

WHEEL OF DHARMA

Official Publication of the Buddhist Churches of America

1710 Octavia Street, San Francisco, CA 94109

VOLUME 39 • ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2017

150 Attend EBL Conference on North American Buddhism

By Joy Fujishima Zavala,
Midwest Buddhist Temple

The 2017 Eastern Buddhist League (EBL) Conference took place from September 1-3 with over 150 attendees gathering at the Midwest Buddhist Temple (MBT) in Chicago. The EBL Conference included a mix of participants from the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA), Buddhist Temple of Chicago (BTC), and Toronto Buddhist Church. Ministers who attended included Rev. Ron Miyamura (MBT), Rev. Patti Nakai (BTC), Rev. Nariaki Hayashi (Ekoji Buddhist Temple), Rev. Earl Ikeda (New York Buddhist Church) and Rev. Kurt Rye (Placer Buddhist Church).

The theme *North American Buddhism: A Path Forward* was encompassed by various seminars, panel sessions, and activities. Our keynote speaker, Rev. Kurt Rye talked about *Buddhism and Psychology*.

Saturday's sessions included a panel on *Diversity and Inclusion*, where we

heard several non-traditional Sangha members' unique journeys in finding Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. There was also a seminar on *Selfless Giving* and discussion about outreach activities we can create for our communities.

One of Saturday's activities was making sandwiches for the homeless. Four cars with volunteers from all of the temples delivered the sandwiches to a women's shelter, a men's shelter, a men's hotel, and people on the street. We were graciously welcomed at Sarah's Circle Women's Shelter, where an ice maker will be installed with funds generously provided to MBT by the BCA Social Welfare Committee.

On Sunday, the *325 Differences* seminar included panelists who follow both Buddhism and another religious or spiritual identity. *Buddhism and the Environment* included a mindfulness walk in the MBT's Japanese garden. Inspirational five-minute TED-style talks were given by 13 Sangha members at the program's conclusion.

There were Dharma School activities and Japanese seminars on both



Over 150 people gathered at the Midwest Buddhist Temple in Chicago for the 2017 Eastern Buddhist League Conference. Photo by Alvin Hayashi

days. The conference concluded with a chicken teriyaki barbecue and everyone dancing *Tanko Bushi* (Coal Miner's Dance), which most of us know from our temples' Bon Odori festivals.

We departed this thought-provoking conference with ideas about the future of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. The Middle Way means that we are seekers who are fully engaged in life. Showing compassion and empathy for those less

fortunate than ourselves, accepting each other as we are, embracing our differences, rejoicing in the Dharma, and respecting and preserving our natural surroundings were all messages communicated at the conference that will move us into the future.

We look forward to the 2018 EBL Conference to be held at the Toronto Buddhist Church in Canada next Labor Day weekend.



Delegates, bishops, and ministers from Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha overseas districts, and Hongwanji administrators, met in San Francisco for the 16th World Buddhist Women's Convention representatives' meeting.

In 2019, the 16th World Buddhist Women's Convention (WBWC) will be held on August 30 and September 1, at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis Hotel. This quadrennial gathering of the World Federation of Jodo

Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Buddhist Women's Associations will bring together several thousand *Nembutsu* followers from around the world.

In preparing for the 2019 WBWC, a representatives' meet-

ing of the World Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations was held in San Francisco on September 1, 2017, hosted by the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations (FBWA), and attended by 28 delegates.

The meeting was preceded by a welcome barbeque on August 31 at the BCA Bishop's residence, hosted by Rev. Kodo and Mrs. Janet Umezu and the FBWA. A delicious American-style barbecue dinner was contributed by Mr. and Mrs. Konrad Nishikawa and family, Fresno Betsuin members, who brought professional barbecuing equipment all the way from Fresno to Belmont for this special occasion. Ken

Hashimoto of the Buddhist Church of Fowler set up a free farmer's market with the freshest fruits from the farms of Central California District members and friends, and delectable home-baked blueberry pies were made by Terrie Masuda.

On September 1, delegates and ministers from districts in Japan, Hawaii, Canada, South America, and the BCA, as well as Hongwanji administrators including Vice Governor Rev. Takayuki Hironaka and Rev. Shunei Sakae, participated in the day-long representatives' meeting.

Topics covered included a closing report on the 15th WBWC in Calgary, Canada and the upcoming 2019 WBWC

in San Francisco. Each district presented its own report and the Hawaii District proposed by-law changes. New business included the proposal request for the WBWC to support a Eshinni-ko and Kakushinni-ko Endowed Chair in Jodo Shinshu Studies at the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley. Initial discussion on the 17th WBWC, to be held in Japan in 2023 (in conjunction with the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition) was also presented.

The FBWA chapters are gearing up to host this world gathering which all Nembutsu followers, regardless of gender, are invited to attend.

First Female U.S. Navy Reserve Buddhist Chaplain

As the oldest nationally recognized Buddhist organization in America, the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) serves as the official endorsing agent for Buddhist Chaplains who serve in the U.S. military and other federal agencies.

On August 6, 2017, the U.S. Navy commissioned Lt. Saejeong Ilshun

Kim of the Won Buddhist Temple in Los Angeles as the first female Reserve Buddhist Chaplain.

Lt. Kim was born in Chicago and raised in Korea. Prior to becoming a Navy chaplain, Kim served as a Buddhist minister in the Won tradition in various capacities. This background that has given her a unique perspective

in supporting and working with Navy personnel of different faiths. Even though Lt. Kim is a Buddhist minister, she serves sailors and their families of any and all faiths.

"As a Reserve Navy chaplain, I can bring Buddhist spirituality to service members," said Kim. "My expectations would also be to support

Navy family members suffering from stress and intra-family differences," she said in a recent Navy publication.

The BCA Office of the Bishop offers its congratulations and best wishes to Chaplain Kim as she embarks on a career of serving our nation and those who protect us throughout the world.



Lt. Saejeong Ilshun Kim (right) addresses Buddhist dignitaries, U.S. Navy personnel, and witnesses at her commissioning as the first female Reserve Buddhist chaplain on August 6, 2017. Photo by Jae Jun Yi.

Ultimate Shelter

By Rev. Kodo Umezu,
BCA Bishop

I really appreciate people, whether professionals or volunteers, who work hard to help others, especially in catastrophic situations such as we have been witnessing throughout the world these past few months. They respond to all emergencies, save people's lives, and maintain order.

In our spiritual realm, I deeply appreciate the rescue efforts of those who have already secured themselves in the shelter of the Dharma. The narratives of humankind are filled with many stories that we can learn from. One that really touches many, many people is the Dharmakara story. I would like to share that this month.

Long ago, there was a king who met a Buddha called Lokeshvararaja and was deeply inspired by him. The encounter made him renounce his throne and become a humble follower.

San Butsu Ge recounts the praises of Lokeshvararaja Buddha by the king. This king became Bhikshu Dharmakara (Dharma Storehouse).

Bhikshu Dharmakara, seeing our human suffering and feeling our pain as his own, expressed to Lokeshvararaja Buddha his sincere desire to do something, saying, "I wish to attain perfect enlightenment in this world *quickly* so that I can remove the roots of suffering and affliction in birth-and-death." This is how the well-known Forty-Eight Vows were established. *Juseige* is the summarization and reaffirmation of his vows.

As the result of determination and commitment, Bhikshu Dharmakara became a Buddha, known as Amida Buddha, and his Pure Land, the Home of all beings, has been shown to us as the ultimate refuge where all beings can be freed from suffering and affliction.

Do we, even after hearing the story behind the Pure Land, really

care about the intent of Bodhisattva Dharmakara? We should understand that this is not a historical story, but rather the highest expression of Universal Compassionate Wisdom. I don't know if we think of the Pure Land as our ultimate shelter, or if we have no aspiration to be born into the Pure Land. It is as if we do not even recognize our condition. Consequently, we pay more attention to non-urgent matters in our lives and repeat the endless cycle of birth-and-death.

Rennyō Shonin (1415-1499) wrote in one of his letters to his followers that, because our life is fragile and impermanent, "we should all *quickly* take to heart the matter of the greatest importance of the afterlife, entrust ourselves deeply to Amida Buddha, and recite the nembutsu." (from *On the White Ashes*)

Let us all think of Rennyō Shonin's words of encouragement as an urgent message for each of us to seek the ultimate shelter. There is, after all, no utopia in this human world. We have been shown



BCA Bishop, Rev. Kodo Umezu (right) presented Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course Certificates of Completion to Tim Shimizu (left) and Liat Parker at the closing of the 2017 JSCC August Workshop. See page 4 for more about the JSCC August Workshop.

that our foolish activities cannot put the end to human suffering. It is through the Light of Wisdom from Nirvana that we find the way to remove the roots of suffering.

It may seem ineffective to entrust ourselves to Amida Buddha, but Shinran Shonin discovered that this is the shortest and quickest route to peace and harmony for all beings.

When we turn to the Compassionate Light of Wisdom, we realize the rescue efforts of Nirvana and are able to live this human life with deeper

appreciation and joy.

The light of purity is without compare,

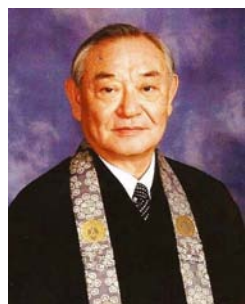
When a person encounters this light,

All bonds of karma [the roots of suffering] fall away

So take refuge in Amida, the ultimate shelter.

(Collected Works of Shinran, p. 326)

As we welcome this Thanksgiving month, let us express our deepest appreciation to the activities of Nirvana reaching out and touching all beings.



By Rev.
Doei Fujii,
Tri-State/
Denver
Buddhist
Temple

"Go and get some water with this, my son"

When I was in Japan more than 40 years ago, an elderly minister talked about an unforgettable episode when he was a little boy. Since then, his story has been unforgettable for me, too. I would like to share it with you because it is truly and deeply related to the working of the Dharma. His short message also indicates a serious mistake we make when we learn the Teaching.

His episode goes as follows: One day his mom called him, gave him a basket, and

said, "Go and get some water with this." So he went to the water and scooped a couple of times, but he saw nothing left in the basket. He went back to his mother and said, "Mom, I tried hard, but I could not get any water with the basket!" "Did you see any difference between before and after, my son?" she asked. "Well, the basket just got wet," he answered. "That's right, the basket just got wet," she said. "You cannot get water with the basket, but I know the way to see the basket full of water. When you put it in the water, you'll see it full of water."

Although he was young and could not understand what she meant, her words stayed in his mind for years. Later, after he studied Jodo Shinshu,

he realized the true meaning of his mother's words.

This young woman was a *Nembutsu* follower, and she guided her son to become a wonderful minister. Her perception was deep. When we listen to the Dharma we try to understand it, or scoop it up. But she wanted to say that our accumulated knowledge and understanding of the Dharma doesn't help us at all. We attend services and lectures to listen to the Dharma, and we get knowledge and understanding. However, like the basket, we just get wet. On the contrary, when we put ourselves in the Dharma, we are filled with it and the Dharma clearly works on us.

In other words, when we listen to the Dharma in the

subject (I)/object (Dharma) relationship, we just get wet, like the basket. We are not filled with Dharma. But when we listen to the Dharma in the subject (I)/subject (Dharma) relationship, we clearly see ourselves in the Dharma and come to realize the true working of the Dharma.

For example, remember the First Vow of *Amida* Buddha. It says, "There is no anger, greed, or ignorance in my country." Do you ponder the meaning of anger, greed, and ignorance? Or do you see them in yourself with your mind's eye?

Don't try to scoop up the Dharma; put yourself in the Dharma and identify yourself there. Find yourself in the *Nembutsu*.

White River Buddhist Temple



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The White River Buddhist Temple was first established as the Shirakawa (White River) Bukkokai in October 1912, and was incorporated as a branch of the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple in December 1912. The temple became independent on March 10, 1918.

Through the 1930s the temple thrived. However, during World War II, the temple was forced to close. The minister, church leaders, and most members were imprisoned at Tule Lake, Minidoka, and Heart Mountain Relocation Centers.

At the end of the war, many temple members chose not to return to the area. Those who did discovered that all the items in the temple's shrine had been dismantled and stolen. Sometime later, with police assistance, everything except the Amida statue was recovered. Through the strength and efforts of the members, the shrine was reassembled and restored, and the temple was reactivated in 1945.

The White River Buddhist Temple was without a resident minister for over 26 years. However, ministers from the Tacoma and Seattle Buddhist Temples assisted. Construction of a new church building began in 1963 and the building was dedicated was on September 13, 1964.

Today, the White River Buddhist Temple is a diverse community of people that enjoys living harmoniously with everyone.



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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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. 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.

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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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BCA NOTICE:

The BCA Bookstore at the Jodo Shinshu Center is temporarily closed to walk-in customers until further notice. You can order online by visiting buddhistchurchesofamerica.org and clicking on the BCA Bookstore icon. The BCA Bookstore will also continue to serve our BCA temples, ministers, and members. For assistance, contact Gayle Noguchi at gnoguchi@bcahq.org or call (510) 809-1435.



Gayle Noguchi (center) is the Buddhist Churches of America's new Administrative Officer. She is with BCA President Ken Tanimoto (left) and Steve Terusaki, former interim AO.

By Ken Tanimoto, BCA President

As of October 15, the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) has a new Administrative Officer (AO); Mrs. Gayle Noguchi.

Many of you already know Gayle as the manager of the BCA Bookstore for

the last six years. Gayle has knowledge and experience in human resources, finance, and retail management and sales. Through her experience as the bookstore manager, she has established relationships with many of our BCA ministers and members, as well as other local theological institutions. Gayle has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from San Francisco State University and a Master of Arts Degree in Counseling from National University in San Jose. She is a member of the Buddhist Church of Oakland.

As Gayle is now working at BCA Headquarters in San Francisco, the BCA Bookstore is in transition. The main purpose of the BCA Bookstore has always been to serve the educational needs our BCA members and ministers. This service will not diminish during this transition. How-

ever, the BCA Bookstore at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, CA will be closed until further notice. The Bookstore website will remain open for online sales, and the Bookstore will also continue to offer books, religious supplies, and other inventory at BCA district events.

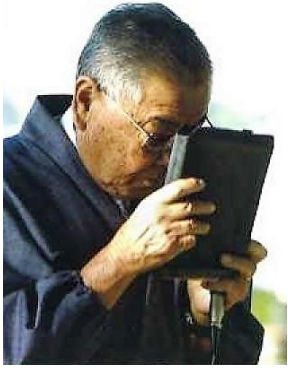
Gayle Noguchi will be taking the place of Steve Terusaki, who has been the interim Administrative Officer for almost two years.

While Steve was interim AO, he directed many positive changes in the staffing and organizational needs at BCA Headquarters and the Jodo Shinshu Center. Steve conducted the monthly BCA staff meetings and, with the help of Amy Doi, BCA Administrative Assistant, Judy Kono, and Michael Endo, compiled the BCA Directory. He helped organize the

reports for the National Board and National Council meetings, updated government compliance regarding state and local taxes and insurance, monitored and helped update the BCA's short- and long-term budget objectives and, with help from retired minister Rev. Alan Sakamoto and Alex Wilson of Real and Letson, developed and instituted the 403(b) program for BCA ministers. Steve will help Gayle transition into this very important position.

I would like to personally thank Steve for his professional help and guidance as the interim AO. He has been a valuable asset in helping oversee and administer BCA operations and will be giving more to the BCA in the coming years. And I look forward with confidence to working with Gayle Noguchi as our new AO.

In Memoriam: Rev. Shodo Jim Yanagihara



The Buddhist Churches of America announces with deepest sympathy the passing of BCA Minister Emeritus, Rev. Shodo Toyoji "Jimmy" Yanagihara, 85, on September 19, 2017 in Fresno, California.

Rev. Yanagihara began his adult life as an x-ray tech before abandoning that career to become a BCA minister. He served for 29 years as a BCA minister at the Gardena, Watsonville, San Jose, and San Luis Obispo temples.

Rev. Yanagihara enjoyed his final years at the Vintage Gardens Assisted Living Community in Fresno. Family funeral services were held on October 28 at the Buddhist Church of Fowler. Rev. Yanagihara is survived by son Dale Michio (Boku) Yanagihara of Fresno. Predeceased by his wife, the late Patsy Harue and his siblings, brother Tom and sister Mari Tanizaki of San Diego.

A BCA-sponsored funeral service will be held on November 12 at the Gardena Buddhist Church, officiated by Rev. Kodo Umezu, BCA Bishop.



Like the Buddhist
Churches of America



What Are the Chances You Could Die in the Next Moment?

By Rev. Nariaki Hayashi,
Ekoji Buddhist Temple



What are the chances that you could die in the next moment? 80%?

50%? Less than 40%?

This question came to mind as a result of an experience I had recently. When I was driving back to Virginia from a trip, I witnessed a traffic accident.

A sports car suddenly cut off the truck driving in front of me. To avoid hitting the sports car, the truck swerved to the left, but the tires lost contact with the road. The

truck flipped over at least three times. I could see the passenger inside the truck flipping over and over. I pulled to the side to offer help. Fortunately, the passenger survived. It was quite a horrific experience, most certainly one that I wish I had not seen!

We often see traffic accidents, but we think they will not happen to us. In reality, an accident could happen to any of us at any time. And this brings me back to the question: "What are the chances that you could die in the next moment?"

The answer is that every one of us has a 100% chance of dying at any moment.

Say you're moving to a different lane and relying on looking only at your side mirror. The same accident I saw might happen to you. Say you

are driving without enough distance between yourself and the car in front of you. One day you might crash into that car. Or say you cross the street in the middle of the block and not at the crosswalk. You could be hit by a car. There are all sorts of hidden dangers in life. This is why we have a 100% chance of dying at any moment!

We all know that we should drive and walk carefully, but oftentimes we find some excuse not to do these things. I am the same way. We must be conscious about the attitude we take when we ignore possible dangers and make poor decisions.

Is the life we live just our own?

Our lives as parents include the lives of our children and spouse. Our lives as business-

people or office workers include the lives of all our colleagues, clients, and customers. Even if one lives alone, one still has neighbors, friends, and relatives. We all have people who are thinking about us.

When we are careless, we are forgetting about all the other people in our lives. We are overlooking everyone who depends on us. One aspect of interdependence, which is fundamental in our Shin Buddhist tradition, is to realize the many lives we are connected with and how we affect each other in many ways.

So we must listen, learn, and live not just for ourselves but also for others around us. Being mindful of this can change our way of living.

Namo Amida Butsu

Alameda Dento Hokoku Tour

By Zensho Ron Nakano

After serving as the resident minister at the Buddhist Temple of Alameda for more than 30 years, Revs. Zuikei and Shoyo Taniguchi led Alameda and other BCA members on one final tour to Japan in early April 2017.

Beginning with a visit to our Tsukiji Hongwanji in Tokyo and the famed Tsukiji Fish Market next door, we then visited several temples associated with Shinran Shonin including Sainenji, Daikakuji, and Koshoji. We continued on to beautiful Kamakura to pay our respects to the Great Buddha, who was crafted more than 900 years ago.

Of course, we had to enjoy at least one *onsen* at Hakone where we could relax and wind down. While riding on the Bullet Train to Kyoto we were able to see Mt. Fuji's peak through the clouds.

Once in Kyoto, we paid our respects at Shinran's memorial at Otani Hombyo and then took part in the *Dento Hokoku Hoyo* services at our Nishi Hongwanji mother temple with several thousand Japanese, foreigners, and other BCA members. The ceremonies were full of pomp and pageantry. We were impressed to see the new Gomonshu's children behaving so well throughout the service. Gomonshu's five-year-old son Takashi-sama knew the rituals and chanted *Shoshinge* loudly from memory. What a great future Gomonshu they are already grooming!

After the service, we met with several members of the Hoppo/Fukuoka *Fujinkai* (Buddhist Women's Association, or BWA), the sister district of our Bay District BWA. Then we visited the Wakabayashi Butsugu Company, which beautifully restored our *naijin* (altar) for our temple's centennial on September 24, 2016.

We concluded our tour by visiting Nara. Everyone returned home safe and sound, a few pounds heavier, and with lots of wonderful memories of this last tour with our beloved long-time ministers, Rev. Zuikei and Rev. Dr. Shoyo Taniguchi.



At Nishi Hongwanji with the Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani (front row, center), BCA Bishop Rev. Kodo Umezu (on his left), and BCA President Ken Tanimoto (fourth from left).



The group enjoyed an early blooming sakura tree.



BCA Education News & Highlights - Live a Real Life!



Ministers participating in the 2017 WEHOPE gathering at the Jodo Shinshu Center. Morning and evening service formats and styles alternated between the Nishi and Higashi traditions, thereby introducing the different styles of chanting and religious practices to one another. Photo by Rev. Anan Hatanaka.

“...to freely share the truth of the BuddhaDharma...”

2017 WEHOPE Gathering

In 2015, the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Center for Buddhist Education initiated a unique gathering called West and East Hongwanji Overseas Propagation Exchange, or WEHOPE. It brings together ministers from the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha (Nishi Hongwanji) and the Shinshu Otani-ha (Higashi Hongwanji) traditions for several days of learning, discussion and sharing. Ministers from the BCA, Canada, Hawaii, and South American districts meet every other year for this event.

The 2017 WEHOPE gathering was held from September 26-28 at the Jodo Shinshu Center. Thirty-one ministers, including the bishops of the BCA, the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada, and the Higashi Hongwanji North America District, were in attendance.

This year's educational highlight centered around learning about the Islamic faith. Iman Kashif Ahmad, Director of Religious and Social Services of the Salam Islamic Center in Sacramento came to speak to the WEHOPE participants about the basics of the Islamic religion. The next day, the attendees visited the Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California in Oakland.

“I was very impressed by the topic of this retreat—to learn about Islam in order for us to be better allies of our Muslim friends and neighbors in our respective communities,” said Rev. Patti Nakai, Buddhist Temple of Chicago. “The two speakers were very articulate and went to extra lengths to dispel all the negative stereotypes of Muslims in the Western media. The Islamic Center surprised us with wonderful hospitality. It's too bad more ministers from all over the US couldn't come and participate in this learning experience, much needed in today's politically divisive climate.”

Each day, three ministers from East and West participated in a “Dharmathon” (a series of short Dharma talks) and spoke about various aspects of Shin Buddhism. During free time, participants had lively discussions about challenges, opportunities, and successful efforts in their local temples. “WEHOPE is a demonstration of how we can work together as ordained ministers to enhance our knowledge and focus on a bright future,” said Rev. Mauricio Hondaku Ghigonetto from the Nambei Honganji Brazil Betsuin.

In speaking about this unique seminar, Rev. Kodo Umezu, BCA Bishop, encouraged the ministers to share not only their understanding of the *Nembutsu* teaching, but to convey the methods by which the *Nembutsu* teachings are being transmitted to members throughout the western world in an effort to strengthen each of the districts.



Save the Date: February 21-25, 2018

BCA Ministers Association and National Council Meeting
Together in Gassho

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Sacramento, CA

Registration Materials were sent to temples in October



Enjoy over 80 Dharma talks and more on the BCA Center for Buddhist Education Channel

Hear the latest from the WEHOPE Dharmathon and the Summer Pacific Seminar. See ministers, lay leaders, scholars, and special guest speakers give a wide variety of presentations in English and Japanese.

Visit [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search “BCA Center for Buddhist Education Channel” to view the many selections.

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

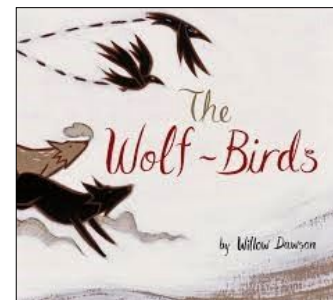
Making the Dharma Connection with Children's Books

By Kiyoko Masuda

Wolves and Ravens Make the Dharma Connection

A Dharma School teacher mentioned that her fourth-grade grandson prefers non-fiction to fiction and stories about real animals, not personified ones. This inclination is not uncommon. As their worldview expands, children reach out to explore what is out there, finding out what they like and dismissing what they don't like. Yes, just like us. So, I came upon this non-fiction book, *The Wolf-Birds* by Willow Dawson. It is a factual account of the symbiotic relationship between wolves and ravens in the dead of winter when food is scarce. The desperate need to find food to keep from starving to death is told with unaffected clarity. Being a picture book, the words are sparse and repetitive but very insistent, and the illustrations suggest the danger and violence of the hunt. Too stark for little ones, perhaps, but for our fourth grader and older children, it's a fascinating, consciousness expanding look at reality in the animal world and how it relates to us.

“Deep in the wild winter wood...” a pack of hungry wolves hunts relentlessly for food. It's a dangerous, life or death battle to stay alive, but they have no choice but to kill for it is their only means of survival. Two ravens, also hungry, lead the wolves to a food source, an injured buck. The buck runs frantically for his life, but he loses as the wolves overtake him. “In the wild winter wood...one animal's life helps many others live.” Here we see the wolves and birds feast, then, satiated and content, they go home with what they can carry; the ravens to their nest and the wolves to their den. In the den a mother wolf and her pup wait. Read the story. What is your reaction? Why?



Dharma Connection: This story is an example of interdependence. The ravens are hungry and cannot find food. The wolves are hungry but cannot find food either. Their mutual need is the cause of this interaction from which both parties benefit. We are saddened and repulsed, perhaps, by the savage way these animals must exist. Yet they kill not out of anger, greed, or ignorance, but because they are carnivores and require flesh to survive. To understand and accept this fact objectively, with no judgment, is Right View.

How about us? In Buddhism, we learn that to kill is one of the Five Evils from which we must abstain. However, just like the wolves, we cannot help but kill to eat, cannot help but take many lives, be they plant or animal, with every bite we take. With my Buddhist spiritual conscience, I cannot help but say *Namo Amida Butsu* in humble gratitude for the food that sustains me and all life, and for Amida's infinite compassion and wisdom that accepts us, just as we are.

The Wolf-Birds by Willow Dawson. Hardcover, 40 pages. To view more ideas for sharing the Dharma with young people, visit: bcadharmaschool@wikispaces.com.

2017 BCA Educational Events

Programs subject to change.

Events at the Jodo Shinshu Center unless otherwise noted.

November 17 ~ IASBS Events at the American Academy of Religion's annual meeting (Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston St, Boston, MA). “*Mochizuki's Doctrinal History of Pure Land Buddhism in China*” and “*Shinran in the Light of Heidegger and Levinas*.” The two panels feature an Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) publication and a collaborative project between the IBS and Ryukoku University. Free and open to the public. Please visit the IBS website shin-ibs.edu/event for more information.

November 18 ~ “Rainbow of Infinite Light: LGBTQ in Shin Buddhism Seminar” at the Seattle Buddhist Temple Betsuin, 10 am - 3 pm. Guest speakers are Marsha Aizumi and Aiden Aizumi, Rev. Dr. Jeff Wilson, and Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara.



A panel discussion, “Naturalness: On Becoming Our Authentic Selves” will feature local queer Buddhists, moderated by Sensei Elaine Donlin of the Buddhist Church of San Francisco. Small group discussions by participants on the subject of Buddhism and LGBTQ inclusion will follow. \$40 general, \$20 student. For more information: seattlebetsuin.com/index.php/rainbow

November 18 & 19 ~ Photo Exhibit: “The Buddha's Words and Scenery of India” from 9 am - 4 pm at the Los Angeles Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, 815 E. First St., LA. Special presentation on the Buddha-Dharma & India by Rev. Mas Kodani on 11/19 at 1 pm, followed by Kinnara Gagaku and Bugaku (traditional Buddhist music and dance). Free admission. Sponsored by BDK, LA Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, and Senshin Buddhist Temple. Visit nishibongwanji-la.org or call (213) 680-9130 for details.

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

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



BCA Education News & Highlights - Live a Real Life!

The following article is from *Helping Hands*, Volume 9 Number 3 Fall 2017, the newsletter of Buddhist Global Relief. Reprinted with permission. To learn more, visit BuddhistGlobalRelief.org.

San Diego Teens Start Walk to Feed the Hungry

By Sharon Sasaki, Buddhist Temple of San Diego



Photo by Robert Yamamoto

Sangha Teens are 6th-8th graders at the Buddhist Temple of San Diego, which belongs to the Jodo Shinshu school of Buddhism, the most popular form of Buddhism in Japan. Typically, our group helps with temple fundraisers (like our bazaar snack booth) and attends social mixers with sister Shin Buddhist temples. While seeking a form of community service to participate in this year, we stumbled upon an article in the newsletter of our Buddhist Churches of America (BCA), *Wheel of Dharma*. Reading about the "Walk to Feed the Hungry" fundraisers supported by sister temples in San Francisco, New York, and San Jose, we were inspired to start a walk ourselves. This was the community service activity we'd been looking for!

In our privileged, sheltered lives in Southern California, we experience stress and pain, but we never have to worry about clean water, food, or the ability to go to school. Watching videos on the Buddhist Global Relief website, we learned about caring, compassionate groups and people around the world that would benefit from a fundraising walk.

Why did we choose Buddhist Global Relief? With many people around the world hungry and in need, "doing something" as Buddhists was important to us. A walk was a perfect choice, an outdoor event for all ages and families. After reviewing photos of walks in other cities, we were a little concerned about scale, since our group comprised a total of ten youth. But we decided to forge ahead anyway. Small or large, we knew we could do something to make a difference!

We settled on April 30th in Liberty Station Park in San Diego. To publicize the event, we posted flyers and a sign-up sheet at the temple, made announcements during services, and e-mailed temple members. We made signs on neon poster boards so onlookers could understand our purpose, and our high school student organizer, Hailey Sasaki, produced T-shirts commemorating the event.

Perfect weather shined the day of our walk, so our 27 intrepid participants were off to a great start. We started with a Dharma talk by our Minister's Assistant, Laverne Imori. Laverne inspired us, helping us realize how lucky we were to be able to participate. Perhaps the young students would later think about this day as their start as engaged Buddhists. Our route was a 1.5 mile loop around the park. Since it was a lovely day, we had a great time walking and chatting while holding our signs. After the walk, we relaxed and enjoyed pizza and refreshments together. Best of all, with the support of our wonderful Sangha, we raised \$987.86 for Buddhist Global Relief.

Here are some comments from participants:

"The Walk to Feed the Hungry was a great experience. It was fun to hang out with people from the temple, and to know that we were doing it for a good cause, too." -- *Ava Yamamoto, age 12*

"The Walk to Feed the Hungry that the Sangha Teens organized was a fun, inspirational experience. It definitely made me think more about people who are not as fortunate as most, and motivated me to try to help those in need more often." -- *Zoe Yamamoto, age 14*

"The Sangha Teens never cease to amaze us! Once they decided to do the walk, their organization, attention to detail, and thoughtfulness came through with each aspect on the day of the event. The signs, smiling faces, positive energy, and camaraderie in the air was infectious to everyone who participated. All of their hard work fell into place and it was nice that strangers took notice and gave encouragement. The amount of money raised was a wonderful end result! Congratulations on a job well done!" -- *Roy and Karen Okubara*

"Congratulations to the Sangha Teens for researching and organizing such a fun and productive event! I hope we can do this again and involve more people from the Sangha. It was a fun day. Way to go!!!" -- *Laverne Imori*

Thank you, Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi and Buddhist Global Relief, for your incredible efforts and support!

Sharon Sasaki is the daughter of a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist minister, Rev. LaVerne Senyo Sasaki, who is now minister emeritus of the Buddhist Churches of America. She has been teaching and helping with the Buddhist Temple of San Diego's Dharma School program for the last 20 years, and has been the Sangha Teens advisor for the last few years, participating with her two daughters.

OUR JODO SHINSHU TRADITIONS

Who Were Eshinni and Kakushinni?

Eshinni (1182-1268), was the daughter of a high-ranking samurai. She was refined and well-educated.

Shinran Shonin and Eshinni were married around 1210 and lived in Echigo, where he had been exiled in the year 1207. Because Eshinni owned land, she and Shinran Shonin were able to survive the hardships of the times and raise six children while he pursued his life's mission of spreading the *Nembutsu* teaching imparted by Honen Shonin.

They moved to the Kanto area sometime between 1212 and 1219, and to Kyoto around 1233.

Their youngest child, Kakushinni (1224-1283) was nine or ten when they moved to Kyoto. Kakushinni married Hino Hirotsuna, a follower of Shinran Shonin, and in 1239 gave birth to a son, Kakue. Her husband died when Kakue was seven, and Kakushinni and Kakue returned to live with her parents.

Around 1254 it became necessary for Eshinni to return to Echigo to take care of her land and two orphaned grandchildren. Kakushinni cared for Shinran Shonin during his last years. Three years after he died, Kakushinni married Onomiya Zennen, who owned valuable property in Kyoto.

In 1272, Shinran's ashes were removed from their original interment site to Zennen's estate. Some dedicated disciples of Shinran gave donations to build the Ancestral Hall, which is the nucleus of today's Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha.

In 1274, Zennen gave the property on which the Ancestral Hall stood to Kakushinni. He stipulated that she should decide whether his son (Yuizen) or stepson (Kakue) would inherit her land. However, Kakushinni went beyond tradition and decided instead that the land would be jointly owned by the disciples of Shinran Shonin. She also specified that the upkeep of the Ancestral Hall and the position its protector, the *Rusushiki*, should be inherited by Shinran Shonin's descendants. Kakushinni was the first *Rusushiki* and served until she passed away in 1283. Kakue succeeded her. His successor was her grandson, Kakunyo (1270-1351). He changed the role of the *Rusushiki* from caretaker to administrator. Today, the head of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha is known as the *Monshu* or Abbot.

The contributions of Eshinni and Kakushinni have had a lasting impact on Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Eshinni gave Shinran Shonin her complete dedication and support, while Kakushinni established the foundation and center from which to transmit his teachings for many generations.

(Based on the pamphlet "Eshinni and Kakushinni, Shinran Shonin's Wife and Daughter, and the Beginnings of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha" by Rev. C. Myokei Himaka, published by the Buddhist Churches of America Southern District Association with funding from the Southern District Council. Part of an educational initiative by the Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations.)

Eshinni's life was serialized in the manga narrative, "Shinran Shonin's Wife, Eshinni-sama" in *Daijō* magazine, published by the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha from January 2009 until March 2010. Illustration: Elderly Eshinni (above) and her daughter Kakushinni recite the *Nembutsu*.



JSCC August Workshop Connects with Pacific Seminar



The 2017 Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course August Workshop (above) was combined with the Summer Pacific Seminar and the Minister's Assistant Program (August 17-20). Seated front row center is Rev. Kodo Umezū, Bishop, Buddhist Churches of America, with guest speaker Rev. Ai Hironaka of the Labaina Hongwanji Mission, Maui, Hawaii, on his right.

Comment from Melissa Opel, Minister's Assistant, Spokane Buddhist Temple:

The Summer Pacific Seminar, Minister's Assistant Program, and Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course August Workshop was a very special event to attend, and I am so happy that I was able to be there. Meeting other Jodo Shinshu practitioners from around the world left me feeling the far-reaching grasp of Amida's embrace. Even though I had to choose between the MA program and the JSCC August Workshop, there was plenty of opportunity to interact with all participants and build relationships. I truly do not feel like I missed out on anything. We have so much to learn from our global Sangha and I feel like I am still thinking on all that I learned.



INSTITUTE OF BUDDHIST STUDIES

Friends of IBS Annual Giving Fund Raising Meeting the WASC challenge: Strengthening funding for scholarships and programs

Dear Friends,

The Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) that we enjoy today as has its foundations in the dream of Buddhist Churches of America pioneers. With roots tracing back to 1949, IBS was incorporated in 1966 as a graduate school and seminary for training Jodo Shinshu ministers here in the US, and now offers a range of graduate-level degree and certificate programs across the full breadth of the Buddhist tradition.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to you and all the dedicated supporters, teachers, leaders, and friends of the IBS, who have contributed thus far to help us move closer to fulfilling the IBS founders' dream.

Most recently, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) recognized the IBS as a Candidate for Accreditation. This is a major organizational milestone for institutions of higher learning, and is part of a complex process toward full accreditation. Working toward the goal of full accreditation, IBS must now focus on addressing WASC's areas of concern. These include increasing IBS's financial capacity in the areas of student scholarships; and on-going program funding.

Accordingly, the Friends of IBS Annual Giving Fund Raising programs has been expanded to reflect those priorities:

- Ministerial Student Scholarships
- Buddhist Chaplaincy and Buddhist Research Studies Student Scholarships



IBS in session: Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto, IBS Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs, teaches a class in Shin Buddhist Studies to scholars, including international exchange students.

- Institutional development gifts to support on-going IBS Programs

I invite you to be part of IBS's next stage of development as a graduate school to further share the teaching of Jodo Shinshu and Buddhism to the world. Please join us in fulfilling the dream of our pioneers who laid the foundation for our religious tradition, particularly the first generation (*Issei*), who professed the importance of education.

Gassho (with palms together),
Seigen Yamaoka, Litt.D.
Institute of Buddhist Studies
Vice-President for Development

Buddhist Churches of America Hoonko Service

10:00 a.m., on Sunday, December 3, 2017 at the Jodo Shinshu Center, Berkeley, California

Each and every temple observes the Hoon-ko service to express our deep appreciation to Shinran Shonin. It is a time to listen to the *Nembutsu* teaching that Shinran Shonin taught us 800 years ago. He is the person who clarified the essence of the Pure Land Way and shared it with all people.

The day he entered into Nirvana was January 16, 1263 (the 28th day of the 11th month of the second year of Kocho). The Hongwanji in Kyoto observes Hoon-ko services for seven days, from January 10 to January 16

every year. Local temples observe theirs prior to the Hongwanji services so that members can attend the services held in Kyoto.

We, too, like to observe Hoon-ko before January 16 and encourage our members to attend the Hoon-ko services in Kyoto. This year, the BCA will be observing Hoon-ko at the Jodo Shinshu Center on Sunday, December 3, 2017; the day after our National Board meeting.

Next year the BCA will to hold our Hoon-ko service at our North American Hongwanji, also known as



the Buddhist Church of San Francisco. Since our organization is said to be made up of people who revere Shinran Shonin and his teaching, we should remind ourselves that we would not be here without him and his teaching.

I would like to encourage everyone, especially the leaders of our organization, to attend the Hongwanji Hoon-ko at least once in your lifetime. It will be a very memorable experience and an opportunity to deepen your appreciation of the *Nembutsu* teaching.

Let's Meet in Kyoto for HOONKO!

January 14-17, 2018

Escorted by Rev. Kodo Umezu, BCA Bishop

Join Rev. Kodo Umezu, Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America, for a unique opportunity to express your gratitude and participate in *Hoonko*, Shinran Shonin's Memorial Observance, at the Nishi Hongwanji, January 14-17, 2018. "Hoonko in Kyoto" involves attending the *Hoonko* Service with translation by Bishop Umezu, plus a special *Hoonko* commemorative vegetarian lunch within the historic Hongwanji Shoin Chambers.

Afterwards you are free to stay on your own or return to the USA. Sign up by December 1. For further information, please contact: cbef@bcabq.org



Shinran Shonin statue with ikebana arrangement by Madame Suiyo Fujimoto. From the annual Ohara Ikebana Exhibition, October 2017, at the Jodo Shinshu Center. Photo by Edythe Vassall

BUTSU BUTSU...

By Brian Kensho Nagata, Managing Editor

I'm sure all of you are starting to shop for holiday gifts. Well, I'd like to introduce **BOMBAS SOCKS** to you. You may ask *why* am I introducing a company this month? Well, there are several reasons...

Bombas has a very simple and basic sales plan: *Bombas Socks* will donate one pair of socks for *every* pair that you purchase.

They have a unique mission, perhaps like the Buddhist Churches of America. The word "*bombas*" means "bumblebee" in Latin. Why this theme? According to their website, "Bees live in a hive and work together to make their world a better place." Wouldn't it be great if *we* had the same mission and focus in the BCA?

They go on to say we're all connected (sound familiar?) and "little improvements can add up to make a big difference."

They've donated over four million pairs of good quality socks made especially for the homeless, in-need, and at-risk communities in the USA in two and a half years.

What a wonderful gift and concept all around *plus* someone gets a great pair of socks for their gift! I guess all my family and friends now know what they're getting for Christmas and year-end gifts! *Nam Man Da...*



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title: Wheel of Dharma
2. Issue Frequency: Monthly
3. Publication Number: 1017-7000
4. Issue Date: 10/11/2017
5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 12
6. Annual Subscription Price: 12.00
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4): Buddhist Churches of America, 1710 Octavia Street, San Francisco, CA 94109-4341
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Do not leave blank): Buddhist Churches of America, 1710 Octavia Street, San Francisco, CA 94109-4341
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: Publisher: Buddhist Churches of America, 1710 Octavia Street, San Francisco, CA 94109-4341; Editor: Rev. Kodo Umezu, 1710 Octavia Street, San Francisco, CA 94109-4341; Managing Editor: Brian Nagata, 1710 Octavia Street, San Francisco, CA 94109-4341
10. Owner: Buddhist Churches of America, 1710 Octavia Street, San Francisco, CA 94109-4341
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owring or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities: None
12. Tax Status: (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
13. Publication Title: Wheel of Dharma
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: November 2017
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation: Mailed or hand-delivered to members
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run): 12,000
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail): (1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (includes paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies): 0; (2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (includes paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies): 0; (3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mail (includes Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®): 0; (4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®): 50
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4)): 50
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail): (1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541: 11,110; (2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541: 500; (3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®): 200; (4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means): 110
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4)): 11,920
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e): 11,970
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 page #3): 30
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g): 12,000
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100): .42
16. I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.
17. Publication of Statement of Ownership: (Check one)
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Kodo Umezu, Editor, 10/11/2017

13. Publication Title	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below
Wheel of Dharma	November 2017
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation: Mailed or hand-delivered to members	
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	12,000
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	50
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (includes paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	0
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (includes paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	0
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mail (includes Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®)	0
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UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

16. Electronic Copy Circulation

a. Paid Electronic Copies: 0
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a): 50
c. Total Paid Distribution (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a): 50
d. Percent Paid (Both Paid Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 15c x 100): .42
17. Publication of Statement of Ownership: (Check one)
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Kodo Umezu, Editor, 10/11/2017

今月の法話

「誕生日」



Rev. Kojo Kakihara

タコマ仏教会開教使 柿原興乗

十二月二日は私の誕生日です。皆さんから何かプレゼントをいただきたいから書いてあるわけではなく、せんが、もしプレゼントをされたいと思う方がいらっ

しゃつたら、お待ちしています。今年で39歳になります。すべての人に誕生日があります。それは、どこにいても、子どもでも、若かろうが中年になろうが、年をとったとしても、とても大切に特別な日です。誕生日を家族や友人と一緒に過ごされる人もいます。一人で静かに過ごされる人もいます。いずれにしても、誕生日は、自分がこの世に、いのちをいただけて生まれてきたこと、そして今、ここに生かされているということを改めて思い、喜び、感謝する日です。それと同時に、自分の周りの多くの人に感謝する日でもあるように思います。何故なら私たちは、誰一人として、一人で生まれてきたわけではなく、みんな自分ひとりの力で今まで生きてきたわけではなく、今を生きているわけではないからです。

私たちは、両親を直接のご縁として、この世に生まれてきました。では、私の両親、父親と母親は、いつ生まれたのでしょうか。年齢的には、私よりずっと年上ですが、仏教の縁起の思想から考えてみると、私の誕生日と、私の父親の誕生日は同じです。どういふことかと言うと、私が生まれた瞬間に、私の両親は、それぞれ、私の父親、母親になったのです。そう考えると、私の誕生日は、私の両親が、私の父親、母親として生まれた誕生日でもあるのです。そして、私が生まれた日は、私の母親が、私を産むために命がけで苦しんでくれた日でもあることを忘れてはならないでしょう。そして、ただ私が健康に育つように、自分の時間やお金、愛情を一心にかけて育ててくれたのです。ですから、自分の誕生日をお祝いする時は、自分のことだけでなく、自分のお父さん、お母さんのことを思って、感謝しましょう。

そして、家族、友人、近所の人、お寺で出会う門徒さん、職場の同僚、その他教えきれない人やものに支えられて、私たちは今こうして、生き



Mrs. Kakihara, Satone and Shujo

る事ができています。たとえ一人きりで部屋で過ごしている時でも、周りを見回してみてください。家族の写真、友達からいただいたクリスマスカード、親が残してくれた家具など、があるでしょう。一人でいても、目に見えなくても、私たちは教えきれない命のつながりの中に生かされているのです。そういった、私のいのちを支えるすべてのいのちに感謝する日が、誕生日であるように思います。そして、私たちの人生には、あと二つ、とても大切な誕生日があるとされます。それに関して、ある詩を紹介いたします。

今日私の誕生日 今日来る日も誕生日 育て出されし誕生日 迷い離るる誕生日 南無阿弥陀仏に出会う誕生日 新しいのちに出会う誕生日

仏さまの教えの本当の意味に出会う時、阿弥陀さまのほたるきの出会う時、それは新しい生き方、新しいいのちをいただく誕生日なのです。つまりお念仏の人生は、その毎日が、仏さまの教えを喜び、自分のいのちに感謝し、嬉しいうこと、ありがたいことに出会う誕生日になる、ということ。そして、この世の命を終える時が、誰にでも、いつかは必ず訪れます。仏教では、「生死」と書いて「しじょうじ」と読みますが、私たちの「生」は「死」と切り離すことは出来ません。この世に「生」をいただいた限り、いつかは必ず「死」を迎えなければなりません。そして、いのちの終わりで訪れるか分かりません。しかしそれは、いのちの終わりでありません。仏教では、「往生」と言われるように、阿弥陀さまの教えを喜び、お念仏とともに生きる人は、肉体的な命を終ると同時に、阿弥陀さまのさとのり世界、お浄土に往き、仏という、新しいいのちとして生まれるのです。つまり、私の限られた命が、仏という限りのいのちとして生まれる、誕生日なのです。

ご存知の方もいらっしゃると思いますが、私は今年いっぱい開教使を退任し、広島自坊へ帰ることになりました。2008年1月に口サンセルス別院に赴任して2年半。その後、タコマ仏教会で7年半お世話になりました。あつという間の10年でしたが、赴任時はまだ独身でしたが、気づけば結婚し、二人の子どもの父となりました。皆さんとのご縁をいただき、楽しく充実した開教使生活を送ることができました。アメリカでの経験、皆さんとの思い出は、一生の宝です。

す。この場を借りて、心よりお礼を申しあげます。ありがとうございました。今後、場所は違っても、同じみ教え、阿弥陀さまのお心をいただく法友として、お念仏とともに生きていきたいと思います。またいつかどこかでお会いできる時を楽しみにしています。もしそれがかなわなくても、お浄土では必ずお会いします。

合掌、

畑中先生に聞く

BCA本願寺オフィスに勤務している畑中阿難(はたなかあなん)師は、2014年と2015年に本願寺職員向けの海外研修、SHARE (Staff of Hongwanji Advanced Research & Education)に参加。北米開教の現状と活動を目的に。北米開教の現状と活動を目的に。北米開教の現状と活動を目的に。

「阿難」はめずらしい名前ですね。よく言われます。お釈迦様のお弟子さまの阿難尊者にちなんでいるので、お寺関係の方はすぐに名前を覚えてくださいます。けれども、あまり仏教になじみのない方からは、私が外国人なのかと尋ねられることもあります。ご尊父が名付けられたそうです。父が若いとき、本願寺で行われた布教研究会に参加しました。その晩、夢に親鸞聖人がでてこられて「赤ん坊には阿難と名付けるように。」とおっしゃったのが名前の由来だそうです。



Rev. Anan Hatanaka at JSC

本願寺オフィスでの役割は？

私は開教使として赴任したわけではなく、京都西本願寺国際部からの出向職員です。こちらでは主に浄土真宗センターの本願寺オフィスで桑原開教使のもと、英語通信教育とI M O Pのサポート、また少し開教総長室で本山との連絡調整のお手伝いをさせていただいています。ピザの関係のこともあり、5年したら本願寺へ戻り法務を続ける予定です。

2011年から2015年まで築地本願寺につとめ、2015年から京都の西本願寺国際部の所属です。米国にこられて3ヶ月が経ちましたがこちらの生活には慣れましたか？

新しい環境なのでまだわからないことが多いですが、徐々に慣れてきました。今はサンフランシスコ仏教会のアパートに住んでいて、浄土真宗センターにはバスとパークで通っています。だいたい1時間くらいかかりますが、本を読んだり英語の勉強ができたりするので、通勤はあまり苦になりません。

来年の7月ごろを予定しています。妻が米国での生活に困ることがないように、まず自分の生活が安定してから来てもらいたいということもあって、少し待ってもらっています。ですから今は毎日スカイプで話しています。仕事が終わってほっとするひとときでもあります。食べ物はどうですか？美味しいですか？

はい、なんでもありますがたいていおいしいです。外食は高いので主に自炊しています。お米はやはり故郷の福井の美味しいお米を食べたくなる時があります。それと、好きな食べ物が越前そばです。それがこちらにないのが残念です。

米国の門徒さんたちに一言。アメリカの地にお念仏の慶びが伝わっているのは、皆様のおかげでございます。さらに広まるように、大きな声で一緒に念仏いたしましょう。南無阿弥陀仏

生年月日 1986年10月2日
出身地 福井県鯖江市
所属寺 福井教区河和田組明正寺
出身校 福井高専、中央仏教学院
好きな食べ物 越前蕎麦
好きな音楽 仏教音楽
趣味 お聲明の勉強、掃除・洗濯。
親鸞聖人の好きな言葉 無礙の光明は無明の闇を破する恵日なり

法輪

2017年11月号

発行所
米国仏教団
Buddhist Churches of America
1710 Octavia Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
電話 (415) 776-5600
FAX (415) 771-6293
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第二回WEHOPEの開催



WEHOPE

9月26日から29日にかけて西本願寺と東本願寺(真宗大谷派)の開教使合同研修会「WEHOPE (West and East Hongsanji Overseas Propagation Exchange) 西東本願寺国際伝道研鑽会」が浄土真宗センターで行われた。同研修会は2015年に第二回が開催され、二回目となる今回は北米、ハワイ、カナダ、南米より32名(西19名、東13名)の開教使が参加した。研修のトピックのひとつにイスラム教をとりあげ、イスラム教の聖職者から講義を受けた他、イスラム寺院を訪れ理解を深めた。参加者は「2050年には世界の3人に1人がイスラム教になると言われている中で、あまり縁のなかったイスラム教を学ぶきっかけをいただき、たいへん有意義でした。一神教と浄土真宗の教えは類似点がありますが、今回の講義でもイスラムとの共通点が見えました。けれども信仰(信心)のありかたがやはり浄土真宗は特徴的でそこが今後の開教で最も強調されていくべきところではないかと感じました。」と将来の開教を見据えた。27日と28日の夜にはセンターのロビーでダルマソンを催し、西と東の僧侶合計12名が

法話をし、参加者が耳をすませた。法話会に訪れたセンター近隣に住む学生は「はじめて浄土真宗の教えを聞きました。モナステックでない、家族にやさしい仏教の教えはとても魅力的です。パークレーン教会のサーブスにお参りしてみたいです。」と新しい開法者を育てるよい縁となった。ダルマソンの様子はCBEのYoutubeページで視聴することができます。
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnW3X1At1wvIPWvTmQ1Pw>

秋の開法セミナー

9月23日(土)に浄土真宗センターで秋の開法セミナーが行われ、センター近隣の日本語開法者約20名が集った。今回のセミナーでは、藤田裕豪開教使(サリナス)、西山真理子開教使(ハワイ)、畑中阿難師(本願寺オフィス)が法話をした。藤田開教使は新米開教使として苦労していること、西山開教使が五念門について、畑中師が声明の魅力についての話を通して、それぞれが念仏のみ教えのお味わいを語った。参加者は「三人の先生方が本当に生き生きと、法を説いて下さり、私もエネルギーをたくさんもらいました。心から楽しそうに、うれしそうに、法話される姿を見て、私もうれしくなりました。」と喜びと感謝の念仏を申しあげた。また、セミナー名物のランチは「マイケル遠藤先生の、口の中できちんと柔らかいチキンとグレービーで秋を堪能した。」



Japanese Monpo Seminar

オレンジ郡仏教会、本堂落成慶讃法要が行われる

10月8日(日)にオレンジ郡仏教会の本堂落成慶讃法要が梅津総長、南加開教使を迎えて、800名近いお参りのなかで厳かに行われました。雅楽とともに権行行列のあと、開教使が内陣に入場し、梅津総長の導師のもと散華が行われ、阿弥陀さまをお讃えしました。当寺院は1965年に現在の地に移り、2015年には建立50周年記念を行っています。本堂修復は、2014年に完成したソーシヤル・ホールを含めた50周年改築プロジェクトの一貫で、内陣一式は京都若林仏具店によ



Orange County Buddhist Church

総長コラム

米国仏教団総長 梅津廣道

最近特にハリケーン、地震、大火事や銃乱射事件などが多く発生して、その度に消防隊や救急隊などが派遣され救助活動にあたっています。そういう人たちの仕事に本当に頭が下がります。緊急の場合は、そういう人たちの他に多くのボランティアの人も出てきてお手伝いをします。ありがたいことです。

ところで、私たちの心の世界はどうでしょうか。特に、浄土真宗の場合、私たちは救助される側の人間であるということを知ることがあります。そのことを私たちに知らせるのに法蔵菩薩の願いというのが説かれているのです。この話のことをあまり知らない人も『讃仏偈』や『重誓偈』はご存知だと思います。

昔も昔、国王がいました。その国王が世自在王仏という仏さまにあり、その説法を聞いて心から喜び、道を求める心を起こしたのです。国を捨て、王位もすて法蔵という名前前の求道者となったのです。そして、その世自在王仏の前で、仏さまの徳を讃えて歌ったのが『讃仏偈』なのです。そして、仏さまの前で「どうか、私をこの世において速やかに仏とならせてください。そうすることで、すべての人

て嬉びやかに修復されています。『レカピカのお内陣...嬉しくて涙が出ました』という声のなかに寺院の存在する意義があるようです。新しい本堂から聞こえるお念仏、南無阿弥陀仏の呼び声が多くの方々の心に響くことを願わずにはいられません。
(オレンジ郡仏教会・ワンドラ睦開教使)

柳原ジム名誉開教使、往生される

9月19日に柳原ジム名誉開教使が85歳で亡くなった。師は1973年にカーテナ仏教会へ赴任。その後、ワッソンビル仏教会、サンノゼ別院、サンルイスオビスポ仏教会、ガダルペ仏教会に勤め、引退後はサンディエゴおよびフレズノエリアで家族とともに生活しておられた。師の葬儀は11月12日(土)にカーテナ仏教会で営まれる。香典を送りたい方はチェックの宛名を「YANAGIHARA TRUST」にして、Brian Nagata氏へ郵送。Nagata氏のアドレスは、4819 Boxwood Way, Dublin, CA. 94568

の苦しみの本となるものを抜くことができます。」と自分で、自分のやるせない思いを打ち明けるのです。それで、四十八の願いを建てられたのです。それらの願いを建てたあと、それをもう一度重ねて誓ったのが『重誓偈』なのです。この話は、歴史上に起こったことではありませんが、歴史を超えて、私たちに訴えかけるものが含まれているのです。

これらの願いが成就してお浄土ができたのです。お浄土とは親鸞聖人は私たちの「生の依るところ、死の帰するところ」とも言われています。私たちのいのちは自分から見る世界しか見ることができません。しかし、本当はもう一つの見られている世界があります。それは、迷いの世界を迷いであるとして知らせてくださる教えです。自分の本来の姿に気づかせていただけるのです。そして、その迷いの世界の中で、お念仏申すことで、人間として安心して生きていけるのです。本当の避難所が見つかったと同じ安心感がえられるのです。本当の友達に出会ったといえるのです。

私たちのことを案じて、常に願っている方々がおられるというのを聞かせていただき、これからもお聴聞を続けてまいりましょう。サンクスギビングが近づきました。私たちの救助のためにご苦労して下さった法蔵菩薩(阿弥陀如来)に感謝させていただきます。