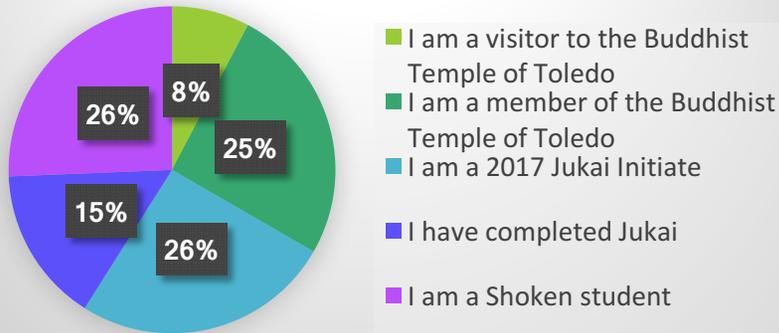


2017 Spring Ango Feedback - Survey Results

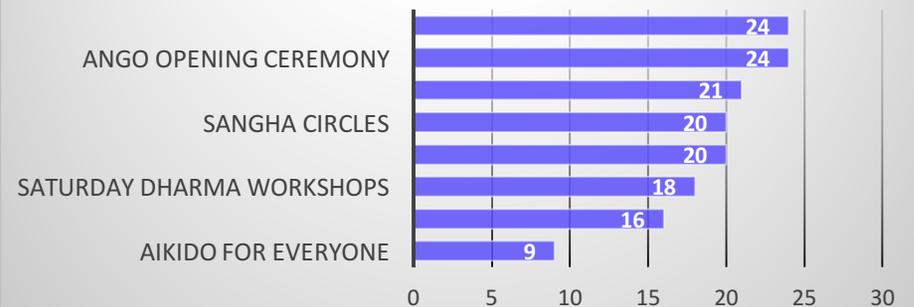
compiled 6.7.17

Spring Ango 2017, the Buddhist Temple of Toledo hosted a variety of activities to enrich our dharma practice and sangha connections. To determine which had the largest impact, a ten-question survey was distributed over Survey Monkey for twelve days, with 39 responses. The following pages provide a general summary of the results and selected open-response answers. Thank you all for your engaged practice this Ango. ㄥ

Which one of the following best describes you?



Did you participate in any of the following Ango activities? (select all that apply)



Of the Ango activities in which you participated, which made you feel most connected to the Buddhist Temple of Toledo community? (select one)



Of the Ango activities in which you participated, which did you feel contributed most to deepening your Zen practice? (select one)



Please share more about how these activities made you feel connected/deepened your Zen practice.

Sesshin.

- "Felt most connected during sesshin with a balance of zazen, liturgy, and shared care-taking practice."
- "Though there was no talking allowed at sesshin, I felt very connected to the other participants and the teachers due to the liturgy chants, zazen and dokusan."
- "Teisho at sesshin is always the deepest pool for me."
- " May sesshin was on fire! both the most intense sesshin I've ever been to and the warmest, most welcoming, kindest sesshin"

Teaching Retreats.

- "The teaching retreat was a fantastic way to get to know people with some structure (triad conversations) as well as unstructured time in the form of community lunches. I felt so lucky to spend so much time absorbing information in a concentrated way, surrounded by sangha."
- "Deeper understanding of Dogen's whole works. Very thought-provoking and helpful!"

Sangha Circles.

- "I really think the Sangha Circles were great --on Wednesdays and Sundays there are so many people, it's difficult to really connect deeply, but at the circles it's much easier."
- "I thought Sangha circles were a lot of fun and it would be neat if they continued beyond Ango."

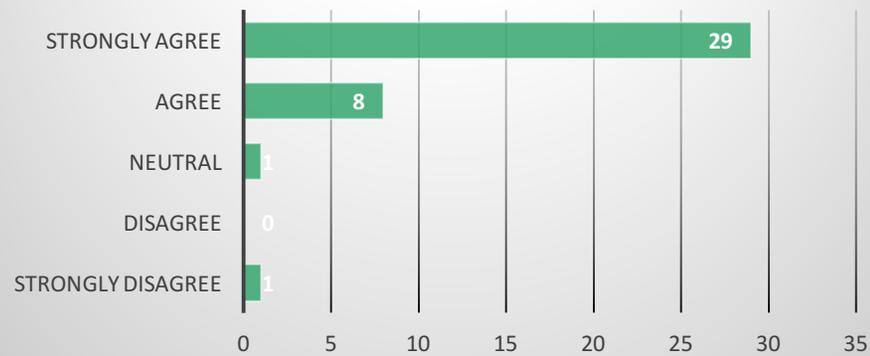
Ango Closing Ceremony.

- "I really love how Dharma combat really opens windows to the minds of those involved for everyone to see."
- "Everything taught me a lot about myself and about Zen Buddhism. The Dharma combat in particular seem too kind of cement all that knowledge."
- "Seeing almost everyone in the room voluntarily get in line and engage with Sensei, and that we are all working on this same life koan, and the rigor and meticulous kindness of each interaction... I became conscious that we aren't just a community of people who like each other and have parties together, we are also a sangha who support each other in our spiritual practice and turn each other's practice all the time. I don't think we could be one without being the other but I usually don't see the second aspect so clearly."
- "The Dharma combat was also significant for me, and my direct participation in this was an important part of my connection to it. I was terrified, but felt that Rinsen saw me as a part of the Sangha so I was able to too _^_."

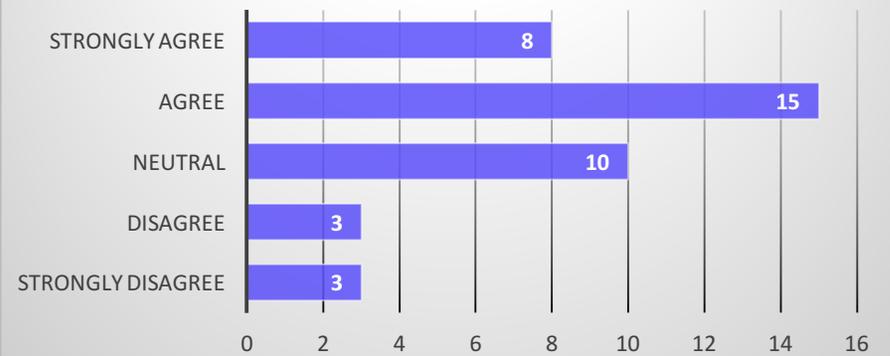
Misc.

- "I really enjoyed the Activism workshops being offered."
- "I am still relatively new to practicing Buddhism, so the instruction taught me a lot. It was also nice having that time to talk to other members."
- "The Ango Opening Ceremony: Provided a good place/time to begin the 90 days of 'stepping up' my practice. It was inspiring. The red thread is huge reminder. Signing the scroll - very helpful."
- "Saturday Dharma Teaching Workshops: The content of the teaching has helped with just about every aspect of life in general. Many misconceptions were cleared up at these talks. (Thank you!)"
- "The ceremonies always teach me a lot, and they too give me a lot in my practice. But the practice of moving and feeling my zazen away from the cushion is like nothing I can be told. I'm thrilled aikido found me!"

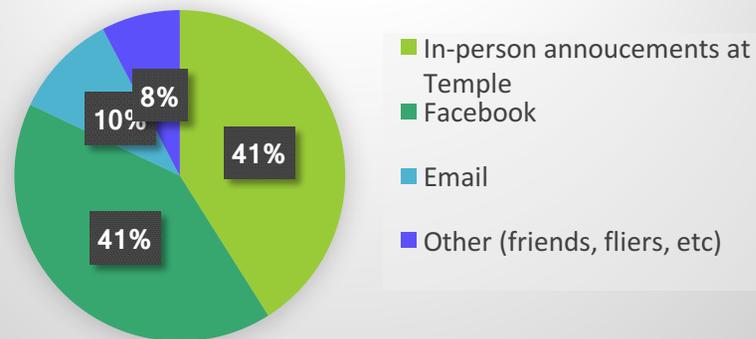
Tell us your feeling on this statement: "I was aware of the different activities offered during Ango."



Tell us your feeling on this statement: "The dates and times of Ango activities worked well with my schedule."



How did you primarily learn about Spring Ango 2017 events?



Were there any Ango activities you felt could have been better? If so, what was disappointing about the activity and how could we improve it next time?

Sangha Circles.

- “I felt the Sangha circle I took part in had twice as many people as there should have been.”
- “Our circle was wonderful, but the text felt impenetrable, and it didn't really feel like talking about it with each other was helping much.”
- “We need more/new people to host circles.”
- “Maybe there could be meditation time between the conversations (along with sitting zazen at least at start and end). It always seems a little rushed and forced when practitioners aren't sure what to say about the topic. I understand it is a part of the practice to have it timed. I just wonder if having freer experience physically may help free up some things mentally.”

Teaching retreats.

- “I couldn't tell from the topic and description of the March Teaching Retreat what it was going to be about and did not make time for it. Earlier announcement of topics for teaching workshops and retreat topics would have made it easier to decide which to attend and schedule for it.”

(cont.) Were there any Ango activities you felt could have been better? If so, what was disappointing about the activity and how could we improve it next time?

Teaching retreats.

- “The name of the Mahayana Mind Trainings retreat was confusing because I think Dr. Seuss was only mentioned one day? He was sort of over-billed.”

On general scheduling.

- “I wish there was a full schedule of all of the events posted in one list. I know those are on the master calendar, but having a specialized listing of them would also help keep everything straight.”
- “Due to my erratic and unpredictable work schedule I was not able to attend as many as I would like to have.”
- “I was unable to attend most events this year so far.”

Misc .

- “You're already aware of this, but the beer is warm and the tub is cold. I know that's by design, though. The warm beer is a complete expression of the beer itself, and the cool tub is also a complete manifestation of the tub itself. When you soak in the tub, you make it a tub, but is it a tub when you're soaking in it?”

**Were there any Ango activities that you felt went especially well?
Let us know what worked!**

Sangha Circles.

- “Close to my home which allowed me to practice with others.”
- “ Love Sangha Circles!”

Sangha Arts Night.

- “The arts night event went especially well.”
- “I found arts night not only entertaining but highly informative with sections such as the game show.
- “Loved the arts night.”
- “Love the Arts Night - this should happen more often!!”

Sesshin.

- “Even though I was not at the long retreat in May in person, it somehow felt like I was right there with you and I had no doubt that it was a powerful and special experience.”
- “These past few sesshin have felt especially smooth, and we've really been hitting our stride in terms of organization.
- “May sesshin.”

(cont) Were there any Ango activities that you felt went especially well? Let us know what worked!

General Comments.

- “I loved the teaching retreat, saturday teachings, and Sangha Circles. I felt like these activities helped me connect with the community as well as the fundamentals of Buddhism.”
- “May Sesshin! Ango Closing Dharma Combat! Sangha Arts Night!”
- “Deep bows for all the time and effort that went into organizing such a strong season. _^_”
- “All the activities were terrific.”
- “These were my first sangha circles, and they were wonderful. And Arts Night was just so much fun. It was magical to see everyone in contexts that, in some cases, I had no idea existed. The Dharma Combat was the most non-threatening, enjoyable "combat" ever. I particularly loved that it wasn't *just* postulants, or shoken students, or jukai graduates. I'm just a member and I felt as worthy as anyone else to go up there and lay it all out”