



Explaining Amida Buddha

By Rinban Don Castro

I was recently asked to explain Amida Buddha and I responded by saying it depends on what terminology you use. If you use the language of philosophy, Amida Buddha could be seen one way, from the point of view of psychology Amida is described using psychological language, as myth Amida is presented in the language of story. Buddhists are very careful how we use language and, ultimately, Amida Buddha's Dharma Body (Dharma-kaya) is beyond human thought or language. The Mahayana doctrine of Three Bodies of the Buddha teaches that Amida Buddha is accommodated to the human mind through his name and form (the nembutsu). This makes him accessible. Finally, Amida Buddha is experienced historically (nirmanakaya) through the teachings of the historical Buddha Shakyamuni and anytime someone performs a completely selfless action.

Amida Buddha as Myth In the area of religious studies, there is strong disagreement about the nature, meaning and value of myth. Some scholars stress the need to "demythologize" religious stories to discover their essential message. However, mythology is a story of truth and values told in dynamic, compelling and often poetic language. Demythologizing, to me, explains away myth in terms of dry, scholastic language. The famous mythologist Joseph Campbell has written in his book "Myths to Live By", "Since it has always been on myths that the moral orders of societies have been founded, the myths canonized as religion, and since the impact of science on myths results...in moral disequilibrium, we must now ask whether it is not possible to arrive *scientifically* at such an understanding of the life-supporting nature of myths that, in criticizing their archaic features, we do not misrepresent and disqualify their necessity – throwing out, so to say, the baby (whole generations of babies) with the bath."

The foundation of Pure Land Buddhism

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Rinban Castro explaining scroll, *River of Water, River of Fire*, at Dharma Exchange
photo by Tomi Zumoto

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is the mytho-poetic journey of Dharmakara Bodhisattva becoming Amida Buddha. Regarding this foundational myth, Dr. Ronald Nakasone writes in his excellent book "Ethics of Enlightenment", "The Myth of the Bodhisattva Dharmakara dramatizes the major themes in the life of Shakyamuni Buddha. The vision of spiritual emancipation for all beings articulated by the Myth crystallizes the highest aspiration of Buddhists. The efforts of the Bodhisattva to realize this vision provide the spiritual basis for the ethics of enlightenment." It is well worth reading Dr. Nakasone's book to get the full meaning of Amida Buddha as myth, especially chapter two. It is too bad that this book is out of print, now being over 25 years old, but excellent copies of it both in hard bound and soft bound editions are readily available online.

Next month, I will present some ways of understanding Amida Buddha from a psychological point of view. - DC

Troop 252 had a great turn out for the food drive. All together we collected 20 bags of food. The meetings with Drake as SPL are going very well. Upcoming on April 1-3, is Spring Camporee at Camp Edwards. Also we are having Cub Scouts crossover to Boy Scouts. - Drew

Dharma School thanks all families and friends who helped out with the Salmon Dinner Spring Fundraiser for the Betsuin.

Classroom Reports

PreK/K The Pre-K/K class listened to the story of *Momotaro* or *Peach Boy* and talked about working together to overcome obstacles. They also discussed the Buddha's teachings of finding peace and happiness and each student made a paper peach to remind them of these teachings.

After discussing how the love of Amida Buddha surrounds us all, the Pre-K/K class colored a picture of Amida and surrounded it with a paper swirl decorated with stickers of animals, insects and flowers.

The children also learned about Buddhist symbols. We used these images to play Buddhist Bingo. The classroom had fun identifying them on their game card and winning prizes.

The Pre-K/K class talked about change and the word "impermanence". They played a concentration game matching pictures showing different kinds of changes that take place.

The class listened to a story about the birth of Sakyamuni Buddha and made centerpieces for the Temple Hanamatsuri luncheon.

1st/2nd grade We have been busy the last couple months on some fun projects. For Nirvana day we made bird seed cakes for our birdy friends to show our gratitude and respect for animals. Please see our photo below. We also practiced gassho, learned about Right Meditation and made a cherry blossom branch accompanied by the poem that Shinran wrote when he was nine. Feel free to come upstairs and see our work!

Photo intentionally deleted

HANAMATSURI LUNCHEON: Sunday, April 3, 11:45 AM

All Betsuin families and friends are cordially invited to attend this Hanamatsuri Luncheon in the gym. Dharma School will prepare and host a complimentary lunch. Please join us in celebrating the Buddha's birthday and enjoy the fellowship of our Sangha on this joyous occasion.

Dharma School continued on p. 10...

Chairperson's Message

by Alan Hoshino

Starting April and the spring season with some sunshine really helps the spirits having survived the wettest winter in Seattle's recorded history. Spring finally arrived late last month with our celebration of Spring Ohigan the day after holding our Salmon Dinner Fundraiser. Thank you to all those who helped plan, cook, serve and clean-up and in doing so supported our temple community. It was great to see not only sustaining (Ijikai) members, and plenty of temple youth helping but also many other members of the extended temple community. For example there was a great turnout of non-Buddhist Cub Scouts and their parents working side-by-side our Buddhist Cubs who handled cleaning and clearing the tables. Their sup-



port of the temple in appreciation of our sponsoring a Scouting program they can participate is an example of how the temple can reach out to the Greater Seattle community and help make this a better world for all.



As winter got in its final rain storms last month Reverends Castro and Sekiya along with temple 1st Vice Chair Calvin Terada and I attended the Buddhist Churches of America's annual National Council Meeting which this year was held in Visalia, California. There we met with representatives and ministers from all the BCA temples. Highlights of this year's meeting included Bishop Kodo Umezu thanking Rinban Bob and Rev. Patti Oshita of the Sacramento Betsuin and our own Rinban Don Castro for their decades of service. These three will be retiring from the ministry this year. Bishop Umezu juxtaposed this with the introduction of six new ministers, (from left to right) Reverends Candice Shibata, Mutsumi Wondra, Kory Quon, Matthew Hamasaki and our own Sala Sekiya who each

participated in a Dharmathon in which they delivered consecutive Dharma talks. Check out the Center for Buddhist Education's YouTube channel for videos! The sixth new minister was Rev. Nariaki Hayashi (not pictured) who arrived from Japan just a few days before the meeting.

Minister's Association Chairperson Rev. Jerry Hirano (Salt Lake City BT) reported that the association is focusing on adult Buddhist education and training in recognition of its past 50 or 60 year educational focus on Dharma School and neglecting the education of BCA's adult members. They are targeting the development of materials that would be a college undergraduate level curriculum.



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SBBWA News

The BWA or Fujinkai was first started by Takeko Kujo during the 20th century. Takeko Kujo died from an illness contracted during her charitable work in the city's slums following the Great Kanto Earthquake. Today, BWA continues to play an important role towards the practice and transmission of traditional Buddhist values of compassion, community, and gratitude toward others. Many have stated that the BWA is the backbone of the temple. Our temple's BWA has been in existence for over 100 years. The history of the women in this organization before, during, and after the war is a true testament of survival and perseverance. We invite new members to our organization and hope that new memories will be created for them. Our members have so much to share; their expertise in cooking, crafts, and traditions. They are selfless in nature and their presence in the community is evident. Please feel free to contact the office if you are interested in joining SBBWA.

A huge thank you to all of the members that were able to join in on makings of; tsukemen, manju (3 days and more of preparation), salad dressing, ohagi (2 day preparation) and participation during the salmon dinner. One of our devoted members even came to help fold laundry. Thank you again to all of you in the planning, the preparing, blood, sweat and tears, and support.



Federation BWA Convention committee is asking members to become a booster. This convention is hosted by NW district and your support is a very important key to the success. Thank you for your consideration.

Please join us to welcome new members on April 24, for service and luncheon. invitation will be coming soon. meet and get to know someone new!

Upcoming Events:

April 24 New member service and luncheon.

May 15 Udon fundraiser, tickets will be available soon.

October 7,8,9 Federation Buddhist Women Association convention /Bellevue

Spring Excursions to Japan 2017(Trip to Kyushu Isl. visiting hidden Nembutsu & Hokuriku Tour &Tracing footsteps of Shinran—Echigo) If interested, **contact Machiko Wada or Nina Tomita Kato.**

Support Junior YBA

Junior YBA is collecting any used textiles that you have laying around the house. This can include bed sheets, drapes, carpets, backpacks, stuffed animals, clothes, etc. This is a fundraiser for YBA. Please place all textiles in garbage bags and a YBA member will be in the foyer on Sunday's before service. Contact a YBA member for flyers on what is acceptable to donate. All money raised will go to support the YBA treasury to subsidize costs for the NW convention next year. submitted by Alex



Musical Notes

submitted by Kemi Nakabayashi

Spring is here with much music and joy. We plan festive Hanamatsuri music for the service on April 3. This year's spring Earth Day music service on April 17 features uplifting music with a variety of instrumentalists and singers leading the Sangha. Please consider inviting friends or family who do not normally come to our regular services to hear the special music.

General CF News

submitted by May Chin

Camp Fire had another successful candy sale. We sold a total of 2,787 units this year. Congratulations to our 8 top sellers who sold 120 or more units. We celebrated our accomplishment last Sunday with ice cream sundaes, pizza and stuffed animals prizes. Congratulations to the Dolphins, who qualified for the 75/75 award and received an additional refund per unit sold.

We truly appreciate all the hard work by all the sellers and their families and supporters.

We'd also like to thank Lisa Butler and Gary Shibata for all their hard work in coordinating our candy sale.

Religious Education Events:

April 16, Saturday Buddhist Study Group at Seattle Betsuin [note this change in date]. The book for this month is Ken Tanaka's Buddhism on Air. Please see Rinban Castro if you are interested in obtaining a copy. The meeting will take place in the Memorial Hall Chapel from 9:30-11:30am. Bring a brown bag lunch, if you wish. There is no cost to attend.

PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM ON SHINRAN AND CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY

FRI - SAT, APR 15 - 16 JODO SHINSHU CENTER 1:00 PM - 1:00 PM, 2140 DURANT AVENUE, BERKELEY CA 94704, JODO SHINSHU CENTER, CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: (510) 809-1444 An examination of the Shin Buddhist tradition in light of recent developments in continental philosophy and continental philosophy in light of Shin Buddhism. Particularly, an in-depth examination of key features in the thought of Shinran in reflection with the philosophies of such thinkers as Martin Heidegger, Emmanuel Levinas, Jacques Lacan, and Jean-Luc Marion.

We will be joined by some leading scholars in their fields, including: Dr. Dennis Hirota, Professor Emeritus, Ryukoku University; Dr. Charles Hallisey of the Harvard Divinity School; Dr. Rein Raud of the University of Helsinki; Dr. Bret Davis of Loyola University; Dr. Leah Kalmanson of Drake University; and Dr. Ryan Coyne of the University of Chicago Divinity School. **Coordinator: David Matsumoto, Center for Contemporary Shin Buddhist Studies, Institute of Buddhist Studies.**

April 29, Friday English Language Seminar with Dr. Nobuo Haneda, Director of the Maida Center of Buddhism, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, at Seattle Betsuin.

. . . for A Salmon Dinner Fundraiser - Success!

Notes on Dharma Exchange - an after-service discussion group

Feb 28, 2016 - Rev. Jim Warrick was asked by a participant to explain Emptiness and Form.

Sensei said that Form is empty of itself, and there is no Self. If one removes Self from the equation we see things as they are. . . During Honen's time his followers said the Nembutsu all day long; whereas later, Shinran felt it was all right to say the Nembutsu once with sincerity. Sensei was in Provo, UT, last week visiting relatives, and he heard many people say, "Mormonism is the only way." Mormonism is prevalent in Utah. A participant commented that if we are so totally focused on our own religion we fail to see the bigger picture.

March 6 - Rev. Jim Warrick described the earthquake he experienced while on a motorcycle in Japan in 1986. It occurred north of Fukushima, but was not as bad as the recent Fukushima quake. . . Participant inquired if the Hongwanji becomes involved in disasters occurring in Japan. Sensei said the way they operate is under the radar, and that certain temples are helping with the aftermath. . . A Day of Remembrance to recognize the 120,000 Japanese incarcerated during World War II was celebrated by the Washington State House of Representatives on Feb. 18. Rev. Sala Sekiya was the first woman to give the opening address, and she chanted as well.

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Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges

Donations Received February - March 2016

Funeral / Memorial / Nokotsudo:

Given by:

Florence Sumida – Funeral Service	\$ 1,0000.00	Irene & George Saito
Ernest Fujii – 37 th Year Memorial	\$ 500.00	Minoru & Aiko Fujii
Shige Fujii – 33 rd Year Memorial	\$ 500.00	Minoru & Aiko Fujii
Elsie Tokita – 1 st Year Memorial	\$ 500.00	Shokichi Tokita
Katsumi Frank Nakamichi – 7 th Year Memorial	\$ 500.00	Teruko Nakamichi

In Memory of:

Given by:

Nobuichi Fujita	Miyuki Hanada; Mary Hikida; Toshiko Isomura; Ogishima Insurance Company; Mary S. Shigaya; Terrie Shigaya; Peggy Tanemura
Sachiko Fujita	Peggy Hanada
Amy Seko	Mary Nakamura
Florence Sumida	Gene & Yuki Arinobu; Mae Deguchi; Tom & Jean (Aya) Deguchi; Minoru & Aiko Fujii; Ellen Hale; Peggy Hanada; Susan Hori; Akira Ichikawa; Satoru & Grace Ichikawa; Gail Kaminishi; Tetsuden & Cecilia Kanako Kashima; Mary Katayama; Arthur & Sally Kawaguchi; William & Beth Kawahara; Takako Kogita; Carolyn Kunihiro; Daisy Kuramoto; George & Irene Mano; The Moriguchi Family; T. Jack Matsui; Yoshio & Judith Nakamura; Pauline Sakuma; Dennis Shibata; Teruko (Terrie) Shigaya; Shirley Shimada; Roy & Kazumi Shimizu; Frances Shintaku; Masaru & Anna Tahara; Kiyoko Takashima; Masao & Frances Tamekuni; Frank & Fay Tanagi; Peggy Tanemura; Elsie Taniguchi; Martha Taniguchi; Theodore & Akiko Taniguchi; Toshio & Dolly Tokunaga; Gary & Julianne Tosaya; Sam & Masako Uchida; Machiko Wada; Nobuo Yutani
Florence Tsuchida	Janet Baba; Takiko Miyauchi; Pearl Okura; Meri Shimada
Takeshi Tsuchida	Takiko Miyauchi; Meri Shimada
Rev. Kiyoshi Yamashita	Rev. Koshin Yamamoto

CORRECTION TO ENTRY IN MARCH 2016 NEWSLETTER:

Donation by Hidemi & Keiko Tsuboi was given in memory of Ryoto Yabuki.

To Endowment in Honor of Roy Shimizu's 80th Birthday:

Peggy Hanada; Satoru & Grace Ichikawa; Takako Kogita; George & Irene Mano; Yoshio & Judith Nakamura; Frances Shintaku

General Donations:

For:

Elliott Zimmerman	General Donation
Kuniko Takamura	General Donation
Tami Arinobu	Employee Community Fund / Costco
Yaeko Ito	General Donation (2)
Buddhist Churches of America	2015 Dana Sharing contributions by Merrily Taniguchi and Irene Goto
Kelly Kuwahara	General Donation / Boeing Employee Community Fund
Robert Hamatani	General Donation / Boeing Employee Community Fund

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Donations continued...

...Donations continued

Donna Zumoto	General Donation / Boeing Employee Community Fund
Brian Kaku	General Donation / Boeing Employee Community Fund
Miyoko Tazuma	Appreciation for use of facility
Gary & Madeline Kato	Appreciation for Onenju repair
Andrea Mano	General Donation
Tomiko Zumoto	Appreciation for Convention Bus to Ontario, OR.
Frances Tamekuni	Appreciation for Onenju
Kroger Inc.	Fred Meyer Community Rewards
Michiko Toyoshima	General Donation
Gail Suzaka	General Donation / Bank of America Giving Program
Alice Doi	General Donation / Bank of America Giving Program

SCHOLARSHIPS Deadline April 4! The *deadline* to submit

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS is Monday, April 4, 2016 by 2:30pm to the temple office. For applications and/or questions, please contact Shizue Kaku via the temple office 206-329-0800 or email: office@seattlebetsuin.com

The Betsuin gratefully acknowledges the donations received for the following special services.

If your name is not listed, the donation may have been received after the deadline for this newsletter and will be listed in the next edition. Please accept our apologies for any inadvertent misspelling of names:

Ohigan - Spring: Asaba, Marian; Baba, Janet; Deguchi, Mae; Desaki, Yasuko; Dodobara, Kenny & Yoshie; Fujino, Suteko (Sue); Fujita, Florence; Fukeda, Toshiko; Goshu, Kazumi (Janice); Habu, Gordon & Mae Yamasaki -; Habu, Jack & Fumi; Hamakawa, Ron; Hamanaka, Yoko; Hamatani, Jane; Hara, Reiko; Harada, Setsuko; Hasegawa, Kathy; Hinds, Cynthia; Hirata, Michiko; Hoshino, Alan A.; Isomura, Toshiko; Kaku, Dale & Shizue; Kaneta, Miyoko; Kashima, Tetsuden & Cecilia Kanako; Kashiwa, Ann T.; Katayama, Mary K.; Kato, Nina Tomita -; Kawada, Noboru & Hatsuye; Kawaguchi, Harold; Kawahara, Ritsuko; Kawamoto, Masako; Kido, Momoko; Kikuchi, Shizue; Kojima, Esther; Kubota, Kenneth; Kunihiro, Carolyn; Kuramoto, Daisy Toyoko; Kusachi, Sachiko; Kusakabe, Peter; Mayeda, Julie; Miyauchi, Takiko; Mizumori, Sheri; Morishige, Lisa; Naemura, Joseph & Janie Okawa -; Nagai, Ernest & Sanaye (Sunnie); Nakabayashi, Kemi; Nakamura, Yoshio & Judith; Nakanishi, Kiyoko; Nakano, Craig & Joan; Nakano, Junko; Nakayama, Curtis & Charlene; Namekata, Tsukasa & Keiko; Ohtani, Michiye; Okada, Barry & Marlene; Okada, Emiko; Oxrieder, Gregory & Catherine Ann; Parke, Troy & Mayumi Terada -; Sako, Masako; Sakuma, Pauline; Sato, Joyce; Shibata, Dennis M.; Shigaya, Mary S.; Shigaya, Teruko (Terrie); Shimada, Shirley; Shimizu, Roy & Kazumi; Shimizu, Sato & Darlene; Tahara, Masaru & Anna; Takashima, Kiyoko; Taketa, Haruso & Sonoe; Taketa, Susan; Tanaka, Rikuko; Tanemura, Peggy; Taniguchi, Martha (Masayo); Taniguchi, Theodore & Akiko; Tanino, Katsumi & Terrie; Tazuma, Miyoko; Terada, Allan & Kayoko; Terada, Calvin J. & Yvette; Terada, Ronald & Suzuko; Teramoto, Margaret; Teramoto, Stuart; Teranishi, Asako; Uchida, Sam & Masako; Uyenishi, Tazuko; Vaart, Michiko Jean; Wada, Machiko; Yamane, Jeffrey & Susan; Yamashita, Dennis & Elaine Aoki -; Yokota, Sumie; Yokoyama, Kevin & Kari Ann; Yoshida, Fuyo; Yoshimura, Harry; Yutani, Nobuo; Zumoto, James & Tomiko; **Nirvana Day:** Taketa, Susan **Ho'Onko:** Kuramoto, Daisy Toyoko **Bodhi Day:** Kuramoto, Daisy Toyoko

....**Chairperson's Message** continued from p. 3

Other interesting facts coming out of the meeting were: BCA has a little over 13,300 members, there are 46 current Kaikyoshi ministers of which 17 will likely retire within five years. The per member assessment each temple will remit to BCA will be \$114.23 this year, up from \$109.39 last year. (This was higher than I reported last month. A 2% COLA increase was granted to the BCA headquarters staff because BCA's budget had been held flat the preceding three years). BCA has launched the Dana Program, a fund raising effort to retire the Jodo Shinshu Center construction debt which is almost \$4M. You each should have received a Dana Program mailer direct from BCA late last year. You can designate a portion of the funds you donate to your temple! Contact me if you need information.



Shizue Yahata, who is currently serving as the BCA's Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations President, also attended the meeting, reported on FBWA business and presented FBWA's gift to BCA's new Kaikyoshi ministers, Reverends Sala Sekiya and Nariaki Hayashi, to help offset the costs of their robes.

Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki (Lodi BT) led a very special demonstration of the Ojoraisan complete with four Gagaku musicians of which three were NW District ministers (Revs. Fujimoto, Kakiyama & Sekiya). Under the leadership of Rev. Harry Bridge and the CBE a draft booklet of the Ojoraisan is available, 100 copies of which were obtained for the Betsuin and will be put to use by Rev. Sekiya later this year.

The final Dharma Talk of the weekend was given at the Sunday Eitaikyo service at the Visalia Buddhist Temple. Rinban Don Castro delivered the Dharma talk and recounted his experiences during his years of service.

Installed during the Eitaikyo service were BCA's new Executive Committee members. From L to R: Rick Stambul (President Elect), Charlene Grinolds (VP), Susan Bottari (Secretary), Ken Tanaka (President), Jeffery Matsuo (Treasurer) and Gary Mukai (VP – not pictured).

That's the latest from the BCA. Please have a great spring and a very Happy Hanamatsuri! - Alan



ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE... We would like to "thank" the following regular members, for contributing their annual Ijikai dues (the basic dues toward the Temple maintenance/operations). This is the list of those paid members for the fiscal year of 2016.

Lani Carpenter; Jimmy & Alicia Taniguchi Eng; Sam Gebala; Ellen Hale; Michi Hirata; Iwako Iseri; Dale & Shizue Kaku; Kazue Kato; Haruko Kobuki; Julie Mayeda; Kemi Nakabayashi; Mabel Nishizaki; Nancy Okawa; Sunkie Oye; Frank Shinoda; Nami Tanaka; Fumiye Taniguchi; Martha Taniguchi; Shokichi Tokita; Susanne Umeda; Michi Vaart; Leanne Nishi-Wong; Mary Yoshida

***AS A REMINDER:** The **minimum** for basic dues towards the Temple 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, 2016, for this fiscal year.** If you have any questions about your membership status, contact the Betsuin office: 206-329-0800 or office@seattlebetsuin.com.

(compiled by HL, PS, JN, & SO)

...Dharma School continued from p. 2

Middle School students started the new year, switching from teachers Claire Murata and Debbie Akiyama, to new teachers Thy Pham and Tara Tamaribuchi. Thank you very much Claire and Debbie for your hard work! With Ho-onko in January, we looked at incidents in Shinran's life and applied them to comic book form. Students learned "comics grammar" such as framing, different types of word bubbles, point-of-view, detail-oriented frames and close-up frames. Most students were inspired to draw the story of Shinran and his disciples traveling in a blizzard, not being invited into a home, but later being invited after the homeowner heard them chanting the Nembutsu late into the night. We noticed the classroom had a beautiful Obutsudan with no accessories inside of it. Minister Assistant Irene Goto helped us reinvigorate this Obutsudan, discussing placement and significance of all of the parts, over two classes. Students practiced making rice balls in the form of a lotus bud for the Buddha, and enjoyed eating their handiwork. Currently, the students have been trying their hand at making a stencil to print the wisteria mon on a piece of canvas to later appliqué onto a belonging at home. They have also been preparing to interview some of the more mature temple members in the Dharma Exchange, for short biographies in the e-newsletter. In April, Connie Oseki-Chinn and Anna Tamura, will begin teaching and will be our final teaching team for the year.

Photo intentionally deleted

High School In January, the HS class studied the Three Treasurers. How rare it is to be born as a human? We learned it's as hard as rolling the same number on a die, continuously, SIX (6) million times in a ROW. In March, we're focused on what high school students can do recognizing we are living a special rare life. Also we will focus on whether the Dharma existed before or after birth of Shakamuni Buddha and what it means to "take refuge in the Dharma".

Dharma School report submitted by Joyce Tsuji

Dharma Exchange...continued from p. 6

March 13 - Rinban Castro read a story in a Honolulu newspaper about funeral services in Japan: Temple membership is declining, and new organizations provide a fee-based Buddhist service to those who have no connection to a temple. A participant commented that such a service seemed to be impersonal in that the family is unable to relate to whomever conducts the service. Japan is due for a renaissance because temples have to be an educational institution.

March 20 - Rinban Castro introduced one of our Dharma School teachers, Tara Tamaribuchi, who will conduct interviews next Sunday with people who have been exposed to Buddhism. . .Sensei brought a scroll depicting "going to the other shore." All attachments are left behind including the raft which brought one to the other shore and Buddhism itself. The scroll was a gift of two scrolls to Sensei, and it showed the "river

of fire and the river of water" with Shakyamuni Buddha and Amida Buddha urging people to cross. The other sketch he displayed conveys a dynamic feeling of Jodo Shinshu, and shows a person with a lasso around his neck being pulled to the Pure Land. Included is a poem by Saichi, a myokonin. . . Sensei left us with a spiritual problem for next Sunday: How to get to the farther shore. Amida Buddha says, "You are on the farther shore."

Also, next Sunday Dharma School parents will join us on the subject of getting down on ourselves.



Photo by Tomi Zumoto

In gassho, Pat Bobrow

SALMON DINNER FUNDRAISER – SUCCESS!

Thank you all who attended and dined-in or used the drive-thru or walk-up options to get your salmon or pork entrée meal with the accompanying miso soup, salad, rice, vegetables and tsukemono. More individuals helped us by pre-paying for their tickets so we could estimate how much salmon or pork to have on hand so that everyone was able to get an entrée of their



choice. We had about 1,500 ticket pre-sales and these tickets along with those individuals that paid for their tickets at the door or individuals didn't have tickets contributed to a very successful event from both an attendance standpoint and preliminary estimates financially. Along with the dinner there was a variety of desserts, apple, cherry, lemon meringue pies, carrot and chocolate cakes, manju, ohagi and other baked goods to choose from for purchase.



The event was very successful from the number of tickets sold, positive comments received about the taste and portions size and requests for recipes for the salmon, pork or salad dressing (sorry, but we would like people to keep coming back in subsequent years J). The success just doesn't happen but is made possible by the efforts of the many volunteers that help with all the tasks to put on this event from set-up, prepping of the ingredients, cooking, serving, clean-up, etc. Thank you, as well, to the two teams from the SASC basketball organization who volunteered their services at the event. This is the organization's annual program for community service they have in place for their teams. - HL

Yakima Buddhist Church holds a successful 55th Sukiyaki Dinner Fundraiser

submitted by Irene Goto

On Sunday, March 6, 2016, Gail Kaminishi and I and several other Betsuin members drove to Wapato, Washington to help the Yakima Buddhist Church with their Annual Sukiyaki Dinner that took place in their recreation hall. We received a thank you letter from the Sukiyaki Dinner Committee which conveyed heart warming information. Nearly 1700 people were served by nearly 200 volunteers and donors recruited from family, friends, and the community at large; they were from as far away as Hong Kong, China and from nearby Ellensburg, Moses Lake, Seattle, Spokane, Lake Stevens, East Wenatchee, the Tri-Cities; students from Heritage University, Davis High School, West Valley High School, White Swan High School and Wapato High School were all very helpful. Yakima's membership is about 30 which includes the Columbia Basin. So many local volunteers worked hard to organize, sell tickets, decorate, set up, and cleanup for over a month. They are "proud to be a part of such a wonderful display of community spirit." Gail and I, along with Paul Vielle, Ministers Assistant from Spokane, enjoyed explaining the history of the temple and its naijin. The 56th Sukiyaki Dinner will be held the first Sunday of March again in 2017 - mark your calendars! Irene

Betsuin Events for April 2016

SUNDAYS 10:55am Meditation (convenes in foyer)

April 3

9:15 am Sweet Tea Offering (in auditorium)

10:00 am **HANAMATSURI SERVICE** (in auditorium)

Youth/Adult: Rinban Castro

Japanese: Rev. Sekiya

DX: TBD

Meditation: MA

11:45 am **Hanamatsuri Luncheon** prepared and hosted by Dharma School

April 10

10:00 am **FAMILY SERVICE**

Youth: MA Rosalie May

Adult: Rinban Castro

Japanese: Rev. Sekiya

DX: Rev. Warrick

DSDX: Rinban Castro

Meditation: MA

1:30 pm Sangha Award Class

April 17

10:00 am **EARTH DAY SERVICE**

Youth/Adult: Rinban Castro

Japanese: Rev. Sekiya

DX: Sensei Irene Goto

Meditation: MA

11:45 am SBBWA Cabinet Meeting

1:30 pm Sangha Award Class

April 24 Rinban Castro in Spokane

10:00 am **FAMILY SERVICE** and **CHILDREN'S SERVICE**

Children: Sensei Irene Goto

Youth/Adult: Rev. Sekiya

Japanese: TBD

DX: TBD

Meditation: MA

11:30 am SBBWA New Member Service and Luncheon (Rev. Sekiya)

MONDAYS

April 4

10:30 am Keiro Hanamatsuri Service with

Koyasan Buddhist Temple and Nichiren

Buddhist Church

2:30 pm Betsuin Scholarship application deadline

April 11, 25 Rinban Castro (Day Off)

TUESDAYS

April 5, 12, 19 Rinban Castro (Days Off)

April 26 Rev. Sekiya (Day Off)

10:30 am Keiro Service

WEDNESDAYS

April 6 Rev. Sekiya (Afternoon Off)

10:00 AM Dharma Support Group

April 20

2:00 pm NW District Ministers' Meeting

(Rinban Castro & Rev. Sekiya)

April 27 Rev. Sekiya (Day Off)

THURSDAYS

April 7 Rev. Sekiya (Day Off)

1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rinban Castro)

April 21 Rinban Castro and Rev. Sekiya (Day Off)

1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Sensei Irene Goto)

April 28 Rinban Castro (Day Off)

FRIDAYS

April 1 12:00 pm **Gojikai Service & Lunch/Meeting**

April 8 Rinban Castro (Day Off)

April 15, 22 Rev. Sekiya (Days Off)

April 29 7:00 – 9:00 pm English Language Seminar with Dr. Nobuo Haneda, Director of the Maida Center of Buddhism

SATURDAYS

April 9 Rev. Sekiya (Afternoon Off)

April 16 Rev. Sekiya (Day Off)

9:30 – 11:30 am Book Study Group – *Buddhism on Air* by Ken Tanaka

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

April 23 Rinban Castro to Spokane

April 29 – May 1 FDSTL Conference in Sacramento

April 30 10:00 am – 4:00 pm Japanese Language Seminar with Dr. Nobuo Haneda

MAY 2016 Major Events of Interest

May 1 (Sunday) Dr. Nobuo Haneda – guest speaker at 10am Family Service and Japanese Language Service to follow

May 2 (Monday) Japanese Language Seminar with Dr. Nobuo Haneda from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

May 15 (Sunday) Gotan-e Music Service

May 21 (Saturday) Japanese Language Seminar with Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara, CBE Co-Director & Hongwanji Program Coordinator

May 29 (Sunday) Betsuin Scholarship Awards Service

May 30 (Monday) Memorial Day Service at Lakeview Cemetery

2016 May Newsletter Deadline:

Monday, April 18, 2016

8:00 pm

Seattle Buddhist Church
1427 S Main Street
Seattle, WA 98144

Wheel of the Sangha
**A Monthly Newsletter of
Seattle Buddhist Church**

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April 2016 Major Events of Interest

April 3 (Sunday)	Hanamatsuri Service in gym 10:00 a.m.
April 4 (Monday)	Hanamatsuri Service at Keiro with Koyasan Buddhist Temple and Nichiren Buddhist Church
April 4 (Monday)	Betsuin Scholarship Application deadline at 2:30 pm
April 16 (Saturday)	Book Study Group 9:30 a.m. - 11:30a.m.
April 17 (Sunday)	Earth Day Service 10:00 a.m.
April 29 – May 2	Seminar with Dr. Nobuo Haneda p. 11

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Wheel of the Sangha Editors
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Deadline is the third
Monday each month at
8PM

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