

SPRING 2006

# Kwan Um School of Zen

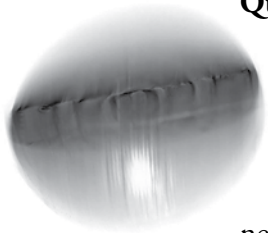
NEWSLETTER



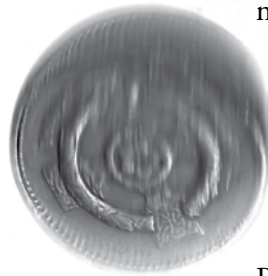
## Leave Your Mind Alone

*Zen Master Wu Bong*

**Question:** I have a friend who has amnesia. Could you explain this in Buddhist terms?



**Zen Master Wu Bong:** In Buddhist psychology, we speak of eight kinds of consciousness. The first five are sensory—sight, smell, hearing, touch, and taste. The sixth is mind consciousness, which controls our body, and the seventh is “discriminating consciousness,” which enables us to distinguish white from black, or good from bad. The eighth consciousness is that which controls memory.



Sometimes these last three consciousnesses are split apart and don't function together. The result might be amnesia, or perhaps a split personality. In extreme cases, one personality doesn't know what the other personality is doing. If you are practicing, however, you return to “before thinking.” Before thinking there is no first, second, third consciousness, etc. It is before any consciousness. If you keep this “before consciousness,” then amnesia, and even a more serious kind of dysfunction, can heal. The sixth, seventh and eighth consciousnesses can work together.

Practicing means you don't use your consciousness; you let it rest. When your arm is damaged, you put it in a sling and let it heal. Otherwise, you will damage it more and more. It's the same way with your mind; if you leave it alone, it will heal. Leaving it alone means returning to before thinking. This is the purpose of Zen meditation.



**Q:** I have trouble deciding things. Is there some way practicing can help?

**ZMWB:** I have a secret technique which I've been teaching for several years now. Take a coin [laughter] and throw it up in the air. By the time you catch it, you usually know which way you want it to come up. You don't even have to look. Just do it.



From the vantage point of distance, most decisions are not so important. Either way will be OK. Why you do what you do is most important—is it for me or is it for others? If your direction is clear, then your choice is also clear. But sometimes you cannot decide what is helpful, so flip a coin. It's OK.

*Below: Scenes from Cambridge Zen Center's October Yong Maeng Jong Jin on Cape Cod*

# ZEN CENTER NEWS

This past fall, **Cambridge Zen Center** expanded its outreach program; the Harvard Buddhist Community held a half day Zen meditation retreat, and old-time alums Roger Keyes and Elizabeth Coombs, dharma teachers from Providence Zen Center, gave short talks. We had a great retreat led by Zen Master Bon Haeng on Cape Cod with 22 participants, thanks to Tim Fuller and Karen Bard, who offered the Harbor Village cottages by the sea for our October retreat. The ever-changing sunlight, wind, and the sound of the water bonded all of us in a new experience. We are planning on having more such retreats outdoors, and at remote locations. At the December 3rd precepts ceremony, twelve Cambridge members took precepts: Tom Johnson and Francisco Irby became senior dharma teachers, Barbara Feldman became a dharma teacher, Ross Chapman and Melissa Hull became dharma teachers in training, and Lucy Lee, Joe Robichaud, Nick Doolittle, Catherine Seo, Tiffany Reed, Kendra Fehler and Thomas Ponniah took five precepts. Cambridge Zen Center is also currently working on a long-term vision for the Zen Center, and all sangha members are invited to participate in the process.

The **Chogye International Zen Center of New York** sent six representatives to the Whole World is a Single Flower Conference in

Singapore and tour of Malaysia in October. On Saturday, November



19th, Chogye International and the Manhattan Chogye Sah sanghas held a joint memorial service for Zen Master Seung Sahn.

The **Czech sangha** held two precepts ceremonies in 2005. Ten people took five precepts, and several became dharma teachers. One ceremony took place at the end of the Winter Kyol Che, the other one was held after one of the three Yong Maeng Jong Jins with teachers. We met in Brno at a weekend Yong Maeng Jong Jin led by Chong An Sunim JDPS in the autumn. Hyon Gak Sunim JDPS honored us with a visit, too. Roland Wöhrle-Chon JDPSN sacrificed a whole week-



end from his busy schedule, and taught a Yong Maeng Jong Jin in Prague. We were especially glad to welcome many new faces, as well as our friends from the Dresden sangha. Chong

An Sunim JDPS came to Prague in December to teach a Yong Maeng Jong Jin for dharma teachers. We have seven Zen groups in the Czech Republic now, after two new ones appeared recently. We have finished the third annual winter Kyol Che in Bela, Moravia. We had 80 people from 10 different countries, and we are looking forward to next winter! You are welcome to join us at any of our upcoming events!



The **Dharma Sound Zen Center** community honored our founding teacher, Zen Master Seung Sahn, with a memorial kido chanting retreat on November 19th. As we

chanted, we remembered how, as a young man, Dae Soen Sa Nim attained his true nature during a chanting retreat. Throughout 2005, Zen Master Ji Bong worked closely with our community's dharma teachers and senior dharma teachers on a variety of teaching issues. Newcomers and older students

*Above left and right: Chogye International Zen Center sangha with friends at the Whole World is a Single Flower conference in October 2005; Chogye International and Manhattan Chogye Sah teachers during their memorial ceremony for Zen Master Seung Sahn*





alike have benefited from his efforts on our behalf. The Zen Center currently has two rooms available for dedicated Zen students. If you're interested in living in a warm, supportive community, enjoying a beautiful home, and experiencing the many pleasures of Seattle, send us an e-mail.

**Hungary:** Just like last year, a group of barbarians swept through the Korean peninsula like a whirlwind. Just like their nomadic ancestors, the Hungarians ran a long distance in a short time: over 1400 miles / 2000 km in one week, visiting about a dozen temples, including Kirimsa, Pulguksa, Yon-guksa, Heinsa, Hwagyesa, and last, but not least: Mu Sang Sah, where they had the fortune to sit together with the rest of the international family for three days of Winter Kyol Che. We all attended the one-year memorial ceremony for Zen Master Seung Sahn. Hwa Gye Sah spent the day populated with Zen Master Seung Sahn's students from all corners of the world. Seeing the sangha gathered for this event, sad though it was, filled us with joy: we are together, continu-



ing the great work our founding teacher bequeathed to us. For Chong An Sunim JDPS's students, this was their first time in Korea, and they all enjoyed themselves very much, on mountains, and in the towns alike. Our Shim Ji Hwa Bosal

*Top left: Hyong Gak Sunim JDPS visited the Czech sangha in 2005; Top right: The altar at Dharma Sound Zen Center's memorial kido for Zen Master Seung Sahn; Above, left and right: Hungarian sangha in Korea for Zen Master Seung Sahn's one-year memorial ceremony*



Nim, whose granddaughter has been studying violin in Budapest for many years, treated us with her famous "fusion" dinner, where all Westerners could feel at ease and eat all they wanted without the usual risks a typical Korean meal would involve: hot, hot, very hot spices and a truckload of MSG. Chong An Sunim finished publicizing the Won Kwang Sah project in Korea and landed back in Europe in time for our third Winter Kyol Che in the Czech Republic on the same location as before. Inquiries for next year's Kyol Che can be received at [kyolche@gmail.com](mailto:kyolche@gmail.com).

It was a beautiful, bright fall weekend in Wisconsin when Judy Roitman JDPSN arrived in Madison to lead the October 2005 Yong Maeng Jong Jin for **Isthmus Zen Community**. Her teaching was clear and sincere. We all enjoyed having her with us. Isthmus Zen Community held its third annual week-long Yong Maeng Jong Jin in February, with Thom Pastor JDPSN leading the retreat and a precepts ceremony. We enjoyed the pleasant rustic surroundings of Bethel Horizons Barn Retreat center, outside of Dodgeville, Wisconsin. Isthmus Zen Community members participated in the Midwest Kwan Um Sangha Weekend, in April in southwestern Chicago. This summer, we plan to sponsor a weekend Yong

Maeng Jong Jin on June 23-25, again at the Bethel Horizons Barn Retreat center. Please consider joining us for practice! *The sound of the waterfall and the bird's song are the great sutras.*

The clarity of the fall sky and the brisk temperatures starting in November quickened our pace here at the **Kansas Zen Center**.

Over the summer, Rebecca Otte agreed to be-

come our new abbot and, right away, brought tremendous energy to her new role. She immediately scheduled a two-week Foundations of Zen class that was well-attended. Some





*Left: Kansas Zen Center's November Yong Maeng Jong Jin Retreat with Judy Roitman JDPSN*

from the class joined in our September one day retreat which followed. Enough people attended that we needed to add an extra row of cushions to the dharma room. We followed up with another Foundations class in February, prior to another one day retreat. The spring schedule also included a five day retreat in January, and weekend retreats in March, April, and May. Our fall sangha workday was enthusiastically attended. The selected projects were to re-gravel the paths and the parking lot, and clean up leaves and fallen black walnuts. In the space of about five hours on a clear and cool November day, the crew removed over forty large recycle sacks of lawn debris, and moved nine cubic yards of new gravel onto the paths and parking lot. You might think that Kansas has only big sky and tall grass, but the sangha work team concluded otherwise as we raked and mulched the leafy yard. A number of people reported soaking in a hot bath after it was all over! The Zen Center Board of directors continues to plan and complete improvements to our lovely house in downtown Lawrence, in order to make it a more attractive living option for serious practitioners looking for a residential Zen Center experience. It is situated a short walk from the University of Kansas. We have openings throughout the year; please call us! The Topeka and Kansas City branches report continued strong practice, and even new facilities to practice in. In Topeka, Liatrix Studer continues to decorate and improve the dharma room and interview room she is working on. There is practice there on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and Thursday evenings. Buddha's enlightenment week was celebrated with dharma room decorations and kido chanting.

Our sangha in **Little Rock** is small these days. Due to losing our lease, the Ecumenical Buddhist Society in Little Rock is in a new rental location, right next door to our former building. It's not an ideal practice space, but that is good teaching in itself. Some of our regulars have moved away, and many of us have had challenging health and/or family situations that have prevented us from hosting retreats, or attending retreats elsewhere. But our Tuesday night practice continues to have strong energy, and we keep the seeds of practice alive. Some of us gather at other times to practice together. Greetings and gratitude to all in the larger Kwan Um sangha.

**London Zen Group:** On October 5th the group met for a one-day session in Norwich. The meeting consisted of an introduction for new students, and tai chi classes. The London Zen Group also plans to cooperate with the new Zen group of Norwich. Both groups still have quite humble premises, but we try to keep practicing regularly. We had a one-day retreat and a Buddha's Enlightenment ceremony in December.



**Modesto Grupo de Meditadores**, in Porto Alegre, Brazil: We moved in with a local group called Viazén. Viazén runs four Soto evenings a week, and one Kwan Um evening a week. Heila Downey JDPSN led retreats in Sao Paulo, Belo Horizonte, and Porto Alegre in November. It was her fifth annual visit to Brazil. Jeanne dal Bo, who lives in Florianopolis, attended Winter Kyol Che in Korea, and the end of Winter Kyol Che in Providence. The National Buddhist College was created on November 4th in Sao Paulo. Members are from Soto, Chan, Higashi Honwanji, Theravada, Sakya-Tsarpa, Jodo Shinshu, and Downey PSN represents us. The Downeys and some sangha members visited the local Nyingma center in the mountains. It was a beautiful spring day. We were official visitors welcomed by the resident Lama, who invited us for lunch. The founder of this big Nyingma Center, the late Chagdud T. Rinpoche, was an acquaintance of Zen Master Seung Sahn. Kwan Um groups are being created in Sao Paulo and Belo Horizonte.

*Above: The London sangha*



We have completed three years and held fourteen retreats at the **Northern Light Zen Center**. There is a small but growing community of practitioners, coming from far and near. We are looking forward to growing the sangha and deepening our practice. In the future, in addition to our regular schedule, we are looking at doing hiking retreats, kidos, and two-day retreats with our sister center, Penobscot Area Zen Center. All are welcome to join us when visiting Maine.

The **Penobscot Area Zen Center** in Orono, Maine, continues to offer three to four one-day retreats per year, usually one each season. We also offer a yearly kido in the Maine woods, usually in winter. Our retreat house in Monroe is available to Kwan Um members year-round for solo retreats. Now and then, we also do one-day hiking retreats. One of our members, Mary Ellen Cimillo, took ten precepts to become a dharma teacher in training in December, 2004. She is currently doing residential training at Providence Zen Center. If you're in the neighborhood, please stop by and say hello.

**Pittsburgh:** Will Hula and Sungsoo Hwang took ten precepts together in September 2005.

Spring has arrived here at **Providence Zen Center**, with another successful conclusion to the Winter Kyol Che, held in its usual location at the Diamond Hill Zen Monastery. We had a total of fifty participants attending from all over the country, as well as Korea, Hungary, Poland, Italy, Germany, Brazil, Israel, and exotic Canada. After the retreat, Providence Zen Center hosted the annual Kwan Um School of Zen Buddha's Birthday weekend. During the weekend, member Bob Cohen became a Dharma Teacher-in-Training and Beau Brady, Diana Starr Daniels, Laura Hoffman, and Jim Whelan took five precepts. Oh Haeng Haeng Ja Nim, who arrived from Hungary last fall, took his novice monk precepts and received his new name, Hye Jin Sunim. Congratulations! We would like to welcome new residents Manny Silva and Laura Hoffman. Also, Jiri Hazlbauer has returned

from the Czech Republic to continue doing more fabulous renovation projects around the Zen Center. As always, we welcome enthusiastic volunteers with carpentry and painting skills to come and help us out with our perpetually ongoing maintenance projects.

The **Seoul International Zen Center** is undergoing many changes, and yet realizing that everything remains the same. Most importantly, along with our mother temple, Hwa Gye Sah, we co-hosted the solemn observance of the one-year passing of our founding teacher, Zen Master Seung Sahn, on November 19th. Hundreds of Zen Master Seung Sahn's students from all over the world gathered at Hwa Gye Sah's Great Hall of Stillness and Light to pay respects in this important Korean Buddhist tradition. We housed many students from Singapore, Hong Kong, Europe, and the United States in the Zen Center, and played a key role in the procession of the ceremony by doing our best to represent Zen Master Seung Sahn's teaching

to the many, many Koreans who gave great attention to this solemn event. The Hwa Gye Sah abbot went to great lengths to have filmed excerpts of Zen Master Seung Sahn's teachings projected in video format to the assembly. Some attendees were seen dabbling away tears as they witnessed Zen Master Seung Sahn's familiar energy and voice, brought alive for a few moments. All in all, it was a memorable day, and we would like to thank all of the many students who made such great sacrifices to travel so far to Korea to show Korean Buddhism our great reverence and gratitude for our teacher. Though our founding teacher has passed, the teaching mission which he has entrusted to us in Seoul and throughout the world has not changed. We had a solid Summer Kyol Che, with eight monks and nuns in residence. Oh Kwang Sunim (Yugoslavia) returned to Hwa Gye Sah after a very successful three-month Summer Kyol Che at Su Dok Sah Temple's Zen room, Jeong Hae Sah. This is the temple where Zen Master Seung Sahn and many others in our lineage spent their early practicing years. The Su Dok Sah monks have commented over and over again how strongly Oh Kwang Sunim



*Right: Hye Jin Sunim and friends after the April precepts ceremony at Providence Zen Center*

practiced. The Zen Master at Su Dok Sah said that, through Oh Kwang Sunim's practice, "many monks now can see how correctly Zen Master Seung Sahn transmitted the dharma to the West." Jo Bul Sunim (Poland) has made a one-year commitment to practice in Sogen-ji, one of the great Japanese Zen temples. Reports indicate that he is adjusting well to the unheated meditation rooms, where the wearing of socks is forbidden, and Kyol Che is year-round!! And our long-term head monk, Kwan Haeng Sunim (U.S.) has done an extended kido at Mu Sang Sah. We thank him from the bottom of our hearts for his great efforts. The Sunday afternoon dharma talks have seemed to grow in attendance, with over 100 people attending the talks every week. Near the end of the summer retreat, our guiding teacher, Hyon Gak Sunim JDPS, gave a series of practice-oriented talks on the Diamond Sutra which were filmed for television broadcast by Buddhist TV. The talks were so well-attended that our own dharma room was deemed insufficient, and the Zen Center for the first time was granted permission to "take over" the Great Hall of Stillness and Light every Sunday, dislocating Hwa Gye Sah's usual Sunday services! The broadcast of these talks has caused a huge response, with viewers of Buddhist TV quadrupling over the last three months, as the talks have been broadcast every week, and repeats happening five times every week! The talks were delivered in English, with Korean subtitles, and can be viewed anytime at [www.btn.co.kr](http://www.btn.co.kr). Guiding teacher Hyon Gak Sunim recently returned from a two-month teaching tour to the U.S. In September, he gave three talks in Los Angeles which were attended in excess of 2,000 people! One talk drew so many listeners, both Korean and Western, to a small temple in Orange County, that the police showed up because of traffic tie-ups which snarled traffic in the neighborhood! Another talk, in a large, old Episcopal Church on LA's famed Wilshire Boulevard, drew an estimated 500 listeners. He also gave four talks in St. Louis in November. He was the keynote speaker at Washington University of St.

Louis's "Day of Mindfulness," and surprised the audience of 600 when he suddenly forsook the standing microphone in the jam-packed auditorium to climb right up on the speaker's table to deliver the talk seated cross-legged! The response to his talk has overwhelmed the local sitting group which invited him out for the talk, and there are plans afoot to have him out there again. He was also invited for a special talk at the local Thai temple. Though we can no longer see our great teacher's physical presence at Hwa Gye Sah, the international monks and nuns work hard to preserve his teaching energy.




In May, Aleksandra Porter JDPSN visited **St. Petersburg** for a retreat. She gave a dharma speech in the traditional Temple of Buddha. This temple was constructed in 1915. It belongs to a traditional Tibetan school of Buddhism. In September, Chong An Sunim JDPS led a three-day retreat.

The **Ten Directions Zen Community** continued with our regular schedule. Our schedule includes four yearly retreats and a number of activities at our small group sites. Senior dharma teacher Ron Kidd has instituted bi-monthly dharma talks by a variety of Chicago Zen teachers at Lincoln Park Zen Group. Dharma teacher Harold Rail continues his collaboration with the Blue Lotus Sangha, led by a teacher from Sri Lanka. The joint sanghas held a New Year's Blessing Ceremony in December, which included ten monks from Sri Lanka chanting in a beautiful cut paper gazebo, and a traditional Asian meal. Our larger sangha held our annual three-day Yong Maeng



Jong Jin and precepts ceremony in September with our guiding teacher, Zen Master Soeng Hyang. Dave Cross, James Siminak, and Ruby Ruan took five precepts; Scott Chambers, Al Quiros, Hanger Ruan, and John Wren took ten precepts, and Margaret McKenzie became a senior dharma teacher. In November, we enjoyed a visit from Andrzej Stec JDPSN for our final Yong Maeng Jong Jin of the year. This was also our final retreat at the guesthouse at Argonne Labs. Beginning in January, with our annual sangha meeting and retreat weekend

with our guiding teacher, we moved our retreats and one day activities to the Theosophical Society in Wheaton. The society has a beautiful old building located on lovely grounds, and a regular commercial-style kitchen. We have deeply appreciated our four-year stay at Argonne, which permitted us to solidify our retreat schedule, but we like our new space, where access is easier and we can hold a greater variety of events. We coordinated a Midwest sangha weekend April 28–30, another weekend of lively teaching, practice, and of course, eating. 

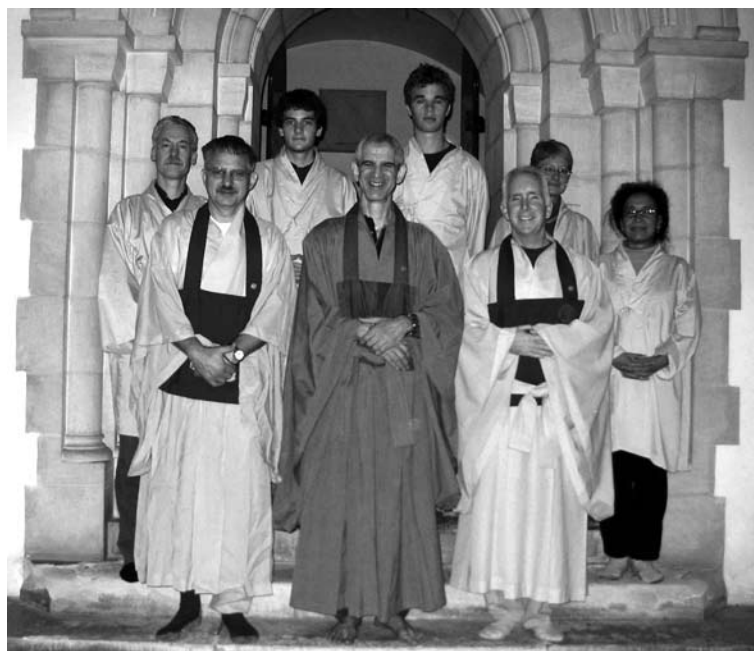


*Above: Zen Master Soeng Hyang and the September precepts group at Ten Directions Zen Community*

*Above right: Andrzej Stec JDPSN visited the Ten Directions Zen Community in November 2005*

*Right: Ken Kessel JDPSN led the Trinity Zen Group Fall Retreat in October 2005 at the Trinity College Chapel in Hartford*

*Below: Buddha's Enlightenment Yong Maeng Jong Jin with Zen Master Soeng Hyang, at Providence Zen Center, December 2005*







SCENES FROM  
HONG KONG  
AND KOREA  
FALL 2005







*Oslo Zen Center's Yong Maeng Jong Jin with Chong An Sunim JDPS in August 2005*



*Above: Zen Masters Bon Soeng and Dae Kwang at memorial service for Zen Master Seung Sabn, held at Empty Gate Zen Center on November 20, 2005. Right: Some of the Empty Gate Zen Center sangha at the November memorial service*



*Zen Master Dae Kwang and Kwan Sahn Sunim visited the Mexico City Zen Group in December 2005, for a Buddha's Enlightenment ceremony, Yong Maeng Jong Jin, and precepts ceremony*

# CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS

For addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail  
addresses of the Zen Centers and groups  
please see the latest issue of *Primary Point*.  
For web addresses, please visit  
[www.kwanumzen.org](http://www.kwanumzen.org)

May 12–August 8, 2006.....	Summer Kyol Che .....	Mu Sang Sah.....	Zen Master Dae Bong Mu Shim Sunim JDPS
May 12–August 8, 2006.....	Summer Kyol Che .....	Seoul International.....	Hyon Gak Sunim JDPS
June 2–4, 2006.....	Yong Maeng Jong Jin.....	Great Brightness.....	Thom Pastor JDPSN
June 9–11, 2006.....	Yong Maeng Jong Jin.....	Providence .....	Zen Master Bon Soeng
June 10–11, 2006.....	Yong Maeng Jong Jin.....	Paris .....	Zen Master Wu Bong
June 17, 2006.....	One day retreat.....	Empty Gate .....	Zen Master Bon Soeng
June 23, 2006.....	One day retreat.....	Malmesbury Prison/South Africa .....	Heila Downey JDPSN
June 23–25, 2006.....	Yong Maeng Jong Jin.....	Isthmus .....	Thom Pastor JDPSN
June 25, 2006.....	One day retreat.....	Rondebosch .....	Heila Downey JDPSN
June 25–September 23, 2006 .....	Summer Kyol Che .....	Falenica.....	Zen Master Wu Bong Zen Master Bon Yo Aleksandra Porter JDPSN Chong An Sunim JDPS Andrzej Piotrowski JDPSN
June 26–July 2, 2006.....	Yong Maeng Jong Jin.....	Prague.....	Mu Shim Sunim JDPS
June 30–July 2, 2006.....	Yong Maeng Jong Jin.....	Providence .....	Zen Master Dae Kwang
July 2–9, 2006.....	Yong Maeng Jong Jin.....	Paris .....	Zen Master Bon Yo
July 16, 2006.....	One day retreat.....	Providence .....	Zen Master Dae Kwang
July 21, 2006.....	One day retreat.....	Malmesbury Prison/South Africa .....	Heila Downey JDPSN
July 21–23, 2006.....	Yong Maeng Jong Jin.....	Empty Gate .....	Zen Master Bon Soeng
July 22–23, 2006.....	Yong Maeng Jong Jin.....	Great Lake .....	Zen Master Dae Kwang
July 28–30, 2006.....	Yong Maeng Jong Jin.....	Robertson .....	Heila Downey JDPSN
July 29–30, 2006.....	Founder's Day Weekend .....	Providence .....	
August 1–27, 2006.....	Summer Kyol Che .....	Providence .....	Zen Master Dae Kwang
August 7–11, 2006.....	Yong Maeng Jong Jin.....	Malmesbury Prison/South Africa .....	Heila Downey JDPSN
August 19, 2006.....	Kido.....	Great Brightness.....	Thom Pastor JDPSN
August 20, 2006.....	One day retreat.....	Cape Cod.....	Zen Master Soeng Hyang
August 26–27, 2006.....	Work retreat .....	Empty Gate .....	Zen Master Bon Soeng
August 27, 2006.....	One day retreat.....	Rondebosch .....	Heila Downey JDPSN
September 15, 2006 .....	One day retreat.....	Malmesbury Prison/South Africa .....	Heila Downey JDPSN
September 16–17, 2006 .....	Yong Maeng Jong Jin.....	Paris .....	Zen Master Soeng Hyang
September 17, 2006 .....	One day retreat.....	Providence .....	Zen Master Dae Kwang
September 22–24, 2006 .....	Yong Maeng Jong Jin.....	Empty Gate .....	Zen Master Dae Kwang
September 22–25, 2006 .....	Yong Maeng Jong Jin.....	Robertson .....	Heila Downey JDPSN
September 28–October 1, 2006 ..	Yong Maeng Jong Jin.....	Brno.....	Chong An Sunim JDPS
September 29–October 1, 2006 ..	Yong Maeng Jong Jin.....	Providence .....	Zen Master Dae Kwang
September 30–October 1, 2006 ..	Yong Maeng Jong Jin.....	Berlin .....	Zen Master Soeng Hyang
October 7, 2006.....	One day retreat.....	Budapest .....	Zen Master Soeng Hyang
October 7–8, 2006.....	Yong Maeng Jong Jin.....	Great Lake .....	Zen Master Dae Kwang
October 13, 2006.....	One day retreat.....	Malmesbury Prison/South Africa .....	Heila Downey JDPSN
October 14–15, 2006.....	Kwan Um School of Zen dharma teacher retreat .....	Providence .....	
October 20–22, 2006.....	Yong Maeng Jong Jin.....	Great Brightness.....	Thom Pastor JDPSN
October 20–22, 2006.....	Yong Maeng Jong Jin.....	Robertson .....	Heila Downey JDPSN
October 21, 2006.....	One day retreat.....	Empty Gate .....	Zen Master Bon Soeng
November 3–5, 2006 .....	Yong Maeng Jong Jin.....	Providence .....	Zen Master Dae Kwang
November 3–5, 2006 .....	Yong Maeng Jong Jin.....	Ten Directions .....	Zen Master Soeng Hyang



November 10–11, 2006 .....	Yong Maeng Jong Jin .....	Great Brightness .....	Thom Pastor JDPSN
November 16–19, 2006 .....	Yong Maeng Jong Jin .....	Prague .....	Andrzej Piotrowski JDPSN
November 17–19, 2006 .....	Yong Maeng Jong Jin .....	Empty Gate .....	Zen Master Bon Soeng
November 17–19, 2006 .....	Yong Maeng Jong Jin .....	Isthmus .....	Thom Pastor JDPSN
November 18, 2006 .....	One day retreat .....	Delaware Valley .....	Zen Master Dae Kwang
November 19, 2006 .....	One day retreat .....	Cape Cod .....	Zen Master Soeng Hyang
November 24, 2006 .....	One day retreat .....	Malmesbury Prison/South Africa .....	Heila Downey JDPSN
November 26, 2006 .....	One day retreat .....	Rondebosch .....	Heila Downey JDPSN
December 4–10, 2006 .....	Yong Maeng Jong Jin .....	Providence .....	Andrzej Stec JDPSN
December 6–7, 2006 .....	Yong Maeng Jong Jin .....	Malmesbury Prison/South Africa .....	Heila Downey JDPSN
December 8–10, 2006 .....	Yong Maeng Jong Jin .....	Great Brightness .....	Thom Pastor JDPSN
December 14–16, 2006 .....	Yong Maeng Jong Jin .....	Robertson .....	Heila Downey JDPSN
December 16, 2006 .....	One day retreat .....	Empty Gate .....	Zen Master Bon Soeng

## TEACHERS' GROUPS REPORTS

*The board of trustees for North and South America met at Providence Zen Center in December 2005 and April 2006. Here are the highlights of their discussions and decisions:*

We are observing a three-year mourning period following Zen Master Seung Sahn's death in 2004. Zen Master Soeng Hyang will be formally installed as the School Zen Master in April 2007, for a five-year term ending December 2009.

Beginning this year, the annual memorial ceremony for Zen Master Seung Sahn in the Americas will be held at the summer sangha weekend. (The 2006 ceremony in the Americas will be on July 29, and in Asia it will be on December 8.)

At the Whole World is a Single Flower conference in Singapore, the "Zen Master Seung Sahn Whole World is a Single Flower Memorial Fund" was begun. The purpose of this fund is to help continue Zen Master Seung Sahn's vision of triennial international gatherings of the School's students. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to the Kwan Um School of Zen.

Zen Master Soeng Hyang has been ratified as the guiding teacher of the Cape Cod Zen Center, and Thom Pastor JDPSN has been ratified as the guiding teacher of the Isthmus Zen Community.

Timothy Lerch JDPSN (formerly Chong Hae Sunim) has returned his monastic precepts and is taking a year off from teaching.

Kwang Myong Sunim, and the Queensland (Australia) Zen Centre, have decided to leave the Kwan Um School of Zen. Mu Ryang Sunim has left Mountain Spirit Center, and it is now being run by a Korean monk.

The School will provide annual travel scholarships for a teacher each to come from Europe and from Asia for a sangha weekend or dharma teacher retreat at Providence. It is hoped that these Zen Masters and Ji Do Poep Sa Nims will be able to make teaching visits to other centers while in the United States during their trips.

A newly revised version of the ethics statement appears on pages 12 and 13 of this Newsletter.

A new process for transmission in the School has been adopted by the Zen Masters worldwide, and appears on page 16 of this newsletter. Transmission (and inka) ceremonies in the School for North and South America will continue to be held at Providence Zen Center.

New guidelines for starting Zen Centers in the School appear on page 13 of this Newsletter.

*The teachers' group for Europe met at Paris Zen Center in April 2006. Here are the highlights of their discussions and decisions:*

Myong Oh Sunim JDPS has returned as guiding teacher of Gdansk Zen Center.

The Won Kwang Sah project is proceeding. Approximately 30,000 Euros are needed to complete the land acquisition.

Planning has begun for the 2008 Whole World is a Single Flower Conference at Warsaw Zen Center. In conjunction with the conference there will be a tour of European cities.

Aleksandra Porter JDPSN will receive transmission at the European Sangha Weekend in Warsaw in September.

# ETHICS FOR THE ENTIRE SANGHA

*As revised by the trustees for North and South America  
on April 1, 2006*

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 (such that 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 re-establish harmony within the sangha.

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.

# HOW TO START A ZEN CENTER IN THE KWAN UM SCHOOL OF ZEN

*As adopted by the trustees for North and South America  
on April 1, 2006*

The model for Zen center development is based on the central role of the guiding teacher throughout the process.

1. A *dharma teacher* (or higher) in good standing with the Kwan Um School of Zen may decide to start a sitting group and promote it to the local community. It's best if the group meets in a public space for practice. It is important that *Kwan Um forms* (chanting, sitting, bowing, reading letters, etc.) be introduced from the beginning. This can be done gradually. A web site, newsletter, and e-mail list can also be established. A dharma teacher should identify him/herself as a dharma teacher in the Kwan Um School of Zen in any publicity.

2. Either as a kick-off event, or soon after the founding of the group, the dharma teacher should invite a Zen Master or Ji Do Poep Sa Nim to give a public talk or workshop. Establishing a relationship with a *guiding teacher* is the key to the development of a new Zen center. It's best if a guiding teacher is involved from the very beginning of the group.

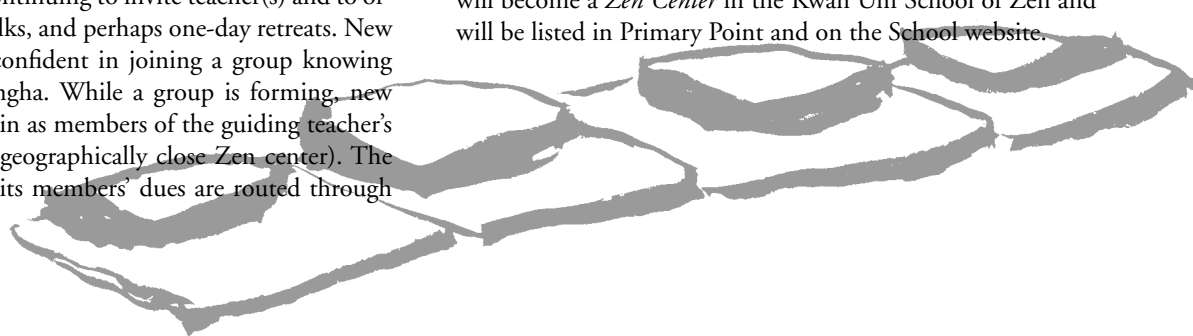
3. Developing *membership* is an important and sometimes difficult step. Show prospective members that there is something worthwhile to join by continuing to invite teacher(s) and to offer workshops, public talks, and perhaps one-day retreats. New students will be more confident in joining a group knowing it is part of a larger sangha. While a group is forming, new members temporarily join as members of the guiding teacher's home Zen center (or a geographically close Zen center). The new group's portion of its members' dues are routed through

this Zen Center, helping the new group develop a financial profile that will be needed when the costs associated with practice equipment, incorporation, insurance, banking, etc. begin to appear. It is suggested that four to five members be onboard before a group becomes a Zen center. Five members generate \$750 annually for a group.

4. The group must request *ratification* of its guiding teacher by the School trustees. The group should establish and maintain a consistent *practice schedule* of weekly sittings and several retreats per year.

5. The guiding teacher should encourage and help facilitate *incorporation* as a non-profit and the adoption of the *common bylaws*. The group must establish a board of directors and officers, all of whom must be members. The group should request that it be included in the School's *non-profit* 501(c)(3) status. It is strongly recommended that groups carry liability insurance, officers and directors insurance, and professional liability insurance. (The guiding teacher is already covered by the School's professional liability insurance, but the Zen Center is not.)

6. When it has accomplished the underlined items, the group will become a *Zen Center* in the Kwan Um School of Zen and will be listed in Primary Point and on the School website.



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# TRANSMISSION PROCESS

January 1, 2006

When a Zen Master wants to give transmission to a Ji Do Poep Sa in our school, then a minimum of six years after the candidate received inka, the Zen Master will form a committee of three Zen Masters, including themselves, to evaluate the candidate. Of these three Zen Masters, one must be the regional Zen Master (if the candidate is from Europe or Asia) or the School Zen Master (if the candidate is from the Americas). Zen Masters will be eligible to give transmission and serve on transmission committees five years after themselves receiving transmission.

In the sixth year, the candidate will travel around to visit other teachers outside our school. The initial list of teachers approved to be visited will be those named by Zen Master Seung Sahn. In the future, this list will be periodically updated by consensus of the Kwan Um Zen Masters.

The candidate's qualifications and their visits to outside Zen Masters will be evaluated by their transmission committee, and the unanimous approval of the committee members will be required.

The approved candidate will then rest during the seventh year, and receive transmission in the eighth year after receiving inka. The new Zen Master's lineage will be Zen Master Seung Sahn, the transmission teacher, and then themselves.

*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*  
JW Harrington, *Executive Director*  
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