

## A nnouncements

**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. We meet after service for refreshments and discussion.

**Sorry for the Delay** – You may not have received this newsletter until after the first of October, and for that I apologize. But time, being what it is (not enough of it!), ran out because all the folks who put this together were busy working on the fundraiser that took place on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Speaking of Fundraisers** – A great big THANK YOU to everyone who helped out on our “trial” fundraiser. This last one (Sept 24<sup>th</sup>) was initiated to help us begin to replace some of the expenses incurred for the convention. The proceeds for this last fundraiser will go back into the endowment fund. Each year we will have an additional fundraiser like this one specifically set aside to repay this debt. I am excited to announce that it was a huge success and we sold 160 Udon meals. Thank you for your help and support!

**Senbei Making (Again?)** - Yes, we are really making senbei again, this time for our annual Fall Food Bazaar. It is such a big seller for our fundraisers, and a product which is in much demand. Friday evening, October 13<sup>th</sup> is the “prep” day and Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> will be the cutting, cooking and bagging day. We will need your help so look for the sign up sheets at the temple. I promise, this is the last one until spring!

**Calling All Young Buddhists!** - Come join in the fun on the third Sunday evening each month, this month we will meet on October 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm in the basement at the temple. We will show a movie, have snacks and play some games. Middle school age to college level are welcome to attend. Please bring a friend, it is open to all! If you have any questions, please email Rachel Scudder at [thequestess@gmail.com](mailto:thequestess@gmail.com)

**Kittens Looking for a Good Home** – Five kittens will be available in about a month and are free to a loving home. You must agree to spay/neuter. Contact Rachel Scudder at 509 327-7142 or [thequestess@gmail.com](mailto:thequestess@gmail.com).

*A big thank you to **Martena Peterson** for her donation of Dharma school supplies, office supplies and the beautiful lanterns. We really appreciate your generosity!*

Shotsuki-Hoyo

October - 2006

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

(Mrs) Masak 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

## From the Tatami Mat. . . .

### *Saving the Best for Last*

Autumn is coming. Days are growing shorter and there's a little bite to the morning air. Before long I must begin the 'preparing-for-winter' rituals, like pulling out the garden, raking up leaves and cleaning out rain gutters. I don't mind. I like being outside, to enjoy the ambiance of fall, with all its muted colors, misty mornings and that smell of damp leaves. Then too, the very stillness of the season puts me into a quiet, reflective frame of mind.

In nature, autumn signals decline. The many flowers and vegetables we tended all summer and which gave us such pleasure in return begin to fade and die away. There is nothing to do but accept it and be grateful for the visual beauty and food these plants brought to our lives during summer.

I try to watch for the *last* flower or vegetable on a plant. To me, that's when you see the best of the plant. Unless an early frost carries off all the remaining flowers at once, there's usually one solitary flower nodding bravely in the chilly breeze; the last flower of a plant, or sometimes, that last in the whole garden. It's often the most beautiful of all.

Those of us who grow vegetables and flowers as a hobby have our favorite plant. For me it's the petunia. I plant them everywhere in beds, pots and hanging baskets. It's such a hearty flower, easy to grow and available in so many varieties and colors. Their trumpet-like blooms seem to shout-out to the world, "Wow, it's great to be alive! Come, let's enjoy our time together!"

This year we had a pink trailing petunia in a hanging basket on the patio. It turned out to be in just the right spot with plenty sunlight and just enough water. And it thrived! All summer long it produced countless blossoms that spilled over the rim and hung down in long trails. We'd see it there every time we left and entered the house. It soon became a familiar and most agreeable presence on our patio.

All summer long our trailing petunia lived happily in that basket. On any given day, if you looked closely, you could see the life processes of individual flowers unfolding. New buds appeared. A few days later blossoms opened. Three or four days after that, they began to wrinkle, curl inward and shrivel to dry husks. But with so many new blossoms constantly replacing the old, you didn't notice the falling away of individual flowers. Rather, the totality of the plant...the sheer volume of blossoms and their intense color overwhelmed the eye. Really, you couldn't look at these petunias without smiling.

But by early September, the entire plant showed signs of weakness. The once dark-green stems and leaves were taking on a more pale-green hue. The following week, the number of decayed flowers outnumbered the newer ones. Then, yesterday the plant gave its final beautiful gift to the world. The *last* blossom opened.

I stepped in for a closer look. The contrast was riveting. Surrounded by scores of crumpled husks, this final pink blossom, stood out like a sparkling gem. Reaching out, I cupped it my hand and considered my wonderful relationship with it.

This petunia had spent the summer producing exquisitely beautiful flowers that delighted our senses. It gave up its pollen to countless bees. Now its life was ending. Its work finished, this petunia offers one final tribute to life and will soon depart without complaint or regret. In a few short days, it will be nothing more than a clump of decaying vegetation...utterly forgotten. What insight this humble flower offers me.

You and I spend a lot of time telling one another how important we are and how vital our work is. We expect people to appreciate every little thing we do and we're unhappy when it doesn't come. Sure, it's nice when our work is acknowledged, but I think it's equally important to just do what we're supposed to do and let it go at that. The petunia produced flower after beautiful flower. It didn't think, "Hey, where's my recognition?" It simply did what petunias do, period.

In the Buddhist view, we suffer because we're unable to see our true natures. Bottom line, our thinking is based on delusion. We see ourselves as basically good, but in truth we're all motivated by greed and self-interest. We might say

we're doing such-n-such for the benefit of others, but if there isn't some payback in return, we're soon frustrated and move on to something else. Like it or not, this is how we are.

This unpretentious petunia has become a Buddha in its own way. It lived in complete harmony with the universe. It didn't pretend to be a marigold or a daisy. And soon, it will become next season's promise in the compost pile. Maybe the lesson here is to cherish the virtue of living simply, truly and without pretensions. Just do your work. And at the end, leave the world with gratitude and appreciation for the gift of having lived. What could be more natural?

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

August 21 - September 19

Helen Chin  
Celeste Sterrett  
Colin Fitzgerald  
Leanne Sapp  
Paul & Karen Vielle  
Pat Omine  
Leslie Green  
Janet Tamura  
Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro  
Rachel Scudder  
Ann Heineman  
Jenifer Johnston  
Thomas Lande  
Jafar Zahir  
Marcelline Burdett  
Kazuo Kuwada  
Hisako Oki  
Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro  
Joni Michels  
Ed & Liat Parker

### Donations

#### Dana

Paul & Karen Vielle  
Kathy Relis  
Jim & Shirley Bennett  
Ann Heineman  
Mary Osaki  
Jenifer Johnston

#### Ohigan

Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro  
Kam & Fumi Uyeji  
Janet Tamura  
Leslie Green

anonymous  
Nobuko Kasai  
Satoshi & Mary Terao  
Chris & Christine Marr  
Ed & Liat Parker

### **Memorial Dana**

Kam & Fumi Uyeji  
in memory of Fumiko Heyamoto

Florence Tsuchida  
in memory of Frank Tsuchida

Emi Mayeda  
in memory of Frank Tsuchida

Fumi Mayeda  
in memory of Frank Tsuchida

Florence Sumida  
in memory of Frank Tsuchida

Kam & Fumi Uyeji  
in memory of Frank Tsuchida

Linda Miyata  
in memory of Frank Tsuchida

Janet Tamura  
in memory of George Nomura & Sue Shimuzu

Shirlee Tsuchida  
in memory of Frank Tsuchida

## Looking A head . . . .

### **November**

**Fall Food Bazaar - November 5th.** We will be selling Yakisoba Noodles with Teriyaki Chicken, Sushi, Mochi, Senbei, bake sale items and craft items. A flyer is enclosed. Please feel free to make copies and post at your work or school.

### **dECEMBER**

**Bodhi Day - December 8th** - December is when we celebrate the day when Siddhartha Gautama, while sitting under a Pippala tree (which later became known as a Bodhi tree), became enlightened. The exact date when we in Spokane will honor this day with a special guest has not been determined yet. Stay tuned!

### **FEBRUARY**

**60th Annual Northwest Buddhist Convention** - February 16 -18, 2007 - Hosted by White River Buddhist Temple. The theme this year is "What is a Buddhist?" More details to follow in upcoming newsletters.



### **A Piece by Tom Lande**

I've been reflecting on global warming and various other threats to our survival as a species and the environment in general. Mahayana Buddhists, generally in the Tibetan tradition, practice "mind training" (Tibetan lojong practice) slogans. Chief among these is called Tong-len, which means "giving and receiving". This is the essence of what's called practical bodhicitta.

One takes in the difficulties of others with the in breath and gives all joy, spiritual and otherwise, and good feeling to others with one's out breath. This is balanced. The more good one gives away, the more good one has to give away. In terms of environment, one takes in all the poison and difficulty into one's own self at one's heart, totally in, and gives joy to other beings. This is a way of breathing; in that way it could begin as one's daily meditation. It eventually becomes totally natural.

It is the opposite of the Samsaric way of looking at things. That is to take in goodness into oneself and give out bad things to others; that is to breathe in good and give out bad with the out breath. In this Tong-len way, one actually cares about poisons and difficulties that others experience. One actually aspires to help them fully. It actually is a first aid kind of approach. One may actually see it as passing a piece of fruit from one hand to another, no more and no less.

One must never allow a concept to intervene in this natural way of breathing. It may take a long while to actually do it daily and naturally. It is not philosophical or even psychological; it is a very simple-minded approach. It's one of the oldest Buddhist practices. It is one that produced centuries of Bodhisattvas.

There are two books that are excellent on this. They're not large. One is by Chogyam Trungpa, called "Training the Mind and Cultivating Loving-kindness" and the other is by Jamgon Kongtrul, called "The Great Path of Awakening". Never allow words to make a problem for you.

SAVE THE DATE

60th Annual Northwest Buddhist Convention  
Hosted by White River Buddhist Temple  
February 16 - 18, 2007  
DoubleTree Guest Suites  
Seattle-Southcenter

More information to follow in next newsletter and registration will be  
available soon