



WHEEL OF DHARMA

Official Publication of the Buddhist Churches of America



Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival Queen Hannah KC Mukai and First Princess Kylie Tamura pose with 2022 Nisei Week Queen Kristine Yada and Princess Lorie Meza at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. Yada and Meza attended the Cherry Blossom Festival in April in San Francisco. Shown, from left, are Yada, Mukai, Meza and Tamura. All four are Jodo Shinshu Buddhists with BCA temples and churches. (Courtesy of 2022 Nisei Week Princess Amanda Hiraishi)

A Year to Remember

Northern California Cherry Blossom Queen Hannah KC Mukai, First Princess Kylie Tamura Reflect on Jodo Shinshu’s Impact on Their Lives

By **Jon Kawamoto**
Wheel of Dharma Editor

It’s been a whirlwind year for young Jodo Shinshu Buddhists Hannah KC Mukai and for Kylie Tamura.

Their lives really kicked into high gear beginning April 8 — when Mukai was crowned this year’s Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival Queen and Tamura was selected as First Princess. The well-attended

event was held at the Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture in San Francisco.

Since the Cherry Blossom Festival program, life for Mukai and Tamura, and the rest of the Queen Court — Maya Isaka, Samantha Teshima, and Emily “Emi” Wagner — has been non-stop, especially on weekends.

Their itinerary has included appearances at the Davis Cherry Blossom Festival, Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival, San Jose Nikkei Matsuri, Soy and

Tofu Festival in San Francisco, as well as several of the Obon festivals in the Bay Area, including San Francisco, San Jose, San Mateo, and Tamura’s hometown of Concord.

They also attended the San Francisco Japantown Pride flag-raising ceremony on June 5 — which Mukai says was “an amazing celebration of queer joy, resilience, and community” — and the Nisei Week Japanese

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Lahaina Temple Minister’s Message for People of Lahaina

Editor’s note: Rev. Ai Hironaka, Resident Minister of Lahaina Hongwanji Mission that was destroyed in the Maui wildfires in August, shared the following message for the statewide vigil in Hawaii on Sept. 1 in Ka’anapali, Maui. The Wheel of Dharma is reprinting his message with the permission of Rev. Hironaka and the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (HHMH).

By **Rev. Ai Hironaka**
Lahaina Hongwanji Mission



Rev. Ai Hironaka

The fire destroyed the houses and took everything away.

Many people were killed and many are still missing.

I am at a loss for words when I think of the heartache of so many families.

I would like to express my deepest condolences to people who lost their

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Monterey MA David Correia Describes His Nembutsu Path

Former ‘First Timer’ Says Sangha Is ‘Heart of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism’

Editor’s note: This is the fifth article in a series about the Feb. 18 BCA National Council Meeting’s Town Hall seminar, titled “The Benefits of Following the Shin Buddhist Path.”

By **Jon Kawamoto**
Wheel of Dharma Editor

Ten years ago, David Correia had never heard of the words “Dharma” or “Sangha,” and had never set foot inside a BCA temple, much less attended a Sunday service.

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Young Buddhists Revive Tsukemono Festival to Preserve Cultural Delicacy

Event Will Be Held at Cortez Buddhist Church in November

By **Sydney Shiroyama**
Palo Alto Buddhist Temple

Like many Nisei grandparents, there were always at least a few jars of tsukemono at my grandma’s Central Valley home.

Even though they looked the same to me, she always remembered the stories behind them. She would say: “These cucumbers are from

Reiko’s garden.” “This is Tomi’s takuan recipe, but she makes it better.”

When I talked to Blake Honda about my love of tsukemono, he had similar memories of his grandparents sharing jars and passing down recipes. He told me about the Tsukemono Festival in 2003 that was organized by Tom Nagata and his son Kevin (also known as Uncle Tom and Kev). The

event’s mission was, “Preservation and continuation of this cultural delicacy for generations to come.”

Inspired by this event, we organized the second Tsukemono Festival — with members of the Central California Young Buddhist Association (CCYBA) — on Nov. 12, 2022, in the YBA hall of the Buddhist Church

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A Tsukemono Festival was held in 2022 at the Buddhist Church of Fowler. Shown, from left, are: Tayoko Honda, June Shimoda, Sydney Shiroyama, Travis Honda, Blake Honda, Mallory Shiroyama, Lindsay Guerra, Miko Shudo, and Marc Sanwo. (Courtesy of Khanh Ly)



BISHOP'S MESSAGE

Washing the Dust from Our Hearts and Minds



By Rev. Marvin Harada
Bishop of the BCA

This past month, I was in Ontario, Oregon, at the Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple, where I grew up.

You might recall that a little over a year ago, there was a terrible fire in the basement. Although the basement was pretty much destroyed, the upstairs Hondo suffered smoke damage.

A Buddhist altar company, the Wakabayashi Co., is in Ontario cleaning the altar pieces on the Onaijin. The entire altar was removed from the Onaijin, and the major pieces are being washed and dusted.

The Wakabayashi Co. brought over a specialist who has developed a method of using air pressure and a light stream of water with some cleaning solution to rinse off the altar pieces. It is amazing what it does. The altar pieces are not only clean, their luster is restored and they look shiny and new.

I recalled a favorite passage of my Sensei in Japan, Shigaraki Sensei. To paraphrase the quotation, it was something like, "The Dharma is the water that cleanses our hearts and minds." I think "cleanse" is a very appropriate and Shin Buddhist oriented term. Some religions seek to "purify" the mind and body. You have to purify your mind of bad thoughts, and purify your body from bad feelings and emotions. Even Shakyamuni Buddha tried this. When he practiced with the five ascetics, they felt that to take food into the body was to bring in impurities, so they hardly ate at all, to the point that Shakyamuni Buddha nearly starved himself to death.

However, in Shin Buddhism, the teachings, the Dharma, "cleanse" our heart, mind, and body. Just like when we dust our furniture, it



In Shin Buddhism, the teachings, the Dharma, "cleanse" our heart, mind, and body. Just like when we dust our furniture, it is clean today, but tomorrow there will be dust again.

is clean today, but tomorrow there will be dust again. The altar at the Idaho-Oregon temple will be nice and clean and shiny when the cleaning is finished, but in time, the dust will accumulate and the shine will fade.

That is the reality of life and the reality of our existence. We cannot totally purify our hearts and minds and expect them to remain pure. However, through the teachings, we "cleanse" our hearts and minds. That is why it is so refreshing to listen to a wonderful Dharma message or hear a talk that penetrates our hearts and minds. It is like

receiving water to cleanse us of the accumulated dirt, dust, and grime. How refreshing it feels to take a nice shower or bath. How refreshing it feels to listen to the Dharma.

That is why we listen for our entire lives. We don't take one shower and think that will last us till we die. We can't expect the altars to not be cleaned for decades and decades. We have to clean the altar thoroughly like this once in a few decades. We have to take a shower or bath daily. We have to listen to the Dharma when we can, to cleanse our heart and mind.

By "cleansing," I mean to be shown our ego self, to be

The Wakabayashi Co., a Buddhist altar company from Japan, was in Ontario, Oregon, cleaning the altar pieces on the Onaijin of the Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple. The Hondo suffered smoke damage as the result of a fire in the basement last year. At left, Rev. Anne Spencer cleans the statue of Amida Buddha as Rev. Kathy Chatterton looks on with Satoru Hayakawa from the Grandline Co. that developed the new cleaning process. (Courtesy of Mike Iseri and Connie Tanaka)

shown our three poisons, to be shown our self-centered nature. The altar pieces have decades of accumulated dust that are being washed off. Sometimes, the dust on our ego self accumulates for decades. An unresolved issue in our past, a grudge that we hold and carry with us, a feeling of anger from something that someone said or did to us years and years ago, stays in us, and we carry that "dust and dirt" for decades. Just think about it deeply within your own life. Isn't there something in your past that you are still angry or upset about? If you stop and think about it, you feel the same anger that you did decades ago.

If we have no way to cleanse, to wash away such thoughts, feelings, and emotions, they could eat away at us over the course of time. That is why we need the teachings, the Dharma, to at least bring a sense of cleansing, to wash away the dirt and dust from our hearts and minds. Then we can live refreshed and renewed until our next "cleansing" or our listening to the Dharma.

Ministerial Assignments

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

Rev. Melissa Opel, Minister's Assistant for the Spokane Buddhist Temple, has been assigned to the Buddhist Church of San Francisco as a full-time Kyoshi minister, effective June 1.

Rev. Yuki Sugahara, Resident Minister of the Oregon Buddhist Temple, was assigned as Rinban of the Buddhist Church of Sacramento, effective July 1.

Corrections

In the August issue of the Wheel of Dharma, Tabitha Kobata of the Hongwanji International Center translated the original Japanese article that was printed in the June 10 issue of the Hongwanji Shimo.

In addition, there was no English 850th/800th Joint Celebration. The observance was conducted in Japanese, with translations available in English, Chinese, and Portuguese.

In the September issue of the Wheel of Dharma, the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii was incorrectly listed as an acronym in the story on Maui relief. It is HHMH.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Outpouring of Donations to Maui Relief Shows Strength of Sangha



By **Terri Omori**
BCA President

You are amazing! The outpouring of concerns to our Dharma friends and those impacted by the Lahaina wildfires epitomizes the strength of Sangha.

Whether you made a donation directly to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (HHMH), to the BCA Endowment Foundation, or participated in a sponsored event by your temple, collectively a difference has been made in the lives of many.

The HHMH is grateful for the enormous support received. Updates on the distribution of funds and actions of emergency relief support can be found on

the HHMH website at <https://hongwanjihawaii.com>. Please continue to keep Lahaina in your thoughts as they face their long road to recovery.

In addition to the donations collected through the BCA Endowment Foundation for the HHMH Maui Wildfire Relief Fund, BCA made an initial donation to the HHMH through the Social Welfare Fund. Thanks to the Dana of many through the years, a portion of the Social Welfare Fund is saved for disaster relief efforts. Even though we do not wish for such tragic events to occur, it is comforting to have the funds available.

In October, the Endowment Foundation sends a letter on behalf of the Social Welfare Committee. Donations received are designated for specific causes to aid those who have been deprived of life's basic needs. If you have not already, please read the article in the September Wheel of Dharma on Page 6 by BCA Secretary Darlene Bagshaw.

The article explains the efforts of the BCA Social Welfare committee and the impact this program has recently made. For almost 44 years, this com-



BCA President Terri Omori, center, poses with Rev. Giei Sasaki, this year's International Ministers Orientation Program (IMOP) minister, and his wife, Mrs. Mari Sasaki at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, California. (Courtesy of Terri Omori)

mittee has provided hundreds of grants to vetted nonprofit organizations who are providing the necessary resources because of you and your Dana.

Let us continue this compassion in action. Please join me and together as a Sangha, we can make a difference for many around the world!

On Sept. 8, I had the priv-

ilege to meet Rev. Giei Sasaki and his wife, Mrs. Mari Sasaki. Rev. Sasaki participated in the International Ministerial Orientation Program (IMOP) coordinated through the Jodo Shinshu International Office (JSIO).

IMOP is a training program for ministers from Japan. It is an opportunity to learn what

it is like to be an overseas Kai-kyoshi minister, especially for the BCA, to experience living in the United States and to visit nearby BCA temples for services, events and meetings.

Rev. Sasaki is a professor at Ryukoku University in Kyoto and his family temple is on the shore of Lake Biwa. It was an honor to have a discussion with Rev. and Mrs. Sasaki.

As I shared the importance of collaboration between the BCA ministers, lay leaders and staff, working together to share and sustain the Dharma in the United States, Rev. Sasaki was filled with ideas of various programs.

His passion and desire to spread Jodo Shinshu Buddhism was evident. He was also inspired by his experiences in visiting BCA temples and interactions with the ministers, members and staff. Rev. Sasaki expressed how grateful he is to feel the Jodo Shinshu spirit alive and well here.

Thank you to all who welcomed Rev. and Mrs. Sasaki and their son, Eiki. Thank you for showing them the value and importance of BCA's Sangha as we walk together on our Jodo Shinshu path.

Fresno's 55th Annual 'Camping in the Sierras' Held in San Luis Obispo

The Fresno Betsuin's "Camping in the Sierras" celebrated its 55th year and returned to the San Luis Obispo Buddhist Temple, which offered a cool respite from the 100-degree temperatures in the Central Valley.

The 11 campers experienced a couple of events for the first time in the history of "Camping in the Sierras," which was held from July 29 to Aug. 2. On Aug. 1, the campers had a trip to downtown San Luis Obispo to enjoy lunch, shop and hang out together.

In addition, the campers participated in a cornhole tournament and were teamed with a counselor partner for a single-elimination tournament. Thanks go to counselor Matthew Miyake, who provid-

ed the cornhole equipment. And congratulations to the winners, Blake Morikawa and Kasey Justesen.

And there was another first — the kitchen Toban finished cleaning up in under 30 minutes after each meal. Bravo to Toban leaders Makayla Kubo, Blake Morikawa, Ellen Sano, and Tomoya Ryan.

At the request of our campers, more activities were added to the daily schedule. Special thanks go to the activity chairs, Kristi Yamamoto and Gillian Yamagiwa, for their clever and entertaining TV game show activities like "\$100,000 Pyramid" and "Generation Gap."

On July 31, the campers had fun at the beach with a water bucket toss competition. Every camper made a



This year's "Camping in the Sierras" campers, counselors and directors gather for a photo in San Luis Obispo. (Courtesy of Gregg Sera)

friendship bracelet and did the craft of rock painting.

"Our 2023 camp group felt like a large family enjoying vacation time together," said

Gregg Sera, Janis Nakamoto Sera and Debbie Suda, the Camping in the Sierras directors, in a statement. "Having a smaller group offered the

campers and counselors more opportunities to get to know each other better. We appreciate everyone who supported our steak dinner fundraiser and those who helped throughout the year. Our dedicated counselors worked hard to ensure we had a successful 55th year of camp."

The directors noted the contributions of the counselor staff of Kasey Justesen, Devin Kubota, Chris Kuramoto, Matthew Miyake, Garrett Sano, Michael Sera, Michael Suda, Gillian Yamagiwa, Kristi Yamamoto, and Michael Yebisu.

"We are grateful for everyone's efforts to make this memorable week happen once again," the directors said. "We hope to see all eligible campers next year."

Ryukoku University's Rev. Giei Sasaki Is IMOP Minister for 2023

Veteran Holds Special Title Within Hongwanji-ha

By **Dennis Akizuki**
Wheel of Dharma Contributor

The International Ministers Orientation Program (IMOP) has brought Japanese ministers who are interested in serving overseas to the United States.

Most have been ministers at the start of their careers. But

this year, the minister who participated in IMOP was a veteran who holds one of the highest religious positions in the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha and is a respected teacher of more than 30 years and academician.

Rev. Giei Sasaki has the special title within Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha of "Shikyo," which literally means "conduct training" in English. "Shikyo" is the second-highest academic position in Jodo Shinshu studies. Rev. Sasaki teaches at



Rev. Giei Sasaki

Ryukoku University and the Central Buddhist Institute and also holds the position of bishop at the Nishi Hongwanji, where he is involved in training students.

Rev. Sasaki and his family — wife, Mari, and son, Eiki — arrived in the San Francisco Bay Area on Aug. 23 and returned to Japan on Sept. 25.

"BCA is a place that reminds me of the most important things in my life," Rev. Sasaki said during his stay.

"Everyone earnestly listens to and rejoices in the primal vow of Amida Buddha.

"Bishop, ministers and members share the same feelings," he continued. "Listening to their words makes my heart tremble. This is the true essence of Jodo Shinshu, which is the form of 'Ondobō Ondogyō,' — 'fellow travelers together in the Nembutsu' — where we share our joy and suffering

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2024 NCM Is Back in Person

After a hiatus of more than three years, the 2024 BCA National Council meeting will gather in person in Sacramento to help celebrate the BCA's 125th anniversary.

The Northern California District — made up of Florin, Lodi, Marysville, Placer, Sacramento, and Walnut Grove temples — will host the NCM

at the Buddhist Church of Sacramento.

The dates for the National Council Meeting will include both virtual and in-person meeting formats.

The agenda is as follows:

Ministers' Association — Friday, Feb. 16 (virtual)

Workshops — Saturday, Feb. 17 (virtual)

National Council Meeting — Friday and Saturday, Feb. 23-24 (in-person)

IBS Symposium — Saturday, Feb. 24 (virtual and in-person)

Eitaikyo Service — Sunday, Feb. 25 (virtual and in-person)

Information will be sent to temple representatives in October on registration.

BCA Is Seeking to Hire Digital Content Assistant

BCA is seeking to hire a Digital Content Assistant to support organizational communications and outreach efforts.

The Digital Content Assistant will provide a broad range of marketing and outreach support to the organization, including distribution of social media, website, and digital content that educates the public, connects BCA temples, and highlights the inspirational messages of BCA ministers.

The Digital Content Assistant will work closely with the BCA Communications Committee to implement a communications strategy to serve thousands of members, potential members, community partners, donors, and the media.

The applicant must have excellent communication skills, technical skills, familiarity with digital media platforms, and an interest in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

The position is part-time with the potential to expand and reports to the BCA's Technology Outreach Committee. This is a remote position, working with staff based at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, California. When safe (post-pandemic), occasional travel will be required for meetings and events.

Duties include:

- **Implementing BCA's communications strategies to advance BCA's mission,** enhance communication with members, educate potential members, and increase exposure of BCA temples and events.

- **Maintaining integrated communications calendar** and post related content to BCA digital channels.

- **Website:** Serve as primary website administrator. Post and manage informational, educational, and events content on BCA website.

- **Social Media:** Manage BCA's social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram); post regular written, image, and graphical content for members and supporters; respond to messages and comments.

- **Print Newsletter Content Redistribution:** Distribute content from BCA's existing print newsletter, the

Wheel of Dharma, across digital channels.

- **Email Newsletter:** Publish BCA Connect, the BCA's e-newsletter, which highlights Wheel of Dharma articles, BCA news, events, and Jodo Shinshu resources.

- **Video:** Manage BCA YouTube page and content; distribute videos through other digital channels.

- **Events:** Maintain events calendar on website. Serve as a resource for the Center for Buddhist Education, local temples, and other BCA partners to communicate events and activities to the public via digital channels.

- Assist in the drafting of other written content and marketing materials as needed.

- Attend Communications Committee meetings and related events/activities.

- Assist with tracking and reporting of communications and marketing efforts initiated by the organization; use digital analytics tools to assess impact.

Additional duties as needed to fulfill the mission of the organization.

Required:

- Bachelor's degree in communications, marketing, or equivalent digital media experience.

- Entry-level experience or exposure to communications, marketing, public relations, and/or social media management.

- Outstanding written and oral communication skills.

- Technical skills that demonstrate knowledge of, comfort with, and ability to produce and manage content on digital media platforms.

- Excellent organizational

Key Responsibilities:

Marketing and outreach support, website maintenance, social media, email newsletter & more.

WE'RE HIRING!

Digital Content Assistant

Learn more & apply at:
<https://bit.ly/48k4VTL>



2024 BCA NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

EMBRACING THE DHARMA WITH HOPE AND JOY

VIRTUAL

February 16 Ministers' Association

February 17 Workshops

IN-PERSON

February 23 & 24 National Council Meeting

VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON

February 24 IBS Symposium

February 25 Eitaikyo Service at the Buddhist Church of Sacramento

Hosted by the
Northern California District Temples

BCA Music Committee

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Hongwanji International Center has its own English language website with items from various BCA and Hawaii temples?

Newly added is the video and musical score of "With Gassho from the Heart" after the BCA kyodan premiere presentation in Kyoto earlier this year under "Gatha Songs" on the left hand side of the webpage: <https://international.hongwanji.or.jp/>

BONBU STORIES LANTERN SONG DEBUT

Webinar

REGISTER

<https://tinyurl.com/bonbustories125th>

Join us to celebrate the debut of a new Bon Odori Song and Dance in celebration of the 125th Anniversary of BCA

OCT. 7, 2023
11:00 AM PACIFIC

TAIKOVENTURES



At far left, Eko Haus in Dusseldorf, Germany, hosted the European Shin Buddhist Conference. In the group photo, from left, are: Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara, Jodo Shinshu International Office (JSIO) director; Canada Bishop Rev. Tatsuya Aoki; Rev. Jerry Hirano; Dr. Carmela Javellana Hirano; Janet Umezu; Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji; and Rev. Kodo Umezu, JSIO president. (Photos courtesy of Rev. Jerry Hirano)

Reflections on the 20th European Shin Buddhist Conference

“I have collected true words to aid others in their practice for attaining birth, in order that the process be made continuous, without end and without interruption, by which those who have been born first guide those who come later, and those who are born later join those who were born before. This is so the boundless ocean of birth and death be exhausted.”

— “The Collective Works of Shinran” (CWS) passage 119/291

By Rev. Jerry Hirano
Salt Lake Buddhist Temple



Rev. Jerry Hirano gives a presentation of the BCA's Center for Buddhist Education (CBE) programs. At right, Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara gives a lecture about Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.



Buddhist texts into English. I gave an introduction of our Center for Buddhist Education (CBE) programs, not only online, but also Minister's Assistant Program (MAP) and Buddhist Youth Retreats (BYR).

Rev. Tatsuya Aoki, Bishop of Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada was also present.

In the past, the Zenmon sama or Gomonshu sama, was present. This year, Gomonshu sama was there for the 30th year celebration of the opening of Eko Haus, but had to leave before the ESC.

There were video welcome messages by Zenmon sama and Rev. Mitsuya Dake of Ryukoku University.

This was my third ESC. My wife Carmela and I first went to the ESC in 2018 at the encouragement of then Bishop Rev. Umezu. He had told me; “You must see first hand the care and respect for Jodo Shinshu in Europe.”

The first conference I attended was in Antwerp, Belgium. However, before the conference, Rev. Kuwahara had asked me to speak at the Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course seminar at Eko Haus.

Eko Haus is what most strongly fills my memories.

Jodo Shinshu in the United States and Canada are heavily influenced by our Japanese American culture. Europe did not have the diaspora of Japanese immigrants as did the United States and South America.

Jodo Shinshu in Europe does have a Japanese cultural component. However, it is largely independent of the cultural attachments of food bazaars, taiko, Bon Odori, martial arts, etc., we find here in the United States and Canadian temples.

It is the teachings of Shinran Shonin and Hongwanji that is directly influencing Europe.

Europe has no Kaikyoshi or

Of my experiences on my long spiritual journey, one of the most surprising has been my encounter with the European Shin Buddhist Conference (ESC), particularly those held at Eko Haus in Dusseldorf, Germany.

I feel a personal connection with Eko Haus, which was founded by Rev. Dr. Yehan Numata in 1988. He was a friend of my grandparents in Los Angeles in the early 1900s. My grandfather and grandmother helped nurse

him back to health after he fell ill while serving as a houseboy.

My grandfather taught Mr. Numata to drive, so that he could work as a chauffeur rather than just as a houseboy. Once he recovered from his illness, he moved on to the University of California, Berkeley, where he graduated from and later founded Mitutoyo Corp, which is the benefactor of Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK).

When I arrived in Japan in 1983 to begin my studies, a kind, elderly gentleman greeted me at the Hongwanji International Center.

I didn't know who he was until he explained that my grandmother had written to him to say I would be studying in Kyoto. He not only met me at the International Center, but he also came to my school, Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin (Chubutsu), to formally introduce me as a family friend.

The head of the school took me to the side and asked, “How do you know him?” I replied, “I don't, he's my grandparent's friend.”

Mr. Numata would continue to meet me during my four years there when he was in Kyoto. He asked me to live and work with him during my summer breaks and would become my sponsor. I was advised by then Bishop Rev. Dr. Seigen Yamaoka that I should not accept.

LTD (Living The Dharma)

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Join our panel as they share their unique stories on how they give back to the community.

Click on the registration link for more info on the panelists.



October 28, 2023
At 11:00 am (PT)



ARTURO
Rubio



WES
Mukoyama



JULIE
Watson



GREGORY
Bull

[REGISTER NOW](https://tinyurl.com/BCALTD)
<https://tinyurl.com/BCALTD>



Hannah KC Mukai is crowned 2023 Cherry Blossom Festival Queen during the April 8 program in San Francisco. Shown above, from left, are Samantha Teshima, Kylie Tamura, Mukai, Emily "Emi" Wagner, and Maya Isaka. At right, the Queen Court poses for a photo in their kimonos. (Photos courtesy of Mark Shinenaga)



At far left, Mukai and Tamura greet well-wishers in San Francisco. At left, Mukai, Isaka, Tamura and Teshima take part in the San Jose Betsuin Obon in July.

Cherry Blossom

Continued from Page 1

Festival in August in Los Angeles.

Mukai and Tamura reflected on the impact that Jodo Shinshu Buddhism has had in their lives, especially in helping to process the Cherry Blossom Festival experience.

"The Cherry Blossom Festival itself and all the events we have attended after have been so much fun, a rush of joy and action which can sometimes feel like a blur," said Mukai, who was sponsored by Takara Sake USA, Inc. "I've been striving to approach each experience with intention and live in the present so that I can look back on these days, not with bitterness that they are over, but with fondness and appreciation that they happened. I know that the Queen Program experience is just the beginning of a long and beautiful relationship with the community. By practicing gratitude, I am reminded to live in and appreciate the moment.

"The teachings of Jodo Shinshu give me a lens to look at the community around me to both appreciate it and challenge it," she continued. "It allows me to observe the ways that our community is filled with vibrance and resilience, but also it has room to change and evolve. Caring for my community means also being a voice for change and social

programs in the Japanese American (JA) community and beyond."

Tamura, who was sponsored by the Concord Buddhist Sunday School, said: "It played a big part in my mindset through it all. The first thing that comes to my mind when I think of anything associated with church is always 'The Golden Chain,' and it's the first thing I memorized while I was sitting in church as a kid. It reminds me about impermanence, interdependence, and

Mukai, 24, is a Yonsei (fourth-generation) on her father's side and a second-generation Chinese American on her mother's side. She grew up in the Central Valley, but now resides in the East Bay.

In 2021, Mukai graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, where she studied Sociology and minored in Global Public Health. She now works for UC Berkeley as an Assistant Director of Parent and Family Philanthropy, where she connects parent

Chair in Tsuru for Solidarity.

Mukai grew up attending the Reedley, Kingsburg, Fresno and Fowler Buddhist temples and participated in the summer Medaka no Gakko at the Buddhist Church of Parlier. She went to Dharma School at Fowler, and helped to establish the Fowler Jr. YBA. She currently attends Berkeley Buddhist Temple, where she hopes to become more involved with the BBT's Buddhists Living with Equity and Non-Discrimination

leadership positions on my own path in the JA community."

Mukai also says her Buddhist heritage inspires her advocacy and activism in the JA community. "With familial ties to World War II incarceration, I know that the temples stand strong today because of the community members that practiced Buddhism in the camps and worked to reestablish the temples post-incarceration, despite being more harshly persecuted than their Christian counterparts," she said.

"The history of mass incarceration that happened to our community should not be repeated," Mukai continued. "And most important, the teachings of compassion and interdependence remind me that my liberation is tied to the liberation of those around me, and therefore, it is important to speak up for communities facing injustice today."

Tamura, 25, was born and raised in Concord, California, and is a Gosei (fifth-generation) Japanese American. In 2020, she graduated from the University of Oregon with a bachelor's degree in Economics and a minor in Business Administration.

She is team lead at Vaco, where she manages a team of seven employees working in content localization and project management. Tamura, like

"The teachings of Jodo Shinshu give me a lens to look at the community around me to both appreciate it and challenge it. It allows me to observe the ways that our community is filled with vibrance and resilience, but also it has room to change and evolve."

— Northern California Cherry Blossom Queen
Hannah KC Mukai

to put my best foot forward whenever I can.

"When I was nervous and panicking about the Q&A portion of Northern California Cherry Blossom program night, to decompress, I would try to remind myself that no matter what, if I was doing the best that I could and was representing myself and those around me well, that it would all work out and everything will be OK. I think if I hadn't gone to church growing up and continued with it as I have, it would have been harder to ground myself."

donors with opportunities to elevate the student experience at Cal.

Mukai dedicates her time to organizations and causes that are important to her culture and identity. She just finished her term as the Northern California Western Nevada-Pacific (NCWNP) District Youth Representative of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), and currently serves as the Social Justice Chair of The Young Buddhist Editorial, and the Police, Prisons, and Detention (PPD) Working Group Co-

(BLEND) Committee, which focuses on inclusive outreach and activities.

"Growing up in the temples, I learned the ways that this community is cared for and cultivated as I saw my elders selflessly give their time, knowledge, and energy to the temple," Mukai said. "Everything from cooking food at Dharma services to setting up at Obon to taking leadership positions on the temple board, the essence of these acts was what Dana and 'community' mean to me. This inspired me to seek out involvement and

Continued on Page 7



Above left, the 2023 Northern California Festival Queen Court tours the Japanese American National Museum on Aug. 12 in Little Tokyo in Los Angeles. Docent Mas Yamashita, who was incarcerated when he was 6 years old at Topaz, Utah, leads the tour. Above right, the 2023 Court participates in the Nisei Week parade festival in Little Tokyo on Aug. 13. (Courtesy of Mark Shinenaga)



At far left, Tamura and Mukai pose with San Mateo Buddhist Temple Resident Minister Rev. Henry Adams at the San Mateo Obon. At left, in top row, Mukai, Teshima, and in bottom row, Tamura and Isaka, attend the Diablo Japanese American Summer Festival in Concord. (Courtesy of Hannah KC Mukai)

Cherry Blossom

Continued from Page 6

Mukai, is involved with The Young Buddhist Editorial.

Growing up, Tamura attended church, Dharma School, and Jr. YBA at the Buddhist Fellowship of Concord, and volunteered at the Diablo Japanese American Club in Concord.

“The Concord Buddhist community is definitely on the smaller side, especially when you compare it to others, like the San Jose community, but I think that is one of my favorite parts and it has helped me gain so much confidence and leadership experience,” she said. “In my time with Jr. YBA, there were usually about five to seven of us in the Concord chapter and because of that, I was on the chapter’s

executive board every year.

“Being able to grow in an environment that was comfortable but unfamiliar and changing gave me the tools to have a great college experience away from home, and gave me the encouragement to keep

said the support from, not only parents, relatives, and friends, but the Japanese American and BCA Sangha community has been amazing.

“Because of my prior involvement in the JA community, I feel lucky to have so

This experience has brought me closer to both sides of my family, allowing me to reconnect with the Mukai side of my family in the Bay Area and share my Nikkei identity with my Chinese American side. It’s also been so encouraging

have never heard the words, ‘I’m proud of you,’ more than I have since program night. With the Concord Buddhist Sunday School being my sponsor, not only did my friends and family get to come out, but some of my church family that I’ve grown up with were able to come and sit up close, and it meant so much to me.

“One conversation I don’t think I’ll ever forget was during the Children’s Day Festival in San Francisco Japantown,” she continued. “The court and I were volunteering at the arts and crafts table and one little girl I was talking to told me she always wished she had a big sister just like me. That’s something I never thought would happen and it showed me how much we could really reach the next generation — I almost cried, too.”

“The first thing that comes to my mind when I think of anything associated with church is always ‘The Golden Chain,’ and it’s the first thing I memorized while I was sitting in church as a kid. It reminds me about impermanence, interdependence, and to put my best foot forward whenever I can.”

— Northern California Cherry Blossom First Princess
Kylie Tamura

wanting to grow, be involved, and take on leadership positions or lead by example in the Japanese American community,” she said.

Both Mukai and Tamura

much love and pride poured in from the community, and this has pushed me to be a better leader and connector in my organizations and relationships,” Mukai said.

seeing the love and support from the Central Valley.”

Tamura said: “The love and support has been overwhelming in the best way possible. I’ve told many people that I

Rev. Hirano

Continued from Page 5

Kyoshi level ministers, other than Rev. Dr. Hisao Matsumaru and Rev. Hironobu Shouju of Eko Haus. Rev. Esho Sasaki of Japan has been a long-time benefactor and supporter of the European Sangha, as had Rev. Dr. Hisao Inagaki before him.

In 2024, Europe will have

two Kyoshi ministers in the United Kingdom: Rev. David Quirke-Thornton and Rev. Dr. Enrique Galvan-Alvarez. Both have had some training at our BCA CBE seminars.

At the conference, I was so happy to hear from so many of the European attendees of how our BCA CBE seminars have deeply influenced their understanding of Jodo Shinshu.

Almost all European Buddhists understand English, and

very few speak or read Japanese. This has reinforced my belief that BCA is the vehicle that will allow Jodo Shinshu to be spread throughout the English-speaking world.

Yes, we have a responsibility to never forget where we came from. Our roots within the Japanese American community are 125 years deep. The Issei (first generation), Nisei (second generation), Sansei (third generation) and now Yonsei

(fourth generation), etc. have sacrificed a lot to get BCA to where it is.

However, our potential is much larger. We Japanese Americans have had great difficulty in our journey in America and should deeply appreciate those who helped us. It is a tree of spiritual life, the roots in Shakyamuni Buddha, Shinran and Rennyo with the trunk of our overseas Sanghas.

Europe is from that same

tree, and we can help it flourish. This is our chance to give back. We are in the position to pass that Dana forward and share it with the world, as Shinran expressed, “in order that the process be made continuous, without end and without interruption, by which those who have been born first guide those who come later, and those who are born later join those who were born before.” Namo Amida Butsu.



Variety of Ways to Donate to Maui Relief, Help Lahaina Minister

By Jon Kawamoto
Wheel of Dharma Editor

There are a variety of ways to donate to Maui relief, including the BCA's own efforts and its Social Welfare Committee, as well as a GoFundMe site set up to directly help the minister and his family of the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission, which was destroyed in the August wildfire.

Donations can be made online through: [https://bca.](https://bca.kindful.com/)

kindful.com/, or by check payable to: BCA Endowment Foundation (Please note on memo line: Maui Relief). Mail checks to: BCA Endowment Foundation, 2140 Durant Ave., Berkeley, CA 94704.

The wildfires in Maui, which struck on Aug. 8, have led to at least 97 deaths as of Sept. 15, making it the deadliest U.S. wildfire in more than a century. In all, 31 people are still reported missing.

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (HHMH)

listed the following ways that people can donate: online at www.hongwanjihawaii.com by clicking on the "Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief" button under the "Donate" tab; a GoFundMe account at the following link: <https://gofund.me/ff77a520>.

Check and cash donations can be sent to the HHMH. Make the check payable to HHMH and in the memo line designate "Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief" to ensure proper credit.

The address is: Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, 1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, HI 96813.

Wayde Toyama, advisor of the Maui Young Buddhist Association, has set up a GoFundMe drive for Lahaina Hongwanji Mission Resident Minister Rev. Ai Hironaka and his family. The wildfires consumed the minister's residence at the Lahaina temple, and the American Red Cross has placed Rev. Hironaka and his family in a hotel.

The site is at: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-support-rev-ai-hironaka-and-his-family>

The American Buddhist Study Center in New York has set up a GoFundMe page for the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission Temple at: <https://gofundme.com/bf668ff1>

In addition, individual BCA temples and churches have been holding Maui relief fundraisers. See your local BCA temple for more information.

Rev. Hironaka

Continued from Page 1

loved ones.

People got hurt.

People are still crying.

When I'm alone, tears well up at random moments.

We have absolutely no control over when it comes.

When driving alone,

When I see the smiles of children,

I can't cry when I want to cry, and I feel like crying when I shouldn't.

I gave up on controlling it.

I never thought that a man could cry so much at the age of 46.

Now the same pained people are encouraging and comforting each other at Ross, Target, TJ Maxx, Costco, and more.

Heart-to-heart hugs of those who share the same heartache are stronger than before the fire.

People who know each other's faces in the town of Lahaina, but have never spoken to each other, now they are communicating with and healing each other.

After the fire, Lahaina's community ties are definitely stronger and thicker.

Now we need to see the future.

The white shirt, tie, pants, socks, and shoes I am wearing today are all brand new.

Except underwear...



Lahaina Hongwanji Mission Resident Minister Rev. Ai Hironaka is shown with his family. The temple and the minister's residence were destroyed in the Maui wildfires. (Courtesy of Rev. Ai Hironaka)

All of this was purchased with donations from the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and many others. All the clothes I wear every day dress me up with donations from everyone.

Thank you very much.

Like me, the town of Lahaina will be dressed up with donations from all over the world.

This tie is not a fancy brand, but now I have a special tie that I don't want to burn for the rest of my life. Because behind this simple necktie, the thoughts of many people, not just my wife, are packed.

All my photos from before the iPhone era have been burned.

Gone are photos of my chil-

dren when they were babies, photos of when I was married, and photos of myself when I was a baby too.

Many of you must be as sad as I am.

But folks, the photos taken at your friend's house or shelter right now may be far more valuable than the lost ones.

Casually taken photos at shelter, showing strong ties among family and friends. Those photos are embraced by the support and help of many people.

These are the most beautiful pictures of family and friends desperately helping each other.

Things that we really don't want to burn — they did not burn — life, human ties, human kindness, All that is still

In addition to his duties in Kyoto, Rev. Sasaki is the head priest of his family temple near Lake Biwa. The family stays in Kyoto during the week and goes back to the family temple on weekends. He has also translated almost all of the Pure Land sutras into Japanese.

Rev. Sasaki and his family enjoyed their stay in the Bay Area and he thanked the BCA.

"Here, the spirit of Jodo Shinshu is alive and well," Rev. Sasaki said.

"I am truly grateful. Thank you, BCA."

within us.

It seems like those who are hurt become more sensitive to the pain of others.

They seem to be more mindful of others.

Lahaina, it will be a new town rebuilt by those who have been hurt.

Lahaina, a town of history, aloha, tradition, culture, and diversity, will become a great town that incorporates new values of humility, kindness, and compassion.

One day the respected elders will say, "If you want to know the spirit of Aloha, go to Lahaina!" It may become a town where you can say that.

A town full of compassion, it matches the local community that we at Lahaina Hongwanji Mission aim for.

We of Lahaina Hongwanji Mission will also do our best to rebuild this town of compassion.

Finally, I would like to praise the name of Amida Buddha, who works in our struggling hearts to relieve the suffering.

Amida Buddha is the Buddha of voice which delivered Amida's healing power to peoples' painful hearts. The

meaning of reciting Namu Amida Butsu is,

"Strong one as strong, the weak one as weak, the crying people as crying, and I am embracing you just as you are now. You don't have to be strong, because you are not that strong. You are not alone, you are already embraced by me".

Amida's voice became my voice, and it reaches my ears.

It is the Buddha, the voice of wisdom and compassion.

Even if everything burns, the voice of Buddha never burned, but still shines and embraces us.

Namu Amida Butsu

Namu Amida Butsu

May Peace prevail in Lahaina.

May Peace prevail in the world.

May this event will raise the eye level of Lahaina people even just a little bit.

Namu Amida Butsu

Namu Amida Butsu

Lahaina Strong

Namu Amida Butsu

Namu Amida Butsu

Imua Imua Imua

Let's go Lahaina

Nan Man dabu

Nan Man dabu

Rev. Sasaki

Continued from Page 3

together."

Like other IMOP participants, Rev. Sasaki visited temples and experienced temple activities. But he also gave Dharma talks and also headed up an online question-and-answer session for about three dozen minister's assistants and ministers.

Rev. Sasaki would like to help spread the Jodo Shinshu teachings. He also has two dreams: One is to give a Ted

Talk about Jodo Shinshu and the second is to help his son become independent in the United States.

Eiki has been severely physically handicapped since he was less than 4 months old, when he suffered a subdural hematoma. Eiki, now in his 20s, uses a wheelchair and communicates with the help of his mother.

Each year for the past 20 years, the Sasaki's have visited an institute for brain injured children in Philadelphia, which Rev. Sasaki said is like a second home to them.

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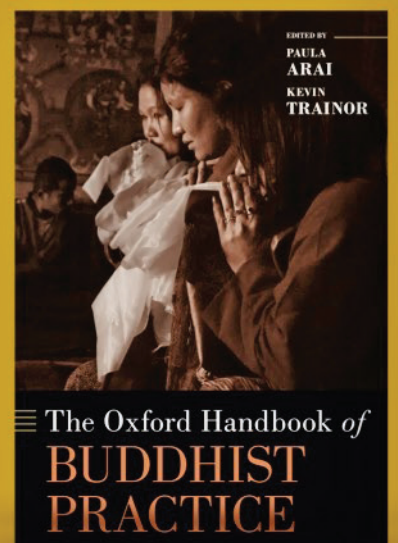
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Winning Tsukemono Recipe: ‘(Not so) Spicy Asian Cucumber Salad’

Editor’s note: This is Ruth Terada’s 2022 winning entry in the Tsukemono Festival at the Buddhist Church of Fowler: “(Not so) Spicy Asian Cucumber Salad.”

Terada says: “A few months ago, I bought a bag of little cucumbers from Costco, and I wanted to make that cucumber side dish that you get at Korean restaurants. Saw this recipe on Instagram. It may not be what you get at Korean restaurants, but I like it anyway. I changed the name to ‘(Not so) Spicy Asian Cucumber Salad’ because it’s not so spicy.”

Recipe (from <https://christieathome.com/blog/spicy-asian-cucumber-salad/>)

Spicy Asian Cucumber Salad. A crispy, refreshing and spicy cucumber salad. Seasoned with soy sauce, rice vinegar, garlic, green onions, sugar, sesame oil, sesame seeds and chili oil. Perfect as a side dish.

Ingredients

6 mini cucumbers or Persian cu-

cumbers

2 teaspoon salt to drain water

Dressing:

1 tablespoon regular soy sauce

2 cloves garlic minced

1 tablespoon rice vinegar or white vinegar

1 tablespoon Chinese chili oil

1 tablespoon white granulated sugar

1 teaspoon sesame oil

1 teaspoon sesame seeds

2 tablespoon green onion finely sliced

Instructions:

Wash cucumbers and cut off the ends.

Place one cucumber between two chopsticks that you don’t mind nicking up (like takeout chopsticks). Make thin diagonal slices on the top. Then flip the cucumber over and do the same on the other side. Then cut the cucumber into halves. Repeat for remaining cucumbers. Transfer to a large bowl. Alternatively, you can thinly slice your cucumbers, too.

Sprinkle salt over cucumbers and



Ruth Terada, left, is shown with Mallory Shiroyama with the winning Tsukemono Festival recipe in 2022 at the Buddhist Church of Fowler. (Courtesy of Khanh Ly)

gently massage into them. Let cucumbers soak in salt for five minutes (no more than 10 minutes or they will break down). Rinse with cold water at least three to four times to completely

remove the salt. Strain and set aside.

Combine dressing ingredients in a separate bowl.

Pour dressing over cucumbers and gently mix. Enjoy!



Mallory Shiroyama is shown with her second-place “Fukujinzuke” recipe. At right, Miko Shudo and Mark Nakata sample the entries in the Tsukemono Festival. (Courtesy of Khanh Ly)



Tsukemono

Continued from Page 1

of Fowler.

On the day of the event, there were 17 tsukemono entries. Each was displayed on a uniform plate with a description that included the name of the dish, main ingredients, how long it had been aged, and any relevant story about the source of the recipe. Each taster was given a small plate and four tickets to vote on their favorite entries. With so many delicious contestants, it was hard to keep them all straight!

The tsukemono tasting was paired with a chicken teriyaki bento or barazushi bowl prepared by the Honda family.

After the voting was tallied, the top four winners were announced. Third place was a tie between Roy Hirabayashi’s “Sanbaizuke” and Alice Fujikawa’s “Nasubi No Karashizuke.” Second place was Mallory Shiroyama’s “Fukujinzuke” recipe, and the overall winner was Ruth Terada and her “(Not so) Spicy Asian Cucumbers.”



because of health issues. Blake Honda used Betty Mayebo’s winning recipe from 2003, which he renamed “Fuken-goodzuke.”

Marc Sanwo submitted two recipes from his grandparents: “Mustard Green Takana” and “Karashi Zuke Nasubi.” Roy Hirabayashi entered a “Sanbaizuke” recipe that he adapted from my grandmother,

California Young Buddhist Association have witnessed our family traditions change throughout the years. While nothing could replace the memories of busy and bustling mochitsukis, Obons, and oshogatsu gatherings, it felt special to recreate a new Dharma family tradition that centers our collective gratitude and appreciation for our tsuke-

Many of us in the Central California Young Buddhist Association have witnessed our family traditions change throughout the years. While nothing could replace the memories of busy and bustling mochitsukis, Obons, and oshogatsu gatherings, it felt special to recreate a new Dharma family tradition that centers our collective gratitude and appreciation for our tsukemono culture and Japanese immigrant community.

Tayoko Honda won the “special mention” award with her umeboshi that has been aged for more than 30 years!

Like the stories preserved in my grandmother’s jars, the Tsukemono Festival was an opportunity for reflection and gratitude.

Tayoko Honda’s umeboshi was her sister Margaret’s recipe. Margaret couldn’t make it

Aki Shiroyama. Aiko Kamine entered a cabbage tsukemono that she learned from a neighbor who has since passed away, and added, “She was my best neighbor.”

The event was dedicated in memory of Uncle Tom and Kev Nagata, the original Tsukemono Festival creators.

Many of us in the Central

mono culture and Japanese immigrant community.

We gathered in the Central Valley and celebrated the art of tsukemono, and we plan to do so again on Saturday, Nov. 11, at the Cortez Buddhist Church, 12985 Cortez Ave., Turlock, California. The festival will follow the Cortez Howakai Post Harvest Service.

FYI

The third Tsukemono Festival will be held on Saturday, Nov. 11, at the Cortez Buddhist Church, 12985 Cortez Ave, Turlock, California. The festival follows the Cortez Howakai Post Harvest Service. The service starts at 10:30 a.m. and will feature guest speaker Blake Honda. There will be a potluck following the service, where there will be tsukemono tasting and voting. Please visit <https://www.instagram.com/tsukemonofestival/> for recipes, pictures, and information about this year’s event.

The service begins at 10:30 a.m. and will feature guest speaker Blake Honda.

There will be a potluck following the service, where there will be tsukemono tasting and voting. If you’d like to submit an entry, please come before service between 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. Refreshments will be provided.

Please visit <https://www.instagram.com/tsukemonofestival/> for recipes, pictures, and information about this year’s event.



Town Hall

Continued from Page 1

Fast forward to the present, and Correia is now a Minister's Assistant with the Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple (MPBT), and his wife and young daughter are active Sangha members, too.

In the intervening decade, Correia described all of his "first timer" experiences — the first time he heard the word "Dharma," the first time he attended a Sunday service at MPBT, and the first time he heard the word "Sangha." And he spoke about how Jodo Shinshu Buddhism has transformed his life. He now considers the Sangha part of his own family.

Correia and Orange County Buddhist Church (OCBC) President Jo Ann Tanioka spoke about the benefits of being part of a Sangha during the BCA National Council Meeting's Town Hall on "The Benefits of Following the Shin Buddhist Path." The online event was held Feb. 18.

Correia, a U.S. Army veteran who served as a M-1 A-1 tank crew member with the famed and historic 1st Calvary Division, works at Walter Colton Middle School in Monterey as a community liaison, where he also teaches leadership and yearbook classes.

His Nembutsu path began with an interest in martial arts.

"Around 2013, I had wanted to start doing martial arts," he said. "I was trying to find a martial arts program for me and my daughter Isabel, so I start looking online and I came across this martial arts program and it's called Shorinji Kempo. That looks pretty cool, and it turns out that it's at the Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple."

Correia contacted Shorinji Kempo Monterey Branch Master Kazuki Arita, a 7th degree black belt, who told him he was welcome to come and watch a class.

"I show up and I started watching," he recalled. "It was really cool because after they warm up, they do basics, punches and kicks. And then after they warm up, they started to read something in Japanese. Wow, this is pretty awesome. It turned out what they were reading was part of the "Diamond Sutra" (a Mahayana Buddhist sutra, and one of the most influential Mahayana sutras in East Asia and prominent in Zen Buddhism).

"After they were done reading, they sat down, and then they began to meditate," Correia said. "I'm sitting here and I'm thinking, 'How is this martial arts? What exactly is this?' This is really, really cool.

"After that, they get up and finish reading more of the 'Diamond Sutra,' and then they sit down in front of the



David Correia, a Minister's Assistant at the Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple, talks about his Nembutsu path during a BCA National Council Meeting Town Hall on the benefits of Shin Buddhism. (Courtesy of Jon Kawamoto)

chalkboard," he said. "Arita Sensei stands up and he has a talk about the Buddha and the Dharma. And once again, I'm thinking, 'Is this martial arts?' So, as I'm listening to him, I was really confused, but at the same time, it was really catching my attention — this kindness to others, why we don't throw the first punch, and all these other things.

"But I knew all about this stuff," he said. "I knew who the Buddha was. The Buddha was that fat dude that you see in the restaurant that's for good luck. That's who the Buddha was. I knew all these things, but what's this 'Dharma' thing? I've got to find out what this 'Dharma' thing is."

class, he would hear — and learn — more about the Buddha and the Dharma.

"And I found out that I was wrong about who the Buddha was," Correia said.

"My senses were alive with the smells of the Buddhist temple, and just how beautiful it was," he said. "There's one thing about Monterey temple with the wood — I'm sure it's like that at a lot of temples — there's just this smell and a sense of something amazing that gets you and won't let go."

He saw the temple and thought: "I have to learn more about what this Buddhism thing is."

Correia was nervous about

here before. I don't know what I'm doing."

"She says, 'Oh, that's cool. You can come sit with me and my family.'"

Correia was amazed by the entire experience — being introduced to other Sangha members, listening to Rev. Shinseki's Dharma talk, and hearing the chanting.

"It was just amazing how nice someone could be to someone," he said. "She didn't even know me. She didn't care about the tattoos I had. She didn't care about the fact that I was Hispanic or I was out of place. It didn't matter. The people at the temple were focused on something else.

"What's so different about

wrong. I love learning about Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. I love this feeling. I love the fact that I was becoming a new person.

"These people at this temple were no longer just people I would run into," he continued. "These people were now my friends. These people were now my family. These people were now my Sangha. So they began to guide me and my daughter, who was coming more often with me on this new path, so I was learning more about myself every day.

"These people are part of my journey, as I am now a Minister's Assistant," he continued. "This journey is not done alone. It's impossible. Anybody that says, 'I want to go on this path all by myself. I can do everything by myself.' No, you are totally mistaken on that. We need each other to get on that path. You need these people to guide you. That is how we learn to become better people."

Correia said he had dinner with a friend in Los Angeles and then the conversation turned into a revealing talk.

"I'm sitting there talking to them and they're just staring at me and they're like, 'Hold on, David. Can I say something? I need to be straightforward. You have changed so much.'

"I started to realize — 'Wow, I really have changed.' I just didn't see it because it was just becoming part of who I was," he said.

He talked about the Sangha when the Watsonville temple was flooded on New Year's Eve 2022, the result of a nearby levee break. The Hondo was left intact, but the rains damaged the parsonage garage and storage under the kitchen and gymnasium.

"I was hoping there's going to be enough people to help out," Correia recalled when he and his family arrived at the temple on New Year's Day. "That is an understatement about what I saw. There were all these people there. There was water, mud and muck. It was still raining and it was everywhere. But no matter what, people were still helping. People even had smiles on their faces.

"So this is what was earlier confusing to me about what the word 'Sangha' was — but I knew, in my heart, now what a Sangha truly is," he said. "It is the people at the temples, all the temples, not just Monterey, Watsonville, and Salinas, all of the temples. It is these people that continue to show love and kindness, wisdom and compassion.

"These are the people that are the heart of Buddhism, the heart of the Dharma. They are my Sangha. They are my family."

Next: Orange County Buddhist Church (OCBC) President Jo Ann Tanioka speaks about the many benefits of being part of a Sangha.

"I love learning about Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. I love this feeling. I love the fact that I was becoming a new person These people at this temple were no longer just people I would run into. These people were now my friends. These people were now my family. These people were now my Sangha These people are part of my journey, as I am now a Minister's Assistant. This journey is not done alone. It's impossible. Anybody that says, 'I want to go on this path all by myself. I can do everything by myself.' No, you are totally mistaken on that. We need each other to get on that path."

— David Correia, Minister's Assistant at Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple

Correia was sold on the martial arts. After the class, he told Arita Sensei that he wanted to join.

When Correia attended a Shorinji Kempo Monterey class for the first time, he was "expecting all these egos. Once again, I'm judging everyone to have an ego and here I have one. So, I'm listening. I'm watching, but I was wrong. Everybody was so nice to me. They all approached me — 'Welcome to Shorinji Kempo.' Nobody bowed, they all gasshoed."

It's required that everyone cleans at Monterey Shorinji Kempo, regardless of rank. "I started to realize that no matter what their rank was, no matter who the person was, they were all equals," he said. "And that's when I began to learn."

Every time he came to

going to the temple, so he emailed MPBT Resident Minister Rev. Jay Shinseki and asked him several questions beforehand.

"Rev. Shinseki tells me, 'Don't worry about it, David — come as you are, you'll be fine, and everybody will help you out.' I still remember that email — and I still have it."

The big day comes — Correia's first day visiting the Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple for a Sunday service.

"So I go over there," he recalled. "I get out of my car. I start walking toward the temple. I'm like, 'This is so dumb. I'm not going to do this. I can't do this.' I didn't know what I'm doing. I turn around and start walking to my car and all of a sudden, I hear, 'Oh, excuse me, are you new to the temple?' I'm like, 'Yeah, I am. I've never been

this place? I started to figure it out when this thing called a three-fold refuge was right — 'I look to the Buddha for guidance, I look to the Dharma for guidance, I look to the Sangha for guidance.'

"Here's another word I need to figure out," he said, referring to "Sangha."

One thing led to another. The MPBT Sangha asked Correia if he would like to bring his daughter to Dharma School, and he agreed.

"I am just so grateful for how they treat her and she just thinks the world of it," he said. His daughter eventually ended up joining Monterey Sorinji Kempo, too.

"I have this craving — and I know craving can be bad," he said. "However, I felt that this was a good craving. Something that you know wasn't going to harm me or do me

今月の法話

「浄土真宗の慈悲と行」

パークレーン仏教会・マリオン仏教会
開教使 桑原 淨信



Rev. Joshin Kuwahara

親鸞聖人があきらかにして下さいました浄土真宗は北米やハワイや南米といった開教区のみならず、ヨーロッパにも広がり、お念仏

をよろこんでいらっしゃる方が各地におられます。ヨーロッパの念仏者が集まり、ヨーロッパ真宗学会というのが2年に一度開催されます。コロナウイルスのパンデミックにより過去数年間はオンラインでの開催となっていました。今年も久しぶりに対面形式で行われました。会場はドイツのデュッセルドルフにある恵光寺で、9月4日から6日までの3日間の日程で、約40名の方が参加されました。参加者は主にヨーロッパからですが、日本や北米からの参加者もいらっしゃいました。

今回のヨーロッパ真宗学会のテーマは「浄土真宗の慈悲と行」で、その基調講演をさせて頂きました。今月のこの日本語法話の場をお借りして、ヨーロッパでお話ししてきましたことを少しご紹介させていただきます。(普通の法話と違い、ちょっとかたいお話になるかもしれませんが、どうぞ最後までお付き合いくださいと思えます。)

自分は2003年にアメリカにやってきたのですが、その目的はパークレーンにあります米国仏教大学院（IBS）で勉強することでした。その時の研究テーマはキリスト教と浄土真宗の比較研究ということで、米国仏教大学院が所属する宗教大学院連合（GTCU）に加盟しているキリスト教の学校に行ってキリスト教について色々学びました。その際にクリスチャンの方々や仲良くなりました。また子供たちがキリスト教の教会が運営する幼稚園に通っていたため、その牧師さんやメンバーの方たちとも仲良くなりました。更に授業の際にイスラム教の方とも仲良くなりました。知り合ったキリスト教やイスラム教の方々は大変優しく、困った人がいれば親身に

なつて助けるような方ばかりでした。アメリカのお寺では困っている人を助けたりすることを「慈悲」として説き、その実践を勧められることが多いように見受けられますが、一方でキリスト教やイスラム教の方々を見ているとわれわれが言うところの慈悲を実践しているようにも見えます。「キリスト教やイスラム教と違い、浄土真宗の慈悲を慈愛だとしていたのは何だろうか?」「浄土真宗が言わんとする慈悲とは一体何だろうか?」と常々考えていましたので、この学会での発表を機に少し深く考えてみることにしました。

親鸞聖人は『教行信証』信巻で、信心をいただいた念仏者はこの生涯で十の利益を得ると述べていらつしやいます。その九番目は「常行大悲の益」とされ、念仏者は常に大悲を行ずると述べられています。しかし一方で、親鸞聖人はわれわれ凡夫の生き様に関して、「小慈悲もなき身にて」（悲嘆述懐和讃）や「無明煩惱われらが身にみちみちて、欲もおおく、いかり、はらだち、そねみ、ねたむころおおくひまなくして、臨終の一念にいたるまでとどまらず、きえず、たえず」（一念多念文意）と仰つていらつしやいます。これらのご文によると、われわれが慈悲を実践することは大変困難であるとされています。ではこの「常行大悲」とはどういったことなのか? 本願寺から出版されております『教行信証』の現代語訳版では、この部分を「常に阿彌陀如来の大きな慈悲を広める」と訳されています。困っている人を助けたり、まわりの人にやさしくすることを慈悲と捉えていらつしやる方には、阿彌陀如来様の大悲を広めることがわれわれの慈悲の実践であるということはいくらもピンとこないかもしれません。ここでちょっと「慈悲」について考えてみたいと思います。

仏教の慈悲というのは、苦悩している人からその苦しみや悩みを取り除くことが一番中心の意味であると考えられています。お釈迦様は、若き日に人間が避けて通ることのできない苦しみや悩みに気づかれ、それを解決するための方法を見つけ出すために出家し、修行されました。つまり仏教は苦悩の解決のための教えであります。その解決方法として仏教ではさとりを得る、仏と成ることを説き、これらはまた涅槃を得る、涅槃に入るとも表現されます。涅槃とは苦しみ、悩みをもちたらず原因である煩惱の炎が吹き消された状態と説明されます。われわれを悩み煩わす様々な事柄をどうにかすることによって苦悩

を解決していくのではなく、苦しみ、悩みをもちたらず自分の内側にある原因、つまり煩惱ですが、これらを滅することで苦悩を解消するのです。苦悩のもとになるものがなくなるので、われわれはもはや苦しみ、悩むことがなくなる存在となります。これが仏に成るといふことであり、これが仏教の目指すゴールであります。(これがどれほど難しいことであるかは皆さんもご理解いただけたと思います。困っている人を助けて、その人の苦しみ、悩みをその時その時で取り除くことも慈悲の一つの形かもしれませんが、仏教の本来的な考え方からいくと、苦しみ悩みの原因である煩惱が滅した状態にすることが最も根本的な解決方法となります。そうすると世間一般で言われているような慈悲とは異なり、仏教の慈悲とはわれわれが仏と成る、涅槃を得るといふことと決して切り離すことはできないということです。

こういった理解に基づいて、先ほどの「常に阿彌陀如来の大きな慈悲を広める」に戻ってみたいと思います。阿彌陀如来様は「本願の中で、全ての生きとし生けるものを仏とする、つまり苦しみ悩むことのない存在にする」と誓って下さっています。それもわれわれが苦行をし、自らの努力を積み重ねて成仏に向かって進んでいくという仏道ではなく、どんな者でも難なく成仏できるようにと念仏一つで全てが円かに成り立つ、極めて容易な仏道をご用意くださいました。全ての生きとし生けるものが間違いなく迷いの世界を離れ、苦しみ、悩むことのない存在となるための教えがお念仏の教えであり、その念仏の教えを広めることこそ慈悲を実践しているということになります。『大悲経』というお経には、「念仏を次々に人々に勧めて行じさせるなら、このような人をすべて大いなる慈悲を行じる人というのである」と書かれており、この言葉を親鸞聖人は『教行信証』信巻に引用していらつしやいます。

お念仏の教えを信じ、よろこび、そして更にそれをまわりの方々にも伝える。七高僧の第五番目の善導大師のお言葉に「自信教人信」という言葉があります。このお言葉は念仏者のそういった生き方を表現されたものであります。今回のヨーロッパ真宗学会のテーマは「浄土真宗の慈悲と行」でした。このテーマ中の「行」に関しては、浄土に往生し、仏と成るための因としての「行」という解釈もできますが、一方で念仏者としての生き方、日常生活での様々な営みや行いとしての「行」という意

味で解釈した場合、自信教人信こそ念仏者の生き方としての行ではないでしょうか。浄土真宗の慈悲と念仏者の生き方を考える上で、「常行大悲」、そして「自信教人信」が中心になるのではと自分は理解しております。

お念仏や阿彌陀如来様のみ教えを他者へと伝えていくことを慈悲の中心とした場合、「そんなことをしても苦しんでいる人、困っている人の助けにならない」と言われるかもしれません。しかし果たしてそうでしょうか? 仏教は智慧の教えであり、阿彌陀如来様は光の仏様であります。念仏の教えに出会わせていただき、煩惱の闇が智慧の光によって照らされることで、自らの苦悩の原因があきらかとなつたり、その苦しみ、悩みが軽減されることもあるかもしれません。また念仏者の側も、苦悩する人の苦しみ、悩みに無関心でいつづけることも難しいのではないのでしょうか。念仏者がいただく信心というのは、この娑婆世界で苦しみ悩む全ての生きとし生けるものへ向けられた阿彌陀如来様の深い信心に出会わせていただくということでもあります。そういった信心であるからこそ、御同朋としての苦しみ悩む他者への配慮や気遣い、共感というものも少なからずわれわれの心中に現れ、そこからできる範囲内で何らかの行動が起されるかもしれません。われわれの煩惱は「臨終の一念にいたるまでとどまらず、きえず、たえず」であります。阿彌陀如来様のお心に出会わせていただくことで、自らの煩惱に流され、振り回されるだけの人生とは異なつた生き方もわれわれにもたらされるはずで、また信心とは自己の内面に閉じ籠り、外界から孤立したものでなく、阿彌陀如来様のお心がそうであるように、社会や他者との関係の中で絶えず躍動しているものであります。そういったところから念仏者の社会的実践ということも考えられます。

次回のヨーロッパ真宗学会は、現時点では2025年に英国のオックスフォードでの開催が予定されております。ご興味のある方はヨーロッパの御同行さんへ会うべく是非ご参加下さい。 合掌



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総長メッセージ 心を洗う

米国仏教団 総長 原田 マービン



Bishop Rev. Marvin Harada

先月、オレゴン州オンタリオにあるアイダホ・オレゴン仏教会を訪れました。約1年前にこのお寺の地下室で大きな火災があったのを覚えていますが、上階にある本堂やお内陣のお仏壇などが火災の煙で被害を受けました。

私がお寺を訪れた時、京都の若林佛具製作所の方々が来ておられました。仏壇全体を御内陣から取りだして、それを解体し、大きな部品を洗ったり、ほこりを払ったりにしてきれいに修復をしてくださいました。

お仏壇の掃除には空気圧と洗剤液を含んだ軽い水流を使って仏壇を洗う方法を開発した専門家の方が来ておられました。その効果には驚かされます。仏壇がきれいになるだけでなく、光沢が戻り、ピカピカに生まれ変わったように見えるのです。

私は師である信楽先生がよく言われていたことを思い出しました。それは、「仏法は私たちの心を洗ってくれる水である」という内容の言葉です。宗教の中には、自分の努力によって心身を徹底的に清めようとするものがあります。心の中の悪い考えを清め、また身体から悪い感情や気持ちを除かなければならない、という教えです。お釈迦さまもこの方法を試みたことがあります。五人の修行僧とともに修行したとき、彼らは食べ物や体内に取り込むことは不浄を取り込むことだと、ほとんど食事をとらなかったため、お釈迦さまは餓死寸前にま

しかし、真宗では教えであるダルマが私たちの心を「洗浄」してくれるといえます。そして、心には常に汚れがたまっているのです。何度も掃除することを勧めます。家具のホコリを払うと、今日はきれいになっても明日にはまたホコリが出ます。アイダホ・オレゴン仏教会の仏壇も掃除が終わったときはきれいでピカピカですが、やがてほこりがたまり、輝きがあせていくことではないでしょうか。

それが人生の現実であり、私たちの存在の現実でもあります。私たちは自分の心を完全に清浄な状態にしておくことはできません。けれども、教えを通して汚れた心を洗浄することはできます。だからこそ、素晴らしい法話を聞いたり、心に染み入るような話を聞いたりすると、とてもすがすがしい気持ちになるのです。それは、たまった汚れやほこり、垢を洗い流してくれる水をもらうようなものです。シャワーを浴びたり、お風呂に入ったりと、とてもすがすがしい気分になると同様、ダルマに耳を傾けると、心がリフレッシュされるのです。

だからこそ、私たちは一生懸命聞けるべきなのです。シャワーを一回浴びただけでは、そのすがすがしさは一生続きません。また、仏壇も一回掃除しただけで、何十年も掃除をしないわけにはいきません。日常的にシャワーやお風呂に入らなければなら



Idaho Oregon Buddhist Temple

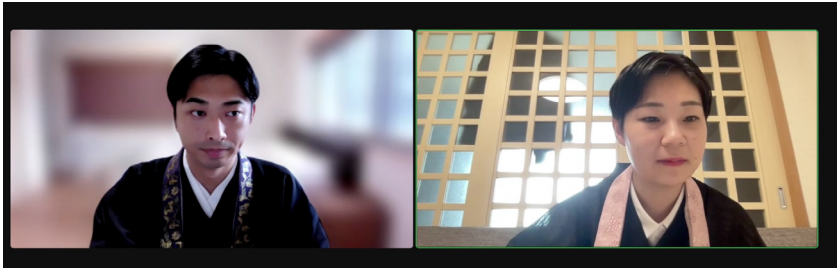
ないように、できる限り仏法に耳を傾け、心を浄化するようにつとめるべきなのです。

ここで言う浄化とは、エゴの自分、三毒の自分、自己中心的な自分に気づくことです。お仏壇には何十年も蓄積された埃がありますが、エゴの埃も何十年も溜まっています。過去の問題、抱え込んでいた恨み、何年も前に誰かに言われたりされたりしたことに対する怒りの感情などが自分の中に残り、その「ほこりや汚れ」を何十年も抱えているのです。自分の人生の中で深く考えてみてください。自分の過去に、いまだに怒りや動揺を覚えていることがあるでしょうか。何十年も前に起こった出来事に対して感じたのと同じ怒りを持ち続けていることもありません。

そのような考えや感情、思いは時が経つにつれて私たちの心身を蝕んでいきます。だからこそ、心の汚れやほこりを洗い流してくれる教え、ダルマが必要なのです。そのようにして何度も聴聞をして心を「浄化」していけば、私たちはその都度リフレッシュし、新たな気持ちで生きることができるようになります。

開教使会および布研の開催

8月17、18日にBCA開教使会議および布教研究会が行われた。オンラインでの開催で、BCA開教使30名に加え開教使補6名が参加した。今回のホストは中加教区でテーマは「FRONTLINE CHALLENGES OF PROPAGATION 布教最前線」。ゲストスピーカーは安芸教区の僧侶、中川晃師と福井麻乃師で、オンラインで講義をした。二人は若い世代へ向けた伝道イベントをすることで知られる安芸教区青年僧侶の集い「春秋会」のメンバーで、同会や広島島の寺院などが行っている、お寺にご縁の少ない方への布教活動を紹介した。漫才を取り入れた法話や仏教を題材とした漫画、節談説教の再興、通勤、通学する人々を意識した掲示伝道、お菓子作りや精進料理などを通してのアプローチなど、様々な取り組みを紹介した。参加者は



Rev. Ko Nakagawa and Rev. Asano Fukui, Fuken Guest Speakers.

「いろいろな方法で教えを伝えようと努力されています。アメリカのお寺でもできるようなこともあったので、試してみたいと思います。」と、米国での布教活動への励みとなった。開教使会議ではブリッジ・ハリー開教使の開教使会議長の任期が終了するにあたり、サンマテオ仏教会のアダムス・ヘンリー開教使が新たに開教使会議長に選ばれた。

本山の晨朝毎朝のライブ配信が始まる

本願寺で毎朝午前6時からつとまる晨朝（じんじょう）のライブ配信が、7月28日からYouTubeチャンネル「お西さんの法要行事」で始まった。阿弥陀堂、御影堂の内陣正面を映す固定カメラで、午前5時40分頃から同7時頃まで、おつとめ、布教使の法話、御文章拝読をライブ配信している。

本願寺では「本山の晨朝のおつとめの厳かな雰囲気をもっと多くの人に感じ取っていただきたい」と願っている。「お西さんの晨朝にお参りしてもらいたい」と願っている。「お西さんの法要行事」チャンネルでは、春秋の彼岸会など本願寺の恒例法要や土曜法話などもライブ配信している。同チャンネルは「お西さん（西本願寺）」公式ホームページからも閲覧可。（本願寺新報、2023年8月20日号の記事を転載。）

ダイヤルザダルマで日本語法話

電話でいつでも法話を聞くことができる「ダイヤルザダルマ」が好評を得ている。(800) 817-7918に電話すると、原田総長の声で音声ガイドが始まる。英語の法話を聞きたい人は1を、日本語は2、スペイン語は3を押すと、それぞれの言語で約5分間の法話を聴聞できる。英語は原田総長のメッセージ、日本語は日本語スピーカーの開教使によるメッセージ、スペイン語は英語のメッセージをスペイン語に訳したものになっている。法話は毎週水曜日午後更新される予定。

Manga(Comics)

Kenyu Aritani at Tokushoji Temple, located in Kurose Town

←Amida as a hero under the theme of "Amidaman" in a Jodo Shinshu informational magazine called "Matsurika"



a children's booklet called "Buddhist Children's Newspaper," published by Honganji Temple →