

Wheel of the Sangha

Volume 30 Issue 2 February 2011
 A monthly publication by **Seattle Buddhist Church**
*May peace and tranquility prevail
 throughout the world*

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S.
 POSTAGE
 PAID
 Seattle, WA
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 3018

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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*

February 2011: Major Events of Interest

Saturday, February 5
 Sunday, February 6
 February 11-13

Study Group on Heart Sutra 9:30-11:30
 Scout Sunday Service
 NW District Buddhist Convention at
 Doubletree Guest Suites, Tukwila
Service at Convention – none at temple
 Nirvana Day Pet Memorial Service,
 Vegetarian Potluck in Gym 11:30

Sunday, February 13
 Sunday, February 20

Save the Date: March 27, 2011 Seattle Betsuin Bazaar

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Betsuin Events for February 2011

EVERY SUNDAY All are invited:

- 8:45 am *MEDITATION SERVICE at 1441 S. Main St; Sutra Chanting, 20-minute meditation, discussion.
10:00 am SERVICE - in Hondo (main sanctuary) includes Sutra Chanting, singing, and Dharma Talk
11:00 am DHARMA EXCHANGE – in dining room, Q/A, dialogue with minister and ministers assistants

EVERY WEDNESDAY **10:30 am DHARMA SUPPORT GROUP with meditation at 1441 S Main St

SUNDAYS *8:45 am Meditation Service Weekly

February 6

- 8:45 am Meditation Service (Rinban Castro)
10:00 pm SCOUT SUNDAY SERVICE

Youth: Boy Scouts
Adult: Rev. Warrick

Japanese Program
DX: Gratitude Workshop III

- 11:45 am SBBWA Board Meeting

February 13 **Temple closed for Convention**

- 10:00 am Service at NW District Buddhist
Convention at Doubletree Southcenter

February 20 Vegetarian Potluck Luncheon 11:30

- 8:45 am Meditation Service (Rinban Castro)
10:00 am NIRVANA DAY AND PET MEMORIAL
SERVICE

Youth: Joe Schwab
Adult: Rev. Taijo Imanaka from Koyasan
Temple

Japanese: Rev. Taijo Imanaka
DX: Rev. Warrick

February 27

- 8:45 am Meditation Service
10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE

Youth: Youth MA
Adult: Rev. Warrick

Japanese Program
DX: Joe Schwab

- 11:45 am SBBWA Cabinet Meeting

MONDAYS

February 21 President's Day Holiday – Office Closed

February 28 Rinban Castro in California

TUESDAYS

February 1, 8, 15, 22 Rinban Castro (Days off)

February 22

- 10:30 am Keiro Service (Joe Schwab)

WEDNESDAYS **10:30am Dharma Support Group Weekly

February 2

- 7:30 pm Dharma School Board Meeting
(Rinban Castro)

February 9 10:30 am Dharma Support Group

February 16 10:30 Dharma Support Group
Shinran Shonin Monthly Memorial
Service (Rinban Castro)

February 23 10:30 am Dharma Support Group

THURSDAYS

February 3

- 1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rinban Castro)

February 17

- 1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rinban Castro)
7:30 pm Betsuin Cabinet Meeting (Rinban Castro)

February 24

- 7:30pm Betsuin Board of Directors Meeting

FRIDAYS

February 4

- 12:00 pm Gojikai 2011 New Year's Party
(Rinban Castro)

February 11-13 NW District Buddhist Convention at
Doubletree Southcenter

February 23-27 BCA Ministers Meeting and National
Council Meeting in Visalia, CA

SATURDAYS

February 5

- 9:30am – 12:30pm Dharma Support/Study Group
(Rinban Castro)

MARCH Major Events of Interest

- March 13 (Sunday) Camp Fire Sunday Service
March 20 (Sunday) Spring Ohigan Service
March 27 (Sunday) Seattle Betsuin Bazaar

NOTE:

IRREGULAR DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY

February Newsletter Deadline:
Thursday, February 17, 2011 - 8:00 pm
Print: February 22, 2011

Reminder!

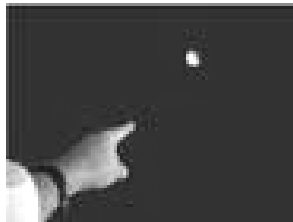
February 11-13 NW District Buddhist Convention at Doubletree Guest Suites, Tukwila
February 13 Sunday Service at Convention – none at temple



Buddhist Tolerance

By Rimban Don Castro

Our February newsletter arrives sandwiched between the national holidays of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Presidents Day. It also arrives between the Shinshu holidays of Hoonko (Shinran Shonin's Memorial) and Nirvana Day (Shakyamuni Buddha's Memorial). Through these holidays we affirm, both politically and spiritually, the importance and even sanctity of tolerance and freedom (of expression, assembly, speech, etc.).



Our Hongwanji tradition manifests freedom and tolerance in how it treats the issue of heresy. Any Hongwanji-ha minister is free to say whatever he/she wants to say on their own authority. I can say black is white and the Hongwanji will not question my freedom to say it. However, if I say Shinran said black is white, I will be called to defend my assertion. According to my teacher Rev. P.K. Eidmann, "Cause for excommunication is to teach in the name of the Hongwanji, any doctrine which all Hongwanji followers have not traditionally accepted...the Hongwanji's respect for individual responsibility is so great that hardly once in a generation is there an excommunication." Even an excommunicated minister, however, may be invited to speak at a temple. The members know they must weigh his statements very carefully, but they do not fear him nor reject his right to speak his mind.

In recent years, we have had numerous assassinations and assassination attempts motivated by religious and/or political reasons; as if religion can

be reduced to a belief system. In Buddhism, our concepts and beliefs are like a finger pointing to the moon. If you get stuck on the finger, you will never see the moon. In other words, don't get stuck on Buddhism. The true Dharma is beyond words and ideas.

Fundamentalists of all religious traditions don't understand this. Years ago a visiting fundamentalist cleric asked me if my sons were Buddhist. I replied that I had raised them Buddhist but their choice of religion was really up to them. He snapped back, "If you believe Buddhism is the true religion, why don't you make your sons become Buddhist!?" My answer was not well thought out, but what I should have said was, "I didn't say Buddhism is the true religion, I said it is a true religion. There are also many false and dangerous religions. Any religion that has to force itself on someone else cannot be a true religion. I am a Buddhist because Buddhism speaks to the core of my being and is the clearest, most accurate and most creative religious doctrine I have encountered. However, that being said, I would die to preserve my son's right not to be a Buddhist! After all, as Rev. Eidmann was fond of saying, "If everyone were Jodo Shinshu, it would be a sure indication that it is a false teaching."

Today, this tolerant, open and happy approach to life is under attack both domestically and abroad. Let us not take our open society for granted.

Increasingly, in many places of the world people put their life in peril just by speaking of tolerance.

The SBC Buddhist Study Group will meet on Saturday, February 5, 9:30-11:30. Everyone is invited to attend. Bring a brown bag lunch and stay for another hour of further discussion and casual conversation. We are reading the book, *Heart Sutra: Ancient Buddhist Wisdom in the Light of Quantum Reality*, by Mu Soeng Sunim. The author is currently Program Director and resident scholar at the Barre Center for Buddhist Studies in Barre, Massachusetts. (From the back cover of the book: "this commentary on the Heart Sutra offers...a very readable explanation of the teaching of Emptiness, and its parallels found in the experiments of quantum physics." The entire book (including references and bibliography) is only 70 pages.

We have invited Bill Hirsch, former ministers' assistant at the Seattle Betsuin, to speak to us about the Heart Sutra.

Submitted by Laverne Imori

Transportation To NW Buddhist Convention February 11 – 13 Please let the office know if you would like or can provide transportation to Tukwila – 206.329-0800.

Camp Fire USA submitted by Grace Tazuma

Dolphins / Starflight 1st - Submitted by Jenni Nakamura The Dolphins practiced their hip hop routine for the New Year's Party and performed it with the other Starflight groups. They all did a great job! Thank you Kiana L. for teaching the girls!

We will be working on finishing up our Trail to Family and Community and starting our Trail to Creativity. We will start our Camp Fire candy sales on Friday, January 28.

Starlights 2nd/3rd - Submitted by Debbie Shibata Miya T., Jaime, Emily S., Allisa K., Mette, Shaylin, Brianne, Stella, and Megan (Kindergarten group) participated in the caroling at Keiro nursing home on December 19. And wrapping up the end of year festivities, Starlight families helped take down and put away the decorations at Wisteria Manor.

The girls kicked off the new year learning a dance routine called "Big Bad Wolf" choreographed and taught by Kiana L. Along with girls from the other Starflight groups, "Big Bad Wolf" was performed at the Shinnenkai party.

Discovery 5/6 - Submitted by Dana Nakashima On January 9, at the Temple New Year's Party, the girls performed a Hula Dance to a "Pearly Shells/Tiny Bubbles" re-mix. Under the instruction of Mrs. Zumoto, the girls, in their colorful hula skirts, leis and flower hairpieces, performed their dance for the audience. They did great! Special thanks to Mrs. Zumoto, Pam H., Alison Y., Tina K., and all our great parents, for providing the support needed to make the dance possible.

Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association

SBBWA President's Message Submitted by Shizue Yahata

- January was a very busy month for the ladies of the SBBWA. Under the direction of Mrs. Ritsuko Kawahara, the members of the SBBWA and Dharma School parents helped prepare the bento for the temple New Year's Party.
- Mrs. Kawahara and her committee also prepared and served lunch for Rev. Kuwahara and Rinban Castro on Sat. Jan. 15, 2011.
- Nigome and Zenzai was prepared and served after the Ho onko Service on Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011.

SBBWA Activity Report

Submitted by Mabel Nishizaki Anyone interested in beginner line dance should contact Peggy Hanada or the temple office. There will be two sessions, Feb. 9 and Feb. 23, from 1-3pm in the dining room. Sign-up sheet is posted in front of the office. Instructor will be Tomi Zumoto.

Donations – Submitted by Treasurer Shizue Kaku

Sue Fujino – Irokai
Naomi Takemura – Irokai
Haruko Kobuki – General
George Tsukamaki – In Memory of Asako Tsukamaki
Lillian Horita – In Memory of Mitsui Hayashi
Kokoro Kai Volunteers – In appreciation for use of kitchen

SBBWA Calendar

Sunday, February 6: SBBWA Board Meeting
Wednesdays, February 9 & 23: Beginner Line
Dancing Class
Sunday, February 27: SBBWA Cabinet Meeting

Submitted by Joan Nakano

The Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association (SBBWA) extends a warm welcome to any potential new members to join our organization.

We would like to invite any Betsuin members to join the feminine aspirations of religious awareness, provide and support services to the Seattle Betsuin, contribute services for the welfare of the community, and promote fellowship amongst the members.

Please contact Terrie Tanino or Kiyo Takashima for any questions and/or comments.

Transportation To NW Buddhist Convention February 11 – 13

Please let the office know if you would like or can provide transportation to Tukwila – 206.329-0800.

Dharma School submitted by Joyce Tsuji
 Dharma school would like to invite everyone to the Nirvana Day vegetarian potluck on February 20. The pet memorial service will be held the same day. Cards will be available in the foyer to write down the names of pets that have passed away.

Thanks to the third, fourth and fifth grade class who made the rabbit centerpieces for the New Year's Party. Also, to the high school class who put on the "Game show" skit during the entertainment portion. We hope these were enjoyed by all. Great job guys!!

Classroom Reports

First/second grade

This class is filled with lots of bright, excited and fun-loving kids. We have spent this year discussing and creating reminders of the basics of temple etiquette, how to gassho, elements of the Obutsudan/Shrine (each made a paper shrine to take home), "being kind and gentle to every living thing", Right Conduct/Right Speech, fire safety, the Four Gratitudes (each wrote what they are thankful for on a foam turkey), celebrating Bodhi Day, making gifts for our parents, cleaning our classroom, making year of the rabbit calendars and celebrating Ho-onko by making a Shinran Shonin scroll. Please feel free to visit our classroom anytime and see our work on the walls.

High School class

-Watched & discussed the movie 'Coffin Man.'
 -It took several weeks to create lesson plans so that we could take over one class time to teach lessons for the lower grades of DS - Pre-K/K=bingo; 1st/2nd grade=modified picture dictionary; 3rd, 4th/5th grades=word searches; middle school=scavenger hunt. We also had to be prepared to answer questions and lead discussions regarding any Buddhist or Jodo Shinshu terms used in our lessons. We had lots of fun planning, but it was hard work to figure out what they know, might know, or wouldn't know at the specific age levels. Our teachers had to keep reminding us about their 'attention span,' too.
 -It took us several weeks, but we came up with an idea and implemented plans for our New Year Party entertainment contribution. A BIG THANK YOU to Mr. Morikubo, Mr. Yuasa, Mr. Lee, Kendall, Mr. Mori, and Mr. Takemura for participating and being such good sports!! We know all the young DS kids enjoyed the tasks - 'Did you see all of them lined up along the stage with their cameras?' We hope videos don't end up on YouTube.

Don't Miss Family Fun Night! Saturday, Feb. 26 White Elephant Bingo hosted by the Middle School Class



The ever-popular White Elephant Bingo will be held on Saturday, Feb. 26 from 7-8:30pm in the church dining room, hosted by the Middle School class. All are welcome. This is a FREE event, and light refreshments will be served. Please bring any gently used items (aka "white elephant" gifts) for our prize table; it's a great way to re-use, recycle and pass along unwanted items! In addition, the MS Class will be collecting monetary donations to underwrite a pizza dinner at Orion Center. The class will be serving dinner on April 15. If you have any Q's, please contact Lani Carpenter. Thanks and hope to see you at Bingo Night!

Nirvana Day February 20, 2011

- **vegetarian potluck in gym at 11:30am**
- **pet memorial service 10:00am**

cards will be available in the foyer to write down the names of pets that have passed away

HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

If you are a high school senior graduating in the class of 2011 or a college student currently attending a four year college, the following scholarships are available. **HIGH SCHOOL:** The Seattle Betsuin Tsujihara Family Memorial Scholarship Grant will offer up to four scholarships of \$2,000 each. **COLLEGE:** The Masaru and Mitsuma Shimokon Scholarship Grant has up to three scholarships:



- 1 - \$5,000 college student who will graduate as a Nurse Practitioner
- 1 - \$5,000 college student graduating as a Medical Doctor
- 1 - \$3,000 college student degree BS as a Registered Nurse

The deadline to submit applications is Monday, **April 4, 2011 by 2:30pm** to the temple office. For applications or questions please contact Shizue Kaku.

SPRING BAZAAR IS MARCH 27 - SAVE THE DATE The Seattle Buddhist Church Spring Bazaar will be held on March 27th. This is the last Sunday of the month rather than the 3rd Sunday as Spring Ohigan will be observed on the actual day of the Spring Equinox this year. As always, the event is only successful not only from funds raised from the purchase or consumption of the delicious food items prepared by the Sangha but also from the many volunteers that help to put on the event. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the hallway outside the dining room or gathered through various Temple organizations in late February. Please volunteer your time generously to make this event a success.

Spring Bazaar ticket script will be mailed out around mid-February so be on the lookout for them. Please see the accompanying note with the tickets for instructions on paying for the tickets as payment may be made prior to the event or on that day. The amount of ticket script mailed is a general amount for the whole Sangha. If you do not need all the ticket script mailed, please feel free to return the unneeded tickets back to the Temple. Ticket script is numbered so we can appropriately record the returned ticket script. Please note that US Postal service bulk mail rules mandate that all envelopes be of the same weight so we cannot individually tailor each envelope to the desired number of ticket script for that addressee.

As in prior years, donations of baked goods are desired for sale to those attending the event. Donations can be dropped off the morning of the event in the auditorium. Please label your products if any nuts or nut by-products are used as individuals have allergies and the presence of these items may result in life-threatening situations. -HL

Cub Scouts Boost Waste Reduction Efforts at New Year's Party Special thanks to the Cub Scouts for bussing tables at the New Year's Party! With so many tables filling the gym and limited room to maneuver, this was a challenging assignment that the boys handled enthusiastically and efficiently. The busboys were Alexander, Brent, Ichiro, Jacob, Justin, Kobe, Nicholas, Tai, Tegan, and Tyler. Thanks also to sorting crew volunteers Ryan Nakata, John Hamakami, and Mike and Aleksander Collier.

In addition to collecting items for the waste/recycle/compost station in the gym foyer, the Cubs also offered plastic bags for taking home leftovers in bento boxes. Workers at the station reported a significant reduction in food waste compared to last year.

For an event at which nearly 600 adult and children's meals were distributed, the recycling

committee is pleased to report that only two bags of garbage were generated (not counting kitchen operations). The rest was destined to be composted into a valuable soil amendment or recycled into new products. Thanks again to the Cubs for all their help and to the sangha for support of EcoSangha efforts!
- David Atcheson

2011 BCA Nembutsu Camporee – Save the Date!

August 5-7, 2011 Camp
Waskowitz, North Bend, WA
Hosted by Seattle Betsuin Boy Scout Troop 252 & Camp Fire Group 699.
Open to all kids entering 4th Grade through High School (in 2011). Submitted by Susie Yamane.
Info: nembutsucamporee@seattlebetsuin.com



MOCHI If you purchased mochi tickets and have not picked up the mochi, you can still turn in your tickets to the Temple office in exchange for the mochi. They have been frozen since being prepared in mid-December. From ticket numbers tracked, there are a number of tickets that have not been turned in. We are selling the excess mochi so please pick-up your mochi as soon as possible. As it has been over a month to allow for pick-ups, we are not holding the mochi and will sell what is being stored in the freezer.

If you did not purchase a ticket or have consumed the ones previously purchased and desire more, we are selling them for \$3.00 per dozen. The price has been

discounted 25% from the \$4.00 original sales price. Please stop by the Temple office during regular hours or on Sunday to pick-up your mochi in exchange for the pre-sales ticket or if you wish to purchase mochi at \$3.00 per dozen. Net proceeds from this fundraiser benefit Dharma School, Junior YBA, Camp Fire and Matsuri Taiko. - HL

DONATE YOUR USED ENGLISH BUDDHISM BOOKS FOR BOOKSTORE

A box is available for deposit in foyer. - IG

The Betsuin gratefully acknowledges the donations received for the following special service (please accept our apologies for any inadvertent omissions or misspelling of names):

Ho'Onko: Akizuki, Jim & Louise: Aoki, Michele Anciaux -: Aoyama, Masatoshi M. & Sayeko: Aramaki, Hanako: Asaba, Marian: Beard, Clara: Brundige, Grace Tazuma -: Canfield, James & Sheri Mizumori -: Chisholm, Steve & Lori: Desaki, Yasuko: Dodobara, Kenny & Yoshie: Doi, James: Enomoto, Toshiko: Fujii, Minoru & Aiko: Fujino, Suteko (Sue): Fujita, Florence: Fukeda, George & Toshiko: Fukuhara, Mitsuko: Furuta, Mary Y.: Goshō, Kazumi (Janice): Groves, Alan & Fumiko: Habu, Gordon & Mae Yamasaki -: Habu, Jack & Fumi: Hamatani, Jane: Hanada, Fumiyo: Hanada, Miyuki: Hanada, Peggy: Harada, Mack M. & Setsuko: Hasegawa, James & Hiroko: Hayami, Sachiko: Heider, Miki: Hirasawa, Amy: Hirata, Hajime & Michiko: Honmyo, Mas: Horikawa, Norigiku: Ichikawa, Satoru & Grace: Ise, Hal: Isomura, Toshiko: Kaku, Dale & Shizue: Kashima, Tetsuden & Cecelia Kanako: Katayama, Takeo & Mary K.: Kato, Edward & Joyce: Kato, Kazue (Katie): Kawaguchi, Miyoko: Kawahara, Ritsuko: Kawamoto, Masako: Keltner, Marc & Janice Nakamura -: Kido, Momoko: Kikuchi, Shizuko: Kitashima, Evelyn A.: Ko, Jeffrey & Tina Zumoto -: Kobuki, Haruko: Kogita, Paul & Takako: Kojima, Esther: Komoto, Frank: Kosai, Aizo & June (Yoshie): Kubo, Masayoshi & Masako: Kuramoto, Daisy Toyoko: Kuwahara, Kinue: Mamiya, Haruko: Mano, George & Irene: Mano, Mariko: Matsubayashi, Hugh & Ivy Chen -: Matsui, Jack T.: Mayeda, Julie: McKinney, Susan Taketa -: Miyauchi, Takiko: Mizuno, Hatsue: Mori, Paul Bruce & Teresa: Morikubo, Yukio & Karen: Morimoto, Eiichi & Ruth Shigeiko: Nakabayashi, Kemi: Nakagawa, Yoshie: Nakamura, Yoshio & Judith: Nakanishi, Kiyoko: Nakano, Craig & Joan: Nakano, Evangeline: Nakano, Junko: Nakashima, Tomi: Namekata, Tsukasa & Keiko: Nishikawa, Terry: Nishimura, Hisashi & Sadako: Nishizaki, Akio & Mabel: Noshō, Setsuno: Ohtani, Michiye: Okada, Barry & Marlene: Okada, Emiko: Osaki, Mary: Oye, Sunako (Sunkie): Sakamoto, M. Karry: Sako, Masako: Sakuma, Pauline: Shahbaghlian, Steve & Patricia Oye -: Shibata, Dennis M.: Shigaya, Kenneth: Shigaya, Mary S.: Shimada, Shirley: Shimbo, Ben & Etsu: Shimizu, Aiko: Shimizu, Haruko: Shimizu, Roy & Kazumi: Shimizu, Sato & Darlene: Shintaku, Albert & Frances: Sordetto, Gayle: Sumida, Florence: Tahara, Masaru & Anna: Takamura, Kuniko: Takashima, Kiyoko: Takemura, Yoshiaki & Naomi: Taketa, Haruso & Sonoe: Taketa, Jean: Taki, Noboru & Takako: Tamekuni, Masao & Frances: Tanaka, Rikuko: Tanaka, Tom: Taniguchi, Fumiye: Taniguchi, Martha (Masayo): Taniguchi, Theodore & Akico: Tanino, Katsumi & Terrie: Tanino, Ryomi: Terada, Joe & Hideko: Terada, Ronald & Suzuko: Teramoto, Margaret: Teramoto, Stuart: Tokunaga, Dolly: Uchida, Sam & Masako: Uyenishi, Tazuko: Vaart, Michiko Jean:

Wada, Machiko: Wakazuru, Barbara: Watanabe, Keiko: Yahata, Shizue: Yamaguchi, Fumiko: Yamasaki, Fujie: Yee, Eileen Hamamoto -: Yokota, Sumie: Yokoyama, Kevin & Kari Ann: Yorita, Takako: Yoshida, Fuyo: Yoshimura, Dick & Misao: Yuasa, Joanne: Yutani, Nobuo: Zumoto, James & Tomiko

New Year's Day Service: Aoki, Ruth: Maruko, Teruo: Mori, Paul Bruce & Teresa: Oye, Sunako (Sunkie): Sakuma, Pauline: Shimizu, Roy & Kazumi: Vogeley, Bill **New Year's Eve Service:** Mori, Paul Bruce & Teresa: Sakuma, Pauline **Bodhi Day:** Akira, Karen: Beard, Clara: Terada, Ronald & Suzuko: Yamaguchi, Fumiko: Yamaguchi, Kozo & Shigeiko **Bodhi Seals:** Akutsu, Gene: Akutsu, Marilyn: Aoki, Ruth: Cross, Sandra: Gilmore, Mieke: Habu, Jack & Fumi: Hokoda, Steven C. & Cathleen Marie: Howland, Laura Ichikawa -: Kanemoto, Eileen: Kato, Gary & Madeline: Kawamura, Sanaye: Keeley, Robert & Dawn: Litz, John: McLean, Doug & Masayo: Miyauchi, Lynn: Okano, Tomiko: Oxrieder, Catherine Ann: Shigaya, Kenneth: Shigaya, Mary S.: Taketa, Jean: Terada, Ronald & Suzuko: Yamaguchi, Fumiko

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 that have posted dues for the new fiscal year of 2011:

Nobie Kodama-Chan; Gary & Sandee Hamatani; Laverne Imori; Jack Matsui; Joseph Matsuzaki; Lisa Kumasaka Mitchell; Eiichi & Ruth Morimoto; Asako Okubo; Paul Sawyer; Roy & Kazumi Shimizu; Shirley Shimada; Franklin Shinoda; Thomas Carter-Smith; Paul Suguro; Haruso & Sonoe Taketa; Calvin & Yvette Terada; Sam Umeda; Mitsuo Yamamura; Jeff & Susie Yamane;

We'd like to 'welcome' Paul Sawyer as a new member to our Sangha.

***AS A REMINDER:** The basic dues towards the Church maintenance/operations, is \$250 for those over 70 years of age and \$300 for those under 70 years old. Payments are due by September 30, 2011. If you have any questions about your membership status, please contact Howard Luke or Steph Ojima by way of the Betsuin office: 206-329-0800 or office@seattlebetsuin.com.

Sorry.

***The photos were not deliverable
as promised.***

Notes on Dharma Exchange Dharma Exchange takes place from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. after Sunday Service in the dining room. All are welcome to attend this opportunity for discussion and questions typically led by Reverend Castro, Reverend Warrick, or Minister's Assistant Joe Schwab.

Dec. 12, 2010 - Rev. Jim Warrick posed the question: How do we feel about Christmas, the birthday of Jesus Christ? Apparently, multiple deities are not unusual as evidenced in Buddhist scripture where one will find discussion about other gods and bodhisattvas who manifest infinite wisdom and compassion that Buddhists celebrate. . . Sensei showed us a beautiful walking stick given to him by his brother. It featured a vine wrapped around it. . . He said gift giving is a culture of its own. When our Dharma School kids went to Japan they gave the Japanese kids boxes with small gifts, and it was a big hit.

Jan 2, 2011 - Rev. Castro reported that studies have been done about incompetent people. They are so incompetent that they do not realize it. . . The late Mr. Numata and his works to advance Buddhism in the US were discussed. . . Buddhism has many facets and interpretations in the world. A participant indicated on hearing the bonsho she smiles. A participant expressed appreciation for the incense used at the New Year's Eve service. Powdered incense without the flame is used in hospitals. . . Thanks to Linda for the Happy New Year cake she brought.

Jan 9, 2011 - Rev. Castro and Joe Schwab, MA, talked about the middle path and gave two examples. (1) To make chocolate mint cake, balance is needed between chocolate and mint. (2) In Burma returning soldiers become monks for a while to bring them back to the middle path. The definitions of secular/sacred were discussed. . . In Jodo Shinshu we repay indebtedness and determine needs to express gratitude. . . Beliefs are dangerous and we need to question everything. . . A participant commented that boredom starts in school because the fun is gone. Another participant indicated exploring the world is curtailed. Chinese parents force children to excel in one thing. Some do it under duress. Parents simply give up in Jodo Shinshu. . . Another interesting method came from Julie sensei. Her father made a two-year commitment to fund music and dance lessons for her. - Pat Bobrow

Jan. 16, 2011 – what Irene “heard”: In Rev. Kuwahara’s message he said that Nembutsu is the portable practice of Jodo Shinshu – you can say it anywhere, anytime; you don’t have to carry it around like one of those old heavy mobile telephones or go to a place where there is a telephone. But the nembutsu is there for us if we will listen to it and tune in to it so we can understand it clearly.

Rev. Castro talked about universal enlightenment. He said a realm of energy is created when one becomes “enlightened”. But to declare oneself as enlightened is contrived and the more one “practices” enlightenment, the more contrived it is. Therefore Amida Buddha (Bodhisattva Dharmakara) created the Pure Land and the 18th Vow. We are all already “enlightened”. The “practice” is living a life of gratitude. We are eternal life - life being like a gift of a new car – you see the preciousness of it, you treat it well, and you are thankful for it.

Rev. Castro also mentioned that all Buddhists believe in non-self, but every school has its own method or semantics – similar to judo and aikido, both are martial arts but each with its own methods and terminology.

A participant mentioned the Arizona shootings – “Know the rules before you change the rules.” Another participant thought that President Obama’s words at the Arizona memorial service seemed Jodo Shinshu in tone – seeing the positive in the cruelty.

Tetsu asked Rev. Castro to write down his explanation of nembutsu and enlightenment and convey it to BCA for all to read since he himself found his explanation so clear.

Ann said she heard an opinion that Jodo Shinshu doesn’t catch on because it is too simple. She also announced the theme - Gratitude, for the next 2 Dharma Exchange sessions. Homework for the next session is to think of something someone has done for you. The book, Thanks!: How the New Science of Gratitude Can Make You Happier by Robert A. Emmons, Ph.D. was mentioned.

SBBWA served zenzai, nigome and otsukemono. A sign-up sheet for Dharma Exchange Toban was circulated. Please sign-up to “host” Dharma Exchange – prepare refreshments, set up and put away tables, zabuton, and dishes. - /G