



Bloom of the Present Insight Meditation • *bloomofthepresent.org*

---

QUARTERLY MESSAGE FROM  
BLOOM OF THE PRESENT INSIGHT MEDITATION  
GUIDING CIRCLE  
November 2017

Dear Sangha Members,

We are reaching (almost) the end of a very full year for Bloom of the Present (BOTP) and find ourselves reflecting on our accomplishments and our longer view for the future.

The July nature retreat was a great success and, back in August, when the Guiding Circle had their annual day-long retreat, one of the conclusions we came to was the need to emphasize Carla's special gift for nature-based practice, both in BOTP curriculum and our outreach. We still need to develop this theme but stay tuned in the coming year.

Since September, Carla has been spreading her wings, offering Monday, Wednesday and Friday classes, dharma talks at Ocean Gate Zen Center Thursday evenings, Meditation with the Redwoods, a new year long Noble Path Program, a November Commit-to-Sit program, as well as teaching at ISC and Spirit Rock. We are indeed so lucky and so grateful to have a full time teacher so dedicated to sharing the dharma. Thank you, Carla!!

The Community Service Committee has been very active these past months and has successfully set up a pick-up schedule of items to be donated to the Farmworkers Families. Thank you Nancy, Val, Robin, Char and Dale. Right now they're planning our annual Christmas Party for Farmworkers Families in Watsonville, December 17. Hope to see you there. All in all, this has strengthened our relationship with the Center for Farmworkers Families and we're very happy that BOTP can provide this kind of support.

Volunteering is definitely one way for us to practice generosity and we'd like to welcome Alice Tarail who is our new Volunteer Coordinator and will help us to coordinate our needs as an organization with potential helpers. Right now BOTP is looking for someone with computer skills to assist Carla with the web page, which she manages pretty much by herself! Very soon we will lose one of our precious volunteers, Marie Brayman, who has singlehandedly handled our publicity for many years. Good luck, Marie, on your new adventure and a huge bow for your dedicated service.

If you feel you have the time and the skills to help out with those tasks, please contact Alice at: [alicer@cruzio.com](mailto:alicer@cruzio.com).

Pledging financial support to one's sangha is another way of practicing generosity. With the aim of strengthening BOTP financial base, the Guiding Circle is planning a Pledge Drive coming up soon and, as always, we are so ever grateful for your continued support.

Finally, we hope that the dharma and BOTP are providing you with a place of refuge and ease during these troubled times. May you experience warmth, joy and kindness throughout the Holiday Season.

With Metta to all,  
*Isabelle Rosenlund, Chair, and the Guiding Circle.*