

# Wheel of the Sangha

Volume 27 Issue 4 April 2008

A monthly publication by **Seattle Buddhist Church**

*May peace and tranquility prevail  
throughout the world*

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**This is the cover page. Scroll  
down for the newsletter.**

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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*

### Wheel of Sangha

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### April 2008 Special Events

- **HANAMATSURI Service** April 13 10:00 am Family Service with Rev William Chugan Briones, LA Betsuin & **All-Temple Hanamatsuri Luncheon\*** in the gym

- **Children's Service** April 20 10:00 am Memorial Hall Chapel

*March 2008*

- **WISTERIA PARK WORK PARTY** March 29 9:00 am – 3:00pm

<p><b>1</b> Temple Contact Information</p> <p><b>2</b> Calendar of Events</p>	<p><b>3</b> Rimban's Message, Newsletter Schedule, Deadline: <b>April 21</b></p> <p><b>4</b> Camp Fire, Dharma Exchange</p>	<p><b>5</b> Messages from Rev Castro &amp; President Tahara</p> <p><b>6</b> Obon Design Contest, Membership, Go Paperless, Ways to Help Save Our Planet</p>	<p><b>7</b> SBWA, Wisteria Park Cleanup, Hanamatsuri Luncheon*</p> <p><b>8</b> Dharma School News –KSP, Scholarships</p>	<p><b>9</b> SBC Donations</p>
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## Betsuin Events for April 2008

### SUNDAYS

#### April 6

##### 10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE

Children: Warrick Sensei, MA  
English: Rev. Castro  
Japanese: Rimban  
DX: Joe Schwab, MA

11:45 am SBWA Board Meeting (Rinban)

1:00 pm Karuna Sangha Class (Rev Castro)

#### April 13 HANAMATSURI w/ Rev. W. Briones

##### 10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE

Children: Rev Briones  
English: Rev Briones  
Japanese: Rinban  
DX: Rev Briones

12:00 pm All Sangha Luncheon with Rev Briones

#### April 20

##### 10:00 am FAMILY & CHILDREN'S Services

Children: Warrick Sensei, MA  
Youth: Rev. Castro  
English: Rinban  
Japanese: NONE  
DX: Joe Schwab, MA

12:00 pm SBWA New Member Service & Luncheon

1:00 pm Karuna/Sangha Award Class (Rev. Castro)

#### April 27

##### 10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE

Children: Joe Schwab, MA  
English: Rinban  
Japanese: Rinban  
DX: Rev. Castro

1:00 pm Ministers' Meeting (Rinban and Rev Castro)

### MONDAYS

#### April 7

Rinban –Day Off

#### April 14

10:30 am Butsuren Hana Matsuri Service @  
Keiro (Rinban and Rev Castro)

#### April 21

Rinban Day Off

#### April 28

Rinban Day Off

### TUESDAYS

#### April 1

2:00 pm Minister's Meeting (Rinban & Rev Castro)

7:00 pm Shoshinge Class (Rev. Castro)

#### April 8

7:00 am Shoshinge Class (Rev. Castro)

April 15 Rinban Day Off

7:00 pm Shoshinge Class (Rev. Castro)

#### April 22

10:30 am Keiro Service (Rinban)

7:00 pm Shoshinge Class (Rev. Castro)

#### April 29

Rev. Castro – Vacation

### WEDNESDAYS

#### April 2

7:30 pm Dharma School Board Mtg

#### April 9

#### April 16

10:00 am Shinran Shonin Monthly Memorial

11:00 am Ministers' Meeting (Rinban & Rev Castro)

1:00 pm Choir Performance @ Nikkei Manor (Rinban)

#### April 23

April 30 Rev Castro - Vacation

### THURSDAYS

#### April 3

1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rev Castro)

#### April 10

6:30 pm Religious Dept. Exec. Meeting

7:30 pm Religious Dept. Meeting

#### April 17

1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rinban)

7:30 pm Betsuin Cabinet Meeting

#### April 24

7:30 pm Betsuin Board Meeting

### FRIDAYS

April 4 Rev. Castro Day Off

12:00 pm GOJIKAI Service & Meeting (Rinban)

April 11 Rev Castro Day Off

April 18 Rev Castro Day Off

11:30 am Visitation by St. Mary Magdolan (Rinban)

April 25 Rev Castro Day Off

### SATURDAYS

March 29 Wisteria Park Work Party 9 am – 3pm

#### April 5

#### April 12

10:00 am Hanamido Decoration (Rinban)

#### April 19

#### April 26

### Month of May 2008 Events:

May 2 - 4 FDSTL Conference – San Mateo, CA  
(Gym Sunday for DS children)  
May 11 Children's Service – Chapel 10:00 am  
May 17 NW Council Meeting in Yakima, WA.  
May 18 GOTAN-E Service  
May 26 MEMORIAL DAY-Office Closed

### Helpful Web Sites

[www.BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org](http://www.BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org)

links to BCA bookstore, BCA Campaign 21 Century,  
*Wheel of Dharma*, Temples  
[www.BCAyouth.org](http://www.BCAyouth.org)



# Wheel of the Sangha

Volume 27 Issue 4

SEATTLE BETSUIN NEWSLETTER

April 2008

## HANA MATSURI - FLOWER FESTIVAL

Rinban Hoshu Y. Matsubayashi, Ed.D.



Hana Matsuri or Flower Festival commemorates the birthday of Shakyamuni Buddha, the founder of Buddhism. Shakyamuni Buddha was born on April 8<sup>th</sup> more than 2500 years ago in India.

Shakyamuni's birth took place in the beautiful Lumbini Flower Garden where Queen Maya stopped to rest on the way to her parents' castle. Journeying to the parents' home for the event of giving birth was the custom of the time. The baby was born from her right chest when she tried to cut a branch of Ashoka flowers tree. This indicates that the baby was born into the warrior class. The warrior class was the second highest class next to the class of the Brahman or priest class. Those of the Brahma or priest class were believed to be born from the head of the mother.

A legendary story states that sweet rain fell from the sky to bathe the body of the baby. For the Hana Matsuri Service, we decorate a little shrine with various beautiful flowers depicting the beautiful flower garden of Lumbini where the baby Buddha was born. Inside the flower shrine, we place a little statue of the baby Buddha in a bowl of Amacha or sweet tea. During the service, we pour sweet tea over the top of the statue to bathe the baby Buddha in celebration of his birth.

It is said that the newly born baby took seven steps, pointed his right hand to the sky and his left hand to the earth and proclaimed, "Above the heaven and below the heaven, I am the Most Honored One." The seven steps indicate the world of enlightenment which exists beyond the six realms of the unenlightened world. The baby was named Siddhartha, which means 'every wish fulfilled.' When he became the Buddha, the Enlightened One, at age of 35, he was also addressed as Shakyamuni, which means "Sage of Shakya Clan." Combining both titles, we often call him Shakyamuni Buddha.

The Buddha expounded upon a profound truth of our life. The following four characteristics of Buddhism reveal realities of our human lives:

1. Everything is constantly changing - Impermanence (anitya).
2. Everything exists interdependently – Selflessness (anatman).
3. Everything does not go according to one's desires - Suffering (duhkha).
4. There will a state of bliss/happiness – Enlightenment (nirvana)

The first three characteristics are very pessimistic, but the fourth characteristic, the ultimate goal of Buddhism, is bliss/happiness/enlightenment. *The Amitayurdhyana Sutra* states that "The Mind of the Buddha is Great Compassion."

We often ask such question as "Who is the Buddha?" or "What is Buddhism?" The answer should be found in the realization of compassion in our lives. This discovery leads us to a life of awakening. Buddhism has been in existence of over 2500 years to guide the welfare of all beings. The great compassion that Buddhism teaches is essential to a global religion that the entire world needs to follow today.

Dr. Edward Conze, a well known Buddhist scholar, stated in his book, *BUDDISM: Its Essence and Development*, that "The Buddhist community is the oldest institution of mankind. It has survived longer than any other institution..."

Let's celebrate the birthday of the great religious leader, Shakyamuni Buddha, the founder of Buddhism!

## NEWSLETTER NEXT DEADLINE

April 21, 2008

8:00 PM

Email Articles to:

Newsletter@

SeattleBetsuin.com

Print on  
April 25, 2008

Seal and Label  
Sunday, April 27,  
by:  
YBA, Dharma School

**Newsletter Sealing and Labeling  
Schedule for the current month,  
not for the issue Month:**

BWA January & July

Gojikai February & August

Scouts, Campfire, Taiko\*  
March & September

YBA, Dharma School  
April & October

ABA  
May & November\*

Ijikai June & December

\*duty has been switched as of July '07

## Camp Fire Group News

submitted by Dana Nakashima

### Candy Sale '08 Results

We would like to thank all the students (& parents) for participating in this year's candy sale -- each unit helped CF USA and our group treasury. We sold an astounding 4,394 units, an increase of 1,559 units (or 55%) from last year!! There were 44 students that participated from the church group and 1 student that participated via her school Camp Fire group. We sold almost \$22,000 of candy, and raised about \$11,000 for local CF USA programs. In addition, we raised over \$1500 for our group treasury (our all-time high!). The candy sale has become our biggest fundraiser. Students that did site sales at grocery stores also received many candy donations (where customers pay \$5 but donate the candy to a charitable organization). Over 30 boxes were donated to local food banks, and over 100 boxes were donated to Wounded Soldiers. We would also like to thank all the church members who purchased candy and supported Camp Fire.

Our top seller (for the 4th year in a row) is Kayla who sold 1,635, or 37% of our total units, and raised over \$570 for our treasury. She may be the top seller of the North Branch, and will be a top National seller. (We'll find out her exact rank in a month or so.) Congratulations to our top sellers:

Kayla 1,635	Emi. 212
Kristy 401	Tiffany 180
Alina 273	Koki. 179
Chiyo 203	Emily 148



The top selling group of the church was the Hummingbirds with 2,721 units sold.

In closing, we would like to give special thanks to the candy captains (Janet, Lisa, Carol, Lori, Pam), and to Lani (church group distributor, U Village site sale coordinator).

### Camp Fire Birthday Service Acknowledgements

We'd like to thank the Hummingbirds group (4 & 5th graders) for putting on a meaningful service. Good job! We'd also like to thank Ann, Dennis, and Lani for coordinating the service; June - pianist; Lisa & Val for their assistance; and Howard for coordinating the cake reception.

#### Adventure 2/3:

On February 16 eight of the girls performed an encore dance presentation to the High School Musical, "We're All In This Together," at the **Northwest Convention**. The girls were excited to perform and showed great enthusiasm, energy and poise. As a group, we are discussing what to do with donation money our group received from this year's candy sales. The girls want to donate the money to non-profit organizations, like a food bank, animal shelter, or some type of community service. In upcoming meetings, we'll choose the recipient organizations, then, hope to have the girls deliver the donations in person.

On March 8-9, Sela, Amanda, Kayla, Emily, Emi and Tiffany, with their Dads, attended the annual **Dad/Kid Weekend at Camp Sealth**. The girls enjoyed many medieval-inspired activities, culminating in a kids and Dads skit, Sunday morning.

### NOTES FROM DHARMA EXCHANGE - MARCH 9, 2008

*NOTE: The purpose of this column is to inform members who are unable to attend Dharma Exchange, parents, those involved in committee meetings, and spiritual seekers who access the Internet.*

On 3-9-08 Castro Sensei reported on the National Council Meeting he recently attended. The focus was on the Jodo Shinsho Center (JSC). There is still \$9.3M to be paid on the building with a balloon payment of \$4.3M due in March 2009. Two solutions were discussed: Sell the bishop's residence for about \$1.3M; and/or sell BCA headquarters for \$2.5M, or lease the building. It is currently being leased by the BCA for \$40K/year. Sensei commented that we Jodo Shinshu taxpayers could donate our \$600+ rebate and meet the balloon payment quite easily.

He said 43.8% of the Western District has responded with gifts and pledges to the JSC. At the National Conference all the BWAs agreed to support programs for 3 years for the Center for Buddhist Education.

Because of cost over-runs brought on by changes to the building, additional parking ordered by the city, the economy, the Iraq war, etc. the estimated cost of the project rose from \$10M to \$23M. Therefore, retirement plans for minister's spouses, which was part of the project, has been shelved.

In gassho, Pat Bobrow



## SHAKYAMUNI AND AMIDA BUDDHA

by Rev. Don Castro

April 8 is the traditional date of Shakyamuni Buddha's birth, although, the actual observance of Hanamatsuri here in Seattle will be April 13 this year. Hanamatsuri literally means "Flower Festival" and the name reflects the flower shrine (hanamido) and Lumbini Garden where the Buddha was born. A question frequently asked at this time of year is, "What is the relationship between Amida Buddha and Shakyamuni Buddha?"

You will notice there is no celebration of Amida Buddha's birthday. This is because the story of Amida Buddha is mythological. One half of the word Amida means "eternal life" so, in this sense, Amida Buddha is life itself, which is primordial. We each have an individual life, but this individual life is a part of life itself. Our individual life, however, is very precarious. It can be painful and short. This is why it is "that matter of first importance," as Shinran Shonin urges that we awaken to the other aspect of Amida Buddha, light. Light is said to be the manifestation of wisdom. Thus, Amida Buddha is



enlightened life. Amida is the true, universal meaning and value of our life. Life and light are manifested in time and space. Eternal life is any time and eternal light means any place. Amida thus expresses boundlessness and total freedom.

Shakyamuni Buddha is one, enlightened life. Amida Buddha is all of us enlightened together. For Shinran, the real importance of Shakyamuni Buddha is expressed in the following stanza of the Shoshin Nembutsu Ge Wasan:

*Shakyamuni Tathagata appeared in this world  
Solely to teach the ocean-like Primal Vow of Amida;  
We, an ocean of beings in an evil age of five defilements,  
Should entrust ourselves to the Tathagata's words of truth.*

As Shinshu followers, we regard the essence of Shakyamuni Buddha's enlightenment as the universal truth of Amida Buddha. Thus, on Hanamatsuri, by honoring Shakyamuni we also honor Amida Buddha.

### TEMPLE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Minasama Gokurosama Deshita.** Thank you everyone who worked so long and hard to make the 2008 Seattle Betsuin Bazaar a big success! Whenever we have a big event that brings many of our members, the families and friends, I always feel the sense of togetherness and sharing the joy of achieving the same goal. It is quite amazing to see so many smiling faces even in the midst of sweat and tired bodies after long and continuous hours of working at various posts. We look our best in aprons!

**BCA National Council.** 2008 BCA theme is "*May Peace and Tranquility Prevail Throughout the World*". Some of the reports/decisions made in the two days of sessions were: **Five BCA ministers retiring** - Rev. George Chuho Matsubayashi, Rev. Shinji Okada, Rev. Eijin Kujo, Rev. Sensho Inouye, Rev. Seigen Yamaoka, all effective at the end of 2008 except Rev. Chuho Matsubayashi of Los Angeles Betsuin who retires effective Jan. 31, 2009. Seventeen (17) ministers are reaching retirement age in 5 years; 24 ministers or 41 % of the ministers are reaching retirement age in 10 years. **Socho Koshi Ogui** will serve four more years as the Bishop of BCA. **Shinran 750<sup>th</sup> Memorial Commemoration Events:** The official dedication/commemoration has been set as May 16-18, 2011 at the Hongwanji, Kyoto, Japan and coincides with World BWA Convention to be hosted by Japan. BCA National Council agreed that BCA's combined donations

for this occasion is \$400,000 to be raised in three years from individual members donating \$25 per person. Each temple is responsible to collect the amount from each member. The BCA Ad Hoc Shinran Shonin 750<sup>th</sup> Memorial Observance Planning Committee has decided on the events as following: **Year 2009-2010** - District Observances - Each District will be requested to hold a Shinran Shonin Observance at their annual District/Family Conference in 2009 or 2010. The BCA Planning Committee will send each district the following: a) A list of suggested activities for Dharma School, BWA, ABA YBA, b) A DVD of Gomonsu's address, c) A DVD of Socho's and BCA President's address, d) A DVD/CD of Shinran biography. **Year 2010** - BCA Shinran Shonin 750<sup>th</sup> Memorial Observance will be held in conjunction with the Annual National Council meeting in February of 2010. All BCA members and friends will be invited to attend. Tentative Schedule of Events - Saturday afternoon BCA/IBS Shinran Shonin symposium, evening Banquet with special guest speaker; Sunday morning Shinran Shonin 750<sup>th</sup> Eitaikyo Service (possible live feed address by Gomonsu). **Year 2011** - Encourage pilgrimages by BCA members to Hongwanji in Japan. **2008/2009 BCA Budget:** A balanced budget of \$2,130,177 with projected \$1,385,272 BCA Dues was approved. This makes **\$83.04 per member** BCA dues.

## **O**N BEHALF OF THE SBC MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE... by Steph Ojima

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 since our last month’s posting:

Jene Deguchi, Jimmy & Alicia Eng, Miki Heider, Sid & Yoshi Katayama, Shizue Kikuchi, Masayoshi & Masako Kubo, Randy & Susan Lavigne, Tom & Yasumi Osako, Ann Oxrieder, Aya Sakoda, Pauline Sakuma, Fumie Taniguchi, Tazuko Uyenishi, Norio & Miyoko Yamazaki, Dick & Misao Yoshimura, Elliott Zimmermann

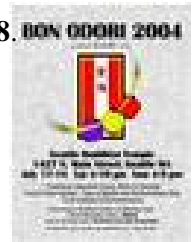
**\*AS A REMINDER:** The basic dues towards the Church maintenance/operations, is \$250 for those over 70 years of age and \$300 for those under 70 years old.

## **B**ON ODORI COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES 2008 DESIGN CONTEST submitted by Ron Hamakawa

The 2008 Bon Odori Committee is currently seeking design entries for this year’s logo contest for posters and T-shirts/merchandise. **The winning entry will qualify for a \$100 cash prize. 66**

### **Contest rules:**

- 1) All entries become the property of the Seattle Buddhist Temple for use by the Bon Odori Committee for advertising posters and event T-shirt/merchandise that are sold to the public as a part of the events fundraising activities. The submitter will not retain any rights regarding the profits that may be made from the sale of T-shirts or other event logo products sold with the winning design.
- 2) Entries must be received by the Temple office no later than close of business, **Sunday, April 27, 2008.**
- 3) The following are recommended graphic elements to consider:
  - a) design should be a maximum of three colors as means to control cost;
  - b) simplicity aids in reproduction and printing
  - c) design must appeal to both male and female audience;
  - d) submission of design in digital format preferred (CD or disc).



## **G**O PAPERLESS! THIS NEWSLETTER IS NOW ON WWW.SEATTLEBETSUIN.COM

The “Wheel of the Sangha” newsletter is now posted on [www.seattlebetsuin.com](http://www.seattlebetsuin.com). If you are currently receiving a paper copy by US mail and would like to discontinue for the online version, please let us know. Simply 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! **Note: This is a voluntary option only. No one’s subscription will be cancelled unless it is requested. No action is required to keep receiving your paper copy in the mail. The Japanese version is also online now! This is not an offer to receive the newsletter via email. You must log on to [www.SeattleBetsuin.com](http://www.SeattleBetsuin.com) and click on newsletter to view the newsletter in pdf.**

## **L**ARGE AND SMALL THINGS YOU CAN DO TO SAVE OUR PLANET by Gail Kaminishi

When we hear all the bad news about the condition of our planet, some people feel overwhelmed and think that there is nothing they can do about it. However, each of us can do more large and small things to make change. For example:



- Take your plastic containers with you to restaurants. They will fill them up with take out rather than give you Styrofoam containers. My favorite restaurants do this for me.
- Rev Mas Kodani takes his ohashi with him so that he will not have to use disposable ones.
- The Nisei ladies of our temple carpool on Sundays.
- At the annual San Fernando Valley Japanese Community Center barbecue, everyone brings their own plates and cutlery from home so that there is no paper/plastic to buy or waste.
- Take grocery bags back to the store to reuse. Whole Foods is working towards eliminating plastic bag usage.
- A good problem is that the Redmond/SR 520 park and ride lots are full past capacity due to the high price of gas. More people are leaving their cars and taking the bus.

What good ideas do you have? Please send your ideas or news to Gail via [newsletter@seattlebetsuin.com](mailto:newsletter@seattlebetsuin.com)

## Seattle Buddhist Women's Association

**BWA President's Article by Terrie Tanino**  
BCA FBWA President, Yukiko Otake had requested each chapter to turn in the number of members that are interested in attending the 14th World Buddhist Women's Convention in Kyoto, Japan scheduled for May 17, 2011. Fifty (50) members responded to the telephone poll. More information will be forthcoming from the FBWA.

A memorial service was held on March 8, 2008 for the late Ritsuko Yoshitomi. A floral wreath was presented for the service. Terrie Tanino represented the BWA for Oshoko. Our deepest condolences were extended to the Yoshitomi family.

### Donations:

Oregon BWA – General donation  
Hanako Aramaki – General donation  
Fumi Yamaguchi – In memory of Miyo Ise  
Marian Matsui – In memory of Asano Kono  
Hatsuko Kaku – In memory of Suye Kinomoto  
Lily Hori – In memory of Suye Kinomoto  
Miyuki Hanada – In memory of Suye Kinomoto  
Kazumi Shimizu – In memory of Suye Kinomoto  
Marian Asaba – in memory of Suye Kinomoto  
George and Fusaye Funai – In memory of Suye Kinomoto

March 29th – Wisteria Park  
Maintenance - 9 AM - 3PM

**All:** We are going to dig out some of the ivy around the parking lot, repair lights, repair the drain, spread mulch, plant some low level ground cover, and prep the area around the statue. Rob is going to bring a toy or two to move stuff. And if we have enough people...we might have a fence to paint.

**BRING:** A friend, wheel barrows, shovels, dirt bars, cutters, rakes, and gloves (and a smile).

Please dress appropriately for the weather. Please



## ALL TEMPLE HANAMATSURI LUNCHEON – APRIL 13

We invite all of you to join us to help celebrate the Buddha's birthday  
after Sunday Hanamatsuri Service.

There will be no charge for this lunch  
which will be prepared by Dharma School and served in the gym.

### Dana Day offerings:

M. Boneham, M. Faught, M. Gilmore, Y. Hamanaka, A. Hirasawa, C. Iguchi, E. Imanishi, Y. Ito, Y. Katayama, H. Kato, M. Kawaguchi, H. Kitano, J. Mayeda, H. Mizuno, M. Nitta, M. Okada, M. Osaki, M. Osako, N. Suguro, T. Yorita, I. Yoshihara and T. Zumoto

### SBWA Activities:

April 2 & 9, 2008 Monto Shikisho (Okesa),  
Instructor: Y. Hiroo

April 30, 2008 Yarn Frog Class, Instructor: R. Tanaka

May 7, 2008 Kiyos famous Chiffon Cake,  
Instructor: K. Takashima, Limit 5

All classes start at 9:30 and end at noon. Sign up sheets will be posted across from the office or you may call Setsu Harada or Darlene Shimizu through the Betsuin office at (206) 329-0800.

### April Calendar:

April 6, 2008 BOD Meeting

April 13, 2008 Hanamatsuri

April 20, 2008 New Membership Party

submitted by Deanna Ikegami

**NEWSLETTER PRINT STAFF WANTED** to help photocopy, troubleshoot, and fold The Wheel of the Sangha newsletter on Friday, April 25, 2008 at 8:15 a.m. until about noon at Seattle Betsuin.

let Steph Ojima know if you will be able to lending a 'helping hand' or two. Lunch will be served to all 'helping hands' so an advance head count will be appreciated (sooner than later).

Thanks, in advance, for your help...Cyrus W. Honmyo

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY** Assistant to the Director of the Center for Buddhist Education at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, California. Part-time position/flexible. Approximately 20-25 hours/week. Salary and hours negotiable. Please call Reverend Kodo Umezu at 510.809.1460 **BY APRIL 30.** submitted by Rev Castro

## DHARMA SCHOOL - APRIL 2008

### All Temple Hanamatsuri Luncheon -

**Sunday April 13** Dharma School will host a Hanamatsuri Luncheon for everyone at the temple following the Hanamatsuri Service on Sunday, April 13. There will be no charge for this lunch which will be prepared by Dharma School and served in the gym. We invite all of you to join us to help celebrate the Buddha's birthday.

**Attention 2008 Graduates** If you know of a temple member that will be graduating from either High School or College this Spring and think they would like to receive a certificate of congratulations from the BCA, please let us know. Contact the temple office at (206) 329-0800 or email [office@seattlebetsuin.com](mailto:office@seattlebetsuin.com) and provide the following information: Student's Full Name, College/High School/Institution, Parent's Name, Phone Number. Submissions must be provided by Sunday, **April 6** in order to allow time to receive these.

### Kids Summer Program 2008 – “Journey to Japan”

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Seattle Buddhist Church KSP will be held June 23-27, 2008 for students entering grades 1 through 8. Forms will be available by the Dharma School bulletin board or on the Temple website with registration for temple members beginning on March 9th. Registration for non-temple members begins on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Class size is limited, so register early to ensure a spot. We'll also be recruiting teens to fill “sempai” jobs (aka Jr. Assistants). Applications and more information will be available later in March. The theme will be “Journey to Japan.” Each morning will begin with Taiso (Japanese group exercise) and a short service, followed by learning and singing Japanese songs. Activities will include a variety of arts and activities such as origami, manga, judo, taiko, cooking and performing at Keiro. Our teaching staff will be comprised of Judith Nakamura and Gerrie Kawabata (team-teaching first grade), Nina Tomita-Kato (2<sup>nd</sup>), Janet Baba (3<sup>rd</sup>), Penny Atcheson (4<sup>th</sup>), Shizue Yahata (5<sup>th</sup>), and Kyle Okada (6-8<sup>th</sup>). Any questions, please contact Mae Yamasaki, Marie Kosai-Luke, Tina Ko or June Iwafuchi.

### Classroom reports

4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade-teachers Sheri Mizumori, Tina Ko, Steph Ojima and Kelsey Ojima - The Bellevue Humane Society greatly appreciated the wonderful pet blankets that the kids made last month! In recent weeks, we have been applying our understanding and knowledge of Buddhism in a couple of different ways. First, by playing a game of “Buddha Bingo”, the students really demonstrated their knowledge

in terms of Buddhist etiquette, holidays, life, and history while having loads of fun! On a different week, we applied some of the fundamental tenets of Buddhism to a fun and common activity for the boys. (The girls were away that weekend for a Camp Fire event). We discussed how issues like impermanence, suffering, dana, compassion, and of course doing your best, are demonstrated in a basketball game! We tested our ideas by actually playing basketball in the gym. What a great work out that was, especially for the teacher!

6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade-teachers Nina Tomita-Kato, Paul Mori and Angela Sato - In March and April we attempted to make onenjus out of Fimo clay. Some of our attempts were quite successful and some were great attempts. Some of us even pushed our abilities further and tried to make a mini obutsudan. Upon completion of our masterpieces, we began studying for the "Buddha Bowl".

submitted by Joyce Tsuji

**April 20 - Children's Service** takes place in Memorial Hall Chapel promptly at 10:00 a.m. Children's service is a more informal setting; messages will be appropriate for young school ages. Hondo sermons on these days will be geared toward a middle school level on up. Families are encouraged to select whichever setting fits their needs. **Oshoko (incense offering) will be from 9:45 – 10:00.** (Memorial Hall Chapel is in use as a classroom immediately following the service.)

### **Scholarship for High School Seniors**

Applications for the Tsujihara Family Memorial Scholarship Grant are now available by contacting Shizue Kaku through the temple office at 206.329-0800. Deadline to submit applications is **Friday, April 25, 2008**. If you are a graduating senior in the class of 2008, affiliated with the Seattle Betsuin, and plan to attend an institution of higher learning, please apply for this scholarship.

### **Reflections from Reverend Seigen Yamaoka**

submitted by FDSTL Historian Chizuko Kakiuchi  
Spring Higan is here. It is the time to reflect on the meaning of life and all that surrounds us. We need to cross-over and see ourselves from the world perspective. If we do not we will continue to harm the world and in the end ourselves. **Reflection:** In life, many decisions are made with the idea of what is best for us. Those decisions may bring happiness, but it will be tempered by regret. This is the path of human life. Take care.

Gassho, Seigen Yamaoka



Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations –  
February/March 2008

<u>Funeral / Memorial / Nokotsudo:</u>	<u>For:</u>		<u>Given by:</u>
Yoshito Enomoto – Funeral Service		\$ 1,000	Sachiyo Enomoto
Suye Kinomoto – Graveside Service		\$ 700	Olivia Uyeda
Joyce Ding – Funeral Service		\$ 630	Guy Ding
Shigeo & Taki Masunaga – Memorial		\$ 500	Masunaga Family
Kazuko Umeda – 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Memorial Service		\$ 350	Suzanne Umeda
James Hoshino – Funeral Service		\$ 300	Cheryl Ann Hoshino
Ted Kunihiro – 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Memorial Service		\$ 300	Carolyn Kunihiro
Hisaye Koga – 100 <sup>th</sup> Day Memorial Service		\$ 225	Masae Nakagawa
Chimedtseren Dolgorsuren – Memorial Service		\$ 200	Luvsan Ish Enkhbold
Suye Kinomoto – Memorial		\$ 100	Olivia Uyeda
Ted Kunihiro – 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Memorial Service		\$ 90	Carolyn Kunihiro

<u>Remembrances for:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
Benito Bergano	Marion Asaba
Satoru Gota	Marion Asaba
Maryo Haag	Al & Fran Shintaku
Miyoko Ise	Nobuichi & Sachi Fujita; Taka Kogita; Aizo & Yoshie Kosai; Roy & Kazumi Shimizu; Sato & Darlene Shimizu; Al & Fran Shintaku; Florence Sumida; Margaret Teramoto; Fumiko Yamaguchi
Suye Kinomoto	Sue Fujino; Daisy Kuramoto; Nobuko Otsuji
Florence Koura	Takami Family; Mary Yoshida;
Ted Kunihiro	Jim & Hiroko Hasegawa; Sanaye Kawamura; Gerald Quintua; Florence Sumida
Geroge Kurata	Masako Shibuya
Hiroshi Nakashima	Dale Kaku
Akiye Sanbo	Masako Shibuya;
Mary Shigaya	Tak Aoki
Gonmoji Tamura	Robert & Marian Ohashi
Tetsuzo Terao	Mack & Setsuko Harada
Denny Yoshimura	Mack & Setsuko Harada

**General Donations:** Anonymous; Sophia Terada; Randy Aoyama & Andrea Kawamura; Mark Yuasa; Employee Contributions thru Payroll – Boeing Company

**2008 New Years' Party:** Bob & Tracey Umeda

**Temple Supervision:** Yakima Buddhist Church \$ 100

<u>Other Gifts:</u>	<u>Donor:</u>	<u>For:</u>
	Otgon Luvsanjamva	Temple Visitation
	Seattle Mongolian Community	Temple Visitation