

# Myōju



JKI029

Soto Zen Buddhism in Melbourne

Spring, Volume 7, Issue 1, September 2007

## "Softening Our Mind - Reflecting on the Sounds of the World."

Dharma talk given by Ekai Korematsu Osho to the Melbourne Sangha, at Sunday Sanzenkai on July 16th 2006. This talk was in response to a question from the floor as to the nature of Kuan Yin. Transcribed by David Benn and edited by David Benn and Georgia Nicholls, 2007.

The symbolic meaning of the female Bodhisattva, Kuan Yin, who evolved as the Chinese Buddhist form of the male Bodhisattva, Avalokitesvara, manifests as two interrelated qualities.

One meaning is about how we reflect on the sounds of the world. When we face the world, we cannot help but hear the sounds of the world the cries of suffering and joy.

Another meaning becomes evident when we face ourselves, and delve deeper into our own true nature. When we face ourselves, it is a deepening process, one which becomes the source of that special being facing towards the world. If we are not clear and in touch with ourselves, there is no quality arising from within ourselves which can enable us to fully appreciate this aspect of reflecting on the sounds of the world.

This symbolism also represents the two ways of Zen Buddhist practice. When you come to the meditation hall to sit, you are in a sense turning away from the world. You don't bring the outside world here, otherwise you cannot meditate quietly. You need to settle into your human nature. However that is not all that there is. When we finish Zazen and go out the door, that is when we hear the sounds of the world. We need, however, to be sensitive enough to really hear it.

Avalokitesvara is often portrayed as a manifestation of unconditional love, of absolute compassion. In the Chinese tradition, Kuan Yin is a manifestation of love expressed through the feminine qualities of motherhood.



Statue of the Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara

The Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara is often represented as having many arms and heads. Each arm has eyes which see into the world, and the arms carry various tools and musical instruments which allow Avalokitesvara to embrace all aspects of the world. This image represents the concept of compassion being employed through skillful means - showing that a multitude of means are necessary to truly reflect on the sounds of the world.

The dynamic aspect of Avalokitesvara comes into being when humans develop compassionate qualities that affect all other beings. This is an aspect of hearing the sounds of the world. If you turn away from that aspect, and go deep into yourself, to the original place, it is this place that becomes the anchor point for Avalokitesvara as a fundamental aspect. It is in this manifestation, in the original form, that

Avalokitesvara is represented as a simple figure without many hands and tools.

It is the realization of both these forms that leads to completeness. These two forms of Avalokitesvara are like the roots and branches of our practice. The original fundamental form is like the roots, and the active dynamic form is like the branches.

The practice of Zazen is like the roots of our practice. It allows us to get in touch with our heart and mind - it is



Continued from page 1

fundamental. Settling into that awareness, we find freedom. This freedom comes as a result of just being in the self.

The dynamic quality of Avalokitesvara manifests at the level of no self. When the I is introduced, we are still holding on to our ego. Compassion really means to include and encompass all beings. If we exclude anything, or any person, we are holding on to our ego, this stubborn ego that is a part of being human. Through practice, our obstructions are lessened and our way

into the world is softened. We are able to respond accordingly to the situation by softening our mind and heart. This fluid quality of Avalokitesvara, like water, is able to seep into any place and fill any shape.

This quality is not particularly special, but rather is an outcome of our practice. We become observant of an inclusive nature rather than acting in an exclusive manner. We learn to embrace rather than to reject others. This practice allows ideas to take form and move freely within a protective environment.

We need to allow everything to function without getting carried away with it. Just erect your spine and breathe.

You can do it. I can do it. It doesn't depend on your own special faculty. Any body can practice, it is universally recommended. That is our practice in Zazen. Practicing Zazen is like massaging your mind – free of charge. Really, there is no such thing as Avalokitesvara or Kuan Yin out there - it is within us."

## Bright Pearl

From Dogen Zenji's *Shobogenzo*  
Book 1, Chapter 4

Master Gensa Shibi said as an expression of the truth:

'The whole universe in the ten directions is one bright pearl.'

One day a monk asked Master Gensa:

'I have heard your words that the whole universe in ten directions is one bright pearl. How should we understand this?' nor any thought has ever been caused by anything other than the bright pearl. Therefore, forward and backward steps in a demon's black-mountain cave are just the one bright pearl itself.'

Dogen Zenji

## Our Spring Issue Support Team

Jikishoan Zen Buddhist Community would like to thank and acknowledge the following people for their wonderful contribution to the production of this issue of Myoju.

Ekai Korematsu Osho, Dharma talk, photographs and inspiration

David Benn, Transcriptions and editing.  
Andrew Holborn, Poem

Mikkel Doomernik and B&B Design Australia, Graphic design

Kinkos, Printing

Julie Martindale, Mail-out coordination

Richard Henderson, Myoju and Website reporter and coordinator

## Next Issue

The next issue of Myoju will be posted at the Summer Solstice, 22nd December 2007. Contributions that will support our practice are most welcome, including articles, book reviews, interviews, personal reflections, artwork and photographs.

The content deadline is Sunday 7th October 2007. If you would like to contribute or advertise in the Summer 2007 edition of Myoju, please email [publications@jikishoan.org.au](mailto:publications@jikishoan.org.au)

## Welcome to Jikishoan Zen Buddhist Community

Jikishoan is a growing community of people based in Melbourne and Ballarat, Australia, learning and practising Zen meditation under the guidance of Ekai Korematsu Osho. Ekai Osho has practised and taught Zen Buddhism in Japan, the USA and India for over 25 years and has been developing the Jikishoan Zen Buddhist Community in Australia for the past seven years.

Jikishoan runs a range of programs throughout the year, which are conducted in the spirit of Bendoho – the original way of practice as prescribed by Dogen Zenji in the 13th Century.

More information about courses, one-day workshops, retreats and weekly meditation sessions can be found in the teaching schedule or on the website at: [www.jikishoan.org.au](http://www.jikishoan.org.au) We warmly welcome anyone who would like to know more about Zen Buddhism and attend any of the activities.

## Jiki-sho-an Meaning

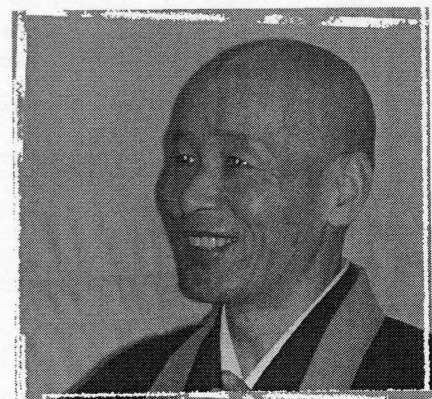
The name of the community encapsulates its spirit: Jiki means 'straight forward or direct'; Sho means 'proof or satori'; and An means 'hut'. So Jiki Sho An translates as 'Direct, Realization, Hut'. The practice is the proof; there is no other proof that is separate from that. The proof, satori or awakening does not come after you have finished – it is direct, here and now. (2005)



JIKI  
direct

SHO  
realisation

AN  
hut



Ekai Korematsu Osho

# Sangha News

## Annual Dinner - Friday 27th July.

Fifteen members and friends gathered this year at the Binh Minh restaurant in Richmond. The atmosphere was intimate with laughter and chatter being silenced only by the arrival of yet another dish from the banquet menu. Stalwart attendees were on hand to welcome newer members. As the evening drew on talk turned to the Jikishoan community and all we enjoy about being together both in silence and socially. The natural flow of the conversation moved to our future together with the possibility of building our own live in rural retreat centre.



The mixture of companionship, fine food and a shared future together felt pretty good and we reluctantly parted company about 10.30. Thanks to everyone who attended and contributed to such a lovely evening.  
*Peter Watts, Kan'in.*

## 2007 Annual General Meeting Report - Sunday 5th August.

Jikishoan Zen Buddhist Community held its 9th Annual General Meeting after a shorter than usual Sunday Sanzenkai on the 5th August 2007. Twenty-three members and friends attended the AGM. Minutes from 2006 AGM were approved and ryo coordinators presented end of year reports.

Ekai Osho thanked the committee for their efforts over the past year and welcomed the incoming committee. He noted this AGM would be the last at the Australian Shiatsu College. Members were invited to participate more at future AGM's in order to deepen involvement with the Committee and Ekai made several suggestions to help develop a more interactive process including questions from the members. The AGM closed with Ekai Osho thanking Members and Friends for the continued support and involvement with Jikishoan.



## Winter Retreat

By the time you read this, the five-day Retreat at Casa Pallotti will be over. Hopefully it was very successful and there will be a good report in the next Myoju.

## Ekai's Annual Overseas Trip

On Saturday 6 October, Ekai departs for his annual teaching trip to India, this year for 3 weeks. This trip Peter Watt and Tom Vincent will be accompanying him. We wish them safe travel, a successful journey and a safe return.

## Sunday Sanzenkai Is Moving.

Jikishoan is moving the Sunday Sanzenkai venue in order to remain with The Australian Shiatsu College whose current lease expires at the end of this year. ASC are negotiating a new lease for a property in Abbotsford. The new building will provide upgraded facilities both for the ASC and Jikishoan. Members and friends are invited to lend a helping hand both with the fit out of new building and actual move. Please check emails and website for latest information or contact Peter Watts if you can assist. Be assured that Jikishoan shall keep members up to date with the new location details and time of move as they come to hand.

*Regards, Peter Watts, Kan'in.*



*The newly-elected Jikishoan Committee for 2007-8*



## Membership

We are pleased to welcome the following new members of Jikishoan:

Mark Malmberg  
Georgina Duckett  
Michael Butson

Ekai Korematsu Osho  
and the Jikishoan Committee

## Diary Notes

Oct. 7,14,21,28:	Committee Member Talks; Koho, Shika, Tenzo, Kansu
November 4:	One Day Workshop, Committee Member Talk; (Shoji)
November 10-11:	Tibetan Spring Festival, Yuroke
November 11	Retreat applications close
November 23-28:	5-day Bendoho Retreat
November 25:	No Sanzenkai
December 16:	Member Ceremony
December 23:	No Sanzenkai
December 30:	No Sanzenkai
December 31:	New Year's Eve Sanzenkai



# Sangha News

## Kan'in (President) Report to AGM 2006-2007

Over time, the Jikishoan Zen Buddhist Community's past year may well be recognised as a beginning of second season growth for our Sangha. Jikishoan is established as a reliable and well-balanced community in which to practice Soto Zen Meditation in Australia. Members and friends have contributed a great deal of energy to help our leader, Ekai Korematsu Osho, nurture the level of Community practice we currently make available. Jikishoan has built an effective organization from which healthy growth is naturally occurring.

Many of us are attracted to this practice of Buddhism because Ekai Osho has imbued his task with light-hearted, kindness and steadfast commitment. These qualities are embodied in Jikishoan as a sangha and in the working ryos that carry out the many tasks required to have this meditation practice be continually available to all. Planning and building Jikishoan has been no small thing and many thanks to all the members and friends who have helped throughout these foundation years.

Jikishoan's maturity is evidenced by the visit of Taiten Kaneda Roshi and by the continued

participation of members in our Community activities. Kaneda Roshi is a highly regarded retired Soto Abbot from Japan. His time among us is both an acknowledgement of Ekai Osho's efforts but also a response to the level of engagement that Jikishoan Community is bringing to Zen Buddhism in Australia. Fifty-four people attended our 8th birthday celebration at which Kaneda Roshi was guest of honour. The Zendo was filled with members' and friends to overflowing.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Committee members for a task well done this year and farewell Millicent Easter. Millicent stepped up to the task of coordinating the Ballarat group and has brought a remarkable quality of care and fair mindedness to the Committee these past three years. On behalf of all the Committee, thank you members and friends for your ongoing support of Jikishoan and our most honourable teacher, Ekai Korematsu Osho.

*Peter Watts*

*Kan'in Ryo Co coordinator*



### CHRYSALIS

*Neither craving  
the object*

*nor withdrawing from it  
but subject-with-subject*

*The WAY is clear.*

*I watch the butterfly  
as it lays its eggs  
upon my grapevine....*

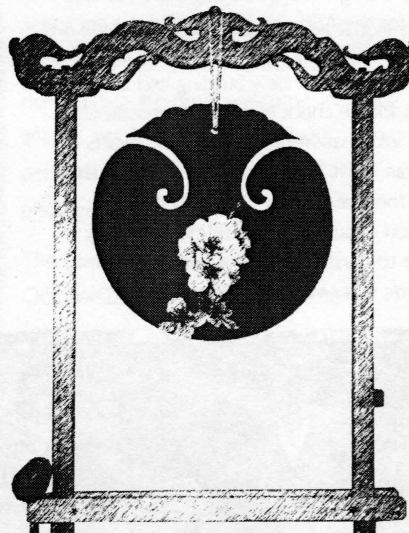
*Andrew Holborn 18/8/'07*

### ZEN STORY

One day, while addressing a crowd, the popular Zen master Bankei was being heckled by a Nichiren Buddhist priest.

The priest was yelling out, "I don't understand a single word you're saying!"

Bankei called out and said, "Come closer and I'll explain it." The priest edged closer, and Bankei said, "No, closer still," until finally the priest was right next to Bankei. And Bankei said: "Ah, look! How well you understand me!"



### ZEN PARABLE

Once a poor man was visiting his rich friend. The friend felt sorry for him, and after the poor man fell asleep, he secretly put a precious jewel in the man's garment. After they parted, the poor man returned to his old life as a beggar, not knowing he owned this precious jewel.

After some time, the rich man ran into him, and expressed surprise that his friend was still begging. "I gave you a jewel," the man said, "why did you not use it to make your life more comfortable?" The beggar protested, "You never gave me anything!" The friend reached into the garment and produced the jewel – Buddha nature is like this.

[www.pageaday.com](http://www.pageaday.com)

**JIKISHOAN** 直証庵  
zen buddhist community

#### Melbourne

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[www.jikishoan.org.au](http://www.jikishoan.org.au)

#### Ballarat

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Email [contact@jikishoan.org.au](mailto:contact@jikishoan.org.au)

*The views expressed in Myoju are not necessarily those of the Jikishoan Zen Buddhist Community or its Abbot, Ekai Korematsu Osho.*



# Calendar of events October to December, 2007

## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

DAY	DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	CONTACT
Sundays	Weekly	5.30-7.30pm	Sanzenkai (except 25/11, 23/12, 30/12) (Committee Member talks: 2/9 – 28/10)	Collingwood	Jinesh/Andrew
Sundays	Weekly	5.30-7.30pm	Sanzenkai (except 25/11, 23/12, 30/12) (Ekai-oshō present 18/11, 16/12)	Ballarat	Millicent
Thursdays	Weekly	7-9pm	Sanzenkai	Footscray	Jinesh/Mark
<b>October</b>					
Tuesday	16 <sup>th</sup>	7-9.30pm	Committee meeting	Footscray	Mark
<b>November</b>					
Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup>	9am-5pm	One-day Workshop	Footscray	Hannah
Wed.	7 <sup>th</sup>	7-9pm	5 week Deepening Course A begins	Footscray	Hannah
Saturday	10 <sup>th</sup>	9-11am 5-7pm	5 week Orientation Course begins 5 week Deepening Course B begins	Footscray	Hannah
Sat. / Sun.	10-11 <sup>th</sup>	10-5pm	Tibetan Festival, including talk by Ekai on Sunday at 11:30	Yuroke	Luke
Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup>		Closing Date for Retreat Applications		Andrew/Julie
Tuesday	13 <sup>th</sup>	7-9.30pm	Committee meeting	Footscray	Mark
Fri. 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Wed. 28 <sup>th</sup>		From 6pm	5-day Bendoho Retreat – at Adekate	Dean	Andrew
<b>December</b>					
Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup>	5.30-7.30pm	Precept Ceremony at Sanzenkai	Collingwood	Hannah
Tuesday	11 <sup>th</sup>	7-9.30pm	Committee meeting	Footscray	Mark
Saturday	15 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Zendo Cleaning	Footscray	Hannah
Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup>	5.30-7.30pm	Member Ceremony at Sanzenkai	Collingwood	Jinesh/Andrew
Monday	31 <sup>st</sup>	8.30pm – 12	New Year's Eve Zazen	Footscray	Shundo/Hannah

### Addresses

#### Ballarat

St Cuthbert's Hall, Ballarat  
West Uniting Church, cnr Sturt  
Street and Elliott Street... Enter  
via Elliott Street

#### Collingwood

Australian Shiatsu College, 1st  
Floor, 36 Cambridge Street

**Footscray** Address  
available upon application.

#### Dean

Adekate Fellowship Centre,  
Dean-Creswick Road, Dean.  
Near Ballarat 130 km West of  
Melbourne.

#### Yuroke

Tibetan Buddhist Society, 1425  
Mickleham Road, Yuroke

### Contact Information

#### General enquiries

Teacher Ekai Osho via  
Hannah Forsyth  
9687 6981

#### Annual Dinner

President (*Kannin*)  
Peter Watts 5470 5923

#### Annual picnic

Secretary (*Shoji*)  
Mark Summers 5428 4859

#### Courses & one-day workshops

Vice President (*Fuku-  
Kanin*) and  
Teacher's assistant (*Jisha*)  
Hannah Forsyth 9687 6981

#### Sanzenkai & retreats

Zendo activities (*Ino*)  
Andrew Cawthorn  
0431 614 688

#### Treasurer (*Fusu*)

Haydn Halse 9706 0529

#### Kitchen (*Tenzo*)

Peter Schreiner  
0403 235 543

#### Guest manager (*Shika*)

Jinesh Wilmot  
9480 4849

#### Publicity (*Koho*)

Richard Henderson  
0409 486 353  
publications@jikishoan.  
.org.au

#### Library & archive

Haydn Halse 9706 0529

#### Post

Jikishoan Zen Buddhist  
Community  
PO Box 475  
YARRAVILLE VIC 3013

#### Membership Secretary

Julie Martindale (*Rokuji*)  
9499 2141

#### Tibetan Festival / Japan Festival stalls/Incense/Zafus

Luke Menzel  
0433 237 293

#### Ballarat

Assistant Director (*Kansu*)  
Robyn Quinn  
5342 8305

Teacher's Assistant (*Jisha*)  
Lorraine Collishaw 5333 2063

#### Website

www.jikishoan.org.au  
webmaster@jikishoan.  
.org.au

#### Email

contact@jikishoan.org.au

Teachings are given personally by Ekai Korematsu Osho. Brochures providing more information are available. For addresses and contact information, please see overleaf.

**Orientation Courses**

For beginners and those with some experience. Five sessions. Footscray.

**Saturdays 9 – 11am.**

• Nov. 10, 17, Dec. 1, 8, 15.

Non-members \$70,

Members by Donation.

**Deepening Practice Course**

An extension of the orientation course. Courses A & B cover different topics, five classes each. Footscray.

**Saturdays 5- 7pm**

• Course B: Nov. 10, 17, Dec. 1, 8, 15.

**Wednesdays 7-9pm**

• Course A: Nov. 7, 14, 21, Dec. 5,

12. Non-members \$70,

Members Donation.

**One-day workshop**

An intensive orientation workshop for beginners and those with some experience. Cost includes lunch, morning and afternoon tea.

**Sunday 9am-5pm**

• November 4

Footscray. Non-members \$70,

Members by donation.

**Spring Bendoho retreat - November**

A five-day intensive residential Zen experience, including daily chosan (morning tea), zazen, teisho (teaching from Ekai Korematsu) and dokusan (interview with teacher).

Venue: Adekate Fellowship Centre , Dean, near Ballarat.

• 6pm Friday 23rd November to 2pm

Wednesday 28th November.

**Sanzenkai, Collingwood Zendo**

Zazen and kinhin meditation, tea ceremony, chanting service and Dharma talk. For beginners, members and friends.

• 5.30-7.30pm Sundays

Newcomers: please arrive by 5.15pm

Non-members \$7 Members \$5

Participants are welcome to stay for an informal supper \$5

**Sanzenkai, Footscray Zendo**

2 periods of zazen (20 and 40 mins), kinhin, tea, a service and a reading. The chants include the Heart Sutra in English and the Lineage chant.

Jinesh Wilmot, 9480 4849

Mark Summers 5428 4859

• 7.00-9.00pm Thursdays

By Donation.

*Trying is only emphasizing  
the thing we know already.*

F.M.Alexander

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**Orientation and Deepening Classes**

Held at the zendo, these courses provide an intimate atmosphere and invite the opportunity to learn about traditional zen practice and how to apply it in your life.

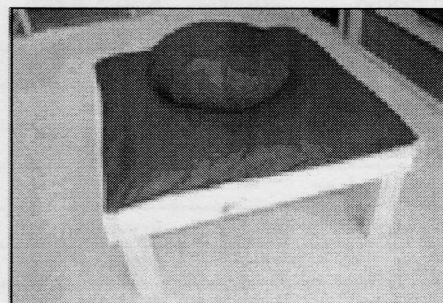
Please contact Hannah on (03) 9687 6981 or email courses@jikishoan.org.au

**Sanzenkai, Ballarat**

St Cuthbert's Hall, Ballarat West Uniting Church, cnr Sturt Street and Elliott Street... Enter via Elliott Street

• 5.30-7.30pm Sundays

Suggested donation \$7.



**Zafus and Zabutons -  
Please contact  
Hannah  
9687 6983**

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