



REPORTS

DIAMOND SANGHA TEACHERS CIRCLE AGREEMENT

As students of the Way and teachers of the Diamond Sangha, we aspire to right conduct in every aspect of our lives. In this aspiration, we have committed ourselves to maintain the Ten Grave Precepts, and we cannot improve upon them as guides and standards for our thoughts, words, and deeds. The Precepts are open to interpretation, however, so with this Ethics Agreement, we establish a clear and specific set of minimum expectations to which we should hold ourselves accountable now and in the future. We hope that publicly specifying these standards of behaviour will sharpen our awareness of ethical issues, ensure the trustworthiness of the Diamond Sangha, and serve to protect and perpetuate the Buddha-dharma.

We recognize that our work is founded on trust—the trust placed in us, each by our own teacher, to transmit the Dharma faithfully and the trust placed in us by our students to provide them respectful and appropriate instruction. In this document, we concern ourselves explicitly with the latter trust, but we know full well that the two are inseparable; that is, we cannot hope to fulfill our responsibility to transmit the Dharma if we do not endeavour to live up to the Dharma's ethical implications.

We understand that, in our capacity as Zen teachers, we may fail our students in many ways and to vastly differing degrees. At one end of the range of severity are isolated errors and instances of neglect; it is quite possible, for example, to disappoint a student keenly by forgetting to return a telephone call. While we consider even the slightest failure unfortunate, as fallible beings we will all inevitably suffer lapses of this sort and simply have to be forgiven. The failures that concern us more, and that this Agreement is intended to address, are of greater severity - those that are demonstrably harmful to our students, either to their practice or to their general well-being, either to one individual or to a group. We commit ourselves to refrain altogether from such injurious conduct but especially from any that is intentional, repeated or protracted in duration, deceitfully concealed, exploitative of a student's trust or any combination of the foregoing.

To be specific, we commit ourselves:

- a. to use our power and authority as teachers to serve the interests of the sangha;
- b. to recognize the sangha as the highest authority in its own governance and to exercise discretion in our leadership so that we do not unduly influence decisions;
- c. to treat sangha members, including fellow teachers, with honesty and deep respect, not subjecting them to disparagement, coercive pressure, or undesired attention of any kind;
- d. to maintain confidences received from students, except as required by law or as explicitly permitted within the sangha;
- e. to practice openness and inclusivity in our relationships with sangha members, allowing personal affinities a natural place but avoiding destructive favoritism;
- f. to refrain from sexual interaction with members of the sangha, except within the parameters of a committed relationship and, even then, only with the utmost care to ensure that no one is harmed;
- g. not to confer teaching authority, and especially Dharma transmission, on our lovers, spouses,

siblings, children, employers, or known benefactors, nor to offer such authority as a means to attract, retain, or induce the cooperation of a student;

- h. to accept economic support (*dana*) from individual sangha members only when it is freely given, never making it a direct requirement for instruction or attention;
- i. to join with the sangha in practicing careful stewardship of its resources, not to enrich ourselves by misappropriation of sangha funds or properties.
- j. When a psychotherapist is also a Zen teacher, s/he should not see any therapy client simultaneously as a Zen student.

We ask our fellow Diamond Sangha teachers and the sanghas that we serve to help us maintain these standards.

EASTER SESSHIN

The Autumn *Original Dwelling Place* Sesshin was a Sesshin with a difference. With the threat of flooding rains and swollen creeks it was decided that Sesshin would be held at Annandale. For some there was apprehension at not being able to sit in our beautiful valley. For others it was an opportunity to do Sesshin that might otherwise have not been possible. Despite the late change of venue the Sesshin planners and organisers worked their usual magic which was a great gift to all of us that attended. All that was needed was there when it needed to be.

Sesshin had a different feel. The valley beneath high cliffs that normally holds us in our deep practice was replaced by the hum of the city.

Sesshin settled into the city rhythm. People came from their homes or places they were staying in the morning and then returned at night. The starts were mid morning so everyone had an opportunity to get to the zendo without battling the peak hour traffic. For some of us this meant a detour for a cappuccino or perhaps an early swim before starting the day. It was a Sesshin that was very integrated with our city living.

Sesshin often spilled out into the neighbourhood during the breaks or during long kinhin. During walking meditation we walked informally and spread out mixing with people walking dogs, riding to work and children playing in the park. In the same way the sounds of the city spilled in through the windows and over the garden walls. The sounds of builders hammers and saws, delivery vans, council trimming the trees and chipping the offcuts, planes coming in at times one per minute, dogs barking and sounds of children. The Han seemed to blend well and indeed compliment the sounds of the builders across the street. Some of us enjoyed the songs of the builders as they sang some old classics.

The residents at the Zendo showed remarkable acceptance as their home was effectively taken over for the week. With no room to move in the kitchen, bathrooms, garden or anywhere else much they managed to

go about their business in a way that was unnoticed to the rest of us doing Sesshin. Amidst all the activity people settled into their practice, in the deep way that often can only happen during Sesshin. A soft peaceful equanimity seemed to fill the dojo amidst all the coming and going. Our original dwelling place was always right here.

At the end someone remarked that they felt we were accepted in the neighbourhood. There was generally a sense that passers-by were friendly and we were often greeted with a smile and hello. Perhaps our good vibes from Sesshin were also being felt by our neighbours.

Will Moon





BUDDHA'S BIRTHDAY

This year, our annual *Buddha's Birthday Ceremony* was attended by four small people - Leo, Shivani, Harper and Imogen, all of whom had been 'named' in previous years - and their devoted parents and/or grandparents, as well as sangha members and friends. It was a beautiful sunny morning and in the garden before the ceremony began, Janet encouraged the young artists to make little gifts. Along with flowers and ladles of water, some of these creations were tenderly offered to the baby Buddha. Then all of us enjoyed sharing songs, poems, stories and lunch. *Gillian Coote*

COMING EVENTS

RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS SESSHIN 8-13 June (Queen's Birthday Weekend)

Walking and pilgrimage is a core Buddhist practice that has been central to Zen training since its inception. This five-day retreat, which will be led by Maggie Gluek and Allan Marett, will combine both walking and sitting meditation. We will be based at Kodoji and going out from there for daily periods of walking meditation in the vicinity of Kodoji as well as in the Dharug and Yengo National Parks. Participants will need a reasonable level of fitness as we will be walking for about four hours a day. Member full \$250, Member daily \$50; Non member full \$325, Non member daily \$65.

Enquiries: Janet Selby: 0421 369 707; janetselby@bigpond.com

SAMU AT ANNANDALE June 17

Samu – work practice. Zazen from 8.30-9.30 am, Dharma talk at 9.30-10 am, samu from 10 - 4 pm, byo lunch to share. Care for our dojo as you connect with sangha friends.

Enquiries: Tony Coote tony@tonycootearchitect.com

SPRING SESSHIN September 21-28

Spring Sesshin will be led by Gillian Coote, at Kodoji in the Spring! A wonderful opportunity to practice. Note the dates!

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

GRATITUDE

We warmly welcome Adrian Clement And Max Baker as a new member. Max has already taken on Leadership roles at Annandale, and his wife Zoe has been making delicious homemade cakes for sitters. Greatly appreciated. Also greatly appreciated is the work of all those who have been cleaning the dojo and hojo,,and also Glenys Jackson's offerings of weekly miracles of flower arrangement that we all enjoy.

MEMBERSHIP DUE

Attached to this Newsletter is the Membership form for 2012-13. Please all read, pay electronically or by mail, but also send the form to The Treasurer at Annandale, whatever your method of payment, as our marvellous treasurer, Meghan Hay, needs a yearly form so she can keep track of the membership. She took the book off its perch then replaced it with another one she felt was personally relevant and informative. Mindful Innovation! Once we have had a chance to re-organise the bulletin board (a task proposed recently) we might place a small section for the Book of the Month and those who replace a book might write a few words elucidating why they have done so. A primitive blog you might say; no computers needed.

On another matter, we are planning on purchasing another large bookshelf to match the one we already have. If anyone has one the same approximate size please contact Gordon gordonwaters@optusnet.com.au

Otherwise he will search Parramatta Road for the appropriate item.

SOCIAL NETWORKS

The change to the Yahoo Group reply mechanism led to concerns mostly related to people's ability to participate in open discussion. Please note that this setting does not prevent open discussion, it simply means that if you want to reply to everyone, you can click 'reply all'.

It was also suggested that we set up a Facebook group. Almost everyone was surprised to find out that, thanks to Alex's hard work last year, we already have one! So, to those Facebookers amongst us, please look up the Sydney Zen Centre Facebook page here: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sydney-Zen-Centre/139004432802241> . The issue of Sangha and Inter-Sangha relations has been raised several times. Facebook does seem like a good way to stay in touch with each other and other Sanghas. So, if anyone knows of any other related Zen groups that are also on Facebook, please let Lee Nutter know <leenutter@gmail.com>, so he can look in to connecting with them.

OTHER ITEMS

SZC is now a member of the Buddhist Council of NSW.

It was agreed to subscribe to The Turning Wheel, the Buddhist Peace Fellowship newsletter, which will be available to sangha.

The Board is looking into matters to do with the Orientation of newcomers, wheelchair access to Annandale, and making a list of SZC's assets.

REGULAR DATES

Dokusan *Mondays:* Subhana: June 4, 18, July 16, 23, 30
Allan Maret: June 25, July 2, 9

There is no Zazen at Annandale on June 11 due to sesshin.

Wednesdays: Gillian Coote: June 13, 20, 27 July 11, 18, 25 .

Precept Recitation and Dharma Café: July 2, 4 Newcomers especially welcome.

Full Moon Ceremony: June 4, 6 Not Defaming the Three Treasures; August 1, 6 Not Killing

Zazenkai: July 15, 8.30-12, when Gillian Coote will offer a teisho and dokusan.

Board Meetings: Thursdays June 14, July 15. 6.30pm sitting, meeting starts at 7pm. All members welcome. Full minutes of every board meeting are posted on the Yahoo SZC list for members to read.

Women's Group: (which has been functioning since 1984) Friday June 8 at Kerry's and July 1 at Caroline's. There is the intention for Women's group dates to not clash with sesshin again.

Orientations: Monday evenings 6pm, contact Maggie Gluek magpiewarble@yahoo.com

Wednesday evenings 6.30pm, call Janet Selby 0421 369 707, email janetselby@bigpond.com

NOTICE BOARD

SPECIAL NOTICE

A wonderful priest and Zen man, Father Pat Hawk Roshi of the Zen Desert Sangha, USA, has died peacefully at the St. Clement Health Care Centre in Liguori, Missouri.

“Pat was a kind, wise man and quiet man, and not particularly sociable. He revealed himself slowly over time, like a tender flower opening. He was usually silent in group situations and laconic in *all* situations, making every word count. He had a wry, delightful wit, though, and an upright character. He was particularly dedicated to the DSTC and made a point of attending every meeting from the very first one until his deteriorating health intervened in recent years.”

(DSTC- Diamond Sangha Teachers Circle)

Gift recipient status for SZC Building Fund: The Australian Tax Office has confirmed that we are a DGR, or Deductible Gift Recipient for a fund (in our case the Sydney Zen Centre Building Fund). This restores the status of gifts to the building fund as tax deductible for the donor. If you would like to make a donation to the building fund, simply flag it as such and we will issue a receipt against which you can claim a tax deduction from your income.

Books for sale: *The Roaring Stream. A New Zen Reader*, ed. Nelson Foster and Jack Shoemaker is on sale at Annandale, along with Robert Aitken's books: *Taking the Path of Zen, Mind of Clover, The Dragon that Never Sleeps, Encouraging Words, The Morning Star, Vegetable Roots Discourse, Zen Master Raven and The Gateless Barrier*.

Library: For inspiration, encouragement along the way, and an insight into the ancient tradition that we spring from, bequeathed to us by all those wise humans beings of the past, try reading some of the excellent books in the library upstairs at Annandale. e.g. *Wild Ivy: the spiritual autobiography of Zen Master Hakuin* trans. Norman Waddell. This great Japanese teacher (1686-1768) who describes himself a 'plodding oaf', writes at 81 of some of his experiences. "Now, we know you, Old Hakuin", wrote Aitken Roshi. All interested in buying books and/or enlivening the library, please get in touch with Gordon Waters: gordonwaters@optusnet.com.au

Use of Kodoji: Kodoji is available for use by members of the SZC and guests (if accompanied by a member). It can also be hired by other groups if approved by the Board. Fees are \$15 per night for members and \$25 for non-members. There is a \$100 booking fee for non-member groups. Booking of Kodoji is essential and it is also essential to receive instructions about use of the facility before going there. Try giving the family a wonderful weekend, or yourself a few days of private retreat? Enquiries to Brendan Stewart - phone 9879 7290, email stewarts34@bigpond.com

Blue Mountains Zen: The Blue Mountains Zen Group meets on the second and fourth Sunday of each month, from 3-5 p.m., at Paul Maloney's home. The address is 19 Russell Road, Leura. Phone 4784 2136. The meeting is occasionally held at another venue, so it is best to check some days before, should one think of joining us for a sit.

Canberra Zen Group: Wednesday evenings fortnightly at 7.45 at the Orana School in Weston. Contact Tony Shields for details – email: tshields@netspeed.com.au, phone 6262 5150

Laughing Kookaburra Meditation Group (Woy Woy): Join us for a sit and a cup of tea, we meet 1-2 times per month on Thursday nights from 7-9pm, dates TBA, at Stuart and Tara's house in Woy Woy. Please contact Stuart for details: email: ssolzberg@gmail.com mobile: 0424 623 800

Meditation in Wollongong: Silent Meditation – Zazen – Sitting and walking meditation, held every Wednesday evening 7 – 8.30pm, at 'Alchemy' building, 196 Mt Keira Road, Mt Keira, Phone 42440208 Please arrive a little before 7pm. Gold coin donation for venue. For more Information please phone Pip on 0414496414

CONTACT INFORMATION

SZC (02) 9660 2993 www.szc.org.au

Members of the Board: Brendon Stewart, Meghan Hay, Gail Burrell-Davis, Lee Nutter, Gordon Waters, Sue Bidwell, Harry Tamvakeris, Will Moon, and Kim Bagot.

Teachers: Subhana Barzagli, Gillian Coote, Paul Maloney

Apprentice Teachers: Maggie Gluck, Allan Marrett

Newsletter editor Janet Selby janetselby@bigpond.com



SZC Calendar April – May 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 May	28 Zazen 7-9pm	29	30 Zazen 7-9pm	31	June 1	2
3	4 Full Moon Not Defaming	5	6 Full Moon Not Defaming	7	8 Mountains And River Sesshin →	9
10	11 Zazen 7-9pm	12	13 Zazen 7-9pm	14 Board Meeting 7pm	15	16
17 Samu Annandale 8.30-4pm 9.30 talk	18 Zazen 7-9pm	19	20 Zazen 7-9pm	21	22	23
24	25 Zazen 7-9pm	26	27 Zazen 7-9pm	28	29	30
July 1	2 Dharma Café 7-9pm	3	4 Dharma Café 7-9pm	5 Board Meeting 6.30pm	6	7
8	9 Zazen 7-9pm	10	11 Zazen 7-9pm	12	13 Womens Group Caroline's	14
15 Zazenkai 8.30-12.00 Talk dokusan Gilly Coote	16 Zazen 7-9pm	17	18 Zazen 7-9pm	19	20	21
22	23 Zazen 7-9pm	24	25 Zazen 7-9pm	26	27	28
28	30 Zazen 7-9pm	31	August 1 Full Moon Not Killing	2	3	4

Sydney
Zen
Centre



251 Young Street, Annandale NSW 2038
Phone (02) 9660 2993
www.szc.org.au
Email: info@szc.org.au

MEMBERSHIP FOR THE YEAR 2012-2013

We invite you to renew your membership with the Sydney Zen Centre or to become a member for the first time. The Sydney Zen Centre was incorporated in 1983 to encourage and support the practice of Zen Buddhism. Membership allows you to financially support the continuation of the activities of our group. As well as the opportunity to participate directly in the running of the centre, benefits of membership include discounted fees at sesshin (retreats), use of Kodoji, our property at Gorricks Run, subscriptions to the quarterly journal 'Mind Moon Circle' and receipt of the regular SZC newsletter.

FINANCES

Your membership pledge is essential to the functioning of the group. Pledges, together with the income we receive from donations, retreat fees and hiring out Kodoji, help pay for ongoing expenses such as: rent, utilities, the maintenance of the Annandale and Gorricks Run Zendos; dojo equipment; Mind Moon Circle printing and postage; public liability insurance; audit fees; and the financial support of our teachers. The Sydney Zen Centre is committed to a collegiate system of teaching with a number of teachers sharing the work. Currently, we financially support two teachers, Gillian Coote and Subhana Barzaghi, with regular monthly payments over and above payments for teaching at sesshins and other retreats.

YOUR PLEDGE

For Sydney residents we suggest a pledge amount of \$410. Members who have financial difficulties may pledge a lower figure, with a minimum of \$305. For unwaged or out-of-town members, the suggested pledge is \$305 and the minimum \$185. **These suggested pledge amounts have been held at the same level as pledge amounts for the 2011/2012 year.**

TAX EXEMPT BUILDING FUND DONATIONS

Donations made to the Sydney Zen Centre Building Fund are tax deductible. If you wish to donate to the building fund, please include your donation on the form overleaf. A receipt will be issued to you to allow you to make the deduction claim on your tax return. Make the payment out to the Sydney Zen Centre, but make it separate from your pledge payment.

SANGHA SERVICE

We invite all group members to become involved in the decision-making and day-to-day administration of the Centre – this is vital to the functioning of the SZC. Please indicate on your membership form how you may be able to contribute.

NEW MEMBERS

If you are applying to join SZC, you will need two current members to sponsor you. This is easily done if you ask around at weeknight zazen or Sunday zazenkais.

CURRENT MEMBERS

If you are currently paying your pledge by regular direct debit, please consider your pledge amount for the new financial year and submit this form so that we have a record of your intentions.

If you have any questions regarding this form or pledge payment, please email Meghan Hay, SZC Treasurer, at haymeghan@gmail.com.

SYDNEY ZEN CENTRE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM 2012 - 2013

I wish to apply for/continue (delete as appropriate) membership of the Sydney Zen Centre for the year beginning 1 July 2012 and finishing 30 June 2013.

Name

Address

.....postcode.....

Telephone/ home.....work.....

Email

mobile..... email.....

Personal information (this is optional but it helps us to get a profile of our membership)

Age **Occupation**.....

Qualifications, training etc

NEW MEMBERS If you are applying to join SZC you will need two current members to sponsor you. Please have them sign below and print their names underneath:

Sponsor..... Sponsor.....

HOW YOU CAN HELP WITH THE RUNNING OF THE SYDNEY ZEN CENTRE

Areas that always need contribution from members - please tick.

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|---------------------------|-----|
| Board membership | () | Samu/resource maintenance | () |
| Sesshin/retreats planning | () | MMC/Newsletter | () |
| Fundraising/ideas | () | Learning Ino/Jiki roles | () |
| Library committee | () | | |

We welcome all suggestions or ideas that could help us improve the day-to-day operation of the SZC.

SUGGESTED PLEDGE

Sydney members **\$410** (minimum \$305)
Unwaged or out-of-town members **\$305** (minimum \$185)

YOUR PLEDGE \$ _____

50% pledge discount for NEW members pledging after 31 December 2012 (\$ _____)*

Additional donation for operations \$ _____

SUBTOTAL \$ _____

Separate donation to the building fund (tax exempt) \$ _____**

TOTAL amount included with this form \$ _____

payment timetable please tick: annually () biannually () quarterly () monthly ()

Please make cheques and money orders payable to Sydney Zen Centre (including building fund donations) and post with this form to: **The Treasurer, Sydney Zen Centre, 251 Young Street, Annandale NSW 2038.**

If you would like to pay by direct debit from your bank account, please make payment to Sydney Zen Centre Ltd., BSB 062 182, Account 10086801, **and include your last name and the word "pledge" in the transaction description line.** You must still complete and mail this form to the Treasurer.

* This is to allow new members to the SZC to only pay half the annual pledge amount if they join more than halfway through the financial year

** A tax receipt will be issued for donations to the building fund.