

# Zen Buddhist Center of Washington, DC

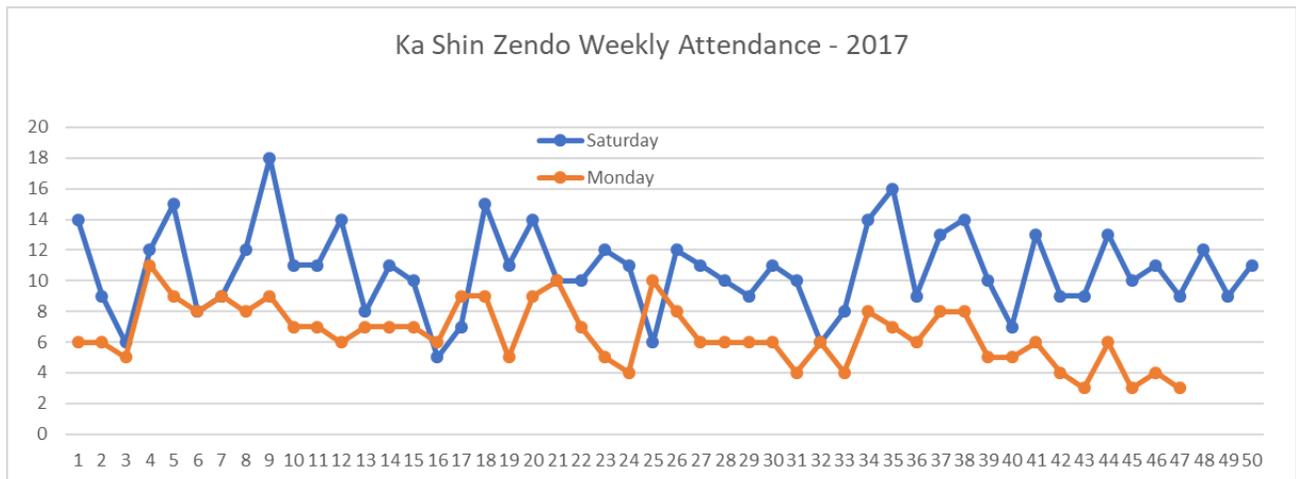
## 2017 Annual Report



We aim to provide a welcoming environment for traditional Zen meditation and we appreciate your participation and donations. To give participants a picture of the overall status of the Zen Buddhist Center of Washington, DC (also known as the Zen Buddhist Sangha of Washington/Ka Shin Zendo), this report summarizes our key activities/events and financial status for the calendar year 2017.

Financial Results. The group had income of \$6,628 and expenses of \$6,836 resulting in a deficit of \$208. Our principal expenses were rent paid to the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church and insurance. The group's bank balance as of December 31, 2017 was \$5,905.

Attendance. Both average and median attendance for Saturday were 11. The comparable values for Monday were 6. There were no significant differences between the average and median values. A graph of weekly attendance is shown below.



Events. In addition to maintaining the regular Monday and Saturday sitting schedules the group held the following events:

- Two all-day retreats (May 20 and November 4) at the church location. Attendance was 14 and 18 participants respectively.
- An off-site weekend retreat (September 15-17) at a mountain location in West Virginia owned by member Su Tan. There were nine participants. We plan on holding more of these in the future.
- Hosted a talk (April 24) by Zen teacher and author Ben Connelly, who discussed his recent book *Inside Vasubandhu's Yogacara*. The group was contacted by Mr. Connelly and agreed to host him.

Other Topics.

- A Board of Directors election was conducted in March 2017.
- The group acquired ten new flat and round cushions that went into use in the Fall of 2017.

- The group now has an online payment option via the Venmo app.
- The Monday sitting faced two challenges during the year. First a very boisterous Cub Scout group started meeting in the room above the library which generated a lot of noise in the zendo. Second the church's main furnace failed in November with a ripple effect that for about a month the group volunteered to meet in the room next door, since the church choir had to practice in the library. These developments probably contributed to the dip in Monday attendance late in the year. Fortunately, as of January 2018 both issues have been resolved.

Thanks to all who participated during 2017 and we look forward to sitting with you in 2018.

*Bruce Bowers, Bruce Exstrum, John McQuaid, Tina Shore, Mike Washkevich*

*Board Members*