

EUGENE ZENDO

JUNE 2001

BUDDHA EYE DHARMA ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1



Newsletter

While talking with some Sangha members a few weeks ago, someone mentioned that they thought we spent too much time discussing Zendo business at our Tuesday night meetings. With all the moving around that has been going on lately it has taken a lot of our discussion time to keep people informed. It seemed like a good idea to start a newsletter so...here it is!

It is my intention to put out a short newsletter once a month that includes a calendar for the next month, important Sangha news and perhaps a little Dharma.

As we develop more events and programs, it will be important that they are explained and scheduled through the newsletter. Please keep me posted of anything that should be on the calendar and feel free to offer suggestions and give me things that you would like to be included. Notice that on the June calendar there is a deadline for the newsletter on Tuesday the 19th. Please give me anything to be included by that date.

This is probably going to force me to be organized....think ahead...woe is me!
Ejo

Eugene Zendo and Buddha Eye

At the beginning of this year while making plans for the move from Getsushin's house, the Sangha made a decision to shift from being a branch of the Dharma Rain Zen Center (DRZC) in Portland to being organized locally. We decided that the Eugene Zendo would exist under the non-profit Buddha Eye Dharma Association (BEDA) that Ejo started to facilitate the building of a temple in Eugene. We have shifted over our organization, and we now have a bank account that reads: Buddha Eye Dharma Association DBA Eugene Zendo instead of Northwest Zen Sangha: Eugene Zendo.

BEDA was incorporated in January of 2000 for the purpose of creating a legal organization that could receive money from Japan and buy land to build a temple in Eugene. Ejo felt that it was important for him, as the conduit of the money, to have close control over BEDA in its beginning stages and so was the founder and only member for over a year. As we have been preparing to apply for IRS recognition as a non-profit organization (501c3 status), Ejo was advised by the association's attorney that it was time to appoint a small board of directors and ratify bylaws. Ejo asked Kip and Sydney to join him as the first board members. We now have a basic set of bylaws and are well on our way to making application for 501c3 status. This status will make it easy for contributors to write off their contributions and firmly establish us as a bona fide religious organization.

There was some concern about how our relationship with DRZC and Zen Community of Oregon (ZCO) would continue under the new organization. Ejo spoke with Kyogen-sensei mid-May and there is an understanding that the Eugene Zendo will have a close relationship with DRZC including continuation of a Eugene Zendo section in the DRZC newsletter, Still Point. Kyogen-sensei expressed his desire to continue working with our Sangha and said he looks forward to coming to Eugene in the fall. Ejo will be contacting Hogen-sensei to express our deep wish for his continued involvement in Eugene.

New Location

We will start meeting at our new location, 430 Kingswood, from the beginning of June. Please note the calendar for dates and don't forget the moving/work session on Sunday June, 10. We will need to spend a little time getting the garage set up, but this space should really work out well.

Our Eventual Home

Buddha Eye Dharma Association closed on the Willamette property at the end of April. It took a little longer than we thought it would, but that seems to be the way of things.

We are now in the position to start putting together an application for a special use permit. This is the final big hurdle before we can start actually making plans to use the sight. Since the zoning for the area is RR-5 (that means rural residential, 5 acre plots) the county requires that we get special permission to use the sight as a religious gathering place. We fall under the rules for churches, and to my knowledge there are no zoning areas, in the county, that don't require a special use permit for churches. (Hmmm..... What's that about?) The application fee alone is \$1450, and after hiring a consultant to help with the application, we are probably looking at somewhere around a \$5,000-\$6,000 price tag. Ejo has spoken extensively with Lane County and feels that we have a good chance of getting a special use permit that will fit our long-term needs.

After we obtain our special use permit, we will have to start making some decisions about buildings and financing and work towards putting together a plan for building. Then come building permits. After those come through, we can finally get around to pounding some nails.

This is bound to be a long and difficult process, but with some good luck and a lot of work we may be able to start work on a Zendo and house next summer. Please let Ejo know if you are interested in helping out with this process.

Logo

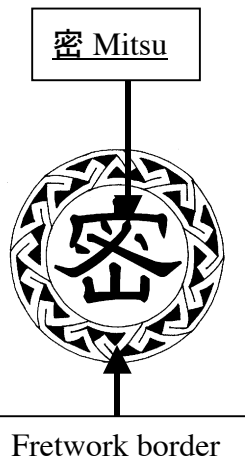
You may have noticed two new symbols on the front of this newsletter. It seemed like it was time to have some kind of an official markings for the Eugene Zendo and Buddha Eye Dharma Association, so I made some. Let me know if you have any suggestions for how to use these or ways that we might change them to make them more appealing.

The round symbol is for BEDA. I was trying to keep an eye theme and tried various eye-shaped designs. I didn't come up with anything I liked, so I tried picturing just the iris and pupil and came up with this design. I drew the fretwork border using a book on Celtic design and then inserted the character from a Chinese font I have on the computer. I am working on scanning in my teacher's calligraphy for the center character. Mitsu means intimacy and refers to the seamless character of the universe. No inside, no outside, no here, no there..... everything stuck together like the hands in gassho.

The square symbol is supposed to emulate a square Chinese stamp like the ones used by artists on their paintings. The characters were picked to sound out "Eugene Zendo" when pronounced in Sino-Japanese. "Yu" means friend. "Jin" means virtue. "Zen" means meditation, and "Do" means hall. I think the meaning of the characters fit us well.

Let me know what you think.

Ejo



Calendar for JUNE 2001

					1 6-7:15 AM Zazen/service	2 Zazenkai at Eugene Aikikai from 9 AM
3	4 6-7:15 AM Zazen/service	5 6-7:15 AM Zazen/service 7:30-9:30 PM Zazen/Dharma	6 6-7:15 AM Zazen/service	7 6-7:15 AM Zazen/service	8 6-7:15 AM Zazen/service	9 Zazenkai at Eugene Aikikai from 9 AM
10 Ejo Moving Day and Zendo Work Day. Meet at Kingswood at 9 AM	11 6-7:15 AM Zazen/service	12 6-7:15 AM Zazen/service 7:30-9:30 PM Zazen/Dharma	13 6-7:15 AM Zazen/service	14 6-7:15 AM Zazen/service	15 6-7:15 AM Zazen/service	16 Zazenkai at Eugene Aikikai from 9 AM
17	18 6-7:15 AM Zazen/service	19 6-7:15 AM Zazen/service 6:15 PM Zendo Meeting 7:30-9:30 PM Zazen/Dharma Deadline for Newsletter	20 6-7:15 AM Zazen/service	21 6-7:15 AM Zazen/service 7-9 PM Introduction to Zazen	22 6-7:15 AM Zazen/service	23 Zazenkai at Eugene Aikikai from 9 AM
24	25 6-7:15 AM Zazen/service	26 6-7:15 AM Zazen/service 7:30-9:30 PM Zazen/Dharma	27 6-7:15 AM Zazen/service	28 6-7:15 AM Zazen/service	29 6-7:15 AM Zazen/service	30 Zazenkai at Eugene Aikikai from 9 AM

Summary of Weekly Schedule

Monday – Friday: 6 – 7:30 AM Zazen, Service, Tea
 Tuesday: 7:30-9:30 PM Service, Zazen, Dharma Study