

# Announcements

**May Sangha Services** - Our Sangha Services (Sangha is the Sanscrit word for Buddhist community) is a traditional Jodo Shinshu service with chanting led by a Doshi, ( a minister assistant or a lay member from the Sangha). Following Sunday services when there is not a minister, we have a Buddhism 101 book study and discussion. We will be reading from the Jodo Shinshu Guide (the purple book from BCA).

**Convention Planning Session** - On May 15th following Buddhism 101 we will be meeting to discuss the upcoming convention plans. A time line has been developed and we will be addressing the items that need to be started now. February will be here before we know it. If you have signed up to head a committee or would like to be involved please stay after service.

**Buddhist Women's Fujinkai meeting-** Tuesday, May 17th at 5:30 pm, the fujinkai will get together to learn some basic yoga positions. Karen Vielle will be leading this event. Be sure to wear comfortable clothing.

**Gotan-E** - This marks the celebration of the birth of Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Shinran was born on May 21, 1173. He spent most of his 90 years propagating the Nembutsu. The transmission from India, to China and Japan of this ever-powerful, all encompassing Vow of Amida Buddha can be seen in Shinran Shonin's main work, *Kyo Gyo Shin Sho*. We will celebrate this occasion at our May 22nd service.

**Bosankai Service** - Also on Sunday, May 22nd, the Bosankai Japanese Memorial Service will take place at Greenwood Upper Cemetery at 2:00 pm. Rinban Fujii will officiate. This service honors the deceased veterans and those Japanese who have died in the past year. We share this service with the Highland Park Methodist Church alternating a Buddhist and Christian service every other year.

## **Thank You to All Volunteers!**

We know how precious your time is and so it is with deep gratitude that we want to express a special thank you to all the people who volunteered their time and energy to making our Spring Food Bazaar such a great success. We had so many loyal volunteers who made Senbei, sushi, bought and cooked chicken, cooked rice, made the teriyaki sauce, boxed up the lunches, brought baked goods to sell and much, much more, but due to the limited space of the newsletter, we won't be able to list each name. Just know that your generosity does not go unnoticed.

**Help Wanted** - There is a job opening right here on this newsletter staff. The pay is right there next to nothing, but the benefits are great! You can attend all the temple services and other functions absolutely free and you will be helping to support your temple! We are looking for someone who will take over the mailing list. This job requires the applicant to have a computer and a working knowledge of how to operate said computer. There is only one position open at this time, so hurry up and contact Leslie Green at 509 990-8069 or by email at [lesliegreen54@msn.com](mailto:lesliegreen54@msn.com), you don't want to miss this exciting opportunity.

## **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.

### **March 21 - April 20**

Kam & Fumi Uyeji  
Jeffery Bolton

Hatsue Konishi  
Fumiko Heyamoto  
Kengo Yorioka  
Mary Nabor  
Leslie Green  
Martena Peterson  
Michael Brady  
Paul & Karen Vielle  
Ann Heineman  
Tom Lande  
Jenifer Johnston  
Jeffery Workman  
Kerry Greeson  
Kazuko Kirihara  
Leo & Yuri Kiyohiro

**Dana**

Jim & Shirley Bennett  
Jenifer Johnston  
Jun Yugawa  
Paul & Karen Vielle  
Ann Heineman  
Akemi Ishikawa  
Victoria Jones  
Amy Bragdon  
Sarah Morrison

**Newsletter Donations**

Marilyn Stedman  
Elizabeth Leong  
Kenji Akahoshi  
Mia Bohr  
Shari Soejima  
Jane McNew  
Mary Nabor  
Shirley Chavez  
T. Rodeen  
Dan & Celeste Sterret  
S. Smith

**Special Memorials**

Martena Peterson		
in memory of Ruby C. Shell	100	
Amy & Tosh Kirihara		
in memory of Asano Kirihara	50	
Fumiko Heyamoto		
April Shotsuki Hoyo	20	
Kazuko Kuwada		
March Shotsuki Hoyo in memory of Iku Horiuchi (mother)	10	
Kazuko Kuwada		
March Shotsuki Hoyo in memory of Toshiko Uyeno (sister)		10
Marcelline Burdett		
April Shotsuki Hoyo	15	

Mary Higashi Estate  
Gobutsu Zen 300  
Hatsue Konishi 10

### **Hanamatsuri**

Anonymous	Nobuko Kasai
Leo & Yuri Kiyohiro	Anonymous
Kazuko Kirihara	Herman & Phyllis Sugimura
Basin Buddhist Church	Kam & Fumi Uyeji
Fumi Hara	Paul & Karen Vielle
J. Bolton	Ed & Liat Parker
Kengo Yorioka	Jenifer Johnston
George & Peggy Heyamoto	Hisako Oki
Leslie Geen	Hatsue Konishi
Marcelline Burdett	Satoshi & Mary Terao
Russell & Michelle Tsuchida	Haruko Tamura
Anonymous	Doug & Jeanne Heyamoto
George & Toshi Kawahara	

## **Temple News**

by Christine Marr  
Temple President

A quotation came to my attention recently "Volunteers are not paid - not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless". This was handed out at a BCA meeting by Doug Iwamoto the current President of the Buddhist Churches of America. This sentiment is shared by all of our temples with the hours of time and dedication the volunteers provide. It is this priceless commitment that keeps our temple alive.

This ties in with a big thank you to Ed Parker for his hard work for the past 2 years as editor of our newsletter. Under his direction the newsletter went out every month, no small task. He also worked with Sicco Road in bringing our newsletter online. You can now find the newsletter at [www.SpokaneBuddhistTemple.org](http://www.SpokaneBuddhistTemple.org)

With Ed concentrating on his new business, Leslie Green has agreed to serve as editor starting with this issue. Another priceless commitment. Due to the timing, the mailing list changes will wait and go into effect next month. Still time to let us know if you want to continue to receive it.

Thanks to more volunteer efforts, our Spring Food Bazaar was a great success! Over 280 Dinners were sold along with yummy sushi, senbei and our bake sale. We exceeded our goal by \$100 a surprise, as we were worried with this year falling during Spring Break. Way to go!

Hanamatsuri was very well attended, as was the talk given by Rinban Fujii the night before. Japan Week popularity continues to grow. We saw many new faces at both events, and it was wonderful to see all the familiar faces also. Keep coming, we promise not to put you to work. We hope the temple will continue to be an important part of your lives.

On Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> we had a meeting of the Buddhist Women's Fujinkai. There are several new members who attended. The focus at this recent meeting was to get to know each other by having a craft day. Each person created their own greeting card which consisted of handmade papers and other artistic embellishments. A good time was had by all.

Dharma School is here to stay! Our Dharma School program is off to a great start. It was well attended with about 8 children during our Hanamatsuri service. There is enough interest to keep it going so we are increasing sessions to each service in May. The formal service with a Dharma message for children will be held on May 22nd, while on Sangha service days, Dharma School will be held at the end of service during the same time as Buddhism 101 for adults. Children of all ages are welcome! Please sign your child in with the greeter at the front door. Interested in helping out? Email Drea Gonzales [dreabee@yahoo.com](mailto:dreabee@yahoo.com) or drop by the classroom and sign up. We have the lesson plans and projects ready but we could use some helpers.

Our Minister's Assistant, Paul Vielle, helped Rinban Fujii conduct Hanamatsuri service in Moses Lake. The service was met with much enthusiasm by the Moses Lake members. It has been quite some time since a service was held there. Plans are in the works for Paul to conduct other services there, and help with Yakima wherever he is needed. Paul has also been visiting members who are hospitalized here in town. If you know of someone wishing to be visited at home or in the hospital, call Paul at 326-4151. He is very happy to arrange whatever is needed. This is our minister's assistant program at work!

Thank you to all for the participation and support of the Temple...your Temple.

Christine Marr

## HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

### **Thanks to Eshinni, Kakushinni, and to All Women**

*Women who remain in lay life should realize and never entertain the slightest doubt that those who, without any calculation, deeply rely on Amida Buddha single-mindedly and unwaveringly, entrusting themselves to the Buddha for their emancipation in the after life, will all be saved. [Letters of Rennyo, 5-3]*

Rennyo Shonin wrote this letter long after the decease of both Eshinni and Kakushinni. It was one of several that he addressed to women, and it demonstrated that he considered women to be as important among the *monto* followers as men. Indeed, Shinran Shonin himself was always careful to emphasize that the Nembutsu teaching was for everyone, priest or lay, man or woman, without discrimination. From what we know of both his wife, Eshinni, and his daughter, Kakushinni, Shinran stood behind his words.

Thanks to Eshinni's letters which were found less than a century ago, we know that the Nembutsu guided the life of a real, living person with daily cares such as wondering about her children and grandchildren, keeping the family fed, mending clothes, and living apart from her husband who was busy pursuing his studies. While her letters are important for the information they contain about Shinran, they are also significant for what they tell us about the practical dimension of the teaching as it relates to the life of women and their spiritual fulfillment. We may revere Eshinni not because she was the wife of Shinran, but because she was able to rejoice in the Nembutsu path as a woman living in the harsh and difficult conditions of her era.

Likewise, it is fortunate that we may finally give official recognition to Kakushinni, not because she was Shinran's daughter, but because his teaching might not be available to us today were it not for her devotion to her father and his doctrine. Using land made available to her by her second husband, she joined with other devout followers after Shinran's passing to keep his memory and his work alive. Although she was Shinran's youngest daughter, it is interesting to note that the blood lineage that continues to the Monshu, or the head of the Hongwanji, today is traced through her son by her first marriage, and not through one of Shinran's sons as one might have expected.

Both Eshinni and Kakushinni were intelligent and devout followers who were at the same time women who scrupulously performed their roles as wives and mothers. This is reminiscent of so many of our female temple members here in America, from the Issei to the present generations, who have quietly made great contributions to the strength of the temple and the furtherance of Jodo Shinshu. They have done this

through their activities as Buddhist Women in the daily activities and, more recently, in leadership roles that include temple board president in temples.

It is a common sight to see that a majority of the people attending the service and study classes are women, and for this we can all be thankful. For like Eshinni and Kakushinni, they are keen on listening to the Dharma and learning about the writings of Shinran. Many come to manifest the teaching in their everyday lives, touching everyone around them. Their devotion is worthy of recognition, especially when we hear that many young Buddhists credit their mothers and grandmothers with having influenced their religious upbringing.

On this note, it is important to remember that women have always been just as important as men in the Shin Buddhist Sangha, though they have often remained in the background. It is not that they are more special. It is simply that they are equally bright links in Amida's Golden Chin that brings us all together through space and time as One in Universal Truth. Only by recognizing and respecting everyone can we understand that Amida Buddha, though formless, is regarded as both our "father" and our "mother," for True Reality rises above the dualistic and discriminatory thinking of our human minds.

Eshinni and Kakushinni were two people who showed through their words and deeds that they entrusted themselves to Amida Buddha without any doubt. Thanks to them, and to countless other Buddhist women, we can see that the teaching applies to everyone without exception. May our gratitude extend to all beings for providing us with the causes and conditions to be able to hear this wonderful doctrine.

Namo Amida Butsu

Rev. Patricia Usuki  
San Fernando Valley Hongwanji

## Looking Ahead . . . .

Calling All Hands-

Calling All Hands!

July is Perry Street Faire time again and we need your help to make Senbei. As in the past, we depend on the hard work of our Sangha, their extended families, and temple friends to provide all the labor to pull off a successful fundraiser. Below you will find the times and dates for the Senbei preparation. If you wish to help out there will be a sign-up sheet at the temple or contact:

**Jefferson Workman at 509 838-7005.**

### Senbei Work Schedule

Friday, June 24th

6 pm - 9 pm

Prep dry ingredients, make sauce, and set up work stations

Saturday, June 25th

7 am - 12 pm & 12 pm - 4 pm (2 shifts)

Kitchen Crew

8 am - 12 pm & 9 am - 12 pm (2 shifts)

Rolling/Cutting Crew

11 am - 4 pm

Weigh & Bag Senbei and

Clean-up

## Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Mark your calendars!  
Friday, July 29th at 6:30 pm

Watch an Indians ballgame and join in on the fun. We have reserved a section at the stadium for that night.

See the enclosed flyer for more details.

## RETREAT WEEKEND

The weekend of August 5th we have planned to have Kenji Akahoshi conduct a 3-day retreat which will be held at Mukogawa Fort Wright. "Human Nature-Buddha Nature, How to Engage Life with Wisdom and Compassion" will be the topic. The cost will be \$125 per person which includes room and board. More to follow in the next newsletter.

### Shotsuki-Hoyo

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