

**Ryumonji Zen Monastery
2452 Ryumon Road
Dorchester, IA 52101**

December 8, 2004

Dear friends of Ryumonji,

We want to share with you the enclosed picture of the new Buddha Hall. It was formally dedicated in June, and is the first of four buildings planned for this monastery.

There were many donors, volunteers and local artisans who worked together to make this possible. The dedication was a celebration of this effort.

There is also enclosed on the back side of the photo a site plan and layouts for the next building. It will be a residential building with commercial kitchen and guest dormitory space. The traditional term for this building is "Kuin". It will be integral to the functioning of the monastery.

We ask your help to begin this building. The Buddha Hall is paid for, and there is some money set aside. But, we need your help to begin. If you are in a position to make a contribution, your assistance is greatly appreciated.

We are also entertaining the possibility of low- or no-interest loans. If this is something you can do to facilitate the construction of this building, it will be most helpful. Right now people are sleeping on the floor, and we are carrying food from a nearby farm house for larger events. The Kuin building will greatly facilitate the practice at Ryumonji.

If possible, we would like to begin construction next summer...at least to pour the foundation and get it enclosed.

The 2005 schedule is posted on our web site at www.ryumonji.org and listed on the reverse side of this page. There are monthly sesshins (meditation retreats). The general public is welcome to come on Sunday mornings during sesshins at 9:00 a.m. for sitting, lecture and sitting. There is also a public sitting at 7:30 p.m. every Thursday evening at Ryumonji, and 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday evenings at 510 Baker Av. in Decorah.

Thank you for your help and support. Please come and visit.

In gassho,

Shoken Winecoff

Jikan Kondrick



Ryumonji Dedication 6/27/2004