

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

Rev. Yuji Ito, Rev. Ikki Nambara, Kyoko Tamaki, the Ladies Auxiliary, and Board of Directors of Sokoji Temple for their generosity and support of today's celebration;

Al Farrow and Shinji Eshima for the concept, design, and donation of the Peace Bell; to Paul Discoe and Joinery Structures (joinerystructures.com) for the reclaimed Monterey Cypress wood on which the bell now stands; and to craftsman John Lombardi for the creating and finishing the bell stand;

Annie Sommerville, Ashley Pier, and Greens Restaurant (greensrestaurant.com) for the extraordinary vegetarian fare prepared for our 50th anniversary events;

Jim Hollingsworth for creative design and collaboration; Kaz Tanahasi for his calligraphy; and Robert Quagliano for his stained glass art (Suzuki Roshi gassho with crooked fingers);

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Hannah Addario-Berry and Locaphonic (locaphonic.org) for live musical offering

Photographer Susana Millman (mamarazi.com); Videographer Dianne Griffin (diannegriffin.com); and livestream team: Eddie Codal, Peter Snider, Tanya Takacs, and Daigan Gaither.

Dennis McNally for graciously attending to a plethora of behind-the-scenes details;

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And to the innumerable other staff and volunteers who helped make this day possible.

MAY ALL BEINGS BE JOYFUL AND LIVE IN SAFETY.



SAN FRANCISCO ZEN CENTER



San Francisco Zen Center
50th Anniversary Commemoration
August 13, 2012



In 1962, just three years after Shunryu Suzuki arrived in America, a core group of sincere students had formed around this compelling Zen teacher, and with his encouragement they decided to formally organize and call their group “Zen Center.” On August 13th of that year, the documents formally constituting this new non-profit organization were officially approved by the State of California. Today, we recognize the 50th anniversary of what is now called San Francisco Zen Center with a series of ceremonies beginning at Sokoji temple. The times listed are approximate:



- 10:00 am Assemble at Sokoji, corner of Sutter & Laguna
- 10:30 am SOKOJI TEMPLE CEREMONY (*Honoring the Sangha of Origin*)
Sojun Mel Weitsman, Doshi, former Abbot; statements by Zenkei Blanche Hartman, former Abbess; Grahame Petchey, first President; Yatsuhiko Okiyama, Sokoji Board President; Tanako Hagiwara, Sokoji Board Secretary; Ji Kai Myo-On Yvonne Rand, early SFZC Officer; Jordan Thorn, SFZC Treasurer
- 10:45 am PROCESSION from Sutter to Page (*Honoring Movement of New Sangha*)
- 11:30 am BUDDHA HALL CEREMONY (*Honoring the Founder*)
Kikū Christina Lehnherr, Doshi, Abbess of City Center; statements by Eijun Linda Ruth Cutts, Abbess, Green Dragon Temple at Green Gulch Farm; Robert Thomas, SFZC President; Zentatsu Richard Baker, former Abbot; Susan O’Connell, SFZC Vice President; Myōgen Steve Stücky, Central Abbot, SFZC
- 12 noon PEACE BELL CEREMONY (*Honoring the Vow of Compassion*)
Courtyard Inauguration of the bell by Kikū Christina Lehnherr, Doshi, Abbess. Statements by Tova Green, City Center Director; Shinji Eshima, composer; and Al Farrow, artist and bell creator

(Short Break, Priests change from Okesas to Rakusus)
- 12:15 pm COMMEMORATIVE WORDS (*Honoring Values & History*)
Myōgen Steve Stücky, Central Abbot SFZC
Peter Coyote, actor, supporter, and Zen Priest
Mary Morgan, SFZC Board Chair
Joaquin Torres, SF Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services
Christina Olague, District Supervisor
Rebecca Solnit, author
Willard “Mike” Dixon, artist, Circle Story
Fu Schroeder reads poem by Norman Fischer
David Chadwick, author and historian
- 12:45 pm Reception, informal lunch