



Announcements

March Sangha Services - Our Sangha Services (Sangha is the Sanscrit word for Buddhist community) is a traditional Jodo Shinshu service with chanting led by a Doshi, (a minister 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. We will be reading from the Jodo Shinshu Guide (the purple book from BCA).

Toban (Temple Cleaning) - There will be a Toban, a few hours cleaning

the temple, Saturday, March 12th at 9:00 a.m. Call Ed Parker 280-5756 to reserve a broom.

IT'S SENBEI TIME, yes it is

With the Spring Bazaar coming up in April, it's time to come together as a Sangha and make Senbei, lots of Senbei. It all happens Saturday, March 12th. We will have two shifts; one starting around 9 a.m. and another kicking off at 11:00 a.m. Come early and stay late there's plenty to do. The Temple will provide lunch. Contact Jefferson Workman at 838-7005. Or, there is a signup sheet at the temple, if you prefer.

TAKE ME OOOOUT TO THE BALLPARK

The Spokane Indians have invited the Temple to participate in their 4th annual Church Weekend, Friday, July 29. With reduced seat prices, a group announcement in the game notes, a live welcome over the PA system and great seating together as a sangha, it should add up to a great night at the ballpark. The first step is to secure our seats by putting the tickets on hold. Interested? Call Jefferson Workman 838-7005

O-higan Service - Higan service is when we celebrate the Spring Equinox. Much importance is placed on the two annual equinoctial when

day and night are equally long. This year we will hold our O-Higan service on Sunday, March 13th at 10:30 am. Reverend Ron Takemoto will lead our service. There will be an Introduction to Buddhism beginning at 9:00 am that day. Following the service we will be taking Rev. Takemoto to lunch. We will announce the location of the luncheon during the service.

Reverend Don Castro "Inter-religious Dialog: How Might Buddhists Relate to Other Religions?" - Come hear Rev. Castro from the Seattle Betsuin speak, Saturday afternoon, March 19th at 3:00 pm.

Gatha Practice, Reverend Castro, Shotsuki-Hoyo Service & Dharma School - March 20th - There are many events taking place at the temple this day. Beginning at 9:30 we will have a half hour Gatha practice for those who want to learn the songs we sing at special services. Then at 10:30 a.m. Reverend Castro will lead our service. This will initiate regularly scheduled Shotsuki-Hoyo Services. Shotsuki-Hoyo is an ancient Japanese Shin tradition to honor the memory of deceased loved ones. This service will take place on those Sundays that Rev. Castro is here for his regular monthly visitation. We will also kick off our new Dharma school which is open to

children of all ages. Rev. Castro will give a children's dharma message and then excuse the children to their classroom. The first subject will be temple etiquette and some traditions of the temple. Dharma school will be offered once per month.

Ko Service - 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. Paul Vielle will lead this class.

Temple News

I have just returned from the NW Buddhist Convention held in Tacoma. Sixteen of us attended from Spokane and we had a wonderful time. The keynote speaker was Rev. Masao Kodani, hearing him speak was quite an experience.

In his opening remarks, Socho Ogui recognized our temple as being unique in that it is not only growing; it is growing without a resident minister. It was really a surprise to hear him praise our efforts which gave a boost to our moral. We are really looking forward to hosting the convention next year. The Yakima Temple is willing to share the work by hosting some of the events we are responsible for at their temple. We have also had many offers of help from all the temples. It has been 20 years since Spokane has hosted a convention and everyone is looking forward to the visit here.

Leslie Green will represent us at the National BCA Convention in San Jose. We are interested in finding out what goes on at this conference. The NW District is supporting part of the expense; they feel strongly we need to be involved at the national level.

On another topic, there will be work done on the gym next door to the temple. For those who don't know, the gym belongs to the temple. The improvements will make the building safer and a new paint job will greatly improve the appearance. Look for lots of activity this spring.

Paul Vielle has been busy in his new role as Minister's Assistant with many tasks given by the board. One

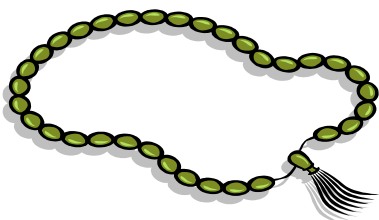
big job he took on was to find the funeral records from before the fire and bring them up to date. Thanks to his efforts we will bring back Shotsuki-Hoyo, a monthly memorial service in memory of those members who died in that month. In addition he has represented us on panel discussion on Asian Religions at EWU, helped with Leadership Spokane and participated in another panel discussion held at Central Valley High School. These are events we had to turn down in the past. We are now able to support community programs and bring our name out in the community. Quite a number of people met Paul at these events, and then visited the services. This Minister's Assistant program is something we have needed for some time. Thanks Paul!

Coming up will be Senbei making March 12 and our Spring Food Bazaar April 3. As we try to grow, these fundraisers are so important! It funds the programs that create a vital temple for us all. Thanks to these fundraisers our budget is in the black!!! Donating your time is appreciated, so work a shift in March and April if you can, donate items for the bake sale, sell tickets or buy them! Please do what you can to make this a huge success.

In closing, if you have some suggestions or comments to make our temple a better place, please feel

free to drop me a note at anytime.
 You can do this by addressing a
 letter to me at the church or email at
 Christi96@aol.com. The Board of
 Directors and I feel that it is truly an
 honor to serve this temple. Gassho,
 Christine Marr, SBT President

Kuhei Tsuchida	1968
Joe Takeshita	1969
Shoichi Kayahara	1970
Yoshito Norisada	1971
Kana Yamamoto	1988
Toshiko Uyeno	1991



Shotsuki-Hoyo Service Returns

The Shotsuki-Hoyo service (remembrance of deceased family members) will become a regular monthly event starting in March (Sunday, March 20th.) This short ritual will take place on those Sundays that Rev. Castro is here for his regular monthly visitation. Each month, the names of members who died in the past during that month will be listed in the *Newsletter*. At the Sunday service these names will be read aloud and family members may come forward to offer Oshoko. This is an ancient Japanese Shin tradition to honor the memory of deceased loved-ones. The names for March are:

Iku Horiuchi	1964
Charlie Nakanishi	1964
Asano (Mrs.) Kirihara	1967



Waiting to see Socho Ogui, by Ed Parker

Curious
 The small brown beetle,
 inspects the ball of dung
 with a dubious tongue
 nothing here, nothing there

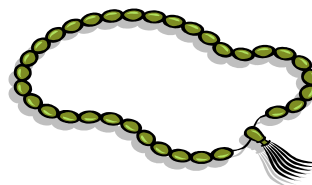
Ordinary mind
 Folds the silk upon itself
 And sighs with relief,
 that the butterfly is gone

Living with Amida, by Ed Parker
 Amida is
 light in our darkness.

What am I?
 This mystery?
 This I,
 this lie
 This story of me
 to stop, to answer?
 Where there is no stopping?
 And the answer is changed by
 the question
 And vanishes
 It's all about the question,
 What am I?
 And finding light in the darkness

I became a Buddhist many years ago, or maybe I was always a Buddhist, perhaps I never will be; the meaning of the name changes. I read a great deal, but understand no more than I understand myself, which is little enough. Meditation does not appeal to me, well not for overly long, ten, twenty minutes to settle the mind, though I have always pondered, and wrote about the space between. That soft, silent gap from which a soft beat pushes, pulls me on to the next thought, act, life-where does it come from? Causes and conditions beyond comprehension encompass us all? This is the gap. Still, Buddhism was a game, a puzzle to be solved by thinking this way or that. I waited for it to emerge like a baby from the womb, listened for it between the words of the wise and the frauds, wondering if I could tell them apart. Then, one day I realized, I am a fool. That we are all fools, each living

inside our own confusion, our own gap; the space between. In that moment, the puzzle vanished. This is the light of Amida, the infinite wisdom of Amida, shifter of paradigms. I am a fool living inside my foolishness. All things are my teacher when I accept that I am a student; a seeker, and ignorant of answers, that there is no one, answer. Truthfully, I have learned to avoid answers, as well as those who hold to them, unable to move on. People who have nothing more to learn, now that they are sixty three, or twenty five, or eighty: arbitrary lines marking only impermanence. I am troubled by such spiritual pretenders who chatter wisdom like birds, but understand nothing, though I am unsure why. Truthfully, there is no answer to why I am a fool, no one answer. Instead, I look for that which I have misunderstood, for that which I have not created from my ego. There is only the question: What am I? What have I created from my spiritual ignorance? This is my practice. This is my Buddhism. Namu Amida Buddha



DONATIONS

The Spokane Buddhist Temple gratefully acknowledges the following dues and donations received from January 24, 2004 through February 18, 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

Kenna Latwesen
 Jenifer Johnston
 Jeffrey Workman
 Janet Tamura
 Kerry Greeson
 Ann Heineman
 Paul/Karen Vielle
 George/Toshie Kawahara
 Martena Peterson
 Marcelline Burdett
 Anne Trevethan
 James Lea/Judy Davis
 Tom Lande
 Kengo Yorioka

Dana

Jack & Heather
 Marcelline Burdett
 Ann Heineman
 Paul/Karen Vielle

Kenna Latwesen
 Jim/Shirley Bennett
 Colin Fitzgerald

Ho' onko

George & Toshi Kawahara
 Kazuo & Kazako Kuwada
 Kam & Fumi uyeji
 Fumi Ekinaka
 Leo & Yuriko Kiyohara
 Satoshi & Mary Terao
 Anonymous
 Marcelline Burdett
 Janet Tamura

BCA Calendar

Nobuko Kasai

A very warm welcome to our new members:

Michael Brady
 Kerry Greeson