



Wheel of the Sangha

Volume 28 Issue 3 March 2009

A monthly publication by **Seattle Buddhist Church**

*May peace and tranquility prevail
throughout the world*

Seattle Buddhist Church

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New Office Hours

Mon-Fri 9:00am-3:00pm

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

Ministers

Rinban

Hoshu Matsubayashi

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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*

March/April 2009 Special Events

- CAMP FIRE SUNDAY Service **MARCH 1**
- BETSUIN BAZAAR **MARCH 15** 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
- JAPANESE MONPO SEMINAR **MARCH 21** W/ REV. NAKAGAKI
- SPRING OHIGAN SERVICE **MARCH 22**
- Hanamatsuri April 12 (Sunday)
- FDSTL Conference April 25 (Saturday) Mt.View, CA
- Dharma School Gym Day April 26 (Sunday)

New Office Hours : Monday - Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. CLOSED SATURDAYS.

<p>1 Temple Contact Information</p> <p>2 Calendar, Newsletter Deadline: March 16</p>	<p>3 Rinban's Message,</p> <p>4 Camp Fire, Scholarships, Go Paperless, Taiko Workshops</p>	<p>5 Messages from: Rev Castro</p> <p>President Tahara</p> <p>6 SBC Membership, Dharma School</p>	<p>7 SBBWA, ABA</p> <p>8 Save Our Planet, Bazaar, Need a Ride to Hanamatsuri?</p>	<p>9 SBC Donations, Kids Summer Program</p> <p>10 Dharma Exchange, Rev. Harada Message</p>
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Betsuin Events for March 2009

SUNDAYS

March 1 BCA National Council Meeting – Orange County (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

Camp Fire Sunday

10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE

Children: Joe Schwab *Shinran Shonin's*

Adult: Rev. Warrick *750th Memorial*

Japanese: No Service

DX: Rev. Warrick

11:30 am SBBWA Board Meeting



March 8

10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE

Children: Rev. Warrick

Adult: Rev. Castro

Japanese: Rinban Matsubayashi

DX: Rev. Castro

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

March 15

10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE

Children: Rev. Castro

Adult: Rinban Matsubayashi

Japanese: Rinban Matsubayashi

No DX

11:00 am – 3:00 pm **SPRING BAZAAR**

March 22 Spring Ohigan

10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE

Children: Rev. Nakagaki

Adult: Rev. Nakagaki

Japanese: Rev. Nakagaki

DX: Rev. Castro

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

March 29

10:00 am Children's Service: Rinban Matsubayashi

Youth: Rev. Castro

Adult: Rev. Castro

Japanese: Rinban Matsubayashi

DX: Rev. Castro

MONDAYS March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Rinban Matsubayashi (Days off)

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

TUESDAYS

March 3 Rinban Matsubayashi (Vacation)

Rev. Castro (Day off – On call)

March 10, (13), 17, 24, 31 Rev. Castro (Days off)

March 17 7:00 pm Kawabe Foundation Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi)

Shinran Shonin's 750th Memorial Observance.

On Sunday, Feb. 28, 2010, BCA members and their families are invited to participate in a unique memorial service observance. The 750th committee, led by co-chairmen Judy Kono and Rev. Ron Kobata, are busy planning all aspects of the event. Keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. Kenneth Tanaka of Musahino University.

March 24 10:30 am Keiro Service (Rev. Matsubayashi)

WEDNESDAYS

March 4 Rinban Matsubayashi (Vacation)

7:30 pm Dharma School Board Meeting

March 18 11:00 am Ministers' Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

THURSDAYS

March 5 Rinban Matsubayashi (Vacation)

1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rev. Castro)

March 12

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

March 19

1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rinban Matsubayashi)

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

March 26

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

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS

March 6 Friday

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

2:00 pm Ministers' Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

March 7 Saturday

9am – all day Betsuin Board of Directors Retreat

March 13 Friday Rev. Castro (Day off)

March 14 Saturday Rev. Castro (Vacation)

3:00 pm Rev. Castro to Spokane Buddhist Church

March 21 Saturday 9:30 am – 4:00 pm Spring Japanese Monpo Seminar with Rev. Kenjitsu Nakagaki, New York Buddhist Church

April 2009: Major Events of Interest

April 12 (Sunday) Hanamatsuri

April 25 (Saturday) Federation of Dharma School Teachers League Conference Mountain View Buddhist Temple (Rinban Matsubayashi)

April 26 (Sunday) Dharma School Gym Day

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: March 16, 2009

8:00 PM

Email Articles to: Newsletter@SeattleBetsuin.com

Print on March 20, 2009



How to Reach the Other Shore of Enlightenment

Rinban Hoshu Y. Matsubayashi, Ed.D.

“Ohigan” is the Japanese term for the equinox and is derived from the Sanskrit word “Paramita,” which means to reach other shore of perfection or enlightenment. Ohigan is observed twice a year on the days of the Spring and Fall equinox. These days are good times to reflect upon the world of enlightenment and the Buddha, the Compassionate One.

Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu, composed many Japanese poems about the world of enlightenment and the Buddha in his *Hymns of the Pure Land*. One of my favorite poems describes the characteristics of the Nembutsu followers who are awakened to Amida Buddha’s Primal Vow as follows:

The person who rejoices the entrusting heart (Shinjin) to the Primal Vow

Is equal to the Buddha Tathagata.

The great entrusting heart (Shinjin) is Buddha-nature;

Buddha-nature is none other than the Buddha Tathagata.

Shinran composed the first half of this poem based on the *Kegon-gyo (Avatamsaka-sutra)*, which states “Having heard this teaching, one who believes in it with joy and without doubt, will quickly attain the highest enlightenment and become equal to the Buddha Tathagata.” Since the entrusting heart endowed by Amida Buddha leads the person to enlightenment, the person who obtains the entrusting heart (Shinjin) is praised as being equal to the Buddha Tathagata by Shinran. The second half is based on the *Nehan-gyo (Nirvana-sutra)*, which states “The great entrusting heart is Buddha-nature; Buddha-nature is the Buddha Tathagata.”

In general Buddhism, the purpose of the Buddhist practices is to attain the state of

enlightenment by eliminating the evil passions (Bonno or Klesa). However, Shinran teaches us that the ordinary people can be born into the Pure Land with the entrusting heart (Shinjin) of the great wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha’s Primal Vow to become the Buddha.



Recently we lost a wonderful Dharma friend. My wife and I visited her home several times after she was discharged from hospital. I have been a Buddhist minister for over 45 years. It is very rare to meet such beautiful and peaceful person whose earthly life will come to end soon. When I told her that “Your life was truly fulfilled with a wonderful husband,” she smiled and showed her happiness and gratitude. We chanted a Buddhist scripture, *Jusei-ge*, together.

An unprepared concluding statement of my Dharma Talk during her Funeral/Memorial Service, which came up suddenly from my heart, was “I will see you in the Pure Land !” In the *Small Pure Land Scripture (Sukhavativyuhasutra)*, it is clearly stated that “to meet all wonderful Nembutsu followers together in one place in the Pure Land is possible.” As Shinran taught in his poem, I thought that she was the person who had the entrusting heart (Shinjin) of the compassion and wisdom of Amida Buddha’s Primal Vow and she was equal to the Buddha Tathagata.

Jodo Shinshu Buddhism developed primarily from the learning of compassion (karuna) and wisdom (prajna) of Amida Buddha. Ohigan is a good time to listen to the teaching of the Nembutsu and to praise Amida Buddha’s Primal Vow, which assures us of reaching the other shore (Ohigan) of enlightenment. Therefore, in Jodo Shinshu tradition, Ohigan is also called as “A Gathering of Praising Amida Buddha (Sanbutsu-e).” Gassho



Starlights (Starflight K-1) Submitted by Debbie Shibata The kinder-garten and first grade Starflight group have chosen the group name "Starlights."

Besides busily participating in the Camp Fire candy sale, the girls have been learning about healthy living and the food pyramid. Special thanks to Michael and Gayle Teramoto for leading the girls' in their understanding of healthy nutrition.

Adventure 3-4 Submitted by Dana Nakashima This month we focused on the Camp Fire candy sale and

scrapbooking. The girls created site sale posters promoting the candy sale and participated in the candy sale. Many of the girls worked long hours, selling at multiple site sale locations. Special thanks to our parents, for assisting and supporting the girls in this important fundraiser. On February 8th, the girls created scrapbook pages of their New Year's Party High School Musical 2 dance performance. Each girl has her own "Camp Fire" scrapbook, which we're hoping will creatively display our group activities. ●●●

SCHOLARSHIPS

High School Seniors 2009 - If you are a temple high school senior class of 2009 you are eligible to apply for the Seattle Betsuin Tsujihara Memorial Scholarship Grant / Seattle Betsuin Continuing Education Grant. All applications must be submitted by 1pm Friday, April 24, 2009. Contact: Shizue Kaku via the Betsuin office at 206 329-0800.

College Students - The Masaru & Mitsuma Shimokon Scholarship Grant is available to temple college students. To apply you must be currently attending college with majors in medicine, nursing, or engineering. The application submission deadline is Friday, April 24, 2009 at 1pm. Contact: Shizue Kaku via the Betsuin office at 206 329-0800. ●●●

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!

2009 Taiko Workshops by Donna Zumoto

Youth Spring/Summer Taiko Workshop

Seattle Matsuri Taiko, sponsored by the Seattle Buddhist Church, will hold a workshop for boys and girls ages 8-16. The workshop will cover basic taiko rhythms, sticking and movement as well as group playing dynamics. With these skills participants will learn to play a short taiko song which they will be encouraged to perform at the Seattle Bon Odori Festival on July 18. Workshop to be held on Sundays 3:30-5:00 pm in the **church dining room**. Due to practice venue workshop spaces are limited and will fill up quickly. **Workshop dates** are Mar 22, 29, Apr 5, 12, 19 May 3, 17, 31, Jun 7, 14, 28, Jul 5, 12. Special practice Jul 16, Thursday 7pm.

Registration Fee: Church Member: \$15 donation (Seattle, White River or Tacoma Buddhist Church) Non-member: \$70 donation. **Registration Deadline:** SUNDAY Mar 15th (or until class is full, space is limited). Please contact Donna Zumoto via the

Betsuin office at office@seattlebetsuin.com or 206 239-0800 for registration form. Or forms can be found in lobby in front of Hondo.

Adult Spring Taiko Workshop Seattle Matsuri Taiko, sponsored by the Seattle Buddhist Church, will hold a workshop for persons ages 16 and up. The workshop will cover basic taiko rhythms, sticking and movement as well as playing dynamics as a group. With these skills, participants will learn to play a short taiko song. **Place:** Seattle Buddhist Church, Gymnasium 1427 S. Main St, Seattle, Wa 98144 (206) 329-0800 **Time:** Thursdays 7:15-9:00 pm **Dates:** Mar 26, Apr 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14, 21 **Registration Fee:** \$75 donation non-church member, \$20 donation church member **Registration Deadline:** SUNDAY Mar 15 (or until class is full). Please contact Donna Zumoto via the Betsuin office at office@seattlebetsuin.com or 206 239-0800 to reserve a space.

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The Light of Your Face

By Rev. Don Castro



*The light of your face is unsurpassed in majesty,
your awesome greatness is beyond limit,
a brightly shining flame with no equal.*

--opening lines of the San Butsu Ge

The gatha Sanbutsuge, page 77 in our service book, comes from "The Larger Sutra of Immeasurable Life." It is the joyful praises expressed by Bodhisattva Dharmakara to the Buddha Lokeshvaraja. In these praises, Dharmakara voices his own desire to attain Buddhahood and his heartfelt determination to accomplish his goal for the sake of all sentient beings.

In my Nirvana Day message, I talked about the light and radiance that I saw in the face of Mrs. Mary Doi at the end of her life. Her husband, daughter, Rinban Matsubayashi and many visitors also marveled at and discussed it. Following my Dharma Message, others approached me and related seeing a similar beautiful, radiant appearance in their friends and loved ones at the end of their loved one's lives as well.

Even before seeing the radiant and warm light in Mary Doi, I had witnessed this kind of wonderful occurrence a number of times before. Although I am no expert, I had developed a theory to account for it. I believe the radiant light is the light of Amida

Buddha and, that as our attachments to this world wane, we become increasingly one with Amida Buddha even in this life. There is actually a whole genre of Pure Land Buddhist art called "Raigo" that depicts the descent of Amida at the time of death.

One of the two chief characteristics of Amida Buddha is boundless light. This means that it is the light with no inside or outside. So, if we ask, "Does the light come from within?" it doesn't make sense. As long as we retain a sense of inside and outside, we have clinging. As we lose our sense of self, we become filled with the boundless mind of enlightenment and therefore become one with what is eternal (Amida's Life) and universal (Amida's Light). I truly hope each one of you has the opportunity to witness such a wonderful event as I have been privileged to see in these devout Nembutsu followers of radiant light. The great sages of the past have seen it and this is why Shinran Shonin devotes so much of his time praising it in his poems:

*With utmost brightness the Buddha's
Light shines;*

*We call Him 'Buddha of Majestically
Flaming Light.'*

*He breaks the darkness of the Three
Realms.*

Take refuge in the Great Arhat.

- Shinran Shonin's *Jodo Wasan*

Message to Our Members

by Mas Tahara

Our Temple

Those of us who attended the Sunday service on February 1 were treated to a unique format tried by the ministerial staff and the Scout groups in celebrating the annual Scout Sunday. The service was conducted by the members of the Boy Scout Troop 252 and Cub Scout Pack 252 sitting in the Onajin and chanting Juseige, acting as the service chairs, and giving Dharma messages both to children and adults. They all conducted admirably. We hope to see more of our members, regardless of age, participate actively in the Sunday services and other religious programs. In this manner, what we do here at the temple will become more meaningful and we'll all feel that we belong to each other closely and to our temple.



NW District Convention

The 62nd NW District Council and Buddhist Convention was conducted on February 13-15 in Portland, Oregon with the Oregon Buddhist Temple hosting the event. Altogether more than 350 Jodo Shinshu Buddhists from Oregon, Washington and Canada gathered for this annual event. Aside from those who rode the chartered bus there were many individuals and families of our temple who attended and participated.

It was nice to see many Youth Ministers Assistants taking part in the Opening and Closing Services on the stage together with the ministers. Four Minister's Assistants from Idaho-Oregon and Oregon Buddhist Temples were certified in the ceremony conducted by Socho Koshin Ogui.

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:

Hanako Aramaki, Jimmy Eng & Alicia Taniguchi Eng, Minoru & Aiko Fujii, Sue Fujino, Lutes Fujita, Peggy Hanada, Susan Hatai, Takashi & Lily Hori, Sat & Grace Ichikawa, Miyoko Kawaguchi, Haruko Kobuki, Daisy Kuramoto, Mariko Mano, Rose Masuda, Takiko Miyauchi, Helen Mizuki, Tomi Nakashima, Tomiko Okano, Sunako Oye, Haruko Shimizu, Mas & Anna Tahara, Haruso & Sonoe Taketa, Nami Tanaka, Martha Taniguchi, Ronald & Suzuko Terada, Dolly Tokunaga, Cherrie Tsubota, Sam Umeda, John & Arlene Yamada, and Fukuyo Yee

***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,

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

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SEATTLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE Membership is open to anyone in accord with the purposes of the Temple. According to the Temple constitution, these purposes are defined as follows:

...to strengthen and propagate the Teachings of the Buddha as determined by Shinran Shonin and the Patriarchs before him, in an expression of gratitude for the Sacred Name and the Primal Vow of Tathagata Amitabha; to participate in the general welfare of the community.

Newcomers are always welcome to become 'regular' members of the Seattle Betsuin. "Regular" members of the Temple, consist of those individuals contributing the current year's minimum annual Ijikai dues (the basic contribution toward the Temple maintenance/operations). Membership forms are available in the Temple foyer or at www.seattlebetsuin.com. Submitted by Steph Ojima

Dharma School March 2009

Submitted by Joyce Tsuji

I want to send my thanks to the Sangha for a wonderful Nirvana Day service, potluck and Bake Sale. Special thanks to Elliott and Leslie for coordinating the potluck. Thanks to Lynne and Dave A for again organizing the composting station; Julianne and Susie's class for taking charge of display board of pet names at the Pet Memorial Service and Lynda Hamakami for organizing the bake sale. Lastly, my thanks to all those that donated baked goods and helped with the potluck. We grossed about \$500 for the Dharma School.

In gassho, Connie
Dharma School Co-Chair



Pre K/K Class The students discussed the Eightfold Path and how they can be happier and make others happy by following the path. They made a Teddy Bear Wheel of Dharma to illustrate each of the eight points of the Eightfold Path. In observance of Nirvana Day and Pet Memorial Day, the class drew pictures of their pets. They inserted them into frames and colored the animals decorating their frames.

First/Second Grade We discussed the Golden Chain and made a chain of children. We talked about the life of Sakamuni Buddha specifically the story of Devadatta and the bird. Afterwards we played of bingo, where the square were full of Buddhist symbols and phrases. Finally we discussed Nirvana Day and then had the kids put together puzzles of Nirvana Day and Hanamatsuri and tell which was which. ●●●



Classroom Reports

Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association

Message by President Terrie Tanino: Ritsuko Kawahara, Chair and members of the Food Preparation Committee planned and organized the menu and prepared the Betsuin New Year's Party that was held January 11th. Despite the inclement weather conditions of a record snowfall, all 500 delicious obentos were consumed. In addition to this event, the January toban group also assisted the food committee with the preparation of the Hoonko otokiozenzai and nigome. On Sunday Feb 8th following the Nirvana Day/Pet Memorial Service, a Betsuin potluck luncheon was held at the auditorium. Members of the February toban prepare potato salad and inari sushi on behalf of our organization. Thank you to all the SBWA members that participated in these events. To the present SBBWA members, please encourage other Betsuin ladies to join our organization. Installation of new members will be held on May 3, 2009. Those interested in joining should contact Kiyo Takashima, Norigiku Horikawa or Joyce Kato. In May of 2011, the World Buddhist Women's Convention will be held in Japan in conjunction with the commemoration of Shinran Shonin's 750th Memorial. Information of this event will be forthcoming from the Hongwanji.

Donations:

Florence Fujita – In memory of Tad
Zachary Haag - In memory of Maryo
Kuniko Takamura – General donation

Dana Day- Feb 8, 2009 A. Akutsu, R. Aoki, H. Aramaki, Y. Arinobu, M. Asaba, J. Baba, P. Bobrow, M. Boneham, Y. Desaki, T. Enomoto, A. Fujii, S. Fujino, L. Fujita, S. Fujita, M. Fukuhara, M. Furuta, H. Gota, F. Hanada, M. Hanada, P. Hanada, S. Harada, H. Hasegawa, S. Hayami, M. Heider, T. Hirabayashi, Y. Hiroo, L. Hori, D. Ikegami, I., Iseri, T. Isomura, J. Iwafuchi, S. Kaku, E. Kanemoto, M. Katayama, H. Kato, M. Kawaguchi, R. Kawahara, M. Kawamoto, M. Kido, S. Kikuchi, E. Kitashima, T. Ko, F. Kobayashi,

H. Kobuki, T. Kogita, J. Kosai, Y. Kozai, M. Kubo, C. Kunihiro, D. Kuramoto, K. Kuwahara, I. Mano, M. Mano, R. Masuda, M. Matsui, J. Mayeda, Y. Miyauchi, H. Mizuki, H. Mizuno, K. Morikubo, H. Morimoto, S. Nagai, Y. Nakagawa, J. Nakamura, K. Nakanishi, J. Nakano, J. Nakano, T. Nakashima, N. Nakayama, Y. Natsuhara, D. Nishimura, S. Nishimura, M. Nishizaki, M. Nitta, S. Nose, S. Noshu, M. Ohtani, M. Okada, M. Okamura, M. Osaki, Y. Osako, S. Oye, T. Oye, M. Sakamoto, A. Sakoda, J. Seko, M. Shibuya, M. Shigaya, S. Shimada, E. Shimbo, D. Shimizu, H. Shimizu, K. Shimizu, M. Shimizu, N. Shimizu, F. Shintaku, A. Suganuma, N. Suguro, J. Suto, G. Suzaka, A. Tahara, K. Takamura, J. Takano, K. Takashima, N. Takemura, J. Taketa, S. Taketa, F. Tamekuni, N. Tanaka, R. Tanaka, A. Taniguchi, F. Taniguchi, M. Taniguchi, T. Tanino, M. Tazuma, H. Terada, K. Terada, S. Terada, E. Tokita, F. Tsuchida, J. Uyeji, M. Vaart, M. Wada, S. Yahata, F. Yamaguchi, S. Yamane, F. Yamasaki, F. Yee, S. Yokota, F. Yokoyama, M. Yoshida, I. Yoshihara, and T. Zumoto.

Submitted by Mabel Nishizaki

Activity Classes: The Activity Committee has planned these classes for February 25 - April 1. All classes are held on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30 at church. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board across from the office.

Feb 25 Pot scrubbers, luggage tags, hair ornaments

Mar 11 Floor mops

Mar 18, 25, Apr 1 Mizuhiki by Mrs. H Shimizu. She welcomes all beginners to these 3 classes.

Submitted by Judith Nakamura

Calendar:

3/1 BOD Meeting

3/15 Bazaar

3/29 Cabinet Meeting

Submitted by Deanna Ikegami

Thank You, from ABA submitted by Machiko Wada

ABA would like to thank Betsuin members for the support and donations throughout 2008. With successful fundraisers such as the Hawaiian Breakfast, for which all ingredients and time from ABA were donated, along with direct donations, the ABA council was able to donate \$1,000 to the Maitreya Foundation. Our Mongolia Project and the BCA supports Maitreya Charity. ABA is planning a 2009 membership dinner in the spring. ●●●

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



Congratulations to Oregon Buddhist Temple for an excellent Buddhist convention. Rev. Castro spoke in two workshops about Buddhism and Ecology. The Oregon Temple kept the environment in mind when giving us a pretty eco bag, avoided over packaging by serving a sit down lunch, reminding us to be conscious of waste. •The hotel had a divided waste basket and one insert was for recyclables. That's the first I've seen. • The hotel's downstairs public bathroom had 2 ways of flushing - small and big, like in Japan. People were very impressed. • While traveling, I ask about recycling and some hotels have the housekeeping staff recycle bottles and cans which they collect for a refund which pays for their holiday party. • Hotels ask you to save on laundry waste by reusing towels and sheets, but housekeeping doesn't always follow through when you place their sign out. So it's better to leave a note to housekeeping to reinforce your desire not to change sheets and towels. I doubt any of us needs new sheets and towels every day at home(?) ●●●

2009 Temple Spring Bazaar

The Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple annual bazaar will be held on Sunday, March 15, 2009 in the temple auditorium. The hours are scheduled to be from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. There will be food items for dining in or take out and baked goods for sale. There are a few changes to the menu items but some favorites that have been offered in the past will still be there. All items will still be tasteful and delicious as you have come to expect. We'll also offer again a raffle to win a large screen TV. Tickets will be sold in the lobby foyer on Sunday and also at the Bazaar (you do not need to be present to win).

The annual bazaar is one of the Temple's major fundraisers to help fund operations and maintenance of the facility. Donations of handcrafted items and baked goods will be greatly appreciated the day of

the bazaar. Please tell your family and friends to come and enjoy this event.

Spring Bazaar tickets were mailed out in February. Please look for them and remit payment back to the Temple through the mail or drop off in-person into the remittance box by the office.

To make this event a success, please help by signing up and assisting with the many tasks that need to be undertaken. Organization representatives should be contacting you or sign-up sheets will be posted in the hallway outside the downstairs dining room. If you have any questions, please leave a message with the Temple office and someone from the Bazaar committee will get back in touch with you. Thank you in advance for your support.

Submitted by Howard Luke

DO YOU NEED A RIDE? Can You Give A Ride? To Hanamatsuri...
Hanamatsuri Service is Sunday, April 12, 2009. If you would like a ride or are willing to give a ride on your way to temple, please mail this completed form to: **ABA, Seattle Buddhist Church, 1427 S Main St, Seattle, WA 98122** by March 29. Plan to arrive at Seattle Buddhist Church by 9:15 a.m.

Name	Address	City	ZipCode
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Telephone Number and/or Email Address

Please mark the boxes that apply: I need a ride . I can walk unassisted . I will bring my own

wheel chair/walker . I am a temple member and can give a ride on my way to temple .

When we match you with a driver or rider on your neighborhood, an ABA representative will contact you and determine your return trip departure time. *Submitted by Machiko Wada and Irene Goto*

The Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations –
January – February 2009

<u>Funeral / Memorial / Nokotsudo:</u>	<u>For:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
Tad Fujita – Funeral Service	\$ 1,000	Florence Fujita
Mary Morita – Funeral Service	\$ 500	Shigeru Morita
Katherine Fujita – 7 th Year Memorial Service	\$ 500	Lutes Fujita
Michika Ishii	\$ 200	Jan & Steve Korn
Noritaka Adachi – 17 th Year Memorial Service	\$ 180	Diane Adachi

<u>Remembrances for:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
Tom Deguchi	Peggy Hanada; Aizo & Yoshie Kosai; Nyla Nakano; Sonoe & Haruso Taketa
Tad Fujita	Takako & Teruo Yorita
Teruo “Ham” Koba	Machiko Wada
Robert Kono	Takao & Ruth Aoki
Ted Oye	Irene Nakamura; Nyla Nakano

Supervising Minister: Yakima Buddhist Temple - \$ 100

New Year’s Service: Harold Hayashi; Paul Mori

New Year Party 2009: Greater Seattle Japanese Queen Committee; Seattle Japanese Community Service; Tak & Ruth Aoki; Mariko Mano

<u>Other:</u>	<u>Donor:</u>	<u>For:</u>
\$ 250	Kokoro-Kai	Appreciation for Use of Kitchen
\$ 200	Yoshi Mamiya	General Donation
	Takiko Miyauchi	General Donation
	Takako Uchida (Wapato)	Newsletter
	Elsie Taniguchi	Newsletter

12th Annual Kids Summer Program (KSP) – June 22 – 26, 2009

The 12th Annual Kids Summer Program (KSP) registration will open soon. This popular program sponsored by Seattle Buddhist Temple and Dharma School is open to all students entering grades 1 - 8 in Fall 2009. Registration Forms are now available on the temple website: www.seattlebetsuin.com. Dates: June 22-26, 2009.

Registration begins March 8 for *BCA members, March 29 all else (*current paid BCA/temple membership of parent). Registration will be taken in order received, class size is limited. We encourage families to volunteer to get the most of this special program.



Each morning starts with exercise, a short Buddhist service, with Japanese choir practice (for grades 1-5), cooking, Nihongo class and taiko drum practice for all grades throughout the week, along with crafts and experiences to fulfill the mission: to help children develop an appreciation of Japanese-American cultural heritage, Buddhist concepts, and Japanese culture, in an environment that promotes fun and friendship. Our SBBWA is a big supporter of our program. 2009 KSP Co-chairs: June Iwafuchi, Tina Zumoto Ko & Leanne Nishi Wong.

Submitted by Tina Ko

“Reflections on the Pet and All Life Memorial ”

Dharma Message from Rev. Marvin Harada
Gratefully reprinted from *Korin*, December 2006,
The official newsletter of Orange County Buddhist Church
and

Extracted from www.BCAYouth.org

In the fall we annually observe a Pet and All Life Forms Memorial. For this service, we ask Dharma School students and anyone to submit the names of their beloved pets who have passed away. We also acknowledge any life forms that anyone wishes to personally remember, such as all the teriyaki chicken that I eat, or all the steers that became my steak.

For that service I did some rough calculations on what we human beings consume in our life. I figured that if you had chicken three times a week, in various forms, teriyaki chicken, chicken salad, chicken nuggets, etc., that in 20 years time it would add up to over 2,000 chickens. If you eat beef a couple of times a week in 10 years it adds up to over 700 pounds, or the equivalent of one whole steer. In actuality, we consume probably much more than I have calculated.

Some might challenge this all by saying, “Well, I am a vegetarian. I don't eat meat or fish.” Well, just because you are a vegetarian doesn't mean you aren't taking life to live. I am sure that a carrot was perfectly happy growing in the ground when it was jerked out of its home to become our salad.

You could argue this further by saying, “Well, I don't even eat vegetables. I just eat grains, like sunflower seeds, rice, and wheat grains.” This too is also taking life, isn't it? A grain of rice is a potential rice plant. If you eat the grain of rice then it is like eating an egg that never gets to grow to full maturity.

One of my favorite movies is the movie “Saving Private Ryan” starring Tom Hanks. It is about D-Day during World War II, and a group of soldiers, led by Tom Hanks, are sent on a mission to find one particular soldier, Private Ryan. Private Ryan has tragically lost three other brothers in the war but doesn't know it. The Army decides to find Private Ryan and get him home, before he becomes a casualty, which would be too tragic of a loss for a mother to lose all four sons in the war.

Tom Hanks and his soldiers eventually find Private Ryan, although it is like finding a needle in a haystack amidst the chaos of the war. The final scene of the movie is very dramatic. Tom Hanks is wounded and utters his dying words to young Private Ryan. He says to him, “Earn it ... Earn it ...”

Soldiers have died to find Private Ryan. Tom Hanks is saying, “Live your life in a manner that earns what all the others have done to sacrifice their lives to save you. Earn it!”

I have often wondered, if all the cows, and chickens, and fish, and vegetables that I have consumed could say something to me, they might say the same thing. Earn it. Do something with your life that makes it worthy of what so many have sacrificed for you.

Some of the animals might even be upset. They might say, “Why did I have to give my life for that guy?! Look at him ... he plays golf, watches TV, goes to Las Vegas ... why did I have to die for him? What a waste!”

When you think about it, I could never repay even one animal for their sacrifice in making my life possible. How could I ever repay thousands of lives?

The only thing I can do, like Private Ryan, is to live in a manner that even in a small way, earns the sacrifices and lives of so many. I must live and do something that contributes to life instead of simply take from it. I must earn it.

Namuamidabutsu, Rev. Marvin Harada

Notes on Dharma Exchange

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

Following the Boy Scout Service on February 1, 2009 Castro sensei reminded us of the major difference between the Christian and the Buddhist Golden Rule: Christian - Do unto others as *you* would have them do unto *you*. Buddhist - Do unto others as *they* would have you do unto *them*. ● Warrick sensei suggested that depending on how well we know the person, to use the Buddhist approach if we know the person well, and to use the Christian approach if we do not know them well. Simply do what is in accord with the Dharma. ● Castro sensei talked about "The Teaching Company," which offers courses on many subjects, including a course on Buddhism. (See google.) He said the main advances in Buddhist education in the last 5-7 years have been how to conduct a service and summer seminars for children. ●

The Retreat of the Board will be to address issues including finance, membership, and programs for young people. ●

In keeping with the Nirvana Day/Pets' Memorial Service on February 8, 2009 MA Joe Schwab led the discussion on compassion at the Dharma Exchange,

indicating children are born with compassion but need practice to retain it. Also, we need to stop lecturing children on how to behave. They see *how* we behave, but do not heed *what* we say. When a spider is found in our house some people kill it, possibly not realizing they are beneficial in the garden. Others carefully carry it outside in a jar with a tissue.

- Joe felt it was difficult to say anything meaningful to someone living in their car, but to prepare for the worst. How can we help those people? Indirectly, we can support social service organizations that actually offer assistance to those in unfortunate circumstances.

Submitted by Pat Bobrow