



MOUNTAIN SILENCE

NEWSLETTER OF THE DANCING MOUNTAINS ZEN SANGHA

Issue 21 ; Spring 2013

Buddhism and Ecology

Events

Contradictions in practice

with Ingen Breen
4th May 2013 to 5th May 2013

2 day Non-Residential

Cost: £50

07970 425932
hebdenbridgezen@gmail.com

The practice of being a Work in Progress.

Inside and Outside
with Ingen Breen
15th June 2013 to 16th June 2013

It will be run as a retreat so we can get up close

Cost: £50

07970 425932
hebdenbridgezen@gmail.com

Practicing Wisdom beyond Wisdom

with Tenshin Reb Anderson
27th June 2013 to 30th June 2013

4 day retreat in Poland

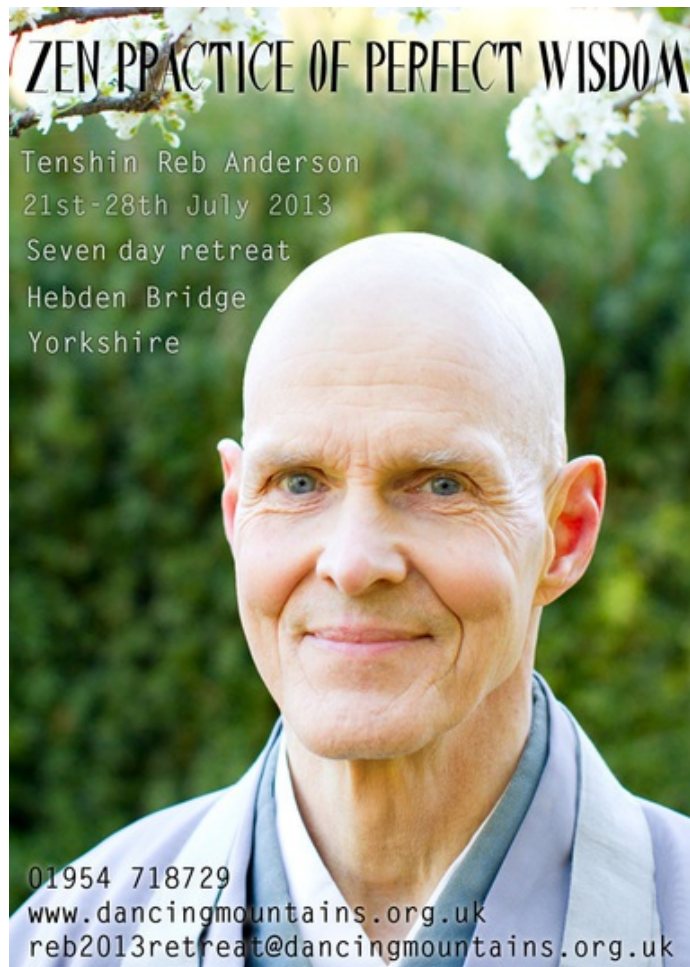
Cost: 130 Euro

++48 662 601 986
reb.dluzew@gmail.com

The Teachings of Enlightenment & the Things of the World

with Tenshin Reb Anderson
2nd July 2013 to 9th July 2013

Seven Day Zen retreat



Retreat Poster

Editorial

By Michael Elsmere

In this issue of Mountain Silence we had hoped to be able to offer articles and a variety of views regarding the relationship between Buddhism and Ecology. Due however to the lack of contributions we are focussing instead on the forthcoming visit of Tenshin Reb Anderson to Hebden Bridge and London in July 2013.

I will be stepping down as editor with effect from this issue and Chris Brown will assume this position with the Summer issue of Mountain

In this issue...

The Zen Practice of Perfect Wisdom

By Wendy Klein

Zen Ethics and Compassionate Health Care

By Frances Collins

'Now the Whole Planet has its Head on Fire'

By Josh Zatz,

Potential Purchase of a Centre

By Devin Ashwood



Get involved Facebook group

For general discussion and socialising about Dancing Mountains and related events on Facebook, please click the link above.

Business matters and decisions are made separately via an email list

Cost: 3500 Swedish kronor approx £350
46 498 53905
liselottealden@hotmail.com

Awakening to our True Body

with Tenshin Reb Anderson
12th July 2013 to 19th July 2013

Tenshin Reb Anderson
Retreat in Germany
Cost: 555 € — 615 €
rebsretreat@gmail.com

Zen Practice of Perfect Wisdom

with Tenshin Reb Anderson
21st July 2013 to 28th July 2013

7 day retreat, Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, UK
Cost: £290 - £385
01954 718729

Zen Ethics and Compassionate Health Care

with Tenshin Reb Anderson
30th July 2013: 10:07 - 17:07

Day retreat with Reb Anderson in London
Cost: £50
07786 369682
reb2013london@dancingmountains.org.uk

October Zen in the Sun

with Ingen Breen
6th October 2013 to 13th October 2013

A Retreat with Ingen Breen in Greece.
There will options of shared and single rooms. Payment can be in installments for this event. Still finalising details, but do contact for information.

Cost: TBA
07970425932
rebeccahabs@googlemail.com

position with the summer issue of Mountain Silence which, in future, will become a diary of events and carry announcements of news of interest.

Many thanks to Josh Zatz for his interesting book review..

Previous issues are available [here](#)

separately via an email list - please contact us if you want to be part of this.

Local Contacts

Visit the [Local Groups webpage](#) for details of Dancing Mountains groups in your area, and the [Diary](#) for their regular meeting dates and times.

Next Issue

The Summer edition will have a theme around 'New Beginnings.' We welcome your articles, poetry, pictures, letters, retreat reflections and book reviews! Publication date: 21st **June**, deadline for submission of material 1st **June**.

Submissions to the Newsletter/Website:
Chris Brown
Address: 16 Wayfarers Way
Swinton Manchester
M275UZ
chrisb.by.name@gmail.com

Donations

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For enquiries related to this newsletter please email: devin@dancingmountains.org.uk

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Sangha Update

The Zen Practice of Perfect Wisdom

By Wendy Klein

Reb Anderson, Tenshin Roshi is a lineage-holder in the Soto Zen tradition. Born in Mississippi, he grew up in Minnesota and left advanced study in mathematics and western psychology to come to Zen Center in 1967. He practiced with Suzuki Roshi, who ordained him as a priest in 1970 and gave him the name Tenshin Zenki ("Naturally Real, The Whole Works"). He received dharma transmission in 1983 and served as abbot of San Francisco Zen Center's three training centers (City Center, Green Gulch Farm and Tassajara Zen Mountain Center) from 1986 to 1995. Tenshin Roshi continues to teach at Zen Center, living with his family at Green Gulch Farm. He is author of 'Warm Smiles from Cold Mountains: Dharma Talks on Zen Meditation', 'Being Upright: Zen Meditation and the Bodhisattva Precepts' and 'The Third Turning of the Wheel: Wisdom of the Samdhinirmocana Sutra'.

You may arrive after 3pm on Sunday 21 July and the retreat will start officially at 7pm - please indicate your arrival time so that we know if you will be with us for dinner and if you are not able to arrive before 6pm, please let us know. It will end after lunch on Sunday 28 July.

The retreat will be held primarily in silence. It will include traditional Zen forms and ceremonies and will follow a set schedule. Instruction for newcomers will be given. There will also be opportunity to ask questions of the teacher.

Accommodation is in shared bedrooms (gender separate) or in personal tents near the zendo. We will be offering wholesome vegetarian food that will be primarily vegan. Please bring your own sitting gear or contact us if you require some. Information about travelling to Hebden Bridge will be sent with confirmation of registration.

To book, please send the booking form below with a non-refundable deposit of £100 by 25 May 2013, to Wendy Klein, 6 Roe Walk, Cambourne CB23 6EJ. You may also return the information and/or form via email to the address below. We are asking for payment in full by 1 July please.

Please print clearly.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Mobile: _____

Address: _____

Have you meditated before and if so, with which tradition (if any)?

How will you travel to the retreat and would you be willing to offer a lift to someone else?

BACS Details: Dancing Mountains,

The Co-operative Bank,

Acc. number: 65323036; Sort code: 08-92-99

Use your name as the reference code

Payment type: by cheque (payable to 'Dancing Mountains')

by BACS (email when payment is made)

Accommodation choice:

Shared room in hostel fee to pay:

..... £375 £385 (supporter rate)

..... £365 (basic rate)

Camping

..... £300 £310 (supporter rate)

..... £290 (basic rate)

Other _____ please specify

..... £300 £310 (supporter rate)

..... £290 (basic rate)

We are inviting participants to contribute £10 or £20 towards a bursary fund that will assist those who find the basic rate difficult to manage, hence the supporter rate. This is not required but others would be grateful if you were able to contribute. If you cannot manage the basic rate, please email Wendy with what you can afford and if there is sufficient in the bursary fund, we may be able to offer a discounted rate.

To book, I enclose: The full fee / or / £100 Deposit. Note: payment in full by 1 July please

This retreat is suitable for beginners.

Enquiries to Wendy: reb2013retreat@dancingmountains.org.uk or 01954 718729

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Event

Zen Ethics and Compassionate Health Care - Day retreat with Reb Anderson in London

By Frances Collins

A day of meditation and teaching with Tenshin Reb Anderson, former abbot and senior dharma teacher at San Francisco Zen Centre

This workshop is for anyone who has issues around bodily and/or mental health

30th July 2013

From 10 am to 5pm

Where: Quaker Meeting House

Hampstead

London NW3 1DR

www.londonquakers.org

Enquiries:

E: reb2013london@dancingmountains.org.uk

T: 07786 369682 (Frances Collins)

Cost: £50 waged / concessions on request

Zen Ethics and Compassionate Health Care

On the Zen path there is a clear ethical responsibility to care for the health and happiness of all sentient beings. On this path one may practice three kinds of compassion; compassion towards beings, towards elements, and great objectless compassion. This retreat will offer teachings on these three modes of compassion

Everyone is welcome to come to this zen meditation retreat and learn to listen and realize the perfect wisdom of the gentle buddhas; taught for the weal of the world, for heroic spirits intended. There will be periods of quiet sitting and walking meditation together with oral teachings and group discussions.

Please note lunch is **NOT** provided. The Hampstead area has a good choice of restaurants & recommendations can be given on request. Alternatively you can bring a lunch

There will be a sale of Reb's books & talks will be recorded.

Certificate of attendance can be given on request for health professionals.

The venue has good disabled access with a drop off point in front of the building:

Public Transport: Hampstead Tube Station (Northern line, Edgware branch).

Buses 210 or 268 to Whitestone Road.

Download the Flier [HERE](#)

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Book Review

'Now the Whole Planet has its Head on Fire' - Review of A Buddhist Response to the Climate Emergency, Edited by John Stanley, David R Loy and Gyurme Dorje

By Josh Zatz,

"Clearly it is a vitally important bodhisattva activity to prevent a universal disaster like the collapse of our living world." ~ Ringu Tulku, pg 128.



This book was published in 2009, by the creators of the EcoBuddhism website: www.ecobuddhism.org.

Useful links for further reading about the realities of Climate Change:

<http://www.climatecoded.org/>

<http://www.columbia.edu/~jeh1/>

There is an overview of the book itself on the website at: http://www.ecobuddhism.org/bcp/all_content/book_contents_overview_excerpts/

So, my own overview of the book here will be extremely brief, and I will confine myself to my impressions of it.

This book brings together personal responses to the global emergency of Climate Change from 22 Asian and Western Buddhist teachers. These are framed by an introductory part - which sets out the Science of Climate Change, including a summary of the most recent scientific predictions as to what the climate future holds - and a concluding overview of the main significant responses which humanity has available to us, in order to avert the impending catastrophe of runaway global warming.

All but one of the Asian teachers are of Tibetan origin, and the authors acknowledge this as a shortcoming which they would have addressed had they been prepared to delay publication. The Western teachers are mainly but American, with the Zen tradition most strongly represented. The inclusion of so many teachers of Tibetan origin does lead to valuable emphasis being placed on the rapid melting of the Himalayan glaciers. These glaciers are the main source of fresh water for about one third of the people of Asia, and scientific predictions suggest their possible disappearance by 2030.

I was immediately struck and attracted by the use of the word, *Emergency* in the title of this book, and the book is indeed refreshingly straightforward about how urgent and desperate the situation is. The various authors address themselves to many aspects of how this emergency intersects with Buddhism, and one of these aspects is the great unwillingness we all have - as a society and as individuals - to face up to the reality of this situation: a classic case of 'Denial' on a global scale.

Other common themes include: the need to replace a culture of craving and greed with a culture of sufficiency and contentment, the irresponsible and deluded nature of current human economic activity, and the importance - for Buddhist practitioners - of facing this challenge in accordance with our basic vows to refrain from harming beings and to bring them benefit instead.

On this last issue, the reader's attention is drawn to predictions that up to half of all species on Earth could be driven to extinction this century, by the combination of Global Warming and habitat loss due to human activities. One is invited to consider the appropriate response to this prediction, especially for those who have received - or hold in their own hearts - the Bodhisattva Vow: the vow to save all beings.

I am considerably impressed at the way in which at least two of the authors - Bikkhu Bodhi, an American Theravadan monk,

and Dzigar Kongtrul Rinpoche, an incarnate Tibetan lama living in the USA – do tackle issues of politics and economics head-on. As a would-be Buddhist practitioner with strong and radical political views, I am often troubled by the difficulty of bringing these together. Entering into the realm of political and economic discourse can be very divisive and confrontational and it seems hard to do this with an open heart and without attachment to one's own opinions. Dzigar Kongtrul Rinpoche, in particular, seems to have no such difficulty, and sets up clear Buddhist values against the prevailing values of modern Western lifestyles. The title of his chapter, "Minimal Needs and Maximum Contentment," gives some sense of his overall theme.

It seems the editors and many of the authors do consider that Buddhism and Buddhist communities have something in particular to offer in addressing the underlying issues. "What Buddhist teachers and practitioners can do now is demonstrate how we can break away from this culture of addiction." (Dzigar Kongtrul Rinpoche). That is to say, it is a culture of consumerism and greed which underlies the economic and political causes of Climate Change and other severe ecological problems, and this is founded on the belief that happiness is found through the acquisition and use of external objects. Buddhism, in contrast, says that ultimate happiness can never be found in this way, and that happiness is found within one's own being.

What this book can never do is what I so wanted it to, when I saw the title: to tell me exactly what *my* response, as a Buddhist, to the Climate Emergency ought to be: what I need to do to save the planet from disaster. Rather, I think it hopes mainly to impress upon Buddhists, in particular, how vital it is that we address this issue wholeheartedly and urgently, and looks at how Buddhist values and practise can enable us to lead the way in embodying a different kind of economy and society: one which does not destroy the environment it relies on.

" Each of us must take complete responsibility for the world, as if the world's fate depended on our words and actions. Whether we know it or not, it does." Hozan Alan Sanauke, pg 213

As I write this review for the newsletter of Dancing Mountains Sangha, I am left with the question, "what can *we* do?". Is there anything significant we can do as a Sangha to address this most vital issue? How can we come together with other Buddhist groups to build a common response? Perhaps we could discuss this in our Facebook group. (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/140347182677950/>)

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[Sangha Update](#)

[Potential Purchase of a Centre](#)

By Devin Ashwood

The Western Chan Fellowship are looking into acquiring a centre for practice in the next few years and have contacted Dancing Mountains Sangha to explore whether we might be interested in jointly buying and sharing some sort of venue with them.

If you are interested in this, would like to offer help toward making it a possibility or have energy or ideas for fundraising, please get in touch with Devin Ashwood (devin@dancingmountains.org.uk).

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