



Ten Directions

Ten Directions Kwan Um Zen Community Newsletter, Vol. VIII, No. 1, Winter 2006

From the Director

You Must Be Present to Win

Often when you buy a raffle ticket, you get the news that you have to be in the room when the ticket is drawn to get the big prize. The same is true of practice. You can think a lot about practicing, explain ideas of Zen to your friends and be a dues paying member of the sangha but if you don't sit down on the cushion – you miss the point.



This newsletter brings news and dates of many opportunities to practice in the coming year. Weekend retreats, one-day events, the increasingly famous "Change Your Mind Day" are scheduled events of the sangha. Heart Kyol Che encourages us to make a strong commitment to our practice at home for 90 days in solidarity with our sangha members who will sit this long retreat in Providence.

If you take out your brand new 2006 calendar right now and make of note of the dates in this newsletter, there is a good chance you'll be present for these opportunities to sit down and wake up.

New location

Beginning with the January Sangha weekend we will be holding events at the Theosophical Society in Wheaton Illinois. After four years in the beautiful and sometimes restrictive guesthouse at Argonne Labs we will be holding this year's sangha wide events at this new location. One exception: the previously scheduled Midwest Sangha Weekend will be held at Argonne.

Directions to the society are available on their web site at www.theosophical.com.

Theosophical Society
1926 N Main St
Wheaton, IL
(630) 668-1571



*Buddha's Enlightenment Day at
Lincoln Park Zen*

Let's all practice together!

Heart Kyol Che 2006

What is Kyol Che?

Kyol Che is a traditional Korean Zen retreat. The name means "tight dharma" or "coming together." In Korea, it is the three-month winter and summer periods when monks and nuns do intensive sitting practice in the mountain temples. Providence Zen Center holds two Kyol Che retreats annually, with students sitting up to three months in the winter and four weeks in the summer.

What is the Heart Kyol Che?

The Heart Kyol Che is an opportunity for students who cannot sit the traditional Kyol Che, or who can sit only part of it, to participate by doing extra practice at home and doing together practice as they are able. This will run concurrently with the traditional Kyol Che. By doing this Heart Kyol Che together, we will strengthen our own practices, and provide support to our fellow students who are able to sit the traditional Kyol Che. We in turn can draw inspiration and energy from their commitment.

(Continued next page)

(Heart Kyol Che, continued)

What does the Heart Kyol Che consist of?

1. An effort to do daily practice (suggested minimum is recitation of the Four Great Vows; bowing; chanting of the Heart Sutra; and sitting fifteen minutes)
2. Doing daily mantra practice (suggested minimum is one thousand Kwan Seum Bosals)
3. A personal day of silence and mindfulness (optional)
4. Long sittings (suggested minimum is one)
5. Special chanting
6. Yong Maeng Jong Jins and one day retreats (suggested minimum is one day)
7. One or more weeks of Winter Kyol Che at Providence (optional)

How do I arrange to participate?

Fill out the practice commitment form below. Circle each of the commitments you will make. Keep it in your home in the place where you practice.

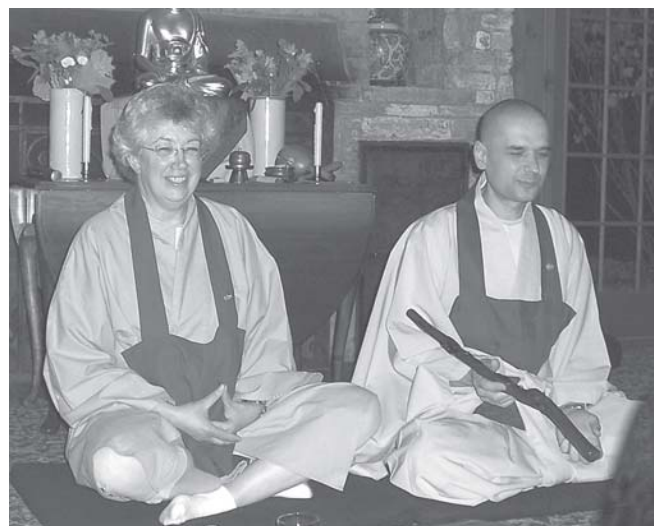
Heart Kyol Che 2006

Name: _____

1. Daily practice (Four Great Vows, bowing, chanting sitting)
2. Daily mantra practice
3. Personal day of silence and mindfulness
4. Long sittings
5. Special chanting
6. Yong Maeng Jong Jin and one-day retreats (January 21, February 12, March 3)



November Retreat



Dharma Talk at the November Retreat

Notes About Upcoming Events

**Annual Sangha Weekend
January 21-23**

We will be holding our 2nd annual sangha weekend at our new retreat site, the Theosophical Society in Wheaton, Illinois. Please come for as much of the weekend as you can.

Schedule

Friday night, 7:30: Dharma talk by Zen Master Soeng Hyang.

Saturday: Day of Meditation with Zen Master Soeng Hyang includes interviews and a formal meal at lunch time.



Preceptors at September retreat with Ron Kidd and Zen Master Soeng Hyang

Saturday evening: We will go out for dinner and be back in time for evening practice at 6:30pm. Hanging out after practice.

Sunday: Bows, chants and morning practice beginning at 6:00. Informal breakfast at 8:00. The board will meet during breakfast. Sangha meeting at 9:30. Conclude the meeting at 11:30.

Fees and arrangements

The Friday night Dharma talk: \$5.00 donation
Saturday day of meditation: \$35.00
No charge for Sunday.

You may stay overnight at the Theosophical Society
Friday and Saturday nights: \$25.00 per night.

You need to make reservations for the day of meditation and to spend the night either or both nights. You do not need to make reservations for the talk or the Sangha meeting. Please make your reservations by contacting Margaret McKenzie at MMck70000@aol.com or 630-244-0543. You are not signed up until you speak with or get a return email from Margaret.

If you have items to place on the agenda for the meeting, please email them to Margaret at the above address. Look forward to seeing you there.

Kido Chanting February 12

We will have a day-long Kido practice, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM to mark the middle point of Winter Kyol Che. We will be at the Theosophical Society in Wheaton. Kido chanting consists of periods of chanting "Kwan Seum Bosal" (the name of the bodhisatva of compassion) alternating with periods of silent sitting.

Please wear loose, comfortable clothes, and bring your own cushion and a small percussion instrument if you have one. Also please bring a vegetarian brown bag lunch. Drinks will be provided. Cost: \$30.00

Midwest Sangha Weekend

We will be hosting the Midwest weekend again April 28, 29 and 30. This will be our final event at Argonne. We will need volunteers to help drive people from the airports, set up the site, and help with shopping and cooking. Please watch your e-mail for volunteer opportunities.

Online registration

We experimented with online registration for our fall retreat with mixed results. We are working to get the bugs out of this process. **We will be doing online registration for the March retreat.** Please register at our web site <http://www.geocities.com/chicagozen/index.html>. If you have successfully registered, you will get a message from Yahoo at the time you register that will repeat back to you your registration information. You will get a second confirmation message via e-mail from Jean Barr. **You are not registered without both of these confirmations.** If you encounter a problem, you may reach Jean at 630-681-0563.

Around the 10 Directions

Congratulations to September preceptors missed in the last newsletter. Dave Cross took five precepts, John Wren took ten precepts.

Thanks to the dedicated prison volunteers who carry on the work that SDT Ron Kidd has facilitated for the past 13 years. Volunteers at Indiana State Prison include Scott Chambers and Alayne Jones; volunteers at Michigan City include Bob Kemp, John Wren, Jerry Ashmore and Dave Cross.

Happy landing to the West Suburban Zen Group which has found a new home after a year's hiatus. They'll be meeting at the Lombard Center in on Thursday nights and Friday mornings.

Thanks to Lincoln Park Zen for hosting the Buddha's Enlightenment Day practice. Twenty-two of us enjoyed practice, talks and Thai food afterwards.

To contribute to this column of the newsletter, to put an item online or join the e-mail list please contact DT Harold Rail at hprail@yahoo.com or 815-377-0550.



September Retreat

Ten Directions
Zen Community of Chicago
P.O. Box 2261
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60138



Schedule

Jan 20-22	Annual Sangha weekend
Feb 12	One-day Kido retreat 9:00 - 4:00
Mar 3-5	Three-day YMJJ ZMSH
Mar 11	Women & Buddhism Conference at DePaul
Apr 28-30	Midwest Sangha Meeting
May 21	One day of meditation
Jun 4	Change Your Mind Day, Woodstock
Jun 17-18	Retreat with guest teacher
Sep 16-17	Retreat with guest teacher
Nov 3-5	Three-day YMJJ ZMSH Precepts Ceremony



About Ten Directions

The Ten Directions practice groups across the Greater Chicagoland area are open to everyone. Our groups exist to offer people an open and supportive atmosphere in which to learn and practice, and people are free to attend or not attend as their schedules permit.

Group locations include:

DePaul University
Empty Circle Zen Group, Hobart, IN
Indiana State Prison
Ji Hak Sunim's, Island Lake
Westville Correctional Center
Woodstock, IL

For more information, contact these teachers:

Margaret McKenzie, 630-415-0289 (All)
Ron Kidd, 773-334-1668 (Chicago)
Bob Kemp, 219-942-6050 (Indiana)
Harold Rail, 815-337-0550 (Woodstock)

Please visit our website at
<http://www.geocities.com/chicagozen/index.html>