

From Newsletter to Bulletin You may have noticed that the newsletter looks a little different this month. To save on labor, paper, and printing costs, we are starting 2010 with a leaner newsletter format: just the calendar and basic announcements. Because we know some people might miss all the extra essays, stories, photos, poems, and so on, we are considering producing a supplement one or more times a year. Of course, that would depend on interest—both in reading it and in producing it. If you have ideas or would like to help, please talk to Myobun or email her at myoubun@gmail.com.

Announcements

Sunday Morning Tea Volunteers: we are still looking for people interested in helping with the essential activity of providing tea and snack for general enjoyment after Sunday service. For each Sunday we're looking for a few volunteers: one person to arrive a few minutes early to set up the tea and coffee table, one person to either purchase or cook a sharable snack, and one person to help clean up. If you are interested in helping out, please sign up! There is a sign-up sheet on the zendo bulletin board. If you have questions, please talk to Kogen.

Extended Morning Schedule: You are welcome to come participate in zazen, morning service, temple cleaning, breakfast, samu, and/or lunch on weekday mornings. If you'd like to join in, please arrive for one or both periods of zazen (beginning at 5:10 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.) morning chanting service (6:40 a.m.) or just show up for the work circle at 8:30. Work activities vary, but the focus is on maintaining the zendo. Lunch is at 11:00.

Fusatsu: Our monthly atonement ceremony is held on the night of the full moon. In January that will be Monday January 11th from 7 PM.

Dharma Talks Online:
<http://www.eugenezendo.org/mp3/>

New Year Celebration at the Eugene Zendo!

There will be a short ceremony—no zazen required—followed by yummy traditional Japanese New Year food and socializing. Please bring as many family members, children, and friends as you can wrangle. The zendo will provide the food, the beverages, and the place—just come as you are! Eugene Zendo—Butsugenji, 1:00 Friday afternoon, January 1st, 2010, Year of the Tiger.

New Year's Chanting at Home Altar

It is traditional in Japan for priests to visit community member's homes for special sutra readings at the family altar. The format is simple, but it is an important practice for both the priest and the members and their families. It isn't so much that the priest as a representative of the temple brings something to the home, but that the altar of the home is venerated and included in the life of the temple community. It is a way to enact the truth of no separation between the two.

If you would like to invite Ejo to chant sutras at your home, please sign up at the zendo. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board with information about available times and how to prepare for the visit. If you don't have an altar, Ejo can bring a temporary altar for his visit, and if you have an altar with a Buddha that has not been formally inaugurated, Ejo can also perform an eye-opening ceremony.

Spiritual Poetry During the weeks before the spring practice term begins, Tuesday nights after zazen will be dedicated to the reading, writing, and sharing of poetry. There will be an emphasis on Buddhist practice, but the meetings are open to all who have any kind of interest in poetry. The first class, led by Ejo, will be on traditional Death Poetry. Other topics may include English

contemplative poetry, Chinese Buddhist poetry, and Haiku. At the last meeting we will share poems we enjoy reading and present our own compositions. Writing is encouraged but not required. The first meeting will be Tuesday, January 5th, and the grand finale will be February 9th.

Spring Practice Term will begin on Sunday, February 14, 2010. The study topic for Spring term Tuesday night classes will be the lineage of the Buddhas and Ancestors. We will consider stories and koans of the ancestors and investigate the transmission of the dharma through 2,500 years of history. Texts for close study may include selections from *The Book of Serenity* and *The Transmission of the Light*.

Looking Ahead:

February 14	Opening of Spring Practice Term and Shakyamuni Buddha's Parinirvana Ceremony
February 19-21	Sesshin (Silent Meditation Retreat)
March 26-28	Sesshin (Silent Meditation Retreat)