



# Eugene Zendo

February 2003

Buddha Eye Dharma Association

Volume 3 Issue 2

## Eugene Zendo News

- **Weekend Sesshin**

There will be a two-day retreat beginning Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. It will run through Saturday and end around noon on Sunday. This retreat will focus on the forms we use in the zendo. Please bring clothes appropriate for work in the yard. For sign-up sheet and a complete schedule, please visit the zendo.

- **Precept Classes Begin February 13<sup>th</sup>**

We will be studying the Sixteen Bodhisattva Precepts during Spring Ango. We will use a variety of texts during the Thursday night classes. People who are considering Jukai are especially encouraged to participate.

- **Mondo**

We will start incorporating Mondo into our Tuesday night schedule this Spring Ango. Mondo, often translated as Dharma Combat, is a chance for Sangha members to step forward, present their understanding and be questioned. While Mondo is usually intimidating, it is an important way to hone understanding and create dialogue that deals directly with Dharma teachings. If you are interested in presenting a verse for Mondo please talk with Ejo.

## Tax Woes

We have had an unfortunate turn of events with regard to our property taxes for 2002. I filed for tax-exempt status in December with the expectation that we would have a large portion of our \$2,100 tax bill exempted because of our religious use. We received a letter from the Lane County Assessors' office mid January stating that we had been denied.

It is a bit complicated to explain why we were denied, but it boils down to a mistake I made in the paper work that I filed in December. To make matters worse, since I waited to the last minute to file the documents it looks unlikely that we will be able to have our status adjusted for the 2002 tax year. We are virtually guaranteed to have tax-exempt status approved for 2003, but we will still have to come up with the extra \$1,400 or so for this round of taxes. This is likely to zero out our current reserve fund, leaving us with very little financial flexibility.

This was truly a mistake brought about by carelessness and procrastination on my part.

My apologies to the Sangha,  
Ejo

# Begging Bowl

*May we, with all beings,  
realize the emptiness of the  
three wheels; giver, receiver and  
gift.*

**Phone/Answering  
Machine Combo**  
*contact Ejo*

**Tapestry Cloth**  
*contact: Ejo*

**Garden Plants**  
*contact: Thelma*

**Garden Tools**  
*weeders, forks,  
rakes and more*

- Gassho



## WHY I'M NOT A BUDDHIST...

or a Christian for that matter. If forced to describe myself...I would say I was a mystic.

“This mystic strives for a direct experience of the absolute without any intermediary, institutional or otherwise.” ... “The individual who sets out on the inner journey has intuited an underlying wholeness to himself and his work and seeks to apprehend it and to be properly assimilated into it. The mystic senses a transcendence that is above himself and at the same time of which he is a part, and he struggles to find the connection between that which transcends him and that which he is becoming. The experience of this transcendent reality becomes the goal of his life. In spite of the record of those who have gone before, the way is unmarked and no system serves as more than a point of embarkation.”

Raymond Bailey

I see the “Truth” of the many different faith traditions, yet also see the limits of the human made religions that have developed since their original inspiration. I will forever be indebted to my Buddhist roots, which allow for my discerning the difference between a “form” and the essence it points to. I to embrace different “forms”... yet I also know that these “forms” are but a faint shadow of the “Essence” they point to.

Blessings, may all beings in all realms be awakened,  
David Skinner

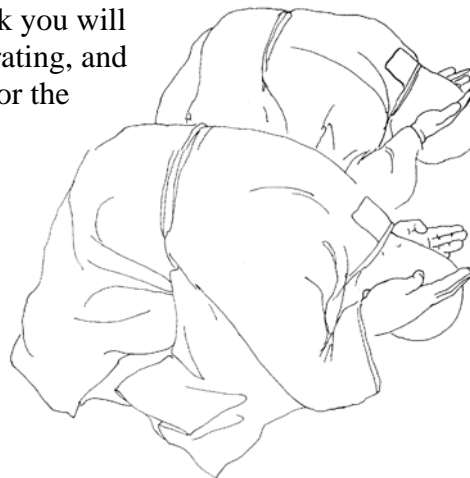
When Zen learns English...  
bowl is empty.

## Spring Ango

As we prepare to start this years Spring Ango, I hope that people have had a chance to consider how they will handle their practice over the next few months. Ango is an opportunity to take on some formal training and engage the Zen tradition more squarely. I think you will find that making practice commitments is liberating, and that learning to just do what you have set out for the period is the way to bring the mind of Zazen into your whole life. It is not that we need to bring a certain special kind of mind from our Zazen into our everyday existence. Following our commitments to practice without much deliberation and setting our attention on what is in front of us is what allows Dharma to flower in our lives. I look forward to these 100 days.

-Ejo

***To make an ordinary  
person great is not  
the goal of Buddha's  
teaching.***



- Sawaki Kodo

The gardening committee met mid January to discuss plans for our yard. It was decided that the trees would have priority as they have substantial impact on the landscape and take many years to achieve maturity (like some of the rest of us). Several different species have been chosen to emphasize seasonal changes and beauty. We would like to plant 3 Japanese Flowering Cherries in the front yard. The variety we would like to purchase is called 'Akebono' which is very disease resistant to molds and fungus, which can be a problem in the valley. They are a delicate shell pink, single petaled variety with a light almond scent and very beautiful in the spring. If possible it would also be wonderful to purchase a weeping cherry for the back yard, as this is a tree that Azusa loves.



In addition to the Cherries there will be a Japanese maple planted in the center of the front yard directly in front of the kitchen and living room windows. This tree has been donated and should provide some blazing autumn color.

The Cherries can be purchased locally and are in the range of \$40-50 each.

We discussed many other plans for the yard that will be elaborated on in future newsletters.



I shouldn't forget to mention Daphne. This plant is a great favorite of everyone (including Ejo) and we will want to get at least one planted along the walkway so all are greeted by this sweet intoxicating scent of earliest spring as they approach the Zendo.

There are always many financial needs in a small community such as ours and our property tax situation places special urgency in this area right now, but if you are interested in being a tree sponsor and contributing to the natural beauty of our Zendo please talk to Thelma in person or call 344-4222.

### DRZC Sangha Film Forum

DRZC has started a Sangha Film Forum, inspired by similar events at places like San Francisco Zen Center and Great Vow Monastery, exploring Dharmic themes in modern cinema. Only their film forum is at a bit slower pace - about one a month! In November, we had a viewing of "Kundun," the life of the present fourteenth Dalai Lama through his exile to India in 1959 during the Chinese occupation of Tibet, that was very well attended -- including by some of our friends from the Lewis & Clark College sitting group. The film was introduced with commentary by Faddah Wolf, and a lively discussion session followed. This will be the format for the Sangha Film Forum evening, and we're hoping it will not only spark interesting discussion, but also give us all another opportunity for us to enjoy a common interest - movies - together in a relaxed setting, and invite friends & family to join us in this more relaxed setting. Parents will be notified in advance how "child friendly" a film may be.

In February, the film will be "Enlightenment Guaranteed," a very funny look at two German brothers in mid-life crisis who plunge into guest training at a Zen training temple in Japan (one of the very temples visited by DRZC members in the 1999 Japan Trip!). The film should be fun for all -- we're saying thus far it's mostly child-friendly, with some mature language parents should be aware of. The viewing will be on Saturday, February 22nd, at 7:30 pm in the Zendo tea room. A \$1 - \$2 donation per person is asked to cover heat & electricity expenses. Introduction will be by Faddah Wolf with a discussion period after.

## **A Zendo at Burning Man?**

Faddah Steve Wolf, a Dharma Rain Zen Center sangha member, is a long-time attendee of the Burning Man Black Rock Arts Festival in the Black Rock Desert, Nevada (100 miles north of Reno, for more info on Burning Man, go to <http://www.burningman.com>). He is thinking of putting together a trip there again this year, where he hope to once again do the Playa Zendo meditation space. He wishes to know if there is any other interest in going there from others in the sangha to see if it's viable. Burning Man occurs the week before and through Labor Day, the first weekend of September, August 25 - September 1, 2003. If you are interested in joining this or helping out, please contact Faddah at [faddahwolf@earthlink.net](mailto:faddahwolf@earthlink.net), or call him at 503-449-0531.

### **About the Eugene Zendo**

**[www.eugenezendo.org](http://www.eugenezendo.org)**

The Eugene Zendo is a Soto Zen Practice community open to everyone. The Buddhist teachings of compassion and wisdom are fostered amidst Sangha so that we can express these naturally in our daily life. The temple is entirely supported by donations from its members. There is no fee for any event, although donations are gladly accepted. Activities center around zazen (silent meditation), which is the foundation of our practice. Gatherings may also include service, chanting, dharma talks and study & discussion. If you are new to Zen practice, you may want to attend our periodic introduction class or just drop by 1/2 hour early before our Tuesday evening gathering to receive an orientation or contact our resident priest for more information:

**Ejo McMullen 541- 302-4576 [ejo@eugenezendo.org](mailto:ejo@eugenezendo.org)**

**Zendo Address:** 2190 Garfield Eugene, OR 97405

**Newsletter Items: Seido Martin** [hortonorganics@earthlink.net](mailto:hortonorganics@earthlink.net) 925-3019 (contributions welcome!)

**Web guy & contact to receive this newsletter: Ross Morris** [rossm@efn.org](mailto:rossm@efn.org)

# February 2003

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<i>Note: *If Double Sit Evenings are difficult, you may come and join us for only the one</i>	<i>of the 40 minute periods. Please leave or enter during Kinhin.</i>	<i>You may also join the morning zazen anytime before 6:50 AM Service</i>				<b>1</b> <u>8:30 AM</u> Zazenkai at Eugene Aikikai
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <u>5:30 – 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast <u>7:00 – 9:00 PM</u> <b>Ango Opening</b>	<b>4</b> <u>5:30 – 7:50 AM</u> Regular Schedule <u>7:30 – 9:30 PM</u> Service, Zazen, Dharma Talk	<b>5</b> <u>5:30 – 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>6</b> <u>5:30 – 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>7</b> <u>5:30 – 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast <u>7:00 PM</u> <b>Sesshin Begins</b>	<b>8</b> <u>8:30 AM</u> Zazenkai at Eugene Aikikai  <---SESSHIN--->
<b>9</b> <u>12:00 Noon</u> <b>Sesshin Ends</b>	<b>10</b> <u>5:30 – 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>11*</b> <u>5:30 – 7:50 AM</u> Regular Schedule <u>7:30 – 9:30 PM</u> Service, Zazen – Double Sit	<b>12</b> <u>5:30 – 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>13</b> <u>5:30 – 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast <u>7:00 PM</u> Precepts Class #1	<b>14</b> <u>5:30 – 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>15</b> <u>8:30 AM</u> Zazenkai at Eugene Aikikai
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <u>5:30 – 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>18</b> <u>5:30 – 7:50 AM</u> Regular Schedule <u>7:30 – 9:30 PM</u> Service, Zazen, Sangha Q&A	<b>19</b> <u>5:30 – 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>20</b> <u>5:30 – 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast <u>7:00 PM</u> Precepts Class #2	<b>21</b> <u>5:30 – 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>22</b> <u>8:30 AM</u> Zazenkai at Eugene Aikikai
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <u>5:30 – 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>26*</b> <u>5:30 – 7:50 AM</u> Regular Schedule <u>7:30 – 9:30 PM</u> Service, Zazen – Double Sit	<b>27</b> <u>5:30 – 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>28</b> <u>5:30 – 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast <u>7:00 PM</u> Precepts Class #3		