

Wheel of the Sangha

Volume 28 Issue 7 July 2009

A monthly publication by **Seattle Buddhist Church**

*May peace and tranquility prevail
throughout the world*

Seattle Buddhist Church

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Wheel of the Sangha

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Seattle Betsuin Vision

*Embrace true and
real life*

in Nembutsu



Seattle Betsuin Mission

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

July 2009 Special Services/Events

JULY 11 **OBON SERVICES** JULY 12

12:00 Queen Anne Cemetery

1:00 Washington Memorial

2:30 Lakeview Cemetery

10:00 Sunset Hills Cemetery

1:00 Washelli Cemetery

3:00 Obon/Hatsubon at Temple

SEATTLE BON ODORI (for dance practice see p. 10)

SATURDAY, JULY 18: 4:00-10:00 PM & SUNDAY, JULY 19: 3:00- 8:00 PM

JODO SHINSHU MEDITATION SERVICE

Each Sunday 8:45-9:30 am – Memorial Hall Chapel

SIGN UP TO HELP AT OBON ODORI: JULY 18, 19 - WORK BEGINS THURSDAY, JULY 16!

<p>1 Temple Contact Information</p> <p>2 Calendar, Newsletter Deadline: July 20 Print: July 24</p>	<p>3 Rinban's Message</p> <p>4 Camp Fire, Go Paperless, Save Our Planet, ABA</p>	<p>5 Reverend Castro President Tahara</p> <p>6 SBC Membership, Scholarships</p>	<p>7 SBBWA, Dharma School</p> <p>8 Scouts</p> <p>9, 10 SBC Donations</p> <p>10 US Veterans, Obon Odori Help!</p>	<p>11 Shinran Memorial, Buddhism Class</p> <p>12 Nikkei Horizons Legacy & Future</p> <p>13 Dharma Exchange</p>
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Betsuin Events for July 2009

SUNDAYS

July 5 Rinban Matsubayashi at Steveston
Buddhist Church Obon
8:45 am Meditation Service (Rev. Castro)
10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE
Adult: Rev. Castro
No Japanese Service
DX: Rev. Castro
11:30am SBBWA Board Meeting

*Shinran Shonin's
750th Memorial*



July 12

8:45 am Meditation Service
OBON SERVICES
10:00 am Sunset Hills Cemetery (Rinban Matsubayashi)
1:00 pm Washelli Cemetery (Rev. Castro)
3:00 pm Obon/Hatsubon Service at the Temple (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

July 19

3:00 pm – 8:00 pm SEATTLE BON ODORI*

July 26

8:45 am Meditation Service
10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE
Adult: Rev. Castro
Japanese Service: Rinban Matsubayashi
DX:
11:30 am SBBWA Cabinet Meeting
12:00 pm "Overview of Buddhism" Class
(Rev. Castro, Rev. Warrick, MA Joe Schwab)

MONDAYS

July 6, 13, 20, 27

Rinban Matsubayashi (Days off)

TUESDAYS

July 7, 14, 21 Rev. Castro (Days off)

July 28

10:30 am Keiro Service (Rev. Castro)

WEDNESDAYS

July 15, 22, Rev. Castro (Vacation)

July 29 Rinban Matsubayashi (Day off)

THURSDAYS

July 9

7:30 pm Religious Dept. Meeting
(Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

July 16

10:00 am Shinran Shonin Monthly Memorial Service (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

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

1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service
(Rinban Matsubayashi)

July 23
7:30 pm Rev. Castro (Vacation)
Betsuin Cabinet Meeting
(Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

July 30

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

FRIDAYS

July 24

Rev. Castro (Day off)

July 31

Rev. Castro to Moses Lake for Obon

SATURDAYS

July 11

12:00 pm OBON SERVICES
Queen Anne Cemetery
(Rev. Castro)
1:00 pm Washington Memorial Cemetery
(Rev. Castro)
2:30 pm Lakeview Cemetery
(Rinban Matsubayashi)

July 18

4:00 pm – 10:00 pm SEATTLE BON ODORI*

July 25

Rev. Castro (Vacation)

August 2009: Major Events of Interest

Sunday, August 2 Atomic Bomb Victims' Memorial Service

Sunday, August 23 SBBWA Eshinni-ko and Kakushinni-ko Service

Sign up to help at Obon Odori –

Rosters are located in the temple basement in the hall next to the dining room.

Thank you!

***Obon Odori Dance Practice takes place in the Gym:**

July 6 – 10, 13, 14 from 7:30 to 9:00 PM



Contemporary Understanding of the Pure Land of Utmost Bliss - 3

Rinban Hoshu Y. Matsubayashi, Ed.D.

July is a month of Obon. We sing the following Gatha for Obon Service:

**Riding on the dragonfly,
Guests are coming from far away
the Pure Land of Utmost Bliss!
It's the yearly visit of our family guests.**

On the Pure Land of Utmost Bliss, Vasubandhu, 2nd Master, wrote the **Discourse on the Pure Land** and he presented the Twenty-Nine Aspects of the Virtues of the Adornments in the Three Divisions: seventeen adornments of the Pure Land, eight adornments of the Buddha, and four adornments of the Bodhisattvas. He expounded that these Aspects summarized into the Phrase of One Dharma, which is the Phrase of Purity. And furthermore, he stated that the Phrase of Purity is the uncreated Dharma Body of True and Real Wisdom.

Tan-luan, 3rd Master, wrote the **Commentary of the Discourse on the Pure Land** and presented the interpenetration of the Twenty-Nine Aspects of the Virtues of the Adornments in the Three Division as the extensive presentation and the Phrase of One Dharma as the condensed presentation. Both enter into each other because of the two types of Dharma Body. From the Essential Dharma Body as the Phrase of One Dharma originates the Dharma Body of Expediency. Through the Dharma Body of Expediency the Essential Dharma Body is revealed. These two Dharma Bodies are different but inseparable.

Asanga, older brother of Vasubandhu, wrote **The Summary of the Great Vehicle (Mahayanasamgraha)** and he established systematically the theory of the Tri-kaya (Three Bodies) of the Buddha in Chapter Ten, "The excellence of wisdom is to be understood as the three bodies of the Buddha, which are the essence body, the enjoyment body, and the transformation body." The Essence Body is the Dharma Body (Dharma-kaya) of Tathagatas. The Enjoyment Body (Sambhoga-kaya) is the body that is manifested in the various Buddha lands and assemblies, and

enjoys the Buddha's lands and the Mahayana-dharma. The Transformation Body (Nirmanakaya) is also manifested in various situations in this world.

Asanga explained that there are ten meanings of the Dharma Body. The first meaning provides the five characteristics of the Dharma Body. He states in the fifth of the five characteristics that "The Dharma Body is characterized by inconceivability, because the purity of suchness is to be known by a personal realization..." Asanga reminds us that the Dharma body as the purity of suchness can be understood by a personal awakening.

Then, in the second of the ninth meaning of the Dharma Body, Asanga presented the eighteen Perfect Purity of the Buddha's Pure Land as his answer to the question of "How is the purity of the Pure Land of all Buddha Tathagatas to be understood?"

The Scripture describes how the Pure Land came up with cause and its result in the 5th and 6th of the eighteen Perfect Purity. The Pure Land is perfectly purified in its cause in the 5th, because "It arises from good states beyond world-transcendence." And the Pure Land is perfectly purified in result in the 6th, because "It is characterized by a masterfully engendered and well purified conscious construction." The 7th Perfect Purity explains that the Pure Land is the abode of the Buddha Tathagatas.

The Summary of the Great Vehicle expounded that the Pure Land was originated with the good Karma and established the numerous adornments as the manifestations from the pure consciousnesses of the enlightened one. Thus wisdom of pure consciousnesses of the enlightened one became the substance of the Pure Land of Utmost Bliss.

Asanga's **The Summary of the Great Vehicle** and its commentaries of Vasubandhu and Asvabhava gave the doctrinal insight with the consciousness theory of the Yogacara School for a contemporary understanding of the Pure Land of Utmost Bliss.

Namo Amida Butsu

July 2009 submitted by Lisa B.

Welcome to our new Starflight group!

At our recent council fire, we met our newest Starflight group as they "flew-in" as new members. Welcome to Alisa, Lacey and Lauren and their parents!



on tubing down the Wenatchee River for their end-of-year activity. We hope to do this sometime during summer vacation.

On May 31 we participated in the all-group Camp Fire ceremonial. Emily and Sela carried flags, Lauren and Emi highlighted several of our memorable

group activities, and the girls helped the Rainbows group fly up to Adventure. It was a great way to end the year.

Starlights - Kindergarten and 1st Grade

Submitted by Debbie S. The girls have enjoyed a wide range of activities lead by parents over the past few months. There has been discussion and crafts about the nature of clouds, creation of "Chopstick Books" holding all the girls' favorite recipes, and the making of puppets! Thanks go out to the parents of Miya N., Stella, Mette, and Emily U. for making these activities possible. The girls have wrapped up the year with an afternoon out that included lunch and bowling and with practice of the skit that was performed during Council Fire.

Hummingbirds *Submitted by Lani C.* The Hummingbirds donated their dues (about \$52) to a local animal shelter. They also made a generous donation to Camp Fire USA camp scholarships in recognition of their leader, Lani Carpenter.

On June 7th, the group celebrated the end-of-the-year with a party at Paint the Town. They used their hard-earned candy money to pay for pottery items plus Jamba Juice smoothies. They have many social and community service activities planned for the summer, including maintaining a P-patch in North Seattle, helping at Obon, swim parties and their annual recital at Nikkei Manor.

Adventure 3-4 *Submitted by Dana N.* On May 24 the girls turned their symbolgrams into iron-on patches. We ironed the completed patches onto their vests. They turned out great! Additionally, the girls voted

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!

Large And Small Things You Can Do To Save Our Planet by Gail Kaminishi Water...

One of our temple members' parents haul their own water! Think about how you would use water if you hauled your own as they do in countries all over the world.



- In many countries people use only a few buckets of water to bathe themselves. Does a 20 minute shower get you cleaner than a 5 minute shower? 20 minutes or less fills my very large bathtub.
- Consider boiling pasta and vegetables in less water than you usually use now. Reserve that water, as well as water you've used to rinse fruit and vegetables in, to soak dirty dishes in later. Let water do two jobs before pouring down the drain.
- When hand washing delicate clothing, try using a smaller basin and less soap and water
- The dishwasher is considered more efficient in washing dishes, but if you are rinsing them till they are practically clean, you are using much more water than is needed.

What tips do you have on water use?

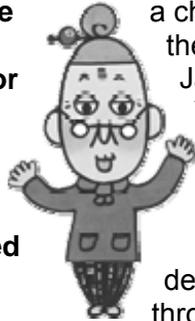
Adult Buddhist Association submitted by Gail Kaminishi

The upcoming activities for ABA have not been confirmed as of printing time so please look for announcements at the temple. Email will be sent to recent ABA members as well.

Obon Thoughts

by Rev. Don Castro

**“Obon, Obon, It’s Festival Day!
We will gather friends all along the
way
And bring fruits and vegetables for
the shrine...
Obon, Obon, It’s Festival Day!
All our humble thanks we will
here convey
To our dearly loved ones who lived
in the past...”**



Nobel Prize acceptance speech. Now, there is even a children’s book in both Japanese and English with the title “Mottainai Grandma” (“Mottainai Baasan” in Japanese) by Mariko Shinju who studied in New York at one time. At one point in the book, grandma says to her grandson, “So much food left – mottainai! May I eat? munch munch, gulp gulp, lick lick.” Does this sound familiar?

Mottainai is the opposite of entitlement; the “I deserve it.” attitude. We are enabled to live through profound causes and conditions. Primary causes are “our dearly loved ones who lived in the past.” It would be truly mottainai not to pass on their warm legacy.

The true significance of Obon lies in the rededication of ourselves to a Buddhist way of life by reflecting upon the love, compassion and virtue which our parents and others, who have passed on before us, have given to us while they were still alive. It also gives us time to pause and reflect on the hardships and sacrifices they have made for our sake so that we can clearly understand the interdependence of all life and things. Through this realization, we can all come to lead a life of humble gratitude and confidence in the true teaching of the nembutsu.

--from the Gatha “Obon, Obon, It’s Festival Day

The best way to convey our humble thanks to our dearly loved ones who lived in the past is to take care of the present and future. The timeless spirit of the nembutsu is our inheritance so let us not squander our inheritance. Even I, having not been raised as a Japanese Buddhist, share and take refuge in the nembutsu inheritance. I remember how delighted the nembutsu followers were in Japan when they learned that I, a foreigner, had come to study Shin Buddhism.

To me, the humble spirit of thanks that our Obon gatha refers to is expressed by the Japanese phrase “Mottainai” which I have taken a keen interest in over the years. It is an expression that also captured the keen interest of the Nobel Peace Prize winner Mrs. Wangari Maathai who used the expression in her

Message to Our Members

by President Mas Tahara

Bon Odori and Rev. Koran Okahashi

Rev. Koran Okahashi will be visiting Seattle again for our Bon Odori. As you know Okahashi sensei gave us “Seattle Samba”, the music and dance he created especially for Seattle Betsuin members. It will really be great to welcome back Okahashi sensei for our summer festivity.

Old Obutsudan - New Homes for Old Buddhist Family Altars

As the members of the Buddhist families pass on to the Pure Land, many of the Obutsudans that are meant to bring the teachings and practice of Buddha Dharma in homes and individuals often lose their place and real purpose. Seattle Betsuin’s Religious Department is



accepting Obutsudans that are no longer needed or used properly. Please contact our front office.

At the same time we would like to find homes for the Obutsudans we have on hand. Most are suitable for Jodo Shinshu Buddhist families. If you are members of Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Church and looking for your own Obutsudan in your home, please contact me Mas Tahara at 206.361-2970 or catch me at the temple.

Religious Class

Rev. Castro along with Rev. Jim Warrick and Joe Schwab will be teaching “The Overview of Buddhism” starting July 26 for six Sundays at 12:00-1:30 pm. This is the same format as “The Essential Buddhism” we have had several times during the summer right after Bon Odori.

Temple Membership

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 since our last month’s posting:

Connie Ozeki-Chinn, Ken & Yoshie Dodobara, Cathleen Goshō, Gayle Hoshino, Toshiko Imanishi, Eileen Kanemoto, Tetsuden & Kanako Kashima, Ann Kashiwa, Takeo & Mary Katayama, Noboru & Hatsuye Kawada, Ritsuko Kawahara, Momoko Kido, Tom Kodama, Janet Kosai, Yoshiko Kozai, Chieko Kubota, George & Irene Mano, Lisa Kumasaka Mitchell, Tetsuo & Linda Miyata, Lynn Miyauchi, Ernest & Sanaye Nagai, Craig & Joan Nakano, Junko Nakano, Yasuko Natsuhara, Emiko Okada, John & Reiko Sato, Harry & Terrie Shigaya, Ken Shigaya, Motoko Shimizu, Sato & Darlene Shimizu, Jean Takano, Toshio Taniguchi, Joe & Hideko Terada, Lica Wada, Jim Warrick, Charlene Yoritsune

We'd like to 'welcome'
Lynn Miyauchi & Lica Wada
as new members to our Sangha.

***AS A REMINDER:** The basic dues towards the Church maintenance/operations are **\$250 for those over 70 years of age and \$300 for those under 70 years old. Payments are due by September 30, 2009.** 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.

The 2009 Seattle Betsuin scholarships and grants were awarded to: Masaru & Mitsuma Shimokon \$2000 scholarship: Keilene (nursing); Tsujihara Memorial scholarships: Quinn & Jason; Seattle Betsuin Continuing Education grant: Miles, Alexa & Sanae.

The essay questions for this year were: "What would you do to make the Seattle Betsuin more relevant to the younger generation of Jodo Shinshu Buddhists?" for the high school scholarships, and "How does Jodo Shinshu teachings relate to your field of study" for the Shimokon college scholarship. Each recipient



2009 BETSUIN MEMBERSHIP DUES

The basic dues towards the Church maintenance/operations are:

**\$250 for those over 70 years of age
(\$500 per couple)**

**\$300 for those under 70 years old
(\$600 per couple).**

The Temple pays an assessment to the BCA and to the Northwest District for each Temple regular member, about \$90 to both organizations combined. The remainder of your paid dues (**\$160 from a \$250 membership; \$210 from a \$300 membership**) are used in the area of salaries and benefits plus the costs for maintenance, utilities, and insurance. You can see why it is important for **everyone** to pay their dues.

For those of you who have already paid your 2009 membership dues, we say “THANK YOU” for your support. Your contributions have been helping us to maintain and operate the Temple during this fiscal year. Those of you who are making installment payments, we ask that your **balance be paid by September 30, 2009.** Those of you have yet to make any contribution for 2009, the deadline is September 30.

Thank you again, for your contributions and continued Temple support. 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

presented their essays during the Children/English service to a very receptive audience. Steve Shahbaglian and Tish Oye, Betsuin members and owners of Glassworks of Seattle, once again donated beautiful glass awards to each high school award recipient. A reception was held for the families and students and was hosted by Sangha volunteers: Shizu Kaku, Roy and Kazumi Shimizu, Tish Oye, Tomi Zumoto, Mae Yamasaki, & Tina Zumoto Ko. We appreciate the dedication to our temple and community these young Buddhists and appreciate your families and youth leaders who helped guide you along the way. We hope the Sangha listened with open hearts and ears to their suggestions and comments. – *Submitted by Tina Ko*

Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association

SBBWA July 2009 Betsuin Newsletter Article submitted by Terrie Tanino The Betsuin Obon Committee has posted the work tasks and schedules for the Annual Obon Festival, July 18-19. The sign up sheets are in the hallway next to the dining room. BWA will be responsible for Yakisoba, Barazushi, Asian chicken salad and Yakinigiri under the direction of the Food Chair, Ritsuko Kawahara, and BWA Rep., Shizue Yahata. Food Committee Chair is requesting ladies to report to the kitchen for food preparation at 9:00 AM on Friday (17th), Saturday (18th) and Sunday (19th). I would like to ask BWA members to please sign up early and give the temple your support for this event.

Donations

Submitted by Treasurer Mabel Nishizaki:

Kihara Family - In memory of Jane Mitsuko Kihara

Ed & Joyce Kato - In appreciation

Lauren Asaba - In appreciation

Hats Higa - General donation



Calendar

July 11

Obon Cemetery Services

July 12

Obon Cemetery Services & Services/Hatsubon Service at the Temple

July 18-19

Seattle Betsuin Bon Odori Festival

July 26

Cabinet Meeting

Submitted by Deanna Ikegami

Dharma School July 2009

Submitted by Joyce Tsuji

Thank you to all the Ministers, Teachers, Parents, and students who made this past year so successful. We appreciate all you do to make it happen. Have a terrific summer!

Classroom Reports

Infant /toddler class - teacher Connie Ozeki-Chinn

The Infant Toddler room spent the last few months of Dharma School on the following projects:

1. In celebration of Mother's Day, the craft for the class was to make coffee cozies with felt and decorative ribbon.
2. In learning the Golden Chain, the class painted tubular pasta with gold paint and formed a golden chain. The chains were glued onto paper with the words from the Golden Chain.
3. In celebration of Father's Day, the class decorated T-shirts for their fathers. There were some very creative designs.

I want to give special thanks to the children and the wonderful parents. It was a joy this past year working with this class.

1st/2nd Grade - teachers Dave Scattergood and Joyce Tsuji

Our year wrapped up with more discussion of the Four Gratuities pertaining to country on Memorial Day when we colored and made American flags, which stood up. For Father's day we decorated cards and magnets with pictures of the students in them! Some of the students were

easily remembering the acronym for them - Parents, All Life, Country, Three Treasures or PACT. We say goodbye to our second graders and good luck. We will miss you. We look forward to seeing our new first graders and returning second graders in the fall! Congratulation again to our perfect attendance award winner Kobe!

5th Grade - teachers Tina Zumoto-Ko, Donna Zumoto, Steph Ojima and Kelsey Ojima

Kamishibai!

Kamishibai! Our class presented the early life of Shinran Shonin using the Kamishibai story board sets, to the 1st-2nd and 3rd-4th grade classes this Spring. It's



been an interesting way to learn about Shinran and a creative outlet to express our inner "entertainer".

We are grateful for those who purchased the storyboard sets and those who made the two kamishibai wood "stages". Our class made Mother's Day gifts and just recently Father's Day pop-up cards and decorated planters for Giant Pumpkins to give to dad. We hope there will be some "Great Pumpkins" to bring to the annual Halloween party. We are very proud of all of our students, and want to send a shout-out to Trevor who earned Perfect Attendance!

Cub Scout Pack 252 Wraps Up Another Year - Submitted by Andrea Mano

The 27 Cub Scouts this year, enjoyed a variety of Pack Activities including: Summer Tent Camping, Winter Camp, Church Bazaar (bussing tables), Bowling, Pinewood Derby, Bicycle Sunday, Scout Sunday and Church Camp-Out. Unofficially, "Dodgeball-After-The-Meetings-With-BoyScouts", was always a hit. In addition each group has specific highlights.

Tiger Cub News – We are proud to have 7 Tiger Cubs earn their Bobcat and Tiger Cub badges this year. In alphabetical order: Alexander, Brandon, Ichiro, Justin, Nicholas, Shaun, Tyler. They started the year with a 'rocket-demonstration' on the steps of Wisteria Plaza, each getting to drop a Mento-mint into their very own 2 liter of Coca-cola, and ended the year receiving well-deserved awards for their achievements of activities, such as Citizenship, at the Blue & Gold Ceremony.

Several of them also participated in Chibichan Basketball, the Boy Scout Crossover Ceremony, Church Gym Campout, Bicycle Sunday and a Field Trip to Uwajimaya.

This past Sunday, several attended their 1st Eagle Scout Court of Honor to recognize the newest Troop 252 Eagle Scouts. Although this is the youngest group in Cub Scouts, they already have newfound goals to attain the highest rank of scouting. We hope to see them all reach this goal together.



Wolf News: There are 3 Wolf members: Kobe T., Kobe T., and Jacob. They kept the sawdust flying with their many projects including Pinewood Derby cars and wooden boxes. They learned about recycling so that they could exhaust themselves bussing tables at Church Bazaar. Kobe's gigantic snowball turned into a gigantic snowman at Winter Camp. Although small in numbers, they are BIG on enthusiasm, movement and vocal energy!

Bear News: With seven Cub Scouts at the Bear Rank, they were a busy bunch, earning their segments, perfecting their Pinewood Derby cars, and building wooden airplanes. They invited the Boy Scouts who, with extreme patience, taught knot-tying to the Bears and Webelo I's. They ended their year with a field trip to the Bellevue Police Department, led by Officer Richard Chinn (Chase's dad). Apparently, someone got handcuffed on the field trip! The seven are: Giovanni, Phillip, Chase, Drake, Josh, Jordan and Bryan.

Webelos I News Aaron, Alex, Matthew K., and Nathan were the four members of Webelos I.

"Capsizing Canoes"

By Brandon, Boy Scout

They enjoyed a year of getting to know each other, as well as the other Cub Scout and Boy Scout members. They began the year interviewing the Tiger Cubs, then throughout the year, the Boy Scouts came to teach them First Aid, Tying Knots, and of course, Dodgeball skills.

Webelos II News On March 28, six Webelos crossed over into Boy Scout Troop 252. Congratulations to Henry, Mikio, Matthew L., Brandt, Trevor and Azaad for completing their Cub Scout requirements and earning their Arrow of Light. The ceremony was held on a very rainy weekend, at the North Bend campsite complete with a rope monkey-bridge, knotted and lashed by our older Scouts.

The Webelo IIs have spent many weeks practicing their knots, and preparing to cross-over to Boy Scouts. Additionally, their leadership blossomed as they led the opening of each meeting, provided experienced leadership in Bussing Tables, had the fastest speed in inner-tubing at Winter Camp, and provided heated competition in the Pinewood Derby.

Summertime Activities include: Bicycle Sunday and Tent-camping at Lake Easton.

If you or someone you know has a First through Fifth Grader who would like to join Pack 252, please contact the Church Office or another Cub Scout family. Formal Registration will begin in September.



Read about Brandon's Camp adventure in a canoeing event. Go to the on-line version of the newsletter, p.13.

The Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations May – June 2009

<u>Funeral / Memorial / Nokotsudo:</u>	<u>For:</u>		<u>Given by:</u>
Tosh Uyeji – Memorial Service		\$ 450	Jackie Uyeji
Jane Mitsuko Kihara – Memorial Service		\$ 400	Marilyn Kihara
Shimano Taketa – 7 th Year Memorial Service		\$ 350	Haruso Taketa
Robert Hikida – Memorial Service		\$ 300	Hikida Family
Hisako Kato – 49 th Day Memorial Service		\$ 300	Alan Kato
Masaye Tanaka – 50 th Year Memorial Service		\$ 300	Tom Tanaka
Nokotsudo for Mas Kosai		\$ 300	Hiroko Janet Kosai
Hisako Kato – Nokotsuko		\$ 300	Alan Kato
Santaro, Umeno & Elmer Yoshida – In Memory of		\$ 300	Mary Yoshida
Nokotsudo		\$ 200	Takashi Oba
Memorial Service		\$ 100	Jean Ishii
Mr. & Mrs. Kojiro Taki – In Memory of		\$ 100	Taki Family
Rinzo & Shio Ohara – In Memory of		\$ 100	Mari Ohara
Grace McLeod – In Memory of		\$ 100	Rosalie Jacobson
All Sangha Memorial Service		\$ 50	Tatsuya Yamamoto

Remembrances for:

Mary Doi
Hisako Kato

Given by:

Mas & Fran Tamekuni
Jim & Louise Akizuki, Anonymous, Takao & Ruth Aoki, Jene Deguchi, Mae Deguchi, Kazuma Fujita, Nobu & Sachi Fujita, Toshi Fukeda, Alan & Fumi Groves, Peggy Hanada, Jim & Hiroko Hasegawa, Starr Hashiguchi, Amy Hirasawa, Mary Hirata, Mickey & Yoshi Hiroo, T. Hoshikawa, Sat & Grace Ichikawa, Jane Ishii, Toshiko Isomura, Mary Katayama, Yo Katayama, Art & Sally Kawaguchi, Ritsuko Kawahara, Taka Kogita, Leslie Kitamura, Aizo & June Kosai, Art & Lori Kozai, Aida Kozu, Daisy Kuramoto, Carolyn Kunihiro, Howard & Marie Luke, May Luke, George & Irene Mano, Patricia H. Mastrude, Julie Mayeda, Yoshie Mikami, Trisha Morton, Yosh & Judy Nakamura, Joan Nakano, Akio & Mabel Nishizaki, Anne Nogaki, Candace Kato-Nogaki, Michi Ohtani, Karry Sakamoto, Masako Sako, Pauline Sakuma, Harry & Teruko Shigaya, Ken Shigaya, Mary Shigaya, Etsu Shimbo, Roy & Kazumi Shimizu, Al & Fran Shintaku, Nori Suguro, Florence Sumida, Kathryn Suyama, Glenn & Carol Takagi, Haruso & Sonoe Taketa, Pam Taketa, Mas & Fran Tamekuni, Rikuko Tanaka, Peggy Tanemura, Fumi Taniguchi, Lois Taniguchi, Etsuko Lilly Tanino, Margaret Teramoto, Bev Uyeda, Fumi Yamaguchi,
Rose Masuda, Dick Yoshimura
Jene Hori Deguchi, Nobu Fujita, Toshi Fukeda, Peggy Hanada, Kenneth Hirata, Paul Kogita, Yuriko Kojima, Al Shintaku, Rikuko Tanaka, Joanne Yamamoto, Betty Yoshitake, Michael Yoshitomi,
Joan Nakano
Steven & Stacey Shigaya

Jane Mitsuko Kihara
Takumi Mikami
Rev. Thom Nakanishi
Mary Shigaya

continued on p. 9 -

- Donations continued from p. 8

Remembrances for:

Tosh Uyeji

Given by:

Jene Deguchi, Aiko Fujii, Sue Fujino, Hajime Hirata, Daisy Kuramoto, George & Irene Mano, Bobby Masumoto, M/M Joseph Matsuzaki, Fred & Steph Ojima, Mineko Okamura, Pauline Sakuma, Masako Shibuya, Frances Tamekuni, Dick Yoshimura, Nobuo Yutani,

Supervising Minister:

Yakima Buddhist Church - \$ 100

Other Gifts:

Donor:

For:

\$ 300	Connie Ozeki-Chinn	General
\$ 200	Alice Doi	General (Bank of America United Way)
\$ 100	Art & Lori Kozai	Use of Facilities for Karuna Classes
\$ 83.89	Reiko Hara	General (United Way)
\$ 50	Joyce Kato	Appreciation for Karuna Program
\$ 50	Emiko Okada	General
\$ 50	Susanne Umeda	General
\$ 33.34	Gail Suzaka	General (Bank of America United Way)
\$ 30	Terry Suzaka	General (JP Morgan Chase Matching Gift Pgm)
\$ 20	Dennis Tsukagawa	General – Visitor from Mt. View

Archives Seeking Photos of U.S. Veterans for Bon Odori Display

Once again the Archives Committee has been asked to display the Betsuin Veterans exhibit for the Bon Odori. This display has drawn great interest and favorable comments by the public. We currently are up to 82 veterans in uniform. Look through your family albums and shoe boxes for the picture. The photo must be one of the member in uniform. (There is a separate roster on display for those veterans who cannot find a photo in uniform.) It can be a formal or a candid shot, in either dress uniform or, in fatigues. It will be sized to fit for black and white photo. We will make a print and return the original to you after processing. Please submit the picture to the Betsuin office by Sunday, July 12. Attn: Sat Ichikawa.



2009

BON ODORI:

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

JULY 18, 19

Summer has arrived and before you know it Obon season will be here! This year's Obon will be dedicated to the 750th memorial of Shinran Shonin.

- New and veteran Sangha members, we need you! The sign-up sheets for all shifts are posted in the downstairs hallway, next to the dining room.

- Please commit to at least one set-up/food prep shift on Wednesday the 15th, Thursday the 16th, or Friday the 17th, PLUS at least one shift per day on Saturday and Sunday.
- Don't worry if you are not a part of any specific Temple organization; this is a great way to meet and work with others.

Bon Odori Practice
7:30 - 9:00 PM in the Gym
July 6 - 10
July 13 & 14

The Life of Master Shinran – Reflecting on the Life of Our Master Shinran

Early Years Shinran Shonin was born at the close of the Heian period, when political power was passing from the imperial court into the hands of warrior clans. It was during this era when the old order was crumbling. However, Japanese Buddhism, which had been declining into formalism for several centuries, underwent immense renewal, giving birth to new paths to enlightenment and spreading to every level of society.

Shinran was born into the aristocratic Hino family, a branch of the Fujiwara clan, and his father Arinori at one time served the Imperial Court. At the age of nine, however, Shinran entered the Tendai temple on Mt. Hiei, where he spent twenty years in monastic life. From his familiarity with Buddhist writings, apparent in his later works, it is clear that he exerted great effort in his studies during this period. He probably also performed such practices as continuous recitation of the Nembutsu for prolonged periods. - www.BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org.

Shinran Shonin's 750th Memorial Observance & BCA National Council Meeting will take place in San Jose, CA, February 27, 28, 2010. Keynote Speaker will be Rev. Dr. Kenneth Tanaka, Usashino University, Tokyo; Banquet Speaker will be Mr. Pieper Toyama, Head of School – Pacific Buddhist Academy, an independent college preparatory high school located in Honolulu, HI, on the island of Oahu, and first Jodo Shinshu high school in the western world; www.PacificBuddhistAcademy.org. - IG

“The Overview of Buddhism”



Sundays Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, and Sep. 6, 2009 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

2009 Buddhist Education and Outreach Program

SEATTLE BETSUIN BUDDHIST CHURCH - JODO SHINSHU HONGWANJI-HA

1427 S. MAIN STREET, SEATTLE WA 98144 TELEPHONE (206) 329-0800

By

Rev. Donald Castro, Rev. Jim Warrick, and Joe Schwab, Certified Minister's Assistants

Our program offers classes for people interested in a wide range of subjects relating to Buddhism and in particular **Jodo Shinshu Buddhism**. Courses will be taught by the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Church ministers and the certified Minister's Assistants (MAs) who have attained deep knowledge in Buddhism, particularly in **Jodo Shinshu Buddhism** through special training and studies. The classes are open to the church members and members of the greater community who are seeking to learn the teachings of Buddha. The **Overview of Buddhism** course starts on Sunday, August 2, 2009 and the registration is now open. Please use the attached registration form below.

*****cut here*****

“The Overview of Buddhism”

Sundays Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, and Sep. 6, 2009 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

(The session on August 2 is open to anyone without registration)

This is a discussion-oriented class about some of the essential threads that bind all Buddhists together. Topics to be covered are: the life of Siddhartha Gautama, brief history of Buddhism, the meaning of Karma, basics of wisdom and morality, and purposes of meditation. In addition, we will discuss the essential Buddhist concepts of emptiness, impermanence and interconnectedness.

Registration fee: \$20 for BCA members* \$30 for others

Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Church Buddhist Education & Outreach Program Registration Form

Name: _____
Please Print

Address: _____
Street Address City Zip code

Phone: (_____) _____ E-mail: _____

Please make checks payable to: **Seattle Betsuin Religious Dept.** Mail or bring this form with the payment to: **Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Church Attn: Buddhist Class Registration 1427 S. Main Street, Seattle, WA 98144** * Discount rate of \$20 applies to the members of BCA (Buddhist Churches of America) and BCC (Buddhist Churches of Canada) Temples. See www.BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org.

NIKKEI CONCERNS – Continuing Our Legacy of Caring and Compassion As we look forward to our 35th anniversary in 2010, it is a good time to reflect on the accomplishments of 2008. It is also an excellent time to assess who we are today and to review our challenges. By doing this, we hope to set the groundwork for future improvement and growth.

Who Are We Today? We are the largest non-profit Nikkei or Japanese-related organization outside of California and New York. We own buildings, properties and other assets valued at more than \$18 million. Our proposed budget for 2009 is over \$16 million.

We have four key service areas: Seattle Keiro Rehabilitation and Care Center, Nikkei Manor Assisted Living Community, Kokoro Kai Senior Activity Program, and Nikkei Horizons Continuing Education Program. By far, Seattle Keiro has the largest budget, comprising approximately 83% of the total, followed by Nikkei Manor (15%). Kokoro Kai and Nikkei Horizons touch the lives of many individuals but equal only 2% of our entire budget.

Most of our revenue comes from Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement (57%). Residents and program participants (private fees) cover 32% and the remaining 11% comes from private insurance, donations and other miscellaneous earnings.

Our programs primarily serve the Nikkei community. In 2008, 54% of our Seattle Keiro residents were of Japanese ancestry. Over 90% of individuals residing at Nikkei Manor and/or participating in our Nikkei Horizons and Kokoro Kai programs were of Japanese descent.

The median age of Seattle Keiro residents is 85 years. The median age of Nikkei Manor residents is 88 years old, revealing that our residents there are aging in place. Kokoro Kai participants' median age is 86 years old. The majority of individuals served in all four programs are female.

What Does It Take? We are a people-centric organization. Salaries, wages and benefits comprise 64% of our budget. It takes a lot of individuals to provide our services, a total of over 250 staff. Our turnover in 2008 was 50%, which is continuing to decline and is low for our industry. In 2008, we had 93 employees with five or more years of service. We have over 20 employees with over 20 years of service. This is unheard of at other long-term care organizations.

We continue to rely heavily on our community for support both financially and in-kind. Strength in numbers is evident. We have a mailing list of 12,000 individuals and in 2008 had 1,355 individual donors.

Last year 884 volunteers logged 17,570 hours of service time. In addition, our auxiliary guild, Ayame Kai, contributes thousands of hours of volunteer time to raise funds for items that directly benefit program participants.

What Is Our Financial Picture? Our budget has grown from \$11.5 million in 2001 to \$16.2 million in 2009. This reflects program growth and expansion and the continuing rise in costs, especially personnel. Each year we dip into our operating reserves and have used the earnings from our endowment fund to close the gap between our revenues and expenses, which has ranged from \$200,000 to \$1.1 million.

Current Challenges. Our challenges are daunting and include the following: • Wages and salaries that are not competitive • Government reimbursement that falls short of costs, making it difficult to break even financially • Government regulations that continue to change and become more complicated, requiring constant training of a diverse workforce • Residents today entering our skilled nursing facility with more acuity than in the past, needing more complicated and expensive care and service • More choices available to all consumers—such as home care and supported independent and assisted living • Our rapidly assimilating Japanese American community having many more choices.

Questions for the Future. As our Board and community embark on the journey to plan for the future, the following questions are critical: Who will be part of our Nikkei community in the future? • What services will they need and want? • How can we use our resources wisely to meet current and future needs?

Exciting Future Ahead! Although we have many challenges in a complicated regulatory and market environment, there is much hope on the horizon. Nikkei Concerns has a close-knit and caring community with tremendous resources that can carry out creative solutions. The long-term care environment is changing in a positive way. Institutional, hospital-like care is being transformed into more home and family-like environments. Technology can help improve communication, create efficiencies and save money and enrich lives.

As we look toward the future, we will continue to rely on our legacy for inspiration. We will continue to learn and grow and commit ourselves to continuous improvement. At the same time we will be mindful of our past and draw on the resources of our caring and passionate community. *Gambarimashō!*

Submitted by Darcia Tanabe for Susan Oki

Notes on Dharma Exchange – May 24, 31, June 7, 14, 2009

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

May 24, 2009 Rev. Jim Warrick related a story about his wife's family and a Shinto statue. It seems he admired a Shinto statue he discovered in an old, dusty shed, and the family gave it to him. The next day he felt a coolness had developed toward him and was puzzled, until he realized the statue had significant meaning to the family. Finally, he figured out how to gracefully return it to them. All was well again.

The Union of Concerned Scientists sought Rev. Castro's assistance in drafting an interfaith statement concerning the Rain Forest. In reading their declaration he saw it was full of Christian ideas, and advised them the wording should be changed to include those who do not hold Christian values. They agreed.

Rev. Castro mentioned:

- the book, Mottainai Grandma by Mariko Shinju
- inventor James Watt [improved the steam engine making cutting down trees easier]
- evangelism (prayer at Presidential briefings) and the Christian Embassy
- former Zen Buddhist monk Clark Strand [author of How to Believe in God and Bridging Buddhism and the Bible]
- corporate responsibility – “Is paper cheaper than plastic?” (participant Ardith had some interesting perspective)
- Daniel Goleman on emotional intelligence and ecological intelligence

May 31, 2009 Rev. Castro reflected on the scholarship essays that were read during the morning's service. He recalls one of the scholarship recipients folding his Youth Minister's Assistant garment and how mindfulness is reflected in the young man's new attitude about participation in the temple. He suggested that perhaps the position of Youth Coordinator could be filled by a college student. He mentioned Bob Oshita, Peter Inokoji-Kim and Bishop Ogui to be instrumental in developing a successful Youth Minister's Assistant program. Youth members who are already Youth Minister's Assistants are Travis Suzaka, Jason Yokoyama and Miles Kubota. He suggested that in the future retired members might also be minister's assistants through present and future BCA educational opportunities. The Northwest District Youth Advocacy Committee, (which promotes the

Youth Minister's Assistant Program) is represented by Charlene Grinolds of White River Buddhist Temple.

Rev. Castro mentioned the Wheel of Life wherein the rooster represents greed [and cravings], the snake represents hate [and aggression], and the pig represents ignorance [or a narrow perspective]. He mentioned Bill Cosby saying, in effect, that aggrandizement of stupidity is detrimental to his people.

Rev. Castro mentioned Dr. Toshikazu Arai's book, Grasped by the Buddha's Vow.

June 7, 2009 Rev. Castro reflected on Rev. Jim Warrick's dharma talk of the morning in which he remembered some passed members of our sangha. Rev. Castro said, “We can only give back in one direction at a time.” He met with Shakya Monastery to discuss a booklet, “End of Life Guide” which they are preparing in hopes that the guide will help their children make meaningful funeral decisions for their loved ones. We need to tell our children our wishes now. Tibetans keep a vigil after death; Jodo Shinshu followers will go to the Pure Land, regardless. Various participants contributed to a discussion at length about health care directives, issues, and that having a seminar, including our loved ones, about death, dying and funerals would be a good idea. Rev. Castro noted that pillow service can be held directly after death, not necessarily or only directly before death.

June 14, 2009 Susan Oki, CEO of Nikkei Horizons, made a presentation on the legacy and future of the organization and a summary submitted by her is on page 12 of this issue.



Submitted by Pat Bobrow and Irene Goto