

January Announcements:

Sangha Services

Sangha Services (a Sanscrit word for Buddhist Community) are held most Sundays at 10:30 am. Everyone is welcome to attend. We hold our traditional service with chanting and a Dharma message led by our members. Following the service, we move downstairs for our Buddhism 101 study group and refreshments. We are currently studying the book "Bits of Rubble Turn to Gold" by Taitetsu Unno. Each chapter stands on its own, drop in's are welcome and copies are available in our bookstore. We finish at noon. See calendar page for dates.

Volunteer Training

We will hold a training session the first Sunday of each month. For those willing to help in the services we will teach; flowers for the altar, how to do the fruit and rice offering, how to ring the Kansho, just to list a few. This will be held at 12:15 on January 4. Everyone welcome, even if you are not ready to sign up, just watch and learn.

Ko Service Thursday 6:30 PM

Shortly after Shinran died a group of his followers met informally to discuss his teachings. This was called the Ko. The Thursday night Ko Service will include chanting, mediation and an informal discussion of Jodo Shinshu concepts.

Introduction to Buddhism: This month our Introduction to Buddhism session will be held at 2:00 pm on January 25. We give a brief overview of Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu, and how our Temple started in Spokane. We will explain what goes on in a service and what to expect. You are welcome to stay for our Service at 3 pm.

57th NW Buddhist Convention 2004 February 13, 14 & 15th "Everyone and Everything: My Teacher"

You may now register for the convention! The cost is \$65 to attend. We have sign up available at the temple on Sundays or, call Fumi Uyeji 747-0480 to register. **Deadline January 6 make check payable to Spokane Buddhist Temple.**

Some Convention highlights:

Keynote Speaker: Rev. David Matsumoto
Workshops: **English,** "Practice of Shin Buddhism" with Rev. Gregory Gibbs and Rinban Fujii, "Why Jodo Shinshu" with Rev. David Matsumoto and Rev. Gregory Gibbs. "Living in Nembutsu Life" with Rev. Don castro and Rev. Kakei Nakagawa. **Japanese,** "Nembutsu ni ikasareru jinsei" Rev. Kakuei Nakagawa and "Ikiru amirikano nembutsusha" Rev Hakubun Watanabe, "Nembutsushe no nichijo Seikatsu" Rinban Doei Fujii

Workshop, "Preserving the Memories"

There will be 2 sessions of this workshop, and **pre-registration is being requested.** The workshops will be hands-on and there will be a \$5 materials fee. Participants are asked to bring 6 – 10 photos to use during the session. The full schedules will be posted on the bulletin board in the basement to help you plan.

Be sure to pre-register so they will hold your spot.

Transportation: When you register, you may also sign up for a free ride...well almost free. We will pay gas money, the vehicles are being provided by Foothills Auto Group. The drivers are Jefferson Workman and Paul Vielle.

Convention Housing: It is each delegate's responsibility to make his/her own reservations. Deadline is Feb. 1, 2004. Some reservations have been made by Spokane folks so far, at the Best Western, 800-828-0364. Rates there are, 1 Queen with 2 people \$45.50, 2 Queens 1 to 4 people \$59.00.

Holiday Inn 800-889-8621 Rates 1 to 4 people \$58

Sleep Inn 541-881-0007 1 king 2 people \$52, 2 queen 2-4 people \$56

Super 8 541-889-8282 1 queen 2 people \$42, 2 queens 2-4 people \$52 (this is across from Best Western More details are posted at the temple. Be sure to ask for BUDDHIST CONVENTION rates.

Annual meeting of the members will be held following the Service on January 25th. Covered at this meeting will be our goals for the coming year, reports by various Board Members and much more. Please plan to attend!

The Temple Sign

You've seen it, the sign in front of the temple. Did you know that it was donated by the Spokane Women's Buddhist Association? Like true Buddhist, they don't seek to bring attention to themselves, yet their efforts benefit us all. Our teachers surround us, we have but to look and see.

Bells for the New Year

At midnight on December 31, temple bells all over Japan are tolled 108 times to welcome the new year and obliterate the evil aspects of the old

(Joya-no Kane). The most commonly accepted reason for this precise number is as follows.: There are six senses (according to traditional Buddhist thought): colour, sound, smell, taste, feeling and cognition (corresponding to the six organs of the eye, ear, nose, tongue, body and mind). These have three natures each (good, bad and indifferent). And each of these 18 attributes has both positive and negative aspects, which can exist in three realms or worlds (past, present and future), producing the magic 108 reasons to toll the bell for the New Year!

Best wishes for a Loving Holiday season and a very Happy New Year. Peace and love, Mary

Note: The Konsho will begin ringing at 6:30 PM. If you wish to participate in the ringing, come a few minutes early, ear protection will be provided. The ringing of the Konsho will be followed by a Sangha service.



Highlights of Lay Leadership Seminar in Japan, By Leslie Green

On the first of November 2003, I embarked on an incredible journey to the ancient and beautiful land of Japan. This opportunity was made possible through the generous support of the members of this Sangha at Spokane Buddhist Temple. The three-day lay leadership seminar was underscored by a four-city tour of Japan following the footsteps and history of Shinran Shonin. In this series of articles, I will share with you what I learned at the lay leadership seminar, along with what I experienced at each of the pertinent sights that we visited throughout Japan. Before I get too far along, I think it is important to share what the purpose of the lay leadership seminar is all about. The seminar is for the lay leaders of overseas districts to renew their understanding and appreciation of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in a more practical way by visiting their mother temple, learn about its activities and operations, and share thoughts with ministers and lay people in Japan. It is also designed to give us the opportunity to meet with Monshu Ohtani and Hongwanji

officials. Our first day was devoted to sightseeing in Kyoto including several places, which were very important in Shinran's life (also, I think they knew that if we went straight into a classroom environment, they would lose most of us due to sleep deprivation!). We began our day with early morning service (6:30...ugh!) conducted in the Hall of Amida Buddha (Amidado) at the Hongwanji every morning of the year. We chanted the Jusiege and the Wasan in its entirety. Hearing all those voices together was very powerful experience. After service and breakfast, I met up with Mary Naber and we boarded the bus for a drive up to Mt Hiei.

Mt. Hiei plays a major role in Shinran's life because it is where he began his monastic life. Mt Hiei, the sacred mountain known as the mother of Japanese Buddhism, has emitted the light of Dharma for over 1200 years. Dengyo Daishi originally founded the central main hall, known as Konpon Chu-do, in 788. Inside this hall is the "Inextinguishable Dharma Light" which has been burning for 1200 years in front of the Medicine Buddha. As a

visitor, I was able to peek inside this dark and somewhat foreboding area to see the beautiful altar and the light of Dharma. I was touched by this particular place; the cold damp smell of 1200 years of incense, the sight of an everlasting light, and the quiet of this holy place: awe inspiring! After a beautiful traditional Japanese lunch, we descended the mountain and headed for Kiyomizu Temple in Kyoto. Kiyomizu Temple is located at the end of a narrow winding road in Kyoto. We arrived just before sunset to witness one of the most beautiful scenes I would encounter in Kyoto. The reflection of the setting sun on the bright red of the temple gate as a rising moon shone brightly between the three-tiered pagoda and the temple gate, breath taking.

After a very exhausting day, Mary and I had a quiet dinner, after which she boarded her train back to Nishinomiya, and I enjoyed an early evening meditative walk back to my hotel. I felt very safe walking alone at night in Kyoto, and a powerful sense of wonderment....here I was so far from home, but yet feeling very much at home in Japan.

Next month, I will focus on what I learned at the three day lay leadership seminar along with a very inspirational Hongwanji tour. In Gassho, Leslie.

Glossary of Shin Buddhist terms (source: Shinran's Collected Works)

Threefold shinjin [sanshin] The threefold shinjin contained in the Eighteenth Vow are (1) sincere mind, (2) trust and (3) aspiration for birth in the Pure Land, each of which, according to Shinran, is completely free of doubt, including self-will, calculation, and self-power. Honen identified them with the three minds of the *Contemplation Sutra* as necessary mental attitudes of the nembutsu practitioner. Shinran, however, regarded them as the manifestations of the working of Other Power, stating that the sincere mind of the Buddha enters the ignorant and deluded mind of persons, causing in them the experience of joyful faith and prompting them to aspire for the Pure Land. He also summarized the threefold shinjin into the mind that is single, which is none other than Other Power. Thus, the threefold shinjin can be seen as the true and real mind of the Buddhas' manifestation in the heart and mind of the person of shinjin.

Haiku Seasons by Paul Vielle

New wings fill with wind,
Baby Starling steps off branch,
flies up; Spring is born!

Tomatoes ripen
slowly, under Summer's sky.
Vines groan with their weight.

In crisp Autumn air,
He treads the leafy pathway...
Crunchy, 'cracky' sounds!

At Winter's icy dawn,
Steamy breath escapes my nose,
Like coarse white feathers.

November Donations

\$25.00 Paul/Karen Veille – Dana
\$20.00 Ann Heineman - Dana
\$50.00 Ellen Delaganes - Dana
\$30.00 Tosh/Amy Kirihara - Dana
\$25.00 Elizabeth Leong - Dana
\$10.00 Fumi Heyamoto - Bazaar
\$30.00 Nobuko Kasai - Bazaar
\$25.00 Herman/Phyllis Sugimura –
Bazaar
\$200.00 Anonymous - Bazaar
\$100.00 Amy/Roger Bragdon
- In memory of Dick Shimizu

DUES

Jim/Janet Tamura, Paul/Karen
Vielle, Ed/Liat Parker, Ann
Heineman, Doug/Joan Heyamoto,
George/Toshie Kawahara, Kelly
Clothier, Leslie Green, Jefferson
Workman, Yoshi Kozen, Kam/Fumi
Uyeji

MUEN Hoyo

\$10.00 Anonymous, Fumi
Heyamoto, Yoshi Kozen,
Leonard/Nobuko Kasai, Leo/Yuri
Kiyohiro, Hisako Oki, Jim/Janet
Tamura, Kam/Fumi Uyeji

\$5.00 Satoshi/Mary Terao