

## A nnouncements

**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. We meet after service for refreshments and discussion.

**Senbei Making Day** – Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> – We will be making our famous senbei rice crackers for the upcoming Spring Food Bazaar/Fundraiser. I have included the list of people who have signed up later in this newsletter, but if you didn't get on the list, come on by anytime Saturday. We can always use an extra pair of hands.

**Sangha Club Meeting** - Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup> after the service. Come learn origami techniques and make some crafts to sell at the Spring Bazaar. Origami paper and instructions will be provided! Have some fun and help fundraise for our temple.

**Chanting Class** – Wednesday, April 11, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm -Want to learn about chanting? Come join us for a one-session primer entitled *How to Chant*. Learn about the pronunciation, musical notations and melodies of the pieces we typically chant at our Sunday services. Our Minister's Assistant, Paul Vielle will lead this class. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Spring Food Bazaar** – Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> - Chicken teriyaki is on the menu this spring, served with coleslaw and rice. For only \$9 you can taste some very good chicken and help support your temple. Also on sale will be senbei, sushi, and baked goods. The lunches will be available for take-out or you can stay and eat at the temple while enjoying time spent among friends!

**Hanamatsuri Service** – Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Rev. LaVerne Sasaki will be our guest minister for this celebration of the baby Buddha's birth. This is a very special and colorful service.

### ***Bookstore Bits - April Bargains***

Silicone bracelets (similar to the Lance Armstrong "Livestrong" ones) with your choice of 4 different Buddhist sayings: Nembutsu; Three Treasures; Golden Chain; or Metta, regularly \$3.00, now \$2.50 each for the month of April. Check out the variety of Used Books for sale at half off retail price. Also, we have some used Tricycle and Shambala magazines for \$1 each. Thanks to all who have donated and continue to donate books for this section. Please leave your used books on the bottom wooden shelf labeled for book donations.

**BCA Bookstore:** Temple President, Christine Marr, brings news that the BCA Bookstore move to Berkeley is almost complete! We've been anxiously awaiting this good news. Even more exciting news is that they will eventually accept on-line orders which will streamline the process for replenishing the stock of our most popular books and items.

**Bookstore hours:** Please note, the Bookstore will be open for browsing and sales 30 minutes before service begins and 15 minutes after service ends. Come on in, see what's new and make your purchases early.

## ***Shotsuki-Hoyo***

**April 22, 2007**

Shotsuki-Hoyo (the remembrance service for deceased loved ones) will be held **Sunday, April 22nd**. According to temple records and other sources, a total of 9 people passed away during the month of April. They are:

Koji Hayashi  
Takeshi Kan  
Akira Katayama  
Kazuo "Kaz" Kuwada  
Yasumasa Moriya

Chiyono Nakanishi  
Minoru Terao  
Chiyono Yamaguchi  
Tomiko Yamamoto

From the T atami Mat. . . .

### *Jewels at my feet*

It's that time of year again. *Planting mania* is upon us! All across Spokane in nurseries, home improvement stores and supermarkets, merchants are setting out the seed packets and bedding plants for sale. People who like to garden can hardly wait to get started. The other day in one supermarket parking lot, I saw a woman loading two shopping carts full of bedding plants into her car, while her husband hefted great bags of potting soil into the trunk. Looked like a whole lot of serious planting was about to happen.

Old-time gardeners will tell you not to plant anything in the ground until after all the snow has melted atop Mt. Spokane. Overnight temperatures during March are still quite cold, putting even the hearty pansies at risk. Patiently, I content myself with pruning, raking and planning! Every year, my head is filled with grandiose schemes to improve the landscape around my house. Perhaps a new trellis over here, a water fountain in the corner or maybe a greenhouse by the tool shed. It may not be a very Buddhist attitude, but I have certain ideas about how things *should* look and am not happy until I make them a reality.

But there's one small patch of ground in the far corner of my back yard that defies improvement. I'm not sure why, but conditions are not right for growing things on this spot. My neighbor tells me, a previous owner had once stored drums of some unknown liquid in this corner. Perhaps some of this had leached into the soil at some point – poisoning it. Over the years I've tried various things to develop the ground. I've replaced the soil, experimented with different fertilizers and tried growing different kinds of plants. But nothing ever grew there for long. Discouraged, I came to regard this corner as utterly worthless ground and ignored it completely.

But in the last six months, two unusual things happened. Last summer, I was in the garden thinning the carrots when I happened to glance over to the “worthless corner” and saw what looked like a cloud of smoke rising from the ground. It shimmered in the sunlight and rose steadily, resembling a great floating gossamer scarf. I walked over to investigate. A colony of winged insects (ants or termites) was on the move. I knelt down to watch as thousands of tiny, jewel-like creatures wiggled up through the dirt and obeying some ancient imperative, alighted slowly into the warm air. Gradually this great quivering column of life drifted upward and out of sight. This amazing phenomenon lasted about fifteen minutes and I was the only person to witness it.

Then last week this worthless piece of ground produced a second surprise. Since it wouldn't grow anything, I had resolved to build a compost pile upon it. Approaching the corner, I was amazed to find a patch of robust crocus growing in the very spot where last summer insects had taken flight. I couldn't believe my eyes. Crocus grow from tiny bulbs. How did crocus bulbs wind-up in this ground? What a marvel! I had nothing to do with it, but here they were -- these beautiful little jewels at my feet.

Dharma manifests all around us – continuously, if only we're alert to catch it. In an instant my faulty thinking was evident to me. For many years, I fully expected I could make things grow on this spot if I just tried hard enough – and was keenly disappointed when I could not. But this ground was constantly changing, evolving and becoming. When the causes and conditions were right, life appeared — like jewels at my feet. The notion of “worthless” ground was *my idea* and never part of the ground's reality. The ground was never good or bad, right or wrong, useful or worthless. It was just *there*.

Amazing isn't it, how the Dharma teaches? This humble patch of earth in my back yard, taught me something about the timeless Buddhist truths of Impermanence, Interdependence and Emptiness. I'm sure there are many more “dharma jewels” in my garden, waiting to manifest with the next trowel-full of soil. *Namo Amida Butzu!*

Paul Velle

Minister's Assistant



### ***BCA National Council Meeting News***

This year's national council meeting was held in Oakland, California and Christine Marr and myself attended March 8 - 11. There were, as usual, a lot of issues to be discussed and voted on, but the main topic was the future of the newly constructed Jodo Shinshu center in Berkley, California.

In fact the topic was so complex and critical that they had for the first time a "town hall" meeting on Friday night dedicated to presenting the issue in detail and hearing comments from the delegates. The discussion was pretty lively!

Briefly, the background on the new center is that originally the building was supposed to cost approximately \$10 million to purchase the land and build the building. These funds were going to be raised via the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Campaign. The campaign however has experienced a slow start, meaning that construction loans had to be acquired that have interest and along with that, construction cost overruns caused the building to come in at twice then originally planned. There are currently four loans outstanding, two of which come payable at the end of April. The hope being to pay off the two loans due now (\$3.5 million) leaving two more loans totaling \$8.2 million that are due at a later time. Thus buying some time to refinance and breathe new life into the campaign.

The motions on the floor during this year's meeting were to find ways to: pay the interest on the four loans, pay them down and refinance at a lower interest rate and/or pay off the two that are coming due and work on the remaining two which come due at the end of the year.

Motion #1 was to create a loan pool, where BCA could borrow money from accredited temples and/or individuals. This was voted on and accepted.

Motion #2 was to pull funds out of specific areas of the BCA budget where the reserves were sitting and not being utilized. For instance the Zaidan Fund has \$1.6 million in it and is only required to have \$1 million in reserve. So BCA could use \$500,000. The total these funds will bring in is \$2.5 million. This motion was passed.

Motion #3 was an attempt to just cover the 12 month interest charges that would accrue and that total was \$1 million. Motion 3 was to place a one time assessment on every member for \$60. This motion did not pass. One additional area where the BCA could draw funds was via the endowment fund. There is a current 2006 year end balance of \$19.4 million. The endowment trustees met and decided to loan BCA \$2.3 million.

So with the loan from endowment and the other monies identified as reserves/monies due, the total came to \$4.8

million which will pay off the two loans and have some available for interest, etc.

One school of thought was to put the building up for sale, which could pay off all loans, but there is no guarantee that the buyer would actually do a leaseback. This was discussed in much detail, and the general consensus is that was too much a risk to assume we would be able to stay in the building.

Being a part of this organization is not just an educational experience, but a real life adventure. Christine and I have come to know many wonderful people from all over the country who provide us with support, and guidance. We both learn so much from being part of the process, and we in turn bring it back to our Sangha.

Gassho

Leslie Green

### **Stone Wok Success!**

The Stone Wok was a delectable success. First a great big posthumous thanks to Ed Parker for the whole idea in the first place. Next, thanks to Liat who sent over all of Ed's yummy sauces and helped us get rid of some of the extra rice (oops, cooked a bit too much). Sauce (and sauced) chef extraordinaire was Jun Yugawa along with Jeff Zahir. Don Adair was the one responsible for bringing the "pickling sauces" to pickle the chefs on Saturday evening. I hear the "sauce guys" toasted Ed about a dozen times that night. Jeff was quoted as saying, "I may never say 'Kampai!' again." Sunday morning rice cook was Kosuke Imamura with help from Kam Uyeji who taught us how to turn on the stove and rice pot. We had a few choppers and stir fryers: Kosuke, Jeff, and Don and maybe others. Thanks also to all who brought the tasty ingredients that went into the wok. Then the toughest part of the whole thing is cleaning up all the dishes. Thanks to the Sapp family for enthusiastically doing all the dishes. My apologies if i forgot anyone.

Domo arigato gozaimashita.

We will most definitely do this again next year.

Mary Naber



## 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

January 22 -March 20, 2007

Tom Lande  
Haruye Yamagiwa  
Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro  
Tod & Elisha Milne  
Jeff Zahir  
Rachel Scudder  
Tina Rodeen  
Liat Parker  
Greg & Leanne Sapp  
Kengo Kato  
Kam & Fumi Uyeji  
Ann Heineman  
Jeff Zahir  
Satoshi & Mary Terao  
Paul & Karen Vielle  
Mary Naber  
Marcelline Burdett  
Nobuko Kasai  
Jeffrey Workman  
Leslie Green  
Chris & Christine Marr  
Kazuko Kuwada  
Jenifer Johnston  
Marcelline Burdett  
Paul & Karen Vielle  
Jeffrey Workman  
James Lea & Judi Davis  
Donald Adair  
Rachel Scudder  
Samuel & Alexis Baker  
Thomas Lande  
Tina Rodeen  
Mary Naber  
Helen Chin  
Kam & Fumi Uyeji  
Martena Peterson  
Barbara Braden  
Paul & Karen Vielle  
Jenifer Johnston

### Donations

January 22 -March 20, 2007

Ann Heineman  
Thomas Lande  
Karen Vielle  
Jenifer Johnston  
Paula Cleanthous  
Paul & Karen Vielle  
Mary Naber

Marcelline Burdett  
Paul & Karen Vielle  
Anonymous  
Joyce Terao  
Karl Boettner & Elizabeth Coyote  
Celeste Sterrett  
Jeffrey Workman  
Paul Vielle  
Marilyn Stedman  
Mary Durgin  
Cheryl Bruhl  
James Lea & Judi Davis  
Karl Boettner & Elizabeth Coyote  
Jamie Irwin  
Lee Grefsud  
Celeste Sterrett  
William Johnson  
Tom Lande  
Mary Naber  
Paul & Karen Vielle  
Ann Heineman  
Karl Boettner & Elizabeth Coyote

### **Joya-e**

Rachel Scrudder  
Paul & Karen Vielle  
Jun Yugawa  
Jeffrey Workman  
Barbara Braden  
Marcelline Burdett

### **Ohigan**

Christine Marr  
Kazuko Kuwada  
Satoshi & Mary Terao  
Les Uyeji  
Kam & Fumi Uyeji  
Anonymous

### **Convention Fund**

Christine Marr

### **Newsletter**

P. Desiree Hedges

### **Memorial Dana**

Barbara Braden  
in memory of A. Len Braden 100 days

Janet Tamura  
in memory of M. Yamaguchi, M. Higashi, J.  
Koga

Anonymous  
in memory of A. Len Braden 100 days

Pat Omine  
in memory of A. Len Braden 100 days

Anne Paulin  
in memory of A. Len Braden 100 days

Paul Vielle  
in memory of Evelynne Beler Vielle

JoanKiriHara  
in memory of Miya Koyama

Kazuko Kuwada  
in memory of Toshiko Uyeno and Iku Horiuchi

Barbara Braden  
in memory of Edward Parker

Joyce Terao  
in memory of Edward Parker

Mr & Mrs Sugimura  
in memory of Edward Parker

Mr & Mrs Paul Vielle  
in memory of Edward Parker

Mary Naber  
in memory of Edward Parker

Mr & Mrs Jim Bennett  
in memory of Edward Parker  
Liat Parker  
in memory of Edward Parker

Marcelline Burdett  
in memory of Midori Yamasaki

Marcelline Burdett  
in memory of Kana Yamamoto

Marcelline Burdett  
in memory of Wilson Burdett

Marcelline Burdett  
in memory of Edward Parker

## Senbei Volunteers - April 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>

**Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**  
Prep Crew- 6pm -9pm  
Jefferson Workman  
Karl Boettner  
Gabi Boettner

**Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**  
Morning Kitchen Crew -7am – 12 noon  
Jefferson Workman  
Barb Braden  
Mary Naber

Jun Yugawa

Afternoon Kitchen Crew – 12 noon – 4pm

Justin Kropff  
Don Adair

Rolling & Cutting Crew #1 – 8am -12 noon

Elizabeth Coyote  
Fumi Uyeji  
Celeste Sterrett  
Martena Peterson  
Anne Paulin  
Michael Brady

Rolling & Cutting Crew #2 – 9am – 12 noon

Julie Caires  
Hyacinth Dezenobia  
Eli Bernard  
Tyr Bernard  
Marylynn Bernard  
Linda Ishiguro

Weigh & Bag Senbei – 11am – 4pm

Lorie Taylor  
Christine Marr  
Shari Soejima  
Beth Kowal

Looking A head . . . .

June

Retreat with Bhante Seelawimala, June 15th & 16th - Mukagowa - Cost \$60 includes overnight stay, breakfast and lunch.

August

Retreat with Kenju Akahoshi, August 17 & 18 at Mukagowa

Spring Food Bazaar

Saturday, April 21  
Chicken Teriyaki Box Lunch  
Senbei, Sushi, Bake Sale