

Announcements

March 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.

Doll Festival/Girl's Day Hina Matsuri - A doll festival held every year on March 3, has its origins in a Chinese purification rite in which known or unknown evils were transferred to doll surrogates (katashiro), which were then cast into a river. However, since the modern equivalent of these dolls are now very costly, exquisitely-made works of art in themselves, no one would dream of even playing with them, let alone throwing them in the river.

A girl usually receives a set of hina dolls from her parents or grandparents at birth or on her first birthday, and these traditionally become a part of the bridal trousseau. The dolls are displayed on a five or seven-tiered shelf (hina-dan), with the place of honor going to the highly valued emperor (odairi-sama) and empress (ohina-sama) dressed in ancient court costumes. In attendance on lower shelves are ministers and other dignitaries, court ladies and musicians. Miniature lacquered dinner sets, tea ceremony utensils, musical instruments, palanquins and other furnishings of court life are also displayed, and with a folding screen in place behind the emperor and empress and two lanterns on either side, the hina dolls are indeed a sight to behold. However, as mentioned before, the dolls are now for viewing only and the day is celebrated in front of the display with white sake (shirozake) and rice cakes called hishimochi. A type of sushi without raw fish (chirashi-zushi) and shellfish soup are also traditionally eaten on this day.

As leaving the dolls out after March 3rd is considered unlucky and might delay a girl's marriage, they are packed away immediately following the festival, not to be seen until the next Hina Matsuri.

Maybe we should have such a tradition with Christmas trees!

Sangha Club Meeting –Stone Wok, March 18th – We have rescheduled our Sangha Club meeting for Sunday, March 18th. We will have the "Stone Wok" get together immediately following our regular service. Those who signed up, please bring your cut-up veggies that day which will then be used in the stir fry. We'll cook up a big pot of rice and enjoy each other's company. There will be a Go game and a Scrabble game available. If you have another game that you would like to play - please bring it. Let's make it a fun afternoon of getting to know each other a little better and having some fun. See you there! For more information or suggestions call: Mary 326-6786

How to Become a Member

There has been a steady increase of new faces coming to service and attending our special events. It is so nice to meet so many new people who are on the same Dharma path. During services we talk about the "members" of the Sangha, but I remember when I was new, I didn't know what was involved in becoming a member, I thought that if I am showing up each Sunday, well I must already be a member. But what I later learned is that in order for the temple to keep its doors open it had to rely on a set amount of income coming in each year over and above the fundraising income. Well, I am going to let you know how simple it really is to join. There is an application form (which we have located in the front foyer at the temple. Simply fill it out and include your dues payment, that's all there is to it. The annual dues for an individual membership are \$240 which can be paid monthly, annually or any other way that works best for your budget. The family membership rate is \$360 per year. Thank you for your participation and if you have any questions regarding membership, how to donate, why we donate, etc. please ask one of our board members. There are also some brochures on the table in the foyer which explain this also. Through your donations we are able to make the Dharma available for the benefit of the community.

From the T atami Mat. . . .



Ed's Mallet

There's no getting use to the sorrow and grief we feel when people we care about are taken from us suddenly and without warning. Early last week our dharma friend Ed Parker died in a tragic automobile accident. His passenger Janet Tamura was seriously injured, but is recovering steadily and is expected back in Spokane early in March.

We all knew Ed as a man of many talents. He liked to cook and during our annual food bazaars, you could always find him manning a stove or the great wok. No one ever left his kitchen hungry. In addition he was a man of letters. An avid reader and skilled writer, he was the previous editor of our Temple Newsletter, *Voice of the Sangha*. In those early days, he contributed many thoughtful articles on Shin Buddhism. Ed possessed a keen mind and had a deep understanding of Shinran's teachings. Back in 2003, he conducted weekly "ko" sessions at the temple. (In medieval Japan a "ko" was a small group of dedicated temple members who met periodically to chant and discuss the *Nembutsu* teachings.) Ed enjoyed the give-and-take of rigorous philosophical discussion. He always spoke his mind and you knew exactly where you stood with him. He didn't suffer fools lightly and in discussion, he was passionate about seeking truth. I learned a great deal from him.

Ed was also a skilled woodworker. He crafted several very fine canes and walking sticks. Not many people know this, but Ed made the mallet we use to strike the *kansho* (or the calling bell). Every Sunday, one of the *Sangha* members picks up Ed's mallet and strikes the bell to begin the service. No doubt he spent many hours crafting it. Examine it and you'll see; it's well-made, sturdy, unpretentious and eminently useful. In many ways I think it embodies who he was, a no-frills, down-to-earth guy, who understood his foolish nature and sought to live life truly.

We'll miss Ed and our hearts go out to Liat, Katie and his family. In the coming years, whenever that mallet strikes the *Kansho*, we can recall with gratitude Ed's memory and his many contributions to our *Sangha*. *Namo Amida Butsu!*

Paul Vielle
Minister's Assistant

Shotsuki-Hoyo

March 18, 2007

Shotsuki-Hoyo (the remembrance service for deceased loved ones) will be held Sunday, March 18, 2007. According to temple records and other sources, a total of 11 people passed away during the month of March. They are:

Wilson Burdett
Iku Horiuchi

**Shoichi Kayahara
(Mrs) Asano Kirihara
Charlie Nakanishi
Yoshito Norisada
(Mrs) Marguerite Peterson
Joe Takeshita
Kuhei Tsuchi
Toshiko Uyeno
Kana Yamamoto**

Bookstore Bits

- Thanks to all who have donated books for our Used Book Section in the Bookstore. Expanding your knowledge of the dharma is now available at bargain prices. Keep those used books coming and stop by and check out the Used Book Section next time you're at Sunday service.

*Thank
you*

- A special thank you to **Ted Taniguchi** of the Seattle Temple. At the recent 2007 Convention in White River, Ted sought out SBT President Christine Marr and generously donated some books to our library. Our dharma friends are everywhere.

- We now have a Butsudan, complete with accessories, set up in our bookstore. This is an example of what you can do at home. If you would like to purchase this Butsudan, please see Anne Paulin or Jefferson Workman.

Looking A head

April

Senbei Making - April 6 & 7 we will be getting together to make Senbei (japanese rice crackers). We sell senbei at our fundraisers and need your help to make and roll dough, cook and clean, but most importantly,

just meet new friends or renew old friendships. There is a sign-up sheet at the temple broken down by job duties and times.

Japan Week Celebration - April 21st is the kick-off for Japan Week. We begin our day with our Spring Food Bazaar, followed by our special guest speaker, Rev. LaVerne Sasaki on Saturday evening. His talk entitled "America's Interest in Buddhism" will speak to the current trends of Buddhism in America. That Sunday we will celebrate Hanamatsuri with a morning service led by Rev. Sasaki.

Spring Food Bazaar - Saturday April 21st, we will be serving Chicken Teriyaki box lunch for \$9. We will be taking pre-orders. More information to follow and flyers will be available soon.

JUNE

Retreat with Bhante Seelawimala , June 15 & 16 at Mukagowa.

August

Retreat with Kenji Akahoshi, August 17 & 18 at Mukagowa.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The "Dues and Donations" page will not be included this month, but will resume next month. We will be sure to acknowledge those who have contributed in the past 30 days in the next issue. Thank you for your understanding.

Spring Food Bazaar

Saturday, April 21

Chicken Teriyaki Box Lunch \$9
Senbei, Bake Sale