

Rochester Zen Center Guest Speaker Series 2013

Lectures are on Sundays in the dining room after brunch
All are welcome to any or all of these 40 minute talks

Sunday, January 20th: *Original and Acquired Enlightenment*

The notion of acquired enlightenment is found in the earliest teachings of Buddhism. The concept of original enlightenment, however, is a later development. The Zen of Dōgen suggests a gradual path to awakening to one's true nature and a rejection of original awakening. On closer inspection, however, such distinctions fall away, according to Dōgen: "Though not identical, they are not different; though not different, they are not one; though not one, they are not many." One of the great insights of Zen is that original awakening is inseparable from the process of acquired awakening.

Sunday, February 10th: *What is the Nature of Buddha Nature?*

The concept of buddha-nature has been present since the teaching of Śākyamuni Buddha, yet it is among the most elusive and sublime ideas. What exactly is buddha-nature? After briefly tracing the development of the concept of buddha-nature in the philosophy of Zen, I will then discuss Dōgen's radical extension of buddha-nature to include both sentient and non-sentient beings.

Sunday, March 10th: *Emptiness and Mind*

Zen emphasizes the paradoxical attainment of no attainment—the realization of emptiness. This is possible from the standpoint of the non-thinking mind, or no-mind. But this begs the question, what is meant by "mind"? After briefly considering the development of this important concept from early Buddhist teachings through those of Zen masters such as Bodhidharma, Huang Po, Hui-neng, and Dōgen, the relation between mind and emptiness, as well between mind and phenomena, will be addressed.

About Our Speaker: Rev. Kigaku Shūdō Brian Schroeder holds a Ph.D. in



Philosophy from Stony Brook University. Shūdō is Professor of Philosophy at Rochester Institute of Technology and a priest in the Sōtō Zen lineage. He is the coeditor of a book on the relation between Buddhist, Zen, and Western philosophies titled *Japanese and Continental Philosophy: Conversations with the Kyoto School* (Indiana University Press, 2011). Shūdō is currently completing an authored book on emptiness and the absolute and coediting a work titled *Engaging Dōgen's Zen: Reflections on Practice and Philosophy*.