



Eugene Zendo

March 2003 Buddha Eye Dharma Association Volume 3 Issue 3

EZ News

February's Opening Ango Retreat

At the largest Eugene retreat many of us could remember, eighteen attendees participated in the opening practice period sesshin last month. We began with a review of the new, old and modified forms to be used in the Zendo, when to bow or stand in shashu, and began to transition to the use of Oryoki for zendo meals. Bright sunny crisp days allowed for soji groups to garden, prune and plant trees in the yard. The retreat concluded with a shared feeling of gratitude among the sangha for the cultivation of a silent space to nurture the practice and a feast of leftovers on Sunday - nothing wasted!

Precept Classes

Our precept classes led by Ejo have also been well attended. We are working with a number of translations of the 16 Bodhisattva precepts including the original Chinese characters used by Dogen combined with homework assignments in order to develop a personal relationship with their meaning and how they function in our lives. Although consistent attendance helps the continuity of the discussion, these classes are open to all so please join us as your schedule suits. If you've missed a class, consider finding out about the week's assignment and get the handouts.

Mondo Practice

Often translated as "Dharma Debate," this traditional form of Zen inquiry that traces back to the days Bodhidharma will make its second appearance at the Eugene Zendo on the 18th of March. In ritual form, a sangha member presents a verse that they have some relationship with (the current precepts or well known sutras make good material) and calls for questions from the sangha and proceed to have short interchanges. Rather than being about victory or defeat, this practice embraces the interchange as one of mutually assisted discovery, and leaves room for laughter or tears should the occasion arise. Speak with Ejo if you'd like to try a verse with the group.

Ground Activity

Your help is requested - Please come to the meeting on the 4th at the zendo if you'd like to help with the planning of the grounds. The garden is underway thanks to many hands, strong backs and the gift of plants and lovely compost piles. The yard will be a central focus on the upcoming year for zendo development. Contact Thelma for more info.

Eugene Zendo's First Jukai

Mark your calendars. April's retreat begins Wed. the 2nd, culminating on Sunday the 6th with our first Jukai ceremony where 3 sangha members will receive the precepts. You may attend any part of the retreat that you can - sign ups will be in the lobby. The tenzo also needs help with meals; there will be a sign up sheet for donations of soups for the evening meal, bread and daily snack each day.

St. Patrick's Day Social - Potato Bake Fundraiser - Saturday March 15th

Anne's been cooking up plans for a zendo social gathering and fundraiser. Put on your Irish hat, leprechaun faces and come to the Eugene Zendo for a Baked Potato dinner. We provided the baked potato and you bring a special topping to share with everyone. Fare: \$10.00 per person or \$20.00 per family Dinner starting at 6:00 PM. Family & friends welcome. Sign up for the event at the Zendo or call to RSVP.

Financial Update

The good news: Some recent income from money owed to us (that was contingent on the property sale of the old zendo site on Willamette) will allow us to pay our property taxes for the year and save our savings as savings. Less than good news: We are not covering our monthly operating expenses yet with our income. Based on initial estimates, our income level per month is about \$800 (mostly from monthly pledges, and some donations). Operating expenses, which include Mortgage payments, Office supplies & newsletter, Food, Retreat expenses, insurance, utilities and other zendo supplies initially are estimated at \$900. We need however to refine the bookkeeping so the figures are more accurate on a month-to-month basis. The McMullen family has been picking up several monthly bills and miscellaneous expenditures, which haven't been calculated into our budgeted operating expenses. If you are able, please consider a monthly pledge no matter how modest so we can continue to service the community and help nurture this space. A more accurate assessment will be forthcoming. Thanks for everyone's efforts. We have been able to do an amazing amount in the little time we've been on Garfield.

Begging Bowl

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

Kitchen Items

Large Colander
Butter Dish w/
Cover
2 Cutting Boards
(1 Lg. 1 Med.)
Wall Clock
2 Med. Stainless
Steel Ladles
1 Mongo Tea Pot
Med Sized Bowls
2 Aprons
Small Spice Rack
w/ Common Herbs
Ceramic Pitchers
for Milk/ Soy
Cookie Recipes
contact Seido/ Ross

- Gassho



Buddhist Peace Circle

Staying present and focused, being witnesses to the events unfolding around us, challenges our lives and our practice. The peace of zazen, the peace of zendo and sangha, is being pierced by the cries for war lead by our nation's government. What do we do as individuals? How do we react--or do we--as Buddhists? How can we use our lives to help prevent the immense human suffering and the unleashing of karmic consequences inevitable with the destructive forces we are employing? There are no clear answers but there is powerful dialogue within our community.

The Buddhist Peace Circle meets the last Monday of every month at Thelma's to provide a space to sit with, and grapple with these issues collectively. We have a phone tree in place to inform each other of upcoming events to promote peace and attend events as a group. Soon, we will have some wall space in the zendo to post information, thoughts, and art related to peace and social action. - *Sidney (For more information on the BPC contact myself or Thelma)*

Buddha Nature

The great blue herons have returned to their communal nests by the Willamette River in Springfield, just as they do every year at this time. The males come first, choosing their nests and waiting for the females to join them. Moms and dads take turns feeding the chicks and later teaching them to fly. Once the babies know how to fly, the family disperses and the nests are empty, every year, just the same. People along the path sit quietly and watch the spectacle of these beautiful, solitary birds as they come together to raise a family in cooperation with other herons in the same tree. We comment on their calm grace, the challenges of raising chicks and sharing the same nest with another bird when your very nature calls you to solitude and the importance of raising our young in community. We rejoice in the cycle of life turning once again to the time of birth and growth. *For info on how to get to the heron rookery, talk to Sidney.*

Upcoming Ango Events:

Tue April 1 Dharma Talk
W - Su April 2 - 6 Jukai Sesshin
Tue April 8 Double Sit/ Sanzen
Thur April 10 Precept Class 6
Tue April 15 Q & A
Thur April 17 Precept Class 7
Mon April 21 Practice Disc.
Tue Apr 22 Double Sit/ Sanzen
Thur April 24 Precept Class 8
Tue April 29 Mondo
Thur May 1 Fusatsu
Tue May 6 Double Sit
Thur May 8 Last Precept Class
Tue May 13 Dharma Talk
Wed May 14 Closing Ango

Planting a tree during the EZ February Ango Sesshin

*A monk asked, "Does the tree in
the garden have buddha nature
or not?"*

Zhaozhou said, "It has."

*The monk asked, "When will it
become a buddha?"*

*Zhaozhou said, "When the
great void falls to earth."*

*The monk asked, "When will
the great void fall to earth?"*

*Zhaozhou said, "When the tree
becomes a buddha."*



Ango Sesshin February 2003

The name "Three teachings" was empty right from the start – miss even one word and all go wrong. Looking inward or outward, see there is no fixed self.

Break the front door, if you want to enter your home.

*-Dogen, 1226
Zhejiang China*



About the Eugene Zendo Web Site: 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

Zendo Address: 2190 Garfield Eugene, OR 97405

Newsletter Items: Debra Martin hortonorganics@earthlink.net 925-3019 (contributions welcome!)

Web guy & contact to receive this newsletter: Ross Morris rossm@efn.org 302-4576

EZ March 2003

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
2	3 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Regular Schedule 7 - 9 PM Zazen/ Practice Discussion	4 <u>5:30 AM Usual</u> 6 PM: Garden Committee ! 7:30 - 9:30 PM Zazen/ Service Dharma Talk	5 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	6 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Regular Schedule 7 - 9 PM Precept Class 4	7 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	8 <u>8:30 AM</u> Zazenkai at the Eugene Aikikai
9	10 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	11 <u>5:30 -7:50 AM</u> Regular Schedule 7:30-9:30 Service/ Zazen (Double Sit)*	12 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	13 <u>5:30 -7:30 AM</u> Regular Schedule 7 - 9 PM Precept Class 5	14 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	15 <u>8:30 AM Usual</u> 6:00 PM EZ Community Potato Bake Fundraiser !
16	17 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Regular Schedule 7 - 9 PM Introduction to Zazen	18 <u>5:30 -7:30 AM</u> Regular Schedule 6:00 Zendo Mtg. 7:30-9:30 PM Zazen/ Service Mondo Practice	19 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	20 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Regular Schedule 7 - 9 PM Fusatsu	21 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	22 <u>8:30 AM</u> Zazenkai at the Eugene Aikikai
23	24 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	25 <u>5:30 -7:30 AM</u> Regular Schedule 7:30-9:30 PM Service/ Zazen (Double Sit)*	26 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	27 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast 7 - 9 PM Chanting Class	28 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	29 <u>8:30 AM</u> Zazenkai at the Eugene Aikikai
30	31 <u>Reg. AM</u> 7 - 9 PM Buddhist Peace Circle at Thelma's	(Note: Reserve April Sesshin Dates: 4/2 - 4/6 Wed - Sun)	<i>*If <u>Double Sit</u> 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 <u>morning</u> <u>zazen</u> anytime before the 6:50 AM Service and</i>	<i>depart either after service or temple cleaning (soji)</i>