

**Eugene Buddhist Priory**  
*Temple of Boundless Compassion*  
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September 11, 2010

Dear Friends,

Fall greetings, it seems, are already in order. I hope you are all enjoying the cooler weather. Progress on painting the front porch of the Priory is coming well, and we're also making good progress on our defensible space for firefighting.

We have been talking about environmental concerns and the Dharma recently. I feel that environmental or ecological concerns are just going to be a part of our lives from now, and they harmonize very well with such age-old Buddhist practice themes such as appreciation of nature, cherishing all life, interdependence of all things, mindfulness regarding resources, and karmic responsibility for our actions.

Attached is a list of recommendations that the Karmapa made for temples of his Order. (The Karmapa is the young head of one of the four major Tibetan Buddhist lineages who escaped from Tibet a few years ago.) While some items are specific to Asia and some to monasteries, all show a great deal of thoughtfulness, particularly how these concerns relate to Buddhist teaching and practice. There may be suggestions that we can all make use of.

The congregation decided to participate in the Oregon Interfaith Power & Light's "Cool Congregations Workshop," sponsored by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. A small group of members will participate in the workshop on October 23 and then in turn offer a workshop for everyone. The workshop's purpose emphasizes "accountability in our individual and collective energy decisions in an interdependent world." Cost is suggested donation of \$20/person or \$50/team of 3 or more; scholarships are available. If interested, contact Doug Carnine, 541-485-3781, or [dcarnine@uoregon.edu](mailto:dcarnine@uoregon.edu).

A resource we have at the Priory available for checking out is a DVD called "Renewal," which offers stories from the religious-environmental movement. One story details a congregation in New Jersey which took part in the Cool Congregations Workshop mentioned above. If you wish to watch it, please do soon (within the next couple of months), as we need to return it to the Portland Priory.

Another resource donated by one of our members is an informative book, *A Buddhist Response to the Climate Emergency*. The book contains the most recent scientific information on global warming, as well as Buddhist prayers and Dharma contributions by prominent Buddhist teachers

such as Dalai Lama, the Karmapa, Thich Nhat Hanh, Bhikkhus Bodhi, Robert Aitken, and several Soto Zen teachers. It, too, is available for checkout.

On another front, you may wish to know that the Priory Cat Shila died Saturday night. She had been declining in recent weeks, and when taken to the veterinarian, we discovered she had a large tumor in her abdomen. Any merit would be appreciated. She has been a part of Priory life for seven or eight years, and her kind greeting of everyone will be missed. A special thanks to all those who contribute specifically to cat care.

Thank you to everyone who has been so kind the past few months while I've been ill. I'm beginning to feel a bit better. The lay ministers will be circulating some suggestions how people could be of more help after I return from Conclave on October 1. Rev. Alethea will be returning with me and will be helping with some of the Priory administration and teaching, as well as taking up some of the daily chores which John Kieres has been doing. John will be a lay resident at Shasta Abbey until December 1.

An omission from our In gratitude section earlier in the month was a number of beautiful marble slabs donated by Maryanne and Rev. Master Seikai of Pine Mountain Temple. They were being thrown out by a marble company in Portland. Maryanne rescued them for use in our temples as altars. One piece has been installed in our Founders Shrine, and some may be suitable for the side shrines. Thank you, Maryanne.

If anyone wishes to help finish up the painting of the front porch, please contact Ernie. There are a number of small jobs requiring only one or two people. We won't be having another work day for that project. Thanks to everyone for your steadfastness in getting it done.

There will be several ceremonies occurring at Shasta Abbey the first week of November: Shasta's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Rev. Master Jiyu's annual memorial, and Rev. Master Meian's induction as the new abbess. We'll celebrate Rev. Master Jiyu's memorial at the Priory later in the month as part of our Thanksgiving Festival.

Please may you all be well and happy.

In gassho, *Rev. Oswin*