

Announcements

October 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. Immediately following Sunday services we offer a book study and discussion. We now offer two book study programs. **Buddhism 101** featuring the book "Eight Mindful Steps to Happiness" by Bhante Henepola Gunaratana. The second option, **Jodo Shinshu Book Study**, featuring the book "A Life of Awakening-The Heart of the Shin Buddhist Path", by Takamaro Shigaraki. Refreshments will be available following the book study and everything will be wrapped up by noon. All are welcome to come join the discussions.

Toban - Thanks to all of you who signed-up to be on one of the four *Toban* teams. *Toban* is "Temple Cleaning Day". Once a month, usually the Saturday before we have a visiting reverend service, we clean the temple top to bottom. We now have four teams, each with five to six people. Jefferson Workman, Ann Heineman, Christine Marr and Paul Vielle have volunteered to be team leaders. In each newsletter we will publish the names of the current team members who will be doing the cleaning for that month and also your team leader will call you with the day and time. Other temples do it this way and it seems to work very well. With four rotating teams doing the cleaning, you'll only be called three times a year! Thanks again for your support!

Toban will be on Saturday, October 22nd at 9:00 am. Yes, that is the same day as Senbei making, but while there is cooking going on downstairs, cleaning will be going on upstairs! Here are the folks who signed up:

Christine Marr's Team #2-

Liat Parker

Leslie Green

Janet Tamura

Rebecca Eggers

Alex & Martena Peterson

See you bright and early at 9:00 am



Don't Forget!

Turn your clock back
one hour, Sunday, October 30th

A Special Gift

This past summer (June 2005) we received a very special gift from Shari Soejima and her family members. She presented our temple with a beautiful watercolor painting (which she painted!) in memory of her grandfather Mr. Kozo Soejima and her father Mr. Roy H. Soejima.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to the Soejima family for their generosity.

Spokane Buddhist Temple Team
Supervising Minister: Rev. Don Castro
Seattle Betsuin
Minister's Assistant: Paul Vielle

Board of Directors
Christine Marr, President
Leslie Green, Vice President
Ann Heineman, Secretary
Liat Parker, Treasurer

Fumi Uyeji, Auditor
Janet Tamura, Board Member
Jefferson Workman, Board Member
Bonell McLeish, Board Member
Chris Marr, Board Advisor
Doug Heyamoto, Board Advisor

Dues

August 22 - September 17

Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro
James Lea & Judy Davis
Anne Trevethan
Mary Nabor
Michael Brady
Leslie Green
Ann Heineman
Paul & Karen Vielle
Jun Yugawa
Rachel Scudder
Kam & Fumi Uyeji
Barbara Braden
Thomas Lande
Jeffery Bolton
Don & Marylynn Bernard
Samuel & Alexis Baker
Dana
Kenna Latwesen
David Weibel
Ann Heineman
Paul & Karen Vielle
Kenna Latwesen

Katrina Hurricane Relief

Rachel Scudder
Kam & Fumi Uyeji
Wendy Brady
Karen Vielle
Paul Vielle
Thomas Lande
Anonymous

Memorial Dana
Christine Marr
in memory of Bob Wheeler

Shotsuki-Hoyo –

October 2005

Shotsuki-Hoyo (the remembrance service for deceased loved ones) will be held Sunday, October 23. According to temple records and other sources, a total of 13 people passed away during the month of September. They are:

(Mrs) Masako Imada

Hichiro Ishikawa

Yohei Kato

(Mrs) Hisako Kato
Yoshinobu Kimura
Tokio Konishi
Seichi Nakamura
John Norisada
Rei Shigenobu
Jim Shimizu
Kame Uyeji
Andrew Vielle
Fred Yamamoto

W E L C O M E N E W M E M B E R S

Don Ferris & Marylynn, Elijah & Tyr Bernard Family

Samuel & Alexis Baker

Temple News

by Christine Marr

Temple President

Fall is in the air and that means Senbei making. This year it will be held on October 22nd, there is a poster sign up sheet so you can't miss it! OR you can also call Jefferson Workman at 838-7005 to let him know that you or a friend are planning on helping. We want be sure we have enough pizza...when you work we provide lunch. Senbei is a delicious Japanese rice cracker that we will sell at our fall food bazaar on November 6th. It's a fun day of work, and you get to know some very nice people.

Fall Food Bazaar - Plans are moving along for the fundraiser on Sunday November 6th. Chicken Yakisoba will be served for \$6. (oops I called it stir-fry last month).

SAVE THE DATE! - The Northwest Buddhist Convention, hosted by Spokane is coming soon; Feb. 10 – 12, 2006. Following a 20 year break, we are back to hosting every 7 years. This event brings together the northwest temples; Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple, Oregon Buddhist Temple (Portland), Seattle Betsuin, Tacoma Buddhist Temple, White River Buddhist Temple, Yakima Buddhist Temple, Columbia Basin Buddhist Sangha and of course our Spokane Buddhist Temple.

Our theme this year is "Buddhism in America" with keynote speaker, Rev. Mark Unno. Friday evening, everyone arrives and settles in. Saturday will be full of speakers, workshops and a banquet that evening. Sunday brings more speakers and a closing service. We expect over 400 visitors for this event, at the Davenport Hotel. Registration to attend all weekend will be \$80 to cover costs. You can stay at the Davenport for \$111.00 per night, and the good news is that you can register now! See flyer for details.

Eastern Washington Update - Spokane, Yakima and Columbia Basin (Moses Lake), have in the past shared ministers and a close relationship. We have all been impacted by the shortage of ministers and shrinking memberships. I am happy to announce that Moses Lake is now holding once a month services led by Minister's Assistant Paul Vielle. This is a big step for this sangha. I was able to attend the first service and it was a wonderful experience. This energetic group is led by Margie Hattori with over twenty people in attendance. The service was followed by a Dharma exchange and class let by Paul, then lunch with the whole group. I was so impressed by this devoted group of Buddhists. Held in a hotel meeting room once a month, this is a great example of our theme, Buddhism in America (for the NW Convention). We are hoping to have a regular Moses Lake update in our newsletter each month.

Yakima Buddhist Temple helped us by hosting the NW District Dharma School Workshop this year. Yakima is a beautiful temple with an energetic lay membership. Mas Wada has been a lay leader for years, long before the minister's assistant program was initiated, and he is an inspiration for all temples. He reminded Rev. Castro that at 86

years old, he is still serving the temple so don't talk about retirement! Barb Braden and I represented Spokane, meeting with teachers from the west side. Thanks to Barb's efforts we will have Dharma School one Sunday each month.

One final note, don't overlook our Meditation Sitting on Thursday nights at 7 pm. This is a "Gentle Meditation" in the Theravada insight tradition. We sit for a half hour and have a short discussion about our experiences, we finish at 8pm. Beginners are always welcome.

Gassho,
Christine Marr



Margie Hattori, Coordinator for the Moses Lake Sangha Group and Christine Marr, Board President of Spokane Buddhist Temple met at the *Sangha* service held on September 17.

From the Tatami Mat

The Buddha's Collar

Many newcomers have asked about the meaning and origin of the O-kesa or collar worn by Jodo Shinshu Ministers. In Japanese the prefix "O" before any word is an honorific, denoting respect or reverence for the object in question. The root kesa is a Japanese transliteration of the Sanskrit word Kashaya, which refers to the robes worn by Shakyamuni Buddha and his followers in ancient India.

Rev. Masao Kodani in his book Cocktails (1992) provides many interesting facts about O-kesa. More precisely, Kashaya refers to the dark, impure and muddy color of the robe. Originally, a monk's robe consisted of scraps of cast-off fabric sewn together and colored with the cheapest dye of the time. This resulted in the yellow-orange or ochre color. These were drab but utilitarian garments with emphasis given to sameness. A monk's robe signified to the world he had renounced the householders' life.

His entire wardrobe comprised three pieces: a small rectangular piece wrapped around the waist to cover the lower half of the body, a larger piece which was wrapped around the upper body under the right shoulder and draped over the left shoulder, and the largest piece, which was worn over both shoulders (usually in inclement weather or when traveling.) From earliest times, the baring of the right shoulder was (and still is today among many monastic traditions) a gesture of reverence and respect for the Buddha.

As Buddhism spread throughout Southeast Asia and China, Korea and Japan, the appearance of the Kashaya or robes changed to accommodate to cooler climates. Gradually over time the pieces became smaller, more symbolic than functional, and came to be worn as an outer garment over the regular mode of dress. This was especially true in Japan.

As Rev. Kodani explains (p. 46), because Buddhism enjoyed the support of the Imperial Court the Kashaya (or Kesa, as the Japanese termed it) changed from the plain muddy colors to richly brocaded material. The various branches of Buddhism each developed distinctive clothing and kesa to wear over it. Our tradition, Jodo Shinshu derives its robes and kesa from the Tendai School of Buddhism.

The kesa (or O-kesa) worn by lay members is a narrow rectangular piece of brocaded cloth with the ends held together by a tasseled cord.

O-kesa may come in a variety of colors and brocaded patterns. Each displays three wisteria crests (the official symbol of the Jodo Shinshu tradition), one on each side and one in the middle. It is worn around the neck with the tasseled

end hanging down in front. When putting it on, be sure to orient the wisteria on the back so that the leaves are pointing downward (in the gesture of humility.)

Ministers wear a slightly more elaborate kesa called a wagesa. It is a longer piece of brocaded cloth tied together at the ends with two short piece of cloth. No tassel. The inside edge is open and when pulled apart slightly reveals several layers of folded (accordion style) white cloth. In both cases, these items are symbolic representations of the Buddha's robes. Any and all followers of the Jodo Shinshu tradition may wear the O-kesa during services. For example at large temples like the Seattle Betsuin or the San Francisco Buddhist Temple you'll see many Japanese Americans wearing their O-kesa on Sunday morning. So far, the practice hasn't caught-on with non-Japanese members. There's no logical reason for this other than possibly it's hasn't been well publicized that anyone who is a Jodo Shinshu follower may wear one. We have a few for sale in our bookstore or we can order one for you from the BCA bookstore.

Follow-Up Note on Shotsuki Hoyo Remembrance

In case you missed it last month's newsletter, here's some information about the monthly Shotsuki Hoyo remembrance service. As you know, this is a short ritual held once a month during our "visiting reverend" service. The names of people who have passed away during that particular month are read aloud. Family members may then come forward and offer incense to honor their memory. Many of us thought the Shotsuki Hoyo ritual applied only to the deceased relatives of Japanese American families. But this is not the case at all. Shotsuki Hoyo is for everyone. If you have a deceased family member you'd like to honor in this brief but solemn ritual, please give their name and the month in which they passed away to me. I will enter these data into our Shotsuki Hoyo database. Once a year their name will cycle up and become part of the Shotsuki Hoyo service for that month. It's a wonderful way to remember our deceased loved ones and express gratitude for the countless ways they nurtured, guided and taught us.

Paul Vielle
Minister's Assistant



Looking Ahead

Bhante Seelawimala will be back in November -

We are fortunate once again to have Bhante come speak to us in November. He will conduct a lecture on Saturday, November 19th at 3:00 pm, followed by a service at 10:30 on Sunday, November 20th. At this time we do not have the lecture topic, but you can be assured it will be of interest to anyone who enjoys hearing the Dharma.

Looking for an Organist - In addition to chanting, *the Jodo Shinshu* service ritual also has a rich heritage of *gatha* (or hymnal) music. These beautiful and inspiring hymns are found in the back of the service book. We are toying with the idea of including *gatha* music as part of our *sangha* services. When the time comes we will be looking for some musically talented person who can play the organ and willing to teach us how to sing these *gathas*. If any *sangha* member is so inclined, please make yourself known to any of the board members or the minister's assistant. We'd like to talk to you.

Fall Food Bazaar - Just a reminder it is coming up , Saturday, November 6th. See article next month for details.

*"Real peace will arise spontaneously
When your mind becomes free
Of attachments,
When you know that the objects of the world
Can never give you what you really want."
Theragatha*



Convention Countdown

We are moving along at a good pace with the convention planning. Several people have sold ads for the convention booklet, with Janet Tamura as our top seller. Way to go Janet! We still have a way to go to meet our \$6000 goal, but I am encouraged by the enthusiasm shown by those of you who have picked up the advertising packets. One thing you can mention to potential advertisers is that after the convention is over, we will make a directory featuring all the businesses who placed an ad and distribute it to our newsletter mailing list. A reminder that our deadline for selling ads is November 30th.

We have been asked about "boosters", so I have developed a form for those who don't necessarily want to buy an add, but would like to support our temple. To that end, I have included in this newsletter a two-sided page that has a copy of the advertising contract on one side, and a booster form with instructions on the other. Booster names can be added up until print time, so the deadline for booster ads is extended until mid-December. If you need additional copies, please feel free to photocopy them.

Christine Marr and Jefferson Workman have been busily putting together the program schedule for the convention. The format of a Buddhist convention is to have a service, keynote address, workshops, and a banquet. Christine and Jefferson have the task of organizing the entire schedule and coming up with workshop topics. This is no small feat, we appreciate their hard work and dedication.

We had a work party on September 18th and many people joined in to help put together bookmarks. We completed 125 of them, and will have another work party on Sunday, October 16th at 12:30 pm. Hope to see you there!

One last reminder, we have a convention link on our temple website where you can check in now and then for updates too. Also on this website is information on reserving your room at the Davenport along with a link to the Davenport Hotel website. It is recommended that you make your reservations via telephone and make sure you refer to the NW Buddhist convention to get our special rate.

Senbei Making

Don't Forget!

Saturday, October 22nd

All Day Shifts

Where the Flower and the Rock Meet Buddhism in America

The 59th annual Northwest Buddhist Convention

Hosted by the Spokane Buddhist Temple

February 10 - 12, 2006

Held at the historic Davenport Hotel (with an indoor pool) in downtown Spokane.

Walking distance to Riverfront Park to ice skate and shop,

Keynote speaker **Rev. Mark Unno**

There will be plenty of workshops to enjoy, Dharma school, and more!

You can reserve your room now! \$111.00 room rate per night. Call: 1-800-899-1482 or
509-455-8888

Registration packets coming soon