

All Beings Zen Sangha Spiritual Directors Report for May 3, 2025
prepared by Rev. Inryū Poncé-Barger, Sensei
(Previous report was on February 22, 2025)

Meditation and Recovery Healing Circle continues on Sunday evenings - trained for leading this are: Shinren Mark Stone, EiShin Mike Barreda, Betty Mooney and Inryū Ponce-Barger. EiShin and Shinren continue to lead the group with Inryū and soon Betty being able to fill in.

Dharma Book Club Has met once since our last BOD meeting with good participation. We discussed "The Lathe of Heaven" by Ursula K. LeGuin Shoku Cristina Benevides and Inryū Sensei are shepharding the book group through the next few month. . **We would like to recruit an additional person or persons to co-sheperd this affinity group. May to August Books are:**

May 19, 6pm -- Before the Coffee Gets Cold by Toshikazu Kawaguchi

June 23, 6pm -- Tokyo Ueno Station by Yu Miri, translated by Morgan Giles

August 24, 6pm -- The Years of Rice and Salt by Kim Stanley Robinson

Zen Sewing - Currently 6 people are working on Rakusu. Three are ABZS members David Simon, Norberto Gomez Jr. and Mohammad Koubeissi and two are students of Zenju Eartlyn Manuel who has asked



Inryu to support their training. Rev. Lien Shutt has also asked that we support a local student of hers as well. The sewing class meeting days will change to the first and third Thursdays and Sundays throughout the summer (the weekend day is added to accomodate people who have a strict M-F 9-5 work schedule).

New sangha members - We've had a few new members join and ***people who attended before the pandemic are starting to come back*** to in

person practice as well. Shinren and Seiryu are first contacts with people reaching out about joining the practice for the first time. Seiryu is the primary greeter for Thursday night practice.

ABZS Movie Nights - Seido and Inryu are working to have a monthly Dharma Movie Night offering. Since the last BOD meeting we viewed “Paterson” and enjoyed a lively discussion. The next film night will be on May 23, TBD. This is a family friendly event focus to be inclusive of spouses and children of sangha members.

Baikaryu Eisanka - Japanese Plum Blossom Style Hymns with bells. in person only Tuesdays - 1st and 3rd monthly 6-7pm - The current song we are learning is “Magokoro ni Ikiru” which means “Living with a Sincere Heart” Contact Zen’etsu @ zenjoyclay@gmail.com for more information.

Training:

Three sangha members completed the 10 week **Shogaku Zen Institutes Healthy Sanghas Course** (Rev. Inryū, Zen’etsu and Seiryū).

Two sangha members completed the Workshop offered by **Soto Zen Buddhist Association on “Working in Interfaith Community”** (Shinren and Zen’etsu).

NEW Intrafaith Outreach - Given the current times we are in 4 sangha members have made an effort to engage in Intrafaith gatherings (Shinren, Inryu, Seiryu and Zen’etsu). These have provided connection and visibility between our Buddhist Sangha and other religious communities.

Ongoing effort to document Dairyu’s Sumi paintings and books. no movement on documenting the Sumi paintings since the last Quarter. Beth Milligan hopes to return in the spring to continue the project. Our librarian Sunyata Alex Lima continues his weekly visits to get all the books into an “ibooks” digital list. **A researcher has requested specific historical documents but we have not archived those yet - Inryū will followed up with them that the documents/information they were looking for was not yet unpacked.

Soto Zen Buddhist Association Conference 2025 - Shoryū and Inryū are active on the planning committee for the September 2025 Branching Streams Conference outside of Chicago. ABZS should plan to send 3 people to represent the sangha.

Activities & Retreats Past quarter

Sunday February 23rd, 2025 10-4pm - Zazenkai (full day meditation retreat). The event was well attended with participants both in person and online.



**Tuesday February 25th, 2025 - Dharma Tea on Tuesdays at 2 -2:45pm
Tea led by Beata Stylianos on her “Experience of Meeting the Dalai
Lama on a Roof in Cambridge, MA”.**

**Friday February 28th, 2025 7pm - Dharma Movie Night at the Zendo
-in person for the film ‘Paterson’**

**Sunday March 23rd, 2025 8:30am-1:30pm - Half Day Zen Retreat and
Vegetarian Lunch at Blue Ridge Farm VA**



Sunday April 6th, 2025 Follow up to the January 25th, 2025 - “Sublime Light” Exhibit - Seido, Daii and Inryū returned to the Museum of the American Indian on and were able to meet and speak with B Y Bigay and Bernice Bigay to learn about the step by step process for creating the tapestry weavings in the retrospective exhibit.



April 19, 2025 Inryū Sensei attended the Sōtō shū Hossenshiki for Kuden Paul Boyle at Chapel Hill Zen Center, NC This is an important event for being recognized by the Japanese Lineage and paves the way for Kuden to have Zuse Ceremony at the two head Temples in Japan. The ceremony requires the attendance of many priests (in person) to be officially recognized. CHZC provided lodging for Inryū's visit.





Looking forward in 2025

On line Training opportunity

April 2025 - two part course on **Conflict to Connection: Building Sangha Resilience** through the Soto Zen Buddhist Association. Inryū Sensei and Seido are registered to attend.

Local Retreats

May Saturday 24, 2025 10am-2pm - Half Day Zen and Work Practice Retreat and Vegetarian Lunch at Woodburn Hill, MD - In-person only

May Sunday 25, 2025 - Forest Bathing 10-12am -led by Zen'etsu Clay.
This is a fundraiser for ABZS.

August Saturday 2nd - Wednesday 5th, 2025 - 5 day Summer Zen Retreat - Woodburn Hill, MD - In-person only

Out of Town Training Retreats and Conferences

June 25-29, 2025 - ABZS visit to Green Gulch Farm/Green Dragon Temple (ABZS can send 10 members to this sangha week event). *Nine Sangha Members are registered to attend.* This will include a visit and tour of Enso Village (the Zen Inspired Retirement Community in the U.S.) This is where Dairyu Michael Wenger now resides. We will have an opportunity to visit Dairyu and also practice Zazen in the beautiful new meditation hall in the center of the complex.

September 15-18, 2025 - Suzuki Roshi Branching Streams Conference, [Loyola University's Retreat and Ecology Center, Woodstock, IL](#) (ABZS can send 3 members to this conference)

October 23-26, 2025 - Annual U.S. Soto Zen Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii (3 ABZS members are currently registered to attend). We also plan to visit Rev. Jiko and Daifukuji on the big Island of Hawaii (Rev Jiko was a special guest speaker during our last Fall Practice Period).

Note: Inryū Sensei continues to serve the interests of the ABZ Sangha by serving as:

A member of the Board of Directors for the the Soto Zen Buddhist Organization, and Board of Directors Liason to the Ethic's Committee

A member of the Advisory Council for the Suzuki Roshi Branching Streams Network

A member of the Board of Directors for the Clydesdale Cooperative, Inc - where the urban zendo is located

A member of the Board of Directors for the 1860 Clydesdale Cooperative - where the library is housed

A member of the Executive Committee for Woodburn Hill Farm Ltd - where we have our un-urban retreats and where ABZS is a growing shareholder in the Ltd partnership that owns the Farm.

Important Note*Upcoming meeting of the shareholders is May 26, 2025. I would recommend that 2 or more ABZS BOD members attend that online zoom shareholder meeting. Inryu and Shoryu have been visible in meetings in recent years but it would be good for WHF shareholders to meet other ABZS Board Members to develop relationships of trust. *****