



# MOUNTAIN SILENCE

## NEWSLETTER OF THE DANCING MOUNTAINS ZEN SANGHA

Issue 22 ; Autumn 2013

### Beginnings

#### Events

##### October Zen in the Sun

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

A Retreat with Ingen Breen in Greece. There will be 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  
[rebeccaahabs@googlemail.com](mailto:rebeccaahabs@googlemail.com)

##### Dancing Mountains Weekend and AGM

with No Teacher  
**12th October 2013 to 13th October 2013**

A weekend of sitting together and our AGM meeting

**Cost:** £40-£55  
07875 155464  
[devin@dancingmountains.org.uk](mailto:devin@dancingmountains.org.uk)

##### A Weekend of Zen with Brad Warner

**18th October 2013 to 20th October 2013**

Two days with a Zen Priest, Author & Punk Rocker

**Cost:** £80 - £125  
07970 425932  
[hebdenbridgezen@gmail.com](mailto:hebdenbridgezen@gmail.com)

##### Hallowe'en Sesshin

with Ingen Breen



#### Editorial

By Frances Collins

*'What do you want to breathe life into?'*

Reb Anderson Roshi

This late summer edition comes after a very busy period for Dancing Mountains Zen. A seven day retreat with Reb Anderson was well housed and supported by Hebden Bridge Zen group as well as the local community. This was followed by a public talk which was well received before leaving for London. Reb offered a seminar at Hampstead Quaker Meeting House on Compassion in relation to health and in the world. This was very well attended and we were delighted by the opportunity to meet Richard Baker Roshi also in attendance. Discussion is on-going with Reb about returning in 2014 or 2015 and we welcome all positive energy that anyone would like to offer as we build our

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Get involved  
Facebook group

with Ingen Breen  
**27th October 2013 to 2nd  
November 2013**

A week retreat over  
Samhain

**Cost: £140**

01422 883645  
hebdenbridgezen@gmail.com

**Weekend Retreat in  
Glastonbury**

with Ingen Breen

**15th February 2014 to**

**16th February 2014**

A weekend of Zen in  
Somerset

**Cost: £80-£120, please  
enquire**

07875 155464  
devin@dancingmountains.org.uk

supportive community. We will publish here on our website when we have any news so watch this space!

Signs of growth continue as an organisation stepping out and spreading Zen practice in the tradition of Suzuki Roshi & San Francisco Zen Centre. We realise this is a rare and precious opportunity. Introduced to UK more than 20 years ago, the community has arisen around Tenshin Roshi as our founding teacher and more recently subsequent teachers and priests that have visited our shores. We are most grateful for the opportunity to receive the embodied teaching that Reb brings here tirelessly over the years.

We have come a long way! 2010 saw the first suggestion of an informal constitution offered to our sangha. Discussion led organically to the suggestion that the time could be right to take the next step in development as an organisation. Since then there has been growth in local sangha activity and also at national level. An interim board formed from a few committed sangha members from sanghas across England who were willing to offer time and energy to monthly skype meetings and to sit together as a sangha at regular intervals to actively face the difficulties that such growth brings and to explore how to move forward with the less known legal process of becoming an officially recognised organisation. Meeting the challenges of this growth period we continue to focus on our common aspiration toward growth as a nation-wide community who may be supported by widening our engaged practice in a way that we hope helps all to prepare for all aspects of living and dying.

We are delighted to report that we are actively ready to submit our legal documentation toward incorporating as a social enterprise in the form of a Community Interest Company (C.I.C.). We will be sharing our constitution formally at AGM and hope you can join us. We will have the opportunity to practice together as a sangha and also to review reports on events over the past year as well as the treasurer's report. Becoming a C.I.C. means that whilst accepting more responsibility we will be able to apply for funding streams that support practice opportunities in UK and to offer our community practice as an invitation to people searching for a way of life that is open to being shaped by the bodhisattva vows.

Dancing Mountains is a membership organisation. We offer our deep gratitude to all generousities shown and to paying members whose money contributed quietly and steadily to supporting this year's events. We welcome all new members. If you would like to join us in breathing life into this practice please join us. You can download a membership form [here](#)

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 - 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 Winter edition will have a theme around "Zen practise in daily life". We welcome your articles, poetry, pictures, letters, retreat reflections and book reviews! Publication date: 21st December, deadline for submission of material 21st November.

Submissions to the Newsletter/Website:  
Devin Ashwood, 07875 155464

Address: 18 Westfield,  
Bruton, Somerset, BA10 0BT

[devin@dancingmountains.org.uk](mailto:devin@dancingmountains.org.uk)

### Membership

Please download a printable [membership form](#) to support Dancing Mountains.

For all organisational enquiries please email us at  
:- [directors@dancingmountains.org.uk](mailto:directors@dancingmountains.org.uk)

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Previous issues are available [here](#)

[Unsubscribe from this list](#)

For enquiries related to this newsletter please email: [devin@dancingmountains.org.uk](mailto:devin@dancingmountains.org.uk)

# MOUNTAIN SILENCE

Issue 22;

## Sangha Update

### Notice of Dancing Mountains weekend retreat and Annual General Meeting - 12th - 13th October

By Devin Ashwood

We are very happy to announce that we will host the 2013 Dancing Mountains Annual General Meeting on Sunday 13th October at 2:00pm at The Manor House, Ash Walk, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 8PY. Full details are enclosed.



You will be able to formally join Dancing Mountains as a founder member at the AGM weekend. This will be a unique opportunity to be at the heart of Shunryu Suzuki Roshi's practise taking root in the UK. Developing Dancing Mountains as a membership organisation will stimulate huge potential including putting us in a much better position to raise funds to secure wider practise opportunities and a centre for our activities as well as allowing us to take out insurance to protect group leaders and facilitators when organising events.

You are encouraged to come and practise with us for the weekend and we have secured a very low cost for this. To cover expenses, we ask for a contribution of £40 for the practice weekend, this offers shared accommodation with one other person for both nights for the first 10 people to book. After that costs go up to £55 for the remaining rooms.

You are also invited to bring something toward a meal, please get in touch with me to coordinate this. Please also bring your own cushion if you have one. There will be a work period to help clean the rooms.

You may arrive from 4:30pm on Friday afternoon and we will be finished by 5:30pm on Sunday.

If you would like to book, please contact me as soon as possible by phone or email, my mobile number is 07875155464.

I look forward to seeing you soon,

Angyu Devin Ashwood

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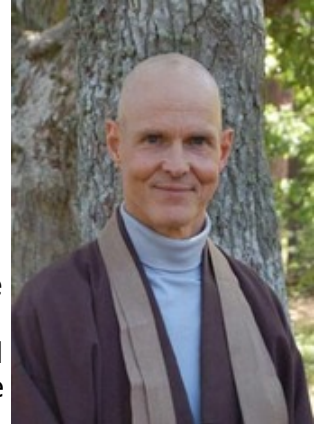
# MOUNTAIN SILENCE

Issue 22;

## Article

### 'San Francisco Zen Center – Turns Fifty' (extracts) - Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the 'Articles of Incorporation' of San Francisco Zen Centre

By Tenshin Reb Anderson, transcribed by Kath Bennett, Edited by Frances Collins



Here's a story...

Suzuki Roshi wanted to give something really good to America and the thing he had that he thought would be really good was the practice of the Buddha Way. He thought giving zazen, giving Zen meditation to the people of America would be a really nice gift and he wanted to come and give that gift. He came and gave that gift and when I went to Tassajara in the summer 1967 I didn't like the smell but somehow I wanted to come back and receive that gift, that practice. So I came back to San Francisco in December 1967 and I went to Zen Centre because I wanted to talk to people about how I could start practicing at the Zen Centre. The Zen centre and the Japanese congregation were still in the same place, and the address was 1881 Bush Street. So I went to 1881 Bush Street and knocked on the door. I was coming to join the San Francisco Zen Centre and I wanted to learn zazen and I was coming to practice with a community and also to practice with this teacher – Suzuki Roshi. When I was at Tassajara, Suzuki Roshi was not there. I didn't get to meet him when I visited Tassajara after the end of the first practice period.

I went to San Francisco to meet him and ask him if I could practice there with him and his students. So the door opened and there was a Zen monk, obviously, and shaved head and robes and the person looked like he was 35-38. And I heard Suzuki Roshi was about 60 and I thought, wow, he really looks good for 60, really young and vibrant! I said that I'd come because I would like to join the Zen Community, I'd like to become a member of Zen Centre and practice here. He said, come in. So, I stepped inside and he showed me into his office and he said; Please sit here, I'll call the president of Zen Centre and they can come and talk to you about it. So, he called the president and the president said he'd be over in a little while.

He sat down and worked at his desk and I watched him working at his desk. And he was very diligent but he was very sleepy, so while he was writing he kept falling asleep while he was writing. But when he woke he would go back to work. He didn't hit his head on the table, but almost....but he kept working. He was very diligent. I was impressed. I still am. And then the president came to the door. His name was Silas Hoatley. He knocked on the door, came in and said, please come over to my place. I went over to his place and said, was that Suzuki Roshi? And he said no that was Katagori Sensi ... (who's about 35 and very handsome). What I may call now a young man. (At the time I was just a little kid, he looked like an old man.)

So I went to talk to Silas about being a new member. He was very cordial to me, explained to me how to do it and offered me some tea. He made me some tea and I went into his kitchen and sat down on one of his chairs and went right through the chair to the ground. He said, you must be rather dense. So I signed the documents of membership ... not at that moment; I came back the next day. I think I went to the office and Yvonne Ryan was the secretary and I signed to become a member of the Zen Centre at that time.

But also another thing happened, I found out when zazen was. I was going to stay at Zen Centre for a little while, a few days, over a weekend actually. I came from Minnesota in December to San Francisco by air for a weekend of zazen. So the next morning I went to zazen in the zendo at 1881A Bush Street and I sat there and I was sitting on the ground. At the beginning of the period the person who I assumed was Suzuki Roshi walked around the students and all I saw, because I was looking down at the ground, was his feet. And then when the feet went by I thought ... those feet can teach me Zen!

Full talk posted on [UTube](#) 12th September 2013

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## Sangha Update

## Felsentor Update - News from our friends in Switzerland

By Vanja Palmers (Poorly translated by Google and Devin Ashwood)

Dear friends of Felsentor,



For the second time in January our [Zen practice period](#) taking place. The details with the arrival and departure dates can be seen on our website.

[The 2014 schedule](#) is online, please reserve early. The detailed booking information for all courses with online registration, will follow from October.

The printed flyer program for 2014, will also be available next month and will be sent by mail to all the addresses in our files. If you want a larger number of programs, please order them from us. We would be delighted if Felsentor's flyer could be found in many different places.

**Volunteers** : Se had to say goodbye to Melanie yesterday. Esther and Marie Christine, two equally sympathetic and efficient helpers will be leaving us soon. All three will be missed by us and the animals, we thank them for their presence here. The world beckons them with new tasks. So we can offer a place for 1-2 people from now until the end of the new year. Further details for a temporary stay in the rock gate community can also be found on the website.

We want to take care of [Felsentor friends](#)' as an integral part of our extended community. The registration form is attached to the printed program, also available on the website. Every last Sunday of September there will be a meeting of friends. For 2014, this is Sunday, the 28th September, from 14:00. As a member you will receive a separate invitation in time.

## **Felsentor in constant change.**

### **1880 - 2013**

Since 1880, much developed in and around Felsentor, and even today there is no standing still, we constantly continue to change. Since the opening of the Zendo in the fall of 2004, we were able to host a substantial number of courses and services from a wide range of traditions and paths. Our thanks go to the many bodhisattvas, which have facilitated the operation of Felsentor over the years in the form of volunteers.

In addition, and in parallel to the teaching schedule, we want to offer more, including the possibility of a formal Zen training. In particular we want to offer intensive practice periods, and we are pleased to offer an intensive practice again in January 2014. For the winter 2014/15, just in time for the 10th anniversary of the Zendo's, we think about a 3 month period of practice.

Although neither resident nor in the Zen Buddhist tradition, Teresa Dawson has supported this process, together with the daily challenges and tasks of management, support and supervision for the past 1 ½ years. Many thanks for their hard work at the various levels. From January Daniela Vogt will live at Felsentor and take over the baton of responsibility for a while. In Zen training all positions are primarily occasions for practise and training and rotate with a certain regularity.

Now we are looking forward to a long, warm autumn - and are in good spirits even faced with a cold, wet winter. And we look forward to seeing you on the mountain.

Vanja Palmers,  
President of the foundation Felsentor

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# MOUNTAIN SILENCE

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Poetry

## The Earth Remembered

By Carol Kempster

The Earth remembered when she was dressed in green  
When her mountains came down and dipped their toes in the clear  
waters  
When she was called Mother and held in reverence  
When the people walked over her surface lightly  
The Earth remembered and wept  
Her tears washed the lands clean  
There came floods and devastation  
Then the people remembered and wept.

[This is a poem I wrote, inspired by a dream after hearing the dharma talk "Where are all the Buddhas born" by Reb Anderson]

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# MOUNTAIN SILENCE

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Poetry

## The Happy Smiling Baby

By Carol Kempster

A happy smiling baby on the bus  
Sat in his pushchair by his granny's feet  
Mimicked her smile  
Turned his gaze on me –  
For one moment, bliss  
Connection, peace.

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