



*North Star Dharma Refuge*



Looking into common room from the entryway. Meditation hall is through the double doors on the right.





Looking into the meditation hall. (My sister kindly made the haiseiki.)



Altars in the meditation hall. (A description of the altars and their components can be found at <http://northstardharma.org/orientation.htm> )





Winter is hard on birds, so I like to give them a little help. (They can really Hoover up the sunflower seeds!)



Gracie, one of a pair of temple cats, enjoying a spot of warm sunshine. She was sitting on my doorstep on a -10F morning in the winter of 2016. I invited her in and she's stayed ever since.





Tom at his favorite winter spot: hugging the radiant heater...

We have some pretty impressive lightning storms here in the Midwest. I stood in my front doorway one evening and recorded this: [northstardharma.org/Lightning-Storm.mp4](http://northstardharma.org/Lightning-Storm.mp4)

(Clicking the link should launch the video into your browser's media player. You can also right-click on the link and save the file to your computer (it's about 6Mb).)





Storm brewing to the northwest.

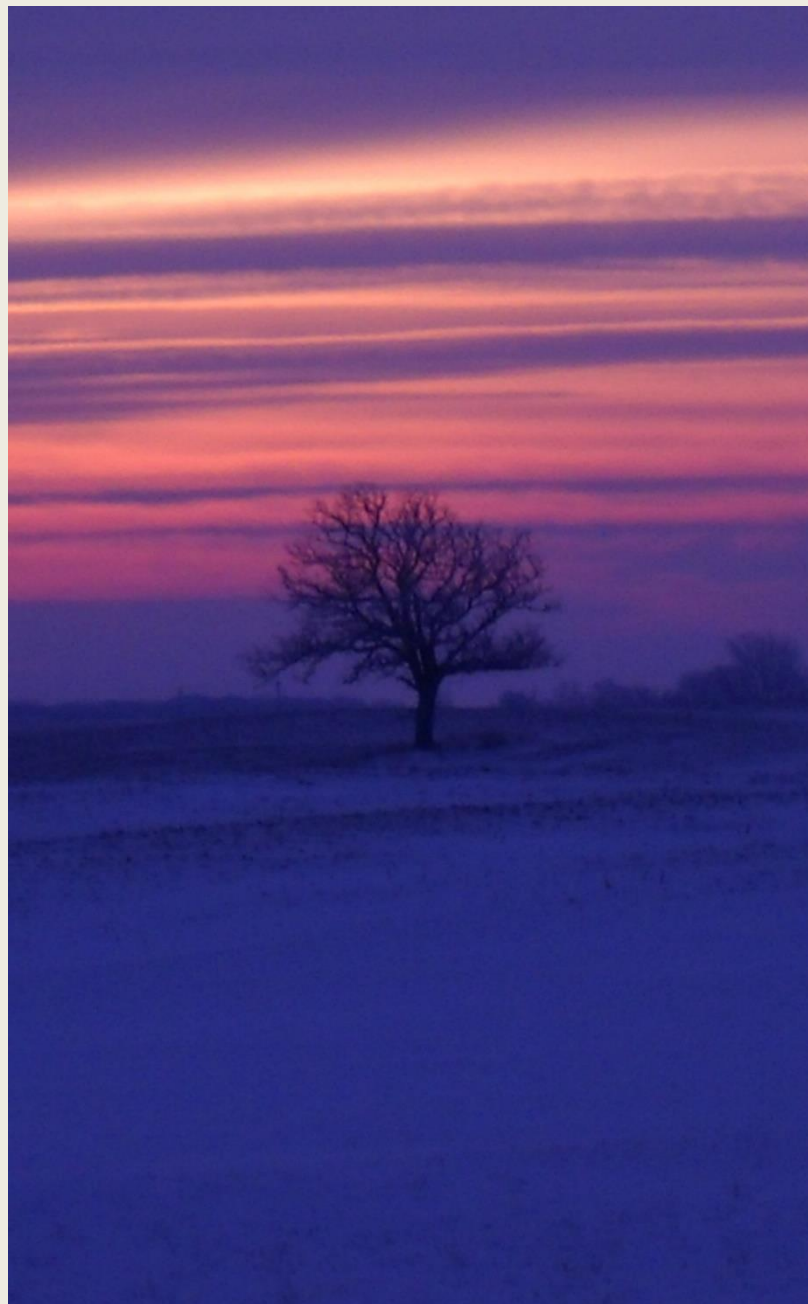


Looking west down the gravel road in front of the temple.





Moonrise, summer 2016.



Lone oak tree standing sentinel in field east of the temple.