

January 2006 Calendar

Meditation sittings on Thursdays evenings: January 5, 12, 19, & 26 at 7:00 pm

- January 1** Sunday 3:00 pm - **Sangha Service** - Book study to follow (Liat)
❖MC: Christine Marr ❖Greeter: Pati Lira
❖Kansho: Ann Heineman ❖Short Meditation: Mary Nabor ❖Dharma Talk: Paul Vielle ❖Flowers: Liat Parker ❖Snack: Emily K.
- January 7** Saturday 9:00 - 11:00 am - **Toban Team #1:** Paul Vielle
- January 8** Sunday 10:30 am **Sangha Service** - Book study to follow (Bonell)
❖MC: Mary Nabor ❖Greeter: Tyr Bernard
❖Kansho: Leslie Green ❖Short Meditation: Liat Parker
❖Dharma Talk: Tina Rodeen ❖Flowers: Ann Heineman
❖Snack: Bernard Family
5:30 pm - **Board Meeting**
- January 15** Sunday 2:00 pm - **Introduction to Buddhism**
3:00 pm - **Ho-on-ko Service with Rev. Don Castro**
Shotsuki Hoyo and Dharma School
❖MC: Paul Vielle ❖Greeter: Mary Nabor
❖Kansho: Paul Vielle ❖Offering: Pati Lira ❖Flowers: Christine Marr ❖Snack: Fumi Uyeji & Janet Tamura
❖Dharma School: Joni & Emily Michels
- January 22** Sunday 10:30 am **Sangha Service**- Book study to follow (Christine)
❖MC: Karen Vielle ❖Greeter: Ann Heineman
❖Kansho: Jefferson Workman ❖Short Meditation: Jefferson Workman ❖Dharma Talk: Bonell McLeish
❖Flowers: Christine Marr ❖Snack: Lorie Taylor
- January 29** Sunday 10:30 am **Sangha Service** - Book study to follow (Leslie)
❖MC: Jefferson Workman ❖Greeter: Ann Heineman
❖Kansho: Jefferson Workman ❖Short Meditation: Leslie Green ❖Dharma Talk: Brianna Hartwell
❖Flowers: Karen Vielle ❖Snack: Janet Tamura

Announcements

January 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.

Out and About - Over the last two months, our Minister's Assistant, Paul Vielle has been "out and about" in the community giving *Introduction to Buddhism* talks. In November, he addressed a group of students in Dr. Logan Greene's World Religions class at Eastern Washington University. Then in December, he gave a talk entitled "Buddhism and End of Life Issues" to a group of palliative-care nurses at Home Health Care Services. In both cases, the talks were well received. This is all part of our community outreach efforts to inform people about the Jodo Shinshu teaching.

Ho-On-Ko - "The Ho-on-ko Service is the memorial service held for Shinran Shonin, the founder of the Jodo Shin Sect, on the anniversary of his death. Each year during the month of January, Ho-on-ko is one of the most important services of the year for followers of the Jodo Shin Shu; and it is observed on the 16th of the month. Literally the Chinese characters "Ho-on" means "return of gratitude" and "ko" means "to clarify the meaning of" or "gathering" of those who wish to return this gratitude." - *Reprinted from The Buddhist Holidays, by Rev. George E. Shibata*

I m p o r t a n t D a t e C h a n g e
Davenport Hotel Room Reservation Deadline
has been changed to **January 6th**

Welcome New Member!

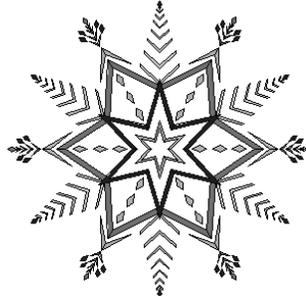
Pati Lira

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

Newsletter Editor

Leslie Green



Temple News

By Christine Marr
Temple President

Looking back at 2005, there has been much progress in both attendance and the number of services we have. In looking to our recent past, we have not had a resident minister since August 1991, and then there was the terrible fire in April 1992 that forced us to rebuild. Where are we now? Hosting the 2006 NW Buddhist Convention after a 20 year break and seeing growth in our temple's membership. Why? Many causes for instance one is due to the diligence and support of many long term members. Combine this with innovative new members, our temple is growing.

Our big focus now is hosting the convention in February. We are honored to have our founder; Reverend Eiyu Terao's widow, Mrs. Joyce Terao as our special guest. (Rev. and Mrs. Eiyu Terao, Rev. and Mrs. William Terao started the temple in 1945) This will be a chance to bring the past together with the present. We hope everyone in Spokane will join us in welcoming Mrs. Terao and family!

This year, there will be two types of registrations to choose from depending on your level of participation. The more traditional one for those wishing to attend the entire 3 day convention which includes all workshops and the Saturday evening banquet for \$80 (there is also a Banquet only choice, please see registration form).

The other registration is for a Saturday morning only which is entitled "Experience the Dharma". If you have wondered what Buddhism is about (or have friends who have questions...) this is it. There will be an Introduction to Buddhism with Bhante Seelawimala from 9 – 9:45 am. Followed by the service at 10 am and ending with an Introduction to Jodo Shinshu presented by Dr. Kenji Akahoshi from 11:45 am– 12:30 pm.

We look forward to seeing all our friends in the Northwest District. See you there!

In Gassho-
Christine Marr

We Won!

Gridiron Football
A pro-team wins
(another one loses)
In a big U.S. city.

A truly accepted religion sez:
"We (the good rooters) won!
Fan is short for fanatic,
Hare Krishna's in airports,
chanting loudly – they're fanatics,
But We're fans.

A friend once said
about spiritual things –
"Even the One is One Too Many"
But I say –
"Even the Won is Won Too Many"

At games (are they fun for all?)
the local fanatics chant – "kill 'em",
Cheering mayhem.
Years after cheers,
Our highly paid gladiators
can't even carry a
sack of potatoes home
So crippled are they,
Bust who cares? Such stars are infinite.

A poem by Tom Lande

From the T atami Mat. . . .

End of the year services

In the Jodo Shinshu calendar, two special services commemorate the closing of one year and the beginning of the next. The New Year's Eve (*Joye-e*) Service takes place on the evening of December 31st. It is a time to reflect on the events of the past year and to be thankful for all the manifold causes and conditions that have allowed us to live another year. We'll simply never know the many things that happened over the past year (or could have happened but didn't) which benefited us. In Jodo Shinshu we are taught to be humble and grateful for our good fortune: our family, the house we live in, the clothes we wear and the food we consume.

Another aspect of *Joye-e* is to acknowledge our true nature, namely that we are foolish beings full of ignorance and blind passions. No matter how virtuous we think we are, at bottom we are all motivated by selfish attachments and base desires. This is who we really are. But through the Nembutsu practice of calling Amida's name (*Namo Amida Butsu*) we may awaken with joy to Amida's great wisdom and compassion operating in our lives.

In classic Buddhism, man is said to possess 108 passions. These are the fetters that bind one to this world of *samsara* (suffering). During the *Joye-e* service, the Kansho is rung 108 times. Each ring of Kansho symbolically removes one passion from the collective consciousness of human beings. This action enables us to approach the New Year with fresh optimism for all that awaits us.

For those who are curious, the 108 passions arise in the five senses of sight, sound, smell, touch and taste and also our faculty of consciousness. Each of these six senses may experience one of three feeling states: pleasant,

unpleasant and neutral. That gives a total of 18 feeling states. Each of these eighteen states may be attached to (or detached from) pleasure which yields a total of 36 feeling states. Finally, each feeling state may occur in the past, present or future. Thus 36 times 3 gives a total of 108 passions.

On January 1st we celebrate *Shusho-e* the New Year's Day Service. As best I can determine, this service has not been celebrated --on any regular basis at the Spokane Buddhist Temple for over 40 years. *Shusho-e* dates back to the Nara period in Japan (710-794 CE).

The celebration of the New Year lasted seven days. It began a few days prior to January 1 and ended a few days after. In Japan today, New Year's day is by far the most important and elaborate secular holiday. In the closing days of December people clean their homes, shops and offices from top to bottom (*osoji*). It's an act of purification so that everything will be fresh and clean for the start of the coming year. In the opening days of January, people gather for family celebrations and make visits to close friends. Special foods are prepared and decorations set out to commemorate themes of prosperity, fertility and long life.

From a Jodo Shinshu perspective *Shusho-e* may be interpreted as *gathering to recover the correct path*. It is a time for everyone to rededicate themselves as followers of the Nembutsu way of life. People express their gratitude and appreciation for the remarkable phenomenon of Life. The *Shusho-e* service allows us to come together on this auspicious occasion to greet friends and share our joy at being able to begin another year together.

Paul Vielle
Minister's Assistant

HAIKU

It was wisely said
"Live your life in gratitude."
Make it a practice!

It's a Buddhist thing
Where the rock and flower meet
Come! Learn the Dharma

by Pat Omine

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

November 21 - December 22

Leslie Green
Satoshi & Mary Terao
Thomas Lande
Janet Holmberg & Koske Imamura & Family
Jenifer Johnston
Marylynn Bernard & Don Ferris & Family
Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro
Pati Lira New Member!!

Mary Naber
Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro
Kaz & Kazuko Kuwada
Hyacinth Dezenobia
Jun Yugawa
Paul & Karen Vielle
Jeffrey Workman
Rachel Scudder
George & Matue Heyamoto
Colin Fitzgerald
Hisoko Oki
Barbara Braden
Ann Heineman

Memorial Dana

Satoshi & Mary Terao
in memory of Sadako Terao

Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro
for Muenhoyo Service

Lorie Taylor
in memory of Jim Tamura

Lorie Taylor
in memory of Janis Birkel

Janet Tamura
in memory of Kayo Tsuji

Janice Simpson
in memory of Nellie Aiko Simpson

Donations

Dana

Celeste Sterrett
Tim & Joni-Jean Michels
Daniel Thorpe
Paul & Karen Vielle
Offering Box
Jenifer Johnston
Ann Heineman

Bodhi Seals

Yoshi Kozen
B Mc Leish
Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro
Shari Soejima

Bodhi Day

Jenifer Johnston
Anonymous
Leslie Green

Shotsuki-Hoyo

January 15, 2006

Shotsuki-Hoyo (the remembrance service for deceased loved ones) will be held Sunday, January 15th. According to temple records and other sources, a total of 8 people passed away during the month of January. They are:

Asayo Heyamoto
James Horiuchi
James Kiyachi Koga
Manichi Yamaguchi
Michael Higashi
Richard Williams
Sagata Kuwahara
(Mrs) Ida Shige

Important Deadlines

January 6th -

Last day to reserve your hotel room at the Davenport

January 16th -

Last day to mail your registration form for the 59th Annual Northwest District Convention