



Berkeley Zen Center



September 2014 Newsletter

BZC Annual FUNdraising Bazaar Support the BZC Building Fund Saturday, September 27 after lecture

Food, music, raffle and event sign-ups. If you can't attend, you can still sign up for sangha-member-led events (contact lauries@kushiki.org) and buy raffle tickets for a chance to win a prize (contact sdsolar@earthlink.net). For more info, visit www.berkeleyzencenter.org/fundraiser.shtml



sketch by Shelley Brock

September Work Weekend

Saturday, Sept. 20 – Sunday Sept. 21

Please join us for a special work weekend September 20 and 21. Many of BZC's unpainted wood surfaces, the zendo in particular, badly need cleaning, resurfacing, and refinishing. We've hired Gustavo, our excellent contractor, to pressure-wash surfaces two weeks prior to our work. Our job will consist of light sanding and then applying a low-VOC sealer with brushes and rollers. No experience is necessary. We've cancelled the usual Sept. 20 Saturday program schedule so everyone will find it easier to show up and pitch in. A reliably great lunch will be served each day.

- continued on the following page -



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.

B Z C S c h e d u l e

September

Founder's Ceremony

Wednesday, 9/3, 6:20 pm
Thursday, 9/4, 6:40 am

Bodhisattva Ceremony

Saturday, 9/6, 9:40 am

Half-Day Sitting

Sunday, 9/7, 8:00 am – 12:00 noon

New Member Entering Ceremony

Monday, 9/8, 6:20 am

All Sangha Potluck – Board Nominations

Tuesday, 9/9, 6:30 pm

Women's Sitting

Sunday, 9/14, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Work Weekend

Saturday, 9/20 – Sunday, 9/21

Fundraising Party

Saturday, 9/27, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

October

Founder's Ceremony

Thursday, 10/2, 6:20 pm
Friday, 10/3, 6:40 am

Family Sitting

Sunday, 10/5, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Bodhisattva Ceremony

Saturday, 10/11, 9:40 am

One-Day Sesshin

Open Aspects of Practice

Saturday, 10/18

Aspects of Practice

October 18 – November 15

Sejiki Ceremony and Celebration

Saturday, 10/25

September Work Weekend

- continued from previous page -

Our zendo is thirty-two years old this year and over that time we've done our best to keep it in good condition both inside and out. It's been a good while since we last applied oil to the exterior walls and there are serious areas of black mold and cracked, dried out wood. For those who prefer not to work with oil or sanding or even outdoors, we have several alternative projects, and of course kitchen support is always welcome.

Walter Kieser, Mary Duryee, and Ron Nestor are organizing the weekend with work leaders Paul Ridgway and Bruce Coughran helping to supervise. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board; it includes the option of just dropping in at any time during the day. The schedule will be:

Sat., 9/20:	8:00 am	coffee & pastries
	8:15 am	work meeting
	12:00 pm	lunch
	1:00 pm	work
	4:00 pm	end (zazen TBA)
Sun., 9/21:	9:00 am	arrive
	9:15 am	work meeting
	12:30 pm	lunch
	4:00 pm	end (zazen TBA)

We've set aside Sunday Sept. 28 as a back-up day in case we don't finish the work in one weekend.

Family Sesshin Not Just for Families Sunday, October 5, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Dharma brothers and sisters: we're all just one big happy family, right? **On Sunday, October 5**, BZC will be offering its third annual groundbreaking Family Sesshin for all ages and stages of being. The day will begin at **9:00 am and go until 4:00 pm** and include zazen, service, a mindful walk, work period, theater games, art projects, stories, and other fun activities for all ages. As usual, we need non-parents and non-children for ballast! You can attend all or part. Please sign up on the zendo bulletin board. Questions? E-mail Laurie Senauke (lauries@kushiki.org).



Family Activities at BZC

Saturday Morning Supervised Play

Supervised play is offered many Saturdays (schedule below) from 9:40 am zazen through lecture. Supervising is Berkeley High student Lihong Chan. To use this service, or for coverage for 8:45 am zazen instruction, contact Laurie Senauke, 510.845.2215, or lauries@kushiki.org by noon the Friday before.

KidZendo

BZC's Saturday program for children 3 and up is offered during the school year, typically on the fourth Saturday of each month, from 9:30 am to 11:15 am (see schedule below or online). A group of BZC members create this program, which includes songs, stories, offerings, art activities and a snack. For more information, and to RSVP, contact lauries@kushiki.org.

New! Theater Games

We are trying a new monthly offering suggested by sangha member Thea Gold: Theater Games - a way to be silly and free together, while cultivating creativity, body awareness, spontaneity, relaxation, expressivity, trust, laughter, and concentration. It is suitable for all ages, and for the shy as well as outgoing. Through games, storytelling, and improvisation, we will practice fully opening to each moment. It will be held typically on second Saturdays (see schedule or online) from 9:30 am to 11:15 am. To RSVP, contact lauries@kushiki.org.

Family practice schedule:

September 6, 13	Supervised play
September 20	Work day - no program
September 27	Sup. play/ BZC FUNdraiser
October 4	No program
October 5	Family Sesshin
October 11	Supervised play
October 18	Sesshin - no program
October 25	Sejiki Ceremony
November 1	Supervised play
November 8	Theater Games
November 15	Sesshin - no program
November 22	Kidzendo
November 29	Supervised play
December 6	No program
December 13	Theater Games
December 20, 27	Interim

Family Practice E-mail Group

Our Yahoo group makes it easier to communicate about family practice. We only send, at most, one event reminder e-mail a week. To join, e-mail Marie at marie_hopper@sbcglobal.net or Laurie.

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

Resonance

September 2014

There is a Zen saying: "Don't mistake a jar for a bell." A jar full of something, when you tap it, goes "click." Although they may resemble each other, a bell when tapped has a resonant voice. Dogen's teacher Rujing offered a well known poem about the wind bell. Something like, "Hanging in emptiness, its whole body is its mouth. Whichever direction the wind blows, it doesn't mind. All day long it rings the song of prajna; ting liang ting, ding ling ding."

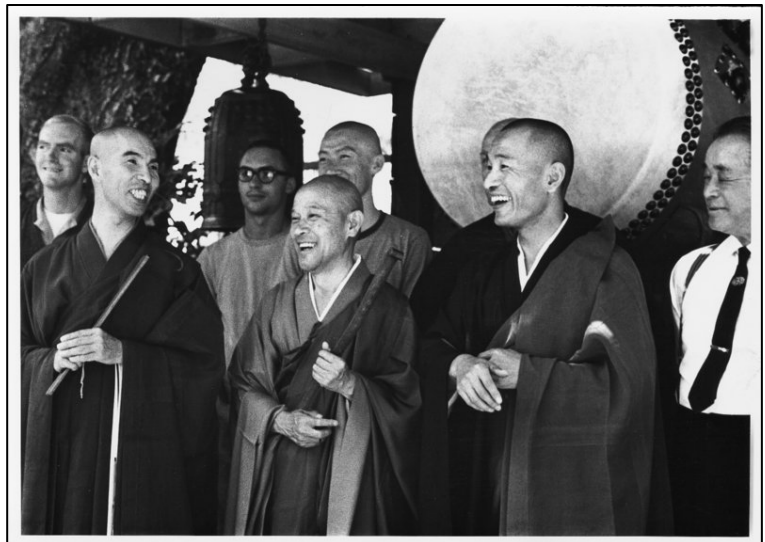
Although we use bell sounds to keep the time in our service for chanting and bowing, their primary purpose is, when properly played, to create a devotional atmosphere and a feeling of reverence and profound stillness.

Playing the bells is an art. As in any instrument, to find the true voice of the bells is to find the true voice within our self. Each time we sound the bell we search for that true voice, the one that resonates deeply within our solar plexus where I, the hand, the beater and the bell disappear, and the clear round sound, free from all restraints, fills the space.

I think we have all heard of the horse whisperer and the dog whisperer. They accomplish their ends through love, understanding and co-operation. We can produce an enormous amount of sound from the bell with least amount of effort. The bell koan is: How do you produce a sound without hitting the bell? The bell is a wonderful teacher for us and needs to be treated with reverence and respect. Suzuki Roshi once said of the mokugyo, "If you keep hitting it like that, the poor thing is likely to have a heart attack."

There is a true story of the boy whose father sent him to the monastery because he was unable to support him. The young acolytes were trained to sound the big Bonsho outside. One day the abbot was having tea with the officers of the temple when the big Bonsho was sounded. It was a wonderful sound, and the abbot asked that whoever it was, to please bring him over. To everyone's surprise, in walks this little boy. The abbot asked him what he was thinking when he sounded the bell. The boy said that when his father sent him to the monastery he would be asked to ring the Bonsho, and that every time he sounded the bell a Buddha would come forth. The little boy grew up to be a famous Zen master.

- Sojun Roshi

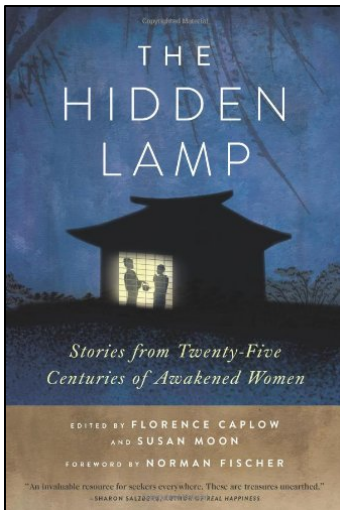


*Mike Dove, Sumi Togen,
Ed Brown,
Shunryu Suzuki Roshi,
Bill Kwong, and
Hakuyu Taizan Maezumi
at Tassajara, June 1967
with drum and bell.*

Aspects of Practice 2014 Coming Soon! Saturday, October 18 - Saturday, November 15

Aspects of Practice, co-led by Raul Moncayo, Laurie Senauke and the BZC senior students, will begin with a one-day sitting on Saturday, Oct. 18, and continue through the closing sitting on Saturday, Nov. 15. This autumn event is an opportunity for new and old students to share zazen, work, tea, study, and practice discussion. Classes will be on Thursday evenings at 7:15. Our theme will be announced in the October newsletter, but right now the plan is to delve into the archive of unpublished Suzuki Roshi lectures. If you have questions, e-mail Raul at raul.moncayodebremont@gmail.com or Laurie at lauries@kushiki.org, or speak to us at BZC. Please plan to join us for this opportunity to encourage each other and refresh our timeless practice. Information and sign-up sheets will be posted in late September and schedule and other materials will be included in the October newsletter.

Hidden Lamp Gives Light Saturday, September 6



On Saturday, September 6, longtime BZC member Susan Moon will give the Saturday lecture (10:15 am) about her book [The Hidden Lamp: Stories from Twenty-five Centuries of Awakened Women](#) (co-edited with Florence Caplow). Then we will continue in the afternoon, 1- 4 pm, with an

afternoon workshop, open to men and women. BZC practice leaders Karen Sundheim and Laurie Senauke (who contributed essays in the book) will join Susan to further bring forth these wonderful teachings. The afternoon will include an experiential component—perhaps a writing exercise—and general sharing among all the attendees. We will also hear from Susan about how

the book is being received and used around the country. Cost for the afternoon is \$15. Folks are encouraged to bring a bag lunch and plan for a day at BZC. Please sign up on the bulletin board.



Women's Sesshin

Sunday, September 14, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

The annual BZC Women's Sesshin will be held on Sunday September 14, beginning at 9 am and ending at 4:30 pm. It will include both a lecture and a discussion period led by Susan Marvin, longtime BZC practitioner. An informal buffet style lunch will be provided; no experience with oryoki is needed. Women of all levels of practice are encouraged to attend this special sesshin to share our union as female practitioners. Cost for the day is \$25. (If you are unable to pay the full amount, contact the sesshin director to arrange a reduced fee.) The sign-up sheet will be posted on the zendo bulletin board in early September. For more information, please contact sesshin director, Carol Paul at caroljpaul@yahoo.com or 510.206.5051.

Half-Day Sitting

Sunday, September 7, 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 September half-day director Greg Denny at greg@techperience.org or 510.559.8831.

Board Nominations

The BZC board is currently finalizing its search for prospective candidates for our member-at-large election in October. Formal nominations will be made at the all-sangha meeting on Tues., September 9, immediately following the potluck that begins at 6:30 pm. There will be opportunity for committee chairs to provide brief updates regarding finance, building projects, fundraising and electronic communication.

In recruiting candidates, we have identified a variety of skills that support the sangha's interests, including but not limited to: oral and written communication, organization, information technology, money management, fundraising, engineering, building maintenance and nonprofit law. Board members are expected to attend monthly Sunday morning meetings (9:00-12:00), an all-day retreat on a Sunday in February, and to serve on at least one working board committee: finance, buildings, development, or electronic communication.

At our September meeting, all BZC members are welcome to nominate fellow members for this position, but please contact them first concerning their willingness to be nominated. If you yourself are interested in being nominated, contact board president Jake Van Akkeren by e-mail (jvanakkeren@comcast.net).

We hope to see you at the dinner and meeting and wholeheartedly welcome your participation in the nomination process.



photos by Ko Blix



BZC Event Photos

'Photomontary' of Sojun's 85th Birthday Party pix are now online. Contact Ko Blix (KoFotoFactory@me.com) if you are not yet privy to our semi-private must-see-to-believe BZC photo site.

Support the BZC Building Fund

Raffle tickets are being sold after Saturday programs up to and including the day of the fundraising event September 27. All proceeds from ticket sales will replenish BZC's Building Fund for much-needed maintenance.

Raffle tickets are an affordable way for members to support BZC's fundraising efforts. You can purchase one ticket for \$5 or 5 tickets for \$20, and you need not be present to win. Consider buying tickets for friends or selling to friends, family, colleagues, and neighbors. Contact Stephanie Solar (sdsolar@earthlink.net) if you would like a ticket-selling packet.

Here's a look at what you just might win:

GRAND PRIZES

\$300 Gift certificate to Chez Panisse

\$300 Gift certificate to REI

AND...

\$165 Ceramic vase by Barbara Strauss

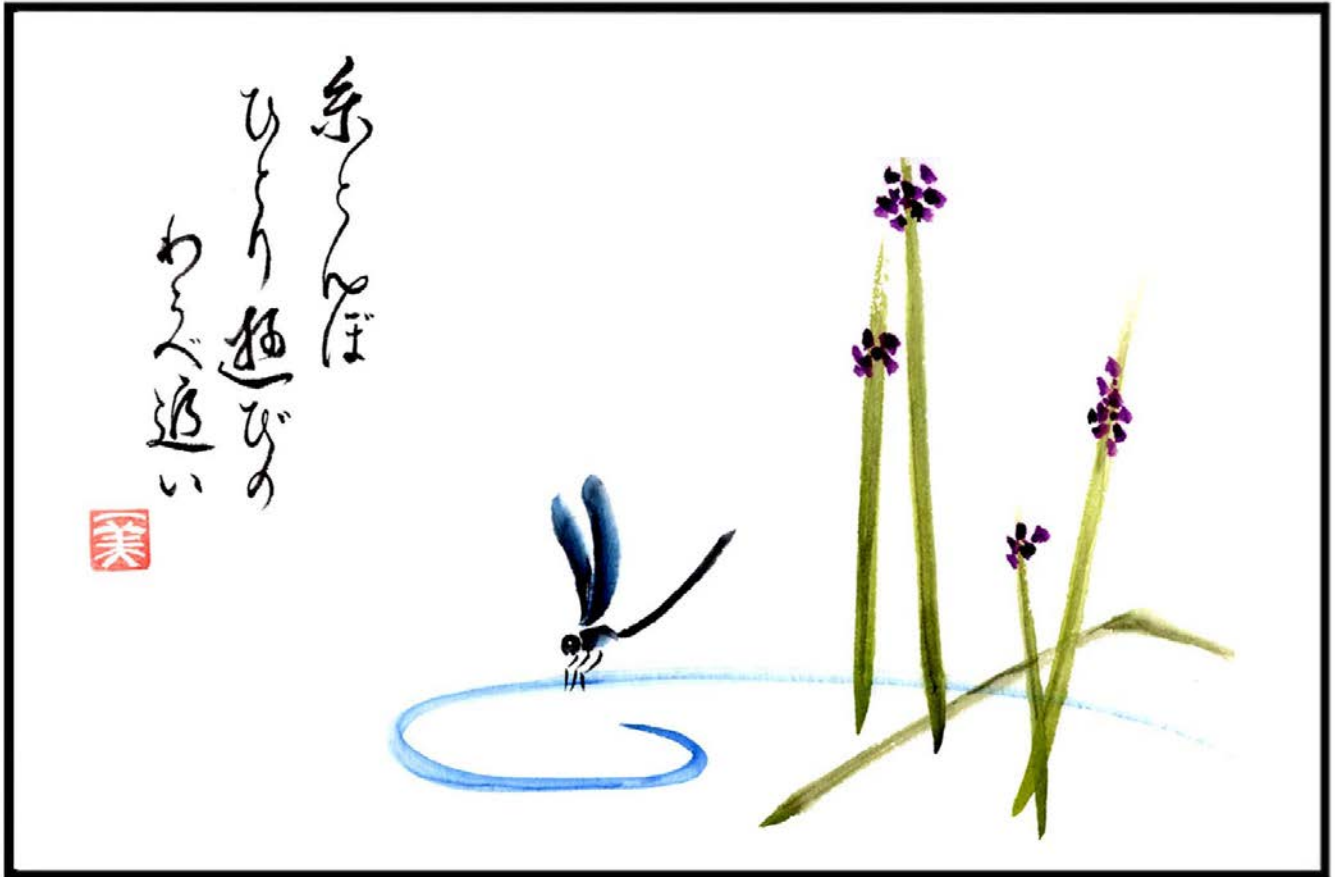
\$75 Cast iron teapot from Itsy Bitsy

\$35 Gift certificate to Matsu on Solano Ave

(natural bedding, gifts, meditation supplies)

\$25 Gift certificate to Itsy Bitsy on

College Ave (jewelry, decorative items)



*Dragonfly pursuit
A child playing
by herself –
race with a dragonfly.*

- Haiga by Kazumi Cranney

BZC member Kazumi Cranney has been working in haiga painting for more than 30 years. Haiga is a form of painting that combines three traditional Japanese arts: haiku, calligraphy, and watercolor. She is a longtime resident of Berkeley. Her paintings have been exhibited in many locales throughout the Bay Area, including the Japan Cultural Community Center, Gallery Voyage in San Francisco, the San Ramon Community Center, and the Berkeley Art Center.

Doanryo Training Saturday October 4th

On Saturday, October 4, at 11:30 am, Sojun Roshi will offer a refresher training for doans, kokyos and fukudos. This event will be for people already trained in these service positions. Sojun Roshi warmly encourages those of you in this group to come to this training.

New Dharma Group

Leslie Bartholic and Jake Van Akkeren are interested in forming a new dharma group that would start sometime this fall. The group would meet every three weeks or so on Saturday afternoons at BZC. The theme would be practicing with beginner's mind in everyday life. If you have an interest in joining this group, please contact either Leslie (lbartholic@comcast.net) or Jake (jvanakkeren@comcast.net).

Changing Hands

Our temple is supported by many sangha members serving in a variety of practice positions. We offer our heartfelt thanks to all of these people and note the following changes:

Paul Ridgway has been our steadfast kitchen keeper these past few years. He has done a wonderful job of keeping our kitchen clean and organized, as well as stocked with supplies. We welcome Katy Guimond as our new kitchen keeper.

Ross Blum has been taking care of our laundry for a couple of years now. He has diligently maintained a clean supply of towels and other items in the kitchen and laundry room. Peter Pfaelzer has graciously agreed to taken on this important role.

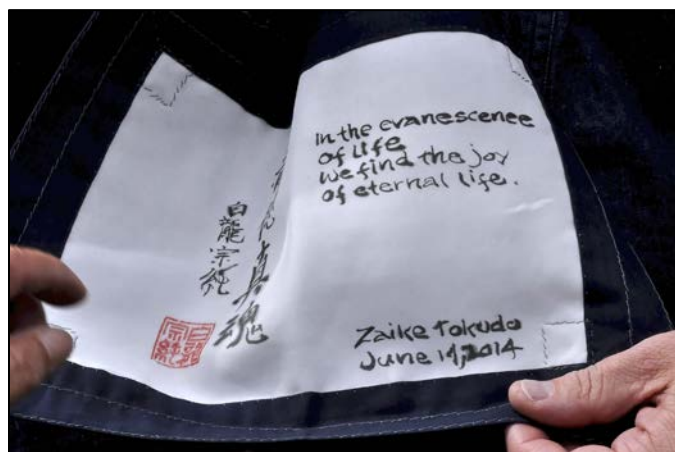
Peter Carpentieri has served as head dishwasher for almost two years. He has done an excellent job of overseeing the dishwashing on Saturdays and making sure the kitchen is clean and tidy afterwards. We welcome Jed Appelman as our new head dishwasher.

New Member Entering Ceremony Monday, September 8, 6:20am

Any BZC member who has not formally entered the BZC temple over the past years is warmly invited to attend this formal entering ceremony.

Dokusan Note

Sojun Roshi's Saturday dokusan signup sheet has a notice that says "By request." That means you have to ask personally before signing up. For various reasons Sojun's Saturday morning schedule is sometimes unpredictable and he doesn't always like to fill it up.



Caring for Buddha's Robe

If you need assistance (or simply time and space) with rakusu/okesa/robe repairs, replacement, or finishing already-started rakusu, the following dates are on the calendar. Each session is from 1-5 pm except as noted. Please contact the sewing teacher, Jean Selkirk (510.655.0820), before you attend the first time. Any changes to the schedule will be made on the bulletin board.

Material fees only apply for envelopes or new (second or replacement) rakusu, and the usual class fee applies for new rakusu, which must have been started by the end of August.

Starting a first rakusu for Lay Ordination will begin in January as usual. If you are considering this, please speak with your teacher and then also speak with the sewing teacher before the winter break begins.

Sunday, September 7, 1 - 5 pm
Sunday, September 21, 1 - 5 pm
Sunday, October 12, 1 - 5 pm
Sunday, October 19, 1 - 5 pm
Sunday, November 2, 1 - 5 pm
Sunday, November 16, 1 - 5 pm

Saturday Speakers, 10:15 am

September 6 - Susan Moon
September 13 - Leslie Bartholic
September 20 - No lecture (work day)
September 27 - Hozan Alan Senauke

Friday and Monday Talk Schedule

September 5, Friday 5:50 pm - Catherine Lucas
September 8, Monday 6:20 am - New Member Entering
Ceremony
September 15, Monday 6:20 am - Margaret Wotkyms
September 22, Monday 6:20 am - Kika
September 29, Monday 6:20 am - Chris Evans

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE

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

**October deadline:
Friday, September 19, 8:00 pm**

Style Note

Thanks to Troy and Laurie for bringing to my attention the fact that disguising e-mail addresses no longer has any effect on automatic address collection. To make it easier for folks to contact each other, I've changed all e-mail addresses in this newsletter back to the @ form. Thank you!
- Jen Taylor, bzcnewsletter@gmail.com.

Berkeley Zen Center
1931 Russell Street
Berkeley, CA 94703