

Anchorage Zen Community

Break-up time!

April, 1995

Schedule of Events

Sunday Morning Zazen

Every Sunday, 8:25 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

4141 B Street, Suite 208

Zazen, Precepts Recitation, Discussion

Every Wednesday Evening

6:55 p.m. - approx. 9:00 p.m.

2401 Susitna (phone Judith: 248-1049)

General Membership Meeting

For the Adoption of By-Laws

Sunday, April 23rd at 10:30 a.m.

(Pot-luck lunch following Zazen)

at 3852 Caravelle Dr.

(Elizabeth McNeill's home - ph: 248-2350)



It's Official -- We're Non Profit!

Thank you, Roger!

AZC is now an official 501(c)3 Tax Exempt Charitable organization. Many Thanks to attorney Roger DuBrock and the AZC Board for making this step possible. This was the direction Dokai suggested AZC take. All membership dues as well as other contributions are now tax deductible, and AZC may be eligible for other tax breaks.

Oryoki -- OK!

Special thanks to Colleen, Elizabeth and their many helpers for cutting, sewing and putting together the new oryoki cloths. During the Spring Sesshin there was much time to notice the contribution this has made to support our practice. Deep gratitude from the Sangha.



Hasn't there been a terribly hard flu going around?

Physical suffering can deepen our awareness of the fragility and impermanence of our bodies. To help reduce our attachment to this, Theravadan Monks recite as part of their Evening Chanting the "Passage of Recollection of the Thirty-Two Parts." It both begins and ends with:

"This which is my body,
from the soles of the feet up,
and down from the crown of the head,
is a sealed bag of skin
filled with unattractive things."

Re-Cap of January Meeting

As part of the process of acquiring tax exempt status, members of AZC came together last January to work on giving some structure to the organization. The over-all feeling was one of wanting to have fun with the whole idea of structure, while at the same time, getting AZC's goals, positions and operational framework defined enough so Roger would have something to work with.

To that end, Karen Laing, Elizabeth McNeill and Judith Haggar were formally recognized as being AZC's Board of Directors. It was decided they will serve staggered, 3-year terms. In addition, they will be responsible for appointing other committee positions as necessary.

The amount of \$100 annual membership dues was agreed upon, with the provision that lesser amounts would be acceptable. This will be left up to the individual and can be worked out with Karen.

I expressed my interest in expanding AZC's Newsletter (I'm still working on the format). There was a lot of support for using the Newsletter as a forum for members to express themselves, share experiences, ideas, and so

forth. Practicing Buddhism in the West -- particularly in Alaska -- can feel very isolating. Sanghas are meant to give support. I will do everything I can to create a Newsletter that nurtures AZC. YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WARMLY WELCOMED!

Many other ideas were tossed around, including subjects such as possible teachers and alternative locations for sesshins. In addition, the group endured my repeated questioning, "Why are we doing this?" -- which I sincerely hope was seen as being constructive and positive, as it was intended to be.

THIS PROCESS IS NOT FINISHED. Our tax-exempt status requires us to come up with By-Laws, and this will be the subject of another Pot-Luck meeting April 23rd. **EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.** Any ideas or interests people have as to AZC's future will also be discussed.

These have been my recollections on the meeting. I'm sure I have not remembered everything, and I apologize for any omissions.

Ideas for Next Newsletter?

Comments on the Spring Sesshin?
Reprints of articles you've found inspiring?

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