



TENDAI BUDDHIST INSTITUTE

SHINGI

Monthly Bulletin

Tendai-shu New York Betsuin

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

©2007 Tendai Buddhist Institute

Jushoku's Meanderings

WHAT is the Buddhist path? That's an easy one. For the answer we look to the Eightfold Noble Truths and the Six Perfections (Six Paramitas). Each of these can be broken into three parts. The first part has to do with attitude, which includes faith, outlook and understanding. The second part is ethics and morality, and the final part is practice.

Though we have conveniently broken it into three parts, each part incorporates all the others. By reincorporating the parts we have Engaged Buddhism.

"Light up your world" is taken from Saicho's (784) writings. This phrase was of an organization that has several goals: engaged Buddhism work in this world lives, to work for and the environment to emphasize perception through this outlook, faith, eth-



corner of the from Dengyo Daishi's (823) writings. taken as the name in Tendai that In summary it is that encompasses to improve people's social justice, peace, and not least personal awakening. This involves ethics and practice.

There are yet another three components of this practice: 1) living in harmony [with the environment and society] recognizing the co-dependent nature of existence, 2) service to society through voluntary efforts. Engaging society is to benefit one and others, 3) the practice of life – giving thanks for human birth to your family. This also involves appreciating this gift and adopting an attitude of joyfulness that seeks to reject a life of consumerism as a means of attaining happiness. Dengyo Daishi's writings were concerned with the effects of selfishness, self-centeredness and what we now refer to as individualism. These qualities were posited as being antithetical to awakening.

Why is chanting, meditation, scholarship, calligraphy, or any of the many other practices not included in the forgoing? They are assumed. That is, sitting, walking or other forms of meditation, as well as chanting, esoteric practices for those so instructed, and any of the many forms of individual practice are considered essential and assumed, thus they are not addressed in this particular set of teachings. It is also recognized that we can become deluded into thinking that any one of us can be awakened through the solitary practices alone. That is not to say our meditation practice is less important, it is very important. However, our chanting and meditations are not an end in and of themselves. They are part of the larger whole. To be "engaged" means that your life is directed by the totality of the teachings, not merely by one aspect to the exclusion of others.

Look at your life in relation to awakening and see the many facets as opportunity to awaken. Walk the Buddhist Path as a comprehensive style of living. The very essence of Buddha resides within you; allow your intentions to blossom into awakening for the benefit of all sentient beings. Be joyful in this understanding.

Gassho . . . Monshin



Jiunzan Tendaiji and Mahasangha

May Events

❖ Sutra Class

7 Sutra Class, 8:30–10:30 a.m., *Lotus Sutra*, Chapter 15, “Springing Up Out of the Earth”. Remember to try to incorporate this chapter in your practice at least once this month.

❖ Meditation Meetings

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

2 Discussion on Sangha

9 The Book of Resolving Doubts Concerning the Semblance Dharma

16 Buddhist Ethics

23 Mindfulness Practices

30 Japanese Calligraphy

❖ Other Events

20 **Mahasangha Sunday** starting at 10 a.m. A very short discussion followed by the “Bathing the Buddha” Ceremony. Join us, bring the kids, for this fun event in celebration of Shakyamuni Buddha’s birth. Pot-luck lunch follows the meditation.

Coming on June 2: **Calligraphy Workshop**, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at Tendai Buddhist Institute. Four Tendai monks will be providing demonstrations, instructions and exhibits of Japanese calligraphy. This is the first exhibit and workshop by the Japanese Tendai Calligraphy Association. The artists are travelling to America and Canada

Washington Tendai Sangha

❖ **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.**

In May, the Washington Tendai Sangha will be studying and discussing the Twelve *Nidanas* or Chain of Dependent Origination.

On behalf of the Washington Tendai Sangha, I would like to announce to the Sangha-at-large that on April 22 we conducted a Memorial Service for the victims of the Virginia Tech massacre during our weekly Sangha meeting. The center-piece of the service was Chapter 25 of the *Lotus Sutra*, “Gateway to Every Direction,” in which *Avalokiteshvara* Bodhisattva appears in the compassionate guise of, “The Cry Regarder.” It feels like the appropriate passage.

This horrible event hit close to home for those here in the mid-Atlantic region. Although we are actually in Northern Virginia and Virginia Tech is almost 4 hours away down in Blacksburg, the Washington DC area is full of Virginia Tech graduates and families. It all feels like that silly game, “six degrees of separation,” except it’s more like “two degrees of separation” for us. Of course, we realize that if we were bet-

specifically for this event. Exhibition pieces will be from some of the most distinguished practitioners in Tendai, including the current Zasu, HH the Most Venerable Kanda and the recently retired Zasu, H.H. the Most Venerable Watanabe. There is a requested \$30 donation that includes all the materials you will need for the day. A pot-luck lunch will separate a morning and afternoon program. Be sure to sign up at your Sangha, or e-mail the Institute for registration. We are limited to around 25 people.

❖ Announcements

This Month’s Focus: “Awakening” Awakening within this lifetime, or in future lifetimes, what does it mean? Can we truly awaken in this age? How are we to proceed? This is the ultimate attainment. Give it some thought.

Congratulations to Erin Maxwell on the birth of her third child, Otto Gustav Maxwell; 9.5 pounds. Otto was born March 5. Erin has reported that she is currently practicing “nursing meditation.” She’ll be back to the sit with us soon.



ter Buddhists, it would really feel like, “NO degrees of separation.”

So, yeah, this event directly affected people around us down here that we know, so we conducted the Memorial Service on Sunday.

However, for me at least this tragic event has served to remind me how disconnected from the suffering in the world, our comfortable lives usually are. For example, only yesterday did I realize that on the same day that 33 were slain here in Virginia, no less than 152 people were killed in Baghdad. There was hardly any news coverage of those deaths, so routine has the killing in Iraq become. Those 152 deaths, so far away in Iraq, were somehow less news-worthy than the spectacular tragedy at Virginia Tech.

And what of the ongoing genocide in the Darfur? Do we only remember that, when there is a march to participate in? I suppose I am guilty as charged. Perhaps we should be having a memorial service every week.

So, if on Sunday morning you should remember, or maybe at your next Sangha meeting, please light a candle somewhere in solidarity with us and the people we know, and perhaps read Chapter 25 of the *Lotus Sutra* as well. We will.

Gassho,

Chion Ernie Lissabet

Nishi Sangha

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

May Events

- 1 Dependent Origination

Nyoirin-An (Ekayana Tendai Sangha)

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

May Events

- 10 Ekayana-teaching and the *Avatamsaka-Sutra* (according Bruno Petzold)
24 Ekayana-teaching and the *Lotus-Sutra* (according Bruno Petzold)

Daishin helps to finish the Chinese temple gate in Hungary during his recent stay while he was preparing for an Ekayana Retreat to be held there this coming August



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.

May Events

- 3 & 10 Kochi will lead the meeting while Shoken is in

Italy.

- 8 Jian will lead the meeting
15 Meditation begins at 4:30 p.m.; at 7:30 p.m. there will be a service followed by shikan.
20 Kaihogyo of 15 miles.

Higashi Sangha

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

May Events

- 7 The Faith and Science of Intentions
14 Fear As Desire
21 Four Foundations of Mindfulness
28 The Reverberations of Compassion, led by Jisho Julia Erikson

❖ Higashi Sangha has left their winter spot at the Friends and returned home to East Mountain Retreat Center.

As always, it's so good to be home!

The seeds of a new Peace organization were planted during a meeting at Tamarack's barn on Mar 31. Representatives from Pittsfield and Southwick met with members of the MaDoP Committee and decided to form a new organization comprised of any and all the existing local Peace groups in the area. The working title of the group is The Peace Collaborative. An invitational meeting will take place at The Blue Iguana, a music and outreach venue owned by the Pittsfield people, for Tuesday, May 22. The Collaborative would share media, advertising and networking to further the growing grassroots movement for Peace in this county and the country. A region-wide Peace Fair is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 22, a day after the International Day of Peace.

Ansu Jane Majdelany has been absent from Higashi for most of the month with pneumonia. We wish her continued recovery.



May 2007

Tendai Buddhist Institute

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service	2 <i>Full Moon</i>	3 Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service	4	5 Jiunzan Tendaiji Morning Service and Sutra Class
	6 Washington Tendai Sangha Meditation Service	7 Higashi Sangha Meditation Service	8 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service	9 Jiunzan Tendaiji Meditation Service <i>Last Quarter</i>	10 Nyoirin-An Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service <i>Yakushi Nyorai Day</i>	11
13 Washington Tendai Sangha Meditation Service	14 Higashi Sangha Meditation Service	15 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service	16 Jiunzan Tendaiji Meditation Service <i>New Moon</i>	17 Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service	18	19
20 Jiunzan Tendaiji Mahasangha Sunday Washington Tendai Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Kaihogyo	21 Higashi Sangha Meditation Service	22 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service	23 Jiunzan Tendaiji Meditation Service <i>First Quarter</i>	24 Nyoirin-An Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service	25	26
27 Washington Tendai Sangha Meditation Service	28 Higashi Sangha Meditation Service	29 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service	30 Jiunzan Tendaiji Meditation Service	31 Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service <i>Full Moon</i>		

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