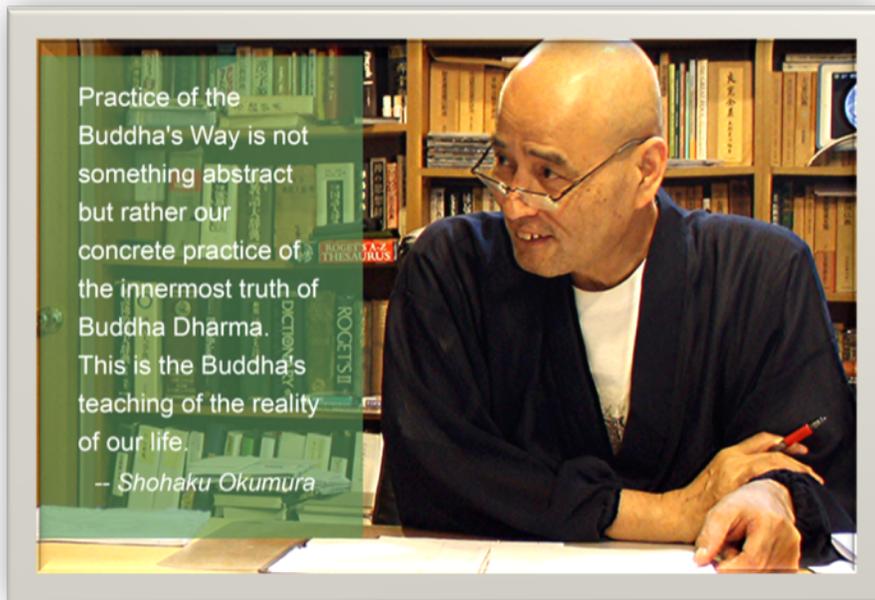


STILLPOINT 2018 FALL SESSHIN WITH SHOHAKU OKUMURA-ROSHI



Dear Friends in the Dharma:

August 24, 2018

As many of you know, Shohaku Okumura-Roshi will be in Pennsylvania in November to once again lead our annual Fall Stillpoint retreat.

Okumura-Roshi has an incredibly busy international traveling and lecturing schedule this year, but he has graciously committed to including us on his schedule and leading us for our fall retreat on **November 15-18, 2018**. The retreat will be held at the Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center which has hosted us for several years (<https://www.vmesec.org>). Villa Maria is located about fifty miles north of Pittsburgh. Especially if you are coming from out of town, we are encouraging you to arrive on the evening of Thursday November 15th when we will have a light dinner and orientation re meditation hall protocols.

We are very happy with this Center for our retreat. It is a fine facility, rather large, which means that there probably will be other groups at the complex; however past experience has been that we will be away from the “madding crowd.” We will maintain silence in the middle of a perhaps not so silent environment. This year we will be housed in Potier Center, the building next to Begel Hall where we stayed last year. The rooms in Potier Center have either one twin bed, two twin beds or a single queen sized bed, but each of the rooms has a private bath and shower.

We will not be preparing our own meals since the food service has an exclusive provider agreement with Villa Maria. The cost is very reasonable even if we request a special menu at a 20% surcharge, which we think we should in order to ensure a vegetarian menu.

Okumura-Roshi is the Abbott and head teacher at Sanshin-ji in Bloomington, Indiana (<http://www.sanshinji.org>), a Zen community which he founded over a decade ago. He has travelled widely throughout Asia, Europe and South America, as well as various retreat centers in the USA sharing the Dharma, and is one of the world's foremost scholars of Dogen Zenji's teachings, as well as being a dedicated life-long practitioner of those teachings.

Okumura-Roshi has led numerous Stillpoint retreats here in Pittsburgh since 1996 and has provided inspirational spiritual guidance to our community for many years. He has a very special connection with our sangha, and we are very fortunate that he wishes to continue his annual retreats with us despite the many competing demands on his time.

We are sending this first notice and application form as attachments via e-mail to past attendees and to subscribers on the Stillpoint Notes List. If you know of anyone who might be interested in attending but is not on our mailing list, please forward this e-mail to them. Please download the attached application form and send it to the listed address with your check as soon as you can. If you would like to have a hard copy of the application form sent to you, please let us know by replying to this e-mail.

Please let us know as soon as possible whether you will be attending. You can reach us at the following if you have any questions. Please note: The deadline for reservations which assures you of a room is **October 17, 2018**.

Many bows

Mickey Lydon: micklydon@comcast.net (412-417-0004)

Carrie Roberto: carolineroberto@comcast.net (412-551-9069)