

Announcements

November 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.

Public Lecture – Saturday, November 11th at 7:00 – 8:30 pm – Join us Saturday night to welcome Joe Schwab and Bill Hirsch, minister's assistants from the Seattle Betsuin. They will present a lecture entitled **"From Shakyamuni to Shinran; Tracing the Historical and Philosophical Development of Pureland Buddhism"**. This lecture will be at the temple and while there is no charge, we will gladly accept your donations so that we may continue to bring new speakers and fresh topics on Buddhism in America.

YBA Update and Next Meeting Information - The YBA, our temple's group for Buddhist youth, has gotten off to a great start! Our second meeting on October 15th was a success with 7 in attendance. Everyone had a blast getting to know each other better through playing games and having a discussion. We had so much fun that we decided to play games again at the next meeting.

The YBA is open to all from middle school through college, and meets on the third Sunday of each month at 5:30 pm in the Temple's basement. In this initial phase, we are still trying to form a solid group and get to know one another, but we hope to participate in a variety of activities in the future, including watching movies, meditation, and helping with temple functions - or maybe even leading some ourselves!

Our next meeting will be on **November 19th, at 5:30 pm**. We plan to play games, including group games, board games, and card games, with the option to watch a Buddhist film available.

If you have any group games you would like to teach everyone, or wish to bring your favorite board game, please join us! Our minister's assistant, Paul Vielle, has also offered to begin attending YBA meetings to help us answer questions about Buddhism. He will be an invaluable resource for future discussions and youth curious about Buddhism. Gassho, Rachel Scudder, YBA Interim President

New Meditation Workshop begins November 21st - This workshop is scheduled to be held at the temple, Sessions will be held on five consecutive Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m., beginning November 21, 2006.

Meditation workshop sessions consist of a series of videotaped talks by Sri Easwaran on his Eight-Point Program, followed by a half hour of meditation. Each meeting includes:

- o *A brief period of fellowship, during which there will be a discussion of one of the points in the Eight-Point Program*
- o *A half hour of inspiration from Sri Easwaran, via video tape*
- o *A half hour of meditation*

It is recommended but not necessary that participants read Sri Easwaran's book "Meditation" before the start of this workshop. For more information please call Mary: 326-6786 or visit Sri Easwaran's website: <http://easwaran.org/>

Shotsuki-Hoyo November – 2006

Shotsuki-Hoyo (the remembrance service for deceased loved ones) will be held Sunday, November 19th. According to temple records and other sources, a total of thirteen people passed away during the month of November. They are:

(Mrs) Ine Furumasu
Hideo Ekinaka
George Kubota
(Mrs) Haruyo Oba
Kotaro "Van" Omine
Dick Shimizu
(Mrs) Reiko Shimizu
Roy Soejima
James "Jim" Tamura
Harold Tokunaga
Takeo Uyeji*
Hidejiro Yamagiwa
Michio Yamagiwa

(*Takeo Uyeji should have been listed in last month's Shotsuki-Hoyo. With apologies....Editor.)

Odds & Ends

EWU Exchange Students help with Senbei-Making

Last month a group of Japanese foreign exchange students came to tour the temple. Their instructor mentioned that several of the students were interested in helping in our Senbei-making event on Saturday, October 14. A few phone calls later, it was all arranged. In the end, two students showed-up to volunteer on Senbei-Making Day. By all accounts, they worked hard, got to know several sangha members and in general, had a great time. Our thanks to Jefferson Workman and Chris Moore (from EWU) for coordinating this opportunity for the students.

"Essential Buddhism" classes off to a good start

The Wednesday evening "Essential Buddhism" classes are going very well. After four class meetings, we have a committed group of about eighteen people attending regularly. We are watching selections from the DVD series on Buddhism by Dr. David Eckel, --followed by a general discussion. This series will end December 3. In February we'll be offering another 7-week course of study, entitled "Introduction to Jodo Shinshu Buddhism". Paul Vielle will be the facilitator. Watch for more information in January's Newsletter.

Good News from Yuma!

Our dharma friends Jim and Shirley Bennett e-mailed to report they have arrived safely at their winter home in sunny Yuma, Arizona. They are both well and send their best wishes to everyone at the Spokane sangha. They'll be back here again next spring.

Moses Lake Sangha starts Newsletter

Once a month (for the past year and a half) our Minister's Assistant has gone to Moses Lake to conduct a service there. With no temple in Moses Lake, they meet in a rented conference room at the Best Western Inn. Although it is a small sangha with around 20 members, enthusiasm runs high. This is a delightful and very friendly group of Japanese Americans. Over the past year, a few non-Japanese people have started to come to services. The trend continues. Last month, in a conscious effort to attract more visitors, it was decided to put an ad in the local newspaper announcing the time and location of the services. This is a first! In another development, Shirley Yamamoto has started a bi-monthly Sangha newsletter to keep everyone informed of upcoming events and offer a forum for sharing information. It's exciting to watch as the Moses Lake Sangha rejuvenates itself. From all of us here at the Spokane Buddhist

Temple, we extend our best wishes to you for continued success.

From the T atami Mat. . . .

Berkeley MAP Quest Seminar a Success

Last month, October 12-15, I had the good fortune to attend the fifth Minister's Assistant Training Seminar. Hosted by the newly opened Jodo Shinshu Study Center in Berkeley, California, this is a twice-a-year event consisting of two and a half days of instruction and training for minister's assistants. In addition to the usual classes on Najjin etiquette, chanting and ritual, we heard two outstanding lectures by guest speakers. The first was by Iko Miyazaki a family therapist in private practice. Her topic was on the maintenance of proper 'motivation' in one's life and work. The second was by Dr. Nobuo Haneda, Director of the Maida Center of Buddhism in Berkeley. Dr. Haneda presented a fascinating talk on the *Larger Sutra on Amitayus*, -offering his unique modern-day interpretation of the sutra's teachings. In all, these were highly interesting and informative lectures.

But for me, the highlight of the seminar came in the free-wheeling exchange of ideas following our discussion of the book, *Bearer of the Light—The Life and Thought of Rennyo*. To digress for just a moment, Rennyo Shonin (1415-1499) is known as the Great Propagator of Jodo Shinshu. During his lifetime, Japan struggled to survive amid frequent outbreaks of war, famine, disease and sectarian strife. In those days, there was no religious freedom as such; all religion was State controlled Buddhism. The Honganji had become a rigid institution that emphasized ritual and ceremony. It had become a religion available only to priests and the wealthy classes. It offered little in the way of spiritual support to the suffering masses.

Master Rennyo, ever the skilled administrator and a gifted teacher, found a way to present the *Nembutsu* teaching in simple, straight forward language so everyone, including those in the lowest social classes could understand it. Also, he created a simple ritual whereby ordinary people could observe religious devotions in their homes. At a time when Jodo Shinshu was in danger of collapsing under its own institutional weight, Rennyo revitalized the religion, creating in effect a popular "lay" Buddhism in Japan.

Returning now to the MAP Quest class, as we concluded our discussion of the book, someone pointed out that today, the BCA faces a similar challenge in propagating the *Nembutsu* teaching.

The demographics are changing. Increasing numbers of *non-Japanese* people are showing interest in Jodo Shinshu. (This is certainly true at the Spokane Buddhist Temple, where over the last three years, average attendance at Sunday service has nearly doubled. Today a typical service will have 25 to 30 people in attendance, nearly all of whom are non-Japanese.) But many ideas in Jodo Shinshu are puzzling to the Western mind. Terms like *Pure Land*, *shinjin*, "entrusting", *Amida* and *Primal Vow* are easily confused with Christian concepts. Most everyone around the table agreed, an effort must be made to modernize these concepts so as to make them easily understood by modern-day people in North America.

The hour grew late, but no one wanted to stop the discussion! What other changes might be made, we wondered, to modernize the chanting, doctrine and ritual. Judging by the group's enthusiasm, this was a topic of considerable interest to everyone.

The Buddha taught that everything changes. Rennyo Shonin was a great religious innovator of his time. His efforts brought lasting changes to Shin practice. Now, some 500 years later, as Jodo Shinshu adapts to Western culture, perhaps we'll see a similar period of innovation in Shin doctrine, practice and ritual. Heady stuff to ponder! All in all, it was a delightful evening of spirited discussion, one I'll long remember. I extend a heartfelt "thank-you" to Socho Ogui, Reverends Umezu, Oshita, Kobata and Michael Endo for their efforts in organizing these training seminars for the Minister's Assistants.



Paul Vielle
Minister's Assistant

Thank You

For all your countless hours of hard work and dedication to your temple.

Janet Tamura
Barbara Braden
Yuka Otsuka
Hisaya Fukuda
Kengo Kato
Shari Soejima
Fumi Uyeji
Karen & Paul Vielle
Jeff Zahir
Jun Yugawa
Herman & Phyllis Sugimura
Ed & Liat Parker
Bonell McLeish
Celeste Sterrett
Anne Paulin
Leslie Green
Lorie Taylor
Janet Holmberg
Kosuke Imamura
Mary Naber
Ellicia Milne
Justin Kropff
Martena Peterson
Hyacinth Dezenobia
Christine Marr
Janet
Michael Brady
Ann Heineman
Julie & granddaughter

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

September 19 - October 18

Leslie Green
Barbara Braden
Anne Paulin
Mary Naber
Kam & Fumi Uyeji
Rachel Scrudder
Jeffrey Workman
Jim & Shirley Bennett
Thomas Lande
Paul & Karen Vielle
Jenifer Johnston
Alexis & Sam Baker
Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro
Ed & Liat Parker
Helen Chin
Greg & Leanne Sapp
Hyacinth Dezenobia
Jenifer Johnston

Donations

Dana

Mary Naber
Celeste Sterrett
Herman Sugimura
Chris Marr
Ann Heineman
Paul & Karen Vielle
M. Lahr

Memorial Dana

H. Konishi
in memory of T. Konishi

Y. Kozen
in memory of Sako Kato

T. Oba
in memory of Amy Kirihara

Janet Tamura
in memory of Amy Kirihara

Kengo Kato
in memory of Hisako Kato

Kam & Fumi Uyeji

in memory of Kame Uyeji

Ann Heineman
in memory of Ed Tsutakawa

Dorothy Uno
in memory of Amy Kirihara

Tosh Kirihara
in memory of Amy Kirihara

Satoshi & Miyoko Tsuchida
in memory of Frank Tsuchida

Paul Vielle
in memory of Andrew Vielle

Please Support the Temple with Your
Purchase

Fall Food Bazaar

Sunday, November 5th

11 am - 2 pm

Yakisoba Noodles with Teriyaki Chicken \$8.00

Eat In or Take Out

Also Featuring:

Sushi, Mochi, Senbei, & Bake Sale