

A nnouncements

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. We meet after service for refreshments and discussion.

Bodhi Day Service – December 17th we will have our Bodhi Day service. The actual day of observance is really on December 8th but we usually celebrate it when we have our supervising minister in town. “It was on December 8th that Siddhartha Gautama, who was to become the historical Buddha became “enlightened” or “awake”, while sitting in meditation beneath a Pippala tree (which later became known as a Bodhi tree, since Bodhi means enlightenment in Sanskrit). December being the last month of the year, we should all take it upon ourselves to reflect upon what has happened during the past year and be very grateful for the many wonderful things that make life enjoyable.” (Excerpt from the *Buddhist Holidays*, by Rev. George E. Shibata)

Seattle or Bust!! Lets Take the Bus! – We are asking anyone who is thinking about going to the Northwest District Convention (details in “Looking Ahead” on the last page) to let us know as soon as possible because we may have enough people to justify hiring a bus or van. We will need a headcount to make that decision. The sangha’s from both Moses Lake and Yakima may be interested in riding in our bus too. This will help lower the cost, the more people we get. So please let either Christine Marr, Jefferson Workman or Leslie Green know when you decide. The deadline for reserving a bus is January 15th.

Vipassna Meditation Workshop – Saturday, December 2nd, 9:00 am to noon at the temple. Mary Webster will facilitate this half day workshop. This form of meditation is also referred to as “insight” meditation. It is open to all levels of meditation practice. Please join us!

Do you have a home Butsudan not being utilized? If you have one that you are no longer using and is just collecting dust, we can give it a good home. There are several temple members who would like to own one, but they are not always easy to come by. If you would like to donate yours to the temple, please contact Leslie Green at 509 990-8069 or drop an email to: lesliegreen54@msn.com.

Joya-E and Sangha Service – December 31st See an explanation of this celebration in Paul Vielle’s column “From the Tatami Mat.” And as part of that tradition it is customary in the Japanese culture to make a monetary offering to the temple at the end of each year that reflects on your good fortune and to show your gratitude for the teachings of the Buddha. If it weren’t for the past and continued contributions of the Nisei our temple would not exist. At this time of year it is important to remember their generosity and show them our gratitude by continuing this tradition.

S hotsuki-Hoyo December – 2006

Shotsuki-Hoyo (the remembrance service for deceased loved ones) will be held Sunday, December 17th. According to temple records and other sources, a total of twelve people passed away during the month of November. They are:

Janis Birkel
Skylar Cullitan
Yukiko Evans
Yoshitaka Inouye
Otokichi Matsuo
Madelyn Isabella Sapp
(Mrs) Mary Tsugie Terao
Rev. William Shigeo Terao*

(Mrs) Michiko Tsuchida
(Mrs) Yuki Tsuji
(Mrs) Kayo Tsuji
(Mrs) Yoshiko Uchida

(* Rev. William Terao was one of the two ministers who co-founded the Spokane Buddhist Temple in 1946. Mrs. Mary Terao was his wife. Editor)

Temple News & Presidents Report

It was an honor to participate in the Jodo Shinshu Center Dedication ceremony. Leslie Green and I spent the weekend in Berkeley for all the festivities. We are both so happy we decided to make the trip. We returned with a much better understanding of the BCA and witnessed quite a weekend!

It started with Mrs. Joyce Terao picking us up at the Oakland airport. I was struck by how so many new Dharma family/friends I have made by the involvement in the Spokane Temple. Never dreamed I would be hosted by one of our temple founders! Quite an honor and a pleasure to visit and get more background on how our temple started. Mrs. Terao is so gracious and generous to us newcomers. We had dinner with Mrs. Terao, Karen and Kenji Akahoshi, Lenni Terao and her husband Doug.

I represented the NW District in the procession. We started at the Berkeley Temple walking around the block to the entrance of the brand new center. The Kodo (Hondo) was too small for the audience so there were flat screened TV's located on the ground floor to follow the program. I felt fortunate to sit upstairs in the Kodo and be a part of this one of a kind service (with a great seat).

I can never do justice in describing the beautiful ceremony from the Kansho to Sutra chanting with so many ministers and lay members. There were traditional Japanese musicians on one side, the small audience on the other with over 50 ministers standing for the ceremony. It is the first time I have seen the flower petals used in the Sambujo chanting with such a large group. We offered individual flowers at the end as each BCA representative and organization was called on. The entire service was covered by the Japanese press with continuous Internet streaming to Japan.

The JSC has changed dramatically since I last saw it at the groundbreaking. The huge space of the car dealership was put to good use with offices, classrooms, library and bookstore on the main floor. As you walk around it is easy to picture a bright future of classes and activities going on there. Upstairs are the hotel and dorm rooms that are built surrounding a Japanese Garden with skylights. It is a building to be very proud of, it will be interesting to see how it's presence will help energize the BCA. Many California members worked very hard to make this weekend a success.

In the coming months, I will give a summary of our board meetings in this space. Sometimes we get so busy going to meetings we forget to pass on information to interested members. I will try to remedy that in the future.

Our last board meeting was on Sunday, November 19th. We reviewed the Fall Food Bazaar and felt it was a success selling about 200 dinners plus the senbei and bake sale. (for exact numbers, members are welcome to pick up a copy of the treasures report in the office). We needed more volunteer help, it was noted that having the September Odon noodle fundraiser so close may have been too much for our small sangha. We are looking for ideas to replace the Sept. fundraiser. The monies are dedicated to erasing our convention over costs, so something needs to replace it.

Minister's Assistant Program: Paul reported on a weekend MAP training in Seattle that he attended. He was contacted by hospice to do a pillow service for a Buddhist that did not belong to any group in Spokane. We are happy to do community outreach like this. Paul is currently on a BCA trip to Japan! He will return December 3. He will start an Introductions to Jodo Shinshu class in the spring, the current class is wrapping up in December. There were 23 people registered.

We are looking for a screen to cover the snow blower that needs to be accessible in the winter in the entrance to the downstairs. Does not look good but we need it there. Winter chores have been completed.

Our next board meeting will set the budget for 2007, I will report on that next month.

With Gassho,
Christine Marr

From the T atami Mat. . . .
Year End Service
"Joya-e"

This year December 31st (New Year's Eve) falls on a Sunday. Since this is such a busy day for everyone, it's been decided to combine our regular Sunday morning Sangha Service with our traditional end-of-year observance of *Joya-e*. This event will commence in the early evening (7:00 PM) and should last about 30 to 45 minutes. This will give everyone plenty of time to get to other New Year's Eve celebrations.

The *Joya-e* (which means "bell of the last night") expresses our gratitude for the gift of being able to live yet another year. It is a time to recall both the happy and sad events of the past year and to reflect on how these events have shaped our understanding of ourselves and the world. Buddhism teaches us to appreciate that life is a continuous stream of ever-changing causes and conditions, all coming together in just the right way, merging, becoming and then moving on. All moments of life are this way, --interdependent and impermanent. To insist otherwise is delusion and the source of endless mental anguish.

As followers of the *Jodo Shinshu* path, we listen to the dharma and hopefully come to appreciate that we cannot *think* our way to enlightenment. Any calculated effort on our part to attain virtue or merit is delusion. No matter how smart or pious or virtuous we think we are our best intentions are always trumped by self-interest and attachment. Shinran taught we need only to entrust ourselves entirely to the Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha. We do this by reciting the Sacred Name, *Namo Amida Butsu*. In time we awaken to the truth that although we are creatures filled with ignorance and blind passions, we are nevertheless embraced by Amida's compassion ---just as we are, --grasped never to be abandoned. When we awaken fully to this truth, we cannot help but respond with profound gratitude.

The highpoint of the *Joya-e* service is the ringing of the temple bell, or *Kansho*, 108 times. Everyone in the Sangha takes a turn in doing this. The bell is struck 108 times to symbolically "ring-out" the 108 delusions or passions that afflict human beings and bind them to the world of delusion. In doing so we are affirming an aspiration for the coming year, -namely to live our lives simply, truly and with a less self-centered outlook. What better way to begin the New Year? None of us know what awaits us in 2007. Let us aspire to live each day in appreciation and gratitude for the marvelous gift of life.

Paul Vielle
Minister's Assistant

Welcome to Our Newest Member
Don Adair

Fundraising: Who, What, Why

The Fall Bazaar netted \$3,350 this year and was a considerable success in many different ways. The temple has a small operating budget and we count on the Spring and Fall Bazaars to bring in about a quarter of our income. We appreciate the donations of goods by Spokane Produce and Chris & Christine Marr. The steady stream of donated baked goods and cash donations in lieu of baking is key to the overall success; as are the efforts of a few friendly faces who donate their time bazaar after bazaar.

We are also deeply indebted to **Fumi Uyeji, Janet Tamura, Peggy Heyamoto and Kengo Kato** for sharing their experience and knowledge of all things related to the bazaars. Their tireless efforts to pass on the secrets of mochi making and sushi rolling are valued and respected. Finally, the work crews leading up to and including the day of the bazaar are an important time to strengthen our connection to the temple and the Sangha.

Thank you all,
Liat Parker, Treasurer

Fall Food Bazaar Volunteers A Big Thank You!

For all the tireless efforts to everyone who came out to prepare, cook, serve, clean and donate supplies. We could not keep our temple doors open without your kindness and generosity.

*And to the one person who keeps us all working as a team, and takes over even when he is overwhelmed,
a very special **Thank You** to*

**** Jefferson Workman ****

Liat Parker
Ed Parker
Fumi Uyeji
Janet Tamura
Jun Yugawa
Leslie Green
Todd Milne
Ellicia Milne
Arlene Miyazono
Holly Kiriara
Bonell McLeish
Justin Kropff
Paul Vielle
Karen Vielle
Briana Hartwell
Joni Michel
Leeanne Sapp
Greg Sapp
Jeremy Phillips

Alex Peterson
Martena Peterson
Hyacinth Dezenobia
Brab Braden
Ann Heineman
Christine Marr
Chris Marr
Peggy Heyamoto
Spokane Produce
Bay Oriental Market

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

October 19 - November 19

Jeffrey Workman
Oct
Jeff Zahir
Oct
Paul & Karen Vielle
Nov
Thomas Lande
Nov
Jenifer Johnston
Nov
Rachel Scrudder
Nov
Greg & Leanne Sapp
Nov
Jenifer Johnston
Aug
B. McLeish
July - Dec
Joni Michels
Oct
Mary Naber
Oct
James Lea
July - Sep
Donald Adair
Oct - Dec
Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro
Dec
Satoshi & Mary Terao
Nov - Dec

Donations

Dana

Paul & Karen Vielle
Mary Naber
Herman & Phyllis Sugimura
Celeste Sterrett
Jim & Shirley Bennett
Tosh Kiriara

Convention

Janet Tamura

in memory of Haruyo Oba and Jim Tamura

Ho'Onko

Marcelline Burdett
Satoshi & Mary Terao
Hyacinth Dezenobia
Janet Tamura
Anonymous
Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro
Kam & Fumi Uyeji

Memorial Dana

Marcelline Burdett
in memory of Mrs. Horuyo Oba

Marcelline Burdett
in memory of Kotaro Van Omine

Marcelline Burdett
in memory of Jim Tamura

Mack Harada
in memory of Mrs. Hisako Kato

Mrs. Tsutakawa
in memory of Ed Tsutakawa

Marcelline Burdett
in memory of Takeo Uyeji and Kame Uyeji

Marcelline Burdett
in memory of Amy Kirihara

Paul Vielle
in memory of Jim Tamura

Paul Vielle
in memory of Kotaro Van Omine

Thelma Yasuhara
in memory of Denny Yasuhara

Roy Tsuchida
in memory of Frank Tsuchida

Chris & Christine Marr
in memory of Roy Soejima

Chris & Christine Marr
in memory of Van Omine

Chris & Christine Marr
in memory of Jim Tamura

Jun Yugawa
in memory of Jim Tamura

Ann Heineman
in memory of Jim Tamura

Ann Heineman
in memory of Van Omine

Lillian Tokunaga
in memory of Harold Tokunaga

Ed & Liat Parker
in memory of Jim Tamura

Judy Terao Uyema and Family
in memory of Rev. William S. Terao

Judy Terao Uyema and Family
in memory of Mary T. Terao

Mrs. Joyce Terao
in memory of Rev. Eiyu Terao

We Are OK Just As We Are

An elderly Chinese woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole, which she carried across her neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could do only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the woman one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house."

The old woman smiled, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without your being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Each of us has our own unique flaw. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them.

SO, to all of my crackpot friends, remember to smell the flowers on your side of the path!
Author Unknown

"I would like to thank everyone at the temple for their expression of deep compassion and sympathy they have shown for my loss. I am truly grateful".

Gassho-
Barbara Braden

A Special Note

"The words "thank you" do not seem adequate to express my gratitude for all the love, support, well wishes and dinners you've given me during my surgery and recovery. The Spokane Temple members have shown me the interconnectedness of life and the sangha has truly become my family. "

*Namaste-
Anne Paulin*

Dream

by Tom Lande

Who is overwhelmed scared? I am. It has gotten to the end of each half hour, no each 15 minutes, of "news" – fully demonstrates that not only has human life become monstrous, but people assume that all good Americans celebrate foolishness by identifying one factor as separate from another; and that things can be remedied in a piecemeal, technological fashion, by policy corrections, etc.. I thought that I (an assumed separate self) created the horror show that is human life. However my individual self-entity is not alone in this nightmare; it is shared by millions of people. This makes it a fully scary nightmare.

As a little kid, I used to have a recurring horrible dream. Although I had previously evolved a technique for extricating me from nightmares, one in which I could flap my arms against my sides and wake myself up; this technique worked sometimes, but actually set the stage for this peculiar wake-imagining nightmare. In it, there was a scary nightmare and I dreamed that I woke up from it and that I as happy to see my Mom's face again and I sat at the breakfast table with my parents and brother – and then everybody started to look weird, like a little kid's version of "Invasion of the Body Snatchers", and I had the horrible realization – that the nightmare was still happening. So since this time, I've been very suspicious of any techniques for achieving well-ness, and of any imagining that I am awake.

One can only be suspicious of anyone who portrays some self as having achieved something wonderful, or has the ability to do some special thing for humanity by some technical or intellectual thing that they do or teach.

But what to do? One must do something, after all, right? There is a drive to observe all of the results. This very fixation on the technique, rather than the attitude, has led to all the world's current horror. We even approach a transcendental, ancient discipline as a technique to master enough in order to propitiate the powers-that-be so that they will spare us (who?) from our great suffering. It's better to do nothing than to incessantly watch oneself for evidence of specialness.

Looking A head

JANUARY

Bhante Seelawimala will come to town on Saturday, January 20th to present a talk on "Your Spiritual Path" He will also lead our service the following day.

FEBRUARY

60th Annual Northwest Buddhist Convention - February 16 -18, 2007 - Hosted by White River Buddhist Temple. The theme this year is "What is a Buddhist?" The convention is drawing near and we now have registration forms. The convention will be held at the Double Tree at South Center. The cost to attend is \$85 for adult registration, \$65 for grades 7 - college, \$50 grades 1-6. & \$25 for daycare. A special room rate of \$109 per night is available for single & double occupancy. Registration and payment must be received by December 31st.

“Essential Buddhism” Class continues in February - Our *Essential Buddhism* class will start-up again on February 14 2007 and run for 8 consecutive weeks ending on April 4th. Classes will be held Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 at the temple. These meetings will be a continuation of our fall classes. This time the focus will be on the development of Mahayana Buddhism in China and Japan. Special emphasis will be given to our own sect, the *Jodo Shinshu* (or True Pure Land) Tradition.

We'll follow the same general format as before. That is, we'll be watching DVD lectures on Buddhism by Prof. David Echels (Professor of Religious Studies at Boston University) followed by a class discussion led by Paul Vielle, Minister's Assistant.

Registration forms will be available in January's Newsletter. We are asking for a donation of \$10.00 to offset costs of making handouts. For more information you may e-mail Paul at paulv78w@sisna.com.