



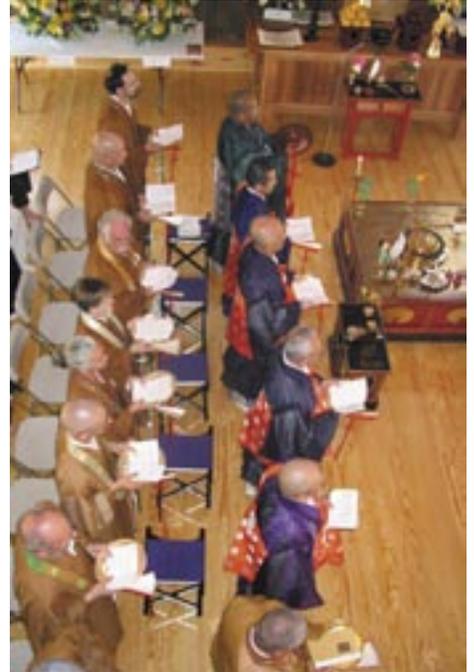
TENDAI BUDDHIST INSTITUTE
SHINGI

Monthly Bulletin
Tendai-shu New York Betsuin
Karuna Tendai Dharma Center

PO Box 323
Canaan, NY 12029 USA
518-392-7963
Tendai@msn.com
www.tendai.org

Jushoku's Meanderings

JUNE 25th was a joyful and historic occasion. We consecrated the main hall, Jiunzan Tendai-ji, performed eye opening rituals for our new Dengyo Daishi (Saicho) statue and Yakushi Nyorai (Healing Buddha) honzon (image), and celebrated our tenth anniversary. Altogether about 350 people joined us in this celebration. In addition to the 250 people from the States we were joined by over 100 people from Japan, including over 30 monks, and many prestigious leaders. Some of these dignitaries were as follows: Kobori-Gomonshu, President of the Jigyodan and Oshima-sensei, Shitsujicho (Executive Administrator) at Sanzenin Temple in Kyoto. Gomonshu is an abbot of a Monzeki Temple. Morisada-shigyo, the Executive Director of Enryakuji and Kobayashi-fukushigyo Vice Director of Enrakyuji. Kanda-Gomonshu of Kaneiji Temple, the Eastern head temple for Tendai-shu. Nishioka-sensei, Chancellor of Tendai-shu, and Sugitani-sensei, the Chairman of the Jigyodan. There were many other notables we might mention, including a number of Daisojo. A full list of the dignitaries is available.



The Rakkei-shiki was an historic occasion for more than one reason. First, the Tendai Buddhist Institute is the first Betsuin in North America and the ceremony was the first Tendai ceremony of its kind in the Americas. Second, along with the dignitaries and monks from Japan there were about a dozen non-Japanese Doshu and Betsuin Soryo who processed with the Japanese and participated in the ceremony. All of these people had trained in America. That was the first time in Tendai history that non-Japanese Tendai monks, trained in the States, conducted a ceremony with their Japanese colleagues. Third, in addition to the Doshu and Betsuin Soryo who have learned and practiced shomyo (a characteristic chanting of hymns normally performed by monks), a group of about ten lay people chanted along with their Japanese co-religionists in both English and Japanese.

This summer was a time to perform ceremonies, acknowledge the many donations and blessings we have received and express our gratitude to everyone who has worked to create a true Tendai Buddhist sangha in the United States. The renovation and ceremonies were intended to coincide with the 1,200 year anniversary of the founding of Tendai in Japan by Dengyo Daishi (Saicho). A question asked during the consecration is why is it important to have such a magnificent new hondo, other than logistic reasons. The answer is simple – to fulfill our vision. With this in mind we need to ask what the vision is for Tendai Buddhist Institute in the next ten years.

Our vision comes from the first two lay vows. First and foremost is not to commit violence. We are therefore first dedicated to peace. Peace in the world, our nation, our institutions, and in our families. Second we take the vow to avoid misappropriation and exploitation of time, people and money. This is a direct reference to not stealing, and by extension to be involved in issues of social justice. These two vows will manifest in a number of ways to be discussed later. Further, as we have noted in the past, Yakushi Nyorai is our honzon. Our choice of the Medicine Buddha was a reflection of our desire to devote ourselves to the healing of our nation's wounds. We will actively work to heal our nation and the world from the violence and exploitation that has become a way of life in the post modern era.

Our renovated hondo provides us with an opportunity to renew our vision. Thank you Jigyodan and Tendai-shu for providing our new building and encouraging our visions.



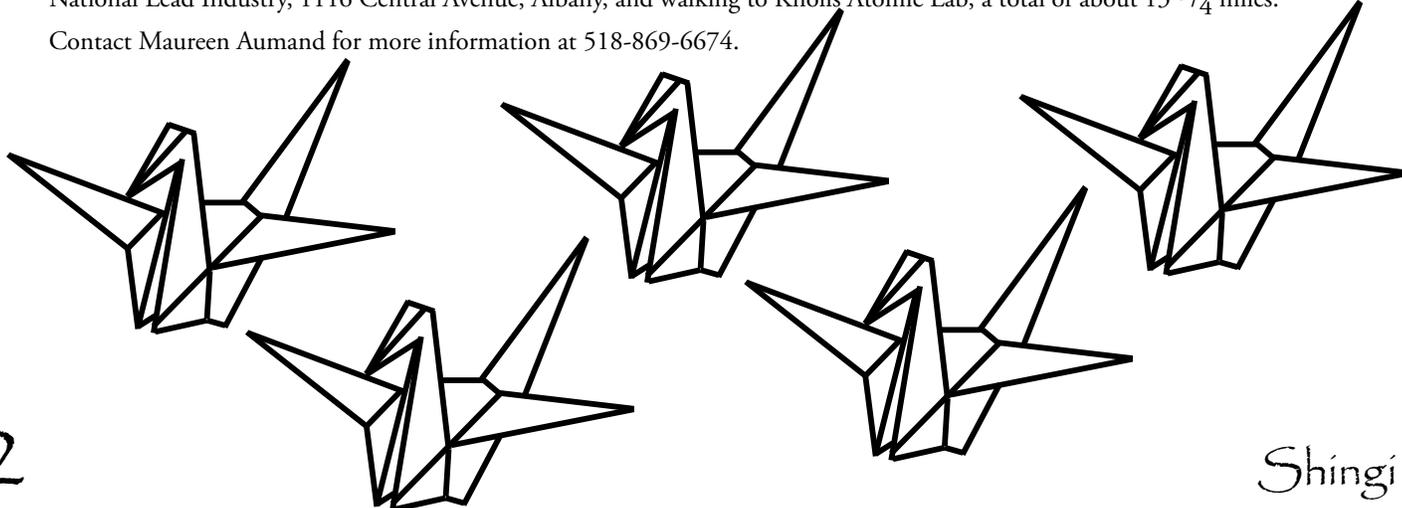
Jiunzan Tendaiji

❖ August Events

- 3 The Foundations of Peace
- 10 Integration of Sacred and Secular
- 17 Mikkyo's (esoteric practices) place in Buddhism
- 24 Sangha as Community
- 28 Mahasangha Sunday 11:00 AM - Meditation Service and Potluck Lunch
- 31 Interfaith Prayers for Peace at Darrow School – Join us! There will be no Meditation Service at Jiunzan Tendaiji.

Mahasangha News

- ❖ There will be a refuge ceremony (jukai) coming up in October for those who are interested in making a commitment to following the Buddha path. We will have a one-day retreat that is required for all those interested in taking refuge this autumn. Let the leaders of your sangha know if you are interested in taking refuge at this time.
- ❖ We are initiating the Mahasangha Day in August, which will be a monthly event to provide members of all the area sanghas, as well as other interested people, an opportunity to participate in regular meditation at Jiunzan Tendaiji. The meditation will be followed by a potluck lunch. Many who find it difficult to attend on Wednesday evenings have expressed interest in a regular weekend meditation period. We are looking for the time that is best for everyone. In August we will hold the first Mahasangha Day Meditation on the 28th at 11 a.m. Is earlier or later in the day better? Let us know.
- ❖ With our new facility comes new opportunity and new responsibility. This is a great chance to be more involved in the activities that will be taking place at the Tendai Buddhist Institute. Especially important is keeping our web site up to date, and putting new material on the site. This does not require technical expertise as much of it is writing and editing. Let us know if you can take on some of this work.
- ❖ This summer's ten-day gyo was completed late this year due to the timing of the Rakkei-shiki. Two people, Koyo Susan Spang and Sansho Tamarck Garlow, took Doshu ordination. Thank you to all the sangha. You contribute a great deal to the flourishing of Tendai Buddhism in the West by supporting this important work of training the leaders.
- ❖ On Friday, August 5, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., the Chatham Peace Initiative will hold an educational/cultural event in memory of those who died in the bombings of Hiroshima on August 5, 1945 and of Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. The community is invited to join in the making of origami peace cranes under a tent on the Village Green. The cranes have become an international symbol of peace. Expert origami makers will be there to teach others. Adults and children alike are welcome. At 3 p.m. there will be a reading from the story of *Sadako and the Thousand Cranes*. At 7 p.m. the day will end with a moment of silence and a closing ceremony led by the Ven. Monshin Naamon of the Karuna Tendai Dharma Center in Canaan. Throughout the day strings of peace cranes will be taken to shops and establishments in the village who wish to participate by hanging them in their windows. Participants are also welcome to take cranes home or share them with their friends and family.
For information about the Chatham Peace Initiative check www.chathampeace.org or call 518-392-9477.
- ❖ The Grafton Peace Pagoda will sponsor the Hibakusha Peace Project on Friday, August 12, 7:30 p.m., and an Intefaitth Prayer Service at 8:15 p.m. An Interfaith Pilgrimage for Peace will be held the following day, Saturday, August 13, at 9 a.m., beginning at National Lead Industry, 1116 Central Avenue, Albany, and walking to Knolls Atomic Lab, a total of about 13 ³/₄ miles.
Contact Maureen Aumand for more information at 518-869-6674.



Higashi Tendai Sangha

❖ *August Discussion Topics*

- 1 Perfecting Our Journey: The Six Paramitas
 - 8 Meditation: Mind Looking at Mind
 - 15 Nagarjuna and the Middle Way
 - 22 Buddhism and Shinto
 - 29 Pot Luck Wisdom. The Eightfold Path - Led by Regi Wingo
- ❖ Two Higashi members attended this year's gyo: Myotai Dan LeBlanc and Sansho Tamarack Garlow. Sansho completed three years of training and was ordained at the Doshu level, receiving his wages and robe.
- ❖ After a long period of excellent work as project manager and successful completion of the new hondo at Jiunzan Tendaiji, Dan LeBlanc along with Jessica Mayer embarked on a two week vacation.
- ❖ Regi Wingo, who works full time with Tamarack, has become a new and valued member of Higashi Sangha. Regi lives in Housatonic, Ma. with his wife Rosie and 8 month old Athena. He will try his hand at leading the Pot Luck Wisdom night at the end of August.

Ekayana Tendai Sangha



- ❖ After completing their third doshu gyo Kosho Jochen Wach and Daishin Joachim Willfahrt arrived safely at home. They want to express their gratitude to all the senseis and gyojas. In August there will be no program at Nyoirin-An of Ekayana Tendai Sangha because of the holiday season.”

(Photo Left) Honzon Nyoirin Kannon at Ekayana Tendai Sangha.

Danish Lotus Sangha

- ❖ Shoken Pia Trans, a former Nichiren teacher in Denmark, attended her first doshu gyo this summer at the Tendai Buddhist Institute. She leads our first Tendai Sangha in Denmark with an active schedule.

❖ *August Activities*

Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. Meditation and study

Thursdays at 9.30 a.m. Meditation and dharma talk

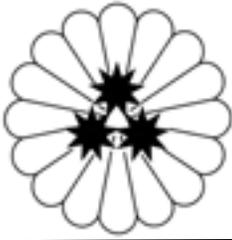
22 – 28 Summer Retreat, lead by Jim Wilson *aka* DharmaJim

28 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Meditation

Nishi Tendai Sangha

❖ *August Discussion Topics*

- 2 The Three Vehicles
 - 9 Basic Buddhism
 - 16 Hogo
 - 23 Five Classic Meditations
 - 30 Refuge
- ❖ Nishi Sangha congratulates Koyo Susan Spang on her Doshu Tokudo. Many members of Susan's family and several friends were on hand at KTDC for the ordination on July 13, the first ordination in our new hondo. Susan has shown great perseverance and dedication in attaining this goal. We know she will continue to be an inspiration to members of our sangha as she takes her place as a sangha leader.
- ❖ Nishi Sangha meets every Tuesday evening at 6:00 pm at 727 Madison Avenue in Albany. Please join us—and bring a friend!



August 2005

Tendai Buddhist Institute

Tendai-shu New York Betsuin and Karuna Tendai Dharma Center www.tendai.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1 Higashi Sangha Meditation Service</p>	<p>2 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service</p>	<p>3 Jiunzan Tendaiji Meditation Service</p>	<p>4 <i>New Moon</i></p>	<p>5 Chatham Peace Initiative</p>	<p>6 Morning Service 8:30 am Survey of Buddhism Class 9 am</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>8 Higashi Sangha Meditation Service</p>	<p>9 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Mediation and Study</p>	<p>10 Jiunzan Tendaiji Meditation Service</p>	<p>11 Danish Lotus Sangha Mediation and Dharma Talk</p>	<p>12 Yakushi Nyorai Day <i>First Quarter</i></p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>15 Higashi Sangha Meditation Service</p>	<p>16 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Mediation and Study</p>	<p>17 Jiunzan Tendaiji Meditation Service</p>	<p>18 Danish Lotus Sangha Mediation and Dharma Talk Chih-i Memorial Day</p>	<p>19 <i>Full Moon</i></p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p>	<p>22 Higashi Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Summer Retreat through August 28</p>	<p>23 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Mediation and Study</p>	<p>24 Jiunzan Tendaiji Meditation Service</p>	<p>25 Danish Lotus Sangha Mediation and Dharma Talk</p>	<p>26 <i>Last Quarter</i></p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 Jiunzan Tendaiji Mahasangha Meditation Danish Lotus Sangha Mediation Service Summer Retreat concludes</p>	<p>29 Higashi Sangha Meditation Service</p>	<p>30 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Mediation and Study</p>	<p>31 Interfaith Prayers for Peace at Darrow School</p>			