

February 11, 2008

Hi David -

What a joy you always are at these big events (and at little ones, too).

I've got a bunch of short bits about life at Tessjira and Zen Center in my head and little by little I'll write them down and send them to you. I'm on the trail of a cheap computer because I'm finally realizing how out-of-the-loop I am by not having one. I don't even type very well! (When I was young, knowing how to type was the passport to mediocrity for a female - at least in my mind - you ended up being some man's secretary. ~~that~~ So I refused to learn).

What interested me was your comment about older Zenries "who were alone - not disabled, not desperate, just alone". Ring a bell with me! So what to do? I'd be willing to join in some project - or what?? What to do? ~~Maybe~~ Maybe many like being alone. Drop in Christian Church-style charity visits don't seem right either. Zen Center's request for our ideas

for "fun activities" at future events really annoyed me. I found that phrase offensive and completely missing the spirit of our practice as I remember it.

What I'd like to see is - a retirement home -!. A building in San Francisco with modest -rent apartments where us old Zenbies could live independently, but be close enough to look after each other a bit. I have no money for buying real estate or donating to such a ~~project~~ scheme, but I could DO something.

I heard Zen Center say, a few years back, that if one had spent 20 years or more being a professional Zennie with Zen Center, then they would take care of one in one's old age. But here are all us non-professionals off doing other work elsewhere and getting old all by ourselves.

Any ideas? I'm willing to join in.

Love to David

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