

## Board Notes

The next meeting is set for Sunday, March 8th at 11:30 A.M.

- Discussed role of Board in long-term planning for the Zendo. Agreed that, for now, the current system works well: Board articulates issues which get discussed at membership meetings; when appropriate, ad hoc committees are formed to investigate issues in more depth. These committees report back to the Board with recommendations.
- Financial Report: Reviewed last five years. In the last couple of years, we've spent more than we've taken in; but years before that, we raised more than we spent. Our expenses and income have tended to balance out. No red flags or patterns in our spending/income cycles at this point. At next board meeting we'll review budget from last year.
- Ongoing issues with outside toilet- approved \$200 to snake toilet.
- Policy on "Board Notes" in newsletter: Board meetings and minutes are public documents; briefer, edited board notes in newsletter offer a useful way to keep sangha up-to-date with Board decisions. To make sure that these notes are accurate and appropriate, Board will review notes before publication in newsletter.
- Discussed details of selling J-Tea in Zendo store. (A tasting of J-Tea took place at the Zendo on 2/15). In the spirit of community, will carry the tea in the store at regular prices on a trial basis, for a month.
- Discussed Ejo's interest in unfolding a further understanding of how the Eugene Zendo as a temple can function as a vehicle of the dharma. The three big areas to consider are opportunities and needs in: TRAINING, FACILITIES and PROGRAMMING. Board approved moving forward to develop these issues by initiating a Zendo Visioning Committee, and discussing the matter at the next membership meeting (Sunday, April 19).

### About the Eugene Zendo - Butsugenji

The Eugene Zendo is a Soto Zen Buddhist temple open to everyone. We are located in a residential neighborhood in West Eugene, Oregon. Activities center around zazen (seated meditation) and include ceremony, chanting, dharma study, discussion and social events.

If you are new to Zen Buddhism, an introductory class is offered at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday morning before our regular Sunday meeting. For more information, please contact us at:

541-302-4576      butsugenji@eugenezendo.org      Website: <http://www.eugenezendo.org>

Submissions to the newsletter can be sent to [butsugenji@eugenezendo.org](mailto:butsugenji@eugenezendo.org)  
The deadline for submissions is the 15th of every month.

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Eugene Zendo  
2190 Garfield  
Eugene, OR 97405



March 2009

Butsugenji - Buddha Eye Temple

Volume 9 Issue 3

### Announcements

- **Fusatsu** will occur on Tuesday, March 10th, 2009. It will be part of our normal Tuesday evening program.
- **Calligraphy Classes** on Wednesday afternoon at 4 PM are ongoing. Please direct questions to So-en.
- **Dharma Talk Audio Files Online:** <http://www.eugenezendo.org/mp3/>
- **A Forms Sesshin** will be held Friday March 27th through Sunday the 29th. Please see the enclosed sign-up for more details.
- **Buddha's Birthday** - We will be holding a ceremony to celebrate the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha on Sunday April 5th as part of our Sunday morning program. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
- **Five Day Sesshin in April** - From Wednesday, April 29th through Sunday, May 3rd we will hold a longer sesshin. Please keep it in mind as you plan for spring!
- **Spring Membership Meeting** - Our semi-annual Membership Meeting will be held on Sunday April 19th from 1 - 4 PM. Lunch will be served beforehand. These meetings are extremely valuable for the zendo as a whole, and in particular, the board of directors. This is when we take the time to ask, "How are things going?" and "Where do we want to go from here?" So, please attend. If you have questions about becoming a member, please speak with Carmelita.

### Dharma Kids

The Eugene Zendo Dharma School meets every 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. The program is open to all youth ages 6 and up. The program schedule is as follows:

MORNING SERVICE, 10-MINUTE ZAZEN, DECORATE THE ALTER, YOGA, PROJECTS\*

For Dharma School questions, comments and ideas, please contact: [Brenk@comcast.net](mailto:Brenk@comcast.net) -or- (541)743-3583.

### I'm a Baby Monk!

It's been 7 years since I first asked Ejo to ordain me. I spent most of that time feeling like I was beating my head against a wall, trying to understand what "leaving home" meant and how a person did it. When it came down to the day, I had no hesitation. However, the ceremony itself felt like being squeezed for an hour and a half. I don't remember a single detail about the event outside of the altar and highseat right in front of me. Somewhere towards the end of the ceremony, making one of the final bows, I thought to myself, "Oh, I made it..." The rest of the night, I spent in a corner (well, along the side, I suppose) of the yurt, feeling like a thoroughly rung out dishtowel. It was a surprise that the ceremony took that much out of me.

I think that I must not have spoken with the majority of the people who came so I wanted to apologize for that and thank you for coming. I also wanted to thank all the people who wanted to be there but couldn't. That I am where I am today is because I made a decision to be here. I've been deliberate about maintaining a life that will allow me to do what I'm doing. That doesn't obstruct the unquestionable fact that what *made it possible* for me to be here is completely beyond my control. I owe all this to Ejo, his family and the Sangha at the Eugene Zendo. Thank you very much.

Gassho, Gensei

Dana, the first of the Buddhist Paramitas, is the voluntary giving of material, energy or wisdom to others. There are no dues or fees for attendance at the Eugene Zendo's scheduled events. However, we do have expenses and rely on the support of visitors and Sangha Members to help us transmit the Dharma to all beings.

We appreciate your continued generosity.

I spent the month of January in residential training at Great Vow Zen Monastery. Many people have asked about my experience there and I would like to share some of what I learned.

Great Vow Zen Monastery (aka Jizo Mountain) is run by abbots Chozen and Hogen Bays. They also lead the Zen Community of Oregon (ZCO) which rents space for meetings at the Dharma Rain Zen Center in Portland. The night before going to the monastery, I joined the ZCO crowd and the Dharma-Rain Sangha for a joint new year's celebration which included pot-luck dinner, sacred dancing, atonement ceremony, and meditation period during which we silently welcomed in 2009. Later in the day I was given a ride from Portland to the monastery in Clatskanie. The trip takes about an hour, and car pools can be arranged ahead of time with some of the residents. You can also get to the monastery using public transportation and shuttle services.

I arrived at the monastery on a Monday, which is always a day off for residents, except during sesshins. At the monastery I was shown to the men's residence area, which is a large room with partitions in it to make for several private sleeping quarters. After setting down my things I went to the kitchen where I was free to make my dinner from whatever yummy leftovers were in the fridge. Then I met some of the other residents who were watching a movie on a projector screen in the music room; On Monday nights residents are free to watch a movie of their choice, and on Sunday nights, Chozen generally chooses a dharma related film to show. In addition to Monday, residents get the day off after service on Sunday.

The next day a bell rang to wake everyone up for meditation at 4:50am. Great Vow rotates between month long 'relaxed' schedule periods and three-month-long periods of 'regular' schedule. When I arrived at Great Vow we were following the relaxed schedule. A week or so later regular schedule began. During regular schedule the wake-up bell is an hour earlier, to allow for an extra 50 minute block of meditation in the morning, and we had fewer breaks, and formal oryoki dinner. Lunch was always informal, and breakfast was always oryoki.

I was pleasantly surprised the first morning during breakfast when Chozen began reading from a book about cedar trees. She passed it around and everyone read a paragraph until we had read a chapter. Then we took turns reading a book Hogen had picked out. After breakfast there was a daily brief about what was going on at the monastery that day, followed by a three hour morning work period. After lunch we had another two or three hours of work. Some days there would be an art period or exercise period, and on Wednesdays there was a discussion and dharma class. The Wednesday night meetings were also a time to reflect on the weekly task. Our weekly tasks ranged from observing anxiety arising, to eating with our non-dominant hand, to silly walking. All useful mindfulness practices.

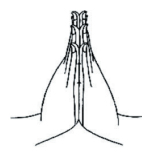
Once a week, and most sesshin days, there was a mandatory sanzen with one of the abbots. Sometimes they would pose a question, such as 'what is your greatest challenge in meditation?' Most months there is a sesshin ranging from six to ten days long. In January the sesshin was called Life Vows, and included small group discussions. There was also a weekend retreat on Purposeful Living. People from outside the monastery come to these events, but are also welcome to visit and stay over-night upon request.

I hope to have given a good overall view of what life at the monastery entails. Personally, I felt very challenged by the experience. My weeks there were filled with panic, and coming to terms with panic, and more panic. I went to the monastery to give myself the structure and discipline to settle my mind, and I got it. I have so much gratitude for the support and inspiration I received from the abbots and the dozen or so other residents at the monastery, all of whom helped me to recognize the strength I have within myself. Now my intention is clearer: that I want to push my meditation practice deeper and pursue the Truth through Buddhism. I am planning to attend the Great Vow summer program in July and August.

Sincerely,  
Luke

A bath when you're born,  
a bath when you die,  
how stupid.  
-Issa

## Begging Bowl



- + Aluminum Saw Horses
- + Crocuses
- + Digging Fork
- + Clothing Iron
- + Fun Art Supplies for the Children's Program
- + Flashlight and batteries

## 9 Bows of Gratitude

- + So-en and Tenkan for sanzen umbrellas.
- + Kogen for apricots.
- + Eleine for yardwork.
- + Aido for green tea.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 am Intro to Zazen 9:00 am Service / Zazen Dharma Talk <b>Board Meeting 11:30</b>	2 Morning Schedule 7:30 - 8:15 PM Evening Zazen	3 Morning Schedule 7:00 pm Service / Zazen Lotus Sutra Class	4 Morning Schedule 7:30 - 8:15 PM Evening Zazen	5 Morning Schedule 7:00 PM Ango Student Activities	6 Morning Schedule	7
8 8:00 am Intro to Zazen 9:00 am Service / Zazen Reading and Discussion <b>Dharma School</b> <b>Work Party 12 - 3 PM</b>	9 Morning Schedule 7:30 - 8:15 PM Evening Zazen	10 Morning Schedule 7:00 pm Service / Zazen <b>Fusatsu</b>	11 Morning Schedule 7:30 - 8:15 PM Evening Zazen	12 Morning Schedule 7:00 PM Ango Student Activities	13 Morning Schedule	14
15 8:00 am Intro to Zazen 9:00 am Service / Zazen Dharma Talk	16 Morning Schedule 7:30 - 8:15 PM Evening Zazen	17 Morning Schedule 7:00 pm Service / Zazen Lotus Sutra Class	18 Morning Schedule 7:30 - 8:15 PM Evening Zazen	19 Morning Schedule 7:00 PM Ango Student Activities	20 Morning Schedule	21
22 8:00 am Intro to Zazen 9:00 am Service / Zazen Dharma Talk <b>Dharma School</b>	23 Morning Schedule 7:30 - 8:15 PM Evening Zazen	24 Morning Schedule 7:00 pm Service / Zazen Lotus Sutra Class	25 Morning Schedule 7:30 - 8:15 PM Evening Zazen	26 Morning Schedule 7:00 PM Ango Student Activities	27 -----> <b>Forms Sesshin</b> <b>Begins 5:10 AM</b>	28 -----> <b>Forms</b> <b>Sesshin</b>
29 <b>Sesshin Ends --</b> 8:00 am Intro to Zazen 9:00 am Service / Zazen Dharma Talk	30 Morning Schedule 7:30 - 8:15 PM Evening Zazen	31 Morning Schedule 7:00 pm Service / Zazen Lotus Sutra Class	Morning Schedule 5:10 am - Zazen 5:50 am - Kinhin 6:00 am - Zazen 6:40 am - Service 7:10 am - Cleaning 7:30 am - Breakfast			