



Bodhi Day By Rinban Don Castro

Our Buddhist holiday for December is Bodhi Day which marks the very beginning of Buddhism. On Bodhi Day, usually called Enlightenment Day, the Buddha woke up. On our BCA calendar, it is left untranslated; “Bodhi Day.” The Japanese is “JouDou-E” which Revs. Mas Kodani and Russell Hamada translated literally as “attaining-Enlightenment-gathering” in their well-used booklet “Traditions of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha” (page 41). In their description of Bodhi Day, is the following sentence, “According to the Mahayana tradition, in the early morning hours of December 8th, Siddhartha became the Buddha the Awakened One, the Perfectly Enlightened One.” This quote reminds me of the Vandana with which we start our service most weeks, “Homage to Him, The Exalted One, The Enlightened One, The Supremely Awakened One.”

If I have to choose between “enlightened” and “awakened,” I think the word awakened lends itself more to the Jodo Shinshu experience as demonstrated in the title of two important books “A Life of Awakening” by Dr. Takamaro Shigaraki and “The Buddha’s Call to Awaken” by recently retired Monshu Koshin Ohtani. To awaken means to discover what is already there. Do you, or me, really think about the meaning of the wish with which we conclude our chanting?

GAN NI SHI KU DOKU
BYO DO SE IS-SAI
DO HOTSU BO DA-I SHIN
OU JOU AN RA(ku) KO(ku)

May this merit virtue
Be shared equally with all beings.
May we together awaken the Bodhi Mind,
And be born in the realm of Serenity and Joy.

President’s Message

As we approach the end of 2014, allow me to reflect a bit on the year that is about to pass, and the year that is about to come.

We began 2014 with a plan to focus on three primary areas – Membership, Programming and Facilities – and I think we’ve made good progress in all three.

On Membership, we started to think more concretely this year about our membership goals and how we could tailor our membership options to the modern reality of *Sangha* members who belong to more than one temple, and of multi-faith families.

On Programming, we continued to refine our offerings to be current and relevant to both our base and potential new members. And our ministerial training program continued to add energy and experience to our ministerial “bench.”

And on Facilities, thanks to the hard work of some very dedicated members, we made solid progress in both our short-term and long-term goals. Our parsonages and *Hondo* are in better shape than they’ve been in years, and we’re on a path toward the long-term planning work we’ve long known we had to undertake given the age of our facilities.

Looking forward to 2015, I am excited about making more progress in our key focus areas. There’s much more to be done. Things always seem to take longer than we’d like.

I am also looking forward to our 2015 Northwest District Convention in February. Our convention chairs and committee members have been working very hard to put together an innovative event that will feel familiar to long time attendees, but that will also feel fresh and relevant to newcomers.

There are too many of you to thank individually for your contributions to the Betsuin this year, but please know that your dana is important and that I am grateful for it. Thank you for your membership, your hard work and your many contributions to the continued vitality of the Seattle Betsuin. You are part of a community that continues to breathe life into the profound, centuries-old wisdom of Shakyamuni Buddha and Shinran Shonin in this beautiful, lush corner of the world. *Okagesama de.*

Gassho, Yukio.

A message from visiting minister, Rev. Shinji Ouchi

Time goes by very fast. I can remember the first day I came here as if it were yesterday.

As you know, I'm in training to become an overseas minister; I'm learning a lot of things, for example, American Buddhism, culture and so on.

When I came here for the first time, I was struck over and over again by the differences between America and Japan. I often wondered why people in this country do things as they do. I thought they should do things the way they are done in Japan.

But I thought more about it; I realized that it is very natural that there are differences between cultures. We have our own thoughts, our own culture, and our own sense of value even within the same country. Probably I was slave of a strong stereotype. Through this trip, I could find and notice my bad points. That will be a treasure in my life.

Even though there are such differences, I found an important similarity. There are many members who are delighted with the Nenbutsu teaching in America just as I do in Japan. I was very surprised at that but also very happy. I felt it was very ARIGATAI.

Then, I was taught a certain thing by many other people in Seattle. I have never lived alone and I can be alive by so many GOEN, other's complete support. I know that is very precious, but I often forget these things because of being busy in my daily life. Thankfully, I could live in Seattle for ten days. Thank you for teaching me the precious thing. ARIGATO GOZAI MASITA(有難うございました)

Thank Rev. Castro, members of Betsuin and host families who accepted me. I'll never forget your kindness and hearing the Nenbutsu teaching with you. Thank you again.



Rev. Kubose gave a very entertaining message at the Nov. 9 Sunday Service. He had help from Kermit the Frog puppet to illustrate a point in his sermon. He showed various sizes of sweet potatoes grown in his garden to tell us that size does matter in what happens to potatoes the following season.

From Sat Ichikawa

Submitted By: Fund Management

Nearly forty years ago a group of our Temple members came up with the idea of creating an endowment fund for the Seattle Betsuin. Shortly thereafter the Seattle Betsuin Endowment Fund (hereafter referred to as the Endowment Fund) was established with the objective of preserving the teachings of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism for current and future generations.

The investment earnings from the Endowment Fund are used to make up any shortfalls in the maintenance and operations of the Temple. For the past several years the Temple has had to rely on the Endowment Fund to cover excess expenses over revenue (i.e. membership dues, contributions, special events).

For current and future years, reliance on the Endowment Fund will be necessary. Reasons for the continued assistance from the Endowment Fund include a declining membership, aging building and current operation costs.

In the hallway next to Rinban's office, two plaques with the names of those who have contributed to the Endowment Fund are displayed on the wall. The individual(s) have donated a minimum of \$1,500 per person.

If you would like to contribute to the Endowment Fund, please pick up a Pledge Form in the Betsuin foyer and return to the office when completed. You can pay the entire amount at once or contribute in installments or periodic payments. Once the minimum amount of \$1,500 has been contributed, your name will be etched onto the plaque. If you don't wish to contribute the minimum amount, any donation will be greatly appreciated.

Your contributions may be in cash or you may also donate stocks or securities. In addition you may also donate to the Endowment Fund naming the Temple as a beneficiary in your estate planning. Any contribution made to the Endowment Fund by the end of the year is tax deductible.

The Betsuin is deeply grateful to those members who created the Endowment Fund as well as to those who have generously contributed to the fund. Without the Endowment Fund we would not be able to sustain the operations, programs and maintenance of the Temple as they exist today.

Officers of the Endowment Committee include Chairperson Michael Teramoto, Vice Chairperson Art Kozai, Treasurer Kevin Yokoyama and Secretary Dale Kaku. Other board members include Kats Tanino, Jack Matsui, Howard Luke and Craig Nakano. If you have any questions regarding the Seattle Betsuin Endowment Fund please contact any of the committee members or the Betsuin Office at (206) 329-0800.

In Gassho,

Craig Nakano

Endowment Committee

2015 Northwest Convention, Feb. 13-15

hosted by Seattle Buddhist Temple

Bellevue Westin Hotel

Bellevue, Washington

“Everyday Rhythm of the Nembutsu” Keynote presenter Rev. Harry Bridge
Experience the Dharma through music

*Programs and activities just for kids and Jr/Sr YBA

*A chance to re-connect with old friends and make new ones

*Interesting and original workshop choices from excellent guest presenters

*An introduction to pieces from the new song book

*An opportunity to jam with musicians from around the region (bring your instruments)

More information and registration forms available at www.seattlebetsuin.org

SBBWA News

Submitted by Janet Baba -

Sokai & Irokai: Our calendar year is quickly drawing to an end. 2014 has been a productive year for us, due to the help from our cabinet, board, and members. Our Annual Events & Activities Report was published prior to our Annual Sokai meeting, on November 16th. We were able to accomplish many projects due to the planning and organization of our Board Members. We thank our members for their many accomplishments. Our Irokai luncheon was held to acknowledge our 2014 Board Members and Honorary Directors, following the Sokai meeting.

World Convention in Calgary, Canada: Eighteen SBBWA members will join members from Japan, South America, Hawaii, and other North American chapters for the 15th World Buddhist Women's Convention, to be held on May 30 & 31, 2015. This convention is hosted by the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada Women's Federation and sponsored by the World Federation of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Buddhist Women's Association. The theme, "Embraced by the Oneness of Life," with the slogan, "One World Sangha," is open to women and men to bring everyone together in the Jodo Shinshu Sangha. We look forward to joining this "One World Sangha."

Orion Dinner: Our members hosted dinner for homeless youths at the Orion Center in downtown Seattle on Nov. 21st. Fran Shintaku chaired this meal with help by her committee members. Hand knitted hats, made by Michiko Toyoshima will be donated to the center for the winter months. Other items the center is seeking are socks, underwear, gloves, and personal items as soap & shampoo for youths. Donations are collected in the box in the foyer of the temple.

New Year Party: The annual New Year Party will be held on Sunday, January 11, 2015 at noon. All members and friends are invited to join our temple members for an obento lunch. Tickets for the lunch are \$15, and must be ordered by December 22nd. Children's lunches are available for \$5. Children five years and under can sign up for free lunches. All obento and youth meals must be ordered in the temple office or through your temple organizations.

Food Committee: We have much to appreciate for Ritsuko Kawahara, chair of the SBBWA Food Preparation Committee. Her steadfast leadership over many years have led us to enjoy *mame* and *kimpira* at last year's New Year party, chow mein at our fundraisers, *nigome* and *zenzai* for our Hoonko Service, and *ohagi* for Ohigan, to name a few of her culinary skills. Chef Ritsuko researched and developed many appetizers and dishes for this year's National Minister's Council meeting. She works with her skilled committee members, Florence Sumida, Masako Kawamoto, Kiyoko Nakanishi, Nina Tomita-Kato, Michi Vaart, and Miyoko Yamazaki. We are thankful for Ritsuko and our Food Committee.

In Gassho,
Janet

Calendar:

Betsuin General Meeting	Dec. 14
New Year Eve Service	Dec. 31
New Year's Day Service	Jan. 1
New Year Party	Jan. 11



General Camp Fire News



Camp Fire will be having a bake sale on Sunday, December 7th, in the gym during the Bodhi Day Potluck. Don't forget to stop by and pick up a few made treats!



nasium
home-

We are still registering new Camp Fire members! "Council-level" and "Group #699" registration forms are available on the Temple website's Camp Fire webpage. Or, contact the Group #699 Registrar, Lori Chisholm or contact us through the Betsuin Temple Office (office@seattlebetsuin.com) or 206-329-0800.

Lemonade 4th Grade submitted by JoAnn Kosai-Eng

The Lemonades have been working on the Trail to Creativity by making some wonderful art work using different techniques. With the Rainbow Group, the Lemonades help stuff packages to pass out to the residences at Wisteria Manor on November 30th.

Starlights 6th Grade submitted by Gayle Teramoto

As their service project the Starlights put together 5 fleece blankets for "Soldier's Angels". The blankets were handed out to homeless veterans on Veteran's Day. The girls had fun making these blankets.

Scout News

On September 19-21, we took part in the Survivorman Camporee in Graham Washington. Twelve scouts represented our troop and completed challenges in five different categories technology, physical, leadership, food, and mental. Overall, we placed 9th out of 87 patrols. On October 18-19, seven scouts went on a backpacking trip to Lake Ollalie. They hiked three miles to their campsite and three miles back with all their gear on their back's. On December 14th, we will have a court of honor which is when all of the scouts will receive their awards.

Respectfully,
Chase Habu-Chinn

Musical Notes submitted by Kemi Nakabayashi

Thank you to all participants of the 6th annual Autumn Family Music Service on November 23. Credit goes to Lani Carpenter for coming up with the Northwest District convention theme 'Everyday Rhythm of the Nembutsu'. My husband Jim Norton and I composed the tune and instrumental arrangement for the convention theme song with help from Dennis Yamashita to complete the lyrics. Besides presenting the convention theme song at our Family Music Service, the music has been sent out to music contacts in our district for other temple singers to learn the music ahead of time. We hope the sangha enjoyed all the music at the Family Music Service and encourage NWD convention registration for the music-filled programming featuring Rev. Harry Bridge. For the convention, we also plan to have buskers (like the street performers at Pike Place Market) play for 5 minutes or so during the convention breaks. We anticipate small groups of 5 people or fewer with no amplification. Any type of music is welcome. Please contact Lynne Goodrich or Kemi Nakabayashi for more information.

The Bodhi Ensemble will provide service music again this year for New Year's Eve service. Don't miss out on the annual tradition of bonsho ringing after service!

Betsuin Schedule for December 2014

SUNDAY

December 7

8:45 am Meditation Service

10:00 am BODHI DAY SERVICE Youth/Adult: Rinban Castro Japanese Program

DX: Rinban Castro

11:45 am Bodhi Day Potluck hosted by Dharma School 11:45 am Dharma School Board Meeting

December 14

8:45 am Meditation Service

10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE Youth: Rinban Castro Adult: Rinban Castro

No Dharma Exchange or Japanese Program

11:00 am Betsuin Annual General Meeting

December 21

8:45 am Meditation Service

10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE Youth: Rinban Castro Adult: MA Irene Goto

Japanese Program

DSDX: MA Irene Goto DX: Rinban Castro

December 28

8:45 am Meditation Service

10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE (No Dharma School) Youth/Adult: Rinban Castro

Japanese Program

DX: MA Irene Goto

MONDAY

December 8 Rinban Castro (day off)

TUESDAY

December 16

10:00 am Shinran Shonin Mem. Service (Rinban Castro) All welcomed

December 23 10:30 a.m. Keiro Service (Rinban Castro)

WEDNESDAY

December 3 10:30 am Dharma Support Group (Rinban Castro)

2:00 pm NW District Ministers' Meeting

December 10, 17, 24 10:30 am Dharma Support Group (Rinban Castro)

December 31 10:30 am Dharma Support Group (Rinban Castro)

7:00 pm New Year's Eve Service

THURSDAY

December 4 1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rinban Castro)

Other News

Toban participation has been irregular though many people pitch in to help as needed. Please see the sign up sheet in the dining room or check with the office if you can help. Toban means to provide coffee, tea and donuts (which is a welcoming gesture when we have visitors.) And there is light clean up afterwards. Sign up for certain Sundays or whole months. Thank you.

Newsletter help

This month's newsletter isn't professional-looking as when Irene does it. My skill level is the "cut and paste" level. I'm sure many of you could do that and more. If you can commit to doing the newsletter once or twice a year, I think it would be appreciated by Irene. Her responsibilities at the temple are ever increasing. Please let her know.

Gail K

2015 FAMILY MEMORIAL SERVICE SCHEDULE

Traditionally, family memorial services are held for the deceased on designated anniversaries. These are significant occasions to honor the memories of our loved ones while listening to the Buddha Dharma. If you have a family member who has passed away in the following years, you are encouraged to conduct a family memorial service.

Year of Death

2014.....	1 st annual memorial.....	1 year from date of death
2013.....	3 rd anniversary memorial.....	2 full years from date of death
2009.....	7 th anniversary memorial.....	6 full years from date of death
2003.....	13 th anniversary memorial.....	12 full years from date of death
1999.....	17 th anniversary memorial.....	16 full years from date of death
1991.....	25 th anniversary memorial.....	24 full years from date of death
1983.....	33 rd anniversary memorial.....	32 full years from date of death
1966.....	50 th anniversary memorial.....	49 full years from date of death

Please call the temple office at (206) 329-0800 to schedule a service.

The Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations September – October 2014

Funeral / Memorial / Nokotsudo:

Given by:

Mary Osaki – Funeral Service	\$ 1,000.00	David Osaki
Gayle Hoshino – In Memory of	\$ 500.00	Estate of Gayle Hoshino

Linda Wataoka – In Memory of	\$ 250.00	Harumi Guiberson
Shao- Chen Hung – Funeral Service	\$ 200.00	Evergreen Funeral Home
Michael Higa – 49 th Day Memorial Service	\$ 200.00	Janette Gatbunton
Nokotsudo for Yoshio Uchida	\$ 200.00	Sam & Masako Uchida
Sengo Shimizu – Memorial Service	\$ 200.00	Haruko Shimizu
Patrick Shimizu – Memorial Service	\$ 100.00	Joyce Shimizu
	\$ 200.00	Haruko Shimizu
Nokotsudo for Nobu Kano	\$ 100.00	Tamako Niwa Kano
Nokotsudo for Tsutomu Niki	\$ 30.00	Family of Tsutomu Niki

Remembrances for:

Given by:

Katsumi Aoyama	Jim & Louise Akizuki; Bob & Doris Namba
Ray Okamura	Seattle Betsuin Gojikai
Mary Osaki	Derek & Kim Fukuda; Jon & Cheryl Nakagawara; Masaru & Anna Tahara
Patrick Shimizu	Paul Suguro
Sengo Shimizu	Joyce Shimizu; Paul Suguro
Linda Wataoka	Florence Sumida

Temple Supervision:

Spokane Buddhist Temple	\$ 100.00
Yakima Buddhist Church	\$ 100.00

General Donations:

For:

Elsie Taniguchi	Appreciation for Mas Tamekuni's Ukelele class
Seattle Betsuin Ukelele Group	Facility Use for Ukelele Class
Michiko Pesek	General Donation
Erick & Kirsten Ishida Ha	General Donation

Mochitsuki

Orders for mochi and okasane are now being taken on Sundays. Packs of a dozen mochi cost \$4.

You can pick up your order on Dec. 27-28.

Seattle Betsuin Vision Embrace true and real
life in Nembutsu



Seattle Betsuin Mission Promote, protect, and
share the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha

January at Seattle Betsuin

Upcoming 2015 Events:

January 1 New Year's Day Service

January 11 Betsuin New Year's Party and Installation of Officers

January 18 Ho-onko Service

January 23-25 Japanese/English Seminars & Sunday service w/ Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara

Ministers: Rimban Don Castro 24 hours: (206) 779 -2214 and Reverend Jim Warrick
Wheel of the Sangha NEWSLETTER Editors: English - Irene Goto Newsletter@SeattleBetsuin.com
Japanese - Machiko Wada Newsletter-Jpn@SeattleBetsuin.com

The deadline to submit articles is the third Monday of each month at 8:00PM