

Eugene Buddhist Priory
Temple of Boundless Compassion
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October 25, 2005

Dear Friends,

I pray you are all well. We look forward to many of you joining us for the **Feeding the Hungry Ghosts Ceremony** this Sunday, October 30, 2005 (usual schedule: 9:30 meditation; 10:15 ceremony). Accompanying this letter is a short article about 'hungry ghosts' telling what kind of offerings you might bring for the altar. The following Wednesday, November 3, will be the **Burning of Paper Tombstones**, an outdoor bonfire starting at 7:30pm, following meditation at 7:00.

Other Sunday events in November: **Founder's Day** on November 6, celebrating the life of Rev Master Jiyu-Kennett – we plan to show photographs of her life and of Shasta Abbey as part of the Dharma talk; a potluck follows. Our **Veterans Day memorial** will be November 13, **Thanksgiving Ceremony** on November 20, and **Dharma school** on November 27. Check calendar for other November activities.

In December, the temple will be on **retreat December 1 through 9** in recognition of the Buddha's enlightenment. We'll send a revised calendar with more information on times for meditation. ❀**Please note:** the orientation has been rescheduled for December 10. ❀December services include the **Avatamsaka Scripture Festival** on Sunday, December 11, **Buddha's Enlightenment Day Celebration & Potluck** on Sunday, December 18, **New Year's Eve Ceremony** on Saturday, December 31, and **Maitreya Bodhisattva Festival** on Sunday, January 1 (at 1:00pm, followed by snacks & refreshments). Saturday, December 10 will be a **workday** cleaning the temple & grounds and **decorating for winter holidays.** ❀*We will be closed Christmas Day, December 25.* ❀

The temple will be closed for the month of January except for usual Sunday and Wednesday activities the first two weeks (1st - 15th). We will reopen February 1st. The next newsletter and calendar will be out in early February.

❀**The November-December calendar will be emailed in a few days.**❀

News. Our gratitude goes to everyone who helped with the introductory day retreat on September 15, with a special thanks to Sally Meadow for coordinating and Clara Freeman and Jan Hiatt for the lovely meal. We had 13 new people spend the day with us learning about meditation practice. The inclement weather prevented our doing work-

ing meditation outside, so they got some extra sitting meditation and Dharma talk. As long as members are willing to carry the responsibilities of running the retreat, we'll offer two each year, spring and fall.

Transfer of Merit. Perry Cramblit's recovery from surgery for pancreatic surgery has gone well. He and his wife Wendy thank everyone for their merit, support, kindness, and care during this time. Shuyu Singer, a former first priest of our temple, recently had emergency heart surgery and expects a long recovery. If you wish to include him in your meditations and prayers, the merit would be appreciated.

Alms Bowl. We appreciate the kind donations and gifts that make this temple possible. Recent food gifts include: produce from Sundance Natural Foods, cookies and pastries for tea, soups, milk, butter, yogurt, lunches and frozen meals, rooibos and black teas, granola, bread, chocolate cake, hazel nut butter, pasta, tomato sauce, vegetables, and fruit. We are also grateful for the donation of a new automatic shut-off teakettle, canned food for the cats, postage stamps, books for the library, altar flowers, fabric, & Velcro. Several people have contributed to the temple through various projects: robe and blanket mending, wagesa and meditation wedge sewing, scrapbook preparation, and the final step of finishing our *Feeding the Hungry Ghosts* "Buddhas of the Dead" banners. And we continue to be grateful for all the help given to keep the temple and grounds clean and orderly. Coming just 5 or 10 minutes early for an activity and feeding cats, putting dishes away, sweeping the kitchen, etc. makes a substantial difference.

Donations we could use include: paper towels, 60-minute cassette tapes, a large wok, large stones for marking animal graves, and a used, lightweight gasoline-powered lawn mower.

Please may you all take care and have a peaceful time as we head into winter.

Yours in the Dharma,

Rev. Oswin

P.S. Members: recently some of you asked what sorts of (inexpensive) gifts would be appropriate for the Prior's ordination and Transmission anniversaries, October 6 and March 9. Ongoing landscaping could use the donation of iris bulbs (for new animal cemetery/orchard), daffodils & jonquils (for meadow near parking lot), and hellebores and lungwort (*Pulmonaria*) for the stupa area. I don't want a big gift. Remembering and making the effort are the important aspects. Congregational projects are also a kindness: there's usually something like planting flowers or trees that needs doing that requires the combined effort of a group of people.