Creating a More Accessible and Accommodating Refuge for Practice
The Jizo Project is an initiative to make Zen Mountain Monastery more welcoming by ensuring that our buildings and grounds are more accessible and accommodating for everyone.

At its heart, this journey is quite simple: to see deeply into reality and bring forth compassion—to care for all people and all creation.

— Geoffrey Shugen Arnold Roshi, Abbot

Fulfilling Our Vows: Taking Care of the Sangha Treasure

The Jizo Project will provide for:

- A lift from our ground floors to 2nd floor zendo
- Construction of a new Jizo House
- Other accessibility improvements

Together we’ll make the Jizo Project a reality!
Lift Construction

Helping People Come and Practice

Many of our sangha elders and other people with mobility issues find the narrow hallways and steep stairways in the building challenging. The Jizo Project will provide for a lift from the ground floor to our zendo, or meditation hall, on the second floor.

Main building wheelchair accessibility:
- Lift will go from the 1st floor common area to the 2nd floor zendo
- Wheelchair access on 1st and 2nd floor
- Rebuilt guest room and bath for improved accessibility

Students speak of wanting to continue to train throughout their lives. What a wonderful aspiration!

— Geoffrey Shugen Arnold, Roshi
The Jizo Project will also replace the existing Jizo House structure, a building that is at the end of its life, and build a larger, modern building in its place. This new construction will significantly expand our accommodations for residents and retreat participants whose needs are not met in the Main Building dormitories.

New Jizo House features:

- 4800 sq feet (including 1800 sq. ft. finished basement)
- Green, low-impact building
- 7 rooms each with sink and two single beds (no bunkbeds)
- 1 room with sinks and four single beds (no bunkbeds)
- End-of-life room for monastics
- Three full bathrooms
- Main floor will be wheelchair accessible
- Beautiful multipurpose room with cathedral ceiling
- Infirmary space for people who are ill
- Expanded dye studio & statuary production facilities in well-ventilated basement
Support our Monastic Tradition

In the MRO, monastics and lay practitioners train side by side. Our lay practitioners depend upon our monastics to keep our practice centers running smoothly, and monastics rely upon lay practitioners to make their life of monasticism possible. The monastics live in simple cabins on the hill that are not adequate when they reach the end of their life or during periods of serious illness. The new Jizo House will include end-of-life quarters designed to provide comfort and support to monastics as they enter into their final days.

The end-of-life room is one small way that the sangha can express its gratitude for the lives our monastics have given.

— Seien Wilder, Lay Student

End-of-life quarters:

- Private, external entrance (double glass doors)
- Opens up to patio area
- Wheelchair accessible
- Adjacent to wheelchair accessible bathroom
- Air-conditioning, well-ventilated
- Will also serve as infirmary space
The Jizo Project will also:

- Create greater residency and practice opportunities for elder sangha members and people with physical disabilities.
- Provide spaces for people who identify outside the gender binary and whose needs aren’t met by our male and female dorm rooms.
- Help manifest the values of our other sangha initiatives:
  * Beyond Fear of Differences—Equity, diversity and inclusion
  * The Earth Initiative—Sustainability and climate action
  * The Diamond Net—Community support for sangha in need
  * Dharma Action —Grassroots organizing for social justice
- Benefit all retreat participants through expanded and improved facilities.

The Zen teachings are steeped in reverence for the natural world, a legacy we are committed to upholding. We are designing and constructing the new Jizo House to minimize negative impacts on our environment and to create and maintain harmony with the mountain.

**Jizo House green design features:**

- Energy supplied without fossil fuels
- Powered by solar panels and green electricity
- Superior insulation
- Thermal windows
- Separate heating zones
Why We Are Fundraising

MRO Financial Health

We support our work primarily through income from retreats, residencies, student dues and the Monastery Store. Each year we conduct a year-end holiday dana appeal, and also receive periodic unsolicited gifts. Our income covers our ongoing operating expenses and most years we are left with a modest surplus that we apply towards important investments in our facilities and grounds. For major work, such as capital improvements, we engage in special fundraising efforts such as the Jizo Project.

Our healthy finances enable important infrastructure investments. Recent investments include a new solar panel array, construction of a garden green house, major kitchen renovation, ongoing bathroom renovation and construction, electrical upgrading and paying down the mortgage on the Zen Center of New York City.

Without this major fundraising effort, we would not be able to continue with important ongoing improvements like these.

Our fundraising goal is $1.2 million, the estimated cost of the Jizo Project.
Thank You for Your Gift

Make a gift: Donate online at our website (zmm.org/jizoproject) or complete the donation form and mail a check in the attached envelope. We can also accept donations in the form of equity shares.

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We hope to break ground in Fall 2019 and complete the Jizo Project by 2020, our 40th anniversary.

For more information and to follow our progress:
zmm.org/jizoproject

The jewel of community, the Sangha, is to be held equal to the Buddha and the Dharma. Indeed, the whole of the holy life is fulfilled through spiritual friendship.

—The Buddha