

September 2010

A report of our first month-long training in August at our River House in Gold Beach, Oregon:

For the first time in our Living Tao seminars, we began to focus on concentrated studies of the most essentials from our Living Tao/Lan Ting curriculum. Half of our participants were committed to be with us the entire month, including five Evergreen College students from Olympia, Washington, as models for this experiment.

I wished to know how realistically they could truly absorb this body of work, able to demonstrate a certain degree of competence and solid understanding at the end. We were delighted with the outcome, proving that it was possible to impart such competence and expertise to those who truly wished to learn.

We were also able to arrange for two of the students to gain their university's summer school credits. In addition, the American Tai Ji and Qi Gong Association, based on their acknowledgment of the substantial content of our summer studies, has consented to offer Tai Ji practitioner certification to those who wish to receive credit for their current work and future studies with us.

There were many bonus gifts during the four weeks in Oregon —

Personally, Suzanne and I enjoyed having our two daughters, one son-in-law, grandson and granddaughter join us for three weeks of family reunion.

For River House participants, we were first visited by a young film maker and martial artist, **Drew Scott Pearlman** from Los Angeles, who was making a documentary film called "The Great Lesson" featuring many speakers "who provide important voices in applying wisdom from the East in business, sports, self-healing, science, psychology and beyond." Drew brought his film crew and spent the day with us, and provided some archival footage for our future reference.

Our cellist friend **Michael Fitzpatrick** visited us during the second week, playing beautiful music while we danced Tai Ji at the River House. He also gave a concert at the Lutheran Church, playing an inspiring program including two J. S. Bach's Cello Suites I and VI. At

the Gold Beach library, he showed his updated version of "Compassion Rising", the documentary film of the meeting between HH Dalai Lama and Thomas Merton.

Solala Towler, the editor of "The Empty Vessel" magazine came during the third week, sharing his Wudan Mountain Qi Gong practice with us, and signing his new book, "Cha Dao: The Way of Tea" at the Gold Beach Bookstore. He also brought copies of the most recent issue of "The Empty Vessel" which features the second installment of the memoir of my Family Stories. (These stories are posted to our website under PRESS ROOM. More installments will follow in the next issues.)

Robert Walter, president of Joseph Campbell Foundation, also a Living Tao board member, joined us during the last week to share in the evaluation and celebration of this month's success. We closed our four-weeks' learning, at the final morning session, with a turn for the five youngest members of the training team individually leading the group through all our structured studies -- from the Tai Ji Ritual, to Five Moving Forces, on to all four Tai Ji Circles.

I want to express my deep appreciation for the full-hearted support from so many, particularly those on hand to help in planning, organizing, coordinating and teaching with me: to Lisbeth Bagnold, J. Fields, Chris Campbell, Susan Robertson, Rex Mayers, Robby Gilman; our local board member John Harper and his gracious wife Marjolaine who hosted us at their beautiful house by the sea one afternoon; and many old and new Living Tao friends being there in person to support this new beginning with us.

Also, we appreciated very much Ruauri Meadows and her sister Deirdre who catered four delicious group lunches during the month; and all that creatively fine cooking from all the participants at our Pot Luck meals, especially the evening at the Mandala Center of Bozena and David Palmquist.

Mark your calendars now: next year, the seminar will take place one week earlier from **July 26th to August 20th, 2011**.

Chungliang

[This report is an extract from Chungliang's Letter to Members, September 12, 2010. The full letter can be found in **News from Chungliang** located in the Members Circle.]