



ANNOUNCEMENTS: November 2003

FALL FOOD BAZAAR NOV. 9!!!

★Note Date Change★

Our annual Fall Food Bazaar and Bake sale will be held on November 9, no service that day. See flyer for more.

Sangha Services: We hold our Sangha Services November 2, 23, and the 30th at 10:30 am. We are changing the format to include a Dharma talk, a short meditation sitting and Sutra Chanting. We follow our service down stairs with a social/study hour called...

Buddhism 101: This is an informal and high spirited study group. We are currently reading "Shin Buddhism, Bits of Rubble Turn into Gold" by Taitetsu Unno. This book will offer us an opportunity to learn Shin Buddhism at a beginners level. We discuss chapters while enjoying snack and tea. Newcomers are welcome; join us any Sunday.

Introduction to Buddhism

This month our popular Introduction to Buddhism session will be held at 2:00 pm November 16th. This covers a brief overview of Buddhism into Shin Buddhism beginnings in Japan. We also explain what goes on in a service and what to expect. You are welcome to stay for our Service with Rinbon Fujii at 3 PM from the Seattle Betsuin.

Fundraiser for Leslie Green

We are sending Leslie Green to Japan for a Lay Leadership conference. This is a costly undertaking, but is worthwhile as our Temple is trying to survive in a time of minister shortage. On a similar subject, you will be hearing about Campaign BCA-The 21st Century. This program will be key in building the BCA's new facility for the Institute of Buddhist Studies and training for Lay Ministers or Minister's Assistants. Both programs train our Lay Leaders in running the Temple and helping with religious programs.

Back to Leslie, we are accepting donations to help offset her expenses. (I know, we have plenty of fundraisers already, taking time and energy, which is why we hate to add one more.) We are hoping to raise as much as possible through direct donations first. A number of very generous members have been donating money to help. We also held a raffle this last summer that raised \$400. We may still need to hold a fundraiser, depending on where we are in January. Donations to the Education Fund will be greatly appreciated.

OUR THANKS to those members who participated in the Saturday morning Toban, Oct. 11. In just two hours, Jefferson Workman, Liat & Ed Parker, Bonell McLeish and Paul Vielle cleaned the Temple inside and out. They did a great job; their labors are much appreciated

NorthWest Convention 2004 Idaho-Oregon Temple

Mark your calendars for the weekend of Feb. 13-15th. We need a head count to arrange transportation (one van or two). Go with a friend and share hotel room costs (we have a list of hotels and of sangha members willing to share a room). Convention cost will be \$60 per person. More in the next newsletter...

Be Sure to Watch!

Our own Jefferson Workman will give a Buddhist Inspirational Talk to the Spokane City Council November 3, 2003. That should be on Channel 5 somewhere around 5:30 pm.

Letters from Mary, #4

Howdy,

Just a quick note to let you know how excited I am to have finally visited the International Center and Temple complex in Kyoto. This weekend Reverend Sekiya had to attend a funeral so I missed seeing him, but was given a wonderful tour by a young lady named Tabatha. She was born and raised in Seattle and her father used to be a minister in White River and is now in Hawaii. What a small world this is. She is here in Japan and working in the International Center and has applied to attend the University also run by the temple!

There is a Public Lecture Series IN ENGLISH!!!! on Saturdays, Oct. 11th and Nov. 8th that I will be attending in Kyoto at the Temple. The Essentials of Pure Land Buddhism Based on Tannisho; Lecturer: Professor Toshikazu Arai of Soai University. I am hoping that I will be able to make reservations to stay at the hotel there right on the Temple grounds.

It is an incredible complex. Some of the buildings are World Heritage sites. Please check out the web page [Nishi Honganji](http://www2.hongwanji.or.jp/english/history/html) (<http://www2.hongwanji.or.jp/english/history/html>). As soon as I get some reading and info under my belt, I will send you a brief synopsis. If that's possible.

Take care, be well, love, Mary

In Other News...

THE PERRY STREET RENOVATION PROJECT is nearly completed and our block is shaping-up nicely. New sidewalk, street repaved, trees planted, lampposts installed, -these and other improvements have noticeably brightened the Temple's appearance. During excavation the corner sprinkler system and some of the landscaping was disrupted. But true to their word, Eller Corporation has put everything back together just as it was before. Our thanks to Eller Corporation, general contractors, for their fine work.

**JACL Turkey Bingo at the Temple
7:00 pm on November 22nd**

Play Bingo for a turkey or bring your favorite turkey and play Bingo, either way,

A NEW SIGN to identify the Spokane Buddhist Temple is almost finished. A sturdy structure it is, with a roof overhead to protect it from the elements and a light to illuminate it at night. Our sincere thanks go to the men who constructed it: George Heyamoto, Kengo Kato, Satoshi Teraro and Kam Uyeji. This is truly a worthy enhancement to the Temple.

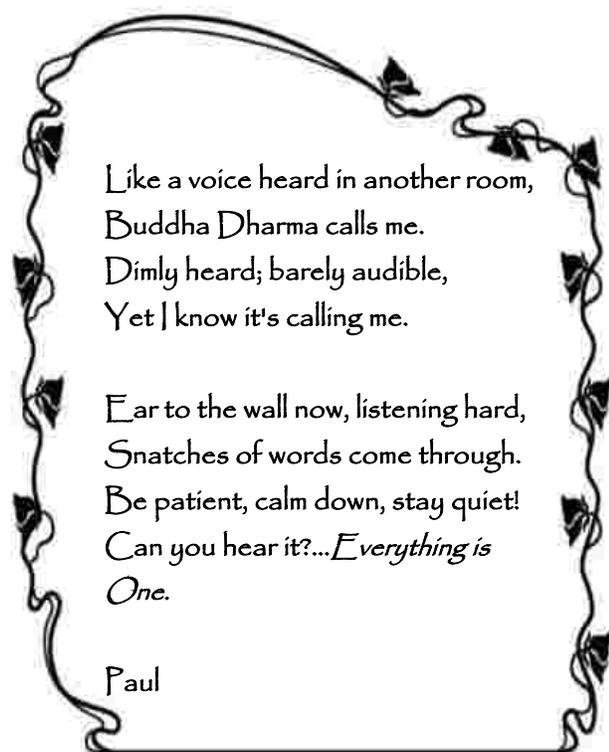
REFINISHING TEMPLE STEPS: Over the years the effects of blazing sun and harsh winters have taken their toll on the wood surfaces of the Temple. Paul Vielle is heading up an effort to refinish the outside decking before winter arrives in earnest. So far, the handrails and front steps of the Temple have been restrained. In the coming weeks we hope to repaint all the railings and the front deck. Contact Paul if you can lend a hand.

CHANGING SANGHA SERVICE

A few changes were introduced to the Sangha Service in October, there will be no change to our monthly Reverend service. During the Sangha service, Oshoko will be offered *before* the service. The silent meditation period will be lengthened by a few minutes, followed by chanting of the Nembutsu. The service ends with the chanting of the "Ti-Sarana" and "San Kie Mon". Announcements will be made *after* the service during our social/study hour. While this service format is still being polished, comments from Sangha members have been favorable.

ADDITIONAL SANGHA SERVICE

An Additional Sangha Service will be held Thursday nights at 6:30 PM. This is an informal chanting service followed by open discussion. This is your opportunity to practice chanting and pose questions to the Sangha. If no one knows the answer, which would not be surprising, we will get back to you.



A Glossery of Shin Buddhist Terms:

AMIDA BUDDHA (Amida butsu)

Amida (*a-mita*), lit., "immeasurable [life and light]," is the Buddha whose essence is dharma-body as compassionate means, characterized by form. The formless dharma-body, to awaken beings of blind foolishness to itself, manifested form and announced a Name, appearing as Dharmakara Bodhisattva. This bodhisattva established and fulfilled the special vow to save foolish and evil beings and became Amida Buddha. Hence, Amida is called the Tathagata of fulfilled body. While the other Buddhas help people who accumulate meritorious deeds, practice meditative activities, and perfect wisdom, Amida Buddha liberates the being of blind foolishness and karmic evil through "form" (Primal Vow) and "name" (Namu-amida-butsu). That is, through the virtue of Amida, who is light that is wisdom-compassion, persons of the nembutsu realize themselves to be human (ignorant and evil), becoming their foolish selves, and attain Buddhahood. See Tathagata of unhindered light filling the ten quarters.

It may be noted that in general, the Chinese and Japanese languages do not employ gender-specific reference, and that while Dharmakara, as a former king, is a male figure, Shinran also speaks of Amida as "mother of compassion." Gender specific reference to Amida has been avoided as far as possible to reflect Shinran's texts. Courtesy of Shinran's Collected Works (shinranworks.com)

SEPTEMBER DONATIONS

\$100 Hisako Oki - 35th year anniversary for husband Henry Oki
 \$50 Haruye Yamagiwa – 49th day memorial for Paul Yamagiwa
 \$50 John & Diane Sweetman – Special donation
 \$25 Paul & Karen Vielle – Dana offering
 \$25 Jim Bennett – Dana offering
 \$20 Ann Heineman - Dana Offering
 \$150 Anonymous – Special offering
 \$150 Audrey Conlin – Retreat reg. fee
 \$16 Anonymous
 \$137 Christine Marr
 \$20 Alliance Pacific

OHIGAN

\$20 Jim & Janet Tamura
 \$10 Nobuko Kasai
 \$10 Yoshi Kozen
 \$10 Satoshi & Mary Tera
 \$10 Haruye Yamagiwa
 \$10 Anonymous
 \$10 Kazuo & Kazuko Kuwada
 \$10 Leo & Yuri Kiyohiro
 \$10 Kam & Fumi Uyeji
 \$10 Fumi Heyamoto

DUES

Kiku Terao
 Etsuko Yamada
 Mary Naber
 Leslie Green
 Kelly Clothier
 Paul & Karen Vielle
 Jim & Janet Tamura
 Ken Yorioka
 Fumi Ekinaka
 Ann Heineman
 Pete & Beth Cullitan
 Chris & Christine Marr

Letters from Mary, #5

I just attended my first lecture on Buddhism IN ENGLISH this weekend in Kyoto at the Hongwanji. The topic was "The Essentials of Pure Land Buddhism Based on Tannisho. A Record in Lament of Divergences." It was given by Professor and Reverend Toshikazu Arai of Soai University. This lecture was so informative and I will try to give you a bit of the history and info that I learned later on.

But this time, I'd love to just tell you about the weekend. This is such a small world. I met James Warrick from Seattle at this lecture. He is going through an intense couple of weeks at the Hongwangi leading up to ordination next week, I think. I also met a reverend who has known Reverend Castro-sensei for 30 years. He spoke very fondly of him and I felt so lucky to have such a well-known reverend at our temple.

I also was fortunate to be able to attend an incredible service at the Hongwanji on Sunday morning and got to see the Monshu or spiritual leader of the Shin Buddhist sect (he is a direct descendent of Shinran Shonin.) I also got to see his son who will succeed him. The service was very interesting. One of the monks yells out Namu Amida which symbolizes the plea for the concho to be rung. With enthusiasm and a yell, another monk runs (quite a ways down a hallway) to the concho to sound the start of services. It's quite an exciting beginning to the service. Did I say monks? Young guys with shaved heads. They look like monks, but we don't have monks, do we. I'll ask somebody, first chance I get.

There is a group of "monks" who periodically play music at the beginning of services and I was fortunate to hear this too. It sounds out of this world.

There is, of course, the different sized drums as well as wind instruments. I couldn't see the instruments but they sounded to me almost Tibetan. Some of the flutes are wooden I understand and others are made of bamboo reeds. They are bundled together and I couldn't figure out how they blew into them but the sound is so amazing.

The lecture was on Saturday night and I really wanted to spend Sunday in Kyoto as well so Reverend Sekiya graciously invited me to stay at the International Center at the Hongwangi. The Center consists of offices downstairs and meeting rooms on the second floor but the third and fourth floors are guest rooms. There is a kitchen and bathroom and washroom with washing machine and everything. It felt almost like home. I didn't realize how fortunate I was until I tried to find a motel for next month. This is prime time in Kyoto for watching the fall leaves. Every motel/hotel in the area is booked solid for an entire month. I am so lucky to be able to stay at the Center. The leaves are just beginning to turn red. I walked through two spectacular gardens and cursed myself for forgetting my camera back at my apartment in Nishinomiya. I will be back in Kyoto in a couple of weeks and will take loads of photos then.

I will try to write a short synopsis of the lecture next time. I was amazed at what I learned. I hope all is well back home. I can't wait to see Perry Street now that it's all been redone. I miss you all and can't wait to see Leslie in a few short weeks.

Peace, Mary