



# RED CEDAR ZEN COMMUNITY

Bellingham, WA

## *Bending Bough*

*A monthly communication supporting our interconnection*



*April 2022*

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## Announcements and News

**Annual Meeting, Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm on Zoom** - The Red Cedar Zen Community board warmly invites all sangha members to our annual board/sangha meeting, to hear reports of work accomplished, and to plan the next year. This year saw a very successful fund drive, and a very challenging property search process, so we have much to share and discuss, and your viewpoints and participation are greatly appreciated and welcomed

The agenda for the meeting will include,

- Affirmation of the current boards' willingness to serve another year term
- Brief review of the past year
- Year-end budget report (including capital campaign results)
- Report from SCORE followed by sangha discussion (breakout rooms) on how/if to re-calibrate our search criteria

To RSVP you may sign in at the [event listing for the meeting here](#). Or just show up! We look forward to your input to help us set the path forward for Red Cedar Zen Community.

### Precepts Study Group has begun

- Last month, fifteen dharma students began a study and exploration of the sixteen bodhisattva precepts in our annual Precepts Study Group. Some may go on to accept the precepts of Jukai in the fall, each sewing a rakusu with our sewing instructor Chris Burkhart. Others are there to study these core aspects of our practice and contribute to the richness of group cohort study. We wish everyone peace, insight, and mutual support in this annual exploration of fundamental commitments upon which our practice resides.





**Revised Covid Policy** - The Health and Safety committee has slightly revised our in-person Covid policy as follows:

- Masking is optional
- Proof of vaccination required (fully vaccinated, for our definition, remains two vaccinations and one booster).
- Handwashing and social distancing guidelines remain in effect
- If you are feeling unwell, please stay home.

**Seeking Assistant Treasurer** - RCZC is looking for a volunteer to become assistant treasurer. Duties include learning about Red Cedar finances, joining the finance committee to help plan the budget and advise the board when needed and over time, prepare to take on the job of treasurer. If interested, contact John Wiley (360 296-1677, [johnmw47@gmail.com](mailto:johnmw47@gmail.com)) for more information.

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*"The Way is perfect, like vast space where nothing is lacking and nothing is in excess. Indeed, it is due to our choosing to accept or reject that we do not see the true nature of things. Live neither in the entanglements of outer things, nor in*

*inner feelings of emptiness."*

~ Seng Ts'an Hsin Hsin Ming

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## Dharma Talks

### Featured Dharma Talk

Kathie Fischer, who assisted us all as a visiting teacher during our recent practice period, returned at the March 27<sup>th</sup> Zen Alive event to offer a wonderful talk on Prajna Paramita, the Perfection of Wisdom, and the last Paramita on the list.

In her talk, Kathie Fischer said,

*"...Human suffering, which is what we are grappling with here, results in us being confined and isolated in our identity, our own identity and others. So understanding the connection between our fixed notion of language, in which we think it describes reality, as it is, understanding the connection between that and human suffering, is really the focus for the prajna paramita. We have so many examples in our teaching of these frameworks of language, this narrative which traps us, we have so many examples of that narrative being blown apart. The one that I'm thinking of a lot these days is most eloquently spoken for me in Sojun Mel Weitsman's words. He was talking about the self. He said, 'Everyone feels like they are the center of the universe. Everyone feels like that. And it's true. Everyone is the center of the universe, all at the same time.'..."*

To listen to a recording of the full talk you may [go here](#).

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*"Be serene in the oneness of things, and such erroneous views will disappear by themselves. When you try to stop activity to achieve passivity, your very effort fills you with activity. As long as you remain in one extreme or the other, you will never know Oneness."*

~ Seng Ts'an Hsin Hsin Ming





**Saturday Morning Sitting** - Saturday morning in-person (and Zoom) practice has resumed at the Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship space, weekly from 7am to 8:30am.

**New One Day Retreats, beginning April 23rd** - A new monthly series of easy one-day retreats begins, the fourth Saturday of each month (except June due to the Samish retreat). These are great opportunities to re-establish practice with the sangha in a convenient 10am-to-4pm schedule, or to experience a simple introduction to the peacefulness and centering of a retreat setting for the first time. You may [sign up for the next of these retreats, on April 23<sup>rd</sup> here.](#)

**Mount Eire Circum -  
ambulation,  
Saturday April 9th -**

Eighteen people attended  
this annual celebration of

this annual celebration of  
spring, Buddha's  
birthday, and the Zen  
poetic tradition of  
Northwest Washington,  
was again led by Joden  
Bob Rose, who was