

Great Sky Sesshin

August 11-18, 2012

sponsored by Cedar Rapids Zen Center
and Milwaukee Zen Center

This Soto Zen style sesshin draws together teachers and practitioners for seven days of deepening their understanding of the dharma under the extraordinary great sky of Hokyoji. Participation is limited to 24 practitioners.

生
死

Our theme and text for this year's sesshin is Dôgen's *Shôji (Birth and Death)* fascicle of the *Shôbôgenzô*.

When:

Arrival by 4:00 pm, Saturday, August 11

Departure after 1:00 pm clean-up,
Saturday, August 18

Where:

Hokyoji Zen Practice Community, Eitzen, MN

A beautiful rural setting of meadow, forest and rolling hills in southern Minnesota just west of the Mississippi River. The zendo is a lovely Japanese style structure.

Accommodations are very simple, ranging from dormitory-style bunk beds to the zendo floor to personal camping equipment. Participants should bring their own sleeping bags, towels and toiletries. There are showers and outdoor toilets available.

What:

A daily schedule of zazen, dharma talks, services, dokusan, meals with oryoki, tea breaks and work periods. (See attached full schedule.)



生
死

Teachers:

Issho Fujita

*Soto Zen Buddhism International Center,
San Francisco*

Tonen O'Connor

Milwaukee Zen Center

Zuiko Redding

Cedar Rapids Zen Center

Rosan Yoshida

Missouri Zen Center

Associate Teacher:

Dokai Georges

*Resident Teacher,
Hokyoji Zen Practice Community*

Cost:

\$295 (\$305 via PayPal): bunk bed

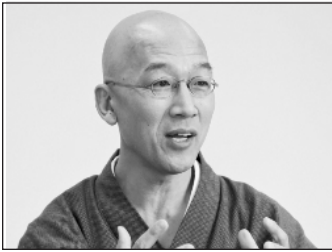
\$265 (\$275 via PayPal): zendo or camping

A registration form is attached and should be returned with payment in full to the Milwaukee Zen Center, 2825 N. Stowell Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53211

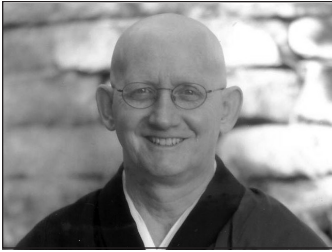
Deadline for registration:

July 21, 2012. A full information packet will be provided after registration.

About the teachers



Issho Fujita was born in 1954 in Japan. Through meeting with an acupuncture master, he was led to zazen practice when he was a graduate student in developmental psychology. Eventually, he dropped out of school and entered Antaiji Monastery to practice full-time as a monk. After training at Antaiji, Rev. Fujita came to the United States to become a resident teacher at Pioneer Valley Zendo in Massachusetts. He stayed there from 1987 until 2005. He returned to Japan with his family in 2005 and in 2010 he was appointed Director of the International Center of Soto Zen Buddhism located in San Francisco.



Dokai Georgesen began his study of Zen Buddhism at Minnesota Zen Center under the direction of Dainin Katagiri Roshi in 1974. Upon his return in 1982 from two years on pilgrimage studying Buddhism in India and Japan, he lived at Hokyoji until his ordination in 1984. In 1989, he received dharma transmission from Katagiri Roshi. Since then, he has returned to Japan several times to study under Ikko Narasaki Roshi, Tsugen Narasaki Roshi and Taizan Maezumi Roshi. He returned to Hokyoji in June, 2003, and is now its resident teacher.



Toner O'Connor served as resident priest at the Milwaukee Zen Center for ten years, stepping down into “emerita” status in the fall of 2011. Toner received ordination in 1994 from Tozen Akiyama and dharma transmission in 1999. She has practiced in Japan at Shogoji, Hosshinji, Hokyoji and Saikouji. She began working within the Wisconsin state prison system in 1998 and currently makes weekly visits to Racine Correctional Institution. Toner is a past president of the Soto Zen Buddhist Association and current Chair of the Milwaukee Association for Interfaith Relations. She was Managing Director of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 1974-1995, has two sons, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



Zuike Redding is the resident teacher at Cedar Rapids Zen Center. She practiced at Milwaukee Zen Center with Tozen Akiyama and at Minnesota Zen Center with Dainin Katagiri in the 1980s. In 1992, she received novice ordination in Japan from Tsugen Narasaki. She practiced under his direction at Zuijoji Senmon Sodo and its sub-temple Shogoji until her return to the U.S. in 1997. She received dharma transmission from Narasaki Roshi in July, 1996. She also holds a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Before ordination, she taught demography and social research methods at the university level and was a researcher with the Wisconsin State Center for Health Statistics.



Roscin Yoshida, founder and director of Missouri Zen Center, received dharma transmission from Dainin Katagiri Roshi in 1989 and from Tsugen Narasaki Roshi in 1993. He was certified by Soto Shu as an international teacher in 1994. He earned his Ph.D. from Columbia University and M.A. from Tokyo University. He is the author of *NO SELF - A Systematic Interpretation of Buddhism* and *Limitless Life: Dogen's World* as well as other books, articles and translations. He participated in the Parliament of the World's Religions and is promoting the Global Ethic. He is a primary founder and advisor of the Global System Ethic Association.

Great Sky Sesshin Schedule

*Saturday
August 11*

PM
4:00 arrival
5:30 informal meal
6:30 oryoki instruction
7:30 orientation
8:30 zazen
9:00 end of day

*Daily Schedule
August 13—17*

AM
4:30 wake up bell
4:50 jumpan (1)
4:55 jundo (2)
5:00 zazen
5:40 kinhin
5:50 zazen
6:30 service
6:45 breakfast
7:30 tea, break
8:10 zazen
8:50 kinhin
9:00 dharma talk
9:50 Q & A
10:10 kinhin
10:20 zazen
11:00 kinhin
11:10 zazen
11:45 service
PM
12:00 lunch
12:45 break
1:15 work meeting
1:25 work period
2:50 clean up
3:00 tea, break
4:20 zazen
5:00 service
5:15 supper
6:00 break
6:30 zazen
7:10 kinhin
7:20 zazen
8:00 kinhin
8:10 zazen
8:50 end of day

*Saturday
August 18*

AM
4:30 wake up
4:50 jumpan
4:55 jundo
5:00 zazen
5:40 kinhin
5:50 zazen
6:30 service
6:45 breakfast
7:30 tea, break
8:10 work period
9:50 change for zazen
10:10 zazen
10:50 break
11:00 memorial service (3)
PM
12:00 lunch
1:00 final clean-up
2:00 departure

Notes:

- (1) jumpan – striking of the wooden han to assemble for zazen
- (2) officiating priest circumambulates the zendo, everyone must be in place
- (3) memorial service at grave site of founder of Hokyoji, Katagiri Roshi

Great Sky Sesshin Registration Form _____

Name _____ E-mail _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Accommodations

I understand that there are several options, and I choose:

- Bunk bed with air mattress (\$295, or \$305 via PayPal) Zendo floor (\$265, or \$275 via PayPal)
 Camping in the meadow with my own tent and equipment (\$265, or \$275 via PayPal)

(Note: campers will sleep in the zendo or workshop in the case of electrical storms.)

I will bring: zafu zabuton (*Will be supplied if you are not able to bring them*)

Transportation

I will be driving. Please send directions.

I will be flying into La Crosse and will need airport pickup. Arriving: _____^{am} _____^{pm} Departing: _____^{am} _____^{pm}

Meals and food

I will bring my own oryoki bowls. I will need oryoki bowls.

I have the following food allergies: _____

Other

Medical or physical conditions limiting my activity: _____

I am enclosing payment in full of \$_____. (Make check payable to Milwaukee Zen Center, and mail with registration form and signed indemnity form to Milwaukee Zen Center, 2825 N. Stowell Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53211)

I am sending payment in full \$_____ via PayPal. (Visit www.milwaukeezencenter.org/practice/events.html)

Cancellation policy: Full refund if canceling prior to July 21, 2012. After July 23, a \$100 cancellation fee will be levied.

Indemnity Agreement

I agree to indemnify and hold Hokyoji Zen Practice Community harmless from any and all claims, actions, suits, procedures, costs, expenses, damages and liabilities, including attorneys' fees brought as a result of my attendance and use of space for a retreat at the Hokyoji Retreat Center, 2646 County Road 5, Eitzen, Minnesota, and to reimburse Hokyoji Zen Practice Community for any such incurred expenses.

Signature _____ Date signed _____

Print name _____ Dates of stay _____