



# Eugene Zendo

April 2003

Buddha Eye Dharma Association

Volume 3 Issue 4

## EZ News

### **Eugene's First Jukai - April 2 - 6**

Jukai is the traditional ceremony where individuals officially become Buddhists by receiving the sixteen Bodhisattva precepts. While many in our sangha have already taken the precepts through other centers, this will be the first time the ceremony will be done by Ejo with the Eugene Zendo sangha. Kip Lohr, Ross Morris and Anne Jensen will formally commit to the Buddhist path during a public ceremony at the end of the Jukai retreat on Sunday the 6th at 11:30 AM. It is an important moment for the "preceptees" and all the sangha is encouraged to attend in support. A schedule and sign-up sheet for the retreat, which begins on Wednesday night and continues until Sunday noon, are posted in the zendo hallway on the bulletin board. You may attend any portion of the retreat you are able.

### **Thursday Night Classes**

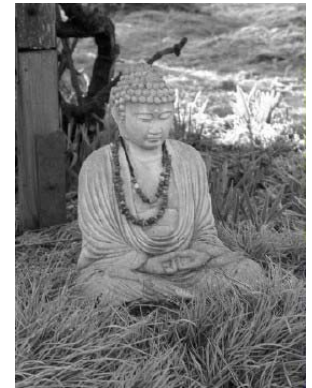
Thursday classes and associated events continue to be well attended. Although consistency is an advantage, all are welcome to attend and you may wish to ask someone from class about readings and assignments. We will continue to study the precepts after retreat delving in to Dogen and Bodhidharma's commentary more thoroughly in our ever-lively participatory atmosphere we've been cultivating. There are several good books covering the precepts and members are presenting reports on those readings to the group. Come join us!

### **Mondo Practice**

Our first solo mondo took place last month and went well for as new a practice as it is for our zendo. Ejo fashioned an excellent decisive looking willow stick to punctuate our responses, the sangha asked difficult questions as some of us were put on the spot to respond succinctly to the audience. Many commented afterwards how they felt it created a sense of intimacy and how helpful these seemingly simple questions illustrated. The important part of mondo is not necessarily to demonstrate some profound knowledge of a subject, but to present your understanding sincerely and be open to the subtle nudging of your inquirers. Consider getting up there next go around on April 29th so that we can become more familiar with this practice as a sangha. If you'd like to present a verse, talk with Ejo as soon as possible.

### **How the Garden Grows**

Exciting plans for a garden design drawn up by Thelma were reviewed by a well attended meeting last month to begin to create a zendo space behind the building. Raised beds have been delineated which will be dug during the Jukai retreat. The are will continue to be worked on during April until they're ready. The beds create a circular walkway to an interior bed that will be filled with sunflowers and spiraling morning glories, which may eventually be a Kanzeon garden. Other assorted annual flowers, which we can use for the altars, will be grown in the garden beds which may eventually house perennials. Larry drew up plans for of a tea pavilion - a simple covered platform that would sit off to the side of the garden where people could gather. A bamboo shade hedge would create a backdrop and delineate a compost area. Nick and Sidney have pruned surrounding fruit trees and compost piles are cooking. Please join in the garden activities, speak to Thelma or Nick.



### **Potato Bake Fundraiser**

According to Anne and friends, leprechauns transformed the front room of the zendo into a frolicsome dining event. Attendees were treated to some creative tantalizing toppings on their spuds, followed by lemon cookies brought by Evelyn and a blueberry cake from Jeannie.

### **It's a Boy!**

Baby Liam was born to Carol and Tony March 20th full of curly black hair rumor has it. Blessings from sangha.

# 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 Med. Stainless  
Steel Ladles**

**1 Mongo Tea Pot**

**Med Sized Bowls**

**Small Spice Rack**

**w/ Common Herbs**

**Ceramic Pitchers**

**for Milk/ Soy**

**Cookie Recipes**

*contact Seido/ Ross*

- Gassho

## **Financial Update**

At our last meeting, we are still attempting to determine exactly our monthly budget needs as we transition to computer record keeping which includes some zendo expenses that have been picked up by Ejo's family to date. The impression thus far is, "almost there but not quite" (Stay tuned for more enlightening details.) Having just received a sizeable lump sum from the sale of the Willamette property, after paying out some debt, the steering committee decided to keep the extra in savings in case the zendo wished to investigate other property in the neighborhood.

## **General "Council" for Zendo Member**

Some ideas were put forth as to the possibility of holding a council meeting for our group - a general gathering designed to be an encouraging and respectful forum to air concerns about anything to do with the zendo and its community. Ejo suggested this would be good to learn while we are a small group and their isn't the pressure of contentious issues, which can negatively affect a community. There is a fair amount of literature on the format of "council" which we are investigating. If anyone has personal experience with participating in this type of meeting please consider sharing this with the steering committee.

## **Oryoki Sets**

Oryoki is to arrive at the Eugene Zendo this upcoming Jukai retreat. After our last sesshin, although it takes some practice and seems complicated, it was apparent that oryoki was actually far more functional than our current method for feeding our group, not to mention an essential temple ritual form that supports the expression of zen practice throughout the meal. Anne did a great job of organizing folks and sewing most of the placemats, napkins, and utensil holders that are a part of the set. Three nesting bowls are unwrapped during the ceremony, used and then cleaned and rewrapped when eating in the zendo. Breakfast and lunch will be served this way.

## **A Country at War**

We are all deeply affected by the suffering enveloping the world's awareness at this time and the karma it necessitates. Many sangha members are continuing to gather monthly to share their struggles with Buddhist practice amidst social strife, support one another in their efforts for peace and meet at other related outside gatherings. Everyone is welcome to attend meetings at Thelma's the last Monday of the month for brief meditation, checkins, and discussion time. *Express your peace.* - Dainin Katigiri

## **ON PRACTICE**

### **Why Jukai?** *by Ross*

As I write this, Jukai is a week and half away. Since it's coming up so soon, it seems reasonable that I would be able to articulate some explanation for why I'm doing this, wouldn't you think? That's what people do, right: make decisions after carefully weighing the available information to determine what the best course of action would be. But, more and more, I find myself with no information and no standards to measure with.

Maybe my problem lies with how I began. Two and a half years ago, I was totally fed up with myself for never really finishing anything. Three months on this. Two months on that. Three weeks on something else. Then a couple weeks back with what I began the cycle with. Around and around, over and over again. It was time to stop.

I reduced my interests down to about five: computers, writing, philosophy/spirituality, and two others, which I can't remember actually. Then I chose the third. After that, I had to decide what "path" of the many I had been dabbling with I wanted to pursue. And without ever having sat on a zafu (I had used a pillow a handful of times) I chose Zen. Not as something to explore, but as what I was going to DO. Until I died. That was really how I thought of it.

I went and bought my first zafu later that week and started sitting every night after work. A month later I sat for the first time at the Potter Street house. I waited a year to ask for the precepts, because that's how long I thought you were supposed to wait. Asking didn't come from any specific insight or understanding. Receiving the precepts was the formal way I was maintaining my decision from the year before. It was nothing, just the next step. A step which my whole life pivoted on.

Looking back, I can see that my ideas about what I was going to be doing were almost completely wrong. The reasons I based my decision on were shaky at best. But, I do not doubt what I have done. I do not regret my decision. I stepped onto something and fell right through. Into... There is a gap here, a space, which I cannot plug with some reason or explanation. I am equally horrified and grateful because of this.

To ask why you would receive the precepts really seems to be asking, "Well, what's it going to do for me? What good is it? If I don't, will I be missing out on something?" I can't compare "receiving the precepts" with "not receiving the precepts" and think that I'll come to some understanding through that. It's always, "Just now, how is it for you?" It's picking up what's right in front of your nose and stepping through.

--Gassho, Ross



**About the Eugene Zendo Website: [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:** Debra 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) 302-4576

# EZ April 2003

*Sun*

*Mon*

*Tue*

*Wed*

*Thu*

*Fri*

*Sat*

		<b>1</b> <u>5:30-7:50 AM</u> Regular Schedule <b><u>7:30 - 9:30 PM</u></b> Zazen/ Service Dharma Talk	<b>2</b> <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Regular Schedule <b>JUKAI Retreat</b> <b>Opens 7:00 PM</b>	<b>3</b> <b>JUKAI Retreat</b> <b>5:30 AM -</b> <b>9:15 PM</b>	<b>4</b> <b>JUKAI Retreat</b> <b>5:30 AM -</b> <b>9:15 PM</b>	<b>5</b> <b>JUKAI Retreat</b> <b>5:30 AM -</b> <b>9:15 PM</b>
<b>6 JUKAI</b> <b>retreat</b> <b>5:30 AM</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> <b>Ceremony</b>	<b>7</b> <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>8</b> <u>5:30 -7:50 AM</u> Regular Schedule <b><u>7:30-9:30</u></b> <b>Service/ Zazen</b> <b>(Double Sit)*</b>	<b>9</b> <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>10</b> <u>5:30 -7:50 AM</u> Regular Schedule <b><u>7 - 9 PM</u></b> <b>Precept Class #6</b>	<b>11</b> <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>12</b> <u>8:30 AM</u> Zazenkaï at the Eugene Aïkikai
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Regular Schedule <b><u>7 - 9 PM</u></b> <b>Introduction to</b> <b>Zazen</b>	<b>15</b> <u>5:30 -7:50 AM</u> Regular Schedule <b><u>6:00 Zendo Mtg.</u></b> <b><u>7:30-9:30 PM</u></b> Zazen/ Service <b>Q &amp; A</b>	<b>16</b> <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>17</b> <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Regular Schedule <b><u>7 - 9 PM</u></b> <b>Precept Class #7</b>	<b>18</b> <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>19</b> <u>8:30 AM</u> Zazenkaï at the Eugene Aïkikai
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Regular Sched. <b><u>7 - 9 PM</u></b> <b>Ango</b> <b>Group Practice</b> <b>Discussion</b>	<b>22</b> <u>5:30 -7:50 AM</u> Regular Schedule <b><u>7:30-9:30 PM</u></b> <b>Service/ Zazen</b> <b>(Double Sit)*</b>	<b>23</b> <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>24</b> <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast <b><u>7 - 9 PM</u></b> <b>Precept Class #8</b>	<b>25</b> <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>26</b> <u>8:30 AM</u> Zazenkaï at the Eugene Aïkikai
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <u>Reg. AM</u> <b><u>7 - 9 PM</u></b> <b>Buddhist Peace</b> <b>Circle at</b> <b>Thelma's</b>	<b>29</b> <u>5:30 -7:30 AM</u> Regular Schedule <b><u>7:30-9:30 PM</u></b> <b>Service/ Zazen</b> <b>Mondo</b>	<b>30</b> <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	*If <u>Double Sit</u> Evenings are difficult, you may come and join us for only the <b>one of the</b> <b>40</b> minute periods.	Please leave or enter during Kinhin.  <b>** You may also</b> <b>join <u>morning zazen</u></b> <b>any</b>	time before the 6:50 AM Service and <b>depart either after</b> <b>service or temple</b> <b>cleaning (soji)</b>