



Eugene Zendo

April 2004 Buddha Eye Dharma Association Volume 4 Issue 4

NEWS

Spring Ango Events

Ango events have enjoyed full attendance as we find ourselves in the middle of this spring practice period. We continue to study the Bendowa on Thursday evenings and will soon have our third Sangha Circle on Fusatsu night. Ejo's chanting workshop helped develop a better feel for the refinements of that practice as well as a second all day retreat around the ritual of Oryoki. Kyogen sensei and Domyo visited from Dharma Rain and spoke to the group about his understanding of Jijuyu Zanmai. Another sangha potluck (this time featuring Italian food) is scheduled for Friday March 26th - family and friends invited. Please check the schedule if you'd like to participate and feel free to ask questions if you'd like to know more about the format for a particular event which are open to all.

EZ Dedication Events - June 25 -27, 2004

As we approach the Zendo's the official dedication ceremony, sewing is underway for a special kesa for Ejo's teacher, Joshin Keira Roshi as an expression of our gratitude for helping us buy the property. You are welcome to join in the many preparations - including the robe, grounds care, repairs... you name it!

Completely Floored!

Congratulations Sangha - we did it! Surpassed our fundraising goals and simultaneously (funny how this works out) came across an unbelievable deal for natural, lovely bamboo flooring that was just a little more expensive than we'd originally planned for. Yushin and Gensei have plans to start laying it soon. Many bows to all who made it happen and our trusty carpenter's hands.

Spring Gardening

As the daffodils are fading and the plum blossoms bright, the garden in this clear dry weather is calling for our hands and ideas. Thelma is organizing a group of folks to participate in the gardening. Please speak to her if you're interested.

April Sesshin - 4/20 - 25 Tuesday - Sunday

Retreats are a rare and precious time to come together as a Sangha and deepen your sitting practice. Sesshin is a central practice in the Zen tradition, which means *to gather the mind* and includes periods of zazen, kinhin, samu (work practice) and oryoki meals. Please consider attending part or all of the retreat. A sign up sheet will be posted in the zendo.

Buddha's Birthday - April 8th - Tenkan is planning an all day sit in celebration. Check with him for details.

Dharma Talk Cherry Blossoms in Full Room

During the spring time sometimes it feels as if our sitting brings the flowers up from the ground, and sometimes it feels as if the emerging color sits us up straight on our cushions. It is said that when we sit zazen all of the ten thousand things in heaven and earth become one body. Somehow we don't question our hand being part of our body. We certainly don't question our head being part of our body. But how about the cherry blossoms, fresh grass and bird song. Where do we draw the line between self and other, and why do we draw it there?

In our study of the Jijuyu zanmai some people have been confused by Dogen Zenji's expressions that in zazen "everything in the entire dharma world becomes Buddha mudra" and "earth, grasses and trees, fences and walls, tiles and pebbles, all things...carry out Buddha work." This is poetry describing wholeness, the one body of all the things in the universe. It may be hard for us to believe that these commonplace things can assume the Buddha mudra and carry out Buddha work, and we may think that Dogen Zenji is just telling us a story about zazen, that he is using these kinds of expressions to describe something that is difficult to describe, or that they are a kind of a symbol or metaphor for truth. It is important to investigate and know through practice that these lines are not merely figures of speech. They are a direct description of Zazen. All of our ideas about being alive, possessing consciousness and the ability to experience are just the arrogance of the human mind. Rather than believing in any idea about who we are, we should just carry out this one body in zazen. We don't need to waste any time trying to make ourselves more capable than the Spring!

Spring is Buddha stretching with both arms high in the air, Maitreya, the Buddha with a round face and pot belly, waking from a nap. As we are looking at the world there is also a world looking back at us. The intimacy of life stares us in the face. SIT UP!

- Ejo

Begging Bowl

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

Quality TOOLS

*New or in very good
shape
contact: Ejo*

Boxed Teas

Sesshin Dinners

Retreat Snacks

See Gensei

9 BOWS

in gratitude for

Flooring

*many many
contributors!*

Jim

fixing bathroom trim

*Please let the editor
know if you wish your
donation to remain
anonymous*

Sangha Reflections

NW Dharma Association

On Saturday February 21, I attended a meeting of the Northwest Dharma Association in Olympia, Washington. The NWDA is an independent non-profit organization intended to "support Buddhist teachings and to foster a network of friendship and support among Buddhist groups from all traditions". Annually, a meeting is called in which the member groups are asked to offer the board of directors direction for the coming year. This was the second of such meetings and was attended by representatives of over four dozen of its member groups.

At the meeting the year before, through some creative brainstorming, they had outlined four guiding principles:

- 1. For the Buddhist community to better know itself.**
- 2. For the Buddhist community to be better known by the public.**
- 3. To support our individual practices of awakening.**
- 4. To share information and resources among Buddhist groups.**

This year, we were asked to refine that, and give concrete and specific objectives, or barriers, to bringing this vision to life. Again, through brainstorming and discussion, we arrived at a list of general concerns and then were asked to choose which we were most interested in and formed groups accordingly. I participated in the "Race, Class and Language Barrier" group.

There I heard a member of "ethnic Buddhism" speak about what he sees happening in "American Buddhism" and a Nichiren minister to an African American Sangha spoke about his group's relationship with the larger American Buddhist scene. I think the conversation could have continued for a couple days, but time constraints prevented it. I hope that it is something that gets finished one day.

Other groups talked about: sharing information and physical resources, children's program, prison ministry, Buddhist retirement homes, shared insurance plans... all sorts of things. There was a lot of energy and ideas and it should be interesting to watch it develop over the next year. If anyone would like more information about the NWDA or the meeting, feel free to talk to me about it and grab a copy of their newsletter available at the zendo.

- Gassho, Gensei

Oho Caliente

Walking up the trail through the ravine that leads to the mesa, the site of an ancient pueblo, I hear the sand hill cranes far away in the south. A sound I have never heard before, a higher pitched call than the Canadian geese that fly north over the Willamette Valley. I am here in northern New Mexico attending a writing workshop held at Oho Caliente, an old hot springs resort. Now it is known by this Spanish name but it was a sacred and holy place for the ancient people whose descendents do the laundry, cook the food and make the place function. I stop halfway up the trail in an attempt to locate the sound and finally I see them in the south. Just black specks, very high moving up the valley, then directly overhead flying in formations which change and reform and change again. They keep coming and coming in group after group, hundreds and all the while calling to each other. I am transfixed, rooted on the red rock strewn hillside looking up into the bluest sky I have ever seen.

Then a much smaller group comes, flying lower, right overhead, staying there, circling with the sunlight hitting the underside of their wings. Looking up I turn with them as they keep circling and then they line out and fly north to join the main group. Later I was told that the young can not fly as high as their elders. I continued to hear cranes coming over daily while we were in session but did not see such a display again. The experience of cranes was restorative for me, but restorative of what? Well faith perhaps. After all they live by faith. Faith that winter has receded in the north by the time they arrive, that food and water is available along the way, and they know the way home over thousands of miles. Yes, they fly on faith, they just don't have a concept for it; they do what they do being sand hill cranes. *- Carmelita*

SPRING ANGO 2004

Tuesday Evenings:

Mar 30 Double Sit/ Sanzen

April 6 Dharma Talk

April 13 Double Sit/ Sanzen

April 20 Dharma Talk/ Opening Sesshin

April 27 Double Sit/ Sanzen

May 4 Dharma Talk

May 11 Ango Closing

Introductions to Zazen:

Monday Eve: April 12, May 12

Thursday Evenings:

Mar 25 Class/ Discussion #6 Bendowa

April 1 Sangha Circle/ Fusatsu

April 8 Class/ Discussion #7 Bendowa

April 15 Class/ Discussion #8 Bendowa

April 22 Five Day Ango Sesshin

April 29 Movie Nite! Spirited Away

May 6 Sangha Circle/ Fusatsu

Closing Ango Sesshin:

April 20-25 Tue - Sun



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. 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: Seido.hortonorganics@earthlink.net 925-3019

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

EZ April 2004

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 <u>5:30- 8:00 AM</u> Standard AM 6:30 PM Zazen 7 - 8 PM Sangha Circle 8 - 9 PM Fusatsu	2 <u>5:30- 8:00 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	3
<p>*If Double Sit Evenings are difficult, you may come and join us for only the one of the 40 minute periods. Please leave or enter during Kinhin. You may also enter morning zazen any time before 7 AM Service (the best time is during kinhin 6:10 - 6:20AM), and depart either after service or temple cleaning (Soji).</p>						
4	5 <u>5:30- 8 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	6 <u>5:30 - 8 AM</u> Regular Schedule 7:30-9:30 PM Service/ Zazen Dharma Talk	7 <u>5:30- 8:00 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	8 <u>5:30 - 8 AM</u> Regular Schedule 7 - 9 PM Class/Discussion Bendowa #7	9 <u>5:30- 8:00 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	10
11	12 <u>5:30- 8:00 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast 7-9 PM Intro to Zazen	13 <u>5:30 - 8 AM</u> Regular Schedule 6 PM: Zendo Mtg! 7:30-9:30 PM Zazen/ Service Double Sit with Sanzen	14 <u>5:30- 8:00 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	15 <u>5:30 - 8 AM</u> Regular Schedule 7 - 9 PM Class/Discussion Bendowa #8	16 <u>5:30- 8:00 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	17
18	19 <u>5:30- 8:00 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	20 <u>5:30 - 8 AM</u> Regular Schedule 7:30-9:30 PM Service/ Zazen Dharma Talk Opening of Sesshin	21	22	23	24
				←----- Sesshin -----→		
25 5:30 AM - Noon Last Day Sesshin	26 <u>5:30- 8:00 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	27 <u>5:30 - 8 AM</u> Regular Schedule 7:30-9:30 PM Double Sit w/ Sanzen	28 <u>5:30- 8:00 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	29 <u>5:30 - 8 AM</u> Regular Schedule 7 - 9 PM Movie Night! <i>Spirited Away</i>	30 <u>5:30- 8:00 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	