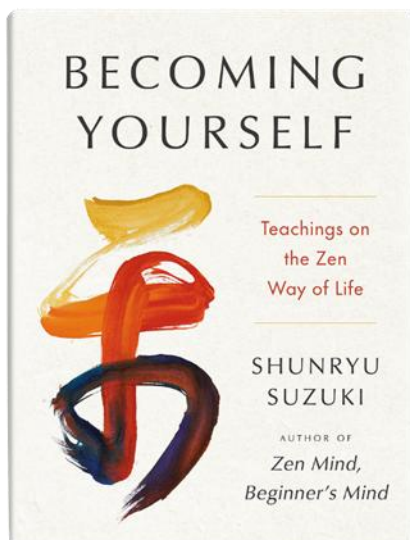




Berkeley Zen Center



July–August 2025 Newsletter



Suzuki Roshi Book Launch

On Thursday, July 17, 7:15–8:45 p.m., please join us in the BZC zendo (or online) for a dharma talk by Jiryu Rutschman-Byler honoring Sojun Roshi's role as coeditor of the new Suzuki Roshi book, *Becoming Yourself*. Jiryu worked closely with Sojun Roshi and others to bring this project to completion.

For information about other events around the launch of this book, check out www.becomingyourselfbook.com/events.



Affirmation of Welcome

Walking the path of liberation, we express our intimate connection with all beings. Berkeley Zen Center is a sangha of Buddhist practitioners drawing from the Bay Area's many spiritual and cultural communities. Just as Shakyamuni Buddha welcomed people of all backgrounds to practice, here at BZC our activities embrace diversity, and are available to people of every color, every way of life and ethnic background, class, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, and ability. May all beings practice in safety and equality, realizing our true nature.

B Z C S C H E D U L E

July

Zendo Holiday
Friday, 7/4

Half-Day Sitting
Sunday, 7/6

Founders' Ceremony
Monday, 7/7, 7:00am

Bodhisattva Ceremony
Saturday, 7/12, 9:30am

Zazenkai (Day of Just Sitting)
Sunday, 7/13

Mountains & Rivers Sesshin
Friday–Sunday, 7/18–7/20

Board Meeting
Sunday, 7/27, 9:00–11:00am

August

One-Day Sitting
Saturday, 8/2

Founders' Ceremony
Thursday, 8/7, 7:00am

Bodhisattva Ceremony
Saturday, 8/9, 9:30am

Memorial Celebration for Hozan Alan Senauke
Sunday, 8/10, 10:00am–2:00pm

Board Meeting
Sunday, 8/17, 9:00–11:00am

For more complete and up-to-date information, please check the BZC website (berkeleyzencenter.org) and subscribe to BZC's community listserv.

Spring 2025 Practice Period

This spring Mark Copithorne, Genzan Seishi (Dark Mysterious Mountain/Sincere Aspiration), served as shuso (head student), sharing the Abiding Teachers' seat for our thirty-fourth practice period. Along with daily zazen and dharma talks, there were shuso teas, a wonderful practice period dinner, a joyous return to skit night, a dive into the Lotus Sutra (including the all-day Memorial Day chanting of the entire text!), and a five-day sesshin with the shuso ceremony to close.

Congratulations to Mark and to all the BZC sangha for great, sincere efforts.



Shuso Hossen Benji Poem

Dark Mysterious Mountain/Sincere Aspiration Genzan Seishi

Dark Mysterious Mountain/Sincere Aspiration
wanders Buddha's lands.
finding Sokaku-ji Temple, in 1994,
he rests

Family, work, Zen practice and friendships
root the blue eyed mountain
and he allows these seeds to turn into roots
and grow

Heartfelt disappointments, course corrections,
fun, laughs, and learnings
guide Dark Mysterious Mountain/Sincere
Aspiration
he opens to the intimacy of "practice in
service"

Sitting upright, surrendering to life's
difficulties,
he speaks few words
How can we know him?

He shares that he chants the Prajna Paramita
Mantra for over 1000 days.
Does all this soften his sharp cliffs and
precipices?
Does all this moor him to this Saha world and
BZC sangha?

The sangha ponders the koan:
"16 bodhisattvas awaken through the
sense of water . . ."
7 times piercing, 8 times breaking through:
Perhaps continuous practice and no gaining
mind has merit?

Pshaw!

NOW! HEAR THE SHUSO . . .

—Debra Callahan
(Benji, Spring 2025 Practice Period)

Priest Ordination

BZC held a priest ordination (*shukke tokudo*) on Sunday, June 8. Genzan Kakuho Clay Taylor was ordained by Kakudo Peter Overton and Genkai Shinyu Joe Buckner was ordained by Nyokai Laurie Senauke. Both Clay and Joe had been working with Abbot Hozan before he passed away. There hasn't been an ordination at BZC in a few years; it was meaningful and bittersweet for the BZC sangha to be moving forward without either of our two longtime shepherds: Sojun Roshi and Hozan Roshi.



Sesshins and Sittings

Sunday, July 6, 8:00 a.m. to noon, we will have a **half-day sitting**. The fee is \$10 or whatever amount you can give. To sign up or to ask any questions, please contact the director, Gary Artim (gartim@gmail.com).

Sunday, July 13, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., we will have **Zazenkai: a silent day of just sitting** (plus kinhin and bag lunch, but nothing else). Suggested donation is \$15 or whatever amount you can give. For more information, please contact the director, Karen Sundheim (ksundheim@gmail.com).

Friday through Sunday, July 18–20, we will have a **three-day Mountains & Rivers Session** at Point Reyes. See separate article on the next page.

Saturday, August 2, 5:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., we will have a **one-day sitting**, led by Ryushin Andrea Thach. Suggested donation is \$35 or whatever amount you can give. For more information, please contact the director, Gary Artim (gartim@gmail.com).

You can pay for any of the above by mailing a check to the BZC Office Manager at 1931 Russell St., Berkeley 94703, or through the website using the "Sits/Classes" button on the "Generosity" tab. In either case, please indicate what you are paying for, so that your payment is not mixed up with dues or donations.

Memorial Celebration for Hozan Alan Senauke

On August 10, 2025, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at The Freight in downtown Berkeley, we will hold a memorial service for our late Abbot Hozan Roshi. We are looking forward to all being together to honor and celebrate his life. The day will include a Zen ceremony, stories from a number of friends, lots of music, and some hearty snacks. The Freight is a wonderful venue in downtown Berkeley, accessible, with parking, with plenty of room for us.

We also plan to livestream the event. More details when we get nearer to August 10. Hope you all can be there with us one way or the other.

Mountains and Rivers Sesshin

Mark your calendars for a three-day Mountains and Rivers Sesshin at Point Reyes National Seashore. This is our first M&R sesshin since before the pandemic, and we are excited to be offering it again.

The sesshin, led by Ellen Webb and Susan Marvin, will be Friday through Sunday, July 18–20 (three days and two nights). It will involve hiking and camping while maintaining a sesshin atmosphere and mindful practice, including periods of silence, zazen, group study, free time, and assigned positions and responsibilities such as cooking or cleanup. It offers a wonderful way to meet and connect with other practitioners and experience practice in a beautiful natural setting.

Carpooling will be arranged. Please sign up on the BZC patio bulletin board or contact Ellen Webb (ellenwebbdance@gmail.com) or Susan Marvin (lai_hang@yahoo.com).



Class on the Mountains and Rivers Sutra

Dogen Zenji's *Sansuikyo* ("Mountains and Rivers Sutra," a.k.a. "Mountains and Waters Sutra") is an invitation into a realm where the world itself—the mountains, waters, plants, animals, and people we encounter every day—can be experienced as fully, luminously alive, dynamic, and responsive.

In this three-week class, led by Hondo Dave Rutschman, we will explore what happens if we try as hard as we can to take Dogen up on this generous invitation. To that end, we will experiment with group writing, exercises, and open-ended discussion. Our goal will be to enter these teachings from the inside, not so much as objects of intellectual study, but more as encouragements to enter an embodied joyful expression of awakening together.

Given the experiential nature of the class, it will be offered in-person only, on three Thursdays: August 21, August 28, and September 4, 7:15–8:45 p.m. in the Community Room. Please join us!

The suggested class fee is \$30, which is used to support BZC programs and to provide dana to the teacher. Any offering is accepted, and no fee is required for attendance.

To register for the class, please use this link: <https://forms.gle/HfarZKELiGueZe938>. For more information, please contact Class Coordinator Ryushin (andrea.thach@gmail.com).



Tassajara Sangha Work-Study Weeks

Every year Tassajara Zen Mountain Center, a monastery located in a remote part of the Ventana Wilderness east of Carmel Valley, provides an opportunity for sanghas to practice together as part of the Guest Practice Program during the summer guest season. Teachers from sanghas from the Suzuki Roshi lineage can bring a group of up to 10 members including the teachers.

There will be three groups from BZC attending this year: Ryushin Andrea Thach and Dave Rutschman will be leading the first group for the week of July 15–20; Susan Marvin and Ellen Webb will be leading the second group for the week of July 29–August 3; and Gerry Oliva and Mary Duryee will lead the third group for the week of September 2–7.

The daily program includes 5:50 a.m. zazen, 6:50 service, 7:15 soji (short work period), 7:30 breakfast with other guest students, 8:30–12:00 work assignments, and noon lunch with other students. The rest of the day will be structured by each study group, then we will join the guests for dinner and sit the final zazen period of the day.

The groups plan to drive down together if possible. If we can't drive all the way to Tassajara because of parking constraints, there is a stage from Jamesburg to the Center for \$65.00 round trip.

If you are interested in participating, please let the group leaders know as soon as possible. If you would like more information or are interested in participating, you can find contact information for all the teachers on the BZC website under the "Teachers" tab.

Board Nominations

The Board is the governing body of BZC, overseeing the organization's finances and its buildings and grounds, and setting the practice schedule in close consultation with senior teachers and the Practice Committee. Having an engaged, dynamic board is vital to the health and future of the organization. Please consider contributing to BZC by joining the Board or nominating someone you think would be an effective Board member—no previous experience required!

Board members attend about ten meetings a year (usually two hours on Sunday mornings), plus an all-day retreat in the first part of the year. They also serve on at least one working Board committee: Finance, Leadership, Buildings & Grounds, Development, or Recruitment & Elections. Board members may also assist the President and other officers on ad hoc projects. Board members can serve a maximum of two consecutive two-year terms.

The next election takes place in October and the new term starts in January 2026. The Board will present its nominees at the All-Sangha Meeting on Sunday, September 14. Nominations can also be made by sangha members at that meeting.

If you're interested, please contact the Board Recruitment & Elections Committee (Ellen Webb at ellenwebbdance@gmail.com or Rob Walker at rkwalker3@gmail.com), and include any relevant information about why you or your nominee would make a good BZC Board member. BZC members of all ages and practice experience will be considered for Board membership and are encouraged to apply.

Saturday Speakers, 10:15 a.m.

July 5:	Sue Oehser
July 12:	Abiding Teacher Linda Galijan
July 19:	Abiding Teacher Greg Fain
July 26:	Liên Shutt
August 2:	Ryushin Andrea Thach
August 9:	Taigen Dan Leighton
August 16:	Zenju Earthlyn Manuel
August 23:	Peter Overton
August 30:	Abiding Teacher Linda Galijan

Monday Morning Talks, 8:00 a.m.

July 7:	Open Discussion
July 14:	Hava Glick-Landes
July 21:	Jim Erb
July 28:	Renee Whitworth
August 4:	Open Discussion
August 11:	Mary Beth Lamb
August 18:	Kyokin Tenacity Bartholomew
August 25:	Ken Knabb

Friday Afternoon Talks, 5:45 p.m.

July 4:	Zendo Holiday
August 1:	Rob Walker

Current Weekly Schedule

Our programs vary between in-person-only, online-only, and hybrid (both at once). See the BZC listserv announcements or the BZC website (berkeleyzencenter.org) for details.

Note: We are no longer checking vax or booster information; but we do encourage everyone to keep their vaxes up to date and recommend masking when indoors to minimize risk to yourself and others.

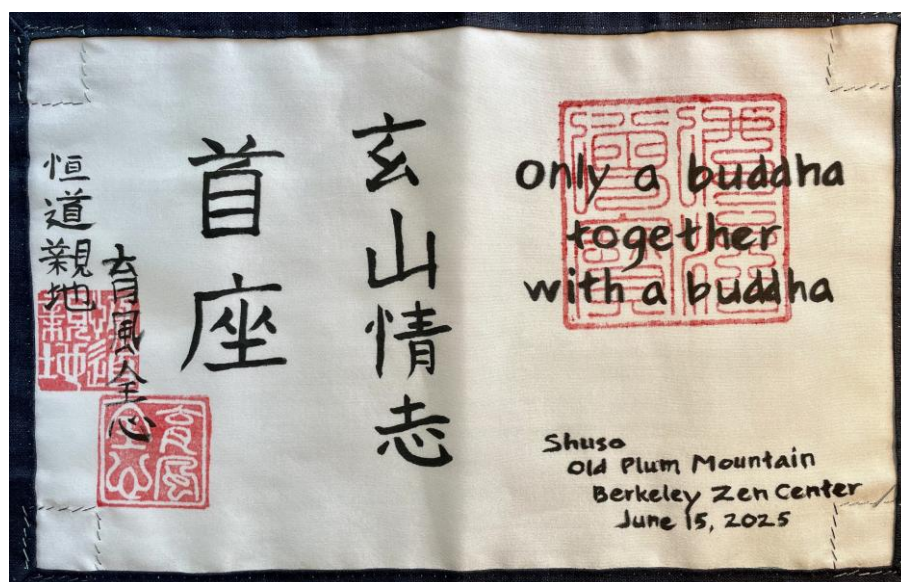
Awakening Together

We are so blessed to have such a strong community in Berkeley Zen Center. A community that comes together in mutual support time and time again, most recently to cocreate our 34th practice period and June sesshin, which, to quote the Lotus Sutra, was “Good in the beginning, good in the middle, and good in the end.” Our study of the Lotus Sutra and Case 78 from the Blue Cliff Record, which was assigned to our shuso Mark as his case for the practice period, shared in common the theme of awakening together. The sixteen bodhisattvas all got in the water together and woke up together.

The Lotus Sutra says in chapter 2, “Only a buddha together with a buddha can fathom the ultimate reality of all things.” In the shuso ceremony, the shuso makes the scripted statement that finishes with “Let us call forth the Dharma!” We call forth the Dharma *together*. We awaken together. Nobody can do it for us, and we can’t do it alone. In these frankly frightening times in which we find ourselves, it is most incumbent upon us to give each other the gift of our true selves. We give each other the gift of non-fear. There is great strength in this community, and with our practice grounded in daily zazen and other activities of this temple, we are able to tap into this strength for ourselves and for each other. We discover capacities we never knew we had before, like finding a precious jewel sewed into a sleeve.

It is not for nothing that we call Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha the Triple Treasure. This is true wealth. A life worth living is something that money can’t buy. And it’s something we freely offer to each other in a web of mutuality and love. May our practice always continue like this.

Linda and Greg



Shuso Mark's new rakusu

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE
for the September–October issue is
Friday, August 15.

Please submit items to
knabb@bopsecrets.org

Berkeley Zen Center
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