

Tuyết Sơn Thiền Tự
Mt Adams Zen Buddhist Temple
雪山禪寺

July 2014 Newsletter



Dear Dharma Friends,

The 4th of July is upon us - A time of celebrating our nation's freedom from a foreign power. I am so grateful to have been born an American. Our country has been so very blessed in so many ways.

I am also reminded of Buddha's teaching about freedom. "Just as there is only one taste in the ocean, the taste of salt, so in the Dharma there is only one taste; the taste of Freedom".

In Buddhism, Dharma is a discipline that leads to Freedom. Many of us think that discipline and freedom are opposite things. But they're not; It takes more discipline to live free than to simply follow. Freedom also requires courage.

Many many famous folks have talked about freedom. Some of my favorites are:

"Freedom doesn't mean the absence of restrictions. It means possessing unshakable conviction in your choices in the face of an obstacle". Gandhiji

"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." Nelson Mandela

"Man is free at the moment he wishes to be". Voltaire

"May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right". Peter Marshall

"The mind is everything. What you think you become. That is freedom". Buddha

I will be on retreat July 6 - 13. The temple will remain open but there will not be any scheduled services.

Buddhism introduction to American culture via fiction

I have just read 2 books which were early introductions of Buddhism or Buddhist practices to the American Public. While there were scholarly works available, these books reached the average American public.

The first book was *Kim* by Rudyard Kipling. It is the story of an Irish boy who was orphaned at a young age in India and raised on the streets. His early life, learning many languages and cultures, paved the way for him to become an agent of the British rulers of India. In the story Kim hooks up with a Tibetan monk who is a learned and kind old man. The overall tone of the Buddhist monk is a kindly one and there are several sweet Dharma tales in the book.

The second book was the *Glass Bead Game* (aka *Majester Ludi*) by Herman Hesse. In his story Hesse develops a special, almost religious, organization that is ruled by art, logic, study, and meditation. There are many examples of great mental discipline and meditation as part of this group's practice.

Both novels were kind and gentle introductions to Buddhist practices, although Hesse's book does not speak specifically of Buddhism. There are several other novels etc. which presented Buddhism or Buddhist practices to the US public. From *Kim* and the *Glass Bead Game* I can see how Buddhism was perceived as a gentle

and loving faith of great discipline. It was a unusual fiction-reading adventure for me and both books were very enjoyable. Thay Kozen

Labyrinth Construction

We start laying out the labyrinth on Saturday July 19 from 10 am to 6 pm and Sunday from 11 am - 1 pm. Please come and join us as we mark paths, haul rocks, make garden areas, and take the first walk into this walking meditation journey. All faiths are welcome.

Our Mandala is finished and then unfinished.....

We worked on this mandala for over a week with many lay people adding a little bit of color to the whole. It was a wonderful experience. As soon as it was done we mixed all the colors together - bringing a reminder of impermanence into our everyday life. Local artist, Ardiss Defreece has drawn 5 new mandala patterns for us to work on in the next few months.



Venerable Miles and Pattie O'Shanecy add colored rice to our Lotus mandala.

July Retreat

Monks and lay persons will gather at Chua Thien An in Lucerne Valley this month to retreat and join in practice. Kozen will be gone from July 6-13th.
No scheduled meditations will be held but the temple will be open.

Labyrinth under construction Join us in constructing our Labyrinth on July 19th and 20th, Saturday and Sunday.



we will use gravel paths instead of grass

We need help laying it out, carrying stones, making a flagstone patio, planting a tree and applauding the work. Do join us!

Here is our plan and orientation - it will be a large Labyrinth. Our Labyrinth will be made of medium size stones lining the paths and gravel in the walkways.

We are a small Thien (Zen) Buddhist Temple practicing "laughing farmer zen" - living

BUU-HUNG Buddhist Monastery temple members visit
located at 17808 NE 18th St. Vancouver WA 98684
Tel. 360-718-6158. Venerable Suko Huệ Hương is their leader and a most charming teacher of the Dharma. Do visit this temple if you live in the area.

our practice, sitting zazen,
being here - right now!

Services & Meditation

Morning Meditation 6:30AM
Tuesday - Saturday

Morning Service
9 AM
Tuesday - Saturday

Evening Meditation
6:30 PM
Thursday - Saturday

Evening Meditation in Hood
River
Sunday at 6:00pm

Calendar

JULY

6-13 California monk's retreat
Retreat
19-20 Labyrinth work
20 - visit from Tacoma Sanga &
potluck (10a - 3pm)
26 celebrating our temple's 5th
anniversary.

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER
regular schedule

OCTOBER
7 - 26 Kozen to China

We have just completed the
construction of the last huts in our
retreat area,
The Cloister.

They are named:
Hut Debby
Hut Shanti
Hut Dharma
Hut Bodhi
Hut Samadhi
Hut Mahayana
Hut Dana

We will start on Landscaping in
July and August

Is your group part of the Northwest
Dharma Association?
if not, it is time to join! If you are a
solitary practitioner or without a
sanga you can still donate dana
(money). There are a clearing
house for Buddhist Activity in the
Northwest and need our support.

read more about the NWDA at
<https://www.northwestdharma.org/>

They have a class in English once monthly.



A wonderful vegetarian meal was enjoyed by all



A Dharma talk and meditation in the main temple.

Eleanor Roosevelt

To my way of thinking, one of the brightest women of the 20th
century was Eleanor Roosevelt. Here are some of my favorite quotes
from her via <http://www.brainyquote.com/>

"Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds
discuss people".

"When will our consciences grow so tender that we will act to prevent
human misery rather than avenge it"?

"With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts".

"You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which
you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, 'I
lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along.' "

"In the long run, we shape our lives, and we shape ourselves. The process
never ends until we die. And the choices we make are ultimately our own
responsibility".

"No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."

"You have to accept whatever comes and the only important thing is that
you meet it with courage and with the best that you have to give".

*Much of what Mrs Roosevelt said is very much in accord with Buddhist Concepts. The
"natural" process of awakening seems to come up again and again as we look into the
lives of self-actualizing individuals. Kozen*



Our small shrines in The Cloister
area continue to grow in number
and nature

The path of the Bodhisattva

Beings are numberless, I vow to save them

Desires are inexhaustible, I vow to end them

Dharma gates are boundless, I vow to enter them

Buddha's way is unsurpassable, I vow to become it.

TUYẾT SƠN THIÊN TỰ + MT ADAMS ZEN BUDDHIST TEMPLE + 雪山禪寺

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