

Spokane Buddhist Temple

Volume 57, 2011 - Issue 2
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
email: spokanebuddhisttemple@gmail.com

Calendar of Events

February 2011

- Feb 6 Sunday 10:30 am Sangha Service** Doshi: Jefferson Workman
❖MC: Martena Peterson ❖Greeter: Lucinda Tompkins
❖Kansho: Ellicia Milne ❖Short Meditation: Karen Vielle
❖Dharma Talk: Eileen Tanaka ❖Flowers/Rice: Virginia Saint Louis
❖Snack: Jason Crowley
❖Dharma School: Ellicia Milne ❖Music: Todd Milne
- ***MA Paul Vielle will give a special young adult Dharma Talk downstairs during the service*****
- Feb 13 Sunday 10:30 am Sangha Service** ❖Doshi: Todd Milne
❖MC: Hyacinth Dezenobia ❖Greeter: tba
❖Kansho: tba ❖Short Meditation: tba
❖Flowers/Rice: Debbie LaPoint ❖Dharma School: None
❖Dharma Talk: Mary Naber ❖Snack: Eileen Tanaka
- Feb 20 Sunday 10:30 am Sangha Service —Shotsuki-Hoyo**
❖Doshi: Paul Vielle
❖MC: Martena Peterson ❖Greeter: Mari Haworth
❖Kansho: Mary Naber ❖Short Meditation: Lucinda Tompkins
❖Flowers/Rice: Keelings ❖Dharma School: tba
❖Dharma Talk: Paul Vielle
❖Snack: Keelings ❖Music: Todd Milne
****Sangha Discussion Group after The Service****
- Feb 27 Sunday 10:30 am Sangha Service** Doshi: Paul Vielle
❖MC: Mari Haworth ❖Greeter: Chris Keeling
❖Kansho: Lucinda Tompkins ❖Short Meditation: Mari Haworth
❖Dharma Talk: Jun Yugawa ❖Flowers/Rice: Janet Tamura
❖Snack: Eileen Tanaka ❖Dharma School: Ellicia Milne
❖Music: Todd Milne

Please Note: If you cannot, for any reason, come to do the task you volunteered for, please call at least 24 hrs in advance (509-443-2319).

Temple Weekly Chat—Receive weekly email reminders - email your request to: spobuddhist-chat@gmail.com. **VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE:** www.facebook.com/pages/Spokane-WA/Spokane-Buddhist-Temple/116164823034?ref=sgm

Voice of the Sangha

To contribute to the Spokane Buddhist Temple newsletter,
Email content to Quilt4mari@yahoo.com—Deadline is the **Wednesday** before the last Sunday of each month



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2010

VOLUME 57 ISSUE 2

Announcements



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 sometimes a dharma discussion.

Passage Meditation—Satsang group is meeting regularly on Tuesdays from 6-7:30 pm. We are focusing on Sri Easwaran's form of passage meditation and his 8 Point Program for daily living. This form of meditation fits very well with any spiritual path. We suggest that interested people read Sri Easwaran's book - Passage Meditation - that can be found on the web <http://www.easwaran.org> or at Auntie's bookstore - then practice meditating for a month before joining our group.

A group of us will be carpooling to an upcoming meditation retreat: "Learn Passage Meditation." On Saturday, April 9, 2011, in Eugene, Oregon. The Blue Mountain Center of Meditation will offer this introductory retreat in which you can explore Sri Easwaran's program of passage meditation. We'd love to have you join us. More information, please contact Mary: 328-3829

Vipassana Meditation Sitting-
Thursdays 5:30-6:30 pm. 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.

Upcoming:

**2011 Japan Week is Coming
Saturday April 16th—Sunday
April 24th**

**We will have our Spring
Bazaar and a special guest for
a lecture and Sunday Service.**

BCA Center for Buddhist Education presents "**Crossing Over to Jodo Shinshu**" seminar. May 13-15, 2011 at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley. Registration \$75. It will provide you with a stronger foundation in Jodo Shinshu approaches to life. It is especially good for those coming from other religious traditions.

Rooms are available at the center. www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org
See also flyers at the temple.

**The Vietnamese Buddhist
Community celebrates
Chinese New Year on
February 6th with a special
service. 5025 N Regal St,
Spokane, WA (509) 484-4331**

Spokane Buddhist Temple Team

-Supervising Minister-
Rinban Don Castro,
Seattle Betsuin

-Minister Assistants-
Christine Marr
Paul Vielle
Jefferson Workman

Board of Directors

-President-
Martena Peterson

: -Vice President-
Celeste Sterrett

-Treasurer-
Ellicia Milne

-Recording Secretary-
Jen Johnston

-Corresponding Secretary-
Barb Braden

Auditor-Sally Keeling

Kosuke Imamura
Rachel Scudder

Jim Bennett
Robert Gilles

Board Advisors
Jefferson Workman
Jun Yugawa

Music Director
Todd Milne

Newsletter Editor
Mari Haworth

**Welcome New Members Jason, Patricia J.D. and Leo Crowley,
and Virginia Saint Louis**



The 2010 Green Corner Year in Review By Karen Vielle

As the days get longer and the snow starts melting, we come out of our winter hibernations and start to gather again in groups. You may be planning a Valentine's Day party, a Super Bowl party, a spring equinox party, or just looking forward to lazy summer barbeques. Here are a few "green" tips for whatever get-togethers you have planned.

Instead of regular paper plates and plastic utensils, look for plates and napkins made from recycled paper.

You can also get all natural, biodegradable plates and utensils made out of corn products. Better yet, go to the second-hand store and buy an inexpensive set of bright, fun, mismatched plates and silverware. Then you can reuse them for multiple events. You can also buy reusable cloth napkins, or with just a little time commitment, you can make your own cloth napkins out of low cost fabric remnants. Just cut the fabric in squares and hem the edges.

Some of you may prefer the "no work" method of getting together with friends at a restaurant. No worries, you can play the green game too. You know you will order more food than you can eat, and you will probably plan to take the leftovers home. This is the non-wasteful thing to do but it brings up another "green" dilemma, the Styrofoam to-go container. Some restaurants are starting to use cardboard and compostable containers, but many are still using the old Styrofoam ones. You can side-step the whole issue by sticking your own Tupperware type container in your handbag before you leave. Then you have your lunch ready to go for the next day.

So have fun planning your next event, knowing that sharing good times with friends and family doesn't have to be hard on the planet.

Dana received for the newsletter from Samantha Lowderback
Joya-e and Year End Dana: Jefferson Workman, Paul & Karen Vielle, Jun Yugawa, Mari Haworth, Kam & Fumi Uyeji, Robert Brost
Ho-onko dana: Paul & Karen Vielle and Fumi & Kam Uyeji
In Memory of Patricia Simonet From:
Robert Brost, Linda Lyon, Pat Omine, Janet Tamura, Anonymous, Martena Peterson, Kam & Fumi Uyeji, and Karen & Paul Vielle
In Memory of Ed Parker from Liat Parker
In Memory of Mike Higashi from Janet Tamura
In Memory of Grover Twiner from Martena Peterson
In Memory of Manichi Yamaguchi from Janet Tamura and Etsuko Yamada

Shotsuki-Hoyo
The February Shotsuki-Hoyo remembrance service will be held on Sunday, Feb. 20th. According to temple records and other sources, a total of 10 people passed away during the month of February. They are:

**Hazuo Horita
Mary Ikebe
Tsutae Muraoka
Nobuichi Nitta
Edward Parker
Ito Tanaka
Evelynn Beler Vielle
Masao "Mas" Wada
Midori Yamasaki
Chiyeko Yamauchi**

Please contact the temple if you wish to have a name added to the Shotsuki-Hoyo service. Please give us their name and date of death.

Dues Received in Jan

Chris & Sally Keeling, Rachel Scrudder, Celeste Sterrett, Ellicia & Todd Milne, Karen & Paul Vielle, Tom & Christine Anderson-Barada, El & Deborah LaPoint, Barbara Braden, Aiko Terao, Mary Naber, Martena Peterson, Jenifer Johnston, Virginia Saint Louis, Robert Brost, Kiku Terao, Lucinda Tompkins, Jun Yugawa, Jason & Patricia Crowley, Fumi & Kam Uyeji, John Cheek, Jeremy Phillips

Dana Received in Jan

Lucinda Tompkins, Jun Yugawa, Keeling Family, Anonymous, Paul & Karen Vielle, Tom & Christine Anderson-Barada, Connie Overturf, Linda Bell, Rene Penna, William Olson, Linda & Gavin Sakai, Mary Popham, Norm Howard, James Bradford, Jenifer Johnston, Crowley Family, Emalee Gillis, David Bolan, Mary Naber, Jim & Shirley Bennett

KUDOS KORNER

Dana (Giving) - One of the key actions of Buddhism is dana. This is related to our word "donation", but also includes sharing, even selfless giving without worrying about getting something in return. Thank you for your continued dana, especially for the Toban (cleaning) of the temple on January 15th, and to everyone who helped make and bag Senbei on January 29th & 30th. Thanks to Rachel Scrudder for designing our new Website—check it out at www.Spokanebuddhisttemple.org.



2011 Board Installation: (l to r) Celeste Sterrett, Jenifer Johnson, Martena Peterson & Barbara Braden, with Minister Assistant Christine Marr in the center.

Missing are Jim Bennett, Robert Gilles, Kosuke Imamura, Sally Keeling, Rachel Scrudder and Board Advisors Jun Yugawa and Jefferson Workman.

Notes From The Board

This is my first article as President of the Board of the Spokane Buddhist Temple and I'd like to introduce you to your new Board. Our new Vice President is Celeste Sterrett, returning are Treasurer Ellicia Milne and Recording Secretary Jenifer Johnston. Barbara Braden is now our Corresponding Secretary. Also returning are Kosuke Imamura, Jim Bennett and Rachel Scrudder. New this year is Robert Gilles and last, but not least, is Sally Keeling as our Auditor. I'm grateful to be working with all of these great people. They all bring enthusiasm and a wide range of skills and experience to this Board and work very hard to ensure the success of the temple.

The Farmer's Market continues in the gym from 3-6pm on Thursdays through the end of March, then they take a break for a couple of months. South Perry Yoga will be offering evening classes in the gym from Feb. 7 through the end of March also.

If you get a chance, please feel free to approach any of us with your suggestions and concerns. Or better yet, join us, in not just the running of the temple, but with your ideas for spreading the dharma and growing the Sangha. Gassho, Martena Peterson, President

CONVENTION COUNTDOWN

WHO IS THIS PERSON?

MADE A QUILT FOR THE SILENT AUCTION IN TACOMA AS WELL AS ORGANIZED THE OTHER RAFFLE ITEMS

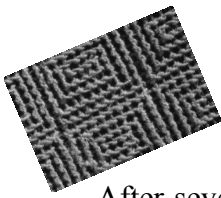
MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SPOKANE VISITORS CENTER TO PROVIDE PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL FOR OUR CONVENTION TO DISTRIBUTE IN TACOMA

DESIGNED THE LOGO FOR THE THEME OF OUR CONVENTION "UNDER AMIDA'S UMBRELLA OF COMPASSION"

DESIGNED THE LABEL TO ATTACH TO THE BAGS OF SENBEI WE ARE USING AS OUR INVITE TO OUR CONVENTION

IT'S OUR VERY OWN MARI HAWORTH! THANKS SO MUCH FOR ALL YOUR HELP! Celeste Sterrett

From the Tatami
Mat . . .



Shinran's Unique Insight (Part 2)

Paul Gyodo Vielle, Minister's Assistant

After several years in exile Shinran was pardoned. Well into his 60's now, he returned to Kyoto and spent his remaining years writing and teaching. His studies led him to a unique interpretation of the Eighteenth Vow, a passage found in the Larger Sutra of Immeasurable Life. Without going into detail here, this Vow states that if anyone recites Amida Buddha's name (Namoamidabutsu) with a sincere heart, that person will attain Buddhahood in the Pure Land. The historical interpretation of this passage held that "saying the Name" was a practice by which we (through our own efforts) earn merit and thereby secure our birth in the Pure Land. Shinran read this passage in a totally new, unprecedented way (1). Ultimately, it led to a new direction in Pure Land teaching.

Shinran's unique insight clarified the relationship between our "saying the Name" and the liberating activity of Amida's wisdom operating in our lives. He came to understand that our efforts in saying Amida's Name over and over, expecting it will lead to birth in the Pure Land, was flawed. Why? —because no matter how virtuous we think our efforts are, deep down, they are always tainted by self-serving motives and selfish desires; realities of which we are totally unaware. For this reason, he saw himself as incapable of performing any practice. This insight shows us Shinran's deep recognition of (what he called) his evil nature.

Shinran concluded that any merit he might gain by "saying the name," arose not from his own efforts, but from the merits extended to him by Amida's activity. Further, he saw that only by entrusting himself completely to the liberating power of the Name (Namoamidabutsu), could he ever attain genuine appreciation of Amida's activity in his life. This is the essence of Shinran's unique insight into the real meaning of the 18th Vow. Of course, there is so much more to say about the Name and the Vow and how these two ideas play-out in our everyday lives as Shin Buddhists. We'll take a closer look at this relationship in a future Newsletter. Meanwhile, for an in-depth discussion of this topic, please consult a recent article by Dr. Nobuo Haneda(1).



We owe such a great debt of gratitude to Shinran for his wise and insightful teachings. His unique interpretation of Amida's Vow activity profoundly affected the direction of Pure Land thought. This is the main theme behind last month's Ho-on-ko observance.

(1) "How our teachers read Buddhist scriptures" an essay by Nobuo Haneda. In The Dharma Breeze, vol. 15 no. 2, December 2010.



Nuido Class April 19 - 22, 2011 at the Spokane Buddhist Temple As part of Japan Week

NUIDO - "The Way of Embroidery" Traditional Japanese Embroidery as it was taught for over 1600 years. In the class we will be using the traditional frame, handmade needles and filament flat silk on silk fabric. Our teacher is Kay Stanis of Appleton, Wisconsin. Kay is a certified Kurenai teacher. The class is taught in the traditional phases. Phase 1 is Shockikubai. The class includes phases 1 through 9, and students work at their own pace and may work on the phase from last year or start a new one. **Early registration is a must** as our supplies come from Japan. For information call Lee at (509)747-4926.

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

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WHAT DOES "TBA" MEAN ?

Did you see the "tbas" on the schedule on Page 1? Those are times that no one has volunteered for a Sunday Service. We are an all-volunteer Sangha and you are always welcome to participate. We especially need help on Sunday 2/13 when our minister's assistants are at the Convention. We can provide you with a description of those volunteer positions. Please contact the temple to help on those days.

Intro to Jodo Shinshu Classes start in March

In March we will be offering an "Introduction to Jodo Shinshu" short course. This will be a six-week series taught by Sensei Paul Vielle, Minister's Assistant. Classes will meet Wednesday evenings, beginning March 23 and run to April 27. We'll meet at the temple from 7:00-8:30 PM. These classes are designed for newcomers to Buddhism and assumes no prior knowledge on the subject. In lectures, discussions, readings, DVD presentations—we'll study excerpts from Shinran's writings and selections from the Pure Land Sutras. The class will give everyone a basic overview of Shin teachings and practices.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the March Newsletter. There will be a \$25.00 fee to cover the cost of printed materials. For more information, and to reserve a seat, ask Paul after the service or leave a message on the temple's e-mail: spokanebuddhisttemple@gmail.com or phone (509) 534-7954.