

Announcements

February Sangha Services - Our Sangha Services (Sangha is the Sanskrit word for Buddhist community) is a traditional Jodo Shinshu service with chanting led by a Doshi, (a minister's assistant or a lay member from the Sangha). Following Sunday services, when there is not a minister, we have a Buddhism 101 book study and discussion. This month we will be reading from the Jodo Shinshu Guide, the new purple book from BCA.

Ko Services - The main activity of the Ko will focus on chanting. We will be learning how to chant the *Shoshinge* (Song of True Faith) found on page 33 of the Service Book. This is Shinran's poem from his *Kyogyoshinsho*. This is chanted every morning at the Nishi Hongwanji in Kyoto. The Shoshinge outlines the principal tenants of Shin Buddhism. We'll study proper pronunciation, musical notation and melody. We'll also discuss the meaning of the text. But the emphasis will be on the chanting. The goal is for people to experience the meditative peace, inner calm and the spiritual contentment that comes with group chanting. It will be on Wednesday evenings 6:30 to 7:30. We'll try it for 8 weeks and then evaluate whether or not to continue. Paul Vielle will lead this class.

Northwest Buddhist Conference, Tacoma – Sixteen temple members will be convening in Tacoma the weekend of February 18th - 20th to attend the 58th annual conference. This year, for the first time in twenty years, we will distribute the magnets and posters that we have made inviting everyone to join us here in Spokane for the 2006 Northwest Buddhist Conference.

There will be a regular Sangha service on Sunday, Feb 20th for those of you who will not be going to Tacoma.

Toban (Temple Cleaning) - Toban will be Saturday, February 26th at 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. This is the time to give through cleaning of the temple. Please join us.

Bhante Seelawimala "What is Karma?" - Come hear Bhante speak on Saturday afternoon, February 26th at 3:00 pm. He will just be returning from Sri

Lanka and will be giving a talk on karma. There is a \$5.00 donation at the door. This is a great opportunity to hear Bhante and learn more about Sri Lankan Buddhism.

Sunday, February 27th - There are many events taking place at the temple this day. We start off with Introduction to Buddhism at 9:30 am followed by a service at 10:30 am. Bhante Seelawimala will be conducting our service that day. Following the service will be a pot luck lunch. We will provide hot rice and are asking you to bring either a hot dish to put over the rice, a salad, or a dessert. There will be a sign up list at the temple.

Temple News

This month I will give an update on the past year's progress and what is planned for the future. First, let's look back. We held three fundraisers, participated in Japan Week, Perry Street Faire and held a retreat with Kenji Akahoshi. We gained some new members and our services are well attended. We completed some informational pamphlets: How Do I Donate, How Do I Join, and About the Spokane Buddhist Temple. These were created to help newcomers learn about us and feel more comfortable attending services and joining as members.

Looking ahead, this is a time of transition with some exciting changes. Paul Vielle will be installed as Minister's Assistant by the time you read this, assisting Rinban Fujii and Rev. Castro from the Seattle Betsuin. One project he is working hard on is bringing back the Shotsuki-Hoyo, look for more in this newsletter on updating our records.

In February a group of delegates will be attending the Buddhist Convention in Tacoma and presenting us as the next year's convention host. Wish us luck! Our Guest speaker on Feb. 26 will be Bhante from the Institute of Buddhist Studies. His talk will be at 3 pm "What is Karma?" Introduction to Buddhism on Sunday Feb 27th will be at 9:30 a.m. with a service at 10:30 followed by a pot luck lunch. We look forward to hearing Bhante's experiences in Sri Lanka. He was visiting his temple there when the tsunami hit. His temple is inland and safe, so his Temple was able to help out in sorting donations and doing services. Thank you to the monetary donations our temple has received for the Tsunami Relief, we are sending our donations to Bhante so it can go directly where it is needed.

Many thanks to George Kawahara for his help in inviting guest ministers.

We have Rev. Ron Takimoto for our Ohigan Service on March 13 and George is working on others. Rinban Fujii will be our Japan Week Speaker and stay over for Hanamatsuri in April.

We have much to look forward to this year. Be sure to sign up for a committee for the Convention that we are hosting next February 2006!!!

In Gassho, Christine Marr
SBT President

Shotsuki-Hoyo Service

Recently, the temple's Death Record (*Kako-Cho*) was found. It contains all the death records from 1984 to 1991. We have no death records since 1991. If you have a deceased relative, who was a temple member and who died since 1991, please see either **Fumi Uyeji** or **Paul Vielle**. They will collect and record the information. We plan to restart the Shotsuki-Hoyo services at the Spokane Buddhist Temple once the *Kako-Cho* is updated. Once each month, during the Shotsuki-Hoyo service, the names of temple members who died in that month will be read aloud. Family members may then offer incense to honor the memory of their deceased loved-one.

On going changes to the Newsletter, By Ed Parker, Editor

The newsletter continues to change. Sicco Rood, the webmonk and my good friend, has agreed to add a section to our website:

spokanebuddhisttemple.org called New thoughts on the Pure Land. This will be for articles concerning the American experience of Jodo Shinshu. This is where I will put my articles and any articles or poems I receive from you concerning this subject. The advantages of doing this are: to save a few trees, contain the size of the newsletter, and encourage innovative thinking concerning our religion. I hope you will contribute your thoughts, or questions, on the Pure Land. Currently the newsletter goes out to over five hundred people. If you are a member of the Sangha, a portion of your dues goes to support the newsletter. At the website you can read the newsletter, as well as past issues, New Thought Articles, and some of our Dharma Talks. **Starting May, 2005**, those who have **Not** indicated an interest in continuing to receive the newsletter will be dropped from our mailing list. I can be reached at parkere99@msn.com or mail your comments to:

Ed Parker, Editor
927 S. Perry
Spokane, WA 99202

Our 2005 Board of Directors:

Christine Marr, President
 Leslie Green, VP
 Fumi Uyeji, Auditor
 Liat Parker, Treasurer
 Ann Heineman, Secretary
 Janet Tamura, Director
 Jefferson Workman, Director
 Ed Parker, Director/Editor
 Bonell McLeish, Director

Advisories to the Board:

Chris Marr
 Doug Heyamoto

Something for the refrigerator:

If you are too full of yourself, there can be no room for anyone else. EP

DONATIONS

The Spokane Buddhist Temple gratefully acknowledges the following dues and donations received from December 7, 2004 through January 23, 2005. Please notify Fumi Uyeji or Liat Parker of any omissions or corrections. Dues listed are those received during this period, often times dues are paid for a few months or a year at a time and are acknowledged once when received

Dues

George/Matue Heyamoto
 Rachel Scrudder
 Marcelline Burdett
 Anne Trevethan
 Mary Nabor
 Bonell McLeish
 Jennifer Johnston
 Paul/Karen Vielle
 Drea Gonzales

Ann Heineman
 Ed/Liat Parker
 Tom Lande
 Kam/Fumi Uyeji
 Fumi Ekinaka
 Rachel Scrudder
 Jun Yugawa
 Michael Brady
 Fumiko Heyamoto
 Nobuko Kasai

Dana

Marcelline Burdett
Ann Heineman
Paul/Karen Vielle
C. Fitzgerald
Kenna Latwesen
Kerry Greeson
Jenifer Johnston
Anonymous

Hoonko

Fumiko Heyamoto
Nobuko Kasai

Tsunami Relief Fund

The Spokane Buddhist Temple would like to acknowledge the following for their monetary donations to the relief of the devastation caused by the tsunami. We are grateful to Bhante Seelawimala for distributing our contributions in his homeland, Sri Lanka.

Ann Heineman
Bonell McLeish
Barbara Bradon
Kenna Latwesen
Paul/Karen Vielle
Anne Trevethan
Fumiko Heyamoto
Nobuko Kasai
Kam/Fumi Uyeji