



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

October 2003

The Perry street renovations will be completed with a ribbon cutting ceremony October 18, 2003.

The sidewalks are back and the street is once again paved. We are looking forward to the street lamps and park benches, and of course, the trees. Soon our street will be the envy of Spokane. The Perry Street businesses will be having an open house October 18th to celebrate.

Northwest Buddhist Convention

Once again, Feb. 13,14,15, 2004, the NW Buddhist Convention will be held at the Oregon/Idaho Temple. Make plans to attend.

Introduction to Buddhism

This month our popular Introduction to Buddhism session will be held at 2:00 pm on Oct. 19th. This is a brief overview of Buddhism and Shin Buddhism's beginnings in Japan with the Shin Buddhist service and rituals explained in some detail. The talk is followed by an informal question and answer period followed by our Reverend service. Everyone is welcome to attend our service and hear a dharma message by Rev Don Castro from the Seattle Betsuin at 3:00 Pm.

Fall Food Bazaar November 2...Senbei Making October 18th

Our annual fundraiser is fast upon us. This means its Senbei Making Time! (Our famous Japanese Rice Crackers) Can you help work a shift? (Herman, we need you) No experience necessary, we will train. It will be Saturday, October 18 with a morning and afternoon shift. We will supply lunch (veggie and non-veggie) for both shifts. Please sign up on the bulletin board downstairs with your name, shift time and phone number stating (veggie or non-veggie preference). We will call to remind you the week before. Senbei is our biggest fundraiser so we want to make plenty, so expect a busy, fun day. PLEASE HELP, we can't do it without you! Sign up by phone, if you like, call: Janet Temura 535-21-94, Fumi Uyeji 747-0480 or Christine Marr 747-6136. Submitted by: Christine Marr

Toban Planned for October

Once again, it's time for the Temple to get a thorough cleaning inside and out. Toban is planned for Saturday, October 11 from 8:00 to 12:00. In addition to the usual cleaning, we're looking to restore the landscaping on the corner. The street renovation project left that corner sadly neglected. Please volunteer to help. More

hands working means the quicker we're finished. For details, call Paul Vielle at 326-4151.

BUDDHISM 101: A book study "Shin Buddhism, Bits of Rubble Turn into Gold" by Taitetsu Unno follows our Sangha Services at 10:30 AM. This is an informal discussion group accompanied by a snack, coffee and tea. This book offers us an opportunity to build a foundation for understanding Shin Buddhism. We have copies available in our bookstore now. Newcomers are welcome; join us any Sunday.

Lay-Minister Program at Berkley Proposed

There is growing concern among church leaders about the steady decline in number of Buddhist ministers in North America. At his visit in September, Reverend Castro reported that the BCA is supporting an effort to establish a program to train lay minister assistants. Land has been purchased to build a training facility near the Buddhist Theological Seminary at the U.C. Berkley campus. However, plans are still very much in the formative stage. It is envisioned that eventually, selected Sangha members will be trained to assist the Minister in carrying out certain routine duties and some rituals. More information to follow as it becomes available.

New Format for Sangha Service Studied

Also during his last visit, Reverend Castro met with several Board Members to discuss possible changes to the format of our typical Sangha service. Several individuals in the Sangha have expressed concern that our Sunday services (when Rev. Castro is not here,) have become predictable, stale and uninspiring. A committee was formed to explore ways we might invigorate our service; that is, to make it more spiritually uplifting. If you'd like input to this committee, talk with Christine, Ed, Jefferson, Hyacinth or Paul.

Want to read what other Pure Land Buddhists are thinking?

Our Webmaster, Sicco Rood, has added a Buddhist forum website called Amitabha World Community Forum. Go to spokanebuddhisttemple.org (our website) click on the links page, click on the Forum. There is a tremendous amount of information available as well as a broad range of opinions from Buddhists living all around the world (from the evilperson to bonbu bodhi) as well as links to more Pure Land Internet sites than you can shake an Ojuzu at. Just click on the link and get ready to share an opinion.

WANTED: Jodo Shin Shu short articles, poems, for the newsletter. Here are two examples that I wrote. I am sure you can do better if you try. This first poem concerns our state of being when we understand that wisdom alone will not bring

us to an understanding of who we are, nor will it ease our suffering. The second concerns the question of faith. Ed Parker

Hearing Amida's call

When suffering brings no more tears.
 When sorrow has nothing new to say
 Where is the comfort of wisdom?
 Scrub your face with ignorance
 Wash it all away
 and with mind sincere
 Feel one moment of shinjin

IS THERE A PURE LAND?

Asks this sense of oneness.
 Why am I alone?
 Alone
 a snowflake holding on to its uniqueness
 All about me, winter turns to spring.
 In one moment, the sun shall shine through.
 Still, this is now,
 this frozen, eternal now.
 How I ponder my crystalline nature.
 How unique I am?
 How beautiful?
 What could the ocean possibly require of me?

Letters from Mary Nabor: Greetings from Japan (Letter one)

Yes, I am finally here and on-line. Life is wonderful in Nishinomiya. I am adjusting to the new apartment - which I love. The weather is definitely warm and humid but it hasn't slowed me down. I am running 3 days a week and getting used to being sweaty and damp all the time. Everyone carries and uses fans and towels to mop the sweat from brow, neck and..... I am so very lucky to have a temple only two doors from our main office. Before school began, I went to temple every morning and chanted with the sangha. It was so great to have my Service Book from home and be able to chant right along. The reverend asked me which chants I knew and I mentioned the Junirai. So, we did that one for an entire week just for my benefit! We do the Wasan now as well as a couple others that aren't in my book. I am learning hiragana and with the help of Fumiko, who I sit by, I am learning to read a bit of the chants! I hope to hear from some of you. I think about our sangha a lot. I miss you all. I am so very lucky to have found a new sangha here. We struggle to communicate but our hearts are one! Take good care, love and hugs. Mary

Letter Two

Everything here is in kanji and hiragana. I am learning hiragana and will try sometime down the line to work on some pronunciation aides. (I asked her for one, Ed) Not right now tho, it's much too hectic. I start Japanese lessons tomorrow evening. I work from 7:30am till 4:30 pm. With a 1/2-hour bike, commute both ways. Very pleasant but doesn't leave me much free time. I think about you guys a lot. My new sangha is small but dedicated. There is a great group of little Japanese ladies who I already love dearly. Well, more later. I most definitely will check out the web page for the temple. Take good care and say hello to everyone for me. Love, Mary

Letter Three

Yahoo. I finally connected with Marcelline. Thanks. I am sure that your pronunciation is getting much better. (Mary the optimist, Ed) I wish I could tape record our chanting. Maybe I'll get a little tape recorder when I'm back in the states for a visit. I really love a couple of the - I call them hymns - all they say is "Namo Amida Butsu" over and over but it is such a beautiful melody. Anyway. I'm off to the International Shin Buddhist Center in Kyoto next Friday if everything goes well. I'm very excited to meet the English-speaking minister there. More later. May you be well. May you be happy. Mary

BCA Update

Candidates for Bishop has been chosen:
Rev. Koshin Oqui of the Midwest Buddhist Temple and Rev. Kodo Umezu,
Executive Assistant to the Bishop.

The 2004 BCA Theme is: Expanding our Horizon
Buddhist Churches of America can be contacted at:
1710 Octavia Street, San Francisco, CA 94109
Tel: 415-776-5600 Fax 415-771-6293 Email: bcahq@pacbell.net

Sincere Condolences to the families of:

Katsuko Katie Nakagawa August 22, 1913 - July 15, 2003

Paul Osamu Yamagiwa May 11, 1946 - July 28, 2003

August Donations

In Memory of:

Paul Yamigiwa	Mrs. Harue Yamagiwa	\$300.00
Katie Nakagawa	The Nakagawa Family	\$100.00
33rd year memorial for husband Henry Oki	Mrs. Hisako Oki	\$100.00
Bob Wheeler	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Marr	\$25.00
Rev. Eiyu Terao & Rev. & Mrs. William Terao	Judy Terao Uyema	\$100
Rev. Eiyu Terao & Rev. & William Terao	Joyce M. Terao	\$100
Rev. Eiyu Terao & Rev. & William Terao	Dennis S. Terao	\$100
Rev. Eiyu Terao & Rev. & William Terao	Kenji & Karen Akahoshi	\$50.00
Rev. Eiyu Terao & Rev. & William Terao	Doug Doerr & Lenni Terao Doerr	\$50.00
Rev. Eiyu Terao & Rev. & William Terao	Ray & Reiko Terao Murakami	\$50.00
Rev. Eiyu Terao & Rev. & William Terao	Betty Komura	\$20.00
Rev. Eiyu Terao & Rev. & William Terao	Charlotte Tetsuka	Flowers

Dana

Paul & Karen Vielle	\$25.00
Mrs Harue Hashimoto	\$ 5.00
Ann Heineman	\$15.00
Christine Marr	\$10.00
David Weibel	\$30.00

Other

Takashi Oba	Use of church	\$150.00
Mr. & Mrs. Sumio Matsumoto	Special	\$ 50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Hito Hashimoto	Special	\$ 20.00
Kay Steinhilber	Newsletter	\$ 15.00

August Donations

OBON

Kazuo & Kazuko Kuwada	\$50.00
Massie Uyeda	\$50.00
Ed & Hide Tsutakawa	\$30.00
Jim & Janet Tamura	\$30.00
Amy Bragdon	\$25.00
Marcelline Burdet	\$25.00
Noboko Kasai	\$20.00
Keiji & Mariln Shimizu	\$20.00
Satoshi & Mary Terao	\$20.00
Anonymous	\$20.00
Kam & Fumi Uyeji	\$20.00
Harue Yamagiwa	\$20.00
Haumi Yee	\$20.00
George & Toshie Kawahara	\$20.00
Anonymous	\$20.00
Leo & Yuri Kiyohiro	\$20.00
Kazuko Kirihara	\$20.00
Hisako Oik	\$20.00
Doug & Joanne Heyamoto	\$20.00
Fumi Heyamoto	\$20.00
Mas & Yoshi Kozen	\$10.00
Dorothy Uno	\$10.00
Hatsue Konishi	\$10.00
Fumi Ekinaka	\$10.00
Tosh & Amy Kirihara	\$10.00
Kengo Yorioka	\$10.00
Ets Yamada	\$10.00
Anonymous	\$10.00
Anonymous	\$ 2.00