



Diamond Sangha Teachers' Circle Meeting Damme, Germany, Report from the Teachers

The Diamond Sangha Teachers' Circle [DSTC] (14 teachers, dharma children and grandchildren of Robert Aitken Roshi) met for a week at the Priory of St. Benedict in Damme, Germany.

The priory is in Northwest Germany, at the edge of a small town amidst rolling farmland and bounded on two sides by forest and surrounded by grounds which include flowerbeds, vegetable gardens and even a walking labyrinth. We sat together in the mornings, ate together and met for two, three-hour sessions each day. For those of us from Denver, it was an opportunity to reconnect with some of the participants from the 2009 Denver meeting, and to meet new members of the DSTC.

As this was the first meeting of the Teachers' Circle [TC] after the death of Aitken Roshi, the future of the TC and the Diamond Sangha [DS] was the major topic of discussion. The DSTC is not an official body of the Diamond Sangha Network, but rather a loose association of teachers linked by their historical and dharma affiliation with the teachings of Robert Aitken. Initially the participants were either teachers who received permission to teach by Robert Aitken (this includes Danan Henry Roshi) as well as those who, in addition, received dharma transmission from him. Over the years, new additions have included the dharma heirs and assistant teachers sanc-

tioned by the original group, and the group has always reserved the right to invite anyone to participate. A statement reflecting the reality of the DS as a family of practice groups and the implications will be read at the sangha meeting and posted on our bulletin board. This reframing of relationships allowed the TC to recognize Zen Center of Denver and its teachers as part of the DS, as well as the North Olympic Zen group and its teacher Kristen Larson.

The koan review was great fun. Half of the group of 14 took the role of teacher and the other half the role of student. The "students" circulated from room to room and worked with each "teacher" on a koan of their choice from the Wu-men Kuan. The next day roles were reversed. Sometimes we agreed, sometimes we agreed to disagree, but the format allowed for increased intimacy and open exchange.

Other topics included our lineage chant and dedications, specifically the dharma name most appropriate for Aitken Roshi; guiding students working on shikantaza; how often the TC should meet and the possibility of regional meetings (less travel expense). We came away energized and with plenty to consider as we continue to evolve here in Denver. For new teachers like us, the Teachers' Circle is an important form for building relationships, examining our forms and expressing mutual support and encouragement.



L to R Rolf Drosten (Germany), Daniel Tarragno (California & South America), Burkard Zill (Germany), Karin Kempe (Colorado), Peggy Sheehan (Colorado), Gillian Coote (Australia), Bob Joyner (Australia), Jack Duffy (Washington state), Marian Morgan (Virginia), Ian Sweetman (Australia), Nelson Foster (California), Michael Kieran (Hawaii), Ken Morgareidge (Colorado), Kristen Larson (Washington state)

Vesak Celebration

Once again, Vesak was celebrated with music, Jataka tales, cake and potluck. Nine bows to those who donated time, talent and effort.



Welcome to New Members

The Lotus in the Flame Sangha extends a warm welcome to our new members, who have joined us during the Spring training ango. We look forward to their Entering the Gate and taking the path of Zen with us:

Bill Wright, retired Safety and Occupational Health Manager
Sara Kingenstein, Linguist
Peter Dudley, retired Registered Nurse
Tim Orme, Poet

Congratulations and Best Wishes

All best to Liz Tang and Jason Polk with their upcoming wedding on July 9. Sangha is invited to the Ceremony with tea and cookies afterward.

Congratulations and well wishes to Julie Larson and Nick Johnson with their wedding in September.

*Gifts are great, founding temples is meritorious,
meditations and religious exercises pacify the heart,
comprehension of the truth leads to Nirvana, but
greater than all is lovingkindness.*

--The Buddha's Sermon at Rajagaha, Verse 21

Office Makeover

It took two full workdays (June 18, 19) and a lot of TSP, but we did it. New paint, new light fixtures, and a new workspace arrangement make the Zen Center office more user friendly.

Major gassho to all who pitched in.

Come by and take a look!

Has anyone seen this person?





Stormy Sky

The above photo was created by Sangha brother, Nick Gianoutsos. The image was constructed from three photos he took: storm cloud in Oklahoma, water from Clear Creek near Golden, Buddha from the Temple main altar.

The Store Corner

Please come in and peruse the shelves for newly delivered books in the store. Candles, incense and zafus are also restocked and available for purchase. We are pleased to announce the return of the whimsical monk cards designed by Lupe Rodriguez. These cards were originally produced to generate income for the Prison Dharma Project and are now dedicated to raising the much needed funds for our Center. The Store is currently soliciting your artistic creativity for consignment items to generate additional revenue for the Center (price will cover your costs). We are accepting submissions for consideration (i.e. postcards, calendars, art work). Please contact Jann Griffiths, janngriffiths@chasteen.us

Calendar Highlights

Center & Office Closed

Mountain Sesshin

Sangha Workday

Questions & Answers

Center Closed

Talk & Discussion

Senior Talk

Board of Directors

Zazenkai

Sesshin Applic. Deadline

Sangha Potluck

Talk & Discussion

July 2-10

July 24-31

August 14

August 25

Sept. 3-5

Sept 6

Sept. 11

Sept. 12

Sept. 18

Sept. 23

Sept. 25

Sept. 29

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