

# WHEEL OF DHARMA

Official Publication of the Buddhist Churches of America

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## New Year's Greeting from Gomonsu Kojun Ohtani

At the beginning of this New Year, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to you.

This past year, we have been observing the ceremony known as The Commemoration on the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition since last October. This service will be continuing until the end of May over 10 sessions and a total of 80 days. The participation of the many delegates from both domestic and overseas districts has revitalized the atmosphere of all of our temple activities, and for that I am truly happy and grateful to each and every one of you.

Through holding the service together with you fellow Nembutsu followers, I am able to personally experience how the Jodo Shinshu teaching has not only been passed down to us over the span of nearly 800 years, but also how it has been delivered to many regions of the world beyond national borders. I believe that we have the Jodo Shinshu teaching today precisely because

it served as the spiritual foundation for all of the preceding Nembutsu followers.

Shinran Shonin revealed his understanding of the Dharma known today as Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. It is a teaching for those of us who constantly struggle with various worries and hardships in life. Let us continue to listen to the teaching and share our own appreciation of the Dharma with family and friends in the hope that we can follow the Nembutsu path together with them.

January 1, 2017

OHTANI Kojun  
Monshu  
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

(Translation provided by the Hongwanji International Department)



## Happy New Year!



As we greet the new year, I wish to thank each of you for your continued support, generosity, and encouragement. Together, let us continue to share *Namo Amida Butsu* in our daily lives.

Greetings are important in our daily life. We greet one another in the morning, during the day, and at the end of the day. Greetings are exchanged

between two or more people. When and if we are greeted by someone, we naturally acknowledge them and respond with our own greetings.

Likewise, *Namo Amida Butsu* is the calling and greeting from our True and Real Home. When we hear and recognize this greeting, we naturally respond with *Namo Amida Butsu* in appreciation.

Shinran Shonin clearly stated in *Shoshinge* that the real purpose of our life is to hear the calling coming from the Realm of Nirvana. Until we hear and receive it, we will not be able to find true satisfaction and fulfillment.

He also said that by reciting the Name, *Namo Amida Butsu* constantly, we will be able to encounter the caring and loving heart of Amida within the Name.

Let us together continue to recite the Name and listen to the true meaning of the Name by conducting daily services at home and attending services at temple and church throughout the year 2017.

Gassho,  
Rev. Kodo Umezu, Bishop  
Buddhist Churches of America

## D.T. Suzuki 50th Memorial & Tribute at MoMA



Soh Daiko taiko drummers performed in MoMA's main lobby. Photo by Martin Hara.



Program speakers were (left to right) Dr. Akemi Iwamoto (D.T. Suzuki Museum, Kanazawa, Japan), Rev. Dr. Mark Unno (University of Oregon), Nelson Foster Roshi (Diamond Ring of Bone Zendo), and Dr. James Dobbins (Oberlin University). Photos by David Okada.

By Hoshina Seki,  
New York Buddhist Church  
President, American Buddhist  
Study Center

In the heart of New York City on Sunday, December 11, light snow was falling. Traffic was almost at a standstill as people were coming into the city to see the Christmas decorations along Fifth Avenue and the Christmas tree in Rockefeller Center. It was just past noon when Japanese women in kimonos hurried down the street to enter the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). They were part of a unique program that the American Buddhist Study Center (ABSC) put together for its first "In

Gratitude Tribute"; a grand tribute to Dr. Daisetz Teitaro Suzuki. It was also the first time for Shin and Zen Buddhism to be presented at MoMA.

D.T. Suzuki's 50th memorial anniversary occurred in 2016. We honor him for his cosmopolitan Buddhist philosophy and intercultural point of view. He was a true pioneer in a long line of internationally prominent Buddhist figures in America.

People started arriving early as ABSC volunteers were setting up and presenters were making last minute adjustments. On the stage, tatami mats were laid down, a *shoji* screen put up, and tea utensils care-

fully arranged.

The program began at 2 pm with a traditional *Omotesenke* tea ceremony conducted by Mrs. Yasuko Hara, Director and Tea Instructor of Yasuko Chanoyu, NYC. Two guests participated: Rev. Kodo Umezu, Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America, and Madam Masako Takahashi, the wife of Ambassador Reiichiro Takahashi. It was the first time in the history of MoMA that a tea ceremony was performed in their theater. Although 275 people were in attendance, it was so quiet you could hear the hot water being poured into the tea bowl.

Dr. Gary Okihiko of Colum-  
**Continued on Page 6**

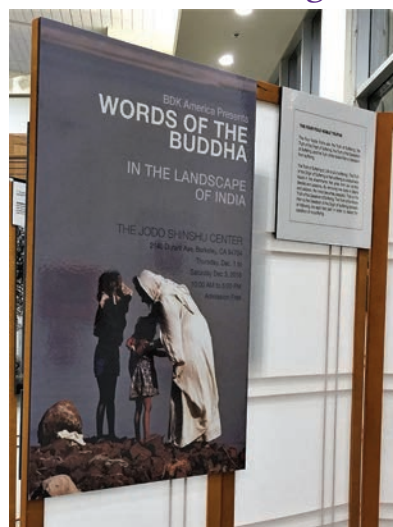


United for Compassion, San Francisco Japantown  
Photo by Keith Kojimoto. See Page 4

## Words of the Buddha in the Landscape of India, For Living in the Present Day

"...The poignant words of the Buddha came alive amid the poignant scenery of India."

This special exhibit was presented by BDK America at the Jodo Shinshu Center, December 4 - 9, 2016. For details on this traveling exhibition, visit: [www.bdkamerica.org](http://www.bdkamerica.org)





By Rev. Patricia  
Usuki, San  
Fernando Valley  
Hongwanji  
Buddhist Temple

## Ho-onko: Remembering Shinran Shonin in Difficult Times

...how grateful I feel for Shinran's words, in which he gives himself as an example in order to make us realize we are in delusion, knowing nothing at all of the depths of our karmic evil or the vastness of Amida's benevolence.

[Tannisho Postscript, Collected Works of Shinran (CWS), p.679]

Wars, natural disasters, starvation; persecution, prejudice, and inequity; anxiety, insecurity, fear. Our world today? Shinran Shonin would have been familiar with such a scenario. It is said that bodies were piled high in the streets of Kyoto, so cruel were the conditions of his day. In observing *Ho-onko*\*, let us consider that the man who asked followers to throw his dead body into the river to feed the fish might also have preferred that people focus not on him but on the power of the *Nembutsu* that remains relevant and reliable to this day.

Though arguably we may enjoy a better quality of life in our contemporary world, particularly here in America, many ordinary people are concerned or troubled by the uncertainty of our times. We forget that very little about the process of life is ever certain. In recent months, the term "post-truth era" has emerged, but the reality is that "...with a foolish being full of blind passions, in this fleeting world – this burning house – all matters without exception are empty and false, totally without truth and sincerity." [Tannisho Postscript, CWS, p.679]

Shinran showed us that before all else, we must come to terms with who we truly are and at the same time awaken to the unconditional compassion that we constantly receive. Let us consider our thoughts, words, and deeds of the past several months. In a verse in "Gutoku's Hymns of Lament and Reflection," Shinran observed:

*Each of us, in outward bearing,  
Makes a show of being wise, good, and dedicated;*

*But so great are our greed, anger, perversity,  
and deceit,*

*That we are filled with all forms of malice  
and cunning.* [CWS, p.421]

Upon self-reflection, we might come to see that indeed we do not know what is good and what is evil. This in no way condones the harmful words and deeds of others, but it does shine a light on the reality of our own condition.

And just as we are, we are all recipients of immeasurable compassion emanating from the Oneness of life. Our lives flow in the current of great light and life that imparts benefits too numerous, unperceived or personal to completely fathom. But if we glimpse both our true nature and the compassion for which we are indebted, the *Nembutsu* arises from within – my life and Immeasurable Life are one. This alone is true and real. This alone gives enduring peace of heart and mind, and the steadfast resilience to move forward come what may.

Life will always be uncertain and at times daunting but we can navigate it with strength and joy. In our gratitude, may we be conduits and examples of the teaching, like Shinran Shonin and so many others before us. *Namo Amida Butsu* – may there be peace in the world.

\*Ho-onko: Memorial Service for Shinran Shonin, observed on January 16 and/or November 16.

## Every Year is a Good Year

By Rev. Kojo Kakihara, Tacoma Buddhist Temple

Happy New Year, everyone! I believe each of you spent the holidays and greeted the New Year with varying thoughts.

Every January, we observe the *Hoonko* service at each temple. As you know, *Hoonko* is the most important service in our tradition, held around January 16, which is the memorial anniversary of our founder, Shinran Shonin. Although observing the anniversary of Shinran Shonin's death may seem like a sad occasion, it does not mean that we must only feel sad and lament. The word *Hoonko* means "the gathering to repay our indebtedness" to Shinran Shonin, Amida Buddha, and all the lives that support us.

I lost my grandpa two years ago. It is very sad and painful to lose our loved ones. Yet in thinking about death, death itself is neither good nor bad. We all know that once we are born, for sure

this physical life will end someday. Hardships happen when they happen. However, it is up to us as to how we accept and face the hardships which we experience in our lives. Some may think, "This year was not a good year because one of my family members passed away." But others may think, "Although it was sad to lose a loved one, I was given the precious opportunity to seriously and deeply look at my own life." And because of the deceased, they can live with appreciation for their loved ones.

The *Nembutsu*, which Shinran Shonin explained for us, is the teaching and working that allows us to encounter the world that transcends the joy or sorrow, and good or bad which we humans perceive. Experiencing hardships, crying and laughing, sometimes getting angry with those we love; not being able to help others enough even though we are eager

to do so...that's what we are. *Namo Amida Butsu* is the mirror that teaches us to see our true selves and is the light that keeps illuminating us gently but strongly. "To repay our indebtedness" is to live this given life here and now, with all our might, while listening to and appreciating the Buddha-Dharma that Shinran Shonin conveyed to us through his life.

Every year should be a happy year for those of us who have already heard the *Nembutsu* teaching. We may cry when we feel sad. However, even if we get sick, even if we lose our loved ones, every year is a good year for us because we have experienced *Namo Amida Butsu*, which is beyond all suffering and sorrow.

When people in Japan greet the New Year, many of them go to Buddhist temples or Shinto shrines to make wishes. Unfortunately, Amida Buddha will not

grant such individual wishes as not getting sick or living a long time, no matter how much we may recite *Namo Amida Butsu*. However, *Namo Amida Butsu* allows us to become true *Nembutsu* followers who are pleased with life here and now, just as it is, without merely being attached to immediate profit.

There is a phrase, "Jodo Shinshu is the tradition not to have our selfish wishes granted, but rather to listen to Buddha's wish."

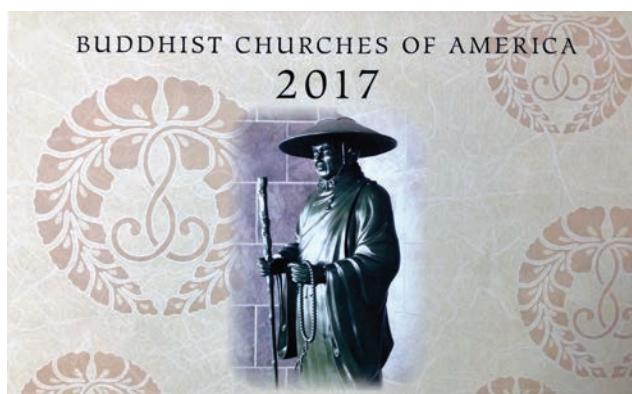
Let us keep listening to Buddha's wish together this year as well. *Gassho*



## 2017 BCA Calendars are Here! A Perfect New Year's Gift

BCA members: Please inquire at your temple on how to get your copy. This is also great gift idea and available for purchase at the BCA Bookstore for only \$5. Visit the BCA website at [www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org](http://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org)

The most important places for us as members of the BCA are our churches and temples. These are special places for us to hear and receive the teachings of the Buddha and Shinran Shonin. This year's calendar features some of the sites and activities of our sanghas. Major Buddhist holidays observed in our tradition and key BCA gatherings are also noted. A convenient listing of BCA temples and churches, sanghas and fellowships is also included in the back of the calendar. Enjoy!



Spokane Buddhist Temple  
927 S. Perry Street  
Spokane, WA 99202  
Tel: (509) 534-7954  
[www.spokanebuddhisttemple.org](http://www.spokanebuddhisttemple.org)  
[spokenbuddhisttemple@gmail.com](mailto:spokenbuddhisttemple@gmail.com)

## Spokane Buddhist Temple

In 1945, with a nucleus of six dedicated Buddhists, Reverend Eiyu Terao conducted the first Sunday service in a rented apartment. One month later, the group bought a permanent residence on Cowley Street. Gradually, they acquired a shrine, scrolls, and a statue of Amida Buddha. In 1947, Bishop Enryo Shigefuji officially dedicated the Spokane Buddhist Temple. After Reverend Terao was transferred to California, his brother Rev. William Terao, became the resident minister in 1952.

With growing membership, the temple soon needed a larger facility. So, in 1965, the Sangha bought a former Baptist Church. This building was dedicated on October 16, 1966. Sadly, this facility was destroyed in an arson fire in 1992. However, the original shine was saved by firefighters. A new temple was rebuilt on the same site and rededicated in 1994. Today, Spokane Buddhist Temple is a thriving, growing Sangha of 60-70 active members.



## Wheel of Dharma

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### Submission Guidelines:

Articles should be around 500 words, typed, double-spaced in Microsoft Word. The editors may ask for longer articles, or split in multiple parts at the editors' discretion. Documents should be sent as an email attachment to [WODeditor@bcahq.org](mailto:WODeditor@bcahq.org). Please include the article's author or contact, temple, and suggested title. Images, preferably in color, must be submitted as 300 dpi JPEG or TIFF in separate attachments and never embedded in a Word document. PDF is not preferred. The editors reserve the right to crop images and to edit articles. Articles and news releases are reviewed for publication on the 10th of every month.

### Change of address and subscription cancellations:

Individuals may mail, email, fax or phone in change of address requests and subscription cancellations to the BCA National Headquarters at the address above. Please include the following: Subscriber's name (as written on current subscription); address currently being used; New address and/or name changes; requested action (e.g. change of address, name, subscription cancellation, etc.); phone and/or email of person requesting the change; date of request. Please allow up to 8 weeks for changes to take effect. BCA local temples should send update requests as usual.

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### JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: Director of Operations

The Buddhist Churches of America, a California non-profit corporation (BCA) is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Director of Operations in the BCA National Headquarters Office in San Francisco. This position is responsible for the administration and implementation of the strategic vision of the BCA. See the complete job posting at: [buddhistchurchesofamerica.org](http://buddhistchurchesofamerica.org), under the "Contact Us" tab, or go to this link: [buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/job-announcement](http://buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/job-announcement)



## President's Message

### Real Needs in Real Time

By Ken Tanimoto, BCA President

Happy New Year, 2017! This is the Year of the Rooster, which symbolizes carefulness and decisiveness. How fitting, for at last December's Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) National Board meeting we tackled many challenging issues facing the BCA now and in the future. I applaud all our lay leaders and ministers for their willingness to meet the issues head on and to make clear and decisive decisions.

One of the most important tasks of the BCA is to provide ministers to our churches and temples. Thanks to the foresight of our leaders and the ongoing support of our members, last year the BCA Bishop appointed seven new ministers. We are counting on ministerial students enrolled at the Institute of Buddhist Studies to lead our temples and sanghas in the future. In addition, the International Ministerial Orientation Program (IMOP) will be hosting three ministers from Japan in 2017. IMOP has provided us with our current ministers at Florin, Lodi, Mountain View, Oxnard, Seattle, and Salinas.

A major BCA goal for the new year is to improve ministerial benefits. Our ministers are the heart of our organization. BCA ministers have a legacy of dedication and commitment going back to the

very first missionaries sent to San Francisco in 1899. It is up to us to do the best that we can to support them at work and in retirement.

Temples will soon be receiving the proposed BCA 2017-2018 budget. In the budget are some items that have not been addressed in several years: upgrading ministerial benefits and pensions; reinstating a full-time Executive Assistant to the Bishop; and delayed maintenance of the Bishop's Residence and BCA Headquarters.

There is always a concern about increases in the costs of running a national organization. It is only natural to feel this way. Increases are not taken lightly and are made in the interests of the future welfare and growth of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in America.

We should be proud of the fact that the BCA has endured and flourished for 117 years. It took more than dedication to get this far. Our predecessors overcame all obstacles including financial ones, and fears that temples could not be built and the *Nembutsu* could not be spread in the face of widespread racism and discrimination. They succeeded in enabling future generations to hear and appreciate our Jodo Shinshu legacy.

When I took office as President in March of 2106, I made the decision to be as accessible as possible.



The BCA National Board Meeting took place at the Jodo Shinshu Center on December 3, 2016. Photo by Michael Endo



Thank you, FBWA! On behalf of the Federation of Buddhist Women's Association's (FBWA), out-going president, Shizue Yahata, (center) presented a gift of \$1,500 to each of the following organizations (left to right): BCA Social Welfare Fund, accepted by Gary Mukai; Institute of Buddhist Studies, accepted by Richard Endo; Federation of Dharma School Teachers League (FDSTL) Carl Yanari; and the BCA Endowment Foundation (for reduction of the BCA debt), accepted by Hide Mizuno.

In the next two months, I will try to attend most District Council meetings to discuss the budget increases. I am open to hearing and discussing any issues our lay leaders and ministers have regard-

ing the upcoming challenges. Regardless of what may come about, 2017 is going to be good year. I feel optimistic about the changes that will happen, but it will be up to all of us to make those changes. I would like to thank all BCA members and friends for your continuing support of our organization.

On behalf of the BCA Executive Committee (Rick Stambul, Charlene Grinolds, Gary Mukai, Susan Bottari, Jeff Matsuoka, Rev. Jerry Hirano, and Bishop Kodo Umezu), I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

## Buddhist Church of Parlier Celebrates 85th Anniversary

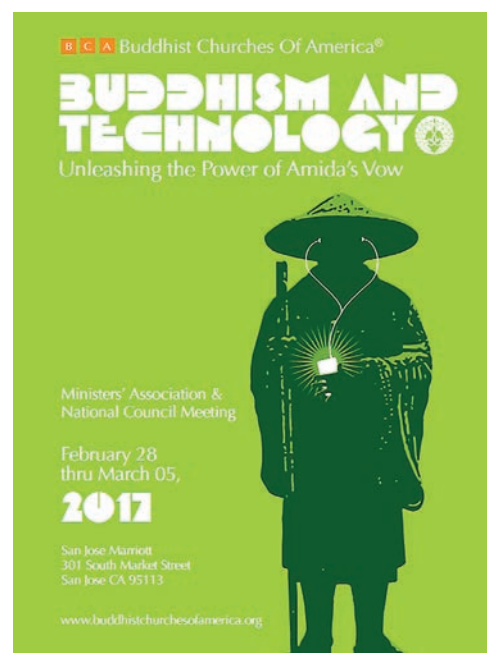


"A Very Proud Moment" On November 19, 2016, Rev. Kodo Umezu, BCA bishop officiated a Kieshiki Affirmation ceremony at the Buddhist Church of Parlier's during its 85th Anniversary celebration. 17 participants received their homyos (Buddhist names.) Photos by Glen Nakamichi



## Two Minister's Assistants Certified at Spokane Buddhist Temple

On December 18, 2016, Rev. Kodo Umezu, BCA Bishop, travelled to snowy Spokane to certify two members of the Spokane Buddhist Temple, Melissa Opel and Chad Donoho, as Minister's Assistants. This brings the total number of Certified Minister's Assistants for the Spokane temple to four. On hand to assist was Rev. Don Castro, Rinban of Seattle Betsuin and supervising minister of the Spokane Buddhist Temple.



## 2017 BCA Ministers Association & National Council Meeting

The 2017 BCA Ministers' Association & National Council Meeting will be hosted by the Coast District temples: Guadalupe Buddhist Church, Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple, Mountain View Buddhist Temple, Buddhist Temple of Salinas, San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, San Luis Obispo Buddhist Church, and Watsonville Buddhist Temple. It will take place at two sites: the San Jose Marriott Hotel and the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin. For information, contact Joyce Iwasaki: j.iwasaki@yahoo.com, Ken Nakano: k4nakano@aol.com or Rinban K. Kenshin Fujimoto: kkenhsin@sjbetsuin.com Graphic design by Peter Hester



## BCA Education News & Highlights - Live a Real Life!

### Healing from Painful Politics

By Rev. Jerry Hirano, Salt Lake Buddhist Temple

I am the supervising minister of the Idaho Oregon Buddhist Temple (IOBT). Two of the minister's assistants of IOBT, Anne Spencer and Kathy Chatterton, coordinate and run a *howakai* (Dharma discussion group) in Boise, Idaho on Tuesday evenings. Boise is about an hour away from Ontario, Oregon. They hold the *howakai* on Tuesday nights in a First Congregational United Church of Christ (UCC) building. On November 8, as part of their effort in the Boise area, they held an "Election Night Respite: An Hour of Reflection on Loving Kindness and Equanimity." They worked with Rev. Kim Cran of the First Congregational UCC to create an interfaith service to focus on equanimity and healing from the mental anguish created by this year's elections. When they asked me what I thought about the idea, I told them, "I wish I had thought of it."

In Salt Lake, we don't have a Tuesday night *howakai*, but we have a Wednesday night meditation class. Dr. Carmela Hirano, my wife and minister's assistant, is the coordinator for the meditation class. After telling her about Anne and Kathy's idea, she wanted to create something with this same idea of healing. We held "Healing from Painful Politics: A Special Post-Election Meditation." We invited the community to join us to begin the process of healing from the divisiveness and toxicity of the elections. Over fifty people attended, most coming to our temple for the first time, the majority under 30 years of age.

After the guided meditation led by Carmela, we allowed anyone with a need to speak and express their personal pain to begin their healing. One man spoke about the pain he felt for a gay friend who was contemplating suicide because of the election. Another spoke about having a friend who was thinking of going underground with her family because of their immigration status. Many expressed their gratitude that our temple had created this safe place of healing.

Shotoku Taishi, the father of Japanese Buddhism wrote the Seventeen-article constitution in 604 A.D. In this constitution, he explains the connections between government and the Dharma. In article two he encourages the people to take refuge in the Three Treasures (Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha), for within them is true and final refuge; a safe place. However, at the meditation in Salt Lake, I read article ten, for I believe it is the perfect antidote to our election year blues:

*Let us cease from wrath, and refrain from angry looks. Nor let us be resentful when others differ from us. For all people have hearts, and each heart has its own leanings. Their right is our wrong, and our right is their wrong. We are not unquestionably sages, nor are they unquestionably fools. Both of us are simply ordinary people. How can anyone lay down a rule by which to distinguish right from wrong? For we are all, one with another, wise and foolish, like a ring which has no end. Therefore, although others give way to anger, let us on the contrary dread our own faults, and though we alone may be in the right, let us follow the multitude and act like people.*

#### UNITED FOR COMPASSION



On November 22, 2016 the Bay Area Day of Remembrance Consortium and the San Francisco Japantown community held an event titled "United for Compassion: A Japantown Community Gathering" at the Peace Plaza in San Francisco. Among the speakers were (from left to right) Zahra Biloo of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), filmmaker Satsuki Ina, and poet Hiroshi Kashiwagi. About 500 people attended.

Photo by Keith Kojimoto

### YouTube Enjoy CBE programs online at YouTube.com

Go to YouTube and search for the "BCA Center for Buddhist Education Channel" to view over 50 talks and lectures presented by CBE and its educational partners. Hear speakers from the Jodo Shinshu Center 10th Anniversary Commemoration, the 2016 Winter Pacific Seminar: "East Meets West" in Los Angeles, the 2016 Fall Japanese Gathering, and many more.

Contact CBE at [cbe@bcahq.org](mailto:cbe@bcahq.org) or (510) 809-1460

### BCA Bookstore News by Gayle Noguchi

*"The Shin Buddhist way of life is the life of unending gratitude."*  
 Reverend Marvin Kenji Harada, Orange County Buddhist Church  
*Introduction to Shin Buddhism* brochure  
 Published by BCA Southern District Ministers' Association

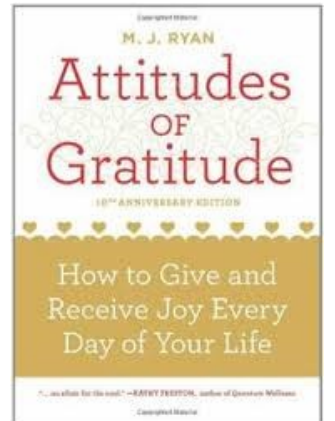
Now available: *Finding Gratitude: A Guided Journal to Help You Notice the Good in Every Day* by Miriam Hathaway, hardback, \$14.95.

As we begin a new year would you like to cultivate gratitude in your daily life? Gratitude creates a sense of richness, abundance, and fulfillment regardless of what one does or does not have. *Finding Gratitude: A Guided Journal to Help You Notice the Good in Every Day* is a simple and wonderful tool that will prompt you to explore new ways of looking at things, connect with those around you, enjoy simple pleasures, and appreciate what you already have. *Finding Gratitude* offers ideas, questions, and quotations to reflect upon and lined pages for jotting down your thoughts.

Also available: *Attitudes of Gratitude, 10th Anniversary Edition: How to Give and Receive Joy Every Day of Your Life* by M.J. Ryan, paperback, \$14.95. Ryan believes that people who practice gratitude daily tend to be happier, healthier, and more effective in the world, and in *Attitudes of Gratitude* she shares current research that concurs. Ryan describes a wide variety of ways that you can practice gratitude and she concludes with her Top 12 simple actions for bringing more gratitude into your life.

As you make the deliberate effort to notice blessings in your life both big and small, you will grow in the realization that our lives are possible only because of the constant caring, support, and generosity of others. This is the path of Nembutsu.

To order, go to [buddhistchurchesofamerica.org](http://buddhistchurchesofamerica.org) and click on the BCA Bookstore link or contact [gnoguchi@bcahq.org](mailto:gnoguchi@bcahq.org) or 510-809-1435. Open Wednesday through Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Like us on Facebook.



#### SAVE THE DATE!

BCA Center for Buddhist Education Presents  
 2017 Symposium at the BCA National Council Meeting

#### BUDDHA AT WORK

Thursday, March 2, 2017, 1 - 5 PM

SAN JOSE BUDDHIST CHURCH BETSUIN

640 North 5th Street, San Jose, CA

Featuring Franz Metcalf & BJ Gallagher, co-authors of *Being Buddha at Work*.

Brian Nagata, BDK America, on the life of Buddhist Philanthropist: The Story of Rev. Dr. Yehan Numata, founder of Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK), publisher of *The Teaching of Buddha*.

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Dr. Richard Payne, Yehan Numata Professor of Japanese Buddhist Studies, Institute of Buddhist Studies, Editor of *How Much is Enough? Buddhism, Consumerism, and the Human Environment*.

Moderator: Rev. Marvin Harada, Co-Director, BCA Center for Buddhist Education

Presented in conjunction with the Buddhist Churches of America Ministers Association & National Council Meetings  
 Theme: **Buddhism & Technology: Unleashing the Power of Amida's Vow**  
 Contact: [cbe@bcahq.org](mailto:cbe@bcahq.org) Phone: (510) 809-1460  
[BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org](http://BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org)



### 70th NW Buddhist Convention

with Rev. Marvin Harada and Freddie

February 17 - 19, 2017

DoubleTree Suites,  
 Tukwila

Hosted by the Tacoma Buddhist Temple

Mark your calendars for our 70th Northwest Buddhist Convention, February 17-19, 2017 at the DoubleTree Suites in Tukwila, Washington. Rev. Marvin Harada (Orange County Buddhist Church) is our main speaker.

Registration for the conference and hotel will continue through January 15. You can contact co-chair June Akita at [juneakita@comcast.net](mailto:juneakita@comcast.net) for further assistance.

Besides our annual meetings, and informative workshops, our Friday activities include Bollywood, *sumi-e* painting, a trip to the casino and maybe even some bingo. Our Hospitality Room will have homemade snacks; our Silent Auction will feature Japanese artifacts and a few *sumi-e* paintings from local artists; we will play ping pong in the evenings; and our guest speakers guarantee some fun and enlightening messages, especially at Sunday's Closing Service when Freddie the Frog (Rev. Harada) and Fred the Frog (Rev. Kojo Kakiyama) share a "green" message.

Registration and hotel costs are well worth the stay. We maintain these annual conventions to continue the friendships that keep our northwest together. Everyone departs with a little more awareness of self, and how can you miss when our theme is "WAKE UP!"?

Join us for the  
 2017 Winter Pacific Seminar - 21st Century:  
**East Meets West Dharmathon**  
 at the Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji  
 Buddhist Temple  
 Saturday, January 28, 2017

The Institute of Buddhist Studies, BCA Center for Buddhist Education, and Shinshu Center of America are excited to present the continuing exploration of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, comparing perspectives from the Higashi (Eastern) and Nishi (Western) *hongwanji*, or "temples of the Primal Vow." Hear over a dozen ministers from Higashi and Nishi traditions. For details and registration forms (due by January 19, 2017), visit the BCA website: [buddhistchurchesofamerica.org](http://buddhistchurchesofamerica.org).

See the March 2016 issue of the *Wheel of Dharma* (available on the BCA website) for articles by Rev. Peter Hata and Laverne Imori reflecting on last year's Winter Pacific Seminar. You can also view videos with speakers Dr. Mark Blum and Rev. Henry Adams presenting in English and Japanese on YouTube. Go to [YouTube.com](http://YouTube.com), search for "BCA Center for Buddhist Education Channel" then search for "2016 Winter Pacific Seminar."



BCA Education News & Highlights - Live a Real Life!

**2016 Winter MAP Addresses Changing Times**

By Kaitlyn Mascher-Mace  
Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple



Above: The 2016 Winter MAP seminar was attended by 19 participants, including four first-timers, four with Tokudo ordination, and five IBS students. (Seated, l. to r.) Irene Goto, Edythe Vassall, Joy Zavala, Rosalyn Dong, Cynthia Yasaki, Ellen Crane, and Tina Donisi. (Standing, l. to r.) Rev. Marvin Harada, Maribeth Smitty Smith, Tadao Koyama, Jesse Zavala, George Thon, Kaitlyn Mascher-Mace, Landon Yamaoka, Leonora Clarke, Noriko Kawai, Tara Umemoto, and Rev. Kiyonobu Kawabara. Not pictured: James Pollard, Blayne Higa, and Rev. Masato Yanagida. Center: Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto (far right) displayed an authentic Rennyō Shonin six-character scroll. Below: A lecture in progress.

Against the backdrop of a brisk and overcast coastal California day, I arrived at the Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC) for my first ever Minister's Assistant Program (MAP) seminar. I was somewhat nervous, as this was a big step outside of my day-to-day life, and although I had been studying for years and was extremely excited to be there, it remained a step into the unknown. No one from the Tri-State/Denver Buddhist temple had participated in this program in quite a long time, so I found myself unsure of what I would find. What I found, however, was a group of good Dharma friends and an experience which has left me more energized to learn, participate, and spread the Dharma than ever before.



The Winter MAP session in Berkeley from December 8-10 featured a diverse group of ministers' assistants from temples as far away as Chicago and Seattle. On the first day, we enjoyed an excellent session from Rev. Harry Bridge on Chanting and Liturgy, including the *Shoshinge*. From that first day found ourselves thrown directly into leading services and giving Dharma talks, including at

the *Dharmathon*, an event where almost everyone presented a short talk. Exceptional home-style meals graced the tables every day.

The second day was highlighted with a presentation from Professor John Nelson of the University of San Francisco titled "Adaptation and Experimentation for Religious Institutions." He gave an overview of his research into how Buddhist Temples in Japan have approached the ongoing problem of shrinking membership. Temples are utilizing methods as unorthodox as minister fashion shows, anime-style marketing, and opening bars where the general public can be served drinks directly by ministers and monks. This last concept, the Bozu Bar, has become very popular, and is growing across Japan. The following session by Rev. Ronald Kobata on Buddhism exploring the "Spiritual-But-Not-Religious" concept perfectly complimented Dr. Nelson's talk.



Tacking in another direction, we then walked a few blocks from the JSC to the Berkeley Buddhist Monastery. We met with Rev. Heng Sure, who introduced us to the world of the late Chinese master Xu Yun. Rev. Heng Sure and the monks-in-training gave the group an in-depth explanation of their practices, and I left with a greater understanding of the width and breadth that is Buddhism in this world. To close out the second day, we had an open and far-reaching conversation about the book *The Unbindered Path* by Rev. John Paraskevopoulos. While Rev. Paraskevopoulos was not able to attend, his book did prompt extended discussion amongst all of the ministers' assistants and Rev. Harada.

Before the session drew to a close, we had one last class with Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto on one of the most popular texts in Jodo Shinshu, the *Tannishō*. Rev. Matsumoto went into depth on the 11th and 12th sections, and helped clear up a lot of my misunderstandings on the writing of Yuien. We were also all provided the opportunity to view an original Rennyō Shonin *Nembutsu* Scroll—an amazing piece of Shin Buddhist history. As we parted and final goodbyes were said, I had the chance to reflect on the previous three days and realize that not only had I learned more about Shin Buddhism and being Shin Buddhist, but that this experience has likely caused a far-reaching change to my path through this life. I look forward to the next time in which conditions allow all of my new Dharma friends to gather in person and again share the teachings of the Buddha.

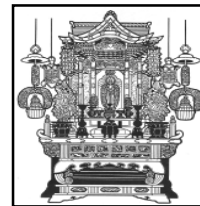
**Stem Cell Donor Needed!**

**A Call for Support from Our Multi-Racial BCA Members & Friends**

Aaron Lee is urgently in need of a stem cell donor to save his life! Aaron has been an active participant in the CBE TechnoBuddha program for several years. Shortly after his 33rd birthday, he was diagnosed with stage IV diffuse large B-cell lymphoma. As of October, Aaron completed his second round of brutal, high-dose chemotherapy.

Aaron's difficulty in finding a stem cell donor arises from his ancestry: Chinese, Polish, and Russian-Ashkenazi Jewish. To help more patients like Aaron find a donor, we need to increase the ethnic diversity of the registry. By taking one simple cheek swab, you can learn if you could possibly save a life.

We are asking and encouraging our multi-racial Buddhist Churches of America members and friends to consider signing up as a potential marrow donor by going to the Be The Match® marrow registry at [join.betbematch.org/match4aaron](http://join.betbematch.org/match4aaron) and getting your swab kit in the mail. Your support is greatly appreciated!



**OUR JODO SHINSHU TRADITIONS**

**The Jodo Shinshu Naijin Shrine**

In Jodo Shinshu Buddhist temples, the main hall, or Hondo, is divided into two areas: the *Naijin* and the *Gejin*. The *Naijin* is the (inner) altar area, and the *Gejin* is the (outer) seating area. Most Buddhist ceremonies and rituals take place in or in front of the *Naijin*. The *Naijin* is where objects of reverence are placed and where Buddhist priests officiate during services. You may see the word spelled "Onaijin." The letter "o" placed before the word *Naijin* (or "go-" placed before other words) is an honorific form showing respect for what the word represents.

(Excerpted from the pamphlet "The Jodo Shinshu Naijin Shrine" by Rev. C. Myokai Himaka, published by the Buddhist Churches of America Southern District Ministers' Association with funding from the Southern District Council.) See the Spokane Buddhist Temple's *onaijin* on page 2.

**2017 BCA Educational Events**

Programs subject to change. Events at the Jodo Shinshu Center unless otherwise noted.

- January 13 ~ **Go-Shoki Ho-On-Ko Service.** Shinran Shonin's Memorial Day commemoration will be held in the Kodo. Free and open to the public.
- January 20-22 ~ **CBE Temple Leadership Workshop: Cultivating Dharma-Centered Leadership.** To help temple leaders learn in a supportive environment how to work with the BCA, strengthen the Sangha, and provide more opportunities to share the Dharma. Registration due January 4. Contact CBE for more information.
- January 28 ~ **Winter Pacific Seminar: East Meets West "Dharmathon" at the Los Angeles Betsuin.** A series of Dharma messages in English and Japanese will be given by ministers from the Higashi and Nishi traditions. Registration \$40, due Jan. 19. Contact Rev. Koho Takata at (213) 680-9130 or email [NishiDharmaCenter@gmail.com](mailto:NishiDharmaCenter@gmail.com).
- March 1-4 ~ **BCA Ministers Association and BCA National Council Meetings (NCM)** in San Jose, CA.
- March 2 ~ **CBE Symposium "Buddha at Work" at San Jose Betsuin, 1-5 pm.** Featured speakers: Franz Metcalf and B.J. Gallagher, co-authors of *Being Buddha at Work*, Dr. Richard Payne discussing his book, *How Much is Enough?* and Brian Nagata on the Buddhist Philanthropist, Rev. Dr. Yehan Numata. Symposium is free and open to the public. Presented in conjunction with the BCA National Council Meetings.
- March 3 & 4 ~ **Chanting and Dharmathon at San Jose Betsuin, Friday 3:30-5 pm, and Dharmathon at San Jose Marriott Hotel, Saturday 3:30-5 pm.** Chanting of musical version of *Shoshinge* for the Gomonshu's Accession Ceremony; speakers Rev. Nar-iaki Hayashi and Rick Stambul. Saturday speakers include Rev. Yushi Mukojima, Sumi Tanabe, Gary Mukai, Nick San Juan, and YAC.
- April 21-22 ~ **Federation of Dharma School Teachers' Leagues (FDSTL) Conference** in Fresno, CA.
- April 28-30 ~ **10th Annual TechnoBuddha Conference.**
- May 13 ~ **Spring Japanese Seminar.** Speakers to be announced.
- May 19 ~ **Gotan-e Service.** Speakers to be announced.
- May 30-June 1 ~ **Ministers' Continuing Education (MCE) Seminar.** Presented by the Center for Buddhist Education. For more details, contact CBE.
- July 20-23 ~ **Dharma Training for School Teachers.** Presented by IBS and BCA.
- July 22-30 ~ **Eastern Tour: Rev. Sonam Wangdi Bhutia (Tentative).** Speaking tour to Chicago and New York. Presented by CBE.
- August 17-19 ~ **Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course August Workshop.**
- August 18-20 ~ **Summer Pacific Seminar and Summer Minister's Assistant Program (MAP).** Begins Friday at 7 pm. Keynote speaker: Rev. John Paraskevopoulos, author of *Call of the Infinite* and other books on Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Co-sponsored by IBS & CBE.
- August 25-27 ~ **Book Talk and Seminar with Rev. Dr. Ken Tanaka.** Free, donations gratefully accepted.
- September 26-29 ~ **West and East Hong(w)anji Overseas Propagation Exchange (WEHOPE).**
- September 28-30 ~ **Fall Minister's Assistant Program (MAP) Seminar: Northwest District** (location TBD).
- September 30 ~ **Fall Japanese Seminar.** Speakers to be announced.
- December 7-9 ~ **Winter Minister's Assistant Program (MAP) Seminar.**

[BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org](http://BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org) Email: [cbe@bcahq.org](mailto:cbe@bcahq.org) Phone: (510) 809-1460



## Institute of Buddhist Studies Announces 2017 Student Scholarships

By Dr. Scott A. Mitchell,  
IBS Dean of Students and Faculty Affairs



For more than half a century, the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) has offered graduate-level educational programs for those pursuing careers in Shin Buddhist ministry, Buddhist chaplaincy, and the academic study of Buddhism. To support our students and make our programs more widely accessible, IBS offers a range of financial

scholarships and awards. We are pleased to announce the following awards for the 2017 school year for new and returning students.

### The Hongwanji Scholarship Award

Thanks to the generous support of the Jodo Shinshū Hongwanji-ha, IBS is pleased to offer an annual scholarship to one qualified student enrolled in either the Master of Buddhist Studies or Master of Divinity degree program. This scholarship is awarded to a student in need who shows exceptional academic promise or a history of religious leadership with a clear vision of how she/he will apply their education at the IBS post-graduation as a scholar, minister, or chaplain. The applicant must intend to enroll as a full-time student for the duration of the year of the award; the award will at minimum cover 50% of full-time tuition for a full academic year. Award recipients will be profiled in the Buddhist Churches of America's *Wheel of Dharma* and on the IBS website.

Application materials must be received no later than March 1. Applications should include:

1. Hongwanji Scholarship Award application

(available via the IBS website);

2. IBS financial aid application (available via the IBS website);

3. Cover letter addressed to the Scholarship Committee detailing why the applicant is qualified for the award, what her/his goals are in the IBS program; and what contribution she/he hopes to make post-graduation in a specific community or academic field;

4. Current resume or curriculum vitae;

5. Two letters of recommendation (they may be the same letters used for application to the degree program).

Additionally, IBS is able to award the following scholarships to eligible students:

### Shin Buddhist Ministerial Scholarships

Thanks to the generous support of private donors, members of the BCA, and the Friends of IBS program, those students wishing to pursue a career in Jōdo Shinshū ministry are eligible for generous financial aid awards. A special fund has been created for female ministerial aspirants.

### Buddhist Chaplaincy Scholarships

Students enrolled in qualifying programs with career aspirations in Buddhist chaplaincy are encouraged to apply for scholarships to support their studies at IBS.

New and returning students must complete the IBS financial aid application and return all application materials no later than March 1 to be eligible. To apply to a degree or certificate program, please visit our website [shin-ibs.edu](http://shin-ibs.edu). Applications for students entering the program in fall 2017 are due February 15.

If you have any questions, would like more information, or would like to donate to IBS, please message us at [info@shin-ibs.edu](mailto:info@shin-ibs.edu) or call 510-809-1444.

## D.T. Suzuki

Continued from Front Page

bia University was our first speaker and moderator. Dr. Okihiro gave an excellent talk on the Japanese immigration to America. It was the perfect backdrop for the rest of the keynote speakers.

Dr. James Dobbins from Oberlin University spoke about D.T. Suzuki, who was born into a Jodo Shinshu family and became a Zen Buddhist. In his later years, he returned to Shin Buddhism with his writings on Shinran Shonin's *Kyogyoshinsho*.

Nelson Foster Roshi from the Diamond Ring of Bone Zendo in Nevada presented next. He described D.T. Suzuki's contribution to the Zen Buddhist community; Suzuki has influenced every *zendo* (meditation hall) in the USA.

Dr. Akemi Iwamoto from the D.T. Suzuki Museum in Kanazawa, Japan explained how the architect Yoshio Taniguchi designed that museum around Suzuki's writings on Zen. Taniguchi is the architect who redesigned the Museum of Modern Art.

Our last speaker was Rev. Dr. Mark Unno, who gave an excellent wrap-up with



Dr. Gary Okihiro of Columbia University was the first speaker and moderator.

personal glimpses of his and his father's (Rev. Dr. Taitetsu Unno) relationship with Suzuki sensei.

New York Buddhist Church (NYBC) members closed the talks with cultural performances. Sahotae Tachibana (Nancy Okada) did an exquisite classical Japanese dance performance, and Josephine Seki gave a vocal recital.

We then moved the program to the museum's main lobby and the great thundering beat of the Soh Daiko Taiko Drummers. This was followed by Iaido and Kendo sword-based martial arts demonstrations by the Ken-Zen Institute, founded by former NYBC head minister Rev. Shunshin Kan. The evening ended with the Ai Dance Theater Ensemble performing a lively contemporary Japanese number.

*Thank you for helping to share the Buddha, Dharma & Sangha!*



Scenes from BCA Programs -- Nurturing the Buddha Dharma Sangha: Left to right: Judy Kono and CBE volunteer team, Technobuddhas enjoy homestyle meals at JSC, and Minister Assistant Program (MAP) seminar. Photos by Tim Shimizu and Wheel of Dharma

## BCA Dana Program Update

*Welcome to the New Year!*

Do you know all about the BCA Dana Program?

Started in 2015, the Dana Program is an easy way for you to support the Buddhist Churches of America year after year with a recurring gift. Replacing the necessity to have new fundraisers every year, the Dana Program is continuous and supports the programs, people, and events of the BCA and the areas of most need.

Pick up a brochure at your local temple or visit [BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org/BCA-Dana-Program](http://BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org/BCA-Dana-Program) to download the brochure.

If you would like to give now, please send your donation to the BCA with the donation form below or donate online. You can call us at (415) 776-5650 x311 or message us at [donate@bcabq.org](mailto:donate@bcabq.org) if you have any questions.

Thank you for your support!



Thank you for supporting the  
Buddhist Churches of America!

Please complete this form and mail to:  
BCA Endowment Foundation, 1710 Octavia Street,  
San Francisco, CA 94109-4341.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
TEMPLE AFFILIATION \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

A **RECURRING DONATION** to the Dana Program is recommended. Your offerings will be allocated to the areas of greatest need.

You can make your offerings at any frequency: *annually, bi-annually, quarterly or monthly*. If you choose monthly, please consider the online giving option.

Yes! I would like to make a recurring donation  
Suggested amounts **PER YEAR**:  
 \$1,200  \$600  \$300  \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(E.G. \$1,200 = MONTHLY OFFERINGS OF \$100; OR QUARTERLY OF \$300)

I am making a one-time donation now.  
Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to: **BCA ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION** and put **DANA PROGRAM** in the memo section.

Yes! I would like to share 50% of my offering with:

NAME OF BCA TEMPLE / CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_  
 Yes! my employer will make a matching contribution.  
The BCA Endowment Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization.  
(BCA ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION EIN: 94-2857583)

### On-line Offering

You can easily make your offering using your credit card by visiting the BCA website at:

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

and selecting the Dana Program icon

or going directly to:

[bca.kindful.com](http://bca.kindful.com)

By giving online you will be able to electronically track and modify your giving schedule.

### Other Methods of Offering

I will make arrangements with my Bank for **DIRECT PAYMENT** to the **BCA ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION**

Charge my **CREDIT CARD**

NAME ON CARD \_\_\_\_\_

CARD NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CCV \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

BILLING STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

BILLING CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

Please end my recurring offering on: (optional)

MONTH \_\_\_\_\_ DAY \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes!** Contact me regarding Planned Giving, bequests, and other opportunities for long-term giving opportunities with the BCA Endowment Foundation.

We are here to answer your questions about the Dana Program at [donate@bcabq.org](mailto:donate@bcabq.org) or 415-776-5600 x311.

# 今月の法話

## 「怨親平等の心」

マウンテンビュー仏教会

開教使 向嶋裕史

新年、明けましておめでとございます。



Rev. Yushi Mikoujima, Mountain View Buddhist Temple

ている人達もいます。ですが、自国の発展と国民の幸せを願う心はみんな同じです。アメリカに住む全ての人が自国のよりよい社会、調和のとれた社会を目指しています。しかし、この度の選挙戦が始まって以来、アメリカ各地で一般市民による悲しい行動が見られるようになりました。その一つに、差別問題があります。今、残念なことに、特定の人種や宗教に対する差別をはじめ、障がい者や同性愛者などに否定的な立場をとる人々が公の場で彼らを誹謗中傷するような悲しい場面がニュースで目につきます。人間の心の中には、誰もが差別意識は少なからずあるもので、二五〇〇年前のお釈迦(しゃか)さまの時代でさえもカースト制度という身分差別が確立されていたほど差別意識は人間の歴史に深くかかわっています。お釈迦さまは、差別という概念は相手の存在価値を否定する最も卑劣な行為の一つであるとカースト制度を真っ向から否定しておられます。

では、お釈迦さまは、あらゆる生命の存在をどのように見つめ、生命について私達に何を教えて下さっているのでしょうか。

親鸞聖人が記された『浄土和讃』の中に次のような一首

があります。

平等心をうつるときを 一子地となつげたり  
一子地は仏性なり 安養にいたりてささるべし

(意訳) まことの平等心を得た境地は、生きとし生けるものをかけがえのない一人子(ひとりご)を愛するように、慈しみの眼差しを注ぐ親の姿そのものです。全ての生命を我が一人子のように慈しむ心が仏性(ぶつじやう)であります。それは浄土に生まれて悟ることができるのです。

親鸞聖人は、この和讃の中で、「仏さまは平等の心でもって全ての衆生を分けへだてなく、かけがえのない一人子を愛するように見つめておられる」と明らかにされています。このお言葉の中にお釈迦さまのお心が凝縮されているように思います。

お釈迦さまのお心である平等心とは何かといいますと、それは、「怨親平等の心」をいいます。「怨」とは「うらみ」や「にくしみ」という意味ですが、「親」とは「親愛」、つまり愛することです。ですから、怨親とは愛と憎しみを表す言葉で、「怨親平等の心」とは、愛憎を超えた心といえます。

これはとても大変なことで、私達凡人には到底想像もつかない世界ではありますが、実はこれこそが、仏さまのお悟りの領域なのです。仏さまとは一体どういってお方なのかといえますと、この怨親平等の心を開いた尊いお方を仏といふのです。

差別を認めない私達(わしたち)仏教徒は、当たり前のように「みんな平等だ」と言います。これは大尊(たいそん)尊(そん)の思想(しゆしゆ)です。ですが、果たして私達はその意味を本当に理解しているのでしょうか？ つまり、愛するものと憎むものを全て平等に見ていくという生き方が日常生活の中で実践されているのでしょうか？

私達は、どれだけ差別根絶(さつべつこんけつ)の社会(しゃかい)を目指して行動しようとも、一旦、自分の嫌いな人や憎んでいる人に出会うと、たちまち偏見(へんけん)の目で見えてしまいます。これは非常に自分勝手(じぶんがって)で大いに矛盾(むじゆん)しています。この相手を受け入れられ

れない感情が差別思想へとつながっていくのです。

悟りの境地、怨親平等の心とは、その自己中心的なものの考え方を完全に打ち破ることであり、自分の嫌いな人は単に自分がつくり出した心の迷いにすぎないと目覚めることなのです。目の前に憎い人がいるわけではありません。その人を憎んでいる私がここにいます。憎いも愛しいも心の迷いにすぎないということを悟ったとき、全ての人がかけがえのない尊い存在なんだという平等の世界が開けてきます。

私達は愛と憎しみの心を死ぬまで捨てきれない煩惱具足の凡夫(ぼんぷ)です。しかし、日々の聴聞(ちやうもん)によって、大悲のお心にふれた時、あらゆる衆生(しゆじやう)が阿彌陀仏(あみだぶつ)に願われて生まれてきた尊い生命(じゆんめい)だということに気づかされます。私達が帰依する阿彌陀仏(あみだぶつ)は、あらゆる生命(じゆんめい)を例外なく平等に我が一人子として必ず悟りの世界へと至らしめると誓われておられます。それを気づかせて下さるおはたらきが「南無阿彌陀仏」のお念仏(ねんぶつ)なのです。

親鸞聖人は生命の真の価値を見出せない人生は空しいものだとおっしゃっています。だからこそ、阿彌陀仏(あみだぶつ)は常に智慧の光(ちゐのひかり)で照らしながら私達の歩むべき道を示して下さいているのです。

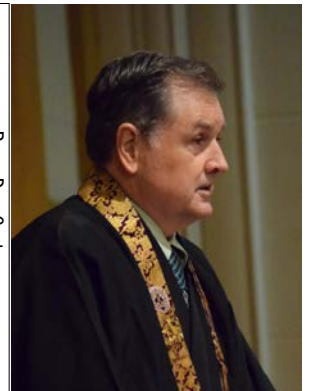
お念仏(ねんぶつ)は、生きとし生けるものに向けられた阿彌陀仏(あみだぶつ)の呼び声(よびこゑ)です。慈悲(じひ)の温もりと智慧(ちゐ)の光(ひかり)が「南無阿彌陀仏」の呼び声(よびこゑ)となって全ての生命(じゆんめい)を優しく包んで下さっています。その真実(まこと)の呼び声(よびこゑ)に目覚めることができた時、私の生命(じゆんめい)も他の生命(じゆんめい)もかけがえのない大切な生命(じゆんめい)、平等(びやうとう)の生命(じゆんめい)であったと互いに拝み合(をが)える、愛憎(あいじゆ)を超えた究極(きうごく)の世界が開かれてくるのだと思います。そこは、誰にも犯すことのできない尊い生命(じゆんめい)が共に平等(びやうとう)に輝き合う悟りの境地(きやうぢ)です。

他人(たにん)を見下(みくだ)し否定(ひてい)することで、優位(ゆうゐ)に立とうとする醜い自己愛(じごあい)が差別意識(さつべついしぎ)を生み出(だ)します。この悲しくも醜い自己愛(じごあい)を滅(めつ)することは至難(しじなん)の業(ごう)ですが、常(つね)にお念仏(ねんぶつ)を申すなかで、どこまでも自己中心(じごちゆうしん)的な生き方を首(う)み、仏性(ぶつじやう)としての存在(そんざい)を互(たが)いに認め合(あ)いながら、差別根絶(さつべつこんけつ)のためになる差別(さつべつ)としっかり向き合(む)き合(あ)い、念仏者(ねんぶつじや)としてのあるべき生き方を真剣(まけん)に考え、行動(こうどう)していききたいものです。

合掌(がしやう)

# 人事

## シアトル



Rev. Don Castro

シアトル別院(シアトルべつゐん)輪番(りんぱん)のカストロ・ドン開教使(かいきやうし)が12月に引退(いんたい)した。11月に開催された引退(いんたい)パーティーでは、「I am not going anywhere! これからも別院(べつゐん)で聞法(もんぽう)を続けるつもりです。孫(まご)の世話をしながら、恩師(おんし)アイトマン先生(せんせい)や仏教(ぶつぎやう)に關(か)しての執筆活動(てんしつかくどう)なども行いたいと思います。」と挨拶(あいさつ)をした。別院(べつゐん)メンバーは「先生(せんせい)がよく法話(ぽうわ)でおしゃべりしていた。Don't get stuck. を忘れないようにしたいです。人生(じんせい)では幸せ(しあわせ)なものにも変化(へんげん)していくので、なにごとにも執着(しやくちやく)しないようにできたらいいと思います。先生(せんせい)は30年(ねん)別院(べつゐん)にいてくださいましたが、引退(いんたい)されます。これも変化(へんげん)なので受け入れていかないといいけませんね。」と師(し)の引退(いんたい)を惜(な)しんだ。

## サリナス

10月(じゆ)より藤谷(ふじや)政躬(せいこん)開教使(かいきやうし)がサリナス(サリナス)仏教(ぶつぎやう)会(かい)に赴任(しゆじん)した。藤谷(ふじや)政躬(せいこん)師(し)は浄土真宗(じやうどしんしゆ)セクターで開講(かいかう)されているIMOP(国際(こくさい)伝道(でんどう)者(じや)養成(せいせい)講座(かいざ))を昨年(さくねん)受講(じゆんじゆ)した。香川(かがわ)県(けん)出身(しゆしん)。



Rev. Yugo Fujita, Salinas Buddhist Temple

## 中加教区

中加(ちゅうか)教区(きやうく)の坂本(さかもと)アラン開教使(かいきやうし)が12月(じふにがつ)末日(まつじつ)をもって引退(いんたい)した。

## 藤谷政躬師往生される

名誉(めいぎよ)開教使(かいきやうし)の藤谷(ふじや)政躬(せいこん)師(し)が11月(じゆ)24日(にち)に佐賀(さか)県(けん)伊万里(い万里)市(し)の自宅(じやくわ)で亡(な)くなられた。93歳(さい)。1993年(ねん)に引退(いんたい)後(ご)、日本(にっぽん)へ帰国(きこく)されていた。師(し)は1951年(ねん)に米(まい)シ(シ)ュー(ュー)ヨ(ヨ)ーク(ーク)仏教(ぶつぎやう)会(かい)に駐在(ちゆうざい)。その後(ご)、ミ(ミ)ッド(ッド)ウ(ウ)ェ(ェ)ス(ス)ト(ト)仏教(ぶつぎやう)会(かい)、オ(オ)レ(レ)ゴ(ゴ)ン(ン)仏教(ぶつぎやう)会(かい)を経てIBS(アイブイエス)の前身(ぜんしん)、ブ(ブ)ディ(ディ)ス(ス)タ(タ)ディ(ディ)セ(セ)ン(ン)ター(ター)長(ちやう)に就任(しゆうじん)した。センター長(ちやう)を辞任(じにん)後(ご)、オ(オ)ックス(クス)ナ(ナ)ード(ード)仏教(ぶつぎやう)会(かい)に駐在(ちゆうざい)、ガ(ガ)ダル(ダル)ペ(ペ)ル(ル)仏教(ぶつぎやう)会(かい)、サ(サ)ン(ン)タ(タ)バー(バー)ラ(ラ)仏教(ぶつぎやう)会(かい)を兼任(かんとん)した。師(し)は仏教(ぶつぎやう)会(かい)の「チャーチ」の呼称(こけい)を「チャーチ」の呼称(こけい)に変更(へんげん)する意向(きやうい)を提議(ていぎ)した。12月(じふにがつ)3日(にち)にオ(オ)ックス(クス)ナ(ナ)ード(ード)仏教(ぶつぎやう)会(かい)のメモリアル(メモリアル)デー(デー)に於(お)いて、師(し)の往生(じやうじやう)を告(つ)げられた。29日(にち)に営(えい)まれる。

# ご門主年頭の挨拶

## 年頭の辞

新しい年のはじめにあたり、ご挨拶申し上げます。

本願寺では、昨年10月1日より本年5月31日まで10期80日にわたって伝灯奉告法要をお勤めしています。海外からの皆さまも含め、たいへん多くの方々にご参拝・ご協力いただき、法要をお勤めできていますことは、まことに有難く、感謝申し上げます。

皆さまとともに伝灯奉告法要をお勤めして、浄土真宗のみ教えが800年近くの時を経て私たちに伝えられ、また、日本だけでなく世界各地に伝わっていることを改めて実感しています。それぞれの時代の中であって、浄土真宗のみ教えが一人一人の方の生きていく依りどころ、支えであったから、今日まで絶えることなく受け継がれてきたと思います。

親鸞聖人は、さまざまな出来事に悩み苦しむ私たちのために、浄土真宗のみ教えをお示しく下さいました。本年も浄土真宗のみ教えを聞き、ご家族の方などご縁のある方々にお伝えいただき、南無阿弥陀仏とお念仏申す日々をともに過ごさせていただきますでしょう。

2017年1月1日

浄土真宗本願寺派  
門主 大谷光淳



# 法輪

2017年1月号

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二〇一七年度教化標語  
「まことの人生を歩もう」

あの記事をもう一度!

法輪のバックナンバーがBCAウェブサイト上で読めます。  
<http://buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/about-us/wheel-of-dharma>

## 謹賀新年

今年もよろしくお願ひ申し上げます。

今掌  
編集部一同

## 総長年始のメッセージ

新年あけましておめでとうございます。

今年もみなさまと一緒に念仏のみ教えを聞かせていただき、間違いのない人生をおくらせていただきたいと思っています。

さて、私たちは年初めにお互い新年の挨拶をします。挨拶は別に新年だけではなく、毎朝、毎日いろいろな機会にします。こちらからする場合もありますし、他の人から声をかけられて、返事の挨拶をすることもあります。どちらにしても、挨拶には相手がいま

ところで、南無阿弥陀仏も同じです。呼びつ呼ばれつの関係があるのです。私たちの姿をご覧になって、本当の親が、私たちに悲しみ慈(いつくしみ、喚(よ)んでいてくださっているのです。いつも声をかけてくださっているのです。この「親」という字は、「親しい」という意味があるのです。いつも近くにいると思っていてくださる、という意味がありますから、ただ、一般の父母という意味ではなく、私たちのことを本当に分かっているまますま受け入れてくださる人という意味があるのです。



私には子供が三人います。一人はまだ一緒に暮らしていますが、他の二人はそれぞれ自分の生活を持っています。でも、私たちのことをタディー、マミーと呼んでくれます。いつでも私たちがいるところを我が家として帰ってきてくれます。何も条件はありません。いつでも、そのまま帰ってきてくれるのが我が子であります。

私たちが浄土を家とするのに条件はありません。ただ子供が親をタディー、マミーと慕うように、仏さまのお心を聞かせていただき、ただ南無阿弥陀仏とお念仏させていただくのみです。親子の名乗りをして、呼びつ呼ばれつの世界が開かれ、新しい人生がはじまるのであります。

人生は思い通りにはなりません。どんな辛いことや悲しいことが起ころうとも、お念仏することで、悲しみを辛さを乗り越えていく道が開かれます。一月には親鸞聖人のお徳を称える報恩講が多くの仏教会でお勤めされます。そしてその親鸞聖人がなくなる前に残された言葉として伝えられているのが、次の言葉です。

一人居て喜ばは二人と思ふべし、二人居て喜ばは三人と思ふべし、その一人は親鸞なり

私たちは決して一人ではありません。南無阿弥陀を称えるとき、多くの人と一緒に歩んでいくことができます。今年も一緒にお念仏のひぐらしをさせていただきますでしょう。

## 冬のMAP

12月8日から10日の三日間、浄土真宗センターで冬のMAP(開教使アシスタントの研修会)が開催され、16名のアシスタントが参加した。参加者は、お勤めの習礼をはじめ法話の実演や教学に関する講義を受けた。ゲスト講師にサンフランシスコ州立大学のネルソン・ジョン教授が招かれ、「宗教団体の適応」に関して話した。参加者は「ネルソン教授の講義は刺激になりました。現在の日本の仏教が危機的状況にあり、僧侶がさまざまな試みをもって社会とつながろうとされているところは私たちも学ぶところがあるように思えます。」と学びを深めた。



Winter MAP seminar