



Obon: When Two Makes One

By Rinban Don Castro

I very much like the fact that our temple observes Obon over a two weekend span with the Obon/Hatsubon Service occurring first followed by the Bon Odori festival a week later. There are some small BCA temples that only have an Obon/Hatsubon Service without the dancing.

For many years, Spokane with its many new members was one of those temples. Whenever I spoke at Spokane's Obon service, I would tell the new members unfamiliar with Obon that they were observing only half of Obon. To get the full meaning of Obon they also needed dancing; the two makes one and I believe it is most appropriate for the dancing to follow the Obon service just as Seattle does.

For me, the Hatsubon Service is the most solemn of the year. At that one service, all the families who have held a funeral, who have suffered the loss of a loved one since the last Obon come at the same time to honor their loved one's memory and reaffirm their

continued on page 2

What's Inside

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Rinban Message,
President's Message | 6 Town Hall,
Got an Idea? |
| 2 Dharma School,
Musical Notes | 6 Scholarship Essays
7 Scholarship Essays
8 Scholarship Essays |
| 3 Membership,
Women in Buddhism
Conference, Wanted:
Veterans' Photos | 9 Dharma Exchange,
Bon Odori Schedule
10 BCA/CBE Event |
| 4 Seattle Betsuin
Buddhist Women's
Association (SBBWA) | 10 Women in
Buddhism Conference
Registration |
| 5 Donations to
Seattle Buddhist
Church | 11 Betsuin Events
12 Contact
Information |

President's Message

by Yukio Morikubo

It's time to flip those chickens!

In his Dharma Message to the BCA National Council this past February, Rev. Mas Kodani said "If you are not an active member of your temple...[i]f you are not flipping chickens or arguing with the *Fujinkai*, you do not understand Jodo Shinshu. You can't!" His simple point is that by being active in your Sangha you are part of a community that will see you through the ups and downs of life, and at the same time allow you to see and understand yourself more clearly.

Bon Odori is the Seattle Betsuin's largest undertaking each year and it's a great opportunity to put Kodani Sensei's words into action. Yes, it's a fundraiser. But it's also an opportunity for each of us to connect with each other and to learn more about ourselves through the mirror that is our Sangha. Working together for a common purpose lies at the foundation of any Sangha, and our annual Bon Odori festival is the single, most visible instance of that in Seattle. At Bon Odori, we host our broader community to a street party in the sun and warmth of midsummer. And it's a BIG party.

So I hope you'll join us (again) this year to flip chickens, among other things, at Obon. There's a role for you, whatever your interests, capabilities and limitations. Thanks to our entire Obon committee, and particularly to Chairperson Ron Hamakawa and to dance leader Gwen Florence, for taking on the responsibility (again) for leading all of us in this undertaking. And thanks to each of you for being part of our Sangha. See you at Obon!

- Rinban's Message continued from page 1

spiritual unity with them. The service truly expresses the spirit of Sangha with each family both grieving their own loss while simultaneously extending condolences to everyone else who has also suffered a loss. As a minister, I have been a part of every family's grieving process.

The week following the Obon Service, with much preparation, hard work and fun, we have our Bon Odori Festival. Through this festival, there is a reaffirmation of the joy and value of life while also reminding us of our heritage; whether cultural, spiritual and/or family. "Just like in the old days" is an expression that joins dancers spiritually with their ancestors who performed the same dances. I see the joy in their faces. Yet, one need not be of Japanese descent to enjoy the spirit of the dance just as one need not be of Indian descent to appreciate the spirit of the Buddha's teaching. So, as I said, for the true meaning of Obon the two have to be one. On week one, family graves are visited and cleaned and the tears may flow. Week two brings smiles, joy and laughter. The two weeks express the fullness of life.

As for Spokane, due to the efforts of relatively new member Eileen Tanaka who was a Bon Odori instructor at San Jose Betsuin before moving to Spokane, Bon Odori has been successfully reintroduced to Spokane. Congratulations!

Dharma School submitted by Joyce Tsuji



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

We hope everyone enjoyed the last day of Dharma school potluck and activities! Thank you to those who contributed delicious dishes, their precious time and energy!

We would like to congratulate our perfect attendance award winners for the past year Adlai and Danilo Murata, Kaya and Nathan!

Classroom Reports

1st/2nd Grade Our year wrapped up with more discussion of the Four Grattitudes pertaining to country. For Memorial Day we made red, white, and blue "windsocks" from plastic cups and streamers. These can also be used for their Fourth of July celebration. For Father's day we decorated "DAD" magnets with pictures of the students wearing their newspaper kabuto hats in them! You can see our cool picture below. We look forward to seeing all our students both new and old in the fall!



Have a terrific summer!

Musical Notes: submitted by Kemi Nakabayashi The Betsuin Choir is taking some time off regular weekly rehearsals after performing *Hana wa Saku* for the All Sangha Memorial Service on June 8 and singing at Nikkei Manor on June 11. *Hana wa Saku (Flowers Will Bloom)* was produced by NHK radio in Japan to build public support for the March 11, 2011 tsunami disaster recovery efforts. The lyrics are a message from those who lost their lives to the people they left behind. The original recording of the song included television personalities, actors, athletes and others with ties to the affected communities and gained popularity, rising to the top of the Japan music charts. The choir selections at Nikkei Manor included *Hana wa Saku*, Japanese folk tunes and some recognizable English tunes, featuring Mas Tamekuni on ukulele and Jim Norton on clarinet and saxophone. Like Rinban Castro's mother, the Nikkei Manor residents particularly enjoyed *On the Sunny Side of the Street*.

Content decisions for the new Seattle Tacoma service book is progressing. We appreciate feedback from the sangha regarding the gathas and the recent sutra chanting information and instruction from Rev. Kusunoki for this project. We will try using some of the Sunday summer services as opportunities to review new gathas, starting with Sunday, July 6. Anyone interested is welcome to arrive early on Sunday, July 13 to practice singing Obon gathas immediately prior to the Obon service.



ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE...

We would like to “thank” the following regular members, for contributing their annual Ijikai dues (the basic dues toward the Temple maintenance/operations). This is the list of those paid members for the fiscal year of 2014, since the last posting.

Don & Karen Akira; Gaylen Akira; Michael & Carol Aoki-Kramer; Pat Bobrow; Lisa Butler; Gordon Habu & Mae Yamasaki; Miyuki Hanada; Steve Harada; Yoshiye Iwamura; Ann Kashiwa; Gary & Madeline Kato; Janet Kosai; Chieko Kubota; Shogo & Fusako Kusumi; Eric & Betty Nakashima; Ruby Nakamura; Joe & Carolyn Schwab; Kiyoko Takashima; Lori Tanaka; Nami Tanaka; Joe & Hideko Terada; Jeff & Susie Yamane; Steve & Valerie Yamasaki; Kevin & Kari Ann Yokoyama

*AS A REMINDER: The minimum for 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, 2014.** If you have any questions about your membership status, contact the Betsuin office: 206-329-0800 or office@seattlebetsuin.com. (compiled by HL, SO, & PS)

September 20 and the third annual Women in Buddhism Conference will be here before we know it. It’s time to complete a registration form (available on the temple website, in the temple foyer, and on page 10 of this newsletter) and guarantee your place at the event. submitted by Ann Oxrieder

This year’s presenters promise to bring new information and insights. They are:

- Rev. Midori Kondo, Associate Minister at Honpa Hongwanji, Hilo Betsuin and Resident Minister of Lihue Hongwanji Mission, ret.; She will focus on “nembutsu”.
- Sierra Lee- Brenner, Licensed Mental Health Counselor and Board Certified Art Therapist, will help us create mandalas as a contemplative expression with a focus on Buddhism.
- Carol O’Dowd, Resident Minister, Longmont (Colorado) Buddhist Temple, says: “My commitment to women’s issues has been consistent throughout my career in public service having served on various Boards and Commissions addressing women in government, economic development, business and religion.” Her presentation will be titled, “Eleven Worthy Women”.

If you have attended this conference, like most attendees you took something positive away from the experience and found it worthwhile. If you haven’t yet been, we know you’ll appreciate having the chance to take advantage of this rare opportunity to learn from other women Buddhists.



Hiro
Nishimura

Betsuin Archives Committee is seeking members who served in the U.S. Armed Forces

both active and in reserves, in uniform. The display of 93 photos at BonOdori always attracts attention each year. We’d like to continue to honor those

members who have served our country. Please submit photos to the Betsuin church office by **July 6** so I can print it and mount them. Thanks. Gassho, Sat



SBBWA Submitted by Janet Baba and Kanako Kashima

Youth Exchange: The Youth Exchange Committee is very proud to announce that Rosie Yasukochi, from our Seattle Betsuin Temple and Kristi Fukunaga from the Oregon Buddhist Temple have been chosen to represent BCA FBWA for the Exchange Program to Japan. The dates for this summer's exchange are July 16-29. During this visit, the youths will have an opportunity to visit the Nishi Hongwanji in Kyoto, meet with Lady Ruzumi Ohtani, and have a homestay experience with a family in Hokkaido, Japan. Our congratulations to Rosie and Kristi!

Bon Odori: Preparations are being made this year's Bon Odori Festival to be held on July 19 & 20. SBBWA will be serving gyoza, a new item, as well our favorite barazushi for food choices. We also have our Craft Booth, which will be selling a large variety of crafts in addition to yukata, happi, odori items, necklace charms, flower pins, and more. Please sign up for a shift or two, at any of our booths, if you are able to help. Our dance instructors will be adding two new obon dances this year. Obon dance practice will begin on July 7. We are looking forward to this summer's Obon dances, with the Bling-Bling rings, the Year of the Horse designed t-shirts, and delicious food choices!

FBWA Conference: 43rd FBWA Conference will be held at The Hotel Irvine Jamboree Center, Irvine, CA, on October 10-12, 2014. "Sharing Our Life Stories as Buddhists," is the theme of the conference, which features the stories of nine speakers, who will share their own diverse stories. This conference is held jointly by Southern District Buddhist Conference & Southern District Dharma School Teachers League. Early Bird registration cost is \$150, which includes Saturday lunch and banquet. If interested in attending, please register for this 3-day Conference with Machiko Wada & Joyce Kato.

World Buddhist Women's Convention: SBBWA has submitted 21 names of members who are interested in attending the 15th World Buddhist Women's Convention, to be held in Calgary, Alberta Canada. The convention dates are May 30 & 31, 2015. Final payment for registration is due to SBBWA on November 1, 2014. Hotel payment will be due in February 1, of 2015. Side tours to Eastern Canada, Canadian Rocky, and Western Canada are being offered. Please see Machiko Wada or Joyce Kato for World Convention Information. Gassho, Janet

Please! Volunteer to work at Bon Odori on July 19, 20!



Mae Deguchi, Darlene Shimizu making crafts for Bon Odori Booth.

Fran Tamekuni, Lisa Butler, Florence Sumida preparing flower pins for the Craft Booth.



Breakfast for lunch at the Temple with Steve and Fujie Yamasaki



Shizu Kaku, Kazumi Shimizu, & Judith Nakamura preparing crafts.



Paper Flower Pin

Calendar

Obon/Hatsubon Service	July 13
Betsuin Bon Odori	July 19, 20
SBBWA Cabinet Mtg.	July 27

JULY BUDDHIST STUDY GROUP

submitted by Leonora Clarke

The Buddhist Study Group will meet on Saturday, July 5 at 9:30-11:30am in the Memorial Hall Chapel. We will to discuss two readings - *Shinran's Gospel of Pure Grace* by Alfred Bloom, and *Buddha Nature: True self as action* by Sallie B. King. If you are interested in either of these readings, please email Leonora Clarke at clarkel@uw.edu to receive a pdf. Everyone is welcome to stay for brown bag lunch afterward. There is no cost to attend.

The Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations April - May 2014

Funeral / Memorial / Nokotsudo:

		<u>Given by:</u>
Tamiko Santon – Funeral Service	\$ 1,200.00	Daniel Santon
Warren Koichi Suzuki – Funeral Service	\$ 800.00	Kanemi Suzuki
Mineko Okamura – Funeral Service	\$ 500.00	Trisha Morton
Norio Harui – First Year Memorial	\$ 300.00	Margaret Robey
Masayoshi Kosai – Nokotsudo	\$ 300.00	Janet Kosai
Kiyoshi Yasui – 3 rd Year Memorial	\$ 300.00	Ruby Yasui
Takako Taki – In Memory of	\$ 200.00	Noboru Taki
Jene Deguchi – First Year Memorial	\$ 200.00	Ross Hori
Toshio Harada – In Memory of	\$ 100.00	May Harada
Yasu Taki – In Memory of	\$ 100.00	Taki Properties Ltd.
Masao & Sumiko Yamaguchi – Nokotsudo	\$ 100.00	Barbara McMillon
Gladys & Grace Hamano - Nokotsudo	\$ 100.00	Mary Yoshifuji
Mineko Okamura – In Memory of	\$ 100.00	Steve & Elizabeth Okamura
	\$ 100.00	Trisha Morton

Remembrances for:

Given by:

Gayle Hoshino	Don & Karen Akira; Rev. Don & Shuri Castro; Katsumi & Terrie Tanino
James Matsuoka	Katsumi & Terrie Tanino
Mineko Okamura	Mitsue Fujii; Sue Fujino; Michael Higa; Toshiko Isomura; Daisy Kuramoto; Takiko Miyauchi; Mutual Fish Co., Inc.; Terry Nakano; Akiko Narusawa; Peggy Tanemura; Masaru & Anna Tahara; Fumiye Taniguchi; Mary Yoshimi; Harry Yoshimura
Tomiko Okano	Sue Fujino; Miyoko Kaneta; Masaru & Anna Tahara
Warren Koichi Suzuki	Takiko Miyauchi
George Taketa	Don & Karen Akira

Temple Supervision:

Spokane Buddhist Temple	\$ 100.00
Yakima Buddhist Temple	\$ 100.00

Wedding:

Matthew May & Rosalie Towne	\$400.00
-----------------------------	----------

General Donations:

Seattle Betsuin Camp Fire	Appreciation for earning Karuna Award by Sela Chinn; Amanda Hamakami; Meghan Horn; Emily Ko; Kayla Honmyo; Emi Nakashima;
Barry Onouye	General Donation
Shogo & Fusako Kusumi	General Donation
Yukio & Karen Morikubo	General Donation
Enmanji Temple	General Donation
Tami Arinobu	General Donation – United Way and Costco (matching)
Ashley Topacio	General Donation for Hanamatsuri Lunch

“Town Hall” Dharma Exchange On 20 April 2014, the Betsuin leadership held an all sangha "Town Hall" meeting to discuss and solicit feedback on Communications and Membership related issues. On 18 May 2014, Calvin Terada posted a draft work plan on a newly created Betsuin sangha Facebook group for everyone's review. The new Facebook group is called "Seattle Betsuin - Sangha" and everyone is encouraged to obtain an account and review the documents posted. This Facebook group is just one tool that will be used to implement the work plan and improve communication with the temple membership. The next steps for Communication and Membership will be to seek input to the work plan and then gather the volunteers to begin work plan implementation. Work will go on through the summer with a plan to report out again on progress on the late Fall 2014.

If anyone has questions about the process, products, or next steps, please let me know. I can be reached at calterada@comcast.net

Got an idea for a new religious, cultural or social program at the temple? Throughout the month of June you can submit your ideas on-line at seattlebetsuin.uservoice.com. The site allows everyone to make programming related suggestions, view all other suggestions and vote for the program ideas you like the best. Using a browser on your computer please visit the site, add your ideas and vote.

Your votes will help prioritize the best use of our precious volunteer time and funding. You get 10 votes which you can spread around or weight them giving up to 10 votes to a single idea. Yes, you can vote now and change your votes later if a more interesting idea appears. Check back often and make your final distribution of votes by July 1, 2014.

Remember, this site is only for religious, cultural or social programming with the goal of increasing participation and membership in the temple. Ideas for other areas of temple operations are also important but will not be counted. Thanks in advance for spending a few minutes checking out this site, sharing your ideas and voting.

Submitted by Alan Hoshino

TEMPLE SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY by Rosie Y.



I am proud to have acquired a multitude of life lessons from the people here and in the BCA at large. From Dharma School, I learned the basics of Buddhism, and that one should always be compassionate, giving, and respectful to others. From the ministers, I learned how to write and deliver a Dharma Talk, as well as how to chant, ring the Kansho, and lead service. From my friends I learned to be caring and outgoing, how to have fun, how to be a leader, as well as the fact that you're never too old to order the kids' bento at New Years. Needless to say, a lot of the life skills I've learned in my 17 years have come from Buddhism.

I think that the first tidbit of true wisdom I received was in elementary school when I first joined temple. We were studying the Noble Eightfold Path: Right View, Thought, Speech, Conduct, Livelihood, Effort, Mindfulness,

and Meditation. I have a specific memory of the difficulties in memorizing it. However, over the years I've come to realize that the point of the Noble Eightfold Path isn't so much the title of each part. It's the meaning behind them. Sure, it's nice to be able to list them, but if you don't understand them their purpose hasn't been fulfilled. From Buddhism I learned that, although many things take time to grasp, such time often only increases their value and the usefulness of what you've learned.

Another instance of intrigue and enlightenment I experienced was during the YAC retreat in Sacramento, California. YAC, or "Youth Advocacy Committee," is a BCA organization that helps bring young Buddhists together from everywhere in the US. At the YAC retreat, I had my first taste of what it is to be a Youth Minister's Assistant. Amongst the many valuable lessons I learned about Buddhism, I think that the most important was how to be a part of a community. At YAC, I made a ton of new friends, and slowly came to the realization that no matter where I go, there will always be something that connects me to the people I interact with. Now, what that something is may not always be as obvious as being Buddhist at a Buddhist retreat. In fact, it probably won't. However, that doesn't mean that it won't exist; you just have to take the time and have the patience to find it. From Buddhism I learned to not judge others and assume I

will not get along with them. Instead, it taught me to put myself out there, and keep an open mind. Life isn't simple enough that everyone can just wear a nametag the first time you meet them saying, "Hi, I am going to be your friend!" or even the opposite. That's what makes it so interesting and exhilarating to live.

I could continue, but the fact is that there are a seemingly infinite number of life lessons one can learn from Buddhism, seeing how they are all interconnected in some way or another. There is also an easy way to combine them in different combinations to create new ones, almost like how Jelly Belly Jelly Beans can be combined to make new flavors. Buddhism doesn't so much give you a pre-determined recipe to nirvana as it does a general path with multiple side-routes, some on the map, some off. Some of these lessons you get to find with others, and a lot take your own personal time and patience to figure out. It's impossible to learn them all, and master even the slightest fraction of them. But I think that that's part of being a Buddhist: realizing that sometimes, you just don't know. And that's fine.

"What life skills has Buddhism taught you?"

by Aiko M-C.



Buddhism has taught me many things. When I was younger I didn't like going to church; I thought it was pointless. Now, as I have encountered many different kinds of situations I've come to realize that those Sundays sitting in church, listening to the Reverends and Rimbans share stories have had a bigger impact on my life than I thought. The ideas presented to me seemed very simple at the time. Nothing was permanent, being selfless and helping others was more rewarding than only thinking about yourself, and honesty is very important. These practices are easy to remember and to tell yourself, but the only way to really understand what they, and Buddhism as a whole, are saying is to put them into practice. Childhood is the time with the most change and growth. We are learning how to become little adults, then

eventually we graduate to becoming big adults, but the time in between we are still figuring everything out. My whole life has been about sports and I thought it always would be; I'd forgotten one of the most basic Buddhist teachings, impermanence. I wasn't prepared for it to end, even temporarily. But it did. I needed to have knee surgery after injuring myself while playing volleyball, and afterward it felt like my life was over. At that point I drowned in self-pity, until I finally realized that there were still other things out there. It wasn't all about me, and my life was not over. When I was younger I had been taught to think about others and that though one thing may end, a door may close, there will always be another open one. These were the things Buddhism had taught me at a young age; the things I had forgotten when I got caught up in the business of everyday life. Now I had nothing keeping me busy. I couldn't play sports, something that took up most of my time before, and my life seemed to have slowed down. This is the point at which I finally realized that there was still another door, and I would be okay no matter what happened. I am now looking forward to a new life in college. I wouldn't have been able to move on as well or as quickly if I hadn't learned how to earlier in life.

Scholarship Essay by Ken B.

Attending the Seattle Buddhist Church has had a significant positive impact on my life and how I choose to live it. Through Dharma school classes, I have learned values and skills that have helped me get through challenges at home, in school, and at work. Although lately I have had to miss temple due to responsibilities such as work, I never forget the skills that I have developed while attending, and they never stop guiding me.

Thanks to Buddhism, I've learned to be more grateful and appreciative of all the things I used to always take for granted. The biggest example is the relationship between me and my grandmother. After hearing a number of sermons given about appreciation and gratitude, I finally realized that although my grandma is annoying and frustrating, she makes my life so much easier for me, and she is always thinking of others rather than herself. She cooks me dinner, picks me up from school, takes care of my dog during the day, and helps me do laundry. I used to never fully appreciate these things she did for me, and I used to say "thank you" only half of the time. Now, I make sure to thank her every time, and show my gratitude by doing things for her and helping her without having to be asked to do so.

Buddhism has also taught me patience and understanding. These life skills have allowed me to cope

with situations I used to have difficulty handling. For example, I would still have difficulty appreciating my grandma, because I would forget she is just trying to help me, and I would lose my temper with her. Now, I understand her intentions and appreciate her for who she is and what she does for me. Patience and understanding have also made making friends easier for me in school, since I now try harder to view things from others' perspectives, rather than quickly judging them from my own view. These skills have also helped me at work, where they allow me to cope with irritating customers and co-workers. In a situation where I otherwise would have liked to yell at the customer out of anger, I can stay calm and friendly and keep my job.

Embracing the Dharma teachings has made my life easier to enjoy, and has enabled me to become a better person. I have a broader view of life and a greater understanding of the people around me thanks to Buddhism. Without the values I have learned at Seattle Buddhist Church, I would not be the person I am today.

Scholarship Essay by Harrison C.



Religion and science have not always coexisted well with each other. With Buddhism, it is a different story. Buddhism has allowed for science to not only coexist but also support the Dharma. As a Buddhist, I can practice the Dharma and also study the natural world without contradiction. Currently, I am in the biochemistry major at the University of Washington. Focusing on the biological side of chemistry, I want to explore the chemical reactions and processes inside the human body. My studies of biology and chemistry have reinforced my understanding of Buddhism.

As a Buddhist, I reflect and attempt to understand my actions and emotions. How I perceive things around me are dependent on my attitude. By adjusting my attitude, I can see the brighter side of things. The assessment of myself parallels with my study of biology and human anatomy. I have just finished the introductory series of Biology and have been continually taking chemistry classes. My better understanding of the human

anatomy has advanced my awareness of suffering and the interconnections of life.

Suffering is a major aspect in Buddhism. Understanding that there is suffering, why we suffer and how to end suffering are tenets of the Four Noble Truths. Suffering can come from desires, our ignorance and illness. Biology explores the physical reasons of illnesses. So far I have examined different sicknesses caused by bacteria, viruses and cancer. Even though I have learned the biological reasons for pain and suffering of the body, other aspects of suffering can't be solved by science. Greed, desire and envy are other types of suffering that biology can't remedy. Sure, different chemicals in the brain are present when feeling these types of suffering, but a change in how one thinks and behaves can stop the suffering. The remedy for these types of suffering isn't with medication, but with is the Eighth Fold Path. With the right view, thought, speech, conduct, livelihood, effort, mindfulness, and meditation, can someone get past their suffering. In combination, Buddhism and science can alleviate the physical and emotional suffering.

Along with a better understanding of suffering, I have found a whole new meaning for interconnectedness through biology. At the macro level, species depend on each other food chain wise, symbiotically and competitively. For example, the hawk eats the snake, which eats the mouse, which eats seeds. The seeds are produced by plants that depend on sunlight and nutrients from animals that passed away. This huge series of connected pieces is seen ecologically and also inside our bodies. Many different organs and structures throughout the body determine blood pressure. The heart doesn't just determine our blood pressure. Kidneys control blood volume and can control the size of arteries and veins throughout the body. The brain can also control the heart and kidneys to help raise or lower blood pressure. Senses such as sight, touch and hearing can signal the brain, controlling these organs. This interconnectedness correlates with our Golden Chain. Just as our actions affect those around us, infections in a specific location can spread systemically, leading to the whole body being affected.

My studies in biology and chemistry have reinforced my grasp of interconnectedness and suffering, agreeing with my understanding of Buddhism. Through my time at college, I will be continuing to study biochemistry and I will be aware of the connections between Buddhism and science. And, wherever my career takes me, into the medical field, pharmaceuticals or research, I will continue to be conscious of Buddhism and science's relationship. ##

Notes on Dharma Exchange

May 25, 2014 Rinban Castro served at Enmanji Temple 28 years ago and found it was a wonderful experience to return and note the many changes. Every day we are alive has value. Sensei said the Nembutsu is a way of remembering. He said nature and the power of ego were subjects of discussion while he visited Enmanji. He commented that in Japanese culture there is rigidity as well as gracefulness. We often hear of Japanese fathers being harsh in their dealings with family. This was not the case with two Betsuin members who were both raised in a Buddhist minister's family. Their respective fathers insisted on studying hard, but they both received kind and gentle discipline.

June 1 - Irene Goto M.A. at Dharma Exchange posed the question, "What does Sangha mean to you? Many answers came forth including, a group of people who support each other, especially beneficial to children who observe and learn. . .Irene recounted how she felt when the entire sangha came forward to offer incense at the All Sangha Memorial service while the San Butsu ge was chanted. . . She reminded everyone that Dharma School is providing luncheon and children's activities on June 8 celebrating the last day of Dharma School until Fall. . .Lastly, she offered Rev. Ohtani's interpretation of The Three Treasures - the Buddha, the teaching, and those who come together.

June 8 - Rev. Jim Warrick did a quick review of how to conduct a service including Naijin etiquette for the Dharma School Dads who participated in the service. After the service one of the dads said, "There's a lot more to it than just walking around up there." . . The Naijin is regarded as a sacred place, and some people are not at ease there. Sensei said Rinban Castro will be away the entire month of August, and he is aware that Castro sensei is in favor of more participation in the services by the Sangha. Warrick Sensei thought it would be a meaningful and rewarding experience for Dharma Exchange participants to help conduct the service and suggested tentatively August 17. Rosalie passed around a sign-up sheet. . . Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki will visit the Seattle Betsuin and conduct a Japanese seminar and chanting workshops. This sensei is the most highly regarded in the BCA for his deep knowledge of chanting. See June newsletter.

June 15 Rev. Jim Warrick openly asked about his Dharma talk of today. He received various replies of encouragement including the comment of one participant who said it was easier to understand him because he spoke a little more slowly than usual. . .Sensei asked if anyone knew what is a Patika Buddha. He explained it is an enlightened being who has chosen not to teach. . . A participant commented it is quite common in India for a man to leave his family in a spiritual search. . .A new summer music program is being planned. . . Sensei explained the reason he would like Dharma Exchange participants to help conduct a service in the naijin is mainly for the religious experience for each person, and secondarily to have fun doing it. . . The schedule for chanting will be emailed to those who requested it.

In gassho,
Pat Bobrow



BON ODORI PRACTICE:
July 7, 8, 9 from 7:30 – 9:00 pm
July 10 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm
July 14, 15 from 7:30 – 9:00 pm



BON ODORI CONSTRUCTION/SET-UP:
July 17th 6:30 pm and July 18th 6:30 pm
Please! Volunteer to work - sign-up for at least one shift on the dining room hall wall ASAP!



Buddhist Churches of America CENTER FOR BUDDHIST EDUCATION

AUGUST 2014 Sat. 8/9: 1 - 4 pm *FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC* **Lecture** presented in conjunction with the Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course August Workshop "**Neither Nun nor Laywoman: Renunciation & the Female Lifecycle in Pre-Modern Japan**" Guest Speaker: **Dr. Lori Meeks**, University of Southern California

Registration for
The Third Annual Women in Buddhism Conference at Seattle Buddhist Temple
a day to gain understanding of the connection between Buddhism and women's everyday lives
"To think of the Buddha is to be thought of by the Buddha"

Saturday

September 20, 2014

9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Presenters:



**Reverend
Midori Kondo**

Associate Minister at Honpa Hongwanji
Hilo Betsuin, Resident Minister of Lihue
Hongwanji Mission, Retired



Sierra Lee-Brenner

Licensed Mental Health Counselor and
Board Certified Art Therapist, Seattle &
Bainbridge Is...*mandala as a
contemplative expression with a focus
on Buddhism...*



**Reverend
Carol O'Dowd**

Resident Minister, Longmont Buddhist
Temple, Longmont, CO, Mountain
District, Buddhist Churches of America

Registration is required so that we can provide meals for participants: Cost: \$35 per person which includes lunch; you may choose vegetarian in registration form below. **Please register by Sunday, September 14, 2014** Questions: Contact the temple office at 206.329-0800 or email at office@seattlebetsuin.com. Send completed form & check payable to: Seattle Betsuin Religious Department , Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Church, 1427 S Main Street, Seattle, WA 98144 Attention: Etsu Shimbo. *Thank you for registering. It will be a wonderful day!*

Detach below and mail:

September 20, 2014 Women in Buddhism Conference Registration Form - Please print

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Amount enclosed: \$35 for conference and lunch: \$ _____ check here for **vegetarian:**

Donation: \$ _____ Thank you for your *dana*.

Total Enclosed: \$ _____ Check number: _____

Betsuin Events for July 2014

MOST SUNDAYS – confirm Sundays listed below. All are invited:

- 8:45 am MEDITATION SERVICE at 1441 S. Main St; Sutra Chanting, 20-minute meditation, discussion.
10:00 am SERVICE - in Hondo (main sanctuary) includes Sutra Chanting, singing, and Dharma Talk
11:00 am DHARMA EXCHANGE – in dining room, Q/A, dialogue with minister and ministers assistants

MOST WEDNESDAYS **10:30 am DHARMA SUPPORT GROUP with Meditation takes place at 1441 S. Main St.

SUNDAYS

- July 6 8:45 am Meditation Service
10:00 pm FAMILY SERVICE
Family: Rinban Castro
Japanese Program
DX: Rinban Castro
- July 13
8:45 am Meditation Service (Rinban Castro)
10:00 am OBON/HATSUBON SERVICE
Family: Rinban Castro
Japanese Program
DX: TBD
1:00 pm Obon Service at Evergreen Washelli Cemetery (Northgate)
3:00 pm Obon Service at Sunset Hills Memorial Park (Bellevue)
- July 20 SEATTLE BON ODORI
3:00 – 8:00 Hondo, food booths, displays open
4:30 pm Obon Service in Hondo
5:00 – 8:00 pm Dancing
- July 21 Rinban Castro (Day Off)
- July 27 Rev. Warrick in Yakima for Obon
8:45 am Meditation Service (Rinban Castro)
10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE
Family: Rinban Castro
Japanese Program
DX: Rinban Castro
11:30 am SBBWA Cabinet Meeting

MONDAYS

- July 7, 14, 21, 28 Rinban Castro (Days Off)
July 7, 14 7:30 – 9:00 pm Obon Dance Practice

TUESDAYS June 30 – July 2 BCA Ministers' Fuken at Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkley

- July 8 Rinban Castro (Study Day Off)
7:30 – 9:00 pm Obon Dance Practice
July 15 Rinban Castro (Study Day Off)
7:30 – 9:00 pm Obon Dance Practice
July 22
10:30 am Keiro Service (Rinban Castro)

Please! Volunteer to work at Bon Odori on July 19, 20 – Sign-up in basement hall for time and work slots.

WEDNESDAYS

- June 30 – July 2 BCA Ministers' Fuken at Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkley
July 2 10:30 am Dharma Support Group
July 9 10:30 am Dharma Support Group (Rinban)
7:30 – 9:00 pm Obon Dance Practice
July 16
10:00 am Shinran Shonin Monthly Memorial Service (Rinban Castro)
10:30 am Dharma Support Group (Rinban Castro)
July 23 10:30 am Dharma Support Group (Rinban)
July 30 10:30 am Dharma Support Group (Rinban)
- THURSDAYS**
July 3 1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rinban)
July 10 7:00 – 9:00 pm Obon Dance Practice
July 17 6:30 pm Bon Odori
Construction/Set-up

FRIDAYS

- July 4** Closed for Independence Day
July 18 6:30 pm Bon Odori Construction/Set-up
July 25 – 27 NWYBL Retreat

SATURDAYS

- July 5 9:30 am – 12:30 pm Book Study Group – Continuation of June Study
July 12 **Obon Services:**
12:00 pm at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery (Queen Anne)
1:00 pm at Washington Memorial Park (Sea-Tac)
3:30 pm at Lake View Cemetery (Capitol Hill)
July 19 **SEATTLE BON ODORI:**
4:00 – 10:00 pm Hondo, food booths, displays open
5:30 pm Obon Service in Hondo
6:00 – 10:00 pm Dancing

August 2014: Major Events of Interest

- August 3 (Sunday) Atomic Bomb Victims' Memorial Service

**2014 August Newsletter Deadline:
Monday, July 21, 2014
8:00 pm**

Seattle Buddhist Church 1427 South Main Street
Seattle, WA 98144 **Tel:** (206) 329-0800
Fax: (206) 329-3703 **Office Hours:** Mon-Fri 9am-3pm
www.SeattleBetsuin.com; Office@SeattleBetsuin.com

Wheel of the Sangha
**A Monthly Newsletter of
Seattle Buddhist Church**

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE, WA
PERMIT No.

Seattle Betsuin Vision *Embrace true and real
life in Nembutsu*



Seattle Betsuin Mission *Promote, protect, and
share the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha*

July 12 **Obon Services:**
12:00 pm at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery (Queen Anne)
1:00 pm at Washington Memorial Park (Sea-Tac)
3:30 pm at Lake View Cemetery (Capitol Hill)

July 13 **Obon Services:**
10:00 am OBON/HATSUBON SERVICE Hondo
1:00 pm at Evergreen Washelli Cemetery (Northgate)
3:00 pm at Sunset Hills Memorial Park (Bellevue)

July 19 **SEATTLE BON ODORI:**
4:00 – 10:00 pm Hondo, food booths, displays open;
5:30 pm Obon Service in Hondo
6:00 – 10:00 pm Dancing

July 20 **SEATTLE BON ODORI:**
3:00 – 8:00 Hondo, food booths, displays open
4:30 pm Obon Service in Hondo
5:00 – 8:00 pm Dancing

OFFICE IS CLOSED JULY 4 FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

Ministers: Rimban Don Castro 24 hours: (206) 779 -2214 and Reverend Jim Warrick
Wheel of the Sangha NEWSLETTER Editors: English - Irene Goto Newsletter@SeattleBetsuin.com
Japanese - Machiko Wada Newsletter-Jpn@SeattleBetsuin.com

Deadline to submit articles is the third Monday of each month at 8:00 PM.