

# Announcements

**August Sangha Services** Our Sangha Service (Sangha is the Sanscrit word for Buddhist community) is a traditional Jodo Shinshu service with chanting led by a Doshi. Immediately following Sunday services we offer a book study and discussion. We now offer two book study programs. **Buddhism 101** featuring the book "Eight Mindful Steps to Happiness" by Bhante Henepola Gunaratana. The second option, **Jodo Shinshu Book Study**, featuring the book "A Life of Awakening-The Heart of the Shin Buddhist Path", by Takamaro Shigaraki. Refreshments will be available following the book study and everything will be wrapped up by noon. All are welcome to come join the discussions.

**Bhante Seelawimala - Developing Your Spiritual Path** - Come hear an informative lecture from Bhante on Saturday, August 20th,

1 pm - 5 pm at the temple.

Cost: requested donation \$5

We will break for refreshments during the presentation.

This workshop will explore spiritual growth from a Buddhist perspective. To understand your own path, it may be beneficial to learn how religion has evolved over time. Using the information taught, you will have some tools to explore your spirituality. Learn Buddhist practices to help develop a spiritual discipline and seek inner peace.

Facilitator: Bhante Seelawimala is a Theravada Buddhist monk. Educated in Sri Lanka, he has been a member of the teaching staff at the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley, CA since 1976.

**Sangha Service with Bhante Seelawimala and Shotsuki Hoyo Service** - Sunday August 21. Bhante will lead our service this day. There will be no Dharma School this month.

**Senbei for Sale** - We still have a lot of Senbei for sale for \$3.00 per bag. We will have it available each Sunday following service until it is gone.

## Looking Ahead . . .

### AUTUMN HIGAN

Observance of the fall equinox. The word "Ohigan" comes from the Sanskrit word "Paramita" meaning "Other Shore" of enlightenment. There will be a special service in September, for details check the calendar in the next newsletter.

### FALL BAZAAR

November 6th will be the day we have our next fundraiser. Be on the lookout....there will be sign-up sheets to help with preparing the food and working the bazaar.

### 2006 CONVENTION WORK PARTY

There will be a work party organized to help put bookmarks together and to work on the rocks that will be given out during our convention. These work parties will be in September. The exact dates and time will be in the next newsletter. This is an excellent way to get to know other members. Hope to see you there!

## Temple News

by Christine Marr

Temple President

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. We were as busy as ever last month with the Perry Street Faire, the Retreat and Obon so now we can take a short rest to gear up for fall. August will be quieter with just

one guest speaker, Bhante Seelawimala. We will not be having our Seattle service this month. In the past we have closed 2 weeks in August however the board decided to stay open with our Sangha Services.

Thank you to all helpers on the Perry Street Faire. They worked rain and shine selling senbei, checkbook covers and writing names in Japanese calligraphy. We participated in the Saturday activities by having a booth in the park and an open house. The rain was a surprise but all in all our day went well, wet as it was. Both the open house and Introduction to Buddhism were very well attended. This is invaluable to our growth as it gives so many interested people a chance to meet our members and see the inside of the Hondo.

Fall Food Bazaar - Plans are in the works for our next big fundraiser on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. We are going to try chicken yakisoba, a noodle stir fry dish. We need help on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> to prepare everything, then on Sunday to cook and serve.

Northwest Buddhist Convention 2006 -

February 10 -12- The convention is coming together and here are some of the highlights: Our keynote speaker will be Rev. Mark Unno. Mrs. Joyce Terao is being invited as our special guest. We will use the Davenport Hotel meeting rooms for our workshops, the Pennington Ballroom for our services and the Saturday night banquet. The bookstore will be in the Hall of the Doges foyer with check in and registration in the hallway leading up the stairs. I hope all our members will be able to attend and welcome the Northwest delegates. We have a block of rooms for \$111.00 per night, a special rate for our convention. Registration information will be coming soon!

In Gassho,  
Christine Marr

From the T atami

Mat . . .

### **What's It Worth?**

How do we determine the value of something? Some would say it has to do with the availability of the thing. Gold and platinum are valuable precisely because they are so scarce. If clay was as rare as gold, people might say "He's worth his weight in clay" or "She has a heart of clay." Craftsmanship and aesthetic beauty increase a thing's value as well. A vintage wine or a Stradivarius violin are considered valuable because of their pleasing attributes and one-of-a-kind status. Less obvious but equally important in determining value is a thing's usefulness in serving others. Having the right key to open a door or the needed tool to fix a machine make these items highly valuable, if only for a moment. Similarly, our value as human beings arises not from the things we possess, or the power we wield, but from our usefulness in serving others. The smallest of things we do in the daily service of others not only benefits our family and community, but helps us loosen our preoccupation with selfish interests.

### **Ojuzu Repair**

Every now and then the string holding our Ojuzu together breaks and we have beads scattering all over the floor. If this has happened to you bring the beads to me, --as many as you can find, for a speedy repair. I've attended a class on how to do this and will be happy to fix yours free of charge.

Paul Vielle  
Minister's Assistant

# The Egyptian Flute

By Rev. Lee Saisho Rosenthal

VISTA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Not too long ago, a 3,000-year-old Egyptian tomb was uncovered on an archeological dig sponsored by the University of Cairo. During the excavation, an ancient reed flute was discovered in the ruins. Although pictures of such musical instruments are depicted on the walls of other previously excavated tombs, this was the first incidence in history of actually uncovering the real object. An Egyptian professor of music was well known for his ability to reproduce replicas of the ancient Egyptian flutes using similar materials as found around the Nile River Delta today. But he had never before actually seen an authentic reed flute from ancient Egypt - until now.

And so, one evening this professor was entrusted with the actual artifact and invited for the first time in 3,000 years to give a recital using the ancient musical instrument. As he began to play, the packed auditorium became still, and was then filled with beautiful, melodious music.

As I was watching the television documentary on this momentous event and listening to the miraculous music myself, I came to wonder, "Where has the sound been all these years?" Was it contained within the flute, locked away in the hidden tomb? Or was it always within the potential of human beings to hear and appreciate the beauty of the sound? These questions also caused me to think of Amida Buddha and the Eighteenth Vow, which has been enveloping humankind since the eternal past. Where do we meet the Buddha's Vow?

During a National Buddhist Women's Association Convention in Chicago, the ladies and I had the opportunity to visit one of the city's famous art museums. It was a wonderful occasion to be able to view the actual paintings by such famous artists as Rembrandt, Goya, Monet, Renoir, Picasso, Gauguin and Van Gough - whose works, for the most part, I had previously only seen in books. What a thrilling experience to now have been able to see them in person - to be filled with their power, beauty and inspiration. And then I realized these artists had lived and died hundreds of years ago.

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Yet, here I was in downtown Chicago being moved by the beauty on the canvas, which they had touched with their own hand, and being drawn to communicate with them through the human heart and mind. They were from the eternal past, and yet we were able to meet in the eternal present.

The vow of Amida Buddha's Mind to reach all sentient beings is contained within our human potential to hear its beckoning voice and respond. There is an old Buddhist saying that, "Unenlightened beings merely react, but Enlightened ones respond." How wondrous to be moved by Amida's Heart and Mind after all these years.

*Reprinted from "Dharma Talks of the Four Seasons No.2", Buddhist Churches of America*

*The Great Way is not difficult  
for those who have no preferences.  
When love and hate are both absent  
everything becomes clear and undisguised.  
Make the smallest distinction, however,  
and heaven and earth are set infinitely apart.*

*If you wish to see the truth  
then hold no opinions for or against anything.  
To set up what you like against what you dislike is the disease of the mind.  
When the deep meaning of things is not understood, the mind's essential peace is disturbed to no avail.*

*The Way is perfect like vast space  
where nothing is lacking and nothing in excess.  
Indeed, it is our choosing to accept or reject  
that we do not see the true nature of things.*

### ***Seng T'san***

The Spokane Buddhist Temple gratefully acknowledges the following dues and donations. Please notify Fumi Uyeji or Liat Parker of any omissions or errors. Dues are acknowledged when received and are often times for a few months or paid yearly.

#### **Dues**

#### **June 20 - July 20**

Barbara Braden  
Hyacinth Dezenobia  
Mary Nabor  
Kenna Latwesen  
Satoshi & Mary Terao  
Martena Peterson  
Leslie Green  
Jim & Shirley Bennett  
Jenifer Johnston  
Thomas Lande  
Paul & Karen Vielle  
Fumiko Heyamoto  
Jeffery Bolton  
Etsuko Yamada  
Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro

Jeffrey Workman  
Rachel Scrudder  
Marcelline Burdett  
Ann Heineman

**Dana**

Lynn Briggs  
Jim & Shirley Bennett  
Jenifer Johnston  
Mr & Mrs Tosh Uyeji  
Paul & Karen Vielle  
Tsuruko Otsuki - Otsuki Family  
Phyllis Hume  
Ann Heineman  
Katherine Rimbach

**Memorial Dana**

Janet Tamura  
in memory of Sho Higashi

Kam & Fumi Uyeji  
in memory of Oto Uyeji

Marcelline Burdett  
for mother (Shotsuki hoyo )

**Obon**

Fumiko Heyamoto

**Apologies to the Hatsubon Families**

In the July issue of the Newsletter, mention was made of the Obon service to be held on July 24 at the Greenwood Cemetery. The names of individuals who have passed away since the last Obon service (in 2004) should have been mentioned in the newsletter. Unfortunately these names were not included. The Board extends sincere apologies to the Hatsubon families for this oversight. The names of those people who passed away during the past year are:

**Mary Sueko (Sue) Shimizu**  
**Jim Tamura**  
**Roy Soejima**  
**Robert Yamagiwa**  
**Midori Yamasaki**

The Board will work diligently to insure this mistake does not occur again.

Editor

**Shotsuki-Hoyo**

Shotsuki-Hoyo (the remembrance service for deceased family members) will be held at the service on Sunday, August 21

According to temple records which date back to the early 1960's, a total of ten family members passed away during the month of August:

Tokujiro Ikeda  
Yuriko Ito  
Tomoyoshi "Tom" Kirihara  
Yoneichi Kirihara  
Yuriko Kirihara  
Asao Oki  
Takashi Osumi  
Tsuneo Otsuki  
Bob Wheeler  
Robert Hideaki Yamagiwa

## "Developing Your Spiritual Path"

with Bhante Seelawimala

Saturday, August 20th

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

See inside for details

### **Spokane Buddhist Temple Team**

Supervising Minister: Rev. Don Castro

Seattle Betsuin

Minister's Assistant: Paul Vielle

### **Board of Directors**

Christine Marr, President

Leslie Green, Vice President

Ann Heineman, Secretary

Liat Parker, Treasurer

Fumi Uyeji, Auditor

Janet Tamura, Board Member

Jefferson Workman, Board Member

Bonell McLeish, Board Member

Chris Marr, Board Advisor

Doug Heyamoto, Board Advisor