

# Wheel of the Sangha

Volume 28 Issue 2 February 2010  
 A monthly publication by **Seattle Buddhist Church**  
*May peace and tranquility prevail  
 throughout the world*

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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*

## February 2010 Special Services/Events

February 7 SCOUT SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 am

February 12-14 **No Services at Betsuin** due to NW District Buddhist Convention – Ontario, Oregon

February 15 **Temple Closed – Presidents Day Holiday**

February 21 NIRVANA DAY PET MEMORIAL SERVICE & Veggie Potluck

February 27-28 BCA Shinran Shonin 750<sup>th</sup> Memorial Commemoration,  
 Fairmont Hotel, San Jose, California: deadline 1/27/10 see p.12

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## Betsuin Events for February 2010

### EVERY SUNDAY (except February 14, 2010) All are invited:

- 8:45 am MEDITATION SERVICE, with Rev. Castro, held in Buddhist Education Center, (1441 S. Main St); includes Sutra Chanting, 20-minute meditation and discussion
- 10:00 am SERVICE - in Hondo (main sanctuary) includes Sutra Chanting, singing, and Dharma Talk
- 11:00 am DHARMA EXCHANGE - an opportunity for questions and discussion with minister and ministers assistants; takes place in Dining Room downstairs

### EVERY WEDNESDAY 10:30 am DHARMA SUPPORT GROUP with meditation at BEC (1441 S Main St)

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### SUNDAYS EVENTS in addition to above

#### February 7

#### 10:00 am SCOUT SUNDAY SERVICE

Children: Rev. Castro

Adult: Rev. Warrick

Japanese: Rimban Matsubayashi

DX: Rev. Castro & Rev. Warrick

#### 11:45 am SBBWA Board Meeting in Hondo (Rimban Matsubayashi)

#### February 12-14 NW District Buddhist Convention – Ontario, OR **No Services at Betsuin**

#### February 21 NIRVANA DAY & PET MEMORIAL SERVICE

#### 10:00 am

Children: Joe Schwab

Adult: Rev. Castro

Japanese: Rimban Matsubayashi

DX: Rev. Castro

#### 11:30 am Vegetarian Potluck hosted by Dharma School

#### 12:00 pm Religious Dept. Meeting (Rimban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

#### February 28

#### 10:00 am Children's Service: Jr. MA

Youth: Rev. Warrick

Adult: Rev. Warrick

DX: Rev. Warrick

#### 11:30am SBBWA Cabinet Meeting

### MONDAYS

#### February 1, 8 Rimban Matsubayashi (Days off)

#### February 15 **Temple Closed – President's Day Holiday**

### TUESDAYS

#### February 2, 9, 16 Rev. Castro (Days off)

#### 10:00 am Shinran Shonin Monthly Memorial Service (Rimban Matsubayashi)

#### February 23 Rimban Matsubayashi (Day off)

#### 10:30 am Keiro Service (Rev. Castro)

**March Newsletter Deadline:  
Monday, February 15, 2010 8:00 pm  
Print: February 19, 2010**

### WEDNESDAYS

#### February 3

#### 7:30 pm Dharma School Board Meeting (Rimban Matsubayashi & Rev.

Castro)

#### February 24

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

### THURSDAYS

#### February 4

#### 1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rimban Matsubayashi)

#### February 18

#### 1:30 pm Rimban Matsubayashi (Day off) Nikkei Manor Service (Rev. Castro)

#### February 25 BCA Ministers Meeting in San Jose, CA (Rimban Matsubayashi & Rev.

Castro)

#### 7:30 pm Betsuin Board of Directors Meeting

### FRIDAYS

#### February 5

#### 11:30 am Gojikai New Year Service and Party (Rimban Matsubayashi & Rev.

Castro)

#### February 12-14 NW District Buddhist Convention – Ontario, OR (Friday – Sunday)

No Sunday Services

#### February 26-28 BCA National Council Meeting in San Jose, CA (Rimban Matsubayashi & Rev. Castro)

### SATURDAYS

#### February 20 Rev. Castro (Day off)

#### February 27-28 BCA Shinran Shonin 750<sup>th</sup> Memorial Commemoration, Fairmont Hotel, San Jose, CA

#### **March 2010: Major Events of Interest – Sundays** March 14 Spring Ohigan Service



## An Introduction to Jodo Shinshu Buddhism – 1

Rimban Hoshu Y. Matsubayashi, Ed.D.

### I. The Title and the Founder

Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, which is a branch of Mahayana Buddhism, was founded by Shinran (1173 – 1262) and is one of the largest Buddhist denominations in Japan today. The title of the denomination, “Jodo Shinshu,” which means “True Pure Land,” was coined by Shinran in his writings, and is often abridged as “Shinshu.”

Although Shinran was the first to use the words “Jodo Shinshu” in his writings, he never claimed himself to be the founder of the new denomination. In one of the poems in his *Koso Wasan* (Hymns of the Pure Land Masters), he stated:

**Our teacher Genku (Honen) appeared  
Through the power of the Light of Wisdom,  
And revealing the true Pure Land way (Jodo  
Shinshu),**

**He taught the selected Primal Vow.**

In this way, Shinran respected and considered his teacher Honen to be the founder of True Pure Land Buddhism. Yet the conditions for being an independent denomination were provided fully by Shinran. Those conditions were its title, its doctrinal characteristics, and the selection of the sutras and commentaries upon which the denomination depends. Shinran provided the above conditions as follows:

1. The Title, “Jodo Shinshu”
2. The Doctrinal Characteristics Revealed in the Theory of the Pair and Four Divisions
3. The Pure Land Sutras and the Selection of Seven Masters and their Commentaries

### II. The Three Pure Land Sutras

The doctrine of Jodo Shinshu depends on the Three Pure Land Sutras which Honen originally selected. These sutras expound upon Amida Buddha and his land, and how to attain the Buddhahood. They are:

**Larger Sukhavativyuha Sutra** (Daimuryoju-kyo)

**Amitayurdhyana Sutra** (Kanmuryoju-kyo)

### **Smaller Sukhavativyuha Sutra** (Amida-kyo)

Shinran interpreted the Three Pure Land Sutras in two ways. First, he considered the **Larger Sutra** to be the only true teaching of Shakyamuni Buddha (c.560 – 480), the founder of Buddhism, and states in his main writing, **Teaching, Practice, Awakening, and Enlightenment** (Kyogyoshinsho), that

“to reveal the true teaching: It is the **Larger Sutra of Immeasurable Life...** Thus, to teach the Tathagata’s Primal Vow is the true intent of the sutra; the name of the Buddha is its essence.

Thus, he considered the **Larger Sutra** to be the true teaching, and that the others describe the means of understanding the true teaching.

Second, Shinran taught that all three of the Pure Land sutras expound on the true essence of Shakyamuni Buddha’s teaching. The **Larger Sutra** teaches the truth of Dharma, the **Amitayurdhyana Sutra** teaches the truth of human nature, and the **Smaller Sutra** describes Dharma, human nature, and the praise of the Amida Buddha by various other Buddhas. Therefore, he considered that all three of the Pure Land Sutras teach the truth of Shakyamuni Buddha. Based on the three Pure Land Sutras, Shinran established Jodo Shinshu Buddhism with commentaries of Seven Masters in India, China, and Japan.

(To be continued)



## Dharma School February

Submitted by Joyce Tsuji

Dharma school would like to invite everyone to the Nirvana day vegetarian potluck on February 21. The pet memorial service will be held the same day. Cards will be available in the foyer to write down the names of pets that have passed away.

"Thanks," to the third, fourth and fifth grade class who made the centerpieces for the New Year's Party. Also, to the high school class who put on the "Thriller" dance skit during the entertainment portion. We hope these were enjoyed by all. Great job, guys!!

Fourteen incredible kids participated in the ochigo procession at the 750<sup>th</sup> Memorial service for Shinran Shonin. We appreciate your effort at this special service.

### Classroom Reports

**Pre-K/K Class** The Pre-K and Kindergarten class remains very active with a large number of students attending each week. In December we celebrated Bodhi Day and each child made a picture with Amida Buddha with a CD-case that they gave as a gift to their parents. They all were actively involved in Temple Clean -Up Day, busily cleaning our classroom. With the beginning of the new year, we learned about the Chinese Zodiac and made pictures highlighting the Year of the Tiger. We also made a picture of Shinran Shonin and his 2 disciples reciting the Nembutsu in the snow. For the remainder of January, we will be learning about the life of Shinran Shonin as we recognize his 750<sup>th</sup> memorial.



**First/Second Grade** This class is filled with bright kids. Our recent activities have focused on gratitude and learning the differences between the 3 main figures in our religion: Amida, Shakyamuni, and Shinran. At Thanksgiving, we discussed the Four Gratuities and made a turkey with what we are thankful for written on the tail feathers. We looked through a book of elements of the hondo shrine and wrote down what we could sense with our 5 senses in church (what smell, what sight, what sound, etc). For Bodhi day we decorated a "bodhi tree" ornament and heard the enlightenment story. The class also colored a picture of a bodhi leaf with a seated Shakyamuni Buddha. These were laminated and made into ornaments. We then continued by making year of the tiger calendars, and reading the story of

how the zodiac animals came to be. Finally, for Honko we talked about Shinran Shonin's life and did a word search about him.

### 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 for the new fiscal year of 2010:

*Gaylen Akira, Karen Akira,  
Gary & Sandee Hamatani, Joseph Matsuzaki,  
Eiichi & Ruth Morimoto, Susan Shinoda,  
Nori Suguro, Lori Tanaka, Susanne Umeda,  
John & Arlene Yamada*

*We'd like to 'welcome' Susan Shinoda as a new member to our Sangha.*

**\*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, 2010.** 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)

**Jodo Shinshu Meditation Service at  
Buddhist Education Center House:  
1441 S Main St  
Sundays 8:45 - 9:30 AM**

### YBA News

Since the election of new officers, the YBA—currently including 35 members—has been very busy. In December we prepared and served a dinner to youths at the Orion Center. We also baked the desserts for the New Year's party and served food and beverages during the Shinran Shonin 750<sup>th</sup> Memorial Luncheon. Upcoming, is the Northwest District Buddhist Convention to which we expect to send 4 members. Beyond that, we are committed to preparing and serving dinner twice more at the Orion

## Seattle Betsuin *Kieshiki* Affirmation Service on January 16, 2010 on the Occasion of Shinran Shonin 750th Commemorative Memorial

submitted by Irene Goto

Seventeen individuals received their Buddhist name, Certificate of Affirmation, and Homyo Card.

Participating ministers were BCA Bishop (Socho) Koshin Ogui, Officiant; Rimban Hoshu Matsubayashi, Conducting Minister; Reverend Don Castro, Supervising Minister; Reverend Jim Warrick, Assisting Minister; and Minister's Assistant Joe Schwab.

The Meaning of the Ceremony *In this Shin Buddhist ceremony, performed before the altar of Amida Buddha and Shinran Shonin by the Bishop (Socho) of the BCA, one takes the important step of affirming one's reverence for the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha, and one's determination to tread the path to Buddhahood. When the ceremony is conducted by the Monshu, spiritual head of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha denomination, the ceremony is referred to as the Kikyoshiki Confirmation Ceremony.*

The Three Refuges in General Buddhist Tradition *In the time of Shakyamuni Buddha, one was permitted to join the Buddhist community (sangha) upon receiving the precept of the three refuges under the guidance of a monk and shaving one's head.*

*To receive the precept of the three refuges means to declare before one's teacher that one takes wholehearted refuge in the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha, and to vow that one will not deviate from them.*

*"Buddha" here refers to Sakyamuni, "Dharma" to Sakyamuni's Teaching, and "Sangha" to the community of followers who have entrusted themselves to Sakyamuni Buddha's teaching. Because these form the basis of what one values most in one's life, they are called the "three treasures."*

*Shaving one's head symbolizes departure from the worldly ways of life and entrance into a life devoted to the path of Buddhism, which transcends the mundane world.*

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### ***I Am A Link*** by President Paul Mori

"I am a link,"...this phrase I have recited since Dharma school and today these words are still appropriate. It has been my pleasure to be part of our Betsuin and learn from the previous leaders, ministers, and members on the way to "keep my link bright and strong," To you, the Sangha, I will serve you to the best of my experience and strive to improve our temple life.

Our immediate past president, Mas Tahara, was very instrumental in providing the environment to grow as a leader. For that opportunity, Mas, I really appreciate your guidance and direction. I hope to continue the training of our future leaders as well.

Annually, we always begin the New Year with our Party. On behalf of the Betsuin please join me in thanking Lori Chisholm and Yukio Morikubo for chairing this year's event. Those of us in attendance know that it was one of the best! If you see either in the temple don't hesitate to personally congratulate them for their effort. We are looking forward to next year.



This year's Hoonko observance was not an ordinary event. It was an event! It was celebrated as the Shinran Shonin 750<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Memorial Observance. The committee members who planned the special weekend was led by Rimban Matsubayashi/Castro sensei, Fumi Groves (service programming), Mas Tahara/Irene Goto/Ron Hamakawa (Kie Shiki-Affirmation service and luncheon), Howard Luke/Camp Fire (750<sup>th</sup> Announcement letter), Terrie Tanino/Kemi Nakabayashi (choir/instrumentalist), Kiyoko Takashima (750<sup>th</sup> luncheon procurement), Ron Hamakawa/Jr YBA (Petals/overall food service coordination), Machiko Wada (SBBWA food/special service Najin flower support), Joan Nakano/Pauline Sakuma (service booklet), David Atcheson (recycling), Susie Taketa/Mark Yuasa/Boy Scouts (Gym set-up), and Joyce Tsuji (Ochigo). Those in attendance were treated to the special words from Socho Ogui and Rimban Bob Oshita. Shoshinge/Wasan/Nembutsu was loudly enhanced by the active participation of taiko (Donna Zumoto/Evan Ko), the BCA YAC

Reunion attendees, and staff who were enjoying their gathering in our Betsuin. The Naijin, Hondo and foyer

were full with participants; it was great.

gassho Paul Mori

### **Camp Fire 100th Birthday Celebration:**

#### **Sunday March 28, 2010 11:30-**

**1:30** Submitted by Elaine Nakamura

This year Camp Fire celebrates its 100th Birthday and we will be celebrating it here at church on Sunday March 28th. We invite all former and present Camp Fire leaders and members to help us celebrate this 100th Birthday. We have posted a sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office. We need to know how many people will be attending. If you know of other former/present leaders or members, please pass along this invitation and have them sign up or email us at cf100birthday@gmail.com. Please respond by March 21.



#### **Camp Fire Candy Sale** Submitted by D. Shibata

The annual Camp Fire Candy Sale kicks off on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and runs through February 14<sup>th</sup>. The girls will be selling their candy at various site sales (including the church foyer) as well as person to person. Thank you for your ongoing support!

#### **Hummingbirds** Submitted by L. Carpenter

The Hummingbirds donated \$72 to the Haitian Earthquake Relief Fund. The money was raised at our November Starflight Carnival. Our new Winter Officers are Kristy and Emily (co-pres.), Alder (secretary), and Tedi (treasurer.) They will be working on the Camp Fire birthday service and have planned another round of the Secret Tomodachi game.

#### **Adventure 4 & 5** Submitted by Dan\_ Submitted by

Dana Nakashima On December 19, many of our girls helped make and package mochi. For some of the girls it was "old hat". For others, it was their first time. We hope the girls gained an understanding of the time, effort and tasks required to make mochi.

On January 10, the girls performed their "We Go Together" dance (from "Grease") at the Temple New Year's Party. Our group worked hard over the past month and a half to prepare for this performance. The costumes, props and girls were ready and the performance turned out great!

Big THANK YOUs to our girls and parents for attending the many practices. Very special thanks to Erica for choreographing the dance, and to the Teranishi family (especially Kris) for sewing the poodle and cheerleader skirts, and for creating the super cool car props.

#### **Starflight 1 & 2** Submitted by D. Shibata

The girls have been enjoying a variety of activities. After some "outside of church" activity which included decorating Wisteria Manor for the holidays and a sing-a-long, they have been back in their group meetings tackling their Camp Fire trails.

The Crimmins' lead the girls in an exploration of astronomy that also included constructing their own rockets and a simulation on robotic controls as they attempted to instruct a Dad to retrieve and extract specific items from a bowl.

Special thank you's go to D. Zumoto who provided instruction to the girls as they discovered the joys of music and Taiko drumming! The parents had a chance to complement their drumming with accompany instruments.

### **Reverend Koyo Kubose is on YouTube**

View two 10-minute video Dharma Talks entitled, "Buddhist Hell" and "OK-ness". Additional videos are being planned.

*Submitted by Karry Sakamoto*

### **On Shinran Shonin 750<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Memorial Service at Seattle Betsuin held January 17, 2010**

Religious Department received e-mail from a member remarking, "Thank you to all who helped make the service a great success. Let's keep being creative. As Socho says, don't be afraid to try new things."

*Submitted by Irene Goto*

**Meditation Service and Dharma  
Support Group** with  
Rev Castro

Wednesdays from 10:30 to Noon at  
Betsuin Buddhist Education Center  
1441 S Main St

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NEWSLETTER IS NOW ONLINE  
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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!

The Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations –  
December 2009 – January 2010

<u>Funeral / Memorial / Nokotsudo:</u>	<u>For:</u>		<u>Given by:</u>
Miyoko Kondo	Funeral Service	\$ 1,300	Stan Kondo
Alan and Joyce Nakamura	Nokotsudo	\$ 1,000	Ted Nakamura
Noboru Isomura	Makura-gyo	\$ 200	Nancy Tanaka
Takumi 'Tuk' Mikami	In Memory of	\$ 100	Yoshie Mikami

<u>Remembrances for:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
Aimee Akutsu	Sachiko Hayami
Noboru Isomura	Haruko & Yoshiko Kobuki; Pauline Sakuma; Merrily Taniguchi; Dick Yoshimura
Kito Kaneta	Akio Narusawa; Mari Ohara; Hideko Terada
Hiroko Kitano	Anna & Mas Tahara
Harry S. Koba	Pauline Sakuma
Miyoko Kondo	Momoko Kido; Mabel & Akio Nishizaki; Mary Osaki
Bob & Mary Kono	Ruth Aoki; Gene Akutsu; Norio Harui; Fumiko Yamaguchi
Bob Sakoda	Gene & Yuki Arinobu; Gladys Hamano & Terry Nakano; Mabel & Akio Nishizaki
Asako Tsukamaki	George Tsukamaki

Onenju Sales: \$ 50

Onenju Repair: Anonymous orei \$ 20

Wedding: Dan Takano \$ 150

Supervisory: Yakima Buddhist Church \$ 100  
Spokane Buddhist Church \$ 600 (1<sup>st</sup> half of 2009)

<u>Other Gifts:</u>	<u>Donor:</u>	<u>For:</u>
\$ 300	Seattle Buddhist Church Gojikai	Year-end Orei
\$ 200	Howard Luke	General Donation
\$ 100	Irene Goto	General Donation
\$ 100	Harold H. Kawaguchi	General Donation
\$ 100	Spokane Buddhist Church	Year-end Orei
\$ 75	Anonymous	General Donation
\$ 50	Mickey & Yoshie Hiroo	50 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Aki & Mabel Nishizaki
\$ 30	Kazuko Yakumo	Donation for Wheel of the Sangha
\$ 25	Tomoko & Koji Matsuno	General Donation



\$	20	Miyoko Kaneta	General Donation
\$	20	John Litz	General Donation

## Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association

### SBBWA President's Message Submitted by Shizue Yahata

- A big thank you to Michi Vaart, Fran Shintaku, Terrie Tanino and Sheri Mizumori who came out to help serve lunch to temple members helping on maintenance day, Sat., Dec. 26, 2009.
- At the January 3, 2010 SBBWA Board of Directors' meeting Norigiku Horikawa was elected Japanese Recording Secretary. Thank you to Janet Baba, English VP for conducting the meeting in my absence.
- A big thank you to Mrs. Ritsuko Kawahara for her work in planning and directing the preparation, cooking and assembling the delicious New Year's Party bentos.
- On January 13 & 20, 2010, Shikishi for the year of the Tiger were taught by Rikuko Tanaka.

On a personal note, I attended the service held at Nikkei Manor on Jan. 7, 2010 conducted by Rev. Castro aided by Martha Taniguchi. It was very touching to see the joy that is brought the residents



who attended the service, some who are members of the SBBWA/temple. Kinue Kuwahara was not there due to illness.

### Donations - Submitted by SBBWA Treasurer Shizue Kaku

- Mabel Nishizaki - In appreciation
- Terrie Tanino - In appreciation
- Mary Shigaya - In appreciation
- SBC Campfire - In appreciation for Karuna Class
- Kokoro Kai Volunteers –  
In appreciation for use of kitchen facilities
- Florence Terami & Family –  
In memory of Tsuruko Muramoto
- Stan Kondo - In memory of Miyoko Kondo
- Paul & Mary Hosoda - In memory of Nami Ito
- Harry Yoshimura - In memory of Aimee Akutsu
- Mutual Fish Company - In memory of Aimee Akutsu

### Calendar

- Sunday, February 7 SBBWA Board Meeting
- Sunday, February 28 SBBWA Cabinet Meeting

Submitted by Joan Nakano

-continued from p. 5

### Explanation of Kieshiki Affirmation Ceremony – Buddhist Churches of America

The Affirmation Ceremony The teachings of Sakyamuni Buddha are so extensive that they are said to number 84 000. It is no surprise, then, that after the Buddha's death, various schools developed based on the different aspects of his teachings. Shin Buddhism (Jodo Shinshu) is the Buddhist path of great compassion clarified by Shinran Shonin. Shinran teaches that Sakyamuni appeared in this world in order to reveal the Vow of Amida Buddha to save all beings; it is the salvation of all people by Amida Buddha that is Sakyamuni's fundamental teaching.

The Affirmation Ceremony in Shin Buddhism, therefore, shares a common meaning with the precept of the three refuges administered in the time of Sakyamuni Buddha, but it also has a special meaning. In the Affirmation Ceremony, the Buddha of the three refuges is not simply Sakyamuni, but

refers especially to Amida Buddha, who is the heart of Sakyamuni's teachings. Sakyamuni came into the world to teach the Vow of Amida Buddha, and our salvation is brought about by Amida. Thus, "Dharma" is the teaching of Amida's compassionate working to

save all beings, and "Sangha" refers to people who have entrusted themselves to Amida.

Since there are no precepts in Shin Buddhism, instead of receiving the precept of the three treasures, one participates in the Affirmation Ceremony.

Also, Shin practitioners do not shave their heads, but undergo a ritual and symbolic shaving which has similar meaning. This is the part of the Kikyoshiki Confirmation Ceremony. For the Kieshiki Affirmation Ceremony, the Bishop of the BCA touches the head of each recipient with a scroll inscribed with the words of the Buddha. This is referred to as "Chokyo"



or "receiving the teachings" and takes on a similar meaning.

By participating in the Affirmation Ceremony, one receives a Buddhist name (homyo). The names are in the form of "Shaku" and two Buddhist terms

which follow. The word "Shaku" means "disciple of Sakyamuni" and signifies that the person has joined the followers of the teachings of Sakyamuni Buddha, a community that transcends race or nationality.

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## Seattle Betsuin gratefully acknowledges the following donors for 2009

**contributions received for Bodhi Day:** Please accept our apologies for any inadvertent omissions or misspelling of names.

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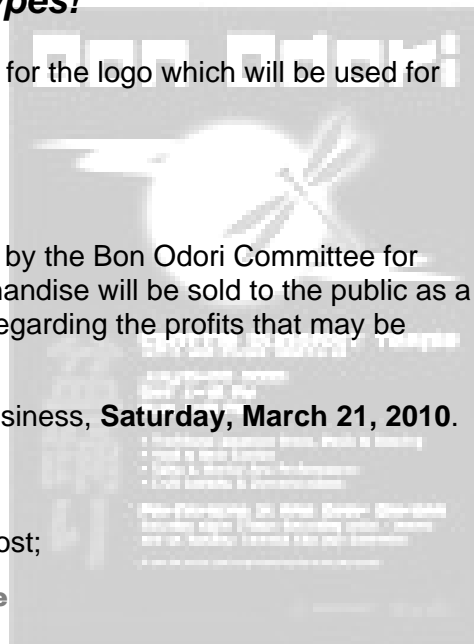
## Calling all artists and creative types!

The 2010 Bon Odori Committee is currently accepting design submissions for the logo which will be used for posters, 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 and communication media. Posters, event T-shirts & merchandise will be sold to the public as a part of the fund raising efforts. The submitter will not retain any rights regarding the profits that may be made from the sale of any event products bearing the winning design.
- 2) Entries must be received by the Temple office no later than close of business, **Saturday, March 21, 2010.**
- 3) The following are the recommended graphic fundamentals:
  - a) incorporation of Seattle, Japanese and/or Buddhist motifs;
  - b) design should be a maximum of three colors as means to control cost;



- c) simplicity of graphics aids in the reproduction and printing
- d) design must appeal to both males and females audience;

4) Submission of design must be in digital format. PDF or .tif format preferred.

Submitted by Ron Hamakawa

## **Seattle Betsuin gratefully acknowledges the following donors for 2009**

**contributions received for Eitaikyo and Other:** Please accept our apologies for any inadvertent omissions or misspelling of names.

Adachi, Helen; Aisaka, Steve; Akada, Mary; Aoki, Tak & Ruth; Aoki-Kramer, Michael; Aoyama, M/M Masatoshi; Aramaki, Hanako; Asaba, Marian; Beard, Clara; Bobrow, Pat; Carpenter, Lani; Deguchi, Mae; Desaki, Yasuko; Dodobara, Kenny; Doi, James; Enomoto, Toshiko; Fujino, Sue; Fujita, Florence; Fujita, Lutes; Fukeda, George; Fukuhara, Mitsuko; Furuta, Mary; Goshu, Kazumi; Groves, Alan & Fumiko; Hamakawa, Ron; Hamatani, Jane; Hanada, Fumiyo; Hanada, Miyuki; Hanada, Peggy; Hara, Reiko; Harano, Nelson; Hiroo, Mickey & Yoshi; Hori, Lily; Horn, Ken & Pam; Ichikawa, Laura; Imanishi, Edith; Isomura, Toshiko; Iwamura, Yoshiye; Kaku, Dale & Shizue; Kasahara, Grace; Kashima, M/M T.; Katayama, Tak & Mary; Kato, Kazue; Kato, M/M Edward; Kawaguchi, Miyoko; Kawahara, Ritsuko; Kido, Momoko; Kikuchi, Shizue; Kitashima, Evelyn; Ko, Tina; Kobuki, Mrs. Haruko; Kogita, Taka; Kojima, Esther; Komoto, Frank; Kondo, Miyoko; Kosai, Aizo & June; Kosai-Eng, Jo Ann; Kubo, Masayoshi & Masako; Kubota, Betty; Kunihiro, Carolyn; Kuramoto, Daisy; Kuwahara, Kinue; Litz, John; Maeshiro, Fumiko; Mamiya, Yoshi; Mano, M/M George; Mano, Mariko; Masuda, Rose; Matsui, Jack; Matsui, Tak; Miyauchi, Takiko; Mizuno, Hatsue; Mori, Paul & Teresa; Nakabayashi, Kemi; Nakamura, M/M Yoshio; Nakamura, Ruby; Nakano, Evangeline; Nakano, Joan; Nakano, Junko; Nakashima, Tomi; Namekata, Keiko & Tsukasa; Nishimura, Hiro; Nishizaki, Akio & Mabel; Nitta, Masaye; Noshu, Setsuno; Ohtani, Michiye; Ojima, Fred & Steph; Okamura, Ray & Mineko; Osaki, Mary; O'Shields, Dean; Otsuji, Nobuko; Oye, S; Ozeki-Chinn, Connie; Platnick, Tamiko; Sakamoto, Karry; Sako, Masako; Sakoda, Aya; Sakuma, Pauline; Shibata, Dennis; Shibata, Gary & Debbie; Shibuya, Masako; Shigaya, Harry; Shigaya, Ken; Shigaya, Mary; Shimada, Shirley; Shimizu, Aiko; Shimizu, Haruko; Shimizu, Roy & Kazumi; Shimizu, Sato & Darlene; Shintaku, Al & Fran; Sordetto, Gayle; Sumida, Florence; Sumida, Leslie; Tahara, Masaru & Anna; Takamura, Kumiko; Taketa, Haruso & Sonoe; Taketa, M/M George; Taketa, Susan; Taki, Noboru; Tamekuni, Mas & Frances; Tanaka, Nami; Tanaka, Rikuko; Taniguchi, Fumie; Taniguchi, M/M T.; Taniguchi, Martha; Tanino, M/M Kats; Tazuma, Elmer; Tazuma, Miyoko; Terada, M/M Joe; Terada, Ron & Suzuko; Teramoto, Margaret; Teramoto, Stuart; Terao, Victoriia; Tomita, Paul & Mabel; Tosaya, Gary & Julianne; Tsuji, Joyce; Uchida, M/M Sam; Uyenishi, Tazuko; Vaart, Michi; Wada, Machiko; Yahata, Shizue; Yamaguchi, Fumiko; Yamasaki, Fujie; Yanagimoto, Michiko; Yasui, Kiyoshi; Yokota, Sumie; Yokoyama, Kari Ann / Kevin; Yorita, Takako; Yoshida, Fuyo; Yoshihara, Isoko; Yoshimi, CM; Yoshimura, Dick; Yutani, Nobuo; Zumoto, Donna;

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## **PLEASE READ: CHANGE IN NOTIFICATION OF DONATIONS**

As all have experienced the rising costs in today's world, the same can be said for the Temple as many of the similar expenses have risen as well. As with the households of the Sangha members, the Temple has looked at its own operations in ways to eliminate waste and minimize costs. This is an ever evolving process that does not end. As you have noticed, postage rates have increased the past few years and the Temple incurs a significant expense in sending receipts for donations that have been received. To help reduce the cost of postage, the Temple changed its process of sending a receipt for every donation to sending a summarized listing quarterly. The mailing will be made at the end of each calendar quarter for January through December. We will not be using the Temple's fiscal year quarter. This change will be effective as of January 2010.

As in past years, your canceled check can also be used for purposes of proof of donation. This is a change from how things have been done in the past but the Temple must adapt to new challenges. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the change, please feel free to contact the Temple either via e-mail to the Temple office, mailing in of your comments/questions or dropping it off at the Temple office. Please note, the Temple office staff is not responsible for the change in policy and is only collecting any

comments/questions that may be received. The Temple hopes that you understand the need the change.

In Gassho, Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Church Treasurer

**Seattle Betsuin gratefully acknowledges the following donors for 2009 contributions received for Bodhi Seals:** Please accept our apologies for any inadvertent omissions or misspelling of names.

Akizuki, Jim & Louise; Aoki, Ruth; Aoyama, Doris; Aramaki, Hanako; Arinobu, Gene; Asaba, Lauren; Asaba, Marian; Baba, Janet; Barr, Lance & Lisa; Beard, Clara; Bobrow, Pat; Butler, Lisa; Carpenter, Lani; Chadwick, Mrs. Tsuyako; Chinn, Connie Ozeki-; Deguchi, Jean; Deguchi, Mae; Dodobara, Kenny; Doi, Alice; Enomoto, Toshiko; Family, Kawaguchi; Fujii, Aiko & Min; Fujino, Sue; Fujino, Suteko; Fujioka, Harumi; Fujita, Florence; Fujita, M/M Nobie; Fukeda, George & Toshi; Fukuhara, Mitsuko; Furuta, Mary; Gene, Gene ; Gilmore, Mieko; Goshu, Kazumi Janice; Gota, Helen; Hamanaka, Yoko; Hamatani, Jane; Hanada, Fumiyo; Hanada, Miyuki; Hanada, Peggy; Hara, Reiko; Harada, Mack; Hasegawa, Hiroko; Hayami, Sachiko; Higa, Hatsumi; Hikida, Mary; Hirata, Hajime; Hiroo, Yoshie; Hokoda, Steven; Hori, Lily; Howland, Jack; Ichikawa, Sat & Grace; Ikeda, Yoshiaki; Ise, Hal; Iseri, Iwako; Isomura, Toshiko; Isomura, Yoko; Ito, Yaeko; Iwafuchi, June; Kamanishi/Jeffereis, Gail/Renan; Kanemoto, Eileen; Kaneta, Miyoko; Kashiwa, Ann T.; Katayama, M/M T; Kato, Kazue; Kato, M/M Edward; Kawada, Hatsue; Keltner, Jan; Kido, Mrs. Momoko; Ko, Tina; Kobuki, Mrs. Haruko; Kodama, George; Kogita, Taka; Kojima, Esther; Kondo, Miyoko; Kosai, M/M Aizo; Kozai, Art & Lori; Kubo, Helen; Kubota Tsurukawa, Patricia; Kubota, Betty; Kubota, Janet; Kunihiro, Carolyn; Kuramoto, Daisy; Kusakabe, Peter; Kusumi, Shogo; Kuwahara, Kinue; Mamiya, Haruko; Mano, Mariko; Matsui, Jack; Matsui, Tak; Matsuzaki, M/M Joseph; Mayeda, Ann / Duane; Mayeda, Julie; Miyauchi, Takiko; Mizuki, Helen; Mizumori, Sheri; Mizuno, Hatsue; Moriyama, Kenneth & Jean; Nakabayashi, Kemi; Nakagawa, Yoshie; Nakamura, M/M Yoshio; Nakamura, Ruby; Nakano, Joan; Nakano, Junko; Nakashima, Dana; Nakashima, Tomi; Nakayama, Charlene; Nayematsu, Ethel; Nishimura, Hiro; Nishimura, Hisashi & Sadako; Nishizaki, Akio & Mabel; Noritake, Shinako; Noshu, Setsuno; Ohtani, Michiye; Ojima, Fred & Steph; Okada, Emiko; Okamura, Ray & Mineko; Okano, Tomiko; Okumura, T; Osaki, Mary; Otsuji, Nobuko; Platnick, Tamiko; Romero, Ann; Saito, George; Saito, M/M Akira; Sakamoto, Karry; Sakamoto, M/M George; Sako, Masako; Sakuma, Pauline; Sato, Joyce; Schwab, Joe & Carolyn; Seko, Amy; Shibata, Dennis; Shibuya, Masako; Shigaya, Harry & Teruko; Shigaya, M/M Ken; Shigaya, Mary S.; Shimbo, Etsu / Ben; Shimizu, Aiko; Shimizu, George; Shimizu, Roy & Kazumi; Shimizu, Sato; Shinoda, F; Shintaku, Al & Fran; Sordetto, Gayle; Suguro, Nori; Sumida, Florence; Tahara, Mas; Takamura, Kuniko; Takano, Jean; Takashima, Kiyoko; Taketa, Haruso; Taketa, Susie; Tamekuni, Frances; Tanaka, Nami; Tanaka, Rikuko; Tanaka, Tom; Tanemura, Peggy; Taniguchi, Fumie; Taniguchi, Martha; Taniguchi, Theodore; Tanino, Kats & Terrie; Tanino, M/M Ryomi; Tazuma, Grace; Tazuma, Miyoko; Terada, Allan; Terada, M/M Joe; Terada, M/M Ron; Terami, Florence; Teramoto, Margaret; Teramoto, Michael & Gayle; Terao, Victoria; Tokunaga, Dolly; Tosaya, Gary & Julianne; Tsubota, Cherrie; Uchida, Sam & Masako; Uyenishi, Tazuko; Wada, Machiko; Wakazuru, Joe; Yahata, Shizue; Yamada, John & Arlene; Yamaguchi, Fumiko; Yamamoto, Tatsuya; Yamane, Jeff & Susie; Yamasaki, Steve & Valerie; Yamashita, Dennis; Yanagimoto, Michiko; Yokoyama, Fusae; Yokoyama, Kari Ann; Yoshida, Mary; Yoshida, Ron; Yoshihara, Isoko; Yoshimura, Dick; Yutani, Nobuo; Zumoto, Donna; Anonymous

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**Look Who's Blogging!** Rimban Matsubayashi and Reverend Castro, Reverend Jim Warrick, and EcoSangha! Join in, and post your comments. Rimban is blogging in English and Japanese.  
<http://revmatsubayashi.blogspot.com/>  
<http://revcastro.blogspot.com/> <http://revwarrick.blogspot.com/>  
<http://ecosangha-seattle.blogspot.com/>

submitted by Alan Hoshino

## Troop 252 Report

2009 November and December

During these last two months the troop has been pretty busy. We have had our North Bend Campout in November. During our regular troop meetings we have been learning and reviewing knots and lashings. Many of the younger scouts are now getting the hang of it. The day after Thanksgiving, the scouts held the Turkey Bowl, a fun event where the scouts get together and play sports. More than 15 people showed up

and they enjoyed playing basketball, football, and dodgeball.

Sean U. 12-11-09

*This article was unintentionally left out of the 2010 January issue by the editor. My apologies. -IHG*

## ONENJU AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE



Onenju for children, women, and men are now available for purchase in the temple office. Heirloom and modern beads have been restrung by Pauline Sakuma into beautiful new onenju. Please visit the office to see the variety of styles available. Proceeds go to Seattle Betsuin. - jn

## HIGH SCHOOL / COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

If you are a high school senior graduating in the class of 2010 or a college student currently attending a four year college, the following scholarships are available.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** The Seattle Betsuin Tsujihara Family Memorial Scholarship Grant will offer up to four scholarships of \$2,000 each. **COLLEGE:** The Masaru and Mitsuma Shimokon Scholarship Grant has up to three scholarships: 1 - 5,000 college student who will graduate as a Nurse Practitioner, 1 - \$5,000 college student graduating as a Medical Doctor, 1 - \$3,000 college student degree BS as a Registered Nurse.



The deadline to submit applications is Monday, April 5, 2010 by 2:30pm to the temple office. For applications or questions please contact Shizue Kaku at via the temple office at 206.329-0800.

### **Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Observance, Symposium and Banquet:**

**Saturday, February 27, 2010, Fairmont Hotel, San Jose, California**

[http://www.ingassho.com/registration/page9/assets/Shinran750th\\_Registration.pdf](http://www.ingassho.com/registration/page9/assets/Shinran750th_Registration.pdf)

**Deadline to register is January 27, 2010**

## NOTES ON DHARMA EXCHANGE

**Jan 3, 2010** - Warrick Sensei commented that New Year's resolutions seem to go astray after a time, and led a lively discussion.

He talked about the movie "Food," which revealed many unusual facts; i.e. it conglomerates that provide all the food in the US, and soybeans are controlled by only one corporation, Monsanto, which has a patent on soybeans. A participant noted this does not apply to organics. Sensei said there is only one slaughter house for pigs in the US, unless it's organic.

We are the same today as in Shinran's time, and will be when we land on Pandora. Greed, anger, hate, delusions are still with us. How does that fit with the idea of impermanence? As Jodo Shinshu Buddhists we can't become enlightened under our own power. There are other Buddhist sects in which some people can change through self-power.

We may not change, but the way we perceive things changes; i.e. as we age the concept of health, wealth and happiness change in their order of importance. A participant noted there is hope if we "go green;" if we don't go green we are doomed. It was suggested we look at ingredients before we buy food. And if bees keep disappearing we will be in serious trouble for lack of pollinators. A participant thought it might be the chemicals in food that is causing the problem.

Jodo Shinshu teaches us to respect all things.

In Gassho, Pat Bobrow

**Jan 10, 2010** – A story about monks making "Intentional Chocolate" was told. Apparently monks, trained in advanced meditation, infuse the chocolate with good intentions that are passed on to the consumer. Rev Castro explained that in Jodo Shinshu boundless wisdom and compassion already exists, we just need to awaken to it. One participant offered that once you put a name on an object or objective you put limits on it. Rev Jim Warrick added that in monasteries the most senior monks prepare the meals. Rev Hanada takes part

in a monastery where 5-minute “mindfulness breaks” are taken during meal preparation. She also mentioned the experiment of meditating on a vessel of water and a molecular change in the water takes place; humans are mostly water. Rev Castro mentioned that Christian Scientists have a notion that when they become ill it is because of sin. A participant mentioned a television news anchor who suggested that in Buddhism there is no redemption, (in talking about the sin of Tiger Woods and that he needs to become a Christian to be redeemed). Rev Castro said that in Jodo Shinshu Amida Buddha transforms negativity into skillful means to change our behavior. In Buddhism there is no judgment. In Theravada Buddhism some think they need to repay in karma to benefit oneself. How do we free ourselves from samsara? As Jodo Shinshu Buddhist we are iconoclastic. We completely entrust ourselves to Other Power; we assault the Self; we believe we are included in what is boundless. Rev Jim believes that to rebuke statements, such as, “It is illegal to use the name *Alla* in reference to God,” only creates animosity; the destroyed carvings of Buddha in Bamiyan were just rocks; don’t let ourselves get out of control; just be quiet and take the soft way.

Rev. Castro desires more activism toward industry in limiting the use and production of plastics. Environmental Buddhism is going door-to-door on the East Coast springing off Rev Taitetsu Unno’s herald to protect our environment. Here at Seattle Betsuin and in San Jose we’ve come a long way in eliminating the use of styrofoam. Rev. Jim feels that former Seattle mayor Greg Nichols tried to be an environmentalist. Rev. Castro feels there should be an alternative to both paper and plastic. It was announced that the plastic bento boxes used for the New Year Party that day would be washed and properly recycled; compostable paper, food, and wooden chopsticks would be sorted from other waste. Gassho. Irene Goto

-continued from p. 8 **Kieshiki – Affirmation Ceremony**

*In Shin Buddhism, as stated earlier, this ceremony is referred to as the Confirmation Kikyoshiki Ceremony when performed by the Monshu of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha. However, depending on the circumstances, the ceremony may be performed by a representative of the Monshu, as in the case of the Affirmation Kieshiki Ceremony conducted by the Bishop, Socho of the BCA.*

*Attitude of the Participant in the Affirmation Ceremony* *As a Shin Buddhist, one endeavors to hear the teaching of Amida’s Primal Vow, and also to transmit it to others. Further, one clearly grasps the principal of cause and effect that is basic to the Buddhist teaching, and does not rely on superstitions and beliefs of any kind that contradict it.*