

June 2012

SHINGI

Newsletter of the Tendai Buddhist Institute


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Jushoku's Meanderings

On a recent Wednesday evening, for the second half of the meditation period, I rang the large rin (temple gong) near the taiko (drum).

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June Events Calendar



Weekly Meditation Services (WMS) are on Wednesday evenings. They begin at 6pm with a discussion or talk (see below for this month's discussion topics). At about 7pm there is a meditation service, followed at 8pm by a potluck supper. All of Wednesday evening's events are open to the public. There is no fee, and reservations are not required.

June Wednesday Meditations and Discussions

6 Buddhism and the Beats - There is little argument that the Beats, Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, et. al. were a strong influence in re-introducing the Buddhadharma to the West in the 1950's thru 70's. It should also be said that the Buddhadharma helped fashion the thinking of those same creative spirits. We will examine the relationship of the Beats to Western Buddhadharma. Two online articles can be found at the following links if you would like to examine some elements of the subject before the discussion.

<http://www.beatdom.com/?p=483>

http://www.realitysandwich.com/beats_remember_tea

13 Q&A - Stump the Sensei - Do you have any questions about the Buddhadharma about which you have not found a satisfactory answer? Write down the question and bring it with you. There are no 'too simple' or involved questions. Sensei will do his best to answer in a way that at least sheds light on the issue.

20 Lead by Koki - The Wisdom Division of the Eightfold Noble Truth- Koki will introduce and discuss the first two of the Eightfold Noble Path, Right Understanding and Right Thought. .

[Tendai International](#)[Glossary of Terms](#)[Contact Jushoku
Monshin Naamon](#)[Contact Editor](#)**Our Other Sangha:**[Blue Mountain Sage
Sangha--Denver, CO](#)[Celestial Drum
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NY](#)[California Tendai
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VA](#)[Nagado Sangha--
Springfield, MA](#)[Nishi Sangha--
Albany, NY](#)[Red Maple Sangha--
Renfrew, Ottawa,
Canada](#)

27 Lead by Sansho - The Five Skandhas. The Sanskrit word skandha means "heap" or "aggregate." Shakyamuni Buddha taught that an individual is a combination of five aggregates of existence, called the Five Skandhas. A very important concept that helps us understand the basis of the Buddhadharmā.

Other events in June:**2 Sutra Class and Morning Service, 8:30 - 10:30 AM - Vajrachedika Prajnaparamita Sutra (The Diamond Sutra).**

It is one of the earliest Mahayana sutras and is considered by many scholars as foundational to subsequent Mahayana thought. Don't miss this enjoyable class. Please obtain the following book for this class - *The Diamond Sutra: transforming the way we perceive the world*, by Mu Soeng; Wisdom Publications (2000).

16 Introduction to Buddhism , 1 - 4 PM. This short class is intended to give a brief introduction to the Buddhadharmā. Koki Bower will discuss the way Buddhists perceive the world, the main teachings of the historical Buddha, the goals of Buddhism, it's rich history and the ways in which it addresses contemporary issues. The class is open and free to the public..

Notes

Volunteers needed - The Sangha Annex renovation is coming along right on schedule. We are at the point when we need people to paint, rake gravel and other tasks as we supplement the professionals' skills doing the construction. Please contact Koki with skills you might offer (no special skills - no problem - time to learn) and your availability. Ask about jobs to be done and when we need people. This is a great way to contribute to Tendai Buddhist Institute, and by extension, the Dharma.

Shumon is in her second month of the two-month training on Mt. Hiei. Monshin did receive a brief letter from Shumon to let everyone know she is well. There are 26 gyo participants. This is considered a large class for a spring gyo. There are 20 men and 6 women. We have sent a package of snacks from the sangha to all the participants and the instructors. Shumon will return at the very end of June. The first Wednesday that Shumon is back in the States is July 4th. We will not have a meditation service that evening. Please join us on July 11th to welcome Shumon back. May we continue to remember her daily in our dedication of merit.

Buddhist Movie Night - In June we will have our first Buddhist Movie night (afternoon?) with a showing of two outstanding films. The first is the visually stunning Korean film, *Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter... and Spring* (2003). This film takes place on an isolated lake, where an old monk lives in a small floating temple. The wise master has a young boy with him that he teaches to become a monk. We watch as seasons and years pass by. Director: Ki-duk Kim. We will also be seeing the revealing comedy, *The Cup* (1999) 93 min - While the soccer World Cup is being played in France, two young Tibetan refugees arrive at a monastery/boarding school in exile in India. Its atmosphere of serene contemplation is somewhat disrupted by soccer fever, the chief instigator being a young student, the soccer enthusiast Orgyen. (film summaries from IMDB)

Food Pantry at Jiunzan Tendai-ji - The number of families who now depend on the food pantry has grown as a direct result of the continued economic recession. There are fewer and fewer resources going to more and more people. Please bring non-perishable food items to the Tendai Buddhist Institute on Wednesdays. We contribute these items to the Chatham Silent Food Pantry.

Meanderings (cont. from side bar at left)



The instructions for the meditation were to focus the mind. When a thought entered your consciousness don't chase it away, instead examine it without discrimination and at the sound of the rin, allow it to dissipate with the delicate sound. During this meditation I could see the smoke from the incense on the goma-don (Goma altar) float gently up in intricate, ephemeral patterns above the rin.

My first impulse was to ignore the visual effect and stay with the instructions I had given. Then on second impulse I allowed the patterns of the smoke to become a visual cue to my thoughts - dissolving, as the incense smoke drifted until no longer discernible. This was magic. After a very short time my mind seemed to burn away discursive thoughts, much as the incense burned until the substance is no more, only the traces of subtle patterns remained.

Meditation is a dynamic that requires our very best attention. Allow the mind to unfold from its conscious patterns and reveal its true nature without preconceived notions of like and dislike, right and wrong. If you are observant to the possibilities and use best intention, discipline and mindfulness allow the moment to suggest the most effective way to spend your time on the cushion.

Gassho . . . Monshin



The Third Jewel--Where sangha members share ideas, poetry, and art to enrich everyone's Buddhist practice.

Walking Meditation by Seiyo Erica Fay



On April 29th the Colorado Tendai Sangha held a Dokorodo - hiking meditation going up the Flatirons in Boulder. I was able to join them while visiting family nearby. The Blue Mountain Sage Sangha meets in Denver with a once-a-month walking meditation practice, this one held in Boulder. Pictured are L-R Fumi & Nobuko Komura from Japan, Joe from Connecticut, and the fearless leader Doko Chris O'Brien who leads the Sangha. Fumi & Joe have both visited the Tendai Institute in Caanan, NY as they are interested in studying with Monshin for ordination. Both are in the Masters program in Buddhist Studies at Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado. It was a pleasure to join them for this practice.
Seiyo Erica Fay

Susan's Altar by Susan Onyou Bues



Not an altar, really, just a little corner of my desk where a jolly bodhisattva sits to remind me to smile and not take myself so seriously. Susan Onyou Bues

Call for material: Please send the Shingi photographs, artwork, poems, book reviews, articles, etc. that you have created that you consider an outgrowth of your Buddhist practice or that you think reflect Buddhist themes, ideas, questions, etc. If submitting an image, you may wish to include a short statement sharing some of your thoughts to

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Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Contact . . .

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