



# Eugene Zendo

August 2005 **Butsu Genji** *Buddha Eye Temple* Volume 5 Issue 8

## Summer Sesshin

Eugene Zendo's "Ordinary Mind" summer sesshin will be held Fri-Sun Sept. 2,3, & 4 at Horton Road Organics farm—perhaps in the new zendo building with a few more well placed work parties! Partial attendance is okay, accomidation, parking, carpooling, and meals will be provided—please sign up ahead. A forthcoming flyer will provide more detailed information.

## Farm Zendo Building

The farm zendo building is now nearer completion thanks to the skills, hard work and help of many people, thank you! But there is more fun to be had—there will be upcoming work parties scheduled to put decking on the roof and siding on the walls. We hope to have the building useable in time for the summer sesshin, stay tuned for further developments.

## Yard Sale

The garage sale is coming August 13th & 14th. We're looking for donations of items in good condition. Appliances and electronics need to work; clothing should be in good condition. Please do not donate the



following items as people will not buy them: shoes, socks and undergarments. Please bring anything you'd like to donate as soon as possible as we need to price items before the sale. You can put your stuff on the back patio behind the zendo.

There are many opportunities to volunteer. We need folks to help with pricing, distributing flyers, Friday evening set-up, and staffing the sale Saturday & Sunday. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

Donation items are tax deductible. Please give Robin Issei a list of donated items if you'd like a receipt for your taxes.

## Garden Work-Party

Saturday, July 30th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. will be the next garden work party.

Please join us— we will have lunch around 12:00 noon.



## Deer Alert!

Please keep the gates to the Kuan Yin garden closed as the deer have been helping themselves to out newly planted roses and other plants. One gate is by the driveway storage shed. The other gate (rolled fencing, really) is in front of the yellow pick up. Thanks for helping us protect the gardens.

## Sangha Voices

### The Bundle

I don't remember when I first saw the bundle of objects my step-father took from dead Japanese soldiers he killed in the battle of Attu Island.

I do remember his long recovery from multiple shrapnel wounds, his recurring nightmares, his anger and his hardness. Sometime in my growing up, he talked about his experiences, not only of the battle itself, but the American mili-

tary mistakes that caused many deaths in his unit and the ghastly conditions on the hospital ship where the wounded continued to die before reaching San Francisco.

He began to soften as he became increasingly involved with my children. He once told me that being a grandfather was the most gratifying experience of his life. As the Vietnam War continued he came to oppose violence and was determined that none of his grandsons would ever go to war.

Towards the end of his life he became preoccupied with his war experiences. We had long talks which resulted in him crying about his responsibility for the Japanese soldiers he had killed. As he got closer to his own death his grief seemed to intensify. We attempted to convince him that as a young man, in that time and place, he had little choice.

Sorting his room after his death I was relieved to not find the bundle, however, my son found it in the garage rafters. We were in a quandary as to what to do with these objects. I always felt such sorrow looking at them: a large Japanese flag, a small personal flag with blood stains, a picture of a tiger printed on silk, photographs; a wife, a fam-

ily, a man in uniform; leather cases with writing in them, white dress gloves and a small folded brocaded card with an inscription inside.

During Ango while working on the Jizos for peace project, it occurred to me to ask Ejo if he could return these things to Japan in a way that was appropriate. I talked to him and he agreed. My son, Robert, brought the bundle when he came for Jukai. We as a family, looked at everything one last time and read the story of the battle from his home town newspaper. Recently I met with Ejo and talked to him about the life of Robert McAmis. After examining everything in the bundle, Ejo translated the inscription in the brocaded card:

"Namu Amida Butsu."

Gassho,  
—Jun-e

#### MEMENTO MINKEY

1990-2005

The vet brought you into the room wrapped in a towel, your shroud, a catheter hanging from your tiny wrist

You were serene.

Your golden eyes pacific, calm.

You regarded us quietly

We both held you

And whispered our love.

I was unable to say much

fighting down the ocean of sorrow welling up in my throat.

The vet injected into the catheter first the tranquilizer then the poison  
that killed you

You gazed at us and slowly, slowly, withdrew into the infinity within until you disappeared leaving behind the empty shell of your calico form.

The elements that had come together, for this one time only, to make Minkey dispersed.

All week you had sat zazen while dying. Never complaining, always purring when we came close To comfort you.

"They are so stoic," said the Vet but we knew that you were showing us how to die, how to let go because you knew that in grieving for you we were also grieving for ourselves.

Now we have to let you go little teacher.

May the elements that made you up Come together again in a higher birth and bring joy to others.

—Tenkan  
July 8, 2005  
Eugene, OR

## **Begging Bowl**

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

### **For the Kitchen**

**Paring Knives, Water Filter**

*contact: Robin*

### **For the Zendo Exterior**

**Building Materials for the**

**archway, Wheel Barrow,**

**Dirt Rake** *contact: Ejo or*

*Thelma*

### **For the Farm Zendo**

## **Roofing Shingles**

*contact: Seido or Ejo*

## **Yard Sale Items**

*contact: Robin*

*- Gassho*



## **Nine Bows and Gratitude...**

Thanks to Mitch for the donation of Floor Beams for

the Farm Zendo, Bodhi Construction's use of tools, Howard's donation of lumber and the dozens of hands and hours that have contributed to the building.

Thanks to Carmelita for the roses in the new rose bed.



*—thanks!*

### **About the Eugene Zendo**

**Web Site: [www.eugenezendo.org](http://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](mailto:ejo@eugenezendo.org)**

**Zendo Address: 2190 Garfield Eugene, OR 97405**

**Newsletter Items: Bradley [bradlj@u.washington.edu](mailto:bradlj@u.washington.edu) 686-2995**

*To receive this newsletter please send your name and address to the zendo or sign up in the lobby*

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

# EZ August 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> <u>5:10- 7:30 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>2</b> <u>Regular AM</u> <b>6 - 7 PM: Open</b> <b>Zendo Meeting</b> <b>7:30-9:30 PM</b> <b>Service/ Zazen</b> <b>Reading/ Discussion</b>	<b>3</b> <u>5:10- 7:30 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast <b>Hours TBA:</b> <b>Yard Sale Pricing</b>	<b>4</b> <u>5:10- 7:30 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>5</b> <u>5:10- 7:30 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast <b>Hours TBA:</b> <b>Yard Sale Pricing</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <u>5:10- 7:30 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast <b>Hours TBA:</b> <b>Yard Sale Pricing</b>	<b>9</b> <u>Regular AM</u> <b>7:30-9:30 PM</b> <b>Service/ Double Sit</b> <b>w/ opt Intro to Zazen</b>	<b>10</b> <u>5:10- 7:30 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast <b>Hours TBA:</b> <b>Yard Sale Pricing</b>	<b>11</b> <u>5:10- 7:30 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>12</b> <u>5:10- 7:30 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast <b>GARAGE SALE</b> <b>PREPARATION</b>	<b>13</b> <b>Big Benefit</b> <b>Garage</b> <b>Sale at</b> <b>Zendo</b>
<b>14</b> <b>Big</b> <b>Benefit</b> <b>Garage</b> <b>Sale at</b> <b>Zendo</b>	<b>15</b> <u>5:10- 7:30 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>16</b> <u>5:10- 7:30 AM</u> Regular Schedule <b>7:30-9:30 PM</b> <b>Service/ Zazen</b> <b>Sangha Reading &amp;</b> <b>Discussion</b>	<b>17</b> <u>5:10- 7:30 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>18</b> <u>5:10- 7:30 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>19</b> <u>5:10- 7:30 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <u>5:10- 7:30 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>23</b> <u>5:10- 7:30 AM</u> Regular Schedule <b>7:30-9:30 PM</b> <b>Zazen, Service</b> <b>Dharma Talk</b>	<b>24</b> <u>5:10- 7:30 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>25</b> <u>5:10- 7:30 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>26</b> <u>5:10- 7:30 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <u>5:10- 7:30 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast	<b>30</b> <u>5:10- 7:30 AM</u> Regular AM <b>7:30-9:30 PM</b> <b>Service/ Zazen</b> <b>Sangha Reading and</b> <b>Discussion</b>	<b>31</b> <u>5:10- 7:30 AM</u> Zazen, Service, Soji, Breakfast			