



Spokane Buddhist Temple

MARCH 2008

VOLUME 54 ISSUE 3

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Announcements

March Sangha Services—Our Sangha Service (Sangha is



the Sanskrit word for Buddhist community) is a traditional Jodo Shinshu service with chanting led by a Doshi. We meet after service for refreshments and discussion.

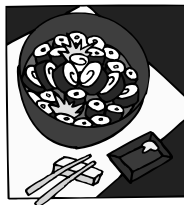
YBA, Sunday March 9th, at Noon- Attention all youth! Bring a friend and come meet other Buddhist youths, chat, play games, and help our temple start a YBA chapter (Young Buddhists of America). Our next meeting will be on Sunday March 9th after service, at

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.

Toban, Saturday March 15th, 9:00 am – It's coming-on to Spring and time to clean the temple. A *Toban* (temple cleaning) is scheduled for Saturday, March 15th at 9:00 am. It's time for a good, thorough spring cleaning! There's cleanup to do both inside and outside the temple. We will have our Ohigan service (Spring Equinox) on Sunday the 16th and it would be great to get the winter cobwebs and dust out of the temple and into the spring

air. Just show up that morning dressed to clean!

Stone "Wok", Sunday, March 23rd, after service. Please join us for our 2nd annual Stone Wok luncheon. It's kind of like "Stone Soup" except we will stir fry the ingredients. Jefferson



has offered to cook the rice. Sign up to bring a veggie or two. We'll need a kitchen and cleanup crew too (the more the merrier) Have some fun eating with and getting to know our Dharma friends. More information call Mary: 570-6876

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.

Jan 13 – Feb 17, 2007

Dues

Ann Heineman
Leslie Green
Paul & Karen Vielle
Pat Omine
Rachel Scudder

Tina Rodeen
Jefferson Workman
Tom Lande
Jen Johnston
Leo & Yurkio Kiyohiro
Hatsue Konishi
Sapp Family
Mary Naber
Martena Peterson
Colin Fitzgerald
Rachel Scudder
Nobuko Kasai
Janet Tamura
Jeremy Phillips
Marcelline Burdett
Kazuko Kawada
Milne Family
Hyacinth Dezenobia

Joy-e
Jun Yugawa
Paul & Karen Vielle
Anonymous

Ho-Onko
Janet Tamura
Marceline Burdett
Kam & Fumi Uyeji

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Jodo Shinshu Center Through the Eyes of a Student

" Last weekend I was so lucky to be able to participate in the retreat held at JSC called "Crossing Over to Shin" which was specifically planned for those not born Buddhist."

When I first came to the opening ceremony of the Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC) and the new home for Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley (October 2006), it was an amazing experience for me. I felt very proud to see that now we have such a beautiful and modern facility in America to study Buddhism. I was feeling so grateful to all those who generously supported this immense project. In my mind I was also wishing for an opportunity to come and spend some time learning Dharma at this wonderful center which was just a wild dream at the time.

Somehow the opportunity arose so unexpectedly. My two kids are now away at school. My husband has to serve in Olympia for the winter session of the state legislature. Suddenly I am home by myself. I truly appreciate my husband who encouraged me to pursue my dream of studying Buddhism at the JSC.

After serving as the president of the Spokane Buddhist Temple for about five years I decided to step down from the board and go on my Berkeley adventure. This gives newer members the leadership opportunity plus the time for me to study for at least one semester. Now I am so happy that I am actually taking serious classes on Buddhism.

I am taking 4 classes, History of Shin Buddhism in Japan, The Life and Teachings of the Buddha, Introduction to Buddhist Meditation

and Contemplative Psychology-A Buddhist Perspective. These are in depth courses of Buddhism with many reading assignments. I will be very busy! I am also attending various public lectures organized by JSC as well as IBS.



Last weekend I was so lucky to be able to participate in the retreat held at JSC called "Crossing Over to Shin" which was specifically planned for those not born Bud-

dhist. As I myself was raised as a Mormon this was a enlightening experience. Rev. Castro and Rev. Matsumoto both of whom were raised non- Buddhist conducted Dharma sessions. All participants discussed their experiences and learned so much about the BCA. We will all take this back to our temples to share.

Thanks to all those who were responsible for building the JSC. There are so many others like me that are receiving benefits from their hard labor and generous contributions. I am confident that there will be many more who will receive Dharma and Buddhist education in the future.

In Gassho,
Christine Marr
February 2008
IBS Student

Presidents Message

One of the first lessons we learn is impermanence - everything changes. Too soon we have to say goodbye to one of our new board members. Jeff Zahir has resigned due to an impending move to Olympia to accept a new job. Jeff, we will miss you and your wife, Janet, and wish for you both much happiness and success.

I have heard great things about the N. W. District convention in Seattle that took place over the Presidents Day weekend from many of our Sangha who attended this year. The convention is held every year in February, usually on Presidents Day weekend, hosted by one of the temples in the district. It's a time for people from the Jodo Shinshu Temples in the Washington, Oregon and Idaho region to get together to hear the Dharma and take refuge as part of a larger Sangha. I urge you to put it on your calendar to plan to attend next year. There are activities and events for children, teens

and adults. All the ministers from the district attend as well as associates from the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley and Socho Ogui from the BCA headquarters.

There was a presentation on the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley and two of our Sangha members were featured. The JSC is where Christine is studying Buddhism for a semester and where Paul attends conferences to further his mission as an assistant minister. Jun brought the presentation home and set it up in the temple foyer. Take a look at it next time you are at the temple. They have weekend seminars that are open to everyone. Earlier in February Celeste flew down and met up with Christine to attend a seminar titled "Crossing Over to Buddhism."

The JSC is the resource center for Jodo Shinshu Buddhist from all across North America. Jefferson and I attended a

leadership seminar there one weekend last fall. We met people from different temples in California as well as Anna and Mark from the Ekoji Buddhist Temple in the Washington D.C. area. While vacationing with my family in Virginia I had an opportunity to attend a service at the Ekoji Temple again. Meeting and connecting with fellow travelers on this Buddhist path and understanding the importance of developing our institutional resources as a means to promote and encourage these connections was the principal influence on my decision to serve as co-president with Jun Yugawa this year. The JSC is an amazing resource that is worth our support.

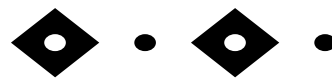
Reciting the Three Treasures we take refuge in the Buddha, the Dharma and the Sangha. To understand Buddhism is to understand yourself, but that lifelong journey is made easier shared with the Sangha.

Liat Parker

Haiku

Winter garden,
the moon thinned to a thread,
insects singing.

Basho



Shotsuki-Hoyo

(The remembrance service for deceased loved ones) will be held Sunday, March 16, 2008 during Rev. Castro's service. 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

Shotsuki-Hoyo

Editor's Note: Last month, the *Shotsuki-Hoyo* list for March was mistakenly published in February's Newsletter. We apologize for this error, which was noted only after we had gone to press. The correct names that *should have appeared* in February's *Shotsuki-Hoyo* list are:

(February)

- Hazuo Horita
- Mary Ikebe
- Tsutae Muraoka
- Nobuichi Nitta
- Edward Parker
- Ito Tanaka
- Evelyn Beler Vielle
- Midori Yamasaki
- Chiyeiko Yamauchi

What's Going On.....

Northwest District Convention

Last month (Feb 15-17) eleven members of the Spokane Buddhist Temple attended the 61st Annual Northwest District Buddhist Convention in Tukwila, Washington. Hosted by

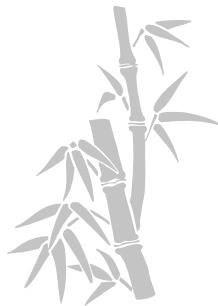
to Music. In addition, there were classes on Calligraphy and Okesa making. The most fun for me personally was meeting many new people and reconnecting with old friends. All in all, it was an exciting and satisfying weekend. Next year's Convention will be hosted by the Oregon Temple and will be held in Portland. I urge all who can to attend.

Paul Vielle, Minister's Assistant



Spokane Delegates at the 2008 NW District Convention

the Seattle Betsuin, it featured the theme "Coming Home to the Nembutsu". This year hit a new record for attendance -- over 500 people came. Following the morning service, there were many interesting lectures. Topics included: The Meaning of Memorial Services, Hongan; Amida's Vow and Sutra Chanting




Naijin 101

What do the Buddha's hand gestures mean?

- (a) The thumb and index finger of the right hand form a circle representing the Dharma, the world of enlightenment. The right hand is also raised to represent the world of Nirvana.
- (b) The left hand is lowered and represents the world of samsara (the world in which we live). So the right side represents Enlightenment and left side represents the world of

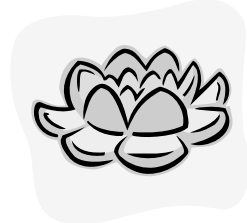


2008
Upcoming
Programs at
Jodo Shinshu
Center



May 3 - Japanese Nembutsu Seminar: A Japanese language weekend seminar.

June 27-29- Pacific Seminar: A revival of the long respected annual BCA seminar which was originally held in Asilomar on the beautiful central California coast. The new version will be held at the JSC and will feature several respected Shin teachers.



Dues and Donations (continued from page 2)

Donations

- Anonymous
- Paul & Karen Vielle
- Tom Lande
- Mary Naber
- Colin Fitzgerald
- Jim & Shirley Bennett
- Ann Heinemann
- Burdett/Terao
- Pati Lira
- Gordon Bermant & Geri Lincoln
- Tuesday Meditation Group
- Helen Hart
- Samantha Lowderback

Memorial Dana

- Martena Peterson in memory of Grover Twiner
- Janet Tamura in memory of Mike Higachi
- Janet Tamura in memory of Manichi Yamaguchi
- Janet Tamura in memory of Madelyn Sapp
- Janet Tamura in memory of Edward Parker
- Pati Lira in memory of Edward Parker
- Ann Heinemann in memory of Edward Parker

- Jim & Shirley Bennett in memory of Edward Parker
- Martena Peterson in memory of Ed Parker
- Leslie Green in memory of Ed Parker
- Paul & Karen Vielle in memory of Ed Parker
- Pat Omine in memory of Ed Parker
- Anne Paulin in memory of Ed Parker
- Celeste Sterrett in memory of Ed Parker

- Marcelline Burdett in memory of Ed Parker
- Janet Tamura in memory of Ed Parker
- Kam & Fumi Uyeji in memory of Ed Parker
- Jeff & Jan Zahir in memory of Ed Parker
- Liat Parker in memory of Ed Parker

