

WIND BELL

Monthly Newsletter of the
San Francisco Zen Center
1881 Bush Street

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SQUARE ZEN

The idea of emptiness does not mean annihilation. It means selfless original enlightenment, which gives rise to every existence. Once selfless enlightenment takes place, every subjective and objective existence resumes its own nature (Buddha-nature) and becomes valuable jewels to the person who has attained it and to us all.

In Mahayana Buddhism every teaching is supposedly based on the idea of emptiness. The Tendai Sect emphasizes the Lotus Sutra, the highest of all the sutras. The Kegon Sect bases their teaching on the Kegon Sutra, the first sutra told by Buddha about his original enlightenment. However, each sutra has its own incomparable absolute value when it is accepted under special circumstances.

Original enlightenment makes this acceptance possible. How we accept is the practice of zazen. This practice is called "the wondrous practice". Oneness of enlightenment and wondrous practice is the ultimate purport of Zen Buddhism as well as Buddhism in general.

We have begun to practice more detailed Zen rituals so that we will be able to participate with monks and priests.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LECTURES

Roshi Suzuki has concluded his lectures on "Buddha's Last Word". He will now commence on "the five articles for Buddhist grace at meal time", beginning on March 14th.

EVENTS

The bi-monthly sesshin will be held on the 14th and 15th of April. Everybody welcome! Inquire at the Zen Center for further information.

Higan Hoyo (annual memorial service for our ancestors as well as others, which is usually held on the spring and autumn equinox day) will be held on Sunday, March 18th at 2 P.M. at Sokoji Hall. Bishop Reirin Yamada from Los Angeles who is the head priest of Soto Zen of North America will give a talk about it after the service.

"Sayonara Party" for Miss Jean Ross will be held at Laure and Bill Kwong's home, Friday, March 16th at 7 P.M. On her trip to Japan, she will represent our Zen Center in offering a gift to the Eihei-ji Temple, founded by Dogen Zenji, and Sojiji, founded by Keizan Zenji. Her tentative plan is to study the Japanese language and its culture before visiting a monastery for a period of time.

LECTURE AND ZAZEN SCHEDULES

Lectures: every Wednesday at 7:30 P.M. and Sundays at 11:00 A.M.

Zazen: every morning at 5:45 (except Sundays when there is Zazen at 7:00 A.M.)
every evening at 5:30 (except Saturdays and Sundays)

Note: no zazen held on those days with either a 4 or 9.