

Wind Bell

NEWSLETTER OF ZEN CENTER

Volume IV No. 5

August, 1965

NEWS

RENOWNED ZEN MASTER DIES:

Hashimoto-Roshi of Hokyoji Temple in Fukui passed away at the age of 76 on July 10. He was the authority on Dogen Zengi's Shobogenzo, and his strict way had a big influence on the Soto Zen School.

Official funeral services will be held on August 28 in Fukui. Zen Center's next one-day sesshin, held on that day, will be dedicated to Hashimoto-Roshi.

HEAD OF SOTO SCHOOL PLANS SEPTEMBER VISIT:

Archbishop Rosen Takashina, Primate of the Soto Zen Buddhist School, will arrive in San Francisco September 2nd on his way to Brazil to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the establishment of Soto Headquarters in San Paulo.

He will be accompanied by Shuich Kongo, highest Soto official under Takashina-Roshi, and by Reverend Junko Sase and Bunan Hasegawa.

Takashina-Roshi will lead services for the ancestors of the members of Sokoji and Zen Center on Friday, September 3rd, at 7:00 p.m. in the main hall of Sokoji Temple. Hopefully the party will also be able to address us in the Zendo during their brief San Francisco visit.

SUPPORT OF ZEN CENTER:

From time to time Zen Center receives unexpected contributions from readers of the Wind Bell scattered throughout the world. At times we have learned that some of these unknown friends were little able to afford the donations which they sent. Many thanks to these people (in Europe, North and South America and Japan). We appreciate your concern for the support and well-being of the Center.

However, the main support of Zen Center still rests upon the regular contributions of only about 15 people here in the Bay Area and on the Peninsula. So far we are meeting all our absolutely necessary minimum expenses and breaking about even each month. But for the many of you who use the Center fairly regularly, it is important that you realize and accept some of the burden of the expenses of the Center as part of your practice. Practice should not be one-sided, but should include all aspects of meditating with a group such as Zen Center. Anyone meditating, using the library, or attending lectures every week, if only a few times a week, should contribute a token amount of at least several dollars a month. The amount should be in proportion to what you can afford. It is better to make this contribution by a monthly pledge to Zen Center. Ask Mike Dixon for a pledge card.



2 SESSHIN:

The recent annual one-week sesshin (period of extended meditation) was perhaps the best-organized long sesshin we have ever had. Each year we get a little better at knowing how to run a sesshin. This year the difficult problem of the kitchen was solved in a highly effective manner by Betty Warren and Bill Kwong. They organized the kitchen and had both men and women working at preparing, serving and cleaning-up.

Still the problems of silence, of walking around during periods of meditation, and of working have not been solved. There should be complete silence during the entire week of the sesshin. For those who sleep at the temple during the week, there should be no talking even during the evening and nighttime hours. The only talking should be for the immediate carrying out of some part of the sesshin, for example the location of a mop during work periods, or a question arising in the course of meal preparation. It is particularly important for those long-time members to set the example, for newcomers will naturally look to them for the proper procedures to follow. Sometimes a sign or signal of some kind will serve instead of words. It is a very interesting experience to go one week without talking. Try it for at least one full day at the next day's sesshin (August 28th).

During sesshins, it is better to stay on your cushion in any position during every period of meditation, rather than to rest or smoke in some other room. From one view, sesshin is a kind of experiment in freeing oneself from habitual ideas of space and time, and for this it is better to restrict oneself in space and time by remaining on your cushion during each scheduled sitting period. You yourself will have other ideas of the benefit to your practice of following closely the prescribed procedure.

Smoking should be limited to the periods for relaxation and the end and beginning of work periods. Please smoke only on the balcony.

Work periods present a kind of problem because it is not clear - particularly to the newcomers - what work there is to be done. Next year perhaps we should have a list of jobs to be done and locations of tools and brooms, etc.

SESSHIN LECTURES:

Although some of us have been sitting a year or two more than others at Zen Center, we are all still very much beginners. Therefore, the talks given by Reverend Suzuki during sesshin are of particular importance for us. This year we were fortunate to have not only Reverend Suzuki and Reverend Katagiri to lead us, but also Bishop Togen Sumi, new Bishop of Soto Zen Buddhism in America. He arrived from Los Angeles on Saturday for the last two days of sesshin.

This year, Reverend Suzuki's lectures (given twice daily Monday through Friday) centered on the problems arising from confusing religion with science (in particular psychology), and with philosophy (especially ethics). Zen is not inimical to science, and it has its own philosophy, but it cannot be equated with either. Reverend Suzuki felt that a clarification of the difference was particularly important in view of the many questions recently raised with respect to LSD, and because of the common tendency in the West to think of religion in moralistic or ethical terms.

Bishop Sumi spoke on what is the real happiness for mankind. With the unrest and conflict everywhere so much in evidence, this question is of central importance in our lives. Zen teaches us that the search must turn within. Bodhidharma brought this truth from India to China in the 6th century A.D., and now it has come another 5,000 miles across the Pacific. Shakamuni Buddha, who discovered the way to overcome suffering, is none other than you yourself. "When you believe and trust yourself," Bishop Sumi said, "then the Zen way is the best life for all of us."

No summary can convey the spirit of these speakers. All of the sesshin lectures were taped and are now in the process of being transcribed, possibly to be printed as a small book or pamphlet.

NEXT ONE-DAY ZAZEN:

The August one-day sesshin will be held on Saturday, August 28th, beginning at 5:45 a. m.

EAST BAY ZAZEN:

Thanks to the efforts of Charles Gilman and other Berkeley friends, there will now be regular periods of zazen scheduled in the East Bay. Mr. Gilman is renovating a small room behind an antique shop on College Avenue one block across the Berkeley line into Oakland - an ideal location for accommodating both Berkeley and Oakland meditators. The first period of zazen will be held on Monday, September 13th from 6:00 to 7:00 a. m. at 6052 College Avenue. Please be on time, because for this first period, entrance will be through the front door of the antique shop, which cannot be left open long at that hour in the morning.

Meanwhile Mr. Gilman can use any help he can get in painting and arranging the new small zendo. If any of you in the East Bay or in San Francisco will be able to give him a hand any time between now and September 1st, please call; Charles Gilman, TH 5-7861, and arrange a time with him. (3)

NEW LOCATION FOR PENINSULA ZAZEN:

As most of you know, the Peninsula Branch of Zen Center is no longer meeting in Palo Alto, but in Los Altos. The new location for Thursday morning zazen (6:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.) is at the residence of Marion Derby, 746 University Avenue, Los Altos; telephone: 948-5020. By the way, thanks to the Peninsula group for your regular contributions!

SPECIAL FUNDS - REVEREND KATAGIRI AND A NEW ZENDO:

Anyone who would like to help bring Reverend Katagiri's wife and two-year-old son to the United States this Fall should send a contribution marked for this purpose to the Treasurer, Zen Center. This idea started spontaneously during sesshin, and people began making contributions then. Five or ten dollars from everyone who can afford it will go a long way toward buying the air- or ship tickets.

The second special fund is the Building Fund, which has already been in existence for some time. Its purpose will be made clear by the following facts. There were about fifty persons attending this year's week-sesshin. Our present Zendo has sixteen places for zazen on the tatami mats along the walls. There is room for about twelve additional places on the floor when we spread the thin goza mats. Although more people can be fitted onto the central section of the floor, it then becomes nearly impossible to walk around carrying the kyosaku (stick). Thus there is a total of only twenty-eight places for zazen in the Zendo itself.

Thanks to the Japanese congregation and to the concerted effort of many members last year, an additional place to meditate was built on a portion of the auditorium balcony. This was used to accommodate the overflow during this year's sesshin, but the crowded condition was felt during kinhin, when everyone gathered in the Zendo to practice walking meditation single-file around the room; there was hardly enough room between individuals. And if the number of people who attend the annual sesshins continues to increase at the same rate, next year there will be ninety persons at the week-sesshin!

The problem is apparent not only during sesshin, but occurs nearly every morning at regular zazen when there are more than twenty people. Daily zazen itself may go up to thirty or forty persons this coming year. It is clear that Zen Center needs a new Zendo.

If you can make a contribution to help toward future building plans, please send it to the Treasurer, Zen Center, in an envelope marked "Building Fund." Some members are already donating \$1.00 a month (in addition to their pledges). The initial plan was to bring this extra donation to the monthly business meetings, but since this is unreliable, it may be better to include the extra donation with your pledge check or payment. Just make it clear for the treasurer's sake, what goes where.

SHOBOGENZO TRANSLATOR TO VISIT AMERICA:

Professor Reiho Masunaga, Professor of Buddhist Philosophy and History of Zen Buddhism at Komazawa University, Tokyo, will arrive in San Francisco in September on his way to the 11th International Conference of Historians of Religion held this year at Claremont College.

Professor Masunaga is presently engaged in the mammoth task of translating the Shobogenzo, main work of Dogen Zengi, founder of the Soto Zen School.

KAPLEAU'S BOOK AVAILABLE:

A copy of Philip Kapleau's new book, *The Three Pillars of Zen*, recently published in Japan, was donated by the author to Zen Center's library. The book will be published in the United States by Harper and Row in January. Mr. Kapleau said that if any of Reverend Suzuki's students would like a copy before then, he would be happy to send them one from Japan at the U.S. price of \$6.95 by sea mail. If you want a copy by airmail, add \$3.50 extra to the above price. Please ask Reverend Suzuki or Trudy Dixon for the address.

LIBRARY NEWS:

Many thanks to the unknown donator of a glassed-in book-case, two armchairs, and a triple lamp set for the library! The book-case arrived just in time to meet the need of an expanding collection. Since our present library space is too small for the chairs, they will temporarily be used elsewhere (perhaps to help furnish an apartment in anticipation of the possible Fall arrival of Reverend Katagiri's wife and son).

There are a great many books overdue. Please return them, and don't forget to cross your name off the list.

BUSINESS MEETINGS:

The business meeting scheduled for Saturday, August 7th, was postponed until August 21st. The date of the September business meeting will be posted on the bulletin board.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SCHEDULE OF LECTURES:

The schedule of speakers for the coming Wednesday evenings is:

August 25	- Reverend Katagiri	September 15	- Reverend Suzuki
September 1	- Reverend Suzuki	September 22	- Reverend Suzuki
September 8	- Jean Ross	September 29	- Reverend Katagiri

Changes in the schedule occur. We are hoping, for instance, that Professor Maşunaga will find time to speak to us during his September visit.

CORRECTION OF JULY WIND BELL:

It was stated in the last Wind Bell that Master Suzuki would translate and explain the Main Subject of the Blue Cliff Records No. 86. Because of our new policy, which alternates shorter news issues with the longer article issues, Master Suzuki's conclusion to No. 86 will not appear until the September issue.

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Monday through Friday		Saturday	
Morning zazen (meditation)	5:45 - 6:45 a.m.	Zazen	5:45 - 10:00 a.m.
Afternoon zazen (Except Wednesday)	5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Sunday	
Lecture Wednesday	7:30 - 9:00 p.m.	Zazen	8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
		Lecture	9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

NOTE: No zazen on dates containing a 4 or 9 (except Sunday when there is always zazen). No zazen on Wednesday afternoon (because of lecture in evening).
 Zazen is held from 6:00 - 7:30 a.m. at 746 University Avenue, Los Altos, every Thursday morning, and from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. at 849 Palm Street, Redwood City, every Thursday evening.
 Starting on September 13th, zazen will be held each Monday morning morning from 6:00 - 7:00 a.m. at 6052 College Avenue in Oakland.

ZEN CENTER

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