior monk Mu Sang Sunim and our hard-working housemaster Steve Valerio. Matthew Kamm moved back in and is now director once again. Jin Kim, who moved in last summer, is an international dharma teacher in the Korean Buddhist Chogyo Order. Elzbieta Ossowska met Zen Master Seung Sahn in Poland in the early eighties and now has moved into DZC. Mu Sang Sunim and Matthew just returned from a visit to Mu Sang Sah in Korea and the Su Bong Zen Monastery in Hong Kong, where they were warmly received by both sanghas. Everyone is practicing hard under the inspired leadership of guiding teacher and abbot Paul Park JDPSN and vice-abbot Sonya Shelton, and we are grateful that we have such a wonderful group here in Los Angeles!

6]

Empty Gate Zen Center held a precepts ceremony at the end of our annual eight-day retreat. Mark De-witt became a dharma teacher, Lee Heu became a dharma teacher in training (taking the ten precepts), and Peter Day took the five precepts. Kwan Sahn

Sunim has relocated to the west coast after living at the Providence Zen Center for nine years. He has moved into the Zen Center here as a full-time resident. Since his arrival, we have extended practice to seven days a week. Please check our website for other updates: www.emptygatezen.com Justin Bandy has been working very hard in the garden, adding various flowers and plants. He has had help from other volunteers in the sangha to create a beautiful front yard. Zen Master Bon Soeng will be traveling to Mexico near the end of June and the beginning of July to teach. He also will be traveling to lead retreats in Colorado, Providence, and Seattle later in the year.

At **Gateless Gate Zen Center**, the year started out in overdrive with two Yong Maeng Jong Jins, a talk by Dr. James Austin, and a five-day retreat at Lowell Correctional Institution. In January, Zen Master Bon Haeng led a precepts ceremony and Yong Maeng Jong Jin, and in February Zen Master Soeng Hyang led a Yong Maeng Jong Jin with the introduction to her dharma talk being given by Dr. James Austin. Dr. Austin is the author of *Zen and the Brain* and *Selfless Insight*. He followed the Yong Maeng Jong Jin talk with a separate Monday night talk at the Center, and then on the following weekend visited two of the prison Zen groups at Lowell Correctional Institution. The January Yong Maeng Jong Jin was inspiring in that we had seven members of the greater sangha take five precepts. In addition to that, Claudia Schippert and Jessica Fox became dharma teachers. In attendance at the Yong Maeng Jong Jin were over thirty members who came from as far as Atlanta, Georgia and Miami, Florida. We had our ninth five-day retreat at Lowell Correctional Institution. They started two-and-a-half years ago with



Clockwise from top right: Formal meal during Easter retreat with Zen Master Dae Kwan and Andrzej Stec JDPSN; Sitting meditation around the pagoda at Gak Su Temple; Janu-ary Yong Maeng Jong Jin at Gateless Gate Zen Center led by Zen Master Bon Haeng; Dr. James Austin and Zen Master Soeng Hyang at Gateless Gate Zen Center



twenty-seven inmates, and have grown to seventy-eight inmates at the last retreat. However, something new has been added to this retreat; instead of serving bag lunches at the noon meal, they are now serving hot trays. As strange as it may seem, a bag lunch of three sandwiches and piece of fruit with a cookie is twice as expensive as a hot tray from the mess hall. We just started our tenth cycle and had over one hundred inmates sign up from the main unit alone. This is a self-selected group that equates to almost ten percent of the inmate population in the main unit alone. If all goes well at our residential location, we will be down to two empty rooms at the end of June. Also, our ratio of ex-offenders to non ex-offenders will be 1:1. Although we are a small residential center by any measure, it is noteworthy that we have never had an incident with an ex-offender, and none of the ones that have stayed here have returned to prison at this time. It is also noteworthy that there would be no residential center here if it was not for the ex-offenders that come here to live.

Greetings again from the **Hong Kong** Sangha! We are pleased to share with you the news that Andrzej Stec JDPSN is now the second guiding teacher at Su

Bong Zen Monastery. Stec PSN, together with Zen Master Dae Kwan, has just finished leading a four-day Easter Retreat with us at Gaksu Temple in Lantau Island. There were more than fifty-five students who participated, with an extended waiting list. Gaksu Temple was a donation from a Chinese nun to Su Bong Zen Monastery some years ago. Since then, numerous retreats have been held there. Now, with an additional donation of "Sim Pak Lam," a small practicing house nearby, we have a long-term plan of developing this area into an international retreat village. We hope that our international sangha friends will be able to come and practice together here in Gaksu. A new pagoda was constructed soon after the acquisition of the additional houses. The opening ceremony of the pagoda took place on March 3, with the presence of more than seventy students, monks and nuns from the area, dharma friends, and Dae An Sunim, Won Bo Sunim, and Dae An Sunim's students from Korea. To support the growth of Sim Pak Lam, two consecutive 49-day periods of Great Dharani chanting for two hours per day were conducted by students of the Monastery. To celebrate our Chinese New Year in late January, the Monastery arranged three types of chanting in

the morning of the New Year: Hwa Um Soeng Jung, the Great Dharani, and the 88-Buddha Repentance. Chinese New Year is an important festival in Hong Kong. 2009 is the year of the Ox. The teaching from Zen Master Dae Kwan for this year is "Ride the Ox: Return to our True Home." In the midst of the drastic changes happening in the world, our practicing together becomes especially important and beneficial to ourselves, the world, and all beings. May we all ride the ox, return to our true nature, and save all beings from suffering!

The **Isthmus Zen Community** of Madison, Wisconsin held its sixth annual week-long retreat. There was sunlight, better-than-average weather for March, and great, peaceful silence. We were glad to once again see our teacher, Thom Pastor JDPSN. We were relieved to see him looking robust after his car crash of last year. He led us in chi gong exercises both inside and outside, which eased our bodies. We sat strongly and listened to intriguing stories and en-



*Above: Chi gong with Pastor PSN and the Isthmus sangha
Below: Isthmus Zen Community's spring retreat*



couraging dharma talks. Each year we are visited by other sentient beings, in the form of wildlife. This shouldn't be too surprising, as the retreat house is located on a 500-acre property which lies adjacent to a 1500-acre state park. One year, wild turkeys walked by just outside the dharma room, and another year, we saw a bobcat. This year, there were deer who sauntered by one evening, and stayed grazing nearby on another evening. For many of us, the sounds and sights of the birds were remarkable. The nearby nature center hosts a bird feeding station visited by common and not-so-common birds including: pine siskin, finches, vireos, tufted titmice, and various woodpeckers. One afternoon, during the outside meditation walk, we stopped and stood oh-so-quietly, as only meditators and birdwatchers can do. We watched and listened. The birds swooped by ever so close. We weren't quite still enough for them to land on us, but perhaps with just a little more practice...

It is with great sadness that we must announce the sudden passing of the **Providence Zen Center** director, JW Harrington, on April 7, 2009. JW worked for Providence Zen Center and the Kwan Um School of Zen for twenty years. Virtually everyone in the North American sangha, as well as many people in the worldwide sangha, knew him either in person, on the phone, or by email. We will remember him for his tremendous dedication and highly-skilled efforts to keep both the Zen Center and the School running at a professional level, and his always kind and cheerful presence on the phone and at the door greeting arrivals for programs. He will be greatly missed by the entire Kwan Um sangha. We held a seven-day memorial ceremony for JW on April 14, and a 49-day memorial ceremony on Saturday, May 30. This past winter we had another successful Win-



*JW
Harrington*



Left: Ramat Gan sangha and dharma room

ter Kyol Che, held in its usual location at the Diamond Hill Zen Monastery. We had a total of thirty-five participants attending from all over the country as well as Korea, Vietnam, Mexico, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Canada. After the retreat, Providence Zen Center hosted the annual Kwan Um School of Zen Buddha's Birthday weekend. During the weekend, members Roger Keyes and Elizabeth Coombs became senior dharma teachers and Niama Jacobs and Shawn Lesperance took five precepts. Congratulations! Also, congratulations to sangha members Alyson Arnold and Viktor Dolgilevics, who were married by Zen Master Dae Kwang on March 14. We would also like to welcome back Tamarind Jordan and Jiri Hazlbauer, who are visiting from Hungary.

Here at **Ramat Gan Zen Group** we bought a beautiful new wooden altar. It is handmade, and we placed a new wooden Buddha on top of it. At the beginning of April, we held a 1,000-bow practice session for the first time at the Center. It went very well, and the energy was amazing. This summer we will have a retreat with all three Kwan Um groups in Israel participating; the date and length are not yet decided, but we are all looking forward to it.

New students from **Riga Zen Center** and the Latvian sangha attended a Yong Maeng Jong Jin in our neighboring country, Lithuania, at the head temple in Vilnius. The retreat was led by Zen Master Bon Shim. It was a great experience for beginners, an unforgettable trip to see dharma friends in another Baltic country, which has such a nice Zen Center and helps the Latvian sangha to improve our practice. Almost one third of the participants of this Yong Maeng Jong Jin were from Latvia. We hope to join the Lithuanians at the next Yong Maeng Jong Jin in Kaunas, or during the summer retreat in a nice forest house. Riga Zen Center has changed locations three times in the last six months. After a hundred-day-long Hwa Um Soeng Jung kido, things started to change very fast. After spending more than three years in a nice attic space in the old part of Latvia's capital Riga, the Zen Center moved to an unfinished apartment in the same area. To make things cozier for the sangha and guests, one of the sangha's members, Tatyana, drew a wonderful Kwan Seum Bosal

*Left: March Yong Maeng Jong Jin in Vilnius with Lithuanian and Latvian sanghas
Below: Kwan Seum Bosal painting at the former Riga Zen Center*





John Wren



*Won Kwang Sa residents
Neta and Lukas at their April
civil ceremony wedding*



*Providence Zen Center newlyweds
Alyson Arnold and Viktors Dolgilevics
with Zen Master Dae Kwang*

painting on one of the walls. It was almost 1.5 meters (59 inches) high. We even left this masterpiece for the new owners of that apartment. Now the Latvian sangha is gathering in a private flat and shares one room with the owners of this flat. We are still looking for a new place, and hope to either find one ourselves, or meet a true bodhisattva who can help us find a more permanent place for our growing sangha.

The **Ten Directions Zen Community** recently said goodbye to long-time practitioner John Wren, who passed away after a difficult battle with cancer. John was a softhearted guy with a great dedication to practice. He suffered from health problems for many years, but still managed to come regularly to retreats, even while he was being treated with chemotherapy. His great vow and try mind were an inspiration to all of us. Many members of the sangha spent time with John during his last days, but our senior dharma teachers Margaret McKenzie and Ron Kidd made special efforts to support John and his family, and we're grateful to them. Now, as the sangha prepares for its first Yong Maeng Jong Jin without John, spring is returning and life is renewed. John's great vow continues in us. We've made plans to purchase a temple bell from Korea, which we will dedicate to John's memory. Our hope is that its sound, like John's clear example, will resonate into the future.

From January 3 to April 3, we held our second Winter Kyol Che at **Won Kwang Sah**. More than forty people from sixteen countries came this year to practice together. We hosted three guest teachers: Zen Master Wu Bong, Muchak JDPSN, and Jo Potter JDPSN. At the end of Kyol Che, there was a traditional Hae Jae celebration with a precepts ceremony and Buddha's Birthday ceremony. Many sangha members, their friends, and temple supporters came to join this event. We invite you to the 100-day Summer Kido which will be led by Chong An Sunim JDPS. You are most welcome to come and enjoy summer together with your sangha friends, make new friends, practice, and help the temple. You can come and go on any day, there is no minimum stay, and no mandatory silence. Besides practice, we will do a lot of together-action—we plan to have dharma workshops, day trips, sports, and also work-practice to help the temple. On June 27, there will be the first Buddhist wedding ceremony on the Won Kwang Sa temple grounds. Our long-term residents Lukas and Neta have found life-partners in one other, and after having a civil wedding in April, they have invited their families and sangha friends for a meadow ceremony led by Chong An Sunim JDPS. We wish both of them a wonderful committed relationship, with lots of love, compassion, wisdom and patience. May their relationship be beneficial for both of them, as well as for all beings. We are currently creating a new website for Won Kwang Sah. There you will be able to find all information on the Won Kwang Sah project, recent and upcoming events, maps and directions, links to audio and video teachings from Won Kwang Sah, and much more... We invite you to visit at any time of the year, not just for planned events. You can come and stay for any amount of time, practice with the sangha, do your own extra practice, or work and help the temple. At the same time, you can relax and enjoy the beautiful nature around the temple.



Myong Gong Sunim and Zen Master Wu Bong during the August 2008 precepts ceremony in Russia



After the precepts ceremony and first seven-day retreat in Russia with Zen Master Wu Bong in August 2008



New dharma teachers in training in Saint Petersburg Zen Center



Dharma talk during the February retreat with Zen Master Bon Shim in Russia



Myo Ji Sunim and the Manhattan Chogyeh Sangha at the May Buddha's Birthday parade in New York City

2008 Donors to the Kwan Um School of Zen

The Sangha sincerely thanks all members, everyone who donated to their local Zen Center and to our international centers, and everyone who contributed time and practice energy to help their Zen center, the School, and all beings.



Arun Agrawal
Joseph Alen
Laurance Allen
DeWitt Allen
Kimball Amram
Mark J. Andrews
Keith and Kelly Angilly
Alyson Arnold
Michael Arsenault
Jerry Ashmore
M.K. Babcock
Susan Baer
Edna Baginsky
John Bahret
Jean Barr
Christopher Barron
Martha Baum
Sheila Bayne
Charles Beauchamp
Scott Beck
Gary and Patricia Belanger
Kevin Smith and Patty Bergh
Kenneth Berman
Lynn Bermont
William Bernhardt
Susan Bernstein
Jody Blackwell
Robert Blankfield
Robert Blender
Paul Bloom and Millie Grenough
William Bodiford
Zen Master Bon Haeng
Zen Master Bon Shim
Zen Master Bon Soeng
and Sheridan Adams
Zen Master Bon Yeon
and Piotr J. Dobisz
Suzanne Bowman
Jonathan Bowra
Leslie and Bill Brenan
Mark and Karen Brenner
Barry Briggs and Susann LeRoy
Philip Broyhill
Paul Brymer
Kyungsook Bu
Pierce Butler and Susan Holbert
Bonnie and Guy Buzzell
Dr. James and Maggie Calvin
Cambridge Zen Center
Patricia Canan
Kathleen Carr
Jamie and Laura Caster
R. Scott Chambers and Marilyn Katz
Elizabeth Champion-LeBlanc
and Robert LeBlanc
Maria Chan
Christopher Cheney
Yolanda Chetwynd
Bongsup and Meeyeun Cho
Bo-Mi Choi
Chong Won Sunim
Chao and Peili Chu
Hyun-Kyung Chung
Myung Jin Chung
Mary Ellen Cimillo and Jon Lightner
Steven Cohen JDPSN
Margaret Cole Broughton
and Michael Broughton
Garret Condon
James Confalone
Elizabeth Coombs and Roger Keyes
Andrew Costanzo
Donald Courtney
Robert Cox
Terence Cronin
David Cross
Zen Master Dae Bong
Zen Master Dae Kwan
Zen Master Dae Kwang
Dae Won Sunim JDPS
Diana Daniels
Darlene Demers
Mark and Karen Dennen
Teresa DeSantis
Gregory Diatchenko
Thomas Dickinson
Paul and Fran Dickman
Peter DiGennaro
Lorianne DiSabato
Donna Dover and Ann Teague
Karel Driesen
Celeste Duclos
Scott and Renee Dumont
Lisa Dunlop
Fumiko Eda
Reverend Rusty Eidmann-Hicks
and Martha Eidmann-Hicks
Clare Ellis
Arida Emrys
Andrew Engelbrecht
Tamar Enoch
Eric Espinosa
Estate of Kenneth Alan Mills
Barbara Feldman
Benjamin and Ruth Fleury-Steiner
Denise Forest
Marc Fortin
Auguste and Oi Fortin
Merrie Fraser JDPSN
Inge Gecas
Jane Gnojek
Martin Goldman, M.D.
Barry Gorfain
Darek Gorzewski JDPSN
Patricia Gouin
Roland Gray III
Great Brightness Zen Center
Paul Green
David Grotell
Charles Haeuser
J.W. and Jayne Harrington
Dr. Gillian Harrison
Joyce Haydock
Jiri Hazlbauer
Nancy Hedgpeth JDPSN
and Mac Hedgpeth
Lee André Heu
Christopher Hoffman
and Susan Secord
Robin Hoffman
John Holland
Nattan and Erin Hollander
Jesse Holstein
Anna Horvath
Robert Howenstine
Melissa Hull
Yoon-Young Hur
Sungsoo Hwang
Hye Tong Sunim
Dr. Won-Gi Im
Gus Ives
Jill Jann
Robert Jay
Erica Jensen
Ji Hak Sunim
Thomas Johnson
Robert Johnson
Prentis and Alayne Jones
Alayne Jones
Tamarind Jordan
Just Communities of Northwest Arkansas
Mark Kapner
John Karl and Susan Short
J.D. Kay and Lisa Perez
Marguerite Kaylin
Walter Kaylin
Robert Kemp
Ken Kessel JDPSN
Susan Kessler

Roger Keyes and Elizabeth Coombs
Jae Kim
Eunah Kim
Minsun Kim
Jae Chil Kim
Boo Young Kim
Ye Sook Kim
John and Kathleen Kling
Shana Klinger
Mary Kollar
John Kolwaite
Arunas Kulikauskas
and Oksana Judakova
Keith and Virginia Kwan
Kwan Haeng Sunim
Christine Lajewski
George Laughead
Patrick Lavey
Brian Leatherman
Edith and Richard Lebowitz
David Ledeboer
Bom-Chul Lee
Susan Lee
Myungok Lee
Kyu Hak and Eun J Lee
Soo Kyoung Lee and Matthew Egan
Jang Wook Lee
Kyung Hee Lee
Peter Lemmer
Raymond Lemoine
Raimondas Lencevicius
and Diana Lenceviciene
Timothy Lerch JDPS
Thomas Levine
Frances Lightsom
Eugene Lim
Diana Lynch
Janusz and Maria Madej
Paul Majchrzyk
Lisa Malcolm
Jennifer Mancini
Manhattan Chogye Sah
Douglas Marshall
Ed McCarthy
Susan McConnell
and Maribeth O'Neil
William McCracken
Margaret McKenzie
Patrick McMahan
John Medveckis
Ann Miller
Frederick and Dianne Miller
Carlos Montero
Rudy Moore, Jr.
Mu Sang Sunim
Julia Murakami
Jean Murphy
Tom Murray
Myong Haeng Sunim
James Najarian
Jacob Newell

Frank Norman
Carmen Oemig
Sang Suk Oh and Nam-suk Chung
Michael Olak
Lucy Lee
Jim O'Leary
Mark O'Leary
Mary Fox Olson
Steven Olson
John O'Regan
Trish O'Sullivan
Michael O'Sullivan
Rebecca Otte
Mark Overs
Benjamin Page
Robert and Sheera Papp
Rosanaa and Fernando Pardo
Fernando and Rosanaa Pardo
Hyo-sung Park, Jeonghwa Kim Park,
and Soyeon Park
Eun Chung Park, Ph.D.
Jae Hoon Park
Jummee Park
Thom Pastor JDPSN
Natasa Pavlovic and William Madison
John Pekins and Jayme Harpring
Christopher Pesnell
David Peters
June Peters
Marilynn Petitt
Florence Pitts
Jo Potter JDPSN and Sussha Mann
Evelio Quiros
Joshua Race
Wilfried Rahn
Troy Rapp
Rob Renahan
Karen Rennick
Stuart Resnick
Ann Rhodes
Craig Richards
Victoria Richter
Joseph and Denise Robichaud
Bill Robitzek
Lawlor Rochester
Judy Roitman JDPSN
and Stan Lombardo
Ian Roth and Lisa Stephens
Christine Rundblad
Jan Schaake
Mark DeWitt and Sue Schleifer
Michael Schmidt
Richard Scott
Harry Shapiro and Pamela Winters
Judith Share
Kevin Sheridan
SungLim Shin
Zsuzsanna Sidló
Manuel Silva
Daniel Sinnott
Robert Smith

Kevin Smith and Patty Bergh
Gary and Beverly Snyderman
Zen Master Soeng Hyang
and Mary Sullivan
Betty Spargo
Karen Spicher
Gary Sprague
Joseph Springer
William Stallman
James Stanford
Loretta Staples
Andrzej Stec JDPSN and Kathy Park
Eduardo and Daniel Stern
RB Stewart and Elissa Braunstein
Richard and Dorota Streitfeld
Liatrix Studer
Misuhng Suh
Michael Sullivan
Elizabeth Sweeney
Tadeusz Szykowski
and Kasia Szykowska
Barbara Taylor
Ten Directions Zen Community
Jeffrey Timm
Tuyen Tran
Khanh Ha Haley Tran
Shuk-Kuen Tse
Natasha Turaki
Azara Turaki
James Tyler
Reverend Venerable Chank Tzu
Mark Uehling
Jennifer Ullrich
Cláudia Vieira
Charles Vitale
Marion Wagner
Kristin Walker
KC Walpole
Beth Walsh
Kai Wang
Susan Warden and John Staples
Natalie Watson and Allan Breedlove
Ray and Yong Wehrmeister
Barbara Weinstock
Kathleen Weissman
Raymond and Gina Welch
Paul Wendelgass
Margaret Wheeler
and Christina Hauck
Searle Whitney
Chris Wilcox
Patricia Williamson
Rod Wolfe
Jung In Woo and Je In Woo
Timothy Woollard
Zen Master Wu Kwang
and Brenda Shrobe
Andrew Yencha
Jungmin Yoo
Leslie Young

Trustees' Reports

The trustees for North America met at Providence Zen Center in April 2009. Here are the highlights of their discussions:

- The trustees have modified the ethics statement; please see page 15 (Section 7 has been added.)
- The monastic surcharge on retreat fees has been discontinued, and replaced with a system in which each year the School gives the Monastic Support Fund of the Kwan Um Soen Rim 2% of the School's gross revenue for the previous year. Also, direct donations to the Monastic Support Fund are also welcome. This program will be evaluated in three years by the Trustees.
- While Darek Gorzewski JDPSN is in Korea doing monastic training, Zen Master Dae Kwang will be the temporary guiding teacher for the Single Flower Zen Center in Benicia, California and Thom Pastor JDPSN will be the temporary guiding teacher for the Vancouver Zen Group in Vancouver, British Columbia.
- A new edition of the *Dharma Mirror* will be coming out soon.

The trustees for Europe met at Berlin Zen Center in May 2009. Here are the highlights of their discussions:

- Jo Potter JDPSN is the new abbot for the European Kwan Um School of Zen.
- Hyon Gak Sunim JDPS has moved to Europe and officially become a part of the European Teachers' Group.

The trustees for Asia met at Mu Sang Sah in spring 2009. Here are the highlights of their discussions:

- Andrzej Stec JDPSN has been appointed co-guiding teacher of Su Bong Zen Monastery in Hong Kong. He is currently living at Su Bong Zen Monastery and sharing teaching duties with abbess and co-guiding teacher Zen Master Dae Kwan. All the Sunims, dharma teachers, and students there are very happy with his presence, practice, and teaching. Stec PSN is now also a member of the Asian Teachers' Group.

Newsletter of the Kwan Um School of Zen

Zen Master Seung Sahn, *Founding Teacher*
Zen Master Soeng Hyang, *School Zen Master*
Zen Master Dae Kwang, *Abbot*

Ethics for the Entire Sangha

Revised April 4, 2009

The primary principle guiding all sangha relationships should be to help each other. The first Great Vow states our intention to help save all sentient beings. This vow can help guide our sangha relations. As Zen Master Seung Sahn expressed it in the marriage ceremony vows, “I vow to help you to attain your true self.” When relating to others in the sangha, we must be very attuned to how our actions will affect them.

Those in the Sangha who hold positions in the hierarchy—senior students as well as teachers and monastics—have a special obligation to be very mindful of the potential misuse of power, money, alcohol, controlled substances and sex. Using your position to fulfill your desires is not correct relationship and is an abuse of power.

Teachers’ Responsibilities: Zen Masters, Ji Do Poeps Sas, monastics, and dharma teachers have a responsibility to take into account the welfare of students. A teacher must always ask themselves how any action will affect the student in the long run. The history of Buddhist organizations in America shows very clearly that sexual relationships between teachers and students can lead to great pain and disharmony within the sangha. On the other hand, many teachers have entered into loving, long-term relationships with someone who was their student. Therefore, there is no easy rule to guide these relationships. The sangha does have the right to expect that our teachers will act within the highest standards of care and mindfulness. The Third Precept is “I vow to abstain from misconduct done in lust.” Lust can be defined as a self-centered action which is “for me” and doesn’t take into account the needs of another. If a teacher’s relationship with a student becomes sexual in nature, two steps are strongly recommended: 1. There should be a three to six month suspension of the teacher/student relationship, and 2. The teacher should choose a Zen Master or Ji Do Poep Sa Nim to discuss the relationship with and receive advice from. In this way, the relationship will be witnessed by another teacher who can hold the perspective of caring for the student, the teacher, and the entire sangha.

The sangha must be free of all sexual harassment. No means no; use it mindfully and hear it clearly. Touching should be mutually agreed upon. If someone asks not to be touched, respect their wishes. If someone rejects even your most gentle advances, be mindful and heed their wishes. Open and honest communication is the best way to avoid misunderstandings. Listen as if you are hearing the Buddha’s voice, speak with the Buddha’s tongue.

Grievance Procedure: If someone has a grievance involving another sangha member, it is best for this grievance to be solved by the parties involved. If this does not prove possible, then the guiding teacher of the local Zen center should mediate. If the guiding teacher is not in a position to impartially mediate, then the grievance should go to the School Zen Master. If the School Zen Master can successfully solve the problem (all parties are satisfied) then the situation is complete. If not, the grievance will go to the School ethics committee. This committee will be chaired by a teacher chosen by the board of trustees. It will include at least two other people, be of mixed gender, and include at least one non-trustee. If the ethics complaint involves a monk or nun, then the directors of the Kwan Um Soen Rim will name a monastic to be added to the ethics committee for the consideration of that matter. It is hoped that the aggrieving party will see his or her mistake and apologize.



The ethics committee will consider the matter, attempt to mediate the grievance, and, if no successful mediation is possible, will recommend a course of action to the board of trustees. The committee's procedure will be as follows:

1. Liaison. There will be a Zen Master or Ji Do Poep Sa Nim, who is not a member of the committee, assigned to be the conduit for communication between the committee and the grievant.
2. The School Zen Master will serve as an ex officio member of the Committee, and together with the chair of the committee, will designate the liaison.
3. Procedure.
 - a) The grievant sends a written complaint to the Ethics Committee.
 - b) The chair acknowledges receipt of the complaint in writing, and identifies the liaison that the School Zen Master and chair have chosen.
 - c) The teacher against whom the complaint has been made responds in writing, and a copy of this response is given to the grievant.
 - d) The grievant has one opportunity to respond, in writing, to the teacher's response.
 - e) The Ethics Committee considers the matter and decides whether to make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. Its recommendations can range from a suggested apology to the other parties, apologies to the sangha at large, a repentance ritual, censure, suspension, or in the most heinous cases, expulsion.
 - f) The Board of Trustees will decide on any sanctions, how they are applied, and how they are monitored.
4. Documentation. All documents pertaining to the grievance will be available to both parties.
5. Contesting a decision. A grievant may contest a decision in writing to the chair of the full Board of Trustees. The Trustees will consider such a contest at their next meeting.
6. Announcement of sanctions. A timely formal letter from the School Zen Master will be sent to the boards of affected Zen centers. As appropriate, an announcement will also be made in the School newsletter. The intent will be to support the sangha in the implementation of any sanctions, and to reestablish harmony within the sangha.
7. If an ethics complaint is filed against a dharma teacher, senior dharma teacher, or bodhisattva teacher, and the complaint cannot be resolved by the abbot or the guiding teacher of that person's Zen center, then the complaint should be addressed by the ethics committee working in conjunction with the guiding teacher of that person's Zen center. This streamlining of the procedure replaces the trustees of the school as the ones who put the required sanctions into place. All ethics procedures for Zen Masters and JDPSNs remain the same. Also, any dharma teacher, senior dharma teacher, or bodhisattva teacher who disagrees with the results of this streamlined procedure may appeal to the trustees of the School.

16]

There is no way, in a sangha of human beings, that misunderstandings and misdeeds will not occur. We are all on the Buddha Way and look to the dharma for direction. Even in the Buddha's time it was necessary to deal with difficult situations as they arose. We must all be mindful of the impact of our actions. Greed, anger, and delusion can lead the sangha to ruin. Be careful; love those younger than you, respect those older than you. With wisdom and compassion the sangha can find its way. 