

Eugene Buddhist Priory
Temple of Boundless Compassion
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 April 2011 News & Calendar

March has been a quiet month in the temple as we concentrated on offering merit to those suffering in the Libyan conflict and from the earthquake, tsunami, & radiation threat in Japan. On Sundays March 13 and 27 we offered transfer of merit & memorial services, and March 20 we dedicated the merit of our Samantabhadra Festival Ceremony to our friends in Asia & Africa.

We continue our forest work thinning trees to produce firewood and restore oak habitat. Opening up the forest has also given us a clearer horizon to the south. The leftover limbs we're chipping for use as mulch. Nature gave us a hand by knocking down a big fir onto Dillard Road. The county took the top off to get it out of the road, and our friend Tom Collet from across the road came over and gave John lessons in chain sawing to remove it.

We have also been doing some transplanting of native trees, too. The early flowers are blooming now – Indian plum, crocus, daffodils, hellebore, lungwort – and the next group is just pushing through the ground – trillium, fawn lily, and blue hound's tongue. The spring flowers remind us that **Wesak**, which includes the birth of the Buddha, is coming soon – Sunday, May 15. In Japan Buddhists call this holiday the Festival of Flowers.

Rev. Oswin has been updating a booklet the priory offers to other temples, *Celebrating Buddhist Festivals in the Order of Buddhist Contemplatives*. As with many things in training and life, a small project turned into a two-week marathon. Thanks to Dixie for proofing innumerable revisions. Copies are available at the temple, or we can mail you one if you live outside the area.

Rev. Alethea & John are planting a small vegetable garden this year and we are looking into raising a few chickens for eggs. Given the downturn in the economy, it seemed good to do what we could to supplement the generous dana offerings of food the lay sangha provides.

Rev. Alethea departed on March 28 for a visit to Shasta Abbey and retreat & renewal at their Compassionate Friend Hermitage. She'll be back on April 8.

Announcements. On April 2, we begin a new activity, an introductory retreat for beginners. The retreat will run concurrently with the orientation and will consist primarily of seated meditation, some walking meditation, a silent lunch (bring a vegetarian sack lunch), and an opportunity in the afternoon to ask questions. Call for more information or to reserve a place.

Once a month (in April, 10th), Sunday morning is devoted to a meditation retreat. Meditation begins at 6:30am, morning service at 7:00am, breakfast preparation and formal meal at 8:45am; meditation begins at 9:30am until 12:30pm (private sanzen may be offered); lunch at 12:30pm, followed by cleanup at 1:30pm; retreat ending at 2:00pm. Please bring granola/dry cereal &/or fruit for breakfast and a sack lunch (& food to share) for noon meal. It's fine to join in quietly at any time.

Sky Duarte and Baronica Izaguirre invite the congregation to their wedding ceremony at 1:00pm on Saturday, April 30 at the Newman Center, 1850 Emerald, right near the UO. (The reception is private.)

Dharma school update: Rev. Alethea is reorganizing our Dharma school. Our thought is to make it a monthly Family Day with activities for both children and parents (and everyone else). If

you know of anyone interested in participating, speak with Rev. Alethea (541-344-7377) or alethea-waxman@eugenebuddhistpriory.org.

Some of the congregation members meet on alternate Monday afternoons to knit and do other kinds of needlework. They have named the meetings the Mindful Stitching group. Anyone who likes to do needlework is welcome to participate.

In gratitude: Thanks to everyone for your support of the temple and our practice together.

Alms Bowl: We can regularly use rice, pasta, dairy products, and fresh produce. With three monastics in residence now, we would also welcome contributions toward our operating expenses.

Ongoing Schedule. Weekdays:

Mornings: **Wednesday** 7:30-8:45am Meditation & short morning service

Thursday 7:30-9:15am Meditation & full morning service

Friday 7:30-9:15am Meditation & Avalokiteshwara morning service

Evenings: **Tuesday, Thursday & Friday** Meditation & vespers @ 8:00pm.

Wednesday activity: 7-9pm.

Weekend Calendar:

Saturday, April 2 – Orientation for newcomers 8:45-11:30am.

Introductory retreat 9:30-4:00. Please call for reservation.

Sunday, April 3 – Dharma morning (usual Sunday schedule)

Saturday, April 9 – 9:30 meditation, 10:00 short morning service

Sunday, April 10 – Retreat morning begins at 6:30 (usual Sunday schedule, too)

Saturday, April 16 – Meditation day: meditation begins on the hour (10am-4pm)

Sunday, April 17 – Reading of the Precepts & Renewal of Vows – usual Sun. schedule

Saturday, April 23 – 9:30 Meditation, 10:00 short morning service

Working meditation day 10:30am-4:30pm cleanup from tree thinning, garden work, and various indoor projects (bring sack lunch & food to share)

Sunday, April 24 – Manjusri Festival Ceremony (usual Sunday schedule)

Saturday, April 30 – 9:30 meditation, 10:00 short morning service

Sunday, May 1 – Usual Sunday schedule – activity to be announced

Saturday, May 14 – Wesak Activity – to be announced

Sunday, May 15 – Wesak: usual Sunday schedule and potluck—invite family & friends.

May you and all beings be free from suffering and its causes, realize our True Nature quickly, and live in peace and harmony with others.