



Berkeley Zen Center



November–December 2025 Newsletter



Hozan Roshi Memorial

December 22 marks one year since Hozan Roshi passed away. We will honor this with a special memorial service at 10:15 a.m. on Saturday, December 13, the last day before interim (in place of the dharma talk). In this ceremony we will each have a chance to make a flower offering and share some words.



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

November

Sangha Work Day
Sunday, 11/2

Founders' Ceremony
Friday, 11/7, 7:00am

One-Day Sitting/Close Aspects
Saturday, 11/8

Bodhisattva Ceremony
Saturday, 11/8, 9:30am

Women's Sitting
Sunday, 11/16, 8:00am–12:15pm

New Member Entering Ceremony
Saturday, 11/22, 9:30am

Half-Day Sitting
Sunday, 11/23, 8:00am–noon

Board Meeting
Sunday, 11/23, 9:00–11:00am

Zendo Holiday
Thursday, 11/27

December

Rohatsu Sesshin
Monday–Sunday, 12/1–12/7

Suzuki Roshi Annual Memorial
Thursday, 12/4, 4:30pm

Buddha's Enlightenment Ceremony
Saturday, 12/6, 11:15am

Zendo Holiday
Monday, 12/8

Bodhisattva Ceremony
Saturday, 12/13, 9:30am

Hozan Roshi Memorial Ceremony
Saturday, 12/13, 10:15am

Winter Interim
12/14–12/31

New Year's Eve Sitting & Party
Wednesday, 12/31, 8:00pm–1:00am

Sesshins and Sittings

There will be a **one-day sitting on Saturday, November 8**, from 5:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. To sign up, please go to <https://forms.gle/imp3xGWDiRYbqnv26>.

The doshi will be Linda Galijan Roshi, the dharma talk will be given by Gary Artim, and the director will be Mark Copithorne. The fee is \$35 or whatever amount you can give. An online option will also be offered for a \$15 donation.

There will be a **Women's Sitting on Sunday, November 16**, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., with tea and cookies following in the courtyard. Sign-ups will be posted on the website and listserv. Please direct questions to Marie Hopper (marie_hopper@sbcglobal.net).

There will be a **half-day sitting on Sunday, November 23**, from 8:00 a.m. to noon. To sign up or if you have any questions, please contact Gary Artim (gartim@gmail.com).

Our annual **seven-day Rohatsu Sesshin will take place from Monday, December 1 through Sunday, December 7**. Linda Galijan Roshi will lead the sesshin and Colleen Busch will be the director.

Participants must attend a minimum of three days (with at least two days being consecutive). Online offerings during Rohatsu are still being planned, so stay tuned.

Check the website and the listserv for the sign-up link. The sign-up deadline is Saturday, November 22. We have a 38-person limit in the zendo. Registrations received after we reach the limit will be placed on a waiting list.

The suggested donation is \$35/day — or whatever amount you can give.

If you have any questions, please contact Sesshin Director Colleen Busch: sesshindirectorcolleen@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.

New Member Entering Ceremony

Our annual New Member Entering Ceremony will be in person in the zendo and online on Saturday, November 22 at 9:30 a.m. If you have become a new BZC member during the last year, we will be sending you further information. If you are a member who joined over a year ago, have never participated in this ceremony, and would now like to, please contact Gerry Oliva at gryoliva@gmail.com or 415-290-6015.

New Year's Eve at BZC

As in the past, BZC will host a New Year's Eve celebration consisting of an evening of zazen followed by a bonfire and refreshments on the patio. Details will be finalized closer to the event, but we anticipate zazen in both the zendo and the online zendo from 8:00 p.m. till just past midnight. Late in the evening those present can take turns ringing the densho bell for a total of 108 times. At midnight we will chant the Heart Sutra and then gather outside to read and place in the bonfire the names of those who have died this year. Refreshments will be served and good wishes shared all around.

If you wish to add names to the list, please contact Zendo Manager Gerry Oliva at gryoliva@gmail.com.

Jukai (Lay Ordination)

On Saturday, October 4, eight members of the BZC sangha received the 16 Bodhisattva Precepts in the annual ceremony of Jukai (“receiving the precepts” or Lay Ordination). For the ordinees, it is a joyous culmination of months of sewing and precept study. For those attending, it is an opportunity to reaffirm our vows. We warmly welcome these friends into the lineage of Shakyamuni Buddha and Suzuki Roshi’s family. Great thanks to Sewing Teacher Jean Selkirk; to Judy Fleischman for directing the ceremony; to Mary Duryee for baking beautiful plum tarts; to Jim Erb who coordinated all the setup and cleanup; and to all the many sangha members who helped to make this ceremony happen.

Here is the list of this year’s ordinees with their new dharma names and preceptors. This year two lay-entrusted teachers were also part of the ceremony, and are included in the list below along with their ordinees.

Michael Donnoe—Ji Kai Kō Sei
(Compassion Ocean Eternal Vow)
with Linda Galijan Roshi

Taryn Elliot—Ko Ju Ken Dō
(Bright Pearl Manifest the Way)
with Gerry Oliva

Karma Mishra—Sei Shin E Kai
(Sincere Heart Wisdom Ocean)
with Gerry Oliva

Daniel Jackson—Shin Jin Nyo Sen
(True Heart-Mind River of Suchness)
with Laurie Senauake

Jeremiah Holland—Kei Sen Shō Jin
(Joyful River Illuminating Compassion)
with Dave Rutschman

Paolo Costa—Shin Gen Hō Jitsu
(Profound Source Dharma Sun)
with Dave Rutschman

Anna Tabatchnik—Sei Jun Kyū Dō
(Sincere Resolve Searching Way)
with Dave Rutschman and Ross Blum

Marley Alexander—Hon Shi Ei Shin
(True Word Eternal Faith)
with Greg Fain and Karen Sundheim



Jukai ordinees, preceptors, and sewing teacher

Sewing Buddha’s Robe

Sewing a rakusu in preparation for receiving the precepts in the ceremony of Jukai (Lay Ordination) is an opportunity for deepening your practice and strengthening your connections with the sangha. Each year as the sewing class students engage in the devotional practice of sewing and studying the precepts together, they prepare themselves for receiving their rakusu and dharma name. The ceremony is both a time to affirm aspirations to continue practicing and a joyful celebration with the sangha. If you are interested in participating next year, sewing classes start in mid-January. Classes are open to those who have asked Linda Roshi or their teacher if they may participate. Before the winter break (mid-December), please speak with Linda Roshi or your teacher. After you have done so, promptly contact the sewing teacher, Jean Selkirk (sewingteacher.bzc@gmail.com).

Three Tassajara Study Weeks

This year three groups of BZC members visited Tassajara for Study Week retreats: one in July, one in August, and one in September. Sangha members joined Tassajara residents for morning zazen, morning work period, evening zazen, and meals. In the afternoons, groups met to study together and to enjoy exploring Tassajara and basking in the richness of the surrounding Ventana wilderness. This year we shared the monastery with other guests who were part of Study Week groups from other Zen centers in the Sujuki Roshi lineage, or who were independently participating in the work weeks.

Ryushin Andrea Thach and Dave Rutschman led the July group, which studied the Diamond Sutra. Susan Marvin and Ellen Webb led the August group, which studied excerpts from Sojun Roshi's new book *Becoming Yourself* plus a few poems by Ryokan and a short teisho from Harada Roshi. Josu Mary Duryee led the September group, which studied the *Sandokai*.

It was wonderful that so many BZC members took advantage of this great opportunity to walk in the footsteps of our American Soto Zen Ancestors.

Oryoki Instruction Booklet

BZC has a new booklet on oryoki instruction. It is available for \$5.00 at the book table after the Saturday program. There are also a few copies in the library. If you plan to sit Rohatsu or to have breakfast during Saturday programs, this could be useful. Please contact Sue Oehser (soehser@earthlink.net) if you have any questions.



Tassajara July group



Tassajara August group



Tassajara September group

Election Results

A deep bow of gratitude to all sangha members who voted on our recent ballots.

Linda Galijan Roshi has been affirmed as our next Abbot. Her Mountain Seat Ceremony will take place on March 1, 2026. Stay tuned for details.

Separately, the sangha voted to affirm Colleen Busch as the next Board President beginning January 2026, along with Jonathan Koltz as Vice President, Dan Jackson as Treasurer, and incoming at-large Board members Pauline Kerschen, Rich Freitas, Mary Duryee, and Clay Taylor. Much appreciation to all of them for stepping up.

And a big thanks to those stepping off the Board at the end of the year: Deep gratitude to President Karen Sundheim, whose four-year term encompassed Sojun's passing, Hozan's illness and passing, and the new abbot selection process; Vice President Rob Lyons; and at-large members Ellen Webb and Fulani Offutt. And to Simone Brumis for her generous work as board secretary for two years.

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.

Saturday Speakers, 10:15 a.m.

November 1:	Kristin Diggs
November 8:	Gary Artim
November 15:	Ross Blum
November 22:	Linda Galijan Roshi
November 29:	Gerry Oliva
December 6:	Linda Galijan Roshi
December 13:	Hozan Roshi Memorial
December 20:	Zendo closed
December 27:	Zendo closed

Monday Morning Talks, 8:00 a.m.

November 3:	Open Discussion
November 10:	Laurie Senauke
November 17:	Jeff Kastenbaum
November 24:	Genpo Senauke
December 1:	No talk (Rohatsu)
December 8:	Zendo Holiday
December 15:	Zendo closed
December 22:	Zendo closed

Friday Afternoon Talks, 5:45 p.m.

November 7:	Dan Jackson
December 5:	No talk (Rohatsu)

We Are the Ones We Have Been Waiting For

Lately, our Buddha ancestors—past, present, and future—have been very much on my mind and in my heart.

At the September 12 interment ceremony for Sojun Roshi's ashes at the memorial site at Tassajara, the doshi, Norman Fischer, read this statement:

We are keenly aware that birth and death give way to each other; day and night, cold and heat—all things turn and turn by opposition, coming like a lightning flash in a black sky, going like waves calming on a great sea. Today our Great Teacher Hakuryu Sojun Daiocho, White Dragon, Essence of Purity, Lineage Source, Teacher of Teachers, holder of the dharma seat for half a century, faithful disciple of his teacher, our founder, Suzuki Shunryu Daiocho, husband, father, friend, and support in this Sahā world, whose dharma life connects us all, everywhere, newly returns to the source.

Honoring Sojun Roshi, our old teacher, his old teacher Suzuki Roshi is right there; they cannot be separated. This lineage, passed warm hand to warm hand, is what made it possible for all of us to be brought together, all of us blessed with the amazing and rare gift of having encountered the true dharma in this lifetime.

In the Jukai (lay ordination) ceremony on October 25, the new ordines received lineage papers (*kechimyaku*) along with their rakusus. It represents the blood vein of the ancestors running in an unbroken transmission from the Buddha, all the way through Bodhidharma, Eihei Dogen, Suzuki Roshi, Sojun Roshi, to the preceptors, and to the new ordines. It does not end there—the line of lineage curves back up to Shakyamuni Buddha, thus forming an unbroken circle.

It is this continuity through space and time that makes it possible for the lineage to extend not only from past to present, but into the future. In *Eihei Koso Hotsuganmon*, Dogen says:

Buddhas and ancestors of old were as we; we in the future shall be buddhas and ancestors. Revering buddhas and ancestors, we are one buddha and one ancestor; awakening bodhi-mind, we are one bodhi-mind.

How do we manifest this in our own practice? Suzuki Roshi said:

If you can express yourself fully while sitting in zazen without dreaming of anything, that is the actual practice that includes everything. If you have that practice, Buddha is with you, Bodhidharma is with you, and every sage should be with you. . . . Who are they? They are you yourself. How is it possible for Buddha or the great sages to exist forever? The only way is for them to exist with us. When you think about the sages, they are with you in some form, and when you do not think about them, they are also with you. This point should not be forgotten. [*Becoming Yourself*, p. 39]

Staying home, attaining the way; leaving home, attaining the way. This is the great, creative experiment that we are all living together. Discovering what it means to take the precepts—and even more so, what it means to *live* them, from day to day, and year to year, in finding out what practice asks of us *today*, whether on the cushion or outside the temple gate in our daily lives. Meeting each moment with whatever we can bring forth of intention and awareness, kindness and clarity, perseverance and compassion.

Dogen's *Eihei Koso* continues:

By revealing and disclosing our lack of faith and practice before the Buddha, we melt away the root of transgressions by the power of our confession and repentance. This is the pure and simple color of true practice, of the true mind of faith, of the true body of faith.

This is the practice of showing up completely, with our whole, perfectly-imperfect being, complete with missing parts. Accepting each successive moment just as it is, letting go of attachment to outcome. This is the heart of confession and repentance—to be willing to be deeply present and alive to our own experience, whether the light of awareness is turned inwardly or outwardly. The practice itself is simple, but not easy, especially to practice continuously.

Entering the dokusan hut in the early morning darkness and lighting the candles, I bow to images of Sojun Roshi and Hozan Roshi. The whole of our lineage is immediately present, fully lived. In that moment, it manifests as humility, support, and encouragement; bowing in greeting with the person who enters, it is just this.

—Linda Galijan

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE
for the January–February issue is
Friday, December 12.

Please submit items to
knabb@bopsecrets.org

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