

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!

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

July 2012

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

Shumon has completed the spring 2012 Tendai-shu Enryakuji Gyo. Yeah - Omedeto Gozaimasu Shumon!

This was a large spring gyo with six women and 20 men. Their ages were from 19 to 51 years.

[\(cont.\)](#)

July 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.

July Wednesday Meditations and Discussions

4 No Meditation Service - 4th of July - (Should we celebrate Interdependence Day?)

11 Shumon's Return from Gyo - Returning after over two months at Tendai Gyo (training) on Mt. Hiei, Shumon will relate some of her experiences during this important episode in her life and training as a priest

18 Shodo: a Perspective - Shodo ("Way of Writing") is one of the most popular fine arts of Japan. In Japanese calligraphy beginning, direction, form and the ending of lines is a balance between elements. Each line, point and empty space are as much a part of the composition as the phrase or text. We will meet in the hondo so we can illustrate the talk with our scrolls.

25 Q&A - Stump the Sensei - Do you have any



Quicklinks
[About Us](#)

[Tendai International](#)

[Glossary of Terms](#)

[Contact Jushoku
Monshin Naamon](#)

[Contact Editor](#)

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,
Canada](#)

questions about the Buddhadharma about which you have not found a satisfactory answer? Write down the question and bring it with you. There are no 'too simple' or involved questions. Sensei will do his best to answer in a way that at least sheds light on the issue.

Other events in July:

7 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).

14 Tendai Sacred Calligraphy Exhibit Opening - Exhibit - Saturdays & Sundays 12 - 4 PM, July 14th through July 29th. The opening will include a wine and cheese reception. Japanese brush calligraphy (shodo) combines artistry and spiritual expression of Buddhist masters. Shodo is a form of Buddhist practice intended to cultivate awakening in calligrapher as well as observer. This exhibit presents twenty-three scrolls created by the Japanese Tendai Calligraphy Association and gifted to the Tendai Buddhist Institute. The exhibit will be mounted in the hondo beginning with the evening service on July 11th through August 1st. A discussion of Shodo will take place during the evening service July 18th. The exhibit is a great opportunity to bring family and friends to our Dharma Center.

19 Theology on Tap - upstairs at Peint O Grwrw at 7 PM. The Canaan Church is hosting another community presentation. Executive Director of Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), Laura Berry will be sharing with us information about socially responsible investing. This is important when considering Right Livelihood.

21 Introduction to Meditation - Saturday 9 AM - 12 PM. 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.

Notes

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

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

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

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

Volunteers needed - - The professionals have completed their work on the Sangha Annex. There are still painting and other small jobs to be done. This building was renovated to contribute to the well-being and comfort of the sangha. Please contact Koki and let him know when you are available to pitch in as well as the jobs available. Support the Tendai Buddhist Institute and the Dharma by this simple contribution.



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.

Meanderings (cont. from side bar at left)



Many people have heard snippets of gyo lore; the difficulties, deprivations and mystical moments. Shumon will be providing us with a more complete description of her experiences during the discussion for the Wednesday evening service on July 11th. Perhaps I can convince her to write something about it for this portion of the Shingi sometime in the future.

Gyo is often misunderstood, from a Western perspective, to be comparable to a seminary. Gyo is not a seminary. Tendai training from a seminary perspective takes place through

university education and apprenticeships at temples. Gyo is 'spiritual' training. The practices that are taught and experienced are as old as the Butsudo in Japan and may seem strange, again from a Western perspective. They build the character of the participant and provide a platform whereby the individual learns more about his or herself and how to convey the Buddhadharma from a sacred space. This experience has demonstrated through time to appropriately prepare women and men for religious, spiritual and sangha leadership.

The Betsuin gyo that takes place in Canaan, New York fulfills a similar purpose. Both the Japanese Tendai gyo and the Betsuin Tendai gyo provide Buddhist sangha with clergy who are adequately trained to teach the dharma and provide important religious skills in order to lead sangha. In other words, when you are in a Tendai sangha you can be assured that the person leading that group is qualified religiously, organizationally, and more important, spiritually to assist you in your Buddhist journey.

It is necessary as a Betsuin (formal representative of Japanese Tendai Butsudo) to have clergy who have completed their Japanese Tendai training in Japan. Now, the Betsuin has two such leaders, Monshin and Shumon. Once again congratulations Shumon in your accomplishment. By your sacrifices and achievements the Tendai Buddhist Institute has a stronger and deeper foundation to better serve our sangha.

Gassho . . . Monshin

-

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

A previous Shingi presented the role of a Tendai priest performing the rites for the internment of the deceased. But the celebration of joy and marriage is also a part of priestly ministry. Here is Monshin Naamon helping us celebrate the marriage of Maeve Donahoe and Bryan Bissonette.



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
pdonahoe2010@gmail.com

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to fitterer@frontiernet.net by pdonahoe2010@gmail.com | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

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