



TENDAI BUDDHIST INSTITUTE
SHINGI

Jushoku's Meanderings

THIS month we have an extraordinary opportunity to take part in shomyo programs as well as a ceremony celebrating the first anniversary of the renovation and consecration. Both of these events are dedicated to Peace: peace in world, which begins as tranquility within the self.

Tendai shomyo originated as a form of Vedic chanting sung by Brahman monks in India several thousands of years ago. Many scholars consider this one of the world's oldest formal musical forms. It was transmitted from India to China at the same time that Buddhism traveled from the West to the East. Buddhism and shomyo were both introduced to Japan during the 6th century. At the time Dengyo Daishi (Saicho, 767–822) founded Tendai in Japan (804), shomyo became a popular form of sacred chanting. It most often accompanied esoteric ceremonies conducted in the Imperial Court for the purposes of protecting members of the court and the people of Japan from harm and as a means of encouraging harmony within the nation. Saicho established Enryakuji, as the head temple of Tendai on Mt. Hiei, a short distance to the Northeast of Kyoto, the Imperial city. The temple complex, and Tendai as a whole, became very influential in the Emperor's court.

During the Tang Dynasty Jikaku Daishi (Ennin) (794–864) traveled to China for ten years studying and obtaining additional sutra and esoteric texts. He brought back additional forms of shomyo along with more intricate esoteric teachings. Ennin became the third Zasu (Chief Priest) of Enryakuji, Mt. Hiei's head temple. He is considered the founder of Tendai shomyo.

In the 10th century shomyo spread, again with Buddhism, from the intellectual elite to the public sphere. During this time the musical form influenced Japanese art forms, including Noh Theater as well as more popular music in Japan.

Shomyo is usually sung by trained priests. Percussion instruments are used to give signals or occasionally to take the beat in pieces with fixed rhythm, while the *nyo* (gong) and *hachi* (cymbal) are struck at the end of pieces in symbolic places of instrumental music.

The sacred Buddhist texts chanted in Tendai shomyo are written in Sanskrit, Chinese, and Japanese. Shomyo was standardized sometime in the 9th century during the rule of Ennin. It is based on pentatonic musical scales called *nyo* and *ritsu*. The chanting is performed in Japanese (*wasan*) as well as in Japanese liturgical forms of Sanskrit (*bonsan*) and Chinese (*kansan*).

Between the Meiji Restoration and World War II there was less demand in shomyo, and other traditional music, due to less interest and the introduction of Western music. In the last thirty years there has been a resurgence of interest in shomyo and there are now many fine practitioners, dynamic in voice and spirit, who are carrying on this magnificent tradition.

Buddhist ceremonies as a whole are referred to by the term *hoe*, while the particular rites celebrated within them are known as *hoyo*. The program (*shidai*), of a rite is decided according to the purpose, character, scale and time of its ceremony. The rite is celebrated by a group of (*shikishu*) priests, led by a *doshi* (master) and *egyoji* (assistant). Buddhist rites can be seen as opportunities for the participants to incorporate the sermons of the Buddhas in an experiential manner. They are generally constructed in a symmetrical fashion around a central focus, which is often the reading or expounding of a sutra.

The ceremonies during the shomyo performances, as well as the *goma* ritual and ceremony at the Tendai Buddhist Institute, Jiunzan Tendai-ji, are specifically designated as rituals for peace. Join us in this worthy endeavor.



Jiunzan Tendaiji and Mahasangha

October Events

❖ *Sutra Class and Morning Service*

7 8:30 a.m., Morning Service followed at 9 a.m. by *Lotus Sutra*, Chapter 8: “The Five Hundred Disciples Receive their Predictions.”

❖ *Meditation Meetings*

Every Wednesday 6 p.m., discussion, Meditation Service and pot luck dinner

4 Bodhicitta: The Rest of the Story.

11 Sangha Discussion

18 Goma Ritual

25 Pure Land—Philosophy and Practices

❖ *Other Events*

7 Sangha Day, 10:30 a.m., Clean-up day at the Center. Bring gloves and gardening tools.

14 Sangha Day, 9 a.m. Clean-up day at the Center. Bring gloves and gardening tools. Some work will be done in the Hondo, cleaning windows, etc.

20 Shomyo Concert for Peace and *Daiho-Hyaku-Komyoku*, 8 p.m., at St John the Divine Cathedral, New York City.

21 First Anniversary Ceremony for the Renovated Jiunzan Tendai-ji, 2 p.m., at Tendai Buddhist Institute. This is the Mahasangha Day for October.

22 Shomyo Concert for Peace Concert and *Daiho-Hyaku-Komyoku*, 1 p.m. at Simon’s Rock College of Bard, McConnell Theater at Daniel Arts Center, Great Barrington Massachusetts. The concert is \$25 for general admission and \$15 for seniors and students as well as sangha members. (FYI: It is free to Simon’s Rock College faculty and students since the college did not charge us for the use of the theater.) We have some posters to put up and tickets to sell. If you can assist us for promoting this event, please contact Mushin Sam Press, who has been coordinating the publicity and the ticket sales. His email address is samsue303@yahoo.com.

❖ *Announcements*

As you all know, we will have a series of events from the 20th to 22nd of this month. (Please refer to our website, www.tendai.org for the details, if you haven’t checked it out.)

For the events, we need your help.

One-Year Anniversary Ceremony from the Consecration of Hondo

1) Attendance: We made the decision that everyone will be inside the Hondo for this service, unlike last year. This event is by invitation only, and all Sangha members are invited! We cut down the number of guests to invite because the space is limited. So, please let Shumon know whether you will be attending it or not.

2) Desserts for Refreshment: The service will start at 2:00 p.m. and will be over around 4:00 pm. We are planning to have refreshments after the service. We would appreciate if Sangha members can bring sweets for the occasion. Those monks coming from Japan (about 30 people) will especially appreciate homemade sweets. Please let Shumon know if you can bring something for the refreshment.

3) Last year, not only Doshu and Betsuin Soryo, but the lay members, too, performed English shomyo during the Consecration Ceremony. For the One-Year Anniversary Ceremony, again, English shomyo will be a part of the service. We will welcome back those people who learned shomyo and participated in the service last year. AND we encourage those who don’t know about shomyo, but are interested in learning about this traditional chants and one of the oldest musical forms in the world. We will get together for the practice on the 7th and 14th after the clean-up days.

Although this is not as big an event as last year, there are still a lot of tasks to be done to get ready and clean-up afterwards. We would appreciate if you could give us a hand. If you have any questions on the issues above, please contact Shumon or your Sangha leaders. Thank you very much for your help!!

❖ Sangha members are invited to submit articles, announcements and photos for inclusion in the November issue of *Shingi* to seishin@tendai.org by OCTOBER 15.

❖ Schedule updates and future events can be seen at www.tendai.org.



Thirty monks will travel from Japan to take part in “Shomyo for Peace” at St. John the Divine, New York City; Simon’s Rock College, Great Barrington, MA; and Jiunzan Tendaiji at Tendai Buddhist Institute.

Higashi Sangha

- ❖ **Meditation Service and Dharma Discussion every Monday, 6:30 p.m., East Mountain Retreat Center, 8 Lake Buel Rd., Great Barrington, MA**

October Events

- 2 Karma, "...and the boogiemer will get you if you don't watch out."
- 9 Self, or Lack Thereof
- 16 Hindrances to Practice, gosh, only Five?
- 22 Peace and Injustice, Can You Have One Without The Other?

30 Halloween, Spirits and Buddhism, A Sangha Reflection

- ❖ Higashi Sangha, working in tandem with local musician Rick Tiven and the *Railroad Street Youth Project*, led a Peace Walk at 12:01 around Great Barrington on The International Day of Peace. (A moment of silence was shared at noon as church bells sounded throughout the town). San-sho Tamarack Garlow, shakujo in hand, led about 35 people on a (mostly) silent meditative walk, sending intentions and raising awareness of the Day and its meaning. The walk included about 3 children and as many dogs - all peaceful.

Nyoirin-An (Ekayana Tendai Sangha)

- ❖ **Meditation Service every second and fourth Thursday of the month, Nyoirin-An meditation room in Naubeim near Frankfurt, Germany.**

October Events

- 12 Shikan Meditation and Dharma Talk: *Lotus Sutra* Chapter 19 "Benefits of the Expounder of the Dharma" [*Hosshi kudoku*]
- 26 Shikan Meditation and Dharma Talk: *Lotus Sutra* Chapter 20 "Bodhisattva Never Disparaging (Sadaparibhuta)" [*Jofukyo Bosatsu*] "

On September 1-3 Daishin Joachim Willfabrt (front row left) took part in the consecration of a stupa by a Huayan abbess and a dharma meeting of dharma friends in nearby Hungary.



Nishi Sangha

- ❖ **Meditation Service and Dharma Discussion every Tuesday, 6 p.m., Friends' Meeting House, Madison Avenue, Albany, NY**

October Events

- 3 The Real Buddha
- 10 Zen Mind Beginner's Mind—Right Attitude

17 Quarterly Sangha Dinner (One meditation period only starting at 6:15 p.m.)

24 Discussion of Jiunzan Tendaiji Anniversary Ceremony and Shomyo Concert

31 Zen Mind Beginner's Mind—Right Understanding

Danish Lotus Sangha

- ❖ **Meditation Service, every Thursday, .9:30–10:30 a.m.**
Meditation Service and discussion, every Tuesday, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

October Events

Tuesday nights in October are all dedicated to a meditation

course based on Chih-i's *Six Gates* and *Dhyana for Beginners*. We will have the same meditations on Thursday mornings, but without the discussion

15 Kaihogyo at Jian's place in Englerup.



October 2006

Tendai Buddhist Institute

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Danish Lotus Sangha Retreat	2 Higashi Sangha Meditation Service	3 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service	4 Jiunzan Tendaiji Meditation Service	5 Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service	6	7 Jiunzan Tendaiji Morning Service and Sutra Class Sangha Clean-up Day <i>Full Moon</i>
8	9 Higashi Sangha Meditation Service	10 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service	11 Jiunzan Tendaiji Meditation Service	12 Nyoirin-An Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service <i>Yakushi Nyorai Day</i>	13	14 Sangha Clean-up Day <i>Last Quarter</i>
15	16 Higashi Sangha Meditation Service	17 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service	18 Jiunzan Tendaiji Meditation Service	19 Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service	20 Shomyo Concert for Peace and <i>Daiho-Hyaku-Komyo-ku</i> , at St John the Divine Cathedral, New York City.	21 First Anniversary Ceremony for the Renovated Jiunzan Tendai-ji
22 Shomyo Concert for Peace Concert and <i>Daiho-Hyaku-Komyo-ku</i> , at Simon's Rock College, Great Barrington, MA <i>New Moon</i>	23 Higashi Sangha Meditation Service	24 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service	25 Jiunzan Tendaiji Meditation Service	26 Nyoirin-An Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service	27	28
29 Jiunzan Tendaiji Mahasangha Sunday <i>First Quarter</i>	30 Higashi Sangha Meditation Service	31 Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service			<i>Danish Sangha members trek on their monthly kaihogyo.</i>	

Jiunzan Tendaiji Higashi Tendai Sangha Nishi Tendai Sangha Danish Lotus Sangha Nyoirin-An