

ARCATA ZEN CENTER NEWSLETTER
May, 2001

Maylie Scott -- March 29, 1935 to May 10, 2001

Memorial Issue Enclosed
Including Maylie's Last Dharma Talk

Please note: Scheduled sittings, retreats, and sesshin will occur with possible changes in location, timing, etc. (see below for information on the Big Flat retreat). Future newsletters will reflect these changes. The website will be updated as plans are finalized; information will also be posted at the zendo and announced on Sundays. If you have any questions, please call Gael or the listed contact person, if any.

WEEKLY SITTING

Sundays the AZC meets at 8:10 AM at the Northcoast Aikido Center, located off the public parking lot at 8th & F Streets, Arcata. Two half-hour periods (second sit at 8:50), with kinhin in-between, are followed by reading and discussion. On the second Sunday, the sangha shares poetry and other readings brought in by individuals. Weekday Sittings are held at Rin Shin-ji Temple (740 Park, Arcata). Monday through Friday mornings two 40-minute periods, with kinhin, begin at 5:30 AM (second sit at 6:20), followed by a short service. Thursday evenings two half-hour periods, with kinhin, begin at 7:30 PM (second sit at 8:10). Meditation Orientation, on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 PM, offers orientation to Zen meditation through instruction, guided meditation, and a question-and-answer period. This is open to both experienced students and beginners.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE SESSHIN

There will be a local retreat from June 6 through 9 at Rin Shin-ji Temple. Sesshin will begin at 7 PM Wednesday; daily sitting will be from 6:30 AM to 9 PM. Please consider sitting for the whole day; otherwise, come for a block of time. It is also possible to spend the night(s) at Rin Shin-ji. The retreat and meals will be in silence. Meals will be oryoki style; bring three nesting bowls, chopsticks, spoon, towel, and napkin. Both oryoki and sitting instruction will be available. On the first two days, the dharma talk will be a recorded talk of Maylie's; the third day people will share their experiences of Maylie as a teacher. The retreat will end 5 PM Saturday, followed by clean-up. On Sunday, the group will meet as usual at the Aikido Center at 8:10 AM. The cost is \$20 per day; scholarships are available. Mail checks to: AZC, 740 Park Ave., Arcata 95521. For more info, and to help us estimate the quantity of food needed, please call Lynda or Monique. The next local sesshin is October 17 through 20.

STUDENT DHARMA TALKS

Maylie spoke of student dharma talks as a way for senior students to renew their practice. Every fourth Thursday of the month, there will be a dharma talk after the 7:30 sit and kinhin. The next talk is Rose Brewster's, scheduled for June 28.

ONE DAY RETREATS

On Saturday, July 14, a daylong retreat will be held at Rin Shin-ji from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM. There will be two zazen periods in the morning, dharma talk, and discussion. The afternoon will include break, work period, and two or three sittings. Bring an oryoki set (three nesting bowls, chopsticks, spoon, towel, and napkin) for meals. More details of this retreat including the coordinator to call to register will be posted at the zendo and on the website, and will be announced on Sundays. The next one-day retreat will be September 8. On that day, there will be a ceremony after the retreat for the immediate sangha community; a public memorial ceremony for Maylie's wide circle of friends and community is tentatively being planned for September 9.

BIG FLAT SESSHIN

Big Flat, originally scheduled for June, has been rescheduled for August 9 - 13. Please see the previous newsletter or the newsletter section of the website for details of the trip. You must sign up again if you had signed up for the June trip. Send your deposit and reservation information to AZC, 740 Park Ave., Arcata, 95521. For more information, please call Gordy.

LETTERS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC.

Letter from Cassie Scott (excerpted from a recent e-mail)

Our time spent with Maylie and you all in Arcata was so precious. Individually and collectively you are such a special group of people. I experienced you all as dedicated, caring and quite organized (though in a mellow way). There was an organic, related feel to it.

In unobtrusive ways, huge gifts were given to me by so many in your Sangha, and this put a wonderful container to an unimaginable experience, warmed it somehow, helped make it hold-able.

It was a privilege to briefly step into the wonderful entity you all grew together with Maylie. It is palpable, personable, devoted, generous and loving. ... Hope to see you soon in Arcata - Cassie

Prisoner Meditation Group

Gabe Fields of the SFZC Outreach Program is trying to help someone locate a replacement leader for a meditation group two times a month for prisoners in Pelican Bay up in Crescent City. Mary Mocine has offered to be an e-mail mentor since she has experience in leading a prisoner group. If you are interested, you can call Gabe.

Memorial Issue

The enclosed Memorial Issue contains works by both Maylie and group members. There will be an ongoing memorial section of the regular newsletter to accommodate what may already have been sent but not yet printed, as well as items that are submitted later, as room allows. People from literally all over have written, e-mailed on the list server or directly, or called (as did Jim Benton from France) to express their concern for and love of Maylie. Please send items to Suzanne.

Updating the Contact List

Monique will be printing an updated contact list approximately twice a year. Additions, deletions, and corrections will be listed in the newsletter as they come in; people can emend their copies from that until the next list is printed. Monique also plans to have a new contact list for everyone at the June retreat. You can contact her to change your info or get a list.

Photos of Maylie

Jane Meyer has copies of Maylie's picture which is on the altar. You can contact her for a copy of this and/or of pictures of Maylie with her sister, Mother Mary John, both in their robes.

Diana Lynn has and can make copies as requested of the funerary photographs she took during the memorial services for Maylie.

ACTIVITIES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Maylie had graciously indicated the intention to give her house at her passing to the AZC. At the April 29 meeting, Board members voted unanimously to accept Maylie's house with our full commitment to the Three Treasures.

The May 17 meeting installed Rose Brewster as the fifth Board member and Beth Shipley as house-sitter. There was a general consensus to put out a special memorial for Maylie, either as an insert in the upcoming newsletter or separate from it. It was decided to create an altar in memory of Maylie; Gordy volunteered to build it. The next phone bill will be paid by the Arcata Zen Group as a gift to the family. Linda will write thank you notes to the various people who sent flowers and did other valuable support work during Maylie's illness.

PRACTICE COMMITTEE

April's meeting covered Sunday morning services, student dharma talks, practice instruction for newcomers, and sangha decision-making procedures, including using the newsletter, phone tree, bulletin board at the Aikido Center, web site, and e-mail for communication.

May 6: The rescheduling of Big Flat was accompanied by the suggestion that some of Maylie's ashes be taken to Big Flat for dedication there in August. There was discussion about the 740 Park Avenue property, including the need for income for property maintenance, insurance, and taxes; rental options may be explored in the future. Ultimately, the property is seen as a home for a resident teacher. Also discussed was the question of how we will respond to the loss of our teacher in terms of on-going teaching and leadership. There was a feeling of openness and gratitude to BZC for their offer to help us, as well as a sense that much discussion, processing, and questioning will be needed before we can understand and eventually address our needs. One suggestion was to invite a visiting teacher once every two months, coinciding with our existing sesshin schedule. Several comments emphasized: the AZC's autonomy and independence as a sangha, our deep link with Maylie's dharma family and origins, and that there is no urgency in deciding on a teacher - an interim period of one year or more may be appropriate.

The May 13 meeting saw the formation of various focus committees: zendo (Rose, Gael, Yoshim, June); house (Lynda, Emelia, Rose, Gordy); grounds (Mark, Bill, Jane); and teacher/visitor (Bill, Pete, Gordy, Diana, Mark), along with a determination to create a wide involvement of people in the operation of the AZC. Gael, Emelia, and Pete committed to be on the practice committee for the next year. Bill pointed out that the Board is ultimately responsible for use of the property and that all decisions should go through the Board Chair (Lynda). Mark will make and hang a sign that will show where parking is appropriate, in response to neighbors' concerns.

May 20: The Board reported to the practice committee, and it was reiterated that meetings are open to all. It was requested that the Board establish a regular meeting schedule; they will probably meet twice a month for the immediate future. Guidelines were established for the use of the house. There was discussion on how best to approach the neighbors, which Lynda and Mark will do. In a discussion about the July retreat, Bill suggested a tentative schedule: Tea on Friday, Saturday sit, Sunday Talk at the Aikido Center and tea after the talk. Rose will act as Practice Leader and will attend to issues of zendo form and procedure. Bill pointed out that after a teacher dies there can be a "rush to formalization" in which forms become static, solidifying a practice that should remain fluid. Diana has started work on a flow chart with a graphic representation of how the AZC works. She needs input from the various committees, the Board, etc. People can fill in details on the chart, which is located in the community room. Cassie and Helene have offered a bench for the garden at Rin Shin-ji. Gael will look into bench construction costs.

The May 27 meeting discussed the issue of a teacher and schedule for the July 14 retreat: a talk on Saturday during the retreat, on Sunday at the Aikido center, and possibly something completely different on Friday. Part of the zendo bulletin board will be available for community notices; Gael, as the chidon [altar attendant], will keep the notices current. It was decided that the one-day retreat on September 8 will end with Maylie's ashes being spread; the next day, after sitting at the Aikido Center, there will be a public memorial service. The next meeting is June 3.

complete minutes for these meetings are available on the table at Sunday zazen; regular practice committee meetings are at 11 AM the first Sunday of the month at the zendo, regular board meetings the fourth Wednesday at 7:30 PM - all are welcome to attend.

ABOUT YOUR NEWSLETTER

The policies, format, and general content of the newsletter have been shaped over the years by members of the AZC and by specific input from Maylie. The newsletter reports official decisions of the Board, the Practice Committee, and other committees as they are decided, intended, and/or worded by the Board or Committee. Members who differ in their opinions with the Board and/or other committees are welcome to submit signed opinion pieces to the newsletter. The newsletter is open to all members who wish to submit items, and will publish practice-appropriate items as space and policy allow. Some items may be condensed, abbreviated, excerpted, and/or held for a later issue due to space considerations. If you feel this is not appropriate for your item, please indicate so and, if it cannot be used as is, it will be returned to you. Any member who feels that changes in the policies, format, and/or general content of the newsletter would benefit the group as a whole, should take the matter up with the Practice Committee.
Thank you -- Suzanne

The next newsletter deadline is August 6 (subject to change). Mail your practice articles, announcements, reflections &/or poetry to Suzanne

DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE:	3	Practice Committee Meeting
	6-9	Three-day sesshin (local)
	28	Student Dharma Talk
JULY:	14	One-day Retreat
AUGUST:	6	Newsletter Deadline (tentative)
	9-13	Big Flat (if you signed up in June, you need to reregister)
SEPTEMBER:	8	One-day Retreat (with Stone-placement ceremony after)
	9	Public Memorial Ceremony (tentative)
OCTOBER:	17-20	Three-day sesshin