Hello Phoenix Heart community --
This update is mainly to share some information for those of us who plan to attend our **annual gathering/*sesshin*** at Hokoji temple (September 15-21). Below, find info on registration for the gathering as well as a couple of updates on Phoenix Heart online activities.

Phoenix Heart gathering at Hokoji (September 15-21)

Register online for the gathering using the registration page on the Hokoji website. The event begins with an informal lunch on Tuesday the 15th, followed by social time, an orientation meeting, and *oryoki* instruction before dinner. Upon arrival, check in with *Ino/ shika* Meg Sousa. She is coordinating the event. If you have questions about the accommodations available at or near the temple, you can email her at meglizsousa@gmail.com.

Volunteer *sesshin* roles will be discussed at the orientation meeting Tuesday evening. If you have your own *oryoki* set, please bring it. Training for volunteer *tenkens* (timekeepers) will be offered on an ad hoc basis by the *Doan* (chief timekeeper). Attendees who miss the orientation and trainings offered on the first night should check in with the *Ino* to arrange for any needed trainings/ refreshers, which can be provided on an ad hoc basis.

Attendees are encouraged to pitch in without ado, regardless of experience or confidence. It takes a whole *sangha* to maintain the envelope of deep practice that is *sesshin*!

If you plan to fly to New Mexico to attend the retreat and would like to try to coordinate transportation to Arroyo Seco from the Albuquerque or Santa Fe airport, please email Phoenix Heart and we'll work together on it.

Hokoji is located a short drive from Taos, at:

> 10 Paw-a-Suki Rd.
> Arroyo Seco, New Mexico, 87514

A note on Phoenix Heart Online Activities

The Formless Way discussion group will continue to meet biweekly on Monday evenings (5:30pm Pacific). It is normally led by Ian Forsberg, but he will be on hiatus until after the September retreat. Until then, discussions will be led on a rotating basis, starting with Jeffrey Compton, who is focusing on Hongzhi's Cultivating the Empty Field.

Also, the Tuesday evening Embracing Mind book study group, led by Andy Acker, will be on hiatus until further notice. See below for the full list of ongoing activities, Zoom links, etc.

Donate to Phoenix Heart

As noted in previous newsletters, in 2024 Phoenix Heart registered with the State of New Mexico as a nonprofit corporation and registered with the Internal Revenue Service. In April 2025 the Board adopted bylaws, enabling it to establish a corporate bank account and begin accepting tax-deductible donations. We are currently raising funds to cover basic organizational expenses and costs for upcoming activities such as the August gathering. The easiest way to donate is the new donation page on the Phoenix Heart website. Use the comment box to

earmark your donation for a specific purpose, make recommendations, or send a brief communication to the Board. *THANK YOU* in advance for your financial support of our community project to let Kobun Chino's formless wisdom continue to radiate forth!

Ongoing Invitation

As with most of us in our individual practice, Phoenix Heart is seeking to realize its true nature. We started as a very loose association of friends and temples who shared respect for Kobun's approach to Zen, as well as a sense that it was difficult to find a spiritual home truly open to such a formless way. When Ian Forsberg created the virtual and temporal space for us to gather, we discovered the will to exist as a community. We have created opportunities to study and practice together, and share a growing sense of dharma in the mutuality of these efforts. Now we feel an urge to articulate this sense.

Therefore, the Practice Committee is inviting participants in Phoenix Heart activities, and anyone intrigued by Kobun's way, to give expression to what Phoenix Heart is or should be. Please contribute a word, a line, an essay, a poem or a song. Anything that might help us articulate what it is that we hope to do.

Ongoing Activities (Zoom links are below, or at phoenixheartsangha.com [bottom of home page as well as on the calendar] — contact Phoenix Heart for more details)

- Kobun's Way of Formless Practice: A Conduit to Ancient Teachings
  Biweekly on Mondays at 5:30pm, Pacific. Next meeting is August 18th.
  Newcomers welcome! Contact Phoenix Heart for class description and study materials
- Embracing Mind Book Study Group (Phoenix Heart Auxiliary Activity, led by Andy Acker**)**
  On hiatus. Normally, weekly on Tuesdays, 6pm - 7:30pm Pacific
- Wednesday Evening Meditation (Phoenix Heart Kindred Activity by Myokoji Temple)
  Wednesdays, 6:30pm - 7:45pm Pacific
  Open invitation from Myokoji to Phoenix Heart and others interested in Zen and Metta. Zoom sessions begin with 30-40 minutes or silent meditation followed by discussion led by Jeffrey Compton. On the last Wednesday of each month the class includes a session of *metta* (loving-kindness) practice.
- Monthly Practice Committee Meetings (Phoenix Heart Activity)
  Next meeting: Saturday August 15th, 9am - 10:15am Pacific (10am Mountain). The Practice committee provides guidance to the Board on existential issues, priorities, and opportunities and formats for group practice. People with an interest in practice forms or opportunities are welcome.
- Monthly Board of Directors Meetings (Phoenix Heart Activity)
  Usually the Monday following a meeting of the Practice Committee, unless it conflicts with Monday discussion group.
  Next meeting: Monday August 24th, 5:30pm - 6:30pm Pacific (6:30pm Mountain). Agendas may be downloaded from the relevant calendar entry on the Phoenix Heart website. People with an interest in helping to plan and implement Phoenix Heart activities and policies are encouraged to attend.

Email phoenixheart.sangha@gmail.com to comment on or unsubscribe from this newsletter.