

Winter Programing Guide 2023

Assemblies

Assemblies provide a common touchstone of dharma study, meditation, chanting service, and community. Assemblies are held on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings. No registration is required for assemblies. On Sunday morning, we offer an introduction to meditation (Zazen).

Sunday Morning Assembly

Sundays

9:00am: Zazen

10:00am: Service

Abbot Ejo McMullen

Join us every Sunday morning for meditation, chanting service, and a dharma teaching offered by Abbot Ejo McMullen and other teachers in the assembly. After the assembly, stay to enjoy refreshments in the temple garden or hall. No registration is required to attend Sunday Assembly.

Thursday Evening Assembly

Thursdays beginning Feb 16

6:30pm - 8:30pm

Abbot Ejo McMullen

On Thursday evenings we meet for meditation and a dharma teaching offered by Abbot Ejo McMullen. No registration is required to attend Thursday Evening Assembly.

Ceremonies

Ceremonies mark our lives as important gateways. We observe a variety of ceremonies at Buddha Eye Temple

Term Opening

Sunday, 2/12
10:00am

Join us as we enact a simple but important ceremony, in which members of our community step forward to commit themselves to participating in this season's Term Student Program.

Parinirvana

Sunday, 2/12
10:00am

Along with our Term-opening ceremony, we will also observe Parinirvana. During our Parinirvana ceremony, we come together as a community to honor the Buddha as he passes into supreme, perfect enlightenment.

Buddha's Birthday

Sunday, 4/9
10:00am

Every year we honor the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha with a ceremony in which we bathe the baby Buddha with fresh water and flowers. With this beautiful ceremony, we contemplate the emergence of Shakyamuni Buddha in this world!

Jukai (Ceremony Of Giving And Receiving Precepts)

Sunday, April 30th
10:00am - 11:30am

The Sixteen Bodhisattva Precepts represent our aspiration to live an ethical life, as well as our commitment to the continual inquiry that such a life demands. They are the wisdom of the Buddhas and Ancestors handed down through the generations, and also something that already lives within our own hearts. Join us as several of our friends in the Dharma and members of the Buddha Eye community receive the Bodhisattva Precepts in a special ceremony. Jukai has been enacted countless times over the generations, and presents to us an important moment in the lives of individual community members but also the entire assembly.

Individuals interested in receiving the precepts should speak with the Abbot as soon as possible.

Fusatsu

Sunday, 2/5
Tuesday, 3/7
Wednesday, 4/5
Thursday, 5/4
6:30pm - 8:30pm

Fusatsu is a monthly ceremony of atonement and vow renewal, coinciding with the Full Moon. We hold Zazen at 6:30 PM. Afterwards is the Fusatsu ceremony itself. Please hold noble silence when arriving and exiting the temple.

No registration required.

Term Student Program

Sincerity is the simplest thing in the world and also the most difficult to maintain. It requires vulnerability and uprightness in the face of a constantly shifting and challenging world. Meeting life squarely takes constant attention, and there are countless ways to escape. The foremost aim of the Term Student Program is to cultivate and guide our sincere heart through inquiry into the Buddha way. What calls to each of us has called to countless beings throughout the ages and in every corner of the world. What is the call now? Here? How will you respond?

Term Opening: 2/12, 10:00am

Term Orientation: 2/12, 12:00pm - 1:00pm

First Term Student Meeting: 2/19, 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Second Term Student Meeting: 3/19, 1:00pm - 3:00 pm

Third Term Student Meeting: 4/23, 1:00pm - 3:00 pm

Term Closing: 5/14, 10:00am

Term Students commit to daily zazen, attending discussion groups and Sanzen or practice discussion (one-on-one meeting with a Teacher or Sangha Elder), studying and reflecting on term texts. These commitments are meant to bring into focus the raw intention of our hearts and minds, and build a field of awakening at the core of the Temple and across our individual lives.

Term Student explanations sheets are available at the temple.

Registration required.

Tuesday & Wednesday Evening Classes

We offer a variety of Dharma classes. Joining a class is a great way to deepen our understanding of the Dharma and build community with our fellow travelers on the Path. Registration is required for classes.

Tuesday evenings: This Winter and Spring our general Tuesday evening topic will be The Threefold Training of Zen: the classic division of the dharma into the three facets of Prajna, Samadhi and Sila. Join us as we explore the wisdom of the heart (prajna), the meditation of the body (samadhi), and the discipline of ethical living (sila).

Wednesday evenings: This term, on Wednesday evenings, our Spring practice term Head Student will be offering a special in-depth exploration of the crown of Buddhist scriptures: the Avatamsaka Sutra.

Embracing Prajna

Tuesdays Jan 17, 24, 31

Led by Dharma Teacher Myobun Esther Tishman

6:30-8:30 pm

Sitting under the bodhi tree, as he saw the morning star, the Buddha proclaimed: “I, together with all beings and the great earth, awaken at this time.” His “together-with” describes the radical openness of a wise, awakened heart... This heart is fundamentally your heart, my heart, the heart that pulses all around us. How do we embrace the heart of wisdom? How do we allow ourselves to be embraced by it?

No registration required.

Zazen - Embodying Samadhi

Tuesdays Feb 14, 21, 28; March 14, 21, 28

Led by Head of Assembly Jikie Jennifer Peterson

6:30-8:30 pm

What is samadhi and how can we encounter it directly? Samadhi is an important word in Buddhism, but it is also used in different ways by many religious traditions and in popular culture. What exactly are we talking about here? Although samadhi is not limited to any particular activity, in our tradition we practice it primarily in zazen. In this class, through text study, discussion, and practice, we will explore what samadhi is and how we can orient ourselves toward it through zazen.

Registration is required for this class.

Living Sila

Tuesdays April 4, 11, 18, 25; May 2, 9

6:30-8:30 pm

Led by Dharma Teacher Myobun Esther Tishman

"How shall I live?" This is a fundamental question of spiritual life and practice. In our tradition, we refer to the Precepts as the root of this inquiry. Join us as we study what our Buddhist Ancestors have laid forth as the basis of living an ethical life through vow.

Registration is required for this class.

The Avatamsaka Sutra And The Hua Yen School

Wednesday Class:

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; April 12, 19, 26; May 3, 10

Led by Head Student Shin'ei Alison Brown

The cosmos perceived as a wondrous jewel, a nexus of interdependent causes and conditions. Disciple and Koji in training, Shin'ei Alison Brown will present an in-depth course on the Avatamsaka Sutra and the Hua Yen School. Colorful, imaginative, and challenging, the Avatamsaka is considered the crown of Buddhist sutras, one of the earliest Buddhist literatures to enter China. The Hua Yen School evolved in the seventh century drawing insight from the Avatamsaka. The Hua Yen was highly influential in Zen practice, forming the basis of two main sutras we chant in the mornings, Precious Mirror Samadhi and the Harmony of Difference and Sameness. It is key to deepening the notion of compassion and interconnection into your everyday life and practice.

Registration is required for this class.

Retreats & Sesshin

Buddha Eye Temple holds a variety of retreats and "Sesshin," or traditional meditation intensives, throughout the year. Sesshin, which translates to "gathering the mind" is a deep and committed time for Zazen, chanting, working together, and meeting each moment as it arises, all in silence.

Zazenkai – Daylong Meditation Intensives

Saturdays January 21st, February 18th, March 18th, April 15th, May 13th
Led by Koji Anyu Savelle (debraanyu@gmail.com)

Zazenkai offers an opportunity to come together for a day of mostly silent practice, including sitting and walking meditation, chanting and a shared meal. Zazenkai are ideal for those interested in exploring and deepening their practice within a gentle framework.

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March Sesshin

Thursday Mar 2nd - Sunday March 5th

A few weeks into Spring term programming: a chance to dive into the heart of practice.

Registration is required. Please fill out a registration in person at the temple. Forms will be available 2 weeks prior to the Sesshin.

Buddha's Birthday Sesshin

Wednesday April 5th - Sunday April 9th

Every year we honor the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha with a ceremony in which we bathe the baby Buddha with fresh water and flowers. This year we will hold a sesshin in preparation for the ceremony. Join us!

Registration is required. Please fill out a registration in person at the temple. Forms will be available 2 weeks prior to the Sesshin.

Jukai Retreat

Friday April 28th - Sunday April 30th

During the Jukai retreat, we come together to support those individuals who have committed themselves to receiving the Sixteen Bodhisattva Precepts, as well as nourish our own practices. The retreat ends with the special ceremony of Jukai, in which the entire community witnesses, and participates in, the expounding of the Bodhisattva Precepts.

Registration is required. Please fill out a registration in person at the temple. Forms will be available 2 weeks prior to the retreat.