To ascend the mountain is no mean accomplishment. In Zen we refer to Climbing the Silver Mountain. The surface of the silver mountain is hard and smooth. No way to get a hand-hold or foot-hold. Impossible! But it must be climbed. Another metaphor for transcendence was suggested by Master Wu-men – “If you want to support the gate and sustain the house, You must climb a mountain of swords with bare feet”. Yes, you have to be courageous, determined, and skillful. No hesitation. No holding back. You just do the impossible. You throw yourself away. A teacher in another tradition said that to transcend one’s self is like jumping over your own knees.

A Master of old said, “Training in Zen must be real training, Enlightenment must be real enlightenment”. Such genuine practice and realization is safeguarded through mind-to-mind transmission and validation.

Thank you all for coming to bear witness to this rite of passage of Karin Kempe, Ken Morgareidge and Peggy Sheehan, our sangha and Temple, and the entire school of Zen Buddhism. It is a momentous event that helps to safeguard the existence and continuance of a line of Zen Buddhism that makes it possible for people to rise above narrowness and bring peace to themselves and the world. It is a joyful day! – Today all of the world’s creatures are a little bit happier. Not a good day for Mara. (the forces of ignorance).
Dear Friends,

We are deeply humbled and grateful for your enormous support leading up to and through the Transmission Ceremony.

All the many hands, all the words of encouragement, all the work of showing up — We could not have had such a wonderful day without you - each and every one of you!

We are overwhelmed! Thank you! Peggy, Karin and Ken.

Ananda, Lord Buddha’s long-time personal attendant and monk-disciple, asks Buddha:

“Lord, is it true what has been said, that good spiritual friends are fully half of the holy life?”

The Master replied, “No, Ananda, good spiritual friends are the whole of the holy life. Find refuge in the sangha community”

Dear Sangha,

One of the most satisfying and inspiring things for me regarding the Transmission Ceremony was the generous, wholehearted participation of the sangha in every aspect of the preparations. Over twenty-five members came forward to set up for and rehearse the ceremony helping to make this milestone event a huge success.

Nine bows, Danan
Board of Directors-Call for Nominations

The next Sangha meeting is November 7, 2010 when you will be asked to elect members to the Board of Directors. The number of Directors must be at least six. Up to three additional Directors may be appointed by the Board and/or elected by the membership. The current Board of Directors recommends a larger Board composition to encourage breadth of representation from the Sangha and ease of maintaining a quorum at Board meetings.

The Board now consists of seven Directors:
Francine Campone (elected 11/06, 11/08) - term exp.
Kimball Cicciu (elected 11/09)
Geoff Keeton, Treasurer (elected 11/06, 11/08) - term exp.
Ken Morgareidge, Sensei (appointed 05/10)
Craig Moseley, Vice-President (elected 09/07, 11/09)
Jason Polk (elected 11/08) - not running for 2d term
George Mathews (elected 11/08) - running for 2d term

Directors serve for a term of two years and are limited to two continuous terms in office.

In November, the continuing elected Board Directors will be Kimball and Craig. Ken, Sensei will continue to represent the Spiritual Directorship of the Center.

At the November meeting, the Sangha will elect at least two and as many as six Directors.

A Nominating Committee has been formed, and is now accepting nominations from supporting members. A nominee must be at least 21 years old and a member for at least one year. If you are interested, please notify a member of the committee, or if you wish to nominate someone, likewise notify a member of the committee. No two members of the same family may serve concurrently. The Board must contain a minimum of two men and two women at any given time.

A committee member will contact each nominee to insure their willingness and availability to serve. Not less than 15 days prior to the annual meeting of the Center, the Nominating Committee shall notify all members of their proposed slate of candidates by mail and by means of a notice posted on the Center’s main bulletin board. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the time of the annual meeting of the Center, provided that the nominee is present in person.

Robert Aitken, Roshi, 1917-2010

On Sunday, August 8, we celebrated the life and grieved the loss of our grandfather in the dharma. Aitken, Roshi died August 5, 2010 at the age of 93. His passing stimulated many heartfelt remembrances by those who knew him well or had simply met him in a brief encounter. Roshi’s teachings testify to a life lived well.

Endless Path by Rafe Martin

Rafe's new book, Endless Path: Awakening Within the Buddhist Imagination – Jataka Tales, Zen Practice, and Daily Life, has been published. This book is oriented toward adults, and should be good reading by all of us Zen Practitioners. We are asking for a volunteer sangha member to read the book and write a review of it for the Winter Mountains Talking newsletter. If you are willing, please contact the office.
Calendar Highlights

Seminar
Lay Ordination
Sesshin
Board of Directors
Sangha Meeting
Sesshin Application Deadline
Samu
Lay Ordination
Ceremony of Aid
Talk on the Precepts
Ceremony of Gratitude
Jukai
Sesshin
Buddha's Enlightenment Ceremony
Roshi's Retirement Brunch
New Year's Eve Zazen

New Year's Eve Zazen
There will be zazen from 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm. Refreshments will be shared at 10:00 pm. Following refreshments, those wishing to finish the year at the Center will sit until midnight. This is being done to accommodate those who wish to come for a while and join loved ones at midnight.

2010 Sesshin Dates
October 16-23, Ken, Sensei
November 4-11, Danan, Roshi/Peggy Sensei

2011 Sesshin Dates
April 16-23, Karin, Sensei/Ken, Sensei
ZCD Blue Mountain - tbd - Peggy, Sensei
October 22-29 - Peggy, Sensei, Karin Sensei
December 3-10, Ken, Sensei, Danan, Roshi

2011 Weekend Sesshin
February 18-20, w/Zazenkai, Ken, Sensei
(arrive at 6:00 pm on the 18th; no supper provided)
Deep bows of gratitude to our Sangha members and friends who have already responded to our fundraising campaign “Preserving the Impermanence.” As of August 31, 2010 we received $17,010 in pledges. These pledges will contribute toward the Zen Center of Denver’s financial responsibility of $61,066 to match the 2010 Colorado Historical Society Fund grant award of $183,198. Every one ZCD dollar pledged matches three CHSF grant dollars! Your pledges have achieved 28% of our 2010-2011 goal.

Since our Sangha moved to this temple in 1998 many members have often asked about initiatives, efforts, and drives to secure outside financial support, especially in the form of grant awards, to help us address the operation and maintenance costs of our building. The 2010 CHSF grant reflects years of hard work of ZCD Boards of Directors and sangha leaders to establish a sound case and plan to preserve and maintain our temple home. This foundation was laid soon after the move from Columbine Street with the 2001 Zen Center of Denver Master Plan. In 2004, funding from the CHSF permitted ZCD to contract with Slaterpaull Architects to prepare the Historic Structure Assessment and Preservation Plan. This thick document outlined in detail the priorities and costs necessary to preserve our historic building. The 2010 application for CHSF assistance came directly from the 2004 Plan. The achievement of receiving this 2010 grant is the culmination of over a decade of continuous and consistent vision and perseverance in preparing and submitting applications.

Together we have accumulated tens of thousands of hours of zazen beneath the skylight, chandeliers, and coffered ceiling and within the solid walls of this zendo. Sunshine has poured through the high windows and darkness has sheltered us here. How many breaths in and breaths out? How many Mu’s? How many koans? How much deep, deep silence here, right here, right here in this sacred space? We have been held by this building.

This building, historic and sacred, does not come free. No place we might choose to locate our sangha will come free – not this one, not any other. We have invested our sangha here in this building with vision, planning, stewardship, and faith. 3101 West 31st Avenue is where the Zen Center of Denver is – this is where we are. We hold this building.

Again, we return many thanks to each of you who have supported the campaign “Preserving the Impermanence.” But we have not heard from many of our members and friends. Each of your pledges is importance if the Zen Center of Denver is to meet our grant match responsibilities. Your contributions will build a spiritual and material legacy for the Lotus in the Flame Temple and for Zen practice in the West.

Hands together, we bow.
ZCD Fund Raising Committee
George Mathews, Francine Campone, Kim Cicciu, Susan Kay