

# Wheel of the Sangha

Volume 28 Issue 5 May 2009

A monthly publication by **Seattle Buddhist Church**

*May peace and tranquility prevail  
throughout the world*

## Seattle Buddhist Church

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### New Office Hours

Mon-Fri 9:00am-3:00pm

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

### Ministers

Rinban

Hoshu Matsubayashi

Day: (206) 380-9911

Night: (425) 235-7242

Reverend Don Castro

24 hours: (206) 779 -2214

### Seattle Betsuin Vision

*Embrace true and  
real life  
in Nembutsu*



### Seattle Betsuin Mission

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

### Wheel of the Sangha

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## May 2009 Special Services

- MOTHERS DAY SERVICE MAY 10
- GOTAN-E SERVICE MAY 17
- CHILDREN'S CHAPEL SERVICE MAY 24
- OFFICE CLOSED – MONDAY, MAY 25
- NVC MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE AT LAKEVIEW CEMETERY 10:00 AM
- SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION SERVICE MAY 31

## SBBWA NEW MEMBER SERVICE & LUNCHEON 11:30 A.M. MAY 3, 2009

|  |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| <p><b>1</b> Temple Contact Information</p> <p><b>2</b> Calendar, Newsletter</p> <p>Deadline: <b>May 18</b></p> <p>Print: <b>May 22</b></p> | <p><b>3</b> Rinban's Message</p> <p><b>4</b> Camp Fire, Go Paperless</p> | <p><b>5</b> Messages from: Rev Castro</p> <p>President Tahara</p> <p><b>6</b> SBC Membership, ABA Line Dance</p> | <p><b>7</b> Dharma School, Japanese Momo Seminar</p> <p><b>8</b> SBBWA, SBC Donations</p> <p><b>9</b> SBC Donations</p> | <p><b>10</b> All Sangha Memorial Service</p> <p><b>11</b> Spring Ohigan Donors</p> <p><b>12</b> DX, EcoSangha</p> |
|--|--|--|---|---|

# Betsuin Events for May 2009

Shinran Shonin's  
750th Memorial



## SUNDAYS

May 3

### FAMILY SERVICE

10:00 am

Children: Joe Schwab  
Adult: Rev. Warrick  
No Japanese Service  
DX: Joe Schwab

11:30 am SBBWA New Member Service and Luncheon (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Warrick)  
Rev. Castro at San Jose Betsuin Earth Day Service

May 10 **MOTHER'S DAY FAMILY SERVICE**

10:00 am **CAMP FIRE KARUNA AWARD**

### PRESENTATION

Children: Rev. Castro  
Adult: Rinban Matsubayashi  
Japanese: Rinban Matsubayashi  
DX: Rev. Castro & MA

May 17 **GOTAN-E FAMILY SERVICE**

10:00 am

Children: MA  
Adult: Rev. Castro  
Japanese: Rinban Matsubayashi  
DX: Rev. Castro & MA

1:00 pm Sangha Award Class (Rev. Castro)

May 24 **CHILDREN'S & FAMILY SERVICES**

10:00 am Children's Service: Rev. Castro

Youth: Joe Schwab  
Adult: Rinban Matsubayashi  
Japanese Service: Rinban Matsubayashi  
DX: Rev. Castro & MA

11:30 am SBBWA Cabinet Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi), Rev. Warrick to Spokane

May 31 **SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION &**

10:00 am **FAMILY SERVICE**

Children: Minister's Assistant  
Adult: Rev. Castro  
Japanese: Rinban Matsubayashi  
DX: Rev. Castro & Minister's Assistant

1:00 pm Sangha Award Class (Rev. Castro)

## MONDAYS

May 4

Rev. Castro (Vacation)

May 11, 18

Rinban Matsubayashi (Days off)

May 25

MEMORIAL DAY – Temple Closed

10:00 am

NVC Memorial Day Service at Lakeview Cemetery (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

## TUESDAYS

May 5, 12, 19

Rev. Castro (Days off)

May 26

Rinban Matsubayashi (Day off)

10:30 am

Keiro Service (Rev. Castro)

## WEDNESDAYS

May 6

Rev. Castro to Rev. Eidman's 13<sup>th</sup> Year Memorial Service at Mt. View Buddhist Temple

7:30 pm

Dharma School Board Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi)

May 13

3:00 pm

NW District Ministers' Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

## THURSDAYS

May 7

Rinban Matsubayashi (Day off)

1:30 pm

Nikkei Manor Service (Rev. Castro)

May 14

7:30 pm

Religious Dept. Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

May 21

1:30 pm

Nikkei Manor Service (Rinban Matsubayashi)

7:30 pm

Betsuin Cabinet Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

May 28

7:30 pm

Rev. Castro (Day off)  
Betsuin Board of Directors Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi)

## FRIDAYS

May 1

12:00 pm

Gojikai Service & Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

2:00 pm

Ministers' Meeting (Rinban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

## SATURDAYS

May 2

Rev. Castro to San Jose Betsuin

May 16

10:00 am

Shinran Shonin Monthly Memorial Service (Rev. Castro)

10:30 am

NW District Council Meeting – Yakima (Rinban Matsubayashi)

May 30

Rev. Castro (Day off)

## **June 2009: Major Events of Interest**

June 7 Sunday

All Sangha Memorial Service

June 14 Sunday

Awards/Recognition Service

June 21 Sunday

Betsuin Picnic

June 22-26 Mon.-Fri.

12<sup>th</sup> Annual Kids Summer Prg

June 28 Sunday

Bishops'/Rinbans' Memorial Service



## Contemporary Understanding of the Pure Land of Utmost Bliss - 1

Rinban Hoshu Y. Matsubayashi, Ed.D.

It is very important to present and explain the Pure Land of Utmost Bliss, one of the basic doctrines of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, to modern people. ***The Smaller Pure Land Sutra (Sukhavativyuha)*** states the location of the Land of Utmost Bliss as

**“From here to the west, beyond 10 billion Buddha-lands there is a world called the Land of Utmost Bliss (Sukhavati or Gokuraku).”**

Then, the Land of Utmost Bliss is described as follows:

**There are seven rows of balconies, seven rows of fine nets, and seven rows of Plamyra trees. All these are decorated with four kinds of jewels that surround and encircle the country. ...there exists the pond of seven jewels filled completely with water of the eight kinds of virtues. The inside of the pond, at the bottom, is covered exclusively with gold sands.**

The descriptions of the Land of Utmost Bliss in ***Triple Pure Land Sutras***, including ***The Smaller Pure Land Sutra***, and their commentaries are illustrious and artistic, which modern people have difficulty understanding.

On such descriptions of the Pure Land, Dr. Genpo Hoshino, former professor of Ryukoku University, stated in his book entitled ***Pure Land*** that “For those who are seeking the logic of the establishment of Pure Land, the descriptions of the Pure Land are really an account of a dream, particularly for us modern people and those descriptions are boring. Yet, I believe that because of the boredom of such descriptions of Pure Land, the Pure Land needs a task to be reviewed seriously in modern society. It will be hard, and less interesting, to deal with the various problems in relating to Pure Land for modern people. However, this task should not be left alone for Pure Land teachings.”

His Eminence Monshu Koshin Ohtani expressed his concern also about the Pure Land in his Dharma Message entitled ***The Importance in having opportunities to feel the Pure Land in daily life*** that “The expressions of ‘Birth into the Pure Land (Ojo Jodo),’ ‘The Pure Land of Utmost Bliss (Gokuraku Jodo),’ are not being used gradually, and ‘Going to Heaven (Tengoku) or the World of Stars after Death’ have been often expressed. I think this is a great task of the basic teachings of Jodo Shinshu... Is it possible to express ‘Namo Amida Butsu as Calling of Amida Buddha,’ ‘Scriptures in which Shakyamuni praised Amida Tathagata and the Pure Land,’ and ‘Shinran Shonin’s Hymns of Shoshinge,’ etc. in a way which touches the heartstrings of modern people?”

Dr. Daisetz T. Suzuki, a famous Buddhist scholar, states that “There are two approaches to understand the Pure Land. One is to find the establisher’s intention of the Pure Land and the second is to find how the intention was accomplished. The first one is to approach the origin of the Pure Land and the second is an existentialistic approach.”

He further states that “The origin of the Pure Land is based on the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha. The Primal Vow was established out of the great compassion (Karuna) of the Buddha’s heart... The foundation of the Pure Land is compassion. The beginning of Amida Buddha’s function started with the Pure Land. Then, what is the essence of the Pure Land established by great compassion? Its essence is Enlightenment (Bodhi). By attaining Enlightenment, Amida Buddha intended to fulfill the great compassion of the Primal Vow. Therefore, the Pure Land is Enlightenment itself. To understand characteristics, structures, and functions of the Pure Land is to understand those of Enlightenment. This is an existentialistic approach to understand the Pure Land.”

*(To be continued.)*

May 2009 submitted by Lisa B.

Thank you to Koki for chairing the March 29 service! Koki represented our Camp Fire group, and did a terrific job.



### Save the date!

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

### Starlight (Starflight K-1)

*Submitted by D S.* As a continuation in the activities organized by the Teramotos, the girls enjoyed a field trip to California Pizza Kitchen where they toured the restaurant's kitchen and made mini-pizza's with their choice of toppings. The girls also celebrated their successful candy sales with a lunch and voted to use the rest of their proceeds to help other children. Clothing will be purchased for Treehouse - an organization that supports foster children.

### Adventure 3-4

*Submitted by Dana N.* On Feb. 22nd, the girls created shrinky-dink charms for our Keiro donation project. Emily's grandmother sewed a dozen fabric wheelchair organizers for our group to donate to Keiro. Erin's Mom, Kris, graciously added all the charms to the wheelchair organizers. They came out great! Special thanks to BWA, for donating the fabric, and to Mrs. Z. and Kris for donating their time and craft-handiwork for this project.

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, our group visited Keiro Nursing Home. The girls performed their "All for One" dance from High School Musical 2, donated the wheelchair organizers, and took some time to thank the residents for attending the performance. The residents enjoyed the girls' enthusiasm and energy. We enjoyed the visit as much as the residents.

On March 22nd, we held a sewing basics session. Mrs. Ichikawa led the session, showing the girls some basic sewing equipment, stitches, and skills (such as threading a needle). The girls used their new-found skills to make a coin purse. They turned out great – reflecting the girls' creativity and

uniqueness.

Special thanks to Mrs. Ichikawa for leading this fun activity.

On April 5th, we held a mini-ceremonial, presenting the girls with beads and patches they've earned through February 2009. Following the ceremonial the girls began sewing the beads and patches onto their vests. Each did something a bit different, showing creativity and imagination.

### Hummingbirds

*Submitted by Lani C.* The hummingbirds have been very busy! We supported the Camp Fire candy sale in Jan. and Feb., participated in the birthday service, attended Camp Sealth Dad-Kid weekend, and volunteered at the Spring Bazaar. At our meetings, we've been working hard to decide how to spend our candy sale money.

We're also doing a "Crafts for a Cause" theme this semester. On 2/22, Meghan and Laura led the group in making dog blankets and cat nip toys, which were delivered to the Eastside Humane Society for immediate use. On 3/1, Miye and Carol led our group in making 29 jars of takuwan which were sold at the Spring Bazaar. On 4/5, Emma and Steve led the group in making bottle cap magnets which will be given to residents at Nikkei Manor. And on 4/19, Alder led the group in making pressed flower notecards, which will be used at a local nursing home. Thanks to all the students and parents for organizing these wonderful activities!

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GO PAPERLESS! THIS NEWSLETTER IS NOW ONLINE AT

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

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**Shinran Shonin's 750<sup>th</sup> Memorial Observance & BCA National Council Meeting will take place in San Jose, California February 27, 28, 2010** *The observance will take place 14 months ahead of the Hongwanji's commemoration which will run from April 2011 through January 2012.- extracted from Wheel of Dharma, April 2009, Official Publication of the Buddhist Churches of America*

# Buddhist Education at Seattle Betsuin

by Reverend Don Castro

Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Education is based upon the Buddha's and Shinran Shonin's injunction to selflessly share the Dharma. There are many ways to do this, even within a single denomination or sect of Buddhism. Buddhism has always been a practical religion and any effective teacher employs diverse and skillful means to transmit our spiritual heritage. These diverse means are always creatively tailored to the needs, inclinations and capacity of the student. The "acid test" for any program is whether or not it results in an authentic understanding and appreciation of our Buddhist religion in general and Jodo Shinshu in particular.

As it relates to Seattle Betsuin, religious and cultural diversity presents difficult challenges on the one hand and creative opportunities on the other. There are those members who want this temple to always be the way it was decades ago. However, for better or worse, times have changed. Membership and revenues have steeply dropped and are continuing to drop to such an extent that facilities upkeep, program funding and ministerial staffing are all being reexamined. With so many of our members elderly, the situation will get much worse unless "skillful means" are employed to both reinvigorate our present programs and to create the diverse kinds of programs that will attract responsible new members.

Embracing diversity does not mean doing away with our established programs and services. Rather, it means adding new teachers and new programs. The recently adopted Minister's Assistant and Youth Minis-

ter's Assistant programs are examples of the creative changes that are so vital at this time of BCA's transformation into a modern American form of Buddhism. Through these programs, we are creating a new level of spiritual leadership at our temples. In the past, for the most part, the minister has been like a horse pulling a cart with the members passively riding along (in terms of the religious program). We are now getting people out of the cart to help pull and those who pull are finding it a deeply rewarding spiritual experience.

Diversity will inevitably bring challenges and will require shrewdness and patience. On the other hand, lack of diversity also leads to growing challenges and, I firmly believe, contradicts the injunction of both Shakyamuni Buddha and Shinran Shonin to reach out to others. Our present need is to cultivate open-minded, innovative leaders who can realistically address the problems before us. We need to study and learn from the growing BCA temples that have a vital Buddhist Education program. One BCA temple that has succeeded above all others is Orange County Buddhist Church whose Buddhist Education Center has been so successful that it has been recognized as a branch campus of our Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley. I invite you to visit their web site at [www.bca-ocbc.org](http://www.bca-ocbc.org) to see the kinds of programs that can work here. ●●●



## Message to Our Members

by President Mas Tahara

Did you like the last Hanamatsuri Service? Was it great to have everyone in the auditorium surrounding the Hanamido, nicely decorated with so many flowers? The Religious Department came up with the idea of having the annual event in the spacious venue to accommodate our Sangha families celebrating the birthday of Shakyamuni Buddha. Many members set up the tables, chairs, and audio/visual system. Having three sides to pour the sweet tea on the statue of baby Buddha, the ritual of Kambutsu went very smoothly. The Dharma talks were given by Rev. Julie Hanada. Afterward everyone enjoyed the lunch provided by the Dharma School members. All in all everything came together to give us a really meaningful family event. Thank you everyone for your help and participation!

On Sunday, April 19, some of the Seattle Betsuin Dharma School teachers sat in the Onajin during the Sunday service chanting Juseige. The Bonsho and Kansho were rung by the teachers also. You would recall the Scout and the Junior YBA members participated in the Sunday services ringing the Bonsho and Kansho and chanting the Sutra in the Onajin. This is all part of our effort in making the religious programs and activities to be more close and meaningful to you and your families. We will continue to have many more members trained and take part actively in the religious services and programs.

I would like to hear your comments about changes we are making. ●●●

## Temple Membership

### SEATTLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE 2009 BETSUIN MEMBERSHIP DUES

The basic dues towards the Church maintenance/operations is:

**\$250 for those over 70 years of age  
(\$500 per couple)**

**\$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 30<sup>th</sup> 2009**. Those of you have yet to make any contribution for 2009, the deadline is September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**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](mailto:office@seattlebetsuin.com)

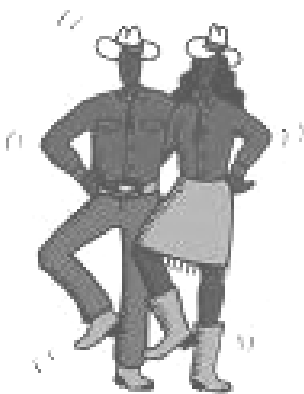
[www.SeattleBetsuin.com](http://www.SeattleBetsuin.com)

### 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:

Helen Adachi, Harry Akizuki, Michele Anciaux-Aoki, Lauren Asaba, Masatoshi & Sayeko Aoyama, Yasuko Desaki, Toshiko Enomoto, Harumi Fujioka, Jack & Fumi Habu, Yoko Hamanaka, Fumiyo Hanada, Jim & Hiroko Hasegawa, Amy Hirasawa, Mae Ikawa, Roy & Deanna Ikegami, Toshiko Iso-mura, Larry & June Iwafuchi, Sid & Yoshi Katayama, Hisako Kato, Evelyn Kitashima, Masao & Amy Kuramoto, Peter Kusakabe, Ricky Mamiya, Yoshi Mamiya, Julie Mayeda, Kemi Nakabayashi, Hisashi & Sadako Nishimura, Shinako Noritake, Setsuno Noshō, Dean O'Shields, Mari Ohara, Michiye Ohtani, Irene Saito, Karry Sakamoto, Aya Sakoda, Pauline Sakuma, Akira Sato, Robert & Amy Seko, Dennis Shibata, George Shimizu, Tom Tanaka, Ryomi & Lilly Tanino, Elmer Tazuma, Fujie Yamasaki, Steve & Valerie Yamasaki, Nobuo Yutani

**\*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. Payments are due by September 30, 2009.** 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](mailto:office@seattlebetsuin.com).



ABA Offers Line Dance Lessons  
*All temple members are welcomed  
to join us in two sessions of Western line dancing:  
**Saturday May 2 & Saturday May 16**  
from 3:00 p.m.  
with potluck dinner at 5:00 p.m. in the temple gym.  
Please bring a favorite dish to share.  
ABA will provide beverages.  
You may also become a member of ABA  
at this event for \$10.*



# Dharma School April 2009

Submitted by Joyce Tsuji

☺ Many thanks to Elliott and his crew for coordinating and decorating the beautiful hanamido.

☺ Also, special thanks goes to Marie, Joan and Ron for organizing the wonderful luncheon, and to all their helpers.

## Kids Summer Program (KSP):

This year's theme is "Jan Ken Pon" and will be held at the temple June 22-26. The registration is open to all students grade 1-8 and registration is steady, late fees start 5/5. Highlights include daily morning services, Nihongo classes, shodo/calligraphy (Aiko Fujii/Kinue Kuwahara/BWA), Japanese choir, cooking (BWA), judo (Calvin Terada), sumo (Bobby Suetsugu), crafts, kori, and Matsuri Night. Registration forms and flyer are on the temple website: [www.SeattleBetsuin\(dot\)com](http://www.SeattleBetsuin(dot)com).



## Classroom Reports

First/second grade On Ohigan we discussed the Reverend's challenge of trying to connect the nine dots with four lines, we had to "think outside the box" which is a good practice in life. Many of our students enjoyed the "radical reactions" demo from the Pacific Science center, a couple got a chance to be part of the show and even blow fire!! The kids made centerpieces for the Hanamatsuri luncheon along with the preK/K class. We were treated to a wonderful performance of kamishibai by the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class on Hanamatsuri of the story of Shinran's early life. In honor of the Ecosangha theme we read the story "It's Earth Day" with little critter and made animals out of recycled origami paper.

Third/Fourth Grade We have been busy this year with temple projects as part of our Dana for the temple. We did centerpieces for the temple New Year's Party, placemats for the bazaar and

corsage/boutonnieres for Hanamatsuri. We also made pet toys from tennis balls to sell at the Dharma School bake sale. We were fortunate to have a tour of the Onaijin with Rev. Jim. We reviewed the Eightfold Noble Path and have been learning about the life of the Buddha and Shinran Shonin and have begun work on a timeline to help us learn the chronological order of important events in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

Fifth Grade Our class worked for several weeks and presented their kamishibai performance of "Spring" the first part of Shinran Shonin's life to the 1st-2nd grade DS class. This has been translated to English and we've updated some of the language to increase understanding for the performers and audience. The students have shown great excitement and interest in Shinran Shonin's early life. We are looking for future performance opportunities. ●●●

## 2009 Graduates

If you know of a temple member that will be graduating from either High School or College this spring and think they would like to receive a certificate of congratulations from BCA, please let us know. Contact the temple office at (206) 329-0800 or email [office@seattlebetsuin.com](mailto:office@seattlebetsuin.com) and provide the following information:

- Student's Full Name
- College/High School/Institution
- Parent's Name
- Phone Number

Submissions must be provided by Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> in order to allow time to receive these. Thanks.

-Kari Ann Yokoyama

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## Spring Ohigan Momo Seminar welcomed back Reverend Nakagaki on March 21, 2009

Topics: "Buddha's Path for Common People"  
-discourse of Meditation Sutra on the Pure Land,  
"No Worry, No Hurry, Eat Curry!" - personal Pilgrimage to India - based on his book in Japanese, *New York Bozulndo o Aruku* published by Gendai Shokan, 2003. Rev. Nakagaki came to the U.S. from Hongwanji Mother Temple, Kyoto, Japan and served Seattle Buddhist Church from 1985 to 1989.

-continued on page 9

## Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association

**Message from Terrie Tanino, President:** For the Spring Ohigan Service on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ritsuko Kawahara prepared traditional Ohagi for the Onaijin osonae. The following members assisted: Sonoe Taketa, Florence Sumida, Kinue Kuwahara, Julie Mayeda, Hatsue Mizuno and Terrie Tanino. After the Japanese language service and Dharma Exchange, members enjoyed Ohagi and tea for Ohigan otoki.

On April 8<sup>th</sup>, the following members participated in the Onaijin Omigaki under the supervision of Rinban Hoshu Matsubayashi: Alan and Fumiko Groves, Kenny Dodobara, Kinue Kuwahara, Akio and Mabel Nishizaki, Kyoko Matsubayashi, Karry Sakamoto, Haruso and Sonoe Taketa, Suzuko Terada, Fumi Yamaguchi and Terrie Tanino

**Donations: Submitted by Mabel Nishizaki**

Mas & Anna Tahara - Orei  
 Yasuko Kino - General donation  
 Joan Seko - General donation  
 Karen Morikubo - General donation  
 Seiko Masumoto - General donation

**Activities Committee submitted by**

**Judith Nakamura:** The Activity Committee will have these classes. Please make sure to sign up on the board in front of the church office for any of them. Please sign up prior to the class so that we can make sure we have enough materials for all who attend.

- May 6 Beaded eyeglass holder
- May 20 Zōri slipper mops

The BWA will be happy for any donations of Japanese kimonos and yukatas if any of you are down-sizing. Please make sure that they are all clean before donating. Drop them off at the church office with "BWA" and your name attached. Thank you in advance for your donation.

**Calendar:**

- May 03 SBBWA New Member Welcome Service/Luncheon
- 17 Gotan-E Service
- 26 Cabinet Meeting

Submitted by Deanna Ikegami

### The Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations March – April 2009

| <u>Funeral / Memorial / Nokotsudo:</u>  | <u>For:</u> | <u>Given by:</u>          |
|---|-------------|---------------------------|
| Richard Ishikawa – Funeral Service  | \$ 1,500    | June Ishikawa             |
| Osa Edamura – Funeral Service   | \$ 1,200    | Quinn Edamura             |
| Kikue Matsuura – Funeral Service  | \$ 1,200    | Linda Shimizu             |
| Mas Wada and Guy Wada – Memorial Services   | \$ 500      | Cami Wada                 |
| Kikue Matsuura – 49 <sup>th</sup> Day Memorial & Inurnment Service                                  | \$ 300      | Linda Shimizu             |
| Pete Hanada – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Memorial   | \$ 300      | Miyuki Hanada             |
| Ricky Joe Hara – Nokotsudo  | \$ 300      | Reiko Hara                |
| Nobi Kano – 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Memorial Service   | \$ 300      | Tamako Niwa Kano          |
| Mr. Kihara – Memorial Service   | \$ 300      | Thomas T. Kihara          |
| Nokotsudo   | \$ 300      | Gladys Hamano             |
| George Suetsugu – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year and Etsuko Suetsugu – 7 <sup>th</sup> Year Memorial Services | \$ 200      | George Suetsugu, Jr.      |
| Sadamu (Sam) Takashima – 33 <sup>rd</sup> Year Memorial   | \$ 200      | Kiyoy Takashima           |
| Ricky Joe Hara – 7 <sup>th</sup> Year Memorial Service  | \$ 200      | Reiko Hara                |
| Charles Terada – 49 <sup>th</sup> Day Memorial Service  | \$ 200      | M/M Jimmy Yamamoto        |
| Teruo "Ham" Koba – Memorial Service   | \$ 200      | Nobuko Oka                |
| Wayne Shinoki – Memorial Service  | \$ 100      | Amy E. Shinoki & Family   |
| Taku Ishigami – Nokotsudo   | \$ 100      | Keiko Takeda (continued-) |



(- **Donations** continued from page 8)

**Remembrances for:**

**Given by:**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Osa Edamura              | Mickey & Yoshi Hiroo; Helen Kubo; Anna Kurata; Gerald & Gail Oyabe; Jack Matsui; Toshio & Dolly Tokunaga  |
| Ricky Joe Hara           | Hisako Kato   |
| Richard Ishikawa         | Fujiyama Agency, Inc.; Aizo & June Kosai; Anna Kurata; Peter Kusakabe; Mas & Anna Tahara  |
| Miyo Ise                 | George & Toshi Fukeda; Nobuko Otsuji; Al & Fran Shintaku  |
| Tsutomu Kanzaki          | Louise Akizuki; Tak Aoki; Sue Fujino; M/M Nobie Fujita; Mack & Setsu Harada; Mickey Hiroo; Hisa Kato; Aizo & June Kosai; Daisy Kuramoto; Wayne Kuramoto; Jack Matsui; Mary Mayeno; Mutual Fish Co; Harry & Terry Shigaya; Roy & Kazumi Shimizu; Florence Sumida; Ronald Yoshida   |
| Amy Koba                 | Pauline Sakuma  |
| Teruo "Ham" Koba         | Setsuko Harada  |
| Miyoko Koyama            | Gene & Yuki Arinobu   |
| Kikue Matsuura           | Daryl Arenstein; Gene & Yuki Arinobu; Eduard Ask; Norio Harui; Amy Hirasawa; Mickey Hiroo; Thomas Ikeda; Bill Ishii; Yuriko Kamada; Takeo Katayama; Noboru Kawada; Paul Kogita; Aizo Kosai; Takashi Matsui; Gary Matsuzaki; Edward Muneta; Yoshio Nakamura; Wendy Nitta; Robert Ohashi; Roy Shimizu; Sato Shimizu; Judy Suto; Kathryn Suyama; Paul Tomita; Dick Yoshimura; Joe Wakazuru |
| Kiyoko Nakamonto         | Takeshi & Midori Chikamura; Miyoko Kaneta; Shokichi Tokita  |
| Katashi Oita             | Sue Fujino; Amy Hirasawa  |
| Mitsuko Otani            | Jene Deguchi  |
| Mr. & Mrs. Tom Sakai     | Joseph & Dolly Matsuzaki  |
| George & Etsuko Suetsugu | James Hasegawa  |
| Charles Terada           | Noboru Kawada; Ritsuko Kawahara; Miyagi-kai; Hisashi & Sadako Nishimura; Kuniko Takamura  |

**Supervising Minister:**

Yakima Buddhist Church - \$200 (March & April)

**Other Gifts:**

**Donor:**

**For:**

|        |                              |  |
|--------|------------------------------|--|
| \$ 200 | Rand Babcock & Antoine Nahra | Obutsudan                                      |
| \$ 100 | Hyakudokai                   | Facility Use                                   |
| \$ 100 | Takashi Matsui               | 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of return to U.S. |
| \$ 100 | Mariko Mano                  | Katsumi Aoyama's 80th Birthday                 |
| \$ 10  | Bob Watanabe & Connie Asaka  | In honor of the Takizawa Family                |

***-Mompo Seminar*** continued from p. 7

Forty registrants attended the day's morning and afternoon sessions. Lunch was provided in-house with chow mein and otsukemono from the Spring Bazaar and Irene's "no hurry" Indian chicken curry/rice. Thanks to Fumiko Groves' computer savvy, Rev. Nakagaki's Power Point of India was successfully presented. "Thank you," to all of you who donated snacks and helped with preparation/setup/cleanup, and especially to Kinue Kuwahara for her support, and to Julie Mayeda and Mas Tahara for photography. - submitted by Irene Goto

## 2009 MEMORIAL SERVICE SCHEDULE

Traditionally, memorial services are held for loved ones on designated anniversaries. These are precious occasions to honor the treasured memories of our beloved ones and to realize how fortunate we are to be embraced by Amida Buddha's Light of Wisdom and Life of Compassion. If you have a loved one who has passed away in the following years, you are encouraged to conduct a family memorial service.

### Year of Death

|           |  |                          |
|-----------|--|--------------------------|
| 2008..... | 1st annual memorial.....                   | 1 year from death        |
| 2007..... | 3 <sup>rd</sup> anniversary memorial.....  | 2 full years from death  |
| 2003..... | 7 <sup>th</sup> anniversary memorial.....  | 6 full years from death  |
| 1997..... | 13 <sup>th</sup> anniversary memorial..... | 12 full years from death |
| 1993..... | 17 <sup>th</sup> anniversary memorial..... | 16 full years from death |
| 1985..... | 25 <sup>th</sup> anniversary memorial..... | 24 full years from death |
| 1977..... | 33 <sup>rd</sup> anniversary memorial..... | 32 full years from death |
| 1960..... | 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary memorial..... | 49 full years from death |

**Please call the temple office at (206) 329-0800 to make arrangements for a service. - JN**

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### **ALL SANGHA MEMORIAL SERVICE - *SENBOKAI-IN TSUITO HOYO***

**Sunday, June 7, 2009**

**Service at 10:00 AM**

The annual ALL SANGHA MEMORIAL SERVICE will be held on Sunday, June 7, 2009, at 10:00 AM. This important service is dedicated to honoring the contributions and lives of all those who were members and friends of the Seattle Betsuin or one of its affiliated organizations.

We invite families of these members to submit the names of their loved ones to be read during the service that we ask you to attend in their honor. **Please complete and return the entire form to the Betsuin office by Sunday, May 31, 2009.** We cannot guarantee that names received after the deadline will be read. The names will be called in the order received.

In Gassho, Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple 1427 S. Main St, Seattle, WA 98144 (206) 329-0800

If you wish the name(s) of your loved one(s) to be read at the 10:00 AM Service, please fill out the section below. **PLEASE PRINT THE NAMES IN ENGLISH AND REMEMBER TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER AT THE BOTTOM. SUBMIT THE ENTIRE FORM (do not cut) BY MAY 31, 2009.**

Name of Deceased:

Date of Death:

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Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

## Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges 2009 Spring Ohigan Donations from the Following Contributors

|           |             |            |             |            |             |            |                                   |
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| Steve     | Aisaka      | Gail/      | Kaminishi/  | Joan       | Nakano      | Kiyoko     | Takashima                         |
| Jim &     |             | Renan      | Jeffereis   | Junko      | Nakano      | Y          | Takemura                          |
| Louise    | Akizuki     | Miyoko     | Kaneta      | Tomi       | Nakashima   | George &   |                                   |
| Takao &   |             | Tetsuden & |             | Tsukasa &  |             | Jean       | Taketa                            |
| Ruth      | Aoki        | Kanako     | Kashima     | Keiko      | Namekata    | Haruso     | Taketa                            |
| M/M       |             | T          | Katayama    | Noriko     | Nishikawa   | Susan      | Taketa                            |
| Masatoshi | Aoyama      | Yoshi      | Katayama    | Masaye     | Nitta       | Noboru     | Taki                              |
| Hanako    | Aramaki     | Edward &   |             | Hiro &     |             | Mas &      |                                   |
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| Yasuko    | Desaki      | Masako     | Kawamoto    | Setsuno    | Nosho       | Fumi       | Taniguchi                         |
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| Reiko     | Hara        | Andrea     | Mano        | M/M Ken    | Shigaya     | Jim        | Warrick                           |
| M/M Mack  | Harada      | Mariko     | Mano        | Mary       | Shigaya     | Keiko      | Watanabe                          |
| Nelson    | Harano      | Rose       | Masuda      | Shirley    | Shimada     | Shizue     | Yahata                            |
| Hiroko    | Hasegawa    | Jack       | Matsui      | Ben & Etsu | Shimbo      | Fumiko     | Yamaguchi                         |
| Sachiko   | Hayami      | Tak        | Matsui      | Haruko     | Shimizu     | Kozo       | Yamaguchi                         |
| Miki      | Heider      | Julie      | Mayeda      | Nobu       | Shimizu     | Fujie      | Yamasaki                          |
| T         | Hirabayashi | Takiko     | Miyauchi    | Roy &      |             | Dennis     | Yamashita                         |
| Amy       | Hirasawa    | Hatsue     | Mizuno      | Kazumi     | Shimizu     | Michiko    | Yanagimoto                        |
| Mickey &  |             | Paul &     |             | Sato &     |             | Kari Ann   | Yokoyama                          |
| Yoshie    | Hiroo       | Teresa     | Mori        | Darlene    | Shimizu     | CM         | Yoritsune                         |
| Lily      | Hori        | Yukio &    |             | Al & Fran  | Shintaku    | Fuyo       | Yoshida                           |
| Sat &     |             | Karen      | Morikubo    | F.         | Shinoda     | Isoko      | Yoshihara                         |
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| Toshiko   | Isomura     | Kemi       | Nakabayashi | Leslie     | Sumida      | Tomiko     | Zumoto                            |
| June      | Iwafuchi    | Ruby       | Nakamura    | Mas &      |             | Anonymous  | No Name                           |
| Dale &    |             | Ted        | Nakamura    | Anna       | Tahara      |            |                                   |
| Shizue    | Kaku        | M/M Yoshio | Nakamura    | Jean       | Takano      |            | <i>Submitted by Nelson Harano</i> |
|           |             | K          | Nakanishi   | Kuniko     | Takamura    |            |                                   |

## Notes on Dharma Exchange – April 12, 19, 2009

*These summations of Dharma Exchange are intended for those who are unable to attend -- Dharma School parents, Japanese service attendees, committee members, etc.*

On April 12 Dharma Exchange convened in the dining room following the Hanamatsuri service in the auditorium. Rev. Jim Warrick and Rev. Julie Hanada answered questions about their experiences of studying in Japan. Rev. Julie had just returned from Japan after many years and explained that visiting places such as India, Kyoto, and Hongwanji makes an impact on her knowing their long history. She recalled the story of the rope made of human hair, for strength, to pull logs out of the hills to build Higashi Hongwanji. Although Rev. Jim had not been to India, visiting Japan also impacts him. One participant offered that when he was in India during WWII he had a spiritual awakening. Another participant recounted a story of sacrifice in casting a temple bell in Kyoto - a woman jumped into the hot metal so that the bell would not crack. Rev. Julie described another story of sacrifice and the reason the Seiten's cover is red in color; during the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries temples were often burned during wars. To protect the Seiten from fire monks would cut open their stomachs and carry the Seiten inside.

Rev. Julie and Rev. Warrick were asked about the ceremonial robes which they were wearing for the special service. Rev. Jim was wearing his *hakue* for the first time. The white, which is usually worn for one's own funeral, signifies *pursuing the Dharma to the death*. The long, 108 beaded, *ni-nenju* is for formal use and the abbreviated, short *ta-nenju* is for informal use. The *gojo-kesa*, the brocaded cloth worn over the *hakue* costs about \$2000. The *kiri-hakama*, the split skirt which Rev. Julie was wearing costs about \$2000.

Rev. Julie was asked if there are chaplains in hospitals in Japan. (Rev. Julie is a hospital chaplain here in Seattle). She said, "No." There seems to be a spiritual crisis in Japan because of the interpretation of religious freedom to mean free of religion. Japan's temples don't have *sangha*, but they have mailing lists. Is this beneficial to society?

On April 19, after the Betsuin's Earth Day Service, Rev. Castro was asked where Buddhism comes in when it comes to mental health – psychological, mental, and emotional. Rev. Castro referred to an evangelical Christian website he visited where the question they posed was, "What makes you do right if there is no one to punish you when you do wrong?" He likened that to being burned – you need to experience it to protect yourself from getting burned. Rev. Castro's advice, like that of the Dalai Lama, is to be compassionate, patient and tolerant, because we are all imperfect; and also to get over what other people think.

A participant related that he attended a lecture by Dr. David Suzuki, whom Rev. Castro mentioned in his morning Dharma message. He was reminded that the salmon need the forest, but also that the forest needs the salmon – the salmon give off nitrogen that they get from the ocean, the salmon carcass breeds insects to feed the birds...[the birds need the forest as a home, the forest needs the birds to spread the seeds to reforest]...etc.

Rev. Castro said he thinks of Buddhism as non-theistic rather than atheistic.

- submitted by Irene Goto

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## EcoSangha at

**San Jose Betsuin** EcoSangha, a newly formed group at San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, is sponsoring an Earth Day event on Sunday, May 3. • Rev. Don Castro, minister of the Seattle Betsuin and founder of EcoSangha, will be the guest speaker at the Sunday service, which will begin at 10:10 a.m. • The sermon will be followed by activities and displays in the temple annex from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. These will include resources, information and displays on eco-friendly products, composting and recycling. • EcoSangha was created to bring awareness to the responsibility of caring for the environment, based on the Buddhist principle of our interdependence with all life. • The group has created guidelines for the use of the temple facilities using ecologically friendly products and practices. They are sponsoring this event as a part of their educational and outreach program. • For further information, contact Karen Akahoshi at [kna1023@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kna1023@sbcglobal.net). –extracted from *Wheel of Dharma* vol.35, issue 4, April 2009, Official Publication of the Buddhist Churches of America.