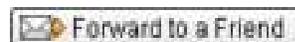




September 2010

SHINGI

Newsletter of the Tendai Buddhist Institute



[Join Our Mailing List](#)

In This Issue

Events Calendar

Meanderings

The Third Jewel

Jushoku's Meanderings

Autumn O-Higan occurs this month from September 20th - 26th. There is a Japanese proverb - *atsusa samusa mo higan made* - "Hot and cold weather last until the equinox." This week-long period takes place around the spring and fall equinoxes. The literal meaning of O-Higan is "the other side of the river," the river divides the absolute world and the provisional world. [\(cont.\)](#)

September Events Calendar



Weekly Meditation Services (WMS) are on Wednesday evenings. They begin at 6pm with a discussion or talk (see below for this month's discussion topics). At about 7pm there is a meditation service followed at 8pm by a potluck supper. All of Wednesday evening's events are open to the public. There is no fee, and reservations are not required.

September Wednesday Meditations and Discussions

1st Ichinen Sanzen (Three-thousand Worlds In One Moment) - Zhiyi (538-597), the Chinese founder of the T'ien-T'ai originated this concept based upon the *Lotus Sutra*. Our thoughts radiate out from this moment affecting the self, society and our environment (the three worlds). That thought may bring about conflict and disharmony or peace, tranquility and Buddhahood.

8th In August I suggested two forms of practice. First, one day a month do a mindful observance of practice, our families and our inner journey. Second, every day you do your practice, sitting or whatever, spend about 20 minutes before the practice devoted to breath. Examine your thoughts of the day before you devote the next 20 - 60 minutes to practice. We will open the discussion asking if anyone actually tried these suggestions and, further, if they are useful.



Quicklinks

[About Us](#)

[Tendai
International](#)

[Glossary of Terms](#)

[Newsletter Archives](#)

[Contact Jushoku
Monshin Naamon](#)

[Contact Editor](#)

15th Article for discussion - "Thoughts about Consciousness while Cutting in the Brain," by Joseph McElroy, *Shambhala Sun*, September 2004. Neurosurgeon Werner Doyle changes people's experience of life for the better by removing parts of their brains. Yet he knows that mind is not matter, cells are not consciousness. Novelist Joseph McElroy watches Doyle at work in the operating room, and together they ponder the mystery of brain and mind. Read the article (link below) and be prepared to discuss it. http://www.shambhalasun.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1438&Itemid=0

22th O-Higan is the week around the equinox, which this year is on the 23rd of September. We will examine the background and observance of this very important time in the Buddhist calendar.

29th Lotus Sutra, Ch. VIII - The Five Hundred Disciples Receive their Predictions. A favorite chapter of Tendai Buddhist Institute, the parable and ideas embedded in this teaching are not often emphasized in Western Buddhism. Read the chapter before the discussion online (link below) and perhaps copy part of it. http://www.numatacenter.com/digital/dBET_T0262_LotusSutra_2007.pdf

Other Events

11th Morning Service and Sutra Class, 8:30 - 10:30 AM - We continue investigating the *Sutra of Brahma's Net*. This work has had a profound influence on East Asian Buddhist thought and practice. The ramifications of that effect influence the ways we look at and practice Buddhism in the west. This week we will examine the second volume of the translation, pages 84 - 124, of *The Very Mahayana Buddhist Ethics: Introduction and Translation of the Fan-wang-ching* by Shigeru Osuka.

24-26th O-Higan Retreat. The main focus of this retreat will be forgiveness. O-Higan is a time for contemplating our life and death, our continued awakening, a time to rededicate our lives to a moment by moment unfolding of our minds to realize the nature of reality. The retreat begins on Friday, 24th at 7:30 PM finishing on Sunday, the 26th at 1 PM. We have a limited number of openings. Sign up early so you won't be disappointed.

26th Mahasangha Sunday, 10:30 AM - 1 PM, At the end

of the O-Higan Retreat we will have a Segaki service and meditation. The Segaki-e is an esoteric ceremony based upon sutra and folk practices for the benefit of those who have died during the previous year, a remembrance of our parents and ancestors and a seasonal renewal of our practices. All are encouraged to attend. If there is someone who has died and that you wish to be remembered, please let Monshin know, and bring a small food offering of something the deceased enjoyed during his or her life.

Coming Events

October 23 & 24 - As many are already aware, this is the fifth anniversary of the renovation of our Hondo (main hall of a temple), the 15th anniversary of the founding of Tendai Buddhist Institute and the 125th anniversary of William Sturgis Bigelow and Ernesto Fenalossa's (the founders and first curator of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts) being ordained as Tendai priests in Japan. The events on the 23rd will be centered at Tendai Buddhist Institute in Canaan, New York. There will be a ceremony of celebration and a formal ordination of Betsuin Soryo (priests). The events on October 24th will be hosted at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and are centered on a Goma ceremony. Specifics of these events will be detailed in the October Shingi. Put the dates on your calendar and be sure to attend.

A Note

This month **Koki Karl Bower** is assuming the position of Temple Assistant at Tendai Buddhist Institute. Koki has been a member of our community for about nine years, is a Doshu and is the first non-Japanese assistant we have had at the Tendai-shu New York Betsuin. He recently graduated from the New England School of Acupuncture and he is accomplished in Japanese and Chinese acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine. A number of years ago he spent three months living at Yamada Shunwa's temple in Tokyo, Japan assisting Yamada Shunshou through the arduous three-month goma gyo. His intention is to establish an acupuncture and herbal medicine practice in the area. Please welcome Koki when you see him.



Meanderings (cont. from side bar at left)



By observing the Six Perfections: 1) *Dana* (generosity), 2) *Shilla* (morality and ethics), 3) *Ksanti* (patience), 4) *Virya* (forbearance), 5) *Dhyana* (meditation) and 6) *Prajna* (wisdom), we will see the nature of reality, gradually attain spiritual wisdom, and steadily awaken to great compassion, wonderful loving-kindness, faultless equanimity, and perfect sympathetic joy. This is our true inner being, our true Buddha-nature. During the month of September, and especially O-Higan, make this part of your daily practice.

This is a time of pilgrimage and increased commitment to the Dharma and practice in all of East Asia. We should emulate such devotion during this O-Higan. Twice a year we have the opportunity to rejuvenate our practices through an essential teaching, the fall and the spring. What a wonderful opportunity. "Do not squander your life."

Gassho . . . [Monshin](#)

Photo credit Onyou Susan Bues

The Third Jewel--Where sangha members share ideas, poetry, and art to enrich everyone's Buddhist practice.

Our Meditation Spaces- A year or two ago, Monshin lead a Wednesday night discussion about creating spaces for meditation in our homes. Everyone shared a little about what his or her space was like, and I found myself wanting to visit each one. How interesting and enriching that would be! It only took me this long to realize that we can, in fact, "visit" each one . . . through the magic of modern photography and the Shingi.

Eric Johnson's Altar-



It was time to start a daily practice last winter, so after guidance and probably too much thought, I put this space together.

The Buddha figure I had come by the winter before. I had been reading some and it was a bad spot in my life when I stepped into a shop on Warren Street and looked about. The kind woman there held it up and said, "This one." This small Buddha has really resonated with me, first on my nightstand and now on my altar.

I chose an area in our bedroom after much consideration. It seemed strange at first. But the bedroom removes when I sit down and I am just in that rectangle. And yet I am also in the bedroom--a place that, unfortunately, has been in too close an earshot of wild and noisy neighbors, leading to much angst our part. That is better now, by chance, but having the meditation area there has been healing.

Like Koho, I happened to choose objects for the altar from

my life, Chinese objects as my wife, who is a social worker in international adoptions, loves things Chinese. The ceramic flower is a gift I had given my grandmother. And the gong, the one my music-teacher Mom used to call me and my sister and brother home to supper with when we were young. The gong's transition from what it did to what it does, has been interesting.

The Washington Sangha's Altar



This has been a transfigured summer for students of Tendai Buddhism in and near Washington, DC. We have a new name, Great River Ekayana Sangha: all streams returning to the source, as one. We have a new leader, Jikan Daniel Anderson; we have a new Buddha image on the altar, Benzaiten (Saraswati in Sanskrit). Benzaiten brings peace, beauty, poetry, and song, a very appropriate cooling remedy to the heat of Washington's buttoned-up and bulletheaded culture.

But there is much continuity still. Great River Ekayana Sangha has historically been a mobile sangha, and remains so. We began at the Cherrydale fire hall in a cozy neighborhood in Arlington, Virginia; we have met at Thai noodle joints, coffee shops, Houses of Pancakes, and currently, in a repurposed kindergarten classroom in the basement of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington (room 11). This is where we set up our minimalist shrine: candles, flowers cut from Jikan's yard, stick incense, and our Benzaiten image. We set up for practice in about twenty minutes from a storage closet down the hall, during which time Jikan sometimes explains the construction site to newcomers as it comes together into a moveable feast of Dharma.

This picnic system is functional, but in the view of the sangha, not desirable or sustainable. Hence, we set aside

some *dana* each week for a Permanent Shelter fund. This will take time and more than one miracle. Patience!

For more information on our doings and sittings, please see dctendai.blogspot.com or contact Jikan at JikanAnderson@gmail.com



Call for material: Please [send the Shingji](#) photographs, artwork, poems, book reviews, articles, etc. that you have created that you consider an outgrowth of your Buddhist practice or that you think reflect Buddhist themes, ideas, questions, etc. If submitting an image, you may wish to include a short statement sharing some of your thoughts to accompany it.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Contact . . .

Shingi Editor
Koho J. Daniel Beaudry
beaudryjd@mac.com

[Forward email](#)

✉ SafeUnsubscribe®

This email was sent to fitterer@frontiernet.net by tendai@msn.com.
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Tendai Buddhist Institute | 1525 Rt. 295 | East Chatham | NY | 12060