Hello Phoenix Heart community --
Our Gathering of Sanghas *sesshin* in May reinforced the connections among Kobun-inspired sanghas, reminding us that they are very warm and deep. We are so grateful to Jikoji, its teachers and its sangha members for hosting this opportunity to practice together and share perspectives. Heartfelt *gasshos* to guiding teacher Nenzen, temple *Ino* Taishin, and special thanks to the incredible *Tenzo* team of Vikki and Jaap. They truly made this event possible.

Read on for information about our upcoming online Kobun commemoration, this year's annual in-person gathering at Hokoji, a remarkable achievement by one of our sangha members, our Kobun "informal teachings" initiative, this year's annual gathering at Hokoji, and of course our ongoing activities.

Gathering of the Sanghas at Jikoji

A short debrief on the event:

About 30 people participated, more than half of whom immersed themselves in the *sesshin* for the entire week, and most of the rest staying for multiple days. Several participants rediscovered their love for Jikoji and the extended *sangha* of Kobun followers, after many years away. Vikki and Jaap prepared amazingly delicious vegan dishes for every meal.

Ian offered dharma talks emphasizing the essential formlessness at the core of Zen and related mind streams that have arisen throughout the long history of Buddhism. Jikoji has made available audio recordings of Ian's talks on their website. The sesshin schedule also included daily tea talks, which Ian reminded us arose from Kobun's idea that afternoon tea could be an opportunity for something he called "group *dokusan*". Ian recommended that we take advantage of the loving safety of *sangha* to allow ourselves to be vulnerable in discussing the nature of practice and our experiences with it. At the May *sesshin* these discussions brought forth deep questioning, sharing of perspectives, and breathtaking personal revelations.

Participants threw themselves into the mundane tasks that make group practice possible without ado and with heart-melting generosity. Deepest thanks to everyone who attended! You all contributed to making *sangha* practice truly a "returning home."

Online Kobun Commemoration

Saturday July 25th, 10am Pacific, 11am Mountain
Zoom link

Join us online to remember Kobun, his way, and (in particular) his "informal teachings." This event will kick off Phoenix Heart's effort to gather first- and second-hand stories about incidents and exchanges (verbal and non-verbal) with Kobun that the teller finds revealing about Kobun's wisdom. After a brief ceremony (to be led by Andy or Jeffrey), we will share these stories and discuss what they seem to reveal. Phoenix Heart is embarking on a project to collect these stories, with the permission of the story-tellers, and weave them together into a wisdom transmission that will complement the recorded and transcribed recordings of Kobun's more formal dharma talks, as well as the Kobun lineage transmissions to teachers.

Please join us on the 25th, whether you have your own story or not. It takes a *sangha* to penetrate a profound teaching.

Zach Feltey's Doctoral Dissertation

Zach has completed his long-awaited dissertation!
Remembering Ecological Wholeness
On the Way to a Nondual World/View

It's a deep exploration of eco-Buddhism, its ancient roots, and its expressions in Zen and Dzogchen traditions. To obtain a PDF copy, email Phoenix Heart at phoenixheart.sangha@gmail.com. If Zach approves, we will also make it available on the Resources page of the Phoenix Heart website.

Phoenix Heart Annual Gathering/ Sesshin

September 15 - 21
Arroyo Seco, New Mexico

Save the date! Hokoji temple will be hosting the 2026 Phoenix Heart gathering. Find preliminary information here on Hokoji's website. Look there for a registration page as the date approaches. Email phoenixheart.sangha@gmail.com if you're interested in sharing transportation to the event. This will be a chance to re-connect with our beloved Hokoji cohorts and fellow travelers on Kobun's Way.

Ongoing Activities

Kobun's Way of Formless Practice: A Conduit to Ancient Teachings

A discussion group led by Ian Forsberg, it meets by Zoom on a biweekly basis at **5:30pm (Pacific), 6:30pm (Mountain)**. Upcoming meeting dates include **June 29th, and July 6th and 20th** (see calendar on the Phoenix Heart website for additional dates). This group has accrued a substantial collection of reading materials (online copies available on request), including Dzogchen excerpts and entire tantras, Mahayana sutras, and contemporary writings. Audio recordings of most of the group's past discussions are also available on request. If you wish to receive calendar invitations and advance email reminders with discussion materials, send an email to phoenixheart.sangha@gmail.com. But anyone may join the discussion with or without an invitation by following the group's Zoom link. Find the link above or on the Phoenix Heart homepage (scroll to the bottom), or open the event on the website calendar. It's also available in the Ongoing Activities section below.

Biweekly online zazen

Prior to each Formless Way discussion, Patzy Walden will lead a period of silent zazen. Join by following the same Zoom link as that used for the Formless Way group. Patzy will ring the bell to start at 5pm and she will ring the ending bell at 5:25pm. Feel welcome to stay for the discussion.

Embracing Mind Book Study Group

Tuesdays, 6 - 7:30pm Pacific, 7 - 8:30pm Mountain
A weekly online discussion group led by Andy Acker (Zoom link), the group is currently focusing on texts attributed to Bodhidharma, with regular asides to discuss parallel ideas in other Zen and Dzogchen works. Each meeting begins with 20 minutes of silent meditation.

Wednesday Evening Meditation with Myokoji

Wednesdays, 6:30 - 7:45pm, 7:30 - 8:45pm Mountain
Gather online with the Myokoji Temple sangha for 30 - 40 minutes of zazen, followed by an informal discussion led by Jeffrey Compton. On the last Wednesday of each month the class includes a session of *metta* (loving-kindness) practice.

Invigorate Phoenix Heart

The Phoenix Heart Board would welcome new Board members. If you embrace the organization's purpose and aspirational values, we hope you put yourself forward as a Board candidate. Likewise, if there is someone you think could be a good addition, please nominate them. Take either action by sending an email with contact info for the nominee to phoenixheart.sangha@gmail.com. Or, simply attend a Board meeting and make your nomination in person.

Board membership is an ongoing opportunity for camaraderie and creativity in carrying Kobun's legacy into the future. Let's work together!

Donate to Phoenix Heart

As noted in previous newsletters, in 2024 Phoenix Heart registered with the State of New Mexico as a nonprofit corporation and registered with the Internal Revenue Service. In April 2025 the Board adopted bylaws, enabling it to establish a corporate bank account and begin accepting tax-deductible donations. We are currently raising funds to cover basic organizational expenses and costs for upcoming activities such as the August gathering. The easiest way to donate is the new donation page on the Phoenix Heart website. Use the comment box to earmark your donation for a specific purpose, make recommendations, or send a brief communication to the Board. *THANK YOU* in advance for your financial support of our community project to let Kobun Chino's formless wisdom continue to radiate forth!

Ongoing Invitation

As with most of us in our individual practice, Phoenix Heart is seeking to realize its true nature. We started as a very loose association of friends and temples who shared respect for Kobun's approach to Zen, as well as a sense that it was difficult to find a spiritual home truly open to such a formless way. When Ian Forsberg created the virtual and temporal space for us to gather, we discovered the will to exist as a community. We have created opportunities to study and practice together, and share a growing sense of dharma in the mutuality of these efforts. Now we feel an urge to articulate this sense.

Therefore, the Practice Committee is inviting participants in Phoenix Heart activities, and anyone intrigued by Kobun's way, to give expression to what Phoenix Heart is or should be. Please contribute a word, a line, an essay, a poem or a song. Anything that might help us articulate what it is that we hope to do.

Organizational Activities (Zoom links are below, or at phoenixheartsangha.com [bottom of home page as well as on the calendar] — contact Phoenix Heart for more details)

- Monthly Practice Committee Meetings (Phoenix Heart Activity)
  Next meeting: Saturday July 18th, 9am - 10:15am Pacific (10am Mountain)
  The Practice committee provides guidance to the Board on existential issues, priorities, and opportunities and formats for group practice. People with an interest in practice forms or opportunities are welcome.
- Monthly Board of Directors Meetings (Phoenix Heart Activity)
  Usually the Monday following a meeting of the Practice Committee.
  Next meeting: Monday July 27th, 5:30pm - 6:30pm Pacific (6:30pm Mountain). Agendas may be downloaded from the relevant calendar entry on the Phoenix Heart website. People with an interest in helping to plan and implement Phoenix Heart activities and policies are encouraged to attend.

Email phoenixheart.sangha@gmail.com to comment on or unsubscribe from this newsletter.