



# Mountains Talking

Lotus in the Flame Temple, Zen Center of Denver

Spring 2004

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## Working Together as a Celebration of Sangha

*A talk given by Ken Morgareidge before the February 15th, 2004 Sangha Workday*

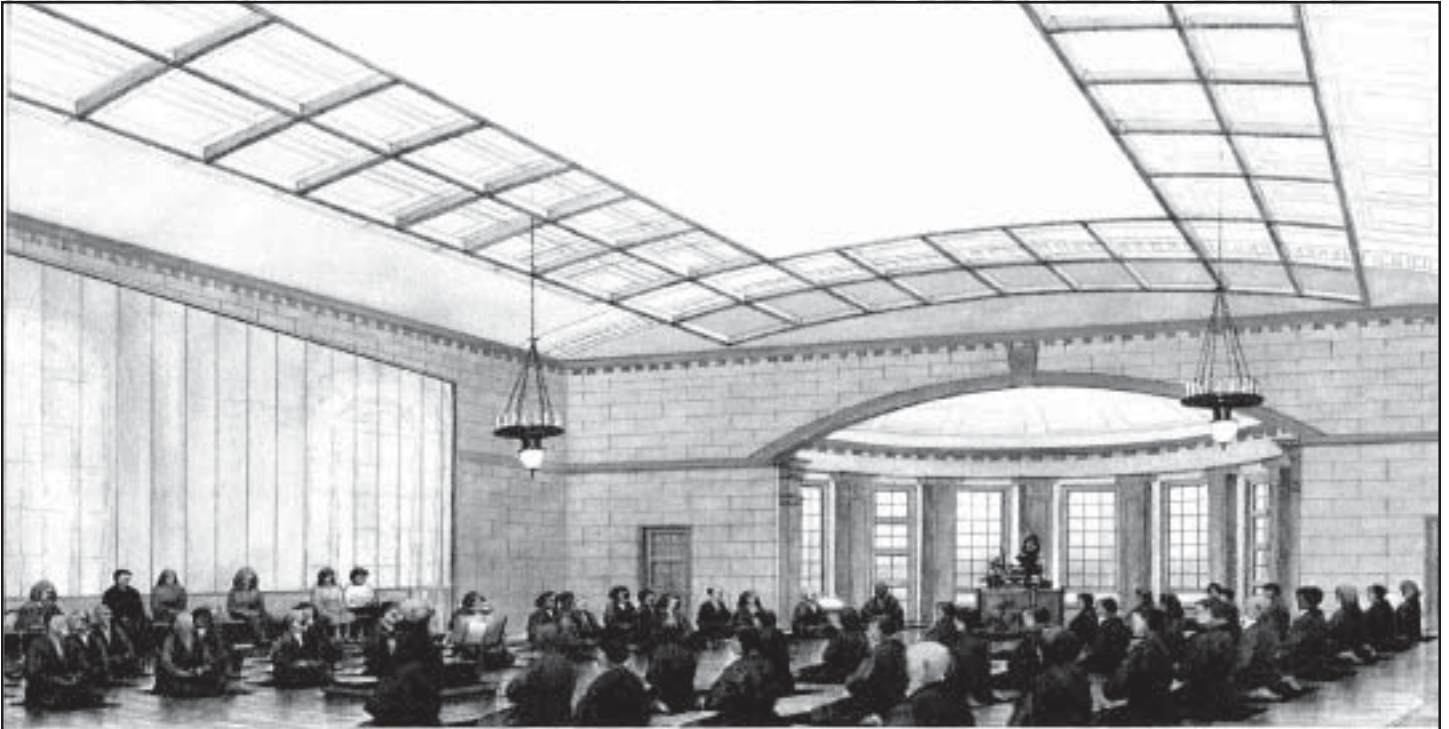
Thanks to everyone for coming today, and thanks especially to all of you who were here yesterday as well. We got a tremendous amount done and there is a lot more yet to do. These workdays have a very different feel to them compared to the Samus during the Prajna Ango, which are much more like formal practice, as they are meant to be. The workdays are, as Peggy said at the last one, the practice of Sangha, and more than that they are a celebration of Sangha. There is an overall mood of joy and celebration in working together here in the temple that is quite wonderful.

There is a story of a Japanese Zen Master who was giving a lecture on Zen practice and realization to a group of lay people. A member of the audience stood up and said, "This sounds so abstruse and so difficult to me. I don't think I can do it." The Master said, "Excuse me, I'm a little

hard of hearing. Would you mind coming up here and saying that?" The audience member walked up to the front of the room and the Master exclaimed, "How beautifully you express the Dharma!"

Whether we know it or not we all embody the truth. The truth doesn't depend on individual realization any more than the mountain depends on someone to climb it for its existence. We tend to be unaware of that which is most intimate. Bernie Glassman uses the analogy of a fish in water. A fish is completely intimate with water, yet it is unaware of water, and at the same time it is the perfect expression of water. In just that way each one of us is a perfect expression of the Dharma. So don't worry. We can have faith; faith in the truth of things as we just get in there and do it.

# Sangha News



Drawing Credits: Architectural Arts and SLATERPAULL ARCHITECTS

## Upward and Onward!

The game's afoot! We are moving up! Working together, we did the necessary planning with SlaterPaull Architects and JHL Constructors and prepared the auditorium for the first stage of renovation by removing the stage and 298 seats. The Austin organ was donated to the Episcopal Church of Santiago in Lafayette. We have received the building permit from the city and JHL Constructors are ready to begin the construction of the upstairs zendo and dormitory floor.

We now stand poised to begin to realize our aim in purchasing and moving into the former Church of Christ Scientist by renovating the church into a Zen Buddhist Temple for the good of the many.

We are grateful to Melanie Short and Clayton Cole of SlaterPaull Architects and Jeff Johnson of JHL Constructors, for donating their services in planning this first stage of renovation. And we are thankful to all members who generously donated their time, expertise and muscle in preparing the space for renovation. After JHL has completed the construction of the upstairs floor and the carpet has been laid, we will complete the space ourselves and establish our zendo there.

This project has brought us closer together and I'm sure will continue to do so. I very much look forward to this ongoing adventure together.

Gassho,  
Danan

## Renovation Progress

After a long period of planning and organization, the renovation of the temple is now under way. During this phase of construction, the lower half of the auditorium will be made level by what is essentially a large platform extending from the top of the steps to where the stage used to be. To prepare the space, the stage was demolished and seats were removed during the February Sangha workday. 80 of the 298 seats were donated to the Industrial Arts Theatre at 38th and Federal, another 70 or so were sold or taken by sangha members, and the rest were either discarded or retained for the yard sale.

Now that we have received our building permit, construction is scheduled to begin on or around March 15, and be completed around April 12th. During this time, the foyer is likely to be off limits, so anyone coming to a temple event will enter through the office/administrative entrance. Robes will not be worn for sittings. Email bulletins with progress reports and changes to forms and procedures will be sent out to all supporting members as events unfold. Associate members who wish to be notified about changes and events should contact the office.

## Yard Sale

Due to the success of last years yard sale, which brought in a total of \$1323.50, another yard sale has been scheduled for Friday, June 11. Everyone is encouraged to donate such items as clothes, furniture, sporting goods, electronics, books, or other items for the sale. You may drop off your items in the foyer of the Center during the second week of June. Items that don't sell will be given to charity. Jesse Brown is chairperson of the ad-hoc yard sale committee. Please contact him at 303-432-2178 or Jesse.Brown@att.net to volunteer. Help is needed to prepare for the sale during the week of June 6-11 and to staff the sale Friday, June 11th. Proceeds from the sale will go to the renovation fund.

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## Application for Public Events at the Center

An application form has been developed for any events at the Center put on by committees or outside groups that involve the public. Such events include concerts, speaking engagements, fundraisers, weddings, etc. The application is available in the foyer, and should be submitted to the office via the donation box, or by giving it to Shonen Dunley, the office manager. The purpose of the application is to formalize the process of approval for uses of the center outside regular events. The application is examined by Sensei, the head of the zendo, and the office manager, to ensure that the requested use does not conflict with the stated mission of the Zen Center of Denver, other scheduled events, or violate tax laws regarding 501(c)(3) organizations. All submitted applications will be processed promptly, and the sponsoring committee or person contacted as soon as a decision is made.

## Vesak

Vesak, the celebration of the Buddha's birth, will take place on Sunday, May 23. Vesak will begin at the Temple at 10 am with a ceremony honoring the baby Buddha. Then, weather permitting, we will have jataka tales and a potluck around the corner at Peggy Sheehan's house. Jataka tales can be read or performed as skits, and anyone is welcome to do so. Vesak is a lively and festive occasion, open to all. Children are especially encouraged to attend.

## Gassho Corner

Many thanks to the members of the renovation committee for numerous hours spent in meetings and planning for the renovation project. In particular, Dennis Tesar has been very active in the committee as our liaison with the architect and contractor. Related to the renovation committee was an ad-hoc carpet selection committee. Karin Kempe, Peggy Sheehan, Lindsey Trout, and Becky Wethington all put in a great deal of time and energy pouring over carpet samples and picking the very best carpet within our budget. Many thanks as well to Peggy Sheehan, Joel Tagert, and Lindsey Trout for hosting our little social gathering every Thursday night after the sitting.

## Upcoming Events

Sesshin Application Deadline	April 1
Prajna Ango Opening Ceremony	April 4
Sesshin	April 17-24
Kannon Ceremony	April 29
Zazenkai	May 2
BOD Meeting	May 12
Sangha Meeting	May 16
Repentance Ceremony	May 18
<b>Vesak</b>	<b>May 23</b>
Sesshin Application Deadline	June 2
Ceremony of Aid	June 3
Sangha Yard Sale	June 11
Sesshin	June 19-26

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