

JIKOJI RETREAT

Andrea Fella

Friday, May 28 to Monday, May 31, 2010

Registration and retreat schedule. Registration will be from 3:30 to 5:30 pm on Friday, May 28 and a light meal will be served at 6 pm. On Monday, May 31, after lunch, the retreat will end by 3:00 p.m.

Location: Jikoji Zen Retreat Center, 12100 Skyline Blvd, Los Gatos, CA 95030, 408-741-9562

Directions: If you are coming from the North Bay area, take Hwy 92 (from Hwy 101 or 280) to Skyline Blvd (Hwy 35). Go south on Skyline (toward Santa Cruz), continuing approximately 4.6 miles past the junction of Skyline and Page Mill Road. When you pass a very large boulder on your left, start looking for the Ward Road sign a few hundred feet further on your right. Near the sign you will also see a mailbox and an entrance gate. Turn right onto Ward Road and continue bearing right down to the bottom of the hill.

If you are traveling from the South Bay or Santa Cruz Mountains area, take Hwy 9 out of Saratoga to Skyline Blvd. Travel north on Skyline (toward San Francisco) about 2.8 miles to Ward Road on the left side of Skyline. Along with the sign for Ward Road, you should see a mailbox, and an entrance gate. (If you pass a huge boulder on your right, you have gone just past Ward Road.) Turn onto Ward Road, go through the gate, and continue to bear right down to the bottom of the hill.

Parking: You may park in the 5 space parking area in front of the kitchen/community building if a space is open. Otherwise, please continue down the road in front of the community building and park on the far right side of the road so as not to impede road traffic. There are some additional parking spaces further down the road.

Carpooling is ESSENTIAL AND REQUIRED: There is limited parking at Jikoji, so please try to arrange at least two retreatants per vehicle. Please be sure to obey the parking instructions given at the retreat site.

Personal Items to Bring: Bring unscented toiletries, towels, soap, insect repellent, sunscreen, hat, flashlight, watch or clock, raingear, layered clothing for all weather conditions, etc., etc. This is a "do-it-ourselves" retreat. There will be no common pool of back-up supplies and no one to make a run into town. Please pack accordingly. You may bring a tent and camp, please bring all necessary camping equipment necessary.

Sitting Gear: Bring a zafu, bench, or chair (no sharp legs, please). Some heavy mats are available to protect meditators from the hard floor, but bring your own if you have one.

Accommodations: There are two dormitories. One dormitory has 6 beds with foam futons (no box springs or mattresses) and has a bathroom attached. The other dormitory has 6 beds with foam futons. Some of the beds are bunk beds. There are a few new smaller rooms available this year, sleeping 1 to 3 or 4 people. One or two have bathrooms attached. Dorm rooms will be assigned based on gender balance.

In addition, there is plenty of beautiful space to camp, and it is generally a great time of year to do so. For those who want to be under a roof but not in a dormitory, there is space available for sleeping bags and sleeping mats on some building decks and in the zendo. Sleeping mats taken from a dormitory may not be used on the decks unless you provide a tarp to put under them. Also, sleeping gear used on a deck or in the zendo must be removed during daytime hours.

Sleeping Gear: Bring a sleeping bag or sheets and blankets, as well as a pillow. There are some sleeping mats available in the dormitories, but if you have one of your own, please bring it to insure we have enough. If you plan to camp, please bring whatever camping equipment you will need.

Bathrooms: There are two group bathrooms (one for the women and one for the men), each of which includes a shower and a double sink. There are a few bathrooms located in the new rooms. If the retreat is full, there will also be two port-a-potties available for everyone's use.

Meals: Meals will be vegetarian, prepared with loving-kindness by our wonderful cooks.

About Dana: Continuing in the ancient Buddhist tradition, the teachings are offered freely. In turn, students receiving the teachings are afforded an opportunity to voluntarily support those transmitting the dharma by offering donations or *dana*, to the Teacher and Cook. Furthermore, operating expenses for the retreat (mostly for facility rental and food) are being paid from *dana* previously received by IMC's Retreat Fund. At the end of the retreat, you will be offered an opportunity to donate to the Fund so that future retreats may be offered to other retreatants on a *dana* basis. If *dana* is offered in the form of a check, no more than one check should be used, using the "memo" space on the check to indicate what portion of the total amount should be given to the Teacher, the Cook, and the Retreat Fund. If there is any way I can assist you please contact:

Curt Smith, curt_smith@mac.com , 408 842-0988.