

the Floating Zendo News

For the students and friends of Angie Boissevain, Sensei

Fall 2008



Ordination of donnalynn

Members of Floating Zendo sangha joined members of Jikoji sangha in the Parinirvana sesshin, held in February 2008. Sensei Angie Boissevain led this memorial of Buddha's passage into Nirvana at his death. The ordination of donnalynn chase was a highlight of the sesshin. All who attended were moved by the beauty and power of the ordination ceremony, held in the Jikoji Zendo. This was followed by a break in the usual sesshin schedule so that family and friends of donnalynn could join everyone in a dinner and dessert celebration after the event. A truly memorable sesshin for all.

Randy Specterman



Notes from a Sesshin Neophyte

August Floating Zendo Sesshin 2008

Day one: We settle in and share our first meal. Our Ino, donnalynn, explains the ground rules: #1 No talking except to address the teacher.... #8 Maintain silence. After some cushion sitting, we dissolve on our comfy futons and drift asleep to the drone of Jikoji's crickets.

Day two: We may be non-verbal, but our sesshin is far from silent. From the wake-up gong at 5:30 to the knock-knock-knocking of the han before zazen, our noises compete with the squawking jays and wailing goat across the way.

Day three: My view from the windows of the zendo includes a mother turkey guiding her brood down the path, past the altar with Kobun's ashes. Angie says it will get easier to sit by day four. We sip tea and nibble apple cake baked by our Tenzo, Jane. We are encouraged to join Ritu for daily Yoga practice. One hour of stretching? How about 15 minutes on my futon?

Day Four: A Fed-Ex truck announces a delivery with several long honks while we are silently eating our lunch. No one (else) seems annoyed. Strolling up the road in the evening I encounter a 4-point (next column)

buck. For an eternity we quietly consider each other. I bow and walk on.

Day five: A Jikoji caretaker carefully sweeps the moss garden with a twig broom then waters it, filling the rock buddha bowl. Angie talks about transmission and menju.

Day six: Another perfect day dawns blue and clear. Down at the Two-Moon Pond, ducks scoop off the algae to the buzz of insects. Slowly we clean our bowls and utensils after lunch, thinking how this community will soon disappear.

Day seven: Somehow I gather mind and body to pack, and to mop the bamboo floor with care. More cushion-sitters gather to listen to Angie's Dharma talk. Thanks are given for all the hard work that made this week such a gift. Then the oral gates open, and we can talk, even while eating the abundant food. We learn our family for the week has traveled from Arcata, San Diego, Carmel Valley. We are students, poets, teachers and seekers. One by one the cars take off, up the dusty road and down the ridge to our waiting lives.

Wendy Graham

Your Opinion Is Requested

All Floating Zendo members are invited to participate in the selection of a logo for our Sangha. This design will be used on our thank-you notes, our newsletters, and maybe as an emblem for your zafu. To vote, you may call or e-mail Wendy Graham 408.885.9863 or wendygra@ix.netcom.com. Please identify your choice, your name and contact information. Be aware that some of the submissions on this page are sketches of ideas. Votes will be tallied by the end of the year.

Study Group

Floating Zendo Study Group meets regularly to read and discuss Buddhist works. We are a flexible group, and our time and place of meeting varies. It is possible to participate in the discussion via phone. If you want to be notified of the group's schedule and the particular book we are discussing please contact Julian West at tipper184@yahoo.com.

Julian West

Meditation to Inmates Outreach

Floating Zendo members are sponsoring a program to bring meditation to jail inmates in San Jose. For more information about how to get involved, please contact Ritu - ritugo@gmail.com.

Transcription Need

An opportunity for joy, as well as for generosity, is in the service of transcribing the August 2008 sesshin talks by Angie. Floating Zendo will mail the audio form to you. Please contact dl@donnallynnchase.com

Jukai Ceremony in San Jose

Sangha member Ritu Goswamy received the precepts from our teacher Angie at her Jukai ceremony on May, 2008 at the Friend's House in San Jose, CA. The Floating Zendo sangha worked together to support the beautiful, simple ceremony. Also present were Ritu's parents and younger brother who came from the east coast for the event and several local friends. We all celebrated together at Jane Macdonald's house afterward.

Women's Retreat July 2009

Grace Shireson will again host a five day Women's retreat at Empty Nest Zendo in the foothills of the Sierras near Oakhurst. The dates are July 10-14, and the program includes teaching by Grace on the history of women in Zen. Darlene Cohen will offer gentle help with posture and lead a stretch and relaxation hour each afternoon. Angie sensei will lead a writing adventure every day and hopes this year some Floating Zendo folks will be able to participate. There is sitting to begin and end each day and each meal, and also lots of free time for naps, swims in the pool, and walks in the countryside. Sign up at EmptyNest.org

Angie Boissevain

浮
禪
堂

Gerow Reece



#2 floating bodhi leaf-1



#3 water lily

Floating Zendo



Zazen

#5 floating zendo zazen

#1 uki zen do



#4 floating bodhi leaf-2





Calendar 2008-2009 for Angie and the Floating Zendo

2008

Nov 5-8	Arcata, CA	Fall Sesshin	arcatazengroup.org
Nov 8	San Jose	Half Day Sit	9:00 am—noon
Nov 10-13	Willits, CA	Fall Retreat	
Nov 22	San Jose	Study Group	9:30-11:30 am
Dec 13	San Jose	Rohatsu Full Day Sit	9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Dec 27-Jan 1	Puregg, Asutria	New Year's Retreat	puregg.at

2009

Jan 5-18	Felsentor, Switzerland	Practice Period & weekend sit	felsentor.ch
Jan 11	Jikoji	Full day sit w/ donnalynn chase. Lunch provided. \$10 suggested dana	8:00 am - 5:00 pm (Sunday)
Feb 6-13	Jikoji, CA	Parinirvana Sesshin	jikoji.org
Mar 14	San Jose	Full Day Sit	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Apr 3 - 10	Hokoji, NM	Tanjo - e Sesshin	info@hokojitaos.org
Apr 11	Jikoji	Full Day Sit w/ Ian Forsberg, Tanjo-e sesshin.	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
May 9	San Jose	Half Day Sit	9:00 am - noon
May 15 -17	Arcata, CA	Sesshin	arcatazengroup.org
June 13	San Jose	Half Day Sit	9:00 am - noon
July 10 -14	North Fork, CA	Women's Retreat	emptynestzendo.org
July 18	San Jose	Full Day Sit	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
July 20 - 26	Hakubai, CO	Kobun Memorial Sesshin	hakubaitemple.org
Aug 7 - 14	Jikoji, CA	Floating Zendo Sesshin	floatingzendo.org
Sept 12	San Jose, CA	Full Day Sit	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Oct 10	San Jose, CA	Full Day Sit	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Nov 5 - 6	Willits, CA	Fall Retreat	

Nov 9 - 14	Arcata, CA	Fall Sesshin	arcatazengroup.org
Nov 21	San Jose, CA	Half Day Sit	9:00 am - noon
Dec 12	San Jose, CA	Rohatsu Full Day Sit	9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Weekly sit and study in San Jose on Tuesdays 6:30-8:00 pm at the Friends' House, 1041 Morse St. Dokusan with Angie is offered during Half Day and Full Day Sits, Sesshins and by appointment. Please contact Angie, aboiss@earthlink.net to schedule.



Sangha Generosity

Angie's dharma teachings and all Floating Zendo activities are supported by the practice of generosity. FZ sesshins, website, newsletters, and the coordination of sangha business are sustained by service and financial giving from its members. We offer deep thanks to all the people who contribute in so many ways to our activities. This generosity is the founda-

tion of awakening in all Buddhist traditions, an expression of Buddha-nature everyone can participate in. If you're moved by your own generosity to give in any way, please contact Wendy Graham, c/o Floating Zendo, PO Box 320433, Los Gatos, CA 94032

Carolyn Dille

Keeping in Touch

We update Angie's teaching offerings and our events through our website, www.floatingzendo.org, and through our email distribution list. If you'd like to be on the distribution list or need to change your email or postal address, please contact secretary@floatingzendo.org or send the change to Ritu Goswamy c/o Floating Zendo, PO Box 320433, Los Gatos, CA 94032.



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