

Eugene Buddhist Priory
Temple of Boundless Compassion
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October 16, 2010

Dear Friends,

This is a two-page newsletter to supplant the one sent to members on October 5. There is additional news in this version. My apologies for the lateness—we've had Conclave business to tend to and a few other unexpected twists and turns of life.

Thanks to everyone one who helped out at the Priory while I was away at Conclave. I will be sharing with you more of what we discussed over the coming weeks and months.

Rev. Alethea Waxman, a senior monk of 17 years at Shasta Abbey, returned with me with the likely intention of becoming a full-time resident in December. We are very grateful to have her assistance and company. Rev. Alethea will return to Shasta for the month of November; Rev. Veronica will replace her until December 1, at which time Rev. Alethea and John Kieres will return here.

Rev. Alethea will be keeping the weekly morning schedule going. It will be the same as we've been doing the past few months:

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 serv.

The evening times remain the same:

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

Wednesday activity: 7-9pm. On Wednesday evenings, we have changed the format to a reading group and Dharma discussion, which Rev. Alethea will lead. The emphasis is engaging together with the teaching and sharing our understanding—and questions—about Buddhist practice. We are currently reading Gakudo-Yojinshu by Master Dogen, found in *Zen is Eternal Life*, by Rev. Master Jiyu. This book is also online at <http://www.shastaabbey.org/pdf/bookZel.pdf>.

Saturdays & Sundays.

Saturday, October 23 Meditation Day 10:00-4:00. Meditations begin on the hour: 10:00, 11:00, etc. Bring a sack lunch and eat when you wish.

Sunday, October 24 Usual Sunday schedule: 9:30-noon: meditation, service, talk.

Saturday, October 30 Workday and Segaki set-up 10:30-4:30pm. We'll be raking leaves and other fall maintenance, as well as setting up the altar for the Hungry Ghosts Ceremony on Sunday.

Sunday, October 31 Feeding the Hungry Ghosts Ceremony (usual Sunday schedule). Please bring food offerings for the altar. Variety is more important than quantity, so small amounts of different foods "from the mountains, the fields, and the sea" are welcome (vegetarian, of course). We have lots of decorative dishes to place the food in.

Saturday, November 6 – no meditation or service

Sunday, November 7 – usual Sunday schedule, recorded Dharma talk

Saturday, November 14 – orientation for newcomers 8:45-11:30am.

Sunday, November 15 – Veterans Day Ceremony (usual Sunday schedule).

Cool Congregations Workshop October 23. This program is sponsored by “Oregon Interfaith Power & Light” and organized by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. Several of our Priory members will participate in the workshop, and then in turn will offer a workshop for everyone else. The workshop’s purpose emphasizes “accountability in our individual and collective energy decisions in an interdependent world.”

Shasta Abbey Weekend November 5-7. Some of us are attending Shasta Abbey’s 40th anniversary and induction of new Abbess, Rev. Master Meian Elbert. If you wish to go, please RSVP Shasta’s Guest Office as soon as possible: 530-926-4208. Overnight space is limited.

Lay Sangha Care Coordinator: Bev Schenler for October, 541-342-4228.

Food for Lane County. The Priory sangha is participating in Food for Lane County’s Thanksgiving & Christmas food drive. If you’d like to help, please bring canned corn, beans, cranberries, & sweet potatoes/yams (or other canned or packaged food) and place in the labeled boxes on our new porch/vestibule. Food drive ends November 30.

For food donations to the Priory, it would be helpful to keep in mind that Rev. Alethea has some allergies & sensitivities: dairy, caffeine, chocolate, brazil nuts, sulfur dioxide (often sprayed on dried fruit to retain color), and carnations. Prepared dishes that we both can eat are welcome and greatly appreciated.

Merit for Charlotte. For those of you who love animals, you may wish to offer merit for Charlotte, the smaller black Priory cat who has FIV (kitty HIV). She began having recurring infections earlier in the fall and now seems to have nasal &/or mouth cancer. She is in a great deal of pain, not able to eat or drink, and thus likely to be dying.

Please take good care. May you all be well, happy, safe & secure.

In gassho, *Oswin*