



March/April 2013

# 長栄山 円経寺

## *Spring Is In The Air...*

*Priest's Message from Kanjin  
Cederman Shonin*

Hello everyone, spring is in the air. As you can see our Temple is moving forward in organizing our events, Dharma School, etc. I appreciate everyone's patience with the many changes that have happened. We are trying to operate more effectively and efficiently in what we do. This year we need to focus on two major things that we need everyone's help with, membership and fundraising. If we are going to grow and survive we must do this. Wrapped up in these are

many things that we need to improve, such as our facility and programming amongst other things. We need members to volunteer their time and effort so that we can accomplish these tasks. We have a wonderful hardworking board and dedicated lay leaders. But we cannot do it without everyone. As my teacher stated, we are just humans with two legs, two arms, two hands and one head. Let's do it! Buddhist practice is something that is applied in our daily lives, brightening every dark space and removing the dust from

our mirror. Our lay leaders will be officially confirmed this month and they will help in both adult education as well as children education. Communication is key to our efforts. There are many ears willing to listen to your ideas, concerns, and thoughts. Just share them so that we can improve. But we must contribute in a Buddhist way. This is different from regular social discussion or advice giving. When we come to someone else with a problem or concern, we should have a potential solution in our  
*continued on page 2*

### Upcoming Highlights:

- On **March 31** following the service, we will be **cleaning our adopted street**, South Weller. Please join us in giving back to our community.
- On **April 7** we will hold our **Hanamatsuri** service. Hanamatsuri, literally "flower festival", is a celebration of the birth of the Buddha. Following the service we will have a **potluck lunch**.
- On **April 13** we will host a workshop given by **API Chaya**. Please see the details on Page 5. If you are interested in attending, please contact the Temple.
- On **April 28** following the service we will have the **Quarterly Sangha Meeting**. Please come out, find out what is happening with the Temple and most importantly get involved!

## *501(c)(3) Determined*

I am pleased to announce that the Internal Revenue Service has confirmed that we are tax exempt and a public charity under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. This is a major milestone for our temple!

Federal recognition as tax exempt qualifies us to receive tax deductible contributions and gifts, increases our temple's credibility to the public, makes us eligible for private foundation grants, grants discount postage rates and special non-profit mailing privileges, and many media outlets often give free or discounted rates.

The application process helped us ask introspective questions about the way our organization conducts business. It has motivated the Board to update our temple processes and discipline such as our Bylaws, Accounting, and Conflict of Interest Policy.

I wanted to give a special thanks to the Board, Cederman Shonin, Claire O'Shea, and the rest of the Sangha for all of their support and contributions throughout this lengthy, yet valuable process.

*Phil Robbins*  
*Treasurer*

*continued from page 1*

mind, and be willing to help fix it, not just use words. There are many things that can be improved, but we must contribute as well as suggest, this is the Buddhist way of improvement. I hope

you will keep this practice and precept in your mind. We are many bodies and minds, but we should be strong in one spirit of "Itai Doshin". Please keep this in your mind and if possible spread it to others. Let's share our teachings and

brighten the world from dullness to brightness. It all starts with your home temple and Sangha.

*With Gassho,*

*Kanjin Cederman Shonin*

## *AN INCAN PRINCESS DISCOVERS THE MIDDLE WAY; From Cochabamba to Choeizan Enkyoji*

*By Hobana Garcia Hunt*

I was born in Cochabamba, in the low lands (elevation 9,600 feet) of Bolivia, the second youngest of nine children. My mother was a full blooded Quechua- speaking Inca and my father was three-fourths Inca and one fourth Spanish.

My parents, while very intelligent, had little formal education; mother was not allowed to attend school at all, and father only completed grades one thru grade nine. Notwithstanding these hardships they insisted their children should not be limited in their potentials. All nine children went on to become highly educated professionals in their respective fields, including a medical doctor, a dentist, a lawyer, and college professors.

My mother, while a putative Catholic, from earliest childhood was steeped in the traditions and ancient religion of her native Inca forebears. She is often sought out by friends and family as a recognized "font of wisdom" on subjects as varied as health and agriculture.

As children we were taught always to respect and give thanks to **The Pachamama** or "mother earth." The first Friday of each month the family would gather around a fire in the yard, incense would be burnt, chicha (the traditional fermented corn beverage) would be drunk, and coca leaves chewed and a special meal would be served in honor of The Pachamama.

All animate and inanimate creatures and things, considered to be gifts from the Pachamama, were therefore to be treated with respect and value. Because of this the Inca are the ultimate recyclers. For example a table would be used until it could no longer serve any reasonable purpose and then burned in the First Friday fire, but not until we would remember all the sacrifices that had been made in our use of it. From the tree that provided the wood, to the carpenter who blessed it with his talent, the meals that we shared around it, the games we played on it and the work it supported – all were remembered as the incense wafted from its coals.

While our family was very poor economically by American standards, when it came to love and affection we were wealthier than the richest king!

My father and two brothers have now passed away but will live forever in my heart and prayers. The rest of my family still reside within a mile of the family farm and still practice many of the Inca traditions as taught by our parents. My mother, now eighty years old, unable to read or write, and eight thousand miles away, now talks with me almost daily by SKYPE!

Today, as a member of the Sangha at Choeizan Enkyoji, the lessons I am learning here and the love of the Pachamama and the Buddha continue to bless me.

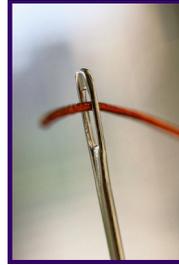
**Gabriel the Barber**  
[HTTP://GABRIELBARBER.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://gabrielbarber.blogspot.com)  
 GABRIEL ROSMAN  
 BARBER STYLIST  
 GABRIELBARBER71@GMAIL.COM  
 2307 NW MARKET ST  
 SEATTLE, WA 98107  
 206.321.0911

# HARIKUYO

By Gregg Tralle

On Sunday February 10th the Temple celebrated Harikuyo for the first time. This is the Festival of Broken Needles which makes us aware and mindful of the tools we use in our daily lives, even the lowly needle. Nowadays it is so easy to disregard these items as insignificant and their Buddha nature escapes us. Such a simple ceremony for something even more simple, but so profound in its richness and teachings.

On February 8th, all across Japan, Harikuyo will take place in Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples. Hari means needle and Kuyou is a Buddhist memorial service. Memorial services are usually held for spirits of the dead; but it is also common to hold them for inanimate objects that have served well in life, or indeed, that life depends on.

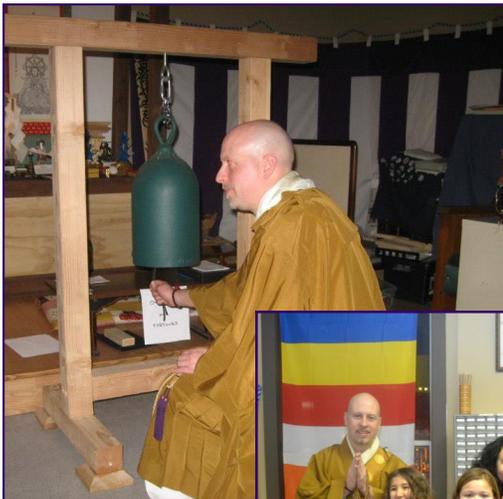


Dating back over 1500 years, it is a ritual of appreciation and respect for tools of the sewing, tailoring and embroidery trades. Women and men dressed in fine kimono gather together all of the broken and worn out needles they have used during the previous year. They proceed to the local temple or shrine, where a three-tiered altar is prepared. The lower level is for the broken and worn out sewing accessories, scissors, thimbles, thread. The top tier is the offering of seasonal fruit and mochi. The center tier holds is a large slab

of tofu, into which everyone inserts their broken and worn needles.

The tofu creates a safe place, for the their points can no longer harm anyone. The priest will chant a sutra reflecting on the passage of the needles from use, and invokes a Buddhist blessing that is passed on to the users of the needles. By showing respect to the needles they used through the past year, they are offering appreciation and requesting that the power and energy of the needles be present in the stitches for the coming year, so that their skills may be improved. Priests will also sing sutras to comfort the needles, heal their broken spirits and thank them for work well done. Afterwards the priests will take them to their final resting place. No sewing takes place on this day.

## January/February Activities



Daikoku New Year's Visit and Joya no Kane (Ringing in the New Year & Ootoso Sake)



Setsubun—The Oni tries to enter the temple, but the members throw beans to scare him off. Afterwards, the children made Oni masks.



## Temple Performance of Shishimai Lion Dog Dance a Lunar Success



This year's Lunar New Year's festivities in Seattle's International District mostly was celebrated on Feb 9<sup>th</sup> at Hing Hay Park. Choeizan Enkyoji Temple joined the proud ranks of performance groups from neighboring organizations and temples, bringing a wide array of entertainment to the masses of friends and family attending.

Following a taiko drum ensemble, our performance was introduced on stage by Kanjin Cederman Shonin. Traditionally, the Shishimai Lion Dog dance is a bit less frantic, using regular and hand held taiko drums to beat the necessary strong rhythm. Many members of our sangha provided the taiko beat,

while Shishimai and Daikoku reveled in their interactions of play with the audience. The performance was concluded with the traditional blessings upon the crowd by both Daikoku and Shishi. The patrons were delighted to receive fresh mandarin oranges, and many took advantage of having a quick snack! (Feed the public, and they will remember you! LOL)

A big thanks to all sangha members who were able to participate that day, especially to our Sensei and his family. Also, thanks for the support and love sent by members who could not attend, but were very much with us in spirit.

*Gabriel Rosman*

*Lay Leader Extraordinaire*

*(206)321.0911*



## FUSE (*fu-say*)

Fuse is a donation made without any expectation of return -- to do something with the expectation of a return is an investment.

To the Japanese there are 3 kinds of fuse:

**fuse – zaise**

**fuse – hose**

**fuse – muize**

to donate something like money

to donate the teachings of the Buddha

to donate relief

fuse of the material

fuse of the Dharma

fuse of the mind

A minister is always offering the fuse of the Dharma and the fuse of the Mind. The Sangha member is expected to offer the fuse of the Material.

Fuse is supposed to be done with joy and gratitude. When you ask a minister to officiate at weddings, memorial services, funerals, and the like, you always offer fuse to the minister. This is fuse zaise.

The question is always how much to contribute ?

The Buddha teaches us that equality and fairness are essential. We can do fuse zaise depending on our own situation. If you don't have enough, a small fuse is enough. If you have enough, you have more to give. Each according to his abilities.

It is said that fuse is a very important practice as a Buddhist and you will have unexpected benefits if you contribute to the Buddha and to a Temple.

Any donation big or small is very much appreciated. Please send donations to the Temple at **501 South Jackson St. #202, Seattle, WA 98104** or through the **PayPal** link on the right hand side of the main page of our website **www.seattlebuddhist.org**. Thank you for your support!!

## *API Chaya Workshop*

April 13, 10:00am—12:00pm

We have an unusual workshop lined up for April. One that stretches our comfort zones and complacency a bit. Hopefully without setting off any childhood buttons or memories.

We may consider the Temple becoming a safe house so this is a great opportunity to get informed and understand the problems others have.

The workshop will be on domestic/dating violence:

- ◇ Defining violence
- ◇ Discussing its root causes
- ◇ Observing the different forms that it can take
- ◇ Seeing the prevalence among people (e.g. Immigrants, LGBTQ)
- ◇ And perhaps most difficult is how to help a friend

API Chaya is dedicated to serving survivors in crisis and raise awareness of domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking in the Asian, South Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

### **SCRAPBOOKER WANTED!**

The Temple maintains a scrapbook showing all the events the Sangha participates in as a historic diary for the future as well as showing visitors like the Shumuin.

It is easy and fun but can take a bit of time. If you are a creative soul and love these types of projects please contact Gregg or [choeizan.enkyoji.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:choeizan.enkyoji.newsletter@gmail.com).

## *Kids Corner:*

### *What The Temple Means To Me*

*By Penny Anderson*

I like playing with Minna, Emily, Aaliyah and Amare. They are my friends. We like to play "freeze dance" and hide and go seek. I also love Gabriel. He is fun and he loves cheese pizza just like me! I love Pam too. She is so nice to me and she gave me a bubble toy for Christmas. I love Gregg. He calls me Olivia, my middle name! David and Hobana care a lot about me and my mommy. They are always there if we need anything. Just like Errol and Kazuko. They are so nice to me and my mommy. They give us rides home after temple so I don't have to walk. Minna's mommy is really nice to me and she helps look after me when my mom is busy. I love going to temple every Sunday. I am sad when I can't go. They are my family and I love them a lot.



## *Board's Survey on Attendance*

As some of you have noticed the attendance on Sundays seems to have slowly diminished and we are no longer running out of chant books. This has become an area of importance for the board.

Therefore we came up with a survey asking many questions in hopes of finding out why and possible answers. Your truthful honest answers are appreciated.

The responses are trickling in slowly. When we receive them all we will then sift through them for data, ideas and areas that the Temple needs to concentrate on as it goes through this 3<sup>rd</sup> year itch, common to businesses and non-profits.

We are right on the edge of growing, the edge of new members, the edge of a new facility... ever so close...

## *An Auction is Postponed...How Does 2014 Look?*

*By Gregg Tralle*

An auction could be an answer to our short term monetary problems and provide us with the beginnings of a nest egg for the future. The deeper the board delved into what is needed to make a successful auction the more we began to question whether May seemed too soon, perhaps October would be better.

We get only one shot at offering a successful auction, one that is fun, exciting, that people want to tell their friends about and that is well organized with little down time and no lines at checkout.

An auction would demand total commitment by ALL Sangha members to staff the event, to set up the day before, and to tear down the day after. It would demand full focus of time and energy of the board and committees for many months.

The Temple has several other important issues requiring our focus right now: increasing membership, relocating, as well as the inevitable fundraising. These are all intercon-

nected and it is hard to determine which is first, which is most important.

Growth in membership is difficult at our present site. With the possibility of the building being sold from under us, it could be quite challenging if we wait and be reactive instead of proactive right now.

As I mentioned, not being able to rely on the dinner / auction earnings, the Sangha must look elsewhere for funding. And that is internal for now.

Although we wish to sell the donated items on either eBay or Craigslist, permission granted of course, that approach is not dependable nor large enough to cover moving expenses (first and last months' rent etc.).

The board has been discussing KI-FUDA. There are three levels of annual funding and the family plaque is displayed at the level donated. This is a familiar approach and used by many churches to raise money in their congregations.

The board is discussing

WHEN to have this fund drive and WHAT levels to offer. Payments would be available of course my friends.

With our new non-profit tax id number we may be eligible for grants, but that is next year's task.

Asking for money is always difficult and awkward, but it is ever so vital to the life of Choeizan Enkyoji Temple and to ensure that the Temple is here when you need it.

We are most appreciative of those who were enthusiastic to help with the auction, those who donated items, and those who wanted so badly to aid the Temple. To you we say thank you. Perchance in 2014 we will ask for your enthusiasm, your donations and aid in producing a most successful dinner auction.

Look for more information on Ki-Fuda after the board makes its decisions. Thank you for your understanding and support.

## ASK JEN, the Temple Cat

Do you have a Buddhism related question or comment? Just ask Jen the Temple Cat, wise with over 15 years of attending temple. Email Jen at [choeizen.enkyoji.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:choeizen.enkyoji.newsletter@gmail.com).

This month we are pleased to have a Kitty Corner interview with Jen the Temple Cat.

Jen: Meow, welcome to Kitty Corner. I am your host Jen the Temple Cat and today my guests are the lay leaders in training Gabriel Rosman and Quawi Hester. Let's hear a round of meows for our guests! (Loud meows from crowd.)

GR: Thank you!

QH: Glad to be here! (Applause ends.)

Jen: So, you two look like you're auditioning for a part in karate cats, or is it kids? You're not kids are you? Anyway, what is this outfit you are wearing.

GR: "Samu" of samue means daily works of Buddhist monks such as cleaning and wood chopping. The working costumes Buddhist monks wore were called samue, and it is said that the origin of "samue" is the working costume. It used to be worn only the longer length (to the knees) of the tops without the pants. Pants are adopted in order to make it more comfortable and active style later on.

QH: Jen would you like one?

Jen: Is it Prada? (Drum kick.)



Jen: Ok, ok, tell us more about this training you are receiving. Besides fetching my dinner, what else do you do?

QH: We assist our Sensei in conducting the service. We prepare incense, light candles, make the guests and members feel welcome along with gaining knowledge in the Lotus Sutra.

GR: Learning taiko drumming and how to perform different services can be fun.

Jen: Actually, you petting me all day is fun. We on for tomorrow?

GR: Anytime.

Jen: Ok, now then! (GR gets up.)

Jen: Just kidding, sit, sit!

GR: Training may be difficult, like learning Japanese. (Everyone laughs.)

GR: Having your legs fall asleep from sitting so long too.

Jen: What, wait how long do you sit?

QH: I have sat for 15 minutes one time.

Jen: Ha! It takes me 15 minutes to get comfy. Imagine that!

GR: Tea ceremony, tons of culture, lots of diversity. We are proud of where Choeizan Enkyoji Nichiren Shu Temple is headed!

QH: We are making ourselves better, also helping others to make themselves better, it's a challenge but well worth it.

Jen: Honey, sitting on this most comfortable couch, then having to walk all the way over to my food dish is challenging. (Drum kick.)

Jen: But well worth it!

GR: Look at you, you're stunning!

Jen: Thank you darling, it's my Buddha nature! Till next time folks, I'm Jen, these two are going to clean my litter box (points to GR and QH). And we will see you next time on Kitty Corner. Namu Myho Renge Kyo!



## I'M HANAKO, THE OTHER ONE

I am very very shy and most of you have never even seen me. I am the other Temple cat, Hanako, flower girl. I usually hide under the altar up front.

We cats have been a part of Sensei's life since probably 1999 when he was a college student at The University of Buffalo. Sensei was a volunteer walker for the pit bulls and one day asked which cat had been there the longest, 'twere Jen. She crawled up his arm and tried to bite him in the neck, the little blood thirsty vampire! Jen was named by his roommate after the daughter of Karl Marx ... yes, things were certainly different in those days!

Me, well I was part of a litter abandoned in an apartment. When Sensei found me, my mother and all my brothers and sisters had died from bleach laced milk.

Maybe one of these days I will get over being so shy ... but after 14, 15 years I doubt it. If you are ever so quiet and don't move you just might see me!



## Buddhist Sights & Sounds

To get familiar with Buddhist sounds, smells, and other special items, we will highlight some of them in each newsletter.

*Courtesy of Gregg Tralle*

### KANAMARU

A large bell on a cushion, uses the bai striker at a 15° angle on the side opposite the “spot”, using no additional pressure weight than that of the bai.



### CHUKEI

Sensu or fan, adapted from the imperial court and was used as a bai to hit the mokusho—silver side is used for funerals—otherwise the gold side that is used.

## Acknowledgements

### THANK YOU'S:

Thank you to Kazi & Errol, Gollihugh Family, Gregg & Lee, Pam, Penne & Phil, Hobana & David, Mike, Hester Family, Gabriel, Robyn and Baseman Family for donating items to the Temple.

### **Setsubun**

Thank you to the Hester Family for preparing the Oni Masks & researching for Setsubun.

Thank you to Hobana & David for making the goody bags.

Thank you to Pam & Hester Family for making the beans.

Thank you to Q for being the Oni.

We, especially the kids, had a lot of fun!!

### **Shishimai (Lion Dance)**

Thank you to Sensei, Errol, Gabriel, Hester Family, Monica & Minna for helping with the Shishimai events.

We successfully danced at 4 places this winter! Great Job, Sensei, Gabriel & Q for being Shishi & Daikoku!

### **Hari Kuyo**

Thank you Gregg for your grandmother's needles as we add this tradition to the Temple.

### **Hinamatsuri**

Thank you to Gollihugh Family & Gregg & Lee for donating the Hinamatsuri dolls.

We will take good care of them & decorate them every Hinamatsuri. Thank you!

Thank you to the Hester Family for preparing for the Dharma School. The children made Hina Dolls!

### **Chanting Odaimoku**

Thank all of you who chanted the odaimoku hundreds and hundreds of times for the sick.

### **Annual Sangha Meeting**

Thank you to those who attended this important meeting and voted on the new officers.

Thank you 2012 officers for your leadership and dedication.

### **Membership Survey**

Thank you to those who have completed the survey and returned them to the Temple.

Thank you to Gabriel & Q for performing a Lantern Service on 2/24! You Did a Great Job!

Thank you so much to Errol for bringing the Temple items by truck all the way from CA. The Temple looks fantastic! Arigato Gozaimashita!!!

### DONATIONS:

Errol & Kazi Scott—NAP(2)

Hester Family

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

Gabriel Rosman (Quarter)

Hester Family (Month)

Gollihugh Family (Month)

Phil Robbins and Penne Lee (Year)

Robyn Anderson (Quarter)

# *Calendar of Events*

## March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
* Rokusai Nichi (六齋日) is 6 days of fasting and practice observed on the 8th, 14th, 15th, and 23rd and final two days of each lunar month. Solar calendar days are marked below. Members are encouraged to eat vegetarian meals on those days and to fast after the noon meal.					1	2
3 10:30 am Hina Matsuri; Children's Service	4 Rokusai Nichi 10am—2pm Lay Leader Training	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:30am Yakuyoke Ceremony; Board Meeting	11 Rokusai Nichi 11am Hokke Sembo	12	13	14	15	16
17 10:30am Ohigan Service; 11:30am Potluck; 6pm Ballard Service	18 10am—2pm Lay Leader Training	19 Rokusai Nichi 10:30am Precepts Recitation	20	21	22	23
24 10:30am Rikyu Memorial Service; 1pm Reijukai	25 Rokusai Nichi	26 Rokusai Nichi	27	28	29	30 8am—12pm Meditation

## April 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 10:30am Sunday Service; 12pm Street Cleaning	1 10am—2pm Lay Leader Training	2	3	4	5	6
7 10:30am Hanamatsuri; 11:30am Potluck; 1pm Reidan	8 Rokusai Nichi	9 Rokusai Nichi 11am Hokke Sembo	10	11	12	13 10am—12pm API Chaya Workshop
14 10:30am Sunday Service (Precepts); 12pm Wasan Practice	15 10am—2pm Lay Leader Training	16	17	18	19	20 8am—12pm Meditation
21 10:30am Earth Day Service; 6pm Ballard Service	22 10am—2pm Lay Leader Training	23 Rokusai Nichi	24 Rokusai Nichi	25	26	27
28 10:30am Risshu Kaishu-E; 11:30am Quarterly Sangha Meeting	29	30				

## Gifts of Furnishings

We received wonderful new furnishings for our Temple donated by Temples in Japan to the Nichiren Buddhist International Center (NBIC) located in Hayward, CA. They are really beautiful pieces and great additions to the Temple. Errol was kind enough to drive them all the way up from California by truck. A big thank you to him and to the Temples that donated the furnishings.

There are costs outstanding for the truck rental and gas to bring the pieces from California and any **donations** would be greatly appreciated. Please send any donations to the Temple at 501 South Jackson St. #202, Seattle, WA 98104 or through the PayPal link on the right hand side of the main page of our website [www.seattlebuddhist.org](http://www.seattlebuddhist.org). Thank you in advance!!

Kyotsukue Sutra Table



Candle Offering Stand



Incense Offering Table



Raiban Set



### Member Articles Wanted!

Please send in your articles on Buddhism or of your personal experiences in which the practice and teachings have helped you that you would like to share. Articles due **May 1**.

Email: [choeizan.enkyoji.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:choeizan.enkyoji.newsletter@gmail.com)

## Seattle Chōeizan Enkyōji Nichiren Buddhist Temple

Seattle Choeizan Enkyoji Nichiren Buddhist Temple  
501 South Jackson St. #202  
Seattle, WA  
98104

Phone: 206-356-7405

E-mail: [seattlebuddhist@hotmail.com](mailto:seattlebuddhist@hotmail.com)

Newsletter Contact: [choeizen.enkyoji.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:choeizen.enkyoji.newsletter@gmail.com)

Visit us on the web!

[seattlebuddhist.org](http://seattlebuddhist.org)

南無妙法蓮華經  
Namu Myōhō Renge Kyō

If you are interested in placing an advertisement in the newsletter, please contact [choeizan.enkyoji.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:choeizan.enkyoji.newsletter@gmail.com). It is \$10 per ad per newsletter.