



Spokane Buddhist Temple

APRIL 2008

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PAGE 2

Announcements

April 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.

Senbei Making Day – Saturday, April 5th- We will be selling Senbei at our spring food bazaar, and will be looking for help to make it from all who can

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 time for a few months or paid yearly.

February 17—March 23

Dues

Jeremy Phillips
Bonell McLeish
George & Toshie

Kawahara
Mary Naber
Sapp Family
Janine Kardokus
Leslie Green
Jefferson Workman
Harrington Family
Terao-Knopff Family
Marcelline Burdett

Karen & Paul Vielle
Leo & Yurkio Kiyohiro
Fumi Ekinana
Fumi & Kam Uyeji
Tina Rodeen
Rachel Scudder
Pat Omine
Jeremy Phillips

Donations

Jundokan
Karen & Paul Vielle
Celeste Sterrett
Shirley & Jim Bennett
Leo & Yurkio Kiyohiro-
Tuesday Meditation
Group

www.japanweekspokane.com

YBA Meeting, Sunday, April 13—Due to a miscommunication last month, the YBA meeting has been rescheduled for Sunday April 13th. Bring a friend and come meet other Buddhist youths, chat, play games, and help our temple start a YBA chapter (Young Buddhists of America). Our next meeting will be on Sunday April 13th after service, at noon in the temple's basement. We'll also discuss activities for future YBA meetings, including watching movies, learning a craft, going on an outing, and any other ideas you have.

Spokane Buddhist Temple Team

Supervising Minister:
Rev. Don Castro
Seattle Betsuin
Minister's Assistant:
Paul Vielle

Board of Directors

Liat Parker
& Jun Yugawa,
Co- Presidents
Martena Peterson,
Secretary
Anne Paulin, Treasurer
Fumi Uyeji, Auditor
Board Members:
Leslie Green
Jefferson Workman,
Bonell McLeish
Board Advisors:
Christine Marr
Janet Tamura
Ann Heineman

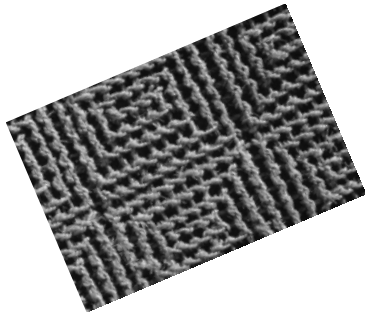
Newsletter Editor

Leslie Green

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Dues/Donations</i>	2
<i>From the Tatami Mat</i>	3
<i>Presidents Message</i>	4
<i>How to Become a Member</i>	4
<i>Shotsuki-Hoyo</i>	5
<i>Looking Ahead</i>	7

Continued on page 5



Saving Time, Wasting Time

Last month we changed over to Daylight Savings Time. Everyone moved their clocks forward one hour thereby extending daylight into the early evening hours. As a little kid I never quite understood why we needed to do that or how, exactly, it gave us extra hours of daylight. *Did that mean we now had a 25 hour day?* I wondered.

For a six year old, time concepts are among the most difficult to master. My mom was always reminding me to keep busy, so as to not “waste time” and to do my chores promptly in order to “save time” . . .for homework. My uncle Edgar (who was a heavy smoker) was said to be living on ‘borrowed-time’. He had an operation my parents said would ‘buy him some time’. I recall my father’s evasive answers to my entreaties to play catch with me. *Have no time now*, he’d say, *Maybe later*. But ‘later’ seldom became the right time. Alas, understanding time was such a confusing ‘time’ for me as a kid!

Dealing with time didn’t get any easier as I grew



older. Soon enough I needed a wristwatch to keep me on time for school, my paper route, baseball practice and dental appointments. Next to my glasses and wallet, my watch was the one thing I dared not lose. We all want to be efficient

adults, right? Without our watches, how else could we do more and more in less and less time?

My attitude about time began to change about ten years ago when I first started reading Buddhist literature. I came to appreciate the difference between two kinds of time. There’s

“relative” time with all its expressions about spending it, saving it, wasting it and its notions about today, yesterday, tomorrow, later, soon and so on. Relative time is the time that measures and separates us so we can keep appointments and get things done. Its fine as far as it goes.

However there is another, less obvious, kind of time, absolute time—‘absolute’ in the sense of having nothing to compare it to—of being perfect and complete in itself. The Buddha taught the Law of Impermanence. *Everything changes—all the time*, he said. Things appear and disappear owing to the rising and falling-away of infinite causes and conditions. Life is what we’re doing in this moment, right now—which then changes into the next moment and the next. Indeed, *all that we are* manifests in the single (present) moment. An ancient—but unknown—Chinese poet once wrote:

*Today is today,
Yesterday is today,
Tomorrow is today.*

I take this to mean, this moment in time is all there is. Whatever arises in this moment, results from what happened previously (i.e. yesterday). Whatever tomorrow becomes, results from what happens in this moment now. One concludes then, everything’s linked together because everything’s constantly changing.

Each absolute moment of our lives is precious, unique and powerful. We ought not to squander it. It’s good to reflect on this once and a while. It makes it easier to cope with daily frustrations and stress. We can step back from our clocks and watches for a while to appreciate—that while our plans are fine, we live in the moment and each moment of life is a gift. We can move our clocks ahead to add daylight hours, but we cannot add new hours to our life. What a joy to realize, we are allowed to live, embraced by Amida’s limitless compassion. *Namo Amida Butsu!*

Paul Vielle
Minister’s Assistant

“EACH ABSOLUTE
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Presidents Message

Greetings to my fellow travelers on this path.

Fumi Uyeji and I represented the temple at the BCA National Council Meeting in Portland at the end of March. The weekend was an opportunity to meet BCA members from all across the country and participate in making decisions concerning the future of the Jodo Shinshu religion in America. I hope we represented you well. The minutes are in the latest Wheel of Dharma. If you haven't received a copy and are curious please let me know and I'll give you a copy and answer any questions you might have.

The Sangha had a couple of opportunities to share time together

this past month. We had a game day after service one Sunday. We played board games and spent some 'down' time together. I won Scrabble, at least until I went home and looked up "Doric" and realized that it was a proper name. David, I cede the game to you. Last Sunday we had a 'stone wok' lunch where everyone brought one ingredient and, cooked all together, turns into a wonderful lunch. (It helps to have good cooks in the kitchen, thank you, Jun, Justin & Jefferson.) It's good to spend some extra time with one another.

This month we look forward to our Spring Food Bazaar. We'll make Senbei, sushi and Teriyaki chicken. There will be many sign up sheets and work days this month – plenty of opportunities to help out the temple during this important fund raiser, but just as

importantly, a time to get to know fellow Sangha members. I encourage you to look for times to take part.

We will celebrate Hanamatsuri on April 27th. It is a happy recognition of Shakyamuni Buddha's birthday. We'll decorate the Hanamido with flowers and pour sweet tea over the baby Buddha.

As I practice this religion, Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, travel this spiritual path, Buddhism, learn about this philosophy, Buddhism, I am grateful for this Sangha, I know that this journey is made easier shared with you.

Gassho,
Liat Parker



How to Become a Member of the Spokane Buddhist Temple

There have been a lot of new faces at the Sunday services lately and some of us have been approached with inquiries regarding membership like: "what does it mean to be a member and how do I go about it?"

The Spokane Buddhist Temple relies on the generosity of its members and our Membership System to keep the doors open. In addition to paying the utilities and general upkeep on the building these funds are also how we are able to bring in guest speakers and provide special programs to our community. Our Membership System (monthly dues) is a way to recognize a fixed amount being pledged to the temple each year. A certain amount of that money is sent to the national Buddhist Churches of America (BCA). That money is used to train new ministers and oversee all temples, ministers, Buddhist education etc. The

balance goes into the general fund for our temple. Other ways of generating funds for the temple are the spring and fall Bazaars as well as other fundraising events. Membership is open to anyone in accord with the purposes of the temple. The mission statement of the Buddhist Churches of America is:

"To promote the Buddha,
Dharma and Sangha as
Well as to propagate
the Jodo Shinshu
teachings"

Newcomers are always welcome to become regular members of the Spokane Buddhist Temple. If you wish to join our temple, there are applications for membership available.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To become a member is easy.

Simply fill out the application form which is available at the temple. Turn it into one of the members or you may mail it directly to the temple. When you become a member you will begin to receive the "Wheel of Dharma" newsletter from the BCA as well as you will receive a copy of the "Jodo Shinshu Guide".

MEMBERSHIP DUES

The minimum basic dues for temple maintenance/operations shall be determined by the Board of Directors from time to time. Currently, annual dues are set at:

Individual Membership	\$20.00 per month
	Or \$240.00 annually
Family Membership	\$30.00 per month
	Or \$360.00 annually

THE BENEFIT OF THE
DHARMA IS IMMEASURABLE.
PLEASE HELP PROVIDE FOR
SERVICES AND PROGRAMS BY
MAKING A DONATION IN THE
OFFERING BOX BY THE BACK
PEW. THROUGH YOUR
DONATIONS WE ARE ABLE TO
MAKE THE DHARMA
AVAILABLE FOR THE BENEFIT
OF THE COMMUNITY. ~
GASSHO



Stone Wok



A big THANK YOU to all who helped make the Stone Wok a great success. Jun, Justin, and Jefferson (the three "J's") were the joyous, jubilant chefs. There were lots of veggies and lots of help with clean-up. It was easy, fun and delicious!



Welcome new members

The Harrington Family
Andrew, Jenny,
Brandon & Aioden

The Terao-Kropff
Family
Aiko, Justin & Mariko

Shotsuki-Hoyo

The Shotsuki-Hoyo remembrance service will be held Sunday, April 27, 2008. According to temple records and other sources, a total of 10 people passed away during the month of April. They are:

Koji Hayashi
Takeshi Kan
Akira Katayama
Kazuo "Kaz"
Kuwada

Yasumasa Moriya
Chiyo-no Nakanishi
Minoru Terao
Mary Barna Twiner
Chiyo-no Yamaguchi
Tomiko Yamamoto

Donations *(continued from pg 1)*

Memorial Dana

SAPP FAMILY IN MEMORY
OF EDWARD PARKER

MARTENA PETERSON IN MEMORY
OF MARGUERITE PETERSON

PAT OMINE IN MEMORY
OF WILSON BURDETT

PAT OMINE IN MEMORY
OF KANA YAMAMOTO

KAZUKO KUWADA IN MEMORY
OF TOSHIKO UYENO

KAZUKO KUWADA IN MEMORY
OF MRS. IKIE HORIUCHI

MARCELLINE BURDETT IN
MEMORY OF WILSON BURDETT

MARCELLINE BURDETT IN
MEMORY OF MINORU TERAO

JANET TAMURA IN MEMORY
OF WILSON BURDETT



JACL Celebrates Hinamatsuri

On Saturday, March 1st, the JACL celebrated the Japanese tradition of Hinamatsuri. A few years ago our temple was the lucky recipient of a Hina doll set, and have since then been constructing it and putting it on display for this very special day. Here is a little history about Hinamatsuri:

Japanese Doll Festival (雛祭り, Hina-matsuri), or

Girls' Day, is held on [March 3](#), the third day of the third month. Platforms with a red *hi-mosen* are used to display a set of ornamental dolls (雛人形, *hina-ningyo*) representing the [Emperor](#), [Empress](#), attendants, and musicians in traditional court dress of the [Heian period](#)

The custom of displaying dolls began during the [Heian period](#). Formerly, people believed the dolls possessed the power to contain bad [spirits](#). Hinamatsuri traces its origins to an ancient Japanese custom called *hina-*

nagasbi (雛流し, *hina-nagasbi* lit. "doll floating"), in which straw hina dolls are set afloat on a boat and sent down a river to the sea,



supposedly taking troubles or bad spirits with them. The [Shimogamo Shrine](#) (part of the [Kamo Shrine complex](#)

in [Kyoto](#)) celebrates the *Nagashibina* by floating these dolls between the [Takano and Kamo Rivers](#) to pray for the safety of children. Also people have stopped doing this now because of fishermen catching the dolls in their nets. They now send them out in to the sea, and when the spectators are gone they take the boats out of the water and bring them back to the temple and burn them.

The customary drink for the festival is [amazake](#), a sweet, non-alcoholic version of sake made from [fermented rice](#); the customary food is



colored [arare](#), bite-sized crackers flavored with soy sauce. A soy sauce-based soup is also served containing [clams](#) still in the shell. Clam shells in the food are deemed the symbol of a united and peaceful couple, because a pair of clam shells can closely fit to each other, as no other shells but the



Good Turn-Out for Toban

On Saturday, March 15 a total of seven people showed-up for our Spring Toban (temple cleaning).

They went to work with brooms, mops and scouring powder to give the temple a thorough cleaning from top to bottom. It's amazing how quickly work gets done when many hands pitch in.

Our thanks to: Jefferson Workman, Todd & Ellicia

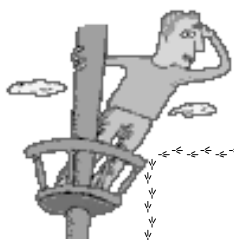
Milne, Hyacinth Dezenobia, Martena Peterson, Barb Braden and Paul Vielle.



Haiku

From all these trees,
in the salads, the soup, every-
where
cherry blossoms fall.
- Basho

Looking Ahead...



May

Our next Sangha training will be on May 25th. What is Sangha Training you ask? Well...it's about what all is involved in helping out with our regular Sunday Sangha service such as, how to ring the calling bell, or how to be MC, etc. Come see what it's all about.

June

Socho Koshin Ogui will be in Spokane on June 15th to perform a Buddhist naming ceremony at the temple. There is an application and fee involved, so if you are interested, please let one of your board members know or Paul Vielle, and we will see that you get the information.



June 27-29, Jodo Shinshu Center, Berkeley, CA – Pacific Seminar 21st Century presents "*Honen & Shinran*", *Pure Land Masters within our Contemporary World*. Speakers include: Rev. Kodo Tanaka, Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto, Dr. Lisa Grumbach, Rev. Kodo Umezu, & Rev. Harry Bridge.

July

Spring cleaning is here and time to get rid of your unwanted items. Our next fundraiser will be a summer "garage" sale at the temple. We haven't tied down the date yet, but start thinking about what you would like to get rid of and we will set up an area where you can drop your unused items.



August

August 15-17, our annual retreat with Dr. Kenji Akahoshi is in the works, details to follow over the next few months.

August 29-31, "Women in American Buddhism", Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple, keynote speaker: Dr. Judith Simmer-Brown – A conversation with Theravadin, Mahayana, and Vajrayana teachers. Other guest speakers include, Dr. David Matsumoto, Tenzin Kacho, and Bishop Koshin Ogui.



Naijin 101

Did you know..... The Buddha image is usually enshrined in a covered structure called "Gokuden" (*go-koo-den*), the palace-like structure which sits on top of a table-like dais structure called "Shumidan" (*shoe-me-dawn*). The "Shumidan" represents the highest mountain in the world according to the ancient Indian cosmology. This highest mountain is called "Sumeru" and the Japanese pronunciation became "Shumidan." There are four pillars holding up the ornate roof of the "Gokuden", and these four pillars represent the Four Noble Truths.