



Wheel of the Sangha

Volume 28 Issue 12 December 2009
A monthly publication by **Seattle Buddhist Church**
*May peace and tranquility prevail
throughout the world*

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Seattle Betsuin Vision
*Embrace true and
real life
in Nembutsu*



Seattle Betsuin Mission
*Promote, protect, and
share the Buddha,
Dharma and Sangha*

December 2009 Special Services/Events

BODHI DAY SERVICE: Dec 6 - 10:00 AM; Potluck: 11:30 AM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Dec 13 - 11:00 AM

TEMPLE CLEAN-UP Dec. 20 – 10:30 AM

CHRISTMAS DAY - Temple Closed

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE: Dec 31 – 7:00 PM

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Betsuin Events for December 2009

SUNDAYS

December 6 Rinban Matsubayashi in California
 8:45 am Meditation Service (Rev. Castro)
 10:00 pm BODHI DAY SERVICE
 Children: Rev. Castro
 Adult: Rev. Warrick
 DX: Rev. Castro & MA
 11:30 am Bodhi Day Potluck Luncheon
 11:45 am SBBWA Board Meeting
 3:00 pm Spokane Bodhi Day Service
 (Rev. Castro)

December 13

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

December 20

8:45 am Meditation Service (Rev. Castro)
 10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE
 Children: MA
 Adult: Rev. Castro
 10:30 am Temple Clean-up

December 27

8:45 am Meditation Service (Rev. Castro)
 10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE
 Adult: Rev. Castro
 Japanese: Rinban Matsubayashi
 DX: Rev. Castro and MA

MONDAYS

December 7 Rinban Matsubayashi (Day off)
 10:30 am Keiro Bodhi Day Service
 (Rev. Castro)

December 14 Rinban Matsubayashi (Day off)

TUESDAYS

December 1 Rev. Castro (Day off)
 6:30 pm "Shoshinge" Chanting (Rinban)
 7:00 pm Class - "The Essentials of Jodo
 Shinshu Buddhism" (Rinban)

December 8 Rinban Matsubayashi (Vacation)

December 15, 29 Rev. Castro (Days off)

December 22

10:30 am Keiro Service (Rev. Castro)

January Newsletter Deadline:
 December 21, 2009 - 8:00 PM

WEDNESDAYS

December 2 Rinban Matsubayashi (Day off)
 10:30 am Dharma Support Group (Rev. Castro)
 7:30 pm Dharma School Board Mtg (Rev. Castro)
December 9 Rinban Matsubayashi (Vacation)
 10:30 am Dharma Support Group (Rev. Castro)
December 16
 10:30 am Dharma Support Group (Rev. Castro)
 1:00 pm Ministers Meeting
 (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)
December 30 Rinban Matsubayashi (Day off)
 10:30 am Dharma Support Group (Rev. Castro)

THURSDAYS

December 3 Rinban Matsubayashi to California
 1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rev. Castro)
December 10 Rinban Matsubayashi (Vacation)
 7:30 pm Betsuin Cabinet Meeting
December 31
 2:00 pm Ministers Meeting
 (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)
 7:00 pm New Year's Eve Service
 (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)
December 17
 1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rinban Matsubayashi)
 7:30 pm Betsuin Board Meeting
 (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)
 1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rev. Castro)
 7:30 pm Religious Department Meeting
 (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

FRIDAYS

December 4 Kyokucho Meeting at Jodo Shinshu
 Center (Rinban Matsubayashi)
 12:00 pm Gojikai Ho-onko Service and
 Luncheon (Rev. Castro)

December 11 Rinban Matsubayashi (Vacation)

December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY - Temple Closed

SATURDAYS

December 5 BCA Board Meeting at Jodo Shinshu
 Center (Rinban Matsubayashi)
December 19 Rev. Castro (Day off)
 6:30 am Finish Mochi Making
 December 26 Rinban Matsubayashi (Day off)

JANUARY Major Events of Interest

January 1 Friday New Year's Day Service
 January 10 Sunday Betsuin New Year
 Party/Installation of Officers
 January 15 – 18 2009 YAC Reunion Retreat,
 hosted by Seattle Betsuin
 January 16 Saturday Kieshiki Service – Socho Ogui
 January 17 Sunday Ho-onko/750th Memorial of
 Shinran Shonin



The Nembutsu in My Life by Rimban Hoshu Y. Matsubayashi, Ed.D.

The Nembutsu is the fundamental teaching of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, and the true meaning of the Nembutsu was expounded for us by Shinran Shonin (1173 – 1263), the founder of Jodo Shinshu. The summary of Jodo Shinshu is expressed as “Shinjin Sho-in (Entrusting heart is the true cause of birth into the Pure Land), and Shomyo Ho-on (The recitation of the Nembutsu is one’s gratitude to Amida Buddha.)”

Do we, the followers of Jodo Shinshu, understand the true meaning of the Nembutsu as expounded by Shinran, and carry on the Nembutsu in our lives?

The original meaning of the Nembutsu is the “Thought of Buddha (Buddhanusmriti).” In the history of Buddhism, the Nembutsu has been practiced in various ways, and through the many years of doctrinal developments by seven masters, Shinran established the Nembutsu teaching of Jodo Shinshu.

In the book *The Way of Nirvana*, Dr. Ryosetsu Fujiwara, former professor of the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley, describes such various forms of the Nembutsu as follows: “...in the history of Buddhist practices there appeared many special forms of the Nembutsu. The Goe Nembutsu (Fivefold Rhythmical Nembutsu Recitation), for example, was introduced to Japan by Ennin (794-864) of the Tendai School from China. This Nembutsu later developed into Fudan Nembutsu (Incessant Recitation of the Nembutsu) and Inzei Nembutsu (Chanting of the Nembutsu with a prolonged voice). As ritual practices of the Nembutsu, there appeared Yuzu Nembutsu (Nembutsu of interpenetrating in all beings), Kan Nembutsu (One month practice during winter nights, striking gongs and chanting Nembutsu), Uta Nembutsu (Chanting of Nembutsu in tones), Odori Nembutsu (Chanting of Nembutsu combined with the striking of gongs and drums, singing of psalms and dancing) etc. The last one was initiated by Kuya (903-972) and made more popular by Ippen (1239-1289).”

Since there are various kinds of Nembutsu, we must understand the true meaning of Nembutsu in Jodo Shinshu teaching. One important question about our Nembutsu is whether we use the Nembutsu as in a type of prayer.

In the early twentieth century, a drama of *Shukke to Sono Deshi* (The Priest and His Disciples), written by Hyakuzo Kurata (1891-1943), was a best seller. It describes the love and passion between Yuien, a

disciple of Shinran, and Kaede, a prostitute. They both try to live truly and sincerely to their human natures and seek guidance from Shinran.

The drama was translated into English by Glenn W. Shaw in 1922. Unfortunately, Shaw translated the Nembutsu, *Namu Amida Butsu*, as “Save us, oh Amida Buddha!” One Shinshu Buddhist objected to this rendering of the Nembutsu, since the Nembutsu is not a prayer. However, Shaw did not change the rendering of the Nembutsu in his 1955 edition and stated in his preface the following:

“He (a Shinshu Buddhist) wanted a positive and affirmative rendering, something like ‘Hail, oh Amida Buddha!’ or ‘Amida Buddha Amen!’ He was right enough for himself and many like him, but for a frightened old lady whose house is burning down, for instance, the commonly used less philosophical sense would doubtless be more nearly correct.” In other words, Shaw insisted that the recitation of the Nembutsu under adverse circumstances cannot be considered an expression of gratitude or positive.

I remember when my father passed away I cried bitterly in front of his dead body. I recited the Nembutsu, *Namo Amida Butsu*. Even though I lamented loudly, the truth of reality or Dharma never changed. The teachings of the Buddha-Dharma such as “the created thing will be destroyed” and “once we are born, the death will come sooner or later” became reality. No human being, upon appearing on this earth, can escape from this truth of the Buddha-Dharma.

Amida Buddha is constantly extending his wisdom and compassion to all of us who are living in such reality. To be awakened to the function (primal vow) of Amida Buddha, who has such great wisdom and compassion, means to live with the Nembutsu, *Namo Amida Butsu*. As a result of awakening of the Nembutsu, we are able to realize the infinite life of Amida Buddha becomes one with my life.

Such peaceful realization of oneness with the infinite life of the Buddha is expressed beautifully by Lady Takeko Kujo (1887-1928) in her poem of *Seiya*:

*More numerous than the sands of the
Ganges River are the Buddhas.*

*When I hear that they watch over us night
and day, my heart is filled with peace.*

Namo Amida Butsu

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 December 2009 submitted by Joyce Tsuji

Dharma School Families - the 2009-2010 Dharma School Directory is now available. If you have not received a copy of the directory, please contact Kari Ann Yokoyama. One copy per family please.

There will be no lunch served this year by the dharma school on temple clean up day, but there will be extra snacks provided in the dining room.

Classroom reports

First/second grade

We have continued to get to know each other in this class by filling out the student surveys which we will pass on to the ministers about our birthplaces, likes and dislikes. We shared a nice visit with Sensei Jim and made some posters on the theme "peace and

tranquility" which you can view in our classroom. We had a discussion about gratitude and decorated the covers of our Thank You books where we will write down things we are thankful for during the year. We then started a unit on the Golden Chain - first by creating a chain of paper, yellow links with our names and the names of others connected to us which we hung around our globe; we made a spider to remind us to be kind to every living thing and also an origami frog to remind us to use pure and beautiful words. Ask your kids about that story. Other Fall activities included making paper jack-o-lanterns and seeing the "brightness" of ourselves and others and creating a family tree on Etaikyo.

ABA Fundraising Breakfast submitted by Karry Sakamoto

Thank you, everyone, for participating and attending our 2nd Annual Hawaiian Breakfast on Sunday November 1st. We served 80 breakfasts of scrambled eggs, Portuguese sausage, rice, miso soup, tsukemono, tea and coffee.

A special thanks to our volunteers Ritsuko Kawahara, Nina Tomita-Kato, Janet Baba, Lauren Asaba, Gei Chan, Doug Hanada, Donna Zumoto,

Al & Fran Shintaku, Kinue Kuwahara, Irene Goto, Pauline Sakuma for taking care of the food prep, serving, cleanup, tickets and poster, opening door for making this a successful event. Thanks also to ABA members for donations of the breakfast ingredients.

Proceeds of the fundraiser will benefit our Mongolian Project (Maitreya Charity) and the ACRS Food Bank.

ABA Movie Fundraiser submitted by Gail Kaminishi

Thanks to Dave Atcheson for getting permission to show "The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill" to raise money for Mongolia/Maitreya Charities, and to Alan Hoshino who kindly helped set up the equipment. We appreciate the support of temple members in attending this excellent film.

Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Observance, Symposium and Banquet:

Saturday, February 27, 2010, Fairmont Hotel, San Jose, California

http://www.ingassho.com/registration/page9/assets/Shinran750th_Registration.pdf

Deadline to register is January 27

GO PAPERLESS! THIS NEWSLETTER IS NOW ONLINE AT

WWW.SEATTLEBETSUIN.COM Contact the temple office at 206-329-0800 or email Newsletter@SeattleBetsuin.com to have your name removed from the mailing list and jump online!

Thank you!

A THOUSAND HELPING HANDS By Rev. Don Castro

The name Kannon is generally interpreted to mean “The One Who Hears the Cries (of suffering beings).” When I first became a Buddhist in 1968, I was rather repulsed by the many-armed images of Kannon Bodhisattva. I was simply not accustomed to seeing anything but the life-like representations of Jesus and the Christian saints even though they are often symbolically represented. Now, however, I consider the Thousand-Armed Kannon as among the most sublime and compelling images in Buddhism; a religion truly rich in sacred art.



screaming. In a heartbeat, I switched from feeling happy to feeling to feeling very sad at the thought of someone dying or in urgent need of care. All week long, I pondered how I could change from happiness to sadness in such a flash.

Finally, I realized I was getting stuck. If I focused exclusively on either the happy or sad events, I was seeing only part of the picture. Actually, happy and sad events exist simultaneously and are completely interrelated. Going back to the ambulance, yes, there was a patient in the back critically ill. However, because of the patient, there also was a highly trained and dedicated medical team administering life-saving treatment. Paramedics, ambulance drivers, doctors, nurses, aides, medical technicians, auto mechanics, dieticians, etc., etc. were all working in a coordinated effort.

Recently, one of our Seattle members related an overwhelming vision he recently had of the vast amount of pain and suffering there is in the world. I was able to introduce him to the Thousand-Armed image of Kannon, an image that in ancient Buddhism obviously emerged out of one or many artists' visions of compassion and the scale of suffering.

One of my keys to appreciating the Thousand-Armed Kannon came from an experience I had years ago in Seattle when we still had our nursery school next door. I was sitting with our meditation group on a beautiful April morning. The day was sunny and warm, the birds were singing and I could hear the delightful sound of children playing at the nursery school. I was feeling very calm and happy when, suddenly, an ambulance passed by with its siren

This dedicated sense of teamwork is the cornerstone of any successful and compassionate hospital. Compassionate teamwork is also the key to appreciating the sublime meaning of the Thousand-Armed Kannon which so beautifully expresses the basic Buddhist teaching of interdependence. It is also the harmonious spirit of the Buddhist Sangha that, ideally, works as a team to extend wisdom and compassion to all living beings. As an individual with

Continued on page 6

To Our Members, by President Mas Tahara

It was one year ago I wrote in this newsletter about the experience I encountered when my wife Anna was struck with a stroke. I can still recollect vividly many scenes and my feelings I felt then. The experience during the time Anna was in the hospital and in the rehab center, as I wrote a year ago, made me realize how the teachings of the Buddhism can be applied to truly understand and grasp the meanings of many things around you. It was a period of intense learning, of life and living.



I suppose I can expand the scope of my understanding beyond the experience I acquired in the last three months of last year to all of my 73 years of life.

As I said a year ago, I encountered many individuals while Anna was stricken ill and I visualize each of them to be the Buddha of Many Faces; the Buddha of Wisdom, Mercy and Compassion, each trying to help her heal in different capacity.

Buddhism also teaches to look beyond the superficial looks and actions of the people you encounter. This is to learn from others even if you dislike or even hate. Instead of looking only at the superficial and one dimensional outlook of the person, accept such person as the Buddha teaching you to look beyond the appearance and to try to avoid becoming the very person you despise. I think Buddhism teaches you to look beyond ordinary and beyond narrow views.

In the two years I was privileged and honored to serve our temple as the President and eleven years prior to that as the Cabinet officers and many years as the member, I have learned many lessons I can apply to continue to serve my community.

As the last note I would like to add that Anna has regained much of her strength and abilities to live the life of following the teachings of Shinran Shonin.

In Gassho, Mas Tahara

Rev. Castro's Message - continued from page 6

two arms, we can only do so much but a thousand arms means five hundred people (the staff of a good sized hospital) all reaching out together in a coordinated effort to alleviate pain. Dogen Zenji, the founder of Soto Zen, stated that, in actuality, Kannon has an incalculable number of arms.

Of particular interest for Jodo Shinshu followers is the fact that Kannon is an emanation of Amida Buddha's compassionate activity. When we realize that we receive completely out of proportion to what we give, we are filled with a profound sense of gratitude and indebtedness. We are given a hand in countless thousands of different ways but are only able to give back with two hands and a sincere heart.

When I look at the Thousand-Armed image of Kannon, I sense the painful multitudes who are reaching out for help. On the other hand, so as to not get stuck with a one-sided view, I look at the thousand hands reaching back and sense the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas "more numerous than the grains of sand in the Ganges River" dispensing the most precious of medicines: boundless, liberating wisdom and compassion. This is the medicine in the bottle Kannon holds to her/his breast. Why else would Kannon be the most venerated Bodhisattva in Mahayana Buddhism?

Note: The internet is filled with images and information about Kannon in all of his/her manifestations. For further research, I suggest you start with Dr. Alfred Bloom's "Kannon and the Ideal of Compassion" on his website: [Shin Dharma Net](#). For an excellent treatment of Kannon and Bodhisattvas generally, I highly recommend IBS instructor Taigen Dan Leighton's book "Faces of Compassion: Classic Bodhisattva Archetypes and Their Modern Expression."



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.
– submitted by Lisa B.

Starflight 1st and 2nd Grade Submitted by Debbie S. The girls have been discussing what makes up their community and have been making decorations for their trip to Wisteria Manor. They had a great time learning some new songs with some of the girls from the Hummingbird group!!

Adventure 4/5 Submitted by Dana N. On October 18th, we held a short Compass Basics activity. The girls were introduced to a compass. We discussed the purpose of a compass, the parts of the compass, and why the needle always points North. We plan more compass activities in a future meeting.

**SEATTLE BETSUIN'S
New Year's Party:
January 10, 2010
*Tickets go on sale November 29***

Dharma Support Group with Rev Castro Meets Wednesdays from 10:30 to Noon

MOCHI SALES



The Seattle Betsuin youth groups (Dharma School, Jr. YBA and Camp Fire) along with Matsuri Taiko are selling tickets for mochi. Tickets for the mochi will be available for purchase at the front foyer and at the Betsuin office. You may also pre-order your Okansane for the New Year's holiday as there will be a sign-up book in the front foyer. Details will be available through service announcements or advertisements posted in the Temple.

Mochi sales are primarily by pre-sales as there may only be a limited number of walk-up sales on the day mochi are made. Purchase your tickets early as only a fixed amount of rice will be purchased.

**The Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations –
October - November 2009**

<u>Funeral / Memorial / Nokotsudo:</u>	<u>For:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>	
	Ayako Noro - Funeral Service	\$ 1,200	Julie Anne Sharp
	Kito Kaneta – Funeral Service	\$ 1,000	Miyoko Kaneta
	Mary Yoshiko Kono – Funeral Service	\$ 750	Randy Kono
	Masaye Yamashita – Funeral Service	\$ 500	Kazuko Nishi
	Hiroko Kitano – 1 Year Memorial Service	\$ 400	Diane Kitano
	Shoji Oiye – 49 th Day & Inurnment Service	\$ 300	Phyllis M. Oiye
	Kazuo Yokoyama – 13 th Year Memorial Service	\$ 300	Fusae Yokoyama
	Taverna Silahis – 1 Year Memorial Service	\$ 200	Maria L. Polintan
	Nokotsuko	\$ 200	Hiro Nishimura
	Kito Kaneta – In Memory	\$ 100	Miyoko Kaneta

<u>Remembrances for:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
Aimee Akutsu	Daisy Kuramoto
Kito Kaneta	Chiseko Crowe; Setsuko Ikeda; Miyoko Kaneta; Akiko Narusawa; Sadie Ogohara; Hideko & Joe Terada
Smith & Teruko Morimoto	Daisy Kuramoto
Tsuruko Muramoto	Karry Sakamoto; Florence Sumida
Kazuo Oono	Yoshi Mamiya
Hisano Yamamoto	Mitsuo & Haruko Goto;
Masaye Yamashita	Sue Fujino; Pauline Sakuma
Toshio Uyeji	Douglas McMillin

Supervising Minister: Yakima Buddhist Church \$ 100

Onenju Repair: Steph & Fred Ojima; Kats & Terrie Tanino

<u>Other Gifts:</u>	<u>Donor:</u>	<u>For:</u>
\$ 3,500	Seattle Buddhist Womens' Assoc.	Walk-in Shelving for Cooler
\$ 561.84	Boeing Company	Payroll Deduction
\$ 200	Seattle Buddhist Womens' Assoc.	Facility Use for Memorial Service
\$ 30	Ann Oxrieder	General
\$ 5	Michael Jacobs	General

Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Celebration/ Hoonko Our Betsuin will begin the observance of Shinran Shonin's 750th Memorial during the weekend of January 15-17, 2010. The planned events will include the Sarana affirmation service (Kie Shiki) held on Saturday the 16th @ 10:00 am (article/application form in this newsletter) followed by participant luncheon. Sunday's service will be attended by Socho (Bishop) Koshin Ogui of the BCA, Rimban Bob Oshita of Sacramento Betsuin as well as our Rimban Matsubayashi, Castro Sensei and more, including Ochigo Processional and a celebration luncheon for all attendees. Also during this weekend, the YAC Reunion will take place in our temple. Please plan to attend this important event for our Betsuin. - PBM



Bodhi Day Potluck

Sunday, December 6, 2009

After Dharma School classes and services

Celebrate this special day by sharing a favorite entrée or side dish with your fellow Sangha members.

Beverages will be provided.

Dishes can be dropped off in the gymnasium prior to service.



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

Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association

Memorial Service Donation submitted by Treasurer Mabel Nishizaki:

Memorial Service Donations – October 18, 2009 – November 10, 2009

Yaeko Abe, H. Adachi, Sae Akada, Terie Akada, Karen Akira, Anonymous, Ruth Aoki, Sayeko Aoyama, Marian Asaba, Janet Baba, Jean Deguchi, Jene Deguchi, Mae Deguchi, James Doi, Toshiko Enomoto, Aiko Fujii, Betty Fujiki, Sue Fujino, Bettie Fujioka, Florence Fujita, Lutes Fujita, George/Toshi Fukeda, Budd Fukei, Mitsuko Fukuhara, Kay Fukuma, Mike/Marian Fukuma, Mary Furuta, Kazumi Goshō, Fumi Groves, Ritsuko Hamamura, Yoko Hamanaka, Gladys Hamano, Fumiyo Hanada, Peggy Hanada, Mary Harada, Setsu Harada, Sachiko Hayami, Amy Hirasawa, Hajime Hirata, Michi Hirata, Ed Hiroo, M. Hiroo, Lily Hori, Norigiku Horikawa, Miyoko Ike, Edith Imanishi, Hal Ise, Iwako Iseri, Toshiko Isomura, Yukiko Iwai, Yoshiye Iwamura, Nancy Jang, Shizue Kaku, Yo Kaneko, Tetsuden Kashima, Mary Katayama, Yoshi Katayama, Gary/Madeline Kato, Hatsuye Kawada, Miyoko Kawaguchi, Ritsuko Kawahara, Masako Kawamoto, Sanaye Kawamura, Shizue Kikuchi, Haruko Kobuki, Kyoko Koda, George Kodama, Taka Kogita, Esther Kojima, Yoshi Kosai, Sara Kosugi, Mary Koyano, Masako Kubo, Julie Kubota/Pearl Yamamoto, Carolyn Kunihiro, Daisy Kuramoto, Anna Kurata, Kishiko Kusakabe, Kinue Kuwahara, Ruth Luders/Ray Otani, George/Irene Mano, Mariko Mano, Rose Masuda, Masumoto Family, Fumiye Masunaga, Marian Matsui, Mitsue Matsui, Janet Matsumoto, Julie Mayeda, Yoshie Mikami, Takiko Miyauchi, Helen Mizuki, Hatsue Mizuno, Kimiko Mori, Teresa Mori, Robert Murakami, Amy Myoraku, Sanaye Nagai, Yoshie Nakagawa, Judith Nakamura, Ruby Nakamura, Kiyoko Nakanishi, Junko Nakano, Terry Nakano, Kazuko Nakao, Diasuke Nakashima, Joy Nakata, Dorothy Nishimura, Hiro Nishimura, Mabel Nishizaki, Michiye Nomura, Setsuno Noshō, Mari Ohara, M/M Joe Ohashi, Michi Ohtani, Constance Okada, Mineko Okamura, Ray Okamura, Mary Osaki, H. Mizuki Pike, Tamiko Platnick, Akira Saito, Sono Sakaguchi, Carolyn Sakai, Ben Sakamoto, Karry Sakamoto, Karen Sakata, Aya Sakoda, Pauline Sakuma, Tazue Sasaki, Amy Seko, Naoko Semba, Masako Shibuya, Harry Shigaya, Ken Shigaya, Mary Shigaya, Etsu Shimbo, Haruko Shimizu, Kazumi Shimizu, Franklin Shinoda, Sally Shoji, Shigeiko Sudo, George Suetsugu, Florence Sumida, Takeji Suwabe, Anna Tahara, Kuniko Takamura, Kiyoko Takashima, Nobuko Takemoto, Naomi Takemura, Jean Taketa, Sonoe Taketa, Mary Tamura, Louise Tanagi, Betty Tanaka, Rikuko Tanaka, Peggy Tanemura, Akico Taniguchi, Fumie Taniguchi, Martha Taniguchi, Katsumi Tanino, Miyoko Tazuma, Hideko Terada, Janet Terada, Kayoko Terada, Suzuko Terada, Margaret Teramoto, Takeko Toda, Elsie Tokita, Toshio/Dolly Tokunaga, Reiko Tsubota, Ossie Tsuchikawa, Miyoshi Tsuji, Mary Jane Tsukamoto, Masako Uchida, Susanne Umeda, Barbara Wakazuru, Betty Williamson, Mayumi Wilson/Loreen Sako, Arlene Yamada, June Yamada, Fumiko Yamaguchi, Richard Yamamoto, Fujie Yamasaki, Michiko Yanagimoto, Kiyoshi Yasui, Sumie Yokota, Fuyo Yoshida, Kiyoko Yoshida, Mary Yoshida, Mary Yoshijima, Aiko Yoshimi, Irwin Yoshimura, Miye Yoshitake, Etsuro Yoshitome and Tomi Zumoto

Calendar:

Dec: 06 Bodhi Day Service
13 Betsuin General Meeting

20 Temple Clean-up
Jan. 17 Tentative SBBWA BOD

Submitted by Deanna Ikegami

Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donors for Eitaikyo/Muen Hoyo Memorial of 2009

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63rd Annual Northwest Buddhist Convention – Some of the Preliminary Details

Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple is looking forward to hosting the next convention February 12-14, 2010. Our theme is in keeping with the Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial, "Yononaka Annon Nare"; "May Peace and Tranquility Prevail Throughout the World".

We are happy to have Rev. Dr. Nobuo Haneda as our honored guest. He has served as dean and head professor at IBS (1984-1985), a researcher at the Numata Center (1987-1997), and is currently the director of the Maida Center for Buddhism.

We also have the privilege of having Socho Ogui present at the convention along with our other NW Ministers. Their help will be invaluable in presenting a meaningful workshop schedule.

The Holiday Inn and Holiday Inn Express are the "official host hotels" but you are welcome to stay anywhere you choose. Details will be included with the registration packet which will be released soon. There are no activities planned at the hotels themselves.

The Friday registration will be held at the Temple. The Friday night NW Ministers and NWDC meetings will be held at or near the Temple. Saturday and Sunday schedule will all take place at Four Rivers Cultural Center. FRCC has a museum, part of which has Japanese American items on display including a tea room and a representation of an internment barrack. Admission to this museum is included with your registration. **Continued on page 10**

NW Convention continued from page 9

We'll be having a "Peace and Tranquility Group Art Project" that all are welcome to participate in. You'll have to come to convention to see what this is all about and to witness the project as it takes shape.

Registration deadline is January 15, 2010. We are asking that each Temple designate a contact person to assemble and submit the registrations to us as a group. Registration fees are as follows:

Adult, \$97
Youth/Student (6th grade - college), \$75
Children (K-5th), \$60
Children (age 3 - preschool), \$45
Banquet only, \$50

Please note that the Sunday bento box lunch is included in your registration.

Transportation to/from the Boise Airport will be available by request. While we depend on the chartered buses to transport the delegates to Four Rivers Cultural Center Saturday and Sunday mornings, and back to the hotel Saturday night, we will have transportation available for delegates outside their bus' schedule or for delegates without transportation otherwise to/from FRCC.

After you receive the registration packet, if you have questions please don't hesitate to call or email Mike Iseri at 541 889-8691 or mikeiseri@fmtc.com. If I can't answer the question, I'll refer it to someone who can. We'll see you in Ontario! - Mike Iseri

OPEN INVITATION - SARANA AFFIRMATION SERVICE (KIE SHIKI)

You are invited to join an affirmation service, which will be conducted at the Betsuin on Saturday, January 16, 2010 @ 10:00 am. The affirmation will be officiated by Socho Koshin Ogui, the Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF KIE SHIKI? The special service is an opportunity for Jodo Shinshu Buddhists who aspire to lead the Buddhist way of life to affirm their entry onto the Path of Nembutsu. By appearing before the shrine of Amida Buddha and taking refuge in the Three Treasures (Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha), we pledge to live the Buddhist way of life.

This opportunity is conducted by the temple on the occasion of the Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Celebration.

WHAT IS THE KIE SHIKI CEREMONY? The affirmation ceremony is performed for laypersons who have indicated the desire to participate in the ceremony. Its basic ritual is recalling the act of Siddhartha when he resolved to enter the spiritual path of life.

A Buddhist name is given to each participant as an indication that the person aspires for the Truth and is now counted among the disciples of Sakyamuni Buddha. It is through the teaching of Sakyamuni Buddha that we have been able to hear the Dharma of Amida Buddha's primal Vow.

WHAT IS THE BUDDHIST NAME OR DHARMA NAME? A Buddhist name (Homyo) is bestowed upon a person when participating in the affirmation ceremony during his or her life or posthumously at the funeral service. It is by far preferable for us to receive the Dharma name while we are still well and active. *THOSE WHO HAVE A HOMYO MAY RE-APPLY FOR A NEW ONE IF YOU SO DESIRE. If you prefer to make use of your Japanese name (in Kanji) or a theme as a part of the Homyo, you may submit such characters. There is no guarantee that Homyo to be given would contain the characters.

APPLICATIONS Those wishing to participate in the ceremony are requested to complete and submit their application to Seattle Betsuin **by December 26, 2009**, Sunday (whether new or for re-application) accompanied by a fee of \$25 (for all ages) payable to the Seattle Betsuin.

*An application form is found on page 12 - please complete and mail to:
Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple
1427 S Main St.
Seattle, WA 98144*

From the Religious Department



Photos by Sat Ichikawa

In spite of the cold and wet weather, thank you all for attending the English Seminar on November 7, 2009 with Reverend Grant Ikuta from Steveston, British Columbia. We have had much positive feedback on Reverend Ikuta and his presentation. We hope you will be able to attend the next seminar in the coming year.

In gassho, Fumiko Groves



Notes on Dharma Exchange *These summations of Dharma Exchange are intended for those who are unable to attend - Dharma School parents, Japanese service attendees, committee members, etc.*

Oct. 25 - Castro sensei related a visit to the temple by a Chinese retirement center in the International District. They are mainly Buddhist, and reincarnation is a strongly held belief. Younger people care for the elderly who regard their care as being grateful to those who took care of them in a past life.

He said, as compassionate beings we experience the pain of others as our own.

Nov 1 - Castro sensei indicated that the Dalai Lama said consciousness is the bridge between matter and energy.

We almost have willed the universe into existence. It goes in and out of existence. Buddhists expect constant change.

Sensei brought up the improbable idea of houses being built on shock absorbers in earthquake-prone areas.

At the moment of death saying Namo Amida Butsu is not important in Shin Buddhism. Nothing is needed at the moment of death.

He discussed the movie, "Departures," concerning a young Japanese man who worked in a mortuary, much to the concern of family. It is available as a book, Coffin Man, or on DVD.

In Japan there is a right way to do things, which is always evolving and seeking a better way.

He told some of the stories of Maneki Nekko, and how it evolved.

Dennis Yamashita introduced his father, Rev. Kiyoshi

Yamashita. Rev. Yamashita talked about his father, a farmer, who took care of the temple and his five-year old sister who attended Sunday school, but was never exposed to death, dying, or the Buddha. Rather, the children were told stories and fairy tales. During an epidemic his sister became seriously ill, and facing death said, "I'm going [there] now," to the family that surrounded her. Rev. Yamashita feels there is another world.

Nov 8 - Castro sensei reminded us that "skillful means," one of the ten Paramitas, is important in Buddhism. He related it to guest minister Rev. Grant Ikuta's Dharma talk concerning the confrontation between two passengers on a flight. They argued about a seat being reclined thereby interfering with a passenger (who was clearly overweight) being unable to use his tray table. Had they used skillful means their problem would not have escalated.

In Cambodia the Khmer Rouge killed 1.7 million Cambodians. Sensei explained that Buddhism is a religion of personal responsibility, and problems are best addressed without anger but with skillful means.

*** submitted by Pat Bobrow

Nov 15 – Rev Jim Warrick attempted to explain the meaning of dharmakaya as he mentioned it in his Dharma talk in service when he asked, "What is compassion? Is it giving a slice of bread? Is it giving a cigarette to a homeless person? Is it a kangaroo in captivity?" One opinion was that according to Rev. Castro's Buddhist Golden Rule, "Do unto others as they would have them done unto," giving a homeless person a cigarette is compassion. Another opinion was that compassion is feelings.

*** submitted by Irene Goto

Please print

APPLICATION FOR SARANA AFFIRMATION CEREMONY

Temple affiliation: _____

Name _____
Last Name First Name Middle Name

Address _____
Street City State

Age: _____ Date of Birth _____ Male / Female Telephone: _____
(circle)

Name of parent or guardian _____ (if under 12)

Favorite word/kanji (or phrase) chosen by member for Homyo: _____

* * * * *

Homyo Selection: To be completed by minister

Homyo (Kanji): Reading: _____ Meaning: _____

Signature of applicant