

Announcements

April 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.

Calling all Volunteers! Senbei Making, April 7th & 8th – Friday evening and all day Saturday you can join in the fun and learn how to make our famous senbei rice crackers. We will be selling these delectable delights at our Spring Food Bazaar on April 22nd. There is a sign-up sheet at the temple and there are still several shifts to choose from. Also, for those who have already signed up, a schedule with the names is in the back section of this newsletter. If you want to sign up or have questions, please call Jefferson Workman at: 509 768-5449.

Spring Food Bazaar, Bake Sale and Lecture by Rev. Gregory Gibbs from the Oregon Buddhist Temple, Saturday April 22nd - Chicken Teriyaki box lunch for \$8.50, senbei, bake sale and more! Don't miss our annual Spring Bazaar fundraiser. We are looking for baked goods and help to work at the bazaar. See the sign up sheets at the temple.

Come hear Rev. Gibbs as our guest speaker. He will conduct a lecture on Saturday evening entitled "The Influence of Japanese Culture on Buddhist Thought". There is no fee to attend but as always, donations are gladly accepted.

Hanamatsuri- Sunday, April 23 - Hanamatsuri (literally Flower Festival) or Buddha Day is commemorated on April 8th to celebrate the birth of Siddhartha Gautama who was later to become enlightened as Sakyamuni Buddha. The various rites observed during the Hanamatsuri services are based upon the happenings at the time of Prince Siddhartha's birth. The Hanamido or miniature floral altar of bright flowers provides the setting of the beautiful Lumbini Garden. The statue of the baby Buddha, Tanjo-Butsu, which has his arm extended, illustrates the merits of Amida Buddha reaching out to all beings. The pouring of the sweet tea on the statue, Kambutsu, represents the gentle rain which fell that day in Lumbini Garden. - *"The Buddhist Holidays, by Rev. George E. Shibata"*

Fujinki Meeting April 2nd Following Service

There will be a short meeting following the service on April 2nd to discuss the future of the Fujinki. We will decide how we will continue in a non- traditional role. **All** members are welcome to attend.

Temple News

By Christine Marr
Temple President

Spring is finally here along with the annual celebration of Japan Week. So much going on this year, go to www.gonzaga.edu/isp/japanweek for the complete listing. Our temple will hold our Spring Food Bazaar on Saturday, April 22 which is the opening day of Japan Week. Pati Lira and Janet Tamura will be co-chairing the food bazaar this year and Jefferson Workman has offered to chair the Senbei making. He has done a great job in the past and we are lucky to have these members step up to take on these big projects. Please support them with your time, baked goods or purchase tickets. Donations are also appreciated to offset costs! All money raised goes into the general fund to help our expenses all year. Raising funds now will allow more time and energy to go activities in the coming year.

One of the activities we will host this year is a talk on Saturday evening which is open to the public. This year our guest

speaker will be Rev. Gregory Gibbs from the Oregon Buddhist Temple. He will speak at 7 pm on "The Influence of Japanese Culture on Buddhist Thought". Rev. Gibbs will stay over to conduct our Hanamatsuri Service the next morning. We look forward to seeing him again, it's always a pleasure to hear his thoughtful talks and welcome him back to Spokane. If you missed him last time, be sure to make time now!

Speaking of activities, we are hoping to revive the Bon Odori Dancing in July. While attending the National Convention in Sacramento, I learned this summer will be the 75th Anniversary of Bon Odori in the BCA. As stated in a flyer from the Obon Committee, *"the anniversary will be celebrated on August 26, 2006 in San Francisco, where it began in the mainland United States. It is fitting that it be the last dance, or nearly the last dance of Obon season."* There was much encouragement to bring this dance of joy back to the Spokane Buddhist Temple. The perfect time would be during the Perry Street Faire when we also have an open house. Temple member Peggy Heyamoto works with Mukogawa Ft. Wright students in Bon Odori dancing which is the opening of Japan Week. She has agreed to help teach our members if we can arrange practice times in June. There are special Happi coats for the anniversary and they are for sale from the BCA (see order form in the newsletter). We also have a number of happi coats available to borrow, so don't let that hold you back from participating! Can you help? Let us know! Look for more information in the next newsletter.

With Gassho,
Christine Marr

The "Spokane Experience"

Among the many interesting presentations at the recent National Council Meeting in Sacramento, California (Feb 23-25) was a panel discussion on the unique situation with the Spokane Buddhist Temple. Although we haven't had a full-time minister for 15 years and despite the fact the building was destroyed by fire in 1992, our temple has not only survived, but in recent years has actually increased its membership. Supervising Minister Rev. Don Castro, board president Christine Marr and minister's assistant Paul Vielle offered their insights on why the temple is growing.

Among the factors mentioned were: advertising in the local media, offering Introduction to Buddhism lectures to the public, inviting guest reverends, having a dedicated Board of Directors, receiving sound guidance from Rev. Castro and more recently, installing a Minister's Assistant. Judging from the number of questions from the audience, there is growing interest within the BCA community in the Minister's Assistant Program.

Rev. Castro observed, "I'm only able to visit Spokane once a month. In my absence, Paul is able to offer many services that would otherwise not be available. Christine added that having a Minister's Assistant has brought a much-needed element of consistency to the services. Paul thought the main reason the Minister's Assistant Program has worked so well is because of the high level of trust developed among Rev Castro, the Board and himself.

Christine summed it up nicely, "The 'Spokane Experience' is all about everyone working together. When people forget themselves and focus on what's best for the group, almost anything is possible!"

From the T atami Mat. . . .

Unexpected Kindnesses

Each year in February, a man comes to the temple to inspect the fire suppression system over the big stove in the kitchen and to re-certify all our portable fire extinguishers. In the hour or so he's here, he checks the sprayer nozzles, adjusts the tension on the break-away cable and insures there is sufficient pressure in the system. Then he visually inspects all the portable extinguishers to make sure they're still "charged" and o.k. to use. To meet the fire code, we're required to have two portable extinguishers on each floor. On this day we could locate only one extinguisher upstairs. The one that normally sits just inside the door of the bookstore was missing. We looked everywhere, but couldn't find it.

To comply with the city fire code, we must to have our full complement of extinguishers. The inspector offered to return

the following day, to verify we had in fact replaced the missing extinguisher. He would then sign-off on the paper work. I'm dragging my feet, thinking, Oh man, it'll cost the temple \$40 to \$50 to buy a new one and as soon as we get it, the old one is sure to turn up! But then, an unexpected thing happened.

The inspector said, "You know what? We've got a bunch of old empty extinguishers back at the shop. Why don't I just get one after work tonight, fill it up and bring it to you tomorrow? Hey, no big deal." I was speechless! Of course, I accepted his kind offer and thanked him many times. Before leaving, he signed-off on the inspection report. The following day he delivered the new extinguisher and now it sits just inside the bookstore door.

This fellow's unexpected kindness impressed me deeply. There was no financial gain for him in what he did. Nobody told him to do it. He just saw a need and stepped up to help. How refreshing it is to encounter such kind people! What surprised me though was how this experience affected the rest of my day.

As events unfolded, I noticed many other acts of spontaneous kindness. At the gas station I watched a man filling his tank, pause to help an old lady put air in her tire. Driving home, I saw a jogger helping a woman pick up garbage from a fallen trash can. In Starbucks that afternoon, a group of teen girls got up and moved tables around to create space for a man entering in a wheelchair. Without any prompting, strangers saw a need and stepped up to help. It even spilled over on to me. Outside the store, I gave my newspaper to a lonely-looking man sitting on a bench smoking a cigarette. He smiled and thanked me, no doubt surprised at this unexpected gesture of kindness.

Random acts of kindness happen all the time if we're alert and primed to see them. Kindness affirms life just as oxygen sustains it. The fire inspector's generosity put me in such a positive state of mind, I was able to see the activity of kindness on a much larger scale. Moreover, it's contagious. It prompted me to act in a kindly way toward a complete stranger. When I do helpful things like that, I get outside my incessant preoccupations with self. Isn't it wonderful when we're not thinking about our entitlements, our needs and wants?

The practice of loving kindness is one aspect of that universal wisdom and compassion that we call Amida Buddha. To receive and practice kindness helps us realize that all of life supports us and that we in turn are part of the infinite causes and conditions that sustain all of life. When we catch a glimpse of this truth, however briefly, our hearts and minds become truly settled, pure and serene. Namo Amida Butsu!

Paul Vielle
Minister's Assistant

Out and About...

The Spokane Buddhist Temple is always looking for opportunities to offer information about Shin Buddhism to the community. Last month, Paul Vielle our Minister's Assistant was invited to speak at an adult Continuing Studies class at Whitworth College. The class was titled *Sociology of Death and Dying*. The 30 or so students were interested in becoming hospice volunteers. Paul presented information about Buddhist views and practices relating to the dying process. The topic generated a lot of interest and discussion. Overall the presentation was well received.

DUES AND DONATIONS

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

February 19- March 19

Janet Tamura
Leslie Green
Greg & Leanne Sapp
Martena Peterson
Ann Heineman
Hyacynth Dezenobia
Hyacynth Dezenobia
Paul & Karen Vielle
Rachel Scrudder
Leslie Green
Thomas Lande
Jeffrey Workman
Ann Heineman
Jenifer Johnston
Patricia Omine
Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro
Steve Kijima
Mary Naber
Estuko Yamada
Ed & Liat Parker
Yoshiko Kozen
Harumi Yee
Nobuko Kasai
Barbara Braden
Anne Paulin
Jeffrey Workman

Donations

Dana

Jenifer Johnston
Jim & Shirley Bennett

Ho'onko

Fumiko Heyamoto

Ohigan

Nobuko Kasai
Satoshi & Mary Terao
Janet Tamura
Kam & Fumi Uyeji
Leslie Green
George & Toshie Kawahara
Yoshi Kozen
Mr. & Mrs. Kaz Kuwada
Anonymous

Memorial Dana

Mr. & Mrs. Kaz Kuwada in memory of

Iku Horiuchi and Toshiko Uyeno
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

A nne Paulin
Celeste S terrett
Jeremy Phillips and
children E ric and E lizabeth
Julie Cairns

Shotsuki-Hoyo
April 23, 2006

Shotsuki-Hoyo (the remembrance service for deceased loved ones) will be held Sunday, April 23rd. According to temple records and other sources, a total of 8 people passed away during the month of February. They are:

Koji Hayashi
Takeshi Kan
Akira Katayama
Yasumasa Moriya
Chiyono Nakanishi
Minoru Terao
Chiyono Yamaguchi
Tomiko Yamamoto

2006 Board of Directors



On March 19, Rev. Castro (pictured far right) installed our new Board of Directors for 2006-07. They are from Left to Right: Leslie Green, Ann Heineman, Christine Marr, Liat Parker, Fumi Uyeji, Janet Tamura, Jun Yugawa and Jefferson Workman. Bonell McLeish our 9th board member was out of town but was installed *in absentia*. The Spokane Buddhist Temple is fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated group of people serving on its board. Congratulations to you all!

Listen

Listen. Listen to the voice of the Dharma.
Listen to the birds, singing in the morning, the wind sighing in the boughs overhead, and the roar of the waves on the beach.

Listen to the rain on the roof and the snow falling in the fields.

The Dharma speaks to us through the sounds of the world –
forcefully and eloquently and beautifully.
It speaks of the unending change around us, the immutable truth of interdependence, and the peace in nature.

Do we have the ears to hear and listen..?

Listen to the Nembutsu in the Hondo.
Listen to the noble silence of the Buddha.

Kenryu T. Tsuji
"The Heart of the Buddha-Dharma"

Looking Ahead

Ven. Lama Panchen Otrul Rinpoche

The date has been set for this very special event. Tuesday evening, May 30th, Panchen Otrul Rinpoche will speak at the Spokane Buddhist Temple about how he is teaching the people of Mongolia about the Dharma. Since 1995 he has traveled there for two months each year in order to help with the re-establishment of Buddhism in Mongolia.

Gotan E

We will celebrate the birth of our founder Shinran Shonin on Sunday, May 14th with a service at 10:30 am. The essence of the Jodo Shinshu teaching is contained in Shinran Shonin *Kyo Gyo Shin Sho* which was compiled and written during his last years in the Kanto area before his return to Kyoto. More information to follow in the next newsletter.

Senbei Making Schedule

Friday, April 7, 2006

Senbei Prep Crew

6 pm – 9 pm

Gayle Azuras

Pati Lira

Ann Heineman

Saturday, April 8, 2006

Kitchen Crew – morning shift

7 am – 12 noon

Celeste Sterrett
Jefferson Workman
Ed Parker
Jun Yugawa

Kitchen Crew – afternoon shift

12 noon – 4 pm

Pati Lira
Barb Braden

Rolling & Cutting Crew – first shift

8 am – 12 noon

Anne Paulin
Glen Toepfer
Ryan Bowerson
Janet Tamura
Ets Yamada
Justin Kropff
Aiko Terao

Rolling & Cutting Crew – second shift

9 am – 12 noon

Martena Peterson
Joni Michels
Karen Vielle
Liat Parker
Fumi Uyeji
Paul Ville
Suzette Rose

Weigh & Bag Senbei/Clean Up

11 am – 4 pm

Rachel Scrudder
Mark Scrudder
Christina Anderson
Tom Anderson
Max Anderson