



Wheel of the Sangha

Volume 27 Issue 3 March 2008

A monthly publication by **Seattle Buddhist Church**
May peace and tranquility prevail throughout the world

Mailer Page—see next pages for content

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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*

Wheel of Sangha

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March 2008 Special Events

- **CampFireUSA Sunday March 2** 10:00 am Family Service
- **Shoshinge Class Begins March 4** 7:00 pm Rev Castro
- **BETSUIN BAZAAR March 16** 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
- **SPRING OHIGAN Service March 23** 10:00 am Family Service with Rev Tatsuya Aoki of Vancouver, BC
- **New Children's Service March 30** 10:00 am Memorial Hall Chapel

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Betsuin Events for March 2008

SUNDAYS

March 2 Camp Fire USA Sunday

10:00 am Family Service
Children: Rev Castro
English: Rimban Matsubayashi
Japanese: Rimban Matsubayashi
DX: Minister's Assistant
11:45 am SBWA BOD Meeting

March 9

10:00 am Family Service
Children: Joe Schwab, MA
English: Message: Rev Castro
Japanese: Rimban Matsubayashi
1:00 pm Karuna Sangha Class (Rev. Castro)

March 16 BETSUIN BAZAAR Rimban - Day Off

10:00 am Family Service
Children: Minister Assistant
English: Rev. Casto
Japanese: NONE
11:00 am to 3:00 pm BAZAAR
3:00 pm Rev. Castro to Spokane, WA

March 23 SPRING OHIGAN Service

10:00 am Family Service
Children: Rev. Tetsuya Aoki
English: Rev. Tetsuya Aoki
Japanese: Rev. Tetsuya Aoki
DX: Rev. Castro
1:00 pm Karuna Sangha Class (Rev. Castro)

March 30 (Children's Service in Chapel)

10:00 am Family Service
Children: Rev. Castro
Youth: Minister Assistant
English: Rimban Matsubayashi
Japanese: Rimban Matsubayashi
DX: Minister's Assistant

MONDAYS Rimban - Days Off

March 3

1:30 pm Visitation by Foundation House
Senior Lecture Tour (Rev Castro)

TUESDAYS

March 4

2:00 pm Minister's Meeting (M & C)
7:00 pm Shoshinge Class (Rev. Castro)
7:30 pm N.W. Dist. Convention Wrap-up
Meeting (Rinban)

March 11

7:00 pm Shoshinge Class (Rev Castro)

continued-

-Tuesdays Continued

March 18

2:00 pm Minister's Meeting
7:00 pm Kawabe Foundation Mtg (Rimban)
7:00 pm Shoshinge Class (Rev. Castro)

March 25

10:30 pm Keiro Service (Rev. Castro)
7:00 pm Shoshinge Class (Rev. Castro)

WEDNESDAYS

March 5

7:30 pm Dharma School Board Meeting

THURSDAYS

March 6

1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rimban)

March 13

7:30 pm Religious Dept. Meeting

March 20

1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rimban)
7:30 pm Betsuin Cabinet Meeting

March 27

7:30 pm Betsuin Board Meeting

FRIDAYS

March 7

12:00 pm Rev. Castro – Day Off
Gojikai Service & Meeting (Rimban)

March 14

Rev. Castro Day Off (on call)

March 21

Rev. Castro - Vacation

March 28

Rev. Castro Day Off

SATURDAYS

March 1

BCA Minister Association & National
Council Meeting, Portland, OR
Rev. Castro – Day Off for (2/29)

March 8

Rinban in Fresno, CA

March 15

1:00 pm Nisei Veterans Committee Dedication
(Rev. Castro)

Month of April 2008 Events of Interest:

April 13 Sunday HANAMATSURI
April 17, Thursday Betsuin Cabinet Meeting
April 24, Thursday Betsuin Board Meeting

Helpful Web Sites

www.BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org
links to BCA bookstore, BCA Campaign 21 Century,
Wheel of Dharma, Temples
www.BCAyouth.org



Wheel of the Sangha

Volume 27 Issue 3

SEATTLE BETSUIN NEWSLETTER

March 2008

Spring Ohigan – Paramita Day

Rinban Hoshu Matsubayashi, Ed.D.



“Higan” is a Japanese term which means “the Other Shore” (of Enlightenment). *Higan* is commonly called “*Ohigan*” with a Japanese honorific prefix “O.” *Ohigan* is observed twice a year on spring and fall equinox days. The weather is comfortable during this time of year. Japanese often say that “*Atsusa Samusamo Higan-made*” or “The hot or cold weather will remain until *Higan*.” Thereafter, the weather will change to either warm/hot or cool/cold. Thus, *Ohigan* is an ideal season to reflect upon ourselves and also the Other Shore of Enlightenment.

“*Ohigan*” is the Japanese term for Sanskrit “*Paramita*,” which means “leading to the Other Shore,” and it also means “Perfection.” Buddhism sets up a practice of “the Six Kinds of Perfection (*Paramita*)” to lead us to Enlightenment. They are:

1. *Dana* (Giving)
2. *Sila* (Precepts)
3. *Ksanti* (Perseverance)
4. *Virya* (Effort)
5. *Dhyana* (Meditation)
6. *Prajna* (Wisdom)

By fulfilling these Six Kinds of Perfection (*Paramita*), Buddhism teaches that we are able to reach the Other Shore of the Buddha, the World of Enlightenment. The World of the Buddha is described in **The Small Sukhavativyuha Sutra** as follows:

From here to the direction of the west, beyond 10 billion Buddha-lands, there is a world called Utmost Happiness (Sukhavati or Gakuraku). In that land there is a Buddha named Infinite (Amitayus or Amida). He is now, at present, preaching the Dharma.

This geographical description of the world of the Buddha may not be acceptable with our modern knowledge. But we know that it is very difficult, almost impossible, for ordinary people to reach the Other Shore of the Buddha by fulfilling the Six Kinds of Perfection. Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, taught us that even though we cannot reach the Other Shore of Enlightenment by fulfilling these Six Kinds of Perfection, Amida Buddha is now preaching the Dharma and he is extending his primal Vow of the Great Compassion and Wisdom to all of us. He stated in **The Hymns of the Patriarchs** as follows:

*Boundless is the painful ocean of Samsara (birth-and-death)
Wherein have we been long struggling,
Only the ship of Amida Buddha’s Primal Vow
Carries us unfailingly across the ocean.*

“*Ohigan*” is not a distant Other Shore of Enlightenment for Nembutsu followers because Amida Buddha’s compassionate light is always casting upon us. According to the Jodo Shinshu tradition, “*Ohigan*” is also called “*Sanbutsu-e*” or “Gathering of Praising the Buddha.” Let us all gather together during *Ohigan* to praise Amida Buddha’s Wisdom and Compassion which lead all of us to the Other Shore of Enlightenment and appreciate Utmost Happiness in the Nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu.

NEWSLETTER NEXT DEADLINE

March 17, 2008

8:00 PM

Email Articles to:

Newsletter@

SeattleBetsuin.com

Print on
March 21, 2008

Seal and Label
Sunday, March 23,
by:
Scouts, CF, Taiko

Newsletter Sealing and Labeling Schedule for the current month, not for the issue Month:

BWA January & July

Gojikai February & August

Scouts, Campfire, Taiko*
March & September

YBA, Dharma School
April & October

ABA
May & November*

Ijikai June & December

*duty has been switched as of July '07

Camp Fire Group News

submitted by Dana Nakashima



Rainbows: Thoughts from two of our Starflight Rainbows members: Jesse: "I liked making a volcano in Camp Fire this year. We also sold candy - it was really cold, too."

Alina: "I liked finger crocheting and I liked performing on stage doing our dance."

A big thank you to Koki from the Hummingbirds for choreographing and teaching the girls the dance they performed at the New Year's luncheon.

Adventure 2/3: This month the girls began working on scrapbook pages containing photos of past group activities. They are enjoying using different types of media – stamps, glitter, scrapbooking paper – to create their individual pages. The girls also practiced their High School Musical

dance routine, in preparation for their February 16 performance at the Northwest Convention.

Finally, many of the girls participated in candy site sales, at a variety of local area stores. Despite very cold weather, the girls maintained a cheery attitude, selling candy and enjoying the camaraderie of their fellow group members.

Discovery/Horizon: This month many of us in the Discovery/Horizon group continued work on our Karuna awards. We attended classes with Rev. Castro and played taiko with Donna. We also spent a meeting making a total of about 150 Valentine's Day cards for Keiro residents. We will, hopefully, deliver these on February 10.

Troop 252 News

On Sunday, February 3, the scouts celebrated Scout Sunday with cake, pizza, fruit, and Jello. The food was really good! After that the Cub Scouts had their rocket derby; those rockets were moving very fast. After this the Scouts are planning to go igloo camping. That should be fun considering all the snow we are getting in the pass.

Troop Scribe, Evan

Notes from Dharma Exchange - February 10, 2008

NOTE: The purpose of this column is to inform members who are unable to attend Dharma Exchange - parent participating in Dharma School, those who are attending committee meetings, and spiritual seekers who access the Internet.

Elmer recounted a book of interest, A History of Japanese Immigrants in North America by Kazuo Ito. He described a woman from Japan who became a farmer's wife and was taught English by another farmer's wife. Yet another was commissioned by the Bon Marché to sew children's dresses and was paid .25 for each dress.

Bill Hirsch, former M.A., is much involved in a Buddhist/environmental program at Seattle University. All are welcome to attend Monday nights, 8:30 pm in St. Ignatius Chapel.

Joe Schwab, M.A. indicated there is no stigma attached to failure in Iceland; people are happy and there is no envy in this land of 24-hour winter darkness and 24-hour summer daylight. "With our minds we create our

reality" (and it is that reality that determines how happy we are according to Joe.)

Warrick Sensei related a tale of a New York cab driver who was rushing to the airport and had a near-accident because a car pulled out from an alley and almost hit him. The other driver was waving and cursing at the cab driver, but he smiled and waved back because he thinks of a garbage truck in such situations. He feels other drivers heap garbage on him and he takes it away.

Elmer declared he finally discovered the purpose of Buddhism after many years -- It is to relax! He recounted that Samurais relax before committing seppuku.

In gassho, Pat Bobrow

GO PAPERLESS! THIS NEWSLETTER IS NOW ON WWW.SEATTLEBETSUIN.COM

The "Wheel of the Sangha" newsletter is now posted on www.seattlebetsuin.com. If you are currently receiving a paper copy by U.S. mail and would like to discontinue for the online version, please let us know. Simply contact the temple office at 206-329-0800 or email Newsletter@SeattleBetsuin.com to have your name removed from the mailing list and jump online! **Note:** This is a voluntary option only. No one's subscription will be cancelled unless it is requested. No action is required to keep receiving your paper copy in the mail. The Japanese version is also online now! This is not an

offer to receive the newsletter via email. You must log on to www.SeattleBetsuin.com and click on newsletter to view the newsletter in pdf.

Temple President's Message

What a wonderful convention it was! Everything was oh so perfect! These were the words of praise I often heard at the conclusion of the 61st Annual Northwest District Buddhist Convention hosted by Seattle Betsuin. Many months of careful planning, detailed preparations, and finally putting everything together the last few days and nights by many dedicated volunteers gave us a great weekend we all remember with many fond memories. The theme of the event, "Coming Home to the Nembutsu" was praised as the most fitting by many speakers and others. Many attendees eagerly participated in the activities and programs the committee put together, sharing the learning and experiencing together the true meaning of "Coming Home to the Nembutsu". I'd like to express my deep gratitude to those who attended the convention and gave support in various ways.

BCA Ministers Association and National Council Meeting will be held in Portland, Oregon from February 26 through March 1. Some of the items of importance to us such as BCA budget, the Jodo Shinshu Center and the

options for financing of the debt will be discussed. We will report to you when our representatives are back.

In March Camp Fire will have its annual celebration on the 1st Sunday (March 2) and our annual Spring Bazaar is March 16. Please sign up to give us as much help as you can, and attend this all important fundraising event. Annual Spring Ohigan is March 23 with Reverend Tatsuya Aoki of Vancouver, BC as the guest minister. On March 30 there will be a special children's service in the Memorial Hall Chapel. Reverend Castro will conduct a class entitled, "Introduction to the Shoshinge" on Tuesdays March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15 and 22 at 7:00-8:30 pm. The fee is \$20 for this 8-week session.

We have shifted the monthly Cabinet meeting to the third Thursday of each month when the Board meeting is held on the fourth Thursday of the month. There will be some exceptions.

In Gassho, Mas Tahara

WIDE AWAKE TO AMIDA from Mandarava Blossoms Volume 10 Number 7 March, 1980

“The gods of heaven and earth bow to followers of the way of Faith in Amida” – Tannisho

What does it mean to have the deep mind of Faith? Do we work hard to get it? Is it a Gift? How do we happen to deserve such a Gift of Faith?

We really ought to give serious thought to the above questions, in order not to deceive ourselves.

To have a heart of Faith in this instance means to rely wholeheartedly upon the Power of the Nembutsu, which is the Holy Name of Amida Buddha, through Compassion of Amida. This means then that we no longer count our so called "good deeds" as having brought us to a full reliance of Amida. Nor does it mean that our hearts are quaking over our so called "evil deeds". Of course we will bear the fruit of evil deeds and reap the karmic results of them as we go about our daily lives and we can't just fool ourselves into doing anything we want, while pretending to hide under the mantle of Amida Buddha's Compassion. It goes beyond all that.

When one has experienced the total lack of success in living and believing, yet still deeply wants to know Amida Buddha and would give anything in the world to have faith...and is more than willing to give up his own ways, without wavering from day to day, then the Compassion of Amida overtakes that one and the Gift is realized. This

definitely means it was not from good deeds, (though those who try to live the Bodhisattva ideal, ought to continue, as it is the only right thing to do for the sake of our fellow man) and no pride need enter into the picture, rather a profound humility.

To have a deep heart of Faith, as given by Amida, means that our lives take on an entirely new dimension. Humbleness. Sincerity of heart. Thankfulness. An unwavering heart.

To have a deep faith, as given by Amida means that henceforth the person with such a heart will be able to truly be thankful and express his thankfulness by his thoughts, words and actions. Such a one is single hearted. It doesn't mean he will never experience some measure of trouble or suffering...this comes to all.

It does mean that the devotee of the Nembutsu is better able to take it in stride, to handle his problems and though he may fall in one way or another, he will get up again and rely more upon the Power of the Nembutsu.

Our only share in all of this gift, is that we did sincerely want IT and since we did want IT so earnestly, IT became ours.

It is to be remembered that when one repeats Namu Amida Butsu, it is not from our strength, or goodness or merit, it is being said by Amida, using our lips and voice.

So, when the gods of heaven and earth bow to followers of Faith, they are actually bowing before Amida Buddha.

- Grace McCleod

On behalf of the SBC Membership Committee...submitted by Steph Ojima

We would like to “thank” the following regular members, for contributing at least the minimum annual Ijikai dues (the basic dues toward the Temple maintenance/operations). This is a list of those paid members that have posted dues since our December posting:

Amy Hirasawa, Sat & Grace Ichikawa, Haruko Kobuki, Daisy Kuramoto, Kinue Kuwahara, Yoshi Mamiya, Fumiye Masunaga, Tomi Nakashima, Karry Sakamoto, Steve Shahbaghlian & Tish Oye, Hatuko Shimizu, Haruso & Sonoe Taketa, Nami Tanaka, Dolly Tokunaga, Machiko Wada, and Fujie Yamasaki.

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

2008 Bon Odori Committee Announces Design Contest

The 2008 Bon Odori Committee is currently seeking design entries for this year’s logo contest for posters and T-shirts/merchandise. **The winning entry will qualify for a \$100 cash prize.**

Contest rules:

- 1) All entries become the property of the Seattle Buddhist Temple for use by the Bon Odori Committee for advertising posters and event T-shirt/merchandise that are sold to the public as a part of the events fundraising activities. The submitter will not retain any rights regarding the profits that may be made from the sale of T-shirts or other event logo products sold with the winning design.
- 2) Entries must be received by the Temple office no later than close of business, **Sunday, April 27, 2008.**
- 3) The following are recommended graphic elements to consider:
 - a) design should be a maximum of three colors as means to control cost;
 - b) simplicity aids in reproduction and printing
 - c) design must appeal to both male and female audience;
 - d) submission of design in digital format preferred (CD or disc).

submitted by Ron Hamakawa

61ST ANNUAL NORTHWEST DISTRICT CONVENTION

SUBMITTED BY JOAN NAKANO & JOYCE KATO

The 2008 NW District Buddhist Convention was held at the DoubleTree Guest Suites in Tukwila, WA, February 15 – 17, where the theme was “Coming Home to the Nembutsu”. Our keynote speaker, Reverend Midori Kondo, from Lihue Hongwanji Mission, shared her own personal stories of coming back to the Nembutsu with the help of her friend, Keroppi. Guest speaker, Dean Koyama, shared his humorous stories of coming back home to Seattle and connected with the YBA delegates through workshops. Approximately 20 junior minister assistants



“ONEMBUTSU NI KAETTE KURU”
COMING HOME TO THE NEMBUTSU...

were able to attend, some of whom were from other states outside the District. Besides delegates from the Northwest temples, delegates from Canada also attended the convention. Thanks go to the ministers, who helped to guide the convention committee during its planning process. Thank you to the many temple members, who became boosters, donated items for prizes, and helped with the convention. Special thanks to Mas Tahara and Dale Kaku for working so long and hard in securing business ads for the convention booklet. It was a busy, but exhilarating weekend!

Joyce Kato and Joan Nakano
2008 Convention Co-Chairs

White River Buddhist Temple will hold their **2008 Spring Seminar with Reverend Marvin Harada** entitled **Resolving Life's Problems Through Buddhism** on Saturday, March 29, 2008, 9:00-3:30 (8:30 registration), at 3625 Auburn Way North, Auburn, WA; (253) 833-1442 <http://www.whiteriverbuddhistmpl.org/>; Fee: \$30 includes box lunch; BCA/BCC Members: \$20; WR Buddhist Temple Pledge Members: \$10; Contact: Karen Murakami, wrlink4goldenchain@comcast.net

Seattle Buddhist Women's Association

Report submitted by Terrie Tanino

- Officers elected to the vacancies of the 2008-2009 Cabinet are: Frances Shintaku, (E) Recording Secretary and Deanna Ikegami, (E) Corresponding Secretary.
- The auditorium stage drapery was mended on January 15th and 29th by 27 ladies. Repairs were done by sewing machines and mended by hand. Thanks to the maintenance crew led by Cyrus Honmyo for lowering the velvet curtains for easier work by hands and the Temple ladies that participated in this immense mending project.
- A friendly reminder to all members that in addition to the Betsuin Ijikai dues, please pay the annual \$10 BWA dues by April 15th.

SBWA gratefully acknowledges Dana Day donations from the following contributors:

L.Akizuki, M.Anciaux-Aoki, Anonymous, Anonymous, Anonymous, R.Aoki, S.Aoyama, M.Asaba, J.Baba, J.Deguchi, M.Deguchi, Y.Desaki, Y.Dodobara, M.Do, T.Enomoto, A.Fujii, S.Fujino, F.Fujita, S.Fujita, M.Fukuhara, M.Furuta, F.Groves, P.Hanada, S.Harada, H.Hasegawa, M.Heider, Y.Hiroo, M/C.Honmyo, L.Hori, N.Horikawa, D.Ikegami, I.Iseri, T.Isomura, Y.Isomura, S.Kaku, J.Kato, R.Kawahara, M.Kawamoto, M.Kido, S.Kikuchi, H.Kobuki, T.Kogita, J.Kosai, L.Kozai, Y.Kozai, M.Kubo, B.Kubota, C.Kunihiro, D.Kuramoto, K.Kuwahara, Y.Mamiya, I.Mano, M.Mano, R.Masuda, M.Matsui, S.Mizumori, T.Nakamichi, J.Nakamura, R.Nakamura, K.Nakanishi, J.Nakano, J.Nakano, T.Nakashima, N.Nakayama, D.Nishimura, M.Nishizaki, S.Nosho, M.Okamura, T.Okano, N.Otsuji, A.Oxrieder, S.Oye, T.Oye, T.Platnick, A.Sakoda, J.Seko, M.Shigaya, E.Shimbo, D.Shimizu, H.Shimizu, K.Shimizu, M.Shimizu, N.Shimizu, F.Shintaku, F.Sumida, J.Suto, A.Tahara, K.Takamura, J.Takano, K.Takashima, N.Takemura, J.Taketa, S.Taketa, F.Tamekuni, R.Tanaka, A.Taniguchi, F.Taniguchi, M.Taniguchi, T.Tanino, M.Tazuma, H.Terada, S.Terada, F.Terami, E.Tokita, F.Tsuchida, M.Tsunehara, J.Uyeji, M.Vaart, S.Yahata, F.Yamaguchi, S.Yamane, F.Yamasaki, M.Yanagimoto, R.Yasui, S.Yokota, F.Yoshida, M.Yoshida, M.Yoshimura, R.Yoshitomi, A.Akutsu, H.Aramaki, Y.Arinobu, L.Fujita, F.Hanada, S.Hayami, E.Kanemoto, M.Katayama, Y.Kihara, F.Kobayashi, M.Koyama, H.Mizuki, Y.Nakagawa, F.Nakamura, S.Nishimura, M.Ohtani, M.M.Osaki, M.Shibuya, T.Shigaya, N.Tanaka, K.Terada, D.Tokunaga, C.Tsubota.

SBWA Centennial Album:

In preparation for the upcoming SBWA Centennial celebration, the Centennial Album Committee has begun to take individual photographs of SBWA members. Thank you to all who took the time to come to the Temple for photos during January. The next photo opportunity will be April 20, 2008 at the Temple. This will take place after the New Members Luncheon, in the classroom across the hall from the dining room. We invite all members who have not had their picture taken to do so in April. Please contact either Tish Oye or Sheri Mizumori via the Betsuin office to sign up. This will help us to plan the photo session.

If you are unable to come to the Temple to have your picture taken, Kiyo Takashima has graciously volunteered to take your picture at your residence. If you would like to have your picture taken at your home, please contact Kiyo Takashima via the Betsuin office. Alternatively, we will accept (preferably digital) photos that have been taken by family/friends. Due to copyright protection issues, we can not use professional photographs. You can send the digital file to Tish or Sheri or you can mail the photo to the Seattle Betsuin (c/o SBWA Centennial committee). Thank you for taking the time to contribute to this historic album that seeks to honor the many generations of SBWA members.

SBWA Activities:

March 5, 2008 - Zori Pencil Holder Class

Instructors: Y. Hiroo & D. Shimizu 9:30 – noon

March 12, 2008 - Making Party Snacks for Bazaar

Instructors: S. Harada & D. Shimizu 9:30 – noon

March 26, 2008 - Card Making Class Instructors:

Kay Hirai, Lilly Tokita, Janet Baba 9:30 – noon

Sign up sheets will be posted across from the office or you may call Setsu Harada or Darlene Shimizu at via the Betsuin office.

March Calendar:

March 2nd BOD Meeting and Campfire Sunday

March 16th
March 23rd

Betsuin Spring Bazaar
Spring Ohigan Service with
Rev. Tatsuya Aoki

submitted by Deanna Ikegami

Dharma School Report

Submitted by Joyce Tsuji

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Nirvana Day/Pet Memorial service and potluck. The vegetarian dishes were delicious as usual and it looked like all had an enjoyable time. Special thanks go to Lynn Goodrich and her family for organizing the recycling and composting of the waste from the potluck also to those who took home compostable bags of waste. Thanks for helping us go green!

Classroom Reports

PreK/K class-teachers Marie Kosai-Luke, Joan Nakano, Kari Ann Yokoyama and Joyce Kato The Pre-K/K class welcomed the New Year by making a miniature *okasane* and learning of its significance. They also learned about *osechi-ryori* or Japanese New Year food and what each food represents. Then the students made their own kid-friendly version of *osechi-ryori*.

Ho-onko was observed in the classroom as students learned about the life of Shinran Shonin. They made a snowflake collage depicting the story of Shinran seeking shelter in a snowstorm and colored a story book about his life to take home to share with their parents.

The class learned that the Buddha taught that to like ourselves and to be liked by others, we must practice the Eight-fold Path. They discussed each aspect of the path and decorated their own Wheel of Dharma with Amida Buddha at the center.

Students observed Nirvana Day by decorating a picture of the Buddha upon his death.

1st/2nd grade-teachers Dave Scattergood and Joyce Tsuji To start off the New Year we colored year of the mouse/rat calendars. The students then did a *Hoonko* word search and listened to the story of the 3 Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig, a twist on an old favorite. After that they designed some interesting homes. The

class followed Sensei's lead and made paper *daruma* dolls to remind us of our resolutions for the year. We then put together a paper *onenju* where students contributed their own bead, which we have put up in the classroom. Finally we worked together to complete a Nirvana Day puzzle and a mouse made of heart shapes.

3rd grade—teachers Susie Taketa and Julianne Tosaya We continue to learn that you can experience the Dharma everywhere, including while making cookies. Each student was given a bag of different ingredients to mix together to bake cookies. We learned that we couldn't have made cookies without everyone else in the class. We then expanded on the fact that we couldn't have made cookies without the stores, truck drivers, factories, farmers, the earth, etc. and that we all are interdependent on each other. On other class days, we discussed the importance of Shinran Shonin on *Ho-On ko* and made a Buddha figure in commemoration of Nirvana Day.

4th/5th grade-teachers Sheri Mizumori, Tina Ko, Steph Ojima and Kelsey Ojima Recently, we set goals for the New Year, and created *Daruma* reminders of our goals. The children learned how remembering an old Japanese saying "*Nana korobi, ya oki*" might help them to achieve their goals. Feel free to ask your child how that works! The very creative *Daruma* are hanging on a bulletin board just outside of our classroom. Please take a look when you have some time.

We made pet blankets in honor of the Nirvana Day/Pet Memorial service. Everyone did such a great job! These blankets will be donated to an animal shelter. Thank you for your support of the Dharma School classes. It has been a wonderful opportunity for us to teach your children!

March 30th Children's Service takes place in Memorial Hall Chapel promptly at 10:00 a.m. Children's service is a more informal setting; messages will be appropriate for young school ages. Hondo sermons on these days will be geared toward a middle school level on up. Families are encouraged to select whichever setting fits their needs. **Oshoko (incense offering) will be from 9:45 – 10:00.** (Memorial Hall Chapel is in use as a classroom immediately following the service.)

Scholarship for High School Seniors Applications for the Tsujihara Family Memorial Scholarship Grant are now available by contacting Shizue Kaku through the temple office at 206.329-0800. Deadline to submit applications is **Friday, April 25, 2008**. If you are a graduating senior in the class of 2008, affiliated with the Seattle Betsuin, and plan to attend an institution of higher learning, please apply for this scholarship.

The Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges
the Following Donations – January/February 2008

<u>Funeral / Memorial / Nokotsudo:</u>	<u>For:</u>		<u>Given by:</u>
	George Suetsugu – 1 Year Memorial Service	\$ 1,000	George Suetsugu, Jr.
	Fugie Kajimura – 1 Year Memorial Service	\$ 500	Chris Beck & Marcia Kajimura-Beck
	Hiroshi Nakashima – In Memory	\$ 400	Fumi Yamaguchi
	Suye Kinomoto – Funeral Sodan	\$ 300	Olivia Uyeda
	Michika Ishii – Memorial Service	\$ 200	Janet Korn
	Dam Sin Yee – Funeral Service	\$ 100	Betty Yee
	Nokotsudo	\$ 100	Nakano Family
	Nokotsudo	\$ 50	Kuniko Takamura

<u>Remembrances for:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
Joyce Ding	Yoshie Hiroo; Mabel Nishizaki
Fugie Kajimura	Linda Kajimura; Lisa Kajimura; Tina Kajimura; Hiroshi & Mutsuko Kajimura; Isako Kajimura; Kazuko Kajimura; Darlene Furukawa; George & Lily Komoto; Miyoko Kondo; The O'Hare Family
Florence Koura	Stephanie Koura; Ellen Nakata
Hiroshi Nakashima	Sue Fujino; Nobuichi Fujita; Rose Masuda

Wedding: Jeffery Slaker \$ 500

General Donations: DKE LLC; Jean Hirano; Carolyn Holeski; Gladys Shahbaghlian

2008 New Years' Party: Tomio Moriguchi

<u>Other Gifts:</u>	<u>Donor:</u>	<u>For:</u>
	Hiroshima Kenjin Kai	Facility Use Appreciation
	Kumamoto Kenjin Kai	Facility Use Appreciation
	Yamaguchi Kenjin Kai	Use of Bingo Equipment

Reflections from Reverend Seigen Yamaoka submitted by FDSTL Historian Chizuko Kakiuchi

Reflection: We think that being lonely is a feeling for humans, only. All living things feel lonely even if it is for just a moment. **Reflection:** If we can flow with the flow of life there is much to experience; however, if we stop the flow for selfish reasons we create a dam which may overflow and cause harm. ○ Before entering Nirvana the Buddha instructed all who followed him to [go with] the flow of life in its natural form - a form that is ever changing and flowing, yet full of

potential meaning. Then, we can experience the naturalness of what life is all about. **Reflection:** It is hard to be natural when we are full of ourselves.

Congratulations, Jim Sensei! submitted by Irene Goto

Jim Warrick received his certificate of kyoshi ordination from Socho Ogui at the 61st annual Northwest Buddhist Convention on February 17, 2008. Thank you for your dedication and hard work, Jim Sensei.

2008 TEMPLE SPRING BAZAAR

**The Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple
Annual Bazaar**
will be held on
Sunday, March 16, 2008 in the temple
auditorium from
11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

There will be food items for dining-in or take out, including sushi, udon, teriyaki chicken and rice curry to name a few. We will also have baked goods for purchase. The Spring Bazaar is one of the Temple's major fundraisers to help fund operations and maintenance of the facility. Please help support this event by attending and tell your friends and other family members.

As with many other events at the Temple, we rely on the volunteerism of individuals for many of the tasks needed to put an event together. Bazaar is no different. Please volunteer to help for this year's Bazaar. Organizational representatives should be contacting you about signing up for tasks where help is needed. If you do not belong to any organizations or have not heard from them, please sign-up on the task sheets that have been posted in the hallway outside the dining room. Thank in advance for your support.

Advance tickets for the Bazaar were mailed out in February. If you received the ticket mailing, the tickets are for you to purchase for your use or for sale to friends and



family. These tickets have an equivalent face value of \$5.00 per ticket and can only be used to pay for food items or goods at this year's Bazaar. If possible, please drop off your payment for the tickets at the Temple office or send your funds in the remittance envelope included in the mailing prior to the event. Please do not send cash through the mail. Payment for the tickets mailed to you will also be accepted at the cashiering table for the dine-in restaurant on the day of the Bazaar. If you pay cash, please indicate your name so that we may update our records for the tickets that have

been issued to you. If you need more tickets to sell to friends and family, please contact the Temple office.

The Bazaar committee is also asking for any donations of crafts or baked goods. If you have any crafts which you would like to donate and have sold at the Bazaar, please bring them to the table on the day of the Bazaar or you may drop them off at the Temple office and indicate that it is for the craft table. Donations of baked items to be sold at the baked goods table should be brought to the table on the day of the Bazaar. If possible, please pre-package any baked goods into saleable serving sizes which can be purchased for even dollar amounts, i.e. 3 medium sized cookies for \$1.00, 2 cupcakes for \$1.00, etc.

Submitted by Howard Luke

Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple 1427 South Main St Seattle, WA 98144 Ph: 206. 329.0800

"Introduction to the *Shoshinge*" Course with Reverend Don Castro

Tuesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1, 8, 15, 22, 2008 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

This 8 week course will present both an introduction to the meaning and practice in chanting the Shoshin Nembutsu Ge or "Gatha on the True Faith in the Nembutsu." This gatha serves as an outline of Shinran's teaching and is one of only two of the chants in our service book with the actual writing of Shinran Shonin. Each of the eight weeks, we will explore the meaning of the text and practice chanting and conducting a simple service. This course is intended to lead up to a new Sunday morning service beginning in May. This service will be held from 8:45 – 9:30 a.m. most Sundays and will be modeled after a very successful service Orange County Buddhist Church as initiated. A background of Jodo Shinshu is recommended.



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□ Rev. Don Castro's "Introduction to the Shoshinge" Tuesdays, March 4 – April 22, 2008 7:00 – 8:30 pm. □

Please submit this registration form with fee by Sunday, March 3, 2008. Fee: \$20.00 BCA & BCC Member* \$30.00 Non-member. Please make check payable to Seattle Betsuin Religious Department. Mail to Seattle Buddhist Church, Religious Department, 1427 South Main Street Seattle, WA 98144 or drop it off at the Seattle Buddhist Temple office.

Name: _____ Tel: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip _____

*BCA & BCC members are those who belong to the churches and temples affiliated with the Buddhist Churches of America (www.BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org), and the Buddhist Churches of Canada