# February News

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## Important Schedule Changes

>The February zazenkai will be held on Saturday, February 16 rather than Sunday, the 17th, and from 4am until noon rather than from 7am to 5pm. The 9:30 – 11am sitting on Saturday, February 16 will be pre-empted by the zazenkai.
>The March zazenkai date has changed from Sunday, March 16 to Sunday, March 23, 7am-5pm.
>The French "Zen Practice Fundamentals" dates have changed to Tuesday evenings, March 25 to April 15, 7:45-9:00.

## small offerings

The ritual elements of a Japanese tea ceremony.

Here is a link to a short piece by Anurag Dhir filmed during from the tea reception of the 3rd Annual 3-Bowl dinner, October, 2007, sponsored by *ascent magazine*.

http://ascentmagazine.com/webExclusive.aspx?WEID=116&page=read&subpage=current&issueID=36

## “Zen Practice Fundamentals”

The Zen Centre has had a full house of twenty for the first two Tuesday evenings of the English “Zen Practice Fundamentals” course. The French course, as noted above, will be held on Tuesday evenings, 7:45 to 9pm, from March 25 to April 15. Experienced practitioners from the Zen Centre make up about half of the participants and newcomers the other half.

## “Sunday afternoons at the Zen Centre”

The Zen Centre is planning a series of Sunday afternoon talks on the Rinzai Zen tradition, to begin in the second half of February and continue on into spring. We will be inviting guests to talk about their experience of formal Zen practice, the relationship of practice to their work, and the impact of Zen on culture, communications and science.

Our first guest, on Sunday, February 24, will be Prof. Victor Sogen Hori from McGill University. Prof. Hori’s talk is entitled “Stages in Zazen Practice”. Prof. Hori trained as a Rinzai Zen monk in Japan for many years before returning to Canada to take up a teaching career.

People are invited to come to the Zen Centre at 2pm for two hours of talk, conversation and light refreshments. Please call or email the Zen Centre to reserve a seat as space is limited. The suggested contribution for each Sunday is $10/$5-students/retired; proceeds will go to the Enpuku-ji Fund. Dates for March talks will be confirmed shortly.

## Wish list

For Zengetsu-an, the country hut:

>an ax for chopping wood
>a small propane tank
>research of efficient wood-burning stoves

For “Sunday afternoons at the Zen Centre”:

>help with preparing refreshments and set-up of the zendo

Many people have come forth in the last months to offer what they’ve seen on the wish list at the Zen Centre and to volunteer to help with all manner of tasks. Four people are regular weekly volunteers, both at the Zen Centre and working from home. Several people have stepped in to help with coverage of the zendo during Myokyo’s travel times. All of your help is much appreciated.

## Important Dates

February 16, Saturday – **Zazenkai**
February 24, Sunday – **“Sunday afternoons at the Zen Centre”**
March 23, Sunday – **Zazenkai**
March 25-April 15, Tuesdays – **French “Zen Practice Fundamentals”**
April 20, Sunday – **Zazenkai**
May 03-07 – **Spring Sesshin**

## Upcoming Events

February 16, Saturday – **Zazenkai**

March 23, Sunday – **Zazenkai**