

Eugene Buddhist Priory
Temple of Boundless Compassion
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 January/February 2011 News

The resident community expresses its gratitude for your support in closing for the month of January. During the month, we had time for a little extra rest, private practice and some temple projects. Raja, the cat, who had been losing weight, whose glossy black coat became unkempt-looking and who didn't seem to be feeling well, went to the vet. He was diagnosed with hyperthyroidism and starting taking medication. He is now seeming to maintain his weight and will return to the doctor for a recheck in March.

We reopened February first and on the second resumed our Wednesday evening discussions of the teachings in Rev. Master Jiyu's *Roar of the Tigress*. These discussions focus on how those teachings apply to our lives and training and are led by Rev. Alethea. Then on the fifth John Kieres entered the temple as a postulant with the intention of training as Rev. Master Oswin's monastic disciple. We wish him success in his training as he takes this step toward becoming a monk.

On February sixth Rev. Master Oswin gave a Dharma talk on Master Dogen's teachings to those who work in the kitchen and how to relate to a postulant in the temple. Discussion followed regarding Rev. Master Jiyu's lineage. The following Sunday, the 13th, we celebrated the Festival of the Buddha's Parinirvana. Rev. Master Oswin gave a Dharma talk on Parinirvana, sitting still within the whole. On successive Sundays he plans to return to lecturing on Master Dogen's Tenzo-kyokun (Instructions to the Chief Cook).

Rev. Alethea and Nancy Fletcher gave a Dharma talk on Basic Buddhism to students at Thurston High School in Springfield on February 16th. Additional projects have been the revision of our priory brochure, which is now in the process of being printed, redecorating some of the altars with donated marble tops, and thinning of trees on the temple grounds for firewood and oak forest restoration.

We had a Members Meeting on February 20th. After reviewing finances, we discussed our plans for 2011. The proposed weekend activities are as follows:

Saturdays: Meditation Day, Orientation Morning or Introductory Retreat, or Working Meditation Day. Sundays: Festival Day, Family Day, or Retreat Morning. We also discussed adding a small vegetable garden and chickens to the priory as well as how the Family Day and retreats would work. The meeting was followed by a potluck lunch that was enjoyed by all. **Extra Note:** Anyone interested in helping develop a priory cookbook, see Rev. Alethea.

Some of the congregation members have been meeting 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.

Weekend Calendar (please see next page):

Saturday, February 26 – **Workday 10:30am-4:30pm** weather permitting, cleanup from tree thinning and various indoor projects (bring sack lunch & food to share)
Sunday, February 27– usual Sunday schedule (9:30-noon: meditation, service, talk)

Saturday, March 5 – **orientation for newcomers** 8:45-11:30am.

Sunday, March 6 – **Dharma morning** (usual Sunday schedule with meditation at 9:30am, service at 10:30am, Dharma talk & tea at 11:00am, ends at noon.)

Saturday, March 12 – **Meditation day:** meditation begins on the hour (10am-4pm)

Sunday, March 13 – **Retreat morning (new activity—see below)**

Saturday March 19 – **Working meditation day** (bring sack lunch, food to share)

Sunday, March 20 – **Samantabhadra Ceremony** (usual Sunday schedule)

Saturday, March 26—9:30 meditation, 10:00 short morning schedule

Sunday, March 27 – **Dharma morning** (usual Sunday schedule)

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.

Retreat morning: Once a month (in March, 13th), Sunday morning will be 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 &/or fruit for breakfast and a sack lunch (& food to share) for noon meal.

Dharma school update: Rev. Alethea has offered to re-establish our Dharma school once a month. Our thought is to make it a Family Day with activities for both children and parents (and everyone else). If interested in participating, speak with Rev. Alethea (541-344-7377); Rev. Alethea also now has an email account: aletheawaxman@eugenebuddhistpriory.org.

In gratitude: Thank you to all for your support of the temple and our practice together. We received many food offerings, as well as supplements & prescriptions for monks, transportation and dump fees, clothing, shoe polish, antacid tablets, lamp oil, candles, hearing aids & batteries, and an altar runner from Cambodia. Your kindness is difficult to measure.

Alms Bowl: Rev. Alethea is taking on the responsibility of cooking at the temple. Food items that we can regularly use are fresh fruit & vegetables, rice, and pasta.

May you all be well, happy & secure, and find peace in the midst of all conditions.