

Announcements

January 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.

A New Look – You may have noticed a few changes to this month's newsletter. I am in the process of changing the desktop publishing program that had previously been used, so naturally there may be some format changes. I was able to begin some changes to the front calendar page, but will need more time to design and create a new look for the inside. The articles and features will remain in much the same way as they have been.

How to Become a Member – We have been seeing a lot of new faces each week at the services. This means that we are getting the word out and people are curious. This is a good time to let new people know that they can become members of the temple for just \$20 per month for individual membership or \$30 per month for a family membership. This monthly dues is divided up between our temple, the northwest district and the BCA (Buddhist Churches of America). When you become a member, you will receive the "Wheel of Dharma" a monthly publication from BCA, and a Jodo Shinshu Guide. Your membership also allows the Spokane Buddhist Temple to provide lectures and services. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask one of the senior members.

Speaking of Donations – At our last board meeting a discussion was held regarding the much needed repairs to our fencing, hand rails and lattice work. Over the years the wood has begun to rot, and will need to be replaced within the next two years. We are going to begin saving monies specifically earmarked for "fence repair". If you are so inclined, we would appreciate any and all donations for this fund. Please mark on your check or envelope "building fund/fence repair".

Tuesday Night Meditation Group - We have successfully completed our 5 -week introduction to Meditation. We have a dedicated group now (called a Satsang) which will continue studying and supporting each other beginning in January on Tuesday evenings. We will be studying the Eight Point Program in depth as taught by Sri Easwaran. The points include: Meditation, The Mantram, Slowing Down, One-Pointed Attention, Training the Senses, Putting Others First, Spiritual Fellowship and Reading the Mystics. If you are interested in joining us, please call Mary: 326-6786 for more information.

Do you have a home Butsudan not being utilized? Last month we asked, and we did receive! And we are still looking for more. If you have a home Butsudan 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.

Shotsuki-Hoyo January - 2007

Shotsuki-Hoyo (the remembrance service for deceased loved ones) will be held Sunday, January 20th. According to temple records and other sources, a total of eight people passed away during the month of November. They are:

Asayo Heyamoto
James Horiuchi
James Kiyachi Koga
Manichi Yamaguchi
Michael Higashi
Richard Williams
Sagata Kuwahara

(Mrs) Ida Shige

Temple members who wish to add other names to the Shotsuki-Hoyo list should contact Paul Vielle at 326-4151.

Thank You

Mary Naber

Mary bought & donated two new "hot pots" (for hot tea) for the temple.

Thank You!

Vic Ogohara

for your very special donation of a Butsudan

Haiku

by Pat Omine

Words paint a picture
On the canvas of my mind.
My own masterpiece.

Welcome New Members

Todd & Ellicia Milne and their children, Isaac & Mirielle

From the Tatami Mat. . . .

*When you throw
a rock up in the air...*

You might remember the movie "Lost in Translation", starring Bill Murray and Scarlett Johansson. Released in 2003, the film explored how chance encounters develop into profound relationships when strangers are thrown together in an utterly disorienting situation, --in this case a first-time business trip to Tokyo, Japan. A secondary theme had to do with the colossal blunders one can make when you don't understand the language and culture. At one point in the film, a confused Murray utters something like, "Even when I pay attention, I haven't a clue what's going on." Bill had it right. In Japan, when you're not paying attention, reversals can happen with awful swiftness.

Last month, I spent a week in Kyoto, Japan attending the Overseas District Representative's Seminar, hosted by the Nishi Hongwanji. Seventeen people participated, representing the overseas districts of Hawaii, Canada and the United

States. We toured the Hongwanji compound, visited the Otani Mausoleum and attended several informative lectures. On a "free day" I took a day-tour to Mt. Hiei and visited many of the temples and sites familiar to Shinran Shonin. The days sped by and before I knew it, the trip home was at hand.



My return flight didn't leave until the following afternoon, so I had to stay one more night at a hotel near Kansai Airport. I took the express train from Kyoto to the main station in Osaka and got out. Believing my hotel was close to Osaka station, I climbed into the nearest taxi and said to the driver "Anna Gate Tower Hotel, please." He didn't speak any English of course, but the look on his face told me he understood, --but there was a moment's hesitation, as if to ask, 'Really? You want to go to ... Ana Gate Hotel?' In the rush of the moment, the nuance didn't register and it cost me in the end.

I knew I was in trouble when moments later we were speeding along the express-way heading south. My heart sank as I watched the meter clicking-off ever increasing numbers: -2500 Yen, -3750 Yen, -5000 Yen ...and climbing!

I was trapped and couldn't communicate with the driver. I had no idea if I'd be able to pay for this taxi ride. And I was not absolutely certain where we're going. (What if there were two Ana Gate Hotels in Osaka?) Forty-five minutes later, the taxi pulled up to the hotel, which turned out to be within sight of Kansai Airport! The fare came to 10,850 Yen (about \$85.00!)

My frustration was complete when I realized I could have taken the train directly to Kansai Airport and from there taken a free shuttle bus to the hotel. What a wretched situation, I thought.

That night, thinking back on the incident, I marveled at how my mind tried to deny my part in the fiasco. First I blamed the driver. Why didn't he try to dissuade me from making this ridiculously long taxi ride? Next, I blamed my travel agent. Why didn't she tell me the hotel was not located in Osaka proper, but rather just a short distance from Kansai Airport? I stewed miserably in self-pity, until I remembered another line in the movie, something like, "*When you throw a rock up in the air and forget about it and it comes down and hits you on the head, who ya gonna blame?*"

Ah yes, --there it was, a little dharma lesson about consequences. The Buddha taught the need to be mindful in all our actions. Everything we do (including things we should do, but don't) affects future outcomes. In this case, the fact I hadn't verified the location of the hotel, came crashing down to "bonk" me on the head. How easy it is to blame others when our ineptitude brings on such reversals. Once I accepted my culpability, the frustration melted away and I could see a positive side. In truth, I had been delivered safely to my hotel and the driver earned a little extra money that day. Everything else (the mental anguish and negative self-talk) had all come from my mind.

In Buddhism we acknowledge that everything in the universe is interdependent and ever changing. The "goodness" or "badness" of anything arises from our thinking. In a word, we create our reality by what we think. Expensive taxi ride? You bet, but hardly a catastrophe. The incident was a timely reminder that when traveling (as in life) there's no

substitute for careful planning and diligent forethought. All in all, the trip to Kyoto was an amazing and memorable experience, one I'll not soon forget. *Namo Amida Butsu!*

Paul Vielle
Minister's Assistant

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

November 19 - December 19

Ed & Liat Parker

Oct - Dec

Koseko & Janet Imamura

July - Dec

Mary Naber

Dec

George & Toshie Kawahara

July - Dec

Thomas Lande

Dec

Leslie Green

May & Nov - Dec

Paul & Karen Vielle

Dec

Helen Chin

Dec

Jun Yugawa

Jul - Dec

Hyacinth Dezenobia

Dec

Todd & Ellicia Milne

Dec & Jan

Barbara Braden

Dec

Jennifer Johnston

Dec

Joni Michels

Dec

Jeffrey Workman

Nov

Jeff Zahir

Dec

Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro

Jan '07

Marcelline Burdett

Nov - Dec

Kiku Terao

Jan - Dec '06

Donations

Anne Paulin
Celeste Sterrett

Convention

Janet Tamura

in memory of Kayo Tsuji, Mrs. Mary Terao, Rev. Bill Terao, Madilyn Sapp, Skyler Cullitan

Linda Ishiguro

Bodhi Day

Marcelline Burdett

Memorial Dana

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Bailey
in memory of Frank Tsuchida

Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Kasai
in memory of Frank Tsuchida

Mr. & Mrs. Dick Yamamoto
in memory of Frank Tsuchida

Mr. & Mrs. Rich Uyeno & family
in memory of Frank Tsuchida

Mrs. Jean Soejima & Family
in memory of Frank Tsuchida

Susie Uyeno
in memory of Frank Tsuchida

Margene Omoto
in memory of Frank Tsuchida

JACL

in memory of Frank Tsuchida

Mrs. Kazuko Kuwada
in memory of Frank Tsuchida

Mrs. Hida Yonago
in memory of Frank Tsuchida

Mrs. Janet Tamura
in memory of Frank Tsuchida

Mrs. Peggy Fukai
in memory of Frank Tsuchida

Ann Heineman
in memory of Madeline Isabella Sapp

Ann Heineman
in memory of Skyler Cullitan

Marcelline Burdett
in memory of Rev W. Terao and Mrs. Terao

Greg & Leanne Sapp
in memory of Madeline Isabella Sapp

Kam & Fumi Uyeji
in memory of Rev. H. E. Terao & Rev. and

Mrs. William Terao

Leslie Green
in memory of Madeline Isabella Sapp

Ed & Liat Parker
in memory of Madeline Isabella Sapp

Ed & Liat Parker
in memory of Skylar Cullitan

Talk is Cheap

By Tom Lande

It is usually enough to think ourselves right on the side of truth, justice and kindness. A former director of the Spokane "Peace and Justice Center" once said "Each side in every war thinks 'God is on our side'" God is on each side. However, the name "God" is not the same as the nameless reality; the name is usually used to divide one side from another, thus leading to violent conflict.

Most of us are habituated to certain ideas and to certain words that express them. These words also give rise to the ideas in never-ending separation of self, other, us-them, this-that, etc. Nobody is immune from ideas of all sorts. In fact, the desire to suppress certain thoughts and words, to cultivate certain others in our own brains, will undoubtedly lead to suppression of certain ideas in others. This suppression with all the best, noblest motives.

There is all the difference in the world between having certain ideas and needing to have certain ideas. Needing to have a certain idea, means needing to suppress its opposite. The willingness to be a certain way and have certain ideas is a sure sign of human life; we all have them, in any case. We can allow the opposites of those ideas to reside temporarily in our own or in other peoples' minds; or we can cultivate our "justified" separateness. There are no real barriers among us until we set them up. Such decision is painful to the extent we claim or identify with certain ideas and are repelled by their opposites. As T. Golas said, "Love is limitless because it's opposite, not-love, within itself."

Jodo Shinshu Center Dedication October 20 -22, 2006

As Christine mentioned in the previous newsletter, she and I attended the dedication of the new Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, California. There were many events that we were able to attend and many photos opportunities that unfortunately neither one of us had a camera to take advantage of. So, Tom Nishikawa was kind enough to take a few pictures for us. --Leslie Green, Editor

Scroll to next page for pictures

Touring the JSC facility



Jeff Suda
BC of Oakland

Christine Marr
President, Spokane BC

Leslie Green
Spokane BC

Robert Noguchi
BT of Alameda



Witnessing ribbon cutting
Christine Marr
President Spokane BC