

EUGENE ZENDO

Butsugenji - Buddha Eye Temple

Community Bulletin

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December 2011

Announcements

Our Sunday **Children's Program** continues through December, with activities scheduled for the 4th and 18th. Children join everyone else for chanting and ten minutes of zazen, then participate in activities planned by our Children's program coordinators, Leslie Rutberg and Carmelita Thompson. Please contact us for additional information. Whoever is leading the activities for the day will also be available before the Sunday program starts to answer questions.

A **modified daily practice schedule** will be in effect from Monday, December 19 through mid-January. Afternoon samu and evening service will not necessarily occur at the normal times, sanzen will not be offered Tuesday and Thursday mornings or Monday and Wednesday afternoons, and there will be no Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday PM zazen. During this period, sanzen will be available by individual appointment.

We will be closed for the Christmas holiday, with daily activities suspended on Sunday, December 25, Monday, December 26, and Tuesday, December 27.

Please contact us via e-mail (butsugenji@eugenezendo.org) or sign up on the table in the front room if you would like to **receive the bulletin electronically** in PDF format rather than in printed form.

Please visit the **Zendo Facebook page** (Eugene Zendo – Butsugenji) where we are posting announcements about special events and other items of interest.

Fusatsu will occur Friday, December 9 this month. A 7:00 p.m. sitting, held in conjunction with the Rohatsu schedule, will be followed by the ceremony itself.

Dharma talks are available online at www.eugenezendo.org/mp3.

Membership Meeting Notes: Attendance was fairly sparse, with about 15 in attendance, for our Fall Membership Meeting. Much of the discussion revolved around our current financial situation. Income and expenses are, by and large, about in line with our budget for the year. Fundraising income, however, lags quite a bit short. As a result, we haven't gone forward with certain projects we'd earmarked for the year, including repairing the back porch overhang, inviting guest teachers, and providing additional support for Ejo. To meet these expenses, we will need to raise the remainder of the \$14,000 we'd projected as our need, and after Thanksgiving, we will conduct a direct donation drive with this aim in mind. Expect more information in the very near future. There was some discussion as to whether to make donation drives a regular part of our future fundraising efforts or to instead encourage increased regular donations. Generally, the membership spoke out in favor of using both approaches and also of taking steps to more clearly communicate our financial need to the community. A large amount of discussion also centered on residential program income, which isn't meeting the amount needed to make the program self-sufficient. Members generally agreed that, in line with our recent push to facilitate a culture of collective stewardship, responsibility, and leadership—centered around the temple's membership—that the community should do what it takes to keep the residential program, and other aspects of our three-year plan, going through periods of financial difficulty.

Rohatsu Sesshin: In the East Asian tradition, the eighth day of the twelfth month is observed as the day on which, after sitting immovably beneath the Bodhi Tree with the resolve to attain awakening, Shakyamuni Buddha realized the Way together with the great earth and all beings. Zen communities commemorate the Buddha's enlightenment at this time of year with a seven-day sesshin, considered the most rigorous and solemn of the year. Here, we will observe Rohatsu from Sunday December 4 at 7:00 P.M. through the end of the Sunday program on December 11. The daily schedule will consist of ten periods of zazen per day, formal oryoki-style meals, work practice, and chanting. Silence is observed throughout. One may attend all or any portions of the sesshin, and registration forms and schedules are available on the table in the front room and on our website. An orientation to sesshin practice is available on request—please speak with Sogaku in person, or contact us at the above phone number or e-mail address.

Term Closing and Shosan Ceremony: Sunday, December 11 marks the formal closing of the Fall Practice Term. As the culmination of their practice of the past three months, term students and trainees will each have the opportunity to come before the assembly and present a question to Ejo. These questions express the “edge” that practitioners have encountered in their lives

and practice during the Term and run the gamut from the enigmatic and “zenny” to the abstract and philosophical to the highly concrete. In the Zen tradition particularly, bringing questions to a teacher is a core aspect of spiritual practice, and these interactions tend to be brief but very lively and often moving.

Zendo Holiday Craft Sale: As the Christmas holiday approaches and you're looking for just the right gift for that special someone, be sure to stop by the Zendo on Saturday, December 17th and Sunday, December 18th from 1:00 p.m. through 5:00 p.m. for our first ever Holiday Craft Sale! In addition to the items already available in our store—handmade malas, monks' bags, handbags, book protectors, Eugene Zendo tee-shirts, zafus, Buddhist-themed DVDs, incense, and more—a few industrious sangha members will be preparing a variety of handknit items, handmade cards, sutra books, and baked goodies for sale. All items are quite affordably priced, and all proceeds will go into the general Zendo fund. If you would like to produce items for the sale or have any questions, please contact Anyu in person or via e-mail (debraanyu@gmail.com). Sign-up sheets will be available shortly on the front room bulletin board for making baked goods and staffing the sale.



Looking Ahead

January 1

New Year's Celebration

Eugene Zendo

December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 Sunday Schedule Children's Program 8 a.m. Intro to Zendo 9:00 Service/Zazen 10:20. Dharmā 7 p.m. Rohatsu Sesshin Begins	5	6	7	8 1 Weekday Schedule 6 a.m. Sanzen 7 p.m. Term Student Meeting	9 2 Weekday Schedule 7:00 P.M. Fusatsu	10 3
11 Sunday Schedule 8 a.m. Intro to Zendo 9:00 Service/Zazen 10:20 Term Closing, Shosan Ceremony, and End of Sesshin	12 Weekday Schedule 4:30-6 p.m. Zazen with Sanzen	13 Weekday Schedule 6 a.m. Sanzen 4:30 pm Board Mtg. 7 p.m. Double Sit	14 Weekday Schedule 4:30-6 p.m. Zazen with Sanzen	15 Weekday Schedule 6 a.m. Sanzen	16 Weekday Schedule	17
18 Sunday Schedule Children's Program 8 a.m. Intro to Zendo 9:00 Service/Zazen 10:20 Dharmā	19 Weekday Schedule (No PM zazen/sanzen)	20 Weekday Schedule (No AM sanzen)	21 Weekday Schedule (No PM zazen/sanzen)	22 Weekday Schedule (No AM sanzen)	23 Weekday Schedule	24
25 Christmas Holiday (Temple Closed)	26 Christmas Holiday (Temple Closed)	27 Christmas Holiday (Temple Closed)	28 Weekday Schedule (No PM zazen/ sanzen)	29 Weekday Schedule (No AM sanzen)	30 Weekday Schedule	31

Rohatsu Sesshin

Sanzen: Sanzen is an opportunity to meet privately with a teacher for the purpose of studying the Buddha Way. Sanzen is available on a regular basis Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Please come to the zendo between 4:30 and 6:00 p.m. and follow the posted instructions. Sanzen is also available during the second period of morning zazen (6:00 a.m.) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Sit at the seats marked "sanzen" next to the door and listen for Ejo's bell.

Weekday Schedule:

5:10 a.m. Zazen
5:50 a.m. Robe verse and kinhin
6:00 a.m. Zazen

6:40 a.m. Morning Service
7:25 a.m. Temple Cleaning
7:45 a.m. Oyoki Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Tea
9:00 a.m. Morning Work
11:30 a.m. Informal Lunch

1:30 p.m. Afternoon Work (except December 19-30)
4:00 p.m. Evening Service (except December 19-30)

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Buddhism
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