

# Wheel of the Sangha

Volume 31 Issue 4 April 2012

A monthly publication by **Seattle Buddhist Church**

*May peace and tranquility prevail  
throughout the world*

## Seattle Buddhist Church

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### Office Hours

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

**This is a cover page.  
Scroll down to view  
complete newsletter.**

### Ministers

Rimban Don Castro

24 hours: (206) 779 -2214

Reverend Jim Warrick

### 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 NEWSLETTER

**Editors:** English - Irene Goto

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**Saturdays:** April 7 First Saturday Study Group **CANCELLED**

April 7 Rev Henry Adams Seminar at White River Temple 9:00-3:00

April 14 Rev Kenji Akahoshi Seminar at Seattle Betsuin 9:30am-3:30pm

April 28 Rev Kakihara Seminar in Japanese at Seattle Betsuin noon-4:00pm

### Sundays:

April 8 Hanamatsuri Service & Luncheon

April 15 Camp Fire Sunday Service

April 22 Earth Day Service & Scholarship Awards Presentation

**1** Temple Contact  
Information

**2** Calendar of Events,

**Newsletter Deadline:**  
**Monday,**  
**April 16, 2012**  
**8:00 pm**

**3** Rimban Castro's  
Message,  
Japanese Seminar

**4** President Morikubo's  
Message,  
SBBWA & Recruitment

**5** Study Groups,  
Musical Notes & May Seminar,  
Scouts, Dharma School

**6, 7**  
SBC Donations

**8** Camp Fire,  
Akahoshi Seminar

**9** Special Service  
Donations,  
Cub Scouts,  
Yakima Buddhist  
Church

**10** Notes from  
Dharma Exchange



Hanamatsuri in Gym April 8  
Sweet Tea Offering starts at 9:15

## Betsuin Events for April 2012

### **EVERY SUNDAY** All are invited:

- 8:45 am \*MEDITATION SERVICE at 1441 S. Main St; Sutra Chanting, 20-minute meditation, discussion.  
10:00 am SERVICE - in Hondo (main sanctuary) includes Sutra Chanting, singing, and Dharma Talk  
11:00 am DHARMA EXCHANGE – in dining room, Q/A, dialogue with minister and ministers assistants

### **EVERY WEDNESDAY** \*\*10:30 am DHARMA SUPPORT GROUP with Meditation

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#### **SUNDAYS \*8:45 am Meditation Service**

##### April 1\*

10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE  
CHILDREN'S SERVICE

Children: Rinban Castro  
Youth-Adult: Rev. Warrick  
DX: TBD

11:45 am SBBWA Board Meeting  
1:00 pm Metta Award Class

##### April 8\*

9:15 am Sweet Tea Offering  
10:00 am HANAMATSURI SERVICE

Youth: Rev. Warrick  
Adult: Rinban Castro  
Japanese Program  
DX: TBD

11:45 am Hanamatsuri Luncheon hosted by  
Dharma School

12:00 pm Religious Department Meeting  
1:00 pm Metta Award Class

##### April 15\* Rinban Castro (Vacation)

10:00 am CAMP FIRE SUNDAY SERVICE  
Family Dharma Message: Akahoshi Sensei  
Japanese Program  
DX: TBD  
DSDX: TBD

11:30 am Camp Fire Reception in gym

##### April 22\*

10:00 am EARTH DAY SERVICE  
Youth: Rinban Castro  
Adult: Rinban Castro  
Japanese Program  
DX: Rinban Castro; DSDX: Irene Goto

11:45 am SBBWA Board Meeting  
1:00 pm Metta Award Class (Test)

##### April 29\* (No Dharma School Classes)

8:45 am Meditation Service  
10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE

Adult: Rinban Castro  
Japanese Program  
DX: Rev. Warrick

#### **MONDAYS**

April 2 7:00 pm Scholarship Committee Meeting

April 9 10:30 am Hanamatsuri Service at Keiro with  
Koyasan Temple and Nichiren Church

April 16 Rinban Castro (Vacation)  
10:00 am Shinran Shonin Monthly Memorial  
Service (Akahoshi Sensei)

#### **TUESDAYS** April 3 Rinban Castro (Day Off)

April 17 7:00-8:30 pm Third Tuesday Dharma Study  
Group (Rinban Castro and Akahoshi Sensei)

April 24 10:30 am Keiro Service

#### **WEDNESDAYS** \*\*10:30 am Dharma Support Weekly

April 4 Rinban Castro (1/2 Study Day Off)

April 4, 11, 18, 25 Dharma Support Group 10:30 am

#### **THURSDAYS**

April 5 1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rinban)

April 12 Rinban Castro (Day Off)

April 19 1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rinban)

#### **FRIDAYS**

April 6 12:00 pm Gojikai Service and Lunch/Meeting

April 13 Rinban Castro (Vacation)

April 27 – 29 FDSTL Conference in Sacramento

#### **SATURDAYS**

April 14 Rinban Castro (Vacation)  
9:30 am – 3:00 pm English Seminar with Kenji  
Akahoshi Sensei

April 28 12:00 pm Japanese Seminar Lunch  
1:00 – 4:00 pm Japanese Seminar with  
Rev. Kojo Kakihara of Tacoma Buddhist Temple

### **May 2012: Major Events of Interest**

Sun., May 6 SBBWA New Members Service & Luncheon

Sat., May 12 Music Seminar w/ Rev. Harry Gyokyo Bridge

Sun., May 20 Gotan-E Service

Sun., May 27 Betsuin Scholarship Awards Presentation

Sun., May 27 Camp Fire Council Fire

Mon., May 28 Memorial Day Service at  
Lakeview Cemetery

**May Newsletter Deadline:  
Monday, April 16, 2012  
8:00 pm**



## A Lifespan

By Rinban Don Castro

Now that we have passed the Spring Equinox (Ohigan) and the days are getting warmer and sunnier (remember, this article is being written the third week in March so I hope it is sunnier and warmer by the time you read this), we enter the Seattle season of "Flowers in Profusion." Appropriately, our next two Shin Buddhist holidays are Hanamatsuri ("Flower Festival") on April 8 when we celebrate the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha and Fujimatsuri ("Wisteria Festival") on May 20 when we celebrate the birth of Shinran Shonin. Of course, we more commonly know this holiday as Gotan-E ("Honored Birthday Observance").

Last Sunday, March 18 at Ohigan, I talked about a debate I heard about that took place in Japan following the devastating earthquake and tsunami of March 11, 2011. Soon after the devastation, the cherry trees started to bloom. Cherry blossom viewing is a major part of Japanese culture and a point of national pride:

*Would that all people inhabiting this globe  
Come to this land of ours,  
Come to this mountain of Yoshino,  
And look at the cherries in full bloom!*  
-Kamo no Mabuchi (1697-1769)

Some people in Japan felt, because of the tragedy, cherry blossom viewing should be cancelled for 2011; others disagreed. To me, there is nothing that conveys the spirit of Buddhism any more than the very short cherry blossom season. When I was a student in Japan, I was told how a Japanese Buddhist engages in cherry blossom viewing. You might call this "the Dharma of cherry blossom viewing."

Don't get stuck only looking for the cherry trees in full bloom – that is too optimistic. On the other hand, don't get stuck concentrating too much on the shriveling petals on the ground thinking, "Is this all there is to life?" Focus rather on the cherry petals as they fall from the tree branch to the ground for this

represents our lifespan. Petals from the high branches take a long time to fall and those from the lower branches fall to the ground quickly. The Dharma of cherry blossom viewing is to be fully present with the petal throughout its journey. Each moment of the journey has absolute value and meaning.



The famous Buddhist scholar D.T. Suzuki has written, "I do not know whether this momentaristic tendency in Japanese psychology is in their native blood or is due in some measure to the Buddhist *Weltanschauung*; but the fact is, beauty is something momentary and ever-fleeting, and if it is not appreciated while it is fully charged with life, it becomes a memory, and its liveliness is entirely lost." (*Zen and Japanese Culture*, p.381)

To those who would advocate cancelling the cherry blossom viewing, a Buddhist would respond, "Death does not negate life, they exist together." This is an aspect of "mutual co-arising" or "interdependence" which is a cornerstone of the Buddhist teaching along with the teaching of impermanence. To honor the dead, I would certainly not have picnicked under the cherry trees, but I can think of no more sublime practice than strolling under the cherry trees with blossoms clinging to their branches, petals on the ground, and surrounded by falling petals carried by the breeze.

*To those who only pray for the cherry trees to bloom,  
How I wish to show the spring  
That gleams from a patch of green  
In the midst of the snow-covered mountain-village!*  
- Fujiwara Iyetaka (1158-1237)

May the spirit of Buddhism bring the fresh life and light of Amida Buddha to the nation of Japan.

**A seminar in Japanese with Rev. Kakihara, resident minister at Tacoma Buddhist Temple, will take place on April 28, 2012 from 1:00 - 4:00pm. \$10.00 includes lunch from noon – 1:00pm. See the Japanese section of this newsletter for details.**

## President's Message by Yukio Morikubo



"Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." This inspiring challenge by President Kennedy cleverly turned a natural feeling of entitlement into a thought-provoking challenge to serve.

As I have learned more about the inner workings of the Seattle Betsuin over the last few months, I have been more and more impressed by the service freely given by many, many of our Sangha members. This small army—made up of all kinds of people, young and old, male and female, lifetime Jodo Shinshu followers and new comers, native Seattleites and transplants -- puts in what I am sure totals tens of thousands of hours in support of our temple. They clean, cook, fix, paint, set up, take down, email, call, meet, greet, organize, schedule, photograph, type, fold, staple, bake, sell, teach, lead and do many other things – all to help the Betsuin fulfill its mission.

And thanks to this effort, it all works. Services happen. Coffee perks. Friends laugh. Dharma school opens. Campfire kids learn. Scouts camp. Teens eat. Chibichans score. And newsletters arrive at your home each month – in two languages.

I cannot possibly name the many who contribute to this Buddhist beehive of activity, but I can and must highlight the efforts of the whole because it is truly awesome. I see so many selfless acts all around the Betsuin, every day and every week.

To be frank, while it is important that the Betsuin receive your financial support, just contributing money is not enough if you can do more. We need all of our Sangha members to be involved, to ask what they can do for the Betsuin, not just what the Betsuin can do for them. Being involved doesn't just benefit the Betsuin, our kids and our seniors. It benefits Sangha members struggling with illness and misfortune who find comfort in the Dharma. It benefits our children by giving them a model for service. It benefits you by giving you a connection to the Sangha, and with the Buddha Dharma.

Serve, not because it's easy, but because it's hard. From time to time our lives become too busy, and we need to rest. That's fine, we understand. But come back. It's important for each of us to recognize the importance of doing our part as best we can. In the end, service to others will enrich your life. Isn't that what it's all about?

Gassho, Yukio

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## Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association *Submitted by Joan Nakano*

SBBWA President's Message by Janet Baba Spring brings special activities for SBBWA. We are planning our annual New Membership Service and Luncheon for our new members on May 6. We now seek new members to join us as we give service to our Temple, Sangha and Community. Even beyond our local community, we are affiliated with NWBWA, Federation BWA and World BWA as we work together to promote the activities of Buddhist women. Contact Terrie Tanino, Kiyo Takashima, or Joan Nakano in our office for more information.

Looking ahead: Our first Chow Mein Take-out Lunch fundraiser will be held on Sunday, May 20th. A bake sale will accompany this sale. We will pre-sell the delicious chow mein tickets which will soon be available in the temple office.

For future planning: 42<sup>nd</sup> BCA Federation of Buddhist Women's Association Conference will be held in San Jose, California, Oct. 12-14, 2012. Theme will be "Diversity in Oneness, Oneness in Diversity." Keynote speakers will be Professor Evelyn Nakano and Reverend Masumi Kikuchi.

**Donations** - Submitted by SBBWA Treasurer Shizue Kaku: Takashi, Robert, & Susan Hori - In Memory of Lily Hori

### **SBBWA Calendar**

Sunday, April 1 11:45am SBBWA Board Meeting  
Sunday, April 22 11:45am May Board Meeting

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### **"CALLING ALL BUDDHIST WOMEN"**

Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association extends a warm welcome to Seattle Betsuin (and potential) members to become an SBBWA member.

As a Buddhist woman, SBBWA looks forward to including you within the folds of our organization to nurture the Dharma together with feminine aspirations.

SBBWA new members will be honored at the New Membership Service/Reception on Sunday, May 6, 2012.

Contact Membership Co-Chairpersons Terrie Tanino and/or Kiyo Takashima via the temple office at [office@SeattleBetsuin.com](mailto:office@SeattleBetsuin.com) for inquiries and comments. Application forms are available in the temple office. Thank you. –TT, KT

## Study Groups at Seattle Buddhist

**Temple** submitted by Leonora Clarke

First Saturday Study Group for the April meeting has been **cancelled** due to the seminar at the White River Temple on April 7 and the Seattle seminar with Dr. Kenji Akahoshi on April 14, (see page 8). We will continue up again on May 5.

**Third Tuesday Study Group** will meet on April 17 led by Rinban Castro and Rev. Kenji Akahoshi from 7:00 – 8:30 pm. - IG

**Musical Notes** Submitted by Kemi Nakabayashi

Thank you to all the participants for the music for the 1-year memorial service for the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Ron Hamakawa, Mas Tamekuni, and Lani Carpenter coordinated the instrumentalists and Betsuin choir for the wonderful service program. Go to [www.SeattleBetsuin.com](http://www.SeattleBetsuin.com) for a detailed article on the service.

The spring seminar **Moments in Buddhist Music** will be held on Saturday, May 12, with Rev. Harry Bridge from the Buddhist Church of Oakland as guest speaker. It will be an interesting opportunity to hear Rev. Bridge. A special presentation on the history of gathas in the Buddhist Churches of America prepared by Mrs. Michiko Yukawa from Tacoma Buddhist Temple will be included. She will also participate in a panel with Dii Lewis from Berkeley Buddhist Temple and Donna Sasaki from Tacoma. Everyone is encouraged attend. This seminar does not presume any prior musical training. The registration information is available on the temple website or in the foyer. Please register in advance in order to plan for lunch.

A separate youth activity is planned for Saturday evening, May 12 with Rev. Bridge and Dii Lewis. Please contact Jason Yokoyama, Lani Carpenter or Kemi Nakabayashi if interested in the dinner and youth program. Rev. Bridge will also speak in English and Japanese for the Sunday morning, May 13 service. The Bodhi Ensemble will provide the service music potentially with others including Rev. Bridge on bass guitar!



### **Moments in Buddhist Music**

Spring Seminar at Seattle Betsuin

**May 12, 2011**

**Reverend Harry Gyoko Bridge and Dii Lewis**

from Berkeley Buddhist Temple,

Donna Sasaki and Michiko Yukawa from Tacoma Buddhist Temple

**SCOUTS** For the month of February we worked on lashings. We went camping on February 25th and 26th at North Bend. On March 6 some scouts went night skiing/snowboarding at Snoqualmie and demonstrated skills toward our winter sports merit badge. We got wet, but had so much fun, we closed the place down. In Gassho, Chase Habu-Chinn

## **DHARMA SCHOOL HANAMATSURI LUNCHEON**

**Sunday, April 8, 2012 - 11:45 AM**

All Betsuin families and friends are cordially invited to attend the Hanamatsuri Luncheon on Sunday, April 8, at 11:45 AM in the gym. Dharma School will be preparing and hosting this complimentary lunch. Please join us in celebrating the Buddha's birthday and enjoying the fellowship of our Sangha on this joyous occasion.

The Dharma school would like to thank all the families and friends who helped out at the Spring Bazaar. Your hard work and effort were greatly appreciated at this important fundraiser for the Betsuin.

### **Classroom Reports**

Pre-K/K Classroom The Pre-K/K class talked about Amida Buddha's love and how we thank him by saying "Namu Amida Butsu." They made necklaces with pictures of Amida Buddha and the Wheel of Dharma as reminders to always strive to become better boys and girls through Amida Buddha's love and the Eightfold Path. To celebrate Spring Ohigan, the children learned about how things change with the warmer weather and read a story about how caterpillars change to butterflies. They then made a butterfly out of toilet paper rolls and foam stickers.

First/second grade We have been discussing some of the points in the Eightfold Path. We heard the story of the frog that fell down a well and was yelled at to give up and not try to get out. However he kept trying and eventually was able to emerge because he was deaf. We folded origami frogs to remind us of how important Right Speech can be and thought of examples of it. To celebrate Girl's day the girls made kimono doll book marks and we shared some kompeito, the traditional spiky sugar ball candies. We read about how it originally arrived as a treat from Portugal. Finally we listened to the story about Olivia the pig who wanted to become a veterinarian and made a list of good and bad jobs in a discussion of Right Livelihood. The students then drew pictures of what they wanted to be when they grew up. These have been posted up in our classroom.

## The Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations for February - March 2012

### Funeral / Memorial / Nokotsudo:

### Given by:

Helen Kimiko Kubo – Funeral Service	\$ 1,000	Frances & Harry Nishimoto
Toshiko Enomoto – Funeral Service	\$ 700	Kayako & Robert Hinz
Fusaye Shibata – 49 <sup>th</sup> Day Memorial	\$ 500	Dennis Shibata
Helen Kimiko Kubo – 49 <sup>th</sup> Day and Inurnment Services for Frank and Helen Kimiko Kubo	\$ 500	Frances & Harry Nishimoto
Fusako Shimizu – Funeral Service	\$ 400	John Michael Shimizu
Tsukiyo Takano – 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Memorial Service	\$ 400	Dr. James Takano
Fusano Horikoshi – 7 <sup>th</sup> Year Memorial Service	\$ 300	Drs. Duane & Ann Mayeda
Ernest Fujii – 33 Year Memorial	\$ 250	Aiko & Minoru Fujii
Shigeko Fujii – 13 <sup>th</sup> Year Memorial	\$ 250	Aiko & Minoru Fujii
Nokotsudo	\$ 100	Kinuko Takamura

### Remembrances for:

### Given by:

Ruth Aoki	Charles Beach Barlow
Tak Aoki	Charles Beach Barlow
Imo Castro	Janet Baba; Kenny & Yoshie Dodobara; Junko Nakano; Curtis & Charlene Nakayama; Dennis Shibata; Masaru & Anna Tahara; Machiko Wada
Toshiko Enomoto	Takiko Miyauchi
Ernest Fujii	Nellie Fujii-Anderson; Ginee Fujii-Ogard; Eddie Fujii
Shigeko Fujii	Nellie Fujii-Anderson; Ginee Fujii-Ogard; Eddie Fujii
Mitsuo Goto	Haruko Goto
Aizo "Buster" Kosai	Jim & Louise Akizuki; Aiko & Minoru Fujii; Mitsuko Fukuhara; Ellen Hale; Setsuko Harada; M.K. & R.J. Hewitson; Linda Higa; Hajime & Michiko Hirata; Mickey & Yoshie Hiroo; Alan A. Hoshino; Satoru & Grace Ichikawa; Roy & Deanna Ikegami; Haruo Hal Ise; Dale & Shizue Kaku; Meriko Kardel; Karen Kato; Momoko Kido; Mariko Mano; Marc & Janice Nakamura-Keltner; Art & Lori Kozai; Jon & Patricia Hiroo; T. Jack Matsui; Takashi Matsui; Julie Mayeda; Kenzo & Carol Moriguchi; Tomio & Yan Jenny Moriguchi; Edward Muneta; Mutual Fish Company, Inc.; George & Hiroko Nakashima; Martin Oiye & Susan Nakagawa; Donna Nobuyama; Frank & June Sato; Robert & Amy Seko; Anthony & Teresa Shimizu; Albert & Frances Shintaku; Nori Suguro; Masaru & Ann Tahara; Haruso & Sonoe Taketa; Elsie Taniguchi; Martha Taniguchi; Dolly Tokunaga; Masako (Massie) Tomita; Gary & Julianne Tosaya; Machiko Wada; Jeffrey & Susan Yamane; Dick & Misao Yoshimura; Mark Yuasa
Helen Kimiko Kubo	Sue Fujino; Nobuichi & Sachiko Fujita; Harry Fukaye Family Trust; Mitsuko Fukuhara; Shuichi & Michiko Hikida; Amy Hirasawa; Don & Sanae Hogan; Toshiko Isomura; Takeo & Mary Katayama; Daisy Kuramoto; Tomio & Yan Jenny Moriguchi; Mutual Fish Company, Inc.; Karry Sakamoto; Pauline Sakuma; Kenneth Shigaya; Judy Suto; Fumiye Taniguchi; Sam & Masako Uchida; Dick & Misao Yoshimura
Fusaye Shibata	Stephanie Ojima; Masaru & Anna Tahara; Mitsuo Yamamura; Kiyoshi & Ayako Yasui
Fusako Shimizu	Gene & Yuki Arinobu; James & Hiroko Hasegawa; William & Jean Ishii; Mary Hikida
John Sumida	Daisy Kuramoto
Hisano Yamamoto	Haruko Goto

*continued –*

-continued from page 6

**New Year's Day Service:** Paul & Teresa Mori; Pauline Sakuma; Bill Vogeley; Akiko & Munehisa Yabuki (in Memory of Ryoto Yabuki)

**Wedding:** Steve & Suzi Tokunaga \$ 1,000  
Hiro & Kazuko Takahashi  
for wedding of daughter  
Susan Takahashi & Joey Katzer \$ 300

**Temple Supervision:** Spokane Buddhist Temple \$ 100  
Yakima Buddhist Church \$ 100

**Other Donations:**

<u>Donor:</u>	<u>For:</u>
Stacy & Ryan Nakata	Donation for onenju
David & Penny Atcheson	Donation for onenju
Pam & Ken Horn	Donation for onenju
Irene Saito	Donation for onenju
Gwen Florence	Appreciation for Recognition Certificate
Mary Hikida	Donation for onenju and appreciation for onenju repair
Hiroshima Club	General Donation
Karry Sakamoto	General Donation
George Shimizu	In appreciation for Mukashi, Mukashi
Emiko Okada	General Donation
Linda Higa	In Memory of Tsunami Victims
Shinya & Jayne Ichikawa	General Donation
Nisei Veterans Committee	Use of Facilities
The Evergreen State College	Visitation to Temple
Brian Kaku	General Donation – Boeing Community Fund
Donna Zumoto	General Donation – Boeing Community Fund
Kelly Kuwahara	General Donation – Boeing Community Fund
Marilyn Akutsu	General Donation – Boeing Community Fund
Robert Hamatani	General Donation – Boeing Community Fund
Alice Doi	General Donation - United Way Campaign
Gail Suzaka	General Donation - United Way Campaign
Reiko Hara	General Donation - United Way Campaign
Gary & Madeline Kato	General Donation - United Way Campaign
Laverne Imori	General Donation - United Way Campaign

## Seattle Betsuin Camp Fire #699

On Sunday, April 15, we will celebrate Camp Fire's 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday and 62<sup>nd</sup> year at the Seattle Betsuin. Camp Fire members will lead and take part in a special Camp Fire-themed 10am English service. We'll follow service with a reception in the Gym at 11:40am. All Sangha members are invited. We hope to see you!

Our final count is in and this year our Camp Fire members sold a total of 7,751 boxes of candy. A special thank you to Gayle (and Mike) Teramoto for being our organization-wide candy distributor and tracking all 7,751 boxes from pick-ups & swap outs to the final sale, as well as tracking all the funds.

We would also like to acknowledge our high sellers: Alina (2,161); Michelle (1,167), Kellie (585) and Allison (551). These girls are part of the "Fabulous 500 Club" and will have the honor of going on a special limo ride in May. Congratulations to our top sellers!!



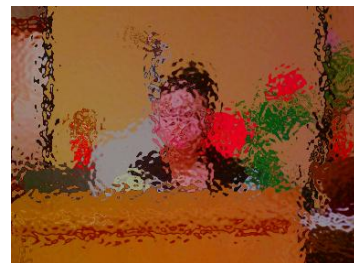
Dolphins – 2nd Grade The Dolphins had a fun and productive month. The girls talked about Japan's 1st year anniversary of the tsunami and decided to donate some of their candy money to the tsunami

relief fund. As part of their community service project, the girls made fleece blankets to donate to Children's Hospital. They are also contributing to the Relay for Life- American Cancer Society Walk by helping to make luminaries out of paper sacks.

Starlights – 3rd Grade The Starlights started the Trail to Creativity where they learned to use art to express their beliefs and values. Mrs. Nakata led the girls in creating dream catchers which some Native American tribes used to keep bad dreams away. She also led them in creating colorful pictures using sand as a way to express themselves.

Discovery 6/7 On Saturday, February 25, Sela, Tiffany, Amanda and Emi, plus families, braved the cold and snow to go tubing up at The Summit. Everyone had a fun time. Employees helped the girls perform great stunts (such as spinning and flinging the tubes). Sunday, February 26th, Emily, Erin and Emi volunteered at the Shadow Seals Swim-a-thon at Lindbergh Pool. They counted laps, timed the swimmers and had a great time.

Horizon Kayli (pictured) & Lindsey chaired the Family Service on March 4 on behalf of Camp Fire. Thank you both! Sydney and Alissa assisted with planning and leading events for the Dad/Kid Weekend held at Camp Sealth in early March. Sydney led the "Nature Walk" workshop while Alissa was in charge of "Missions".



## EXPERIENCING NEMBUTSU - The Heart of Shin Buddhism, A Workshop



**SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2012**  
**Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple**  
**1427 S Main Street, Seattle, WA 98144**

The Nembutsu, *Namu Amida Butsu*, is the heart of Jodo Shinshu through which all life is encountered. However, for those who are new to Shin Buddhism, it may appear to be a mantra, unrelated to the rigors of contemporary life. This workshop will offer insights of the experience of Nembutsu, regardless of our cultural background. Insightful activities will bring this experience alive, beyond the definition of words. Simple habits or practice can change our ordinary lives into an extraordinary experience of a life of gratitude.



**Facilitator:** Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi, Shin Buddhist minister with a background in transpersonal psychology, wilderness vision quests, personal growth body-mind-spirit disciplines.

**Saturday:** 9:30am – 3:00pm      **Bring your own bag lunch:** 12:00 -1:00      **Cost:** Donation  
Registration & details: (206) 329-0800 Please phone to notify your intention to attend.



**The Betsuin gratefully acknowledges the donations received for the following special service**, (please accept our apologies for any inadvertent omissions or misspelling of names):

**Spring Ohigan**

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Other: **Bodhi Seals**: Gota, Helen **Ho'Onko**: Beard, Clara; Oye, Sunako (Sunkie) **Nirvana Day**: Higa, Linda

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**Here's the Cub Scout Report**

Membership: 3 - Webelos II, 8 - Webelos I, 10 – Bears, 0 – Wolves, 4 - Tigers

Dec 10-11 Winter Camp - We had 14 boys attend Cub Scout winter camp at Camp Shephard. Our boys went tubing, learned cooking, fire safety, and knife safety.

Jan 8 Bussing for New Years Party - We had 6 boys bussing tables.

Feb 25 Pinewood Derby - Our boys learned to carve out and paint pinewood derby cards. Then, on 2/25 we set up a track for the boys to race.

**Upcoming Events:** Mar 25 Bussing tables for Spring Bazaar, Mar 31 Crossover

In Gassho, Craig Nakashima

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**Yakima Buddhist Church** held its 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Sukiyaki Dinner on Sunday, March 4. Gail Kaminishi and Irene Goto drove to Wapato for the day to help Tamio Uchida greet many interested visitors to the hondo and to explain the shrine. Tamio explained that the church was built in about 1924; during internment the shrine's handmade altar was disassembled and stored under the gymnasium stage and kept safe by local townspeople, Dan McDonald and Esther Boyd. Over 100 community volunteers help the 17 members of the temple make this a local tradition a success, including members from Seattle Betsuin – Dale and Shizu Kaku, Amy Hirasawa, and Gerald Quintua. Tamio, Gail and Irene are pictured with one of the mulberry trees in front of the church.



*Photo by Dale Kaku*

**Notes on Dharma Exchange** *Dharma Exchange takes place from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. after Sunday Service in the dining room. All are welcome to attend this opportunity for discussion and questions typically led by Reverend Castro, Reverend Warrick, or Minister's Assistants Joe Schwab, or Irene Goto.*

**Feb. 26, 2012** Rev. Warrick commented on the NW Buddhist Convention in Spokane. He was surprised to see mostly Caucasians in attendance, and enjoyed the wonderful taiko group. Socho Ogui feels that Buddhism in the US will be more of a mix of people, and that is acceptable to Warrick sensei so long as the true teaching stays the same. . . Sensei talked about meditation and how to do it. He suggested a simple form of counting to 10 and forget about random thoughts. The biggest limitation to meditating daily is finding the time. On March 3, 9:30am, there will be meditation and brown bag lunch at the Meditation House (formerly rinban's old house.). . .The Annual Betsuin Bazaar will be held on Sunday, March 25.

**March 4** - Rinban Castro talked about repentance from a Buddhist perspective. Monks gather together once a month and tell their infractions. This activity continues to this day among Sri Lankan monks and others. . . The monks who make the trip around Mt. Hiei put themselves in a dangerous position as they consume no food or water for a very long time. . .A question was raised about the scroll that is missing in the dining room. It originally belonged to the Spokane temple and was exchanged for some extra altar cloths from the Seattle Betsuin. . . Sensei commented that Buddhism is a technique, not a belief system. Rev. Billy Graham provided actual dimensions of Heaven; whereas, the Pure Land is an unconditioned and spiritual dimension that is boundless and eternal. Sensei spoke of the Old Testament's wrathful god, and the New Testament's focus on Jesus and boundless love.

**March 11** - Rev. Kenji Akahoshi conducted the DX. He will be an intern with the temple for 3 weeks, and later come back for one week. He gave examples of the deep meanings (*Shikataganai* and *Okagesama*) in Japanese words and said the reason is that Buddhist ideas pervade the Japanese language. Participant: related those concepts to the American Indians trying to save their culture by saving their language. . . Wisdom and compassion liberate us as opposed to being "saved" by Jesus Christ and going to heaven. . . Sensei suggested selecting one thing per day for which we are grateful. When that becomes a habit think of two things. After that is a habit think of three things. . .A participant commented that birth in the Pure Land is a "spiritual awakening" wherein we connect with all sentient beings. Further, Buddhism defines respect for everything. Participant: What is Nirvana and when is Nirvana Day? Sensei said it happens in early February and commemorates the historical Buddha's passing away. Another participant asked, "What is a *Kalpa*"? Sensei said it is an incalculable length of time and likened it to an angel passing a block of granite measuring a cubic square mile every thousand years and swiping its wings on it with each passing until there is nothing left.

**March 18** - Rinban Castro indicated that in order to remove suffering according to the Eight Fold Path, one must remove the cause of suffering; however, that isn't always possible as causes and conditions come into play. Even though life consists of suffering, joy is also involved at the same time. . . Participant asked if Japan had many services commemorating the 3-11 tragedy. Yes, they did. Sensei also said Buddhism is a corrective to bad attitudes. . . In explaining Buddhism to first-timers, Akahoshi sensei believes it is important to emphasize gratitude first and later discuss the "shadow," so that incorrect attitudes are not conveyed. Even though we are self-serving beings we all have the capacity to be noble.

In Gassho,  
Pat Bobrow

