

Wheel of the Sangha

Volume 32 Issue 12 December 2013
A monthly publication by **Seattle Buddhist Church**

Take Refuge in the True and Real Light

Seattle Buddhist Church

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This
i☺s a Cover Page...
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For
Newsletter

Ministers

Rimban Don Castro
24 hours: (206) 779 -2214
Reverend Jim Warrick

Wheel of the Sangha NEWSLETTER

Editors: English - Irene Goto
Newsletter@SeattleBetsuin.com
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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*

Sunday, December 1 Temple Clean Up 10:45AM

**Saturday, December 7 5:30 pm Book Study Group Year End
Potluck and Video, *Streams of Light***

**Sunday, December 8 Bodhi Day Service
and Potluck Luncheon 11:45AM**

**Sunday, December 15 Seattle Betsuin
Annual General Meeting 11:00AM**

Wednesday, December 25 Office Closed for Christmas

Tuesday, December 31 New Year's Eve Service 7:00PM

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Information**

2 Calendar of Events

**Newsletter Deadline:
Monday,
December 16, 2013
8:00 pm**

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12 and 13 Notes on Dharma Exchange**

Betsuin Events for December 2013

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 – call office to confirm

SUNDAYS * 8:45 am Meditation Service

December 1

8:45 am Meditation Service
 10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE
 Youth: Rinban Castro
 Adult: Rev. Warrick
 DX and Japanese Program Cancelled
 10:45 am Temple Clean-up
 11:45 am Ministers & Minister's Assistants Meeting
 1:30 pm Sangha Award Class (MA Jason Yokoyama)

December 8

8:45 am Meditation Service
 10:00 am BODHI DAY SERVICE
 Family: Youth MA's Alissa Kato & Rose Yasukochi
 Japanese program
 DX: Rinban Castro
 11:45 am Bodhi Day Potluck hosted by Dharma School

December 15

8:45 am Meditation Service
 10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE
 Youth: MA Jason Yokoyama
 Adult: Rinban Castro
 DX and Japanese Program Cancelled
 11:00 am Betsuin Annual General Meeting
 1:30 pm Sangha Award Class (Rinban Castro)

December 22

8:45 am Meditation Service
 10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE (No Dharma School)

Family: MA Matt May
 Japanese Program
 DX: MA Matt May

December 29

8:45 am Meditation Service
 10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE (No Dharma School)

Family: MA Rosalie Town
 Japanese Program
 DX: Rosalie Town

MONDAYS

December 2 Rinban Castro (out of town)
December 16 10:00 am Shinran Shonin Monthly Memorial Service (Rinban Castro)

TUESDAYS

December 3 Rinban Castro (out of town)

December 24 10:30 am Keiro Service

December 31 7:00 pm New Year's Eve Service

WEDNESDAYS ** 10:30 am

December 4 Rinban Castro (out of town)

10:30 am Dharma Support Group (MA Joe Schwab)

December 11

10:30 am Dharma Support Group (Rinban Castro)

December 18

10:30 am Dharma Support Group (Rinban Castro)

December 25 Office Closed for Christmas

THURSDAYS

December 5 Rinban Castro (out of town)

1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (MA Irene Goto)

December 12

7:30 pm Betsuin Cabinet Meeting

December 19

1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rinban Castro)

7:30 pm Betsuin Board of Directors Meeting

FRIDAYS

December 6 Rinban Castro (out of town)

12:00 pm Gojikai Ho-Onko Service and Luncheon Meeting (MA Irene Goto)

SATURDAYS

December 7 5:30 pm Book Study Group Year End Potluck and Video,

December 28 All Day Mochi Making by Betsuin Youth Groups

January 2013: Major Events of Interest

January 1 (Wednesday) New Year's Day Service at 10:00 am

January 5 (Sunday) Betsuin New Year's Party & Installation of New Officers

January 12 (Sunday) Ho-onko Service



**2014 January Newsletter Deadline:
 Monday, December 16, 2013
 8:00 pm**



Waking Up to Climate Change

By Rinban Don Castro

On December 8, we will observe Bodhi Day – the actual date for the holiday falls on a Sunday for a change! Bodhi is the awakened mind. It is the mind that is in touch with the way things really are, as stated in the all-encompassing laws of impermanence and interdependence. These two laws are two aspects of the same existence; two sides of the same coin. Simply stated, everything is impermanent and changing yet, because of change everything is able to interrelate and interdepend.

When we focus on impermanence, I believe Buddhism tends to the psychological and individual; sickness, old age and death. The teaching of interdependence, on the other hand, brings out more the social nature of Buddhism. Of course, every individual is a part of society and the environment and society is comprised of individuals.

In our modern world, perhaps our greatest social threat is catastrophic climate change. Even as I write this article the Philippines is just beginning to recover from Typhoon Haiyan, one of the largest typhoons ever recorded with winds exceeding an astounding 200 mph! As I read the news this morning, I learned of the “calamitous storm system” in the Midwest that stretched over 12 states and gave rise to 14 tornadoes which destroyed or damaged 700 homes! Scientists have predicted that these kinds of catastrophes will become more common as greenhouse gasses continue to build up in our atmosphere at an alarming rate.

The Buddhist teachings so speak to our times! They are just as relevant today with our unique problems as they were in the time of the Buddha; the Dharma fits the circumstances. The teaching of interdependence allows us to appreciate how we are tied to both the past and the future. In recent years, I have often heard the phrase “Okagesama, because of you, I am well (just think of recent N.W. conventions). Will our grandchildren hold conventions with the theme: “Because of You I am Unwell”? A most passionate and compelling plea was given recently (BBC News, 10/22/13) by Christiana Figueres who has been the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for the last three years. The BBC article relates how Ms. Figueres “broke down in tears” at a meeting in London as she spoke about the impact of climate change on future generations, “I just feel that it is so completely unfair and immoral what we are doing to future generations, we are condemning them before they are even born.” Ms. Figueres went on to say, “We have a choice about it, that’s the point...If it were inevitable, then so be it. But we have a choice to change the future we are going to give our children.”

Returning to the teachings of Buddhism, one of the principle causes of pain and sorrow (dukkha) is ignorance. We cannot plead ignorance in the sense of, “I didn’t know” when we **choose** to ignore the facts – the scientific consensus that human activity is the direct cause of climate change. On Bodhi Day, let us choose not to ignore what is as clear as the nose on our face. Let us look in the mirror and face our responsibility, our mutual identity, with future generations.

As for our present global disasters, BCA is collecting donations for Philippines Relief to be given from the American Shin Buddhist community. For further information or to donate, go to the BCA website www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org or mail donations to the BCA Headquarters 1710 Octavia St., San Francisco, CA 94109 by December 31, 2013. Be sure to mark your envelope “Philippines Relief.”

Another Memorable Month – November!

Friday, November 2 – English Workshop with 4 IMOP Ministers



Photos courtesy of Sat Ichikawa

Sunday, November 3 Eitaikyo-Muen Hoyo with Ochigo Procession

Thank you to all who were involved in the very meaningful Eitaikyo MuenHoyo Service. Thank you especially to the ethereal boys and girls who donned the beautiful costumes and participated in the procession. It was extra special this year to have live Gagaku music and the visiting IMOP (International Ministerial Orientation Program) ministers. In gassho, Yvette Terada



Sunday, November 10 Dharma Exchange welcomed Poet/Author Hiroshi Kashiwagi. Rinban Castro wrote, "Those of you who attended the retreats we had at Huston Conference Center will remember Hiroshi who spoke there twice; he was so popular the first year that we invited him and his wife [Sadako] for a second year. Hiroshi was the first editor of the American Buddhist in 1957. The American Buddhist later became the Wheel of Dharma and Hiroshi had an article in there some months back. He is an important person in the history of BCA and Japanese American literary scene." He is in Seattle with **Mary Matsuda Gruenewald** to promote their new book about surviving the Japanese American Concentration Camps & their friendship. See Pat Bobrow's Notes on Dharma Exchange on page 12 for details and photo of Mr. Kashiwagi.

Sunday, November 17, the documentary “Streams of Light,” the history of the BCA, was shown after a brief service and in lieu of a dharma talk. It will be shown again on December 7 at 5:30 for Study Group’s year-end potluck meeting. All are welcome to attend.

Musical Notes submitted by Kemi Nakabayashi This year’s Eitaikyo Muen Hoyo service on November 3 featured live gagaku music for the ochigo procession. How fortunate we were to have Rev. Kyojyo Inohara and Rev. Jyokou Takeuchi from Tsukiji Betsuin in Tokyo share their special instrumental skill and chanting expertise with us during their visit!



Photo courtesy of Kemi Nakabayashi



Photo courtesy of Sat Ichikawa

Emily and Emi played a rousing trombone and piano duet to lead the singing of *We Are One* for the children’s service on October 27. The full recap of the 5th annual autumn family music service will be submitted for the January Betsuin newsletter. However, I extend a year end thank you to Florence Sumida, Ben Dodobara, all the youth musicians and taiko instrumentalists, choir and ukulele band members for an especially music-filled year. Also after 4 years of using the music service version of Juseige, we tried the music service version of Sanbutsuge this time. The special effort of the ministerial staff and sangha to learn new music is gratifying. Anyone interested in participating in the singing of *May Peace Prevail* with the mass choir planned for opening service at the Northwest District convention in Portland in February may continue to review this gatha with the choir in January.

Please come to hear the Bodhi Ensemble again for the New Year’s Eve service and join in the ringing of the bonsho afterwards.



Bodhi Ensemble
performs at
Service
October 6, 2013



Horizon Camp Fire
conducts Children’s Service
October 27, 2013

Photos courtesy of Kemi Nakabayashi



Seattle Betsuin Newsletter



Photo courtesy of Sat Ichikawa

IMOP On Sunday, November 3, Rev. Kuwahara from the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley introduced 4 ministers from Japan as part of the IMOP (International Ministerial Orientation gram). Some of these ministers may be assigned to BCA. Their visit was an opportunity for them to see the diversity of the BCA and to use their English skills. Accompanying them were 2 ministers from Tsukiji Hongwanji in Tokyo who provided gagaku music for the ochigo procession and chanted Ojo Raisan for the November 10 service. - IHG

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 final list of those paid members for our **fiscal year of 2013**.

Eric & Carol Ashihara; Jean Aya Deguchi; Fumiyo Hanada; Norigiku Horikawa; Ken & Pam Horn; Larry Imamura; Hal Ise, Isako Kajimura; Bill Komoto; Hugh Matsubayashi & Ivy Chen; Yoshie Mikami; Akira Nakashima, Leslie Sumida; Fumiko Yamaguchi; Eileen Hamamoto-Yee; Fusae Yokoyama; Miyoko Yoshikawa;



“THANK YOU” TO ALL OUR 2013 ‘REGULAR’ MEMBERS’ for your continued support.

Mochi and Okasane Sales for New Years Tickets for mochi are available for sale on Sundays in the Hondo foyer prior to Service or can also be purchased at the Temple office during regular business hours. Mochi will be made on December 28 and will be available for pick-up on December 28 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM and on December 29 from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Mochi sales are primarily through ticket sales. Cash sales on December 28 and 29 are on as-available basis.



(example only)

For those wishing to reserve Okasane to celebrate New Year's, there is an order book in the Hondo foyer.

Prices are: Plain Mochi - \$4.00 (dozen)
Okasane - \$5.00 each.

In addition, we are planning to have Chi-Chi mochi for sale on a first come-first serve basis until supplies run out. These are not on a pre-order basis.

Thank you for your support as net proceeds will benefit Dharma School, Jr. YBA, Matsuri Taiko and other youth groups as appropriate.

Submitted by HL

SEATTLE BETSUIN BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION *Submitted by Joan Nakano*

SBBWA President's Message submitted by Janet Baba Looking Ahead to 2014: Board Members met on November 3 and held our election meeting.

Our Cabinet for 2014-15 will be:

Vice President (English): Joyce Kato
Vice President (Japanese): Machiko Wada
Recording Secretary (English): Janie Okawa
Recording Secretary (Japanese): Junko Nakano
Corresponding Secretaries -

(English): Kanako Kashima
(Japanese): Miyoko Yamazaki

Treasurer (English): Pending Confirmation
Treasurer (Japanese): Aiko Fujii
Auditor: Darlene Shimizu
Auditor: Kazumi Shimizu

I will have the privilege of being our president for the next two years.

In preparation for next year, our Cabinet and Committee Heads will meet on December 11 for our Annual Kambukai to organize our 2014 Standing Committees.

Sokai & Irokai: The Sokai/General Membership meeting was held on November 17. SBBWA Board, Honorary Directors and Members met to approve the Activities and Treasurer's Report and to hear from our Membership Committee. The 2014-15 Cabinet was introduced. The meeting ended with a gathering of our Monthly Toban Groups for a face-to-face meeting to introduce our new members to our former members. An Appreciation Luncheon was held for our Board Members and Honorary Directors following the General Membership Meeting.

Memorial Service: Photos and/or names of our 248 past members were shown for the first time on two screens in the hondo at our Annual Memorial Service on October 27. If families would like to have your SBBWA member's photo shown for future services, please e-mail a copy of the photo to sbbwamemorial@seattlebetsuin.com or have your photo scanned in the temple office. We appreciate Ed Kato, our video producer, for his expertise and time for his technical work.

Display cabinet: Have you ever passed the display case next to the Memorial Chapel entrance or the showcase next to the Memorial Hall outside doorway? Our member, Machiko Wada, assists Rinban in collecting and designing our cases. Presently our display features Lady Takeko Kujo, founder of the

Buddhist Women's Association, and Daruma or Dharma Doll. Visit our showcases for displays of culture and religion.

Flowers at Keiko & Nikkei Manor: Our flower lady, Kinue Ku-



wahara, prepares floral arrangements for our monthly Buddhist Service at Keiro and twice a month services at Nikkei Manor. Many of the flowers are supplied by flowers and greens from her personal garden. Rinban says flowers are important component of our Buddhist services. We are grateful to Kinue for her services.



Photo by Irene Goto

Inari Class: Miyoko Tazuma gave a cooking class for our members on November 6. Inarizushi, kaki and celery salad, and Matsutake soup were demonstrated. Members appreciated the lesson and thoroughly enjoyed the autumn luncheon, which followed. We are fortunate to have instructors to teach members the art of Japanese cuisine. See related photo on page 11.

Future Conventions:

- 67th NW Buddhist Convention - Portland, OR, February 7-9, 2014, Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel
- FBWA Conference - Irvine, CA, October 10-12, 2014, Hyatt Regency, Irvine
- World Buddhist Women's Convention - Calgary, Canada, May 30-31, 2015, TELUS Convention Centre
- FBWA Conference - NWBWA Hosting, October. 7-9, 2016, Bellevue Westin.

Donations - Submitted by Treasurer Shizue Kaku
Leanne Nishi-Wong, Michiko Toyoshima & Family

Calendar:

| | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| December 8 | Bodhi Day Service-Potluck Luncheon |
| December 11 | SBBWA Kambukai |
| December 15 | Betsuin General Meeting |
| December 31 | New Year's Eve Service |

continued on page 11...

Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations: Oct/Nov 2013

Funeral / Memorial / Nokotsudo:

Taverna Silahis – 5th Year Memorial

\$ 100.00

Given by:

Odette Polintan & David Della

Remembrances for:

Given by:

Mary Akada

Fran Shintaku

Gene Fugita

Daisy Kuramoto

Shizuka Taniguchi LaGrange

Kinue Kuwahara; Martha Taniguchi

Tomi Terao

Setsuko Harada

Masako Tomita

John & E. Lisa Duff; Mas Honmyo (Estate of); Ross Hori; Paul & Takako Kogita; Daisy Kuramoto; T. Jack Matsui; Pauline Sakuma; Sato & Darlene Shimizu; Fumiye Taniguchi; Martha Taniguchi; Merrily Taniguchi; Janet Terada; Leanne Nishi-Richard Wong; Sueko Yamaguchi

Temple Supervision:

Spokane Buddhist Church

\$ 100

General Donations:

SBBWA

Appreciation for Support of Memorial Service

Lisa Kaster

Onenju donations

Mike Higa

Onenju donation

Anonymous

General Donation

Michiko Yanagimoto

Appreciation for Affirmation Service

Kazumi Goshō

Appreciation for Affirmation Service

Anonymous

Appreciation for Affirmation Service

Miyo Kaneta

Appreciation for Affirmation Service

Kiyoko Nakanishi

General Donation

Pauline Yoshida

Appreciation for Onenju repair

SPECIAL SERVICE DONATIONS The Betsuin gratefully acknowledges the donations received for the following special service. If your name is not listed, the donation may have been received after the deadline for this newsletter and will be listed in the next edition. Please accept our apologies for any inadvertent misspelling of names:

Eitaikyo Aoyama, Masatoshi M. & Sayeko; Asaba, Marian; Baba, Janet; Deguchi, Mae; Desaki, Yasuko; Dodobara, Kenny & Yoshie; Eng, Patrick & Joann Kosai -; Fujii, Minoru & Aiko; Fujino, Suteko (Sue); Fukeda, George & Toshiko; Groves, Alan & Fumiko; Hanada, Miyuki; Hanada, Peggy; Harada, Setsuko; Hirasawa, Amy; Honmyo, Mas; Hoshino, Alan A.; Ichikawa, Satoru & Grace; Isomura, Toshiko; Kaku, Dale & Shizue; Kashima, Tetsuden & Cecilia Kanako; Katayama, Mary K.; Kato, Edward & Joyce; Kawaguchi, Miyoko; Kawahara, Ritsuko; Kawamoto, Masako; Keltner, Marc & Janice Nakamura -; Kobuki, Haruko; Kogita, Paul & Takako; Kojima, Esther; Kubo, Masayoshi & Masako; Kunihiro, Carolyn; Kuwahara, Kinue; Maeshiro, Fumiko; Mano, Andrea; Mano, George & Irene; McKinney, Susan Taketa -; Miyauchi, Takiko; Mori, Paul Bruce & Teresa; Nakabayashi, Kemi; Nakamura, Ruby; Nakamura, Yoshio & Judith; Nakanishi, Kiyoko; Nakano, Craig & Joan; Nakano, Junko; Natsuhara, Yasuko; Neves, Walt; Nishimura, Hiro & Dorothy; Nishizaki, Akio & Mabel; Okada, Emiko; Okamura, Ray & Mineko; Oye, Sunako (Sunkie); Sako, Masako; Sakuma, Pauline; Shibata, Dennis M.; Shigaya, Kenneth; Shigaya, Mary S.; Shigaya, Teruko (Terrie); Shimbo, Ben & Etsu; Shimizu, Sato & Darlene; Shinoda, Franklin; Sordetto, Gayle; Suguro, Nori; Sumida, Florence; Sumida, Leslie; Tahara, Masaru & Anna; Takemura, Yoshiaki & Naomi; Taketa, Haruso & Sonoe; Taki, Noboru & Takako; Tamekuni, Masao & Frances; Tanaka, Rikuko; Tanemura, Peggy; Taniguchi, Fumiye; Taniguchi, Martha (Masayo); Taniguchi, Theodore & Akico; Tanino, Katsumi & Terrie; Tazuma, Miyoko; Terada, Allan & Kayoko; Terada, Ronald & Suzuko; Teramoto, Stuart; Toyoshima, Michiko; Uchida, Sam & Masako; Uyenishi, Tazuko; Vaart, Michiko Jean; Yahata, Shizue; Yamasaki, Fujie; Yamashita, Dennis; Yanagimoto, Michiko; Yokota, Sumie; Yokoyama, Kevin & Kari Ann; Zumoto, James & Tomiko;

**The Betsuin New Year's Party will be held on
January 5, 2014 from 12:00- 3:00 P.M.**

Tickets for adult and children's bento will be sold in the foyer on Sundays or you may purchase your tickets by contacting the temple office. Adult bento will be \$15.00 and complimentary bento are available for regular Ijikai members who are 80 and over and will have seating at a reserved table. A sign-up list will be available for those who would like one. Children's bento (American style) will be available for \$5.00 and complimentary children's bento will be available for Dharma School children 5 and under, tickets are still required. Submitted by Kiana L.

DHARMA SCHOOL submitted by Joyce Tsuji
On November 3 Dharma School students dressed as celestial beings for the Eitaikyo Muen Hoyo service Ochigo procession. Thank you to the well behaved participants, their parents for bringing the eager children on time, and Yvette T and Debbie S for coordinating this activity.

**Dharma School invites all of the Sangha
to attend the Bodhi Day Potluck
on December 8 at 11:45AM**

We hope to see everybody there!
Please bring your favorite dish to share.

Classroom Reports

Pre-K/K students listened to the story "Sam Is Never Scared". It was about a little boy who helped his friend who was afraid of one thing – spiders. Instead of killing the spider, the little boy placed it on a leaf and let it go. The students learned that they should be kind and gentle to every living thing – even spiders. Then they made their own spider web, spider

included, to remind them to be kind and gentle to every living thing. The following week, the Pre-K/K students were treated to a Halloween party hosted by the middle school class. They enjoyed all the activities planned and prepared by the older students. As a thank you for the party, the students made a gift indicating what an "awesome" time they had. The Pre-K/K class has been learning about the parts of the naijin and their significance. After discussing what they see during service, the students colored a mini-book about the naijin.

First/second grade The middle-schoolers treated us to another great Halloween party! Each student wrote their own thank you card for them. We continued our Golden Chain discussion with a story of the deaf frog that fell in the well and did not hear the discouraging words of the other frogs telling him to give up but instead thought they were encouraging him and made it out. This reminded us about the power of "pure and beautiful words". We made origami jumping frogs

Scout Troop 252 On November 10, Troop 252 performed a flag ceremony to honor the Nisei Veterans at Nisei Veterans Hall. Troop 252 had a gym campout November 15 and 16 where the Scouts had fun activities such as laser tag, sports and movies. There was an iron chef competition where troop patrols competed to see who can cook better food. Third year Scouts had a JLT training after the campout. –Drake I.

Special Buddhist Study Group Bodhi Day Potluck The Buddhist Study Group will meet on Saturday, December 7, at 5:30PM for a Bodhi Day Party/Potluck. We will be showing the film "Streams of Light" and for once there is **no required reading!** At present, we are scheduled to meet in the Memorial Hall Chapel, but we might try to work out a more festive location. If you are interested in attending, please email Leonora Clarke (clarkel@uw.edu) to confirm the location. There is no cost to attend.

67th Annual Northwest Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Convention - *honor the past, live the present, build our future* February 7 - 9, 2014 Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel, Portland, Oregon

Guest Speaker: **Reverend Dr. Jeff Wilson**



Assistant professor of religious studies at the U. of Waterloo, Toronto, and noted Shin Buddhist author, Rev. Dr. Wilson's books include...

Mourning the Unborn Dead: A Buddhist Ritual Comes to America

Dixie Dharma: Inside a Buddhist Temple in the American South

Programs available in English and Japanese throughout the weekend for youths, Young Buddhist Association, college students, adults, and a parent/child workshop. Convention

information and registration available at your local Northwest temple or at www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com.

Marie Kosai-Luke is in charge of registration for the Betsuin and will be assisted by Steph Ojima. Dharma School, YBA and SBBWA members should register through their organization representative. If anyone is not affiliated with an organization, they can contact Marie Kosai-Luke or the office. Joan Nakano will handle the SBBWA registration which is due on December 22.

Hosting has great benefits. I have hosted a number of Sansei ministers and Bhante Seelawimala at my house over the years when they come for our weekend seminars. I've had questions answered, gotten to know the sensei, saved the temple some expense, enjoyed their pleasant company. In other words, I have received great benefit from these actions. The sensei are unfailingly gracious and easy to host.

I wasn't sure what to expect when the two young sensei came from Tsukiji Hongwanji with 4 days to explore life in our area. But they proved to be just delightful! They would make jokes, were very considerate, even lie on the floor and play with my Shiba Inu or clean up after her.

Thanks to the great help I received from Alan Hoshino and Yukio Morikubo, my job was much easier. Thanks also to Machiko Wada, Daigo Wada, Lica Wada, Kinuye Kuwahara, Ritsuko Kawahara, Aiko Fujii, Etsu Shimbo, Norimi Kusanagi.

I recommend the experience to anyone who is willing to try it. Just let Rinban know you would like to host a guest. – submitted by Gail Kaminishi

SIMPLE THINGS Instead of buying scrubbing dishwashing tools, utilize the plastic mesh bags that potatoes, mandarins, etc. come in. Make loose knots in the mesh and it will make a ball-shaped scrubber.

– Gail Kaminishi

Meet Minister's Assistant Leonora Clarke "Like most Americans nowadays, I was brought up without much religion. My family was Jewish, but really more culturally than religiously. If anything, you might define my parents as Jewish bedside Buddhists. I'd never really been much of a joiner and although I was interested in religion, I never considered any organized form of it. I liked the ideas of Buddhism, but what I read was very scholarly and academic and I couldn't sit very straight or still for more than a few minutes - so I figured it wasn't for me.

My thoughts on religion changed when I had kids. I went to a lecture by a Jewish writer named Chaim Potok. He said that children should be brought up within a religious culture - even if just to have something to rebel against when they are older - something organized. This made sense to me at the time, so I tried taking my kids to various synagogues in the area. Nothing felt right.

Finally my friend, Janet Knutzen, suggested that I bring my daughter here to join Campfire. My daughter was interested, so I looked at the website to find out a little more about the Temple. There were some audio recordings of old Dharma Talks, including some by Reverend Doei Fujii. I was completely floored. It was as if he had looked in my mind, found what I was looking for, and handed it to me. Anyone who has had small children knows how fast they grow. It is a daily visual reminder of the impermanence of life. When you are presented with this fact so clearly, you realize the danger of missing this time with them. My distracted "monkey mind" was robbing me of so many of these moments and I knew it. Here was an opportunity for someone like me - someone not suited to a rigorous Buddhist path, to have a small chance at regaining some of those moments. This was my main motivation for joining the Temple. I have learned a lot more about Jodo Shinshu since then, but everything that I have learned has reaffirmed my original realization that I have found the correct path for me. I am very grateful to everyone at the Temple for the opportunity and honor of participating as a Minister's Assistant." – submitted by Leonora Clarke and Irene Goto

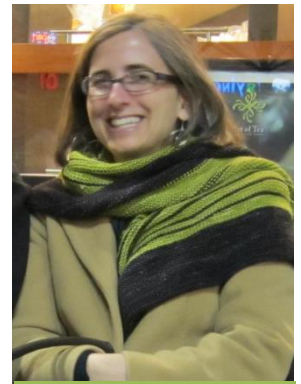


Photo by Irene Goto

- SBBWA continued from page 7



Inarizushi Class

1st row: Mae Deguchi, Tomi Zumoto, Shizu Kaku, and Kiyo Takashima
 2nd row: Darlene Shimizu, Setsuko Harada, Judith Nakamura,
 Instructor Miyoko Tazuma and Peggy Tanemura

Seattle Betsuin Endowment Fund Submitted By: Fund Management Well it's that time again. No, not the holiday season but the time for tax planning. You may consider donating to the Seattle Betsuin Endowment Fund. Each year the cost of operating and maintaining the Temple exceeds the revenue generated from primarily Ijikai dues, special events, and contributions. What is the source for making up the deficit? The answer is the Seattle Betsuin Endowment Fund. Why give to the Seattle Betsuin Endowment Fund?

Giving to the Seattle Betsuin Endowment Fund establishes your legacy in spreading Jodo Shinshu teachings for present and future generations. Investment earnings from your donation help fund the maintenance and operation of the temple. It helps pay for minister and staff salaries, religious programs and temple maintenance. Only the investment earnings are used and your donation remains in the fund. Give today and start your legacy.

Officers of the Endowment Committee include Michael Teramoto Chairman, Art Kozai Vice Chairman, Kevin Yokoyama Treasurer and Dale Kaku Secretary. Other board members include Kats Tanino, Jack Matsui, Howard Luke and Craig Nakano. If you have any questions regarding the Seattle Betsuin Endowment Fund please contact any of the committee members.

In Gassho, Craig Nakano , Endowment Committee

NOTES FROM DHARMA EXCHANGE submitted by Pat Bobrow

Nov. 10 - Rev. Jim Warrick opened the DX with his favorite question, "Any comments on the service today?" A participant was pleased with the chanting, and others agreed. [Ed. note. The naijin is outstanding, but with only the lantern lights glowing during the chanting of the Ojo-Raisan by Rev. Kyojyo Inohara and Rev. Jyokou Takeuchi, both certified, and from the Tsukiji Hongwanji, Tokyo, it was incredibly beautiful]. . . Two guests from San Francisco were introduced at DX, Hiroshi and Sadako Kashiwagi, who are visiting Seattle. They are here



Photo by Sat Ichikawa

to promote his new book, "Starting from Loomis." It consists of many stories including one called "Funeral," which depicts a Buddhist funeral. He said he was not a "Buddhist writer," but that his stories are all informed by Buddhism. Hiroshi recalled trips to Seattle for theatre workshops and getting lost on the way to the airport. Two actors in the workshop took opposite sides on the Loyalty Questionnaire. Author Mary Gruenwald felt disdain at the time for "No No" boys and Resisters, but years later when Hiroshi encountered her in a book store she realized she was wrong and said she was sorry. They became good friends and then learned that her parents and his came from the same prefecture in Japan. Hiroshi said a few years ago the JACL publicly apologized for the position it held about the No Nos, and he felt that forgiveness is very difficult. A participant held that apologies are not necessary for what leaders of Japan and others have done because it was a different time. We should simply accept and forgive. A distinction was

drawn between the No Nos and Resisters, who opposed the draft, but said Yes Yes to questions 27 and 28. Sadako Kashiwagi said there still is a stigma attached to having lived at Tule Lake, and for the sake of the Sansei it is important to apologize. A participant indicated the reasons that Japanese Americans were sent to Tule Lake: answering No No to both question 27 and 28, or not answering at all, or giving a conditional answer. . . Hiroshi recalled Mas T. who was a graduate student in Berkeley in the early 50s, and had wondered what became of him. His question was answered as Mas attended the DX today.

Oct. 20 - Rev. Patti Usuki of the San Fernando Buddhist Temple conducted the service in the Hondo and then the DX. She was asked if she still pursued an interest in hockey in Canada. Only if the Kings are doing well, she replied. We tend to identify with players/teams and lose our perspective. Greed, anger, stupidity come into this attachment. The violence in some hockey games has become so bad that post game handshakes were banned because it led to further violence. Rev. Patti said we are complaining beings, and if we don't have a certain thing, we want it. And if we have it we worry about it. Buddhism is about self-awareness and is grow-

ing in the US - not necessarily Jodo Shinshu. We have "nightstand" Buddhists, people who read books by Thich Nat Hanh, and the Dalai Lama. She was not raised in Buddhism, but rather in the United Church of Canada. Her father received the way of living from his parents who were Jodo Shinshu. She said the Karmic actions from her past have defined her in the present.

October 27 - After conducting the service in the Hondo on the subject of the nenju and 108 beads, Irene continued explanations of how it all came about. There are many stories from many cultures; i.e., there are 54 letters in the Sanskrit alphabet, and that number multiplied by 2 (for female and male) equals 108. Another tale recounts that the nenju was an attribute of Kannon who was closely associated with Amida Buddha in Japan. Further, in the Jodo Shinshu sect there are 54 desires and 54 ways to overcome those desires. Still another from India -- There are 108 Hindu deities, and in Islam that number signifies God. And so it goes. . .Gregg Krech, a Buddhist and teacher of Naikan Therapy reminds us in his writings of how beautiful our world is. He asked, how many have done things for you? How many have you done things for? How many times have you caused problems and concerns for others? He allowed about 10 minutes for the DX participants to note their answers on paper, and some were read . . .Rev. Masao Kodani of the Senshin Temple in Los Angeles has outlined the meaning of the many items in the naijin and the attendant etiquette in his book, "Traditions in Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha." It is an abbreviated version of the "Red Book" used by all Jodo Shinshu ministers.

November 3 - Rev. Jim Warrick opened the DX this morning with, "Great chanting this morning in the Hondo. What did you all think?" Everyone agreed it sounded wonderful. . . The ministers in the International Ministerial Orientation Program (IMOP), a training program for Japanese ministers who are Kaikyhoshi aspirants, were present and participated in the service and DX. . . Rev. Ryuhei Endo, came from Saitama. He described his train ride to high school in Tokyo and said the train was so crowded the station master shoved people into the train. Sensei was helped by many kind and older students, and a friend taught him about Buddhism and other life skills including how to tie a tie. He was up every morning at 6AM in the dorm, and every morning they chanted the Shoshinge and Wasan and heard a Dharma talk. After the service they spent two hours performing various Japanese arts such as ikebana, shudo and sumi-e. He finally realized the meaning of Jodo Shinshu after eight years of study, and feels he will understand it more deeply in the future, and is looking forward to that time. He recited the Jodo Shinshu Creed in Japanese and then in English at the DX. . . After giving the adult Dharma talk in the Hondo, Rev. Miho Sekiya, spoke during the DX. She is from Tokyo and her family lives in Kyoto. Miho sensei spent time in the U.S. studying at the university level. Over a period of time she has heard comments from temple members, pro and con, about chanting, ceremonies and other temple activities. To get an idea of how the Betsuin members feel, she passed out a thought-provoking questionnaire addressing those issues. Also, she asked the DX group to form groups of three and discuss those issues.

Nov. 17 - A departure from the regular service in the Hondo took place. A 62-minute film was shown entitled, "Streams of Light." At the DX, Kemi explained the film details the early history of the BCA, and is available from the Jodo Shinshu Bookstore or on the website, www.streamsoflight.com. Tetsu was a consultant in the production of the film.

In gassho, Pat Bobrow