

A nnouncements

June 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.

Special Notice: Date Change for Bhante Seelawimala Retreat – Please take note that we have pushed the retreat to June 24th rather than June 17th. "Steps for Positive Change" will be the topic of this overnight retreat. The retreat will begin Friday night, June 22nd at 7:00 pm and will last until about 4:00 pm. The cost is \$60 and this includes your lodging, breakfast on Saturday morning and lunch that afternoon. It will be at Fort Wright Mukagowa. Space is limited and there is a sign up sheet at the temple. For information please call Christine at 747-6135.

Bookstore Bits - Several new Ojuzu in the bookstore...Men's and Women's styles.
New "used" books every week (half off retail price!) Senbei only \$2.50/bag. Get it while it lasts, we won't be making more until Autumn! I've been in touch with the new management of the BCA Bookstore and they're getting closer to getting the ordering process on-line. Once this happens, you will be able to view the inventory on-line and even order your own items. Shopping in the Spokane Temple bookstore will save you shipping costs though and I'd be happy to order special items for Temple members. *-Anne Paulin-*

Used Butsudans Still in Demand – We have many requests to purchase used Butsudans, so if you have one around the house not being used and you'd like to see it go to a good home, the temple is taking donations in hopes of selling them. This is another way we are able to raise money in support of the temple. If you would like to donate yours to the temple, please contact Leslie Green at 509 990-8069 or drop an email at: lesliegreen54@msn.com.

Welcome New Members

Vincent Penn
Michael Regan
Janine Kardokus

Shotsuki-Hoyo

June 24th

Shotsuki-Hoyo (the remembrance service for deceased loved ones) will be held **Sunday, June 24th**, According to temple records and other sources, a total of 12 people passed away during the month of June. They are:

Yoshio Hamamoto
Shozo "Sho" Higashi
(Mrs) Toshie Kanegae
Peter Key
Yoshiro Mori
Tsumayo Nakai
Archie Okawa
Kozo Soejima
(Mrs) Riku Takeshita
Oto Uyeji
Lachen Joy Verdery

(Mrs) Tsuneye Wada

*No Answers at the Back
of the Book*



"So how was your trip to Mt Kailash? What's it like trekking in that part of the world? What did you learn?" Since returning from our month-long trip into Nepal and Western Tibet, we've been asked these questions many times. People are very curious. They want details and we're keen to tell them about our experiences. We've got our favorite stories about the strange food we ate, some bizarre encounters with yaks and the uncertainties of Chinese toilets.

What has surprised me however is that when telling people about our 32 mile trek around Mt. Kailash, words do not come easily. Mostly, we comment on the stark beauty of the place; its incredible snow-capped summit, the vast windswept plains or the brilliant colors born in the thin air above 16,000 feet. Or, we'll mention that Mt. Kailash represents an earthly form of Mt. Meru, the mythic center of the universe in the Hindu, Buddhist and Jain religions. This kind of book knowledge is easy to share with people. It's when trying to describe how Mt. Kailash has affected us personally, that language fails. About all we can muster is a lame, "Well...it was *r-e-a-l-l-y* something!"

Hardly a satisfying response! I'm not sure why it's so difficult to talk about this. Perhaps it's because we're all so accustomed to thinking every question has an answer and the meaning of every experience can be explained. In everyday life, we expect to give and receive answers all the time. And if we don't know something, well there's always an expert who'll tell us. It's why we never get too frustrated solving crossword puzzles. We know if we really get stuck, we can just turn to the back of the book for the answer.

What I'm coming to understand is that there is no "solutions page" or any "answers at the back of the book" regarding the experience of Kailash.

I believe it has affected me deeply at a level beyond my capacity to express in words. During the trek, I found myself stopping frequently to just stare at the summit. No words in my head, no verbal processing. I just wanted to watch it. Everything around me seemed calm, quiet and peaceful. It felt like I was in the presence of some ancient and all-encompassing truth; something beyond time and spatial boundaries. I could have stared at it all day long. Watch it long enough and it engulfs you.

Self-thought dissolves and for a time you're pulled into an overwhelming sense of being one with everything in the universe. Socho Ogui (the current Bishop of the BCA) has commented often about such moments, "From time to time" he says "we encounter experiences beyond words and language, --beyond the delusions of ego and self--of me and mine. One simply enters the realm of "Wow-ness!" Socho is right. Staring at the mountain was for me a brief excursion into "Wow-ness".

In Buddhism, the point of practice is to learn discernment and wisdom. It is a life-long endeavor --an aspiration to become fully present for what is, as it manifests in the moment. I think a big part of *being fully present* lies outside the abstractions of words.

Language is such a wonderful and practical invention. Words allow us to organize and make sense of our world. But Kailash is different. For me, the meaning of Kailash is beyond language; one of those things best understood as a direct, subjective experience. At the end of the day, a glimpse into *Oneness* trumps language every time. *Namo Amida Butsu!*

Paul Vielle
Minister's Assistant

Looking A head . . .

July

Rinban Matsubyashi from the Seattle Betsuin will preside at our Obon service which will be on Sunday, July 15th.

We will also perform Bon Odori dancing at the Perry Street Faire on Saturday, July 21st. If you are interested in learning the steps please attend the lessons which will begin in early July.

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.

Wanted:

Six dedicated people who would like to learn how to make the traditional Japanese food that we serve for our bazaars. This would involve learning to prepare the ingredients for example, which would go into the rolled sushi, cone sushi (Inari), and some of the sauces we use. Please see Jefferson Workman or Christine Marr if you are interested.

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

April 1 - May 25

Janine Kardokus
Satoshi & Mary Terao
Kazuko Kuwada
Hisako Oki
Barbara Braden
Jeffrey Workman
Rachel Scrudder
Tom Lande
Tina Rodeen
Marcelline Burdett
Hatsue Konishi
Kazuko Kiuihara
Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro
Dorothy Uno
Vincent Penn
Michael Regan
Jim & Shirley Bennett
Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro
Mary Naber
Jun Yugawa
Pat Omine
Martena Peterson
Alexis Baker
Paul & Karen Vielle
Mary Naber
Rachel Scrudder
Leslie Green
Joni Michels
Jeff & Janet Zahir
Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro
Marcelline Burdett
Janine Kardokus
Jenifer Johnston
Celeste Sterrett
Hyacinth Dezenobia
Tom Lande
Kazuko Kuwada
Tina Rodeen
Janet Tamura
Yoshiko Kozen
Mary Naber

Memorial Dana

Janet Tamura
in memory of Yochi Obi & Sayoko Oba
& Mary Twiner

Tosh Kiriwara
in memory of Amy Kiriwara

Marcelline Burdett
in memory of M. Terao

S. Harada
in memory of Hisako Kato

Kazuko Kuwada
in memory of Kazuo Kuwada

Martena Peterson
in memory of Mary Twiner

Jeff Zahir
in memory of Ed Parker

Donations

O'Higan

Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro

Hanamatsuri

Kazuko Kiuihara
Kam & Fumi Uyeji
Chris & Christine Marr
Kazuko Kuwada
Liat Parker
Rachel Scrudder
Russell & Michelle Tsuchida
Jun Yugawa
Leslie Green
Satoshi & Mary Terao
Anonymous
Doug Heyamoto
Kiku Terao

Convention Debt

Janet Tamura
L. S. Swan
Janet Tamura

Save The Date!!

Bhante Seelawimala Retreat
"Steps for a Positive Change"
Friday, June 22 - Saturday June 23
Ft. Wright - Mukogawa