

RYUMONJI ZEN MONASTERY

The Tortoise and the Hare

You've heard the story of the famous race between the tortoise and the hare. It was the turtle won the race!

So how did the turtle win a race with the rabbit? If you heard the story, the turtle was slow and the rabbit was fast. But the rabbit was always doodling around, while the turtle kept moving a step at a time.

The race of life and death is like this. Life and death are the great matter! Impermanence is swift. The turtle didn't waste time. Life and death pass swiftly. The turtle just maintained continuity . . . under all circumstances.

One of the things the turtle did to maintain its continuity was to free itself from any labels, like being "the slowest creature on earth". The turtle did not judge itself, saying things like "I'm slow" or "I'm stupid" or "not capable" or "not ready". It's hard to free yourself from labels--both those you give yourself, and those others put on you. Everyone has their own stories. Others are not you. The turtle just continued with wholehearted effort.

And another thing, the turtle was not attached to any results. The turtle did not compete with the rabbit. It just forgot about the rabbit, and continued to walk step by step. It just took care of what was under its foot.

Like the turtle we have to take care of the moment that "is"! Sometimes this is beyond our ideas of how things should be. Just keep taking one step. It's beyond "like or dislike", or thinking "how good life is" or "how bad life is". It's just a matter of everydayness. It's the vow to live, beyond your "take" on things.

So every day keep your heart and eyes open. Don't attach to your ideas of how things should be. Just take one step. This is how the turtle won the race.

These are the teachings of our founding teacher, Dainin Katagiri Roshi. Before his death he said, "We cannot attach to the results of what we have planned. Just run the race."

These are the steps of a buddha. A buddha's efforts never cease.

With gassho,

Rev. Shoken Winecoff, Abbot
Ryumonji Zen Monastery

Ryumonji Happenings . . .

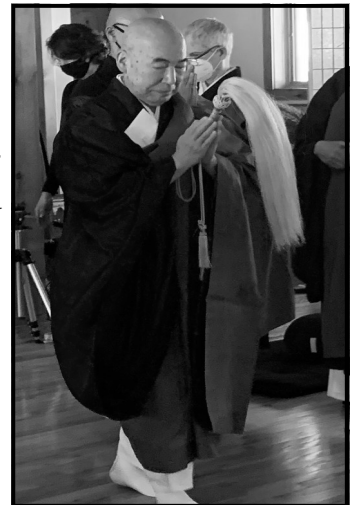
Thirty Third Memorial for Dainin Katagiri Roshi



On Sunday, February 27, Ryumonji held a memorial ceremony to commemorate the thirty third anniversary of the passing of Ryumonji's honorary founder, Dainin Katagiri Roshi.

Rev. Gengo Akiba Roshi, North American Bishop, was the officiant for the ceremony.

Tomoe Katagiri, widow of Katagiri Roshi, and her sons Yasuhiko and Ejyo were in attendance with their families. Many dharma heirs and students of Katagiri Roshi were also present.



Shuso Ceremony for 2022 Winter Ango

The Shuso Ceremony for Rev. Daiki Barlow was held the same weekend as the memorial ceremony.



Akiba Roshi served as Jokeshi for the ceremony. At the Hossenshiki tea the evening before, he offered a commentary on the Shuso's koan.

2022 Ryumonji Calendar

(To register for sesshin, please complete the Event Registration form on Ryumonji's website)

Apr 16	1/2 Day Sesshin
May 20-22	Sesshin
Jun 17-19	Sesshin & Summer Ango Opening
Jul 15-17	Sesshin & Shuso Ceremony
Jul 31	Summer Ango Closing
Aug 12-14	Men's Retreat
Sep 16-18	Sesshin
Oct 21-23	Sesshin
Nov 4-6	Women's Retreat
Nov 18-20	Sesshin
Dec 1-8	Rohatsu Sesshin
Dec 31	End of Year Sesshin & New Year's Eve Celebration

*RYUMONJI WILL CONTINUE
TO FOLLOW CDC GUIDANCE
REGARDING COVID 19
PROTOCOLS.*

*RYUMONJI PLANS TO RETURN TO
IN-PERSON EVENTS
BEGINNING WITH THE APRIL
1/2 DAY SESSHIN WHICH WILL
ALSO BE AVAILABLE
ON ZOOM.*

*BEGINNING IN MAY ALL
MONTHLY SESSHINS WILL MEET
IN PERSON.*

*SUNDAY MORNING AND
THURSDAY EVENING PUBLIC
SITTINGS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN
PERSON AND ON ZOOM*

*SCHEDULE AND ZOOM LINKS
ARE ON RYUMONJI'S WEBSITE.*

www.ryumonji.org

2022 Ryumonji Work Days

Work days are a great sangha activity. They are a major support for Ryumonji. They are held on the first Saturday of each month from 10:00 to 3:00 p.m. Lunch is potluck. Please join us if you can.

Apr 2	Jul 2	Oct 1
May 7	Aug 6	Nov 12
Jun 4	Sep 3	Sesshin

Public Sittings

Thursday Evenings

7:30 p.m.

Sunday Mornings

9:00 a.m.

**RYUMONJI ZEN
MONASTERY**

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Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Org

US Postage Paid

Decorah, IA

Permit No. 2452

Zip Code 52101



**SPRING FLING
AND
OPEN HOUSE**

Saturday May 7

1:00-4:00pm

**RYUMONJI IS CELEBRATING THE ARRIVAL OF
SPRING AND ITS REOPENING TO IN-PERSON
EVENTS.**

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN UPLIFTING AFTER-
NOON OF MUSIC, FOOD, AND ACTIVITIES.**

