



Eugene Zendo

July 2003

Buddha Eye Dharma Association

Volume 3 Issue 7

EZ News

Back in the Lobby Zendo

We will be temporarily sitting in the lobby area while the zendo is going through phase two of its construction which includes reroofing and extending the eaves (already done!) and then on to drywalling the ceiling, interior trim, relocation of the heaters and installation of the back door. Yushin is hoping to complete this by the fall in time for the next practice period and eventual visit of Ejo's teacher from Japan who donated most of the funds to purchase the property a year ago. We have had a significant increase of new folks come to the zendo as a result of providing a dedicated and open zendo space. Your help is needed if you are able to contribute funds towards the purchase of accordion style honeycomb blinds for the windows or non-toxic Benjamin Moore paint for the walls. Talk with Yushin for more information.

The Garden

Green plants are fattening with the summer heat and precision watering they are receiving from a good group of folks who are taking care of particular sections of the garden. If you have a little bit of time each week - please ask Nick or Thelma how you can help. Thursday evenings are still reserved for gardening, but need to be confirmed week to week to make sure there's someone there who knows what needs doing. We are still in the process of collecting rocks for the Kanzeon Garden from Harrisburg and need many more loads but other priorities have jumped into first place. Come visit the sunflowers and the sweet rosemary sometime.

Summer Schedule

Summer brings a more casual schedule to the zendo. There are many comings and goings due to vacations. Ejo will be in Japan and Ohio for several weeks during the heart of the summer while schools out. Tuesdays will continue with double sittings every other week, alternating with informal discussion time or Dharma Talks if Ejo is in town. Thursday evenings are reserved for possible garden work, but need to be confirmed. You may also come and work in the garden at your own schedule if you know what tasks need doing. We will end the summer with the now traditional retreat out at the farm and begin our fall Ango (practice period) late September.

Summer *Ordinary Mind* Retreat - August 29 - 31 (Fri - Sun)

Our summer sesshin, or silent retreat, will be held for the 3rd year now, at Seido's farm. It will begin on Friday evening and end on Sunday at noon lunch. You may attend any part or all of the event according to your schedule. Sign up sheets will be in the lobby of the zendo beginning late July. Most people staying overnight sleep in the zendo or camp. There is one guest room available for those with special needs.

Fall Garage Sale

Plans are coming together for our annual garage sale fundraiser in September, so start saving your stuff or ask that neighbor if they'd like you to alleviate their material burden for a good cause. Tony is very busy being a new dad and Carmelita will help coordinate with another partner - who could be YOU! Inquire within. Stay tuned for announcements and set aside things. Pricing and organizing everything usually takes a long time and will need group assistance as well as helping sell the day of the event.

First Resident Trainee

Gensei plans to move into 2190 Garfield in the fall. As it is, he currently dedicates much of his time helping with the morning schedule, doing the bookkeeping and tenzo duties as well as grounds construction and other miscellaneous. His residency will not only facilitate the current relationship in caring for the temple, but will include a more intense sitting schedule and study time. Discussions will ensue at our steering committee meetings that will address issues and support regarding this new change.

Begging Bowl

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

Garage Sale Items

contact: Carmelita

For the Zendo Blinds for Windows Non-toxic Paint

Contact Yushin or Ejo

- Gassho



Ghosts

A Japanese friend called me on the phone yesterday to ask me about ghosts. One of her friends took a photograph and when it was developed there was an eerie light containing an image of an unknown girl's face at the side of the picture. It is pretty common in Japan for people to take these kinds of pictures seriously and to worry about whether the ghost may be karmically linked to them in some way. Sometimes people visit temples to try and appease the spirits.

When I first moved back from Japan there was a front-page article in the Oregonian about some monks doing a prayer service in the underground MAX station in West Portland. It seems that part of the line was dug under a graveyard, and there had been lots of unusual troubles. The monks were there to make an offering and bring some reconciliation. I was so happy to see that article. I remember it made me feel somehow welcome back in my own country.

The job of a priest in Japan and the US is, on a surface level, very different, but the task is the same. We don't get a lot of requests from Americans to look into these kinds of matters or to perform services for the deceased, but we do get a lot of requests to listen to people's problems or give them advice.

The reply to both of these kinds of requests is the same. It is a reminder that

what we imagine to be out there, whether it is a ghost or "something we are working with", is also in here, inside us, and that what we imagine to be in here is also out there. In both cases I explain that we don't try to get rid of something. After all, there is no place to get rid of something too! I seem to be saying over and over again, "Don't try to control everything according to your wishes. The foundation of the suffering you are experiencing comes from the fundamental delusion that there is an I and a not-I, an inside and an outside and that one controls the other."

My friend came over this morning with her friend and the picture. We talked a little and prepared the offerings that they brought for the altar. I performed a service and dedicated the merit to the spirit in the picture, wherever it may reside, and to all lost spirits. Then we had some tea and talked a little more about the picture, but mostly about other things.

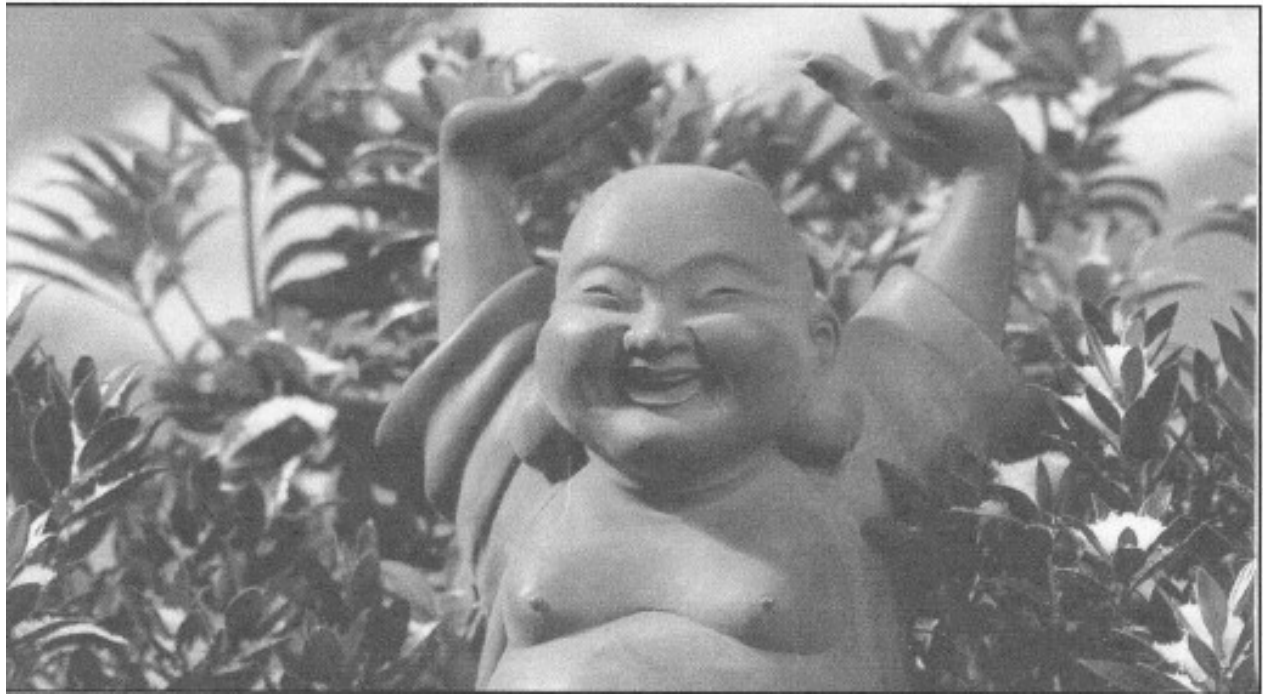
It is all pretty much the same thing.

- Ejo

*Though there be the purity of the autumn waters
Extending to the horizon,
How does that compare with the haziness
Of a spring night's moon?
Most people want clear purity,
But though you sweep and sweep
The mind is not yet emptied.*

- Master Keizan on Micchaka





About the Eugene Zendo

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

EZ July 2003

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
If you are unable to attend <u>Double Sit</u> Evenings you may come and join us for	only the one <i>of the</i> 40 minute periods. Please leave or enter during Kinhin.	1 <u>5:30 -7:50 AM</u> Regular Schedule 7:30-9:30 Service/ Zazen (Double Sit)	2 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	3 <u>5:30 -7:30 AM</u> Regular Schedule 6:30 - Dusk Garden Work <i>(to be confirmed)</i>	4 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	5 <u>8:30 AM</u> Zazenkai at the Eugene Aikikai
6	7 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	8 <u>5:30 -7:50 AM</u> Regular Schedule 7:30-9:30 Service/ Zazen Dharma Talk	9 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	10 <u>5:30 -7:30 AM</u> Regular Schedule 6:30 - Dusk Garden Work <i>(to be confirmed)</i>	11 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	12 <u>8:30 AM</u> Zazenkai at the Eugene Aikikai
13	14 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Regular Schedule 7 - 9 PM Intro to Zazen	15 <u>5:30 -7:30 AM</u> Regular Schedule 6-7 PM Zendo Mtg. 7:30-9:30 PM Service/ Zazen (Double Sit)*	16 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	17 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Regular Schedule 6:30 - Dusk Garden Work <i>(to be confirmed)</i>	18 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	19 <u>8:30 AM</u> Zazenkai at the Eugene Aikikai
20	21 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	22 <u>5:30 -7:30</u> <u>AM</u> Regular Schedule 7:30-9:30 PM Service/ Zazen Informal Disc.	23 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	24 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Regular Schedule 6:30 - Dusk Garden Work <i>(to be confirmed)</i>	25 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	26 <u>8:30 AM</u> Zazenkai at the Eugene Aikikai
27	28 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	29 <u>5:30 -7:50</u> <u>AM</u> Regular Schedule 7:30-9:30 Service/ Zazen (Double Sit)*	30 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	31 <u>5:30- 7:50 AM</u> Regular Schedule 6:30 - Dusk Garden Work <i>(to be confirmed)</i>	<i>You may also join morning zazen any time before the 6:50 AM Service and depart either after service or soji.</i>	