

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
THE ZEN STUDIES SOCIETY



W I N T E R / S P R I N G 2 0 0 8



## Dai Bosatsu Zendo News

### Spring Kessei 2007

Spring Kessei began on April 6th, and participants included long-time residents Fujin Butsudo, Jokei Kyodo, Shinkon Wado, Seizan Tomoaki Sasaki, and Tenrai Fred Forsythe, joined by returning students Andrea Rook, Bart Blank and Emily Giordano. Attending Kessei for the first time were Rev. Zenmu Brenda Nightingale from Canada, who came to DBZ for monastic training after her January ordination by Gyoshin Virginia Lawson, a student of Roko ni-Osho, who is now continuing her training at Hoen-ji in Syracuse; as well as Danny Tang, Bobby Elbers, and Peter Lombardi, who came on board in March as DBZ's new caretaker/groundskeeper.

We were also happy to welcome back Rev. Genro Lee Milton and Rev. Yayoi Karen Matsumoto from Endless Mountain Zendo in Pennsylvania. Genro and Yayoi generously split their time between EMZ and DBZ for most of the spring and summer, to coordinate and assist with large-scale projects such as renovating and restoring all of the wooden floors and cabinetry in the Tenzo, and building and installing the outer housing for the Shinto shrine near Beecher Lake, where protecting deity Benzaiten is now safely enshrined.

### Benzaiten Shrine Installation and Dedication

On September 11th, a special chanting ceremony was conducted to commemorate the installment of the protecting deity Benzaiten (carved by Mrs. Myoyo Tanaka) into her new permanent home near Sangha Meadow, overlooking Beecher Lake. A beautiful protective enclosure was made for the shrine by Rev. Genro Lee Milton, and two stone pillars donated by Mr. Shuho Bon Yagi were installed to mark the entryway to the shrine site.

We would like to express our deep appreciation to Genro for painstakingly constructing and installing the shrine enclosure, and also to Peter Lombardi for installing the stone pillars in front of the shrine. Both Genro and Peter also did extensive landscaping work to prepare and beautify the grounds at the shrine site.

