



COMING EVENTS

MANJUSRI SESSHIN Friday June 6 – Monday June 9 at Annandale

Led by Maggie Gluek. Enquiries: magpiwarble@yahoo.com

WEEKEND SESSHIN Saturday May 3 - Sunday May 4 at Kodoji

Beginning Friday evening, finishing on Sunday at 4. If you plan to come, please contact Maggie by April 20: 9987-4312.

Zazenkai, April 20, 8.30 - noon. Maggie Gluek will talk about the Precepts and offer dokusan. Why not bring some lunch and stay for our first study group of the year?

Study Group, April 20, 1 - 3 pm, continuing the exploration of our Dharma ancestors with the focus on Wang Wei, the T'ang Dynasty poet (The Roaring Stream, Ch. 5). Maggie Gluek will lead the group, and Linda Aitkin will make an introductory presentation.

Zazenkai, May 18 8.30 - noon, Jean Brick will talk about Engaged Buddhism. Gilly will offer dokusan. This will be followed by our second study group.

Study Group, May 18, 1 - 3 pm. Paul Maloney will facilitate, with the focus on Shih-t'ou , 700 - 790. (The Roaring Stream, Ch. 6).



BUDDHA'S BIRTHDAY celebration, for the family, **Sunday March 30.**

9.30 am children's craft, 10.30 am ceremony. Followed by potluck.

Enquiries: Janet Selby 6589 4636

ZEN AND ART RETREAT, April 24 - 27 at Kodoji

Led by Diana Levy and Janet Selby, yoga with Judy Belnick.

Make a Haiku Journey book interweaving words, images, painting and drawing inspired by our stunning country Zendo - Kodoji - a joyous way to gather your creative energies for 2008.

Because art materials are expensive, we need to know quantities. All materials will be provided. However, feel free to bring along your own journal, paints, and any other art materials you may like to use.

Payments due April 11. Cost \$125 members, \$150 non-members.

Enquiries: Diana Levy (02) 4751 3935, email: diana_1@iprimus.com.au;

Janet (02) 9589 4636, mobile 0431 955 282, email: janetselby@bigpond.com

REPORTS

Diamond Sangha Teachers' Circle, Denver, Colorado

Our meeting was warmly hosted by the Lotus in the Flame Sangha led by Danan Henry, the zendo housed in an imposing 1920's ex-Christian Science building which once seated 800 people in a raked auditorium. The sun shone most days, but sometimes snow fell, covering cars and trees. Fourteen teachers attended from March 3 - 7, a precious opportunity to share experiences and ideas and deepen friendships face-to-face. Teachers present were: Nelson Foster, Michael Kieran, Rolf Drosten, Burkard Zill, Janna Zeedyk, Father Pat Hawke, Daniel Terragno, Maggie Gluek, Marian Morgan, Peggy Sheehan, Ken Morgareidge, Karin Kempe, Danan Henry and myself. Michael updated us on Aitken Roshi's health and activities. Roshi at 90 is working on a new book, attends Sunday zazen regularly and is in relatively good health; the fundraising project to maintain his nursing regime at Palolo has so far raised around \$80,000. The 50th anniversary of the Diamond Sangha falls in July 2009, when the DSTC will next meet at Palolo.

Gillian Coote

Weekend Sesshin, February 2-3 at Gorrick's Run led by Paul Maloney proved again how valuable these small sesshin are for practice. Very concentrated, very quiet. The weather, in the form of torrential rains, made sure the ending was short and sweet. The next Weekend Sesshin is in May, led by Maggie Gluek.

Samu weekend of March 8-9 at Gorrick's Run

I went up with Grace on Friday arvo, having bought plywood and insulation for the kitchen ceiling at Crescent Hardware on the way to Annandale, where I picked up some bowl cloths and new knee cushions made by the women's group.

After turning off the road into Gorrick's Run, Grace and I drove the gauntlet of two metre-high fleabane on either side of the road for about a kilometre before getting to the zendo, the car spreading seeds as it brushed past the plants. In the paddock the grass was waist high. Immediately after we got there, as we only had about an hour of daylight left, I mowed paths around the cottage, across to the hojo and over to the showers and loos. We didn't see any snakes. I was about to turn in for the night when I saw a car, which turned out to be Greg Carty with Raphaella's 25 year old son Joe.

At 9 o'clock the next morning we were joined by Yvonne Hales who immediately began bagging fleabane seedheads. Joe got on the mower and Greg and I started putting up the kitchen ceiling. Around lunchtime, who should arrive, unexpectedly, but Doug Mason for his first samu. I put him onto staining verandah posts. Yvonne set off back home at about 5pm on Saturday. Doug, Greg, Joe and I had a big veggie curry on Saturday night.

Sat for a couple of periods first thing Sunday morning (starting about 7.45 am), had breakfast and then got back into the work. I finished around the kitchen ceiling, Greg had brought his whipper snipper and did a fantastic job around the buildings cutting back growth and Doug raked up the grass cuttings. They all left around lunchtime and after that I finished off the kitchen trim and stacked the remainder of wood, (which has been stacked on the kitchen verandah for the last year or so) under the house.

Tony Coote

Workshops for Jikki-jitsu and Jisha , and Ino roles led by Tony Miller and Allan Marett.

These workshops have been very valuable in picking up on ritual points, and including pointers from Michael Kieran in Hawaii (our home base), and broadening all our views about what we are doing , so we have a more solid , enjoyable ritual form to support us all. Taking up a Leadership role is very good practice for all. Just this!

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

New Member. The board welcomes new member Marianne Kennedy, known by many from Womens Retreats.

NOTICE BOARD

FULL MOON CEREMONY

April 21, 23 Precepts to be discussed – I take up the way of Not Sparing the Dharma Assets.

ZAZENKAI at ANNANDALE -

April 20. 8-30- 12 pm Dokusan and talk on Ethics and Precepts: Maggie Gluek

May 18. 8.30- 12 pm Dokusan: Maggie Gluek. Talk on Engaged Buddhism: Jean Brick

Study Groups on afternoons after **Zazenkai** 1-3 pm. Share lunch.

April 20 Chapter 5 of THE ROARING STREAM : Wang Wei, led by Maggie Gluek

May 18 Chapter 6 of THE ROARING STREAM: Shih-t'ou, led by Paul Maloney

YOGA CLASSES

Jude Belnick has been holding yoga classes at the Zen centre on Tuesday mornings. *As from April 2 these will be held on Wednesday mornings*, from 6.30am - 7.30am, followed by an optional sitting until 8am. Monthly enrollment is \$40- \$50 depending on whether there are 4 or 5 classes in the month. \$12 for a casual class. Income goes towards Aitken Roshi or Sydney Zen Centre. Contact Jude jude.belnick@gmail.com

WOMEN'S GROUP The women's group is open to SZC female members. If you are interested in joining, and want to find out more about the nature of the group and how we operate, please just link into the group and ask any questions. Next meeting is scheduled for Friday April 11 at Helen's, then May 9 at Jude's.

ORIENTATIONS: Monday evenings 6pm, Wednesday evenings 6.45pm

- for newcomers to receive orientation to the practice.

Monday evenings : April 14,28 - every two weeks at 6 pm. Main organiser is Sue (suebazbi@bigpond.net.au) please email to book.

Wednesday evenings : Call Janet Selby on 9589 4636 or just turn up at 6.45pm for an introduction to the practice.

USE OF KODOJI - Kodoji is available for use by members of the SZC and guests (if accompanied by a member). It can also be hired by other groups if approved by the Board. Fees are \$15 per night for members and \$25 for non-members. There is a \$100 booking fee for non-member groups. Booking of Kodoji is essential and it is also essential to receive instructions about use of the facility before going there. Try giving the family a wonderful weekend, or yourself a few days of private retreat? Enquiries to Brendan Stewart - phone 9879 7290, email br.stewart@uws.edu.au

GIFT RECIPIENT STATUS FOR SZC BUILDING FUND The Australian Tax Office has confirmed that we are a DGR, or Deductible Gift Recipient for a fund (in our case the Sydney Zen Centre Building Fund). This restores the status of gifts to the building fund as tax deductible for the donor. If you

would like to make a donation to the building fund, simply flag it as such and we will issue a receipt against which you can claim a tax deduction from your income.

BOOKS FOR SALE

The Roaring Stream. A New Zen Reader, ed. Nelson Foster and Jack Shoemaker is on sale at Annandale, along with Robert Aitken's books: *Taking the Path of Zen*, *Mind of Clover*, *The Dragon that Never Sleeps*, *Encouraging Words*, *The Morning Star*, *Vegetable Roots Discourse*, *Zen Master Raven* and *The Gateless Barrier*.

REORGANISATION OF DOJO ROLES AT ANNANDALE

From May 2008 dojo roles for evening sitting and zazen will be organised in a new way. The following coordinators will organise rosters and training for the roles of Ino, Jikijitsu, Jisha and Orientation: Orientation—Maggie Gluek; Ino—Allan Marett; Jikijitsu and Jisha—Tony Miller. Coordinators will shortly contact people already trained for these roles to invite them to join a pool of people willing to take on these roles. Training will also be provided twice a year for people wanting to learn these roles. One important innovation, which is aimed at improving the standard of our ritual practice, is that all members of the Ino, Jikijitsu and Jisha pool must, however experienced, attend one training session a year.

The first training workshops have been held. These were:

February 17. 1.00-2.30 pm: Training workshop for Jikijitu and Jisha led by Tony Miller.

March 16. 1.00—2.30 pm: Training workshop for Ino led by Allan Marett.

LEADERSHIP ROLES AT EVENING ZAZEN

Any members, regularly sitting, who would like to take up the practice of being a dojo leader at evening zazen, please see one of the leaders, or speak to a teacher.

THANK YOU

To Linda Aitkin for gifts of books.

To Jude Belnick for giving all the funds from her yoga mornings to Aitken Roshi.

To Janet for re-furbishing the outside buddha and the picture frame in the entrance.

To Doug Mason for not only doing the Newsletter for us all these many months, but also paying for their printing.

REGULAR DATES

Dokusan – Mondays: Subhana April 7, 14 May 12, 26
Maggie Gluek April 30, May 14

Wednesdays: Gilly Coote April 2, 9, 16 May 21, 28

(No dokusan May 7, due to sesshin)

Full Moon Ceremony – April 21, 23: *I take up the way of not sparing the dharma assets.*
May 19, 21 Precepts recitation..

Zazen at Annandale

April 20 8.30 – 12 noon – Dokusan and talk on Ethics and Precepts: Maggie Gluek

May 18 8.30 – 12 noon – Dokusan: Maggie Gluek. Talk on Engaged Buddhism: Jean Brick

Study Group at Annandale (after Zazen)

April 20 1-3 pm. Chapter 5 of THE ROARING STREAM : Wang Wei, led by Maggie Gluek

May 18 1-3 pm. Chapter 6 of THE ROARING STREAM: Shih-t'ou, led by Paul Maloney

Blue Mountains Zen Blue Mountains Zen Group. At Patrick Kearney's place, Woodford. Contact Paul Maloney, for meeting times. Phone 4784 2136 or 9514 2519.

Canberra Zen Group Wednesday evenings fortnightly at 7.45 at the Orana School in Weston. Contact Tony Shields for details – email: tshields@netspeed.com.au, phone 6262-5150

Braidwood Zen meet weekly on Tuesdays at 5.30pm. Casual trippers through Braidwood of course particularly welcome. Contact Nicola on (02) 4846 1075 or email: geemonga@bigpond.com

Board Meetings are held on 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm (with zazen at 7pm beforehand). All SZC members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Next meetings are on April 8 and May 13.

Full minutes of every board meeting are posted on the notice board at Annandale for public perusal.



CONTACT INFORMATION

SZC (02) 9660 2993 www.szc.org.au

Members of the Board: Nigel Pearn (Chairman), Tony Coote (Treasurer), Britta Biedermann (Correspondence Secretary, Will Moon, Janet Selby (Minutes Secretary), Sally Hopkins (General Secretary), Allan Marett, John Merson (representing Blue Mountains). **Teachers:** Subhana Barzaghi, Gillian Coote **Apprentice Teachers** - Paul Maloney (w) 9514-2519; Maggie Gluek 9987 4312 **Newsletter editor** – Doug Mason doug.mason@ozemail.com.au

SANGHA-RELATED EVENTS

Shakuhachi Performance

Jim Franklin will be performing at the World Shakuhachi Festival, to be held this year in Sydney, July 4-8, at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music (see their website for details).

SZC Calendar April - May 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mar 30 Buddha's Birthday 9.30 craft for kids 10.30 ceremony Potluck	31 Zazen 7-9pm	April 1	2 Zazen 7-9pm	3	4	5
6	7 Zazen 7-9pm	8 Board Meeting start 7.30 pm	9 Zazen 7-9pm	10	11 Women's Group (Helen's)	12
13	14 Zazen 7-9pm	15	16 Zazen 7-9pm	17	18	19
20 ZAZENKAI 8.30-12 Study Group 1-3pm	21 Full Moon Ceremony Not sparing the dharma assets	22	23 Full Moon Ceremony Not sparing the dharma assets	24	25	26
27	28 Zazen 7-9pm	29	30 Zazen 7-9pm	May 1	2	3 Weekend Sesshin (Gorrick's)
4 Weekend Sesshin (Gorrick's)	5 Zazen 7-9pm	6	7 Zazen 7-9pm	8	9 Women's Group (Jude's)	10
11	12 Zazen 7-9pm	13 Board Meeting start 7.30pm	14 Zazen 7-9pm	15	16	17
18 ZAZENKAI 8.30-12 Study Group 1-3pm	19 Precept Recitation Zazen 7-9pm	20	21 Precept Recitation Zazen 7-9pm	22	23	24
25	26 Zazen 7-9pm	27	28 Zazen 7-9pm	29	30	31
Jun 1	2 Zazen 7-9pm	3	4 Zazen 7-9pm	5	6 Manjusri Sesshin Annandale	7 Manjusri Sesshin Annandale

This newsletter is available on our web site: www.szc.org.au