

ZEN CENTER

Minutes of the Business Meeting of December 7, 1963

Trustees Present: Betty Warren, Jean Ross, Richard Baker.

Members Present: Bill Kwong, Paul Alexander, Margaret and Seiyo Tsuji, Ginny Baker, Mike and Trudy Lixon.

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. The minutes of the business meeting of November second were read and approved.
- 2) Trudy Dixon and Richard Baker reported on a letter from Mr. Lonnie Slider of Charleston, Illinois, who had requested information about becoming a Buddhist. In reply to his letter, we sent him Reverend Susuki's advice to begin practicing meditation on his own in order to become accustomed to the posture, to continue reading and studying Buddhism, and to concentrate on what he is presently engaged in. If ever he finds the opportunity to come to San Francisco, we will be glad to welcome him at the Sokoji temple.
- 3) Reverend Susuki reported on the prospective new temple. He said that next April the city will give information on places available to build the temple, and until then not much can be done except to collect money.
- 4) Jean Ross suggested that the next WindBell should include a notice of the new temple.
- 5) There will be no eleven a.m. lecture on Sunday, December eighth, because of the celebration of Buddha's Enlightenment to be held on that day.
- 6) A financial report for November was made by the treasurer, Richard Baker. He said that only five pledges came in for the month. He mentioned a generous contribution to Zen Center of \$100.00 by Mrs. Loren.
- 7) Betty Warren reminded us of the tradition of presenting a New Year's gift to the Sokoji Temple. Food and supplies are welcome, and cash is especially appreciated.
- 8) Richard Baker read a letter from Mr. Paul G. Vergeer warmly praising the WindBell, but making the helpful suggestion that therein be posted regular notice of coming events. Paul Alexander emphasized the importance of advance notice of special events in particular the large Sokoji Temple celebrations at certain times during the year when regular lectures are cancelled. Also the monthly business meetings should be announced, as well as the February first meeting for the election of new officers. It was also felt that a notice of the

December sesshin should appear in the WindBell.


9) It was decided that the sesshin would be for two and a half days, beginning on the morning of December 27th and ending at noon on December 29th. It was also decided that the sesshin should again be paid for out of Zen Center funds, with the emphasis that contributions to help cover the costs would be appreciated. It was also suggested that it be announced in the WindBell that chairs would be all right in this sesshin for those who wished to use them. A good place for them would be where the piano now sits.

10) We are looking forward to the return of our president, Graham Petchey, who has been in Japan at Eihei-ji monastery for the last three months. He is expected around the middle of December.

11) Jean Ross reported on the four-day sesshin in Los Angeles, which she and the Tsujis attended. They stayed with Dr. Kato and his family. There were some differences from our sesshins: there was no kinhin; there was a greater emphasis on formal personal interviews; there was more free time. There were breaks of one hour in the mornings and in the afternoons; lectures by Bishop Umada were given twice a day, translated by Dr. Kato. A Soto nun was there who was quite helpful; Reverend Katagiri was also there. Some thirty to fifty people attended, and Jean emphasized the good exchange of ideas which occurred in the discussion periods following the lectures. It was felt that further exchanges between the Los Angeles group and our own would be most desirable. The secretary said she would write a letter inviting them to the December sesshin.

12) The meeting was adjourned at eleven a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Trudy Lixon, secretary for Zen Center.