



Spokane Buddhist Temple

APRIL 2008

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Announcements

May 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.

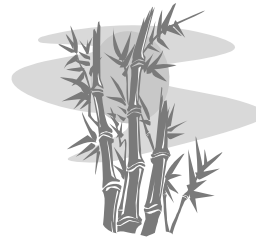
Intro to Buddhism, Sunday May 4th— A brief presentation on Buddhist services and practices at the Spokane Buddhist Temple.



Pancake Feed on Sunday May 11th—Join us after service for a unique take on refreshments. With Jun and Jefferson cooking away, this proves to be a must do event! See you there.

Sangha training will be on May 25th. What is Sangha Training you ask? Well....it's about

what all is involved in helping out with our regular Sunday Sangha service such as, how to ring the calling bell, or how to be MC, etc. Come see what it's all about.



Spokane Buddhist Temple Team

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

Board of Directors

Liat Parker
& Jun Yugawa,
Co- Presidents
Martena Peterson,
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Leslie Green
Jefferson Workman,
Bonell McLeish
Celeste Sterrett
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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.

March 24—April 25

Dues

Jennifer Johnston
Karen & Paul Vielle
Jun Yugawa
Kazuko Kuwada
Liat Parker
Jefferson Workman
Marta Lowenhoff
Colin Fitzgerald
Milne Family
Jeremy Phillips
Rachel Scudder
Connie Hoskinson
Kazuko Kirihara

Donations

Karen & Paul Vielle
Shirley & Jim Bennett
Helen Hart
Jundokan
Celeste Sterrett
Patrice Pendell
J. Craig Sweat
Connie Dane

Hanamatsuri

HH/PK Sugimura
Hisako Oki

Memorial Dana

Martena Peterson in
memory of Mary Barna
Twiner



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Presidents Message

It was my happiness to work with everyone who volunteered and helped make the Spring Food Bazaar 2008 a success on every level. The teriyaki chicken was the best ever (according to an unscientific survey), the boxes were ecologically friendly; the senbei and bake sale treats plentiful and yummy. Though the monetary benefit to the temple is important, I realize, once again, that the greater benefit is the time spent with each other.

So much work goes into the project from the preparation of the chicken, preparing sushi, coleslaw, rice, rice and more rice; taking orders, watching over the ovens and rice pots, assembling the lunches, making the sales, washing all the dishes, pots and pans to mopping the floor. But it's the few minutes here and there connecting with each other that make it worth all the long hours. Thanks to everyone who lent a hand. Please accept thanks and appreciation to all who gave their time and energy. Also, thank you to all who came and bought the lunches and treats thank you for your support.

A friend sent a message found on a blog (author unknown) that I would like to share with you.

“What shines in to us changes us and then it is our responsibility to reflect it back to the world. Light in, light out. May your days be light.”

I know my days are lighter and brighter due to Amida and you, the Sangha.

Namo Amida Butsu.

Gratefully,

Liat



A special thank you to Mary

Naber for organizing a very successful Stone Wok. Way to go, Mary!



Welcome New Members

Connie Hoskinson
Marta Lowenhoff

Shotsyki Hoyo

The *Shotsuki-Hoyo* remembrance service will be held Sunday, May 18th 2008, during Rev. Castro's afternoon service. According to temple records and other sources, a total of 12 people passed away during the month of May. They are:

Gunemon Fujita
Dick Imada
(Mrs) Fumiko I tano
Hatsutarō Kajita
(Mrs) Sayoko Oba
Yoichi Oba
(Mrs) Taneyo Sato
(Mrs) Chizuko Shegenobu
Tatsuhei Sugikawa
(Mrs) Toyo Sugikawa
(Mrs) Fumiko Takasugi
(Mrs) Sadako Yamamoto



Entertain Me by Tom Lande

The addiction to a concept of a separate self and the drive to be entertained, make appreciation of the miracle that surrounds them - quite impossible for myriads of lifetimes. Arrogance, meaning comparative worthiness of one's ideas, is equal to the notion of good (me) and bad (you). To be arrogant is encouraged by nearly all of the images to which one is exposed. One can't be addicted to thought-image entertainment and enter prayer and meditation, the regular attention to the universal, the always-so; one cannot do so without being humble.

Entertainment-mind is bound up in fear of the dissolution of an assumed separate self, so can't really allow anything that challenges, or even negates, such activity. Attention-span, meaning attention to past and future generations has become narrower and narrower. So that arrogance has manifested as progressively shorter attention, only to one's personal pleasure, as distinct from undifferentiated joy (that is non-personal). That has been described as the activity of ego, a progressive narrowing of attention -span.

When I was a small child, I had a series of nightmares in which there was either a T.V. or movie screen with horrific scenes on it. I could not could nor turn my head, and if I closed my eyes, I could see the hor-

ror scenes right through my eyelids... So I had to see those ghastly scenes.

Now it is evident that life's "horror show" is only horrible to the extent that one resists any aspect of it... This is precisely why sitting meditation is of incomparable value. However, sitting mediation can easily be a type of entertainment, a "contest for the championship". The cultural trappings of Buddhism are more entertainment, not the genuine article. We all need to cut through "spiritual-materialism" constantly, which is no more than egoism in trappings of spirituality.. We all need to be mindful of this.

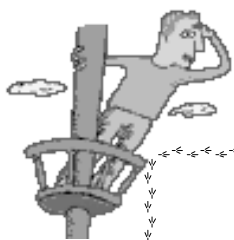
At end of my Shambha Training Level 5 in Nova Scotia about 10 years ago, a weekend- long meditation retreat, "As someone had just said something to her about meditation cutting through habituation, as we had just did a lot of sitting meditation. I asked the trainer about being habituated by methods of non-habituation.; it was a personal koan.

Any practice whatever can very well be a method of non-habituation, no matter how personally valuable it is. One must always dedicate all disciplines totally to others, otherwise all is just more entertainment, it seems.

Thank you to all who worked hard these past few weeks.

- Jun Yugawa
- Jeff Workman
- Janet Tamura
- Kam & Fumi Uyeji
- Anne Paulin
- Bonell McLeish
- Don Ferris, MaryLynn, Tyr, and Elijah Bernard
- Herman Sugimuro
- Pati Lira
- Justin Kropff
- Barb Braden
- Geoff, Christine, Quinn and Phillip Glenn
- Paul & Karen Vielle
- Leslie Green
- Arlene Myozono
- David Wilson
- Christine Anderson
- Kosuke Imamura
- Andrew & Jenny Harrington
- Colin Fitzgerald
- Martena Peterson
- Rachel & Mark Scudder
- Sarah Millsap
- Celeste Sterrett
- Greg Sapp
- Charlotte Trebilock
- Heather Chauvin
- Sophie & Russ Posten
- Aiko Terao

Looking Ahead...



June

Socho Koshin Ogui will be in Spokane on June 15th to perform a Buddhist naming ceremony at the temple. There is an application and fee involved, so if you are interested, please let one of your board members know or Paul Vielle, and we will see that you get the information.



June 27-29, Jodo Shinshu Center, Berkeley, CA – Pacific Seminar 21st Century presents *“Honen & Shinran”, Pure Land Masters within our Contemporary World*. Speakers include: Rev. Kodo Tanaka, Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto, Dr. Lisa Grumbach, Rev. Kodo Umezumi, & Rev. Harry Bridge.

July

Spring cleaning is here and time to get rid of your unwanted items. Our next fundraiser will be a summer “garage” sale at the temple. We haven’t tied down the date yet, but start thinking about what you would like to get rid of and we will set up an area where you can drop your unused items.



August

August 15-17, our annual retreat with Dr. Kenji Akahoshi is in the works, details to follow over the next few months.

August 29-31, “Women in American Buddhism”, Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple, keynote speaker: Dr. Judith Simmer-Brown – A conversation with Theravadin, Mahayana, and Vajrayana teachers. Other guest speakers include, Dr. David Matsumoto, Tenzin Kacho, and Bishop Koshin Ogui.

