

ABOUT FALL PRACTICE TERM 2010

Our practice term developed out of the traditional monastic practice periods that are maintained in Zen Monasteries. Traditionally a monastery holds two 90-day periods a year when the monks don't leave the monastery, except for their alms rounds. They use that time, the container of the community and the teachings of the abbot to investigate Dharma wholeheartedly. The Anjo tradition has been adapted by many community temples as a way of providing an opportunity for lay students to direct their study of Dharma. Although our Practice Term is much less rigorous than in a monastic setting, it serves the same purpose of bringing together the resources of the community over a specific period of time to help focus practice and investigation. We may not be living a monastic life, but our lives are rigorous and very busy. We may never make the time, even though we intend to, to find out about the questions at the very bottom of our heart. Practice Terms help us take the time and give us the resources to pay attention.

Term Student: The larger goal of the Term Student program is to help construct a platform of practice from which students can investigate Buddha Dharma in their lives. The basic building blocks of that platform are: daily zazen, engagement with the teacher, and Dharma study. The requirements of the Term Student program are designed to support students in establishing those activities in their life and give them the teacher-student relationship and fellow student relationships that help make the practice come alive. To these ends, the Term Student program includes requirements for daily zazen, meetings with the teacher, Dharma study and three Term Student meetings all scheduled on Thursday night. Please read over the Term Student application on the website if you are interested in participating.

Term Trainee: Within the group of Term Students there are a few who may wish to take on a higher level of commitment to training. These students will be called Term Trainees. Trainees enter into a tighter container of practice in terms of commitment to zazen, frequency of involvement with the teacher, Dharma study, peer engagement and responsibility for the running of zendo program. The training program requires a high level of responsibility for work outside of scheduled meetings as well as a willingness to be put on the spot. Term Trainees meet every Thursday of the term. Please read over the Term Trainee application on the website (<http://www.eugenezendo.org/>) if you are interested in participating.

Important 2010-2011 Dates: Children's Program, Practice Terms, Festivals, Retreats

September 19:	Fall Practice Term Opening	January 9:	Spring Children's Program begins
September 19:	Children's Program Orientation	February 13:	Parinirvana Festival
September 24-26:	Sesshin (retreat)	February 13:	Spring Practice Term Opening
October 31:	Segaki Festival	February 18-20:	Sesshin (retreat)
November 5-7:	Sesshin (retreat)	March 24-27:	Sesshin (retreat)
December 5:	Buddha's Enlightenment	April 3:	Buddha's Birthday
December 5-12:	Rohatsu Sesshin (retreat)	May 11-15:	End of Term Sesshin (retreat)
December 12:	Fall Practice Term Closing	May 15:	Spring Practice Term Closing
December 12:	Last Day, Fall Children's Program	May 15:	Last Day, Fall Children's Program
January 1:	New Year's Celebration	June 12:	Opening of the Tan Celebration

Fall 2010 Practice Term

Schedule of Recurring Events:

DAILY

Monday-Fridays

5:10 - 5:50	Dawn Zazen
5:50	Robe Verse
5:50 - 6:00	Kinhin (Walking Zazen)
6:00 - 6:40	Zazen*
	<i>*Tues & Thurs: Sanzen available during 2nd sit.</i>
6:40 - 7:25	Morning Service
7:25 - 7:45	Temple Cleaning
7:45 - 8:15	Breakfast and Cleanup
8:30	Work Meeting
8:40-11	Work Period ("Samu")
11:30	Lunch

Monday and Wednesday:

4:30-6 pm	Sanzen
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WEEKLY

Sunday Morning

8:00 - 8:45	Newcomer Orientation
9:00 - 9:20	Service
9:20-10:00	Zazen
10:10-11	Dharma Talk or Discussion
11:00-	Tea and social time

Tuesday Evening

7:00 - 7:20	Service
7:20 - 8:00	Zazen
8:00 - 9:10	Classes & Workshops
9:20 - 9:30	Closing and Announcements

Thursday Evening***

	<i>***for Term Students & Trainees only</i>
7:00 -7:40	Zazen
7:40 - 9:00	Training Activities

MONTHLY

Fusatsu (Atonement Ceremony) will be held from 7:00 p.m. on the day of the Full Moon. Please check monthly calendar as the day is shifted slightly on some months. If Fusatsu falls on a Tuesday or Thursday it will be performed instead of the regular program.

The Children's Program will run on alternating Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.. Orientation for the Children's Program is Sept. 19 at noon.

Fall Term Important Dates and Events:

September:

September 19	(Sun)	Fall Practice Term Opening
September 22	(Tues)	Fall Term Tuesday Evening Class begins (Fall Term study topic: the six Paramitas (i.e. "Perfections"))
September 30	(Thurs)	Joint Meeting for Term Students and Trainees
September 24-26	(Fri-Sun)	Sesshin (Fri 5:10 a.m. – Sun 11:30 a.m.)

October:

October 7	(Thurs)	First Term Trainee Meeting
October 28	(Thurs)	Joint Meeting for Term Students and Trainees
October 31	(Sun)	Segaki

November:

November 5-7	(Fri-Sun)	Sesshin (Fri 5:10 a.m. – Sun 11:30 a.m.)
November 30	(Tues)	Final Tuesday Evening Class of Term

December:

December 2	(Thurs)	Joint Meeting for Term Students and Trainees
December 5	(Sun)	Buddha's Enlightenment
December 5-12	(Sun-Sun)	Rohatsu Sesshin at the Eugene Zendo
December 12	(Sun)	Fall Practice Term Closing

*All dharma activities at the Eugene Zendo are held free of charge -- including events like workshops and retreats (which can cost hundreds of dollars at other centers). Participants are instead invited into the practice of **dana**, generosity. The Zendo relies on dana to cover all expenses, from incense and candles, to food and maintenance, to mortgage and utilities. Students are especially invited to offer dana directly to our resident teacher, Ejo McMullen, in gratitude for the classes, workshops and retreats that he leads. This material support directly sustains our teacher's practice.*