

# The Floating Zendo News

For the students and friends of Angie Boissevain, Sensei

Summer 2004

## Bowing to the Sangha

In this issue of the FZN, we are happy to feature some of our sangha members' contributions and hope to publish sangha news, reflections, poems, artwork, and photos every summer. We haven't all had the chance to meet and practice together, living as we do in different states and communities, but we do have the opportunity to connect here, and through our website. We welcome your words and anything you'd like to offer. For information on contributing, contact Carolyn Dille, [cdille@walvis-eng.com](mailto:cdille@walvis-eng.com), or 831.471.9983. Meanwhile, read on and enjoy.

## The Dharma at Chase Cottage

from Jeanie Lawrence

Floating Zendo sangha members were treated to two wonderful Saturday courses this spring. Thanks to Angie and Donnalynn we had the opportunity to study both the Heart Sutra and the Bodhisattva Vows. Sangha members near and far were able to participate in these classes via conference call. It was a great pleasure to have distant members included in the discussions, and it created a greater sense of connection within the Floating Zendo community.

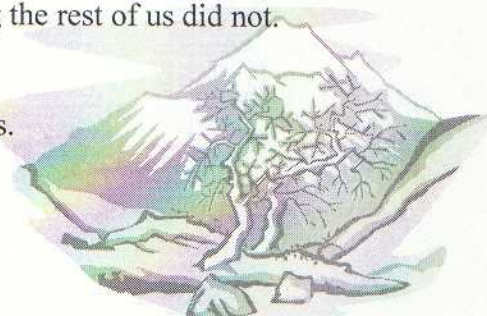
Local members were privileged to sit and to listen to Angie's teachings in the lovely environment of Chase Cottage. Donnalynn's home reflects her warmth and generosity and after each class she further nurtured us with tea and cookies!

Angie provided us with an overview of both topics and included her notes and a bibliography for additional study. Two quotes have stayed with me from this huge body of work. From the Heart Sutra (on impermanence), "Even the most beautiful thing does not last," and from the Bodhisattva Vows (on already having everything we could ever need), "It's like having a jewel sewn into your clothes and walking around feeling poor."

## Like This

from Diana Deering

Once in the long months of your dying, I came home, lay on the floor,  
ran the kitchen curtains between my fingers, drawn to the smooth translucent cloth.  
Your skin was like this, quietly luminous, as if you knew something the rest of us did not.  
Soon the trucks would start their morning run,  
gathering turkeys from the long white building against the hills.  
I have seen them passing just after dawn, flapping in the small cages.  
I start the water for tea.  
The yellow wheels of grapefruit glisten in my bowl,  
each day they give up their lives,  
quietly like this.



# Schedule

## Weekly sit in San Jose

Tuesday 6:30-8:00 pm  
Friend's House, 1041 Morse Street  
Contact: Donnalynn Chase 408.674.5956

By request, Zazen practice questions  
in San Jose, 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday 5:45-6:15 pm,  
with Carolyn Dille, 831.471.9983 or  
cdille@walvis-eng.com

## Weekly sit in Sunnyvale

Monday 5:45-7:00 pm  
822 Iowa Avenue  
Contact: Julia Roberts 408.738.4259

Dokusan (practice discussion)  
with Angie offered during half-day and  
full day sits and sesshins, or by appointment  
aboiss@earthlink.net

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August 14	San Jose	Sit
August 27 – September 3	Hokoji Contact: Jean Leyshon 505.758.4795 or jeanleyshon@yahoo.com	Sesshin (Taos, New Mexico)
September 11	San Jose	1 <sup>st</sup> day of Practice Period and Shosan ceremony 9:00 am – 4:00 pm; Shosan ceremony at 3:30 pm
September 25	San Jose/Virtual Contact: Donnalynn 408.674.5956 or chase_cottage@yahoo.com	Study Group 9:00 – 11:00 am
October 9	San Jose	Half Day Sit 9:00 am – noon; Pot Luck lunch followed by Oryoki instruction to 3:30 pm
October 16	San Jose/Virtual	Study Group 9:00 – 11:00 am
October 21– 24	Corralitos Contact: Carolyn Dille 831.471.9983 or cdille@walvis-eng.com	Sesshin and Shuso ceremony at Pema Osel Ling
November 5 – 7	Arcata Contact: Rose Brewster 707.822.5568 or iryoku@arcatnet.com	Sesshin
November 8 – 11	Willits Contact: Clancy Rash 707.459.1745 or cerash@saber.net	Householder's Retreat
November 13	San Jose	Half Day Sit 9:00 am - noon
December 11	San Jose	Rohatsu Full Day Sit 9:00am – 4:00pm
December 27 – 31	Puregg, Austria	Sesshin with Angie, contact aboiss@earthlink.net

## Study Group Continuing with Angie

The dates for the last study groups of 2004 are: September 25 and October 16. The topic will be an Introduction to Koans. People who want to attend in-person with Angie will meet in San Jose at 9:00 am for a thirty minute sitting meditation before the study group discussion. Then the talk and discussion will be held from 9:30 to 11:00 am PDT. People who are attending virtually are to call (985) 425-2622, ext. 318 at 9:30 am PDT to participate. There is no additional charge for connecting to the bridge line; the only cost to you is your long-distance call. Donnalynn at chase\_cottage@yahoo.com or (408) 674-5956 is the point of contact to confirm your attendance, get directions to her home, or ask for more information.

## In the muddy waters

from Marianne Bickett



June, 2004. The last two weeks of school where I work as an art teacher are often the most stressful. With a long list of "things to do" and a nasty cold the opportunity to truly practice presented itself as a canvas with a full range of colors: anxiety, nostalgia, sadness, joy, etc. . . I was having a day when I was miserable and just wanted to go shut down somewhere. Then a student who had really pushed my buttons came to me and hugged me and said, "I love you Ms. Bickett". OK . . . what else can I say? I belong in the muddy waters, we all do. But we also need to retreat and restore ourselves.

Even though I don't get to sit every week with the sangha, I want you all to know how much it means to me that you are there. Floating Zendo is an anchor; no! Not a heavy one that keeps one from moving, but one that helps me remember the importance of sitting and connecting . . . that we are not separate. Thank you to the mighty Floating Zendo for being everywhere. Thank you to Angie for being a guiding light. Have a great summer everyone! Namasté.

## Floating Zendo Yahoo Group Site & News

Our FZ Yahoo Group has 26 members and is gaining in popularity and functionality. The site contains our calendar of events, photographs, newsletters and articles pertaining to our practice. If you'd like to take advantage of getting updates on events, receiving messages via email and posting new ones on the site, and other features the site offers, please register at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/> for floatingzendozazen. If you're already registered on Yahoo Groups, the direct link to our site is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/floatingzendozazen/>



## Arcata Jukai Ceremony

A Jukai ceremony for ten members of the Arcata Zen Group will be conducted jointly by Angie and Alan Senauke of the Berkeley Zen Center on Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 am at the Aikido Center Zendo, 740 Park Avenue, Arcata, CA. All are welcome to attend. Contact Rose at 707.822.5568 for more information. Following the ceremony there will be a reception. Angie and Alan will also give talks at the Zendo in connection with Jukai. Angie's talk will be on Saturday, August 21 at 7:00 pm; Alan's will be on Friday, August 20 at 7:00 pm.



Donnalynn's Jukai, June 2004,  
in San Jose

## Sangha Generosity

This paper in our hands is one way our sangha comes together in the first paramita, generosity. Many gasshos to everyone for such open- heartedness. Your contributions of money and support sustain the Floating Zendo very practically and practicefully. If you'd like to contribute to the material costs of the FZN, please mail your check to Floating Zendo, c/o Donnalynn Chase, 15170 Stratford Drive, San Jose, CA 95124

## Floating Zendo

c/o Thomas Schmidt  
1053 Mercedes Ave.  
Los Altos, CA 94022

## Haiku

from Donnalynn Chase

third day of zazen  
on the edge of bursting open—  
flowering laurel

