

Wheel of the Sangha

Volume 28 Issue 4 April 2009

A monthly publication by **Seattle Buddhist Church**

*May peace and tranquility prevail
throughout the world*

Seattle Buddhist Church

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**This is a cover page.
Please scroll down
to view the rest
of the newsletter.**

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Wheel of the Sangha

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Seattle Betsuin Vision

*Embrace true and
real life
in Nembutsu*



Seattle Betsuin Mission

*Promote, protect, and
share the Buddha,
Dharma and Sangha*

April/May 2009 Special Events

- ABA DINNER/DANCE (P. 7) APRIL 4
- HANAMATSURI SERVICE and LUNCHEON - Both in Gym (p.11) April 12
- DHARMA SCHOOL'S EARTH DAY April 19
- DHARMA SCHOOL GYM DAY April 26
- SBBWA New Member Service and Luncheon May 3
- Gotan-E Service May 17
- Memorial Day Service at Lakeview Cemetery Monday, May 25



Hanamatsuri Service in Gym and Luncheon Compliments of DS - Sunday, April 12, 2009

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Betsuin Events for April 2009

**Shinran Shonin's
750th Memorial**



SUNDAYS

April 5

10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE

Children: Joe Schwab

Adult: Rev Warrick

Japanese: Rinban Matsubayashi

DX: Rev Castro

11:30 am SBBWA Board Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi)

1:00 pm Sangha Award Class (Rev Warrick)

April 12 HANAMATSURI Service in Gym

9:15 am Sweet Tea Offering in Main Foyer

10:00 am Service in Gymnasium

Children: Rev. Julie Hanada

Adult: Rev. Julie Hanada

Japanese: Rinban Matsubayashi

DX: Rev. Julie Hanada & Rev. Castro

11:30 am Hanamatsuri Luncheon in Gym

April 19 Dharma School: Earth Day Observance

10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE

Children: Rev Castro

Adult: Rinban Matsubayashi

Japanese: Rinban Matsubayashi

DX: Rev Castro

1:00 pm Sangha Award Class (Rev Castro)

April 26

10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE

Children: Rev Castro

Adult: Rev Castro

No Japanese Service

DX: Rev Castro

10:45 am Gym Day – Dharma School Students

MONDAYS

April 6 Rinban Matsubayashi (Day off)

April 13

10:30 am Butsuren Hanamatsuri at Keiro (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev Castro)

April 27 Rinban Matsubayashi (Day off)

TUESDAYS

April 7, 14, 21 Rev Castro (Days off)

April 28 Ministerial Training & Development Committee Meeting at Jodo Shinshu Center (Rev Castro)

10:30 am Keiro Service (Rinban Matsubayashi)

Shinran Shonin's 750th Memorial Observance

The Hongwanji in Kyoto, Japan is currently formulating plans for the year-long 750th memorial observances for Shinran Shonin in 2011. Memorial services for Shinran Shonin will be held beginning in April of 2011 and concluding on January 16, 2012. The Hongwanji has announced that members from the overseas districts (BCA, Hawaii, Canada, South America, etc.) are invited to attend the 750th Memorial Service for Shinran Shonin in 2011. The following date has been specifically set aside for groups from the overseas districts to attend the service at the Hongwanji: Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Service for Overseas District members Place: Hongwanji – Kyoto, Japan Date: May 15, 2011 Time: 9:30 a.m - extracted from memorandum from Socho Ogui to BCA Ministers and Presidents, February 24, 2009.

WEDNESDAYS

April 1

2:00 pm Ministers' Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev Castro)

7:30 pm Dharma School Board Meeting (Rev Castro)

April 15 Rinban Matsubayashi (Day off)

April 29 Rev Castro (Day off)

THURSDAYS

April 2 1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rev. Castro)

April 9 7:30 pm Religious Dept. Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

April 16

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

1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rinban Matsubayashi)

7:30 pm Betsuin Cabinet Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

April 23 Rinban Matsubayashi (Day off)

7:30 pm Betsuin Board of Directors Meeting (Rev Castro)

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS

April 3 (Friday)

12:00 pm Gojikai Service & Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

April 17 (Friday)

11:00 am Ministers' Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

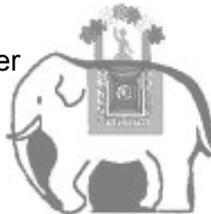
April 24-26 (Fri-Sun) BCA FDSTL Conference at Mountain View Buddhist Temple (Rinban Matsubayashi)

May 2009: Major Events of Interest

May 3 SBBWA New Member Service and Luncheon

May 17 Gotan-E Service

May 25 Memorial Day Service at Lakeview Cemetery





ALTHOUGH THE FINAL SEPARATION IS CERTAIN...

Rinban Hoshu Y. Matsubayashi, Ed.D.

A famous Japanese novelist Soseki Natsume stated in the beginning of his book, **Kusa-makura (A Grass Pillow)**, that: *If you are too intellectual, you will antagonize with others. If you are too emotional, you will lose yourself. If you push too much your own way, you will feel uncomfortable. How difficult it is to live in this world of people. Yet, there is no place where we can escape. If there is a place where we can escape from this world, we can go only to the world without people. To live in the world without any people is much harder than the world of people...*

If you eliminate your blind attachments from the difficulties in the world of people, you will realize the peaceful world in gratitude. Such spiritual enlightenment will be reflected in your poem.

When I was young, I used to enjoy reading the many writings of Soseki Natsume, who had studied English literature in England. The writing above almost became my philosophy of youth. His inspiration also guided me to understand the three characteristics of Buddhism: 1) Everything is constantly changing. 2) Everything exists interdependently (selflessly). 3) Everything does not go along with one's wishes.

These characteristics of Buddhism are described beautifully in the beginning of **Tale of Heike** that "The sound of the bell of the Gion Temple echoes the impermanence of everything. The color of the flowers of the Sala Tree teaches the principle of changes..."

New Tanka poems of the Seattle Tanka Poem Society were published in **The North American Post** on February 4, 2009. In the beginning, I found the Tanka poem of our Dharma friend, Mrs. Fusako Kusumi. Two years ago, Mrs. Kusumi won the honorable mention in the All Japan Manyo Tanka Poem Contest. I always enjoy reading her

Tanka poems in the local Japanese and English Newspapers. Her poem was:

**Although the final separation from
loved one is certain,
your warmth will remain in my
heart forever.**

I thought that her poem reflects Soseki Natsume's philosophy of life. Her poem reflects the spiritual awakening of a peaceful world. Separation from a loved one is the truth and reality of our changing world. With such a realization, she was awakened to the eternal compassion in her heart and I felt her peace and happiness in her poem.

Dr. Kitaro Nishida, a famous philosopher in Japan, stated in his philosophical book, **A Study of Good**, "The religious demand is the demand with regard to the self; it is the demand concerning the life of the self. It is the demand wherein at the same time that our self perceives intellectually its relativity and finiteness, it joins with the absolute and infinite power, and desires, by means of this, to acquire the true life of eternity." Dr. Nishida reminds us that the essence of religion is the realization of the relative and finite self and we become one with the absolute, infinite, and eternal power.

Shinran Shonin taught in his Jodo Shinshu Buddhism that people, who have a finite earthly life, should be awakened to the primal vow (power) of Amida (Infinite) Buddha. We become one with the compassion and wisdom of Amida Buddha. This unity with Amida Buddha's compassion is a life of the Nembutsu, **Namo Amida Butsu**.

Let us all celebrate Hana Matsuri, the birthday of Shakyamuni Buddha, who taught how to attain enlightenment in this world. In the world of enlightenment, we are able to find true peace and happiness in the life of the Nembutsu. **Namo Amida Butsu**



Save the date! The year-end Council Fire (awards and recognition) will be on Sunday, May 31, 2009 from noon-1pm. Location is the Gym. All Camp Fire alumni, friends and family are welcome to attend.



Candy Sale Results The church group had a very successful candy sale – our best result yet! We sold a whopping 5,741 units (an increase of over 30% from last year.) 50 students participated. We sold \$28,705 worth of candy, which about half goes back to local CF USA programs. At a time when Camp Fire USA Puget Sound is struggling financially, the money raised is even more critical. For our group candy refund, we raised over \$2000! Beyond raising funds, another benefit was providing candy to needy organizations. Many students did site sales at grocery stores, and collected candy donations (where the customer pays \$5 but doesn't want the candy.) We gave over 200 units to Operation Homefront, an organization that provides support for local families with absent parents due to military service. Some students also collected candy donations for local food banks for Valentine's Day.

Thank you and congratulations to all students who participated by selling candy. Also, a big thank you to all the parents for supporting your child. Here are the group results. **Starlight: 918 units, Rainbows: 1762 units, Adventure: 932 units, Hummingbirds: 1955 units, Discovery/Horizon: 174 units. Top Sellers** We had 13 students who sold 120 or more; this is our best result to date. Kayla and Alina were our top sellers (selling 44% of the total church units!), and will likely be top sellers of the N. Branch and whole Puget Sound Council. Congratulations! **Kayla B. (top seller for the 4th year) 1352, Alina B. 1186, Kristy C. 337, Chiyo A. 211, Emily K. 181, Tiffany Y. 176, Annalise C. 159,**

Sarah C. 159, Emi N. 157, Meghan H. 128, Sela C. 120, Janay L. 120, Emily S. 120.

A huge "thank you" to the parents who volunteer as Candy Captains and other jobs. The impressive results would not be possible without your time

and energy. **Candy captains: May H., Janet K., Pam H., Lani and Lori C. Church distributor & U. Village site sale coordinator – Lani**

An extra big thanks to Lani for spearheading the candy drive for the past 5 years! We appreciate the many hours spent delivering candy, counting money, tracking thousands of boxes of candy and keeping everything running smoothly!

Discovery/Horizon Submitted by Lori C. On March 1, our group conducted the Camp Fire Sunday service in honor of Camp Fire's 99th Birthday. As a culmination of their religious study for the Karuna award, the girls conducted the ministerial aspects of the service. **Congratulations to Aiko, Alissa, and Erica, who acted as Doshi.** We would like to extend a big **thank-you to Reverend Jim Warrick** for all his time helping the girls prepare for the service.

Members continue to work toward the Karuna award by learning about different aspects of Japanese culture. In November, the BWA members, lead by **Ritsuko Kawahara**, taught Japanese cooking. The girls learned how to make inari sushi, manju, and udon. **Norigiku Horikawa** shared her expertise of Ikebana. The girls were able to create beautiful displays using techniques taught by Mrs. Horikawa. **Gail Kaminishi** spent many meetings teaching the girls quilting and helping them create two altar cloths with fall and spring themes.

We are so appreciative to have so many church members with extraordinary talents who were willing to teach the girls about Japanese culture. ●●●

SCHOLARSHIP Application Deadline: Friday, April 24, 2009, 1:00 pm

High School Seniors 2009 - If you are a temple high school senior class of 2009 you are eligible to apply for the Seattle Betsuin Tsujihara Memorial Scholarship Grant / Seattle Betsuin Continuing Education Grant.

College Students - The Masaru & Mitsuma Shimokon Scholarship Grant is available to temple college students. To apply you must be currently attending college with majors in medicine, nursing, or engineering.

All applications must be submitted by 1pm Friday, April 24, 2009. Contact: Shizue Kaku at via the Betsuin office at 206-329-0800. ●●●

GO PAPERLESS! THIS NEWSLETTER IS NOW ONLINE AT

WWW.SEATTLEBETSUIN.COM Contact the temple office at 206-329-0800 or email Newsletter@SeattleBetsuin.com to have your name removed from the mailing list and jump online! Thank you!

Cherry Blossoms by Reverend Don Castro

“April showers bring May flowers,” the saying goes. I wonder where this saying originated; in the Northeast? As long as I’ve lived in Seattle I’ve thought, “April showers bring May showers.” You never know what spring weather will be here. But, rain or shine, the cherry blossoms will soon bloom in all their glory.

When I was a student in Japan, I was told how a Buddhist appreciates the cherry blossoms. If you focus only on the tree in full bloom, you are being too optimistic. If you focus only on the fallen, browning petals, you are too pessimistic. I was told the true Buddhist lesson in the cherry blossoms lies in appreciating the cherry petals as they flutter to the ground. It is a lesson in mindfulness to be fully present for the time it takes each petal to leave the tree and reach the ground. This duration represents our life span. Some petals fall from high up and others from branches close to the ground but, in the moment-by-moment appreciation of their journey, both high and low petals are of the same Dharma quality; the quality of the Nembutsu.

This metaphor of the cherry blossoms was part of the sermon I gave March 7 at the funeral for a father and his son in Yakima who died within weeks of each other from natural causes. Mas Wada was 87 and his son Guy was 51. Mas passed away while the funeral for his son was in the planning stages. As sad and tragic as the deaths were to the Wada family, it was wonderful to hear the warm remembrances and tributes for both father and son. Both deeply touched the lives of family and friends, and both will be deeply missed.

This April, this Hanamatsuri (Flower Festival), I hope we can take many moments to savor the Dharma of flowers. ●●●

Message to Our Members by President Mas Tahara

Thank You, All! The 2009 Seattle Betsuin Bazaar was a huge success, thanks to all the members who worked so long and hard. The committee members, in particular, spent countless days and hours in planning and preparing for our annual fundraising event, and all the volunteers filled the spots to make the event a great family venture. Yes, our bazaar is a family affair that gathers us to enjoy a common bond.

The Betsuin Board Retreat was held on Saturday, March 7 from 9am until 5pm. Last year we spent great deal of time looking into all aspects of our temple’s operation/management. We found some alarming facts in the membership, buildings, financial state, and other areas. This retreat was for us to find ways to set a course for a brighter future for our temple and the members. The process is quite complex and the changes we seek are many and challenging. I feel we took a giant step forward by getting consensus on many pressing issues to tackle. But it is only a step, the first of many we must take together with you.

News Relating to BCA Paul Mori and I, as the representatives of our church, attended Buddhist Churches of America National Council meeting held in Irvine, California on Feb. 26-28. Seattle Betsuin has a long history of involvement and strong support in the affairs of BCA, thanks to the leaders past and present who have participated at various levels of the organization. The high degree of participation in the “Campaign BCA – the 21st Century” by our members is a good example of what good leadership and dedicated members can do for a common cause.

JSC (Jodo Shinshu Center) Financing Committee has secured an agreement with California Bank & Trust on \$3.8 million loan to be paid in 25 years at 5.25% interest. This arrangement reduced the financial crisis BCA had faced in repayment of the debts. Aside from this loan BCA Endowment Foundation advanced \$3.5 million at 5.00% interest with a balloon payment due in 5 years. Monthly debt payments of \$51,451 a month was reduced to \$37,837. Currently \$1.17million is available for debt service and pay-down. JSC is operating at almost near capacity with 700 different activities held in 2008.

Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Observance will be held in conjunction with the 2010 BCA National Council meeting at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose, CA on February 26-28, 2010. The Shinran Shonin Symposium will begin in the afternoon and conclude with a Shinran Shonin Memorial service on Sunday, February 28. The auction proceeds at the recently held 2009 National Council Meeting will be used to help finance the symposium. Cost for the symposium and Saturday banquet is \$110. The keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. Ken Tanaka, and the banquet guest speaker will be Pieper Toyama, head of the Pacific Buddhist Academy in Hawaii.

2009/2010 BCA Budget & Assessment: Based on the average membership of 16,692 and the membership assessment for 2009/2010 is **\$85.76**. Seattle Betsuin is listed with 565 members so the total assessment is \$46,369.55 or \$3,864.13 per month. We should receive a notification. ●●●

Temple Membership

SEATTLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE 2009 BETSUIN MEMBERSHIP DUES

The basic dues towards the Church maintenance and operations, is **\$250 for those over 70 years of age (\$500 per couple) and \$300 for those under 70 years old (\$600 per couple)**. The Temple pays an assessment to the BCA and to the Northwest District for each Temple regular member, about \$90 to both organizations combined. The remainder of your paid dues (**\$160 from a \$250 membership; \$210 from a \$300 membership**) are used in the area of salaries and benefits plus the costs for maintenance, utilities, and insurance. You can see why it is important for **everyone** to pay their dues.

For those of you who have already paid your 2009 membership dues, we say **"THANK YOU"** for your support. Your contributions have been helping us to maintain and operate the Temple during this fiscal year. Those of you who are making installment payments, we ask that your **balance be paid by September 30th 2009**. Those of you have yet to make any contribution for 2009, the deadline is September 30th.

Thank you again, for your contributions and continued Temple support. If you have any questions about your membership status, please contact

Howard Luke or Steph Ojima by way of the Betsuin office: 206-329-0800 or office@seattlebetsuin.com.

On behalf of the SBC Membership Committee...
We would like to **"thank"** the following **regular members**, for contributing at least the minimum annual Ijikai dues (the basic dues toward the Temple maintenance/operations). This is a list of those paid members that have posted dues since our last month's posting:

Lisa Butler, Lani Carpenter, Tsuyako Chadwick, Helen Gota, Mickey & Yoshie Hiroo, Robert & Dawn Keeley, Patricia Kihara, Shizue Kikuchi, George Kodama, Masayoshi & Masako Kubo, Kinue Kuwahara, Randy & Susan Lavigne, Fumiye Masunaga, Yoshiye Nakagawa, Kiyoko Nakanishi, Yoshio & Judith Nakamura, Mary Osaki, Gerald Quintua, Florence Sumida, Jean Taketa, Fumie Taniguchi, Tazuko Uyenishi, Michiko Jean Vaart, Joe & Barbara Wakazuru, Tasuya Yamamoto, Norio & Miyoko Yamazaki, Sumie Yokota, Dick & Misao Yoshimura, Elliot Zimmerman.

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Dharma School April 2009

Submitted by Joyce Tsuji

As a follow up to the Nirvana day bake/pet toy sale, the Dharma School has donated \$50 of those proceeds to Pasado's Safe Haven which is one of the premiere animal rescue organizations in the United States, dedicated to 24-hour rescue and rehabilitation of dogs, cats and farm animals located in Sultan WA. Thanks again to all of those who helped make that possible.

Classroom Reports

Pre-K/K The Pre-K/Kindergarten students spent a class session reviewing what they have learned in Dharma School thus far. They took turns selecting items or pictures used in our lessons and explained to their classmates what they have learned about them. The next week, the class discussed symbols and how they represent something. After learning about the Buddhist flag and what each color represents, the students made their own flags to take home.

The children continued to learn more about interdependence and Dana. The class worked together on a project which will be their Dana for the upcoming Spring Bazaar.



First/Second Grade We started the month by talking about the first sermon the Buddha gave after becoming enlightened. He spoke of the Eightfold path and so we colored a Wheel of Dharma. We then talked about Girls Day and made origami emperor/empress dolls. Finally we read the book Cookies Bite Size Life Lessons that is illustrated with cookie related definitions for words like respect, trustworthy and courageous. Of course we shared some cookies that day too. We will continue with this book and the kids relating their own stories that show these qualities and then relate these to the Eightfold path. ●●●

Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association

Message from Terrie Tanino, President: SBBWA April Betsuin Newsletter Article submitted by Terrie Tanino. Janet Baba, Machiko Wada and the Membership Committee are making plans for our annual New Membership Installation Service and Fellowship Luncheon scheduled on May 3. We welcome ladies of the temple regardless of age to please consider joining our organization. Please contact Membership Committee members: Kiyoko Takashima, Norigiku Horikawa, Joyce Kato or President Terrie Tanino if you are interested.

Treasurer's Report, Mabel Nishizaki:

Dana Day donation received thru 3/10/2009
L. Akizuki, Anonymous, J. Deguchi, M. Deguchi, M. Dodobara, Y. Dodobara, F. Fujita, R. Hara, H. Harada, N. Horikawa, J. Kato, N. Kato, P. Kihara, T. Miyauchi, S. Mizumori, T. Okano, N. Otsuji, T.

Shigaya, K. Watanabe, M. Yamaguchi, M. Yanagimoto, R. Yasui, and M. Yoshimura.

Donations:

Fran Shintaku - In Appreciation
Fumiko Yamaguchi - 3rd year memorial for Miyo Ise
Margaret Teramoto - In memory of Aya Teramoto
Joan Seko - In memory of Mrs. Nakamoto

Activity Report, Judith Nakamura:

Activity Committee will have an origami crane folding class on Wednesday, April 8 from 9:30 AM to 11:30 in the dining room.

Calendar:

April 5 SBBWA Board Meeting
12 Hanamatsuri
26 SBBWA May Board Meeting
Submitted by Deanna Ikegami

Cub Scout Pack of the Year Honors Go To Pack 252

On Thursday, March 12, at the Boy Scouts of America's Thunderbird District annual awards dinner, Cub Scout Pack 252 sponsored by the Seattle Betsuin was named the 2008 Thunderbird District Cub Scout Pack of the Year for presenting an exceptional scouting program over the past calendar year. In addition, our Cubmaster Tom Sakamoto was named the Thunderbird District's 2008 Cubmaster of the Year in recognition of his work leading our Pack. Tom quickly pointed out that this was a team effort and credited his team of adult leaders, (Matt Bates, Eileen Hamamoto Yee, Kris Kosugi, David Lee, Andrea Mano, Ryan Nakata, Anthony Shimizu, Doug Takeuchi, Gary Tosaya, and especially his wife Bev for handling all the administrative work), for making Pack 252's program what it is. Congratulations to the boys and adult leaders of Cub Scout Pack 252 for a wonderful year! Submitted by Alan Hoshino

Large And Small Things You Can Do To Save Our Planet by Irene Goto

Kudos to the Bazaar Committee and workers for their great effort in separating out the compostable waste from the recyclable and garbage waste. Seattle Betsuin uses a commercial composting facility, rather than Seattle Utility's garbage pick-up service for compostables, enabling us to throw the meat and bones, as well as vegetable and paper material, all into the brown compostable bin. On March 30, 2009 the City of Seattle's yard waste bins will also accept meat, bones, dairy, shells, avocado pits, eggshells, udon, rice, flowers, bread, greasy pizza boxes, coffee grounds and filters, tea bags, uncoated paper plates and cups. Go to www.seattle.gov/util/foodwaste.



Dine and Dance with ABA

Attend their Membership Celebration

Saturday, April 4, 2009

Seattle Betsuin Auditorium

6:00 pm - Dinner by Four Seas, Door Prizes, and Program

*7:00 pm - Dance to DJ Rocking Hits from the 60's & 70's, Raffle Prizes**

Tickets: \$30 per person

*Join ABA for \$10 on March 22, 29, at the temple, for a free raffle ticket

Submitted by Machiko Wada

SPRING BAZAAR

It's only been about a few weeks that the Sangha came together to put on the 2009 Spring Bazaar. Planning meetings for the event starts in late January so it is a testimony to the efforts of many to successfully put on the event. While not without its problems and having to work around them, it all comes together in the end and a successful event is held. While it is still early to say how the event was financially, it did seem that everyone enjoyed themselves and that in itself would be one measure of its success. This event is a fundraiser for the Temple, as all net proceeds are used for Temple operations, and the expectation is that the event would be as successful as the prior year financially. The menu was changed this year to offer new items, but also to make the tasks of the volunteers simpler and not as demanding. Details will be provided in the annual report that is published for the General Meeting this coming December. On behalf of the Seattle Betsuin and the 2009 Spring Bazaar committee, our thanks for your support and attendance at this fundraiser.

Representatives from Temple organizations together with members of the Bazaar committee with specific duties, met 3 times to plan this fundraiser. Their time and effort into making this fundraiser a positive experience is greatly appreciated and a "Thank you" is extended to all. 2009 Spring Bazaar Committee members are: Steph O. (recorder/assistant), Susie T. (tickets), Ron H. (procurement), Craig N. (treasurer), Karry S. (advisor) and representatives from various organizations or specific Bazaar Tasks: Steve C. (Dharma School), Donna N. (Teriyaki Chicken), Pauline S. (Curry), Shizue Y. (SBBWA), Andrea M. (Cub Scouts), Jan K. (Boy Scouts), Mas T. (Breakfast) and Donna Z. (Matsuri Taiko).

Even with the planning, this fundraiser wouldn't happen without the generous support of those that volunteer their time for the many tasks involved and the donations received. This is one of the two major

fundraisers for the Temple and has been the case for all the prior years - it all comes together in the end. To those that understand the level of commitment needed to have a successful event and take on one or more of the thankless tasks, please do not underestimate the appreciation expressed. I hear the "Thank you's" for a job well done, but I know it is from the efforts of many who make this a success and it is not just because of one person. On behalf of the Temple and myself, please accept a "THANK YOU" to individuals for your efforts and contributions, especially to those who take on more than a single task, year after year, or take on unplanned tasks because an unplanned event has taken place and we have to be flexible. Your contributions are very much appreciated, as it is the collective efforts of all that help to make this event a success.

For a couple of reasons, i.e. keeping the newsletter to a manageable length and to keep names private as the newsletter is on the Betsuin website, I have decided to forego listing the names of donors for the baked goods and merchandise and also the many individuals that volunteered their time. The information from the sign-up sheets will be kept for future reference in helping to determine workloads and to have a record of the donors and volunteers. Please know that your contributions are valued, even if not listed individually.

On a final note, there were some individuals that did not receive their Spring Bazaar script. I would like to ask that those individuals contact the Betsuin office and leave their name and address. While some issues may be attributable to delivery of bulk mail, incorrect addresses may be the problem. Information provided will be checked against the information on file.

In Gassho,
2009 Spring Bazaar Chairperson

Submitted by Howard Luke

12th Annual Kids Summer Program (KSP) – June 22 – 26, 2009

The 12th Annual Kids Summer Program (KSP) registration is still open. This popular program sponsored by Seattle Buddhist Temple and Dharma School is open to all students entering grades 1 - 8 in Fall 2009. Registration Forms are now available on the temple website: www.seattlebetsuin.com. Dates: June 22-26, 2009. Registration will be taken in order received, class size is limited. We encourage families to volunteer to get the most of this special program. 2009 KSP Co-chairs: June Iwafuchi, Tina Zumoto Ko & Leanne Nishi Wong.



Submitted by Tina Ko

The Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations –
February – March 2009

<u>Funeral / Memorial / Nokotsudo:</u>	<u>For:</u>		<u>Given by:</u>
Henry Tai – Funeral Service		\$ 2,000	Roberta Hasstedt
Kiyoko Nakamoto – Funeral Service		\$ 1,500	Eugenia Nakamoto
Miyoko Koyama – Funeral, 7 th Day Memorial & Interment		\$ 1,300	Richard Koyama
Katashi Oita – Funeral Service		\$ 1,200	Julie McDermott
Mary Doi – Funeral Service		\$ 1,000	Dr. James I. Doi
William Kuskabe – Funeral Service		\$ 1,000	Kusakabe Family
Kazuye Piecykoski – Funeral Service		\$ 1,000	Yukie Higashi
Tsutomu Kanzaki – Funeral Service		\$ 750	Michael Kanzaki
Nokotsudo		\$ 500	George Shimada
Miyoko Ise – 3 rd Year Memorial Service		\$ 400	Hal Ise
Tad Fujita – 49 th Day Memorial Service		\$ 400	Florence Fujita
Dr. Shiro Watanabe – 49 th Day Memorial Service		\$ 300	Nancy Watanabe
Yoshito Enomoto – 1 Year Memorial Service		\$ 300	Sachiyo Enomoto
Ted Kunihiro – 3 rd Year Memorial Service		\$ 300	Carolyn Kunihiro
Ken Fujita – 7 th Year Memorial Service		\$ 300	Florence Fujita
Maryo Haag – 1 Year Memorial Service		\$ 200	Zachary Haag
Kikue Suganuma – 3 rd Year Memorial Service		\$ 120	Aiko Suganuma
Ritsuko Yoshitomi – 1 Year Memorial Service		\$ 100	Etsuo Yoshitomi

Remembrances for:

Given by:

Tommy Deguchi

Michael & Gwen Florence; Yosh Kawabata; Helene Yampolsky

Mary Doi

Alfred Doi; Alice Doi; Miyako Akutagawa; Elaine Aoki; Tak Aoki; Sue Fujino; Kevin Fukeda; Alan Groves; Miyuki Hanada; Jim Hasegawa; Amy Hirasawa; Mickey Hiroo; Lily Hori; Alan Hoshino; Satoru Ichikawa; Roy Ikegami; Haruo Hal Ise; Miyoko Kaneta; Aizo & June Kosai; Helen K. Kubo; Shogo Kusumi; Kinue Kuwahara; Maeshiro Family Trust; George Mano; Jack Matsui; Tak Matsui; Terry Nakano; Setsuno Noshō; Tom & Michiye Ohtani; Ray Okamura; Tomiko Okano; C.H. Saimoto; Pauline Sakuma; Seattle Betsuin Gojikai; Masako Shibuya; Ken Shigaya; Haruko Shimizu; Roy Shimizu; Al Shintaku; Florence Sumida; Mas Tahara; Kuniko Takamura; Haruso & Sonoe Taketa; Rikuko Tanaka; Peggy Tanemura; Martha Taniguchi; Ted Taniguchi; Cherrie Tsubota; Joe Wakazuru; Fumiko Yamaguchi; Kiyoshi Yasui; Dick Yoshimura; James & Tomiko Zumoto

Ken Fujita

George Kodama; Ruby Nakamura

Tad Fujita

Jean Deguchi; Peggy Hanada; George Kodama; Ruby Nakamura; Ken Shigaya

Akio Hoshino

Paul & Mabel Tomita

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Tomi Terao	Mack & Setsuko Harada
Minoru Tsubota	Paul & Mabel Tomita
Denny Yoshimura	Mack & Setsuko Harada
<u>Supervising Minister:</u>	Yakima Buddhist Church - \$100

<u>Other:</u>	<u>Donor:</u>	<u>For:</u>
\$ 375	Dr. James Doi	Appreciation of Volunteers for Mary Doi's Funeral Service
\$ 200	Anastasia Dendrinis	General Donation
\$ 114	Alice Doi	General Donation
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Dharma of Music Workshop at the Jodo Shinshu Center submitted by Kemi Nakabayashi

The Center for Buddhist Education sponsored the Dharma of Music workshop at the Jodo Shinshu Center February 20-22. The goals of the workshop were to gather temple music leaders to share the traditional gathas and new works, to develop a music network to share gatha resources, to support creative approaches to involving the whole sangha and especially youth, to identify challenges facing music coordinators and share successful strategies, and to develop CBE's role as resource for BCA music coordinators. I was able to attend on behalf of the Seattle Betsuin and am grateful for the experience and eager to share new ideas and new music with our Sangha.



The workshop committee put together a great program which began with introductions and a gatha jam on Friday evening. Rev. Kodo Umezu and Rev. Eijun Kujo were the spiritual leaders for the weekend. They provided the workshop attendees with special Dharma messages which integrated well with the workshop sessions. Opening service on Saturday morning included the Kansha, a tribute to the gatha pioneers Kimi Hisatsune, Yumi Hojo, Jane Imamura, and the late Chizu Iwanaga. We learned about the history of gagaku music's role in Buddhist practice and chanted Sho Ya Rai San Ge. In contrast, we also learned a new chant facilitated by an audio recording done specially for the workshop by Rev. Bridge of Ju Sei Ge with English words.

Saturday sessions focused on learning many gathas. Various attendees who were more familiar with certain gathas from the existing Buddhist services books helped to teach others the tunes. The Saturday afternoon sessions focused on ways to activate the Sangha and in particular the youth with introduction of new music or new treatments of familiar gathas. In addition to reviewing the gathas he already wrote and published in the Shin Buddhist Service book, Dii Lewis shared some of his new compositions with us, ably assisted by vocalist Lorin Kagehiro, also from Berkeley. We have already tried one of Dii's ideas at our service on March 8 when we had youth and choir sing key words from *Ganjin's Journey* along with the rest of the Sangha.

On Saturday evening, Amy Yoshida and Alice Fukushima from Palo Alto presented an audio-visual program of popular songs with Buddhist themes. We read and sang the lyrics to familiar songs with mind-

fulness of the message in the music. Ukelele playing with singing and even some line dancing followed spontaneously! All this evening activity transpired in the lobby of the JSC with

the Shinran Plaza space inaugurated as a new venue. We enjoyed the area so much that it was also used for our Sunday morning service with Shinran's statue overseeing us. Rev. Umezu pointed out that it was very fitting as Shinran aimed to bring the teachings of the Buddha to everyone including out into the villages. Members from Berkeley, Oakland, San Francisco, San Mateo, Palo Alto, Southern Alameda County, San Jose, Fowler, Reedley, San Fernando Valley, Idaho-Oregon, Seattle, Honolulu and Southern Alberta Canada gathered for this workshop. Many of us had never met before but found common connections of friends and relatives.

The workshop concluded Sunday morning with Reflections and Horaku. We hope that we can bring back all that we shared to our respective districts and temples. Julie Yumi Hatta of the CBE also helped remind us of copyright issues and provided us with resources. With the support of our ministers, we hope that the temple Sanghas will be open to new music or new approaches to present our gathas. The goal would be to invigorate the sharing of the Dharma through our musical ideas and messages, particularly at a level that children and youth can appreciate. Students from Berkeley Dharma School joined us at the conclusion of the Sunday activities to sing a couple of the gathas with us and reinforce that our goal can be achieved. I hope that the Betsuin Sangha will appreciate the new music and ideas that the Betsuin choir and I will try to present over the course of the coming year. We encourage your participation in the service and also welcome new choir members anytime!

All Temple Hanamatsuri

Luncheon Sunday, April 12, 2009

An all temple luncheon will be held on Sunday, April 12, immediately following the Hanamatsuri Service. Dharma School will host, prepare, and serve lunch in the gym. There will be no charge. Please join us in celebrating the Buddha's birthday and enjoying the fellowship of our sangha on this joyous occasion. Submitted by Joan Nakano

Dharma Exchange of March 1, 8, 2009

Minister's Assistant Joe Schwab led the Dharma Exchange of March 1 and posed the question, "Compassion, what is it? To paraphrase: It is a feeling of deep sorrow for anything in unfortunate circumstances coupled with a wish to help. Compassion destroys the pain of others. Rather than hostility toward the octuplets' mother we should try to understand her motivation. Joe reminded us that the Four Noble Truths helps in all situations. If a person is living in a car, try to help by asking about resources, family, government agencies, and food stamps.

* * *

Rev. Warrick continued the discussion about the young people's Campfire Service. A participant thought it was gratifying to see youthful faces and to hear kid's voices when we sing. Warrick Sensei suggested we all take the opportunity to run the service.

Elmer read one of his grandfather's poems that he translated into English.

* * *

Castro Sensei presented an interesting summation of the National Council meeting that occurred Feb 27, 28 and March 1 with about 250 in attendance. Apparently the Jodo Shinshu Center's immediate crisis no longer exists as the debt is now spread over 25 years with a 5.2% loan. The \$9M debt is down to about \$7M. The Seattle Betsuin's participation is 62% of the membership, and some of the southern groups have minimal participation, including Fresno, which is building a new temple. The BCA has not done an audit in 5 years, and concern is that loans might be recalled if a bank is sold. The plan is for one to be done in the next two years. The Lotus Band of the West Covina Temple performed along with other young people participating in the service. Sensei commented on the wonderful talk by Rev. Harada, "Transmitting the Dharma from Generation to Generation." To that end Sensei is hoping we can send 3 young people to the July YAC Retreat. Next year will be the 750th anniversary celebration for Shinran Shonin. The only Jodo Shinshu high school in the U.S. is The Pacific Buddhist Academy located in Honolulu, Hawaii.

In gassho, Pat Bobrow

BCA 2009 calendars - Free while they last

As everyone knows, when it's free there's often a catch. This year's Buddhist Churches of America calendar was printed with a long list of errors, (incorrect dates for national holidays, etc.). Due to the errors, BCA decided not to charge for them. The calendar does come with a printed errata sheet. Please contact the temple office if you'd like a copy. Quantities are limited. A corrected 2nd printing is not anticipated. For those who paid for their calendar and have not already received a refund, please contact Joan Nakano in the temple office to get your refund.

Submitted by Alan Hoshino