



Meanderings

SOMETIMES life can be very busy, especially for us “working practitioners”. When we are very busy, it is easy to forget the real “goal”. There are just too many important things that need to be done. But every now and then something sad happens in our life and then we come back “down to earth”. We start pondering: “What is really important in life?”



There is a well known letter written by a Japanese Pure Land Master. To show his disciples what is really important, the master speaks about impermanence in a very vivid way:

As we deeply observe the transient form of human life, we realize that in this world, from the beginning to the end, what is momentary and passing is the illusory course of the human life. Also we have never heard of anyone receiving a human body which lasts for ten thousand years. The course of life ebbs very rapidly. Can anyone preserve his body for a hundred years at the present time? We do not know whether it will come today or tomorrow and those who depart before us are as countless as the drops of dew.

In the morning we might have a radiant health but in the evening we may be white ashes. When the wind of uncertainty strikes, our eyes are closed forever. When our last breath leaves our body, the healthy colour of our face is transformed and we lose the appearance of radiant life. Loved ones may gather around us and lament – but to no avail! When this event occurs, the body is sent to an open field for cremation, leaving behind only white ashes. What a sad plight!

So what we cannot control is the passing away of young and old alike. For this reason, we should all look to our future life and repeat the Nembutsu with Faith.

All beings will become white ashes, so it is important for us to find out what is really important in life!

With Gassho,



Kosho

Jiunzan Tendaiji and Mahasangha

November Events

❖ *Meditation Meetings every Wednesday 6 p.m., discussion, Meditation Service and pot luck dinner*

- 7 Shodo: an explanation in the Honda
- 14 Tendai for Beginners
- 21 Buddhism and Guilt
- 28 The Noble Eight-Fold Path – in Reverse – Prajna

❖ *Class*

3 **Forum: Book Power** 9 a.m., a discussion of the issues raised in an article from the fall issue of *Buddhadharma*. Morning Service will be held at 8:30 a.m. prior to the class.

❖ **Jien (Madoka) Sekiguchi** has joined the Tendai Buddhist Institute as assistant to the Betsuin. Jien comes from Nikko, Japan. He will be staying with us for at least a year. Many may already have met Jien's mother, who has visited us on several occasions. Please help us to make Jien feel comfortable and welcome during his stay.

work.

On October 27 we had a very rainy day for the one day **kaihogyo**. However the eight people who joined us had an opportunity to study and spend a time meditating in the morning and joining a shortened kaihogyo in the afternoon. It was a great day for practices.

Please send your articles, sangha news, artwork and photographs for the December issue of *Shingi* to fitterer@acmenet.net by November 15.

❖ *Coming Events in December*

December 1, **Class** We will be reading and discussing the *Lankavatara Sutra*. There are several versions on the internet. I recommend reading the version translated by D.T. Suzuki and may be found on-line at http://lirs.ru/do/lanka_eng/lanka-nondiaccritical.htm. The versions online are not copy written and you will find different versions of the same document. We will start at 8:30 a.m. with the morning service and begin the class at 9:00 a.m.



The recent **Shodo exhibit** (opening day shown in the photo above) was very successful. Over 164 people, not including sangha members, visited the exhibit on the open days or by appointment. Altogether there were over 200 people who had a chance to view the works. The success is in no small thanks to Mushin Sam Press who did the bulk of the work, setting up and following through on all aspects of the exhibit. A number of other sangha members contributed their time and efforts to seeing the exhibit was available to people. The people involved included, Gonshin Halcomb, Onhyo and Philip Bues, Sansho Garlow, Shoshin Jacon, Shoken Trans, Phyu Hninn Nyein, and others who I am undoubtedly forgetting. The comments we heard from people demonstrated the profound spiritual message embodied in the scrolls. Again thank you Mushin for your hard

Washington Tendai Sangha

❖ *Meditation Service, 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, 8–10 a.m.; Dharma Class and Meditation, 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month 7–9 p.m., Cherrydale Volunteer Fire Department, 3900 Lee Highway in Arlington, VA.*

Please join us for “Dharma Breakfast”, 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month, 9:30–10:30 a.m. at a local restaurant for conversation about Buddhism and the Dharma.

News and event updates are available at the sangha web site washingtontendai.org.

There are no meetings of the Sangha on the 5th Sunday or Tuesday of any month.

Danish Lotus Sangha



Kaihogyo is a regular practice at the Danish Lotus Sangha. Members take to the fields once again on November 25.

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

November Events

13 **Long Tuesday:** We meet at 4:30 p.m., sit meditation for three hours; at 7:30 p.m. we hold our regular Tuesday service and meditation, followed by a discussion meeting.

25 **Kaihogyo,** 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Nyoirin-An (Ekayana Tendai Sangha)

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

November Events

8 Chih-i's *Mo-bo Chih-kuan*, Chapter. 1.

22 Chih-i's *Mo-bo Chih-kuan*, Chapter. 2

Higashi Sangha

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

November Events

5 The Six Senses: Five of Body and One of Mind

12 Our Service, Our Intention, led by Abbot Monshin Paul Naamon

19 Yakushi Nyorai, the Healing Buddha

26 TBA, led by Drew Englebrecht

Nishi Sangha

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

November Events

6 Karen Armstrong's *Buddha*

13 Myth

20 Work for Equinox Thanksgiving Meal starts at 5:45 pm at the Empire State Plaza

27 Dogen

- ❖ A special thanks to Nishi Sangha member Nenad Aleksic for his presentation on koans in October.

Several Nishi Sangha members donated time in October to the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York.

Celestial Drum Tendai Sangha

- ❖ *Meditation Service and Dharma discussion, every Thursday, 6:30 p.m.; introductory meditation instruction offered at 6:15 p.m.; Indian Lake, NY; e-mail fitterer@acmenet.net for directions.*

November Events

The discussions and practices this month will center around the *Heart Sutra*. Only a page or so long, the shortest sutra in the canon, yet through these few words we can reach deeply into the many and varied aspects of the Buddha's teachings and practices.

There will be no meeting on Thanksgiving Day, November 22.



November 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 Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service Nyoirin-An Meditaion Service Celestial Drum Meditation Service <i>Last Quarter</i>	2	3 Jiunzan Tendaiji Class
				4	5 Higashi Sangha Meditation Service	6 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service
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 Washington Tendai Sangha Meditation	14 Jiunzan Tendaiji Meditation Service	15 Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service Nyoirin-An Meditaion Service Celestial Drum Meditation Service	16	17 <i>First Quarter</i>
18 Jiunzan Tendaiji Mahasangha Sunday	19 Higashi Sangha Meditation Service	20 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service	21 Jiunzan Tendaiji Meditation Service	22 Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service	23	24 <i>Chih-i's Memorial Day Full Moon</i>
25 Washington Tendai Sangha Meditation Service	26 Higashi Sangha Meditation Service	27 Nishi Sangha Meditation Service Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service	28 Jiunzan Tendaiji Meditation Service	29 Danish Lotus Sangha Meditation Service Celestial Drum Meditation Service	30	

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