EUGENE ZENDO

Butsugenji - Buddha Eye Temple

Community Bulletin

2190 Garfield St., Eugene OR 97405 (541)302-4576 butsugenji@eugenezendo.org

September 2010

Announcements

Update on Residential Program: Yes, we made it! We reached our financial goal and are moving forward with our plans. This month, three residents will be moving into 2190 Garfield: Sogaku Neal, Junmei Kashnig and Myoshin McLellan. We are also already fielding queries from potential visitors hoping to arrange shorter term residencies at our Temple.

First Sesshin of Fall Term: Friday, Sept. 24 marks the first retreat (Friday-Sunday a.m.) of Fall Practice Term. If interested, please register as soon as possible. Forms are available online (eugenezendo.org) or at the Temple.

Children's Program: Interested parents and kids should join us for our Fall Term orientation at noon on Sunday, September 19th. (Light lunchtime snacks will be provided.) Contact Yoan for more details.

Campus Zazen resumes 9/30: You don't need to be UO student, staff or faculty to join us on Thursdays at noon at the Koinonia Center (14th and Kincaid). Campus Zazen offers a simple midday chance for practice. Contact Myobun (myobun@me.com) for details.

Successful Quilt Raffle: One of our special Yard Sale bodhisattvas, Lorraine Boose, is the winner of our Quilt Raffle. The Raffle grossed $501 for the Butsugenji Temple Fund.

A Student Remembers Aitken Roshi

Junsei Shinkawa remembers bird song:

I came to Palolo Zen Center for the first time to hear the Founder's Day public talk. I misinterpreted the directions and waited in the area of the teacher's quarters, facing the hojo (interview room) instead of standing by the zendo - where I should have been. While waiting, a bird landed on the railing opposite the teacher's door and started to sing…. Robert Aitken would often write about the thrush: 'the beautiful song of the thrush singing to the overcast sky.' - I couldn't identify the bird but I can tell you that what echoed in that valley was the most beautiful bird song I had ever heard.

Suddenly someone came out of the door and the bird flew off. They hurriedly made in the direction of the hojo and strode away. The bird then returned to its perch for an encore. A few moments later a tall, robed, older man opened the door and stopped for a little conversation with the bird. Although he was just a couple feet away it did not fly off but seemed to regard what he was saying. They must be acquainted. - 'Is this Robert Aitken?' I thought. The older man turned down the walkway in my direction. 'Uh oh, look cool,' I directed myself. As he approached I started to bow. He stopped and bowed. Above my fingertips I looked up to catch a sneaking glimpse of his face to find that he was looking at me. We eyed each other for a second and I watched his back as he walked without haste toward the zendo. - Robert Aitken Roshi died on August 5th at the age of 93. May our sincere practice repay the compassionate blessings of this great master's life and teaching.

Zendo Yard Sale Success

Once again we did it! The piles of clothes, coffee makers, books and other interesting oddities donated to our annual yard sale turned into the unbelievable sum of $3500. Nine bows to everyone in and out of the Temple who helped make this event possible. Special thanks to Lazar Makyadeth for his very generous contribution of 50 pairs of new shoes and boots. Gratitude also to Lorraine Boose, Jimmy and June Anderson: all three join us every year, donating their hard work to help make the yard sale a success.

Practice Term Begins Sunday, September 19th:

In keeping with centuries of Buddhist tradition, each Fall and Spring, our Temple enters a focused, three-month practice period, with special training opportunities available for all levels of interest and engagement. This year, we will be continuing and refining our Term Student and Term Trainee programs (please see enclosed insert for more details). On Tuesdays evenings, Ejo will offer a foundations class using the "Paramitas" (the "Perfections" of the bodhisattva path) as a way to bring the buddha teachings into our life fully. Please join us for the Term Opening ceremony on 9/19.

Looking Ahead Please join us in **October** for a new Butsugenji tradition: the monthly Engaging Practice discussion. This group discussion will offer newcomers and longtime practitioners alike a chance to ask and raise questions -- investigating together the nitty gritty of the Buddha Way. See next month's Bulletin for more details.