

All Beings Zen Sangha Spiritual Directors Report for August 9, 2025
prepared by Rev. Inryū Poncé-Barger, Sensei
(Previous report was on May 3, 2025)

Meditation and Recovery Healing Circle continues on Sunday evenings - trained to facilitate are: Shinren Mark Stone, EiShin Mike Barreda, Betty Mooney and Inryū Ponce-Barger. **NEW** - Shinren has set up a Google doc to coordinate schedules. Betty, EiShin and Shinren are now the primary people with Inryū filling in occasionally. This group has gained recent new members from VA and PA.

Dharma Tea on Tuesdays for 2nd Qtr

Beth Milligan - June 3, 2025 The Zen of Birding

Inryū Sensei - June 10, 2025 On “Dogen’s Instructions to the Gardener”

Zen’etsu Clay Crowell - July 29th, 2025 Led by Zen’etsu Clay the Dharma Tea will explore the Japanese practice called *Shisa Kanko*, also known as “pointing and calling”.

Dharma Book Club Met once since our last BOD my last report. We discussed Tokyo Ueno Station by Yu Miri, translated by Morgan Giles on 7/14/25. Shoku Cristina Benevides, Zen’etsu Clay Crowell and Inryū Sensei are shepharding the group .

The next book is :

August 22 , 6pm -- The Years of Rice and Salt by Kim Stanley Robinson

Zen Sewing - Currently 7 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 NEW person sewing is a

student of Lay Transmitted Teacher Jamie Howell who has asked Inryū to be the preceptor for his student Marko Suvajdzic.

Doanyo Training and Scheduling - Our Ino (head of zendo practice) and the members of the Doanryo had a training meeting in July 2025. They had a full agenda and plan to meet again in the next quarter. We have 3 new members trained to help with the role of Kokyo as we go into the Fall Practice Period

New sangha members outreach- Shinren (via website portal/email and Seiryu in person Zendo) 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 Dharma Movie Nights - June film was "Les Glaneurs et La Glanesue" (2000) directed by Agnès Varda. Our July film was "Hector and the Search for Happiness. August film was the "Burmese Harp" - marking the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII. This is a powerful antiwar film about a soldier who embraces Buddhism:.

Baikaryu Eisanka - Japanese Plum Blossom Style Hymns with bells. in person only Tuesdays - 1st and 3rd monthly 6-7pm - is continuing. Both Zen'etsu and Seiryu Paula played/sang a Baika song for the memorial service of Joe Mooney.

Training in 2nd Quarter:

April 2025 - Inryū Sensei and Seido David Sarpal attended the two part course on Conflict to Connection: Building Sangha Resilience through the Soto Zen Buddhist Association.

Training looking ahead to 3rd and 4th Qtr:

Branching Streams Conference September 15-18 2025 Shoryū and Inryū have been on the planning committee. Location is: Loyola University's Retreat and Ecology Center, Woodstock, IL We have 3 people attending: MK Abadoo, Seiryu Paula Chiplis and Inryū Sensei. Shoryu had planned to attend but had to step back for personal reasons.

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).

Ongoing Projects

Ongoing effort to document Dairyu's Sumi paintings and books. no movement on documenting the Sumi paintings since the last Quarter.

NEW - Kaz Tanahashi has suggested we publish a folio of Dairyu's art that Kaz would write a forward for. We are considering how to go about doing a project like this. Seido, Alan Brenner and Inryū are discussing next steps.

NEW Inryū purchased larger bookcases for use in the library (bookcases arrived in late July). Sunyata Alex Lima (our sangha librarian plans to resume archiving the books into our database today 8/9/25)

Activities & Retreats Past quarter

May Saturday 24, 2025 10am-2pm - Half Day Zen and Work Practice (Samu) Retreat and Vegetarian Lunch at WHF.



WHF shareholders meeting on May 26, 2025. Four members of the BOD attended this zoom meeting: BOD President John Flanagan, Director Zen'etsu Clay Crowell, Director (and WHF Liason) Shoryu Chris Leader and Spiritual Director (WHF Exec memeber) Inryū Sensei

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



June 25-29, 2025 - ABZS visit to Green Gulch Farm/Green Dragon Temple (ABZS had 10 members to this sangha week event) 1st photo. This included a visit to the Soto Shu International Offices in San Francisco, CA



2nd photo (and tour of Enso Village (the Zen Inspired Retirement Community in the U.S.) This is where Dairyu Michael Wenger our first Guiding Teacher now resides 3rd photo.



August Saturday 2nd - Wednesday 5th, 2025 - 5 day Summer Zen Retreat - Woodburn Hill, MD - This retreat was canceled out of a caution to not tax the farms septic system while it is under repair.

Instead we had: 4 Events in 4 days. Two in the city and two outside the city.



August 2nd - Samu (work practice) with potluck lunch in the library





August 3rd 2025 Full Day Zen Retreat with Oryoki Lunch in person only

August 4, 2025 - Sangha Hike and Picnic lunchg at Terrapin State Park, MD

**August 5, 2025 - Sangha Full Day Hike at Shenandoah National Park,
VA**



2025 Fall Practice Period Looking:

Fall Practice Period (Ango) dates are being worked on by Marcella Wolfe, Inryu Sensei, Seido and Zen'etsu. We will publish them on the website and send an email to members as soon as they are more firm.

Fall PP Guests will include: Rev. Shodo Spring, Roshi making an in person visit to talk about her new book.

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.

