

INTERNATIONAL
國際山
DAIBOSATSU
大菩薩
ZENDO
禪堂



NEW YORK ZENDO
紐約禪堂
SHOBO JI
正法寺



OCTOBER 1971
SANGHA NEWS

Soen Roshi, Maxima Sensei and his assistant, Wako-san stayed with us, both in the New York Zendo Shobo-ji and in the Catskill Mountain International Dai Bosatsu Zendo for 99 days. During this time, Soen Roshi, together with Tai-san, Conducted two sesshins at Litchfield and the first historical sesshin at the Dai Bosatsu Zendo. Over 100 Sangha members participated. Maxima Sensei finished a huge painting for the Dai Bosatsu Zendo during his stay there. The painting is of The Buddha showing a flower to a large assembly and of his disciple Mahakasyapa smiling at this true teaching. In the painting, the assembly gathered around The Buddha includes about 125 wonderful figures.... monks, Bodhisattvas, Arahats, Christians, heavenly beings, children, American Zen figures, and many animals, as well as Manjusri and Fugen Bodhisattva, who are at The Buddha's sides. This truly wonderful painting is like a symphony, as Soen Roshi said, and will be considered as one of the masterpieces of this century. Alan Schmer made a big wooden frame for the painting. We held the farewell party for Roshi, Maxima Sensei and Wako-san on September 19th in the New York Zendo. The next day Soen Roshi departed for Jerusalem and Maxima Sensei and Wako-san returned to Japan.

During his stay, Tai-san asked Soen Roshi to become the Abbot of the Dai Bosatsu Zendo and he accepted. Nyogen Senzaki Roshi will be the Honorary First Abbot. Soen Roshi again asked Tai-san to accept the title of Roshi, but Tai-san wishes still to postpone accepting it. The Roshi name that Soen Roshi selected for Tai-san is "Mui-shitsu," which is from The Rinzai Roku.... "True Man Without Rank."

On September 15th, Soen Roshi and Tai-san led the ceremony to celebrate the 3rd anniversary of the New York Zendo in the 67th Street building. The occasion was especially marked by the ordination of the first New York Sangha American monk, "Reizan Dai-Ko" (Chuck Carpenter). As a monk, Chuck is now to be called Dai-Ko. Dai-Ko means "Dharma Carpenter" and Reizan means "Spiritual Mountain". Dharma names were also given that night to students of long standing and devoted practice, and we are now using those names amongst each other.

SOEN NAKAGAWA
ABBOT

THE ZEN STUDIES SOCIETY, INC.

EIDO TAI SHIMANO
DIRECTOR

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On September 5th, the historical first sesshin was begun at the Dai Bosatsu Zendo, lasting for five days and attended by 23 members, including one student of Nyogen Senzaki Roshi, who flew from California to be with us. A little different than usual, this sesshin was a Samu-work-sesshin, combining periods of hard work with periods of Zazen. It was very successful to help in establishing traditions and Zen spirit at Dai Bosatsu Zendo and in accomplishing some major work jobs that needed to be done.

In residence at the Dai Bosatsu Zendo now are Dai-Ko (Chuck) as Resident Director, Mai-Shin (Mike Sopko) as Resident Assistant Director, and Myo-Ko (Carol Snyder) as Secretary and Cook. Dai-Shin (Steve Levine) who is now a resident in the New York Zendo, has been asked to join them soon.

Basically, the schedule and rules of the New York Zendo and the Dai Bosatsu Zendo are the same, as they are twin brother Zendos, but since the Dai Bosatsu Zendo is in the seclusion of the mountains, there are few outside distractions, so it is a little more monastic. The New York Zendo is a place where people of the city may practice Zazen together, and it is also a kind of entrance place, in many ways, for people who are new to Zen or to its practice in New York. The International Dai Bosatsu Zendo will be the training center for these same people who wish to make the practice of Zen a permanent and deeper part of their lives. At present, every week-end, about seven to ten people can visit the Dai Bosatsu Zendo, participating in the schedule of Zazen, work study, and free rest time. On the second week-end of each month, members can attend with their children. On the third week-end of each month, due to the monthly week-end sesshin in the New York Zendo, the Dai Bosatsu Zendo will be closed. It is now being planned that from November on, some students may arrange to stay in the Dai Bosatsu Zendo for a period of one week or more intensive practice, with Tai-san's approval.

As the director of the Dai Bosatsu Zendo, Tai-san deeply wishes to develop the Dai Bosatsu Zendo slowly and with a well rooted foundation. So, at this point, only a limited number of students will be able to go there. After two or three years of gradual growth, there will be a need for larger facilities to accommodate both New York Zendo Sangha and students from other Zen groups. The architectural plans and financial provisions for these developments are now being carefully studied by The Board of Directors of The Zen Studies Society, Inc.

On October 1st, many Sangha members celebrated Tai-san's 39th birthday after Friday evening Zazen. Lydia Bobritsky made a beautiful speech, deeply thanking Tai-san on behalf of all of us, for bringing the teachings of Buddha Dharma to America and for working with all his might to help it take true root. As everyone felt, it was a very happy occasion.

On October 8th, we will hold a farewell party for So-Shin (Janis Levine) who has been a member of The Zendo for four years. She will be departing for Japan, where, for one year, she will study Tea at The Urasenke School in Kyoto and will also attend sesshins at Ryutakuji. So-Shin is a partial Zen Studies Society Inc. exchange student. Rei-Seki (Bill) and So-Kyo (Milly) Johnstone will also be going to Japan at that time. Bill will be studying Japanese Zen architecture for future use in building the Dai Bosatsu Zendo. Milly will be studying Tea and Zen. Myo-Kun (Margot Wilkie) will also join them in Japan to attend the October sesshin at Ryutakuji.

Ho-Ko (Debby Matthiessen) began teaching a course in Zen at The New School for Social Research this fall semester. Chi-Getsu (Ruth Lillenthal) began teaching a course in Zen at Long Island University, Brooklyn Division, also this fall semester.

The week-end sesshins for October and November are scheduled as follows:

October -- Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th

November - Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st.

Rohatsu Sesshin will be held from:

Wednesday, December 1st---
to Sunday, December 5th

The training period for the second half of 1971 will end Friday December 17th and The Zendo will be closed until January 1st. New officers for 1972 and the new schedule and plans will be made up by December 17th.

New robes are now available at \$23.00 to all who wish to purchase them. We wish to thank both Margaret Shevlo and Jin-Gai (Dick Feuerman), who were of great help in the designing and manufacturing of these new robes.

This June 18th, our long time Dharma friend, Libby Holman Reynolds Schanker passed away. Memorial Services were held for her both at the New York Zendo and Dai Bosatsu Zendo. The whole Sangha extends their deep condolence to Louis Shanker. Her generous spirit and charming presence are very much missed by the Sangha.

"Along this road goes no one
This autumn evening."

Basho

Keep well,

Gassho,

Byaku-Ren (Shiela) and Myo-Ko (Carol)
Secretaries