

Spokane Buddhist Temple Team
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Seattle Betsuin
Minister's Assistant: Paul Vielle

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Announcements

December 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.

Bodi Day Service - Sunday, December 4th we will recognize the enlightenment of Siddhartha Gautama, who then became known as Sakyamuni Buddha. Join us with a special service by Rev. Don Castro from the Seattle Betsuin. We will provide Dharma school for children as well as a Shotsuki Hoyo remembrance.

Joya-E - At the end of each year it is a custom to attend the Year End Service to bring the year to a close. It provides us with an opportunity to quietly contemplate on the events of the past year and to rejoice in gratitude for the many blessings we were able to enjoy. (*reprinted from Buddhist Holidays, by Rev. George Shibata*) Join us on Saturday, December 31st at 7:00 pm for a short celebration and ringing of the Konsho.

Meditation Practice - Just a reminder that we offer Vipassana (insight) meditation every Thursday night at 7:00 pm. All levels of practice are welcome. It is well worth an hour of your time to de-stress your life.

Shotsuki-Hoyo

December 2005

Shotsuki-Hoyo (the remembrance service for deceased loved ones) will be held Sunday, December 4th. According to temple records and other sources, a total of 11 people passed away during the month of December. They are:

Janis Birkel
Skylar Cullitan
Yukiko Evans
Yoshitaka Inouye
Otokichi Matsuo
(Mrs) Kimiko Terao
Sadako Terao
(Mrs) Michiko Tsuchida
(Mrs) Yuki Tsuji

(Mrs) Kayo Tsuji
(Mrs) Yoshiko Uchida

Temple News

By Christine Marr
Temple President

Food Bazaar

Our Fall Food Bazaar was a huge success! We tried a new dish, Yakisoba Noodles and completely sold out. With the senbei, sushi and bake sale, we raised money beyond our projections. We were worried with so much to accomplish with the upcoming convention, the yakisoba would be an easy dish to prepare. It was, thanks to our talented cooking crew and large turnout of workers. THANKS for donating your time to the temple. The workload was shared and we will all benefit from having a secure general fund to pay our bills! Now we can focus on convention...

Convention Update

I would like to update everyone the planning the committee has made. Now that we are 3 months away from the reality of the 56th NW Buddhist Convention, I will try to answer some questions that have come up lately.

How did we choose the Davenport Hotel?

The planning committee toured 4 area hotels as prospective convention facilities. Each hotel gave room rates, the number of break out rooms for workshops they were willing to include and food costs for the weekend. The Davenport was originally too expensive and we turned them down. Fortunately, they called us back with a lower bid and negotiated a lower contract. We are very happy they wanted to work with us, with the location in the center of downtown and of course, the history and beauty of the hotel will make this a memorable convention!

Why are we changing the hospitality room?

First, each host temple is encouraged to make necessary changes in the convention for each unique situation they face. Oregon/Idaho adjusted their turn and used a convention center, giving first night hospitality at their temple. Our hospitality will be right next to the book store area in the Hall of Doges with a snack table provided by the hotel. We don't have enough members to make all the food plus we felt the hotel rooms are too small to accommodate this function.

Why is there a breakfast OR lunch offered this year?

We are offering a choice of a breakfast buffet in the morning OR a box lunch with sandwich at lunch time. Many reasons behind this change: There is worry about people needing to attend morning meetings and having to waste time waiting for a table for breakfast. Others would rather have their lunch provided, plus there were schedule conflicts with our afternoon speaker and the ballroom being set up. The solution was to offer the choice to the delegates and split it into planned groups to serve food in the smaller Marie Antoinette Ballroom. Hope this helps answer some concerns.

Please consider being a booster!

The form to complete is in this newsletter. Your support will be appreciated. Selling ads and booster donations are the way we raise funds to cover expenses, we need your help.

Included in this newsletter is an overview of the convention. Mrs. Joyce Terao will be our special guest, bringing our history and future together. We want to see you there! We all share in the Temple's future.

Gassho,
Christine Marr
Christi96@aol.com



From the T atami Mat. . . .

Remembering Van

The inexorable march of time has claimed yet another of our Nisei generation. In late October, long-time temple member Mr. Van Omine passed away following many months of declining health due to heart disease. I had the privilege of visiting with him and his wife Pat many times during the last five months of his life. Van made a deep impression on me and I'd like to share some of his insights about death with you.

For many people, the end of life can be a terribly frightening ordeal. Elizabeth Kulber Ross in her classic, *On Death and Dying* (1974), describes five stages the dying person may experience: denial, bargaining, anger, despair and finally, acceptance. For Dr. Ross, if the meaning of death is to be truly understood, the dying person must accept and be at peace with the inevitability of one's total demise. It turns out; the key to finding this acceptance is gratitude. This year, Dr. Seigen Yamaoka published, *Transmission of Shin Buddhism in the West*. In it he discusses the phenomenon of awakening to the meaning of gratitude in dying. For the Jodo Shinshu follower, gratitude in Amida Buddha frees one of self-pity. Self-pity can blind you to so many wonderful things that you otherwise take for granted. Gratitude opens you to a life of joy and meaning even as death approaches.

In his final months, Van was truly in touch with the universal compassion that embraced him (and indeed all of us) at every turn. He was deeply grateful for the care and concern everyone extended to him. Many times I would arrive to find people in his room. It might be his wife Pat or his son Kip. Sometimes he'd be holding his infant grandson giving him a bottle. It might be a neighbor or one of the palliative-care nurses, or perhaps one of neighborhood kids that Pat watched in the afternoon. Van was completely open to the world. He welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. This is how he showed his gratitude for the gift of life, even as his vitality ebbed daily. "Every morning I thank Amida for this day because there is so much to be grateful for. It is beyond words. All I can say is Namoamidabutsu!" On those days when the pain in his chest was particularly bad, gratitude was his antidote to self-pity. Once he said to me, "When the pain comes it really hurts. Suffering is not easy. Yet, in a way, it helps me appreciate how well my heart has served me all these years." Frequently, his comments were insightful and witty. "Pain is sort of like manure. It looks and smells bad, but in the end, it helps produce a beautiful garden. When the pain passes, the next breath seems so sweet and clear. Pain teaches you to appreciate life." Truly, Van understood the meaning of walking the Nembutsu path. He accepted totally his impending demise by expressing gratitude for the compassion that is Amida. He was quite a guy. May we all aspire to find similar peace when our final moments approach. Namoamidabutsu!"

Jefferson Workman to become our next Minister's Assistant

Hard to believe but activities at the temple have expanded such that a second Minister's Assistant is needed. With guidance and encouragement from Rev. Don Castro (our supervising minister), Jefferson Workman has agreed to become our next Minister's Assistant. Starting in December, I'll be going to Moses Lake one Sunday a month to conduct a Sangha service there. Jefferson will be acting as Doshi (the one who leads the chanting) on those Sundays I'm away. Beyond that, Jefferson will begin an informal course of study leading eventually to his being installed as a Minister's Assistant. With the recommendation of Rev. Castro and our Board of Directors, he will be attending the Spring Minister's Assistant Conference in San Francisco to be held in April 2006. Jefferson is a man of considerable

talent, energy and skill. I look forward to working with him in his new role.

Moses Lake Group begins a book study

The Moses Lake Buddhist Group met for a Sangha service on November 19th. In all eighteen people attended. The group has decided to start a "book-study" activity. Immediately following our regular monthly Sangha services, we will meet to discuss selected readings from the book, Jodo Shinshu: a Guide. Published in 2002 by the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji in Kyoto, Japan, this little volume provides an excellent overview of the history, teachings and rituals of the Jodo Shinshu tradition. Indeed, we used this same book as a learning tool at the Spokane Buddhist Temple and it was well received. We were fortunate to have several dozen extra copies on hand to donate to the Moses Lake Group. What a great way to learn and share the dharma together.

Paul Vielle
Minister's Assistant



Fall Food Bazaar Volunteers

If not for the generosity of the following people, one of our major fundraising events would not be possible. It is with sincere gratitude that we wish to thank you for your time and energy.

Arlene Miyazono
Leslie Green
Leonard Kasia
Koske Imamura
Liat Parker
Ed Parker
Bonell McLeish
Barb Braden
Pati Lira
Kam Uyeji
Fumi Uyeji
Ets Yamada
Janet Tamura
Joe Tanaka
Taxi Oba
Ann Heineman
Kengo Kato

Lori Taylor
Hyacinth Dezenobia
The Anonymous Cook
Karen Vielle
Paul Vielle
Shari Soejima
Don Ferris
Tyr Bernard
Will Braks
Martena Petersen
Aiko Terao
Justin Kropff
Coleman McCoy
Jefferson Workman
Christine Marr
Jun Yugawa

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

October 10 - November 20

Fumi Ekinaka
Etsuko Yamada
Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro
Kenna Latwesen
Michael Brady
Samuel & Alexis Baker
James Lea & Judy Davis
Hisoko Oki
Mary Naber
Jeffrey Workman
Leslie Green

Jenifer Johnston
Thomas Lande
Ann Heineman
Paul & Karen Vielle
Don Ferris & MaryLynn Bernard
Michael Brady
Rachel Scudder
Marcelline Burdett
Barbara Braden

Special thanks to everyone who made our fall food bazaar a success. Thank you for your donations

of:

Supplies
Time
Baked Goods
Money

Donations

Dana

Kam & Fumi Uyeji
Doug & Joanne Heyamoto
Jenifer Johnston
Ann Heineman
Paul & Karen Vielle
Rachel Scudder

Bodhi Seals

Martena Peterson
Leslie Green
Satoshi & Mary Terao
Kazuko Kuwada
Janet Tamura
Fumi Uyeji
Fumi Heyamoto
Liat Parker
Marcelline Burdett
Christine Marr
Paul & Karen Vielle

Newletter

Mrs. Joyce M. Terao

Memorial Dana

Paul Vielle
in memory of Andrew Vielle

Don Imada
in memory of Dick Imada & Masako Imada

Hatsue Konishi
in memory of Tokio Konishi

Fumiko Heyamoto
in memory of Fred Yamamoto

Marcelline Burdett
in memory of Kame Uyeji

Kato Family
in memory of Hisoko Kato

Lorie Taylor
in memory of Sasha Taylor

Lorie Taylor
in memory of Max B Taylor

Rodney & Marie Tamura
in memory of father, Jim Tamura & grandmother, Haruyo Oba

Janet Tamura
in memory of Jim Tamura & Mother

Kam & Fumi Uyeji
in memory of Jim Tamura

Mr. & Mrs. Kaz Kuwada
in memory of Jim Tamura

Satoshi & Mary Terao
in memory of Jim Tamura

Ed & Liat Parker
in memory of Jim Tamura

Chris Marr
in memory of Max Taylor & Jim Tamura

Iku Tamura
in memory of Jim Tamura

Leslie Green
in memory of Jim Tamura

Christine Marr
in memory of Roy Soejima, Jim Tamura & Max Taylor

Kam & Fumi Uyeji
in memory of Dick Shimuzu

Ann Heineman
in memory of Jim Tamura

2006 Northwest Buddhist Convention *“Buddhism in America”*

This year Spokane Buddhist Temple will be hosting the 59th annual Convention. Keynote speaker for this event will be **Rev. Mark Unno**. Also joining us will be Dr. Kenji Akahoshi and Bhante Seelawimala for a **new** program, ***Experience the Dharma: Introduction to Buddhism and the Jodo Shinshu Tradition*** open to the public. This will go on at the same time as the convention with a separate registration process.

The registration fee for the full convention is \$80 for adults including senior, YBA \$65 (grades 7 – 12) Dharma School \$40 (grades K - 6).

The convention hotel is the historic Davenport Hotel. A special convention rate for out of town delegates is \$111.00 single/double occupancy. Contact the hotel directly to make your reservations: 1 800-899-1482.

The program includes **Friday evening arrival hospitality** in the Hall of Doges located up the stairs from the registration area of the Davenport Hotel. Relax with some light snacks, see old friends and make new ones as everyone arrives and checks in. Friday dinner is on your own; we will have menus of restaurants close by in downtown Spokane, or dine in the hotel restaurant. Later that evening will be a casual discussion with Rev. Mark Unno and other special guests in the ballroom adjacent to the Hall of Doges.

Saturday, you will have your **choice** of a **breakfast buffet** and lunch on your own, **OR** choose breakfast on your own and we will provide a **box lunch**. More details to follow in your registration packets.

Saturday will begin for some with morning meetings, then the **opening service at 10 am**, followed by the **keynote address**. Also included in the day will be **panel discussions, workshops** and a 90 minute lunch break. Saturday evening we will have our **banquet and entertainment**. Sunday will include our closing service and if you choose, a bento box lunch to go.

We welcome all our Northwest District temples to join us! Hope to see you in Spokane.

GASSHO,
Spokane Buddhist Temple

Tentative Schedule

Friday, February 10, 2006

- 3 – 10 pm Hotel and Convention Registration
- 4 – 10 pm Hospitality in the Hall of Doges Foyer
- 6 – 9 pm Bookstore Open - Hall of Doges Foyer
- 7 – 9 pm **Northwest Council Meeting** (room TBA)
- 7 – 9 pm Open Discussion with Rev. Mark Unno and Bhante
- 7 – 9 pm YBA Activity

Saturday, February 11, 2006

- 9-9:45 am Bhante Seelawimala ***Experience the Dharma, Introduction to Buddhism*** (Special program open to the public)
- 8:30 - 9:30 **BWA Meeting** (room TBA)
- 8:30 – 9:30 **NWDSC Meeting** (room TBA)

- 8:30 am Convention registration
 8:30 am Bookstore opens
 9:30 – 10 am Oshoko
- 10 -11:30 am Opening Service and Keynote address by Mark Unno (*Experience the Dharma* public program and YBA attends)
- 11:45-12:30 Workshops for Adults and YBA and the final *Experience the Dharma* attendees (public program ends at 12:30)
- 12:30-2 pm Lunch Break
- 2 - 3 pm Lecture by Socho Ogui
 Everyone attends including YBA
- 3 - 4 pm Workshops for Adults and YBA
- 4:15 - 6 pm Break
 4:15 – 6 pm Bookstore
- 6 – 8 pm Banquet
 8 – 10 pm Entertainment
 8 – 10 pm YBA activity

Sunday, February 12, 2006

- 8:30-9:30 am **BWA General Meeting**
 8:30-9:30 am **Northwest Dist. Council Meeting**
 9:30 -10 am Oshoko
 10-11:45 am Morning Service (closing ceremony, install new officers)
 11:45 am Bento box lunches picked up

Annual Dues

Just a reminder, if you pay your dues annually, they are coming due in January. The Spokane Buddhist Temple would like to thank you for your continued support.

