

**Eugene Buddhist Priory**  
*Temple of Boundless Compassion*  
85415 Teague Loop  
Eugene, OR 97405-9536 USA  
(541) 344-7377; [ebpriory@efn.org](mailto:ebpriory@efn.org)

May 5, 2006

Dear Friends,

I trust the spring brings some extra bounce and brightness to your training. You may wish to transfer merit for Carrie English, Lisa Raney's partner, who has metastasized melanoma. He is losing mental clarity and declining rapidly, and Lisa needed to move him into Eugene Rehabilitation Center today because his needs exceeded home care. Visitors would be welcome; call 687-1310 for hours.

**Alms Round and Public Talk.** A main event of the spring was the Priory's first alms round. Rev. Master Daishin of Shasta Abbey and Rev. Vera of Portland Buddhist Priory joined Rev. Oswin and half-dozen lay sangha members for the April 4 mid-morning round. We began near the University campus, proceeded by Lane County Transit central station to the downtown area, stopped at the city library for a tea break, and returned to the starting point.

The response was generous, kind, warm, and friendly. Food donations were shared with Shasta Abbey and a local center for homeless teens. We wish to thank all who helped or participated in the round, and especially the following who assisted in the procurement of the requisites: Shasta Abbey, Portland Priory, Ven. Tsung Tsu Shih of De-Lin-Nian-Fo Buddhist Temple in Nantou County, Taiwan, and Rev. Eijun Bill Eidson of the Shingon Buddhist International Institute in Fresno, California.

The next evening, April 5, Rev. Master Daishin offered our first public Dharma talk to be held at the temple. He spoke on "Buddhist Training and the Practice of Boundless Generosity." Nearly 40 people attended the talk, of whom over a third were new to the Priory. We thank Rev. Master Daishin deeply for his visit and assistance in the alms round.

**Visit to Shasta Abbey.** Later in April Rev. Oswin traveled to Shasta Abbey for three monastic ordinations, one of which was Mike Running's (now Rev. Sheridan), a former Priory lay member. The Order's three Oregon temples provided the ordinands with their razors, a monastic requisite, to show our support for the new monks and their masters. We wish all three success in their vocation. Rev. Oswin stayed on for the spring monastic retreat, which he found helpful. The monastery kindly sent him

home with gifts of kesa fabric, monastic clothing, vinaya books, dana books from Shasta Abbey Press, and new liturgy. We are grateful for the training of all the monks at the Abbey and their support of our temple.

**Wesak (also Vesak, Vaisakha) Celebration.** The temple celebrates Wesak, the worldwide festival honoring the Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and teaching, on Sunday, May 21. Meditation begins at 9:30am, ceremony at 10:15, talk for Dharma school (and others, too) at 11:15, ringing in the Buddhist New Year (2550), and vegetarian potluck meal at approximately 12:30pm. Friends and family, especially children, are welcome. It's traditional for children to dress in white.

Other Wesak events: Readings & Songs on the Life of the Buddha (Nine Lessons & Carols) on Wednesday, May 17, starting with meditation at 7:00, ceremony at 7:30, followed by tea. We will hold a work morning on Saturday, May 20, after morning service (approx. 10:30am) to clean and decorate the temple for the festival. Remember to bring marigolds that week for decorating. The committee chose marigolds for their low cost and because they can be planted out on the temple grounds without providing snacks for the local deer. If you can't make it Saturday, we encourage you to come up earlier in the week to help prepare.

**Other May events. Transfer of Merit Ceremony** on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14: We'll particularly remembering mothers at this service. Memorial Day Ceremony on Sunday, May 28: Courtesy of Shasta Abbey we have a new invocation (hymn) based on the questions a prominent general brought to the Buddha regarding war and killing—and the Buddha's response. Tuesday, May 30, at 7:00pm: Open meeting for all those interested in development of Priory buildings and grounds.

**Looking ahead to June: Lay ordination** for Dixie Feiner on Sunday, June 4 – all welcome. **Dharma school** for younger children on Sunday, June 11 and for older youth (11 and up) on Saturday, June 3. **Saturday work days** on June 10 and 24. **Avalokiteshvara—Bodhisattva of Great Compassion Festival** on Sunday, June 18; **108 Names Vigil** on Wednesday, June 14; and **retreat** on Saturday, June 17.

**Alms Bowl.** With the hot weather setting in early, the temple could use help with mulching new trees and flowers and eliminating troublesome, non-native species (Canadian thistle, Scots broom, Himalayan blackberry). We have a narrow window of opportunity for accomplishing the latter while ground is still soft.

Thank you for your kind, generous, and committed support of the Priory and the Buddha Dharma. May all beings be well and at peace.

With gratitude, *Rev. Oswin*