

Anchorage Zen Community

September 2000

Tozen Akiyama Accepts Our Invitation to be the Resident Priest for the Coming Year

by Judith Haggard & Elizabeth McNeill

After Tozen Akiyama's visit this past June, the Anchorage Zen Community met and agreed unanimously to invite him to come to Anchorage and be the resident priest for one year. Rev. Akiyama accepted our invitation and will probably begin in May or June 2001. He



will also lead the sesshin scheduled for Jan. 13th - 21st, 2001 at Meier Lake Retreat Center.

Our intention in having a resident teacher is to help our sangha deepen its practice. Rev. Akiyama is committed to the Way and has experience building a sangha. Our concern is whether we can raise the money needed to support a resident teacher.

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Sakyamuni Buddha, Jingoji Temple, Kyoto, Japan
Photo courtesy of Art Today

Tozen Accepts: (Con't from page 1)

In order to plan for his stay and AZC's largest financial undertaking, the sangha divided into committees: housing and financial. At the October meeting, the housing committee reported that a realtor has been contacted to look for a central place that could be Tozen's residence and also large enough to use as our zendo/meditation hall.

The financial committee projected an annual budget of \$20,000/a monthly budget of \$1600, with \$8-10,000 needed in the bank by June 2001. In order to raise money, various options were proposed:

*In addition to our yearly dues of \$100 that cover existing expenses, individuals could pledge/tithe an added monthly amount. One suggestion was \$50 per month or what one can.

*Tozen is willing to teach a class on Buddhism at the University of Alaska, and the University is showing interest.

*With a resident priest, our membership might increase, thus increasing the dues collected.

*Tozen could offer a public talk in January when he comes to lead the 7-day sesshin.

***Attend a fund-raiser at the Fly By Night Club on Nov. 7th, (Election Night) to see the Ballot Box Follies. If 100 Zennies and their friends pay \$20 per ticket, AZC raises \$1000 and we can have a good time. When you call the Fly By Night (279-7726), ask them to credit the purchase to the Anchorage Zen Community.**

CALL NOW!! HAVE FUN!!

Alaskan Buddhist Conference

The first *Alaskan Buddhist Conference* hosted by DharmAlaska will be held at the Pioneer School House in Anchorage, Alaska on November 11, 2000. The conference will begin at 9:30 AM and will end at 3:30 PM. Full details will be available later.

The main language will be English, and the theme of the conference will be *Buddhism in Alaska: Past, Present, Future*. The morning will consist of presentation of papers, followed in the afternoon by a round table discussion and open forum.

Sanghas are invited to present a brief history of its Alaskan beginning, the present day sangha activities, and the goals for the future of the sangha. Individuals are invited to submit a paper on the aspect of the above-mentioned theme. Papers need to be submitted by Sept 1, 2000 (oops). Copies of the papers will be made available to all conference attendees.

For updated conference information check: www.dharmalaska.net. In order to participate, send you name, address, email address, and phone number to: *Alaskan Buddhist Conference 2000*, c/o 1047 L Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. If you would like to submit a paper for the conference, send the title of your paper to the above address as soon as possible.

Introduction to Buddhism Lecture Series:

Given by Yuho VanParijs
Beginning Sept. 14, 2000 (for 6 weeks)
Thursdays from 7:30 to 9PM
White Lotus Center
1047 L Street, Anchorage, 258-1851

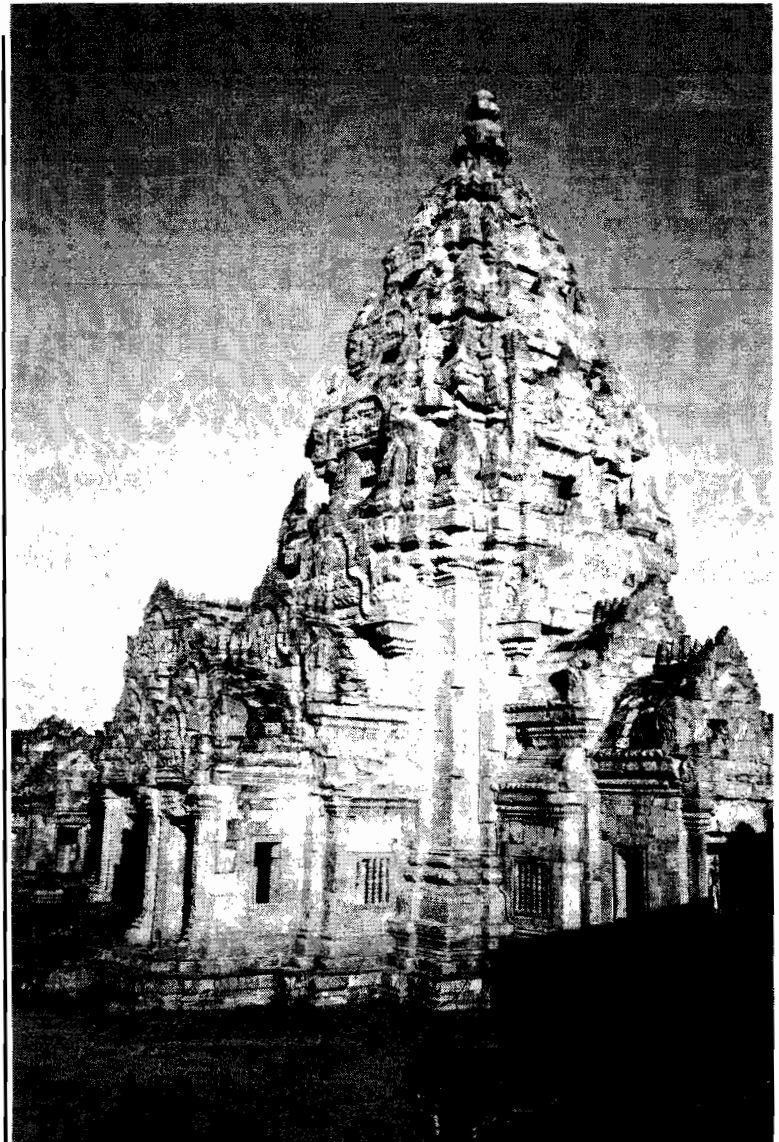
Report from Thailand

by Sam Thomas
samweli@hotmail.com

I have been teaching at a college in Buriram, Thailand for the past several months and am back in Anchorage until the latter part of October. Rajabhat Institute - Buriram, is similar to a regional community college in the U.S. except that it offers a four-year bachelor's degree programs. The emphasis is very practical...to prepare local area students for jobs in education or business. The school has a very extensive English program with 13 Thai instructors and 5 contract positions for native English speakers. In October, I am accepting one of the positions for a native English speaker. And if anyone is interested, another position is available. If you want, I can provide more in depth information.

When I return, I hope to learn a little more of the Thai language, which is tonal and therefore more difficult. Nonetheless, my ear is becoming more accustomed to the sounds. With a better command of the Thai language, I will be able to understand more of the Thai culture and history.

Thai's are 95-97% Buddhist. Yet, I didn't see people meditating as we do in the West. Seems as if Buddhism is more cultural than spiritual, like Christianity in the West. I look forward to learning more about the country and culture.



Phanom Rung, Khmer temple in northeast Thailand near Buriram

Photo by Sam Thomas

The autumn wind is painting
the sky with clouds.
Shall we watch?
You there.
Me here.
Together.

Judith Haggart

Citizens of the World Seek Peace and Happiness for All

Submitted by Mark Standley
zen@alaska.net

To ensure that the victims of those first atomic bombings in 1945 will not have died in vain, to ensure that no such tragedy occurs again anywhere on Earth, ordinary concerned residents of Hiroshima, inspired by those among us with first-hand experience of the atomic bomb, have, for more than a half century, been praying for the peaceful repose of the A-bomb victims and for world peace. Now, with the 20th century drawing to a close, we have decided to issue a call to the world and are attempting to gather 2001 ordinary people from around the world on December 12, 2000 to meet and pray together that we as individuals, as peoples, and as nations can help each other to realize a truly tranquil and enjoyable human family, free from all forms of war and exploitation.

This is the entire idea. The true and full intent of the gathering extends no further than thinking about and praying as a group for peace and happiness for the human community as a whole, with full respect for individual will and belief. We have no intention of using this gathering to create a permanent group or organize any sort of on-going campaign.

This gathering arises purely from the desire of the people of Hiroshima, whose acute awareness of the absurdity and horror of war derives from the painful experience of an atomic bombing, to interact directly, here in Hiroshima, with people from around the world who, for their own reasons, have come to hate war, who share the desire to transcend differences of nationality, ideology, creed, etc., and who truly want to live in a peaceful world.

Let us, as 2001 ordinary people gathered from the four corners of our planet, share our remorse for the errors our species has committed, vow together never to repeat those errors, and prepare our minds and hearts to greet a new, shining and unsullied century. We believe that the vision of the 2001 people who gather here will glow like a beacon, lighting the way for the entire human race as it seeks to make the 21st century one of peace and satisfaction for all.

Tsuyoshi Nara, Professor Emeritus,
Tokyo University of Foreign Studie;
Director, Research Institute of
Cultural Science at Seisen University;
Spokesperson, for the Committee for
the Gathering of 2001

For further information:
www.nttl-net.ne.jp/hiroshima2001



Bodhidharma

Next Board/Sangha Meeting

October 8, 2000

Next Sesshin: Nov. 3-5, 2000

at Meier Lake Retreat Center

Contact Keith to register.

Cost: \$100

Mindfulness Days at Karen's:

Oct. 7th - Nov. 4th - Dec. 2nd

Zazen, potluck, & discussion on

Anger and Compassion

9am-1pm.

慧觀



Depending on the visual organ and the visible objects, O brethren, arises visual consciousness. The meeting together of these three is contact. Because of contact arises feeling. What one feels, one perceives; what one perceives, one reasons about; what one reasons about, one is obsessed with. What one is obsessed with, due to that, concepts characterized by such obsessed perceptions assail him in regard to visible objects cognizable by the visual organ belonging to the past, the future, and the present.

Taken from the Majjhima-nikaya

Notice:

Autumn is time to renew annual memberships. Please give or mail checks to John Daley, AZC treasurer. Dues are \$100.

Our purpose is to cooperate with one another and create a place where sincere practitioners can practice without trouble.

Anchorage Zen Community

Established; 1984

Non-profit status: February 9, 1995

Board of Directors

President: Keith Wiger

Secretary: Judith Haggar

Treasurer: John Daley

Members at Large: Colleen Pearce
Judy Saha

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Phone List: Gretchen Ganz

Library Coordinator: Karen Laing

AZC Web Site Master: Mark Standley

Voice mail: 566-0143

E-mail address: zen@alaska.net

Web site Address: www.alaska.net/~zen/

Weekly Zen Buddhist Meditation

The Anchorage Zen Community meets each Sunday morning at 2610A Spenard Rd. If you are interested in joining us, please arrive by 8:20AM as sitting begins on time and is silent.

8:30 zazen (sitting meditation)

9:10 kinhin (walking meditation)

9:20 zazen (sitting meditation)

9:50 service (chanting & bowing)

10:05 introductions, news, & tea



Please remember to enter the zendo quietly, as this is our sacred space.

Anchorage Zen Community
2401 Susitna
Anchorage, Alaska 99517

Karen Laing
12220 Mary Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99515