

Dai Bai Zan Cho Bo Zen Ji

Great Plum Mountain Listening to the Dharma Zen Temple

Chobo-Ji is a Seattle temple in the Rinzai Zen Dharma line. We are a diverse community doing deep spiritual inquiry through silent meditation and caring action for the benefit of all beings, great and small, animate and inanimate. We welcome people to our meditation practice periods and programs whether they are members or are simply attending to try us out.

History and lineage

Zen Buddhism was founded in the 6th century CE by Bodhidharma, an Indian monk who traveled to China to teach Buddhist meditation. The Rinzai School was founded in the 9th century by Master Lin-Chi, and has been one of the dominant Zen schools in China, Korea, and Japan for many centuries. In the 18th century, following a period of decline, the sect was reformed and revived by Hakuin Ekaku Zenji. Master Hakuin formalized the Zen Koan curriculum used in the Rinzai sect, and all contemporary Japanese Rinzai schools derive from him. Koan practice involves the use of Zen parables to deepen meditation. Koans invite us to open up to the non-rational or beyond-rational aspects of awareness.



Our teachers



"The most important concern of Zen Buddhism is working to live up to our Great Vow to care for all beings great and small, animate and inanimate."
-Genjo Osho

Genjo Marinello Osho began his Zen training in 1975, was ordained in 1980, became an Osho (full priest) in 1990, and our Abbot in 1999. In 1981-82, he trained at Ryutaku-Ji in Japan under Sochu Suzuki Roshi and retired Soen Nakagawa Roshi. After Chobo-Ji's founding abbot Genki Takabayashi Roshi retired, Genjo continued his training with Eido Shimano Roshi, from whom he received dharma transmission in 2008, and more recently with Bernie Glassman Roshi and the Zen Peacemakers. Genjo Osho continues to expand his horizons through social action and service.



Genki Takabayashi Roshi trained at Daitoku-Ji, the head Rinzai temple in Japan and then directed a temple in Kamakura. He was invited to the United States by the Seattle Zen Center and subsequently founded Dai Bai Zan Cho Bo Zen Ji in the early 1980's. For twenty-five years Genki Roshi inspired his Seattle students with his Zen practice, instruction, and artistry. He was steadfast in his commitment to the transmission of Buddha Dharma and Rinzai Zen. In 1997, he retired to Montana where he died in 2013.

Located on North Beacon Hill at:
1733 S Horton St., Seattle, WA 98144

www.choboji.org

For more info: zen@choboji.org

大梅山 聴法禅寺

Dai Bai Zan Cho Bo Zen Ji

Rinzai Zen Temple





Zen training

At Chobo-Ji, the core of Zen training is zazen, or seated meditation. With the equanimity gained in zazen, we extend our training to include chanting, koan study, and work practice (samu). We strive to expand our training to our activities outside the zendo, and to bring the peace and compassion of Zen practice into our daily lives.

The following training activities and resources are available to all:

- Regular morning and evening sits.
- Sunday evening sits with informal dharma talks and public dharma interviews.
- Once monthly Sunday intensive retreat (half-day Sesshin).
- Twice yearly 3-day meditation intensive (Odayaka Sesshin).
- Quarterly week-long intensive retreats (Dai-Sesshins).
- The weekly e-newsletter Temple Happenings.
- Plum Mountain News, our quarterly newsletter.
- Presentations by Chobo-Ji's Zen students.

Community engagement

To promote peaceful co-existence and heal our planet, our activities include providing meals for the homeless, acting as an Emergency Neighborhood Hub, hosting both Block Watch and Night Out events, prison sangha support, and ecumenical social justice advocacy including membership in Faith Action Network (FAN).

Classes and workshops

- Weekly Introduction to Zen on Tuesday evenings and a twice-yearly introductory series covering the basic forms of Rinzai Zen at Chobo-Ji and the essentials of Buddha's teachings.
- A monthly Precepts class for those considering Jukai and for others who are interested.
- Workshops and presentations to enhance our Zen practice covering Buddhism, Non Violent Communication study groups, the arts, and more.
- Our website, choboji.org includes:
 - Full schedule/calendar.
 - Instruction and resources on Buddhism.
 - Podcasts of teisho by Genjo Marinello Osho.



Attendees

Non-members are encouraged to drop a \$5 donation in the collection bowl for each zazen period they sit. However, pay what you can afford. Every contribution helps sustain this center. We welcome everyone, and gladly offer help to those learning our practice.

Members

Practitioners who wish to make a deeper commitment of time and support can become members. Dues donations and event fees go to support the life of this temple. We have no outside support from a national or international organization (see enclosed membership form).

Membership benefits

- Discount for week-long sesshin.
- Eligibility to participate in the twice-yearly three-month-long intensive training periods (kessei), with twice-weekly dharma interviews (dokusan).
- Jukai: Formally taking refuge in Buddhism.
- Zendo post training: to support zazen periods, sesshins and Chobo-Ji Practice Center.
- Participation in member-only workshops.
- Eligibility for the residential training program.
- Voting rights at the annual election of Chobo-Ji's Board of Trustees.
- Library: Contact Genjo Marinello Osho for access.

We welcome all practitioners at Chobo-Ji, free from prejudicial exclusions of any kind.

Membership dues

Dues are a suggested donation of \$75 per month, more, if possible, or less if need be. You are the master of your giving. Whatever your gift, it will be deeply appreciated.

Because regular dues payments from members are the bedrock of our financial health, Chobo-Ji encourages members to pay monthly. Dues are tax deductible and may be paid by check, cash, Paypal, or bill pay.

Should you choose to become a Chobo-Ji member, thank you for joining this community, and for your support of the Dharma, and Zen in America. We welcome you and look forward to a strong practice together. If you have needs or questions, don't hesitate to ask our teacher or senior students.

Help and information are also available from the following:

- The Sangha Relations Committee: Supports and serves all who attend Chobo-Ji.
- The Board of Trustees: Provides legal, fiduciary, and policy-making leadership.

To contact these committees and our board, see our website choboji.org/contact-and-links.



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Membership Application Form

First Name

Last Name

Phone(s)

Email

Address

City

State

Zip

(If more than one person attends Chobo-Ji from your household, please fill out a separate application for each person.)

How do you want to read the Plum Mountain Newsletter?

☐ Online

☐ Paper



Membership Application Form

My dues commitment will be:

\$ _____

Dues contribution schedule:

- ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly
☐ Annually ☐ Other _____

(If in the future, you need to change the amount or schedule, simply let us know. Thank you.)

Contribution method:

- ☐ Check ☐ Bill Pay
☐ Pay Pal ☐ Cash

(Please be aware that PayPal and credit cards deduct fees.)

My first month's dues contribution is enclosed:

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If not enclosed, it will be delivered by this date and method:

Interests and skills you have that you'd like to share with the Chobo-Ji community:

Note: New members will be ratified by the Board of Trustees in the month subsequent to the receipt of their membership application and first dues contribution. To maintain active status, members make regular dues contributions. Members who cease to contribute according to their committed schedule will be considered inactive after three months and their membership privileges suspended. Active status can be resumed by resuming contributions.