

July 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 now offer a book study and discussion. We 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.

Perry Street Faire - Each July the Perry Street neighborhood closes down the street and has a faire to help support the Venessa Behan Crisis Nursery. We have participated each year by opening our temple for tours and we also have a booth for fundraising. We are looking for six volunteers to work the booth on Saturday, July 16th. There is a sign up sheet at the temple, or call Jefferson Workman at 838-7005.

Retreat Weekend - "Human Nature, Buddha Nature - How to Engage Life with Wisdom and Compassion". This retreat is designed to provide an American perspective to a profound spiritual discipline that encourages individual interpretation. Using instructive, innovative activities, the participants will be able to discern core Buddhist principles that can enhance their engagement in the world. Come learn the recipe and savor the one taste that we all seek: inner peace that leads to world peace. **Deadline for registration is July 8th**, a \$125 fee covers the cost of the retreat, lodging, and food. Dr Kenji Akahoshi will be facilitating this retreat at Mukogawa Fort Wright. To register, contact Liat Parker at 534-4861.

Obon Service - Paul Vielle, our Minister's Assistant, will be conducting our service at 3:00 pm on Sunday, July 24th. An Obon service will be held at Greenwood Cemetery at 1:30 pm. We will have Introduction to Buddhism for newcomers at the temple before the service beginning also at 1:30. We will have Dharma School for the children, and there will be a special message during the service just for them and then they will be excused to the Dharma School room to work on an activity. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi will be our guest speaker for this event.

Spokane Indians Baseball Ticket Deadline - July 20th is the cut-off date for reserving tickets (\$4, reduced price) for the Spokane Indians game on **July 29th**. If you haven't reserved your tickets yet, give Jefferson Workman a call 838-7005 or send an e-mail sleepystupidbuddha@comcast.net and he will put you on the list. Jefferson will collect the money the night of the game. Looking forward to seeing you all at the ballpark.

Gentle Approach to Meditation and Meditation Workshop - Saturday, July 30th from 1-4 pm and Sunday, July 31st from 1-4 pm. Jason Siff will be conducting these workshops at our temple, and Spokane Vipassana Meditation Community is hosting this event. This workshop is appropriate for beginners and experienced meditators alike. Call 535-1458 for more information or you can see the website at www.meditationproject.org. Donations accepted at all events.

More Help Wanted - We have several "job" openings here at the Spokane Buddhist Temple. This time we are looking to fill two important positions. One is to be our "Supply Coordinator". The job duties are pretty simple really, just keep track of supplies like coffee, sugar, tea, filters, etc. that kind of stuff and make purchases to replenish the stock on occasion. Naturally we will give you the money! This is the perfect opportunity for those who love to shop and not have to spend your own money! How perfect is that? The second position we would like to fill is that of "Kitchen Coordinator". The job responsibilities are a bit more involved. This person would oversee our food handling procedures to make sure we are in compliance with the Health Department. We had an inspection on our last fundraiser and we had a few minor infractions that we need to make sure don't happen again. This job would require the person to get a food handlers permit at the County Health department. If you are interested contact Leslie Green at: lesliegreen54@msn.com or call at 458-6183 for information.

Temple News

Christine Marr
Temple President

How time flies...here we are in July. We have a busy summer ahead with many activities and projects. Before I look ahead, let's look back at some real progress we are making.

We are seeing a full Hondo each week. This holds true for our Sangha Services and the Minister's Service. Our

weekly meditation is also well attended. This would not be possible without the commitment from our temple members. The participation on our sign up sheet shows how hard everyone is working to provide weekly services. It is an example of the Buddhist concept all things being interconnected; with the dedication of the members, we have more services resulting in real growth! With our growth we hope to provide more activities...I'm sure you are getting the idea. This is an exciting time for Spokane right on the edge of hosting the NW Convention next February, for the first time in 20 years.

Now to look ahead. (See the calendar for dates and times):

? **BCA Jodo Shinshu Center** – Current members will receive a mailing from the temple requesting your fundraising help with the new Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, California. Please take the time to read the information and consider the request. Socho Ogui is bringing new energy to the BCA in his first year as Socho (Bishop). He strongly supports the Minister's Assistant Program and has made temple growth a major focus. The new center will be key in providing training for lay members and new ministers. Be a part of this special and important project by pledging or sending in a donation.

? **Gym gets a face-lift** – Work to begin soon on a paint job and electrical re-wiring of the gym next to the temple. With updates required for our insurance coverage, we are investing in some long overdue repairs. It will result in an exterior that will match the temple and it will be an improvement for the neighborhood. We are grateful to those individuals who have given generous Danas to the building fund that make this improvement possible. The board plans to replenish this fund with generated income for future work on both buildings.

? **Perry Street Faire** – Come to the annual faire! Plans are to close Perry Street on Saturday and hold the parade on Sunday. Our plans are to participate on Saturday with an open house and sell senbei and craft items. A big thank you to all the senbei making volunteers in June, making our fundraiser possible! This could not have happened without the co-chairs Jefferson Workman and Leslie Green. It's time to plan the Fall Food Bazaar, we need co-chairs and ideas! We have plenty of people willing to learn and help. We desperately need members to share traditional recipes and teach us. We hope to repeat these ideas in future fundraisers so that we need only to train workers (Senbei making is a good example of how this is now being accomplished). Please let Janet Tamura, Fumi Uyeji or myself know if you will help out with the fall food bazaar ideas and recipes. Thanks!

? **Retreat with Kenji Akahoshi** – We are looking forward to seeing Kenji again this summer. This is our third retreat with him, he has a special talent in teaching and keeping the retreats fresh and interesting. If you are interested, sign up now.

? **Obon Service** – We are fortunate to have Kenji Akahoshi (see above) as a guest speaker for our Obon Service. Rev. Castro has instructed Paul Vielle, Minister's Assistant, to conduct the Obon Cemetery Service due to the minister change in Seattle, (Rinban Fujii is on a leave of absence and moved back to California).

? **A Gentle Approach to Meditation** – Looking forward to this workshop with Jason Siff from California. Jason started the Vipassana Meditation Group and trained our teacher, Mary Webster. Their group is hosting this workshop with our temple providing the facility. The timing is perfect with our new meditation sittings this month, there is much interest in learning meditation from different traditions. Thank you to Alex Peterson for bringing our two groups together.

??**Northwest Buddhist Convention 2006** – Last but not least, we are now in the process of signing up volunteers for the convention. The committee heads are in place, we are now filling up the committees. I am planning on visiting Moses Lake and Yakima with a sign up sheet in hand, as they have generously offered help. Some job ideas...making the table centerpieces for the banquet, helping with the talent show, helping with transportation from the airport just to name a few. It's coming fast!

In gassho, Christine Marr

The Image of the Crossing

Editors Note: In my exploration to provide unique and interesting articles to share, I get the opportunity to read a lot of books relating to Buddhism. In their book "Buddhism - A Concise Introduction" by Houston Smith and Philip Novak it explains many different facets of Buddhism. I have chosen this excerpt because it helps us understand some important basic Buddhist principals. There are many different sects of Buddhism and two main schools; Mahayana and Theravada. **According to the authors " they are different enough that we must ask whether, on any grounds other than historical lineage, they deserve to be considered aspects of a single religion".**

There are six respects in which Mahayana and Theravada should be so regarded. The first five can be propositionalized: (1) They all revere a single founder from whom they claim their teachings derive. (2) They all

regard self-centeredness as that which prevents our optimal relation to life. (3) They all regard freedom (from self-centeredness) as a primary theme of the Path. (4) They all emphasize interdependence and our concomitant responsibility to love and care for others. "For hatred can never put an end to hatred. Love alone can. This is an unalterable law." (5) They all adhere to the Buddha's emphasis on impermanence: "People forget that their lives will end soon. For those who remember, quarrels come to an end." Finally, all can be subsumed under a single metaphor.

This is the image of the crossing, the simple experience of crossing a river on a ferry. To appreciate the force of this image we must remember the role the ferry played in traditional Asian life. This routine fact underlies and inspires every school of Buddhism. Buddhism is a voyage across life's river, a transport from the commonsense shore of ignorant clinging to the farther bank of compassionate wisdom. Compared with this settled fact, the differences within Buddhism are no more than variations in the type of craft used for the crossing - a raft, a ferry, a boat, whatever. While we are on the first bank, it is in effect the entire world for us. Its earth underfoot is solid and reassuring. The rewards and disappointments of its social life are vivid and compelling. The opposite shore is barely visible and has no impact on our dealings.

If, however, something prompts us to see what the other side is like, we may decide to attempt a crossing. Making our way to the neighboring dock, we find others who are also waiting for a ferry to arrive. When it comes into view there is an air of excitement. Attention is focused on the distant bank, which is indistinct, but the prospective voyagers are still very much citizens of their familiar world.

The ferry arrives. We clamber aboard, and it pushes out into the water. The bank we are leaving behind is losing its substance. The shops and streets and antlike figures are blending together and releasing their hold on us. Meanwhile, the shore toward which we are headed is not in focus either; it seems almost as far away as it ever was. There is an interval in the crossing when the only tangible realities are the water, with its treacherous currents, and the ferry, which is stoutly but precariously contending with them. This is the moment for Buddhas' Three Vows, also called the Triple Refuge or the Triple Gem (Three Treasures): "I take refuge in the Buddha," the fact that there was an explorer who made this trip and proved to us that it is possible. "I take refuge in the Dharma," the map he drew for us. "I take refuge in the Sangha," the company of fellow seekers. The shoreline of our former world has been left behind, and until we set foot on the farther bank, these are the only things in which we can trust.

The yonder shore draws near, becomes real. The ferry jolts onto the sand and we step onto solid ground. This land, which from afar had appeared as misty and unsubstantial as a dream, now provides a sure footing for us. And the shore we left behind, which was then so palpable and real, is now no more than a slender horizontal line, a memory without substance.

In Buddhism this yonder shore is a metaphor for nirvana, the terminus of the Buddhist quest. But this is not to say that nothing more need be done when we set foot on it. The Buddha did not stop meditating after his enlightenment under the Bo Tree, and we can take this as an admonition that for the rest of our lives-and for everyone except the "nurturers" (those for whom this is their final incarnation) for many lives to come-we, too, must work assiduously toward becoming full citizens of this new country, shedding ourselves incrementally of the encrusted habits we acquired on the side of the world where we formerly lived.

In the image of the crossing, this deepening of our citizenship can be symbolized as pressing deeper and deeper into the interior of this yonder shore. And as we do this, there comes a point when the river behind us and the bank behind *it* disappear from view. All that remains of them now is our memories of them. And from the vantage point that reframes these memories on this "yonder shore" we now see that they are of things that both had to be and were exactly as they should have been in their respective times and places. However unwelcome they might have been at the time, had we experienced the events in question then as we do now, they would have taken on the wonder and glory of the whole of things for having been required *by* that Whole.

From the standpoint of normal, worldly consciousness, there must always remain an inconsistency between this climactic insight and worldly prudence. This, though, should not surprise us, for it would be flatly contradictory if the world looked exactly the same to those who have crossed the river of ignorance. Only they can dissolve the world's distinctions-or, perhaps we should say, take them in their stride, for the distinctions persist, but now without differences. Where to eagle vision the river can still be seen, it is seen as connecting the two banks rather than dividing them.

Reprinted here without permission: "Buddhism - A Concise Introduction" by Houston Smith and Phil Novak
Taken from chapter 11, pages 112-116.

Minister's Assistant Program at Work

Updates on Seldom-Seen Members

Mr. Kotaro "Van" Omine is resting comfortably at home with his wife Pat, following his recent discharge from St. Joseph's Care Center. His mobility is limited, but he enjoys reading, listening to music and talking about Shin Buddhism. Van's favorite CD's are *Johnny Mathis' Greatest Hits* and *Phantom of the Opera*.

Mr. Kazuo "Kaz" Kuwada is a full-time resident at St Joseph's Care Center where he is doing reasonably well although his mobility is limited. From his room he has a wonderful view of the entire Spokane area.

We wish these members well as they walk their Nembutsu path.

Moses Lake Service

On Saturday June 11 our Minister's Assistant, Paul Vielle conducted a Sangha Service at Moses Lake, Washington. A total of nineteen people from as far away as George, Wapato and Yakima attended. The service was well-received and there was lots of lively discussion at the dharma exchange which followed. With continued guidance from Rev. Castro, we are hoping to provide similar services at Moses Lake on a regular monthly basis.

Obon

The annual Obon service and the beautiful folk dances which accompany it take place in July. Obon brings together several Buddhist activities and themes. It is a time to be grateful for ones ancestors, to reflect on the interdependence of all life, to practice charity and finally, to enjoy traditional Japanese folk dancing.

On this day, we gather at cemeteries to honor the memory of ancestors and reflect on just how much our individual well-being is owed to those who passed on before us. Obon also is a time to practice dana (selfless charity). In Buddhist teachings, the practice of giving not only benefits others but more importantly it helps to subdue our ego-driven, self-entered natures.

To paraphrase Rev. George Shibata (from his little booklet *The Buddhist Holidays*), the Obon service encourages us to rededicate ourselves to the Buddhist way of life. We do this by reflecting upon the love, compassion and virtues that our deceased family members have bequeathed to us. We haven't earned these benefits and certainly cannot repay them in kind. Still, we have benefited enormously from their sacrifice and hardship.

Join us Sunday, July 24 for the annual Obon ceremony at Greenwood Cemetery (Upper Terrace).

Shotsuki-Hoyo

Shotsuki-Hoyo (the remembrance service for deceased family members) will be held at the Obon service on Sunday, July 24. According to temple records which date back to the early 1960's, a total of six family members passed away during the month of July:

Taki Mayeda
Katsuko Katie Nakagawa
Kazue Ogohara
Takeo Dan Terao
Sutematsu Uyeno
Paul Osamu Yamagiwa

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

May 16-June 20

Anne Trevelyan
James Lea & Judi Davis
Marcelline Burdett
Jeffrey Workman
Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro
Chris & Christine Marr
Kiku Terao
Yoshiko Kozen
Keiji Shimizu
Kazuo & Kazuko Kuwada
Fumi Ekinaka
Harue Tamura
Leslie Green
Michael Brady
Mary Nabor
Jeffery Bolton
Thomas Lande
Ann Heineman
Hyacinth Dezenobia
Paul & Karen Vielle
Jenifer Johnston
Rachel Scrudder

Donations

Dana

Takashi Oba
Harukko Tamura
Dorothy Uno
Kiku Terao
Kam & Fumi Uyeji
George & Toshi Kawahara
Jim & Shirley Bennett
Jeffrey Workman
Ann Heineman
Paul & Karen Vielle

Newsletter Donations

Marianne West
Tsuruko Otsuki

Gotan-e'

Marcelline Burdett
Harukko Tamura
Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro
Anonymous
George & Toshi Kawahara
Satoshi & Mary Terao
Fumiko Heyamoto
Kam & Fumi Uyeji
Nobuko Kasai

Memorial Dana

Janet Tamura
in memory of Yoichi Oba & Sayoko Oba

Kam & Fumi Uyeji
in memory of Tatsuhei & Toyo Sugikawa

George & Toshi Kawahara
in memory of Mrs. Taneyo Sato

Jeffrey Workman
in memory of Joseph Workman

Looking Ahead

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD IDEAS

What would you like to see at the 2006 Northwest Buddhist Convention? The Workshop & Seminar committee are looking for suggestions. Do you have an idea for an interesting seminar or a great workshop, we would like to hear from you. Contact Jefferson Workman at 838-7005 or e-mail me at sleepystupidbuddha@comcast.net

BUILDING FUND

As Christine mentioned in her message, we are undertaking the project of renovating our gym next door to the temple. This renovation is a requirement from the insurance company. As Christine also mentioned, we will be tapping into our building fund and will need to replace those funds. We will be having fundraisers at some point, but if you would like to make a donation to our building fund, you can do so anytime and just designate it "Building Fund".

BHANTE SEELAWIMALA

Coming in August! Bhante Seelawimala will be coming to Spokane again. We don't have the date lined up yet, but his talk will be on "Nurturing Your Buddhist Qualities". It is always a special treat when Bhante comes to town. Look for details in the next issue.