



Berkeley Zen Center



July 2014 Newsletter

Sojun Roshi's 85th Birthday Picnic Sunday, July 13, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Come to Laurel picnic area in Tilden Park, and enjoy a potluck, music, games, and time with friends. From BZC turn right on MLK. Head north to Rose, about eight blocks beyond University. Turn right on Rose, go about eight blocks to Spruce and turn left. At the top of Spruce, continue straight across the Grizzly Peak Blvd. intersection; Spruce becomes Wildcat Canyon Road. Continue for 2.2 miles on Wildcat Canyon; turn right on S. Park Drive. Continue 0.8 miles; the Laurel parking lot will be on your right. This is a short walk-in site. A shuttle will be available for schlepping.



Zazenkai: A Day of Just Sitting Sunday, July 20, 8:00 – 5:00 pm

Join us on Sunday July 20 between 8 am and 5 pm for our annual Zazenkai sitting. This is an opportunity to spend a day in sitting and walking meditation and bowing without the interruption of lectures, zendo meals or work period. We will maintain silence throughout, with the exception of bells to mark meditation periods, and chanting the refuges aloud at 4:50 pm. We will go at a relaxing pace with a mixture of 30- and 40-minute sitting periods, a short AM break, silent bag lunch, and an afternoon tea. The fee will be \$25. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the courtyard bulletin board.

Please feel free to contact Gerry Oliva at 510.652.7217 or e-mail at sesshindirector@bzc.org AT gmail.com if you have any questions.

B Z C S c h e d u l e

July

Founder's Ceremony

Wednesday, 7/2, 6:20 pm
Thursday, 7/3, 6:40 am

Bodhisattva Ceremony

Saturday, 7/12, 9:40 am

Sojun Roshi's Birthday Party

Sunday, 7/13, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Zazenkai (Just Sitting Day)

Sunday, 7/20, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Mountains & Rivers Sesshin

Thursday, 7/31 – Sunday 8/3

August

Half-Day Sitting

Sunday, 8/3

Founder's Ceremony

Monday, 8/4, 6:20 pm
Tuesday, 8/5, 6:40 am

Bodhisattva Ceremony

Saturday, 8/9, 9:40 am

One-Day Study Retreat

Sunday, 8/31, 5:00 am – 5:00 pm



Affirmation of Welcome

Walking the path of liberation, we express our intimate connection with all beings. Welcoming diversity, here at Berkeley Zen Center the practice of zazen is available to people of every race, nationality, class, gender, sexual orientation, age, and physical ability. May all beings realize their true nature.

Calendar Update and Reminder

Work Day - The August 24 work day has been rescheduled for September 20 and 21, and possibly 28. The focus will be on maintenance of the exterior of the zendo and various other wooden structures.

Summer Break - The zendo will be open, and practice will continue throughout August. There will be no summer break this year.

BZC Campout July 26-27

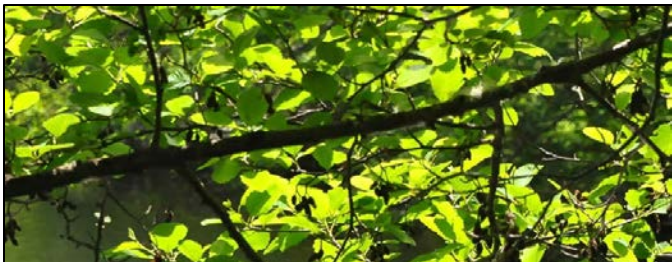
You are warmly invited to the annual Berkeley Zen Center Campout, scheduled for July 26-27. We've reserved a group campsite in nearby Tilden Park, and will meet for a potluck dinner and possibly a short hike, as well as s'mores and songs around the campfire, followed by oatmeal and coffee/tea/cocoa in the morning. Join us to pass on the campfire rounds we grew up with, tell stories, and learn the latest songs from our own kids.

Families and those without children are all welcome. If you prefer not to stay for the night, come for the dinner and company. If you would like to stay but are missing a tent or sleeping bag, let us know, and we can almost definitely find one for you. Contact Katherine O. at klo999 AT yahoo.com if you have questions, and look for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in early July.

Half-Day Sitting

Sunday, August 3, 8:00 am - 12:00 noon

Half-day sittings include five periods of zazen, kinhin (walking meditation) and an informal tea. Sojun Roshi asks participants to commit to the entire four-hour schedule. A \$10 donation is requested. If you have questions or if you cannot sign up on the bulletin board, contact the August half-day director Peter Overton at peterovrtn AT gmail.com or 510.848.5239.



Family Activities at BZC

Saturday Morning Supervised Play

Supervised play is offered free of charge many Saturday mornings (see schedule below) for 9:40 am zazen through lecture. Supervising is Berkeley High student Lihong Chan. If you want to use this service, contact Laurie Senauke, 510.845.2215, or lauries AT kushiki.org by noon the Friday before.

Coverage for 8:45 am zazen instruction is offered by arrangement; contact Laurie for information.

KidZendo

Kidzendo is a program for children three and up, offered about twice a month during the school year, usually on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays, from 9:30 to 11:15 am (check schedule below). Together, we explore meditation, mindfulness, compassion and Buddhist traditions in a kid-friendly fashion. We are developing our curriculum and experimenting with what works best for our situation, which often includes a range of ages from pre-school through late elementary. BZC members Tamar and Judy Fleischman are among those teaching. Come take part! Our program includes songs, stories, discussions, snacks, walks, and art activities. Laurie Senauke oversees the program and can answer questions and receive input.

Family practice schedule:

July 5	Break - no program
July 12	Supervised play
July 19	Supervised play
July 26	Supervised play - CAMPOUT!
August 2	No program
August 9	No program
August 16	No program
August 23	No program
August 30	No program

Family Practice E-mail Group

To make it easier to communicate about family practice activities at BZC, we have a Yahoo group. We only send, at most, ONE e-mail per week - a short reminder of upcoming events. To join, e-mail Marie at marie_hopper AT sbcglobal.net or Laurie.

Please RSVP for ALL family activities to lauries AT kushiki.org. Thank you!

Hierarchy and Equality

In this practice, each one of us is given a challenge, and we have to come up to that challenge, whatever it is. If you are a new student, you have the challenge of being a new student. If you're an older student, you have the challenge of being an older student. You have the challenge of your practice position and your relationship to the other members of the sangha. Hierarchy exists in the vertical relationships of all societies, while equality exists in the horizontal relationships. Both are necessary and where they meet is where we find our true position at any moment. In this way we can relate to everyone in a harmonious way, hopefully free from self-centeredness and willful ambition, honoring everyone's position while feeling satisfied with our own. It doesn't matter what our position is. If we take responsibility for our position, we have a way to go which for all of us is both unique and the same.



On a chessboard each of the pieces has a hierarchical position. Some have more power and some have less but those pieces which have more power have to be able to share that power, and all pieces have to work together for a common purpose on a basis of equality. That takes skill, the skill to allow people to feel that they have power no matter where they are in relation to everyone else.

By power I don't mean dominance. There is a difference between dominance and power. And there's a difference between hierarchy and power. Hierarchy merely means "position in relation to everyone else." But it doesn't necessarily mean dominance. People associate hierarchy with dominance. If I say hierarchy I often get a reaction, "Oh, you mean dominance." But I don't. I just mean "position in relation to everything else."

Student: "Are Hinayana and Mahayana two different things?"

Sojun: "They are two aspects of one practice. The Hinayana is like, 'What am I doing?' the Mahayana is like, 'What are we doing?' There are two aspects of Mahayana practice: self-cultivation on one hand, and saving all beings on the other. Hinayana, for me, simply means narrow focus, while Mahayana means wide. Our practice could be seen as Hinayana practice with Mahayana mind."

Student: "When you are cutting carrots can you have both at the same time?"

Sojun: "Yes. When you are doing something, it's like, 'What am I doing?' but then there is also, 'What are we doing?' If you are a tangaryo student, sitting five days as your entrance requirement to be a Tassajara student, it is easier to think, 'What am I doing?' But if you are the Abbot you have to think, 'What are we doing?' But actually all of us need to think about 'What are we doing?' All of us need to think about how we are relating to the whole. If we take up the responsibility of 'What are we doing?' and completely become one with our position, then we contribute to everyone's practice because all positions are connected. In the kitchen, it's true we just cut carrots. But it's also true that we stay aware of what's going on around us and move with the entire situation in a harmonious way. That's called, 'Being the Boss.' "

I trust everyone to take care of themselves. I remember a teacher saying, "I'm responsible for all the students." But I don't feel that I'm responsible for all students. I definitely respond, but I'm not responsible. Ultimately everyone is responsible for themselves. Buddhist or Zen practice is to find your way through your own effort. What I try to do is help everyone find the authority within themselves to stimulate their own effort. I don't have any method. My attitude is to encourage everyone as much as I can. When you respond to encouragement then we have something to work with.

- Sojun Roshi (from the February 2003 BZC Newsletter)

Four-Day Mountains and Rivers Sesshin July 31-August 3

Our next Mountains and Rivers Sesshin will take place Thursday through Sunday, July 31-August 3, at Point Reyes.

Gerry Oliva will be joining us as Doshi (officiating priest). Gerry will be leading our daily discussions of Dogen's "Mountains and Rivers Sutra" and/or other topics of her choice, and she will also be available for one-on-one practice discussions during our free time periods on Friday and Saturday afternoons.

The sesshin will begin with an orientation meeting Wednesday evening, July 30, in the Community Room. Thursday morning we will carpool to Point Reyes, then hike from the Palomarin trailhead to Wildcat Camp (5.5 miles), moving at a moderate pace with frequent rest stops and lunch along the way. We will get back to Berkeley around 5:00 pm Sunday. All meals are provided and camping experience is not required. Everyone is encouraged to do the full four days, but provision will also be made for those who may have to arrive late.

The signup sheet will be posted on the BZC bulletin board. Signup deadline is Saturday, July 26. The fee is \$75. If you have any questions, please call Ken Knabb at 510.527.0959 or e-mail him at knabb AT bopsecrets.org.

Sojun Roshi's Koan Study Group

Sojun Roshi's study group will begin a new series in August. First-timers as well as those who've been coming to each series are welcome. We'll continue to work with The Book of Serenity (Equanimity) collection.

The dates are all on Friday evenings from 7:15-8:45. The five-part sequence is: **8/1, 8/15, 9/5, 9/26, and 10/10**. The cost for the series is \$50 with discounts available if necessary. A sign-up sheet will be posted in mid-July, or you may e-mail class coordinator Ron Nestor to register at rnestor1 AT yahoo.com.



Dharma Group Focusing on Questions of Life and Death

Guy Micco and Ryushin Andrea Thach will be leading an ongoing dharma group to continue the themes that were opened in the class on living with living and dying. We expect to meet about once a month, most likely on an evening and location to be determined by the needs of the group. We will continue to read from Buddhist sutras and writings as well as the humanities. We hope the focus will be to share and deepen our relationship with the topic in our own life. We also will be encouraging members to bring aspects of the topic near and dear to them for discussion. If you are interested in coming or have questions, please contact Guy at guym AT berkeley.edu or Andrea at andrea.thach AT gmail.com.

Vallejo Zen Center's Jazz and Garden Party Saturday July 26, 3-6 pm

Don't miss the Vallejo Zen Center fundraiser party! Come to 607 Branciforte St. in Vallejo to enjoy great jazz, food, drink, door prizes, silent auction and a grand raffle of dinner for two at Greens. (Need not be present to win the raffle.) Raffle/doorprize chances are \$5 per chance or \$20 for five chances.

Admission for adults is \$15 per person. Kids under 12 are free. You can purchase tickets from Ko Blix or Steve Treagus at BZC.



BZC Building Maintenance and You

Your monthly member dues and donations not earmarked for the leadership or building funds pay for:



These operating expenses totaled more than \$173,000 in 2013.

Dues and unrestricted donations do NOT pay for:



Long-deferred repairs to 1929 Russell are estimated to cost over \$25,000 in 2014.

Dues & unrestricted donations are like daily zazen, the foundation of our practice. Capital outlays are more akin to sesshin – a challenge, but also a unique opportunity to come together in mutual endeavor and support.

BZC needs your support to undertake these necessary building maintenance projects. Please give to the best of your ability this year by making a tax-deductible donation to the Building Fund.

Save the Date!

Annual FUNdraising Bazaar

September 27, 2014

after the regular Saturday program



Everything Old is New Again

Or maybe it's the other way around. After much discussion, we've decided to keep the original BZC phone number, **510.845.2403**. Many people had fond memories of this number, which was also Sojun's original Berkeley phone number. Please disregard last month's notice regarding the phone number change.

Lay Entrustment Ceremony

On Monday, July 7, Clay Taylor will receive Lay Entrustment from Sojun Roshi. Clay is a long-time student of Sojun's who moved to Colorado with his family several years ago. The ceremony will be held in the zendo at 5:40 a.m., and will be skyped to Clay's sangha in Colorado. There will be a reception in the community room following the ceremony. Everyone is encouraged to attend and to offer support and congratulations to Clay.



Lay Ordination

On Saturday, June 14, three members of the Berkeley Zen Center sangha received lay ordination (Zaike Tokudo) from Abbot Sojun Weitsman. Sojun, together with Lay Recognized Teacher Karen DeCotis, also gave the precepts to her student from the Bozeman (Montana) Sitting Group. This ceremony takes place once a year at BZC and is a significant rite of passage for each participant and for the whole sangha. We have the feeling that we are all together witnessing and participating as the ordines receive Buddha's precepts. We welcome these ordines into the lineage of Shakyamuni Buddha and Suzuki Roshi's family. Congratulations to all!

Sojun Roshi's students:

Linda Hess

Kaijaku Junkyo

Ocean Serenity Pure-hearted Dwelling

Stephanie Seaborg

Engetsu Onkō

Round Moon Calm (gentle) Light

Troy Dufrene

Reifū Onsei

Cool Breeze Warm Spirit

Karen DeCotis' student:

Joe Gaston

Seitoku Shinkon

Quiet Virtue Sincere Determination



the swiss train conductor
completely in time
donned his priest robes and alighted to the platform
destination anywhere
which train to take?
is the question enough?
all aboard the rooster express!
let us hear from the shuso

—benji sangetsu seikyo john busch
delivered at shuso hossen, June 22, 2014

Head Serving in the Zendo

Many thanks to Marie Hopper who has been our head server for three and a half years. Her dedication and positive energy in keeping this position filled on Saturdays has been much appreciated by all of us. For the next several months, the Practice Committee has decided to try something a little different. Our focus will be on training new people to be head servers, as well as maintaining the forms during this training. Jake Van Akkeren was asked to take on this trainer role and he has kindly agreed.

Save the Date: The Hidden Lamp

On Saturday, September 6, long-time BZC member Susan Moon will give the Saturday lecture, with her co-writer Florence Caplow, about their book *The Hidden Lamp: Stories from Twenty-five Centuries of Awakened Women*. Susan and Florence will stick around for an afternoon activity (yet to be conceptualized) when they will be joined by several other women contributors to the book, including some of BZC's own practice leaders. Details to follow in August.

Saturday Speakers, 10:15 am

July 5 - Laurie Senauke

July 12 - Sojun Roshi

July 19 - Greg Denny

July 26 - Sojun Roshi

Friday and Monday Talk Schedule

July 7, Monday 6:20 am - Clay Taylor's entrustment

July 11, Friday 5:50 pm - Meghan Collins

July 14, Monday 6:20 am - Dean Bradley

July 21, Monday 6:20 am - Bruce Coughran

July 28, Monday 6:20 am - Stephanie Seaborg

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE

**Third Friday of the month before each
issue. Submit to bzcnewsletter AT
gmail.com.**

**August deadline:
Friday, July 15, 8:00 pm**

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