

## July Announcements:

### July Sangha Services

Sangha Services (a Sanscrit word for Buddhist community) will be held July 4, July 11, and July 18th at 10:30 am. The Sangha service is a traditional Jodo Shinshu service with chanting led by a Doshi, a lay member from the Sangha. A Dharma talk is an interesting part of the service, a thoughtful message presented by a different member each week. Participation is what makes our Sangha truly unique, join us. There will be no Seattle Reverend visit this month.

### Dharma Class following Service

Following the Sangha Service we go downstairs for snacks and a Dharma class for adults. Currently we are studying a book titled ***Buddhism, Plain and Simple*** by Steve Hagen. We have copies available in our book store. Each week we cover a section of the book along with an informal discussion. This is held downstairs with delicious snacks! Curious? Come and join us, be part of the Sangha and share what you have discovered. We finish around noon. See calendar for dates.

### Sunday July 25 Service with Kenji Akahoshi

Service will be held in the afternoon at 3 pm with our guest speaker, Dr. Kenji Akahoshi. This service will follow our weekend retreat.

**Ko Service**, Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm. This is an informal Sangha service and Dharma discussion group. Buddhism is a questioning religion.

### RETREAT JULY 23, 24, 25

*Practicing No Practice, An Introduction to American Shin Buddhism*

**COST: \$125 (paid before July 11)**, thereafter, general registration will be **\$150**. Sign up at the temple or call Liat Parker 280-5097 for information

### A short note from Dr. Kenji Akahoshi regarding the Retreat.

Practicing No Practice sounds more Zen than Shin. Yet, much of what we hear and read about in Jodo Shinshu, is more mysterious than the sound of one hand clapping. How do we lose our ego, acknowledge our evil self, refrain from conscious practices such as meditation, mindfulness, and acts of good merit (as they lead us to the mistaken assumption that we can empower our own enlightenment)? References made to Amida Buddha, Nembutsu, and a life of Shinjin with a rebirth in the Pure Land, sometimes are given as answers that are meant to respond to the previous questions. These are the right answers, especially if we have the personal experiences that define these words. However, for many, outside the cultural heritage of Japanese Shin Buddhism, these words mislead us toward analogous western ideas. Such intellectual, literal descriptions may be confusing as we pursue life's practical and spiritual dilemmas.

The retreat titled "Practicing No Practice" is designed to pose and help answer our most significant conventional and spiritual questions in its appropriate form. A lecture on cooking or music is interesting, but limited. Its impact is fully comprehended when we taste the food or hear the music. Likewise, a discussion of life, viewed from a

spiritual perspective, is best illustrated by examples of personal experience. This is the basic premise that underwrites the “Practicing No Practice” retreat. A commitment of an entire weekend allows us to relax, contemplate innovative recipes, simmer, and then taste the unique result that emerges. The core message of Buddhism has always adapted its form to the specific perspective of the host country. The principles apply today, not due to any belief, but because they address the nature of our human condition. In his new book on Buddhism, Dr. Huston Smith quotes D.T. Suzuki, “of all the developments Mahayana Buddhism has achieved in the Far East, the most remarkable one is, according to my judgment, the Shin teaching of the Pure Land School.” You are invited to come with all the questions that may have been provoked from the cultural clash of language and meaning. It is time to fuse our American experience into the spiritually nourishing meal of Shin Buddhism.

Gassho, Dr. Kenji Akahoshi

Dr. Kenji Akahoshi, a health care professional with a background in Buddhism, transpersonal psychology, wilderness vision quests and personal growth disciplines will lead our weekend.

### **Senbei Making and the Perry Street Faire!**

Saturday July 10, there will be 2 shifts: 8 am – 12 pm and 11 am to 4 pm. Lunch and good company will be provided, bring a pizza cutter. Please come and help!!!

### **Perry Street Faire July 17**

This is a fun annual event, all the better this year with a finished street. This is also a fundraiser for the temple; we can use help working on Saturday and also the Friday before to prepare Yakitori. We will have an open house and a tent on the lawn selling senbei and yakitori. **Volunteer sheets are at the Temple, or call Jefferson Workman 327-4681(after 5pm) to sign up for a shift.**

### **Bhante Seelawimala**



### **Wedding Blessing**



**Starting at top left center and moving counter-clockwise: Dave and Arlene Fix, Karen and Paul Vielle, Christine Marr, Bhante, Marcelline Burdett, Pat Omine, Janet and Jim Tamura, Liat, Katie, and Ed Parker.**

### May Toban, a Success

A quick note to thank those Sangha members who showed up on May 29th to spruce-up the temple: Jamie Irwin, Jefferson Workman, Ed Parker and Paul Vielle. In addition to the usual sweeping, mopping and polishing inside, they painted the outside steps, deck and railings. We appreciate their efforts to maintain and beautify our temple.

### New Chairs for Minister and Doshi

Sangha members will notice the addition of two new chairs at the Reverend and Doshi tables. They harmonize well with the other altar furniture and are a vast improvement over the folding chairs they replaced. We would like to extend a big thank you to Taxi Oba and Patti Uchimura for these wonderful gifts.

-----

### June Toban, Landscape Project Underway

Several members undertook to restore the corner landscape next to the Temple on 10<sup>th</sup> and Perry. Peggy and George Heyamoto started by pruning the bonsai tree and advising on new plantings. The next weekend a crew weeded the area, installed some new plants and laid down fresh bark. All in all, it is a much needed improvement. Our thanks to Paul Vielle, Ed Parker, Jefferson Workman, and Jim and Janet Tamura for their efforts. Further improvements are planned.



### Summer Images (By Paul Vielle)

To wipe sweaty eyes,  
the farmer sets down the pail.  
A hot July day.

Hot cinnamon beckons.  
Fresh apple pie cools on sill.  
Mom's baking is done.

Keeping flies at bay,  
His ears twitch from time to time.  
Old dog asleep on porch.

A warm moonlight night.  
Noisy cricket makes a din.  
Frog waits patiently.



### Oh existentialist Buddha (by Ed Parker)

According to my thumb  
Little finger on the horizon  
The sun is a baseball.

Empty your cup  
foolish man  
so full of yourself  
you fill the whole world

**AMIDA BUDDHA** (From Shinran's Collected Works, definitions)

Amida (*a-mita*), lit., "immeasurable [life and light]," is the Buddha whose essence is dharma-body as compassionated means, characterized by form. The formless dharma-body, to awaken beings of blind foolishness to itself, manifested form and announced a Name, appearing as Dharmakara Bodhisattva. This bodhisattva established and fulfilled the special vow to save foolish and evil beings and became Amida Buddha. Hence, Amida is called the Tathagata of fulfilled body. While the other Buddhas help people who accumulate meritorious deeds, practice meditative activities, and perfect wisdom, Amida Buddha liberates the being of blind foolishness and karmic evil through "form" (Primal Vow) and "name" (Namu-amida-butsu). That is, through the virtue of Amida, who is light that is wisdom-compassion, persons of the nembutsu realize themselves to be human (ignorant and evil), becoming their foolish selves, and attain Buddhahood.

**Comment by Ed Parker**, a lay member of this sangha: I read these words and realize that I am selfish. I live inside my ego and view the world through my blind passions, my blind foolishness. I have built a wall of all I have learned around this deluded self and live as a prisoner there. I have found no way to set myself free through my own efforts. My knowledge only confuses me. I read the dharma, studying it as well as my limitations allow. Whenever I feel myself getting close, I hear someone telling me, "No, that is not the Dharma, not the real Dharma. This is what the Buddha really said." I am surrounded by answers that feel like stone, cold and

unyielding. People of great knowledge speak to me of becoming aware, of awaking from this selfish dream; their blessing fall like pennies thrown to a starving beggar. This world is filled with words spoken by the well intended as well as those less well intended. It is difficult to tell one from another and of late I have ceased to try. In my failure I have found a lighted doorway where before there were stones, bricks of doubt and confusion. The door opens of itself, there is nothing required of me and I am grateful. There is nothing for me to do, nothing I must do, and I am grateful. I know I am limited in my foolishness, my ignorance, for I am only human, my wisdom, my compassion, finite. There is nothing I have to do, nothing I can do, except say the nembutsu. The light of Amida's wisdom and compassion alone sets me free. In letting go, I have been grasped and in being grasped, freed. Namu Amida Butsu. May each find their own way.



**Temple Board Members and other responsible parties:**

Christine Marr – President  
 Leslie Green – Vice President  
 Fumi Uyeji – Co-Treasurer  
 Liat Parker – Co-Treasurer  
 Paul Vielle - Secretary  
 Doug Heyamoto  
 Janet Tamura  
 Chris Marr  
 Jefferson Workman  
 Ed Parker – Editor

**DONATIONS**

The Spokane Buddhist Temple gratefully acknowledges the following dues and donations received from May 24 through June 24, 2004. Please notify Liat Parker of any omissions or corrections.

Dues listed are those received during this period, often times dues are paid for a few months at a time and are acknowledged once.

**Dues**

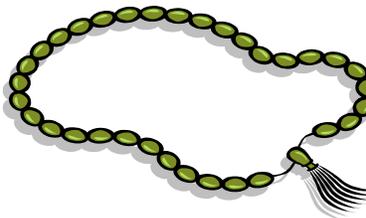
James Lea  
 Mary Nabor  
 Paul/Karen Vielle  
 Kengo Yorioka  
 Hisako Oki  
 Hyacinth Dezenobia  
 Leslie Green  
 Bonell McLeish  
 Marceline Burdett  
 Ann Heinemann  
 Jefferson Workman  
 Leo Kiyohiro  
 Mary Nabor

**Dana**

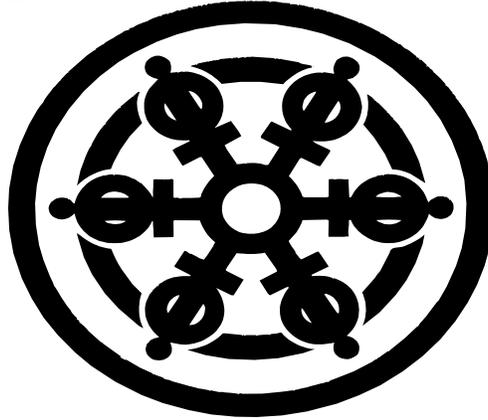
Sam Gordon & Karen Kessler	150
Dave Fix	50
Martena Peterson	9
M/M Vielle	30
Jim Bennett	25
A. Heinemann	20
J. Johnston	20
Jim Bennett	25
Anonymous	40
M Gonzales	15
M/M Marr	10
Kelly Clothier	65

**In memory of Takeo Horiuchi – 25**  
 M/M R. Yamamoto

**In memory of Joseph P. Workman – 20**  
 Jefferson Workman



*Jodo Shin Shu*



**BUDDHISM**