

DHARMA ZEPHYR INSIGHT MEDITATION COMMUNITY 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Introduction

Dharma Zephyr is a community of Buddhist Vipassana (Insight) Meditation sitting groups in Northern Nevada. Our first meditation group was organized in the late 1980s near Carson City. Other groups organized in adjacent communities as the need arose. We now have several sitting groups meeting in Northern Nevada communities including Reno, Carson City, and Minden/Gardnerville. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic our sitting groups met virtually by Zoom for the first half of 2021; then most groups started meeting in person for the second half of the year. Unfortunately, the recent Omicron surge has meant we have reverted to again meeting by Zoom.

Dharma Zephyr Sanghas was incorporated under the Nonprofit Corporation Law of the State of Nevada in September 2006. In 2012 we changed our name to Dharma Zephyr Insight Meditation Community, and in 2016 we became exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Mission Statement

Dharma Zephyr Insight Meditation Community, following the Theravadan Vipassana tradition, offers the Buddha's teachings on wisdom, ethical behavior, and mindfulness to the Northern Nevada community. Activities include sitting meditation, reading groups, classes and retreats.

Guiding Sangha

Dharma Zephyr has a board of directors, known as the Guiding Sangha. There are currently nine members on the Guiding Sangha, though it may have up to 11 members. The Guiding Sangha has four regular meetings a year and special meetings as required, which can be by email or other electronic media. 2021 Guiding Sangha members are:

- Chas Macquarie - President
- Kathy Schwerin
- Harry Ednie
- Susan Juetten - Secretary
- Christy Tews
- Colleen Lyons

- Denise Barclay - Treasurer
- Susan Antipa
- Anita Feuker

Many bows to those serving on the Guiding Sangha. They provide a wide range of ideas and expertise that contributes to the smooth and skillful operation of the sangha. It is a form of dana that often goes unrecognized, yet it is essential to the well-being of the larger sangha.

Membership & Sitting Groups

Even with the pandemic we were still have eight sitting groups included under the Dharma Zephyr umbrella. Four in Carson City:

- Dharma Zephyr Sangha
- Westside Home Sangha
- Middle Way Sangha
- West Wind Sangha

Three in Reno:

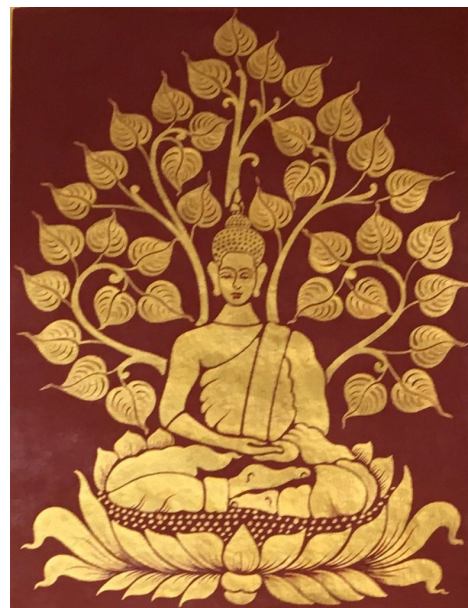
- Dharma Zephyr Sangha Reno
- Midtown Meditation
- Meditation with Mindful Movement

One in Douglas County:

- South Wind Sangha

While virtual meetings do not allow for physical contact, surprisingly, they do have some advantages, the main one being that anybody can attend any group without having to get in a car and drive to a meeting. We have had people located in Washington DC sit with our Carson Monday night group! The Middle Way Sangha was started in November 2021 as an in-person group, but with Omicron they too have been forced to meet virtually. Details about all the sitting groups are on our website. <https://dharmazephyr.org/>

Our mailing list includes over 600 people who are interested in our activities. Not all of these people open every email, but a fair number open notices about



retreats and programs. We send a welcome note to all new people who sign up for emails.

Financial Report

2021 Sangha income and expenses

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Donations and misc. income	1,923	Operating expenses	6,951
Residential retreat income	13,878	Residential retreat expenses	12,308
Non-residential dana	2,528	Non-residential expenses	0
Sitting Group dana	<u>3,233</u>	Donations	<u>5,000</u>
Total Income	21,562	Total Expenses	24,259
Net Income	-2,697		

<u>Balance Sheet - Assets</u>		<u>Balance Sheet - Liabilities</u>	
Checking Account	5,247	Scholarship Fund set-aside	4,249
Savings (MM) Account	16,259		
Other Assets (PayPal)	<u>3,175</u>		
Total Assets	24,681	Total Liabilities	4,249

Please see the financial statements for full financial details.

In 2021 income and expenses were significantly higher than in 2020. This is because our biggest income and expense items are our residential retreats and we were able to hold some retreats in-person, whereas in 2020 they were all virtual. The virtual retreats have a small amount of income and very low expenses. The figures above show a net loss of \$3,072 but the flow of income and expenses for retreats extends from one calendar year to the next and it is important to remember that the income or loss at the end of the calendar year is a snapshot of the financial picture on a particular day - December 31. This snapshot shows our residential retreats made a net income of \$1,345 and our non-residential retreats had a net income of \$2,528. This covered roughly half of our operating



expenses. At the end of 2020 we had a net income of \$4,971 and we decided to donate this money to our teachers both visiting (virtually) and local. The \$5,000 donation showed up in the 2021 financial statement and is the main reason for a net loss in 2021.

Our money market savings account remained essentially flat at \$16,259. The idea of the savings account is to have an account that is earmarked for savings that may be used in the future for potential big (or even medium) ticket items that are outside our normal financial operations. These might include: increased outreach to the community; a major overhaul of the website; an unexpected loss on a retreat; or an annual budget shortfall. As noted above, our annual net income or loss is partly a matter of timing since certain retreat costs are paid for in the year prior to the income being received.

Once again, deep bows to our hard-working treasurer, Denise Barclay. Since we started offering residential retreats several years ago, we have a considerable (for a small, non-profit organization) amount of money passing through the books and it is important to account for this properly.

Budget for 2022

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Donations	2,000	Operating expenses	7,000
Residential retreat income	14,000	Residential retreat expenses	12,300
Non-residential dana	2,500	Non-residential expenses	1,300
Sitting Group dana	<u>3,100</u>		
Total Income	21,600	Total Expenses	<u>20,600</u>
Net Income	1,000		

This budget is based on the assumption that there will be limited in-person retreats in the first few months of 2022. We hope to resume more in-person activities in the spring or summer but that will depend on the recovery from the pandemic.

Our New Center

A very exciting thing happened this year - we have the use of our own space in Carson City. Thanks to the generosity of Vicki Melhuish and Mary Kay Wagner, who own the building

that houses Sierra Foot & Ankle, we have the use of the studio area that was formally occupied by Ascent Physical Therapy. In lieu of a fixed rent we pay Vicki and Mary Kay dana as we can afford it. The space has been decorated with an altar and several nice pieces of Buddhist art. We have chairs, cushions, a bench or two and a Zoom setup for hybrid meetings. The Carson City groups were meeting in person up until the Omicron surge forced us to go virtual again.



Retreats and Scholarships

2021 continued to be a challenge for the retreat committee. Once it became apparent that we could not meet in person we switched to holding retreats remotely by Zoom. Then, as the pandemic eased a bit we held a hybrid retreat with both in-person and Zoom. This was a learning curve for the committee, the teachers, and the attendees. Planning has been made more difficult by the pandemic since we do not know exactly when we will be able to hold fully in-person retreats again. Despite all this, the Retreat Committee had a very successful 2021, meeting five times to plan retreats for 2021 and 2022.



2018 Leigh Brasington residential retreat

The dedicated committee members included Christy Tews, Karen Kvasnicka, Kathy Schwerin, Susan Priest, Susan Antipa, Tom Gray, Jasmine (Jazz) Gouveia, Deborah Stevenson, and Sarah Hunter. This group, along with Renate Massing and Susan Juetten, planned and managed a total of six non-residential and three residential retreats. Most retreats were on Zoom but a couple were in person or hybrid. The Mountain Meadow Retreat again had to be cancelled at the last minute due to smoke.

Additional team members include: Shannon Hataway, DZ's web master and Frank Ozaki, the graphic artist who creates our beautiful retreat flyers. Stephanie Coleman, DZ's MailChimp maven for several years and Cheryl Macy, Stephanie's backup, both stepped down from their roles at the end of 2021; Susan Sara Priest is our new MailChimp maven with Harry Ednie serving as backup. The Committee is grateful for the essential work they do!

Attendance

Total attendance for the non-residential retreats was 305. Total attendance for the residential retreats was 53. Total attendance for the year was 358, up from 243 in 2020 and on par with the pre-pandemic total in 2019. Well over 100 registered for the Amita Schmidt Zoom retreat in March and 95 attended - our biggest attendance ever!

Financials

The non-residential retreats had a net income of about \$2,528. The residential retreats generated a net income of about \$1,570.

Scholarships

In 2021 DZ awarded one scholarship for \$232.50 for a residential retreat. Since most retreats were virtual, the requests for scholarships were less than in previous years and so the scholarship account increased slightly to \$4,249 at the end of the 2021.

2022 and Beyond

For 2022, the Retreat Committee has five confirmed non-residential retreats featuring familiar teachers Heather Sundberg, Donald Rothberg, Shaila Catherine, and a new-to-us teacher - Vance Pryor, along with our local team of Kathy Schwerin, Christy Tews, Anne Macquarie, Denise Barclay, Tom Gray and Angela Sullivan.

There are two residential retreats planned for the first half of the year, one with Denise Barclay in February and another with Santikaro in April. We hope to have John Travis return in August, and Denise Barclay will teach again in November.

Many bows to the Retreat Committee, who put in a great deal of work to recruit teachers, organize retreats and venues, and make the whole endeavor run smoothly.



On the way to the Mountain Meadow Retreat

Vision Action Committee

The Vision Action Committee, formed after the 2018 visioning meeting to come up with ideas to better connect our wider community, was put on hold in 2020 due to the pandemic. Several of the major goals were accomplished in 2019; however, in 2022 we intend to

increase our outreach to include more diversity in age, gender, and ethnicity in the DZ Community. We hope that the social committee will resume planning occasional events once we can meet in person again.

Classes

Tom Gray and Harry Ednie offered a six-week course on meditation and core Buddhist principles beginning April 22, 2021. The 90 minutes sessions were presented online via Zoom. They will offer a similar course in 2022, starting in April.

Website & Other Outreach

We continue to update our website to show the latest information on sitting groups, retreats and classes. We reorganized the Resources section in 2020 and we continue to add more content. We added a section for online community gratitude journaling. Retreatants appreciate the ability to register and pay for residential retreats online.

Visit us at <http://dharmazephyr.org/> or through our Facebook page.

Plans for 2022

Plans for 2022 are somewhat up in the air due to the Omicron surge in the pandemic. We hope to be able to meet in person again when the surge subsides. Until then our sitting groups and most of our retreats will take place by Zoom. We hope to offer more meditation opportunities at our new center when the pandemic permits. We will continue our outreach to the public through our website and email alerts to let the public know about the wonderful meditation retreats, classes, and sitting opportunities that Dharma Zephyr provides. We will continue to offer non-residential retreat opportunities by Zoom.



Denise Barclay is holding a two-day Mindfulness, Movement and Meditation retreat at Camp Galilee in February and again in November; Santikaro is scheduled for a three-day retreat at Camp Galilee in April; we hope to have John Travis return for a five-day retreat in August, either at Camp Galilee or by Zoom.

By mid-year we hope to resume social events to allow members from different sitting groups to get to know folks outside their regular circle of practitioners. We hope to have at least one movie night also.

Finally, I want to once again express my heart-felt thanks to all those who have served a role in making Dharma Zephyr the vibrant, mindful community it has become. Even in a second year devastated by a pandemic, most of our sitting groups continued to meet by Zoom and we managed to hold some retreats in person and others as a hybrid or remotely. Well done all of you!

Chas Macquarie
Guiding Sangha President