

# Annual Report 2019



*Dharma Rain*  
*Zen Center*

# Mission and Vision

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Dharma Rain's mission is to transmit the teachings and practice of Soto Zen Buddhism, by cultivating compassion, love and wisdom.

We are a Soto Zen sangha sharing the practices of zazen meditation, mindfulness, reflection and ethical living. We seek to relieve suffering by the skillful use of Buddhist teachings and the generous acceptance of all beings. We honor the ancestors and traditions of the past while we adapt to the needs of current practitioners and future generations. Our shared intention is to cultivate authenticity and integrity in our own lives and the larger community in which we live. Our hope is to engage in wise and compassionate activity for the benefit of all beings.

# Dharmic Transitions

- Twenty people took the Precepts at Dharma Rain in March, the largest group in several years.
- As part of our Prison Program, 20 inmates at four institutions took the Precepts.
- Genko received Denbo transmission in August. Denbo confers the ability to ordain monks and perform ceremonies that require a hossu (whisk).
- In March, six people became lay disciples: Minshu, Honei, Yusatsu, Sokuchu, Daiko, and Zuiryu.



# Outreach and Collaboration

- Collaboration continues with the Blueprint Foundation to offer temple projects to at-risk youth to foster skills development.
- Refuge Recovery and Recovery Dharma, which are mindfulness-based addiction recovery communities, both hold weekly meetings at Dharma Rain.
- As part of a partnership with the Oregon Food Bank's Seed to Supper program and the Ethiopian and Eritrean Cultural Resource Center, immigrants from Ethiopia and Eritrea continued work in the community gardens.
- Dharma Rain members marched in the 2019 Pride Parade in downtown Portland.



# Neighborhood Integration

- Upwards of 100 people from the surrounding neighborhood use the property daily, either passing through, exercising, or walking dogs.
- Many people from the local area visited the campus to attend pop-up farmers' markets hosted on some weekends.
- A large fire occurred adjacent to the property in August. Concerned neighbors joined Dharma Rain residents to slow the advance of the fire onto the Siskiyou campus.



# Sesshin, Retreats, and Workshops

- On-campus sesshin include Jukai, Denkoe, Genzoe, Three Robes, Sejiki (lengthened to four full days in 2019), and Rohatsu.
- Three retreats were held as part of the Fall Term Student program.
- Two Beginners' Day Retreats and two Weekend Retreats were hosted.
- Multiple zazenkai and half-day zazenkai were offered.
- The Taking Your Seat Program was offered.
- Three to five introductory workshops, which are open to all without charge, were held each month.
- From March 14-24, Dharma Rain hosted a residential training for senior practitioners from other sanghas. The training was designed to help newer teachers be more effective at presenting and demonstrating the Dharma and addressing institutional and social challenges in a practice environment. Fifteen people attended the event.



# Programs and Activities

- Sixty-five students were registered for Dharma School in 2018-2019 and 46 in 2019-2020.
- Fifty participants attended Dharma Camp in 2019.
- Frog Song Montessori Preschool:
  - The program is certified by the State of Oregon, which allows for the provision of full-day care.
  - Enrollment is full for 2019-2020 (15 students), with a waiting list.
  - Frog Song hosted an open house in June, and during July and August one week nature-themed summer camp sessions were held on the property.
- Prison Program:
  - Dharma Rain's Prison Program serves eight institutions in Oregon; retreats and sanzen are provided for inmates.
  - Twelve regular volunteers staff the Prison Program.



# Residency

- Over the course of the 2019 calendar year, there have been 11 full-time residents at Dharma Rain.
- Current on-campus residents include Jyoshin, Genko, Fujaku, Ember, Minshu, and Kemyo; Kakumyo lives nearby, and he and Shin'yu are on campus during temple hours.
- Dharma Rain has adapted its residency program to accommodate a greater number of members' life circumstances and make use of current facilities. Short-term and part-time residencies are more frequent and flexible.





# Gyokuko's Retirement

- More than 150 people attended Gyokuko's retirement ceremony. Gyokuko's retirement culminates a life dedicated to Zen practice and the tireless service of others. Although formally retired, she still lives nearby and attends select events.



# Dharma Cloud Day

- The first Dharma Cloud Day was held in spring to convene Dharma Rain's extended family of transmitted teachers; *Dharma Cloud* (Ho'un) is the name given to the Dharma descendants of Kyogen and Gyokuko.



- The event was a success, with affiliated teachers and members from Bright Way Zen, Empty Field Zendo, Wy'East Zen Center, and Hood River Zen in attendance.

# Current and Recent Initiatives

- Diversity Equity, and Inclusion:
  - Dharma Rain is in the process of implementing its DEI Program Plan, based on a report by Bruner Strategies.
  - Offered at Dharma Rain for the first time, *Awakening to Whiteness: Using the Dharma to Dismantle Oppression*, is designed to help white people explore the factors that have led to their distorted perception of reality in America.
- A revised Strategic Plan was released in 2019:
  - The plan establishes a roadmap for cultivating a more smoothly running, resilient, open, and diverse temple.
  - Dharma Rain's focus has shifted from a site development model to one of fostering stability, with an emphasis on debt reduction.
- Dharma Rain launched its new website in July 2019. The website was restructured to offer information to our members and visitors in a more effective manner.

# Finances

<b>Statement of Activities</b>	
Fiscal Year Ending 8-31-2019	
<b>Revenues</b>	
Donations	519,011
Programs	235,013
Other Income	10,782
Net assets released from restricted	(38,501)
<b>Total revenue &amp; support</b>	<b>726,306</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Programs	135,281
Management and general	187,736
Fundraising	3,412
Interest Expense	46,710
Depreciation and Amortization	36,708
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>409,847</b>
<b>Profit/Loss</b>	<b>316,459</b>

Note: Green fields are affected by a \$250,000 donation. Although it is on the books now, it will be distributed over 10 calendar years. Two disbursements happened in the last fiscal year. So the Total Revenue and Profit/Loss lines read \$200,000 higher than actual cash revenue.

<b>Statement of Financial Position</b>		
Comparing 2018 to 2019		
	2019	2018
Cash	108,811	94,026
Pledges	(7,600)	15,641
Fixed Assets	5,655,035	5,685,665
Other	252,707	106,255
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>6,008,953</b>	<b>5,901,587</b>
Current liabilities	66,086	63,213
Secured loan payable - SEMBLE	1,033,694	1,060,263
Unsecured loans payable - private	67,189	186,987
Less current portion of loans payable	(55,917)	(55,917)
Deferred revenue - Siskiyou Cohousing LLC	1,650,740	1,650,740
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>2,761,793</b>	<b>2,905,287</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>3,247,161</b>	<b>2,996,301</b>

Note: Orange fields (Programs) are broken down as follows:

	Revenue	Expense	Net
Frog Song	152,650	111,740	40,910
Classes & Retreats	38,301	2,615	35,687
Miscellaneous	1,450		1,450
Dharma Camp	20,130	16,611	3,519
Residency	17,590	189	17,401
Dharma school	4,892	714	4,178
<b>Total</b>	<b>235,013</b>	<b>135,281</b>	<b>103,145</b>

# Dharma Rain's Place in American Zen

- Dharma Rain is nationally recognized as a mature temple that provides both lay and monastic training.
- Our temple is respected for its breadth of programs and track record of ethical conduct.
- Dharma Rain's focus is on the regional community and prioritizes long-term, sustained relationships with committed members.
- Even so, Dharma Rain is one of the few American Zen temples that hosts formal intensives (ango) recognized by the Soto Zen Buddhist Association (i.e., Dharma Rain meets criteria established by SZBA). These intensives allow for experienced members from other sanghas to interact with our Sangha, benefit from our teachers, and train in our facilities.

