VOLUME 44 • ISSUE 10 OCTOBER 2022

buddhistchurchesofamerica.org

WHEEL OF DHARMA

Official Publication of the Buddhist Churches of America

Candidates react as Kristine Yada, right, is announced as the 2022 Nisei Week Queen. Shown, from left, are: Emily Kumagai, Faith Nishimura, Lorie Meza and Amanda Hirashi (Courtesy of Mario Gershom Reyes/Rafu Shimpo)

OCBC's Kristine Yada Crowned Nisei Week Queen

Pasadena's Lorie Meza Is Princess; LA Betsuin's Brianne Yasukochi Was First Princess in 2021

By Ralph Honda
Buddhist Temple of San Diego
and **Gwen Muranaka**
Rafu Shimpo Senior Editor

Kristine Emiko Yada, who was crowned Nisei Week Queen before an Aug. 13 cheering crowd at the Aratani Theater in Los Angeles, has deep and extensive ties as a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist with the Orange County Buddhist Church.

Yada, 23, and her family are dedicated members of OCBC.

In addition, Lorie Meza, 23, a princess on this year's Court, and her family, are members of the Pasadena Buddhist Temple.

Brianne Yasukochi, 27, served as first princess on the 2021 Court. Both her father's and mother's families have strong historical connections with the Los Angeles Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple and Vista Buddhist Temple, respectively.

Kristine Yada is embraced by her family, who are active members of the Orange County Buddhist Church. Shown, from left, are sister Courtney, father Frank, mother Joyce and sister Kellie Yada. (Courtesy of Mario Gershom Reyes/Rafu Shimpo)

"Being Jodo Shinshu allows you to process the Nisei Week experience a lot differently," Yada said. "I always have a deep gratitude of interdependence and the underlying value of the

Continued on Page 6

In Historic First, Buddhist Pennant Flies on Navy Ship

BCA-Endorsed Chaplain Calls Dharma Service 'Special Moment'

Editor's note: This article is from a U.S. Navy media release from Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Kerri Kline, USS McFaul Public Affairs.

In a historic first, the Buddhist banner flew aboard a U.S. Navy ship on Sept. 11 on the guided-missile destroyer USS McFaul (DDG 74) in the Atlantic Ocean, the U.S. Navy announced.

The newest official U.S. Navy pennant flew in observance of the Buddhist Dharma service held aboard McFaul and led by Navy Chaplain Lt. Saejeong Kim. The Buddhist Churches of American (BCA) endorses the Buddhist

Continued on Page 10

Obon Begins — in Humboldt

San Jose Rinban Rev. Sakamoto Officiates Inaugural Event

By Dennis Akizuki
San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin

It had the familiar sights and sounds of an Obon: the booming of taiko, the smell of cooking food and the joyful dancing to Bon classics like "Tanko Bushi" and "Obon no Uta."

But the origin of the inaugural Humboldt Obon wasn't from a Buddhist temple. Instead, the Aug. 14 festival that attracted a crowd of up to 800 people in downtown Arcata blossomed from a new Asian American Pacific Islander community, with an assist from San Jose Taiko.

Continued on Page 8

Growing Up and With the Sangha

Young Buddhists Nicole and Megan Doi Will Run Workshop at FBWA Conference

Editor's note: Nicole, Stephanie, and Megan Doi grew up attending the Buddhist Church of Stockton (BCS) with their parents. Nicole is 30, Stephanie is 27, and Megan is 24. They recently rejoined the BCS as individual members. Nicole and Megan Doi will be facilitating a workshop on "Stories of the Sangha: Cultivating Grassroots Growth Through Storytelling" at the virtual FBWA Conference on Oct. 14-16.

By Nicole, Stephanie and Megan Doi
Buddhist Church of Stockton

Some of our earliest memories are of our Sundays in Stockton. When we were little, church was a place where we made beaded nenjus, learned how to dance Obon odoris, constructed our own Obutsudans and made lifelong friends.

While there were Buddhist churches that were closer, our family made the hour-long drive each week because our grandparents were active members of the Buddhist Church of Stockton (BCS).

Our Obaachan, Aiko Yagi, and late Ojiichan, Peter Yagi, had always been active at church. Our Ojiichan was Stockton's president for a few years and in his year-end

Continued on Page 10

Buddhist Church of Stockton Sangha members Nicole and Megan Doi will facilitate a workshop at the FBWA Conference on Oct. 14-16. Shown, from left, are Nicole, Stephanie, and Megan Doi. (Courtesy of Megan Doi)

BISHOP'S MESSAGE

The Meaning and Importance of 'Nyo-Ze-Ga-Mon'

By Rev. Marvin Harada
Bishop of the BCA

Our Buddhist sutras start with four Chinese characters that are pronounced, "Nyo-Ze-Ga-Mon," which have been translated as, "Thus have I heard."

They are the words of one of the Buddha's disciples, usually Ananda, who was relating to the Buddha's followers what he remembered Shakyamuni Buddha to have stated on that particular occasion. The fourth character, "Mon," means "to listen," or "to hear." This is a most important part of Buddhism, but especially in our Shin Buddhist tradition, it becomes even more central. Our tradition is one of listening, of hearing.

Ananda is relating the teachings, the truth of the Dharma that he not only heard, but what hit his heart. Contained in the words that he relates is something beyond words, something very deep and profound.

Shinran Shonin, in the same manner, shared in his writings the teachings that hit his heart and mind. He shared countless passages from sutras and commentaries, not because he was trying to show off what a great scholar he was or what a great memory that he had, but he quoted the passages that resonated with him, the passages that he "heard" deeply in his heart and being.

Rev. Haya Akegarasu, in his commentary on the Larger Sutra, talks about these words, "Nyo-ze-ga-mon," and he says that "We must never forget the importance of hearing." It is not, "I'm going to make you listen to this, but it is 'I heard.' The path of Buddhism is not to make others hear, but it is to hear for oneself."

He also shares something that his teacher, Rev. Manshi Kiyozawa, used to tell his students. He used to say, "Don't sermonize! When ministers sermonize, Buddhism dies! Just listen. Hear. When you listen, then Buddhism prospers."

Those are harsh words for we who are ministers. What, don't sermonize? Aren't we supposed to give sermons? I think what Kiyozawa Sensei was saying was that as ministers, our sermons are not supposed to be messages like, "You should be this way or that way, or you are wrong on this or wrong on that."

Instead, he was pointing to a way of giving sermons by sharing what one has "heard" deeply in one's heart and mind. We should be sharing the teachings, the words of our teachers and masters that hit our heart. In that sense, we are always listeners, and students, rather than being experts and in a "teaching" posture.

In that sense, it is almost like a Zen Koan, in that we should give a sermon without sermonizing, or to teach without being a teacher.

Shinran Shonin always had this posture of being a listener, of being a recipient of the teachings, of even being a recipient of the heart of the Buddha, which he calls "shinjin."

I remember Rev. Tets Unno once said in a lecture that we should listen to the Dharma with the same attitude as if we are hearing the results of our biopsy from our doctor.

Maybe some of you have experienced that already. You had a biopsy done and now your doctor is going to give you the results of that biopsy. If it is malignant, then that is like hearing a death sentence by a judge. If it is benign, then you are safe. It is not cancer. Now you have a new life. No one would listen to such words from your doctor as you are reading your email on your phone or are daydreaming about something and are half listening. Wouldn't we be on the edge of our seat, waiting to hear the results from our doctor? Rev. Unno was saying that is the kind of attitude we should have when we listen to the Dharma.

May we listen to the Dharma with such sincerity, such conviction, such urgency, and when we do, we will come to receive the Dharma and be able to say for ourselves, "Nyo-Ze-Ga-Mon." Thus have I heard.

JSIO Offering Historic Tour of Japan in 2023

Trip to Honor Shinran Shonin's 850th Birth, 800th Anniversary of Jodo Shinshu

Jodo Shinshu International Office

The Jodo Shinshu International Office (JSIO) is offering a historic tour of Japan in May 2023 to coincide with the 850th anniversary of Shinran Shonin's birth and the 800th anniversary of the founding of Jodo Shinshu.

The tour, which is open to JSIO participants and graduates as well as Sangha members in the BCA, Hawaii, Canada and elsewhere, will be for 10 days from May 9-18. It will include a visit to the Hongwanji Temple in Kyoto, as well as other sites of historical significance in Shinran Shonin's life. The deadline to register is Oct. 31.

The cost will include hotel fare, transportation, English-speaking guides within Japan, breakfasts, some lunches and dinners, entry fees, and temple donations.

For more details about the tour agreement and to register, go to the online registration site at: https://web.cvent.com/event/a0533780-766c-4d27-9e51-b8c1bf-bab2db/summary

Since participants live around the world, the tour cost will not include airfare, and tour participants may fly to Japan on any airline and from any airport. However, if you live in the United States and would prefer to travel with JSIO staff from San Francisco International Airport (SFO) or Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) to Japan, please contact JSIO.

If you travel by yourself and need a ride between the airport and hotel, please let JSIO know. Kintetsu International Express can arrange a ride, and the ride is not included in the tour cost.

The tour will be limited to 36 people and the minimum group size will be 15 people. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, changes to the itinerary and destinations may be made.

Nishi Hongwanji Temple in Kyoto, Japan, is the headquarters of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha. It will be on the tour of historic sites associated with the life of Shinran Shonin.

FYI

For more information about JSIO Japan Tour 2023 and to register for the tour by the Oct. 31 deadline, go to: https://web.cvent.com/event/a0533780-766c-4d27-9e51-b8c1bf-bab2db/summary

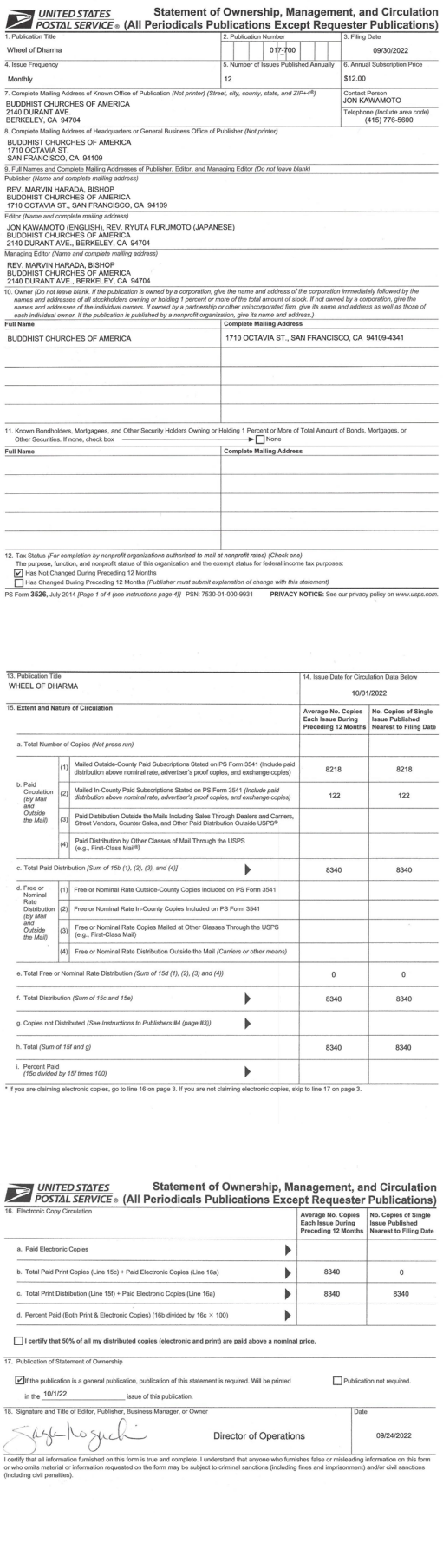
The JSIO Japan Tour 2023 schedule is at follows:

- On the morning of May 10, there will be a study session covering the various sites on the trip. In the afternoon, participants will attend a commemorative service. After the service, the group will tour Shoin Chamber and Hiunkaku Pavilion, which are National Treasures on the Hongwanji grounds.
- On May 11, the group will visit the historical and imperial-lineage affiliated Shoren-In Temple, where Shinran Shonin received his ordination at the age of 9. There will also be an opportunity to visit Rokkakudo Temple, where Shinran Shonin meditated for 100 days and saw a vision of Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara, who told him to seek out Honen Shonin.

The tour group will visit An'yoji Temple in Maruyama Park, where Shinran Shonin first encountered the Nembutsu teaching of Honen Shonin, and also Chion-In Temple, which is also connected to Honen Shonin. Participants will also pay their respects at Otani Hombyo Mausoleum, where Shinran Shonin's ashes are interred. In addition, the group will see the final resting place of thousands of Jodo Shinshu followers who are buried near Shinran Shonin's memorial.

- On May 12, the group will enter the holy grounds of Mount Hiei, the historical center of Japanese Buddhist learning during Shinran Shonin's lifetime.
- From Kyoto, the tour group will travel to Kanazawa city in Ishikawa by bullet train on May 13, and will go sightseeing.
- On May 14, participants

Continued on Page 8



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® **Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)**

1. Publication Title	2. Publication Number	3. Filing Date
Wheel of Dharma	017-700	09/30/2022
4. Issue Frequency	5. Number of Issues Published Annually	6. Annual Subscription Price
Monthly	12	$12.00

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®): BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA, 2140 DURANT AVE., BERKELEY, CA 94704 — Contact Person: JON KAWAMOTO — Telephone (Include area code): (415) 776-5600

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA, 1710 OCTAVIA ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)

Publisher (Name and complete mailing address): REV. MARVIN HARADA, BISHOP, BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA, 1710 OCTAVIA ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109

Editor (Name and complete mailing address): JON KAWAMOTO (ENGLISH), REV. RYUTA FURUMOTO (JAPANESE), BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA, 2140 DURANT AVE., BERKELEY, CA 94704

Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address): REV. MARVIN HARADA, BISHOP, BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA, 2140 DURANT AVE., BERKELEY, CA 94704

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA	1710 OCTAVIA ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109-4341

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box → ☐ None

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:
☑ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 1 of 4 (see instructions page 4)) PSN: 7530-01-000-9931 **PRIVACY NOTICE:** See our privacy policy on www.usps.com.

13. Publication Title: WHEEL OF DHARMA	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 10/01/2022	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	**Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months**	**No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date**
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail) (1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	8218	8218
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	122	122
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®		
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)		
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))	8340	8340
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail) (1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541		
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)		
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)		
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))	0	0
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)	8340	8340
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)	8340	8340
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		

* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® **Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)**

16. Electronic Copy Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies		
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	8340	0
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	8340	8340
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c × 100)		

☐ I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership
☑ If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 10/1/22 issue of this publication. ☐ Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Director of Operations — Date: 09/24/2022

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Southern District Jr. YBL Conference Was My 'Happiest Place'

By Terri Omori
BCA President

I began my Labor Day weekend attending the 72nd annual Southern District Jr. Young Buddhist League Conference.

It was an honor to participate at the in-person event hosted by the Orange County Buddhist Church Jr. YBA members. They did an outstanding job as hosts along with the support from their dedicated parents, alumni parents, advisers, and ministers.

The theme was "Finding Dharma in Disneyland," a possible reference to OCBC being located in close proximity to the "Happiest Place on Earth."

However, there are also many Dharma messages in Disney and "Star Wars" movies. The Dharma is all around us. While I was at the conference, I felt like I was at the "Happiest Place." I was able to be at OCBC in the beautiful Hondo, listening to the Dharma and chanting the Sutra together with Dharma friends.

I witnessed our Buddhist high school students: chairing service; chanting out loud; listening to the Dharma from Bishop Rev. Marvin Harada and Rev. Jon Turner: leading workshops and meetings; emceeing the banquet; seeing friends for the first time in person in more than two years; meeting each other for the first time (since they were meeting over Zoom since 2020); laughing; playing Jenga; taking silly pictures in the photo booth; and dancing the night away.

It was wonderful to see advisers, parents, and ministers that I haven't seen for a few years. It was also great to meet and get acquainted with the new advisers and parents. I greatly appreciate the support everyone gives toward the Jr. YBA. It is important to lay a solid foundation for our youth. Someday, these Jr. YBA members will become BCA leaders. They are the future leaders of our temples.

I greatly appreciate the support everyone gives toward the Jr. YBA. It is important to lay a solid foundation for our youth. Someday, these Jr. YBA members will become BCA leaders. They are the future leaders of our temples.

I would like to continue the introduction of the BCA committees. In keeping with the youth program theme, this month, I would like to introduce the **National Buddhist Committee on Scouting** chaired by **Robert Tanaka.** The committee assists the BCA with this youth outreach program by administering the religious award programs for Scouts, Camp Fire and non-Scout Dharma School students. The committee also coordinates with the national organization of the Scouts and Camp Fire programs.

Another committee that focuses on outreach is the **BCA Social Welfare Committee**, chaired by **Celeste Sterrett**. Thanks to the generosity of many, the committee has been able to make recommendations for the disbursement of funds from the BCA Social Welfare Fund. The purpose of the fund is to aid those suffering from deprivations of basic human needs with the ultimate goal to help, sustain, or attain a way of life, which promotes mental, physical and spiritual well-being. Grants have been given to nonprofit organizations trying to fulfill these needs. Your Dana has touched the lives of many.

As I look at the current BCA leadership, temple leaders, ministers and ministerial aspirants, many were once YBA members. And we have many other dedicated leaders who have found Shin Buddhism later in their journey. The Dharma has brought us together as we continue to share and receive our wonderful tradition. We have our own personal reasons why we do what we do for our churches, temples and BCA. I am sure it is out of gratitude for being able to receive the Dharma at one's "Happiest Place" and the desire to share with all. Thank you for all you do!

Camping in the Sierras Returns for 54th Year as 'Camp SLO 2022'

After three years, the popular and iconic Fresno Betsuin Buddhist Temple's Camping in the Sierras returned — for its 54th year— with a twist, trading in the Sierra Nevada for the California coast and beaches, and bonfires instead of campfires.

The event was called "Camp SLO 2022," and was held at the San Luis Obispo Buddhist Church from July 30 to Aug. 3.

In all, there were 12 campers, all from the Fresno Betsuin, and 12 counselors and directors.

"This remarkable year of camp occurred because of so many people and unbelievable opportunities," said Gregg Sera, Janis Nakamoto-Sera and Debbie Suda, Camping in the Sierras directors. "We are grateful to everyone who had a part in making this unforgettable year of camp possible. Along with our campers, we would like to say, 'Thank you,' for a fun, fun, and more fun time at Camp SLO 2022!"

A combination of the pandemic and wildfires from 2019 through this year led to the change in the locale. The California wildfires destroyed about one-third of the facilities, and the usual site of the camp — Jackass Rock Camp in the Sierra Nevada — was affected. The camp cabins weren't rebuilt in time for this year's event.

Even though the location of this year's camp was different, the program's core components remained intact, including: encouraging awareness of Buddhism in everyday lives; experiencing teamwork in work and play; developing leadership skills; practicing respect and kindness; spending time with nature; learning independence and resilience; and promoting self-awareness, self-esteem and personal growth.

All the home-cooked meals were enjoyed outdoors — and lunch was also held at Grover Beach in San Luis Obispo.

COVID-19 precautions were taken, including a mask requirement for the campers. No COVID-19 cases were reported.

A memorable, final evening service was held around a bonfire at Grover Beach, complete with S'mores.

The directors want to thank: past campers, parents and friends for their generous donations to a GoFundMe campaign; Michael Ohashi; help and support from the campers' parents and from the Fresno Betsuin; facilities of the San Luis Obispo Buddhist Temple and temple President Gary Hongo; and the dedication and efforts of counselors.

"Camp magic happens and memories are made for a 54th time!" the directors said.

The Fresno Betsuin Buddhist Temple campers and counselors who attended the Camping in the Sierras 54th year event called "Camp SLO 2022" gather for a group photo. The camp was held at the San Luis Obispo Buddhist Church from July 30 to Aug. 3. (Courtesy of Jenny Kubo)

Gardena's Ichi-Mi Seeks Donations for LBGTQ+ Video Project

Gardena Buddhist Church held a successful Ichi-Mi seminar in November 2019 to bring awareness to LGBTQ+ issues within the BCA Sanghas. (Courtesy of Brian Imada)

The Gardena Buddhist Church's Ichi-Mi organization is seeking donations in the next two months to create a video highlighting LGBTQ+ people and supporters from a variety of Shin Buddhist communities.

"Currently, there are not a lot of resources in our Buddhist communities in support of or discussing the issue of LGBTQ+ inclusion and safety," said Amy Umezu and Marie Miyashiro, Ichi-Mi Co-Presidents. "As one of the goals of Ichi-Mi is to help educate temple Sanghas and affiliated organizations on improving LGBTQ+ inclusivity, Ichi-Mi has decided to create a video project to further that outreach."

This video project is a multiphase project. The first phase of the project is to create a short video which aims to spotlight the voices of LGBTQ+ ministers, Sangha members, parents of LGBTQ+ children and supporters. It will cover their experiences within Buddhist communities, the need for more inclusive spaces to share in the Dharma, and offer suggestions on how Buddhist communities can improve toward establishing safe spaces for all to share in the Dharma.

The goal is for the video to be shown at educational workshops at individual temples and Sangha groups, for affiliated groups such as BWA, Jr. YBA, and Dharma School teachers, and for workshop sessions at regional and

FYI

To make a donation, send a check payable to: Gardena Buddhist Church. Memo line should read: Ichi-Mi Video Project. Send donations to: Gardena Buddhist Church Ichi-Mi, 1517 W. 166th St., Gardena, CA 90247.

Continued on Page 4

Children's Names Sought With 'Mako' Photo

By Kemi Nakabayashi
Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple
BCA Music Chairperson

As announced in the September issue of Wheel of Dharma, the archival audio recordings of "Mako Goes to Sunday School" are featured for public access and download through the end of this month.

The recording, courtesy of Berkeley Buddhist Temple archives, is featured under the gatha audio section of the BCA Music webpage at:

https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/music

The BCA Music Committee appreciates the opportunity to share this precious part of BCA Music History and the legacy of Jane Imamura from the Berkeley Buddhist Temple Archives.

As described in her memoir "Kaikyo: Opening the Dharma," Jane Imamura explains that a dedication ceremony took place for the new Berkeley Buddhist Temple in 1956 when its treasured Buddha was brought back from Japan by her mother Shinobu Matsuura. The new building also housed the Buddhist Study Center.

The large versatile social hall provided space for special musical performances, including the play "Kisa Gotami," written and directed by the late Hiroshi Kashiwagi that featured, among others, the famous actor George Takei. "Mako Goes to Sunday School" includes 12 gathas primarily geared for children with narration by Kashiwagi. Other programs were held in the social hall, such as special lectures by guest scholars, adult choir performances and musical recitals.

The BCA Music History subcommittee is seeking to identify all the children in the Berkeley Buddhist Temple children's choir who recorded "Mako Goes to Sunday school," a narrated presenatation of children's gathas, in 1955. (Courtesy of Berkeley Buddhist Temple archives)

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know the soloists featured in the recording of "Mako Goes to Sunday School" at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple are Hitoshi Tsufura for "Sing!" and Mari Imamura for "Buddha Loves You"?

The BCA Music History subcommittee is still researching to confirm the vocalist for "Children in Japan" on this archival recording from the 1950s produced by Jane Imamura.

We encourage you to listen and make use of the free download while these recordings are featured through this month on the BCA Music webpage https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/music

In conjunction with presenting the audio recording of "Mako Goes to Sunday School," the BCA Music History subcommittee has recently reached out to try to identify the children in the Berkeley Buddhist Temple children's choir pictured in the photo included with last month's Music Committee "Did You Know?" question.

BCA Music Committee would appreciate additional help to identify the female vocalist in "Children in Japan."

In "Kaikyo," Jane Imamura recalls George Teraoka from Fowler driving up with the recording equipment.

Please use the "Contact Us" button at the bottom of the BCA Music webpage https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/music if you have memories or additional information about the "Mako Goes to Sunday School" performance or recording.

BCA Has Job Opening for Administrative Assistant

Buddhist Churches of America has an immediate opening for a full-time Administrative Assistant reporting to the Director of Operations.

This is a hybrid position, working both remotely and in the offices at both the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, California, and the BCA Headquarters in San Francisco).

Duties are administrative including, but not limited to: support for the Director of Operations; preparations for national meetings; light accounting support; and receptionist duties such as handling incoming phone calls and emails, and processing incoming mail.

Regular business hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Some evening and weekend hours may be required.

Requirements:

• High school diploma, bachelor's degree or some college preferred.

• Two to three years prior experience in a similar capacity.

• Strong interpersonal, oral, and written communication skills.

• Ability to exercise discretion and maintain confidentiality.

• Experience working with Microsoft Office, Google Workspace, and Adobe Acrobat.

• Excellent organizational skills.

The Administrative Assistant interfaces with the general public, BCA staff, BCA lay leadership, ministers, and temple leaders throughout the national organization as well as leaders from affiliated organizations and other global Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha overseas districts.

The ideal candidate will have an interest in supporting the BCA mission and will have the ability and flexibility to work well in a dynamic professional environment, take initiative while working within the chain of command, and meet critical deadlines.

Familiarity with the BCA national organization is desirable but will train. Experience using other Adobe software such as Photoshop and InDesign as well as having Japanese language skills are all a plus though not essential.

For more information or to apply, email ops@bcahq.org, subject line "Job." This position is open until filled.

Employment with Buddhist Churches of America is at will. Salary commensurate with experience. BCA provides a full benefits package that includes paid leave, medical benefits, and retirement plan. Free parking provided in San Francisco and Berkeley.

Ministerial Assignments Are Announced

The BCA Office of the Bishop has announced the following ministerial assignments:

Rev. Noritaka Imada of the Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple has been assigned to the Buddhist Church of Florin and Buddhist Church of Lodi, effective Aug. 15.

Rev. Nariaki Hayashi, Resident Minister of the Ekoji Buddhist Temple, has been assigned to the Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple, effective Aug. 15.

Rev. Ronald Miyamura of the Midwest Buddhist Temple was appointed supervising minister of the Ekoji Buddhist Temple, effective Aug. 15.

Rev. Yuki Sugahara of the Oregon Buddhist Temple has been assigned on a part-time basis to the Buddhist Church of Sacramento, effective Oct. 1. Rev. Sugahara will also continue to serve the Oregon Buddhist Temple.

BCA Center for Buddhist Education
Living The Dharma (formerly Every Day Buddhism) Committee Presents:

FINDING THE ANTIDOTE TO IGNORANCE
THE THIRD OF THE THREE POISONS
Saturday, October 29, 2022
11:00 am – 1:00 pm (PT)
Guest Speakers:

Rev. Blayne Higa: The Jodo Shinshu Antidote to Ignorance

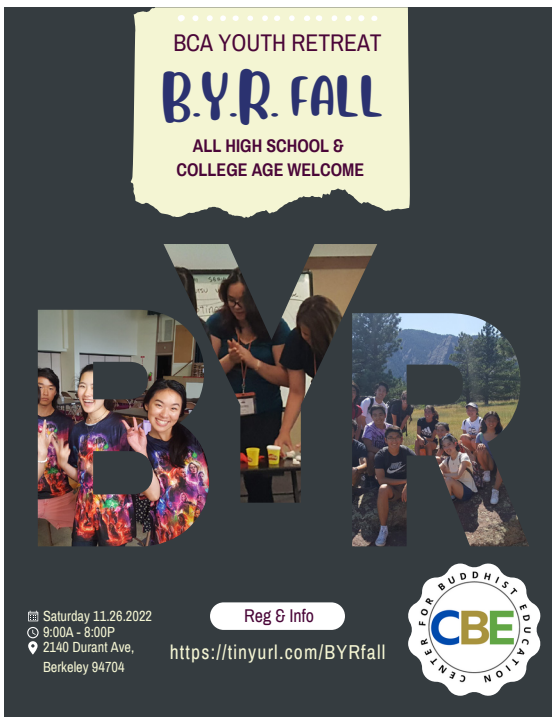
Rev. Blayne Higa is the Resident Minister of the Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple in Kealakekua, Hawaii. He holds a Master of Divinity from the Institute of Buddhist Studies with a focus on Shin Buddhist ministry and chaplaincy. He received Tokudo ordination and Kyoshi certification from the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha. He is the Chair of the Committee on Social Concerns and Ministerial Training Committee for the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. He also serves on the Board of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii and Vibrant Hawaii.

Chenxing Han:
Buddhist Antidotes to Racial Prejudice and Ignorance

Chenxing Han is the author of *Be the Refuge: Raising the Voices of Asian American Buddhists* and the forthcoming book *one long listening: a memoir of grief, friendship, and spiritual care*, both with North Atlantic Books. Chenxing holds a BA from Stanford University, an MA in Buddhist Studies from the Graduate Theological Union, and a certificate in Buddhist chaplaincy from the Institute of Buddhist Studies. She is a co-teacher of Listening to the Buddhists in Our Backyard at Phillips Academy Andover, and a co-organizer of May We Gather: A National Buddhist Memorial for Asian American Ancestors.

Moderator: Rev. Marvin Harada

Registration
https://forms.gle/vGe49tkifaupJPyE8
Donations gratefully accepted
Click to Donate https://bca.kindful.com/ Scroll campaigns to select CBE
(Donations are processed by BCA Endowment Foundation)
Visit buddhistchurchesofamerica.org email: cbe@bcahq.org or phone: 510.809.1460



BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA
Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations Virtual National Conference
Hosted by
Northern California District

October 14-16, 2022

Winds of Change
Jidai No Shinka Ni Kiku
時代の進化に聞く

FBWA 2022

Ichi-Mi

Continued from Page 3

national seminars. In addition, Ichi-Mi hopes to make it available online on YouTube and other social media outlets.

The second phase of the project which will begin next year will be to create additional videos that will take a more in-depth look at the issues highlighted in the first short video.

Ichi-Mi is currently fundraising to cover production costs and is hoping to raise enough funds in the next month in order to qualify for a matching grant program.

To make a donation, send a check payable to: Gardena Buddhist Church. Memo line should read: Ichi-Mi Video Project.

Send donations to: Gardena Buddhist Church Ichi-Mi, 1517 W. 166th St., Gardena, CA 90247.

Ichi-Mi began in 2017 as a half-day workshop and evolved into a one-day seminar in 2018. Since 2019, Ichi-Mi has been an official affiliated organization of Gardena Buddhist Church.

BCA, HHMH Team Up on Food Waste, Sustainability Project

By Darlene Bagshaw
Buddhist Church of Stockton
and **David Atcheson**
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Over a year ago, the Buddhist Churches of America Social Welfare Committee and the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Committee on Social Concerns embarked on an inaugural joint project to bring information of a social nature.

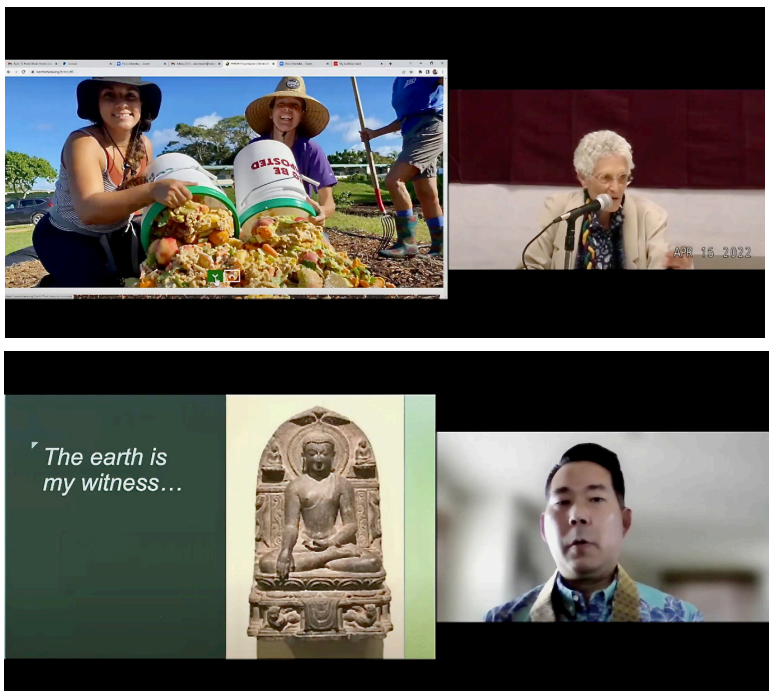
The committees decided Earth Day, April 22, would be an excellent time to discuss our impact, both as individuals and temples, on our ever-changing environment.

Rev. Blayne Higa, Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, opened with a call for all of us to remember that we live in this life of delusion, that we need to awaken to the truth of interdependence and how our karmic actions affect us all. Therefore, he said, we need to recommit ourselves to the preservation of this planet that we all share. Our actions matter for they have an impact upon the lives of others and the world in which we live.

Three wonderful speakers, with a passion for preservation of our natural resources, shared their talents and experiences. Koichi Sayano, BCA Social Welfare Committee, presented points of interest with regards to food waste and sustainability.

The United Nations has 17 goals to transform our world, including Zero Hunger and Responsible Consumption and Production. The Hongwanji-ha in Kyoto has endorsed these UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Although we produce enough food to feed everyone, on average we waste 40 percent, or 108 billion pounds of food annually. The consequences are not just wasted resources but also filling of landfills, methane emissions and climate change.



The Buddhist Churches of America Social Welfare Committee and the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Committee on Social Concerns held a virtual discussion on the impact that Sangha members and temples have on the environment. The April 22 Earth Day event featured a variety of speakers, including, from top photo: Mindy Jaffe, owner of the Waikiki Worm Company, who shared her success with repurposing food waste; middle photo, Ron Hamakawa of the Seattle Betsuin, who spoke about the temple's conservation efforts during the annual Obon; and BCA Minister Emeritus Rev. Don Castro, who founded the EcoSangha program in Seattle. (Courtesy of Jon Kawamoto)

So what can we do to help decrease waste in our landfills? Mindy Jaffe, owner of the Waikiki Worm Company, shared her success with island communities repurposing food waste.

Jaffe has years of experience changing the environment at local schools, not only in introducing large-scale composting and vermicomposting of the schools' food and paper waste, but also educating the students on its importance.

Realizing staff and students are too busy to run the programs indefinitely, Jaffe worked to set up a crew of paid Resource Recovery Specialists to run the composting programs at each school.

Not only have these programs been successful in diverting waste from the garbage collection, but the programs have also created fundraising projects. Jaffe has led five schools to the zero waste philosophy while creating additional sources of revenue for school programs.

Each year, these schools process 58 tons of food waste, creating 52 cubic yards of compost with a market value of $23,000, 1,960 pounds of vermicast valued at $7,840 and sale of surplus worms generating $20,000.

Trash has decreased by 90 percent, with collection decreased from each day to each week. Jaffe has also designed kits to start home worm composting. Remember, there is no waste in nature, and everything that is discarded has a use for someone else, according to Jaffe.

Ron Hamakawa of the BCA Seattle Betsuin shared their efforts surrounding conservation during the annual Obon Odori as well as other aspects of temple life.

In 2007, the City of Seattle implemented "large event" guidelines for waste, recycling and composting. Beginning in 2008, the Seattle Betsuin adopted a plan in harmony with the Buddhist perspective of interdependence. The infrastructure for composting and recycling involves implementation of composting and recycling bins, proper signage and a great communication strategy.

The initial set up was spearheaded by an Eagle Scout project in 2008 and updated by another in 2015. Not only is the Seattle Betsuin addressing collection, but also specifying that all food containers be compostable or recyclable.

For its efforts, the Seattle Betsuin was awarded the Seafair Community Innovation Award. The Seattle Betsuin focused efforts not only on the consumer side, but also on the preparation process.

The Betsuin is now mindful of the use of PFAS (polyfluoroalkyl substances) contained in seemingly compostable products as PFAS is a non-biodegradable and potentially toxic product. Currently, only seven states currently ban PFAS (California, New York, Maine, Vermont, Washington, Connecticut and Minnesota). Visit the YouTube video link below to view the second life given to old cutting boards.

Rev. Don Castro, BCA Minister Emeritus, founded the EcoSangha program in Seattle, which greatly contributed to the efforts described by Ron Hamakawa.

Rev. Castro shared a story from *The Teaching of Buddha* in which Ananda received garments which he distributed to the monks. The old garments became bedcovers, the old bedcovers became pillowcases, the old pillowcases became floor covers, the old covers became foot towels, the old towels became floor mops, the old mops were torn into pieces to be mixed with mud to plaster the walls. Mottainai — too good to waste!

Mahalo to the BCA and HHMH teams for a wonderful presentation.

Available online are a video of the event at https://youtu.be/hxfU2Ax5bJs and a resource document at http://honpahi.link/fwresources.

Social Welfare Committee's Grant Helps Displaced Families

The BCA's Social Welfare Committee's $20,000 grant to Dorothy's Place in Salinas in 2021 — which serves marginalized residents in Monterey County — helped provide funds to feed four families displaced in an encampment fire in May.

"Through the kindness and generosity of Buddhist Churches of America, Dorothy's Place can assist unsheltered people into health and housing," said Amy Narlock, development director for Dorothy's Place.

Dorothy's Place has a special affinity with people who have experienced chronic homelessness, according to Narlock.

Through four core programs, it strives to meet the comprehensive needs of clients, including daily meal service, basic hygiene facilities, medical attention, support in accessing health care, social services, and housing navigation.

The BCA's Social Welfare Committee's $20,000 grant helped provide funds to Dorothy's Place in Salinas to feed four families displaced by a fire in May. (Courtesy of Jill Allen/Dorothy's Place)

After a devastating encampment fire in King City on May 25 displaced residents, the program's Streets to Homes (STH) Encampment Outreach team was called in to assist, Narlock said.

The four families of 10 adults and eight children were provided temporary housing in four travel trailers located on an asphalt parking lot in an industrial area.

The STH Encampment Outreach team quickly learned that the emergency food supply had abruptly ended and these families had no way to purchase food in their remote location.

An urgent call was made to the kitchen director at around 9 p.m., and the kitchen staff got details of the individual nutritional needs for each family and created customized food boxes for each family, containing lots of fresh vegetables, fruits, meat, along with beans, rice, bread, and snacks.

The STH Encampment Outreach team delivered the groceries that day, and the response from the families was overwhelming. These families went from being guarded and weary to joyful and welcoming with the elder leader calling for a group photo to thank the kitchen, Narlock said.

Dorothy's Kitchen will provide these families with a consistent supply of food moving forward. The STH Encampment Outreach team continues to work collaboratively with other local agencies within the King City area to ensure the success of the displaced families.

Your generous donations to the BCA Social Welfare Fund make it possible for agencies such as Dorothy's Place to continue their mission.

SOCIAL WELFARE FUNDS AVAILABLE

Know of a charity that you or your temple would like to support?

PLEASE make use of these funds! Just go to the BCA website tab Giving/Social Welfare or Who We Are/BCA Resources/Social Welfare Grant Applications. Contact socialwelfare@bcahq.org for more information.

Nisei Week Queen Yada, Princess Meza, 2021 First Pri

Nisei Week

Continued from Page 1

Nisei Week experience."

The pageant, held in conjunction with the annual Nisei Week Japanese Festival in Little Tokyo in Los Angeles, marked the resumption of a tradition that had only been disrupted just once before – during World War II because of the wartime internment of Japanese Americans. The coronation event had been suspended because of the pandemic.

The Queen and Court Program help provide leadership development, cultural enrichment, and opportunities to make lifelong connections.

Yada, the daughter of Frank and Joyce Yada, represents the Orange County Nikkei Coordinating Council, and is completing her supervised practice hours to become a registered dietician. She received her master's degree from Cal State Long Beach in nutrition science.

During her speech, Yada paid tribute to her grandmother, Itsuko Yada, who passed away in June, and shared her grandmother's five-ingredient recipe for Mexican-Japanese okazu.

"It's such an honor," Yada said. "I've had such loss in the past year with family and COVID — we've all been very separated. I'm extremely grateful for my court and really this opportunity for us to get back out in the community and be a part of it."

Meza represented the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute and Yasukochi represented the Pasadena JCI last year.

Yada, Meza and Yasukochi all spoke about taking part in temple programs and their appreciation for spiritual growth.

Yada attended Dharma School at OCBC and participated in the Dharma Wheel Club, a social group for elementary schoolchildren. She later served as a Dharma School teacher's assistant.

In middle school, Yada served as Co-President of Sangha Teens. In Jr. YBA, she served as the Religious Chairperson at the chapter and Southern District levels. In addition, Yada participated in OCBC's taiko, Girl Scouts and basketball programs. She also participated in Youth Advocacy Committee, YAC 10.

Meza began attending the Pasadena Buddhist Temple at age 2.

"Myself and five others my age went through the Dharma School, Sangha Teens and Jr. YBA programs together," Meza recalled. "We are a very tight knit group and I see them during the holidays. There are definitely some big pros for being part of a very small temple."

Nisei Week Queen Kristine Yada is surrounded by her family, Orange County Buddhist Church Sangha members and other community supporters after the Aug. 13 coronation event outside the Aratani Theater in Los Angeles. (Courtesy of Kristine Yada)

Above left in middle row, Kristine Yada attends the OCBC Obon in July with her father Frank, who was head adviser for the Southern District Jr. YBL, and sister Courtney, the current Southern District Jr. YBL President. Above, Yada participates in the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Memorial Day on May 30, with 442nd and 100th Battalion veterans, as Miss Orange County Japanese American Association. At far left, Yada is shown as a member of OCBC's Daion Taiko. At left, Yada appears as the OCBC Girl Scouts Gold Award recipient. (Courtesy of Kristine Yada)

This year, Meza became a member of the Pasadena BWA.

Yasukochi shared similar reflections of her involvement with the temple.

"My mother and her family were very active at Nishi (Los Angeles Betsuin)," she said. "Therefore, she wanted us (my siblings and I) to be involved and have the same great experience that she did."

Yasukochi's mother, Norene, drove her children from the family's home in Carlsbad, located in north San Diego County, to Nishi every weekend to participate in Girl Scouts, play in the Asian League Basketball and attend Sunday service and Dharma School.

"I was lucky to join programs such as Jr. YBA, LABCC, volunteering for O Bon and Saishin Dojo," Yasukochi added.

The Yasukochis are longtime farmers in north San Diego County and the family belongs to the Vista Buddhist Temple.

"My mother and father met each other during one of the Jr. YBA events," Yasukochi said. "With that in mind, having a big family around the San Diego area, they were all a part of Vista temple. Therefore, a lot of our family social gatherings growing up were at Vista Buddhist Temple as well as the farm supporting events such as Obon."

During the impromptu question section of the pageant, the candidates were asked, "COVID has changed the way we connect with others, share ideas and create community. What would you do during your reign to ensure our culture and community continue to thrive into the future?"

Meza said, "I am so lucky to have interned at the JACCC, been a part of Kizuna, and other JA programs. I would love to share that experience and information about these programs with people across Southern California."

Yada responded, "Although technology is amazing, now we have the opportunity to connect with each other in person. I would have events such as connecting with young females in this coming year in order to promote their involvement in the Japanese American community."

When asked to relate the pageant's impromptu question in a spiritual context, Yada and Meza agreed that the pandemic has made it difficult for their Sanghas to meet.

"Over the past few years, we have been forced to explore what technology has to offer in terms of utilizing the opportunities," Yada said. "It is just not the same. You can listen or watch a Dharma message on YouTube or being streamed, but it is not the same as being in the Hondo, listening to the whole Sangha chanting.

"To be able to utilize technology resources in the future is fine, but it serves as a reminder to appreciate having the ability to go to the temple and attend a service. Or if you are at home being able to light incense and watching the video to create that environment," Yada added.

She remembers the theme "Five Senses" while attending the week-long LABCC Youth Camp.

"The 'Five Senses' is the physical and interaction part on how you engage in things daily," she said. "The pandemic gave me a reminder of the little things that you may not always appreciate with the Dharma and Sangha. "

Meza added: "When it comes to creating more connection within the Jodo Shinshu community, COVID has made it difficult for the

Continued on Page 9

ncess Yasukochi Have Ties to BCA Temples, Programs

Nisei Week Princess Lorie Meza is shown above with 2022 Nisei Week Grand Marshal George Sugimoto, who is also a Pasadena Buddhist Temple member. At right, Pasadena Buddhist Temple Sangha members who attended the Nisei Week coronation event pose for a group photo with Meza. (Courtesy of Lorie Meza)

Above left, Lorie Meza is handing out lunches for the senior lunch program with the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute. In middle photo, Meza, at left, is with other Pasadena Jr. YBA members at a Plug Into Buddhism event with Rev. Patti Usuki. At right, Meza, left, and her sister Lia Meza dress up in yukata for the 2014 Pasadena Obon. (Courtesy of Lorie Meza)

Brianne Yasukochi, 2021 First Princess, poses at right with, from left, mother Norene Yasukochi, her mother's cousin Linda Sasajima, and Sasajima's husband, Scott Kaneshige. At far right is the 2021 Nisei Week Court. Shown, from left, are Michelle Murakami, Kiyoko Nakatsui, Yasukochi, Queen Jaime Hasama, Kiyomi Takemoto, and Kendra Motoyasu. (Courtesy of Brianne Yasukochi and Toyo Miyatake)

Brianne Yasukochi was a counselor in 2019 for the Los Angeles Buddhist Coordinating Council (LABCC) youth camp at Camp Morning Star. At far left, she poses with the campers. At left, Yasukochi is creating a cheer for her team of girls. They were about to play a Pictionary game with boys. (Courtesy of Brianne Yasukochi)

Humboldt

Continued from Page 1

Before the dancing began for the area's inaugural Obon, Rinban Rev. Gerald Sakamoto of the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin spoke to the those in attendance about Obon, then chanted "Sambujo" and "Vandana Ti-Sarana."

Response to the festival was overwhelmingly positive, and organizers are planning for next year's Obon.

"I was really impressed because of the community that came out and supported and participated in this Obon," said Rev. Sakamoto, who along with his wife, Kathy, drove 320 miles to attend the festival.

"We were amazed at the large turnout and also by the large number of Japanese and Japanese Americans and Asian Americans who joined us in dance," said Amy Uyeki, one of the organizers. "Many of them knew all the dances that were performed."

Uyeki got into the spirit of the event by donning a Totoro costume, based on the title character of "My Neighbor Totoro," the classic 1988 Japanese animated fantasy film written and directed by the iconic Hayao Miyasaki.

"As with other Obon festivals, the dancers were multi-generational, and the sheer good will and joy of communing together was the overarching feeling of the day," Uyeki said. "We are all still riding that emotional high, which will carry us through to the next festival!"

Craig Kurumada, a local folk dancer who attended Obon festivals in Salt Lake City, was the odori instructor.

Dozens of people — some in yukatas and kimonos — danced to "Obon no Uta," "Matsumoto Bon Bon," "Soran Bushi," "Ichi Tasu Ichi no Ondo," "Tokyo Ondo," "Unagappa Ondo," "Tanko Bushi," and "Shiawase Samba."

The festival featured: shakuhachi performances by Rick Kruse and the newly formed Humboldt Taiko; booths of Asian American artists and vendors; childrens' activities such as a traditional Japanese fishing game and paper lantern making; a silent auction; and food, including curry rice and a variety of musubi.

Marylyn Paik-Nicely, another of the organizers, spoke to the North Coast Journal about attending Obon festivals while growing up in Hilo, Hawaii. She recalled learning the dances, going to Obons every weekend during the summer, and accompanying her grandmother to the cemetery to pay respects to relatives and friends.

"Even far away in Humboldt, I always know when it is Obon ... I always have an altar up anyway with pictures of my parents and grandparents just to feel in touch," she told the Journal.

The roots of Humboldt Obon stemmed from the 2019 and 2020 performances in Humboldt County of "Swingposium," a San Jose Taiko musical about jazz and swing bands in World War II Japanese American incarceration camps, according to Uyeki.

Those successful performances inspired local Asian Americans to form a cultural group, Humboldt Asians & Pacific Islanders in Solidarity (HAPI). A number of the members grew up in areas with larger Asian American communities, and they shared their memories of participating in Obon festivals.

"Our intent after 'Swingposium' was to organize our first Obon," Uyeki said. "But COVID got in the way, and it was two years later that we actually decided it was time to try our luck organizing our first Obon."

HAPI wanted a Buddhist minister to participate in the festival, so Uyeki reached out for help to the artistic director of San Jose Taiko, Franco Imperial. SJT is the centerpiece of the entertainment at the San Jose Betsuin's Obon festival and coordinates appearances by collegiate taiko groups.

"Amy reached out to me asking about someone from the Buddhist community who might preside over the ceremonies," said Imperial, who also attended the Humboldt festival. "I connected her to Rinban (Rev. Sakamoto) and Team HAPI took it from there."

Rinban Rev. Sakamoto was surprised by the invitation, but was pleased to accept.

"I participated to learn from and share the Dharma," he said. "The planners of the Obon were committed to having Buddhism represented at the Obon. They recognized the important relationship between Buddhism and Obon. I thought I could help to share that appreciation."

Wearing koku'e robes and gojo gesa, Rinban Rev. Sakamoto spoke for about 10 minutes, telling the attendees that Buddhism is about resolving the difficulties of life by seeing things as they are. His brief talk preceded his chanting to start the dancing.

"Rinban Sakamoto was instrumental in our planning and instead of a traditional ceremony at a Buddhist church, he spoke to the entire group, explained the origins of Obon as not only a Buddhist ceremony, but the humanistic basis for the festival, which is shared by many cultures and religions," Uyeki said.

The organizers wanted to make sure that their Obon remembered not only the loved ones of participants who have passed on, but also the ancestors of the indigenous Wiyot, the original inhabitants, as well as immigrants who lived in the area.

That focus, while not a normal part of Obon observances at BCA temples, is very much in keeping with the spirit of Obon, according to Rinban Rev. Sakamoto.

"With Humboldt, the boundaries (of the festival) were not yet so defined, except that they wanted an Obon festival and in acknowledging the origins of Obon, a Buddhist priest who might share the Dharma," he said. "Their thinking of Obon included present relationships and relationships with the land and the original people who lived in Humboldt — kind of an original sense of Dharma that includes all."

At top, San Jose Betsuin Rinban Rev. Gerald Sakamoto speaks to the crowd at the Obon festival in Arcada, telling the attendees that Buddhism is about resolving the difficulties of life by seeing things as they are. Above, Amy Uyeki, one of the organizers, dons a Totoro costume. At above right, the crowd, estimated at up to 800 people, participates in the Bon Odori dances. At right. Craig Kurumada, a local folk dancer, acts as the odori instructor. (Courtesy of Franco Imperial)

Japan Tour

Continued from Page 2

will travel to Toyama and Niigata to visit Shinran's historical sites, such as Tsujitokuhoji Temple and Kokando Museum in Toyama and Oyashirazu Cliff in Niigata, where Shinran Shonin walked through when he was exiled from Kyoto to Echigo Province (present day Niigata Prefecture). The tour group will also visit Kotagahama Beach, where Shinran Shonin reached a boat from Oyashirazu Cliff, and Kota Shrine, where he went to pay his respects when he first arrived in Kotagahama Beach.

• On May 15, the group's visits will include Eshinni-no Sato, Gochi Kokubunji Temple and Kokufu Betsuin.

After Shinran Shonin was exiled, he continued to share the Nembutsu teachings in the Tokyo and Kanto region. The tour group will travel to Tokyo and Kanto on May 16. The group will spend time at the unique and massive Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple, our main temple in Tokyo, as well as Zojoji Temple, which is one of the other sites of historical interest in Tokyo. Zojoji Temple contributed to the emergence of the Nembutsu teaching as the most popular path of Japanese Buddhism.

• On May 17, the group will visit Sainenji Temple and Chinsekiji Temple, which are located in Ibaraki. Both temples played an important role in Shinran Shonin's life.

• On May 18, the tour will end in Tokyo and participants will have the opportunity to explore the city on their own.

We invite you to join us for a once-in-a-lifetime experience embraced within the Nembutsu!

Gassho.

Gardena Holds In-Person 'Welcome Back' Obon Dance

The Gardena Buddhist Church held its in-person "Welcome Back" Obon dance on Aug. 14. The event attracted an estimated 1,000 dancers from throughout Southern California -- including Nishi, Orange County, Oxnard and San Diego -- and beyond to Colorado. This year's Obon was especially meaningful for the Kurahashi family, which lost son and brother Conner Kurahashi in a traffic accident. Conner Kurahashi was an active member of the Gardena Buddhist Church. Brian, Gay and Bailey Kurahashi were able to observe the first Obon after a loved one has passed -- Hatsubon -- for Conner, attending the special service in the morning and then dancing in the evening. "It was fun to get together with family and friends to celebrate Conner," the family said. In top left photo are Brian, Gay and Bailey Kurahashi with a paper lantern to commemorate Conner's Hatsubon. At top right, Obon dance teachers gather for a group photo. In the front row, from left, are Alan Kita, Katie Morimoto, Chizuko Morimoto, Mitzi Shimizu, and Irene Igawa. Back row, from left, are Lauren Kawahara, Susan Mukai, Nadine Kakimoto (lead teacher and Gardena Obon co-chair), Imogene Imada, and Claire Imada. Above, the dancers fill the street by the Gardena Buddhist Church. In middle row at right, Nadine Kakimoto leads the procession of Obon dancers. At right, three young Bon Odori dancers take part in the festivities. Shown, from left, are Zoe Iwanaka, Addison Miyamoto, and Kaiemi Ujiki. (Courtesy of Alan Miwa, Sharyl Yamada-Oda, Gay Kurahashi, and Gardena Buddhist Church)

Nisei Week

Continued from Page 6

older people to be involved with temple.

"At Pasadena, we have really tried to make services more accessible via Zoom and livestream," she said. "We livestreamed O Bon. As we go back to in-person events, the quality that I hold for Jodo Shinshu is having gratefulness of going back to events and seeing community members. Everyone is so happy to return in-person and for being grateful and mindful of these moments.

"Bon Odori felt very different this year because of the amount of time we spent being away from each other," Meza said.

Fortunately, technology has allowed OCBC and PBT, as well as other temples and churches throughout the BCA, to share the Dharma remotely. Now, both OCBC and PBT are beginning to meet in-person.

The 2022 Nisei Week Court will represent the Japanese American community at various events throughout the one-year reign. It began with the Nisei Week Grand Parade.

Yada was supported at the coronation by a large contingent of family and friends who traveled from Orange County.

Speaking afterward, Yada's sisters, Courtney and Kellie, said they were very proud and nervous for their big sister.

Yada's father, Frank, noted that both sides of her family, the Yadas and Fujishiges, were active in farming. The Yadas grew strawberries, cucumbers and flowers in Carlsbad and Vista. The Fujishiges grew primarily strawberries in Anaheim.

"The unique thing for my mom Itsuko was that her family immigrated and were held back in Mexico, so mom grew up in Mexico City. Her first language was Spanish, then Japanese, then English," Frank Yada said.

"She (Kristine) really has grasped the roots of these different traditions that are in our family background and that makes her really unique," Joyce Yada said.

Yada said community service has always been a part of her life because of her family's involvement at OCBC.

"I was born into it and just rolled with it," she said.

She was looking forward to the Nisei Week Parade and the coming year of events.

"I've never been to the parade. This will be the first for me. I'm incredibly excited. I've heard many beautiful stories and I've seen the court. I'm excited to get out there and to really travel down First Street in a new way," Yada said.

The Nisei Week experience offers a connection of community with Japanese American history, culture and religion. During the festival, the candidates visited the Japanese American National Museum and Go For Broke Museum to learn about the history.

"It was a good reminder that when you enter different stages of your life, whether it's looking back at Japanese history or Buddhism, the messages are the same, but your experience in how you see it changes, and I think it is easy to forget," Yada said.

Other members of the 2022 Court who join Yada and Meza include: Audrey Nakaoka, 25, who was named First Princess, representing Gardena Evening Optimist; Maile Yanguas, 24, who was named Miss Tomodachi, representing Japanese Restaurant Association of America; . Akiko Hiraishi, 25, representing East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center; Emily Kumagai, 20, representing San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center; and Faith Nishimura, 21, representing Venice Japanese Community Center and Venice-West Los Angeles JACL.

Pennant

Continued from Page 1

chaplains program in the U.S. armed services.

Now one of four church pennants maintained by the U.S. Navy, the pennant's development was a joint effort between U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFFC) and Naval Surface Force Atlantic (SURFLANT).

SURFLANT Force Chaplain, Capt. David Thames, noted the limited church pennants available to ships, despite diverse religious services conducted underway. After months of production and development, the USFFC Chaplain Capt. Brian Stamm accepted the pennant and placed it into service in August.

"I want to share this special moment with my Sailors and fellow Buddhist practitioners," Kim said. "While Buddhist representation in the U.S. military is not large, as a Buddhist chaplain in the fleet, I have been uniquely positioned to appeal to a broad cultural and faith spectrum in the growing number of sailors who identify as

U.S. Navy Chaplain Lt. Saejeong Kim officiated a Buddhist Dharma service aboard the USS McPaul (DDG 74) in the Atlantic Ocean on Sept. 11. At left, the Buddhist pennant is shown on the Navy ship. (Courtesy of U.S. Navy)

'Spiritual But Not Religious.'

"I am grateful for this opportunity to support the spiritual readiness of sailors who sometimes do not have a language for their spirituality."

The Buddhist pennant consists of a blue Dharmachara (Dharma wheel) on a white field with a rounded tip on the pennant. According to Kim, the Buddhist insignia is a manifestation of Buddha's teachings through one's body, speech, and mind. The Dharma wheel symbolizes a threefold practice: the outer circle (moral conduct), the spokes (wisdom), and the hub (meditation).

"This pennant is a landmark of our Navy's commitment to our sailors' faiths and genuine support of religious diversity," said Destroyer Squadron 2 Commodore, Capt. Stefan Walch. "I am thrilled for Chaplain Kim. Her efforts provide excellent care for our sailors and she is an outstanding ambassador for her faith throughout the sea services. This is a great day for the Navy."

The U.S. Flag Code stipulates that any church pennant be flown immediately above the ensign while a chaplain conducts religious services underway. The U.S. Navy maintains four church pennants: Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, and Muslim. Cmdr. Antonia Shey, McFaul commanding officer, said the ship is honored to fly this historic pennant.

"McFaul is proud to fly the Buddhist pennant for the first time in the Navy as Chaplain Kim leads divine services at sea," Shey said. "While flying this pennant is a historic first today, Kim has faithfully provided exceptional care and religious guidance to sailors for many years. The support Kim provides my sailors is extraordinary."

Born in Chicago and raised in South Korea, Kim was ordained as a Won Buddhist priest in 2006 after completing Won Buddhist Studies at the Won Institute of Graduate Studies.

She received her Ph.D. in Buddhist Studies from Wonkwang University in 2016, after she served various Korean and U.S. Buddhist temples.

She was commissioned a Navy Chaplain in 2017 and currently serves with Destroyer Squadron 2 as the only active-duty Buddhist chaplain in the Navy.

Commissioned in 1998, McFaul is the 24th Arleigh Burke-class destroyer and was named after Chief Petty Officer Donald L. McFaul. McFaul was a SEAL Team 4 hero who was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross, the nation's second-highest combat valor award, for his heroic actions in saving his teammates during combat operations in December 1989 as part of Operation Just Cause in Panama.

FBWA Workshop

Continued from Page 1

speeches, he would always include the Japanese sentiment "okagesama de," or "thanks to you."

After leaving for college, we were not able to attend weekly services in Stockton, and only returned for the summer Obon and bazaar and the New Year services. While Dharma messages were no longer a part of our weekly routines, Buddhism remained an integral part of our lives.

The beauty of Buddhism, for us, is that its teachings are omnipresent; they are intrinsically a part of us no matter how far we are from church or how long it's been since the last service we attended. We carry the lessons and teachings of the Buddha-Dharma with us.

As adults, we have come to realize the profound impact that the countless teachings and doings of the BCS and BCA have had on our lives — "okagesama de." Growing up in a community that instilled the compassionate teachings of the Buddha has made all the difference in how we process and interact with the world around us.

In the fall of 2021, Darlene Bagshaw and Rev. Candice Shibata encouraged us to help out with the BCS virtual end-of-year fundraiser and New Year's celebration. Like our grandparents, we, too, aspire to contribute to the growth of our temple and the future of the BCA.

In this July 2000 Obon photo in Stockton, the Doi sisters pose with their mother and grandmother. Shown, from left, are Megan Doi, mother Lori Ann Yagi-Doi, Stephanie Doi, Nicole Doi, and grandmother Aiko Yagi. (Courtesy of Megan Doi)

The Golden Chain reminds us of our interdependence. As links in Amida's Golden Chain, we see that it is now our responsibility to give back. As children, we were members because of our familial ties, but Dana (selfless giving) and Sangha have drawn us back as adults.

For us, returning to the BCS has felt like a homecoming in many ways — a return to a community that we grew up in. And while many aspects feel nostalgic, impermanence reminds us that the only constant is change.

The pandemic has changed a lot for all of us, but the BCS shift to virtual and hybrid services and events has enabled the three of us to once again rejoin as members from different states. We no longer have to live near a church to feel like we can be a part of the BCS and larger BCA community.

Like the theme of the upcoming Federation of Buddhist Women's Association (FBWA) Conference recognizes, "winds of change" are upon us.

We would be remiss if we ignored the threat of membership decline. Data (Pew Research) and market trends (the popularity of meditation apps and mindfulness being indoctrinated in startup culture) point to an increased interest in Buddhist teachings, and yet the BCA's membership numbers tell a different story.

The beauty of Buddhism, for us, is that its teachings are omnipresent; they are intrinsically a part of us no matter how far we are from church or how long it's been since the last service we attended. We carry the lessons and teachings of the Buddha-Dharma with us.

As business development and marketing professionals, we instinctively seek to bridge the gap between the BCA's value and the market.

When we were asked to participate in the upcoming FBWA conference, we thought about how we might meld our professional and personal experiences to inspire growth. Through our involvement with recruitment for Dae Kim's study on the BCA's membership, and our own conversations with FBWA members, BCS members and our own Obaachan, we have heard countless stories that bring the BCA to life.

Buddhism is not just the Eightfold Path, the Three Treasures or meditation; it is also Rev. Charles Hasegawa's messages on impermanence, basketball games, Obon odoris and summer bazaars. Through the workshop, we hope to help you articulate your stories and find impactful channels to amplify your voices.

So much of who we are and how we see ourselves contributing to the world around us is thanks to Buddhism. As members, we endeavor to do our part to sustain the Sangha that has made all the difference in our own lives.

Information about the BCA Membership Study: The study aims to understand people's experiences related to religion. We are interested in understanding: first, what motivates people, particularly those under 35, to stay within or leave the religion they grew up with, and secondly, what motivates people to join a religion.

If you or someone you know who has previously been or is currently a member of the BCA and would be willing to participate, please contact dae-hyeon.kim@wustl.edu

'Dial the Dharma' for Enlightening Messages
800-817-7918
Press 1 for English, Press 2 for Japanese, Press 3 for Spanish

今月の法話

「よこさま」

オレゴン仏教会　菅原　祐軌

「横」はよこさまといふ、よこさまといふは如来の願力を信ずるゆゑに行者のはからひにあらず、五悪趣を自然にたちすて四生をはなるるを横といふ、他力と申すなり。これを横超といふなり。

―『尊号真像銘文』（『註釈版聖典』、６４６頁）

「横」は「よこざま」ということである。「よこざま」というのは、阿弥陀仏の本願のはたらきを信じることによって、行者のはからいによらずに、迷いの世界を自然に断ち切って、その世界に生を受けることを離れるのであり、このことを「横」といい、また他力というのである。これを「横超」というのである。（現代語訳）

こうやって『法輪』の日本語の記事を書かせていただくのも久しぶりな気がいたします。ＢＣＡのお寺もだいぶ対面で再開されているみたいですが、みなさま、パンデミックの2年間をどう過ごされたでしょうか？

Rev. Yuki Sugahara

私の赴任しておりますオレゴン仏教会では、２０２０年の3月末より毎朝Ｙｏｕｔｕｂｅでの英語でのお聖教の解説を始めさせていただきました。というのも、自分の家族は皆日本語ですし、家にいては英語を喋る機会が全くありません。このままでは英語を忘れてしまう、と思ったのが一点、そして自分の勉強不足解消の為というのがオンラインでの解説を始めたそもそものきっかけでした。そこから既に2年半が過ぎ、西本願寺で拝読されます蓮如上人の『御文章』、親鸞聖人の『三帖和讃』、『皇太子聖徳奉讃和讃』の各首解説、『歎異抄』、『正信偈』や和語聖教である『一念多念文意』や『唯信鈔文意』など１０００本以上の解説ビデオを作成させていただきました。

現在ＹｏｕＴｕｂｅで読ませていただいているのが御讃題で挙げさせていただいた『尊号真像銘文（そんごうしんぞうめいもん）』（以下『銘文』）なのですが、『銘文』はその名の通り、阿弥陀さまのお名号（尊号）や祖師方の肖像画（真像）の上下の余白に書き込まれた経論釈の讃銘（銘文）のことであり、その銘文を宗祖親鸞聖人が解説されたお聖教となります。この『銘文』は宗祖が第十八願文を註釈されている唯一のお聖教、ということだけでも拝読させていただけるのは大変有り難いものでありますが、『銘文』全体における宗祖の解説は浄土真宗のご法義を知る上でも大変大切なものであります。

今月御讃題として挙げさせた御文は『仏説無量寿経』巻下の「悲化段」と呼ばれる一段の「横截五悪趣悪趣自然閉」という御文を宗祖が註釈されている箇所でありますが、信心の行者は阿弥陀さまの本願力によって、よこさまに五悪趣（輪廻の世界）を超え、四生（胎生・卵生・湿生・化生）を離れることをお示しくださっておられます。この御文を読んで思い出したニュースがありました。

うちの子供達は世界の驚くようなニュースやハプニング映像のようなものを流す番組を観るのが好きなのですが、ある日一緒にテレビを見ておりましたら、小さな子が井戸に落ちてはまってしまったというニュースの映像が流れておりました。その子供はすっぽりと井戸にはまってしまっていますから、自分の力では井戸から抜け出すことが出来ません。しかし、大人が入るには井戸は狭すぎます。そこでレスキュー隊がどうしたかというと、井戸の横に穴を掘り、そこから少しづつドリルで子供のはまっている井戸に穴を開けて子供を救出するということでした。長い時間の末にようやくレスキュー隊にその子供は救出されたという話なのですが、うちは子供がその子供と同じ位の年齢であったこともあり、自分の子供の事の様にハラハラドキドキとしながらその番組を見ており、救出された際にはホッとしました。

さて、私達は煩悩具足の凡夫であると宗祖はご教示下さいますが、自分の行いによって自分自身をこの輪廻の世界に縛り付けておるのが私達であります。これは井戸に落ちた子供のようなものです。自分では全く身動きの取れないような状態を想像してみて下さい。このような状態では井戸を登って自分の力で外に出ること、この迷いの世界から離れることなど不可能です。では私達は一体どうするべきなのでしょうか？

それは、子供がレスキュー隊によって助けられたように、阿弥陀さまの本願力におまかせする以外にありません。ですから、行者のはからい、私達の行いによってこの迷いの世界を離れるのではないのです。きっとレスキュー隊は子供に向かって「必ず助けるからな、心配しないで待っていろよ！」と声をかけられたのではないかと思います。同じように私達は阿弥陀さまに「南無阿弥陀仏。必ず救う、われにまかせよ」と常に呼ばれています。この阿弥陀さまの呼び声、おはたらきにおまかせすることによって、レスキュー隊が「よこさま」に子供を助け出したように、私達も「よこさま」にこの輪廻から抜け出させていただき、速やかに往生即成仏の妙果を得させていただくことが出来るのです。

さて、この「横超（おうちょう）」のみ教えによって、私達は自分という存在がどういうものであるのか、そして阿弥陀さまという、この私を摂取して捨てない仏さまのおられることを知らされます。そこに起こるのは自分自身のあり方を見つめなおしていく慚愧（ざんぎ）の心と、阿弥陀さまに対する感謝の想いであり、この想いと共に一日一日を生かさせていただくのが念仏者の生活ではなかろうかと思います。浄土真宗のみ教えを軸として念仏の日暮しを送らせていただきたいものです。

合掌

2022ノースウエスト甲子園

西北部教区の夏の恒例行事となった僧侶と門信徒の混成チームによるソフトボール大会「ノースウエスト甲子園」が3年ぶりに行われた。以下はシアトル別院輪番の楠開教使によるレポート。

シアトルマリナーズが21年ぶりのプレーオフ進出を目指し、熱い戦いを繰り広げているこの北の大地で、もう一つ因縁浅からぬ伝統の一戦が繰り広げられた。２０１7年に再開されたノースウエストのソフトボール大会。別名、ノースウエスト甲子園。過去二年はコロナウィルスの影響で中止されたこの大会も、今年は、第４回大会を開催することができた。9月3日土曜日、前回優勝タコマ仏教会チーム、シアトル別院チームに加え今年は、ホワイトリバー仏教会からの参加もあり、約５０名の球児並びに応援団が、タコマ仏教会近郊の球場に集まった。コロナのパンデミック中、タコマ仏教会チームは、宮地開教使が去ったものの、新たに小山開教使が赴任し、戦力補強に怠りはない。一方、シアトル別院チームは、安定のベテラン勢に加え、若い力が成長してきている。

North West softball game

第一試合は、全員参加のレクリエーションゲーム。ビジターのシアトルチームが先行で試合が始まる。先頭打者の、楠輪番の息子、結也（5歳）が、二塁手を襲う強襲ヒットを打つ。そこから打線がつながり、先制点を奪った。タコマチームも浄土真宗センターで教師教習を終え、心身ともに充実しているヤサキ　シンディー先生が攻守ともに活躍を見せた。

第二試合は、賜杯をかけた真剣勝負。シアトルチームは、身長の大きい順に組んだ打順が見事にはまった。先頭のコーナー選手が、先頭打者ホームラン、そこから打線が爆発し、一挙に5点を先制する。その裏、タコマチームが2点を返すものの、試合はシアトルチーム優勢に進んでいく。5回裏、タコマチームの猛攻による反撃で一気に3点を返し、その時点で9対5と追い上げた。しかし、追い上げもそこまで。さらに追加点を加えたシアトルチームが、１３対６で勝利を収め、初優勝を飾った。

今年、夏の甲子園大会では、仙台育英高校が初優勝し、深紅の大優勝旗が初めて白河の関を超えた。同様に、このノースウエストでは、賜杯が初めてシータック空港を超え、シアトルへと持ち込まれた。この熱戦でサイクル安打を達成し、最優秀選手ばりの活躍を見せたコーナー選手は、「来年は、シアトルがホスト。今から、球場を探します。」とすでに連覇へ向けて動き出していた。

法輪

2022年 10月号

発行所
米国仏教団
Buddhist Churches of America
1710 Octavia Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
電話(415)776-5600
FAX(415)771-6293
Email:info@bcahq.org
forWOD:WODeditor@bcahq.org

二〇二二年度教化標語
「進め！み教えと朋に歩もう。ー仏法を次代に、子や孫にー」

あの記事をもう一度！
法輪のバックナンバーがBCAウェブサイトにて読めます。
http://buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/about-us/wheel-of-dharma

総長メッセージ

如是我聞とは

米国仏教団　総長　原田　マービン

Bishop Rev. Marvin Harada

浄土真宗の所依の経典は「如是我聞（にょぜがもん）」または「我聞如是（がもんにょぜ）」という四文字の漢字で始まり、「このように私は聞きました。」と訳されています。

これはお釈迦さまの弟子の一人である阿難尊者が言われたとされる言葉で、お釈迦さまから聞かれた法話を他のお弟子さんに伝えられた、ということが表されています。「聞」は「to listen」、「to hear」という意味です。「聞」は仏教を学ぶのに必要ですし、特に私たち浄土真宗では、「聞くこと」と「聴くこと」は最も重要で中心的な行いとしています。

阿難尊者は、自分が聞いただけでなく、自分の心に響いた、仏法の真理を話されています。その言葉の中には、言葉を超えた、非常に深いものが含まれているのです。

親鸞聖人も同じように、自分の心に響いた教えを文章にして伝えられました。聖人は著書の中で、経典や経典の註釈書などから数えきれないほどのご文を引用されています。それは、自分がいかに優れた学者であるか、いかに優れた記憶力を持っているかを誇示するためではなく、自分の心に響き、自分の存在に深く「聞こえた」ご文を紹介されたのです。

暁烏敏師は『大無量寿経』の解説の中で、「我聞如是」や「如是我聞」は、「聞くことの大切さを忘れてはならない」という意味だと言われ、「他人に聞かせるのではなく、自分で聞くのが仏教の道だ」と示されています。

また、暁烏師の師である清沢満志師が弟子によく言っていたことを紹介されています。「説教をしようとしてはいけない。僧侶が説教をすると、仏教は死んでしまう。ただ聞きなさい。自分が聞けば仏法は栄える。」という意味の言葉です。

それは私たち開教使にとって厳しい言葉です。「説教をするなとはどういう意味でしょうか？」「説教をしないで説教をする、先生がおっしゃったのは、お説教では「こうあるべき」とか「これは間違っている」というように、という意味で、自分のバークレーの浄土真宗センターに滞在し、開教使になるために必要な知識やスキルを習得していく。講座期間中、現役、引退開教使、門信徒や他宗派の僧侶、他宗教の聖職者らから講義を受けるほか、各寺院を訪れ実際の開教、伝道の現場から学ぶ。以下は受講生の紹介。

佐藤　洋弥(さとう　ひろや)　出身地　鹿児島県
所属寺院　鹿児島教区　揖宿組　光雲寺
出身校　指宿高校普通科　龍谷大学文学部仏教学科
勤式指導所研究科　音響専門学校
開教使志望の動機　十年ほど日本にて法務員として各地のお寺でお参りさせていただき、日本では過多の寺院数も海外ではまだまだ直接に浄土真宗の教えに触れていない人がたくさんおられると思い、そのような方々に浄土真宗の教えを伝えることを仕事にしたいと思い至った為。
アメリカのご門徒さんたちに一言　南無阿弥陀仏
好きな食べ物　母の手料理
好きな音楽　お経　雅楽　hip hop R&B soul funk reggae piano jazz dancehall
趣味 音楽鑑賞
親鸞聖人の好きな言葉　光雲無碍如虚空

§

鳥居友佳里（とりいゆかり）出身地　群馬、東京
所属寺院　備後教区　世羅祖　教専寺
出身校　早稲田大学第一文学部　中央仏教学院(通信)
武蔵野大学大学院仏教学専攻在学中
開教使志望の動機　私は母の死をきっかけに真宗のみ教えに出遇いました。私のように人生の途中でみ教えに出遇う方、まだ出遇っていない方が多くいると思われる海外で、ご縁を広げていきたいと思い、開教使を志望しております。
アメリカのご門徒さんたちに一言
一緒に楽しく仏法を聞いていきましょう！
好きな食べ物　スパイシーなお料理（東南アジア、中東、中南米etc.）
好きな音楽　60,70年代のイタリア映画音楽、ジャズ
趣味　観劇、映画鑑賞、ピラティス
親鸞聖人の好きな言葉
「弥陀の五劫思惟の願をよくよく案ずれば、ひとへに親鸞一人がためなりけり」

Ms Kubo, Rev. Umezu, IMOP Ministers Revs. Torii and Sato, Revs. Kuwahara, Mikame, Bishop Rev. Aoki

IMOP 受講生インタビュー

開教使を目指す日本人僧侶を対象としたプログラム、IMOP（国際伝道者養成講座）が9月9日から始まった。同プログラムは浄土真宗インターナショナルオフィスのもとで運営され、コロナウイルスのパンデミックの影響により、2019年以来3年ぶりの開講となった。今年は二名の僧侶が受講し、11月下旬までの三ヶ月間、バークレーの浄土真宗センターに滞在し、開教使になるために必要な知識やスキルを習得していく。講座期間中、現役、引退開教使、門信徒や他宗派の僧侶、他宗教の聖職者らから講義を受けるほか、各寺院を訪れ実際の開教、伝道の現場から学ぶ。以下は受講生の紹介。