



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
©2007 Tendai Buddhist Institute

Jushoku's Meanderings

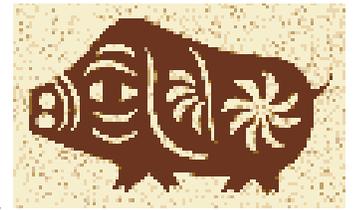
WE as a Sangha are now in our adolescence. We have moved from the joy and promise of infancy and through the delight and pains of childhood. We have grown out of our funky clubhouse zendo in a rustic (now there's a euphemism) horse barn to an outstanding, comfortable, new Hondo. When our Hondo was a partitioned part of a horse barn, we seemed more like a small private club than a village temple. As we grew, and became the recognized representatives of Tendai in North America, we began to expand our horizons to encompass a larger view of ourselves. To some this was uncomfortable; they went in search of something else. At the same time we began a formal program to train leaders in our tradition outside of Japan. This again estranged some people. At the same time other people joined and the Sangha seemed less like a club, more inclusive. The structure of the service morphed from a minimalist, meditation gathering into a Buddhist meditation service. Our membership slowly grew, contracted, and is on the growth again. These are normal growing pains.

During the earliest years we were the recipient of many blessings. I often refer to this as the period of growing organically. Later we were fortunate to receive recognition and support from the Jigyodan, Enryakuji and Tendai-shu, in Japan. They have added immeasurably to our growth and distinct personality. We also have been graced with Japanese priests who have assisted us here in Canaan, most notably, Yamada Shunshou and Terada Gojun.

The last several years have been remarkable; we have renovated and constructed our new Hondo with an additional building, participated in the rakkeishiki, (consecration ceremony), hosted several major Shomyo concerts in New York City and at Simon's Rock College at Bard. Just as important we have survived this period of structural expansion and once again begun to concentrate on the Sangha. However, the Sangha no longer refers to Jiunzan Tendai-ji, Higashi Sangha and Nishi Sangha. We now have affiliated Sangha in Germany, another in Denmark and of course our most recent in Washington, D. C. All of the affiliated Sangha have come about because of dedicated men and women who have sacrificed their time, money, and personal lives to devote themselves to something larger than their own individual practice. They are true bodhisattvas.

Each Sangha has its own personality, its own strengths and weaknesses. While it is to the local Sangha that each person interacts on a regular basis it is the larger Sangha, the Mahasangha, that is the glue that holds us all together. In this spirit we are looking forward in the next few years to a period of planned, visionary development, intended to enhance and improve our spiritual lives. Each person, ordained men and women and lay men and women, people new to the path and the old hands have an integral part to play in this new phase. Shumon and I hope to provide ample opportunity for everyone to participate fully in this exciting period. The Sangha is an equal component of the Triple Gems, the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha. Make use of this tremendously important vehicle to reinforce your Buddhist Path and enrich your life.

To you and yours may your new year be filled with hope and happiness, let your heart and mind experience tranquility, experience the freedom to achieve your personal goals and renew your commitment to social justice and peace. This is Shumon's and my blessing to you in the New Year.



2007
Year of the Boar

Gassho, Monshin



Jiunzan Tendaiji and Mahasangha

January Events

❖ *Sutra Class and Morning Service*

2 8:30 a.m., Morning Service followed at 9 a.m. by *Lotus Sutra*, Chapter 11, "The Appearance of the Jeweled Stupa."

❖ *Meditation Meetings*

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

3 A New Year Vision

10 Jizo Bodhisattva led by Shingaku

17 Shingaku TBA

24 Non-Self: Conception and Misconception

31 *Dana* (Generosity)

❖ *Other Events*

There is no Mahasangha Sunday in January. See Upcoming Retreat below.

February 2–4 *Tathatā (Suchness) Mindfulness Retreat*. This very moving three-day retreat is open to people of all levels of practice. It is based the Contemplation of Tathatā, attributed to the Tendai scholar/monk Genshin. This is a very popular retreat so register early.

February 4 *Mahasangha Sunday* Due to the Naamons being gone in January we are have the gathering the last morning of the *Tathatā* (Suchness) Mindfulness Retreat. Please join us as a Sangha. We will have members of the Danish Lotus Sangha joining us this day.

Please see the attached schedule for the coming year. Please put it aside and refer to it once a month so you know when there are retreats, etc.

❖ *Announcements*

This month Shumon and Monshin will be in Japan from January 8–22. They will be visiting Shumon's parents and other relatives and meeting with the Jigyodan. Shumon has not seen her parents in about four years. During this period Shingaku will be mind-ing the Betsuin, including leading services on the 10th and 17th. Please join Shingaku for the services during this period.

As the Sangha has expanded many members are a distance from Jiunzan Tendai-ji. These folks have requested a way to study using the internet. OK! "Finally," some might say.

Higashi Sangha

❖ *Meditation Service and Dharma Discussion every Monday, 6:30 p.m., South Berkshire Friends Meeting House, State Rd., Great Barrington, MA*

❖ Higashi members had an outrageously gregarious solstice dinner with delicious culinary treats and much merriment. Lois Rose

Gonshin has developed a mechanism for members to take distance learning classes and stay in touch with each other. using a system called *First Class*. Because there is a charge for each person using this system we must pass on the subscription fee of \$5 a month. Gonshin is administering the system and he can arrange for everything you need to sign on and get started. This service is limited to active members. If you are interested please send an e-mail to Monshin and he will send your e-mail to Gonshin.

There are several services on this system, including a calendar for each Sangha, e-mail between members, Sangha discussion space, a resources section, and the classes. The classes will begin shortly after the New Year. At this time we have two classes organized, 1) A Survey of Buddhism, and 2) Japanese Buddhism. Any active member may take these courses. I look forward to this as a new type of inclusiveness for members.



We joined on December 17th to thank Gojun for all he has done at Jiunzan Tendai-ji and for the mahasangha as a whole. He developed a close relationship with many Sangha members and served his term well. Gojun is returning to Japan to become the Jushoku of his grandfather's temple. He will be visiting us in the future, but his time as assistant to the Betsuin is over. Gojun—thank you for all your assistance and care!

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

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

was kind enough, once again, to offer her house for the celebration. We were honored with the presence of Angela Vuagniaux who has relocated to the Berkshires after living in Cape Breton and Washington State. We welcome back Seichi Cindy Duryea who has been on "leave" due to the constraints of her job but will now return as a regular member.

Nishi Sangha

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

January Events

2 Malas

Nyoirin-An (Ekayana Tendai Sangha)

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

January Events

Danish Lotus Sangha

❖ *Meditation Service, every Thursday, 9:30–11 a.m.*
Meditation Service and discussion, every Tuesday, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

January Events

Washington Tendai Sangha

❖ *Meditation Service and Dharma Discussion every Sunday, 9:45 a.m., Dojo of the Capitol Area Budokai, 25 South Quaker Lane, Alexandria, VA. The directions to the Dojo and meeting schedule can be found on the Sangha website at www.washington-tendai.org*



Monshin Naamon addresses the participants at the opening service of Washington Tendai Sangha.

❖ On Friday evening, December 8—*Robatsu* or Bodhi Day on the Buddhist calendar, celebrating the Enlightenment of Shakyamuni Buddha—Monshin Sensei and four other monks from the Tendai Buddhist Institute travelled to Northern Virginia to assist Reverend Chion Ernie Lissabet consecrate the Washington Tendai Sangha, the

9 Sanjusangendo Temple
16 “What’s So Great About Now?”, a discussion of Cynthia Thatcher’s article
23 The Second Buddha
30 Sangemon

11 *Lotus Sutra*. Chapter 25, “The Universal Gateway of Bodhisattva Kanzeon” (*Kanzeon Bosatsu Fumon*)
25 *Lotus Sutra*. Chapter 26, “Protective Spells” (*Darani*)

❖ The theme for January will be ‘New Beginning’, discussing karma and *Ichinen Sanzen* or “three thousand worlds in a single moment”.

❖ There will no Sunday meetings this month.

newest branch Sangha of the Tendai-Shu New York Betsuin. Present at the event were Reverend Shumon Tamami Naamon; Reverend Shoshin Sandy Jacon; Reverend Mushin Sam Press; and Reverend Koyo Susan Spang, all of whom had travelled down to the Washington area for this happy event.

Approximately forty guests gathered at the Cherrydale Volunteer Fire Department in Arlington, VA, for the ceremony and potluck dinner afterwords, including a delegation from Ekoji Buddhist Temple in Fairfax (of the Shin Buddhist tradition); Reverend Shojo Honda, Minister of Ekoji Buddhist Temple; Mr. Erick Ishii, President of Ekoji Buddhist Temple; and Mr. Gordon Bermant, the current sitting President of the Buddhist Churches of America (Jodo Shin-shu in America). Also present were Shosan Phil & Seifu Cindy DiSorbo, long standing members of the New York Betsuin and now also local members of the new Washington Tendai Sangha, as well as Reverend Daishin David Hall, a solitary Tendai practitioner from Maryland, who many years ago was ordained as a Tendai monk in Japan by Ichishima Sensei. Other notable guests at the event were the Directors and Officers of the Capitol Area Budokai, and many of Chion’s Kendo students as well.

In addition to the beautiful Tendai ceremony dedicating the new Sangha to Amida Buddha, the evening’s events also featured a Kyudo makiwara sharei, a Japanese archery ceremony by fellow Buddhist Bill Reid of the Mountains & Rivers Order to mark the beginning of the new Sangha; and also a shakuhachi (bamboo flute) recital by Ray Sosnowski, another local Buddhist affiliated with a Korean Zen school. Overall the event was a wonderful success and we look forward to the future.



January 2007

Tendai Buddhist Institute



Year of the Boar

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

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| | 1 <i>New Year's Day</i> | 2 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service | 3 <i>Full Moon</i> | 4 | 5 | 6 Jiunzan Tendaiji Morning Service and Sutra Class |
| 7 Washington Tendai Sangha Meditation Service | 8 Higashi Sangha Meditation Service | 9 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service | 10 Jiunzan Tendaiji Meditation Service | 11 Nyoirin-An Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service <i>Last Quarter</i> | 12 <i>Yakushi Nyorai Day</i> | 13 |
| 14 Washington Tendai Sangha Meditation Service | 15 Higashi Sangha Meditation Service | 16 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service | 17 Jiunzan Tendaiji Meditation Service | 18 Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service <i>New Moon</i> | 19 | 20 |
| 21 Washington Tendai Sangha Meditation Service | 22 Higashi Sangha Meditation Service | 23 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service | 24 Jiunzan Tendaiji Meditation Service | 25 Nyoirin-An Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service <i>First Quarter</i> | 26 | 27 |
| 28 Washington Tendai Sangha Meditation Service | 29 | 30 Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service | 31 | <p>Year of the Boar: The Pig is a fun and enlightening personality blessed with patience and understanding. People born under the sign of the Pig enjoy life and all it has to offer, including family and friends. They are honest and thoughtful and expect the same of other people. Pigs can be perceived as oblivious or gullible because they do care about others so much that they will do just about anything for a friend in need. Years of the Pig: 1911, 1923, 1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007</p> | | |

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



TENDAI BUDDHIST INSTITUTE

2007 Events



❖ ***Weekend Retreats:***

Winter February 2-4

Spring O-higan March 22-24

Fall O-higan September 21-23

❖ ***Mahasangha Sunday, 10:30 a.m.***

January New Year's Eve

February 4

March 24

April 15

May 20

June 10

July 1

August 19

September 23

October 21

November 18

December 16

❖ ***Lotus Sutra Class and Morning Service, 8:30 a.m.***

Held on the first Saturday of the month

EXCEPT: February 10 instead of February 3

There will no class in July and August

❖ ***Doshu/Soryo Gyo***

From the evening of Wednesday, June 20 – Sunday, July 1

❖ ***Doshu/Soryo Kai***

February 4 (After the retreat)

May 5 (After the Lotus Sutra Class)

October 6 (After the Lotus Sutra Class)

❖ Scheduled dates are subject to change. Log onto www.tendai.org for latest updates.

❖ Also, there is a good possibility of a calligraphy workshop offered by Hiruma-sensei, a scholar/monk and Chair of *Tendai Calligraphy Association*, and others. This will be a 3-4 day event. There is no date yet.

2007 Year of the Boar