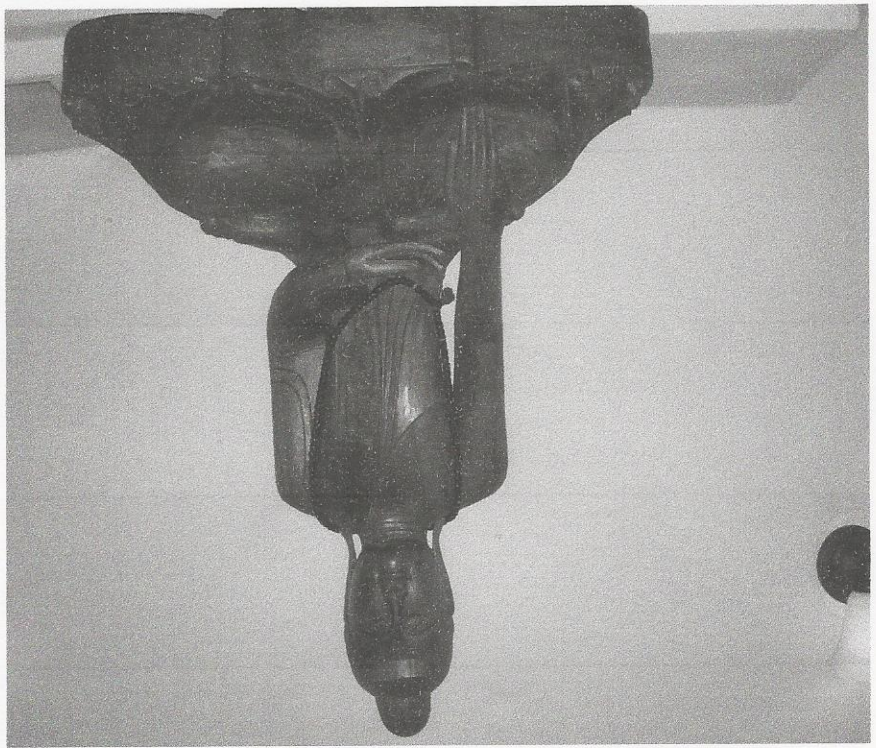


# - Touching The Earth -

Newsletter for The Detroit Street Zen Center – Vol. 1

No.1



This is the first issue of the newsletter of the Detroit Street Zen Center, Total Dynamic Functioning Zen Temple. It is devoted to the true transmission of the teachings and to the authentic teacher disciple transmission that has occurred throughout Buddhist history. Total Dynamic Functioning Zen Temple or Zenkigenji has Dainin Katagiri-roshi and Harada sekkei-roshi as its founders. In this issue and the issues that follow, there will be talks by Harada sekkei-roshi who is the present Abbott of Hossheiji Monastery in Obama Japan and Katagiri-roshi who was the Abbott of the Minnesota Zen Center until his

death in 1990. The other topics of the newsletter will be focusing mainly on the teachings of Eihei Dogen, the founder of Soto Zen and as well as topics on Zen in everyday life. In the Fukanzazengi, Dogen says, "Please, honored followers of Zen. Long accustomed to groping for the elephant, do not be suspicious of the true Dragon." This is a story from the Shinshi ryaku, which Dogen used as a metaphor for the situation in Japan at that time, when the true transmission of the Dharma had been only partial, yet had seemed authentic and real to the practitioners because they had never encountered the true Dharma. He encouraged them that now that the true Dharma had arrived, not to doubt it. We should have this same intent, to follow our deep questioning of the true Dharma, of realizing and verifying it and therefore transmitting it to future generations. We should not hesitate to deeply question its authenticity.

In gassho,  
Yuko Conniff  
Resident priest