

# Wheel of the Sangha

Volume 28 Issue 11 November 2009

A monthly publication by **Seattle Buddhist Church**

*May peace and tranquility prevail  
throughout the world*

## Seattle Buddhist Church

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### Wheel of the Sangha

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**This is a cover page.  
Please scroll down  
to view the rest  
of the newsletter.**

### Seattle Betsuin Vision

*Embrace true and  
real life*

*in Nembutsu*



### Seattle Betsuin Mission

*Promote, protect, and  
share the Buddha,  
Dharma and Sangha*

## November 2009 Special Services/Events

**EITAIKYO-MUEN HOYO SERVICE:** Nov 8 - 10:00 AM with Rev Grant Ikuta

**CHILDREN'S SERVICE IN CHAPEL:** Nov 15 - 10:00 AM

**ESSENTIALS OF JODO SHINSHU in Japanese:** Nov 3, 10, 17, 24 - 7:00 PM  
All welcome for Shoshin-ge Chanting at 6:30 PM

**FAMILY MUSIC SERVICE:** NOV 29 – 10:00 AM

<p><b>1</b> Temple Contact Information</p> <p><b>2</b> Calendar of Events, Newsletter Deadline: <b>November 16</b> Print: <b>November 20</b></p>	<p><b>3</b> Rimban's Message, Look Who's Blogging</p> <p><b>4</b> Dharma School, ABA Breakfast</p> <p><b>5</b> Reverend Castro President Tahara</p>	<p><b>6</b> Camp Fire, Shinran's 750<sup>th</sup> in San Jose, SBC Membership</p> <p><b>7</b> SBC Donations Go Paperless</p>	<p><b>8</b> Boy Scout Troop 252, Shinran's 750<sup>th</sup> in Kyoto, Betsuin's New Year Party</p> <p><b>9</b> SBBWA, Fall English Seminar</p> <p><b>10 – 12</b> Dharma Exchange</p>
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## Betsuin Events for November 2009

### **SUNDAYS**

#### November 1

8:45 am Meditation Service (Rev. Castro)  
10:00 am **FAMILY SERVICE**  
Children: Rev. Castro  
Adult: Rev. Castro  
Japanese: Rinban Matsubayashi  
DX: Rev. Castro  
11:45 am SBWA Board Meeting  
1:00 pm Metta Award Class (Rev. Castro)  
2:00 pm Ministers' Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

#### November 8

8:45 am Meditation Service: Rev. Castro  
10:00 am **EITAIKYO/MUEN HOYO SERVICE** –  
Guest Speaker, Rev. Grant Ikuta, Steveston  
Buddhist Temple (Ochigo postponed to January)  
Children: Rev. Ikuta  
Adult: Rev. Ikuta  
Japanese: Rev. Ikuta  
DX: Rev. Castro  
1:00 pm Metta Award Class (Rev. Castro)

#### November 15 Rinban Matsubayashi in Spokane

8:45 am Meditation Service: Rev. Castro  
10:00 am Children's Service: Rev. Castro  
Youth: Joe Schwab  
Adult: Rev. Warrick  
DX: Rev. Warrick  
11:45 am SBBWA General Membership Meeting  
1:00 pm Metta Award Class (Rev. Castro)

#### November 22

8:45 am Meditation Service (Rev. Castro)  
10:00 am **FAMILY SERVICE**  
Children: Rev. Warrick  
Adult: Rev. Castro  
Japanese: Rinban Matsubayashi  
DX: Rev. Castro  
1:00 pm Metta Award Class (Rev. Castro)

#### November 29

8:45 am Meditation Service (Rev. Castro)  
10:00 am **FAMILY MUSIC SERVICE**  
Children: Rev. Castro  
Adult: Rev. Castro  
Japanese: Rinban Matsubayashi  
11:45 am SBBWA Board Meeting – Cabinet Election  
1:00 pm Metta Award Class (Rev. Castro)

### **MONDAYS** November 2, 9, 16, 23

Rinban Matsubayashi (Days off)

November 9 Rev. Castro (Vacation)

November 16 10:00 am Shinran Shonin Monthly  
Memorial Service (Rev. Castro)

### **TUESDAYS**

November 3, 10, 17, 24 Rev. Castro (Days off)

6:30 pm "Shoshinge" Chanting (Rinban Matsubayashi)  
7:00 pm "The Essentials of Jodo Shinshu"  
Class (Rinban Matsubayashi)

#### November 24

10:30 am Keiro Service (Rinban Matsubayashi)

### **WEDNESDAYS**

#### November 4

10:30 am Dharma Support Group (Rev. Castro)  
7:30 pm Dharma School Board Meeting  
(Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

November 11 VETERANS DAY – Temple Closed

#### November 18

10:30 am Dharma Support Group (Rev. Castro)  
November 25 Rev. Castro (Vacation)  
10:30am Dharma Support Group (Joe Schwab)

### **THURSDAYS**

#### November 5

1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rev. Castro)  
7:30 pm Religious Department Meeting  
(Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

November 12 Rev. Castro (Vacation)

7:30 pm Betsuin Cabinet Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi)

#### November 19

1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rinban Matsubayashi)  
7:30 pm Betsuin Board of Directors Meeting  
(Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

November 26 THANKSGIVING – Temple Closed

### **FRIDAYS**

#### November 6

12:00 pm Gojikai Service and Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

November 13, 27 Rev. Castro (Vacation)

### **SATURDAYS**

November 7 10:00 am – 4 pm Fall English Seminar  
– Rev. Grant Ikuta, Steveston Buddhist Temple

November 14 Rinban Matsubayashi to Spokane,  
Rev. Castro (Vacation)

### **DECEMBER 2009: Major Events of Interest**

Sunday, **December 6** Bodhi Day Service  
& Potluck Lunch

Sunday, **December 13** Annual General  
Membership Meeting

Sunday, **December 20** Temple Clean-up

Thursday, **December 31** New Year's Eve Service



# Wheel of the Sangha

Volume 28 Issue 11 SEATTLE BETSUIN NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER



## LIGHT OF WISDOM (PRAJNA) & COMPASSION (KARUNA)

Rimban Hoshu Y. Matsubayashi, Ed.D.

### “Sincerely Honor the Three Treasures!”

The Preamble of the By-Laws of the Buddhist Churches of America states that “each member shall honor the Three Treasures: Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha; and follow faithfully the teaching of Shinran Shonin according to Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha.” Thus, the heart to honor the Three Treasures of Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha must be the fundamental attitude of all ministers and laypeople of the Buddhist Churches of America.

Prince Shotoku (574-624), who is considered to be the founder of Japanese Buddhism, and, even today, is respected highly by the Japanese, set down the first Seventeen Article Constitution in Japan in order to govern the country in the early seventh century. The Second Article of the Constitution, like the Preamble of the By-Laws of BCA, declares that they will “Sincerely honor the Three Treasures. The Three Treasures are Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha...”

Buddha means an enlightened one who has the wisdom (prajna) to see the truth of the world. Buddha also means wisdom itself, which works as compassion (karuna). The wisdom and compassion of the Buddha is the guiding light of all people of the BCA.

Dharma is the teachings of Buddha. It also means the laws and principles of things in the universe. Shakyamuni Buddha once said about Dharma that “Although I expounded Dharma, Dharma has been existing eternally regardless of my birth or not.” Shakyamuni Buddha moved Dharma into action for the first time in our human history. A history of the Buddhist Churches of America will be guided by the eternal Dharma.

Sangha means a harmonious gathering of Buddhists who are living with the Buddha of the Infinite Light (wisdom) and the Infinite Life (compassion).

My late uncle, who was a movie director at the Toho Movie Company in Japan, once described the importance of lights in his movie studio that “when all the studio lights are turned off, the single faint light attached to the ceiling of the stage remains on. That light shows us the way out. We refer to that ceiling light as the eternal night (joya) light. That eternal night light remains on even when studio lights that consume hundreds of kilowatts of power are on. During my 30 years as a movie director, I have always been moved by this eternal night light that remains on after all the studio lights are turned off. We were always able to come out safely from the dark studio guided by the eternal night light.”

Although the Buddha’s light of wisdom and compassion is constantly shining upon us, we often fail to realize such Buddha’s light. Shinran Shonin described our human nature in his *Koso Wasan (The Hymns of The Masters)* as follows:

**Although my eyes, blinded by passions,  
Do not see the light, which embraces me,  
The Great Compassion never tires,  
Always casting light upon me.**

The eternal night (joya) light on the ceiling of the studio stage is like the compassionate light that is constantly shining on us but which we fail to appreciate because of our passions. Let us all recite a passage of *The Shoshin-ge* that “I take refuge in the Buddha of the Inconceivable Light! (Namo Fukashigi-ko)” Gassho

**Look Who’s Blogging!** Rimban Matsubayashi and Reverend Castro, Reverend Jim Warrick, and EcoSangha! Join in, and post your comments. Rimban is blogging in English and Japanese.

<http://revmatsubayashi.blogspot.com/>

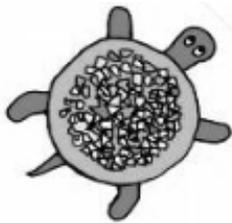
<http://revcastro.blogspot.com/> <http://revwarrick.blogspot.com/>

<http://ecosangha-seattle.blogspot.com/>

submitted by Alan Hoshino

Dharma School hosted the Hatsumairi celebration on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Welcome to the new kids and their family! Thank you for participating in our Hatsumairi or first visit to temple ceremony. Also thanks go out to the volunteers who helped with the festivities, including picture taking, service program, certificates, and refreshments.

Pre-K/Kindergarten Class On the first day of Dharma School, the Pre K/Kindergarten class started out by learning the classroom rules. Some of rules included being kind and gentle to everyone, no running in the Temple and using our inside voice while in the classroom and at Temple. The children then filled out a questionnaire which asked a variety of questions about themselves. The focus for the first four weeks of Dharma School was the Onenju. The students learned about the Onenju and how to take care of it when at the Temple and at home. They made an Onenju of their very own, an Onenju holder



so that they could keep it safe at home and a Onenju case so that they had a safe place to bring it to Temple in.

Last week, the Pre-K and Kindergarten class learned about persistence and the importance of pursuing their

goals. We read a story about Harry the Turtle and his search to find a friend. We then made turtles out of paper plates to remind them about this and to remember that Harry did not give up until he was able to find a friend.

3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade class We are trying a new concept this year—team-teaching! While rotating the planning aspect of teaching to take advantage of the

unique skills and talents of each teacher, we are fortunate to have up to 6 teachers working with the students in class each Sunday: Steph Ojima, Kelsey Ojima, Tina Zumoto-Ko, Donna Zumoto, Susie Taketa and Julianne Tosaya.



Our first few Sundays were spent getting to know each other with personalized namecards, a refresher lesson on how to gassho and oshoko, and a “Who Am I?” game (which included lifelines). Each Sunday, the students take turns opening class by setting up an obutsudan, complete with flowers, food offering and candle. We discussed the meaning of each item in the onaijin/obutsudan and then created really cool magnetic, booklet obutsudans to take home.

3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders love shrinky-dinks, so our first project this year with this creative plastic was to make our own onenju. Some of our class discussions have centered on Hatsumairi, memorial services and why we have these special services. Last week, we talked about how people (including ourselves) can seem to be two very different people—good/bad, happy/sad—even though you know it’s the same person. We demonstrated how each individual can have their own unique perceptions of the same item by drawing pictures that started with only a circle...or a square...or a line. For instance, a couple of students drew a snowman from the circle, another drew a cat, another drew a sun, and although there were a few that drew flowers, each flower was different.

Our class also passes out okesa for family service each Sunday. We look forward to many more projects and dana opportunities coming up this year.

### ABA Fundraising Breakfast submitted by Gail Kaminishi

Please join us for ABA's second annual **Hawaiian Breakfast** to support the ACRS food bank and the

Maitreya (Mongolia) Charities.

**ABA Hawaiian Breakfast  
November 1, Sunday  
8-9:30 AM at Dining Room  
Adults \$10,  
\$5 for children  
12 and under**



**Breakfast includes:**

Portuguese sausage and eggs, rice, tsukemono, miso soup, fruit, coffee and tea

(with juice for children.)

Aloha-wear welcomed!

Tickets will be sold at the temple on Sundays in October and in the office. If you would like to help us, contact any ABA cabinet member (Machiko, Dennis S, Cathy G, Karry, Paul, Shizue, Gail K)

# The Future of Shin Buddhist Education

By Rev. Don Castro

Our former parsonage at 1441 South Main St. has been converted into a Buddhist Education Center modeled on the success of the Orange County Buddhist Church BEC. Of course, our whole Betsuin is a BEC but space is at a premium in our main building, especially on the first floor, and it is good to have an educational facility where regular programs can be scheduled that won't be impacted by such things as weddings, funerals and the numerous Sunday activities that compete for rooms. I hope we can furnish our BEC in time for Bishop Ogui's visit during the 750<sup>th</sup> Memorial Anniversary for Shinran Shonin in January 2010. Right now, we are looking for a kitchen table and chairs and some folding tables and bookshelves to get our educational programs moving. Used furniture in good condition would be appreciated. Please contact me if you have anything you would like to donate.

As much as furniture and a wonderful facility are important, I believe the cornerstone of Buddhist education is the donation of people. What I mean is people's donation of their time to study and "teach" the Dharma. Teach can mean many different things from Dharma School to study classes to hospital chaplaincy, etc. Those who teach will learn and will be personally enriched by their study. This is the direction in which BCA is moving under the leadership of Bishop Ogui and his Minister's Assistant Program (MAP Quest) which has already greatly enhanced the religious programs of those temples who have initiated it.

The model we inherited from Japan is one in which the minister(s) is almost the sole religious education/ritual provider. In this country, under the influence of Christianity, we have established Sunday



services and Sunday Schools (Dharma Schools) but adult education has almost always been the responsibility of the minister. I have compared this model to a horse pulling a cart with everyone riding along in the cart. In order to get our Dharma Cart (the Wheel of the Dharma) to move faster and up this mountain of problems we have encountered, we need to get more people out of the cart to help pull. The Minister's Assistant Program is designed to do just that.

In recent years, there are actually BCA temples that have shut their doors and sold or given away their property for lack of a minister and religious program. Some temples are so small they can't afford a minister but, as Spokane Buddhist Church proves, you don't need a professional minister to have a vital religious program. Look at the Mormon church! I believe in diversified, broad based religious education and leadership; many horses pulling the cart. Our MAP program is key to getting us there. The more educators we have, the richer and more varied our program will be. Especially those members who are retired or whose children are grown have a unique opportunity to both benefit themselves and to benefit others (Shinran Shonin's injunction). I remember the late Rev. Ken Yamaguchi of San Francisco Buddhist Church who made a career change in his 50's from optometrist to minister. Today, he could have kept his profession and become a minister. The Minister's Assistant, being a volunteer, determines the extent and time of his/her service. In this way, no one needs to be "stressed out." This is our new direction in BCA and already there are dozens of certified ministers assistants helping to revitalize our great spiritual heritage.

## To Our Members, by President Mas Tahara

I would like to share some news forwarded by the Buddhist Churches of America. First, Rev. Joshin Dennis Fujimoto of the Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple married Sharmon Sadamori on September 20, 2009. The wedding ceremony was officiated by Socho Koshin Ogui at the Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple. Rev. Fujimoto was the guest minister at our Fall Ohigan Service on September 13 giving us his humorous Dharma talk on peanut butter.

Rev. Toshikazu Kenjitsu Nakagaki of the New York Buddhist Church, who was guest minister at our Spring Ohigan Service on March 22, 2009, married on



June 30, 2009 in Tokyo, Japan.

Other news from BCA: The 2011 Shinran Shonin 750<sup>th</sup> Memorial Service and World Buddhist Women's Convention in Kyoto, Japan will be held on May 15-17, 2011. We received an official registration form. The SBBWA is making an arrangement for the trip so its members can participate in the activities designed for the overseas Jodo Shinshu followers. Those who are not affiliated with BWA and wish to participate in the event must make his/her own travel and lodging arrangements and fill out the application and mail to BCA by December 1, 2009. The application form is available on the front foyer table.

**In Gassho, Mas Tahara**

## Camp Fire 100th Birthday Celebration –

**March 28** This upcoming year, Camp Fire turns 100! All past and current Camp Fire members and leaders, mark your calendars for a Camp Fire birthday celebration on March 28, 2010.



### Starflight Kindergarten

*Submitted by Grace Tazuma* The Kindergarten Starflight group kicked off their first meeting of the year at the North Bend site, in

conjunction with Outdoor Skills Day. May H. led our girls in an informative fire safety discussion. The girls talked about how to handle fire emergency situations. After our meeting, the girls enjoyed learning about cooking over an open fire as well as going on a nature walk down to the river.

Our group would like to thank Cyrus H. and all the people involved with making Outdoor Skills Day so enjoyable. It was a nice way to start the year off and a great learning experience for the kindergartners.

### Starlights - Starflight 1st and 2nd Grade

*Submitted by Debbie Shibata* The girls kicked off their year with the all-group outdoor cooking event in North Bend. They had a grand time learning different cooking techniques, eating whatever they made, and sharing their leftovers with their lucky parents. The group continued to get reacquainted with each other at their second meeting building a friendship web.

### Adventure 4-5 *Submitted by Dana Nakashima*

On September 27 many of our girls and families joined a number of other Camp Fire families at the North Bend property for an Outdoor Skills Cooking Day. The girls had an opportunity to observe, prepare and make a variety of foods using a number of outdoor cooking methods: foil pouches, sticks, grills, pie irons, box ovens, Dutch ovens, and even the sun (solar-powered)! The girls had fun preparing food for the foil pouches and making brownies to share. It was a great experience for both girls and families. Special thanks to the Honmyo family and all parent helpers for making this day so memorable and fun.

Hummingbirds (Discovery 6 & 7<sup>th</sup>) *Submitted by Lani Carpenter* In Oct. and Nov., we have been working hard on the upcoming Starflight Carnival, which will be on Nov. 15. Special thanks to Ms. Louise Akizuki for showing a few Hummingbirds and our parents on how to make carnation corsages. For social activities, some students attended the annual Woodland Park Zoo evening program, and some ventured through the South 47 corn maze with flashlights!

## Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Observance, Symposium and Banquet

Saturday, February 27, 2010

Fairmont Hotel, San Jose, California

For registration form, go to:

[http://www.ingassho.com/registration/page9/assets/Shinran750th\\_Registration.pdf](http://www.ingassho.com/registration/page9/assets/Shinran750th_Registration.pdf)

Deadline is January 27, 2010.

On behalf of the SBC Membership Committee... We would like to “thank” the

following regular members, for contributing at least the minimum annual Ijikai dues (the basic dues toward the Temple maintenance/operations). This is a list of those paid members for 2009 that have posted dues since our last month’s posting: Steven Aisaka, David & Penny Atcheson, Clara Beard, Ed & Jenni Chin, Joel & Kelly Enstrom, Betty Fukuhara, Frances Haminishi, Robert Hamatani, Reiko Hara, Mary Hikida, Alan Hoshino, Larry Imamura, Gail Kaminishi, Ed & Joyce Kato, Art & Sally Kawaguchi, Paul & Janet Knutzen, Marian Kurosu, David Lee & Dianne Kosai-Lee, Howard Luke & Marie Kosai-Luke, Andrea Mano, Takashi & Mitsue Matsui, Paul & Teresa Mori, Ken & Jean Moriyama, Corey & Claire Murata, Katsumi Nakamichi, Jack Natsuhara, Hiro Nishimura, Asako Okubo, Nancy Okawa, Tokuzo & Mari Okumura, Yasuko Ouchi, Sachiko Ozeki, George & Karen Sakamoto, Fusaye Shibata, Gary & Deborah Shibata, Aiko Shimizu, Nobue Shimizu, Albert & Fran Shintaku, Gail Suzaka, Lois Taniguchi, Florence Termai, Paul & Mabel Tomita, Tasuko Tsunehara, Robert Umeda, Masao Yamaguchi, Jeff & Susie Yamane, Kiyoshi & Ruby Yasui, Mark Yuasa.

*“Welcome, Kris & Keiko Kosugi,  
Joel Enstrom, Corey & Claire Murata  
as new members of our Sangha.”*

September 30 marked the end of our 2009 membership count. We are now accepting dues for the 2010 fiscal year. The basic dues towards the Church maintenance/operations is: \$250 for those over 70 years of age (\$500 per couple); \$300 for those under 70 years old (\$600 per couple). We would like to ‘thank’ the following who have made contributions toward their 2010 membership dues: Dr. James Doi, Mieko Gilmore, Nina Tomita-Kato, Jeff & Tina Ko, Akira Nakashima, Paul Suguro, Fumi Yamaguchi, Mitsuo Yamamura.

The Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations -  
September - October 2009

<u>Funeral / Memorial / Nokotsudo:</u>	<u>For:</u>		<u>Given by:</u>
Kengo Yorioka	Funeral Service	\$ 2,000	Patricia Yorioka
Shuji Oiye	Funeral Service	\$ 750	Phyllis Oiye
Tommy Deguchi	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Memorial Service	\$ 500	Jean Deguchi
Yoshio Oono	49 <sup>th</sup> Day & Inurnment Service	\$ 500	T. Oono
Aimee Akutsu	Memorial Service	\$ 300	Christine Louie
Smith & Teruko Morimoto	Inurnment Service	\$ 300	Carolyn Kawamata
		\$ 500	Eiichi Morimoto
Kiki Hagimori	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Memorial Service	\$ 50	Ryan & Stacy Nakata
		\$ 50	Jeanne Chang & Mark Yuasa

<u>Remembrances for:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
Tommy Deguchi	Janice Lynn Deguchi; Jean Hori Deguchi; Mae Deguchi; Roger Fukai; John & Lynda Hamakami; Mitsuko Hamakami; Carol Takagi; Beverly Hori Uyeda
Martha Imabori	Ken & Akiko Higashi; Nori Suguro
Shig Ishikawa	Dr. Susumu Shimokon
Rikio Isomura	Peter & Jean Sasaki
George Koyama and Miyoko Koyama	Sayeko Aoyama
Roger Masuda	Alice Takeuchi
Tsuruko Muramoto	Christina Deliganis; Mitsuko Fukuhara; Ritsuko Kawahara; Haruko Kobuko; Frances Harada Kobayashi; Eugenia S. Nakamoto; Judith Nakamura; Mary M. Osaki; Nobuko Otsuji; Doug & Betty Smith; Theodore Taniguchi
Kimiye Sako	Roy & Kazumi Shimizu
Kengo Yorioka	Spokane Buddhist Church

Supervising Minister: Yakima Buddhist Church \$ 100

Wedding:

<u>Other Gifts:</u>	<u>Donor:</u>	<u>For:</u>
\$ 10	Blanche Hill	General
\$ 233.34	No Names	Bank of America United Way Campaign
\$ 150	Yasumi Osako	General
\$ 20	Thow Family	Temple Visitation

GO PAPERLESS! THIS NEWSLETTER IS NOW ONLINE AT  
[WWW.SEATTLEBETSUIN.COM](http://WWW.SEATTLEBETSUIN.COM) Contact the temple office at 206-329-0800 or email  
[Newsletter@SeattleBetsuin.com](mailto:Newsletter@SeattleBetsuin.com) to have your name removed from the mailing list and jump online!  
Thank you!

Troop 252 has had weekly meetings since the beginning of September. The troop is livelier with all the older scouts and the six newer scouts. Recently, we have had a re-election for troop positions. Evan K is the new Senior Patrol Leader and he has Brandon H as his Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. In the Troop Staff we have Taylan as our Quartermaster, Matthew as Historian, Curtis as our Troop Guide, Mikey as our Librarian, Connor as our Chaplain's Aide, and myself as Scribe. Also, Brandon Y is the Patrol Leader for all the younger scouts and Drew is the Patrol Leader of all the older scouts.



Two weeks ago, part of the troop decided to go to Camp Piggott for a district campout. About eight scouts went to this outing. The scouts did the C.O.P.E. course, which stands for Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience. The course was filled with rope bridges and obstacles. Our ASPL, Brandon H, said that it was a fun and scary

experience. He also said it was fairly challenging. Overall, the scouts had a great time at Camp Piggott.

Recently, we have been selling beef bowls and popcorn to fundraise for our troop. We are still selling popcorn every week, so if you want some, then come and buy. We sold beef bowls on Oct. 4 and were able to sell about 210 bowls. We are going to be selling beef bowls again on Sunday, Nov. 8.

Other notable events that happened were the Court of Honor and the Parent Meeting. The Court of Honor happened some time ago, and many scouts rose in rank. The scouts also received all the merit badges they earned from summer camp. Just last week, the parents held a Parents' Meeting and decided on the troop calendar for the rest of the year.

Sean U, October 15, 2009

## Shinran Shonin's 750<sup>th</sup> in Kyoto Memorial Application Form Is Now Available

Dear Seattle Betsuin Members,

The application form for those who intend to participate in the Shinran 750<sup>th</sup> Memorial events in Kyoto, Japan, May 15-17, 2011 is available on the table in the Seattle Betsuin foyer. The Hongwanji has requested that All BCA temple groups complete and submit the form by DECEMBER 1, 2009. Though the 750<sup>th</sup> Memorial Services for Shinran Shonin at the Hongwanji will commence in April 2011 and will conclude in January, 2012, May 15, 2011 is set aside for the Overseas Districts including BCA and the World Buddhist Women's Convention activities will be on May 16 & 17, 2011.

The Seattle Betsuin Women's Association will be making an arrangement to participate in the World Buddhist Women's Convention.

Those who are not affiliated with SBBWA are to make tour arrangements individually. Seating is limited at the Hongwanji so it is first come, first served. So please, fill out the application form, providing as much information as you can and submit to BCA office by December 1, 2009.



SEATTLE BETSUIN'S  
New Year's Party  
January 10, 2010



*Tickets on sale November 29*

**Jodo Shinshu Meditation Service – Buddhist Education Center House: Sundays 8:45 - 9:30 AM**

# Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association

## November Newsletter 2009

### Treasurer's Report by Mabel Nishizaki:

Donations:

Kinue Kuwahara - In appreciation

Victor Ikeda - In memory of Martha Imabori

Kinue Kuwahara, Yoshie Hiroo & Julie Mayeda - In memory of Martha Imabori

### Activity Committee Report by Judith Nakamura:

The Activity Committee will be having a class on Wednesday, November 4, on Medicare Issues from 9:30—11:30 a.m.

### Calendar:

- Nov. 01 SBBWA Board Meeting
- 08 Eitaikyo and Muen Hoyo Service
- 15 SBBWA General Membership meeting (Sokai) followed by an appreciation Luncheon for the Board of Directors (Irokai)
- 24 Tuesday Keiro Visitation (by SBBWA/Betsuin) @ 10:00 a.m. followed by monthly service at 10:30 a.m.
- 29 SBBWA December Board meeting. Election of 2010-2011 Cabinet

Submitted by Deanna Ikegami

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**SHINRAN SHONIN 750TH MEMORIAL OBSERVANCE**  
**February 27 – 28, 2010 San Jose, CA [www.ingassho.com](http://www.ingassho.com)**

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Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple's

Fall English Seminar

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**Saturday, November 7, 2009**

Speaker: Reverend Grant Masami Ikuta  
Steveston Buddhist Temple, Richmond, BC, Canada



Theme: ***Quantum Mechanics of Jodo Shinshu***

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**Registration - 2009 Fall English Seminar with Rev Grant Ikuta at Seattle Betsuin Nov. 7, 2009**

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Name (printed)

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Address (City, State, Zip Code)

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Email Address and or Telephone Number

Temple Affiliation (if any)

**Fee (includes lunch with pre-registration):** Buddhist Churches of America and Buddhist Churches of Canada affiliated members: \$20 each; non-affiliated members: \$30 each. Attach check payable to Seattle Betsuin, 1427 S Main St, Seattle, WA 98144. Please note on your check: "Fall English Seminar." **Registration Deadline: October 30, 2009.** Registrar: Fumiko Groves.

**Notes on Dharma Exchange** *These Dharma Exchange notes are intended for those member and friends unable to attend the service-- Japanese service attendees, Dharma School parents, committee members, etc.*

**8-23-09** MA Joe Schwab entertained how members felt about the singing of the Jusei-ge at the Eshinni-ko/Kakushini-ko service just prior; reactions expressed were favorable.

Joe mentioned the book, (although not necessarily recommends it), Jesus in India and the movie, Last Years of Jesus, which is apparently set in the time when Jesus was 12 – 30 years old.

Another book he mentioned was Burma Harp about Japanese soldiers in WWII where a monk finds a soldier in a crevasse and the soldier subsequently helped rebuild Burma.

Joe related some religious profiles he found on the internet – of those who searched or used the internet 91% were “religious:” of those 1.8% were not affiliated with a group, 1.6% were Jewish, 1.6% were Buddhist, and .6% were Muslim.

Regarding end of life issues - in the 18-29 year old age group only 18% had discussed end of life wishes with their loved ones or made legal arrangements. Joe and other members stressed the importance of making your wishes known to your loved ones – organ donation, life support, etc. One never knows when their end of life will happen. - IG

**8-30-09** Rev Castro explained two roads to becoming a BCA Minister’s Assistant – one takes 8 years and the other takes 4 years. If you’re interested, please talk to Rev Castro.

He also talked about saying the final good-bye to our loved ones; that the pain is because of our attachments.

Dr. Blum suggests thinking of an “evil” person as a conflicted person, instead. You know evil when you see it.

MA Jim Warrick talked about his trip to Wyoming and seeing the beautiful fields of wild flowers, but that there’s no place like home. About the strip mining he saw in Montana - he thought about the work and profit on the backs of others. - IG

**9-6-09** MA Joe Schwab started the discussion on compassion as outlined by the Dalai Lama -- learn through living life, not a book. Jodo Shinshu reflects the ability to see things as they are, or an ability to know we can't.

Compassion can be motivated by selfishness. Compassion is a learning process as is Jodo Shinshu. Ten years ago we thought of Dharma, Pure Land, and compassion in different terms. We keep learning and changing and can't comprehend everything as it really is.

Because Rev. Warrick’s focus was on compassion this Sunday, Tets suggested that in his next talk he discuss wisdom from a Buddhist perspective. He further suggested that in a third talk he put Wisdom and Compassion together.

Former temple member Kurt Rye received *kaikyoshi* certification from Socho Ogui at the Jodo Shinshu Center. Rev. Rye is the minister at the Fresno temple.

Elmer is Back!

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**9-13-09** - Dharma Exchange was led by Revs. Castro and Warrick. The ministers each have a blog. To find them, simply go to the temple website, [www.seattlebetsuin.com](http://www.seattlebetsuin.com), and click on the minister's name.

Castro Sensei said the current economic meltdown presents an opportunity for change.

At today's O-higan service, Rev. Fujimoto of the Oregon-Idaho Buddhist Temple talked about how to find harmony.

Castro Sensei felt that many of today's privileged young people have no urge to live, which brought up the idea of the carrot and the stick. He related the story of The River of Fire/River of Water.

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**9-20-09** - Rev Castro led the Dharma Exchange.

Grace stressed the importance of coming to the temple while young to get a feeling for the teaching and rituals. Thus are formed habits of a lifetime.

Elmer related how he took piano lessons for 30 years and it cost \$20 per week. He said it was a waste of money because he was not strong. He feels it is necessary to be strong to learn anything.

Sensei recalled how Zen has militaristic overtones; whereas Jodo Shinshu is just as committed but with a different approach.

At the end of life it is sad if we still harbor fear and regrets. In Jodo Shinshu we must continue to evaluate our life as there is no end to our foolishness.

Hiro talked about Dr. Daniel Amen, a psychologist on Ch 9, who stressed the importance of gratitude.

**9-27-09** - Rev. Jim Warrick on Oshoko.

He conducted the children's service in Memorial Hall, and distributed a printed outline to the children on how to oshoko properly. When Rev. Castro arrived at Dharma Exchange a demonstration ensued with Jim Sensei reading each step and Castro Sensei performing it, all the way through 12. At the end we were asked if we thought we were doing oshoko correctly. Most participants indicated no. Castro Sensei stressed "mindfulness" in this endeavor.

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**10-4-09** - Joe Schwab, M.A.

A discussion followed Joe's comments: (1) A wise decision leads to a wise result. (2) A good decision is made by not having our judgment tainted by our egotistical nature. (3) The Lodi, CA city council prays for guidance before meetings.

Rev. Warrick suggested that wisdom from Amida is beyond our comprehension, so we deal with conventional wisdom. Sensei wants to discuss wisdom and compassion on a future Sunday.

The Northwest Dharma Association is composed mainly of small Zen and Theravada groups. The Seattle Betsuin has excellent programs for all ages -- children through adults; whereas many other Buddhist groups have no planned activities for the rest of the family.

ABA will present the movie, "Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill" on Sunday, October 25, 11:30am to 1:00pm.

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**10-11-09** Rev. Don Castro

To continue today's Dharma talk, Rev. Castro referred to a book by the Dalai Lama, *The Universe in a Single Atom: the Convergence of Science and Spirituality*. The Dalai Lama addressed "quarks," those tiny atoms that vibrate. He said matter and energy are two ways of looking at the same thing; and consciousness is the third property of existence -- a bridge between the two. There is no way presently to measure consciousness; therefore, science has not studied it.

Ghandi stated truth has power, and was the main thrust in his non-violent campaign.

Castro Sensei told his Dharma school students that if they remember nothing else about Dharma school to remember the most important teaching, "Out of the mud grows the lotus." It reminds us of the transformation that occurs in our lives. The mud feeds the lotus added Rev. Julie Hanada.

Life is sublimely beautiful and sad simultaneously, said Castro Sensei.

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**10-18** - According to Rev. Castro, Zen is pretty much elitist in that it mostly concerns the Zen master. Not so in Jodo Shinshu. He recounted the story of the *myokonin* who sat by the roadside next to a bag of money that was lost until the owner came back.

We had the pleasure of Rev. Jon Iwohara at the services and Dharma Exchange. Iwohara Sensei is the minister of the Venice, CA temple, and was a resident minister at the Betsuin 8 years ago. He was asked and talked about the trip with our Dharma School children to the Hongwanji, which has a 400 year history in its present location. He said the Venice Dharma School is small with about 30 children, 10-15 are regulars. Real estate in Venice is high and he cited the

example of a 1948 2-bedroom house at \$400,000. Some highlights of activities: there is an ongoing daily morning service for the past 7 years. Tai chi occurs on Tuesdays, and on Fridays there is game day, especially for older adults. They have a book club, and cooking and finance classes will start. A theme-based film festival takes place every year plus discussion after. Five films are shown -- one for young children. And there is an active YABA group.

A participant related the story of a group of people being given a jar, varied sizes of marbles, and sand and told to put it all in the jar. It didn't all fit until they started with the large marbles, which was the metaphor for our large problems. We should address them first.

Iwohara Sensei said his goal was how to make himself obsolete.

In gassho,  
Pat Bobrow