



Wheel of the Sangha

Volume 28 Issue 6 June 2009

A monthly publication by **Seattle Buddhist Church**

*May peace and tranquility prevail
throughout the world*

Seattle Buddhist Church

1427 South Main Street
Seattle, WA 98144

Tel: (206) 329-0800

Fax: (206) 329-3703

www.SeattleBetsuin.com

Office@SeattleBetsuin.com

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

Day: (206) 380-9911

Night: (425) 235-7242

Reverend Don Castro

24 hours: (206) 779 -2214

Wheel of the Sangha

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editors: English - Irene Goto

Newsletter@SeattleBetsuin.com

Japanese - Machiko Wada

HNewsletter-Jpn@SeattleBetsuin.com

Printing & Circulation:

Jim Akizuki, Alan Groves

Mickey Hiroo, Shizu Kaku,

Harry Shigaya, Elmer Tazuma

Seattle Betsuin Vision

*Embrace true and
real life
in Nembutsu*



Seattle Betsuin Mission

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

June 2009 Special Services/Events

- ALL SANGHA MEMORIAL SERVICE JUNE 7
- RECOGNITION SERVICE JUNE 14
- BETSUIN PICNIC/LAKE BOREN PARK JUNE 21 P. 7, 12
Service at picnic (none at temple) – 11:00 AM
- BISHOPS/RINBAN MEMORIAL SERVICE JUNE 28
- KIDS SUMMER PROGRAM 9:30 – 3:00 JUNE 22 - 26

SAVE THE DATE: BON ODORI – JULY 18, 19, AND THE WEEK PRIOR - ALL HELP NEEDED!

<p>1 Temple Contact Information 2 Calendar, Newsletter Deadline: June 15 Print: June 19</p>	<p>3 Rinban's Message 4 Camp Fire, Go Paperless</p>	<p>5 Messages from: Rev Castro President Tahara 6 SBC Membership, ABA</p>	<p>7 SBBWA, Picnic 8 Dharma School, <i>Things ...Invisible</i> -Rinban 9 SBC Donations 10 Hanamatsuri Donors, Memorial Service Schedule</p>	<p>11 Prevent Falls 12 All Sangha Memorial Service 13 Notes from Dharma Exchange, Book Group in June</p>
---	---	---	---	---

Betsuin Events for June 2009

SUNDAYS

June 7 ALL SANGHA MEMORIAL SERVICE
10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE

Children: Rev. Castro

Adult: Rev. Warrick

No Japanese Dharma Talk

DX: Rev. Castro

*Shinran Shonin's
750th Memorial*



June 14 RECOGNITION SERVICE
10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE

Children: Rev. Castro

Adult: Rev. Castro

No Japanese Dharma Talk

DX: Rev. Castro

11:30 am SBBWA Board Meeting

June 21 SEATTLE BETSUIN PICNIC

11:00 am Service at Picnic (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

June 28 BISHOPS' & RINBANS' MEMORIAL SERVICE

10:00 am Adult: Rinban Matsubayashi

DX: Rev. Castro

MONDAYS

June 8, 15, 22, 29 Rev. Matsubayashi (Days off)

June 22 – 26 Kids Summer Program (KSP)

June 22

9:00 am KSP Morning Service (Rev. Castro)

TUESDAYS

June 2, 23, 30 Rev. Castro (Days off)

June 16 Rinban Matsubayashi (Vacation – Japan)

10:00 am Shinran Shonin Memorial (Rev. Castro)

June 22 – 26 Kids Summer Program (KSP)

June 23

9:00 am KSP Morning Service (Rinban Matsubayashi)

10:30 am Keiro Service (Rinban Matsubayashi)

WEDNESDAYS

June 3 Rinban Matsubayashi (Day off)

7:30 pm Dharma School Board Meeting (Rev. Castro)

June 10 Rinban Matsubayashi to Japan

June 17 Rinban Matsubayashi (Returns from Japan)

June 22 – 26 Kids Summer Program (KSP)

June 24

9:00 am KSP Morning Service (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

THURSDAYS

June 4 Rinban Matsubayashi to BCA Meeting

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

June 11 Rinban Matsubayashi in Japan

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

June 18

1:00 pm

Nikkei Manor Service (Rinban Matsubayashi)

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

June 22 – 26 Kids Summer Program (KSP)

June 25

9:00 am

KSP Morning Service (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

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

FRIDAYS

June 5

10:00 am

BCA Kyokucho Meeting at JSC (Rinban Matsubayashi)

12:00 pm

Gojikai Service, Meeting (Rev. Castro)

June 22 – 26 Kids Summer Program (KSP)

June 26

9:00 am

KSP Morning Service (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

SATURDAYS

June 6

9:00 am

BCA National Board Meeting at JSC (Rinban Matsubayashi)

June 12 – 14 14th International Association Shin Buddhist Studies Conference at Ryukoku University in Kyoto (Rinban Matsubayashi)

June 20

Rev. Castro (Day off)

July 2009: Major Events of Interest

July 11 & 12 (Saturday & Sunday)

Obon Cemetery Services

July 12 (Sunday) Obon – Hatsubon Service

July 18 & 19 (Saturday & Sunday)

Seattle Betsuin Bon Odori Festival

Jodo Shinshu

Meditation service will start on June 7th and continue every Sunday from 8:45 to 9:30 am with Rev. Castro and the Minister's Assistants in the Memorial Hall Chapel. -IG

Rev. Castro has announced a **book study group**, (see page 13), that will convene on Sundays, June 7, 14, and 28, 2009 from noon until 1pm on Rev. Toshikazu Arai's book, **Grasped by the Buddha's Vow**, a translation of and commentary on the Tannisho. Ten copies are available for purchase from the Betsuin book store or from [Hhttp://stores.buddhistbookstore.com/H](http://stores.buddhistbookstore.com/H)



Contemporary Understanding of the Pure Land of Utmost Bliss - 2

Rinban Hoshu Y. Matsubayashi, Ed.D.

In order to have a Contemporary Understanding of the Pure Land of Utmost Bliss, Dr. Daisetz T. Suzuki recommended two approaches. The first approach is to determine how the Pure Land was established. Shinran Shonin defined True Buddha and True Buddha's Land in his *Collection of Passages Revealing the True Buddha and Land of the Pure Land Way, Vol. V*, as follows:

Reverently contemplating the true Buddha and the true land, I find that the Buddha is the Tathagata of inconceivable light and that the land also is the land of immeasurable light. Because they have arisen through the fulfillment of Vows of great compassion, they are called true fulfilled Buddha and land.

Shinran defined the True Buddha as **the Tathagata of Inconceivable Light** and the True Land of the Buddha as **the Land of Immeasurable Light**. A reason why Shinran defined both Buddha and his land with the one concept of Light is that both are inseparable. Because the Buddha's Land was established through the fulfillment of Vows of the Buddha's great compassion, the Buddha's Land is a truly fulfilled land. Shinran explained that the Buddha's Land was established as the result of the fulfillment of Vows of the Buddha's great compassion. This is the origin of the Pure Land of Utmost Bliss.

Dr. D.T. Suzuki's second approach is to see the function of the Pure Land of Utmost Bliss. About the essence of the Pure Land of Utmost Bliss, Shinran states in his *Note on Essentials of Faith Alone* that "The Land of Bliss is the World of Nirvana, the Uncreated," by quoting the Hojisan of Shan-tao. The World of Nirvana, the Uncreated, means also the state of Enlightenment (Bodhi).

According to the definition of Shinran and other Jodo Shinshu Masters, the 2009 BCA Calendar for May has the following saying about the Pure Land of Utmost Bliss on the cover page:

Amida Buddha's Land is the Pure and Tranquil World of Nirvana.

Therefore, to desire to be born into the Pure Land of Utmost Bliss is to seek to attain Nirvana and to be enlightened (Bodhi). Dr. Kyosho Hayashima, a former professor of Tokyo University, explained that the Pure Land of Utmost Bliss is the manifestation of true and real of enlightenment and to be born into the Pure Land means to seek a way to enlightenment.

A famous Myokonin Saichi Asahara, who was introduced into the world by Dr. D.T. Suzuki, was a devout Jodo Shinshu Buddhist. He was always enjoying the Dharma Talks of Kangaku Kengyo Umeda at Anrakuji Temple in Shimane Prefecture and composed the following poem of a question and answer in himself about the Pure Land of Utmost Bliss:

"I haven't understood the Pure Land of Utmost Bliss. Where is the Pure Land?"

"You are ignorant! You haven't understood the Pure Land of Utmost Bliss. You are so ignorant! The Pure Land of Utmost Bliss is nothing but Namu Amida Butsu."

"Is that so! Oh, how grateful I am, how grateful I am!"

Shinran defined the characteristic of true and real virtues of the Pure Land of Utmost Bliss as the sacred Name of Namu Amida Butsu in his *Notes on the Inscriptions on Sacred Scrolls*. The descriptions of the Pure Land of Utmost Bliss in the *Pure Land Triple Sutras* and other commentaries are the manifestations of Vows of Amida Buddha's great compassion. Thus, Shinran expounded that the Pure Land of Utmost Bliss is the sacred name, Namu Amida Butsu, as Saichi Asahara appreciated.

(to be continued)

June 2009 submitted by
Lisa Butler



Council Fire 5/31

Thank you to the Hummingbirds for organizing and hosting our Council Fire. It was a wonderful occasion to highlight our accomplishments for the school year. Many representatives from the Puget Sound Council attended, including CEO Jane White Vuillet. Congratulations to the Rainbows for flying up to Adventure, the 5th grade Hummingbirds for flying up to Discovery, and the 9th graders who flew up to Horizon.

Rainbows (2nd)

This winter, we continued our exploration of food with field trips to Theo's Chocolates and California Pizza Kitchen, where we got to make our own pizzas. Other meetings included learning about and making yummy quesadillas. We also made our own cookbooks with family favorite recipes.

For a service project, the girls decided to support the Pediatric Interim Care Center, who specializes in care for drug-exposed and medically fragile newborns. We decorated t-shirts and bought diapers with this year's dues. The girls were lucky to be able to visit the center and see some of the babies when they dropped off their donations.

With some of the money the group earned from the candy sale this year, they decided to try Glow Golf. They had lots of fun putt-putt golfing in the dark with glow-in-the-dark balls!

Thank you to Ellen, Lori, Ann, JoAnn, and Janet who organized all of these fun events!

Adventure 3-4 Submitted by Dana N.

On April 19th, the girls began designing a symbolgram based on their chosen Camp Fire

name. Each girl is creating or choosing a name by which she will be identified within our group. To go along with her name, each girl is creating a symbol design that will reflect her Camp Fire name. We plan to turn the symbols into iron-ons the girls can place on their vests.

May 3rd, we met with Cyrus Honmyo for an outdoor Camping Intro session. We learned what items to pack when planning a camping or hiking trip, how to tie a taut line hitch knot, and how to set up, take down and re-pack a tent. The girls were quick studies, catching on to tying the knots and setting up the tent. We ended with a hot dog cook-out. Special thanks to Cyrus H. for providing his camping expertise, supplies and goodies for a very fun, informative day!

Discovery/Horizon Submitted by Lori C.

Congratulations to the 15 Discovery/Horizon members who completed the rigorous 2 year requirements to obtain the Karuna Award. The girls conducted a special Karuna Award Presentation service on May 10th. At the service, they received a medal signifying the achievement of this highest Buddhist Religious award for a Camp Fire member. The recipients are Lindsay A, Marisa B, Sydney, Erica, Alissa, Kristal, Krista L, Kayli, Kiana, Aiko, Mie, Krista N, Eva, Lindsey Y, and Marissa Y.

We are grateful Rev. Castro and Rev. Warrick, who conducted the religious classes. We are appreciative to the many church members with extraordinary talents who were willing to teach the girls about Japanese culture. We are especially grateful to Mrs. Joyce Kato for organizing the Karuna Award program.

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!

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

GOLDEN RULE OR PLATINUM RULE by Rev. Don Castro

Thirty five years ago, one of my IBS teachers said to me, "Christians have the Golden Rule, but Buddhists have the Platinum Rule." Last year, I attended an interfaith symposium where we broke up into small groups with the assignment to find principles that all religions could agree on. Someone in my group suggested that all religions agree on the Golden Rule. As the only Buddhist in my group, I disagreed and told them of the Platinum Rule. They could see no difference in the two Rules and I was accused of making a mountain out of a mole hill. Let's see if you can tell the difference between the Golden and Platinum Rules.

The Golden Rule is most commonly found in the New Testament either in the Gospel of Mathew 7:12 or Luke 6:31 although various translations differ significantly. Two translations from Luke, for instance, are:

"And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise."

"Treat others as you would like them to treat you." In common usage, the Golden Rule states, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

The Platinum Rule, which my teacher characterized as Buddhist, could be stated something like, "Treat others the way they want (or need) to be treated." As I searched online for information about the

Platinum Rule, ironically, I found no usage of it in a religious context. The principle is used in business, especially sales. Dr. Tony Alessandra, who wrote a book on the Platinum Rule, seems to be its most vocal proponent. He writes, "The Golden Rule implies the basic assumption that other people would like to be treated the way that you would like to be treated. The alternative to the Golden Rule is much more productive. I call it the Platinum Rule: 'Treat others the way they want to be treated.' Ah hah! What a difference. The Platinum rule accommodates the feelings of others. The focus of relationships shifts from 'this is what I want, so I'll give everyone the same thing' to 'let me first understand what they want and then I'll give it to them.' Building rapport with people based on the Platinum Rule ...requires some thought and effort, but it is the most insightful, rewarding, and productive way to interact with people."

None of my friends like apples, but I do. Therefore, I'll give apples to all my friends. In terms of religion, the difference is between a "one size fits all" approach especially characteristic of evangelicals and the Buddhist teaching that there are innumerable paths to the Truth; an appropriate one for each individual. See *BOOK GROUP on page 13*.

Message to Our Members by President Mas Tahara

SBC Buddhist Education Center The Seattle Betsuin Board of Directors accepted the proposal by Rev. Don Castro to establish *Buddhist Education Center* at our church. The purpose is to re-examine, expand, and modify the existing religious programs and activities at our church to be more meaningful for our current and future members in learning and propagation of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Some changes are already in place. Notable examples are: active participation of our members, both adult and youth, in the Sunday services; exhibits in the display cases showing upcoming major services and re-arrangement of library and bookstore.

Jodo Shinshu Meditation services will start on June 7th and continues every Sunday 8:45-9:30 am with Rev. Castro and the Minister's Assistants in the Memorial Hall Chapel.

Rev. Castro will have a weekday Dharma Support Group aiming at the retired age people. It will be offered Wednesday 10:30am-noon beginning September 16.

Rinban Matsubayashi will conduct 10-week long seminar in Japanese titled, "The Essentials of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism" starting September 21 every Monday at 7:00PM-8:30PM until November 30 except October 12.

Mizuhiki Cranes Project

Seattle Betsuin Board endorsed the *Thousand Mizuhiki Cranes for Peace Project* proposed by Mrs. Haruko Shimizu. Mrs. Shimizu wishes to donate the thousand cranes made of Mizuhiki as a memorial to the victims of 9-11 with her wish for "*Peace and Tranquility to Prevail throughout the World*". An interview with Mrs. Shimizu by KING-TV aired on the 5 o'clock news on May 14. The cranes were strung together by our church's youth and adult members on May 17. They will be sent to the New York Buddhist Church and be dedicated on August 6 at the Atomic Bomb Memorial Service and, later they will be sent to the 9-11 site when the memorial ceremony is conducted on September 11, 2009. ●●●



Temple Membership

SEATTLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE 2009 BETSUIN MEMBERSHIP DUES

The basic dues towards the Church maintenance/operations, is:

**\$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 30th 2009**. Those of you have yet to make any contribution for 2009, the deadline is September 30th.

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

www.SeattleBetsuin.com

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: *Sae Akada, Aimee Akutsu, Gene Akutsu, Marilyn Akutsu, Gene & Yuki Arinobu, Marion Asaba, Lisa & Lance Barr, James Canfield & Sheri Mizumori, Steve & Lori Chisholm, Sandra Cross, Jean Deguchi, Jene Deguchi, Dr. James Doi, Burke Dykes, Mitsuko Fukuhara, Sue Furuta, Gordon Habu & Mae Yamasaki, Lori Hamamoto, Miyuki Hanada, Miki Heider, Hajime & Michiko Hirata, Dr. Steven & Cathleen Hokoda, Cyrus and May Chin-Honmyo, Yoshiaki & Bok Soon Ikeda, Edith Imanishi, Hal Ise, Iwako Iseri, Yaeko Ito, Scott Jofuku, Isako Kajimura, Grace Kasahara, Kazue Kato, Marc & Jan Keltner, Frank Komoto, Miyoko Kondo, Betty Kubota, Janet, Kubota, Seiko Masumoto, Toru Matsuoka, Yukio & Karen Morikubo, Jean Muneta, Joseph Naemura & Janie Okawa, Ted Nakamura, Barry & Marlene Okada, Ray & Mineko Okamura, Ann Kawasaki Romero, Joe & Carolyn Schwab, Joan Seko, Gayle Sordetto, Nori Suguro, Noboru & Takako Taki, Peggy Tanemura, Miyoko Tazuma, Michael & Gayle Teramoto, Victoria Terao, Patricia Tsurukawa, Sam & Masako Uchida, Eric Uyeji, Shizue Yahata, Michiko Yanagimoto, Yoshiye Yasuda, Kevin & Kari Ann Yokoyama, Mary Yoshida, Isoko Yoshihara, James & Tomiko Zumoto*

We'd like to 'welcome' Lori Hamamoto as a new member to our Sangha.

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

ABA Line Dancers Learn Something New



ABA held two beginner line dance lessons in May. We thank Tomi Zumoto for teaching us and also for finding Yone Kishida to teach us too. The participants felt good about getting exercise and learning something new. Everyone had a lot of fun. We had delicious pot luck dinners each time and were able to relax and chat. Please look for future events by ABA email, temple posters and announcements. We welcome all temple members to join ABA for \$10. Please see Cathy Goshu for membership.

submitted by Gail Kaminishi

Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association

SBBWA June 2009 Betsuin Newsletter Article submitted by Terrie Tanino To the members of the SBBWA: **PLEASE NOTE** that the company that prepared our Centennial Album has accepted full responsibility for errors and will replace the entire order at their cost. Please **DO NOT** return your present copy. The Album Committee will notify you when the replacement is available.

On May the 3, the SBBWA had an Installation Service conducted by Rinban Hoshu Matsubayashi and assisted by Rev. Jim Warrick welcoming six ladies to the organization. They are: Carol Aoki-Kramer, Eileen Hamamoto, Lori Hamamoto, Mae Ikawa, Teresa Yutani Mori, and Gayle Sakuma Sordetto. The service was followed by a luncheon/fellowship attended by about 140 members. The two Vice Presidents(E/J), Janet Baba and Machiko Wada and the Membership Committee, Kiyo Takashima, Norigiku Horikawa and Joyce Kato were the principal organizers. In addition, each Standing Committee provided their area of expertise. Mas Tamekuni kindly provided music on his ukulele for a sing along. Thank you all for your attendance and support for a successful event.

SBBWA has been invited to attend the BCA Federation of Buddhist Women's Association Conference in Sacramento, CA on October 9-11, 2009. If you are interested in attending the conference:

- Contact Yoshie Hiroo as soon as possible via the temple office at 206.329-0800 for registration papers & hotel information.
- June 14 – Inform Yoshie by this date if you would like to travel as a group and reserve an airline seat.
- June 17 – 1:00 pm meeting in temple dining room. Registration papers, workshops, tours, meal & bento orders will be collected. Airline payment in the form of a check will be collected if traveling with group rates. If unable to attend this meeting, registration papers and payment may be made to Yoshi.
- June 30 – Registration deadline for those traveling independently to Sacramento.

Donations Submitted by Treasurer Mabel Nishizaki:

Joan Seko - In memory of Kikue Matsuura
Julie Mayeda - In memory of Kikue Matsuura

Alan Kato - In memory of Hisa Kato
Joan Nakano, Art & Lori Kozai, Yukio & Karen Morikubo - In Appreciation

General donations: R. Aoki, H. Gota, N.Tomita-Kato, T. Mori, Y. Natsuhara, D. Nishimura, G.Sordetto, N.Suguro, M/A.Tahara, K/T. Tanino, S. Umeda and I.Yoshihara.

Activities submitted by Judith Nakamura:

We will have a class making milk carton boxes on June 3. Then, on June 17th, we will have a make up class where you can bring your unfinished projects to work on. Both of these classes will have a sign up sheet so that we can prepare and know just how many to expect. Please sign up if you are going to attend.

Calendar

6/07 All Sangha Memorial Service
6/14 SBBWA Board (combined June and July) Meeting
6/21 Betsuin Picnic
6/28 Bishop's / Rinban's Memorial Service submitted by Deanna Ikegami

Betsuin Picnic – Sunday, June 21st

The Betsuin Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, June 21, 2009. Details of the event are as follows:

Date: Sunday, June 21st

Time: 10:00am – 2:00pm Service: 11:00am

Location: Lake Boren Park, Newcastle, WA

The SBWA is coordinating bento lunches to order, in addition to transportation to and from the picnic. The cost for a bento lunch is \$10 each, however anyone 80 years and above will receive a complimentary bento. If you are interested in purchasing/ordering a bento, or require transportation to the picnic, please

sign-up on the forms located in the temple foyer. For members not ordering a bento lunch, please bring a potluck dish to share with other members.

The Betsuin Picnic is always a great time to get together with other temple members, eat good food, and just have fun. In addition, there will be games for the children and a bouncy jumper. Please plan to attend this enjoyable event!

See page 12 for driving directions...

Dharma School June 2009

Submitted by Joyce Tsuji

Please join us for the last day of dharma school on June 14th for attendance awards, high school and college graduate recognition and scholarship presentations.

Dharma school class pictures will be available for purchase. Please contact your child's teacher for more info.

Eleven (11) teachers attended the FDSTL conference April 25-26 at the Mountain View temple in California. The theme was "Looking back to the future" and the focus was on Shinran Shonin's early life. A good time was had by all and much was learned.

DS students helped string together 1000 mizuhiki cranes with BWA, a project led by Haruko S. These will be sent to New York and presented at both the 9/11 memorial ceremony at the site of the World Trade Center and the Atomic Bomb Memorial service on August 6, 2009 in hopes of spreading the BCA theme "May Peace and Tranquility Prevail throughout the World."

Classroom reports

First/second grade Some of our students enjoyed a gym day put on by the Jr YBA and High school class while teachers attended the FDSTL conference. We are continuing our discussion of gratitude, how it makes others feel good and ourselves as well, with the following activities. The kids made thank you cards for Leigh who put on the "radical reactions" program from the Pacific Science

Center and Mr Matsui who donated it to the church. It was a big hit! They then colored pots for their Moms and planted a bright marigold in them for Mother's Day, a nice way to say "thanks" for all they do. Finally we decorated wisteria with tissue paper for Gotanye after we talked about the significance of Shinran Shonin and the flower to us, Shin Buddhists. Come up and see them in our classroom. They worked very hard on them.

Pre-K/K Classroom The Pre-K/Kindergarten class observed the NW District wide theme of Eco-Sangha. They talked about how they could help the environment and made fishes from recyclable materials. On Mother's Day, the students discussed the importance of their mothers and how they could honor them. They made gifts and cards for their mothers in appreciation for all they do for them. The class celebrated Gotan-e by talking about Shinran Shonin's life, coloring pictures of him and framing their pictures.

Dharma School Japan 2010 Trip

The Dharma School Japan 2010 trip organizers will be having an informational meeting on June 14th, Sunday at 11:45 a.m. in the Memorial Hall chapel to answer questions and accept registrations. The Japan Travel Bureau will also be present to answer questions.

Submitted by Mae Yamasaki

"THINGS INVISIBLE ARE STILL THERE"

Rinban Hoshu Y. Matsubayashi, Ed.D.

There was a beautiful woman poet named Misuzu Kaneko in Nagato City, Yamaguchi Prefecture in Japan. She was born in 1903 and wrote many poems with a gentle and profound look at all earthly as well as comic existence.

When my wife and I visited Japan in 2003, we had an opportunity to visit her home town since they were celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the birth of the poet Misuzu. I would like to share with Sangha the following poem entitled "**Stars and a Dandelion**" which I found in her book:

In the deep blue sky, like the pebbles at the bottom of the sea, the daytime stars, sinking until night comes, are invisible to our eyes.



But though we can't see them, they are there. Things invisible are still there. A fallen withered dandelion silently hides in the cracks of a roof tile.

Its strong roots, waiting until spring comes, are invisible to our eyes. But though we can't see them, they are there. Things invisible are still there.

June is the month of Graduation. Many students will be graduating this month. The Seattle Betsuin wishes to extend its sincere congratulations to all graduates. After graduating it is a big step. Some of them will go on to higher their education. There are others who find a job and yet others who go on to travel.

continued on page 10-

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

<u>Funeral / Memorial / Nokotsudo:</u>	<u>For:</u>		<u>Given by:</u>
	Takumi Mikami – Funeral Service	\$ 2,000	Yoshie Mikami
	Eugene J. Kihara – Inurnment and In Memory of Ishimatsu & Tsuneko Kihara	\$ 1,000	Thomas Kihara
	Hisako Kato – Funeral Service	\$ 1,000	Alan Kato
	Mary Shigaya – 3 rd Year Memorial Service	\$ 500	Ken Shigaya
	Osa Edamura – 49 th Day Memorial Service	\$ 400	Yvonne Edamura
	Michiyo Hirano Gargiulo – Memorial Service	\$ 250	Maria Gargiulo
	Sharon Yuasa – 3 rd Year Memorial Service	\$ 100	Jerry Yuasa

<u>Remembrances for:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
Osa Edamura	Darrell Goshō Kazumi Goshō, Shari Goshō Ng
Hisako Kato	Janet Baba; Sue Fujino; Miyuki Hanada; Setsuko & Mack Harada; Haruko Kobuki; Joe & Dolly Matsuzaki; T. Jack Matsui; Rose Masuda; Ai Nishimura; Fred & Steph Ojima; Masako Shibuya; Darlene & Sato Shimizu; Kiyō Takashima; Kimi Tanaka; Masako Tomita; Steven Uyenishi; Dick & Misao Yoshimura
Amy Koba	Fred & Steph Ojima
Takumi Mikami	Tom & Jean Deguchi; Amy Seko; Harry Taketa
Mary Shigaya	Amy Hara
Kiyoko Yamada	J. S. Anthony
Cousin Linda	Keiko Namekata
Sister Hatsue	Tsukasa Namekata

Supervising Minister:

<u>Other Gifts:</u>	<u>Donor:</u>	<u>For:</u>
\$ 200	Alice Doi	General – United Way
\$ 123.96	Robert Hamatani	General– Boeing Employee Community Fund
\$ 120.60	Kelly Kuwahara	General– Boeing Employee Community Fund
\$ 107.34	Marilyn Akutsu	General – Boeing Employee Community Fund
\$ 62.76	Brian Kaku	General– Boeing Employee Community Fund
\$ 33.34	Gail Suzaka	General – United Way
\$ 25	Karry Sakamoto	General
\$ 20	Gail Kaminishi	General
\$ 2	Anonymous	General

-continued from page 8 by Rev. Matsubayashi
 No matter what step or how large it will be we must remember that Amida Buddha is always with us. The Buddha can not make your decisions for you, but he will guide in every way. You must challenge the world yourself.

Buddhism reminds us “Four Kinds of **On** (Indebtedness)” which we have been receiving in everyday life. The Japanese word “**On**” is difficult to translate into English. It means indebtedness, kindness, goodness, a favor, and a debt of gratitude. We receive parental care and love, teachers’ guidance, numerous living beings’ support, and Buddha’s guidance. Most of these guidance, care, kindness, love, and a debt of gratitude are invisible. Many of the Japanese immigrant parents dedicated

their lives for their children’s education with a spirit of “**Kodomo no tameni – For the sake of children.**”

As the Japanese poet Misuzu Kaneko reminds us in her poem that “Things invisible are still there.” Let our spiritual eyes open to see things invisible and awaken a life of gratitude on this Father’s Day.

Shinran Shonin also reminded us to rejoice that Amida Buddha’s great compassionate light is always casting upon us in his poem as follows:

*Although my eyes, blinded by passions,
 do not see the Amida Buddha’s light
 which embraces me, The Great
 Compassion never tires, always casting
 compassionate light upon me.*

May the Buddha Dharma continue to guide us in everyday life. In Gassho,

Traditionally, memorial services are held for loved ones on designated anniversaries.

These are precious occasions to honor the treasured memories of our beloved ones and to realize how fortunate we are to be embraced by Amida Buddha’s Light of Wisdom and Life of Compassion. If you have a loved one who has passed away in the following years, you are encouraged to conduct a family memorial service.

2009 MEMORIAL SERVICE SCHEDULE

Year of Death

2008.....	1st annual memorial.....	1 year from death
2007.....	3 rd anniversary memorial.....	2 full years from death
2003.....	7 th anniversary memorial.....	6 full years from death
1997.....	13 th anniversary memorial.....	12 full years from death
1993.....	17 th anniversary memorial.....	16 full years from death
1985.....	25 th anniversary memorial.....	24 full years from death
1977.....	33 rd anniversary memorial.....	32 full years from death
1960.....	50 th anniversary memorial.....	49 full years from death

Please call the temple office at (206) 329-0800 to make arrangements for a service.

- JN

Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges 2009 Hanamatsuri Donations from:

Steve Aisaka, Jim & Louise Akizuki, Marilyn Akutsu, Michele Aoki, M/M Takao Aoki, M/M Masatoshi Aoyama, Hanako Aramaki, Marian Asaba, Janet Baba, Pat Bobrow, Lani Carpenter, Tsuyako Chadwick, Jene Deguchi, Mae Deguchi, Yasuko Desaki, Kenny & Yoshie Dodobara, Toshiko Enomoto, Minoru & Aiko Fujii, Suzanne Fujinari, Sue Fujino, Florence Fujita, Lutes Fujita, M/M Nobuichi Fujita, M?M George Fukeda, Mitsuko Fukuhara, Mary Furuta, Sue Furuta, Kazumi Goshu, Alan & Fumiko Groves, John & Lynda Hamakami, Ron Hamakawa, Eileen Hamamoto, Jane Hamatani, Fumiyo Hanada, Peggy Hanada, Miyuki Hanada, Reiko Hara, Nelson Harano, Steve & Ann Hasegawa, Hiroko Hasegawa, Miki Heider, Mabel Hirabayashi, Amy Hirasawa, Mickey & Yoshie Hiroo, Lily Hori, Alan & Lori Hoshino, Sat & Grace Ichikawa, Roy & Deanna Ikegami, Laverne Imori, Hal se, Toshiko Isomura, June Iwafuchi, SM Jofuku, Dale & Shizue Kaku, Miyoko Kaneta, Kashima Family, Yoshi Katayama, Edward & Joyce Kato, Gary & Madeline Kato, Kazue Kato, Nina Tomita-Kato, Hatsuye Kawada, Ritsuko Kawahara, Miyoko Kawaguchi, Masako Kawamoto, Jan Keltner, Mrs. Momoko Kido, Shizue Kikuchi, Evelyn Kitashima, Jeff & Tina Ko, Frances Kobayashi, Mrs. Haruko Kobuki, Taka Kogita, Esther Kojima, Frank Komoto, Betty Komura, Miyoko Kondo, M/M Aizo Kosai, Art & Lori Kozai, Masako Kubo, Betty Kubota, Carolyn Kunihiro, Daisy Kuramoto, Peter Kusakabe, Kinue Kuwahara, John Litz, Haruko Mamiya, Yoshi Mamiya, Mariko Mano, Bryan Maruhashi, Teruo Maruko, Fumiye Masunaga, Rose Masuda, Hugh Matsubayashi, Jack Matsui, Tak Matsui, M/M Joseph Matsuzaki, Julie Mayeda, Tets & Linda Miyata, Takiko Miyauchi, Sheri Mizumori, Hatsue Mizuno, Paul & Teresa Mori, Yukio & Karen Morikubo, →

← *Hanamatsuri Donations continued...* Ernest & Sanaye Nagai, Kemi Nakabayashi, Ruby Nakamura, M/M Yoshio Nakamura, Joan Nakano, Junko Nakano, Dana Nakashima, Tomi Nakashima, Charlene Nakayama, Tsukasa & Keiko Namekata, Terrie Natsuhara, Nancy Nitta, Hiro & Dorothy Nishimura, M/M Akio Nishizaki, Setsuno Noshō, Michiye Ohtani, Fred & Steph Ojima, Janie Okawa, Ray & Mineko Okamura, Tomi Okano, Mary Osaki, Dean O'Shields, Jane Oto, Nobuko Otsuji, Patricia Oye, Ted & Sunkie Oye, Gerald Quintua, Tamiko Platnick, Rocco Romero, Karry Sakamoto, Masako Sako, Pauline Sakuma, Angela Sato, Dennis Shibata, Gary & Debbie Shibata, Masako Shibuya, M/M Harry Shigaya, Ken Shigaya, Mary Shigaya, Ben & Etsu Shimbo, Shirley Shimada, Anthony & Teresa Shimizu, Haruko Shimizu, Nobu Shimizu, Roy & Kazumi Shimizu, Sato & Darlene Shimizu, F Shinoda, Al & Fran Shintaku, Gayle Sordetto, Nori Suguro, Florence Sumida, Leslie Sumida, Terry & Gail Suzaka, Mas & Anna Tahara, Jean Takano, Kuniko Takamura, Kiyoko Takashima, Ken Takemura, George & Jean Taketa, M/M Haruso Taketa, Susan Taketa, Noboru Taki, Mas & Frances Tamekuni, Nami Tanaka, Rikuko Tanaka, Peggy Tanemura, Martha Taniguchi, Fumie Taniguchi, Theodore & Akico Taniguchi, M/M Kats Tanino, Elmer Tazuma, Grace Tazuma, Miyoko Tazuma, Joe Terada, Ron & Suzuko Terada, Margaret Teramoto, Stuart Teramoto, Dolly Tokunaga, Paul & Mabel Tomita, Gary & Julianne Tosaya, M/M Tak Tsuchida, M/M Sam Uchida, Tazuko Uyenishi, M Jean Vaart, Machiko Wada, Jim & Rona Warrick, Shizue Yahata, Fumiko Yamaguchi, Fujie Yamasaki, Dennis Yamashita, Michiko Yanagimoto, M/M Kiyoshi Yasui, Sumie Yokota, Kari Ann Yokoyama, Ross Yokoyama, Charlene Yoritsune, Fuyo Yoshida, Isoko Yoshihara, M/M Dick Yoshimura, Nobuo Yutani, Donna Zumoto, Anonymous

Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges 2009 Spring Ohigan Donations from:
Sheri Mizumori, Nori Suguro, M. Jean Vaart, Donna Zumoto

Submitted by Nelson Harano

Preventing falls on stairs

By the Betsuin Maintenance Committee

In the past couple of weeks more than one temple member has fallen on the stairs in front of the temple. Luckily, there were no serious injuries. The maintenance committee is looking into physical upgrades around the temple that can be done to help prevent falls. At the same time we ask that everyone take a moment to study the following common causes of falling on stairs and strategies to prevent falling both at home and at the temple.

What causes people to fall? Strategies to prevent falls:

- **Overstepping stair treads (the most common misstep on stairs).** *Be cautious, deliberate and not rushed.*
- **Rushing.** *Take time and be extra cautious especially at the transition between the stairs and the sidewalk.*
- **Footwear.** *Always wear shoes or slippers that fit properly and that have a non-slip sole.*
- **Lack of attention. For example, when going down stairs, some people fall at the second last step because they think they have already reached the bottom of the stairs.** *Avoid being distracted when using a stairway. (pause conversations; don't call out to others who are on the stairs)*
- **Poor or impaired vision.** *Remove your reading glasses when you climb up or down stairs. If you have prescription eyeglasses for distance vision, always wear them when using the stairs. Take extra care when wearing bifocal or progressive eyeglasses. Adjust the position of your glasses or your head so you can see the stairs clearly.*
- **Not holding the handrails.** *When walking up or down stairs, always hold the handrails, or have at least one hand within easy reach of a handrail.*
- **Carrying objects on the stairs.** *Never carry objects on stairs, especially if they require use of both hands or block your view of the steps. One hand should always be left free to hold on to a handrail — and for some more vulnerable stair users, both hands should always be available for handrail use, especially when going down stairs.*

-continued from page 7 Picnic

Directions to Betsuin Picnic at Lake Boren Park:

From the North, West or East - Take I-90 toward I-405 and then take I-405 South. Immediately take the Coal Creek Parkway Exit and at the end of the ramp, turn left onto Coal Creek Parkway. Continue on Coal Creek Parkway for approximately 2 miles. You will pass Safeway, QFC and McDonalds. When you see Lake Boren on your right, get in the right lane and turn right at SE 84th Way. Take the first right into the park. If you come to a little bridge, you have gone too far.

From the South - Take I-405 North, and take the Coal Creek Parkway Exit. At the end of the ramp, turn right onto Coal Creek Parkway. Continue on Coal Creek Parkway for approximately 2 miles. You will pass Safeway, QFC and McDonalds. When you see Lake Boren on your right, get in the right lane and turn right at SE 84th Way. Take the first right into the park. If you come to a little bridge, you have gone too far.

About Seattle YBA at UW...Seattle Sr. YBA at UW is affiliated with both the University of Washington and Seattle Betsuin. The group is open to any student at UW interested in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. See more on http://www.bcayouth.org/YBA%20Groups/about_seattleyba.htm



**ALL SANGHA MEMORIAL SERVICE
SENBOKAI-IN TSUITO HOYO**

**Sunday, June 7, 2009
Service at 10:00 AM**

The annual ALL SANGHA MEMORIAL SERVICE will be held on Sunday, June 7, 2009, at 10:00 AM. This important service is dedicated to honoring the contributions and lives of all those who were members and friends of the Seattle Betsuin or one of its affiliated organizations.

We invite families of these members to submit the names of their loved ones to be read during the service that we ask you to attend in their honor. **Please complete and return the entire form to the Betsuin office by Sunday, May 31, 2009.** We cannot guarantee that names received after the deadline will be read. The names will be called in the order received.

In Gassho, Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple 1427 S. Main St, Seattle, WA 98144 (206) 329-0800

If you wish the name(s) of your loved one(s) to be read at the 10:00 AM Service, please fill out the section below. **PLEASE PRINT THE NAMES IN ENGLISH AND REMEMBER TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER AT THE BOTTOM. SUBMIT THE ENTIRE FORM (do not cut) BY MAY 31, 2009.**

Name of Deceased: _____ Date of Death: _____

Submitted by: _____ Phone #: _____

Notes on Dharma Exchange – April 26, May 3, 10, 17, 2009

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

Dharma Exchange of April 26, 2009, Elmer recalled Rev. Ichikawa's admonition to do your best, but he (Elmer) found it hard to do at age 93.

Another participant remembered the lotus painting on the wall of the old temple, which is still meaningful to him today. Rev. Castro touched upon the ministries through art and commented it is filled with meaning.

Rev. Castro indicated *transcending* is dualistic thinking in that it is relative and when we discuss it we get into dualism. Rather, Buddhism is *transformational* – “out of the mud grows the lotus.” He added, the silence of Buddhism is profound.

“The Spiritual Advantages of a Painful Childhood” by Wayne Muller was brought up.

Castro Sensei recounted the story of parents losing a 21 year-old son. Although they were not Buddhist, they completed all the services at the Seattle Betsuin and later joined a support group of others who lost a child.

Dr. Doi feels Japanese is an emotional language and English is a practical one.

* * *

Ben led the Dharma Exchange of May 3 with commentary on the word “inconceivable” as defined by Rev. Leslie Kawamura. It parallels the concept of “emptiness” and applies to the way in which we perceive reality. It is not intended to make a statement of fact, and therefore we are confronted with the limits of our perception. Ben concluded that what we see is an image. A defiled mind sees delusion; a descriptive mind sees what it wants to see; and everything becomes real when the mind is enlightened.

* * *

Rev. Castro conducted the Dharma Exchange on Mothers' Day, Sunday, May 10, with the comment that daughters in a family are the most helpful to parents. The previous week he gave the [Eco-Sanga] inaugural talk at the San Jose Betsuin and touched upon the dream of Rev. Eiju Terao about rebuilding the Spokane temple (built in 1946) after a fire destroyed it. He said Japantown in San Jose is flourishing, and the eco-sangha has demonstrations on composting and displays.

Castro Sensei said the plan to re-develop the area around the Dearborn Goodwill is dead.

Rev. Warrick commented on the current movie “Departure,” based on the book, “Coffin Man,” which

was translated and published by the Orange County temple.

* * *

During the May 17 Dharma Exchange, Rev. Ikeda from Hawaii visited the temple and reported on activities there. He said there used to be 20,000 Jodo Shinshu followers in Hawaii; now there are 7,000. Ministers in Hawaii are mainly Japanese. Jodo Shinshu is 120 years old in Hawaii, and he framed the question, is the teaching 18th, 19th or 21st Century?

A participant asked if there is a minister's assistant program, and he said there is a program of volunteers, and it consists of two groups – traditional, and that group that looks ahead. They are updating the service book in Hawaii and there is a reading class after the service. He recommended a book by Rev. Toshikazu Arai, “Grasped by the Buddha's Vow.” * The 18th, or Primal Vow, speaks of unconditional love, and he recommended we should try to convey that to everyone, not just family and friends. He feels the need to create an American Buddhism.

Rev. Castro attended the Overseas Seminar in Japan in 1999 and viewed raigo art.

* * *

In gassho, Pat Bobrow

*** BOOK GROUP IN JUNE** Rev. Don Castro and Minister's Assistant Joe Schwab will conduct a book study of an excellent new publication, “Grasped by the Buddha's Vow,” by Dr. Toshikazu Arai who is a professor of humanities at Soai University in Osaka, Japan. The book is a translation and commentary on the Tannisho (Notes in Lament of Deviations), which is one of the most popular and significant texts of Japanese Buddhism. A fluent English speaker, Dr. Arai received his doctorate in history from the University of Hawaii.

We will meet following Dharma Exchange at noon in the Memorial Hall Chapel on Sundays, June 7, 14, and 28. There will be no charge for the book group, but please let Rev. Castro know if you plan to attend so that he can order enough books. The books will be available through our temple bookstore for \$16.95. At the end of June Dr. Arai will be speaking at the White River Buddhist Church so there will be a wonderful opportunity to hear him in person.

- DC