



# Spokane Buddhist Temple

DECEMBER 2007

VOLUME 53 ISSUE 12

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## Announcements



**December Sangha Services**—Our Sangha Service (Sangha is the Sanskrit word for Buddhist community) is a traditional Jodo Shinshu service with chanting led by a Doshi. We meet after service for refreshments and discussion.

**Please Note:** You may now *Oshoko* either before or following the service. This will accommodate the Dharma School teachers and students, and anyone else wishing to offer incense at the beginning. You may want to quiet your mind or simply avoid long lines at the end of service.

**Bodhi Day Service, Sunday December 16<sup>th</sup>** – It was on December 8<sup>th</sup> that Siddhartha

Gautama became Sakyamuni Buddha (the enlightened one) while sitting under the Bodhi tree some 2500 years ago. Join us during this special day at 3:00 pm with Rev. Don Castro from the Seattle Betsuin presiding over this service.

**Registration for 2008 Northwest District Buddhist Convention** – Registration is due to Seattle on December 31, 2007. Inside is the schedule of events and registration information. We will be sending in one list to Seattle listing the Spokane attendees. Please see Liat or Fumi if you would like to attend the convention. See details inside this newsletter.

**Volunteer Custodian Sought**—We are looking for a responsible person to take

over the custodial and maintenance duties at the temple. It would involve light housekeeping once a week, scheduling *Tobans* (temple cleaning day), changing the furnace filters, snow removal, sprinkler blow-outs...stuff like that. Paul Vielle has been doing this and now would like to pass it on to someone else. Here's an opportunity to get to know temple operations inside and out. If you are interested, please talk with Paul after service or contact him at [paulv78w@sisna.com](mailto:paulv78w@sisna.com).



### Spokane Buddhist Temple Team

Supervising Minister:  
Rev. Don Castro  
Seattle Betsuin  
Minister's Assistant:  
Paul Vielle

### Board of Directors

Christine Marr, President  
Leslie Green, Vice President  
Ann Heineman, Secretary  
Liat Parker, Treasurer  
Fumi Uyeji, Auditor  
Janet Tamura, Board Member  
Jefferson Workman, Board Member  
Bonell McLeish, Board Member  
Jun Yugawa, Board Member

**Newsletter Editor**  
Leslie Green

## 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 time for a few months or paid yearly.

**Oct. 26—Nov 19, 2007**

### Dues

Janet Lea & Judi Davis  
Rachel Scrudder  
Todd & Ellicia Milne  
Tina Rodeen  
Janet Tamura  
Jeremy Phillips  
Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro  
Mary Naber  
Greg & Leanne Sapp  
Paul & Karen Vielle  
Janine Karodokus  
Colin Fitzgerald  
Kazuko Kuwada  
Tom Lande

Russ Posten  
Jeff Zahir  
Satoshi & Mary Terao

### Donations

Mr. Teruo Chinen  
Tosh Uyeji  
JACL  
Jim & Shirley Bennett  
Mary Naber  
Paul & Karen Vielle  
Patrice Pendell  
Dave Weibel  
Martena Peterson

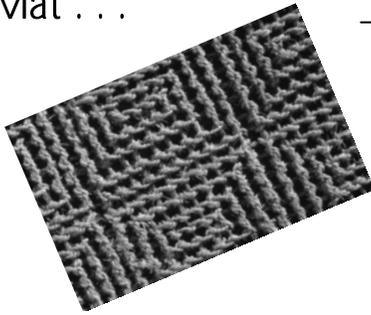
### In Memory

Marcelline Burdett  
in memory  
of Van Omine  
  
Kam & Fumi Uyeji  
in memory of Father  
  
Kam & Fumi Uyeji  
in memory  
of Kame Uyeji &  
Takeo Uyeji  
  
Barb Braden in memory  
of Len Braden

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## *Bell of the Last Night (Joya-e) Service*

This year December 31<sup>st</sup> (New Year's Eve) falls on a Monday. Beginning at 7:00 PM we will gather at the temple for the annual observance of *Joya-e*. This event should last about 30 to 45 minutes, giving 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.



struck 108 times to symbolically "ring-out" the 108 delusions or passions (*Bonno*) that afflict human beings and bind them to the world of delusion. Why 108 passions? The number derives from a complicated calculation involving the number of our senses, form states, feeling states and time states. As far as I know, there's no "master list" of all these delusions. In fact it's impossible to imagine all of them. We shouldn't attach any great importance to the number. The origin of this custom is probably rooted in Chinese superstition. The important point is that human suffering arises from our faulty perceptions about reality and this leads to attachment, greed and anger.

In the act of ringing the *Kansho*, we are affirming our 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 2008. Let us aspire to live each day in appreciation and gratitude for the marvelous gift of life.

Paul Vielle  
Minister's Assistant

"Buddhism teaches us to appreciate that life is a continuous stream of ever-changing causes and conditions."

As followers of the *Jodo Shinshu* path, we listen to the dharma and gradually, come to appreciate that we cannot *think* our way to enlightenment. Any attempt to become virtuous or garner merit through our own conscious effort is delusion. For no matter how smart or pious we think we are—our best intentions are always tainted by some measure of 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 are attained by the Truth that even though we are creatures filled with ignorance and blind passions, we are nevertheless embraced by Amida's compassion *just as we are*. 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

*"Dear Sangha -  
With heart felt thanks, I am grateful for the recent 89th surprise birthday party held at the church on Saturday, October 27th in my honor. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your loving care and good wishes."  
Gassho-  
Marcelline Burdett*



### Presidents Message

Fall has arrived along with cold winter weather. I hope everyone is staying warm and had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. Many activities to report on as the year comes to an end.

December brings our board elections and annual members meeting. All members will receive ballots to elect three (3) new board members. Included in the envelope will be 2007 financial report, 2008 ballot and Bodhi Seals. You may use the return envelope to donate to the Bodhi Seals and return your ballot. Please mail back or drop off at the temple office by Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>. Stepping onto the advisory board will be: (myself) Christine Marr, Janet Tamura and Ann Heineman. Paul Vielle, (our Minister's assistant to Rev. Castro) will serve as religious advisor. Continuing on the 2008 board will be: Fumi Uyeji, Leslie Green, Liat Parker, Bonell McLeish, Jefferson Workman and Jun Yugawa. The new board will elect officers at their

first meeting.

We will be holding an Annual Meeting for members on Sunday, December 9, 2007 at 11:30 am following our service. I encourage everyone to attend. Come with your questions and comments and the financial report we are sending with the ballots. Liat will give a treasurers report, I will give a President's report and will report on our Minister's assistant's activities as Paul will be busy with a service in Moses Lake. All are welcome to attend; you do not need to be a member, just an interest in the temple.

We are also working on adding a "Religious Education Committee". This is in place in most BCA temples. It's purpose is to prepare a schedule of services, guest speakers, study classes, Dharma School, book study etc. Should you have suggestions or comments about seminars, classes or ANYTHING you would like to see in this topic, please contact any committee mem-

ber. So far we have: Paul Vielle our Minister's Assistant, Jim Bennett, Bonell McLeish, Ann Heineman, Christine Marr, Barb Braden, and Celeste Sterrett. The committee's recommendations are then reported to and voted on by the board.

Our plan is that all religious decisions go through this committee to accomplish more, improve communications and bring more religious programs to our temple.

I would like to thank all for remembering to send in their monthly dues and giving donations. Especially the Nisei who sacrificed so much in the past and are responsible for us having a temple here in Spokane. Their dedication is an inspiration to the newer members.

Thank you for being a friend in the Dharma.  
Gassho,  
Christine Marr

Ringing in the new year

Kansho joya – e  
service:

- Ann, Christine,
- Martena, Mary, Janet,
- Paul , Barb,, Jefferson,
- Kosuke, Jeremy,
- Bonell, Jeff, Jun, Liat,
- Anne, Karen, Jan, Todd,
- El licia, Mike, Fumi, Cam,
- Marcel l ine, Justin,
- Aiko, Chris, Hyacinth
- Tom, Pat, Jul ie, Jen,
- Mary Lynn

### Dr. Haneda's Visit

Last month (Nov. 17-18) the Spokane Buddhist Temple welcomed guest lecturer Dr. Nobuo Haneda. Dr. Haneda is Director of the Maida Center for Buddhism in Berkeley, California. On Saturday evening he gave a public lecture on the topic "What is a Buddhist?" Then on Sunday he delivered the dharma talk at our regular Sangha service. His message focused on the two kinds of life a human being may lead. One type of existence is based on "ego-self"; the other is

a life based "true-self". Both his



lks were well received.

*Thank You*

A very special thank you to all of the tireless volunteers who prepped, cooked, cleaned, ran, cashiered, and baked for our annual fall food bazaar and fundraiser. It was a great success and we owe it all to you!





## Looking A head . . .

### Donations (continued from page 2)

#### In Memory

Kato Family in memory  
of Hisako Kato

Toi Mulligan in memory  
of Roy Sojima

Martena Peterson in memory  
of Henry Badini

Paul & Karen Vielle in memory  
of Jim Tamura

Paul Vielle in memory  
of Andrew Vielle

Paul Vielle in memory  
of Van Omine

Hatsue Konishi in memory  
of Tokio Konishi

Rod Tamura in memory  
of Jim Tamura

Ann Heineman in memory  
of Jim Tamura

Liat Parker in memory  
of Jim Tamura

Janet Tamura in memory  
of Jim Tamura





Center for Buddhist Education  
Presents

# Crossing Over to Shin Buddhism



At the Jodo Shinshu Center  
February 1 – 3, 2008

Guest Speaker:  
**Rev. Don Castro**

"Crossing Over to Shin Buddhism" is a seminar geared for newcomers from a non Jodo Shinshu Buddhist tradition background. Rev. Donald Castro from the Seattle Betsuin will be the guest speaker at the Opening Service. Panel discussions and workshops have been planned to provide members with a stronger foundation in Buddhism and our Shin Buddhist way of life.

Registration is \$60 per person and the deadline date is January 10, 2008.

For information call: 510-809-1460 email: admin@cbe-bca.org (website) cbe-bca.org

"Come Home To  
The Nembutsu"

61st Northwest  
District Buddhist  
Convention

Friday, Feb 15–  
Sunday, Feb 17,  
2008

Held at the  
Doubletree Guest  
Suites–  
southcenter  
Hotel

Registration  
deadline  
December 31,  
2007



### Bookstore Bits

- ◆ Pretty handmade cards from Patti Reiko Osebold, some with Origami. Ms. Osebold is a local artist who made the beautiful taiko drummer doll we have on display.
- ◆ Itty bitty sitting Buddhas. Perfect for you car dashboard.
- ◆ "Dharma Breeze" by Nobuo Haneda, \$14.95. This will be the book for our upcoming book study. It is well worth having you own copy of this very informative, easy to read book.