

Great Sky Sesshin August 9-16, 2008

sponsored by Cedar Rapids Zen Center and Milwaukee Zen Center

When: Arrival - by 4:00 p.m., Saturday, August 9, 2008
Departure - after 1:00 p.m. clean-up, Saturday, August 16, 2008

Where: Hokyoji Zen Practice Community, Eitzen, Minnesota.
A beautiful rural setting of meadow, forest and rolling hills in southern Minnesota just west of the Mississippi River. Accommodations are very simple, ranging from dormitory-style beds to the zendo floor to personal camping equipment. Participants should bring their own sleeping bags, towels and toiletries. There are showers and outdoor toilets available. The zendo is a lovely Japanese style structure.

What: A daily schedule of zazen, dharma talks, services, dokusan, meals with oryoki, tea breaks and work periods. (See attached full schedule.)

Teachers:

Rosan Yoshida, Missouri Zen Center 8/11 thru 8/16/08
Zuiko Redding, Cedar Rapids Zen Center 8/9 thru 8/16/08
Tonon O'Connor, Milwaukee Zen Center 8/9 thru 8/16/08
Brad Warner, author of Hardcore Zen and Sit Down & Shut Up 8/9 thru 8/16/08
Myoyu Andersen, Great Plains Zen Center 8/9 thru 8/16/08

Associate Teacher:

Dokai Georgesen, Resident Teacher, Hokyoji Zen Practice Community

The purpose of this Soto Zen style sesshin is to draw together teachers and practitioners for seven days of deepening their understanding of the dharma under the extraordinary big sky of Hokyoji.

Participation is limited to 24 practitioners.

Cost: \$285 – bunk bed (with air mattress)
\$250 – zendo or camping.

A registration form is attached and should be returned with payment in full to the Milwaukee Zen Center, 2825 N. Stowell Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53211

Deadline for Registration: no later than July 10, 2008

A full information packet will be provided after registration.

For questions or further information, please contact the Milwaukee Zen Center.

E-Mail: kokyo-an@earthlink.net Phone: (414)963-0526 Fax: (414)963-0517

TEACHERS – GREAT SKY SESSHIN 2008

Susan Myoyu Andersen, teacher of Great Plains Zen Center (GPZC) studied for over twenty years with Taizan Maezumi Roshi at the Zen Center of Los Angeles. In 1978, she was ordained as a Buddhist monk and in 1995 Maezumi Roshi gave her *shiho* (Dharma transmission), authorizing her to become a Zen teacher. In May of 2006, Myoyu Roshi received Inka from Genpo Roshi of Kanzeon Zen Center. She is also the mother of two children, and works as an occupational therapist with individuals who have developmental disabilities.

Dokai Georgesen began his study of Zen Buddhism at Minnesota Zen Center under the direction of Dainin Katagiri Roshi in 1974. Upon his return in 1982 from two years on pilgrimage studying Buddhism in India and Japan, he lived at Hokyoji until his ordination in 1984. In 1989, he received dharma transmission from Katagiri Roshi. Since then, he has returned to Japan several times to study under Ikko Narasaki Roshi, Tsugen Narasaki Roshi and Taizan Maezumi Roshi. He has also practiced at Plum Village in France under the direction of Thich Nhat Hanh. He returned to Hokyoji in June, 2003, and is now its resident teacher.

Tonen O'Connor is the Resident Priest at the Milwaukee Zen Center. She received ordination from Tozen Akiyama in 1994 and dharma transmission in 1999. She has trained widely both in the U.S. and Japan and works extensively with inmates within the Wisconsin correctional system, is active in interfaith programs, and currently serves as President of the Board of the Soto Zen Buddhist Association. Prior to entering the Zen world, Rev. O'Connor had a 40-year career in the professional theater and was managing director of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater from 1974-1995.

Zuiko Redding is the resident teacher at Cedar Rapids Zen Center. She practiced at Milwaukee Zen Center with Rev. Tozen Akiyama and at Minnesota Zen Center with Rev. Dainin Katagiri in the 1980s. In January, 1992, she received novice ordination in Japan from Tsugen Narasaki Roshi. She practiced under his direction at Zuiji Senmon Sodo and its sub-temple Shogoji until her return to the U.S. in 1997. She received dharma transmission from Rev. Narasaki in July, 1996. She also holds a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Before ordination, she taught demography and social research methods at the university level and was a researcher with the Wisconsin State Center for Health Statistics.

Rosan Yoshida, founder and director of Missouri Zen Center, received dharma transmission from Dainin Katagiri Roshi in 1989 and from Tsugen Narasaki Roshi in 1993. He was certified by Soto Shu as an international teacher in 1994. He earned his Ph.D. from Columbia University and M.A. from Tokyo University and he presently

teaches at Toyo University, dividing his time between Japan and the U.S. He is the author of NO SELF - A Systematic Interpretation of Buddhism and Limitless Life: Dogen's World as well as other articles and translations. He is an active participant in the Parliament of the World's Religions, and in promoting the Global Ethic and peace. He is a primary founder of the Global System Ethic Association.

Brad Warner is a dharma heir of Gudo Wafu Nishijima and the author of the books Hardcore Zen and Sit Down And Shut Up. His third book, Zen Wrapped In Karma Dipped In Chocolate is due out in late 2008. When not teaching and practicing Zen or writing, he plays bass for the hardcore punk band 0DFx (aka Zero Defex), and works for a Japanese film and TV production company specializing in movies about giant monsters.

GREAT SKY SESSHIN SCHEDULE

Sat. evening
8/09/08

4:00 p.m. arrival
5:30 - informal meal
6:30 - oryoki instruction
7:30 – orientation
8:30 – zazen
9:00 – end of day

Daily Schedule
8//10/08 – 8/15/08

4:30 a.m. – Wake up bell
4:55 – jumpan
5:00 - zazen
5:40 – kinhin
5:50 – zazen
6:30 – service
6:45 – breakfast
7:30 – tea, break
8:10 – zazen
8:50 – kinhin
9:00 – dharma talk
9:50 – questions,
discussion
10:10 – kinhin
10:20 – zazen
11:00 – kinhin
11:10 – zazen
11:45 – service
12:00 p.m.- lunch
12:45 – break
1:15 – work meeting
1:25 – work period
2:50 – clean up
3:00 – tea, break
4:20 – zazen
5:00 – service
5:15 – supper
6:00 – break
6:30 – zazen
7:10 – kinhin
7:20 – zazen
8:00 – kinhin
8:10 - zazen
8:50 – end of day

Sat. morning
8/16/08

4:30 a.m. - wake up
4:55 - jumpan
5:00 - zazen
5:40 - kinhin
5:50 - zazen
6:30 - service
6:45 - breakfast
7:30 – tea, break
8:10 - zazen
8:50 - kinhin
9:00 – dharma talk
9:50 – questions,
discussion
10:10 - kinhin
10:20 - zazen
11:00 - kinhin
11:45 - service
12:00 p.m - lunch
(informal)
1:00 – clean-up and
departure

Great Sky Sesshin – August 9 - 16, 2008 – Registration

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ FAX _____ E-MAIL _____

I understand that there are several options for accommodations, and I choose:

___ bunk bed with air mattress Cost: \$285

___ zendo floor Cost: \$250

___ camping in the meadow with my own tent and equipment (Note: campers will sleep in the zendo or workshop in the case of electrical storms.) Cost: \$250

I will bring: ___ zafu ___ zabuton (These will be supplied if you prefer not to bring them.)

Transportation:

___ I will be driving. Please send directions.

___ I will be flying into LaCrosse, WI, and will need airport pickup

Expected times of arrival: _____ and departure: _____

Meals and food:

___ I will bring my own oryoki bowls. ___ I will need oryoki bowls.

___ I have the following food allergies: _____

Other:

Medical or physical conditions limiting my activity: _____

___ I enclose my signed form indemnifying the Minnesota Zen Meditation Center.

Payment in full of \$ _____ enclosed. (Make check payable to Milwaukee Zen Center, 2825 N. Stowell Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53211)

CANCELLATION POLICY. Full refund if canceling prior to July 10, 2007. After July 10, a \$100 cancellation fee will be levied.

I agree to indemnify and hold Minnesota Zen Meditation Center and Hokyoji Zen Practice Community harmless from any and all claims, actions, suits, procedures, costs, expenses, damages and liabilities, including attorneys' fees brought as a result of my attendance and use of space for a retreat at the Hokyoji Retreat Center, 2646 County Road 5, Eitzen, Minnesota, and to reimburse both Minnesota Zen Meditation Center and Hokyoji Zen Practice Community for any such incurred expenses.

Signature _____

Date signed _____

Print Name _____

Dates of stay _____

NOTE: PLEASE RETURN THIS SIGNED FORM WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FORM TO THE MILWAUKEE ZEN CENTER.