

Eugene Buddhist Priory
Temple of Boundless Compassion
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May 26, 2005

Dear Friend,

I trust you are all well. Thanks again to everyone who participated in our Wesak Ceremony. It was a good day, and the culmination of a lot of hard work on the part of many people. We were delighted to see old friends and meet new ones, and we were particularly happy to have so many younger people take part as the “royal children” – daughters and sons of the King of the Dharma, Shakyamuni Buddha. The prayer flags and the Buddha’s birthday cake with Dharma wheel were joyful additions!

My thanks, also, to all who contributed to the Wesak gift of the floor lamp and the new carpet for the two side rooms of the temple. The time had come for replacement, as the present ones were used to begin with. And thanks to all who have been committing to help with the upkeep and maintenance of the temple. With everyone’s help, we stay afloat!

Three thoughts on group activities and potlucks came up in discussion afterwards. Because of limited time and oven capacity, it’s a good idea to bring dishes that require a minimum of cooking, reheating, and other preparation (such as slicing – or do it at home). Because of limited parking space, it’s good to get in the habit of carpooling when coming to the temple. Lastly, out of consideration for others, please do not attend Priory events if you have a contagious illness.

Third Refuge Assistance coordinators for the summer are: June, Dave Wagar, 684-9482; July, Angela Martinek, 484-1799; August, to be announced. If you’re a sangha member and have needs arising from illness or other extenuating circumstances, call the coordinator to see who has volunteered to offer the kind of help you need.

We plan to have our rummage and bake sale in late August. Please save and store items at home, as we don’t have storage room at the temple. We’ll announce a date and location when we decide. Also, price your items yourselves, and bring only items that are in reasonable condition that others would want to buy. Contact Pamela Wright, Jerry Mohr, or Lisa Raney if you can help with the sale.

The week after I return from South Carolina, where I’ll be visiting our Columbia Priory, I will offer a half-week retreat centering on Avalokiteshvara, Bodhisattva of Compassion. Wednesday, June 22 at 7:00pm will be meditation followed by the lovely vigil that Rev Master Eko wrote invoking the 108 names & forms of Kanzeon/Kwan Yin. Thursday and

Friday, June 23 & 24, the meditation hall will be open from 10:30am to 4:30pm with meditation on the half-hour (10:30, 11:30, etc.). We'll have 30 minutes sitting, 15 min. walking meditation, 15 min. break and then resume sitting. Come for any amount of time you can: try to arrive during the break. Bring a sack lunch if you stay over noon. Saturday, June 25 will be our usual retreat starting at 9:30 and going to 4:30. Lunch will be a formal meal at 1:00 for all who wish to join us. Please bring a simple food contribution that we can make into a meal. Lunch preparation begins at 11:30am. Sunday, June 26 will be our Avalokiteshvara Bodhisattva Festival Ceremony, with usual Sunday schedule.

Don't forget the Saturday, July 30 annual picnic with the Portland Priory sangha at Silver Falls Creek. Family and friends are welcome. This event affords the opportunity to be together in a beautiful natural setting, enjoy the day and each other's company, and get to meet Buddhists from other areas. We'll need someone to go up early to reserve our favorite spot.

Three Dharma offerings this month are: (1) "Turning Around in our Hearts", an attachment sent with this letter. This article builds on the story of Angulimala related to the children at Wesak; (2) "Care of the Temple", on the members' website: an edited recent Dharma talk explaining the spiritual dimensions of working together at the temple. www.eugenebuddhistpriory.org/EBPmembers/EBPnewsletter.htm; and (3) "The Alms Round" by Ernie Rimerman, an account of our April alms round in Portland, with photos. It's on the public website, www.eugenebuddhistpriory.org/articles.htm .

Speaking of the alms round, we have one more opening for the June 16 round in Portland. Each time Rev. Master Meiko kindly offers myself and two of our lay sangha a chance to participate. If interested in the June round, talk to Sally Meadow. Future rounds will be in August, October, and December.

Alms Bowl. Our lovely Wesak fountain has suffered a meltdown. If anyone comes across a small, three-tiered plastic fountain, would you let me know?

May you all be well and at peace.

Yours in the Dharma, *Rev. Oswin*

P.S. We are working toward reviving our printed and posted newsletter. If you would like to receive one, let us know your postal (mailing) address.