

Eugene Buddhist Priory
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News—Autumn 2011

August omission: On August 13th Rev. Master Oswin, Ernie Rimerman & Doug Carnine visited the Oregon State Correctional Institute near Salem to give the Precepts to one of the inmates there, Sam. Due to an oversight, every item we brought for the ceremony had to be individually checked in at the gate. The chaplain, a Unitarian minister, is very open, encouraging, and supportive of other religions' work at the prison and arranged extra time for Sam to spend with us. Sam was very bright in receiving the Precepts and we had a good discussion about training & the Precepts in his environment. Two women from the Eugene Zendo and the Corvallis meditation group visit monthly and are organizing day-long retreats for the small meditation group there. Sam said the first retreat earlier in the year gave him the only time he's known some quiet, and it was pivotal in his deciding to commit himself to being a Buddhist.

September. September began warm and sunny as Rev. Oswin and Rev. Alethea worked on OBC business in preparation for Conclave. Postulant John Kieres and the congregation did a great job keeping the priory open and working on October's fundraising Open House. We are grateful to all who worked together as a Sangha and made it possible for the monks to go to Conclave.

Charlotte, one of our beloved cats, died peacefully on September 8th after a long illness. Rev. Oswin celebrated a funeral ceremony for her in the library where she lay. Dixie and Marie were present for the ceremony. John buried Charlotte in the evening. The next day, the 9th, Ernie drove Rev. Master and Rev. Alethea to the train station. The monks went to the Portland Buddhist Priory from there, spent the night, and flew to England for Conclave the following day.

The weather turned overcast and drizzly on the 13th, the day we had the carpets cleaned in the meditation hall & library. One of our chickens, Flora, also laid the first egg on September 13th. We are grateful to her, and to chicken Greta, who began laying two weeks later, for regularly supplying us with fresh organic eggs.

Dharma study & ceremonies. We celebrated the Shurangama Ceremony and the Renewal of Vows Ceremony on the 3rd and 4th, respectively. Rev. Oswin gave a Dharma Talk on "Purifying Attachment" following the Renewal of Vows on the 4th. After celebrating the Festival of Great Master Dogen on the 18th, those present listened to a Rev. Master Jiyu's recorded lecture on Ajahn Mun. Another lecture in the series was offered on the 25th. This month the Wednesday night Dharma discussion group went through Kan Kikuchi's book, [Beyond the Pale of Vengeance](#).

October. The October 1st workday met with some sprinkles but the rain held off until evening. There was a second workday on Oct. 4th to clean the grounds for the Open House. It rained again that day, beginning at 4:00. A third workday was held Oct. 8 and final work was done preparing for the Open House.

Rev. Oswin and Rev. Alethea returned from Conclave on Oct. 6th. Then on Oct. 9th we had our fundraising Open House. Many of the Sangha spent most of the day here, doing last-minute preparation for the event, welcoming guests, helping in the myriad ways which were needed that day, and generally sharing time together as a Sangha. There were approximately 30 guests, who enjoyed the iconography tours and hospitality. The silent auction & sale of pies brought in about \$900. This will be very helpful for the monks' medical fund.

Visits—John left for Shasta Abbey on October 15th for about six weeks of monastic training there. He will return in December. Rev. Oswin & Rev. Alethea visited the new Nyingma lineage Tibetan temple in Eugene on Oct. 22nd.

Dharma study— We held the Festival for Bodhidharma on Oct. 2nd. Following the ceremony, we continued Rev. Master Jiyu's taped series on Ajahn Mun. The Wednesday Dharma discussions of Beyond the Pale of Vengeance finished on Oct. 5th. On the Wednesday evenings of October 12th, 19th and 26th, Rev. Oswin talked about subjects of importance which arose during Conclave, in particular the master-disciple relationship. In preparation for Feeding the Hungry Ghosts, we watched a DVD of a Segaki ceremony at Zen Center of Los Angeles on Sunday, Oct. 16th, following a short Dharma talk about Segaki mantras. Rev. Oswin gave a formal Dharma talk in the meditation hall during the Sunday retreat day on Oct. 23 and talked more about the Segaki mantras. We will celebrate the Festival of the Feeding of the Hungry Ghosts on Sunday, October 30.

Special Events during November & December

Please see accompanying monthly calendars for other activities.

Usual Sunday Schedule: 9:30am meditation; 10:15

Service or other activity; 11:00am Dharma talk; ends at 12 noon;

Meditation day schedule: 10:00am-4:00pm with meditations beginning on the hour; bring a sack lunch if you want to stay over lunch. Meals are eaten in silence.

Sunday, October 30 **Ceremony of Feeding the Hungry Ghosts** — usual Sunday schedule. The ceremony offers merit to recently deceased relatives & friend, all spirits who are not at peace due to disquiet or tragic deaths, and our own “ghosts” of karma which may appear to have substance, be “real,” but fundamentally are empty & pure and only in need of our love and assistance.

Wednesday, Nov. 2 **Segaki Toro** (Burning of Paper Tombstones — outdoor bonfire) 7:45pm following meditation @ 7:00pm. A bonfire which everyone can enjoy, signifying the purification of karma and returning it to its true home in the Unborn.

Sunday, November 6 **Founders Day** — Annual memorial for Rev. Master Jiyu-Kennett, followed by special tea & Dharma talk. Usual Sunday schedule.

Sunday, November 20 **Thanksgiving Festival & Potluck** Usual Sunday schedule.

Thursday, December 1 **Decorate for Winter Holidays** 10:00am—noon. Help erect the priory's "jewel trees" and other holiday decorations which have been adapted for Buddhist use. If you wish to stay for lunch, bring a sack lunch & food to share.

Tuesday, December 6—Thursday, December 8 **Three day retreat for Buddha's Enlightenment**—begins Dec. 6 @ noon; ends Dec. 8 @ noon: meditation day schedule with meditation periods on the hour. (On Wednesday, December 7 you're welcome to come for the afternoon and stay through supper for usual Wednesday evening schedule. Please bring a food offering we can add to the supper menu.)

Sunday, December 11 **Readings & Songs for Enlightenment Day**—Sangha members read selections from Sir Edwin Arnold's *The Light of Asia*, one of the first Buddhist biographies. In verse form, it was published in Victorian England and generated significant interest about Buddhism in England & Europe. The music consists of early Western Buddhist hymns of praise (Sanskrit, *gathas*) on the Eightfold Path, some written or composed by Rev. Master Jiyu. Usual Sunday schedule.

Wednesday, December 14 **Rev. Master Jiyu's Great Enlightenment recording**: usual Wednesday evening schedule. In the 1950s Rev. Master Jiyu as an assignment for her music degree wrote this short cantata on the life of the Buddha. She and several friends recorded the piece. We are fortunate that a copy of the recording survived.

Sunday, December 18 **Buddha's Enlightenment Festival**, followed by potluck. Usual Sunday schedule. Family & friends are warmly invited for any part.

Sunday, December 25 **Drop-in Open House** for members & friends 2:00-5:00pm. Bring refreshments & enjoy the temple and each other's company.

Saturday, December 31 **New Year's Eve Vigil & Ceremony** 7:00pm—9:30pm. We welcome in the New Year by meditating on the past one for ways we can more carefully keep the Buddhist precepts. We ask assistance from the Buddhas & Bodhisattva Ancestors for the new year, offer lights, incense & merit for all beings, and then joyfully share celebratory juice in a dramatic ceremony in which the celebrant "revolves" the Scriptures. Afterwards the temple bell is rung 108 times, symbolizing the myriad ways we can err, but also the matching number of remedies through which we can re-harmonize body & mind.

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

Thursday 7:30-8:45am *Meditation & full morning service*

Friday 7:30-8:45am *Meditation & Avalokiteshwara morning service*

Evenings: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:00-8:45pm *Meditation & vespers.*

Wednesday 7-9pm *Mid-day service, meditation, vespers, & talk or discussion group.*

Saturday workdays begin at 10:30am after meditation & morning service at 9:30am and include a relaxed lunch & afternoon tea. Please bring a sack lunch & food to share. These days are an invaluable opportunity to work together as a Sangha in service to the Three Treasures.

Closed for Winter Retreat & Renewal. From January 2 through January 28 the temple will be closed in order to allow residents to spend some time in retreat & renewal. Sunday morning & service will continue, but there will be no Dharma talk and also no Wednesday night program. We're available in case of emergency. Thank you for affording us this opportunity to recharge and renew for the year ahead.

In gratitude. Thank you to all who offered merit and helped with Charlotte Cat's last days. She was a very special cat, and we will miss her bright spirit. Thank you as well to all the Sangha who offered merit and helped Myron find an adult foster home following the discovery of a lung tumor last summer. Although it took a while to find the right place, the new home suits Myron splendidly. Other good news is that the chemotherapy is working to reduce the size of the lymphoma. We are all grateful for the continual kindness and unflagging effort everyone gave to assist Myron during the last six months as his life changed dramatically.

Recent gifts to the Priory include many household, kitchen, and furniture items from Myron's apartment (some we're saving for the next yard sale); sacristy items from a former monk; a number of statues from the Thai tradition; robes & vestments from the Order; numerous home-baked pies, hand-crafted goods, & silent auction items for the open house (from both members & local merchants); professional carpet cleaning; transportation to & from the monastery at Mt. Shasta and for local errands; medicines & supplements for monks & cats; a clay bread baker for cooking sour dough loaves; take-out food & prepared meals; sea vegetables, rice & a prized Vietnamese green tea from friends at Duc Vien Temple; fresh produce & other food offerings too numerous to mention; and all the help offered while the monks were away and in preparation for the open house. For all these gifts we bow in gratitude and pray that the merit of all our offerings may benefit all beings.

Alms Bowl. We are grateful for the continuing offerings of food, household items and time and energy which the priory receives. These make it possible for the priory to exist to serve those who come and for the residents to live, learn and teach the Dharma here. Items which we can use at this time include dish soap (bulk or gallon), canola oil, toilet paper, and a plumbing plunger.

May you all be well and free from sorrow and its cause.

In gassho.