

Mt. Equity Zendo Zephyr- February 2011

Commemoration of the Life of Zuijun Esho Gry Biong Gambert Sensei

18 December 1952 - 30 January 2012



"I think I'll transform now. . . I need to finish transforming. . . I'm transforming for the benefit of all beings in the universe. If there is something needed for the sentient beings, please provide it."

-Zuijun's last words as recorded by her daughter, Iselin Gambert

We deeply mourn the loss of Zuijun Esho Sensei, the founder and leader of the [Baltimore Dharma Group](#) (BDG) and student of Mt. Equity Zendo. Zuijun Sensei ("Zuijun" is her posthumous name and means "Never Failing Attendant of the Dharma.") began Zen practice in Yonkers, New York with Bernie Glassman where she developed many skills in organizing and leading newcomers to the Dharma. She later moved with her husband, Dr. Steve Gambert, to the Baltimore area where she began the Baltimore Dharma Group. According to Steve, a real estate agent that Zuijun was consulting at the time learned of her experience with Zen meditation and began referring people to her. In response, Zuijun began the BDG in her own home, leading classes in zazen, precepts discussion, sewing, and zazenkai. Zuijun was also active in creating the Kanromon Jail Practice Group where she introduced women inmates to the practice of meditation in the Baltimore County women's prison.

Zuijun met Abbess Dai-En at a Thich Nhat Hanh retreat in 2000 and, from there, began coming to MEZ, eventually becoming Abbess Dai-En's student, making BDG a formal affiliate of Mt. Equity Zendo, and more recently becoming a Dharma Heir and Lay Teacher in our lineage.

Zuijun had expertise in computers and graphic design and taught at the Parson School of Design in New York. She was ahead of her field creating the first website for meditation practice in the Baltimore area.

On February 2nd Abbess Dai-En and Rev. Daishin accompanied the Gambert's immediate family, including her daughter Iselin, son Christopher, his wife Kjersti, and grandson, Axel (the older son, Storm, joined us later for the memorial service) to the crematorium to recite prayers and offer words of remembrance. This was followed two days later by a memorial service at the Gambert's home in Baltimore. The service was attended by about 100 people and included a beautiful chanting of the Heart Sutra, words of remembrance by family, friends, and Sangha members, and concluded with potluck lunch.

Memorial contributions in Zuijun's honor can be made to Baltimore Outreach Services, a non-profit organization that serves homeless women and their children in Baltimore. Donations can be made online at: www.baltimoreoutreach.org.

News From Japan

Long Summer Sesshin with Doyu Takamine Roshi and Rev. Tom Wright

June 1st - June 9th

Doyu Roshi and Rev. Tom Wright return for the second time to offer talks on the first chapter of Zen Master Dogen's Shushogi or, "The Meaning of Practice and Enlightenment." Doyu Roshi also hopes to teach on Shobogenzo "Shoji" or, "Life and Death." We will be joined by teacher Taihaku Priest and her students from Shao Shan Temple in Vermont. This event fills quickly and has limited space. Coordinators are [Nanshin](#) and [Tomei](#). Sign up by clicking on their names above and put in the date and time you plan to attend.



Above are Doyu Roshi and Rev. Tom Wright at our 2010 Sesshin

Passing on of the Father of Rev. Kiko Tatedera

Rev. Tatedera is the Abbot of Sokoji in San Francisco, serving in the same position as the late Shunryu Suzuki Roshi. Rev. Tatedera works tirelessly and has sacrificed much on behalf of Americans to promote the Dharma in this country. His father, Daikan Shosei Daiosho, was the Abbot of a temple in Japan close to the epicenter of the March 11th earthquake. He initially survived the loss of his temple and half of his congregation to the tsunami but recently passed away of a heart attack. We send our condolences and prayers over the next 49 days.

Sitting Cushions for Shounji Zen Temple

Four colored zafu from [Carolina Morning Designs](#) were recently donated to Rev. Fuukan's temple, Shounji. Rev. Fuukan is planning to pioneer a Day of Zen with the intention to aid those suffering from the March 11th tsunami to better cope with grief. More zafus will be needed and we are in process of determining a number. Carolina Morning Designs is offering the zafus wholesale because it is for a temple. The cost of sending them to Japan is greatly reduced because only the zafu covers and not the filling are being sent. With shipping, the price is approximately \$25 per zafu cover.

If you are interested in making a donation of a zafu cover to support the practice of zazen in Japan at Shounji Temple, contact Abbess Dai-En with your intentions.



*What Christians and Buddhists Have in
Common:
It's all about Love*

March 4th, 10am - 4pm

Professor of Religion and Soto Zen Buddhist priest, Rev. Wakoh Shanon Hickey will be talking about and demonstrating contemplative practices in both the Buddhist and Christian traditions. These practices are designed to cultivate the qualities of generosity, humility, and love. Rev. Hickey will also contrast the two traditions leading us into friendly discussion about the differences in terms of chanting, rosaries or malas, meditation postures and beliefs.

Bring a brown bag vegetarian lunch.

Suggested donation \$25 (\$20 for Friends)

Register: daishin@mtequity.org

Special/Upcoming Events

Half Day of Zen* (1:30 - 4:30 pm)

Dogen's Guidelines for Practicing the Way

Part I, March 3rd

Part II, March 31st

Zen and Yoga: Freedom in Body and Mind, July 7th

Full Day of Zen* (10:00 am - 4:00 pm)

What Christians and Buddhists have in Common, with Rev. Wakoh Hickey, March 4th

Unlocking the Power of Rebirth, April 1st

Buddha's Birthday, May 6th

True Freedom, July 8th

Day of Silence

Saturday, May 19th, 9 am - 5 pm - all donations go to local food pantry

Sesshin Schedule

Shuso-Nirvana Sesshin, February 17th - 19th *This event is full.

33rd Ordination Anniversary Sesshin, March 16th - 18th

Earth Day Sesshin (Celebrating MEZ's 21st anniversary), April 20th - 22nd

Long Summer Sesshin with Doyu Roshi and Rev. Tom Wright, June 1st - June 9th

*Note that there will be no Sesshin in May due to the Long Summer Sesshin beginning earlier in June than past years.

Registration for Special Events: daishin@mtequity.org or (570) 546-2784

Note that Sesshin requires prior approval by the Abbess.

Weekly Practice Schedule

Tuesday Evening 7 - 9:15pm

Thursday Morning 6:30 - 8:00am (includes Breakfast with oriyoki bowls - phone at least the day before coming)

Thursday Evening 7 - 8:30pm

Gratitude to the following people for making offerings of food and related items the month of January: Melodie Russell, Brooke Wiley, Tokuen, Koen, Daijun, Michel Lau, Nanshin, Tomei, Keien, Rhonda Farley, Cathy Emery, Susan Gresens, Tenryu, Daiko, I'en, Eido, Jakusho, Donen and all others we may have inadvertently missed. Our heartfelt gratitude.