



## Of Difficult Things

By Rinban Don Castro

If Jodo Shinshu is to grow and thrive in America, we need to develop a vital language that people can relate to and be inspired by. The early issei ministers used language that was available to them, that of Christianity. We still use the early gatha from Hawaii “Namu Amida Butsu” which is a very nice gatha and is frequently used at funeral services. We sing it in two verses but how many of you remember the middle verse that was removed from our service book several decades ago? “When comes temptation luring us to sin...” Such gathas were in regular use when I started my ministry with BCA in 1977. Words such as “divine”, “grace”, “salvation” and “faith” made our religion sound Christian. Yet, on the other hand, our central object of reverence is Amida Buddha.

I have heard (and probably used) expressions such as, “Amida Buddha **saves** us just as we are.” I was once asked by someone, “Who does he save us from?” The word “Buddha” means “Awakened One” not “Saved One.” We are awakened to the true nature of existence and liberated from the illusion of permanence, including the illusion of an independent, permanent self. If we think in terms of salvation, we are saved from our self. But, that salvation does not come from a God outside of our “self.” Amida Buddha, as “Other Power” is not external power but is the power that comes from the Dharma which goes beyond internal and external, self and other.

I was recently asked how I explain Amida Buddha in English. The problem with trying to explain a single Shinshu term is that it fits together and is reinforced by so many other terms but, in future articles I will try to explain a few Jodo Shinshu terms as I understand them or, as I should say, as I relate to them. For the remainder of this article, though, I would like to quote from the Boy Scout’s Sangha Award text

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## Orion Center Monthly Meals Project Needs You!

Where did you sleep last night? Do you appreciate the warmth and comfort of your bed? In Seattle, it is estimated that there are between 700 - 1000 youths with no safe place to sleep each night. Youthcare's Orion Center provides youths with the critical services that homeless youth's need including shelter, counseling, showers, clothes, and hot meals. On the third Friday of each month, volunteers from the Seattle Buddhist Church have been preparing a hot meal for between 30 - 60 homeless youths. I am asking for your help with this truly worthwhile project. Be a part of something special, and together, we CAN make a difference. Meal coordinators are needed for March 18 and April 15, 2016.

Thank you to recent meal coordinators Irene Goto for December, Karen & Yukio Morikubo for January, and Leonora Clark for February.

Please contact Mike Teramoto ([mteramoto@yahoo.com](mailto:mteramoto@yahoo.com)) or the Temple office for more information and to volunteer.



### ...Rev. Castro's Message continued from p. 1

"Young Peoples' Introduction to Buddhism" because I think it relates to anyone trying to understand Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu in any language. Since we recently started a new Sangha Award course, I was emphasizing these words to the boys. The title of the chapter is "Of Difficult Things" and we should all take these words to heart:

*In order to practice Buddha's teaching, we must first study and understand it. Here many people become discouraged. "Buddhist books are too difficult!" "Buddhist writers use too many strange words!" We hear a thousand kinds of complaints.*

*But, does a fourth grader say: "My geography book is too hard because it has too many strange words! I cannot learn it." No, he sits down and learns the new words which appear in his geography book. The same is true with science, art, literature: we learn their vocabulary, and then we understand what they are about.*

*So, too, we must learn the words that Buddhism uses: then we will understand what the Buddha teaches. We must learn a few new words, and we must think about the meaning of some old*

*ones. But this is not too difficult a task in the end, and the rewards are great.*

*Buddhism is not really difficult to understand, if we are not too lazy to try.*

Next month, I will try to shed some (very small) light on what the term Amida Buddha means.

- DC

### Troop 252

had their first meeting with

Drake as their SPL. Everything went well and there were no major problems. On February 7, the troop had Scout Sunday. We had a service led by the scouts. A week later troop 252 had Order of the Arrow voting. Five scouts were voted in. Upcoming on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, there is a Scouting for Food Drive at Mercer Island High School.

-Drew

### Ping Pong with ABA on March 20!

Some of us warmed up at Idaho Oregon Temple's ping pong tables. Let's keep moving! Join us on the gym stage on Sunday March 20 from 12-1:30.

- Gail Kaminishi



## Chairperson's Message by Alan Hoshino

Amid our record breaking wet winter weather 42 temple members made the 460 mile trek to Ontario, OR and the Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple last month to attend the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Northwest Buddhist Convention. Upon arrival we along with attendees from five other Northwest District temples were warmly greeted by Reverend Fujimoto, convention chairperson Mike Iseri and the members of the Idaho-Oregon Buddhist temple who served a delicious Udon dinner before the Friday evening meetings and events began. This year's convention theme was "Seeking the True and Real" and the keynote speaker was Dr. Mark Blum of UC Berkeley. Dr. Blum specializes in Pure Land Buddhism throughout East Asia with a focus on the Japanese medieval period. His keynote address was on the history of Nenbutsu and during his talk he shared some very interesting video clips of Nenbutsu practices from various Buddhist traditions. During his first workshop he expanded upon his keynote address and pointed out the many different expressions of Nenbutsu before moving on to ask the question "Why does Shinran quote so extensively from the Nirvana Sutra? It's a real interesting question since the Nirvana Sutra isn't one of the Three Pure Land Sutras (The Sutra of the Buddha of Immeasurable Life; The Sutra of Contemplation on the Buddha of Immeasurable Life; and, The Sutra on Amida Buddha) which are central to our Jodo Shinshu tradition. His answer lies in the subject of the sutra: Buddha-nature. Dr. Blum tied the convention theme "Seeking the True and Real" to the sutra's teaching of the "true self" or Buddha nature that is universally present in all living beings and realization of which leads to our liberation.



The NW Buddhist Convention also is the venue for many meetings of the organizations that make up and support our temple. The Northwest District Ministerial Association met and elected our own Rev. Sala Sekiya as their treasurer. The NW Young Buddhist League met as did the Dharma School teachers and the Buddhist Women's Association. BWA actually held two meetings, one for the district and one for the national Federation (FBWA) to plan this fall's Federation conference in Bellevue. I attended the Northwest District Council of the Buddhist Churches of America meeting. At this meeting the lay leaders of each of the seven temples in the northwest district along with their ministers meet to discuss district wide issues. Money was one of the topics discussed and it was agreed that each temple would be assessed \$6.08 for each member of their Sangha by the NW District to cover district expenses. I bring this up because around the time this article is published I'll be representing our temple at the Buddhist Churches of America's annual National Council Meeting during which it is expected that a budget will be approved calling for the BCA to assess our temple \$113.45 per member to support the national organization. Between the NW District and BCA the total is \$119.53 per member or 40% of the \$300/year we ask each individual to contribute to become members of the temple's support organization (aka Ijikai; Iji = support; Kai = group or association). That leaves just \$180.47 per member to operate the temple on. At last count we have 434 members of our support organization and half of them are over 70 and qualify for the \$250/year rate. Doing the math that amounts to about \$67K to run the temple on for a year. That's nowhere near the amount we spend to provide the facilities, programs and services we offer. This year we plan to spend over \$150K alone on non-operating improvements to our facilities such as the new walk-in cooler which will be up and running by the time you read this. That is on top of our normal operating expenses such as supplies, utilities, maintenance of facilities, salaries, insurance, etc.

As contributions to our support organization (Ijikai) fall short of funding all of our costs we turn to a combination of income from our endowment fund and your generosity, both in additional monetary contributions throughout the year and the giving of your volunteer time and energy toward our programs and fund raising efforts. This month we have both our annual Salmon Dinner fundraiser on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, and a special "envelope service" for Spring Ohigan (Equinox) on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. The Salmon Dinner along with the Bon Odori are our two major fundraising events of the year. The salmon is delicious and at \$15 a ticket it's a great way for your friends and family to show their support for the temple and what it contributes to the community. Please sell as many tickets as you can and come on down to help on the 19<sup>th</sup>. If you need more tickets please contact Joan in the temple office.

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If you are not a SBBWA member, please join us.

We are a community of Buddhist Women whose main goals are to assist within the temple, provide support to our Sangha community when needed, take part in service activities or assistance outside of the temple (community service), and to provide opportunities that are social in nature as well as educational.

## SBBWA News by Nina Tomita-Kato

We carry home with us fond new memories from the N.W. Ontario/Oregon Buddhist Convention. The speakers and workshops were informative and the hospitality from their membership was, again, something to cherish. It's always a great way to bond with fellow Buddhists in the Northwest and with our own temple members. We look forward to the N.W. Convention hosted by the Tacoma Buddhist Temple, February 17, 2017.

Just to let our BWA membership know, there are two "Dento Hokoku Hoyo" (Accession Ceremony) and Shinran Shonin Pilgrimage Tours to Japan planned by Hongwanji for March 2017; information will be presented Sunday, March 6, at our Board of Directors meeting (11:45); please come if interested.

Salmon Dinner is coming up on March 19 – sign-up sheets for jobs are available.

"Save the Date" for "Linked in the Nembutsu: Tsunagatte", Oct. 7, 8, 9 2016, sponsored by the Federation of Buddhist Women's Association, hosted by N.W. BWA. We hope that you all will attend; please invite your friends and family.

SBWA will be having an udon fundraiser in the Spring.

## Musical Notes submitted by Kemi Nakabayashi

Thank you to the Seattle Betsuin singers who supported the musical entertainment at the NWD Convention in Ontario, OR last month. Singers are pictured above singing "Sing Namo Amida Butsu" by Donna Sasaki. Donna was very grateful and pleased with your enthusiastic participation.

We will have some special music in March with our various Sunday service programs and are gearing up for Hanamatsuri music and the Earth Day music service in April. – KN

*Editor's Note: Thank you, Julie Mayeda, for taking photos at Convention (and our many other events). Your thoughtfulness in preserving the days' memories are invaluable. Thank you for having them printed and posting them for everyone to enjoy. Namo Amida Butsu. - ihg*



# Trip to NWD Buddhist Convention



On Friday, February 12, thirty-four passengers arrived at the temple to board the coach and left promptly at 6:00 am. [8 others boarded air-planes]. After a nap the first of many activities kept the passengers busy - guessing games, bingo and sculpting art contest and snacking. Thanks to all for the multiple donations of prizes and goodies to eat.

Delegation from Seattle Betsuin to Convention February 12 - 14, 2016

The actual time on the bus to Ontario, Oregon was 7 hours which did not include 2 hours of rest stops & lunch. "Thank you", to our driver, Tony, for a safe and comfortable roundtrip and for shuttling us between our hotels and Four Rivers Cultural Center, convention site.

Thanks and deep appreciation to my helpers: Meghan H, Emily K, Emi N, Nathan T, Marissa W, and Paul Mori. Also heartfelt thanks to Steph Ojima for monitoring the coach for the passengers who kept us all in line.

In addition, thanks also to all for your participation, enthusiasm, and cooperation, it made the preparation worth every minute: Janet B, Leonora C, Irene G, Fumiko G, Gail K, Kanako K, Evan K, Mas K, Julie M, Leanne N-W, Mabel N, Sala S, Shirley S, Etsu S, Fran S, Kats T, Terrie T, Nina T-K, Mitsuko T, Suzuko T, Yvette T, Michi V, Machiko W, Jim W, Tomi Z, and Tina Z.

We enjoyed the wonderful convention the Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple offered. The book store was also popular and many new various items were offered. Also, many enjoyed eating the popular humongous

## **Ministers and Dr. Blum at "East Meets West" Winter Pacific Seminar, January 30, 2016**



Approximately 300 attended the seminar held in the morning at LA Betsuin (Nishi Hongwanji) and walked to LA Higashi Honganji, just blocks away, for the afternoon session. The hondo at Higashi Honganji felt like ours; the style of flower arrangement and the chanting of the Shoshinge were different and beautiful. Dr. Blum and Rev Kuwahara spoke on the history of the split. ihg

## Religious Education Events:

**March Buddhist Study Group at Seattle Betsuin** will meet on March 12. The book for this month is Ken Tanaka's "[Buddhism on Air](#)", which is described this way: *This latest publication from Dr. Tanaka offers a unique collection of talks and interviews with noted Buddhist teachers and scholars.* Please see Rinban Castro if you are interested in obtaining a copy. The meeting will take place in the Memorial Hall Chapel from 9:30-11:30am. There will be a brown bag lunch afterwards. There is no cost to attend.

**Lecture by Reverend Dr Ken Tanaka** *Sunday 20 March 1:30 pm- 6:00 pm*  
Buddhist Church of Lodi | Shin Buddhist Insight on Daily Life & Beyond, 23 N. Stockton St. Lodi, CA, 95240 Buddhist Church of Lodi Contact Phone Number: (209) 368-5589

### **Techno Buddha Conference 2016: Mindfulness**

TechnoBuddha 2016 takes place Mar. 25-27, 2016 at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley. Keynote speaker, Rev. Henry Adams, will address "Mindfulness" in the Shin Buddhist tradition. Spend quality time, reconnect and network with young adults (21-39) in the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist community. Interactive, For more information, email: [chairs@technobuddhaconference.org](mailto:chairs@technobuddhaconference.org) inspiring, enlightening!

**FDSTL's Dharma for Dummies III (End of the Trilogy)** 29 Apr - 1 May; Apr 29: 6:00 pm, May 1: 1:00 pm at Sacramento Betsuin | Hosted by Northern California District 2401 Riverside Blvd, Sacramento CA 95818, Buddhist Church of Sacramento; Contact Phone Number: (916) 446-0121

**Salmon Dinner Fundraiser is March 19 - see p. 11**

## Notes on Dharma Exchange - an after-service discussion group

**Sun, Jan 31, 2016** - Dharma School parents visited during regular Dharma Exchange. In the Hondo, Rinban Castro talked about Family Values and how he realized its complexity from the Internet. The subject of "enabling" and "tough love" made him understand how deep it is. . . He posited that Jodo Shinshu Memorial Services are unique -- no other tradition performs such services after the initial service. A memorial service reaffirms our spiritual identity, a real family value. A Dharma School participant felt that having an Obutsudan in the home helps to reaffirm our spiritual identity. . Mas T. indicated his sister in law, on her deathbed, asked that the family surrounding her get together as often as possible. They still have monthly meetings and a yearly Memorial Service. The family coming together is a wonderful thing. The mother of a participant indicated she did not wish Memorial Services, but nonetheless, a 49th day service presided over by Rev. Dean Koyama was held. The third, fifth and seventh years after death have been important in Japanese culture; however, over the years changes have been made. Currently, the 49th day service is intended to reach out to family/caregivers and to dispel the feeling of loss and other self-centered ideas. The Spokane temple reads the names of the deceased on a monthly basis, and Sat I. said the Portland Buddhist Temple does so as well. Because the Betsuin is well over 100 years old it would be a difficult endeavor.

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# Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges Donations Received January - February 2016

## Funeral / Memorial / Nokotsudo:

Florence Tsuchida – Funeral Service	\$ 1,000.00	Linda & Tetsuo Miyata
Brian Fujita – Funeral Service	\$ 800.00	Mayme Fujita
Daichi “Dan” Tanabe – 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Memorial Service	\$ 300.00	Dawn & Robert Keeley
Masao Yamaguchi – In Memory of	\$ 250.00	Marvin & Dianne Graham (Yamaguchi)
Sumiko Yamaguchi – In Memory of	\$ 250.00	Marvin & Dianne Graham (Yamaguchi)
Amy Seko – 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Memorial	\$ 200.00	Robert Seko
Rev. Kiyoshi Yamashita – 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Memorial Service	\$ 200.00	Dennis Yamashita & Elaine Aoki-
Florence Sumida – Makura-gyo Service	\$ 100.00	Leslie Sumida
Nokotsudo for Ayako Demise	\$ 100.00	Joyce & Doug Handa
Nokotsudo for James Demise	\$ 100.00	Joyce & Doug Handa
Nokotsudo	\$ 100.00	Aiko Suganuma

## In Memory of:

## Given by:

Sayeko Aoyama	Jane Hamatani; Dennis & Elaine Yamashita
Brian Fujita	Masao & Frances Tamekuni
Nobuichi Fujita	George & Mary Kozu
Osamu Kano	Mutual Fish Company, Inc.; Arleen Nomura; Harry Yoshimura
Henry Richard Miyoshi	Dennis & Elaine Yamashita
Akio Nishizaki	Franklin & Nancy Yap
Chisato Nomura	Noboru Taki
Florence Sumida	Jon & Patti Mastrude ; Mutual Fish Company, Inc.; Harry Yoshimura
Florence Tsuchida	Bruce & Janice Abe; Mel & Jane McKinley-Chinn; Suyeko Fujikado; Calvin & N. Lorraine Hoshibata; Alan T. & Cheryl Hoshino; Kathy Joyce; Kazue (Katie) Kato; Frances Kobayashi; Jon & Patti Hiroo-Mastrude; Rose Masuda; Trisha Morton; Hajime Nakashima; Curtis & Charlene Nakayama; Kathryn Natsuhara; Dennis & T. Judy Nomura; Steve & Elizabeth Okamura; Carl & Carolyn Osaki; David Osaki; Thomas Osaki; Alvin & Donna Sasaki; Sato & Darlene Shimizu; Donald & Yaeko Suyetani; Yasuko Jean Takano; Masao & Frances Tamekuni; Peggy Tanemura; Patricia Ann Terai; Hidemi & Keiko Tsuboi; Ryoto Yabuki; Dennis & Elaine Yamashita; James & Eileen Yoshida; Edward & Suzanne Yoshitome

## New Year's Service:

Michele Kammerer; Hiroko Janet Kosai; Kinue Kuwahara; Ann Monson; Mildred Nakanishi; Roy & Kazumi Shimizu; Jean Tsue; Bill Vogeley

*Continued on page 8...*



The *deadline* to  
submit  
**SCHOLARSHIP**  
**APPLICATIONS** is  
Monday, April 4, 2016  
by 2:30pm to the  
temple office. For  
applications and/or  
questions, please  
contact  
Shizue Kaku via the  
temple office  
206-329-0800 or  
email:  
office@  
seattlebetsuin.com

## SCHOLARSHIPS Deadline April 4!

**HIGH SCHOOL:** The Seattle Betsuin Tsujihara Family Memorial Scholarship Grant and Seattle Betsuin Continuing Education Grant are offering scholarships to high school seniors graduating in 2016.

**COLLEGE:** If you are a student currently enrolled and completed one year of college, the Masaru & Mitsuma Shimokon Scholarship Grant is offering scholarships for careers as nurse practitioner, medical doctor, registered nurse, engineer, or computer science. Other fields in the technical, math and science programs may also be considered. This is a one-time only grant.

All high school and college applicants or their parent(s) must be a member of good standing of the Seattle Buddhist Church.

The deadline is 2:30pm on Monday, April 4, 2016. - SK

...Donations *continued from page 7*

### General Donations:

### For:

Mariko Mano	General Donation
Kawabe Memorial Foundation	General Donation
Jeff Hattori	General Donation
Wilma Kawasaka	General Donation
Gail Suzaka	General Donation with Bank of America Community Fund
Nikkei Concerns Kokoro-kai	Appreciation for use of facilities
Seattle Betsuin Ukulele Band	General Donation

## Free Seminar: Basic Estate Planning, Wills and Living Trusts

submitted by Michael Teramoto

*Planning is an essential aspect of everything that we do. Without a proper plan, things might not happen the way that you'd like them to. This is especially true as it relates to estate planning. This seminar will cover the basics of estate planning, wills and trusts. Also learn about durable powers of attorney for financial and medical decision-making and health care directives, also known as "living wills." Find out the differences between a will and a trust, and why one may be more appropriate for various circumstances. Additionally, learn about a "Trusteed IRA" and find out how its features may solve concerns that IRA owners may have about beneficiaries managing the IRA in the future. This free seminar will be jam packed with useful, practical information. All are invited to attend. Co-Presented by: Jenna Ichikawa, Estate Planning Attorney and Mike Teramoto, Sr. Trust Officer. Sunday, March 20, 2016. 11:45 – 1:15 PM - Seattle Buddhist Temple – Basement Classroom. Please contact Mike Teramoto at 206-369-5986 to RSVP, for questions or for more information.*



### **...Chairperson's Message continued from page 3**

The term "envelope service" comes from the special envelopes the temple provides for Buddhist holidays to facilitate ongoing donations throughout the year. Spring Ohigan which will be observed on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, is one such service. The temple thanks you for your generous support. If you don't have your Spring Ohigan envelope any envelope will do. Envelopes are also available at the temple. There will be someone at the table in the temple's entry foyer collecting envelopes on the 20<sup>th</sup> before the 10am Sunday service. Please be sure to include your name and address on your envelope to ensure your donation will be included in your year-end temple donation statement for tax purposes.

Thank you so much for your continued support of the temple. In gassho, Alan

**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 2016.

*Clara Beard, Helen Gota, Cynthia Ito Hinds, Steve & Cathleen Hokoda, Sat & Grace Ichikawa, Tom Kodama, Kevin Nagai, Sunnie Nagai, Shirley Shimada, Ben & Etsu Shimbo, Kevin Tanemura, Peggy Tanemura, Dolly Tokunaga, Sam & Masako Uchida, Dennis Yamashita & Elaine Aoki, Fukuyo Yee, Elliott Zimmermann*

**"Welcome," to Cynthia Ito Hinds and Kevin Tanemura as new members of our Sangha.**

**\*AS A REMINDER:** The minimum for basic dues towards the Temple 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, 2016, for this fiscal year.** If you have any questions about your membership status, contact the Betsuin office: 206-329-0800 or office@seattlebetsuin.com.

(compiled by HL, PS, JN, & SO)

**The Betsuin gratefully acknowledges the DONATIONS RECEIVED for the following special services. 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:**

**Ho'Onko:** Anonmyous; Beard, Clara; Driscoll, Irene Goto -; Gosho, Kazumi (Janice); Gotchy, Joseph & Margaret; Harada, Setsuko; Kaminishi, Gail; Kawamoto, Masako; Kido, Momoko; Kuwahara, Kinue; Mano, George & Irene; Mitchell, Lisa Kumasaka -; Nishimura, Hiro & Dorothy; Nishizaki, Mabel; Okada, Barry & Marlene; Parke, Troy & Mayumi Terada -; Sato, Earl & Joyce; Shimbo, Ben & Etsu; Sordetto, Gayle; Taniguchi, Fumiye; Teramoto, Margaret; Toyoshima, Michiko; Wada, Machiko;

**Nirvana Day:** Ito, Yaeko; Toyoshima, Michiko

- HL

## **Simple Things You Can Do** submitted by Gail Kaminishi

A temple member said she was mocked by her son for cutting off the crimped end of a tube of toothpaste. Actually, this is a very sound practice. A lot of sunscreen, expensive creams, etc. is still inside a tube. By cutting it open, you use the entire amount. *Editor's Note: using the bottom of a shaving cream can is useful for squeezing/scraping out the last bit - lay the tube on a flat surface and push the bottom of a can firmly over the flattened tube - a lesson from a nisei friend. - ihg*



Reverend Bishop Kodo Umezu, left, and Reverend Rinban Don Castro, right, spoke at the **NWD Buddhist Convention Banquet** on February 13, 2016.

Bishop asked Rinban if his notice of his planned retirement has come across his desk yet. Rinban spoke about a few of his memorable experiences—one in particular in conducting a pillow service before an imminent death; she didn't die, but Rinban didn't want to be credited with "saving her life" as the survivor insisted he did. - ihg

**Dharma Exchange**...continued from p. 6

**Sun, Feb 7** - We celebrated Nirvana Day/Pet Memorial & Scout Sunday. Rinban Castro commented on the Dharma talk by Trevor Yokoyama, a jr. MA, and how he successfully embellished his original talk so that it would extend to at least 15 minutes. Nirvana was explained as the attainment of Enlightenment with residue; and Parinirvana, which is beyond the world of realities and occurs at death. Sensei explained the Parinirvana sutra and "other power," and cautioned that external help is not "other power" other than ego. . . A participant asked who decided that we have Pet Memorial Services. Sensei acknowledged that it was his decision, and not every US temple celebrates it. At the time of the Buddha's death he requested that all the animals in the surrounding kingdom be present. The story goes that the order of those animals in which they arrived became the symbols of the Chinese zodiac. . . A participant noted that long ago we celebrated a "Life Memorial Service" to represent gratitude for everything.

**Sun, Feb 14** - Because Castro Sensei, Warrick Sensei and Goto Sensei attended the NW Buddhist Convention, Matt May MA gave the Dharma Talk and conducted the DX. He explained the history of Valentine's Day. Originally, there was a pagan fertility ritual wherein a goat was killed and skinned. The people ran around flogging others with the skin. In the 5th Century the Catholic Church merged that ritual with the remembrance of one or possibly two people named Valentine who were martyred by the Romans. . . After Shinran Shonin's 100 day meditation he was told he could take a wife. Shinran warned that we not be distracted by lustful thoughts or drink. In letters to their daughter, Kakushini, Eshinni expressed a great deal of admiration and wrote about her shared duty and purpose with Shinran -- a broader Jodo Shinshu concept in that time period. . . A participant mentioned that children who first learn about poetry customarily write their first poems in rhyming verse and quoted an example: "If you will be my Valentine, I will be your concubine." . . During the Western migration in the US many died, but the survivors later partied and paired off. . . Modern romance as we know it

# **SPRING SALMON DINNER FUNDRAISER**

This fundraising event will be held on March 19, 2016 with doors open for drive thru and walk-up sales at 2:00 P.M. till 7:00 P.M. The sit-down dining portion starts at 4:00 P.M. till 7:30 P.M.

Tickets have been mailed out to those that paid their "regular" Ijikai dues for fiscal year 2015 and families from the Camp Fire, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Dharma School organizations. If you haven't received tickets, please contact the office to order tickets and submit your payment. If you have received tickets please sell your tickets to friends and family and contact the office to get tickets for your needs. To make this event a financial success, we need to promote the event and have others in the community and family members who used to attend the Temple help support this event. In any event, please help by contacting the Temple to get tickets as this provides an estimate for the amount of dinners needed. While we should have some dinners available for walk-up sales, this is limited in quantity. We use the number of sold tickets to estimate our needs. We can only do this by having the payments returned by the specified date.

Please return the tickets that were mailed out by the suggested date of March 12<sup>th</sup> as indicated in the letter. This will be for returning payment for the tickets but preferably, we hope that you can sell the tickets to family or friends and not return the tickets. Payments for the tickets or returned tickets will help us estimate the amount of salmon dinners needed. We hope you can understand that with the prices involved we don't want to over-estimate the quantity needed. We do want to ensure that we have enough ordered for this fundraiser and not have attendees who come later not be able to get a salmon entrée.

Please help the Temple in one of its two major fundraisers by promoting or selling additional tickets to friends and other family members. Additional tickets can be acquired by calling the office or by selling any ones that you may not need and not return them to the Temple.

## **BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER – DONATIONS REQUESTED**

We are also having a bake sale at the Salmon Dinner event and asking for your assistance in providing baked goods, e.g. cookies, chex mix, brownies, etc. for sale prior to the event which will start at 2:00 P.M. We will be having ohagi and manju made by the Temple's BWA organization, sheet cakes, as well as apple and cherry pies. If making a donation of baked goods, please label the contents with any nuts as there are individuals with allergies and this can be a life threatening event. Please package the items in what would be sold in even dollar amounts as we will not have coin change. - HL

### **...Notes from Dharma Exchange continued from page 10**

today is relatively new. . . A participant thanked Matt May for all the research necessary to prepare for today's dharma talk and Dharma Exchange.

**Sun, Feb 21** - Rinban Castro conducted the Dharma Exchange. A participant reported about an ongoing program at the Seattle Asian Art Museum (SAAM), called "Sites of Meaning." Featured, was a large complex with stupas and a huge amount of Buddhist artifacts found near Kabul. There is a strong Taliban presence in the area. Included is a wooden statue, the oldest in the world, of the Buddha (4C-5thC). She saw a film about copper mining being done by the Chinese. Meanwhile, archiologists are trying desperately to save the site. (See the SAAM website for more information.) Sensei said it was the best lecture series presented since he came to Seattle. . . A participant asked if the Betsuin comments on social issues facing Seattle. Sensei responded that no, there would be much controversy and disagreement; i.e. the homeless issue. Sensei indicated the Betsuin is involved in many ways on social issues, both local and abroad, such as lunch provided to homeless teens at the Orion Center, and contributions to survivors of major disasters, i.e. Nepal. . . At the end of the service, visitors to the Betsuin were introduced. Tyler Moriguchi introduced David Conedera who contributed an Obutsudan that is being used in the High School Room. Thank you Mr. Conedera for your thoughtful gift.

In gassho, Pat Bobrow



# 2016 NW District Convention of BCA - Memories



# Weekly All Sangha News

To receive this news via email contact [Tyler Moriguchi](#) or [Joan Nakano](#) at [Office@SeattleBetsuin.com](mailto:Office@SeattleBetsuin.com)

## 2016 Kids Summer Program (KSP)

The 19th Annual KSP summer camp will be June 26-July 1, 2016. This year's theme is "Zodiac Fun." Registration for Temple and BCA members (\$175/child) is now open. Registration for general public (\$235/child) opens March 6th. Please contact [KSP.Seattle@live.com](mailto:KSP.Seattle@live.com) for registration form or more information.

## 2016 Bon Odori

2016 Seattle Bon Odori will be July 16th & 17th. Dance practices will take place July 5-7 and July 11-12 from 7:30 to 9 pm in the temple gym.

## Temple Activities for the Sangha

### Youth Musicians Sought

Looking for youth musicians to support music for children's services at least through this spring (we have several graduating HS seniors). Also, those musician that are interested could assist in the Sound of Music theme for Earth Day spring music service on April 17, 2016. For more information, please contact [Kemi Nakabayashi](#)

### Join Jr. Young Buddhist Association at the Betsuin!

Anyone entering the 7-12 grade is welcome to join this organization. The purpose of the Young Buddhist Association (YBA) is to listen to the Buddha Dharma through different social and religious activities. Registration forms can be obtained in the Temple office, or by contacting [Steph Ojima](#), or [Alex Sakamoto](#).

**Camp Fire Group #699** For information, please visit our webpage at [Seattle Betsuin Camp Fire](#), or email the [Temple Office](#).

**Cup Scout Pack 252** For information, please contact the [Temple Office](#) or Cubmaster [Michael Teramoto](#)

### Interested in Playing Bridge?

Would you like to enjoy a few hours of fun and stimulation? Then join the Temple Bridge Group that meets on Thursdays from 1 to 3:30PM in the dining room. If you play the game, used to play or never played we'll teach you or help you remember. So come join us for a fun afternoon. Please contact [Irene Mano](#)



# Betsuin Events for March 2016

**SUNDAYS** 10:55am Meditation (convenes in foyer)

March 6

10:00 pm FAMILY SERVICE

Youth: TBD

Adult: Rev. Warrick

Japanese: Rev. Takemura

DX: Rev. Warrick

Meditation: MA

11:45 am SBBWA Board Meeting

1:30 pm Sangha Award Class  
(MA Jason Yokoyama)

March 13

10:00 am CAMP FIRE SUNDAY SERVICE

Youth: Rinban Castro

Adult: Rinban Castro

Japanese: Rev. Sekiya

DX: Rinban Castro

Meditation: MA

March 20

10:00 am SPRING OHIGAN SERVICE

Youth/Adult: Rinban Castro

Japanese: Rev. Sekiya

DX: TBD

Meditation: MA

March 27

10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE in Hondo,  
CHILDREN'S SERVICE in Chapel

Children: MA Matt May

Adult: Rev. Sekiya

Japanese: Program

Combined DXs: Rinban Castro and Rev. Sekiya

Meditation: MA

11:45 am SBBWA Cabinet Meeting

1:30 pm Sangha Award Class  
(MA Jason Yokoyama)

**MONDAYS** Rinban Castro (All March Mondays Off)

**TUESDAYS**

March 8, 15, 29 Rinban Castro (Days Off)

March 15 Rev. Sekiya (Day Off)

**WEDNESDAYS** \*\* 10:30am - call office to confirm

March 2 -6 (Wed-Sun) Rinban Castro and Rev.  
Sekiya in Visalia, CA for BCA Ministers' Association and BCA National Council Meetings

March 9 Rev. Sekiya (1/2 Day Off)

March 16 Rev. Sekiya (Day Off)

10:00 am Shinran Shonin Monthly Memorial  
Service (Rinban Castro)

March 30 Rev. Sekiya (Day Off)

**THURSDAYS**

March 3

1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service

March 17

1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service

7:30 pm Betsuin Cabinet Meeting

March 24

7:30 pm Betsuin BoD Meeting

March 31 Rev. Sekiya (Day Off)

**FRIDAYS**

March 4

12:00 pm Gojikai Service & Luncheon Meeting

March 11 Rinban Castro (1/2 Day Off)

Rev. Sekiya (1/2 Day Off)

March 18, 25 Rev. Sekiya (Days Off)

**SATURDAYS**

March 12 Rev. Sekiya (Day Off)

9:30 am – 12:00 pm Book Study Group –  
*Buddhism on Air* by Ken Tanaka

March 19

**SALMON DINNER FUNDRAISER**

2:00 pm – 7:00 pm Take-out or Drive-thru

4:00 pm – 7:30 pm Dine-in

March 26 Rev. Sekiya (Day Off)

## April 2016 Major Events of Interest

Saturday, April 2 Book Study Group

Sunday, April 3 Hanamatsuri Service

Monday, April 4 Hanamatsuri Service at Keiro with  
Koyasan Buddhist Temple and  
Nichiren Buddhist Church

Monday, April 4 Betsuin Scholarship Application  
deadline at 2:30 pm

Sunday, April 17 Earth Day Service

Sunday, April 24 SBBWA New Member Service and  
Luncheon

April 29 – May 2 Seminar with  
Dr. Nobuo Haneda

April 29 – May 1 FDSTL Conference in  
Sacramento

**2016 April Newsletter Deadline:  
Monday, March 21, 2016  
8:00 pm**



**Seattle Buddhist Church**  
1427 S Main Street  
Seattle, WA 98144

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

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***Salmon Dinner Fundraiser tickets have been mailed out.  
Please contact the office for more tickets! Thank you.***

**March 2016 Major Events of Interest**

March 2-3 (Wed-Thurs.)	BCA Ministers' Association Meeting in Visalia, CA
March 4-5 (Fri-Sat)	BCA National Council Meeting in Visalia, CA
March 13 (Sunday)	Camp Fire Sunday Service
March 19 (Saturday)	Salmon Dinner Fundraiser see p. 11
March 20 (Sunday)	Spring Ohigan Service

Deadline is the third  
Monday each month at  
8PM

**Contact Us**

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SUPPORT BETSUIN'S  
FUNDRAISER:  
SALMON DINNER  
SATURDAY, MARCH 19!

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