On August 12, 2017, at a white supremacist rally, a neo-Nazi drove a car into the crowd, killing one person and injuring 19 other people. It was stark evidence of the dangers we face as Buddhists in today’s world, and to see this incident in Charlottesville, Virginia. I would like to express my deepest sympathies and condolences to the victims’ families and friends.

The action that we witnessed was caused by anger and hatred deriving from a sad American historical background. We, as American citizens and residents, are experiencing the heavy karmic effects of our past history. We should be reminded of the American doctrine that all people are equal as we are as individuals. We should turn to the core values of each individual’s religion or faith to find the way to live harmoniously.

No matter what path we walk, we know that we should not get angry or hate others. We know that we want to love everyone. And at a time like this, we all ask why this happened and how we can stop this type of human behavior.

As Buddha’s teachings were led by Yufuko Kurioka sensei, and staff for their support of education,” wrote another. “Your vision to build stronger communities by assisting teachers and students is very heartening!”

In the first of a proposed series of seminars on Buddhism for the benefit of the general community, the Institute for Buddhist Education sponsored a Dharma Training for School Teachers seminar to introduce Buddhism to elementary school teachers and explore how the Dharma can relate to their daily lives. The seminar took place from July 20-23 at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley. Teachers came from as far away as Hawaii, Washington State, and Arizona, though most were from California. The majority teach grades from middle school through high school. The students they serve range from youth in South Central Los Angeles living below the poverty line to youth in private schools.

Presenting lecturers were the Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto and the Venerable “Bhante” Madawala Seelawimala, both faculty members at the Institute of Buddhist Studies.

“Personally, Bhante’s talks had my mind going (and continues to) as many concepts he spoke of were very new to me,” one teacher commented. “I appreciated Rev. Matsumoto’s talks about wisdom and foolishness, and how the goal is not to be righteous. As a teacher, I think it was meaningful to hear the dharma so I can better person and therefore a better teacher … As for classroom applications, I think there are many ways I already include secular versions of Buddhist virtues/values in the classroom that I will continue to do.”

Personal enrichment sessions, including morning yoga and an interactive lesson on the basics Japanese tea ceremony were led by Yufuko Kurioka Galbraith and David Galbraith of nogattea.com. Rev. Kodo Umezu, BCA Bishop, created the program, which was funded by an anonymous donor. “Bishop Umezu’s will to recognize and support teachers came through clearly in this seminar,” one teacher wrote on her feedback form.

“I truly appreciate all of the sensei and staff for their support of education,” wrote another. “Your vision to build stronger communities by assisting teachers and students is very heartening!”


Since the dedication of the Japanese American National Memorial to Patriotism During World War II in Washington, D.C. on November 9, 2000, the Ekoji Buddhist Temple has conducted a memorial service every Obon in memory of the more than 800 Japanese American soldiers who died in World War II. Their names are engraved on the memorial wall.

The Memorial honors Japanese American veterans who served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, and other units.

The 100th Infantry Battalion/442 RCT, made up of mostly Japanese Americans from Hawaii and the concentration camps on the mainland, became legendary because of their exploits in Europe during World War II. In just 225 days of combat between 1944-45, the 442nd compiled a remarkable record and became the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in American military history.”

Some of these Nisei soldiers were buried in European cemeteries, and their families and descendants are not able to visit the graves of their loved ones during Obon. Therefore, Ekoji Buddhist Temple, located in Lafayette, California, has made it a part of their annual Obon observances to conduct a memorial service here on behalf of all Buddhist Churches of America and Hawaii Kyoan families, and the Japanese American community.

Some time ago, I heard a senior member of the Buddhist Churches of America express with surprise that a long-time resident didn’t even know that a Buddhist church existed in their town. I could see how that happened. Our Buddhist churches and temples have been here for over one hundred years. However, their main purpose had been to care for the welfare of the Japanese immigrants, their families and descendants facing historical and cultural obstacles such as racism, religious intolerance, and language differences. Our ministers and leaders provided whatever was needed in order for their people to continue to pass on the Dharma and live in peace and mutual respect.

I vow not to attain the supreme enlightenment unless the welfare of the Japanese immigrants, their families and descendants is realized.

When I have fulfilled the Buddha-way, My Name shall pervade the ten quarters, If there be any who hear it, I vow not to attain the supreme enlightenment.

Although the Buddha is always with us, the church, if we do not recognize the Buddha, does not become the Buddha. It is like the mutual recognition between a mother and her child when the child calls our, “Mother.”

Amida Buddha appears in this world of samsara** as the Name, Namo Amida Butsu,*** because Amida wants us to recognize his presence and call his Name. Our True Friend has spoken to each and every one of us through the Name. However, it is neither empty nor meaningless. It is powerful and effective working for all who call his Name. It destroys our ego and our attachment to the self. It breaks our massive ego. It takes us to our True and Real Home. Therefore, the Name itself is Amida Buddha; the activity of the infinite compassion and wisdom. To call the Name of Amida is to hear, recognize and praise his profound teaching of the Name. It is indeed a called and response.

The First of September is the founding day of the Buddhist Churches of America. It was called the Buddhist Mission of North America at the time. Let us express our deepest appreciation to the founding members and leaders of our organization. And let’s be a little more proactive in letting people know that we are here and would like to share the Dharma with everyone.

Namo Amida Butsu.

** Jujong: Three Sacred Vows
***samsara: eternal cycles of birth, suffering, death, and rebirth

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Watsonville Buddhist Temple

On July 6, 1907, the Watsonville Hongwanji Buddhist Church was officially organized by community leaders. It was founded by Rev. Kenichi Watanabe with four years on the coast. The temple was opened on September 8, 1907 at a lot that was purchased, and construction of the first temple was completed in November 1908.

Between 1919 and 1930, four neighboring houses were bought as rental properties. Official church buildings behind the temple to provide low-cost housing for seniors. A bell tower building was completed in 1981. The watsonville Buddhist Temple will observe its 110-year Celebration on November 4, 2017.

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Can the Nembutsu Help with Our World Issues?

In this issue of the Wheel of Dharma you will read an article on the beginnings of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA). The BCA was born in an American concentration camp at a time when the nation was sharply focused on people of Japanese descent. In addition to seeing the same fires of hatred, greed, and ignorance fanned at home, Americans suffered the threat of nuclear war in Asia. This paper examines the BCA’s role as a service to reflect upon the issues of the time.

Twice a year we dedicate a service to reflect upon the season’s changing natural and physical world by observing Spring or Fall O-higan (お彼岸). This is followed by an offer to write about the events of the preceding six months. Transitioning from the heat of summer to the cool of autumn provokes thoughts of both need and forbearance which will surely arise in us through spontaneous working.

The radiance of enlightenment, in its brilliance, transcends all limits; thus Amida is called “Buddha of Light of Purity.” Once illuminated by this light, we are freed from karmic defilements and attain emancipation.

— Hymns of the Pure Land 99 (Collected Works of Shinran, p. 336)

Namo Amida Butsu.

No Boundaries

By Rev. Ronald Kobata, Buddhist Church of San Francisco

On Thursday, July 6, 2017, Rev. Daiei Kaneko, Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America, conferred Buddhist names on 13 members of the BCA Youth Advocacy Committee (YAC) Summer Retreat during their visit to the Buddhist Church of San Francisco.

Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani to visit Hawaii Kyodan

On June 4, 2014, His Eminence Monsuh Ohtani assumed the position as the 25th Monshu (head priest) of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA). During that time, he began traveling throughout Japan, making official visits to the 38 districts from Hawaii, Canada, and the Buddhist Churches of America. For many years, Dr. Bloom served a distinguished career at the University of Hawaii as Professor of Religion. Upon retirement, he came to Berkeley and was appointed as Senior Fellow of the Institute of Buddhists Studies from 1986 to 1998. Dr. Bloom also received Tokado ordination from the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji sect, followed by Kyodai certification in 1992 and was designated as a Kaikyoshi in 1994.

On September 3, 2017, funeral services were held at the Orange County Buddhist Church in 1974 and formally served the Orange County Buddhist Church in 1977. Since 1977, he has been the president of the Buddhist Churches of America.

In 1990, Dr. Bloom received Tokado ordination from the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji sect, followed by Kyodai certification in 1992 and was designated as a Kaikyoshi in 1994. Dr. Bloom was awarded the Institute of Buddhist Studies’ President’s Award in 2016 for his extraordinary support of the IBS.

Funeral services for Dr. Bloom were held at the Hoopa Hawaiian Buddhist Church on September 2, 2017.
Memories of the 2017 Young Buddhist International Exchange

By Trevor Yokoyama, Seattle Betsuin

Before participating in the Young Buddhists’ International Cultural Study Exchange (YBICSE) program, I had yet to realize the profound effect that Jodo Shinshu Buddhism has had upon my life. For me, growing up Buddhist was always fairly simple: going to church on Sundays, chanting Namo, going to Dharma School and YBA [Young Buddhists’ Association] and occasionally saying Namo Amida Butsu whenever I killed a bug. However, going to Japan and meeting fellow Buddhists from around the world as well as learning about the history of our religion has allowed me to gain a deeper appreciation for being a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist.

For those of you who don’t know, YBICSE is a program in which young Jodo Shinshu Buddhists travel to the Nishi Hongwanji for a 10-day retreat in which they learn about and experience Buddhism in Japan. Our group had a total of 35 participants from Hawaii, Canada, Brazil, and mainland America. For the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) participants, six days were spent in Kyoto, three days at a home-stay in Osaka, and a day trip to Hiroshima. Furthermore, after the program ended, our group spent an additional two days in Tokyo.

For many of the participants in YBICSE, this was a trip of “firsts.” A large number of participants had never traveled to Japan nor had they had the chance to visit the Nishi Hongwanji. However, any anxiety that our group possessed was resolved after the first day of the program. Meeting the other participants was an experience that I will always cherish. I thought that it was wonderful how, although from different countries, Buddhism had allowed us to meet and befriend one another. I would often reflect upon this notion throughout the trip as I traveled to other temples and my homestay.

Staying at the Hongwanji was both educational and enjoyable. It is a very surreal feeling to go to morning service at the Hongwanji. As Rev. Endo pointed out to us, our BCA churches have gone through a bit of “Americanization” as our Honso (main hall of the temple) are more narrow than wide, and have pews. Although different, I felt at ease during service and we all found service to be a wonderful, albeit early, start to our mornings.

I think that the highlight of the week for everyone was the homestays in Osaka. We were assigned to different Temples throughout the area and our homestay families quickly became extensions of our own families. All of us were stuffed full of food, (souvenirs) omiyage and memories over those three days, and we all treasure our time there.

Our whole group encourages anyone who is eligible to take part in the YBICSE program. We have all gained wonderful friends, memories and stories that will hold dear for the rest of our lives. I would also like to thank everyone involved with YBICSE program. We have all gained wonderful friends, memories and stories that we will hold dear for the rest of our lives. We would also like to thank everyone involved with YBICSE program. We have all gained wonderful friends, memories and stories that we will hold dear for the rest of our lives.

100th Birthday Tribute to George Aratani

Sunday, October 1, 2017 from 1-4 p.m.

Aratani Theatre, 244 S. Pedro St., Los Angeles, CA

George Aratani was a great Japanese American Nisei. He was a man of humility, compassion, fortitude, and courage who practiced his Buddhist principles by caring for all human beings, an innovator who founded two international companies: Mikasa & Co. and Kenwood Electronics.

Buddhist principles by caring for all human beings; an innovator George Aratani was a great Japanese American

YBICSE group at the Hongwanji Headquarters

Tickets available at JACCC Aratani Theatre or online at Aratani100.eventbrite.com

Early Bird ticket: $25 per person Early Bird group of 10 or more: $22 per person After September 20, ticket prices go up to $33 and $30 for 10 or more

To become a sponsor or place an ad in George Aratani souvenir program booklet, please contact Hoshina Seki at info@ambuddhist.org or call 914-393-6510

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www.ambuddhist.org

September 23 ~ Fifth Annual Women in Buddhism Conference, Buddhist Paths: Women’s Choices. 9:30 am - 3:30 pm, Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple, 1427 S. Main St., Seattle, WA. Speakers: Rev. Carol Hamaka, Rev. Candice Shibata, and Prof. Kyoko Tokuno. Registration is $30 for students with ID, all others $45. For details, visit sattbiotem.org.

September 23 ~ “Just As You Are: Being LGBTIQ and Buddhism” will be held at the Pasadena Buddhist Temple, 2-5 pm. Free admission; all are welcome. RSVP at PasadenaBuddhistTemple.com.

Sept. 26-29 ~ West & East Hong(w)anji Overseas Propagation Exchange (WEHOPE) and Ministers’ Continuing Education (MCE) Seminar. Nishi and Higashi ministers meet, study, and dialogue together.

2017 WEHOPE DHARMATHON

A series of Dharma messages September 27, 7:15 pm & September 28, 4:15 pm Free & Open to the Public at the JSC, 2140 Durant Ave., Berkeley

September 30 ~ Fall Japanese Seminar. Dharma talks in Japanese by ministers participating in the WEHOPE gathering.

October 1 & October 6-8 ~ Ohana Arts presents “Peace On Your Wings,” a new musical inspired by the life of Sadako Sasaki. Performance at the Cowell Theatre at Fort Mason, San Francisco on October 1 at 2 pm and 7:30 pm, and at the Hammer Theatre in San Jose from October 6 – 8 at 7:30 pm, with 2 pm matinees on Saturday and Sunday. For ticket information, visit peaceonyourwings.com. See article on page 6.

October 12-14 ~ Fall Minister’s Assistant Program (MAP) Seminar. Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto (IBS) will lecture on chapters 15 & 16 of Tanno, Dr. Natalie Quli (IBS) will lecture on Diversity and Intersectionality in the Buddhist Bay Area, and Rev. Sala Sekiya (Garuda) will teach chanting and liturgy.

November 18 ~ “Rainbow of Infinite Life: LGBTIQ in Shin Buddhism” will be held at the Seattle Buddhist Temple from 9 am to 3 pm. Tickets are $40 General and $20 Students. Visit sattbiotem.org or see LGBTIQ article on page 5 for more information.

December 7-9 ~ Winter Minister’s Assistant Program (MAP) Seminar. Dr. Mark Blum (UC Berkeley) will lecture on Tanno chapters 17, 18, and epilogue, Rev. Harry Bridge (Oakland) will teach chanting and liturgy.

BuddhistChurchesOfAmerica.org cbe@bcahq.org (510) 809-1460
### BCA Education News & Highlights - Live a Real Life!

**2017 LGBTQ Pride Events**

This year, in addition to ongoing participation in Pride Parades by the New York Buddhist Church, the Buddhist Church of San Francisco, and other Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Sanghas, we received additional reports which we have excerpted below:

#### Southern District

“Isho-ni: Being One in Flavor” was the name of the seminar hosted by the Ganekana Buddhist Church on June 17 to discuss and understand the difficulties in making a temple a safe place that does not exclude anyone, and in particular, people of the LGBTQ community.

Initially, several persons were asked to serve on a panel but all declined due to personal circumstances of not feeling safe enough to openly participate. This situation resulted in the 50 attendees having an open discussion, followed by a role-playing activity emphasizing the realities of revealing someone’s sexual orientation to family, community, and sangha.

At the conclusion of the afternoon, all were encouraged to go back to their temples to work towards making them safe and welcoming places for LGBTQ persons to come to and hear the Dharma. The next Isho- ni Seminar will be scheduled in 2018.

**Just As You Are: Being LGBTQ and Buddhist**: A Community Conversation will be held at the Pasadena Buddhist Temple on Saturday, September 23 from 2-5 pm. Admission is free and all are welcome. Visit PasadenaBuddhistTemple.org for more information and to RSVP.

#### Northwest District

Innovated by conversations with the Seattle Dharma School parents during a Dharma exchange, 100 members from the Northwest District participated in the Seattle Pride Parade, held this year on June 25.

Several weeks prior to the Parade, several dharma talks were given by Northwest ministers sharing the Shing message in regard to the practice of inclusiveness in our Sanghas. At the Pride Parade, where a festive atmosphere was the theme, the Northwest members danced to “Shiawase Samba” and “Tanko Bushi” as they were accompanied by Seattle Matsuri Taiko.

“Rainbow of Infinite Life: LGBTQ in Shin Buddhism Seminar” will be held at the Seattle Buddhist Temple Betsuin on Saturday, November 18 from 10 am - 3 pm. Tickets are $40 General and $20 Students. Visit seattlebetsuin.org for more information, sponsored by the BCA Center for Buddhist Education and Seattle Buddhist Temple Betsuin.

### BCA Bookstore News

By Gayle Noguchi

Now available: **What Do You Do with a Problem?** and the award-winning **What Do You Do with an Idea?** written by Kobi Yamada, illustrated by Mae Besom. Both available in hardback, $16.95 each.

Have you ever felt overwhelmed by a problem? Have you wished it would just go away or that you could hide from it? *What Do You Do with a Problem?* is a charming story about a young boy who is plagued by a persistent problem. At first, he doesn’t know what to make of it and he tries desperately to avoid it. However, he eventually finds the courage within himself to face it and, in doing so, he unexpectedly discovers something beautiful. Of course, as Buddhists we recognize that life is full of suffering. What Do You Do with an Idea? is a recipient of the Independent Publisher Book Awards, recognizing excellence in independent publishing.

To purchase, go to buddhistchurchesamerica.org and click on the BCA Bookstore link, or contact gnoguchi@bcahq.org or 510-809-1435. The BCA Bookstore is located in the Jodo Shinshu Center at 2140 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94704. Open Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Like us Facebook.

**“A Special Place” Summer Dharma School at BCSF**

For two weeks in June, 17 students practiced Buddhism, crafted, cooked, and made new friends at “A Special Place!” Summer Dharma School sponsored by the Buddhist Church of San Francisco. While more than half the students came from non-Buddhist backgrounds, “Golden Chain,” “Nembutsu,” and other Jodo-Shinshu teachings were familiar to all by the end of the session. The program was supervised by Rev. Ron Kobata, with assistance from Minister’s Assistant Elaine Donlin and program directors Nanayo Silver, Arlene Kimata, and BJ Soriano.

“Nenju, you should hold it in your left hand. If you’re wearing a wrist-style nenju, you should wear it on your left wrist.”

### “Our Jodo Shinshu Traditions”

#### Nenju or Juzu?

What is the difference with these strands of beads? Some people call them “nenju” and others call them “juzu.” Are they the same?

In some Buddhist traditions and other religious traditions, the “nenju” or “juzu” is used for counting how many times a person recites something. In the Chinese characters for juzu, “ji” means “counter” and “zu” means “beads.” However, in our Shin tradition, since we do not use the beads as an aid for meditation or chanting, we should refer to it as a “nenju”: nen (mindful or thinking) + ji (beads) = beads to keep us mindful of the Buddha.

The traditional strand of the nenju have 108 beads, but today, most lay members have an abbreviated version with fewer beads for easier carrying. The number of beads is insignificant. However, traditionally, the number of beads on shorter strands have been in numbers evenly divisible into 108 (usually 54 or 27). Different denominations and traditions have different styles and tastes.

When carrying the nenju, you should hold it in your left hand. If you’re wearing a wrist-style nenju, you should wear it on your left wrist.
**“Be the Refuge”: Reflections on Gratitude & Gratitude, Suffering & Spiritual Friendship**

*By Chenxing Han, MA (Class of 2014)*

During my three years as a student here at IBS, I periodically read Carl Bielefeldt’s documentation of the dharma design. I found his work particularly inspiring, as it provided a way to connect with the dharma in a meaningful way. His books are written in a simple and accessible manner, making them perfect for any level of practitioner. I would highly recommend his work to anyone interested in learning more about the dharma and its application to everyday life.

**Butsu Batsu**

*By Brian Kenso Nagata, Managing Editor*

On behalf of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA), I would like to congratulate BCA Bishop, the Rev. Kodo Umezu, for his recent appointment as the 25th Head Priest of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha institution.

The numerous services marking the Commemo-
raions of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition started in 2016, with the last event in May 2017. At that time BCA President Ken Tanimoto offered a celebrity gift of a sum of money, which was well over $87,000 and is increasing monthly. Your offering in honor of the 125th Anniversary of America reflects the important contributions of Shinsin Shonin’s legacy and promises to continue toward future generations.

We thank you again for your acts of kindness and continuing support in making Jodo Shinshu a worldwide religious tradition of peace and tranquility.

Gasso,

Ken Tanimoto, President,
Buddhist Churches of America

Rev. Kodo Umezu, Bishop,
Buddhist Churches of America

—Brian Kenso Nagata

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**Gratitude, Suffering & Spiritual Friendship**

By Chenxing Han, MA (Class of 2014)

On October 1 in San Francisco

Peace on Your Wings

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**Acknowledgments**

**Editor’s Note:** This is the third of three parts. Parts one and two appeared in the July and August issues, respectively.

—Brian Kenso Nagata, Managing Editor

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**Peace on Your Wings**

—Chenxing Han, MA (Class of 2014)
光お顔巍巍

オックスナード仏教会開教使 渡辺正憲

去年から体調を崩し、今、仕事を減らしてもらいながら治療を受けています。BCA開教使としてオックスナードに来て以来、約4年、駆け足で勤めてきました。その疲れがここにきて出てきたようです。少し休みをいただいている間に、治療に専念するとともに、今まで忙しくてできなかったことをしています。特に、自分自身の精神的な栄養が不足していたので、読もうと思っていた本を読んでいます。久しぶりに青木新門さんの『納棺夫日記』を読み返しました。この本を初めて読んだのは、開教使になる前で、人に勧められて手に取り、目をつぶっておきながら、探し出し、じっと見つめ、じっと読むのを続け、しかし一度開いた扉は再び閉じられ、紙を閉じたまままるで時を忘れて、顔を伏せて涙がこぼれたのを覚えています。青木さんは、富山出身で、家の宗教も浄土真宗ということもあり、ご自身の体験、納棺の仕事だけでなく、幼少時の満州での弟妹の死の経験から、深く親鸞聖人の教えを味わっており、『納棺夫日記』の後半ではそのことについて書かれている。親鸞聖人が『大無量寿経』を“真実の教え”と確信したのは、そのお経の中に、"お釈迦さまのお顔が光り輝いていた(光顔巍巍)"とあり、親鸞聖人もその"光"を実体験したからに違いないと述べられています。青木さんは僧侶ではないので、批判も覚悟でこのように書かれたと思います。しかし、少なくとも私には、理屈でなく心で頷けるものがありました。それは、私自身も、広島の自坊(家族の寺)の前住職である亡くなった祖母の顔に“光”を見たという強い感覚が残っているからです。

祖母は89歳で去り、彼女は病院で1年前から臓器不全でさらに後年は多病体弱で病院生活を送でした。しかし、転倒したのをきっかけに入院し、最後は脳腫瘍の為に病院で去りました。祖母は、祖父の後妻になるので血のつながりはありませんでしたが、非常にかわいがってもらい、そしていつも私のことを心配してくれて、毎日のように「お孫さん、大丈夫か」と口にするようになったことです。祖母の影響で仏門に入った自分としては、何か裏切られたような気持ちがしました。しかし、見舞いに訪れた門徒さんや仲間の僧侶たちとの交流を通して、最後は、言葉をうまく発せられなかったはずの口から、南無阿弥陀仏がほっきりと2回出て亡くなったのです。病院から寺に遺体が運ばれて、私もすぐに駆け付けました。門徒さん達に助けて貰って、祖母の遺体の整理を手伝いました。その後、門徒さん達と協力して、祖母の墓参を行いました。

青少年たちが京都で学ぶ

7月11日から19日の9日間、京都の本山で青少年国際研修団のプログラムが行われた。同プログラムは2年ごと開催されており、北米、カナダ、ハワイ、南米の四教区の青少年が集う。北米教区からは15名が参加。宇宿パトリシア開教使(サンフェルナンド)と遠藤マイケル師(本部)が引率した。本願寺では、ご門主さまとのご面接に加え、御堂や書院の見学、比叡山など御旧跡への参拝、学習会などで浄土真宗に親しみをもった。一行は広島を訪れて平和学習の機会を得たほか、大阪、滋賀、兵庫の寺院へのホームステイや平安高校での交流会を通じて、日本の生活や考え方を学んだ。参加者は「お晨朝の雰囲気がよかったです。何百年も続く伝統を肌に感じ、本場の浄土真宗を学ぶことができました。以前にも増して親鸞聖人の教えに興味がわいてきたので、これからも熱心にお寺に参りたいと思います。」と将来のBCAを担う人材を育てるよい研修となった。

8月20日にシアトル近郊でシアトル別院とタコマ仏教会の親善ソフトボール試合が開催された。シアトル別院輪番、楠開教使とタコマ仏教会の柿原開教使は京都の中央仏教学院の同窓生。二人が在学中の2006年、同校主催のソフトボール大会決勝で対戦し、楠開教使が優勝を飾りました。試合は、子供を中心としたチーム編成で試合が行われた。息詰まる投手戦の中、2対2の同点で迎えた最終回7回の表、チームタコマが3点をリードする。チームシアトルも粘りを見せて、その裏2点を返すが、一歩及ばず。5対4でチームタコマが第一試合を勝利する。第二試合は、大人中心のチーム編成で行われた。初回に、猛攻を見せたチームタコマがいきなり8点を先取する。それでもあきらめないチームシアトルは、徐々に追い上げていく。最終回には、楠開教使が、ライトを守る柿原開教使の頭を超える予告ホームランを放って一矢報いるも反撃もそこまで。15対10でチームタコマが連勝を飾った。激闘を繰り広げた両チームの選手は、試合後、トーストを交えて喜びを表現した。なお、その日のシアトル別院でのサンデーサービスは、12月末で任期を終え日本へ帰国する柿原開教使にとって、シアトル別院で法話をする最後の機会となった。シアトル別院のメンバーは、シアトル別院の輪番代理も務めた柿原開教使に口々に感謝の意を述べていた。

門信徒の皆様へのお礼

米国仏教団を代表して、大谷光順さま（専如上人）の浄土真宗本願寺派第25代目主ご就任にあたり、お祝いを送ってくださいましたBCA会員の皆様に感謝申し上げます。

2016年から2017年5月にかけて京都の本願寺において伝燈奉告法要が執り行われ、米国仏教団総長、梅津広道と理事長、谷本ケンが皆様から送っていただいたお祝いをご門主にお届けいたしました。お祝いは8月の時点で約8万7千ドルをいただいており、いまだその額は増え続けております。皆様の貴重なご懇意は親鸞聖人から受け継いだ喜びと感謝を、将来の浄土真宗門徒へとつなげていくことになります。

ご門主へのお祝いを送っていただきましたこと、また浄土真宗が安穏なる世界の実現に向けて貢献できるよう継続してサポートしてくださること、重ねて御礼申し上げます。
8月22日から24日の三日間、ネバダ州リノにおいて開教使布教研究会および開教使会議が開催された。北カリフォルニア教区の主催で会場はシルバーレガシーホテル。布教研究会のテーマは「Knowing Myself 唯識」で講師に立教大学名誉教授の横山紘一師を招いた。横山師は現在NHK「こころの時代」で唯識のシリーズに出演しているほか、「唯識、わが心の構造」などの著書がよく知られている。参加者は「従来は唯識の英訳がmind onlyやconsciousness onlyでしたが、横山先生のrepresentation onlyという訳のおかげで、唯識の意味がわかりやすくなりました。」と理解を深めた。講義は日本語で行われ、アダムス・ヘンリー開教使(サンマテオ)とワンドラ睦開教使(オレンジ郡)が通訳をつとめた。23日には布教研究会の会場はリノ市所在の浄土真宗東本願寺派の寺院、リノブッディストセンターへ移動。リノ市近郊に住むプラサー仏教会会員が毎月の法話会を同寺院の本堂を借りて行っており、布教研究会のご縁に、法話会を開いた。リノ法話会会員に加え、リノブッディストセンターの会員が多く参詣し、梅津総長による法話に耳をすませた。開教使会議では、10月から始まる新しい403bプランの説明に加え、開教使アシスタントの役割や呼称などについての話し合いが行われた。次回は西北部教区の主催で、オレゴン州ポートランドで開催される予定。

8月18日から20日の三日間、浄土真宗センターにおいて夏のパシフィックセミナーが開催された。テーマは「Shin Buddhism: Current Challenges and Future Prospect (現代における浄土真宗と将来の展望)」で、世界に弘まっていきつつある浄土真宗の動きを紹介するにあたり、四ヶ国からゲストスピーカーを招いた。基調講演はオーストラリア在住の本願寺派僧侶、パラスケヴォポラス・ジョン師がつとめた。パラスケヴォポラス師は「Call of the Infinite: The Way of Shin Buddhism」などの著書のほか、ウェブサイトの「Journal of Shin Buddhism (Muryoko)」を通じて真宗の教えを広く伝えている。ブラジルからはブラジリア本願寺門徒のカンポス・タイスさん、イギリスから英国シンブディストフェローシップ会員のクゥアーク・ソーントン・デイビッドさん、ネパールからアシュマ・ウマ・ラマ・グシンさんらが招かれ、それぞれの地域での布教、伝道の様子を語った。セミナーの参加人数は70名を超え、好評を博した。参加者は「今までのCBEのイベントの中で最もエキサイティングなイベントでした。お念仏の教えが人種、国、文化を超えてダイナミックに伝わっている姿をまさに感じとりました。真宗の未来、ひいては世界の未来は明るいように思えました。」とお念仏の教えが広く受け入れられていることを喜んだ。尚、開教使アシスタントのセミナーと英語通信教育のスクーリングも共同開催され、20日の朝のサービスではハワイ開教区の開教使で英語通信教育の添削指導員でもある広中愛師が、自らのハワイ赴任時の言葉や文化での苦労話を織り交ぜた大変味わい深いご法話された。