



# Spokane Buddhist Temple

FEBRUARY 2008

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## Announcements

### February Sangha Services—Our Sangha Service



(Sangha is the Sanskrit word for Buddhist community) is a tradi-

tional Jodo Shinshu service with chanting led by a Doshi. We meet after service for refreshments and discussion.

**Vipassana Meditation Group to Resume** - beginning Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm, Mary Webster will resume her weekly meditation group meetings at the temple. Join her and others as you create a positive experience in the quiet beauty of meditation. Be-

ginners are always welcome, as Mary fully explains the technique of this type of meditation.

**Essentials of Buddhism Classes Resume** - beginning Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, Paul Vielle will be leading a course for those who may be newcomers or anyone wanting a review of the basic teachings of Buddhism. There is a flyer enclosed in this newsletter along with a pre-registration form.

**Sangha Club - Sunday Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>**, after service will be another fun **Board Game** time. Bring your favorite board game and a snack to share. Mary will bring a crock pot of soup to warm us up. This is a great

time to just "be" with Sangha friends and share some time playing games and getting to know each other better. Please join us. For more information call Mary: 570-6876

**Community Outreach** - Last month we had visits from several student groups interested in learning about Buddhism. Our Minister's Assistant Paul Vielle gave introductory lectures to two different classes from Whitworth University and one from St. Mark's Lutheran Church. This month (February) three more different groups are scheduled for visits. It is gratifying to see this growing interest in Buddhism. Little by little, we're helping to propagate Shinran's teachings in this region.

### 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,  
Jeff Zahir,

### Board Advisors

Christine Marr  
Ann Heineman  
Janet Tamura

### Newsletter Editor

Leslie Green

## 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.

Nov 19 - December 20,  
2007

**Dues**  
Leslie Green  
Jen Johnston  
Colin Fitzgerald

Chris & Christine Marr  
George & Peggy Heyamoto  
Kam & Fumi Uyeji  
Kaz Kuwada  
Kiko Teroa  
Leo & Yuriko Kiyohiro

**Donations**  
Steve & Naomi Ishiguro  
Celeste Sterrett  
Jim & Shirley Bennett  
Herman & Phyllis Sugimuro

**Bodi Seals**  
Satoshi & Mary Terao  
Marcelline Burdett  
Hatsue Konishi

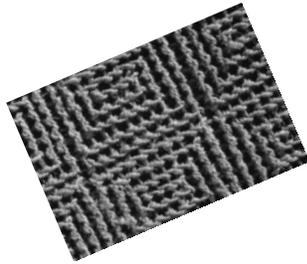
Kaz Kuwada

**Joy-e**  
Anne Paulin  
Patrice Pendel

**Convention Debt**  
Anonymous

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“AH, CAN THERE BE  
ANYTHING MORE  
BEAUTIFUL THAN THE  
SEASON’S FIRST  
SNOWFALL?”

*What Snow Teaches*

Every year it's the same. About this time, I begin to doubt my love affair with snow. It all begins innocently enough. Fall approaches and work in the garden comes to an end. A thousand leaves are raked and bagged; summer tools are put away till spring. High overhead, drifting southward, long trails of geese honk noisily. Frost appears. Can snow be far behind?

Like an eager schoolboy, I stand at the window and watch. Waiting is hard. Then one day, the enchantment begins anew. Somewhere, the weather fairy waves her wand and soft, white flakes descend lazily through a silent, overcast sky. *Ah, can there be anything more beautiful*



*than the season's first snowfall?* The calm whiteness enfolds all, blurring differences, covering the unsightly. Curbside weeds, aging shingles, cracked driveways—all disappear beneath the quiet, pristine beauty of snow. And for a time, the world seems wonderful and full of peace.

Soon enough though, fall's rapture gives way to February's laments. Like the guest who overstays his welcome, snow becomes a persistent nuisance, a tiresome burden. Seems all I do now is shovel it, blow it from one place to another and try to melt it with salt crystals. In places, ice lurks beneath the fluffy cover to menace my steps. Anyone will tell you, crashing on ice can ruin your day. With growing urgency, my chapped hands and sore back complain, "Enough with the snow already!"

How changeable everything is. At first, I praise and gush over snow; then I grouse and complain about it. Truth is—snow does what it does. What I *think* about it doesn't count for much. Buddha reminds us we create our reality with our thoughts. Is it beautiful or treacherous? It's both and neither. It has no name or attribute other than what I give it. It simply is what it is, nothing more. At the end of the day, I realize there is nothing to complain about and everything to be grateful for. *Namo Amida Butsu*

Paul Vielle  
Ministers Assistant

**HAIKU**  
Rice mice on the run  
Villagers with traps & guns  
Scatter for your lives.  
By Pat Omine

***Shotsuki-Hoyo***

(the remembrance service for deceased loved ones) will be held Sunday, February 17, 2008 during our Sangha service. According to temple records and other sources, a total of 11 people passed away during the month of February. They are:

- Wilson Burdett
- Iku Horiuchi
- Shoichi Kayahara
- (Mrs) Asano Kirihara
- Charlie Nakanishi
- Yoshito Norisada
- (Mrs) Marguerite Peterson
- Joe Takeshita
- Kuhei Tsuchi
- Toshiko Uyeno

### Presidents Message

The new year brings changes for the temple board. After many years of service to the temple Christine Marr has stepped down to take an opportunity to study at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley. Ann Heineman and Janet Tamura have also stepped down from the board after many years of service, but not away, they will all remain as advisors for the temple through the year. Jun Yugawa and I look forward to your support through this year as we serve as co-presidents.

We welcome three new board members, Anne Paulin, Jeff Zahir and Martena Peterson. Fumi Uyeji, Bonell McLeish, Jefferson Workman, and Leslie Green continue their service to the temple for another year. And we are fortunate to have Paul Vielle, Minister's Assistant and advisor.

The board meets once a month and you are all welcome to attend. The February meeting will be Sunday, February 3rd at the temple at 12:30. Please approach any of us with your com-

ments, concerns and suggestions. Hyacinth Dezenobia has agreed to manage the bookstore so please welcome her to her new role and see her with any special requests.

We have a couple of things to



look forward to this year. Socho Ogui, the bishop of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Churches of America, (BCA), is coming to our temple in June. He will give a lecture on the evening of Saturday, June 14th and lead our Sunday service including a naming ceremony. This is a rare opportu-

nity to receive your Buddhist name, advance application is necessary.

In addition to our spring and fall food bazaars we have added a new fundraiser. This year we will have a rummage sale in conjunction with Pery Street Faire in July. So keep us in mind when you are organizing and spring cleaning and set aside donations to make this a successful venture.

Finally, on a personal note, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to you all who supported me after the death of my beloved Ed last year. We will hold a one year memorial service for him on Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 followed by a vegetarian potluck supper. Everyone is welcome.

Liat Parker

### Bookstore Bits



Since I have become a Temple Board member and new

responsibilities beckon, Hyacinth Dezenobia has graciously agreed to become the Bookstore Manager. Please see Hyacinth for any purchases you would like to make after services. Also, if there is something you'd like to purchase from the BCA Bookstore, ask Hyacinth if she could include it with her next order and you can save on shipping. Keep checking the newsletter for news from the Bookstore. It's been a joy working in the Bookstore, meeting new people and helping to spread the dharma. Thank you all for the opportunity. ~Anne Paulin~

### Beautiful Etchings Displayed in Temple

Some time ago, the Spokane Buddhist Temple's Buddhist Women's Association (*Fujinkai*) donated two lovely, framed etchings. These now hang in the *Hondo* on either side of the *Naijin*. Labels are being prepared to identify each etching. As you face the *Naijin*, the etching on the right is of Shinran Shonin (1173-1262), founder of the Jodo Shinshu (or True Pure Land School) of Buddhism. Depicted on the left is Rennyō Shonin (1415-1499), who built Jodo Shinshu

into one of Japan's most popular religious institutions. We are most grateful to the *Fujinkai* for these exquisite gifts. Special thanks also to Leslie Green who created the background for the display.



Rennyō Shonin



Shinran Shonin

