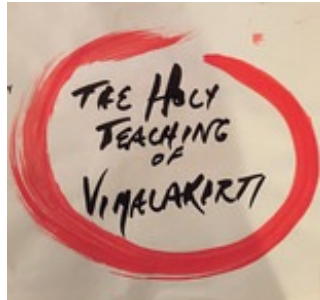


Bamboo Leaves Spring 2016



On the Calendar



Current Class Series - Join us for a class series exploring "[The Holy Teaching of Vimalakirti: A Mahayana Scripture](#)." Remaining class dates: March 24 & 31, April 7, 14, 21, 28 & May 5. Time: 7-9pm. Audio files of each class meeting are available [here](#). Email registration: val@bamboointhewind.org

Buddha's Birthday - Tues, April 5, 7:30 to 9pm. Join us for a ceremony honoring Buddha's Birthday during our Weekly Evening Program.

Dream Workshop - Sat, April 30, 10am to 12pm. Join Joyce for a workshop exploring the world of dreams and the benefits of being awake to and seeking meaning in our dreams. Please RSVP to Joyce by April 26 to reserve your spot: joyce@bamboointhewind.org

Temple Cleaning - Sat, May 7, 9am-12pm. Join us for a semiannual temple cleaning to help renew and refresh our Zen Center. Many hands make light work!

Recurring Events

Half Day Sitzings at Zen Center - April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, 8am-12pm

Morning Sitzings - Monday-Friday, 6:30am-7:20am

Weekly Evening Program - Tuesdays, 7:30pm-9pm (with Zen Meditation Instruction for newcomers from 7pm-7:30pm)

Sunday Program - Led by Joyce every third Sunday of the month, 10am-12pm (with Zen Meditation Instruction for newcomers from 9:30am-10am)



Photo by Caitlyn

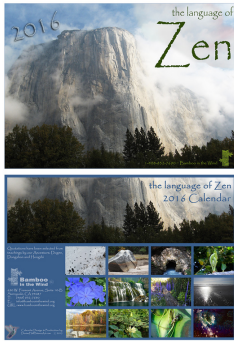
Buddha's Robe Sewing - Periodic Saturday mornings at Bamboo in the Wind Zen Center. Join sangha members for Rakusu and Robe sewing under the guidance of sewing teacher, Rev. Cornelia Shonkwiler. Check the [calendar](#) for dates.

Access our [calendar](#) and find additional event information on our [website](#).

2016 Calendars Available

Copies of our 2016 calendar, *The Language of Zen*, are still available. The calendar features photos by Bamboo in the Wind sangha members and our families. Photos are paired with quotations from Zen Masters Dongshan, Hongzhi and Dogen, with artistic design by Denise Hutson.

You can purchase a copy at the Zen Center (\$20) or order one online through our [Dharma Store](#) (\$23). Please



email us at info@bamboointhewind.org for additional information.

Upcoming Dream Workshop Asks: What's in a Dream?

Did you know that Albert Einstein dreamed the theory of relativity? Many famous writers got their stories in the dream state. James Watson, co-discoverer of the structure of DNA, reported stumbling upon the double helix image for the DNA chain through his dream of a spiral staircase. In history, there are many prophetic dreams. For example, Abraham Lincoln anticipated his assassination.

The dream world is a rich resource for self discovery, problem solving, creativity, and spiritual growth. What can your dreams tell you? Come to my dream workshop April 30th and I'll help you get started on the journey of discovery. I'll talk about different types of dreams, how to remember them, and how to interpret them.



Bring a dream or two to work with and a notebook. I'll help you start your personal dream journal and your own dream symbol dictionary. Dream work has been a passion of mine for over 35 years. I hope that I can inspire you to dive into this fascinating world! See the workshop flyer [here](#).

Submitted by Joyce

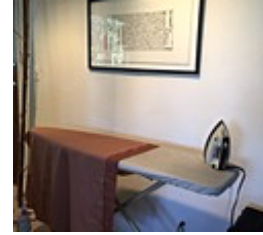
Buddha's Robe Sewing - Meditation Personified or An Exercise in Frustration?

Physically, a Buddha's Robe is either a rakasu or okessa. Simply put, each consists of a series of small pieces of cloth sewn together using a particular (minuscule, tiny, really, really small) stitch. The rakasu is a bib-like smaller copy of the larger okessa or priest's robe. The rakasu is the first Buddha's Robe that a practitioner will sew, indicating that the essence of the Precepts has been accepted and understood. Spending time hand sewing a rakasu or okessa can be incredibly difficult, since every stitch in each piece must be shaped and sewn according to strict guidelines.

So why sew a Buddha's Robe? Because, in a way, you already are "sewing" a Buddha's Robe, you just haven't physically stitched it. During sewing, each stitch executed is unique, a meditative footstep that creates a binding path for each person sewing. A unique and imperfect path, which connects us through meditation to the vast dharma that surrounds us and to the lineage that support us. The teachers of the past, including Buddha, tried to communicate this path to others, show the connectiveness of everything. Shakyamuni Buddha said "I gave you a handful of leaves. There is a whole forest full of leaves, and I only gave you a few." You are the path, no rush no hurrying, just creating the path with each stitch. Sewing Buddha's Robes is just one way of connecting us to the long list of teachers in the past. The ancient teachers had their handful of leaves in hand to give to people, and have gifted us with the knowledge that you too have a handful of leaves, and that there is a whole forest more "out there" (or "right here") to share. Sewing a Buddha's Robe of whichever type, just helps us find the leaves already in hand.

In the end, it's always the beginning.

Submitted by Linda



Photos by Rev. Val

A Wedding Celebration

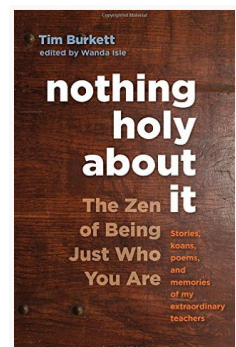
Congratulations to Jeff and Allison who celebrated their wedding at our Zen Center. Allison's teacher, Rev. Grace Schireson, served as officiant. Jeff and Allison were grateful to have Rev. Val's help with exchanging vows and wish to extend their thanks to the sangha for use of the Zen Center. It was a lovely, happy wedding.



Submitted by Rev. Val

Tim Burkett Urges us toward Encountering Stillness and Deep Silence

Our sangha welcomed the Rev. Tim Burkett for an evening of practice and discussion this past fall. Rev. Tim, who currently serves as Guiding Teacher at the Minnesota Zen Center, is the author of *Nothing Holy about It: The Zen of Being Just Who You Are* (Ed. Wanda Isle, Boston: Shambala Publications, Inc., 2015). During a discussion of his book, Rev. Tim shared memories of his original teacher, Shunryu Suzuki, and provided guidance for working toward equanimity in the face of our minds' continuous generation of stories and judgments.



Rev. Tim recalled Suzuki's stillness – a stillness that was ever present and that allowed Suzuki to remain unruffled by life's challenges. In further comments, Rev. Tim emphasized that, in fact, deep silence underlies all of existence and is accessible to everyone. Our sitting practice helps us to access this silence, revealing pauses in the noise of life – a glimpse into the spaciousness beyond everyday experience.

Rev. Tim also addressed the mind's tendency to revisit habitual thought patterns during zazen. He likened these habits of mind to movies. According to Rev. Tim, the goal in zazen is not to stop the movies in our mind, but instead to become impartial observers of them, to disengage from the stories emotionally. Once we gain some distance from our movies, we may begin to see through them. The movies, in turn, lose some of their power and we are freed to experience life on a different level - where stillness and deep silence await us.

Copies of Rev. Tim Burkett's book (*Nothing Holy about It: The Zen of Being Just Who You Are*) are available for purchase in the Zen Center. To request a book or for additional details, please contact [Bamboo in the Wind](#).

Two Haiku on the Migrant Wave

From Skye:

Hi Jack
Hello Bean
where are you going?
I'm going with you.
Lead on!

From Rev. Val:

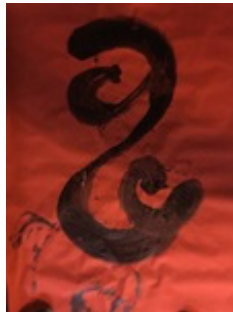
The ribbon of humanity
coming, going,
not knowing,
Now what?



Photos by Caitlyn

Year of the Monkey Calligraphies

These efforts come out of Calligraphy Class with Gerow Reese.



*Seal Script Character for Monkey Year
by Ariel*



*Sumie of a Monkey in the Style of Yani, a Child Prodigy
by Ariel*



"Everything Monkey" by Rev. Val

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