



Eugene Zendo

July 2008

Butsugenji *Buddhe Eye Temple* Volume 8 Issue 7



Keira Roshi's Calligraphy
of our temple name.

Celebrate the 4th Year Anniversary of
the founding of the Eugene Zendo,
Butsugenji

Sunday, June 29th

Commemorative Ceremonies and Talk from 9-10:30AM

Celebratory Ceremonies and Lunch from 11:00 AM

The earlier ceremonies and talk will be longer and more solemn. The celebration from 11:00 is shorter and more festive. Please join in for any or all of the day ... and bring family and friends! Lunch is provided.

A History of the Eugene Zendo

In 1987, Randi Getsushin Brox, a professor of French literature at the U of O, decided to explore Zen practice and found Kyogen and Gyokuko Carlson at Dharma Rain Zen Center in Portland. The Carlsons were ordained by Jiyu Kenneth Roshi of Shasta Abbey and later developed Dharma Rain as a center for committed lay practitioners. Their original affiliation with the Abbey ended in 1986.

The Eugene Zendo began in Gestushin's house on Potter St. in the spring of 1989 as a support group for folks affiliated with DRZC. On September 13, 1990, Kyogen and Gyokuko performed a dedication ceremony for the Zendo. Over the years, many people would pass through this house on Tuesday evenings. Kyogen was dedicated to helping the group and came down frequently to teach and lead sesshin. Hogen Bays of ZCO was also instrumental and lead many retreats.

A strong feeling of sangha emerged during a time when frequent discussions provided opportunity for people to get to know one another and explore the meaning of practice in their lives. Members were encouraged to travel to Dharma Rain to receive the Buddhist precepts and do longer sesshin. The group also had an open ecumenical Buddhist flavor. Several Tibetan and Vipassana practitioners attended regularly. According to Getsushin, the group became a foundation for newcomers entering practice and connecting people to teachers outside the area.

Dana, the first of the Buddhist Paramits (perfections, 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 training 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.

In 1992 Getsushin became Kyogen's formal student and by 1999, after retirement, she took up residency at DRZC. During that period she did a training period at Tassajara and began her work with prisoner's on Death Row. She generously provided her home to the Eugene Sangha. Prior to her leaving Kyogen, Hogen, Getsushin and Sangha members met with Ejo to plan the transition from a sangha affiliated with Dharma Rain to a sangha led by Ejo.

After two years Getsushin needed to sell her house. The Eugene Zendo spent the next year in Yushin's attic and then the garage of Ejo's rental. By the next February the Garfield property had been purchased and the arduous task of creating a zendo and family living space began. Yushin led and organized the building projects. During the next year the whole sangha participated in the re-construction. The family space was developed upstairs with the garage/laundry area became the present zendo. Many, many contributed money, creativity, needed appliances and labor.

Acquiring the Garfield property was made possible by a large generous donation from Joshin Keira Roshi, Ejo's teacher in Japan.

Keira Roshi came from Japan to formally dedicate our temple during an "Opening the Tan" ceremony held on Sunday June 27, 2004 at the Eugene Zendo. Wearing the kesa of mountains sewn for him by the sangha, he fanned the prajna paramita sutra to the deep rhythm of the Maka Hanya Haramita Shingyo. The moment marked the official founding of our temple, Butsugenji (Buddha Eye Temple) before 120 guests who gathered on a bright breezy summer afternoon. In addition to our local sangha, and Ejo's parents and family, abbots from other Oregon sanghas attended - Chozen Bays Roshi of Zen Community of Oregon, Reverend Oswin from the Eugene Priory and Kyogen and Gyokuko Carlson from Dharma Rain Zen Center. A feast was enjoyed after the event; ten lasagnas baked at several different households, local greens, lemon cake and a popular keg of beer. (Rumor has it festivities joyfully continue into the late night hours.) The event went smoothly and represented countless hours involved in renovating the temple space, cooking meals, sewing and gardening. Working together over the months of preparation enriched the community. What started as a small sitting group back in 1989 on Potter St. together with Ejo's vow in 1997 to start a temple, had blossomed here into this unforgettable moment that marked a new beginning.

Over the last four years, we've continued to build on that foundation. While many of the faces from Potter Street are still here, many others have moved on to other things. New faces have come and at times threaten to overflow our small zendo. We purchased a yurt for expanded class and meeting space. We've begun a Sunday morning gathering and with that a children's program. The dharma wheel continues to turn.

Annual Yard (and Bake) Sale Fundraiser Scheduled for July 26 & 27

It's that time of year to start collecting items to donate to our annual yard sale. With generous donations from Sangha members and their friends and families, this sale has been our most successful fundraising event. This year's yard sale is scheduled for the weekend of July 26th & 27th

Once again we're looking for (lots of) saleable items in good, working, clean, useable condition. You can drop off your donations at the Zendo on the back patio beginning in early July.

At last year's sale we also sold wonderful home-baked cookies and brownies (baked by Evelyn and Carol), and delicious, organic plums (donated by Carol & Tony). All the goodies were popular with yard sale customers, so we're also going to include baked goods, etc. in this year's sale too..

Working on the yard sale is a lot of fun, and there are plenty of opportunities to help out: donating items, sorting and pricing donations, setting up, baking cookies, staffing the sale, and closing up. We'll start pricing items on Monday & Wednesday evenings, beginning July 14th. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be posted in June on the bulletin board in the front room.

Empty Field Hermitage Work Retreat August 23 - 29

Dharma Rain Zen Center will sponsor a retreat to complete work on the wonderful zendo at the Empty Field Hermitage, located at Horton Road Organics farm west of Eugene. Dates will be August 23-29. Along with some opportunities for formal practice, this will involve camping, simple food, and community work. People of all ages and skill levels are welcome to come for any part of the retreat or the whole week. Look for the insert in the August newsletter for more information.

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>

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Submissions to the newsletter can be sent to butsugenji@eugenezendo.org

The deadline for submissions is the 15th of every month.

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**Eugene Zendo
2190 Garfield St
Eugene, OR 97405**

July 2008

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Morning Schedule 5:10 am - Zazen 5:50 am - Kinhin 6:00 am - Zazen 6:40 am - Service 7:10 am - Soji 7:30 am - Breakfast		1 <i>Morning Schedule</i> 7:00 pm Servcie/Zazen and Genjokoan Class	2 <i>Morning Schedule</i>	3 <i>Morning Schedule</i>	4 <i>Morning Schedule</i>	5
6 8:00 am Intro to Zazen 9:00 am Service /Zazen and Dharma Talk	7 <i>Morning Schedule</i>	8 <i>Morning Schedule</i> 7:00 pm Service and Double Sit	9 <i>Morning Schedule</i>	10 <i>Morning Schedule</i>	11 <i>Morning Schedule</i>	12
13 8:00 am Intro to Zazen 9:00 am Service /Zazen and Dharma Talk	14 <i>Morning Schedule</i>	15 <i>Morning Schedule</i> 7:00 pm Servcie/Zazen and Study	16 <i>Morning Schedule</i>	17 <i>Morning Schedule</i>	18 <i>Morning Schedule</i>	19
20 8:00 am Intro to Zazen 9:00 am Service/Zazen and Readings	21 <i>Morning Schedule</i>	22 <i>Morning Schedule</i> 7:00 pm Servcie/Zazen and Study	23 <i>Morning Schedule</i>	24 <i>Morning Schedule</i>	25 <i>Morning Schedule</i>	26 Garage Sale!!!
27 8:00 am Intro to Zazen 9:00 am Service /Zazen and Readings Garage Sale!!!	28 <i>Morning Schedule</i>	29 <i>Morning Schedule</i> 7:00 pm Servcie/Zazen and Study	30 <i>Morning Schedule</i>	31 <i>Morning Schedule</i>		