

WHEEL OF DHARMA

Official Publication of the Buddhist Churches of America

1710 Octavia Street, San Francisco, CA 94109

VOLUME 38 • ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2016

BCA Ministers' Summer Retreat

By Rev. Harry Bridge,
Chair, Bay District Ministers Association

The Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Ministers Association held its annual Summer Retreat at the Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC) from August 15-17, 2016, hosted by the Bay District Ministers Association. Two ministers from the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii attended as guests. In addition, six ministers from the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada attended, participating in the presentations and holding their own meetings.

One of the activities was a trip to the Japanese Cemetery in Colma, the site of a memorial with the names of deceased BCA bishops and ministers. A service was held in front of the monument. It was very moving to hear the chanting of ministers from three *Kyodan* (overseas districts) in praise of the Buddha and in memory of those ministers and bishops who did so much to share the Dharma on the mainland U.S.

This year's event focused on ethics. The Bay District Ministers led several presentations on the role of ministers regarding social issues and community involvement by BCA ministers and sangha, and an overview of Shin Buddhist social ethics. There was also a session on "Cultural Transitions" by Sensei Elaine Donlin, a minister's assistant from the Buddhist Church of San Francisco. On the final day, a panel examined the death penalty, motivated by upcoming ballot measures in the State of California. The Bay District ministers and others had researched and studied this topic in the context of Buddhist ethics for over a year. After intensive discussion during which many concerns were shared, the resolution opposing the death penalty (below) was adopted by a majority of those present.

The Bay District Ministers Association would like to express its appreciation to the JSC staff and volunteers, and Bay District temple members who helped us host this historic event.

August 18, 2016

Resolution Opposing the Death Penalty

WHEREAS, The foundations of the Buddha's teachings affirm the sacredness of all life and the unique potential of human beings to realize compassion, fulfillment and liberation; and,

WHEREAS, The first of the Buddhist moral and ethical guidelines encourages us to abstain from harming any living being; and,

WHEREAS, Our founder, Shinran Shonin, realized that despite our best intentions, without dismissing personal responsibility, unanticipated circumstances may give rise to emotions and to behavior by any of us that is beyond our imagination;

WE, the Buddhist Churches of America Ministers Association, HEREBY RESOLVE our support for the repeal of the death penalty across these United States.

FBWA 44th Conference in Bellevue, WA "Linked in the Nembutsu: *Tsunagatte*"



At the closing service everyone circled the room, linked to each other by a paper chain made from the get-acquainted activity and sang "Golden Chain." Left photo includes: Rev. Carol Himaka, Rev. Sala Sekiya, Rev. Kojo Kakiyama, Rev. Mutsumi Wondra and minister's assistants. Photo by Ann Oxrieder. Top, right: The FBWA Cabinet for 2017-2018 was installed by Rev. Kodo Umezu, BCA Bishop. Left to right: Yoko Miyoshi and Irene Hara, co-treasurer/auditor; Julie Doi, corresponding secretary; Alice Fujikawa (standing in for Aiko Kamine), Japanese recording and corresponding secretary; Janice Yoshimoto and Sharon Asakawa (standing in for Betty Mori and Janie Nitta); English recording secretaries; Denise Kusunoki, vice-president; Nancy Kimura and Nanette Nakamichi; co-presidents. Not present: Rinban Kakei Nakagawa; ministerial advisor. Photos by Tom Nishikawa except where noted.

The Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations (FBWA) celebrated its 44th conference: "Linked in the Nembutsu: *Tsunagatte*," from October 7-9 in Bellevue, Washington at the Westin Bellevue. Hosted by the Northwest District, over 300 gathered to enjoy inspiring dharma and creative sangha activities.

The get-acquainted activity encouraged each guest to meet five others, and write their names and description of how they were "connected," or linked on strips of paper. The idea that all beings are linked to each other and to the universal vow of compassion was emphasized throughout the weekend.

English language keynote speaker Dr. Sharon Suh, professor and chair of the Department of Religious Studies at Seattle University, addressed the interconnectedness of mind and body. "Popular culture tells us our [women's] bodies are not good enough. Instead we should treat them as gifts and

nurtured as such."

Japanese language keynote speaker Reverend Mutsumi Wondra, minister from the Orange County Buddhist Church, quoted from the *Kyogoshinsho*, "If you should come to realize the true teachings of Buddha-Dharma, rejoice at the conditions from the distant past that have brought it about".

Multiple workshops reinforced the idea of connections whether through shared music, chanting, applying lessons from the past to the future, or Sangha members working together. The weekend concluded with many smiles and everyone looking forward to the 45th FBWA Conference to be hosted by the Central District in 2018.

Please join us on Facebook: <http://buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/2016fbwaconference>

Read more about FBWA on Page 3 in President's Message.

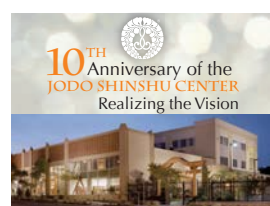


Upper photo: English keynote speaker, Dr. Sharon Suh. Lower photo: Japanese keynote speaker, Rev. Mutsumi Wondra.

Celebrating 100 Years of Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple: *Gratitude for the Past and Aspirations for the Future*



On October 1-2, 2016, the Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple (TSDBT) celebrated its 100-year past while energizing members for the future. Photos by Glenn Asakawa. See Page 6 for story and photos.



Enjoy the Jodo Shinshu Center
10th Anniversary Commemoration
Online at the BCA website:
buddhistchurchesofamerica.org

Photos by Keith Uyemura





Resilience

By Rev. Kodo Umezu, BCA Bishop

“Resilience” is the word that came to my mind when I learned about the histories of several BCA temples and churches and their affiliated organizations during recent anniversary celebrations. In the past few months, I have been honored to officiate commemorative services at Vista Buddhist Temple (35th anniversary and *kieshiki* service), Mountain View Buddhist Temple (55th anniversary and *kieshiki* service) and its Buddhist Women’s Association (50th anniversary), Buddhist Temple of Alameda and its Buddhist Women’s Association (centennials and *kieshiki* service), Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple (centennial and *kieshiki* service), and the Buddhist Temple of San Diego (90th anniversary and *kieshiki* service) and it’s Junior Young Buddhist’s Association (Jr. YBA 65th anniversary reunion). Each temple has its own unique history. Some published history books with members’ stories, and

some compiled video footage for future generations.

Our predecessors were constantly faced with difficulties and challenges including discrimination, the Great Depression, fire, forced relocation, and natural disasters, but they never gave up. Instead, they were reenergized and able to pull together. Amazing!!

I would like to share one of many stories. At the Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple, I officiated a dedication service for their new *nokotsudo* (columbarium). There is an old Amida Buddha statue in the altar there. The statue shows signs of fire damage. The members said that the statue survived a big fire in 1962. They decided not to repair it and placed it in the *nokotsudo* as is. I thought it was a good way to remember the hardships that the temple and the members had gone through. It symbolizes everyone’s hardships.

We often hear that everything is interdependent and impermanent. What it means is that we live



Rev. Umezu (center) officiated the Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple *Kieshiki* service on October 2, 2016, assisted by Rev. Doei Fujii (at right), Rev. Diana Thompson (at left), and minister’s assistants. The ceremony took place as part of their Centennial. See pages 1 and 6

in a world of uncertainty. We don’t know what might happen to us or when something might happen. In other words, anything is possible. People with a deep understanding of this reality can continue to live their lives without criticizing their circumstances. They are able to accept their conditions and move on. This is their strength.

I have met many people like our predecessors. More and more people want to be like them by hearing the Dharma; 201 people received Buddhist names at *kieshiki*

services and expressed the wish to live their lives revering the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha as their guiding light. Their smiles gave me more energy to serve as your Bishop.

Once again, I would like to congratulate all the temples, churches, and affiliated organizations for their wonderful histories and members’ commitment and dedication. Let us not waste their efforts. Let us receive the wonderful gifts that they have passed on to us.



By Rev. Yuki Sugahara,
Buddhist Church of Florin

In Japan, there is a national holiday in October called Health and Sports Day. Around this time, many schools and local areas have their own Undokai, or sports day. Recently, “human pyramids” are what often make news in Japan.

When I was a student, the pyramids were only about four levels at the most. But now, schools are competing against other schools’ pyramid heights and levels. As you can imagine, there are accidents such as people falling and breaking bones. I imagine the lesson

to be learned from these human pyramids is to realize that we do not live alone (interdependence), and the importance of teamwork. However, if we compete for heights and levels, then I feel our teachers need to emphasize the most important part of this activity, that is, teamwork. But there must be better way to teach this lesson.

In contrast, I feel that this human pyramid is also an expression of our unique lives. If we are on the top of the pyramid, there are many people supporting us so that we can stand on the top. If we lack one person in the pyramid, it will easily collapse. Our lives are the same.

I am the fifteenth generation of ministers from my home temple. If my calculation is right, I have 32,766 direct ancestors. This number of people could not fit into the Oracle Arena; they could fill two-thirds of AT&T Park. If we were talking about a basketball or baseball game, the game would go on even if one spectator was

missing. However, our lives are not that simple. If we lacked one person from our past, we would not be here today—just like the human pyramids. Don’t you think that is amazing?

My wife Namiko has a brother who is just one year older than her. Namiko told me that when her mother was pregnant with her, the doctor asked her mother if she wanted to abort the pregnancy. The doctor thought it would be too hard to raise two babies so close in age. But Namiko’s mother said she wanted to keep the baby. That is why Namiko is here today. And now Namiko is the mother of two children of her own. If my mother-in-law had made a different choice, I would not have a wife, daughter, and son who give

me so much joy. When you think about it, life is truly amazing.

For me, over 32,766 people’s choices transmitted this life to me. In addition to that, I am the fifteenth generation minister from my home temple because of my 32,766+ direct ancestors, the members of the temple, and the enormous number of members’ ancestors who enjoyed the *Nembutsu* teaching and handed it down from generation to generation.

Now, what about your life? A lot of temples are going to observe *Eitaikyo* in November. *Eitaikyo* is a Japanese Buddhist observance that allows us to remember those who have come before us to share the *Nembutsu* teachings. So please think about the legacy of your life on this occasion of *Eitaikyo*.

*With Namu Amida Butsu
on my lips
there is nothing to fear.*

*Nothing beats Namu Amida Butsu
for cleansing
the cluttered mind.*

*With renewed vigour,
Determination and joy
I utter the Name.*

By Marcus Cumberlege
Excerpts from “42 Pure Land Pieces” (The Paper Tiger, Bruges, Belgium)
www.marcuscumberlege.com



Like the Buddhist
Churches of America



Senshin Buddhist Temple



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Senshin Buddhist Temple is located in the Southwest area of Los Angeles, California. It is also referred to as *Seinan* by those of Japanese ancestry.

The temple originated as a Japanese language school, *Senshin Gakuin*, founded in 1928 by Rev. and Mrs. Junin Ono of the Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. Dharma school classes were also started at that time.

In 1938, Senshin Gakuin relocated to a new building dedicated for use as a *hondo* (main hall for religious purposes), social hall, Dharma school, and Japanese language school. In 1952, the temple became independent and in 1966, the current *hondo* was built on an adjacent property. In June of 2016, the 50th Anniversary of the *Hondo* was held. Currently, the social hall is undergoing renovations and will re-open in the spring of 2017.

Senshin Buddhist Temple is proud to be the home of two performing arts ensembles; Kinnara Taiko (Japanese drumming) and Kinnara Gagaku (Japanese court music, accompanied by Bugaku dance). The groups were started by Rev. Masao Kodani nearly half a century ago and continue to be active to this day.



Wheel
of Dharma

(USPS 017-700)

Official Publication of the
Buddhist Churches of America

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Wheel of Dharma (USPS 017-700) is published monthly by Buddhist Churches of America, 1710 Octavia St., San Francisco, CA 94109-4341. Periodicals Postage Paid at San Francisco, CA and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to WHEEL OF DHARMA, 1710 Octavia St., San Francisco, CA 94109-4341. Subscription free to BCA temple members; \$12.00 annual subscription for nonmembers.

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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, under the “Contact Us” tab, or go to this link: buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/job-announcement



Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations: A Legacy of Compassion

By Ken Tanimoto, BCA President

On the first weekend of October I had the pleasure of attending the 44th Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations (FBWA) Conference "Linked in the Nembutsu: *Tsunagatte*" in Bellevue, Washington. I thank June Akita and Fran Shintaku, co-chairs of the event, and the rest of the hosting committee members who opened my eyes to the rich history and achievements of the FBWA over the years.

At the conference, I learned of Lady Takeko Kujo (1887-1928), daughter of Koson Ohtani, the 21st Abbot of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha. Lady Kujo was visionary even in her early twenties, when she founded the *Fujinkai*, the Jodo Shinshu female auxiliary group to help temples as well as the general Japanese community. She dedicated her life to taking care of sick and unfortunate individuals needing medical care in the slums of Tokyo. Through her efforts,



Lady Takeko Kujo
1887 - 1928

Lady Kujo founded one of Japan's first modern medical centers, Asoka Hospital.

The Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) FBWA has been in existence since February 16, 1952. The stereotype of the FBWA having a subservient identity is diminishing. Like Lady Kujo, many of our FBWA members have dedicated their time and resources not just helping to support temple events, but have been invaluable in helping to share the Dharma.

FBWA has assisted the BCA in funding its educational organizations, including the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) and many Federation of Dharma School Teachers League programs. The FBWA also sponsors many Dharma lectures, conferences, and other events for the well-being of the Sangha. In 2007 the FBWA passed a resolution whereby all member BWAs donated to the Center for Buddhist Education (CBE) for three years, raising over \$150,000 for programs and operational expenses.

The FBWA are forward thinkers and doers. Recently the BCA indicated that the IBS, which is applying for accreditation status in the State of California, needs another professorial chair. At the final delegates' meeting of this FBWA conference, district representatives discussed this need and almost unanimously voted to spearhead "the establishment of an Endowed Chair in Jodo Shinshu



At the Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations Conference (left to right): Ken Tanimoto, BCA President, with Shizue Yahata, current FBWA president, and Nancy Kimura and Nanette Nakamichi, 2017-18 FBWA Co-Presidents, Central District.

Studies in Memory of Eshinni and Kakushinni (wife and daughter of Shinran Shonin) at the Buddhist Churches of America, Institute of Buddhist Studies." The IBS and BCA thank the FBWA for their initiative.

I have a much deeper appreciation for the FBWA since attending their conference. I have seen what they have done in the past and can see many achievements to come in the future. The FBWA is a modern-day organization that is constantly changing to keep up with our evolving world. It will be the backbone of our BCA organization for years to come. Thank you, FBWA members, for your commitment to help propagate Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

The Power of Faith



By Rev. Candice Shibata,
Berkeley Buddhist Temple

September 29, 2016 was not just an ordinary Thursday. It marked a day when leaders of various faith-based organizations and the community from Alameda County came together for one reason; to celebrate the power of faith. This event called, "The Power of Faith," was a vision of Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson. It was a vision that came to fruition after months of planning through Supervisor Carson's guidance, his dedicated team, and through the voices of community faith-based leaders.

The afternoon event was filled with resource tables, panel discussions about funding opportunities for the faith-based community, and separate breakout sessions that focused on addressing the homelessness and housing crisis and how to engage the youth to sustain their involvement in faith-based organizations. Regardless of which religious organization we were affiliated with, it was agreed upon that many social issues, including the two that were focused on, affect each and every one of us. In our current world where we are faced with numerous social issues, war and the aftermath of destruction, natural disasters and our own effects on the environment, and so many other concerns, one aspect bonded us all together that day; the power of faith.

I thought about this event and each of the religions

that were represented. Instead of focusing on what made us different, I thought about what bonded us in a similar way. Although the Three Jewels—the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha—span all schools of Buddhism, I like to think of each religion as having some component of the Three Jewels. In regards to the first jewel, we each have an insightful teacher who guides us. Pertaining to the second jewel, we are fortunate to have the doctrine of this wonderful teacher. Lastly, each faith-based community has the third jewel, which is the community of its temple, church, synagogue, mosque, etc. Together, these components of each of our religious communities guide and support us in our daily lives.

From a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist perspective, I would like to translate the event theme of the "Power of Faith" to "Other Power." Other Power is the working of the Primal Vow, and as Dr. Taitetsu Unno explained on pages 36-37 in his book, *River of Fire, River of Water*, "as a bodhisattva, Dharmakara saw deeply into the immense sufferings of all beings, identified with them completely, discerned their causes, found a way to eliminate them, and prepared the practice for each being to attain liberation...Other Power then, is the working of great compassion that gives itself completely to each form of life."

As members of the Jodo Shinshu community, we acknowledge that there is suffering in this life. However, if we live a life based on the *Nembutsu* teachings, we can be liberated from this suffering due to the compassionate workings of Other Power. That indeed, is the power of faith.

Affirmation Ceremony



The Buddhist Temple of Alameda's Buddhist Affirmation Ceremony was conducted by BCA Bishop, Rev. Kodo Umezu. Seated second row left to right are Rev. Dr. Shoyo Taniguchi, former BCA minister; Rev. Zuikei Taniguchi, resident minister; Rev. Umezu; and Shigeki Sugiyama, minister's assistant. Photo by Linda Babcock.

By Shaku Zensho Nakano,
Buddhist Temple of Alameda

On Sunday, September 25, 2016, the Buddhist Temple of Alameda conducted a Buddhist Affirmation (or *Kieshiki*) Ceremony as part of the Centennial Celebration. Rev. Kodo Umezu, Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America, performed the service.

When this ceremony was first announced, names of members wanting a *homyo* (Buddhist name) started coming in, and they kept coming in. The final number of applicants was 58! No one expected such a large response. Everyone wants a *homyo*—but what is a *homyo*?

A *homyo* is a Buddhist name that reflects the qualities a person has, or offers an ideal to aspire to achieve. At the beginning of a Jodo Shinshu funeral, the deceased person's *homyo* is read or sometimes chosen and given by the minister. Because of this, many people think of a *homyo* as a "death name"—the name a person is given after they die. However, an affirmation ceremony is the

"affirming" of one's desire to live one's life as a Buddhist, finding refuge in the Three Treasures. A *homyo* is more like a new name when a person transitions into life as a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist. If you weren't given a *homyo* during your lifetime, you receive one upon death. But, if you can receive your *homyo* while you are living, you are able to make an effort to live up to your new name.

Following the service, the party moved into the Social Hall where recipients were congratulated on their new names. The temple provided a delicious bento box lunch, and there was a premier showing of the video, *Our Second Home*, created specifically for the Centennial. The video was produced by temple members, Mr. John McCue and his wife, Ms. Amy Tomine. John and Amy worked on this project for the past four years; it is a history of the temple, and contains many interviews of current members.

The events of the day were a fitting ending to the Centennial celebrations for the Buddhist Temple of Alameda.

BCA's Newest Minister



My name is Yugo Fujita. I arrived in San Francisco on September 27, 2016 as a new *Kaikyoshi* minister for the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA). Following my orientation at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, I was assigned to the Buddhist Temple of Salinas on October 10, 2016.

I am from Kagawa Prefecture on the island of Shikoku, which

is located in the southeast part of Japan just across the Seto Inland Sea from Hiroshima. I am from a temple family. My family temple's name is Choen-ji. My father and uncle are ministers there.

I attended Ryukoku University in Kyoto and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism and Social Welfare. Following that I continued my education at the Ryukoku Graduate School of Practical Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Studies. Ryukoku University was established by the Hongwanji Temple. During my final year, I left the graduate school because I decided to become a minister in the Buddhist Churches of America.

I was happy and fortunate

to take part in the International Ministerial Orientation Program (IMOP) in 2015. It was my experience in the IMOP program that has brought me here to the BCA as a *Kaikyoshi*. I would like to express my sincere and deep appreciation to Bishop Kodo Umezu, and the ministers and members of the BCA for welcoming me and allowing me to be part of the BCA family.

As a new minister, I realize that I have lots to learn about the BCA and the USA. I look forward to sharing, reciting and enjoying the *Nembutsu* with all of you and greatly appreciate your guidance and encouragement.

Gassho,
Rev. Yugo Fujita
Buddhist Temple of Salinas



BCA Education News & Highlights - Live a Real Life!

WINTER PACIFIC SEMINAR - 21ST CENTURY

EAST MEETS WEST

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Saturday, JANUARY 28, 2017

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Presented by the Institute of Buddhist Studies,

Buddhist Churches of America Center for Buddhist Education & Shinshu Center of America

Hosted by the BCA Southern District Ministers Association & Buddhist Education Committee

BCA YOUTH VOICES: Young people share their experiences in Buddhist Churches of America's (BCA) youth leadership and Buddhist education activities.

2016 FBWA Youth Exchange

By Kelli Kato and Katelyn Morimoto

From July 17-28, Katelyn Morimoto of Gardena Buddhist Church and Kelli Kato of Orange County Buddhist Church participated in the Buddhist Churches of America Buddhist Women's Association Youth Exchange Program. Representing the Southern District BWA, they visited the Nishi Hongwanji, Ohtani Mausoleum, and other temples in Japan. Katelyn and Kelli described the highlights of their trip.



Lady Ruzumi Ohtani (center), Ourakata (wife of the Gomonshu) of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, held a private audience with Katelyn Morimoto (left) and Kelli Kato in Kyoto, Japan.

Katelyn Morimoto: After spending nearly two weeks in Japan, I found it difficult to explain exactly what I have learned through my experience with this program. There is no single part of the trip that made an impression on me more than the people I had the pleasure of meeting. The hospitality and polite manner with which they treated me was not like anything I had ever experienced, and it was truly a shock in comparison to America.

Both Kelli and I got to experience many parts of Kyoto, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Osaka, and Takaoka. In Kyoto, we got the opportunity to step into some beautiful temples, and even dress up in extravagant kimonos and wear *oshiroi* (face powder) like a *maiko* (a *geisha* in training). Hiroshima showed us just how devastating war can be, as we visited the museum and monument. Osaka and Takaoka showed us how kind people could be, as our home stays welcomed us with open arms and more generosity than one could imagine. When we returned to Kyoto, we were able to have an audience with Lady Otani, who was extremely kindhearted and down to earth.

After having the opportunity to be a part of such an amazing program, I feel extremely honored to have been chosen to experience Japan with Kelli. Every day I realize something new because with each day I spend away from Japan, I see differences in my life that have affected me more than I know. It still amazes me how people who are so similar to me can be so different just because we grew up in different parts of the world. And truthfully, I could write forever about my experiences in Japan and it still wouldn't do the trip justice.

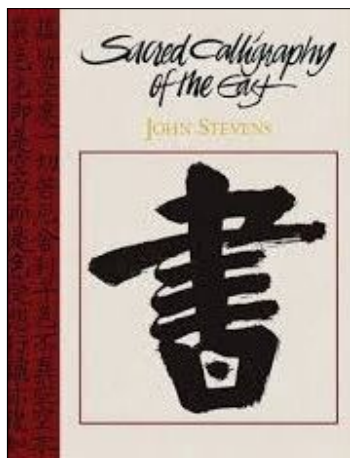
Kelli Kato: No one could have prepared me for the wonders I would experience on this once-in-a-lifetime journey to Japan. I was excited, yet nervous to have been selected to represent the Southern District Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations (FBWA). From my arrival at Kansai Airport, to crying as I left both home-stay families in Osaka and Takaoka, I wished my stay would have never come to an end. Both homestay experiences were undoubtedly the highlights of the trip. Although we were able to see amazing sights, the unbreakable bonds formed with these families is worth far more to me.

In my first homestay with the Ishihara family, I was touched by the kindhearted, altruistic couple who welcomed us into their home with open arms. With my second homestay, I was hosted by the Doki family from Senpukuji Temple in Takaoka. I cannot express how thankful I am to have felt so much affection from people I had just met. From taking me to experience my first *onsen* (bath) to driving on the sand at Chirihama, the Dokis treated us like the daughters they never had. In such a short amount of time, I felt as if I had become a part of their families; I felt as if they had both filled a space in my heart.

Eating *okonomiyaki* (a type of pancake made with vegetables) in Hiroshima, becoming a professional manju maker on Miyajima Island, and overlooking all of Japan from the Umeda Sky Building, I reminisce on all the experiences I was given and remember all those who have touched my life. Although I have left Japan, I hope to inspire others on how we can live our lives to the fullest by performing little acts of kindness, further implementing the Buddha's teachings into our everyday lives.

BCA Bookstore News

By Gayle Noguchi



Now available: **Sacred Calligraphy of the East** by John Stevens, paperback, \$19.00.

For centuries, Buddhist teachings were transmitted orally. Only after Buddhism reached China, Japan, and Tibet did written sutras assume a prominent role in propagating the teachings. Shandao, the first patriarch of Pure Land Buddhism, made over ten thousand copies of the *Sukhavatīyūba Sutra (Amidakyo)*. As Stevens states, "The physical relics of Buddha are his ashes; the relics of his teaching are the copied sutras."

In this beautifully illustrated book, ordained Buddhist priest John Stevens presents the religious art of calligraphy. He covers the historical development of written language, Shakyō (the art of sutra copying), biographies of Zen calligraphers such as Ikkyū, Takuan, Hakuin, and others including examples of their work, and practical instruction on calligraphy materials and techniques intended to both inform and inspire.

Stevens discusses in detail the Hindu tantric philosophy of sacred sounds and the practice of meditating on Sanskrit seed syllables/mantras such as HRIH, a representation of Amida Buddha. Also included is a chart of the thirteen principal Buddhas and Bodhisattvas who are venerated on specific days following a person's death (Fudo Myō, Shaka Nyorai, Monju Bosatsu, Fugen Bosatsu, Jizo Bosatsu, Miroku Bosatsu, Yakushi Nyorai, Kanzeon Bosatsu, Seishi Bosatsu, Amida Nyorai, Akushu Nyorai, Dainichi Nyorai, and Kokuzo Bosatsu). Stevens provides individual explanations of these Buddhas and Bodhisattvas along with their corresponding characters, stroke order, and mantras.

Of particular interest is a fascinating description of the sutra copying offices established in Nara, the first one having been created in 728 by imperial order. Over a 50-year period, that first office produced 16 complete sets of what was then the entire canon, one set consisting of 1,716 volumes. Additional copies were produced by other offices in the years that followed. Stevens also tells of the only two men to copy the entire canon by themselves. Fujiwara Sadanobu (1088-1156) completed it in 23 years only to lose it soon after in a disastrous fire. The priest Shikijo Hoshi (1159-1242) completed it over a period of 42 years.

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

2016 BCA Educational Events

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

November 15-17 ~ Minister's Continuing Education (MCE) Seminar. Presented by the Center for Buddhist Education. For more details, contact CBE (*see below*).

December 8-10 ~ Winter Minister's Assistant Program (MAP) Seminar. Presented by CBE. For more information, contact CBE.

COMING IN 2017

January 20-22 ~ CBE Temple Leadership Workshop: Cultivating Dharma-Centered Leadership. One to two leaders from each temple will come together to as a group to address common issues and possible action plans on how temples can help each other. Workshops will include Dharma sessions, resource presentations, panels, and discussions. FREE: no registration or JSC lodging fees. Temple presidents will be contacted by the BCA Office of the Bishop.

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 by Jan. 19. Contact Rev. Koho Takata at (213) 680-9130 or email NishiDharmaCenter@gmail.com.

March 2 ~ CBE Symposium at the BCA National Council Meeting in San Jose, 1-5 pm. Featured speakers: Franz Metcalf and B.J. Gallagher, co-authors of *Being Buddha at Work*. Other speakers to be announced. Symposium is free and open to the public. More details to come.

BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org Email: cbe@bcahq.org Phone: (510) 809-1460



BCA Education News & Highlights - Live a Real Life!

Midwest Buddhist Temple Hosts Fall MAP Seminar

By Gail Wong, Twin Cities Buddhist Association
and Jesse Zavala, Midwest Buddhist Temple



Twenty-six minister's assistants attended the 2016 Fall Minister's Assistant Program (MAP) Seminar in the Eastern District. Held at the Midwest Buddhist Temple in Chicago, the ministers in charge included (front row, left to right) Rev. Marvin Harada, Rev. Sala Sekiya, Rev. Henry Adams, Rev. Ron Miyamura, Rev. Nariaki Hayashi, and Rev. Earl Ikeda.

On Sept 22-25 the 2016 Fall Minister's Assistant Program (MAP) Seminar was hosted by Midwest Buddhist Temple in Chicago. The group of 26 attendees came predominately from the Eastern District: Ekoji, New York, Cleveland, Twin Cities, and Chicago, as well as three attendees from California and two from Canada. The group was varied in experience, including some who have received Tokudo ordination. It was noted that the Eastern District has more MAP participants than any other district in the Buddhist Churches of America. Minister's assistants (MAs) provide important support to their temples.

The focus of this MAP seminar was on basics. We were very fortunate to have guidance from many wonderful *senseis*. Rev. Sala Sekiya started us out with an ice breaker that required us to work as a team and listen to each other. That lesson hit home later as we tried to plan out a service with our Toban group. A certified special rituals minister, Rev. Sekiya taught several intensive sessions of chanting and etiquette. Her vibrant and clear voice was beautiful to listen to as she worked with us on chanting. She explained the proper Hongwanji-ha rituals on the *naijin* (altar) and in the *hondo* (main hall). It was fascinating to hear the history of our traditions; they are so rich in meaning. Above all, respect is imperative when entering the *naijin*, and while present in the *hondo*.

From Rev. Henry Adams we learned about the Buddhist practice of homage and making offerings, both from a General Buddhist perspective and then as it applies to Jodo Shinshu. We also spent time learning about the meaning of Jodo Shinshu Buddhist memorial services. I'm sure everyone was astonished to learn that the wellbeing of deceased and living parents was a major concern of Indian Buddhist monks. This discovery may overturn a presumably established belief of its adoption from China.

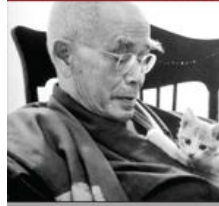
Rev. Marvin Harada offered guidance and valuable tips on how to deliver a Dharma talk. All those who didn't give a talk during a service participated in the two-night Dharmathon, each giving a seven-minute presentation. We heard very personal and emotional talks, as well as humorous and contemplative lessons, each one providing a thoughtful Buddhist teaching.

We all shared our experiences and ideas on building outreach and educational training. It is clear that all temples are struggling to maintain membership and attract new followers, and that spurred conversation on new approaches to try.

A field trip to the beautiful Baha'i Temple in Wilmette was a nice break on Saturday afternoon. We wrapped up the weekend participating in the Zenshin meditation service. After, Rev. Ron Miyamura graciously allowed the Twin Cities MAs and two MAs from California to sit on the *Naijin* for the Sunday service. It was a beautiful and emotional experience to hear all of the voices chanting in wondrous praise to Amida Buddha.

Thank you to Rev. Ron Miyamura, Chair of the Eastern District Ministers Association, for all your hard work helping to organize this MAP session. We thank the MBT temple members for their gracious hospitality and wonderful meals throughout the weekend. To all of the *senseis* and to all of our fellow Jodo Shinshu travelers, thank you for your guidance, wisdom, and friendship. May we all meet again soon to experience more of the Dharma.

FIRST ANNUAL
IN GRATITUDE
TRIBUTE HONOREE
DR. DAISSETZ
TEITARO
SUZUKI



AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THE
AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

American Buddhist
Study Center

DECEMBER 11, 2016

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

American Buddhist Study Center presents
The First Annual In Gratitude Tribute Honoree
DR. DAISSETZ TEITARO SUZUKI
And His Contributions to the American Way of Life
MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
11 W 53rd St, New York, NY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016

D.T. Suzuki gained world renown for his leading role introducing Zen and Shin Buddhism to the English-speaking world. His books became standards that marked a profound change in the American public's appreciation of Asian religions.

The celebration includes Taiko Drumming, Presentations by renowned Buddhist scholars, Japanese Tea Ceremony, Kendo Demonstration, Ken-Zen Institute Japanese Music Recital and Holiday Reception

Tickets: By November 25, Early Bird ticket, \$40 each. Early Bird group of 10 or more, \$32 per ticket. After November 25, ticket prices are \$50 single or \$40 each for 10 or more.

Order Tickets online at www.AmBuddhist.org

For more information,
email us at Info@AmBuddhist.org or call: (212) 864-7424



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 2016 National Council Meeting "Buddhism and Agriculture" Symposium, the 2016 Winter Pacific Seminar: "East Meets West" in Los Angeles, and many more.

Contact CBE at cbe@bcahq.org or (510) 809-1460

ATTENTION BCA TEMPLE LEADERS: SAVE THE DATE!

CBE TEMPLE LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

Cultivating Dharma-Centered Leadership

Group A: JANUARY 20-22, 2017

Group B: JANUARY 19-21, 2018

What are your challenges, lessons, and resources to share in the areas of finance, fundraising, communications, outreach, diversity, 'inreach,' membership, and more? Join with other temple leaders to learn in a supportive environment how to work with the BCA, to strengthen your Sangha, and to provide more opportunities to share the Dharma.

See box on page 4 for more information. Sponsored by the BCA Center for Buddhist Education

OUR JODO SHINSHU TRADITIONS

Where did the Chigo tradition come from?

Auspicious occasions such as major anniversaries may begin with a chigo procession in which young children wearing traditional costumes lead the people into the temple.

According to an historical source, chigo goes back to the time of Shakyamuni Buddha. When the Buddha and his followers traveled throughout India to spread the Dharma, there were very few people who welcomed them warmly. Many people disliked the group's ragged appearance as they came into their neighborhoods asking for alms. Sometimes people would lock their doors to avoid meeting them.

But compared to those suspicious adults, the children knew by intuition that even though his looks were poor, Shakyamuni Buddha was a very gentle and noble person. Unaffected by prejudice, the children approached the Buddha and his followers without hesitation, giving them water, flowers, nuts, and so on, and offered the best hospitality they could.

Observing their children, the adults gradually lowered their wariness towards Shakyamuni Buddha. When the two groups began speaking, the villagers were able to hear the teaching of the Buddha. Through the example of the children, many adults were able to encounter the Buddha-Dharma. This is the origin of chigo.

(Text based on "How Cute Chigo Kids Are!" by Rev. Yushi Mukojima in The Echo, Nov. 2016.)



In September 2016, Mountain View Buddhist Temple Dharma School children led the chigo procession for the temple's 55th anniversary celebration. Photo by Curt Fukuda.



**JODO SHINSHU
CORRESPONDENCE
COURSE
POSTER CONTEST**

The Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course Office is accepting entries for original poster designs.

Deadline: January 10, 2017

For project details, please contact: hongwanjioffice@bcahq.org
Winner to receive honorarium.

**JSCC Office, 2140 Durant Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94704
Telephone: (510) 809-1441**



The Thanksgiving Offering for the Social Welfare Fund

By Gary Mukai and
Charlene Grinolds
Co-Chairs, Social Welfare Committee

In the coming weeks, BCA members and supporters will receive the annual Thanksgiving Offering fundraising letter for the BCA's Social Welfare fund.

Since 1981, through the generous support of the BCA community, the Social Welfare fund has distributed over \$2 million in grants for worthy projects throughout the world.

In April of this year, the Kumamoto area of Japan suffered a disastrous earthquake which caused extensive property damage and displaced many

residents. The BCA's Social Welfare Committee made an emergency grant of \$25,000 to the Hongwanji's relief effort. Shortly after, the BCA's



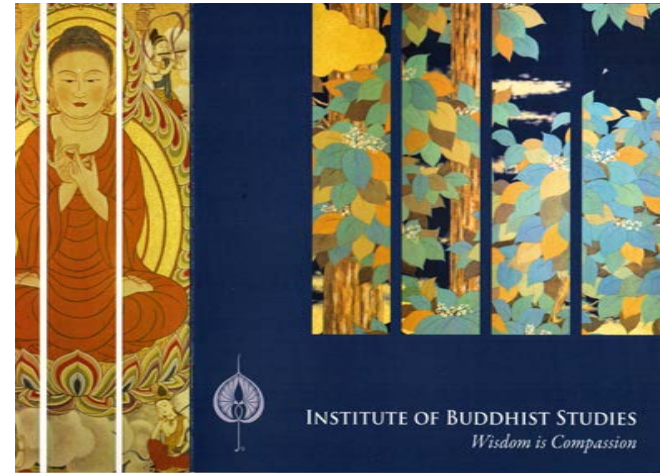
Visit www.ccnf.org

Kumamoto Disaster Relief fundraiser collected an additional \$36,000 to aid those suffering. Also in 2016, the Social Welfare Committee made a grant of \$25,000 to the Central California Nikkei Foundation (CCNF) in

Fresno, when the walk-in refrigeration unit at their 78-unit assisted living facility began malfunctioning. This equipment was essential to the CCNF in order provide over 300 meals a day to its residents and adult day care participants.

Thank you for supporting the BCA's Thanksgiving Offering for the Social Welfare fund year after year! Together we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of many. You can donate online to the Social Welfare fund now by visiting BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org/Social-WelfareFund, or wait for the mailing to arrive at the end of this month.

In Gassho.



Thank you for your continued support of our Buddhist graduate degree programs. Please visit www.shin-ibs.edu for more information.

IBS Student Life at the Jodo Shinshu Center



Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) students are pursuing ministerial and chaplaincy paths as well as student exchange programs at Japan's Ryukoku University and Taiwan's Dharma Drum Institute of Liberal Arts. Left to right: Blayne Higa, Landon Yamaoka, Susan Bachman, Ven. Shi Tian Hua, Ven. Shin Pei Shih, Masato Yanagida, Tadao Koyama, and Christopher (C.J.) Dunford.

Tri-State Denver/Buddhist Temple Centennial “Oneness in the Nembutsu”

By Michelle Asakawa,
Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple

The Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple (TSDBT) celebrated its centennial with a well-attended weekend of activities on October 1-2, 2016. With the theme “Oneness in the Nembutsu,” the celebration paid respects to the temple's 100-year past while energizing members for the future. The banquet was held on Saturday in the grand ballroom of the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities. Among the dignitaries present were Makoto Ito, Consul General for Japan in Denver, Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) President Ken Tanimoto, and BCA Bishop, Rev. Kodo Umezū. A recorded greeting by actor George Takei ended with the salutation, “May the Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple live long and prosper!”

In a fitting nod to the TSDBT's beloved longtime minister Rev. Yoshitaka Tamai, who served from 1930–1970, Dr. Scott Mitchell—who holds the Rev. Yoshitaka Tamai Professorial Chair at the Institute of Buddhist Studies—delivered the keynote address to the audience of 400-plus guests. A video presentation highlighted the temple's modest beginnings in 1916 and its history in the years since, with many illuminating interviews



of members young and old. Master of Ceremonies and TSDBT member Chad Nitta concluded, “Getting to 100 years is an amazing achievement, but we also need to look at the future and know that this sangha will get us to the next 100 years.”

Copies of the temple's commemorative history book, published earlier this year, were made available during the banquet. The book includes first-person accounts of many of the pioneering Japanese and Japanese American families who settled in the tri-state region (Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming) and who supported the establishment of Jodo Shinshu temples in Denver and the surrounding area.

Denver Taiko, an affiliate of the TSDBT, performed while attendees enjoyed their dessert. Dancing to a live swing band closed out the evening.

On Saturday and Sunday, a score of historical displays in the temple gym helped attendees relive the vibrant educational and social programs of the Denver and outlying temples and *kyudokai* (Sangha gatherings) over the years.

Sunday's anniversary service included the dedication of the temple's new *nokotsudo* (columbarium) and a memorial to past ministers. The temple's Dharma School presented a painting of a cherry tree in bloom, with each blossom composed of students' fingerprints. Members were treated to box lunches arranged by



Above: Dr. Scott Mitchell, Yoshitaka Tamai Professorial Chair, IBS.
Below: George Takei sent a special video greeting.



the Buddhist Women's Association and were invited to ring the *bonsho* (very large bell) in observation of the centennial. The morning culminated in the taking of a group photo of the several hundred attendees.

The weekend was made possible through the efforts of the hard-working 100th Anniversary Committee, chaired by Ann Yoshihara-Murphy and Richard Yoshida. For more information about the anniversary, visit www.tsdbt.org/web/100.



BCA Dana Program Update

Donors from the BCA community have made gifts of over \$75,000 to the Dana Program since April of this year! Every annual gift helps support the BCA. Ask for a Dana Program brochure from your local temple or visit BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org/BCA-Dana-Program to find out how to donate.

FREEDOM

*Freedom I have yet to obtain
My wants and desire bind my soul
With them I am never truly free
Shackles and restraints encompass my mind
Only by letting go I become free*

*I start with a breath
Breathing in I begin to be free
Breathing out I see that life is a miracle
I am alive and every breath tells me so
These walls try to take away my freedom
But with every breath I begin to shake loose
That which imprisons me
Not the shackles and chains on my wrist and feet
But of those in my mind*

*Freedom I learned is not given to me
It is something I choose for myself
With every mindful breath I smile
I have found the path to freedom
And it exists in the here and now
I am in the present
Grateful for this wonderful moment
Because in this moment I am free*

Tien Nguyen,
April, 2016

Editor's Note: The poem above was submitted to the Wheel of Dharma by Wesley Kazuo Mukoyama, LCSW, who is a volunteer prison chaplain with Santa Clara County correctional facilities; and an IBS student (senior auditor). We submitted this on behalf of the writer with the following note: "The young man who wrote this poem is a Vietnamese American who looks like he is 19 yrs. old, but is actually 27 years old with a college education. However, he has been sentenced to 15 years in prison. He has been in my meditation class for the past 3 years, has embraced Buddhism and wants to be a chaplain when he finishes his sentence. He continues to meditate twice daily."

今月の法話

先達から習う

恵光寺 開教使
林 斉昭 ラジヤン



私がアメリカへやって来て半年が過ぎようとしていきます。日本から

来た私にとっては、右車線走行やチェックでの支払いといったアメリカの日常ルールはすぐ新鮮であり、新たな発見や学びが毎日を充実させてくれます。

私は3月にアメリカに着き、一ヶ月の研修を経て、4月にEKOJI（恵光寺）に着任しました。

EKOJIは、ここアメリカの首都、ワシントンDCから約20マイル離れたヴァージニア州の北東部に位置しています。

少し歴史を紐解きますと、ヴァージニア州はイギリスから最初に独立した13州のうちの1つであり、その独立戦争で植民地軍総司令官として戦いの先頭に立ち、その後アメリカ合衆国初代大統領となったジョージ・ワシントンの故郷でもあります。

ワシントン一家が経営していたプランテーションや実際に住まれていた家屋などがヴァージニア州東部にあるマウントバーノンに残されており、当時の生活を肌で感じる事ができます。

EKOJIの周りにも美しい緑が生い茂り、非常に心落ち着く場所です。

さて、EKOJIに来て約半年経ちますが、来た当初は、「あなたはまだ慣れてないからね」というメンバーからの甘く優しい眼差しでした。

しかしそれが徐々に「もつすがに慣れたでしよう」というある種の期待感を含んだ眼差しへと変わり、駐在開教使としてより一層の努力が求められます。

こんな時だからこそ思う言葉があります。

それは蓮如上人一語記にあります「ひとつことをいくたび聴聞すとも、めずらしくはじめたるようにあるべきなり」と、仏法は何度聞いても、いつも初めて聞くような気持ちで聞くべきだと示されたものです。

これは物事に対する謙虚さや真剣さを次第に失ってしまふ人間の心を捉え、初心を常に忘れさせないよう戒める言葉として第8代宗主の蓮如上人が残されたものです。

様々な経験を蓄積し、その積まれた経験に頼る私たちは、経験の数だけ初心から遠ざかってしまいきます。そしてだんだんと無意識のうちに「慣れ」が姿を表し、「謙虚さ」が身を隠してしまいきます。ついには人より知識がある、人より偉いという傲慢さがでてきます。

それを見抜いて、謙虚さ、真剣さの重要性を蓮如上人は訴えられました。

蓮如上人のこのお心は、ひとえにお念仏の道を歩まれ、お勧め下さいました宗祖親鸞聖人の姿勢からも伺い知ることが出来ます。

歎異抄という書物の中には「親鸞は弟子一人ももたずさくらふ」とあります。

これは常にありがたいと拝まれ、お念仏の指導者として見られた身でありながらも、様々な争いを生みかかない「師弟関係」を厭い、集団の中において、あくまでみな御同朋（志を同じくする友）であると言われた親鸞聖人の謙虚な姿勢を表すものです。

しかし、謙虚になると一言で言うのは簡単ですが、実際そうあるのは難しいことです。

では「謙虚な姿勢」とは一体どういうことなのでしょう。それを考えた時に、以前出会ったある本の中にそのヒントがありました。

それはパソニック創始者である松下幸之助氏の著書で、「素直な心になるためには」という本の中の一部分です。

松下氏はまず謙虚な心と素直な心は同義語であり、素直であれば自然と謙虚さにつながるのだ

と記されています。その素直・謙虚になるための「3つの心得」というものをご紹介させていただきます。

一つに「耳を傾ける心（何事に対しても耳を傾ける心）」

二つに「全てに学ぶ心（全てに対し学ぶ心で接し、そこから何かを得ようとする心）」

三つに「価値を知る心（価値あるものはその価値を正しく認める心）」

松下氏は、私達一人一人が互いに支えられて生きていくということを自覚した上で、相手の話にしっかりと耳を傾け、相手から学び、相手の価値を見出すことが重要だと述べられています。

この三つの心得の原点には、まず相手と同じ目線で立たなければならぬということがあります。つまり、相手より上に立とうとすれば相手の価値を見出せなくなるだけでなく、耳を傾けることすらできません。

この松下氏の見方は、親鸞聖人の姿勢に似ているものがあると思います。

親鸞聖人は指導者という立場でなく、誰に対しても同じ目線で寄り添い、人々に耳を傾け、お念仏の喜びを分け与え、命の尊さを伝えられました。

この伝道姿勢こそが多くの人々をお念仏の教えに帰入させ、現代においてもこの教えが広く受け入れられている一つの要因です。

つまり、教えの中身もさながら、その教えを伝える人の姿勢も非常に大切であると言えます。

このことは、どのような仕事、どのような立場、どのような状況においても非常に大切なことでもあります。

私の開教使人生も決して平たんな道のりではありません。

時には迷いが生じることもあります。しかしそんな時は、謙虚な姿勢でお念仏の教えを広めてくださった先達に習い、御同朋（志を同じくする友）・御同行（共に生きる念仏者の道）を皆さまと共に歩ませていただきました。そう強く思います。

南無阿彌陀仏

9月17日（土）にワッソンビル仏教会で故花山勝清師の葬儀が営まれた。以下は法要時に読まれた、恵子夫人によるメッセージ。

S

この度は、夫、勝清の葬儀にお集まりいただき、ありがとうございました。

2016年7月15日11時47分、入院先の病院で息を引き取りました。また8月27日には、四十九日法要と納骨を無事、済ませることができました。

昨年11月末から痛み始め、なかなか病名がはっきりせず、分かった時には手遅れの末期のすい臓がんでした。病名がはっきりした後、余命をどこで過ごすか話し合った末、母の願いもあり、あわただしく日本に帰ることになりました。ワッソンの皆様方には大変迷惑お掛けいたしました。BCAの総長並びに沿岸教区の先生方もご協力ありがとうございました。皆様には本当に感謝しております。

キーモセラピーを行うために入院した専門の大きい病院では、原因不明の高熱のため治療を受けることができず、自宅に帰ってきました。自宅に戻ってからは、熱は相変わらずでしたが、一時、とても回復し、散歩や買い物に出かけたことが出来ました。しかし、そういう日々は長く続かず、痛みに耐えかねて、亡き祖父（信勝）や父（勝友）がお世話になった知り合いの病院へ入院し、親子三代にわたり看取っていただきました。

太く短い人生がいと話していた時期もありました。でも結婚し子供が生まれてからは、少しでも長生きしたい、せめて父が亡くなった63歳を超えたいと常々話していました。しかし、それを超えることはできず、父と同じすい臓がんという病気になる、あつという間に人生を駆け抜けてしまいました。もっとゆっくりしてもよかったのにと切実に思います。

ありがとうございます。わざわざ日本の住所にまでお手紙をくださった方も沢山おられ感謝いたしております。またこの度もたくさんの方々がいらしてくださり、改めて夫のことを思い、感慨深く、勇気づけられています。家族の中心で支えであった夫がいなくなり、不安も多く、何をどうすればいいのかわからない日々ですが、「いつも笑顔で」と言っていた言葉を忘れず、笑顔を絶やさずに、みんなで力を合わせて生きていきたいと思います。

こちらに来て改めて、もういないんだ、隣の開教使住宅に「ただいま」と帰ることはないんだ、と思うと本当に寂しいかぎりです。でも、子供たちにとってはここが生まれ育った故郷です。もちろん夫や私にとっても同じ思いです。ずっとここで暮らすものと思っていました。しかし、それでも今では叶いません。日本で暮らしてもいつかまた、ここに帰ってこられたらいいなと思っています。

どうか皆様、夫の分も健康に気をつけて長生きしてください。本当にありがとうございました。私たちが家族を受け入れてくださってありがとうございました。

合掌
花山恵子、勝蓮、恵蓮



Rev. & Mrs. Kusunoki's newborn son, Yuiya-kun.

はじめまして！ 楠レイ・結也君
9月19日ロータリー仏教会開教使、楠克也開教使、彩乃大書の間に男の子の赤ちゃんが産まれた。出生体重7.1kg、身長50cm、母子ともに健康。

法輪

2016年11月号

発行所
米国仏教団
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二〇一六年度教化標語
「まことの人生を歩もう」

あの記事をもう一度!
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北米仏婦大会の開催

ワシントン

第44回北米開教区仏教婦人会大会が10月7、8、9日に、ワシントン州ベルビュー市、ウエスティンホテルにて開催された。Linked in the Nembutsuつながり」のテーマのもと、全米各地から約300名の婦人仏教徒が参加した。初日の7日は代表者会議とシアトル観光ツアーが行われ、8日は、オープニングサービスと基調講演、ワーキンググループが営まれた。日本語基調講演にはオレンジ郡仏教会のワンドラ睦開教使が招かれ、60名を超える日本語聞法者が集った。英語基調講演は映画と仏教やジェンダー論に関する著書のある、シアトル大学准教授のスーパーロン博士が主眼であった。ワークショップでは西北部教区の開教使および門信徒らが、九条武子夫人、盆踊り、お勤めなどのクラスをリードし、ディスカッションやプレゼンテーションを行った。日本語プログラムの参加者は、「南無阿彌陀仏のお念仏がほとばしり、シトシトと降る雨のように、法雨となって心に染み入る良き縁となりました。」と喜びを語った。総会の様子を収めたビデオ、写真は、以下のフェイスブックで見ることができぬ。

https://www.facebook.com/BCABuddhistWomenConference/



FBMA Conference at Bellevue, WA

秋の聞法の集い



Fall Japanese Seminar at JSC

10月8日(土)に浄土真宗センターで秋の聞法セミナーが行われ、センター近隣の日本語聞法者19名が集った。講師にはオックスナード仏教会の渡辺正憲開教使と、龍谷大学からIBSに留学中の柳田雅祥師が招かれ、それぞれ法話をした。渡辺師は「さるべき業縁のよほさば」の講題で、歎異抄との出会いが自分に自分の人生を変えたかの感動を伝え、柳田師は「お慈悲の中で」の講題で自身が歩んできた人生は常に仏さまのお慈悲に包まれていたことに気づいた喜びを語った。参加者は「大きい声でお話される渡辺先生のお話は、パワフルでした。柳田先生は初めてご法話されるとのこと、緊張されていたようですが、とても共感できるお話でした。日本語でのご法話をもっと聞きたいと思いました。」と、秋の聞法を味わい深くかみしめた。



総長コラム

米国仏教団総長 梅津廣道

九月から十月中旬にかけて、ビスタ仏教会三十五周年慶讃法要ならびに帰依式、マウンテンビュー仏教会五十五周年慶讃法要、帰依式ならびに仏教婦人会六十周年、アラメダ仏教会、仏教婦人会百周年ならびに帰依式、山東三州・デンバー仏教団百周年、納骨堂開所式、ならびに帰依式、そしてサンディエゴ仏教会九十年、仏青六十五周年リユニオン、ならびに帰依式の尊いご縁にあわせていただきました。

それぞれ、今までの歩みをまとめた本を出版したり、また映像にしてそれを晩餐会などで上映したりして、今は亡き人たちの苦勞を思い起こし、また時を超えていろいろな出来事を懐かしみ、思いをあらたにしています。各仏教会や団体の歩みをあらためて知らせたいとき、そこに言葉に表すことのできない、昔の人の「どんな苦勞に出会っても、決して諦めることのない」態度に接することができました。異国での生活の苦、大恐慌、いじめや排斥、人種差別、火事や天災、強制収容、セロからの出発などなど、今の自分に同じことが降りかかったら同じように対処していけるだろうかと思うことが多くあったのです。

その中の一つの出来事を紹介いたします。デンバー仏教会では納骨堂の開所式がおこなわれました。そこには高熱により表面が水ぶくれになった阿彌陀如来

像が安置されていました。これは、一九六二年にデンバー仏教会の火事によるものということでした。この仏さまがそこに安置されていることは、私たちにいろいろなことを語りかけていくことができるように思いました。

仏教では「諸行無常・諸法無我」ということ説きますが、その意味するところは、いつ何が起るか分からないということなのです。何が起っても不思議はない世の中に生きているのです。昔の人は、そういう深い味わいの中で、一生懸命生きてこられました。天地地祇に恐れられることなく、因縁を因縁としてその中から立ち上がった、地にはいつくばってでも生き抜いたのです。日系の念仏者の中にもそういったメンバーやリーダーが多くいて、皆を引っ張っていったのではないのでしょうか。

この二ヶ月の間、五ヶ寺で合計二百一名の方々が帰依式を受けられ、仏教徒としての思いを新たにされました。この人々も先人の生き様に触れ、仏法僧の三宝を指針として、自信をもって人間としてのいのちを全うしたいという思いがあるのだと思います。

それぞれの仏教を創設し、守ってくださった方々に心より感謝の気持ちを表したいと思えます。そして、その人たちが大切にしてくださったお念仏の教えを深く聞かせていただき、感謝の日々をすごしたいものです。

浄土真宗センターが10周年

10月22日(土)に浄土真宗センター10周年記念法要ならびにイベントが行われ、約150名が集った。BCAの開教使や門信徒のほか、ハワイ、カナダ開教区の総長、龍谷大学の学長、ならびに職員など海外からの参列があった。また、梅津総長をはじめ、センター設立に関わった、山岡師、渡辺師、小杭師の歴代総長と理事役員も招かれ、感謝の言葉がおくられた。また、法要などがYouTubeでライブストリーミングされたため、日本をはじめ各地で視聴された。法要は午前9時半から講堂で営まれ、IBSの松本デビッド開教使、CBEの原田マリーン開教使、桑原浄信開教使が法話をした。午後からはオープンハウスやツアー、ジャズのコンサートが行われた。夕刻よりパークレーン仏教会でバーベキューディナーが行われ、開教使、門信徒ともに、相互の協力によりセンターが運営できたことを喜び、10年間の苦勞をねぎらった。



JSC 10th Anniversary

Photo by Keith Uemura