



## *Meanderings on the Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa – Cushion Practice to Service Practice*

THIS is a brief report on one effort at engaged Buddhism – service work to relieve suffering and promote healing. It is related to the worst epidemic ever to hit humanity: Global AIDS. Now claiming over 6,500 deaths per day in Africa alone, HIV/AIDS and other diseases are related to severe poverty, lack of education, stigma, and a simple enormous neglect by the international community. Many people die without the care that we expect when facing serious illness and death: pain management, emotional support, the opportunity for spiritual growth and transcendence. Such a situation is just not acceptable – it is, indeed, an invitation to practice.

Engaged Buddhism is meditation in action – in this case a mindful and thoughtful collaboration with other like-minded people to actually relieve suffering of all types.

The *Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa* (FHSSA) is an American organization that forms partnerships between North American communities and African communities, usually hospice programs. It also works directly to scale up services so that partner hospices can care for more people. KTDC and now the Tendai Buddhist Institute have long been involved in FHSSA through the local *Community Hospice* partnership with two hospices in South Africa and one in Zimbabwe. Sangha members that have visited and/or worked with the African hospices are Sando Reiner Kopp, Jisen Larry Dye, Seifu Cindy DiSorbo, and Shosan Phil DiSorbo. Many more sangha members have supported local educational and fund-raising activities when Africans are visiting, and provided ongoing (and much appreciated) understanding and support for those actively involved.

There is an opportunity to do more...not just with FHSSA, but with engaged Buddhist activities promoting poverty alleviation, world peace, and social justice locally and globally. In fact, given the interconnectedness that we share so deeply on our planet today through common environmental, trade, and security issues, it is hard to envision sincere practicing Buddhists NOT to be involved in some type of service work that reflects both Right Livelihood and the six paramitas. As we intentionally practice in 2007, here are some ways we might support FHSSA:

- Remember the global victims of HIV/AIDS and other diseases in your prayers and practices.
- Publicize and support the activities of *Community Hospice* and the African partners that it works so intimately with. There are talks and fund-raisers throughout the year. Carole Heaney and Sando Reiner Kopp are local contacts.
- Consider as a sangha more formally linking Tendai, with its commitment to world peace, to FHSSA as a means of building peace by relieving suffering.
- Make a donation, large or small, to the *Community Hospice Africa Fund* ([www.communityhospice.org](http://www.communityhospice.org)) or to *The Diana Legacy Fund* at FHSSA ([www.fhssa.org](http://www.fhssa.org))
- If you have a skill to share, go on the FHSSA web site and register to be a loaned technical expert to volunteer a time (days to months) to work at an African hospice.

As you consider service as a practice, remember the morning verse: “*I wear the Tatagatha’s teaching, saving all sentient beings*”.

*Gassho...Shosan Phil DiSorbo*



# Jiunzan Tendaiji and Mahasangha

## February Events

### ❖ *Sutra Class and Morning Service*

3 8:30 a.m., Morning Service followed at 9 a.m. by *Lotus Sutra*, Chapter 12, “Devadatta”.

### ❖ *Meditation Meetings*

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

- 7 Re-examining Critical Buddhism
- 14 Shakyamuni Buddha’s Paranirvana
- 21 Chanting Practice
- 28 Finding One’s Center

### ❖ *Other Events*

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.

### ❖ *Announcements*

In January’s *Shingi* we announced the establishment of a new distance learning opportunity, open to any member. If you are interested please e-mail Monshin at [Tendai@msn.com](mailto:Tendai@msn.com) and he will forward your email to Gonshin, the coordinator for the web site.



*The Most Venerable Kojun Handa has become the 256th Zasu.*

to health conditions.

The Most Venerable Handa was born in 1917 at Nagono, Japan. He graduated the Taisho University. He was an assembly person to the Tendai Administration, Director of Teaching/Education, and Counselor to the Tendai Association for Peace of International Religious Cooperation, Tendai Organization and Light-Up the Corner of the World. He was the head of Manshu-in monzeki temple.

He is known as a member of the international bloc in the Tendai organization. He has been active in the peace movement for over forty years and has deepened the mutual understanding among the world religious leaders. Handa ozasu had an especially close relationship with the late Pope John Paul II. His ever-present smile is known as “the Handa Smile” among world religious leaders. His teacher and father, the late Ven. Kokai Handa was a Tendai monk well known as an activist against nuclear weapons since the 1950’s. His last words to Handa ozasu were, “To live for world peace”.



*Bishamon-ten, carved and donated to Jiunzan Tendaiji by Ven. Ryobun Kouda now stands alongside Yakushi Nyorai and Avalokiteshvara in the hondo.*

Ven. Ryobun Kouda of Jisho-in Temple at Edogawa, Tokyo has carved an image of Bishamon-ten and donated it to Jiunzan Tendaiji. When Monshin and Shumon along with a few Sangha members visited Japan in November of 2006, the group was invited for a dinner by Ven. Shoshin Ichishima and his friends from Taisho University. Ven. Kouda was among the group at the dinner. At that

time, he offered to carve an image for our temple and asked Monshin which image he would like to have. Monshin requested Bishamon-ten.

Last September, we received a phone call from Ven. Kouda, telling us that he had completed the image for us. When Monshin and Shumon were in Japan this January, we stopped at Jisho-in Temple and brought the image back to the United States. Bishamon-ten, guardian of the North, is now our esoteric image alongside Yakushi-Nyorai and Kannon-Bosatsu on the Shuma-don (honzon altar)

Ven. Kouda is the 23rd Abbot of Jisho-in Temple. He hopes that the image will assist and protect the Betsuin and the Sangha members in our work toward peace and social justice. We offer him our thanks for his generosity.

Sangha members are invited to submit articles, announcements and photos for inclusion in the March issue of *Shingi* to [seishin@tendai.org](mailto:seishin@tendai.org) by FEBRUARY 15.

# Nishi Sangha

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

## February Events

6 Bishamonten, led by Shoshin

# Nyoirin-An (Ekayana Tendai Sangha)

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

## February Events

# Danish Lotus Sangha

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❖ *Meditation Service, every Thursday, 9:30–10:30 a.m.*

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

## February Events

The theme for February will be the Four Immeasurables. Jian will lead the services and discussions February 4-8. Shoken Pia Trans and members of the Danish Lotus Sangha will attend the win-

# Washington Tendai Sangha

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❖ *Meditation Service and Dharma Discussion every Sunday, 7:30–10 a.m., Cherrydale Volunteer Fire Department, 3900 Lee Highway in Arlington, VA. News and event updates are available at the sangha web site [washingtontendai.org](http://washingtontendai.org).*

## February Events

Dharma study for the month of February covers the Four

# Higashi Sangha

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

## February Events

5 Embodied Enlightenment, talk and service led by Ansu Jane Majdelany

12 Report on the *Peace Alliance Annual Conference* in Washington, DC

19 The Ten Ox Herding Pictures

26 Sangha Reflection—The Nature of Mind

❖ Higashi Sangha has returned to its winter headquarters at

13 Tendai Evening Service, led by Mushin

20 TBA, led by Koyo

27 Twelve Links of Conditioned Co-Production, led by Mushin

8 *Lotus Sutra*, Chapter 27, “Ancient Accounts of the King Shubhavyuha” (*Myoshogonno Honji*)

22 *Lotus Sutra*, Chapter 28, “Encouragement of the Bodhisattva Samantabhadra” (*Fugen Bosatsu Kambotsu*)

ter retreat at the Tendai Buddhist Institute in February.

February 27 Mental and spiritual preparation for the upcoming retreat.

There will no Sunday meetings this month.

Looking ahead to March, there will be a retreat March 2-4, and kaihogyo resumes on March 25, led by Ansu.

Noble Truths, the Noble Eightfold Path, and the Three Treasures. During the month of March, we will expand our study to include the Six Paramitas, as well as an introduction to the *Lotus Sutra*.

For more information, e-mail Reverend Chion Ernie Lissabet at [wisdomcommunications@verizon.net](mailto:wisdomcommunications@verizon.net). All are welcome!

the Friends' Meeting House on Route 23 in Great Barrington.

On February 3-5 the annual conference of the Peace Alliance will meet in Washington D.C. with the focus on establishing a federal Department of Peace on the cabinet level alongside the Departments of State and Defense. Its mission would include: strengthening non-military means of conflict resolution; preventing violence; developing policies to prevent domestic and international conflict; promoting nonviolent means of intervention; mediation and encouraging local peace initiatives. It would be active in creating a culture of peace both domestically and internationally. For more information, visit their website at [www.ThePeaceAlliance.org](http://www.ThePeaceAlliance.org). SanshoTamarack will be attending and will offer his reflections to the Sangha on February 12.



# February 2007

Tendai Buddhist Institute

Tendai-shu New York Betsuin and Karuna Tendai Dharma Center [www.tendai.org](http://www.tendai.org)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1  <i>Full Moon</i>	2  Tathata Mindfulness Retreat	3
4 Tathata Mindfulness Retreat  Mahasangha Sunday Washington Tendai Sangha Meditation Service	5 Higashi Sangha Meditation Service	6 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service	7 Jiunzan Tendaiji Meditation Service	8 Nyoirin-An Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service	9	10 Jiunzan Tendaiji Morning Service and Sutra Class  <i>Last Quarter</i>
11 Washington Tendai Sangha Meditation Service	12 Higashi Sangha Meditation Service  <i>Yakushi Nyorai Day</i>	13 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service	14 Jiunzan Tendaiji Meditation Service	15 Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service	16	17  <i>New Moon</i>
18 Washington Tendai Sangha Meditation Service	19 Higashi Sangha Meditation Service	20 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service	21 Jiunzan Tendaiji Meditation Service	22 Nyoirin-An Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service  <i>First Quarter</i>	23	24  <i>First Quarter</i>
25 Washington Tendai Sangha Meditation Service	26 Higashi Sangha Meditation Service	27 Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service	28 Jiunzan Tendaiji Meditation Service			

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