



RYUMONJI ZEN MONASTERY

The Lineage

From Shakyamuni Buddha to myself has been 82 generations of Dharma transmission in the Soto Zen lineage. We sometime refer to the lineage as Buddhas and Ancestors. They transmitted the Buddha Way to our present generation. To know our history is to know the roots.

The roots of my own transmission came down through Dainin Katagiri Roshi. He was the Zen teacher who came to the Midwest in 1973 and established the Minnesota Zen Meditation Center in Minneapolis. I was living in Minneapolis then. I wasn't looking for Buddhism, but when I first sat down on a Zen meditation cushion I met myself and the Buddhas and Ancestors. It was all there!

Zen in America has been transmitted from long lineages of Buddhas and Ancestors. The Buddha himself, Gotama Shakyamuni, lived in northern India, 500 B.C. He never claimed any divinity or divine inspiration. He looked at life and saw how interconnected and interpenetrated all life is. There were 29 generations in India until the monk named Bodhidharma came to China. He transmitted the Buddha's practice of *upright meditation*. Bodhidharma was known as the *wall sitting monk*. *Wall sitting* is to *face yourself*. To bring yourself in harmony with *what is!* It is to take care of what you are facing and get beyond your *take* on things. It is to drop off your body and mind. It is called *non-thinking*. This is the essential art of Zazen.

This practice of *upright sitting* was known in China as *Chan* and in Japan as *Zen*. In China there were five main *streams* that flowed down from Bodhidharma. These lineages were referred to as the *five petals* of Zen. Our lineage came down through two Chinese monks, Caoshan and Dongshan. This was known as the Caodong lineage. In Japanese these two teachers' names were Sozan and Tozan. Their lineage was referred to as the Soto Zen lineage. This was the lineage that Katagiri Roshi transmitted.

The Japanese monk, Eihei Dogen, traveled to China in 1223. He studied with the great Chinese monk, Tendo Nyojo at Tendoji Monastery. Tendo Nyojo was a descendant of the Soto (Caodong) lineage. Zen Master Dogen studied with Tendo Nyojo for five years before returning to Japan where he ultimately founded Eiheiji Monastery. Eiheiji is now the largest Soto Zen training monastery in Japan.

Katagiri Roshi received his priest training at Eiheiji. He practiced there for three years. He later came to North America, where he assisted Shunryu Suzuki Roshi who founded the San Francisco Zen Center. It was the first Zen Center established for Westerners. After Suzuki Roshi's death, Katagiri Roshi was invited to come to Minneapolis.

Katagiri Roshi was ordained in Zen Master Dogen's lineage. His teacher gave him the Dharma name *Dainin* (*Great Patience*). Katagiri Roshi said his teacher gave him that name because *he was eighteen years old and had no patience*.

It was through the lineage from Zen master Dogen that Katagiri Roshi came to North America. Katagiri Roshi ordained twelve Dharma heirs. I was the last person he ordained. This is where we've come from. This is our lineage and our roots!

Katagiri Roshi died March 1, 1990. Next year we will commemorate the 33rd memorial of his death. It's hard to believe that he has passed away over 30 years ago. His journey was to bring Zen Buddhism to the heartland of America.

May the lotus flower continue to bloom! If you can maintain continuity this is called the host within the host.

Rev. Shoken Winecoff, Abbot
Ryumonji Zen Monastery

Ryumonji Happenings . . .

Thirty-Third Memorial for Jikai Dainin Katagiri

Ryumonji will hold a 33rd Anniversary Memorial Ceremony on Feb. 27, 2022 to commemorate the passing away of Katagiri Roshi, the honorary founder of Ryumonji. The 33rd Memorial is highly significant in Japanese culture, as it is the final memorial service celebrated by those who knew the honoree directly.

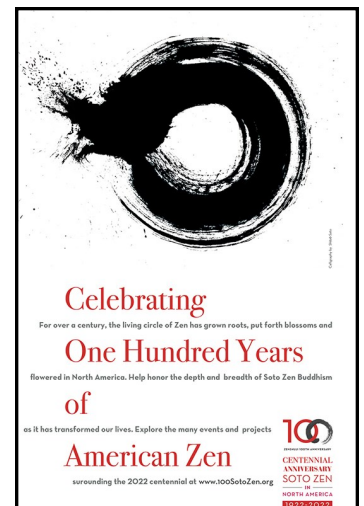
Hokyoji Zen Practice Community, also founded by Katagiri Roshi, will co-host the memorial event with Ryumonji. Katagiri Roshi's memorial stupa is at Hokyoji near New Albin, IA.

Katagiri Roshi died on March 1, 1990. Following the Japanese way of counting births and deaths, March 1, 2022 will be the 33rd year after his death. The ceremony will be held in conjunction with the Shuso Hossenshiki ceremony at Ryumonji's Winter Ango. Rev. Daiki Barlow will be the Shuso for the Winter Ango (Jan. 16 - March 6, 2022). (Please note that these ceremonies will be held on the fourth weekend of February. There will be a weekend sesshin February 18-20, the third weekend in February.)

Due to the Covid pandemic, it is not possible at this time to determine how many participants and guests Ryumonji can accommodate. More information will be provided on Ryumonji's website as the time approaches.

100th Anniversary of Soto Zen in America

One hundred years ago, a Zen monk, Rev. Hosen Isobe, arrived in America and founded Zenshuji Soto Mission in Los Angeles. It was the first Zen Buddhist Temple to minister to the Japanese-American community there. In 2022, the Association of Soto Zen Buddhists (ASZB) will hold a *Jukai-e* ceremony to commemorate this event. It will be part of the annual conference during the week of November 15-21, 2022 in Los Angeles. Rev. Shoken Winecoff, Abbot of Ryumonji, and Rev. Eido Espe, Vice-Abbot of Ryumonji, will attend. They will also attend this year's upcoming ASZB Conference in November of 2021 to prepare for this auspicious event.



2022 Ryumonji Calendar

Jan 1	New Year's Day
Jan 21-23	Sesshin & Winter Ango Opening
Feb 18-20	Sesshin
Feb 26-27	Shuso Ceremony & Katagiri Roshi 33rd Memorial Ceremony
Mar 6	Winter Ango Closing
Mar 18-20	Sesshin
Apr 15-17	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

2020 Ryumonji Work Days

Work days are a great sangha activity and support for Ryumonji. Below are the Saturday dates for 2022. Please join us if you can!

Jan 8	May 7	Sep 3
Feb 5	Jun 4	Oct 1
Mar 5	Jul 2	Nov 12
Apr 2	Aug 6	Dec 10

THIS SCHEDULE REPRESENTS RYUMONJI'S PLAN FOR RETURNING TO IN-PERSON EVENTS IN 2022.

RYUMONJI WILL FOLLOW CDC GUIDANCE IN DETERMINING WHEN IT IS SAFE TO REOPEN. WE MAY BE UNABLE TO CONFIRM REOPENING UNTIL CLOSE TO THE TIME.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO CHECK RYUMONJI'S WEBSITE FOR REOPENING UPDATES.

Public Sitzings

Thursday Evenings

7:30 p.m.

Sunday Mornings

9:00 a.m.

Public Sitting is available on Zoom.

Please visit Ryumonji's website for the link.

To receive future issues of the newsletter electronically, please e-mail: office@ryumonji.org

RYUMONJI ZEN MONASTERY



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2021 Taste of Ryumonji

Ryumonji will hold a “virtual” Taste of Ryumonji event due to COVID-19. Laughing Bear Bakery will offer a 3-pound box of tasty treats for a \$100 donation to Ryumonji. Laughing Bear was founded by a priest of Ryumonji, Rev. Kalen McAllister. It is a non-profit which assists formerly incarcerated individuals in their transition back into society.

There are several ways to donate. Ryumonji accepts Paypal donations on its website. If you make a Paypal donation, please follow up with an e-mail to: office@ryumonji.org to provide your name and mailing address for shipping of the Laughing Bear box. Or you can complete the form below and mail it along with your check to: Ryumonji Zen Monastery, 2452 Ryumon Rd., Dorchester, IA 52140

I wish to participate in Ryumonji's 2021 Virtual Taste of Ryumonji. Here is my \$100 donation. Please send my gift to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please note: Ryumonji is a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization. Receipt of any goods or services in return for a donation reduces the amount of the donation by the dollar value of goods or services received. In this case, the value of your gift from Laughing Bear Bakery described above will change the value of your Ryumonji donation to \$60.

