

Compassionate Ocean Zen Center

652 17th Avenue NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413
www.oceanzen.org

Dear Friend,

December, 2023

As this year draws to a close we reflect on the impact our Zen community has on the lives of people seeking peace, mindfulness, and spiritual growth. **We are immensely grateful** for the participation and support of all who have chosen to be part of Compassionate Ocean.

2023 was the first full year since the pandemic began that our Center **fully resumed in-person offerings**, while continuing to offer virtual options. Course enrollments have been high, and the vitality in our sangha gatherings and classes has been energizing for all.

We started the year with the bittersweet task of saying goodbye to our wonderful Administrative Director Tara Meade, but we are ending the year welcoming our new and wonderful Administrative Director Zac Poxleitner. We got through the challenging in-between months only due to the generosity and dedication of sangha members who stepped forward to carry the weight of essential day-to-day operations. **Thank you!**

In fact, many sangha members gave of themselves over the course of the year to support our Center. Some helped to maintain our beautiful building. Some served as representatives at open houses or the local farmers' market. Some hosted morning sittings, or took responsibility for sending out class recordings to those who were not able to attend. And this fall, as Guiding Teacher Genpo O'Neal traveled to Japan for a month to complete the next step in his priest training, our sangha as a whole stepped forward to provide financial, logistical, and personal support. **Thank you all!**

This is the way of sangha, giving and receiving, over and over. Your participation and support have played a vital role in sustaining Compassionate Ocean. Your donations have funded our programs, maintained our serene practice space, and enabled us to reach out to a broader audience. We have been able to both welcome newcomers and support deepening the practice of long-standing members.

At this time we ask for your support. Donations are by far the largest source of financial support for the Center, and are critical for our well-being. Our goal for this year-end appeal is to reach and surpass last year's total of \$29,000. No contribution is too small, and every donation is deeply appreciated. **Generosity is the lifeblood of our Center**, and your generosity at this time will enable us to continue sharing the profound beauty of Zen practice and mindfulness with all who seek it.

With deep gratitude,

 

Ramona Advani
Co-Chairs, Board of Directors

Mark Ostrander



Donations can be mailed in the enclosed envelope, or you can contribute online at www.oceanzen.org. Compassionate Ocean Zen Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.