



Wheel of the Sangha

Volume 28 Issue 9 September 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*

September 2009 Special Services/Events

Fall Ohigan Service/1st Day Dharma School: SEPT 13 -10:00 AM

ESSENTIALS OF JODO SHINSHU CLASS in Japanese: SEPT 22

DHARMA SUPPORT GROUP: SEPT 23 & 30 - 10:30 AM

CHILDREN'S Service in Chapel: SEPT 27 10:00 AM

Jodo Shinshu Meditation Service in Chapel: Sundays 8:45-9:30 AM

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Betsuin Events for September 2009

SUNDAYS

September 6

10:00 pm FAMILY SERVICE
Adult: Rev. Warrick
Japanese: Rinban Matsubayashi
DX: Rev. Castro and MA
11:45 am SBBWA Board Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi)
12:00 pm Class - "Overview of Buddhism" (Rev. Castro)

September 13

10:00 am FALL OHIGAN SERVICE (1st Day of Dharma School)
GUEST SPEAKER: Rev. Dennis Fujimoto, Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple
Children: Rev. Fujimoto
Adult: Rev. Fujimoto
Japanese: Rinban Matsubayashi
DX: Rev. Castro & MA

September 20

10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE
Children: MA
Adult: Rev. Castro
Japanese: Rinban Matsubayashi
DX: Rev. Castro and MA

September 27

10:00 am Children's Service: Rev. Warrick
Youth: Joe Schwab
Adult: Rev. Castro
DX: Rev. Castro & MA
11:30 am SBBWA Cabinet Meeting
Rinban Matsubayashi at White River Buddhist Temple for BWA Eshinni-ko & Kakushinni-ko Service

MONDAYS

September 7 Labor Day – Office Closed
September 14 Rinban Matsubayashi (Day off)

TUESDAYS

September 1 Rinban Matsubayashi (Day off)
September 8, 15 Reverend Castro (Days off)
September 22
10:30 am Keiro Service (Rev. Castro)
6:00 pm Kawabe Foundation Dinner Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi)
September 22, 29
6:30 pm Class - "The Essentials of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism" (Rinban Matsubayashi)
September 29 Rev. Castro (Day off)

WEDNESDAYS

September 2

2:00 pm Ministers' Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)
7:30 pm Dharma School Board Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)
September 9 Reverend Castro (Vacation)

September 16

10:00 am Shinran Shonin Monthly Memorial Service (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)
11:00 am Ministers' Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

September 23 Rinban Matsubayashi (Day off)

10:30 am Dharma Support Group (Rev. Castro)
September 30 Rinban Matsubayashi (Day off)
10:30 am Dharma Support Group (Rev. Castro)

THURSDAYS

September 3

1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rev. Castro)
September 10 Reverend Castro (Vacation)
7:30 pm Religious Department Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi)

September 17

1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rinban Matsubayashi)
7:30 pm Betsuin Cabinet Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

September 24

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

FRIDAYS

September 4

12:00 pm Gojikai Service and Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi)

SATURDAYS

September 5 Reverend Castro (Day off)
September 19 NW District Dharma School Teachers' Fall Workshop at Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple
September 26 Rev. Castro (Day off)

OCTOBER: Major Events of Interest

October 4 Sunday Hatsumairi see page 10
October 18 Sunday Family Service and SBBWA Memorial Service – Guest Speaker, Rev. John Iwohara, Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Newsletter Deadline:

Sept 21 – 8:00 PM Print: Sept 25



Wheel of the Sangha

Volume 28 Issue 9 SEATTLE BETSUIN NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2009



HEAVEN, THE EARTH, AND PEOPLE Nice Weather, Ideal Location, and Friendly People Rinban Hoshu Y. Matsubayashi, Ed.D.

There is a Japanese saying that “When the three conditions of heavens (beautiful weather), the Earth (ideal location), and people (harmonious and friendly) are met, an event becomes successful.” The Seattle Betsuin 77th Annual Obon Odori Festival was held very successfully under all three wonderful conditions.

In hot summer weather, the cool wind blows from the Cascades to the Seattle Betsuin Temple. All dancers and spectators are exposed to the breeze from Elliott Bay. They all enjoyed nice and comfortable summer weather.

The Seattle Betsuin Temple is an ideal location in the global city of Seattle, and the Obon Odori Festival was part of the Seafair Celebration. Obon Odori was well advertised in this community and the street in front of the Betsuin Temple was closed to traffic and was filled with thousands dancers and spectators.

Friendly people, including dance instructors, dancers, spectators, and Betsuin Sangha members, all harmoniously enjoyed with the spirit of Maudgalyayana (Mokuren), who rejoiced in his mother’s compassionate heart when she was released from sufferings. People from across the community enjoyed the Obon dance with one spirit of harmony and friendship.

The Japanese saying reminds us that “When three conditions of the heavens, the Earth, and people are met, an event becomes successful,” this year’s Betsuin Obon Odori Festival was a great success. Thank you all for your participation.

A year long NHK (Japanese Broadcasting Cooperation) TV drama for this year is called “**Ten (Heaven), Chi (the Earth), and Jin (People)**” by Masashi Hisaka. This story was based on **Collected Words of Kenshin Uesugi**. Kenshin Uesugi was a great Samurai Lord in northern Japan during the age of civil wars in the 1500’s. He stated in his book that “if three conditions of ‘Heaven, the Earth, and People’ are met, an event will succeed and the war will be won.” With his war philosophy, he became a powerful Samurai Lord and was respected very highly by people in his district.

The origin of this Japanese saying of the three conditions of Heaven, the Earth, and People

came from **The Works of Mencius** by the ancient Chinese thinker Mencius. He was a follower of Confucianism and stated in his book that “Opportunities of time vouchsafed by Heaven are not equal to advantages of situation afforded by the Earth, and advantages of situation afforded by the Earth are not equal to the union arising from the accord of Men.” Mencius emphasized the value of harmonious people as the most important condition among the three conditions.

The NHK drama, “Heaven, the Earth, and People,” tells the story of Kagekatsu Uesugi, who was adopted by Kenshin Uesugi to succeed the Lordship of Uesugi Family, and his Chief Retainer Kanetsugu Naoe, who tried to govern their Echigo District people in harmony with the teaching of righteousness and benevolence during the age of civil wars in Japan according to the late Lord Kenshin Uesugi. Chief Retainer Kanetsugu placed a word of “Love” in front of his Samurai helmet (Kabuto). This decorative word “Love” was an unusual word for Samurai helmets in battles. However, he was following the teaching of benevolence (true love) with righteousness in Confucianism.

The word “Love” in Buddhism is normally interpreted as “craving (Skt. Tanha)” as we see the 8th term “Ai (craving)” of the Twelve Links of Chain of Causation. It is considered as a selfish desire of an unenlightened mind.

The meaning of benevolence (true love) in Confucianism is stated in **The Confucian Analects**, Chapter 28, that “Now the man of perfect virtue, wishing to be established himself, seeks also to establish others; wishing to be enlarged himself, he seeks also to enlarge others.” Confucian encourages the people of benevolence (true love) to act for the benefit of others. **The Confucian Analects**, Chapter 12, also states the meaning of benevolence (true love) in a negative expression that “not to do to others as you would not wish done to yourself.” Christians also teach benevolence (true love) in **The New Testament**, Matthew, vii, 12, that “So whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them.”

Continued on page 6 -

Dharma School September 2009 submitted by Joyce Tsuji

SAVE THE DATE—The first day of Dharma School is September 13. Registration for both new and returning students will take place the first 2 Sundays. Come, enjoy some refreshments and catch up with friends. We look forward to seeing you there!!

On behalf of the Dharma School, Kori and Niku Don booth chairs we would like to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who helped out with this year's Obon. We really appreciate all your hard work. Obon is a very important event for our church and your participation makes it a success!

Our annual Hatsumairi, or infant presentation service will be on October 4, 2009. This is a ceremony that celebrates the infant or child's first visit to the temple. If you or anyone you know are interested in participating in this event please call the temple office (206) 329-0800 by September 25.

2009 CHIBICHAN BASKETBALL Clinic Registration submitted by Andrea Mano

Join us for the 16th season of our basketball clinic! Sponsored by the Seattle Betsuin Dharma School. This program is open to all girls and boys ages 4 –10 years old. Participate in a non-competitive setting where the emphasis is on skill development, sportsmanship, participation and having fun! Team photo and coach's gift are included with registration. We need parental help with snacks and clean-up.

Dates (6): October 4, 11, 18, 25 (picture day), November 1, 8 (Awards)

Place: Seattle Buddhist Church gym, 1427 S. Main St., Seattle, 98144

Time: There will be two sessions between 11:40am and 1:15pm. We will determine the times after we know the number of children in each group. Each group will have approximately 30 minutes of gym time. The clinic will be complete at 1:15 PM.

The clinic will be divided into the following groups: **Nezumi (4-5 year olds); Nekko (6 year olds); Tora (7 year olds); Ninja (8-10 year olds)**

Registration Fee: \$15- Church Members (Member dues current) / \$20- Non-Church Members

Registration starts on: Aug 24, 2009 - Church Members / Sept 13, 2009- Non-Church Members

What to bring: ☺ A labeled **water bottle** ☺ Nekko, Tora and Ninja students are encouraged to bring their own **basketball** (labeled), **if you have one**. (There is no need to purchase a ball, though; we do have extra ones.) Nekko will play with the intermediate/women's (28.5) size; Tora will play with either the intermediate/women's or the men's; and Ninja play with the standard men's size (29.5).

To provide a safe and fun environment, we will be limiting the number of participants this year. Make sure to register early! Make checks payable to "**Seattle Betsuin Dharma School**". All proceeds will go to the Dharma School fund. Please turn in completed registration and check to:

Bev Sakamoto, 4275 – 257th Pl. SE, Issaquah, WA 98029

2009 Dharma School Chibichan Basketball Program Registration Form

Name _____ Age _____ on September 30, 2009

Group (circle one): Nezumi (4 & 5 Yr) Nekko (6 Yrs) Tora (7 Yrs) Ninja (8 – 10 Yrs)

Address _____

Parent Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Medical Conditions? (allergies, asthma, etc.) _____

Snacks & Cleanup: I will bring snacks (by 11:40 AM) of fruit or cheese for 10 children on this day **AND** clean-up (12:45 PM): _____ Oct 4 _____ Oct 11 _____ Oct 18 _____ Oct 25 _____ Nov 1 _____ Nov 8
(Other snacks will be provided by the program)

Consent Form: I hereby give my consent for _____ to participate in the Seattle Betsuin Dharma School Chibichan basketball program. I understand the risks inherent in this class, and declare that I will not hold the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist temple, Dharma school or any of the coaches responsible for any injury that may be suffered by the participant arising out of or in any way connected with this activity. In case of emergency, the coaching staff has my permission to take my child to the nearest medical facility, doctor or dentist for emergency treatment.

SIGNED _____ (parent or guardian) Date _____

“The Green Corner”

The following article appears in the June 2009 newsletter of Spokane Buddhist Temple where Reverend Don Castro is supervising minister; Minister Assistants are Paul Vielle & Christine Marr; newsletter editor is Todd Milne.



It's hard to believe that it's been one year since past Board president, Liat Parker, commissioned the formation of a Green Committee to assist the Spokane Buddhist Temple in making our Sangha more eco-friendly. So, for this month's Green Corner I thought it would be timely to look back on all that we've accomplished in just one year.

One of our main, initial goals (which has been a smashing success) was to build awareness of the recycling bin in the kitchen. We put up signs labeling the recycling bin and what sorts of things should go in it. We've gone from only a few people in the Sangha even knowing that we had a recycling bin to filling it almost weekly with all the appropriate cardboard, paper, glass, jars, and plastics. Here are some of the other things we have accomplished this year. We have replaced many regular light bulbs with compact florescent bulbs. We also continue to be mindful about using the pre-programmed thermostat to regulate the temperature only during the hours that the temple building is in use. We continue to use and wash real plates, cups and silverware for our weekly after service snacks,

pancake breakfasts, and other eat-in occasions. For our last 3 food bazaars we have replaced plastic and Styrofoam to-go containers with biodegradable alternatives. We have also replaced our use of bottled water with a countertop container of filtered water and glasses.

We have held two yard sales, providing individuals an opportunity to give back and recycle, as well as to purchase items “pre-owned” and avoid buying something new. We're beginning to replace regular cleaning products with eco-friendly ones. In addition to the Simple Green that is always there, I'm now seeing a “green” dishwashing liquid. It's also very exciting to see the new addition of a composting bucket in the kitchen!

Lastly, we've had one year of The Green Corner article. I've thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity each month to be attentive for topics that hopefully are inspiring, informative and worth sharing. If there are omissions of other changes we have made in the last year, I apologize for that. Maybe a year from now we won't even be able to recognize the changes we've made because they will have become so second nature that we don't think of them as unique. Anything worth practicing starts as a conscious choice and eventually becomes part of who we are.

submitted by Irene Goto

Message to Our Members

by President Mas Tahara

To Our Members,

I am sure every one of you has had an eventful and memorable summer.

It is already the end of summer and we will be looking forward to welcoming the Dharma School students and the members who had a little hiatus from attending the Sunday morning services during the summer months. The hondo and all other rooms will be filled with our members and visitors participating in many activities and programs. Speaking of the programs and activities, we will have our annual Fall Ohigan Service on September 13 with Rev. Dennis Fujimoto of Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Church as the guest minister. The Dharma School begins its new school year on the same day.

Rinban Matsubayashi will be having a ten-week long Japanese seminar titled, “The Essentials of Jodo

Shinshu Buddhism”, starting on Tuesday, September 22, at 7:00-8:30pm. (Note that the date has been changed from previously published.) Please look for the registration form in this newsletter. Chanting of “Shoshin-Ge” will be conducted at 6:30pm on the same evenings.

Rev. Castro's on-going Jodo Shinshu Meditation Service , 8:45am - 9:30 am every Sunday is still in session.

Various Buddhist Education activities such as having the exhibits in the Memorial Hall showcases, reorganizing the library and bookstore, involving the lay members in the Sunday services, are coming into focus.

Hope to receive your support and active participation. As always, I would like to hear from you.

In Gassho, Mas Tahara

-Rinban's message continued from page 3...

The Buddhist Obon Festival is filled with the compassion for the benefit of self and others. Obon provides us a great opportunity to reflect on our own lives, which are blessed with countless conditions. When we realize this, we call Obon a Gathering of Joy in gratitude. Obon is certainly the Global Obon for everyone, because it is based on the spirit of universal true love. Namo Amida Butsu



Thank you to all of the Camp Fire members and families who contributed and helped with the Obon practice bake sales and Obon t-shirt booth!

Starflight K Submitted by G. Tazuma

The new incoming Starflight Kindergarten group is excited to report that each of the girls earned their first badge. Alisa H., Lauren C. and Lacey B. each earned their Obon Emblem to kick-off their first year in Camp Fire.

Starlights - 1st and 2nd Grade Submitted by D. Shibata

The girls and their families returned to temple to help with the bake sales conducted during Obon practice and to participate in the dancing festivities. Some of the girls have fulfilled the requirements for their first "Obon" patch!

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!

Pickleball Club meets at Buddhist Church Auditorium

submitted by Karry Sakamoto
Nikkei Horizons Pickleball Club meets on Tuesday & Thursday from 9 to 11:30 AM. Low impact, great exercise, beginner's welcome. If you've played tennis or ping pong you can play pickleball. The rules are similar, the court size is smaller than tennis and we play doubles. Haruso Taketa is the coordinator of the program. Free with Nikkei Horizons annual membership.

OButsudan Adoption Program

Example: Butsudan #3 missing parts and broken hinges 16" x 24" x 13"



doors closed



inner doors



doors open

The Religious Department has received a number of family obutsudan to be entrusted to the care of Seattle Betsuin. We are seeking homes of Jodo Shinshu families, who are Seattle Betsuin ijikai members and who will respect and care for them. These obutsudan must be viewed in person to appreciate their size, charm, and quality. To view them please see Irene Goto or Mas Tahara on most Sundays between 11:00am and 12:30pm, or arrange for a viewing appointment by calling the Seattle Betsuin office at 206.329.0800. Suggested donations are between \$50 and \$250 for their adoption.

Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association

Message by President Terrie Tanino

On August 23 the 10:00 AM Betsuin Family Service was sponsored by the SBBWA and dedicated to honor Eshinni-ko and Kakushinni-ko. Participants of the service were: Shizue Yahata chairperson; reading of the Threefold Refuge by Joyce Kato and the San Kie Mon was led by Etsu Shimbo. The offerings of this service shall be used for the furtherance of Buddhist education for youths at the Seattle Betsuin. All SBWA members are encouraged to attend this special service that is also observed annually throughout the BCA FBWA chapters. During the month of August, the Betsuin Family Services were chaired by Frances Shintaku, Terrie Tanino and Joan Nakano.

Donations Received submitted by Treasurer

Mabel Nishizaki
Rinban & Mrs. Matsubayashi- In memory of Rev. Thom Nakanishi
Joan Seko - In memory of Kiyoko June Ono
Shirley Shimada - General donation

Activity Committee submitted by Judith Nakamura
The Activity Committee wants to thank everyone for helping us have a very successful Obon craft/mizuhiki sale. We will not be having a tour this year, but classes will resume in Sept

Calendar:

9/06 SBBWA Board Meeting
9/13 Fall Ohigan
9/27 Cabinet Meeting

Submitted by Deanna Ikegami

Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple's Fall English Seminar

Save This Date!

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Speaker: Reverend Grant Ikuta
Steveston Buddhist Temple, Richmond, BC, Canada

Japanese Monpo Seminar: "The Essentials of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism"

By Rinban Hoshu Y. Matsubayashi, Ed.D.

Tuesdays, September 22 – December 1, 2009

(10 weeks; no Class on Tuesday, October 13)

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

(6:30 PM Sutra Chanting: **Shoshin-ge** – Optional)



Sept 22 The Title and the Founder of
Jodo Shinshu

Sept 29 The Three Pure Land Sutras

Oct 5 Seven Pure Land Masters

Oct 13 No Class

Oct 20 Shinran Shonin's Writings

Oct 27 The Doctrine of Jodo Shinshu

REGISTRATION FEE
BCA Members: \$20.00
Non-BCA Members: \$30.00

Note: Date Change!

Nov 12 Birth into the Pure Land by Amida
Buddha's Vow

Nov 10 On the Tathagata, the Buddha

Nov 17 On Human Nature

Nov 24 The Directing of Virtue of Amida
Buddha's Name, Namo Amida Butsu

Dec 1 Awakening of Faith or Shinjin in
Jodo Shinshu

Textbook is Rinban Matsubayashi's *The Essentials of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism*.

Registration Form For Japanese Monpo Seminar 9/21-11/30, 2009 at Seattle Buddhist Church, 1427 S Main St, 98144

Name: _____ BCA Member: _____

Address: _____ Telephone No. _____

Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations – July-August 2009

<u>Funeral / Memorial / Nokotsudo:</u>	<u>For:</u>		<u>Given by:</u>
James & Ayako Demise – Nokotsudo		\$ 1,000	Joyce Handa
Kiyoko June Ono – Funeral Service		\$ 700	Wesley Ono
Henry Tai – In Memory of		\$ 500	Roberta Hasstedt
“Tuk” Mikami – In Memory of		\$ 300	Yoshie Mikami
Sadami Maruko – 13 th Year Memorial		\$ 200	Teruo Maruko
Roy & Chieko Iguchi – In Memory of		\$ 200	Robert Iguchi
Mary Isomura – 1 st Year Memorial		\$ 200	Nobuo Isomura
Teruo Ham Koba – In Memory of		\$ 200	Nobuko Oka
Katsuko & Jim Nakagawa – In Memory of		\$ 200	Dean Nakagawa
Ayako Demise – 1 st Year Memorial		\$ 150	Joyce Handa
Mr. & Mrs. M. Murakami – In Memory of		\$ 100	Suyeko M Fujikado
Kazue Yotsuuye, In Memory of		\$ 50	Elsie Taniguchi
Nokotsudo		\$ 50	Betty Yoshida

<u>Remembrances for:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
Shin Adachi	Stan & Rose Marumoto
Akio Hoshino	Anonymous
Takumi Mikami	Wendy Nitta
Tosh Uyeji	Amy Hirasawa
Ryoto Yabuki, Keiko & Hidemi Tsuboi	Akiko & Munehisa Yabuki

Wedding: Steve Herman & Narumi Matsufuji \$100

Supervising Minister: Yakima Buddhist Church \$ 100

<u>Other Gifts:</u>	<u>Donor:</u>	<u>For:</u>
\$ 50	Steveston Buddhist Temple	Rinban Matsubayashi’s Speaking Engagement
\$ 50	Yuriko Kamada	Obon Donation
\$ 33.34	Gail Suzaka	General
\$ 25	Amy Shinoki	General
\$ 20	James & Hiroko Hasegawa	General

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: **Doris Aoyama, Alice Doi, Florence Fujita, Kazumi Goshu, Edward Hiroo, Laura Ichikawa, Paul & Taka Kogita, Hatsue Mizuno, Tamiko Platnick, Ray Sakamoto,**

Masako Sako, Mary Shigaya, George Suetsugu, Kuniko Takamura, Ted & Akico Taniguchi.

***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.

Notes from Dharma Exchange

The purpose of this column on Dharma Exchanges is to inform those members and friends who are unable to attend Dharma Exchange -- Dharma School parents, Japanese service participants, committee members, etc.

July 26 - Rev. Castro recalled the book, *You Called*, by Ham Koba. It listed humorous answering machine messages.

Karston Becher of the Spokane temple visited Kyoto/Osaka and many temples including the Hongwanji-ha and birthplace of Shinran. There were 50 in the group and they stayed 10 days with families. There was a translator, but Karston's family spoke English. He said there was a festival happening, and every morning the temple performed a tea ceremony.

Buddhism teaches us one suffers if one is attached. Hence, the likely reason early monks had no families. * * *

August 2 - Ministerial Assistant Joe Schwab mentioned Joseph Stalin's comment, if you kill one person it is a tragedy; if you kill one million it is a statistic.

A Mongolian group uses an upstairs room at the temple for teaching Buddhist classes twice a month. A volunteer is needed to oversee the temple during those times. Please see Irene Goto if you can help.

Bill Anthis suggested looking at Google to find movies with a Buddhist theme. A discussion ensued of the English movie, "Departures," which was based on the book, *Coffin Man*.

A new class, "The Overview of Buddhism" has started in the Hondo. See August newsletter for details and registration. It is being taught Sundays 12-1:30 by the temple ministers and ministerial assistants. It will cover the life of Gautama, history of Buddhism, Karma, basics of wisdom and morality, purpose of meditation, emptiness, impermanence, and interconnectivity.

Doug Mclean who is traveling abroad recounted an admonition from Rev. Takamaro Shigaraki's book, *What is Shin?* To paraphrase Doug, only when you throw all else out is the nembutsu able to strike you. * * *

August 9 - Rev. Castro brought up the Golden Rule and its variants. Christians say, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Castro Sensei

does not agree, but rather abides by, "Do unto others as they would have you do unto them." Sensei also mentioned the Platinum Rule used in business, which is more Buddhist: "Do unto customers to meet their needs." Goals often come out of selfish desires; whereas the goal of Buddhism is to bring all beings to Enlightenment. However, everything is already enlightened, so we remember that with Namu Amida Butsu.

What is Buddhism? It consists of three aspects: (1) psychology, a science of mind and behavior; (2) religion because it is a system; and (3) philosophy, because of its pursuit of wisdom.

Sensei told the story of the bear in the woods who was about to eat his victim, and the victim saying, "I hope this bear is a good Buddhist." With that the bear said, "*Itadakimasu.*" * * *

August 16 - Castro Sensei mentioned a worthwhile children's book, *Mottainai Grandma* by Mariko Shinjo.

A participant informed us of a haiku group in Seattle. Sensei said there are likely several.

The haiku poet Issa, who was a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist, admonished someone who was about to swat a fly, "Don't kill that fly; he is rubbing his hands together."

Of all forms of Buddhism, Jodo Shinshu is particularly sensitive to all of us living at the expense of other forms of life (including vegetarians.) We are self-centered and want to be blameless, but no one is.

A new book, *How to Believe in God*, by Clark Strand is based on the Jodo Shinshu interpretation of the New Testament. Strand is a former editor of *Tricycle* magazine.

Sensei related a Catholic nun's commentary from his early school days: "The wise man learns from his own mistakes. The wisest man learns from the mistakes of others."

Soka Gakkai is putting the environment first with an "on the bandwagon approach."

In gassho,
Pat Bobrow

Hatsumairi or "First Visit" is a Jodo Shinshu tradition that acknowledges the baby's first visit to the temple. It is the parents' announcement before Buddha and the sangha of the birth of their child, and is an expression of their gratitude. Parents resolve to nurture the newborn child as a potential Buddha, and to reflect upon the causes and conditions in their lives.

Hatsumairi ceremony will be held during the 10:00 a.m. service of October 4, 2009. Although this ceremony identifies the presentee as infants, children of all ages are welcome. If you would like to present your child(ren) at this happy occasion, please return the completed registration form below and **return it to Seattle Buddhist Church, 1427 S Main St, Seattle, WA 98144** or call the temple office **by September 31, 2009**. Dharma School representative will contact you with details. If you have questions, please direct them to the temple office at (206) 329-0800 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

2009 Hatsumairi Registration

Child's Name

(B)oy/(G)irl

Month/Day/Year of Birth

Parents Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____
City State Zip Code

Phone _____ E-mail _____