

Spokane Buddhist Temple

Volume 55, 2009 - Issue 4
This newsletter is published monthly by the
Spokane Buddhist Temple
927 S Perry Street
Spokane, WA 99202
509 534-7954



Everyone is welcome to attend all
activities and services. Visit us online at:
www.spokanebuddhisttemple.org
e-mail: spokanebuddhisttemple@gmail.com

Voice of the Sangha

Calendar of Events



April 2009

Apr 5	Sunday	10:30am Sangha Service ❖MC: Martena Peterson ❖Greeter: Hyacinth Dezenobia ❖Kansho: Charlotte Trebilcook ❖Dharma Talk: Jun Yugawa ❖Flowers & Rice: Robert Gilles ❖Snack: Helen Hart 12-1 pm DVD lecture
Apr 12	Sunday	10:30am Sangha Service ❖MC: Hyacinth Dezenobia ❖Greeter: Mary Nabor ❖Kansho: Robert Gilles ❖Short Meditation: Marta Lowenhoff ❖Dharma Talk: Dr. Sunil ❖Flowers & Rice: Jen Johnston ❖Snack: Asha Jayasingi ❖Dharma School: Ellicia Milne 12-1 pm DVD lecture
Apr 18	Saturday	9:30am - 2:30pm Spring Bazaar 7pm Lecture with Reverend Harry Bridge
Apr 19	Sunday	10:30 am Hanamatsuri Service with Rev. Harry Bridge ❖MC: Paul Vielle ❖Greeter: Hyacinth Dezenobia ❖Kansho: Rachel Scudder ❖Short Meditation: Robert Gilles ❖Dharma Talk: Rev. Bridge ❖Flowers & Rice: Celeste Sterrett ❖Snack: Dharma School ❖Dharma School: Ellicia Milne 12-1 pm DVD lecture
Apr 26	Sunday	10:30 am Sangha Service ❖MC: Robert Gilles ❖Greeter: Lucinda Thompkins ❖Short Meditation: Karen Vielle ❖Dharma Talk: Mary Nabor ❖Flowers & Rice: Sam Lowderback 12-1 pm DVD lecture
Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Thursdays	5:30-6:30 pm Vipassana Meditation Sitting ❖Led by Mary Webster - a trained Vipassana meditation teacher leads the sessions. Come and see for yourself how meditation can smooth out the wrinkles of our chaotic lives and add depth to your practice.



Spokane Buddhist Temple

APRIL 2009

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Announcements

April 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.



DVD Lecture Series Continues -

Each week following our coffee and tea, we will be screening a lecture upstairs in the Hondo. This is a DVD series on Buddhism by Professor Eckel of Boston University. Lecture is 30 minutes followed by a discussion. 12-1pm. Drop ins are welcome! We will have a new topic each week.

SBT Welcomes Rev. Harry Bridge -

Mark your calendars for several important events in April. Rev. Harry Bridge from the Oakland Buddhist Church will be visiting us over the weekend of April 18-19. His visit coincides with the start of Japan Week (April 18-24). Japan Week is a celebration of Japanese culture, crafts, music and arts—which are presented at several venues throughout Spokane. Kicking off the Week's events will be a public lecture by Rev. Bridge entitled "Buddha, who, What, WHY?" It takes place on Saturday evening April 18 at 7:00 PM at the Spokane Buddhist Temple. Then on Sunday morning at 10:30 AM, Rev. Bridge will conduct our Hanamatsuri service. Hanamatsuri commemorates the birth of the Buddha Shakyamuni. A highlight of this service is the ritual of pouring sweet tea over an image of the infant Buddha, commemorating the sweet rain that fell at the time of his birth. Newcomers are always welcome.

Spring Bazaar -

It's that time again! Great teriyaki chicken bentos and sushi, as well as all kinds of baked goodies are happening at our Spring Bazaar on April 18 from

9:30 am to 2:30 pm at the temple. We will also have our famous homemade senbei (rice crackers) for sale. Pre-order by calling the temple and leaving a message at 534-7954. The chicken bento is \$10, sushi is \$6 and senbei is \$3.50/bag. If you'd like to volunteer, just give us a call.

Japan Week -

In addition to our Spring Bazaar and the lecture (Saturday evening 4/18) and Hanamatsuri Service (Sunday 4/19 at 10:30 am) with Rev. Harry Bridge, there is an exhibition of sumi-e and other Japanese arts from local artists displayed at the Kress Gallery in Riverfront Park on the 3rd floor. Our sangha member, Martena Peterson, has a piece in that show called "Kokoro-Reflective Hearts". The show is through the entire month of April.

Book Club -

The book club will be meeting Wednesday, April 15th at 7:00 p.m. at Coffee Social, 113 W. Indiana. The book is "You Are Not Here" by Keith Kachtick. For more information, people can see me or Dawn Lindblom after services.

Congratulations -

Rachel Scudder graduated 3/20/09 from EWU with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. Yeah Rachel!!!



The Spokane Buddhist Temple would like to extend our condolences to the families of several temple members who have recently passed away

Bob Takeshita

Teru & Tayeko Kayahara

Kengo Kato

Spokane Buddhist Temple Team

-Supervising Minister-
Rev. Don Castro
Seattle Betsuin

-Minister Assistants-
Paul Vielle
Christine Marr

Board of Directors

-President-
Jun Yugawa

-Vice President-
Martena Peterson

-Recording Secretary-
Jen Johnston

-Treasurer-
Ellicia Milne

Auditor-Fumi Uyeji

Board Members

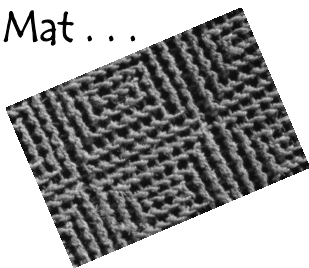
Celeste Sterrett
Kosuke Imamura
Marta Lowenhoff
Barb Braden
Jen Johnston

Board Advisor
Jefferson Workman

Newsletter Editor
Todd Milne

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Clean as a Lotus - by Paul Vielle

As a kid, when my mom told me to clean my room, she'd say something like, I want to see this room clean as a whistle! I never understood what 'being clean' had to do with whistles. Why not a bicycle – or a baseball mitt? At least I understood something about those things. I want this room clean as a baseball mitt! Well, maybe not. About all I retained from mom's little saying was that, if something was clean as a whistle—it was really clean.

I grew up thinking this was more or less true, until I encountered a lotus blossom for the first time. This happened several years ago, while traveling in India. In the courtyard of our hotel was a large, brackish pond. There, floating on the muddy water was a cluster lotus flowers. I was struck by their spotless, almost luminescent appearance. Truly, a lotus is just about the cleanest thing you'll ever see; —they've got whistles beat by a mile!

Turns out this remarkable aquatic plant has self-cleaning properties. In a recent study researchers found that "microscopic bumps on a lotus leaf transform its waxy surface into an extremely water repellent material. Raindrops roll easily across such a surface, [like ball bearings on glass] removing any dirt." (Scientific American, August, 2008, p.89). It seems nothing "sticks" to this plant.

In many Asian cultures the lotus is venerated as a symbol of purity. It's no accident that in Buddhist iconography, Sakyamuni Buddha is depicted seated atop a lotus blossom. In so many ways, the lotus is an apt metaphor for the Buddhist approach to living.

Consider. The lotus bud arises from the pond muck, ascends through fetid water, breaks the surface and enters the world of light. There, it blossoms serenely, fulfilling its destiny—to offer its beauty to the world. In this pure state, free of hindrances, dirt can not adhere to it. Before his enlightenment the Buddha too, worked his way through the "muck" of suffering. For six years he devoted himself to the most stringent of ascetic practices in his quest to understand the problem of human suffering. But this approach bore no fruit and he abandoned his ascetic life.

Later, seated in meditation beneath the Bodhi tree, he passed beyond the realm of conventional understanding into the light of true wisdom. What does this mean? In a word, he awoke to the reality that nothing in the universe endures or stands alone. Everything depends upon something else for its existence. In other words, all things are changing constantly and ultimately inseparable. What do these insights have to do with suffering? Suffering arises in the 'disconnect' between what we expect and the way things actually are. We don't always get what we want. People disappoint us. Things we cherish fall apart. Our bodies decline. Loved ones die. Even pleasurable things become boring after a while. Welcome to the undeniable truths of Impermanence and Interdependence! In this reality notions of my importance, my entitlements or my special-ness don't count for much. These discoveries led



Buddha to formulate his signature Four Noble Truths and his remedy for suffering, the Eight Fold Path—a legacy of wisdom for all ages.

Indeed, the lotus is an apt metaphor for the Buddha's wisdom. It arises from pond muck to dwell above the water in serene beauty, immune to dirt and blemish. Similarly, Buddha's wisdom arises from the delusions of everyday thinking to see beauty in life as it is, undistorted by self-centered desires. Buddha's wisdom; clean and unadorned, incisive and liberating.

Still, --that said, I doubt my mom could ever get behind the notion of "...clean as a lotus"!



The Green Corner - by Karen Vielle

This month, April, is host to Earth Day. Earth Day is listed on the calendar as April 22nd but it could be better described as a season. It is associated with events on the weekends both before and after April 22nd, some observe it on March 21st, and World Environment Day is June 6th. The following background is from the website <http://earthday.envirolink.org/>.

The first Earth Day in 1970 rallied over 20 million Americans from around the country and on college campuses to get involved in environmental "teach-ins." Conceptualized by Gaylord Nelson and organized by Denis Hayes, Earth Day events featured the largest grassroots mobilization in US history. Out of these events emerged what has come to be known as the environmental movement and the first environmental legislation - the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts.

Earth Day has continued to be a successful annual event that provides a venue for environmental education on worldwide as well as local issues. A good source for looking up events in the Spokane area is www.earthdayspokane.org/ calendar-of-events/. Some of the things posted on the calendar include film festivals, auctions, fairs, dinners, discussions, and a tree planting event. Keep checking the site for details and more events as they are planned.

It's a little short notice to plan something for this year but we can still use the inspiration of Earth Day to make our own commitments to the environment. On our own as individuals we can make a pledge for the rest of the year to do something as simple as remember to turn off lights when you leave a room, turn off the water when brushing your teeth, or turn off your car when parked or "waiting". We do a great job at the temple of being mindful of energy usage and sustainability, but it never hurts to make it official. I would love to see the Temple Board make an official pledge or policy to focus on at least one specific sustainability practice for the rest of the year. For example we could decide to only use biodegradable cups, plates and take-out containers for our Food Bazaars and fund-raisers. Then by having a clear focus, hopefully we will be able to see what impact that has had by the time the next Earth Day comes around. Who knows, maybe next April we at the Spokane Buddhist Temple can host, plan, or get involved with an event for Earth Day.

Shotsuki-Hoyo

The April Shotsuki-Hoyo remembrance service will be held on Sunday, March 12. According to temple records and other sources, a total of 10 people passed away during the month of April.

*Koji Hayashi
Takeshi Kan
Akira Katayama
Kazuo "Kaz" Kuwada
Yasumasa Moriya
Chiyono Nakanishi
Minoru Terao
Mary Barn-Twiner
Chiyono Yamaguchi
Tomiko Yamamoto*

Dear Sanga Members,

The board has recently finished the business of getting our yearly budget together. Surprisingly, it was not as bad as anticipated considering the current state of the economy, but still falling short in the income compared to the expenses of the temple. One of our main sources of income that we rely on every year to keep things running is our membership dues. 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,

Senior/Nissei Membership @ \$15.00 per month, or \$180.00 annually,

Student/Special Membership @ \$10.00 per month, or \$120.00 annually.

If you are not signed up as a member, but have been attending services and would like a member registration form, they are available on the table in the front door entry way. If you are signed up as a member, but have questions or comments about dues, please let us know after our service, or contact us @ 534-7954.

Gassho, Ellicia Milne, Temple Treasurer

Donations

Jim & Shirley Bennett
Marcelline Burdett
Celeste Sterrett
Paul & Karen Vielle
Kazuye Yamamoto
Mary Naber
Jenifer Johnston
Sarah Doering
Helen Hart
James River
Steve Becker
Jimmy Yamamoto
and Everyone Anonymous
O-Seisen Donation
Marcelline Burdett
O-higan Donations
Leo Kiyohiro
Jenifer Johnston
Fumi & Kam Uyeji

In Memory of Ed Parker

Liat Parker
Janet Tamura

We Gratefully Acknowledge Membership Dues Received in March

Mary Naber
Fumi & Kam Uyeji
Kazuko Kuwada
Robert Gilles
Jen Johnston
Tom Anderson
Paul & Karen Vielle
Marcelline Burdett
Marta Lowenhoff
Steve Kijima
Barbara Braden
James Lea
Leo Kiyohiro
Aiko & Justin
Hyacinth Denzenobia
Rachel Scudder
Jefferson Workman
Paul Harrison
Leanne and Greg Sapp
Dawn Lindblom
Alexa James
Nobuko Kasai

For questions and/or comments regarding membership dues, please contact us by e-mail: spokanebuddhisttemple@gmail.com or leave a phone message at 509-534-7954.

Spokane Buddhist Temple
927 S Perry
Spokane, WA 99202-3462

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SPOKANE WA



Please Join Us...

*For Our
Spring Bazaar
Saturday,
April 18th
9:30am-2:30pm*

To contribute to the Spokane Buddhist Temple newsletter,
Email content to Todd@HealingPeacefulMusic.com
Deadline is the Saturday before the last Sunday of each month