

# EUGENE ZENDO

Butsugenji - Buddha Eye Temple

Community Bulletin

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## May 2010

### Announcements

#### **Sunday Tea and Cookie Volunteers**

**Needed:** Please sign up on the bulletin board if you would like to bring a snack, set up tea and coffee tables before service, or help clean up afterward. Snacks do not necessarily need to be homemade. Please see Kogen if you would like to learn how to set up the tables.

**Quinces Seek New Home:** In order to clear way for the new fence, we removed a number of quinces (a flowering shrub), several of which are still alive and awaiting transplant. If you'd like to add one or more to your yard, they are available for pickup.

**Extended Morning Schedule:** Everyone is invited to participate in all or part of the schedule. See the reverse side under the calendar for details.

**Fusatsu:** Our monthly atonement ceremony is held on the night of the full moon. In May, Fusatsu will be Thursday the 27th at 7:00 p.m..

#### **Dharma Talks Online:**

<http://www.eugenezendo.org/mp3/>

**May Sesshin** (silent zen retreat) will begin at 5:10 a.m. on Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> and continue through the morning program on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup>. Schedules and sign-up forms are available at the zendo and for download on the website. As always, early registration is much appreciated. If you would like to provide a snack or an evening meal of soup and bread, please speak with Kogen, our head cook.

**Term Closing and Shosan Ceremony:** On Sunday, May 16, we will conclude the Spring practice term with a special ceremony. Term students and trainees will each have the opportunity to stand before the assembly and pose a question to Ejo. Celebratory sweets will be served afterwards.

**Tuesday Night Koan Workshops:** Beginning on Tuesday, May 18 and continuing through June 22, a series of koan workshops, to be facilitated by Aido, will follow Tuesday evening zazen. Together, participants will do work with particular koans each week, investigating the question "What are koans good for anyway?" There is much one can say about koans: you can think of them as vials of ancient light, as taking you across any gap between yourself and your life, as a spiritual technology different from prayer or meditation, or as a tool which doesn't make you peaceful or happy directly but which undermines what you are holding

onto, knocking you off balance and pulling you through the door. In the end, though, koans defy definition. To know them is to put yourself in their way, let them into your body, your being, to sink down with them and take the ride they offer. Please join us and see what it is all about!

**Membership Meeting Notes:** Thank you to everyone who was able to make it to the membership meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup>. We began with an overview of our income and expenditures for the preceding year, followed by brief updates on the fencing project and gamelan fundraiser. After that, Ejo presented a three-year plan, detailing the concrete steps which the zendo will need to take to transform into a comprehensive community temple, "a place where awakening is realized for and with the whole community". Reception was quite enthusiastic, making it clear that we are ready to move forward as a sangha in making this vision a reality. The first step in the process will be the creation of a temple residence program later this year, for which fundraising efforts will begin shortly—expect a mailing within the next week or so which will contain further details. During the final portion of the meeting, the zendo Board posed three questions for discussion—1) How do you think that our temple will be transformed by this and what opportunities will it open up for you and for others, 2) What challenges do you see in this transformation?, and 3) What advice do you want to give to the Board or to Ejo? We welcome your input regarding these questions—you can contact Ejo ([ejo@eugenezendo.org](mailto:ejo@eugenezendo.org)), Thelma, the Board president ([robidoux@efn.org](mailto:robidoux@efn.org)), or Myobun, the Board communications director ([myobun@me.com](mailto:myobun@me.com)).

### **Looking Ahead**

June 13

Sixth Anniversary Celebration