

October 2010

SHINGI

Newsletter of the Tendai Buddhist Institute



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Thirty monks will be traveling from Japan to the Tendai Buddhist Institute, Tendai-shu New York Betsuin, in Canaan, NY for a Fifth Anniversary observance and ordination ceremony on Saturday, October 23rd. The next day, Sunday the 24th they will participate in a brief lecture and shomyo performance followed by a Goma (fire) ceremony at the Museum of Fine arts in Boston.

October 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.

October Wednesday Meditations and Discussions

6th What is Dukkha? The First Noble truth, it is most often translated as suffering. We will explore this essential Buddhist teaching in order to better understand what it means to be liberated from Dukkha.

13th Chapter 9--The Mahayana: The Great Vehicle, from Foundations of Buddhism by Rupert Gethin (1998 - Oxford University Press) Please read this chapter for discussion on Wednesday. This is an ongoing series of monthly discussions.

20th 5, 15, 125: A Time to Celebrate, a Time to Reflect. On the eve of the events of Saturday and Sunday this week we will examine why they are taking place and their significance in our lives.

27th Ekayana: The Vehicle of Inclusion. Buddhist teachings are divided by philosophy and practices. The complete vehicle, Ekayana, provides a schema for maintaining a unified Buddhism. We will discuss the

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background and advantage of this perspective.

Other Events

2th 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.

16 & 17th Clean-up and Fix-up Days - 9 AM - 4 PM both days. Come early and stay late, or join us for any part of the day, either or both days. Bring tools, gloves and ideas: we want to groom our facilities for the coming events. A simple Lunch will be served between 12 & 1 PM both days.

23rd 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM -- A ceremony celebrating the fifth anniversary of our hondo (main temple building) renovation and the 15th anniversary of the Tendai Buddhist Institute.

12:00 to 1:00 -- Lunch is provided between the two ceremonies.

1:00 - 2:30 PM -- A formal ordination of Soryo (priests).

24th 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM -- At the Boston Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, centering on a Goma ceremony. This event commemorates the 125th anniversary of William Sturgis Bigelow and Ernesto Fenallosa's (the founder and first curator of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, respectively) ordination as Tendai priests in Japan.

See Jushoku's Meanderings for a fuller explanation of all the events. Please put the dates on your calendar and be sure to attend.



The 10:30 AM event at the Tendai Buddhist Institute is an observance of the consecration of our hondo, Jiunzan Tendai-ji (the main temple building, translated as Compassionate Mountain Cloud Tendai Temple) five years ago, as well as the fifteenth anniversary of the founding of Karuna Tendai Dharma Center, the official name of Tendai Buddhist Institute, the Tendai-shu New York Betsuin (the authorized New York Branch of Enryaku-ji Temple).

This ceremony will be performed by Kanda-sensei of Kanei-ji, the head temple in Tokyo, Japan.

At noon lunch will be provided for all. We will continue to celebrate in the afternoon starting at 1 PM with the formal Tokudo (ordination) of six Betsuin Soryo and Doshu, namely Seishin Fitterer, Ryushin Karapasas, Shoshin Jacon, Mushin Press, Shomon Trans and Koyo Spang.

All of these people have completed at least six years of formal training and have received Tokudo as Betsuin priests in the past.

A formal Tokudo requires a number of priests of a certain status to witness the Tokudo in order to be registered in Japan. Because we will have a number of highly ranked priests here for the other activities it is a good time for these six people to be recognized for their many contributions to the Dharma. The Precept Master for the Tokudo ceremony will again be Kanda-sensei.

In Boston, the events are a commemoration of the 125th anniversary of the ordination of William Sturgis Bigelow and Ernest Fenollosa, the founder and first curator of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, respectively. These two individuals are the first North Americans to receive Tendai Buddhist ordination. Both of these persons were remarkable people who had accomplished a great deal in addition to their ordinations. There will be a story on the Tendai International web page in the next week or so providing some insight to these colorful personalities.

The Boston event begins at 11:30 AM with a short lecture and shomyo (a type of chanting similar to Gregorian chant) presentation in the museum and then we will go outside for a

Goma ritual conducted by a dignitary of Enryaku-ji temple, Mt. Hiei, Japan. The goma ceremony should be concluded by about 2:30 PM.

As I look at these proceedings, there are several thoughts that come to mind.

First, that this is a wonderful opportunity for the people that constitute the Tendai Buddhist Institute to join with our Japanese friends in dedication to the dharma.

But, this is not merely an opportunity for cross-cultural interaction. The monks coming from Japan are doing so at their own expense as a way of showing their ongoing support of the Dharma and our efforts outside of Japan. Most of them grew up in temple families. The Dharma and its manifestations are as much a part of their lives as breath itself.

For most of us living in the West, we adopted this tradition and there are aspects that seem very Asian and therefore strange or incongruous. Yet there is something that draws us to it. There is a veracity that is universal to the human condition. These events are wonderful occasions to integrate our body, speech, and mind in the pursuit of the Dharma and its practices. It is a time for joy and rededication. Enjoy yourself.

Gassho . . . [Monshin](#)

Photo credit Onyou Susan Bues

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

Call for material: Please [send the Shingi](#) 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

