

**Eugene Buddhist Priory**  
*Temple of Boundless Compassion*  
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Dear Friends,

Great Master Keizan taught, "Every day is a good day. Every person is the vessel of the Truth." When we encounter obstacles and difficulties in daily life, a positive and bright attitude of mind can transform such into opportunities for Buddhist training. Actually, it is only our minds that judge these circumstances as obstacles or difficulties. As Rev. Master Jiyu so often encouraged us, "Look up!"

**Work Day & Members Meeting**

This Saturday, March 19 will be a work day at the temple. We have numerous grounds projects and inside cleaning, too – something for everyone. Upkeep of the temple is part of our commitment to the temple and provides an opportunity to practice every-minute meditation in an ideal environment and to learn to work together in harmony with other sangha members. Work begins at 10:30 am after morning service.

Lunch will be at approximately 12:30 pm. Bring a sack lunch and food to share. This is an informal time for us to be together. At approximately 2:00 pm we will have a members' meeting. Anyone who attends the Priory regularly and helps support it is invited to attend. Agenda items include: review of 2004 finances, public retreat on April 30 (see below), Vesak decorations for celebration on May 15, remodeling of front porch, and summer activities. We'll resume work around 3:30 and go until 5:30. All offerings of time are appreciated and keep the temple moving forward.

**This Sunday**

We'll have Dharma School for the children and cleaning/choir practice/origami for the adults, depending on need. Tea afterwards for everyone.

**Alms Round in Portland**

Rev. Master Meiko has been organizing a traditional Buddhist alms round in Portland over the past year. We have received permission from the mayor's office to hold it on Friday, April 15. She has invited myself and two lay trainees to join in the procession. We'll be going up the day before mid-afternoon, spending the night, performing the alms round from 10:00 am to 12 noon, and returning that afternoon. We have room for one more lay student if anyone would like to participate. There will most likely be

future opportunities, if more than one person is interested. For more information, see the letter of request to the mayor of Portland posted at the Priory and on our members' website at [www.eugenebuddhistpriory.org.EBPmembers/EBPmembers.htm](http://www.eugenebuddhistpriory.org.EBPmembers/EBPmembers.htm).

### **Introductory Retreat**

On Saturday, April 30 (*note correction of date*), we will host a **full-day introductory retreat**. We particularly invite university/college students and younger people. The retreat includes meditation instruction, formal meal (with instruction), sitting and walking meditation, and a short class on basic Buddhist teaching and practice. We still need volunteers to make a flyer (we have a template and graphics) and to help put up flyers. If you'd like to help, contact Sally Meadow or Rev. Oswin.

### **Alms Bowl**

**Thank you** to everyone who has been providing food and meals and helping with the many tasks around the temple that make it possible to have a place of practice here. Thanks to the person who donated the stainless steel bowl in response to the last request. We could still use 8 ½ x 14 picture frames (used is fine) for sacristy pictures.

We wish to procure a **new organ**, preferably a used one, as our present one is fading. If you want to help in the search, let Linda Carnine or Rev. Oswin know. Donations to the Organ Fund are welcome.

**Offerings of help** to accomplish the following tasks would also be appreciated:

- transporting firewood (Priory truck available)
- splitting large firewood
- hand-sawing and stacking small firewood
- organizing tool shed pegboard
- meal preparation (here at temple or at home)
- weekly compost turning
- monthly transfer of merit list update

Lastly, I hope to go to Shasta Abbey sometime in April for a week to help Rev. Hubert finish up the *Shobogenzo* translation introduction. It's looking like April 4-9 might work best. If anyone is willing to help care for the cats and/or is interested in staying at the temple, would you let the temple know?

### **Looking ahead**

Dates of future activities: Vesak: Sunday, May 15; Silver Falls picnic: Saturday, July 30; need for temple caretaker: two weeks in June & two weeks in September.

May you all be well and at peace.

In gassho, *Rev. Oswin*