

Announcements

August 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. We meet after service for refreshments and discussion.

Vipassna Meditation Class Change - One of the principals of Buddhism is that in life we experience constant change. With that in mind, we ask for your patience in a needed change to our Thursday night meditation. Beginning this September, we will offer instead a quarterly workshop to be held on Saturdays from 9:00 am to noon. Mary Webster has graciously agreed to facilitate these workshops. Our first workshop will take place on September 30th. It is open to all levels of meditation.

"Thank God I'm a Buddhist" - One of the best things about summer at the Spokane Buddhist Temple is that we offer a summer retreat. This year is no different. Once again we bring from California, Dr. Kenji Akahoshi who will be our retreat facilitator. He brings his humor and wisdom together to discuss how to navigate through life as a Buddhist in America with a three-dimensional compass. Come experience the joy and serenity of a life based on Oneness. The cost is \$125 per person and advanced registration is required as space is limited. The retreat is schedule for August 11 - 13 and will be at Mukogawa Fort Wright. Your registration fee includes your meals on Saturday and a light breakfast on Sunday morning, your room, and the retreat itself.

August Toban - This month's Toban (temple cleaning) is set for Saturday, August 5 from 9:00 to 12:00. It's time to go after the trees and shrubs around the temple. We will be weeding, pruning and bagging garden waste. It will be hot work, so please bring gloves and a hat. If you have a rake and/or pruning sheers bring those along too. Ice Cream will follow.

Sangha Club - Mary Naber has been so kind to step up and get this started. The first get-together will be on Saturday, August 19th at Comstock Park, from 1 to 3 pm. It will be a potluck social. She has also included a survey form in this newsletter to gather feedback on what kind of activities the members would like to do. Please fill it out and return to her.

Calling all young Buddhists! - Young Buddhist Association or YBA is a very popular organization in our national BCA. Many of our younger Buddhists had a chance to participate in their programs held at the Feb. convention at the Davenport. Rachel Scudder has been working to start the Spokane Chapter, Christine Marr has agreed to be the advisor. Some of the activities will be visiting the Vietnamese Buddhist Temple youth here in Spokane, helping with the temple fundraisers, starting to make the flower petals for services along with the Dharma School children. Other ideas: go to movies, do craft projects or whatever sounds like fun. It is a chance for 7th graders up to college age Buddhists to connect and plan your own activities. The first brainstorming meeting will be August 6 at noon. Please come!

Temple News

By Christine Marr

Temple President

Summer has arrived! Our first Bon Odori Dance in many years was held at the Perry Street Faire. Many thanks to those in attendance, especially Sensei Teruo Chinen and 45 international instructors who were surprised to be invited by the sensei into our dance. We so appreciate his support of our temple activities.

Our retreat with Bhante was completely full. We enjoyed the perfect weather in the 80's on the beautiful Mukagowa campus with a full day of listening to the Dharma. We now have the next retreat to look forward to with Kenji Akahoshi, "Thank God I'm a Buddhist". This is filling up fast so be sure to register now if you plan to attend.

I am happy to report our temple attendance is growing each month. We are also slowly growing our membership - by that I mean those that commit to paying dues each month. In looking at what is helping us thrive, it is all connected with the Seattle Betsuin and the national BCA. The training we receive has brought us into the minister's assistant program, guidance on retreats, speakers, our Dharma School and our new youth group that is forming. We would not be where

we are OR have a future without their guidance and support.

This is an exciting time with the energy and enthusiasm Socho Ogui brings to his position as Bishop. If you attended the convention you know what I am talking about. The new Jodo Shinshu center will be dedicated in October. It reminds me of the time our temple burned and we were unsure of our future. Now I can see taking the chance to improve insured our success. Imagine not having the beautiful building today. Think about the risk Rev. Terao made each step he took in founding the temple in an apartment then moving to a larger space. The BCA now needs our support. They are taking a risk to insure the future of Jodo Shinshu. This center will train our lay leaders and ministers bringing so much more to our activities and programs we will be able to offer. It is SO important this succeeds.

So far, Spokane Temple has about 25% of our membership who have donated to the Campaign BCA. That is a great start! I am asking each person on this mailing list to consider making a donation to secure the success of this campaign.

Mail your donation with a check made out to Campaign BCA to either: *Spokane Buddhist Temple, 927 S. Perry Street, Spokane, WA 99203* OR directly to *Robert Noguchi / Campaign BCA, 1710 Octavia Street, San Francisco, CA 94109* and be sure to add a note that you are part of the Spokane Temple.

Thank you for being a friend in the Dharma.

Gassho,
Christine Marr

A Special Thank You to Todd Milne

Todd is a very talented musician who plays the Shakuhachi (bamboo flute) for us before and after service. His beautiful and calming music provides our services with an authentic taste of Japanese culture. He is also responsible for putting our Bon Odori dance music on a CD so that we don't have to mess with rewinding tape! Way to go Todd!

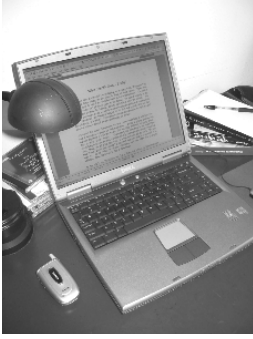
From the T atami Mat. . . .

What do we own, really?

A few days ago, Karen and I were taking an evening walk. We passed by two young boys sitting on the steps in front of their house. These two brothers, aged 10 and 8 are familiar faces in the neighborhood. The eldest boy held some sort of video game in his hands. He stared intently at the screen and pushed the buttons, clearly enthralled with the action. The younger boy wanted a turn, but his brother just ignored him and continued to play. Frustrated, the younger jumped to his feet and yelled, "It's not fair! Give it back! It's mine!" Powerless to change anything, the lad stormed into the house, calling for mom and hoping for justice.

Thinking back to our own childhood experiences, I'm sure we can relate to the younger brother's despair and outrage. Alas, life is not fair, especially if you're a younger brother. But life does teach.

It's mine! It's mine! Sometimes, we hear or see something in a unique way and it becomes a cause for self-reflection. As we continued our walk, I thought about the boy's distress; -the result of his attachment to a simple electronic device which, within a year or two, will probably wind up discarded in his junk drawer. *It's mine! It's mine!* Lacking experience with the world, this lad truly believes he *owns* this thing. Implicit in his lament is the belief that everything exists on its own, --independently and separately from everything else. Heck, we all think this way. We can't help it. It's just how our minds work. We take it for granted that my stuff is my stuff and your stuff is your stuff.



In the study of Buddhism we learn about the truths of impermanence, interdependence and emptiness. As our understanding deepens we gain a different perspective. The Buddha saw with absolute clarity that everything in the universe undergoes constant change. The notions of *self* and *ego* are delusions. If everything is impermanent, ever-changing and interdependent what is the "what" that can be owned and who is the "who" that can own it? Philosophy aside, it does seem like we acquire things through our own efforts. We work hard, save our money and buy that new car or home. But are these things truly ours? And what about states or conditions like: a sound body, a college education, successful marriage, healthy children or a prosperous business, --is it correct to say of such things, *they're mine!*?

There's a wonderful expression in Japanese, *O-kage-sama de*, which means something like, *gratitude for the shadow*. It's appreciation for all the causes and conditions that come together in just the right way, --often below the level of our awareness, (*in the shadow, so to speak*) that support and sustain our lives. In other words, the things we acquire do not come to us solely through our own efforts. Rather, they arise in our life due to the efforts of our parents and teachers and countless others (doctors, scientists, truck drivers and grocery clerks), the unseen others who discover the medicines, grow our food and deliver the products we need to live and enjoy life. We don't *own* any of it. As anyone knows, health, position and wealth can vanish in a heartbeat. Amazing, when you think about it! We aren't entitled to such benefits, but they come to us anyway. The only possible response to such benevolence is gratitude. Viewed from this perspective, our daily preoccupation with possessions seems trivial indeed. I think this is the essence of what it means to follow a Buddhist path; to see the world through the eyes of appreciation and gratitude for the gift of life.

In time, I trust the young neighbor boy will come to appreciate how fleeting and unimportant the video game is compared to his other blessings of health, a family and the chance to be educated. At the end of the day, it's not about whether you *own* anything but whether you *see* things clearly.

Paul Vielle
Minister's Assistant

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.

Dues

June 22 - July 10

Jeremy Phillips
Hyacinth Dezenobia
Anne Paulin
Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro
Marcelline Burdett
Greg & Leanne Sapp
Barbara Braden
Anne Paulin
Janet Tamura
Mary Naber
Paul & Karen Vielle
Ed & Liat Parker
Leslie Green
Jenifer Johnston
Phebe Thompson

Donations

Dana

Phebe Thompson
Craig Higashi
Denise Bathurst
Jim & Shirley Bennett
Paul & Karen Vielle
Hyacinth Dezenobia

Convention donations

B. McLeish
Ann Heineman
Toshio Uyeji

Obon

Herman Sugimura
Paul & Karen Vielle
Janet Tamura

Memorial Dana

Vic Ogohara
in memory of Kazue &
Yoshitoni (Charlie) Ogohara

Marcelline Burdett
in memory of Mother Oto Uyeji

Craig Higashi
in memory of Shozo & Mary Higashi

Condolences

We wish to gratefully recognize **Fumiko Heyamoto** for her continued support and acknowledge her donations this past month for dues, Obon, and Convention.

Our sincere condolences to the family of Fumiko Heyamoto.

Apologies to the Hatsubon Families

In the July issue of the Newsletter, mention was made of the Obon service which was to be held on July 23, 2006 at the Greenwood Cemetery. The names of individuals who have passed away since the previous Obon (July 2005) should have been mentioned in the newsletter. Unfortunately these names were not included. The Board extends sincere apologies to the Hatsubon families for this oversight. The names of those people who passed away during this past year are:

(Mrs) Fumiko Heyamoto
Kazuo Kuwada
Kotaro "Van" Omine
Madelyn Isabella Sapp
Hitoshi Tsuchida
(Mrs) Yoshiko Yamamoto

Looking Ahead

SEPTEMBER

September is already looking like a busy month! We will have our annual Fall Food Bazaar, this year featuring Odon Noodles. The fundraiser is scheduled for Sunday, September 24th. We will also be selling Senbei, so of course we are calling on all of you who want to show off those new skills you picked up from the last time.

Senbei is scheduled for Saturday, September 9th. Jefferson Workman will oversee the organization of this fun task. He has informed me that sign up sheets are going to make their way to the temple any day now. Be on the lookout!

Meditation Workshop - September 30th from 9:00 to noon, and Mary Webster will facilitate.

October

We will pick up again with our Sangha training classes. What is Sangha training you ask?? Well, you may have noticed that the Sundays when there is not a supervising minister, lay people perform the numerous tasks that go into conducting a service. Rather than just throwing innocent people to the lions (which isn't very buddhist!), we will show you how to perform these various functions. It doesn't take much time to learn and the great thing is you get to play an active role in your Sunday service!

BCA Jodo Shinshu Center Dedication & Celebration - October 20-22 in Berkeley, CA. More details to come in the next newsletter.

Other News:

Bon Odori Dancing – A Great Success!

July 15 - Grant Park. As part of the annual Perry Street Faire celebrations, members of the Spokane Buddhist Temple put on a demonstration of traditional Japanese Bon Odori dancing. Dressed in Hopi coats and led by instructor Peggy Heyamoto, the group performed three dances. Bon Odori means Festival of Lanterns. The setting was enhanced by dozens of paper lanterns, made by Shari Soejima, which hung from a string & pole "fence" to form an outer perimeter for the dancers. Joining in the fun were Chinen Sensei, martial arts instructor and some 30 to 40 of his karate students. They enlivened the dancing considerably with their exuberant cheers! During the last dance Tanko Bushi, people from the audience joined in. It was great fun and by one estimate there were over sixty people participating! We thank you Peggy for teaching us these dances.

Everyone agrees Bon Odori dancing will be back next year!

