

May 2011

SHINGI

Newsletter of the Tendai Buddhist Institute



 Forward to a Friend

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

In This Issue

Events Calendar

Meanderings

The Third Jewel

Jushoku's Meanderings

Impermanence, one of the Buddhist three marks of existence is especially evident to me. Recently, someone referring to impermanence was dismayed because things cease to exist. I had to remind him nothing really ceases to exist-- only the appearance of that thing changes.

[\(cont.\)](#)

May 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.

May Wednesday Meditations and Discussions

4th The Moral Language of War - In a new book *The Violence of Peace: America's Wars in the Age of Obama*, Yale Law School professor Stephen Carter ponders the vocabulary of just and unjust wars and the significance of using American military power for humanitarian interventions. We will listen to a 10-minute excerpt of an interview that was aired on the 4/15 edition of the CPB's *Religion & Ethics Newsweekly*. We will discuss the issues and insights raised by Professor Carter from a Buddhist perspective. If you would like to preview the episode before the discussion the link is: <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/episodes/by-topic/middle-east/stephen-l-carter-the-moral-language-of-war/8578/>

11th Dharma Q&A - Last month we embarked on this method of investigating the Dharma. People enjoyed the opportunity to ask questions and receive an immediate reply. We are making this a monthly feature. So, write down your question, and you will have an opportunity to ask it during the discussion. It should be relatively short and address a specific aspect of the teaching, philosophy, or practice. No question is too basic or too difficult. Be sure to write it down so you will remember it for the evening.

18th Death Of A Priest's Wife - An active discussion on loss and the Buddhist Path. Impermanence is a concept we Buddhists intellectually



Quicklinks
[About Us](#)

[Tendai
International](#)

[Glossary of
Terms](#)

[Contact
Jushoku
Monshin
Naamon](#)

[Contact Editor](#)

understand, so is attachment. But what shape does this knowledge take when the loss is our own? Be ready to offer your insights on death and the healing process and how your practice may have affected it. This talk will be led by Sancho Tamarack Garlow.

25th Transforming Adversity - Often when people speak of 'adversity' they speak of 'overcoming' it (or perhaps 'succumbing' to it) using militaristic metaphors such as 'battling' cancer. Shakyamuni in his first teaching on the Four Noble Truths demonstrated that triggers to the experience of adversity are inherent in life, including birth, sickness, old age and death. No one can 'overcome' these, but they can be transformed through practice. This talk will be led by Seishin Jack Fitterer.

Events

April 30th Sutra Class and Morning Service, 8:30 - 10:30 AM - We are currently studying *The Sutra of Brahma's Net*. This sutra is the basis for the Bodhisattva vows in East Asian Buddhism. The vows are relevant for lay and ordained practitioners alike. This week we will continue looking at the 48 Minor precepts. The text we are using is *The Very Mahayana Buddhist Ethics: Introduction and Translation of the Fan-wang-ching* by Shigeru Osuka.

Notes

Food Pantry at Jiunzan Tendai-ji - The number of families who now depend on the food pantry has grown as a direct result of the continued economic recession. There are fewer and fewer resources going to more and more people. Please bring non-perishable food items to the Tendai Buddhist Institute on Wednesdays. We contribute these items to the Chatham Silent Food Pantry.

We are still collecting money for Japanese Disaster Relief -

Shumon and Monshin will be taking the money with them to Japan and donating it to one of several agencies that they have determined will use all the funds provided for relief and rebuilding. You can use [PayPal on our web site](#); remember to indicate it is for disaster relief, or give the money directly to Shumon or Koki when you are at Tendai Buddhist Institute.

Coming Events:

May 2 Earth Day Lobby Day, New York Interfaith Power & Light - JOIN US AS WE GATHER AS PEOPLE OF FAITH. Come to the state capitol in Albany to share your concerns for our planet with your elected officials. No lobbying experience needed! The event is free, but if you wish to participate in the full day event, you must pre-register ([nyipl.org](#)) so we can assign you to a lobbying team. For more information, visit [nyipl.org](#) or call (315) 256-0078 Earth Day Lobby Day is sponsored by New York Public Interest Research Group, Environmental Advocates of New York, Audubon of New York, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, New York Interfaith Power & Light, the Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, and other organizations.

May 7 One-Day Retreat: Varieties of Practice in Tendai Buddhism - Lead by Monshin Naamon at the Great River Ekayana Sangha, in Arlington, Va. For more information contact Jikan at jikananderson@gmail.com

Meanderings (cont. from side bar at left)



We know this from Einstein's theories as well as Buddhist philosophy. Everything is in constant flux, moving from one form to another, one phenomenon to another, *ad infinitum*.

When the swallows arrive in the spring I am so delighted. Recently a few, maybe a half a dozen, arrived. And then I feel a bit of sadness when I see them leave in the early fall. Many more, perhaps two dozen, migrate back down south.

I know that on their migration in both directions many die along the way. I don't know if any that I see in the spring will ever be back the next year. They breed in their northern habitat and then fly back down south, from Southern Mexico (Oaxaca, Veracruz, Chiapas), to Argentina to winter.

That is an example of the flux of the natural world. The swallows from one year to the next seem like old friends, but they are in all likelihood the offspring of last year's friends. My mind, maybe my sentimental heart, likes to think of them as the same creatures I see year to year. Rather like the cousins we meet only at weddings and funerals.

Impermanence means that there is no fixed reality. There is the impression of continuous flow. But, according to Buddhist teachings, what we think of as constant is a series of cause and effect, one state of existence to another. This sense of continuity is like a connect-the-dots puzzle. When all the dots are connected we see a form, a figure that represents reality. But, the underlying reality is a series of moments that our mind strings together to form a cogent picture of the world.

Each moment we have a choice (cause); each moment there is an effect (result of that choice). Our reality is thus made up of our choices and the results. Most phenomena are beyond our ability to influence all the intersecting points of cause and effect, but each of our choices has an effect, however miniscule, toward the composite reality.

During your meditations in the month of May contemplate the moment-to-moment flux that arises in the mind as a means of recognizing the underlying reality.

Be filled with loving kindness, compassion, sympathetic joy and equanimity. Fill

the lives of all you love, know, and meet with loving kindness, compassion, sympathetic joy, and equanimity. Be joyful, be happy, be satisfied.

Gassho . . . [Monshin](#)

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

82608

Jürek's Meditation Space



My simple Buddha.

Haiku by Koho Daniel Beaudry

Memorial Day parade--
from an evergreen shadow
a salute

reading room--
alone suddenly with
a pretty stranger's body

my beard trimmings
swirl in the sink--
almost never home

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