



August 2007

Butsu Genji Buddha Eye Temple

Volume 7 Issue 8



"Singing Jizo" from the Jizo garden at Arashiyama Temple, Kyoto, Japan, August 2005.

War depends upon thinking. War depends upon holding onto thoughts, grudges, and fears. Peace depends upon constantly opening the hand of thought, letting go, and moving on. Peace depends upon non-thinking. Peace depends upon maintaining an open, quiet, aware mind and an open, warm, kind heart. This is easy to say, but not so easy to do. Fortunately, we have the tools of practice to guide us and the Sangha to support us in our efforts.

Chozen Bays, from *Ink on the Cat*, July 2007

Reflections on Peace

Two years ago I had the good fortune to travel to Japan with Great Vow Zen Monastery on the Jizos for Peace pilgrimage. It was the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. After seeing the photos and artifacts from that terrible time, I felt inspired to "do peace work." I wanted somehow to make reparation; I wanted to make a difference in the world to help prevent such things from happening again.

Now, here it is two years later, and what have I done? Most of the time when I think about "peace work," I find myself confused, disturbed, unable to move. The war in Iraq seems entrenched and impossible to end. We human beings seem bent on destroying the very earth that supports us. People don't have time. I don't have time. It all feels quite impossible to change and even harder to accept as it is. Honestly, most of the time I am not even sure that I can say what "as it is" even is!

Of course, the more I struggle with all of this and hold up ideas of how I think things are and should be, I simply perpetuate an internal war that feels just as entrenched as any external war. As I reflect on this, I see that this internal war prevents me from seeing the truth. Perhaps the real challenge in this world of ours is not all the things that need changing and fixing, but our inability to see the truth and speak the truth. I ran across a quotation from Pema Chodron, who said "The truth you believe and cling to makes you unavailable to hear anything new." It is truly a challenge to listen and dialog with people with whom we disagree. I want to immediately judge them as ignorant or stupid or narrow-minded or whatever prejudice leaps to my mind. This led me to find Chozen Bays' talk on "Deep Listening," a part of which I reprinted on page 2, where she writes that "Avalokitesvara spoke about developing the "Hearing heart" which is undivided by seeing, feeling and knowing."

So, I may not be able to prevent another Hiroshima or Nagasaki, or any other atrocity that the human mind may devise. But I can face directly what my practice asks of me, which is in part to lead a life of service to and compassion toward *all* living beings, beginning with my own words and deeds each and every day.

~Anyu

Dana, the first of the Buddhist Paramitas (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 Dharma to all beings.

We appreciate your continued generosity.

Share the Care Group Formed

The Kanzeon Sangha has set up a “Share the Care” structure to care for Zendo members and others who are seriously ill. Based on the Share the Care model originally developed by a group of people who came together to help their terminally ill friend, the Eugene Zendo’s structure will be under the administration of the Kanzeon Sangha.

The Share the Care program works to prevent burnout by caregivers by spreading the burden of taking care of a serious ill person among a group. By coming together to help, individuals can perform many of the essential chores needed such as picking up medications, shopping, making meals, paperwork, insurance forms, entertainment and companionship. Interested Zendo members will be asked to fill out a form outlining their availability, special skills and other particulars.

Share the Care forms may be found on the bulletin board in the Zendo. Returned completed forms will be kept on file.

gassho, Tenkan

Eugene Zendo Women’s Group

The Eugene Zendo Women’s Circle meets on the first Monday of each month at 7PM and the location varies from one person’s house to another. This is an opportunity for us to gather in an informal setting to share about our lives with each other. If you are interested in joining us please contact Aido (Karen Waskow) at 338-8453 or karenwaskow@yahoo.com with your e-mail address and you will be included in our monthly announcement of the upcoming meeting, which will confirm the place and time.

Due to the proximity to the garage sale fundraiser, our next meeting will be at the zendo on July 30 at 7PM and we will be donating our time to working on the garage sale while we have a chance to catch up with each other.

gassho, Aido

Listening as the best way to enlightenment

The Buddhist scripture called the Surangama sutra describes a gathering of thousands of Buddhas and bodhisattvas. They came together for a professional meeting, just as we have done. They were talking about business matters. If this were a convention of hardware sales people, we would be talking about the best tools for different jobs. That’s exactly what all these Buddhas and bodhisattvas were talking about. They were discussing the best tools to bring the millions of people in the world out of their suffering and into enlightenment. After twenty-five presentations on the various techniques that these very wise beings each thought was best, the Buddha selected the one most effective method for bringing people to enlightenment. It was deep listening.

“All you who listen here should turn inward your faculty of hearing to hear your own nature. This is how enlightenment is won.” “For those who wish to escape from samsara in their search for Nirvana’s heat, it is best to contemplate worldly sound.”

She who hears the sounds of the World

In the Surangama Sutra it is the Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara who advocates for the power of deep listening as the best way to enlightenment. Avalokitesvara is called in China, Kuan Yin, in Japan, Kannon, in Tibet, Chinrezi. Avalokitesvara is depicted in both male and female forms, and is the embodiment of compassion. She is also called the one who hears the sounds of the world and responds. At the great conference of enlightened beings, Avalokitesvara spoke about developing the “Hearing heart” which is undivided by seeing, feeling and knowing. The practice of pure listening involves listening as if you are a brand new baby. You have just been born. Your mind is pure, pristine. You have never heard the sounds of this world before. You have no idea what is making them. You have no words and therefore no thoughts. You can only listen, with curiosity and wide awareness. Your mind and heart are wide open, undivided. When we can listen to our patients, our clients, our students, our difficult neighbors, our parents and our children, our friends and our enemies, and not be prejudiced by what we see, what we already know, or by our emotions, then we are practicing pure listening.

Excerpted from “Deep Listening,” by Chozen Bays, Roshi
<http://www.greatvow.org/transcribedteachings.htm>

August 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>* Morning schedule 5:10 am – Zazen 5:50 am – Kirhin 6:00 am – Zazen 6:40 am – Service 7:10 am – Soji 7:30 am – Breakfast</p>	<p>What is ... Zazen: seated meditation Kirhin: walking meditation Soji: Temple cleaning Fusatsu: Atonement ceremony</p>	<p>*You may enter or depart during morning schedule at appropriate transitions. **On double-sit evenings, you may join us for either of the 40-minute periods. Please enter or leave during kirhin. ***You may attend any or all events on Fusatsu evenings.</p>	<p>1 Morning schedule</p>	<p>2 Morning schedule</p>	<p>3 Morning schedule Garage sale setup 7-9 p.m.</p>	<p>4 Garage sale!</p>
<p>5 <i>Garage sale!</i> 8:00 am Intro to Zazen 9:00 am Service/Zazen Reading/discussion</p>	<p>6 Morning schedule</p>	<p>7 Morning schedule 7:30 pm Service/ ** Double sit</p>	<p>8 Morning schedule</p>	<p>9 Morning schedule Sangha circle 6:00 pm</p>	<p>10 Morning schedule</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 8:00 am Intro to Zazen 9:00 am Service/Zazen Reading/discussion</p>	<p>13 Morning schedule</p>	<p>14 Morning schedule 7:30 pm Service/Zazen Evening work party</p>	<p>15 Morning schedule</p>	<p>16 Morning schedule</p>	<p>17 Morning schedule</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 8:00 am Intro to Zazen 9:00 am Service/Zazen Reading/discussion</p>	<p>20 Morning schedule</p>	<p>21 Morning schedule 7:30 pm Service/Zazen Reading/discussion</p>	<p>22 Morning schedule</p>	<p>23 Morning schedule</p>	<p>24 Morning schedule</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 <i>Farm sesshin</i> 8:00 am Intro to Zazen 9:00 am Service/Zazen Reading/discussion</p>	<p>27 Morning schedule</p>	<p>28 Morning schedule 7:30 pm Service/Zazen ** Double sit</p>	<p>29 Morning schedule</p>	<p>30 Morning schedule Kanzeon Sangha 2:00 pm</p>	<p>31 Morning schedule</p>	
<i>Farm sesshin 22-26 August</i>						



Begging bowl and 9 bows...

- ◆ **Garden and yard help (ongoing)!**
Please see Issei.
- ◆ **Nine bows** to everyone who donated to the Garage Sale.
- ◆ **Nine bows** to Howard for his ongoing work on the grape arbor.

Board notes

The Board met briefly on July 3. The primary topic of discussion was the cost of various outside projects, such as the outside bathroom, the brick patio, gutters, and running electricity to the yurt. The brick patio was approved (and has been completed) with 50% cost contributed by the McMullen family. The proposed cost of electricity to the yurt was quite high, and so we will seek other options. The other projects are still slated for completion, pending available funding.

Announcements

- ◆ **Zendo Garage sale August 4-5** There is still time to sign up to help with the garage sale. The garage sale is an important fund-raiser, and it is a lot of fun. Sign-up sheets for volunteers are on the bulletin board. See Issei if you have questions and last-minute items to donate.
- ◆ **Summer sesshin at Empty Field Hermitage August 22-26.** Registration information is included in the newsletter and available at the Zendo.
- ◆ **Tuesday August 14** we will have an outside work party instead of our usual Tuesday evening program. Come prepared to work outside. See Issei if you have any questions.
- ◆ **Painting the Zendo.** Every Tuesday Gensei will be at the Zendo working on the painting project. There is lots of work to do; building and yard prep, pressure washing, minor repairs, etc., etc. If you have some time that you can give, please talk to Gensei.

About the Eugene Zendo

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 and discussion.

If you are new to Zen practice, an introductory class is offered at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday morning before our regular Sunday service. For more information, please contact our resident priest:

Ejo McMullen 541-302-4576 ejo@eugenezendo.org

You may also visit us on the Web at www.eugenezendo.org

The newsletter is mailed on the 20th of each month. Deadline for publication is the 15th of each month. Please submit newsletter items to Anyu at debraanyu@gmail.com

To receive this newsletter in the mail, please sign up at the Zendo, or send a note to Anyu at debraanyu@gmail.com

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