



May Announcements:

May 23rd Introduction To Buddhism 2 PM and Gotan-Ye Service 3 PM

Our Introduction to Buddhism will be held at 2 PM. This is a brief overview of Buddhism, Jodo Shinshu and explanation of what goes on at our services. A perfect chance to visit the temple for the first time or listen in again. We welcome everyone! Please stay for our special **Gotan-Ye Service**, a gathering honoring the birth of Shinran Shonin born May 21, 1173, the founder of the Jodo Shinshu sect.

Bosankai Service May 23 2:00 pm Greenwood Memorial Cemetary Upper Terrace

Sangha Services May 2, 9, 16 & 30

Sangha Services (a Sanscrit word for Buddhist community) will be held 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.

Dharma Class following Service

Following the Sangha Service we go downstairs for snacks and a Dharma class. 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 our ever changing and delicious snacks! Curious, come and join us, share what you have discovered, be part of the Sangha. We finish around noon. See calendar for dates.

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

Looking ahead...

Bishop Ogui Accession Ceremony

There will be a Proclamation of Accession Ceremony and dinner following in San Francisco on June 5. This is for our new Bishop Ogui and reception for out-going Bishop Watanabe. Rooms are available at the Radisson Miyako Hotel in Japan Town and cost of the dinner is \$45. Anyone interested in attending contact Christine Marr to make reservations.

Sunday June 13 Service with Rev. Don Castro

**Saturday June 19th Guest Speaker
Bhante Seelawimala 7 pm** subject to be announced. He will also officiate our service Sunday morning June 20

NEED A RIDE TO SERVICES?

Do you know someone who would like to attend services but lacks transportation?

We are matching up those who live in an area and need a ride to services and those people in that area who can provide someone a lift. We want to hear from you. Call Janet Tamura 534-9280

Temple News

Our Japan Week food bazaar was a huge success. Many thanks for all the generous help and donations to support this fundraiser. (A more detailed thank you will be in another section of this newsletter.)

Fundraisers are very important to our budget. The money we raise pays the general operating expenses of the temple and the expense of our visiting Reverends and our guest speakers. These activities are key to growing the temple and promoting the Buddha Dharma.

This brings me to the question I hear often, how to donate in the Buddhist tradition. It can be confusing to someone not familiar with the temple ways of doing things. The tradition of attending special services on Buddhist Holidays and making a donation is very much a part of our temple.

**Monetary Donations are made :
On every Buddhist Holiday ~**
Such as Hanamatsuri, Bodhi Day, Obon, etc.

Family weddings, funerals and memorial services ~ The name of

the person and the occasion being honored is noted.

Dana ~ Sanscrit for selfless giving. This is also noted in the same way. For example, I would write on an envelope: Dana Donation , Christine Marr \$20 and enclose a check, and drop it in the donation box. Envelopes are provided close to the donation box. Our treasurer posts each donation for security reasons and it helps her greatly if we fill out the envelopes. She then lists the names and donations in the newsletter. You can request to be anonymous but knowing your intention helps in the record keeping.

Dues are another way our temple is supported. Becoming a member of the Spokane Buddhist Temple helps to give us a fixed amount being pledged each year.

A portion of that membership is sent to the national Buddhist Churches of America or BCA. That money is used to train new ministers and oversee temples, ministers, Buddhist education etc. Currently, the BCA is working on an exciting expansion project called, *BCA The Twenty-First Century*. Plans include a new Jodo Shinshu Center developed along with Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley California. It will house classrooms, offices, a new bookstore and residential facilities. This is the training facilities for future ministers and lay leaders. We will be hearing more about new developments in the future.

At the local level, the dues provide income along with the fundraisers and Dana donations. With rising

costs, the board has requested to increase the membership dues by \$5 in each category as follows:

Individual Membership

\$20 per month

Nisei and Senior \$15

Family Membership

\$30 per month

Current members can wait and make this effective with the next monthly or yearly payment.

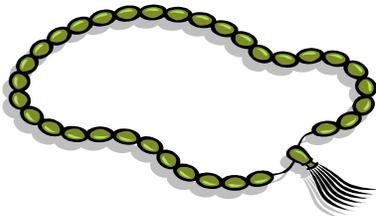
The dues can be paid using the donations envelopes and drop into the donation box, noting that this is for membership dues. Interested in joining? We have membership forms available. Your commitment will help us sustain our programs and plan ahead as our membership grows.

What would Buddha do if he could afford to give only a little?

"Offering something to the Buddha is sacred, but what matters is the intention rather than the size of the offering"

I found this in my favorite little book, *What would Buddha do? By Franz Metcalf*. A perfect way to end my article, as my intention was to have answered questions and not lose the message of the Dharma.

With Gassho,
Christine Marr SBT President



From the Ko (Is it a problem of Buddhism?) ed parker

"Some things are just wrong. Do we just ignore them? Is just letting everyone do what they want, ok?"

This comes up fairly often.

Our western culture is oriented more toward controlling what others do than in controlling our own behavior. Buddhism, to the best of my knowledge, teaches us to know what we are and the true nature of reality. Moral behavior is concerned with the judgment of the goodness or badness of human action. Morals are designed to teach goodness, or correctness of character and behavior; to be instructive of what is good and bad, right and wrong. Buddhism teaches that there is oneness of reality, of which we are a part, that is beyond good and bad, right and wrong, it just is. Buddhism teaches that we are what we do. If we act with kindness, consideration and gentleness that is what we are, at least for that brief moment. Life is impermanent, who among us knows our own true nature?

Buddhism isn't about condoning destructive behavior; it simply recognizes that we are limited creatures. There are terrible things done by people to other people, to animals, to the environment, every

moment. Each of us is capable of the most horrible acts given the right conditions. The worst criminal is not unlike any of us. We should be grateful that the weight of our ignorance is not greater than it is.

Buddhism teaches us to be aware of what we do; yet, most of us struggle simply to do no harm. Truthfully, I often wonder if I have done harm to others and in my foolishness failed to notice it.

Until Amida's primal vow is fulfilled and all sentient beings attain enlightenment, we shall need laws to control behavior, but such laws are not Buddhism, not as I understand it.

Each of us should be wary of the moral person, the person of right and wrong, of good and evil. We should all learn from the injustice of the internment camps. Good, but ignorant people often do bad things.

This question came up in our discussion period in the Ko. I think what I have said here is correct, but I accept that there are many way of looking at any issue. If you have a different perspective on the issue of Buddhism and morality I would be happy to put it in the newsletter (email me at parkere99@msn.com) and/or come to the Ko meeting and lets discuss it. Ed Parker, newsletter editor and Ko co-doshi.

Journeys End Final Tidbits of my Tour of Japan By Leslie Green

Traveling via public transportation in a foreign country is as daunting as you might expect it to be, and in Tokyo, this is no exception. Imagine, if you can, masses of local people in a hurry to catch their trains, buses

and subways. Then throw in a small group of naive Americans with a blonde woman (a bit taller than most of the general population) in tow and get ready for an entertaining bit of comedy. We figured out early on that I stuck out like a sore thumb in a crowd, so it was fitting that I was the one to keep an eye on if you wanted to stay with the group (imagine the blind leading the blind).

We were left on our own the first day in Tokyo (big mistake!) so a small group of us (the Niigata seven, in fact) ventured out into an amazingly complicated underground rail system. On the wall above the ticket vending machines was the most humbling grid of colored lines that to the experienced traveler could get them from point A to point B. After some very amusing discussions we decided which route looked like the one to the shopping district and proceeded to purchase our tickets. As you may have guessed, we did it all wrong. We ended up putting our ticket in a machine that we thought would let us board the subway, but no, that was not the way the system works. You put the ticket in AFTER you have completed your trip! So off we go to find a "live" English speaking body to help us. We finally made it to the mall, and split up on our own to shop. That was an entertaining episode all by itself, but there is only so much space here.

Dinner that night was awesome! Again, on our own, the seven of us ventured out to the Ginza. That is where Tokyo meets Time Square (N.Y.). I had to be mindful to keep my jaw from dropping (and looking

like a tourist...wait, I'm in Tokyo and I am a tourist), very intense, big city and lots of neon. We arrived by taxi and I experienced for the first time the dining tradition of Shabu-Shabu at Seryna's. This is where a pot of boiling water is at your table and they bring you raw meat and fish to cook first, then vegetables, and last Odon noodles. What a treat!

Our second day in Tokyo had us back in our prearranged tour and we began our day with a quick look at the Imperial Palace grounds. We were not allowed inside the actual palace grounds, but we were able to get some beautiful pictures of the building and surrounding gardens. Our next stop was to Azabu Zenpukuji Temple. This very ornate temple had a brightly painted dragon above the naijin which is a symbol of protection for the temple. Also painted into the ceiling crossbeams are the Japanese family "crests" or symbols of family names. Our next stop was to a temple called Hoonji which as it turned out, was to be my most favorite part of the trip.

Temples in Tokyo will sometimes be juxtaposed between modern buildings which can seem a bit odd, as is the case for Hoonji Temple. As you enter the grounds of the temple, you are met by an ancient ginkgo tree. Legend has it that when Shinran "staked" his cane into the ground this ginkgo tree grew in its place. What made this temple so memorable for me was the minister. His name was Bando Shojun and he performed the service for us in English. There was something in his demeanor which was very sweet and

kind. He spoke of several renowned Buddhist followers who had visited the temple, and he kept their notes and letters. He showed us a letter from D.T. Suzuki written in the 60's. Sadly, however, I just learned that Bando passed away shortly after our visit.

Our next stop was to Asakusa Kannon Temple and cultural center. There were several different types of temples arranged in this area and life-size incense burners placed periodically around the complex. The last temple on our tour was Tsukiji Hongwanji. This majestic temple was reminiscent of the Taj Mahal in India. We attended a very special service on the evening of November 11th which marks the memorial service for Shinran Shonin or Ho-onko. This was the largest temple I have ever seen or been inside. The current temple was built in 1931 and had replaced two previous temples that had been destroyed by fire and earthquake. It is built on a parcel of land which had to be reclaimed from the sea. The word Tsukiji means "built-up land", thus the name of the temple and its district.

As the trip winds down, we are both excited and sad at the same time. The thought of going home and sharing our journey with family and friends was certainly foremost in our minds (not to mention sleeping in our own beds!). We spent a lot of time with new-found friends and saw fascinating sights but we were sorry to see it end. However, we are Buddhists...and we know that impermanence is a part of life. So it

is with these mixed feelings of joy and sadness that we attend our farewell dinner at Kisoji for Shabu-Shabu. Another beautiful meal. We each took a turn to speak about what our journey meant for us and shared a lot of laughs.

Our final day. We have a very long day ahead with travel filling most of it. The nine hour plane ride to San Francisco allows each of us a lot of time to reflect on our travels through the ancient land of Japan. For me personally it is an experience I will never forget. The customs, the people, the beautiful landscape and surrounding sea. All of this under the umbrella of the Buddha's teachings.....what a perfect end to a perfect journey.



SPRING FOOD BAZAAR

Our annual Spring Food Bazaar was a great success. We brought in just over \$2700 for the temple but that was not the only measurement of success. We, of course, want to bring in enough to cover the operating expenses for the temple that allow us to keep the doors open and the Dharma message available, of which the Spring Food Bazaar is a major contributor.

But another, and I think more important, measure of success is the opportunity we have to work together to the same end and learn a little bit more about each other.

When Christine asked for a chairperson this year I agreed only if Janet Tamura would co-chair with me. I knew Janet had been there before and would know what to do. And she did, selling over half of the tickets single handedly. What also surprised me was that there seems to be a Spring Food Bazaar wheel that just needs a light hand to be set in motion for many to know what needs to be done. Janet and Fumi Uyeji set that wheel in motion and before I knew what was what there was a crew to prepare the chicken, the rice was purchased and the salad ordered. Thank you, Craig Higashi of Spokane Produce, for the generous donations of the vegetables. Janet filled her car with the boxes for bento and Christine ordered the tickets and the wheel turned a bit faster.

The crew, including Keiji Shimizu, George Heyhamoto, Masami West,

Kengo Kato , Jun Yugawa to name a few, worked many days before the sale to prepare, marinate, and cook the chicken. They were assisted by the makers of the very excellent sauce, Tosh Kirihara, Kam and Fumi Uyeji, Jim and Janet Tamura.

The day before the sale the wheel is turning even faster. The cone sushi is prepared, the chicken is cut, tickets are being sold. – out. We tried to prepare enough so that we could sell lunches at the door, but when the doors opened we had only one ticket left. Many disappointed Spokanites came for a taste of Teriyaki chicken only to be turned away this year.

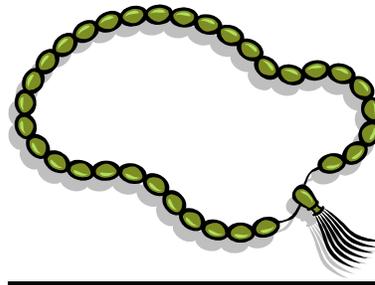
The day of the sale started very early. Many, including Ets Yamada, Phyllis and Herman Sugimura, Mary Terao, Leonard Kasai, Christine Lovejoy, Dwight Danseraeu, Sue Yoshida, Dave and Arleen Fix, Ed Parker, Paul Vielle, Ann Heineman, Jamie Irwin, Bonell McLeish, Jefferson Workman, and again, Janet and Jim Tamura and Fumi Uyeji came together to prepare the rice, salad, and sushi and to put the bento boxes together. The assembly line was sometime very efficient and sometimes very entertaining!

The bake sale table was practically full by the time I got there and many donations were still to come. The two Key Lime pies sold out in under ten minutes and the traditional treats barely made it to the table, being spoken for and sold as they came in the door. I realized (afterwards) that I should have made a list of donations so that I could thank you here.

Please know that all your donations were very much appreciated and I apologize for my oversight. Please give me another chance next year.

Thanks to everyone for all your help and/or support. Please forgive if I have failed to mention your name. Let's keep the Spring Bazaar wheel turning year after year for the Dharma and our Sangha.

With deep gratitude,
Liat Parker





Jim Bennett	25
Karen Kessler/Sam Gordon	30
Kelly Clothier	5
Paul/Karen Vielle	10
Jamie Irwin	15
Dansereau/Lovejoy	10
Kenna Latwesen	200
Estuko Yamuda	30
Beau Adams	10
William Johnson	20
Tosh/Amy Kirihara	33
Martena Perterson	10

DONATIONS

The Spokane Buddhist Temple gratefully acknowledges the following donations received in March and April, 2004. Please notify Liat Parker at the temple office of any omissions or corrections.

	<u>Ohigan</u>
Leonard/Nobuko Kasai	10
Leo/Yuri Kiyohiro	10
Yoshiko Kozen	10
Satoshi/May Terao	10
Marcelline Burdett	10
Leslie Green	20
Tosh/Amy Kirihara	10
Jim/Janet Tamura	20
Kam/Fumi Uyeji	10
George/Toshie Kawahara	10

Dana

Ann Heineman	15
Paul/Karen Vielle	25
Dave Weibel	50
Taresa Downey	15
Taresa Downey	15
Toi Mulligan	20

Dues

Yoshiko Kozen
Marcelline Burdett
Dansereau/Lovejoy
Jefferson Workman
Ann Heineman
Bonell McLiesh
Pat Omine
Paul/Karen Vielle
Ed/Liat Parker
Kelly Clothier
Mary Naber
Marcelline Burdett
Jim/Janet Tamura
Bonell McLiesh
Jefferson Workman
Hatsue Konishi
Harue Yamagiwa
Paul/Karen Vielle
Marcelline Burdett
Ann Heineman
Leslie Green
Fumi Heyamoto
Kengo Yorioka
Chris/Chrisitne Marr

Hanamatsuri

Fumi Heyamoto	10
Herman/Phyllis Sugimura	25
Danseriau/Lovejoy	25
George/Peggy Heyamoto	25
Doug/Joanne Heyamoto	20
George/Toshie Kawahara	20
Leo/Yuri Kiyohiro	20
Hisako Oki	20
Jim/Janet Tamura	20
Satoshi/Mary Terao	20
Paul/Karen Vielle	20
Dorothy Uno	20
Leslie Green	15
Kiku Terao	10
Marcelline Burdett	10
Fumi Ekinaka	10
Hatsue Konishi	10
Leonard/Nobuko Kasai	10
Russell/Michelle Tsuchida	10
Kam/Fumi Uyeji	10
Ken Yorioka	10
Anonymous	20
	360

