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Jushoku's Meanderings

Four deaths are on my mind as I write. One of the people, Selima Sebkaoui, Imam Djafer Sebkaoui's wife; few people reading this will recognize her name. Another, the local architect Joseph Iuviene, a few more may know. The final two, entertainer Aretha Franklin and Senator John McCain, virtually everyone will recognize their names immediately. These people are all worthy of our observance of lives lived to their fullest. This is not a eulogy for the departed, it is an observation of their lives collectively.

(cont.)



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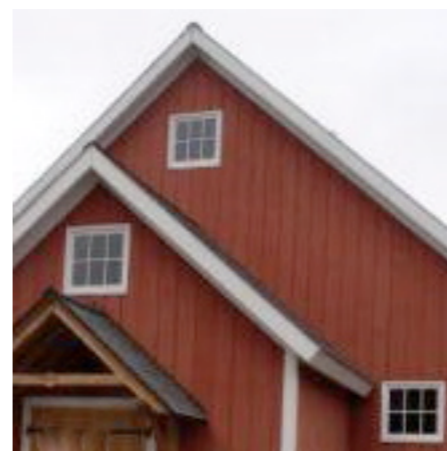
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September Events Calendar

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

5 Bishamon-ten There are three images on the *Shumidan* (front altar on which the flowers and images sit) in our hondo. The main image, or *Honzon*, is Yakushi Nyorai - The Medicine Buddha. The image to the left of the Honzon is Bishamon-ten. We will discuss the symbolism of Bishamon-ten and why it is in the front of the hondo..

12 Gender in Buddhism - Using the works of Bernard Faure we will investigate the ways in which gender has been treated by and transformed Buddhism. That would be an incomplete reckoning if we did not go further and explore how Buddhism in the post-modern era is responding to the forces of gender equality.

19 Fall O-Higan - What is meant by *Prajñā* (wisdom) in the Sixth Paramita? - The sixth paramita is filled with meanings. We will examine the way the word was originally used, how it is most often used now, and how do we put it into play on our daily lives.

26 Guest Lecturer - Roger Whitmer - - Discussing the book *Why Buddhism is True* by Robert Wright. A review by Peter Singer - "What happens when someone steeped in evolutionary psychology takes a cool look at Buddhism? If that person is, like Robert Wright, a gifted writer, the answer is this surprising, enjoyable, challenging, and potentially life-changing book."

Other Events in September:

8 Sutra Class and Morning Service, 8:30 - 10:30 AM - The *Maha Prajna Paramita Hridaya Sutra* (Heart Sutra) is the most often chanted, cited and best known sutra in the Mahayana canon. We will read and discuss two different translations and commentaries (Mu Soeng's and Red Pine's) as a set throughout the classes We will be finishing this sutra soon. Join us for the finale, this month or next..

21-23 O-Higan Kokoro Retreat: 7:30 PM Friday the 21st through 1 PM Sunday the 23rd In Japanese, there are three words for "heart": *shinzou*, which refers to the anatomical organ, *ha-to*, which is the Romanized word for a love heart, and *Kokoro* (心), for which there is no equivalent term in English. The closest approximation for the term I have seen is 'heart=mind=spirit' - the three qualities in one entity. In Sanskrit this is *hridaya*, as in heart from the Heart Sutra. We will investigate this Buddhist concept as an underpinning of much of Buddhist philosophy and practice. Please make reservations no later than September 14th

23 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM - Segaki Ceremony (feeding the hungry ghosts) will be included at the end of the retreat. The segaki began as a way for Maudgalyayna, on instruction of his master, Sakyamuni Buddha, to free his mother from the realm of the gaki or hungry ghosts. Our ceremony lasts about 30 minutes and is performed in memory of our loved ones who are deceased. Everyone is welcome to attend. Bring a food item that your loved one enjoyed to put on the Segaki-dan as a part of the ceremony. A pot-luck lunch will follow the ceremony.

NOTES:

Food Pantry at Jiunzan Tendai-ji - Gratitude is best shown by extending to others the thoughtfulness we have received. Please bring non-perishable food items to the Tendai Buddhist Institute on Wednesday's. We contribute these items to the Chatham Silent Food Pantry.

Meanderings (cont. from side bar at left)



These four people represent what is most exemplary about the United states, something that we seem to have little to write about in the current socio-political climate of our nation. They represent what is the core of the ideals and values of America.

Two women, and two men. One was an immigrant from Algeria, one a second generation American of Italian descent, one a descendant of slaves whose father was a well-known Baptist minister, one the son and grandson of 4-star admirals, of Irish-Scot and English ancestry who immigrated to the American colonies in the 1700's. Two were Christians, one Muslim, and one a secular humanist who respected all religions.

Each of these people is noted for what they gave to others, the opening of their hearts to the needs of those in need, the way they lived their lives in dignity, the way they upheld the values imbued by their families.

Two of these people are famous nationally, two are well known locally. They were all loved not because of their celebrity, economic, or social status. They were loved because of their words and deeds. They were not without faults; everyone has fallen short of perfection. But, they were thoughtful and approached situations and challenges with poise. They were persistent and courageous in speaking truth to power. They were admired because they were genuine, they were the epitome of living a life filled with a passion to improving the lives of other sentient beings.

These people lived their lives in a way that people of any and all religions, should seek to epitomize. They were very different as people, as diverse a small group as one will find. They came from very different religious and social backgrounds. Their lives were American lives. They represented the best in who we can be.

Take a moment and reflect on those who represent what is best in what we can be. Take hope in the knowledge that there are more people like Selima Sebkaoui, Joseph Iuviene, Aretha Franklin and John McCain, than those who wish to tear our country apart for their own pecuniary, nationalist, xenophobic, and racist ambitions.

In order to be a good person of faith such as Buddhist, Jew, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Shikh, Venacular, or a Secular Humanist or Atheist, we must be good humans and use the enduring values of our beliefs to guide us. As Buddhist we see awakening to the nature of reality in the being of all humans. We can all through, giving, courage, and persistence, resist and overcome the darkness that has descended on our precious world.

Thank you recently departed, we are grateful for the lessons you have given us. Your lives are a sacred inspiration.

Love and Gassho Monshin

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

from
"Twelve Reckless Tanka"

*How is the milkweed flower
we saw yesterday before the downpour?
I want to know!*

by Kimiko Hahn



Goats on the porch

Wyn Hayes.

Kimiko Hahn's latest book is *Brain Fever*. These unconventional tanka are printed here with her permission. She is Tomie Hahn's sister.

And as always, please do send us news from your sangha! Your poetry, your images, your suggestions! Gassho!

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Contact . . .

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