

A n n o u n c e m e n t s

July 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.

Slide Show of Nepal and Tibet - Mark your calendars. On Friday evening, July 6, Paul & Karen Vielle will present a slide show of their recent month-long trip to Nepal and Western Tibet. A highpoint of the trip was a three-day 32 mile trek around Mount Kailash. The program will run from 6:30 to 7:30 followed by refreshments.

Toban Time Again! - Our Summer *Toban* (Temple Cleaning) is set for Saturday morning July 14 from 9:00 to 12:00. In addition to the usual inside cleaning (kitchen, restrooms, floors etc.), we have quite a bit of clean-up to do outside the temple; --everything from light painting, pruning, weed-pulling and hauling of refuse to the dump. Bring garden shears, clippers, rakes, gloves and large plastic bags. We want the temple "standing tall" in time for Obon. Please plan to come. There'll be a sign-up sheet in the dining room next Sunday. If you have any questions please contact Paul Vielle.

The Sangha Club will meet after services on Sunday, July 22nd. - Paul has graciously accepted the task of teaching us how to restring our old raggedy ojuzu beads. Please bring your own supplies (that means your old ojuzu and some elastic or cord to rethread.) There are a few bead shops in the area to purchase the supplies. Hope to see you there. For more information, please email or call Mary: peacenik_49@msn.com or 326-6786.

Lecture by Rinban Matsubayashi – We are honored to bring to Spokane, Rinban Matsubayashi from the Seattle Betsuin. He will present a lecture on Saturday, July 14th at 7:00 pm entitled "Taking the Mystery out of Buddhism." Rinban will also lead our Obon service the following Sunday morning.

Bon Odori Dancing at the Perry Street Faire – We will once again perform our Bon Odori dancing at the Perry Street Faire on Saturday, July 21st. There will be lessons offered following service the first three Sunday's in July (1, 8, 15). Please join in the fun, we had a great time last year and are hoping to get our Dharma school children involved too.

Summer Closure – Summer is a time when folks are taking vacations, and spending weekends with the family & friends, so we will close for two weeks this summer. The weekends are Sunday, August 26th and Sunday September 2nd (Labor Day).

Shotsuki-Hoyo

July 15th

Shotsuki-Hoyo (the remembrance service for deceased loved ones) will be held **Sunday, July 15th**, According to temple records and other sources, a total of 11 people passed away during the month of July. They are:

(Mrs) Fumiko Heyamoto
Taki Mayeda
(Mrs) Katsuko "Katie" Nakagawa
(Mrs) Sadie Nakamori
Kazue Ogohara
Jerry Potvin
Takeo "Dan" Terao
Roberta Thomas
Hitoshi Tsuchida
Sutematsu Uyeno
Osamu "Paul" Yamagiwa

Hatsu-Bon Families 2006-2007

Arthur "Len" Braden
Edward Lee Roy Parker

From the T atami Mat. . . .

"T here was something about that duck

At lunch last week, my son told me about a troubling encounter he had with a duck that morning. Matthew lives next to Manito Park. In the summer time, it's not unusual for ducks to wander away from the pond and into people's yards. As he was leaving for work, he noticed a male Mallard in his backyard. Ordinarily, he wouldn't have given it a second look. But this morning, the situation for the duck looked grave. A large tomcat (the neighborhood bully) had backed it into a corner and was crouching menacingly as if considering whether to have the bird for breakfast.

"The duck wasn't doing anything to save itself" Matt said, "I think it was paralyzed with fear. I decided to help it out." With that, he *shooed* the cat away and began gently herding the bird back toward the pond. Flapping its wings and quacking loudly, it waddled forward. After ten minutes of dodging and feigning, this way and that way, he nudged the bird back to the water's edge and it jumped in. Matthew said he felt very good about himself at that moment, knowing he had done the right thing in saving the duck.

As he turned to walk away, he heard a loud splash and furious quacking. Looking back, he saw a second male Mallard dive-bombing on top of the just-rescued duck, who was desperately fending off his first attacker. Suddenly, the idyllic scene of "lost-duck-returns-to-pond" had turned into a frantic rout, with the lost duck fighting for its life! The struggle moved on to the small island in the middle of the pond, where the beleaguered duck took refuge in the thick underbrush. Moments later his tormentors, having made their point, flew off.

"Here I thought I was such a *good* guy helping out this poor duck, when obviously, I had it all wrong. There was something going on with that duck, I knew nothing about. Maybe it was lost or sick or just plain old. Who knows? What I *thought* was right for the duck, just added to its misery. Well, o.k. that kind of stuff happens. We can't possibly know all the factors that are in play when we decide to do something. What really surprised me though was how quickly my sense of "feeling good about myself" had shifted to one feeling like a fool for having wasted my time. I mean how silly is that?"

Wow— without realizing it, my son had just articulated several Buddhist truths! What followed was a deeply satisfying discussion about the concepts of Impermanence and Interdependence. We talked about the nature of suffering and attachment and how, as the Buddha taught, *our lives are shaped by our minds, --we become what we think*. In the end, I think Matt gained new insight into the human condition and perhaps a beginning interest in Buddhism.

We all have experiences that make us stop, reflect and come to new understanding about what's important in life. Some of the best dharma lessons are found in the seemingly unremarkable happenings of daily life. In this case, a duck wandered into a backyard and set in motion a string of events leading to new insights in a young man and a closer relationship between father and son. *Namo Amida Butsu!*

Paul Vielle
Minister's Assistant

Other News

Mukagawa Retreat a Success

We had a great turn-out for Bhante Seelawimala's overnight retreat (June 22-23) on the beautiful grounds of the Mukogawa Retreat Center. A total of 22 people attended. Bhante's topic was "Steps for Positive Change" which generated lots of thoughtful discussion. Our thanks to Bhante, Christine Marr, Liat Parker, Jim & Shirley Bennett and

everyone who helped make this retreat such a success.

Dharma School Raises Milk Money

Kudos to our Dharma School children for their efforts in raising over seventy dollars for Bhante Seelawimala's milk fund. Several years ago, Bhante established a program to provide school children in a poor Sri Lankan school a daily glass of milk. For the past several months our dharma school kids, with guidance from their teacher Ellicia Milne, have been busy collecting money from craft sales and other activities. On Sunday, June 24, they presented Bhante with the purse. Bhante thanked the children and especially their teacher for providing the youngsters with such a wonderful opportunity to learn about *Dana*,--the practice of generosity.

Buddha, Dhamma, Sangha

Homage to the Buddha

Such, indeed, is the Blessed One:
perfected, fully awakened,
endowed with knowledge and virtue,
having walked the right path,
the knower of worlds,
incomparable guide of willing persons,
teacher of gods and humans,
awakened and blessed.

Homage to the Dhamma

Well taught is the teaching of the Blessed One:
to be realized here and now, timeless,
inviting investigation, leading us onward,
to be comprehended individually by the wise.

Homage to the Sangha

Wholesome in conduct is the community
of disciples of the Blessed One.
Forthright in conduct is the community
of disciples of the Blessed One.
Wise in conduct is the community
of disciples of the Blessed One.
Proper in conduct is the community
of disciples of the Blessed One.
Persons at four stages, eight levels,
this is the community of disciples
of the Blessed One.
It is an incomparable field of merit
for the world, worthy of offerings
and hospitality, gifts and homage.

Excerpt from "Buddha Vandana - A Book of Buddhist Devotions" - ABS Temple at Sacramento

Looking Ahead . . .

August

Dr. Kenji Akahoshi will lead a weekend retreat entitled "Nembutsu Journey – A Path to Wholeness". It will be held on August 17 – 19 at Mukogawa. He will also lead our service on Sunday, the 19th.

November

Dr. Hanada has accepted an invitation to speak at our temple on November 17th and 18th. More details will follow in upcoming newsletters.

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.

May 26 - June 18

Jenifer Johnston
Jeff Zahir
Greg & Leanne Sapp
Hyacinth Dezenobia
Don Ferris & Marylynn Bernard
Kam & Fumi Uyeji
Leslie Green
Martena Peterson
Michael Regan
Anne Paulin
Fumi Ekinaka
Mary Naber
Jenifer Johnston
Greg & Leanne Sapp
Paul & Karen Vielle
Toshie Kawahara
Tina Rodeen
Kazuko Kuwada
Tom Lande
Todd & Ellicia Milne
Rachel Scrudder

Memorial Dana

Toshie Kawahara
in memory of Taneyo Sato & Y. Mori

Jefferson Workman
in memory of Joseph P. Workman

Jefferson Workman
in memory of Ed Parker 100 days

Jeff Zahir
in memory of Ed Parker 100 days

Jefferson Workman
in memory of Ed Parker 100 days

Paul & Karen Vielle

in memory of Ed Parker 100 days

Celeste Sterrett
in memory of Ed Parker 100 days

Pat Omine
in memory of Ed Parker 100 days

Marcelline Burdett
in memory of Ed Parker 100 days

Martena Peterson
in memory of Ed Parker 100 days

Jim & Shirley Bennett
in memory of Ed Parker 100 days

Anne Paulin
in memory of Ed Parker 100 days

Chris & Christine Marr
in memory of Ed Parker 100 days

Janet Tamura
in memory of Ed Parker 100 days

Liat Parker
in memory of Ed Parker 100 days

Ann Heineman
in memory of Ed Parker 100 days

Barbara Braden
in memory of Ed Parker 100 days

Donations

Jim & Shirley Bennett
Mary Naber
Jenifer Johnston
Paul & Karen Vielle
Tom Lande
Karl Boettner & Elizabeth Coyote
Ann Heineman
Mari Haworth