

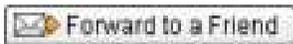
Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in the Tendai Buddhist Institute. Don't forget to add tendai@msn.com to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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September 2012

SHINGI

Newsletter of the Tendai Buddhist Institute



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Jushoku's Meanderings

Recently during a Wednesday evening service I gave a brief Dharma talk on loving-kindness (maître), more specifically how it differs from compassion (Skt. Karuna). After the service someone suggested that I make that Dharma talk the subject of this month's Shingi.

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 Shige [1]- The seventh section of Hokke Sembo (Morning Service). Shige can be a service in and of itself. We will discuss the elements of the section and its significance as a means of understanding how the liturgy contributes to our understanding and practice of the Buddhadharma.

12 Koh (Incense) - an integral part of Buddhist observance and meditation - the why, how, meaning and expression of incense.

19 Autumn O-Higan - A time to reflect on the Six-Perfections, a time to rededicate oneself to practice, a time to contemplate on what "the middle way means to me". We will discuss this and more.

26 The Emptiness of Patterned Flux: Ernest

[\(cont.\)](#)



Fenollosa's Buddhist Essay "The Chinese Written Character as a Medium for Poetry"¹ by Jonathan Stalling.(in) Whalen-Bridges, J. and Storhoff, G. (ed.) *The Emergence of Buddhist American Literature*. Albany; State University of New York Press, 2009: 21-44.) There will be several copies of the article available to be read and passed around. Ernest Fenollosa was a controversial author, curator and one of the first non-Japanese Tendai monks. He was ordained September 21st 1885 at Miidera Temple, Otsu, Japan; his priest's name was Tei-shin. Read this article and join us for a discussion on a fascinating subject.

Other events in September:

Quicklinks

[About Us](#)

[Tendai International](#)

[Glossary of Terms](#)

[Contact Jushoku
Monshin Naamon](#)

[Contact Editor](#)

8 Sutra Class and Morning Service, 8:30 - 10:30 AM - Vajrachedika Prajnaparamita Sutra (The Diamond Sutra).

It is one of the earliest Mahayana sutras and is considered by many scholars as foundational to subsequent Mahayana thought. Don't miss this enjoyable class. Please obtain the following book for this class - *The Diamond Sutra: transforming the way we perceive the world*, by Mu Soeng; Wisdom Publications (2000). We will start studying the passages of the Diamond Sutra this month - so please copy the sutra by hand (Kyodo) before coming to class.

8 Sangha Ladies Night Out - 6 PM - at Judi Croft's home; a potluck dinner and casual gathering to welcome Tamami back from her gyo in Japan and a discussion of our own practices. For directions to Judi's house and other details please contact the Dharma Center.

15 Introduction to Meditation. 9-12 AM - This class will provide basic instruction on meditation. Starting with posture, breathing and focusing the mind, the class will provide the essential tools necessary to integrate a meditative practice into your life. By practicing meditation a person can decrease stress and increase overall wellbeing. The class is open and free to the public

Our Other Sangha:

[Blue Mountain Sage
Sangha--Denver, CO](#)

[Celestial Drum
Sangha--Indian Lake,
NY](#)

[California Tendai
Buddhist Monastery](#)

[Tendai Denmark](#)

[Flowing Waters--
Ottawa, Ontario,](#)

21-23 O-Higan Retreat - The Three Gates of Liberation. From 7 PM Friday Evening to 1 PM Sunday Afternoon. Karuna - Prajna - Upaya - are the three Gates of Liberation. We will focus on these concept as they relate to our practice and daily life. Register early as will only take 12 people and this is sure to fill quickly.

23 Mahasangha Sunday Service & Refuge ceremony - 10:30 AM - 1 PM. The service follows the O-Higan retreat; the refuge service will be embedded in the service.

[Canada](#)

[Great River Ekayana
Sangha--Arlington,
VA](#)

[Nagado Sangha--
Springfield, MA](#)

[Nishi Sangha--
Albany, NY](#)

[Red Maple Sangha--
Renfrew, Ottawa,
Canada](#)

Mahasangha is the larger sangha encompassing all our sangha, wherever they may be located. A potluck service follows the service. It is a celebration with those who have chosen to take formal Buddhist refuge vows. If you would like to take refuge please let Monshin know.

Upcoming Events:

10/7- 21 Tendai-shu New York Betsuin Gyo. More about the gyo next month.

Notes

Congratulations to Rev. Jien Sekiguchi on the occasion of his marriage to Tomomi. Many will remember Jien as our temple assistant. He just started apprenticing at Renge-in a temple associated with Zenko-ji (a famous temple) in Nagano, Japan. Omedeto Gozaimasu Jien-san.



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.

[1] All Buddhist terms in this volume are in Sanskrit or Japanese unless otherwise indicated.

Meanderings (cont. from side bar at left)



Karuna and Maitri are often confused, even though in certain contexts they are clearly separate qualities. In the Four Brahma-Vihara, for instance, the first is Maitri and the second is Karuna (the third and fourth are Mudita (empathetic joy) and Upeksa (equanimity) respectively. However, when the instructions for the Maitri meditation are given we receive the

suffering from our mother (friends, acquaintances, etc.) and extend loving-kindness to the same - we often use the word compassion rather than loving-kindness. Is it a wonder we may be confused?

This is not a matter of semantics. The distinctions are important to our approach and practice of the Buddhadharmā. Let's be as clear as possible.

Maitri is unconditional, unattached, and without distinction. It is a state of mind and a pure intention. When one extends loving-kindness to another it is done with an open heart, regardless of the recipient, with no expectations of reciprocity or result. Offering food to someone because they are hungry with no prospect of praise or further benefit is an act of loving-kindness. This is the first step toward Buddhist interpenetration.

Karuna by contrast is best extended with Prajna (wisdom) and Upaya (expedient means). I often refer to Karuna to be best expressed as a verb; it is action, filled with activity - not just intention or a state of mind. In other words when confronting suffering 'what are you going to do about it.' Whatever this action may be it should be measured to ensure that the outcome will have the desired effect. That is not always apparent. True compassion is relative to the circumstance.

Maitri and Karuna are of course related. They do, however, address different aspects of our Buddhist practice. You should cultivate both each and every day. May each of your transient moments be filled with both Maitri and karuna.

Gassho . . . Monshin

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

USA Run for Youth Travel

by Sangha member and teacher Rosalynn Frederick

Travel has had a profound effect on my life! It has enhanced my formal education and opened my eyes to a world of amazing experiences, opportunities, and inspiration. I would like to extend the benefits of travel to young people who would not ordinarily be able to afford it.

In March 2013 I will run across the U.S. (California to New York) to raise money and inform communities and schools about



the Youth Travel Fund, a non-profit organization I am founding. The Youth Travel Fund will provide financial support to financially disadvantaged youth so that they can travel with their schools and youth groups. One thing I have realized about these two endeavors - planning the run and starting a non-profit-is that they involve many things that fall outside my areas of expertise. That is why I am reaching out to the sangha community, which I know has a wealth of knowledge and experience. If you are interested in supporting me and my cause during this planning phase, there are many ways in which that is possible! Thank you for reading!



Contact information:

"name'9@gmail.com

Also, check out my facebook page at

<http://www.facebook.com/usarunforyouthtravel>.

Areas in which I could use support:

Logo design

Non-profit development (applying for non-profit status, requirements, paperwork, forming a board of directors, etc.)

Fiscal sponsorship partnerships

Fundraising

Acquiring corporate sponsorship

Grant writing

Public Relations and Advertising

Finding someone interested in filming a documentary of the journey

Finding people to accompany me and drive a support vehicle along the journey

Something I have not thought of...

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

Peter Chorin Donahoe

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