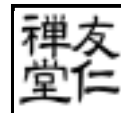


EUGENE ZENDO



AUGUST 2002

BUDDHA EYE DHARMA ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 4



EZ News

• Zendo Construction Hinging

On drywall, that is. The new zendo space is framed out and ready for its next stage of electrical wiring (dependent upon the gracious lighting consultation from Larry & Thelma) and then insulation and then DRYWALL! If we raise an estimated \$1500, drywall could be hung by professionals, quickly and pristinely.... if not, for an estimated \$600, we (mostly being Kip and Ross) could do it more slowly. Currently, there are no funds available for either scenario. Our bank account of \$3000 is committed to debt and savings and monthly pledges are just covering zendo operating expenses. There is some time pressure to begin sitting in the new space soon due to the inconvenience for Ejo's family and the swelling crowds we've often encountered on Tuesday nights. The Sangha present at the recent zendo meeting considered it imperative to get the new space minimally ready for sitting ASAP which may mean occupying a room with unfinished drywall and no windows for a while. If anyone could financially contribute towards this construction project, we could be in the zendo all the sooner and take the rest of the renovation projects as time and money allow. Even small donations count.

• Grounds for Change

While Ejo and Kip are in Japan and the construction on hold, it was decided that we would focus on the maintenance of the surrounding grounds. Sidney has been organizing work parties to this end (note August 12th) that start with dinner at 6 PM and projects at 6:30. Since it was up for debate what would happen to the large corner spot by Garfield and 22nd, there's some talk of forming a grounds committee to meet and make a suggested plan for some of the surrounding area.

• Get Ready for the 2nd Annual Benefit Garage Sale

Now's the time to set aside your stuff for the zendo garage sale. Start making a pile of things that you want to purge. Clean out, be free of or otherwise are willing to donate to the zendo as part of this important fundraiser. The sale will happen in the first part of September and has become a significant community event and a key fundraiser opportunity. Please hold on to your things until we finalize the collection place. Big things and little things - Clean up, clean out, help out and lighten your load and have some fun too! More details coming soon - more info: Tony or Thelma

• Summer Sesshin at the Farm August 23-25th

Everyone is welcome to attend all / or any part of the 2nd annual EZ Sesshin at Debra's Farm which is located in the coast range about 1 hour from Eugene. Sesshin begins Fri night 7:30 and ends on Sunday at noon. There will be a sign up sheet in by the zendo bulletin board and an accompanying schedule if you're deciding when to arrive.

• Ejo's Japan Trip

After meeting with his teacher and traveling to different temples, Ejo will be returning late August in time to lead the summer sesshin. Kip is joining him for much of the journey too. The Sangha sent them both off with a card and local delicacies for Ejo's teacher in appreciation for his generous help in the purchase of the Garfield property.

• Schedule Survey & Annual Pledges

If you'd like some input on the format of Tuesday evenings, don't forget to return your surveys by August 17th. Also very important is your annual pledge cards so we can consider our resources during this critical time of building a zendo.

• Fall Practice Period

The 100 day fall practice period, a time for everyone to focus on their commitment and practice vows will begin late September. We will focus on the *Sandokai* of Sekito Kisen which is recited as part of the morning service. We will be using the recently published talks from Suzuki Roshi as a basis for classes on Thursday nights. You may wish to order this book and familiarize yourself with the material. (Hardback: [Branching Streams Flow in the Darkness](#) - Suzuki 1999 U Cal Press ISBN: 0-520-21982-1)

*The true source shines clear in the light/ Branching streams flow on in the dark
To be attached to things is surely delusion/ According with sameness is still not enlightenment...*

Begging Bowl

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

For the Entryway:

Throw Rugs- large and small
Details: Ejo

For the Zendo:

Drywall
Details: Kip

Any Items for the Annual Garage Sale

Details: Thelma/Tony

For the Kitchen:

Large Teapot
Pots & Pans
Hot Pads
Dish Towels
Coffee Grinder
Rice Cooker
Drain Stopper
Silverware Tray
Stove Burner
Liners
Details: Ross

- Gassho



***The Butterfly
Resting Upon the
Temple Bell
Asleep***

- Buson

PARADISE LOST AND FOUND

by Thelma Soderquist

The afternoon I decided to walk up the red dirt road to the ancient Hawaiian site of Mo'okini large humpback whales and their offspring swam just off the north coast of Hawaii. Ethereal rainbows tumbled from passing showers and a large brown dog slept soundly in the flowers along the path. Climbing the grassy mound to the lichen covered rock walls along the outer edge of the ceremonial site offered a view across the water to Maui's steep mountain slopes and the distant waves around the rocky shore that stood almost upright in the wind.

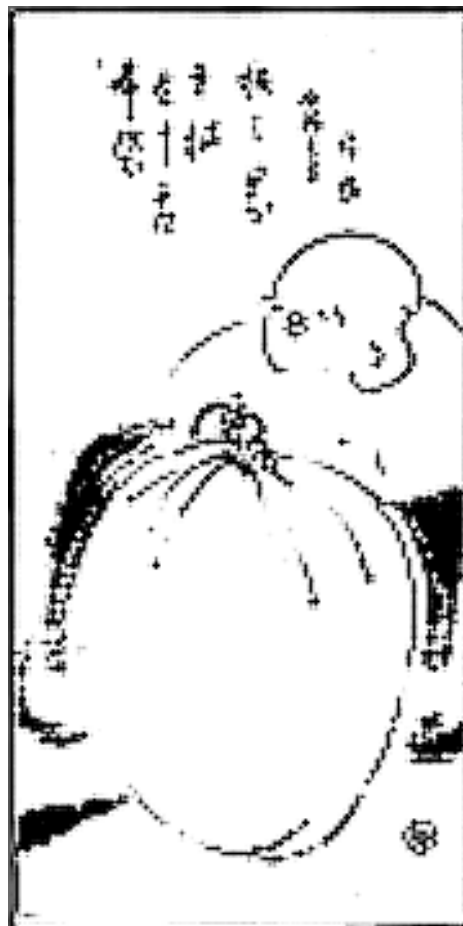
A perfect moment in a perfect place... but, I had read that this spot had been a site of sacrifice for thousands of Hawaiian men a few hundred years before. The large eight-foot rock with a slight curvature to hold the bodies still stands as a testament to this time. What an odd juxtaposition it was. This spot of tranquility and breathtaking beauty today, being used as a stage for human rituals and religious practices of such extreme brutality at another time. Yet, I knew historically these practices were not uncommon worldwide. There have always been attempts to explain, understand and control the world by the manipulation of people and objects. This place reminded me of how fortunate I felt to live in a time and place where it was possible to encounter and practice Buddhism.

The Buddha taught that heaven and hell are each created in this world by us. No matter how perfect our circumstances it is always possible for us to be dissatisfied and ultimately create suffering for others and ourselves.

Human capacity for rationalization and complexity is endless and thus the simple promise of seeking refuge in Buddha, Dharma and Sangha becomes a profound engagement of sanity. For Buddhists this "triple treasure" can provide a guiding star for navigation through this strange, beautiful and difficult world in which we find ourselves.

Hotei

*the itinerant monk
wandering the country
side with his huge cloth
sack*
Mamiya Eishu (1871-945)
Ink on paper



Kitchen Dharma

Once, several years ago, I was telling a friend how I wanted to try making noodles from scratch. He commented, "Oh, that's nice. I never have time for that." Now, it's not that he was a terribly busy person. He spent several hours everyday pursuing personal interests. Free time he could have chosen to spend any way. I was very puzzled by his response. It's as if he only ate so he could get back to actually doing something. I'm not saying that things need to be made from scratch nor do I think you need to serve only five star cuisine at every meal. As with a lot of things, it's not what is done, but how. The relationship between my existence and my dinner is so vividly apparent to me that I can't help but consider cooking something more than a simple chore one has to do to get through the day. The work of preparing a meal, eating and, believe it or not, cleaning up has always been one of my favorite activities. This becomes even more true when I'm allowed to cook for others (even if it's just cookies and tea). Caring for what is put on another person's plate is caring for and maintaining that person's life.

I would like to close by quoting a meal verse I found somewhere:

*I venerate the Three Treasures,
am thankful for this meal,
the work of many people,
and the sharing of other forms of life.*

Thanks for letting me feed you.

- Gassho,
Ross

About the Eugene Zendo

www.eugenezendo.org

The Eugene Zendo is a Soto Zen Practice community open to everyone. The Sangha began over 14 years ago in Getsushin Brox's house on Potter St. and has recently moved in to its own space on Garfield St. where we are currently renovating the property to serve the needs of the expanding group.

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 some orientation. Check the calendar for times on morning and evening sittings and classes and/ or contact our resident priest for more information:

Newsletter Contacts:

Debra Martin

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Ross Morris rossm@efn.org (web guy)

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Eugene, OR 97405

ejo@eugenezendo.org

Chocolate Glazed Toffee Bars

Grease an 8x8 inch pan.

Preheat oven to 350 F.

Place rack in center of oven.

Whisk together:

2/3 cup flour

1 1/2 Tbl sugar

1/8 tea salt

Mix in until it resembles fine crumbs:

4 Tbl unsalted butter

Blend:

2 tsp milk

If necessary add more milk until the mixture holds together but is not wet. Press the dough into the pan and refrigerate for 15 minutes. Bake for 10 minutes then set aside.

Toast in oven 5 to 8 minutes:

1 1/12 cups pecans.

Set aside to cool.

In a medium sauce-pan over moderate heat:

5 Tbl unsalted butter

1/2 cup brown sugar

2 Tbl honey

1 Tbl milk

1/4 tsp salt

Boil the mixture uncovered for three minutes then remove from heat.

Stir in:

Toasted pecans

1 tsp vanilla

Spread mixture evenly over baked layer.

Bake 17 to 20 minutes. Remove from oven and sprinkle over the top:

1/4 cup semisweet chocolate chips.

Allow to melt slightly then spread the chocolate over the surface. The entire top doesn't need to be covered with chocolate.

Sprinkle with:

2 Tbl finely chopped pecans

Cut when the chocolate has thickened but is still slightly soft. Let cool completely before removing from pan.

- Recipe from Joy of Cooking '97 Edition

EZ August 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Note: You may join the morning zazen sitting anytime before 7:00 AM service.				1 <u>5:30-7:30 AM</u> Zazen/service Temple Cleanup	2 <u>5:30-7:30 AM</u> Zazen/service Temple Cleanup	3 <u>8:30 AM</u> Zazenkai at Eugene Aikikai
4	5 <u>5:30-7:30 AM</u> Zazen/service Temple Cleanup	6 <u>5:30 – 7:30 AM</u> Regular Schedule 7:30 – 9:30 Zazen and Samu (Silent Work Practice)	7 <u>6:00-7:30 AM</u> Zazen/service Temple Cleanup	8 <u>5:30-7:30 AM</u> Zazen/service Temple Cleanup	9 <u>5:30-7:30 AM</u> Zazen/service Temple Cleanup	10 <u>8:30 AM</u> Zazenkai at Eugene Aikikai
11	12 <u>5:30-7:30 AM</u> Regular Schedule WORK PARTY! 6 PM Food 6:30 Work	13 <u>5:30 – 7:30 AM</u> Regular Schedule 7:30 – 9:30 PM Service, Zazen Read/Disc. (Lois)	17 <u>6:00-7:30 AM</u> Zazen/service Temple Cleanup	18 <u>5:30-7:30 AM</u> Zazen/service Temple Cleanup	19 <u>5:30-7:30 AM</u> Zazen/service Temple Cleanup	20 <u>8:30 AM</u> Zazenkai at Eugene Aikikai
18 Ejo returns around now	19 <u>5:30-7:30 AM</u> Zazen/service Temple Cleanup	20 <u>5:30 – 7:30 AM</u> Regular Schedule 7:30 – 9:30 PM Service/Zazen/ Double Sit with Kinhin	21 <u>6:00-7:30 AM</u> Zazen/service Temple Cleanup	22 <u>5:30-7:30 AM</u> Zazen/service Temple Cleanup	23 <u>5:30-7:30 AM</u> Zazen/service Temple Cleanup 7:30 PM FARM SESSHIN OPEN	24 <u>8:30 AM</u> Zazenkai at Eugene Aikikai 6 AM – 9 PM FARM SESSHIN
25 WEEKEND FARM SESSHIN Closes Noon	26 <u>5:30-7:30 AM</u> Zazen/service Temple Cleanup	27 <u>5:30 – 7:30 AM</u> Regular Schedule 6:00 – EZ Meeting 7:30 – 9:30 PM Zazen/ Talk TBA	28 <u>6:00-7:30 AM</u> Zazen/service Temple Cleanup	29 <u>5:30-7:30 AM</u> Zazen/service Temple Cleanup	30 <u>5:30-7:30 AM</u> Zazen/service Temple Cleanup	31 <u>8:30 AM</u> Zazenkai at Eugene Aikikai