

# WHEEL OF DHARMA

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## 2017 BCA Ministers Association & National Council Meetings Hosted in Silicon Valley *Buddhism & Technology: Unleashing the Power of Amida's Vow*



Nearly 200 Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) delegates and ministers assembled for the 2017 BCA national meetings at two venues; the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, located in historic San Jose Japantown, and the San Jose Marriott. A special chanting ritual was led by Rev. Kojo Kakihara (in box below), based on the Hongwanji Commemoration of the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition. See Bishop's Message on p. 2. Upper photos, left to right: 1) Attendees enjoy a walk from the SJ Betsuin; 2) One of several business sessions at the Marriott with stunning backdrops by Janice Oda; 3) On behalf of the Western Adult Buddhist League, Tom Nishikawa (fourth from left) presents BCA's newest ministers with monetary gifts from the Koromo Fund for ministerial robes. Nanette Nakamichi and Nancy Kimura, on behalf of the Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations, presented additional gifts. The new ministers are (left to right) Rev. Mutsumi Wondra, Rev. Candice Shibata, Rev. Matthew Hamasaki, Rev. Kory Quon, and Rev. Yugo Fujita; 4) Ken Tanimoto, BCA President, and Rev. Kodo Umezu, BCA Bishop, present special gifts to guests Trudy Gahlinger from the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada, and Sensei Blayne Higa and Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. Photos by Kevin Arakaki, Michael Endo, and Ai Hironaga.

### Message

*Editor's note: On the occasion of the 2017 BCA National Council Meeting, the following message was sent by Bishop Chiko Iwagami, the Governor General of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, to share in the program booklet.*

On the occasion of the annual Buddhist Churches of America National Council Meeting, hosted by the Coast District in San Jose this year, I humbly extend my appreciation to you the ministers, and sangha representatives from throughout the mainland U.S., for gathering here to discuss the many concerns we face today. In gratitude, I would also like to commend you for your continuing efforts in propagating Jodo Shinshu and maintaining temples within your respective districts.

At Hongwanji, since October 1, 2016, we have been conducting the Commemoration of the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition to the 25th Monshu Sennyō. As you may know, this service consists of 10 sessions, each consisting of 8 days. We are grateful for the significant support that BCA has provided for and we thank the sangha members and associates' group for their participation in the service.

Sennyō Monshu or Monshu Ohtani Kojun gave a sermon entitled "A Way of Living as a Nembutsu Follower," which was addressed on the first day of the Commemoration services. In it he states, "I will endeavor to share Amida Tathagata's wisdom and compassion through simple and clear language with as many people as possible regardless

of their nationality. Including myself, I will also encourage everyone to act in accordance with the Buddha's Wish in an effort to create a society in which everyone can live a spiritually fulfilled life." As Monshu explains, each of us needs to truly entrust ourselves to the Buddha Dharma. At the same time, it is the responsibility of the Nembutsu follower to engage in various issues as one's own and try to take action that is consistent with the teaching.

As a goal of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha General Promotion Plan, we aim to strengthen our international propagation efforts by promoting various proposals. In the stream of accelerating internationalization and globalization, it is important for us to address many difficult issues from the Jodo Shinshu point of view. In addition, we must open-mindedly consider those issues from the broader Buddhist vision as well. We look forward to your active involvement.

In closing, it is my hope that the Buddhist Churches of America will continue to prosper and that many fruitful results will arise from this annual meeting.

February 28, 2017  
Bishop Chiko Iwagami  
Governor General,  
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha



*The theme for this year's National Conference is "Buddhism and Technology: Unleashing the Power of Amida's Vow." This theme reminds me of the uniqueness of our tradition. My understanding of Nembutsu is a means of wireless communication between the Buddha and me. We don't need any device to connect with the Buddha. No wires or batteries are required. There is no area where the signal doesn't reach. At this very place and time, we can hear the message from the Buddha.*

*The Buddha and Amida's Vow are synonymous. Amida Buddha is the deep wish, expressed as the Primal Vow, to release us from the realm of suffering and afflictions.*

-- Rev. Kodo Umezu, BCA Bishop  
Excerpt from "Greetings" 2017 BCA National Council program booklet



2017 NATIONAL SPEAKING TOUR

### SHIN BUDDHISM IN THE LAND OF SHAKYAMUNI

Rev. Sonam Wangdi Bhutia, Head Priest, Kathmandu-Hongwanji, Nepal  
PRESENTED BY Buddhist Churches of America Center for Buddhist Education & Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Buddhist Study Center  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH Midwest Buddhist Temple (Chicago), New York Buddhist Church, and American Buddhist Study Center (NY)

HAWAII (July 10-21) • ILLINOIS (July 22-24) • NEW YORK (July 26-30)

Visit [www.BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org](http://www.BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org)



*Three Jewels: Buddhism in Brazil*  
A New Film Trilogy by Rev. Kentaro Sugao

Preview Screenings this Summer!

Reverend Kentaro Sugao, the Brazil-based Hongwanji priest/filmmaker/director of *Streams of Light: Shin Buddhism in America* (2013) continues his cinematic explorations of the Buddhist diaspora and contemporary spirituality with a new project, *THREE JEWELS: Buddhism in Brazil (TRES JOIAS)*, scheduled for release this summer.

*THREE JEWELS* is an unprecedented look at the development of Buddhism in

Brazil, revealing the Three Jewels: Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha, through its Buddhist teachers, teachings, and communities. As the project nears completion, donations are deeply appreciated to ensure its release on schedule.

View film trailer and donation opportunities at [www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org](http://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org) and click on the film banner. Click on the "CC" button in the video screen, at lower right, to select English or Japanese subtitles.





## The Nenbutsu Lineage

By Rev. Kodo Umezu, 14th BCA Bishop

I was very, very impressed and became emotional at the special service led by our young ministers during the National Council Meeting in San Jose. It was a special chanting service to honor the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition. We chanted *Shoshinge*\* in unison to the *Junirai* melody. Some ministers and lay members even performed a special *gagaku* musical accompaniment. It was very solemn and helped us connect to the history of our tradition.

Another reason I got so emotional was the fact that Rev. Kojo Kakihara of the Tacoma Buddhist Temple served as the chief officiant for the service. This was his last attendance at our National Council Meeting because he is going back to Japan at the end of this year to his family temple in Hiroshima. On November 3, 2018, a ceremony will take place to “transmit the Dharma light” to Rev. Kakihara, and he will become the 16th resident minister of Eishoji Temple.

In order to recreate the atmosphere as in Kyoto, we used the

same service booklet being used at the Hongwanji.

The service booklet included this passage by Shinran Shonin:

*There was a time when we each had yet to encounter Amida's*

*Vow or say the Nembutsu. But now, guided by the compassionate means of Shakyamuni and Amida, we have begun to hear the Vow. Formerly, we were drunk with the sake of ignorance and had a liking only for the three poisons of greed, anger, and folly. However, since we have begun to hear the Buddha's Vow, we have gradually sobered from the drunkenness of ignorance, gradually rejecting the three poisons and coming to prefer at all times the medicine of Amida Buddha.*

I feel so grateful for the Nenbutsu teaching, especially for



a person like me burdened with the three poisons. Shinran Shonin, due to many causes and conditions, found the medicine that gradually detoxifies these harmful poisons. That

medicine—the Nenbutsu—was first offered by Shakyamuni Buddha and, due to the tireless efforts of many individuals in the past and present, it has been passed on, including to people in Japan and the United States.

In our tradition, we express our appreciation to the successive leaders known as Monshu. The present Monshu, OHTANI Kojun (Dharma name: Shaku Sennyō), is the 25th leader of the Hongwanji school who received the Dharma light lineage from his father, OHTANI Koshin (Shaku

Sokunyo) in 2015. The observance of the Commemoration on the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition began in October of last year and continues until May of 2017.

I would like everyone to appreciate the lineage going all the way back to Shakyamuni Buddha. Without Shakyamuni Buddha's appearance, we would not now be able to encounter the wonderful Dharma light. Let us all celebrate the birth of the Buddha in April.

Today, we are in the midst of confusion and darkness. The world has become a place where people mistrust each other. Let us together pause and listen to the wishes of those who have gone before us. They treasured the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha and want us to do the same so that we can live our lives with joy and humility.

*\*Shoshinge: This is a text which was written by Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. The full title is Shoshin Nembutsuge. It means “Song of True Shinjin [Awakening].”*

## Feeling Amida's Heart Through My Members' Kindness

By Rev. Yugo Fujita, Buddhist Temple of Salinas



to share and live the Nembutsu teaching with all of you.

I think many of you have been to the Buddhist Temple of Salinas. It is a very large temple complex with a beautiful *Hondo* (main hall), big gym, and a large *bonsho* bell tower, all of which were made possible through the years by the very devout and generous members.

When I arrived in Salinas, I was really grateful to the temple members for the kindness and hospitality shown to me, a hopeless single guy who can't do much of anything by myself and knows nothing about living in America!

Now that five months have passed, a lot of members ask me, “Have you gotten used to living in Salinas?” And my typical response is, “I am getting used to living in Salinas, however, driving here in America is another matter!” In Japan, we drive on the left side of the road. When I first arrived in the U.S., I didn't get my driver's license immediately, so the mem-

bers would come and pick me up and take me everywhere I needed to go. It was very kind and generous of each of them who took the time to be my personal “chauffeur.” I now have my driver's license, but it is still hard for me to drive in the U.S.

And I am so lucky because many members think that I can't cook. Well, actually, they are quite correct! And because I am skinny, the members enjoy fattening me up with such delicious foods! We have a lot of members who cook delicious Japanese and Mexican foods so very well in Salinas. For sure, I am eating quite well!

All of this kindness has made me feel very welcome here in America, my new home.

I am so very grateful to currently be living with a member's family and once again, I am being shown so much kindness, hospitality, and compassion from my “Salinas family,” it is just like having my own family live with me again. I am so lucky!

But I have come to realize that all of these events, all the support and kindness I have received, are gifts from Amida Buddha, even though I have not done anything to earn such kindness.

Likewise, without me doing anything, the Buddha is constantly reaching out to me and I am the recipient of Amida's Infinite Compassion. In this situation, instead of saying a simple “thank you” I can express my respect and gratitude to the Amida Buddha by reciting “*Namo Amida Butsu*.” I try my best to remember and realize the gratitude I owe countless beings for making my life possible each and every day AND most certainly, I cherish the Infinite Wisdom and Compassion always coming my way from the Amida Buddha!

So I look forward to meeting you and visiting the other BCA temples in the days and years ahead as we walk the Nembutsu Path together. Please drive safely!

*Together in Gassho.*

## Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple



Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple  
1947 Lawrence Street  
Denver, CO 80202  
Tel: (303) 295-1844  
www.tsdbt.org

The Denver Buddhist Temple was founded in 1916 with the arrival of Rev. Tessho Ono and family, supported by the meager financial resources of a small but devoted *sangha* (congregation). The temple occupied several locations in downtown Denver before construction of the current site in 1947.

The main area of the temple (*hondo*) was rebuilt in the 1960s after an electrical fire. Remarkably, the wooden statue of the Buddha remained intact. The temple building was expanded through the city of Denver's urban renewal project in the 1970s.

The Tri-State/Denver Temple was, at one time, headquarters for Jodo Shinshu temples and sanghas in Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and New Mexico. Unfortunately, many of these sanghas have moved and/or dwindled over time, so today the Denver Temple oversees only temples and sanghas in Colorado and one small group each in Nebraska and New Mexico.

The Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temples proudly and joyously celebrated its 100th Year Anniversary in a three-day celebration from September 30 to October 2, 2016. Although the surrounding Lawrence Street landscape has changed drastically since 1947, the temple remains an important focal point for the Japanese American community.

## 2018 BCA Calendar Photo Contest

Theme: “PEACE”

Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) members are invited to submit an original photo or picture of something you think represents or illustrates the idea of “peace” to be used in the 2018 BCA Calendar. Twelve (12) photos/pictures will be selected. Deadline for submissions: May 15, 2017.

Guidelines: Photos/pictures should be in digital format: minimum 350 dpi @ 100% (8-1/2" x 11"). One submission per person. Please include your name and temple affiliation. All submissions shall become the property of the Buddhist Churches of America.

Please email your image to Judy Kono, [jkono@bcahq.org](mailto:jkono@bcahq.org) and Michael Endo, [mendo@bcahq.org](mailto:mendo@bcahq.org) by May 15, 2017.

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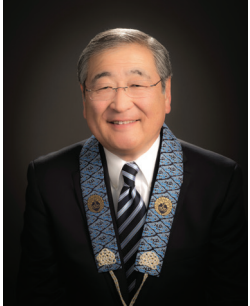
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Like the Buddhist Churches of America







**By Ken Tanimoto  
BCA President  
Watsonville Buddhist  
Temple**

## President's Message: Choosing What is Right

The Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Ministers Association and National Council Meetings (NCM) were held at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin and San Jose Marriott Hotel from March 3-5, 2017, under the theme of "Buddhism and Technology." Delegates and ministers from across the nation attended this gathering to attend religious services, hear reports from BCA committees and affiliated organizations, and to participate in workshops, the Center for Buddhist Education's "Buddha at Work" Symposium, and Youth Advocacy Committee

(YAC) workshops. Most importantly, they voted on issues that concern the future of the BCA.

This National Council meeting was faced with several challenges. The first challenging matter began many months prior to the actual meeting. Coast District, host of this year's meeting, realized that the cost to hold the whole event at the San Jose Marriott was extremely prohibitive. After many meetings, the Planning Committee, co-chaired by Joyce Iwasaki and Ken "Deuce" Nakano, decided to hold the major portion of the events at the San Jose Betsuin and only use the hotel on Saturday. The change of location and donations from many Coast District members and temples to defray expenses helped to reduce the cost of registration considerably. We all owe the Coast District Planning Committee, the San Jose Betsuin, and the Coast District Temples a deep debt of gratitude.

The second and most challeng-

ing issue of the National Council was approving the 2017-2018 BCA budget. For the last six months, the Budget and Finance Committee headed by Jeff Matsuoka have worked diligently to prepare this budget.

Several important items had been postponed for years in order to avoid increasing the BCA dues. These included upgrading ministerial benefits and pensions; reinstating a full-time Executive Assistant to the Bishop; and needed repairs and maintenance for the Bishop's Residence and BCA Headquarters. In addressing these important issues, the necessity for an increase could no longer be put off.

During the NCM, the proposed budget was discussed and a compromise was reached. It was decided to utilize funds that BCA already has in existing unrestricted accounts to finance some of the items. The Bishop's Executive Assistant will only be funded part time, and Rev. Kodo Umezu of-



*Coast District Planning Committee (left to right): Rich Endo (seated), Dave Maruyama, Janice Doi, Linda Onishi, Ken "Deuce" Nakano, co-chair (seated), Rimban Ken Fujimoto, Joyce Iwasaki, general chairperson (seated), Diane Fujioka, Phyllis Sugimoto, Karen Akimoto, and Dennis Akizuki (seated).*

fered to find another way to raise funds for repairs on the Bishop's residence. The proposed budget was amended, voted on, and approved.

I applaud the delegates of the NCM who voted to approve next fiscal year's budget. They had to vote on issues that concern the future of the BCA.

Reflecting on this National

Council Meeting reminded me of a quote by Professor Dumbledore from the Harry Potter movies. After a difficult time in Harry Potter's life, the professor told him, "You must choose between what is right and what is easy." Both the National Council Planning Committee and the BCA leaders and ministers chose what is right.

In Gratitude.

## Reverend Nobuo Miyaji Celebrates 40 Years at BCA



On Sunday, February 26, 2017, the Gardena Buddhist Church honored Rev. Nobuo Miyaji with a retirement celebration at the Doubletree Hotel in Torrance, California. Retiring from the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) after 40 years of service, Rev. Miyaji was the head minister at Gardena for the last five years.

Rev. Miyaji received his *Kaikyoshi* (overseas propagation) status in 1977 after attaining a master's degree from Ryukoku University in Kyoto, Japan. He has served at BCA temples in Santa Barbara, Ogden (Utah), Los Angeles, Venice, Fresno, and Gardena.

At Gardena, Miyaji Sensei was instrumental in strengthening the Buddhist Education Program, deepening ties with our Nakayoshi Pre-School, furthering our understanding of the Jodo Shinshu faith, as well as guiding the church during the recent 90th anniversary events for the Gardena Buddhist Church and Gardena Buddhist Women's Association.

*Photo by Brian Imada*

## Planting Lotus Seeds

**By Rev. Kaz Nakata, Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple**

Our LA Betsuin\* recently congratulated 11 boys and girls for the completion of their Scouting religious award courses. They received Sangha Awards (for boy scouts from 6th - 12th grades) and Padma Cadette Awards (for girl scouts from 6th - 8th grades). In order to receive their award, these young boy and girl scouts have to fulfill religious requirements, such as writing assignments on Buddhism and ritual practice. Some of the awardees are considering pursuing advanced courses or independent research.

Padma, Sangha, and Metta courses are authorized by the Boy/Girl Scouts of America and supervised by the National Buddhist Committee on Scouting, which is sponsored by the Buddhist Churches of America.

I currently offer youth educa-



*The Scouting Awards Ceremony was held on February 19, 2017 at the Scout Sunday Service. (Left to right:) Rev. Kaz Nakata, Kotaro, Kurtis, Kyle, Justin, Bradley, Takeshi, Samantha, Sarah, Michelle, Cara, Kendall, Rev. Bill Briones, Rimban, and Mr. Richard Odagawa, Chair, National Buddhist Committee on Scouting. Photo by Glen Tao.*

tion course studies of Sangha and Metta for Cub Scouts (1st - 5th grades), and Padma for Girl Scouts, including Brownies (2nd

- 3rd grades), Juniors (4th - 5th), Cadettes, and Seniors (9th - 10th grades). In the past two years, over 50 boys and girls have applied for

these courses to study Buddhist teachings, rituals, and culture in English, Chinese, Sanskrit, Pali, Tibetan, and Japanese.

Interestingly, many of the students are new to Buddhism and are from different religious backgrounds. I encourage the parents to take my course and sit next to their children. As a result, parents started taking notes and discussing class materials with their children. Some parents even submitted the written assignments and took the exams. Hence, dozens of adults are now newly educated. I am so pleased to see the many different colors of the Lotus blooming here in Los Angeles. *Gassho.*

For more information on the Buddhist Scouting religious awards, visit [www.bscouting.org](http://www.bscouting.org) or contact the National Buddhist Committee on Scouting at [bcscoutinginfo@gmail.com](mailto:bcscoutinginfo@gmail.com).

\*LA Betsuin: a nickname for the Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

*Fresno Betsuin Buddhist Temple Bell Tower Rededication*

### Ringling in a New Era at the Family Dharma Center

*The Fresno Betsuin Buddhist Temple bell and tower were dedicated in 1980 in commemoration of the accession of Lord Abbot Koshin Ohtani. It was a gift from the late Rev. Dr. Yehan Numata, in honor of his brother, Rev. Chien Numata, who had served at the temple from 1922 - 1927. This past December, the bell and tower were moved from the Betsuin temple in downtown Fresno to the Family Dharma Center in North Fresno. This rededication was made possible through the generous donations of the North Fresno and Selma sanghas under the direction of Roy Matsubara (Bell Tower Project Manager) and Sid Mukai (Project Team assistant).*



*Above: Selma Sangha. Below: North Fresno Sangha. Photos by Glenn Nakamichi assistant).*

## MARK YOUR 2019 CALENDARS NOW!



*Hosted by the BCA Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations*

*Go online for Shinran's invitational video! [www.wbwconvention.org](http://www.wbwconvention.org)*





BCA Education News & Highlights - Live a Real Life!

**CBE Dharma Events at the 2017 NCM  
Buddhism & Technology:  
Unleashing the Power of Amida's Vow**

As part of the 2017 BCA Ministers Association and National Council Meeting (NCM), the BCA Center for Buddhist Education (CBE) presented several Dharma-centered activities.

**Symposium**

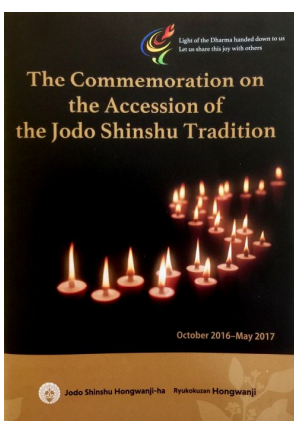
On Thursday, March 2, a Symposium on "Buddha at Work," was held at the San Jose Betsuin located in the heart of San Jose's Japantown. Authors and public speakers B.J. Gallagher (*A Peacock in the Land of Penguins*) and Franz Metcalf (*What Would Buddha Do?*) shared thought-provoking ways of looking at the Bodhisattva Dharmakara's 48 Vows and how they may provide insight for temple leaders and organizations. Brian Nagata of Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) America shared the amazing story of BDK founder, the late Rev. Dr. Yehan Numata, including personal memories of working with the global businessman, educator, and philanthropist. Dr. Richard Payne, Yehan Numata Professor of Japanese Buddhist Studies at the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS), and editor of *How Much is Enough? Buddhism, Consumerism, and the Human Environment*, shared an expansive view of how personal decisions are connected to global social, economic, and cultural dynamics and systems, and the relevancy of Buddha's teachings for the present moment and future generations.

**Dharmathons**

On Friday and Saturday, Dharmathons were presented featuring ministers and lay followers who shared a diversity of heartfelt stories informed by the light of the Dharma (see below). Many of the talks will soon be on the CBE YouTube Channel for all to enjoy.



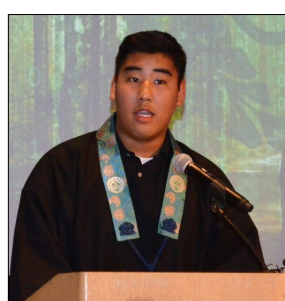
(Above:) Speakers at the "Buddha at Work" Symposium (left to right) Brian Nagata, Dr. Richard Payne, Franz Metcalf, and B.J. Gallagher. (Left:) Rev. Nariaki Hayashi, Ekoji Buddhist Temple, and BCA President-elect Rick Stambul (right) spoke at the San Jose Betsuin Dharmathon. Their talks were followed by the special chanting service led by Rev. Kojo Kakihara.



**Special Chanting**

A special highlight this year was the chanting session led by Rev. Kojo Kakihara, featuring the same commemorative chanting, *Hosan Dento Sabo*, designed for the Commemoration on the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition taking place at ten sessions at the Hongwanji-ha home temple in Kyoto. The special commemorative service booklet with the chant was provided to all participants. Read more about this on page 2 in the Bishop's Message. See photos on pages 1 and 8.

The Dharmathon at the Marriott Hotel took place on two days. It featured talks by Sumi Tanabe (San Jose Buddhist Women's Association), Gary Mukai (Central California District), Rev. Jay Shinseki (Resident Minister, Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple), Nick San Juan (Minister's Assistant, Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple), and Alex Sakamoto (Youth Minister's Assistant, Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple). Photos by Michael Endo.



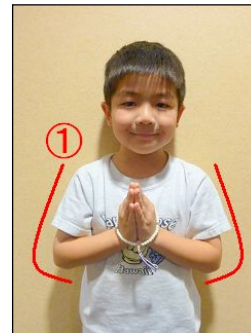
**OUR JODO SHINSHU TRADITIONS  
Buddhist Etiquette: Gassho (palms together)**

Gassho means to put the hands together. The palms of both hands are placed together with the fingers and thumbs extended and with the *onenju* (religious beads) encircling both hands and held lightly between the thumbs and the fingers. Both elbows should be at mid-chest level. To bow during *gassho*, the hands should be held steady, while the body is bent forward from the hips and then back to an upright position.

Gassho is the natural expression of reverence and gratitude.

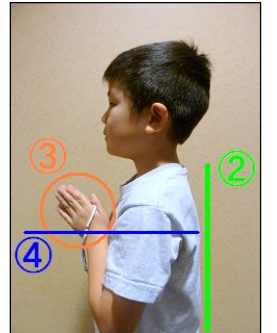
(Excerpted from the pamphlet "A Guide to Buddhist Etiquette" by Rev. Lee Rosenthal, published by the Buddhist Churches of America Southern District Ministers' Association with funding from the Southern District Council.)

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**Putting palms together  
(Jpn. Gasshō)**

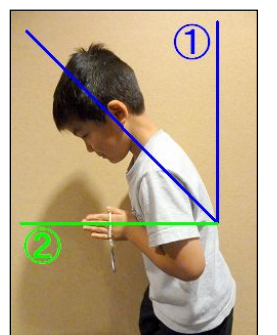
- (1) Keep your arms natural; please do not open your arms exceedingly or close too tight.
- (2) Keep your back and head straight.



- (3) Keep your four fingers tightly together and place the *nenju* beads softly between your thumbs and palms.
- (4) The angle of your palms is about 45 degrees.

**Bow with both palms together (Jpn. Raihai)**

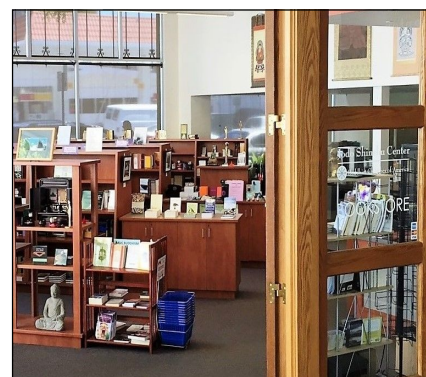
- (1) Bend your upper body about 45 degrees, keeping your back and head straight.
- (2) When you bow, your palms should be almost parallel to the floor.



(Excerpted from the unpublished booklet "Basic Practices of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition & Sutra Chanting: Learning with Takato" by Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara.)

**BCA Bookstore News**

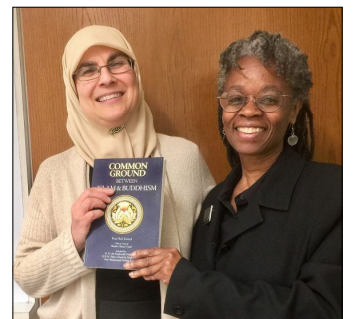
by Gayle Noguchi



As the Buddhist Churches of America begins a new fiscal year, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the BCA Bookstore can play a vital role in funding the increasing budget. Revenue generated from bookstore sales can minimize the necessity of relying on membership assessment to finance BCA operating costs. You can help make that

happen by promoting the BCA Bookstore to those who are interested in Buddhism and urging them to choose the BCA Bookstore as their source for Buddhist books and supplies.

Now available: *Common Ground Between Islam & Buddhism* by Reza Shah Kazemi; with an essay by Shaykh Hamza Yusuf; introduced by H.H. the Fourteenth Dalai Lama, H.R.H. Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad, and Professor Mohammad Hashim Kamali. Paperback, \$16.95.



BCA Center for Buddhist Education staff member Edythe Vassall (right), presented a copy of *Common Ground to Ameena Jandali*, founding member of the Islamic Networks Group, after Ms. Jandali's presentation at the Minister's Assistant Program seminar last March 11. (See MAP page 5.)

*Common Ground Between Islam & Buddhism* was inspired by A Common Word, an initiative in 2007 which advanced Muslim-Christian dialogue. *Common Ground* provides a scholarly spiritual comparison between Islam and Buddhism based on the texts of the Qur'an, the Pali Canon, Mahayana, and other Buddhist texts in an attempt to identify Islam's commonalities with the teachings of the Buddha. However, Kazemi looks beyond the platitude that as human beings we are all the same and recognizes the existence of fundamental – even unbridgeable – differences among these two traditions. Those involved in this publication hope that ultimately it results in greater respect for each other's practices and beliefs and that it helps towards creating a more compassionate and peaceful world. Of particular interest is the discussion of Pure Land Buddhism, Nembutsu, and the concepts of Pure Land's Tariki and Islam's Tawakkul.

To purchase, go to [buddhistchurchesofamerica.org](http://buddhistchurchesofamerica.org) and click on the BCA Bookstore link or contact [gnoguchi@bcabq.org](mailto:gnoguchi@bcabq.org) or 510-809-1435. The BCA Bookstore is located in the Jodo Shinshu Center at 2140 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94704. Open Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Like us on Facebook.





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

#### 2017 Southern District Buddhist and Buddhist Women's Association Conference

#### Jodo Shinshu for the Average Joe

浄土真宗—ふつうの人の ふつうの人による ふつうの人のための 教え

Saturday, June 10, 2017 ~ 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Odyssey Restaurant

15600 Odyssey Dr., Granada Hills, CA 91344

##### Keynote Speakers:

**Rev. Koyo S. Kubose** (English) – Author of *Bright Dawn*

**Rev. Kazuaki Nakata** (Japanese) – Minister, Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

**Also Featuring: Video Vignettes:** A lighthearted look at familiar difficulties, with responses and commentary by the Southern District Ministers.

Hosted by **San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (SFVHBT)**

Southern District Members: Register through Your Temple

Others: Contact SFVHBT Directly

Registration Fee: \$65.00 (before May 14)

Late Registration Fee: \$85.00 (by May 28)

**Questions:** San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Email: [sfvhbt@sfvhbt.org](mailto:sfvhbt@sfvhbt.org) Website: [sfvhbt.org/averagejoe](http://sfvhbt.org/averagejoe) Facebook: @sfvhbt



#### Following in the Footsteps of Lady Takeko Kujo

By Sumi Tanabe and Karen Akimoto  
San Jose Buddhist Women's Association

Last year at the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations (FBWA) Conference in Bellevue, Washington, a resolution was passed to add Section 15 to the BCA FBWA Standing Rules and Procedures:



Presentation of 300 underpants on February 3, 2017, to the Women's Gathering Place. (L. to r): Karleen Duchscherer, Karen Akimoto, Renee Manuel, Sumi Tanabe, Charlotte Powers, and Eileen Hunter.

Sec. 15. Lady Takeko Kujo Memorial Service

BCA FBWA recommends each chapter to act as follows on the second Sunday of February:

Observe the memorial service for Lady Takeko Kujo, founder of BWA as "Kisarugiki" or "February Memorial" and

Follow Lady Takeko Kujo's spirit of Dana\* and practice Dana as "Day of Dana."

San Jose BWA responded to the resolution. We asked the volunteer coordinator at the Women's

Gathering Place what the greatest need was for homeless women. The response was "new underpants." The BWA began the "AWEARNESS" underpants drive for homeless women in our community. A trunk was placed in the Betsuin's office area for people to leave their donations of underpants. Approximately 400 underpants as well as \$300 were collected from our BWA and Betsuin members. A check for \$300 and 300 underpants were given to the Women's Gathering Place, where women without homes can find support. Women's Gathering Place helps women who are living on the streets or in cars, or have suffered trauma, abuse, or domestic violence. They receive hot meals, a place to nap in safety, and information on community resources.

The remainder of the underpants were given to the Georgia Travis House, a part of LifeMoves (formerly InnVision Shelter Network). It is a temporary shelter (for a duration of one or two months) for homeless women and children. LifeMoves is dedicated to helping homeless families and individuals return to stable housing and self sufficiency. There are 8,920 homeless people across Silicon Valley and the Peninsula. For many years, BWA members and others have donated toiletries and used towels and clothing to three shelters and a homeless center on a regular basis.

\*Dana: selfless giving or charity.

#### 2017 Spring MAP Certification Ceremony



Kaitlyn Mascher-Mace (center), received her certification on March 9, 2017 at the Spring Minister's Assistant Program (MAP) Seminar. The ceremony was conducted by Rev. Kodo Umezū, Bishop, Buddhist Churches of America, and assisted by Rev. Diana Thompson, Kaitlyn's resident minister from the Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple.

The Spring Minister's Assistant Program (MAP) Seminar, March 9-11, was attended by 16 ministers assistants and Institute of Buddhist Studies students. It featured an intensive lecture and discussion by Dr. Mark Blum on the *Tannishō*, a presentation by Ameena Jandali of the Islamic Networks Group (*ING.org*) titled, "Getting to Know American Muslims and their Faith" (see photo on page 4 in "BCA Bookstore News"), and a session on MAP activities in our temples.

The Summer MAP, August 18-20, will be held in conjunction with the Summer Pacific Seminar and will feature Rev. John Paraske

vopoulos, author of *Call of the Infinite*, with other speakers to be announced.

#### Fourth College Welcome Dinner at BBT

By Tara Umemoto, Minister's Assistant

At the beginning of each school semester, the Berkeley Buddhist Temple invites all students in the area to come to our College Welcome Dinner. Last February 17, we hosted our fourth college welcome dinner! Despite the rain and cold, 23 college students (about half coming for the



(Above:) Rev. Candice Shibata, Resident Minister (center), Bradley Menda, Temple President (left) and C.J. Dunford, Outreach Committee, greet students at the college welcome dinner. (Lower:) Tara Umemoto (right) addressing the students. Photos by Jon Kawamoto.

first time!) joined us at the temple for homemade Japanese food, trivia with prizes, and to meet other college students from UC Berkeley, the Institute of Buddhist Studies, and other schools. We hope to show them that, if they are looking for a community, they are always welcome at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple.

#### 2017 BCA Educational Events

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

**April 8 ~ Video Contest for Dharma School Students.** Submit original videos on DVD, up to three minutes long, on the theme "I Am a Link..." for the 2017 FDSTL Conference (see below). Temples should submit entries to their District Dharma School representative by April 8. Email questions to Nanayo Silver: [bobandnanayo@gmail.com](mailto:bobandnanayo@gmail.com).

**April 22-23 ~ Central California Federation of Dharma School Teachers' League (FDSTL) Conference:** "Music: A Path to the Dharma." Fresno Betsuin Dharma Center, 2697 E. Alluvial Ave., Fresno. Guest speaker: Rev. Peter Hata. For details and registration, visit: [bcadharmaschool.wikispaces.com](http://bcadharmaschool.wikispaces.com)

**April 24-July 10 ~ International Ministerial Orientation Program (IMOP).**

**April 28-30 ~ 10th Annual TechnoBuddha Conference.** "The Gray Area: Wrongfully Right." Keynote speaker: Rev. Matt Hamasaki.

**May 13 ~ Spring Japanese Seminar.** Rev. Ryoso Toshima, Hawaii Kyodan minister emeritus, and IMOP ministers will present in Japanese.

**May 19 ~ Gotan-e Service.** Speakers to be announced.

**May 30-31 ~ Ministers' Continuing Education (MCE) Seminar.** Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto, Dr. Scott Mitchell, others. Presented by Center for Buddhist Education.

**July 3-9 ~ BCA Youth Advocacy Committee (YAC) Summer Retreat.** Hosted by the Buddhist Church of Sacramento (Sacramento Betsuin), this week-long retreat is designed for students 15-18 years of age. For more information, contact Rev. Patti Oshita, [poshita@comcast.net](mailto:poshita@comcast.net) or Revs. Tim & Carol Castle, [teamcastle@comcast.net](mailto:teamcastle@comcast.net).

**July 20-23 ~ Dharma Training for School Teachers.** A special program open to public school teachers. Presented by Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) and Buddhist Churches of America (BCA). Visit [buddhistchurchesofamerica.org](http://buddhistchurchesofamerica.org) for details.

**July 22-30 ~ 2017 National Speaking Tour: Shin Buddhism in the Land of Shakyamuni.** Rev. Sonam Wangdi Bhutia, Head Priest, Kathmandu-Hongwanji, Nepal, will speak in Hawaii, Chicago, and New York. Presented by CBE and Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Buddhist Study Center. In association with Midwest Buddhist Temple, New York Buddhist Church, and American Buddhist Study Center.

**August 17-19 ~ Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course August Workshop.** Attendees from the online course will have an opportunity to meet each other and some of their instructors, as well as participate in Summer Pacific Seminar activities.

**August 18-20 ~ Summer Minister's Assistant Program (MAP) Seminar.** Begins Friday at 2 pm. Held in conjunction with Summer Pacific Seminar (see listing below).

**August 18-20 ~ Summer Pacific Seminar.** Begins Friday at 7 pm. Keynote speaker: Rev. John Paraske

vopoulos, author of *Call of the Infinite*. Co-sponsored by IBS & CBE.

**August 26 ~ "A Day with Rev. Dr. Ken Tanaka."** 9 am - 5 pm. Presentation of his new books: *Jewels: Introduction to Buddhism for American Youths, Scouts and the Young at Heart (with humor)* and *Buddhism On Air*. Book signing at the end of the day. Panel discussion: "Engaged Buddhism for Our Personal and Social Lives." Sponsored by the CBE Everyday Buddhism Committee.

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





## Interdependence/ Intersectionality Marginalization, Oppression, and American Buddhism

Institute of Buddhist Studies presents this timely public symposium on Friday, April 14, 3 - 5:30 pm at the Jodo Shinshu Center, 2140 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, CA. This event is free and open to the public.



This symposium brings together Buddhist scholars, teachers, and activists to discuss issues of marginalization and oppression related to race, gender, and sexuality both inside and outside American Buddhist communities both historically and at the present. Speakers will discuss such topics as: how did the racialization of Japanese American Buddhists relate to World War

II internment? How are Asian and white Buddhist communities in conversation or at odds? How have new Buddhist communities developed or responded to historical or contemporary exclusion related to gender or sexual orientation? How might Buddhists respond to the current US political climate?

Speakers include:

Ann Gleig, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, University of Central Florida

Funie Hsu, Assistant Professor of American Studies, San Jose State University

Harry Bridge, Resident Minister, Buddhist Church of Oakland

Natalie Quli, Research Fellow, Institute of Buddhist Studies

This event is sponsored in part by BDK America.

Visit [shin-ibs.edu](http://shin-ibs.edu) for more details.



## IBS Report 2016

Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS)  
Friends of IBS Annual Giving Fund Raising Program



With the generous support of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) membership and friends, the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) Friends of IBS Annual Giving Fund Raising Program received generous gifts totaling \$105,053 for the year 2016. The IBS expresses its sincere gratitude to each and every one of you for your support.

Last year, we expanded our fund-raising program to assist our students and institution. With your support, we received for Ministerial Scholarships (MS) \$86,720; for Chaplaincy Scholarships (CS) \$700; for Buddhist Studies Scholarships (BS) \$550; and for Institutional Development (ID) \$17,083.

With the start of 2017, we ask for your continued on-going financial assistance to strengthen our educational program for the future growth of Buddhism in America.

### Thank You to 2016 Donors

The Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) wishes to acknowledge the following donors whose gifts were received from October 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. Earlier 2016 donors are acknowledged in the February, May, and October 2016 issues of *Wheel of Dharma*. We apologize for any errors. Please contact [s.yamaoka@shin-ibs.edu](mailto:s.yamaoka@shin-ibs.edu) with any corrections.

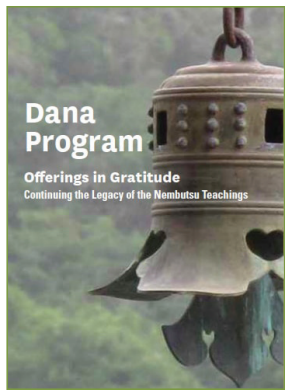
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Buddhist Women's Association  
Buddhist Churches of America  
Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations  
Oakland Buddhist Women's Association  
Oregon Buddhist Temple  
San Mateo Buddhist Temple  
West Los Angeles Buddhist Women's Association



### BCA Dana Program Update

Dana donation received in the fiscal year 2016-17 to date (April 2016 - February 2017) have totalled \$133,016.

Thank you for your generous support.

For information and online donation options:

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

Email: [donate@bcabq.org](mailto:donate@bcabq.org) Phone:

(415) 776-5600 x311

#### お願い

皆さま、慈悲の光の中、お元気で念仏の日暮しをされておられることとお喜び申し上げます。

さて、ご存知のように、三年前、第二十四代の即如上人（大谷光真前門さま）はその職を次の専如上人（大谷光淳門主さま）にお譲りになりました。京都の本願寺では、いまその法灯継承の法要が盛大にお勤めされています。これは、親鸞聖人から今に至るまで、時代が変わろうとも、途切れることなく、お念仏のみ教えが間違いなく私たちに伝えられていることを喜び、感謝する大切なお参りでありませう。

それで、米国仏教団といたしましては、お祝いのおしるしを贈ることになりました。つきましては、会員の皆さま、お一人二十五ドルを、それぞれの仏教会宛てに五月一日までに送っていただきますようお願いいたします。

なお、皆さまからのお気持ちは、梅津総長が五月の京都での会議に出席する際にお渡しされることになっています。なお、これは本願寺が新しいご門主のもとにいろいろな事業をするために使われることになっていることを申し添えておきます。

皆さまからの温かいご協力が願われています。ありがとうございます。

合 掌

米国仏教団

総長 梅津広道  
会長 谷本ケン



### CELEBRATING THE INAUGURATION OF OUR NEW GOMONSHU

Dear BCA Temple/Church Ministers and Presidents:

On June 6, 2014, Sokunyo Monshu Koshin Ohtani, 24th generation Monshu of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, retired. The Jodo Shinshu Tradition was transmitted to his eldest son, Sennyō Monshu Kojun Ohtani, who succeeded to the position of *Jushoku*, resident head priest of the Hongwanji, and 25th Monshu of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha institution. Sennyō Monshu follows in the footsteps of his predecessors to share the Nembutsu teaching with all people.

Services to mark the Commemoration on the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition began at the Hongwanji in Kyoto on October 1, 2016 and will conclude in May 2017. As part of this wonderful event, the Buddhist Churches of America would like to present a celebratory gift to the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, as an expression of our joy and gratitude for being able to witness the transferring of the Dharma torch and Shinran Shonin's legacy to the next generation. This gift will be used to support the Hongwanji's propagational efforts under the new Monshu.

We are requesting a contribution of \$25 per BCA member or \$50 per family towards this gift, which will be presented to the Hongwanji in May 2017.

Please collect donations at your local temple/church. Members should make their checks payable to your local temple/church. In turn, please submit ONE check from your temple/church to the BCA made payable to: BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION and mail it to BCA, 1710 Octavia Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. Kindly submit your contributions to the BCA by May 1, 2017.

Thank you very much for your support and consideration.

Gassho,

Rev. Kodo Umezu, Bishop  
Buddhist Churches of America

Ken Tanimoto, President  
BCA National Board



# 今月の法話

## 耳に障害のある娘

米国仏教団

名誉開教使 藤谷 政躬

「人身受け難し、今すでに受く、仏法聞きがたし今すでに聞く。皆さん、もし耳が聞こえなかったらこの素晴らしい教えに会えなかったでしょう。私たちは非常に運がよいことに、健康な耳に恵まれています。どうぞ聞いてください！」

仏教大学を優等で卒業したばかりの青年僧が、ある日門徒の家で初めての説教をしているところであった。

父を継いで住職になる予定になっている青年僧に対する聴衆の温かい思いは、あふれんばかりであった。

ところが、この学徒が、ものすごく情熱を込め、この話しをしたら、何やらひやりとしたものがそれまでの温かい雰囲気覆ったのである。聴衆の面は急に落ち着きがなくなり、ほほ笑みが消える。青年僧もこのときはっとしてうろたえた。なぜなら、会場になっているこの家の家族の中に、聴覚障害のある娘がいることを突然思い出したからである。

火あぶりにでもかけられたような気持ちになり、演台の所からその少女の青白い横顔が見え、非常に後悔し恥ずかしい思いになり、自分でも何を言っているのかわからないまま話しを続けたのである。青年僧は、判事の前の被告人のようには汗をかいて長い説法にけりをつけた。数秒もたたぬうちにその娘の父が手をあげ、「先生」と呼びかける。青年僧は、細かい声で「はい」と答える。

「若院（じゃくいん）さん、まずは、大変有り難いご法話をいただき、ありがとうございます。しかし、あなたが耳に障害のある人について話されたことについて、自分なりの意見があります。どうぞ、私の話すことを聞いて下さい。」

「もちろんです。」

「ご存知のとおり、うちには耳の聞こえない娘がおります。生まれて以来、家内と私は悲しみにくわれてきました。かわいそうな娘のことを思っ泣かないことは一夜としてありませんでした。彼女のために有名な医者や薬を探しまわりましたが、無駄でした。この悪業を嘆きつつ、私た

ちは問い続けました。「なぜこんなことが私どもの愛娘に起こり、私どもが悩まねばならぬのか」と。

この問題は、娘にとっただけでなく、私ども両親の問題でもありました。次第に私どもは医学的治療から精神的解決に気を回すようになりました。そして、私どもの心の巡礼は、親鸞聖人の教えに出会うことで終わったのです。もちろん子供は、前と同じく聞こえないままですが、私どもは、聖人の素晴らしい教えのお陰で、いかに生きるかについて、それはたくさん私どもを学んできました。阿弥陀仏のお使いとしての私どもの娘がいなかったら、私の人生は無意味のものになっていたのではないかと、たびたびハッとさせられております。これがあじわいといつことについての私の受け取り方でもあります。聴衆は全員、父親の話に深い感動をおぼえた。

「本当に有難うございました。」

青年僧はこたえた。

これはバークレーの仏教研究所の前の専任教授であった龍谷大学の藤本龍暁教授がかつて私に話してくださったことである。

「その青年僧とは私のことなんです。四十五年前のことです。老人も娘も、もう死んでいますが、あの時の様子と話しは、私の心の中にあるありとうかんできますよ。」

非常に憂慮していることだが、いい歳をしていながら依然として、同様な或いは（むご）い誤りをしがちで、しばしばサンガの仲間に迷惑をかえている私自身を反省せざるをえない。

註 この記事はバークレー仏教会の百周年に日本より参加された藤谷師に敬意を表して、師の著書より引用し、紹介させていただいた。この記事にて藤本師も多くの開教使がその薫陶を受けた恩師でもあり、仏教大学院の前身の仏教研究所の教授をされていた。藤谷師も仏教研究所の所長をされており現在は佐賀県伊万里に在住されている。

註記、註

この法話は法輪二〇一一年十一月号から転載。註は梅津総長が当時、法輪の編集をされていた時に書かれたもの。藤谷名誉開教使は二〇一六年十一月に日本で亡くなられた。今年一月下旬にオックスナード仏教会で梅津総長の導師により法事が営まれた。

# インタビュー

## 菅尾健太郎開教使

BCAの歴史を綴ったドキュメンタリー映画『ストリームスオプライト』（二〇一三年）の監督をつとめた南米開教区の菅尾健太郎開教使は、現在「ブラジル仏教、Fres Joints」を製作している。同作品はブラジルにおける仏教伝播をあつかったドキュメンタリー映画。仏教教育部（CBE）のサポートにより、米国でクラウドファンディングが行われている。

南米開教区の開教使にいつなられたのですか？

「2002年3月です。最初の赴任地はサンパウロ別院で、2年半勤めた後、首都ブラジリアの大学に進学しました。けれども当時、開教使不足だったこともあり、また別院に戻ることになりました。2006年にマリリア本願寺に異動となり、2012年まで勤めた後、休職してバークレーに来ました。その時にストリームスオプライトを撮影したのです。撮影後、2013年4月からカンピナス本願寺に赴任しています。」

映画を撮影されようと思ったきっかけは？

「南米開教区で10年間開教使を勤めた後に一年間の留学先として考えたのがBCAでした。アメリカでの浄土真宗のあり方を調査し、ブラジルの浄土真宗の将来像を探ることが目的でした。研究成果を共有する上で、ドキュメンタリー映画という媒体を選んだことが映画製作に結びつきました。」

ストリームスオプライトが公開されたのは、2013年でしたね。映画の反響はいかがでしたでしょうか？

「映画公開当時の『法輪』（2013年4月号）には「お寺と育ってきた自分の歴史をみているようだった。ぜひ自分の子供にもみせてやりたい」「おしゃべりな映画で開教の未来は明るいように思えた」との年配のメンバーと若い方の感想が掲載されています。伝道の一助として、世間を超えて仏教の魅力を分かち合える作品を目指したのでうれしい反響です。作品のDVDはアメリカと日本の本願寺で少しずつではあります。継続的に売れています。これまでに様々な反響を頂きましたが、特に開教使や開教使を目指す人々からの反響が大きかったように思います。BCAの歴史を開教使の側面から扱って

おり、異文化圏で活動する僧侶の抱える問いに基づいた作品なので、それが同様の環境に生きる開教使たちに受け止められたことは当然のことなのでしょうが、観ていただいた一人一人にとって大切な意味を持つ作品となれているからありがたいことです。」

今回はブラジル仏教のドキュメンタリーを撮影されたそうですね。なぜ製作されようと思ったのですか？

「私はブラジル人が仏教に寄せる関心と受容するあり方に常に魅了されてきました。日本からブラジルに渡った伝統仏教団の殆どの寺院で信者の減少と高齢化が進む一方、着実に信者を増やしている仏教グループも存在します。そこでチベット仏教、禅、浄土真宗という異なる歴史、教義、文化を保有する仏教団体が展開す



Rev. Sugao (right)

一貫性のある方法を通してこの国に根づいていくことが必要です」と仰るように、仏教はブラジルでは新しい宗教であり少数派ではありませんが、成長しつつある宗教です。ブラジルに持ち込まれた仏教の伝統がブラジル人に受け入れられて行く過程で遂げる変容を捉えることで、『ブラジル仏教の今』を通して仏教が21世紀の西洋社会で遂げる進化を描く作品となりました。

米国でこの映画を観る人へのどのような影響を与えられると思いますか？

「ブラジルの仏教は、米国の仏教がたどった歴史と似たところがあります。最初は移民が仏教を異文化に持ち込み、それから徐々に他人種に伝播していくことは、同じだと思えます。そういった米国における仏教伝播との類似性をみると面白いでしょう。けれども、違ったところもあります。ブラジルでは異人種間の結婚が世界で最も盛んで、人種が混じりあっている点です。結果、お寺でも様々な人種の方が来られるのがブラジル仏教のひとつの特徴となっています。比較文化的な視点から、異なる背景の国、文化での仏教伝播を知ること、何か新しい発見があると思います。」

今回のクラウドファンディングに関して教えてください。

「本作品は『仏・法・僧』の3章構成からなる大作となり総製作費は約8万ドルです。製作費の約半分はブラジルの各種仏教団体と個人からの寄付で賄われており、日本の公益財団法人（仏教伝道協会と国際仏教文化協会）の製作助成も受けておりますが、製作費がまだ不足しています。この度のアメリカでのクラウドファンディングによるキャンペーンの目標額は1万ドルで総製作費の12パーセント余りを賄うこととなります。今年中に3章を完成させて公開に至る上で必須のキャンペーンですので、どうぞご支援いただくとよろしくお願い申し上げます。35ドル〜3000ドルの様々なカテゴリーの支援方法があり、100ドル以上支援いただいた方は氏名をファイナルクレジットに掲載させていただきます。チェックによる寄付も可能です。詳細については以下のリンクをご覧ください。https://www.indiegogo.com/project/three-jewels-buddhism-in-brazil また6月にはBCAの6箇所程度のお寺で試写会上映が予定されておりますので、是非その機会にご覧いただきたいとお待ちしております。」



# 法輪

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二〇一七年度教化標語  
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あの記事をもう一度!

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## 2017年の総務開催される

3月上旬にカリフォルニア州サンノゼ市で全米開教使会議および寺院代表者会議が行われた。今年も沿岸教区の主催で、サンノゼ別院とマリオットホテルが会場。

サンノゼ地区はシリコンバレーの中心地であることから、会議のテーマを「Buddhism and Technology」とした。3月1日、2日にサンノゼ別院で開教使会議が行われ、開教使の引退年金、開教使アシスタントプログラムの将来性、大統領令13769号などについて話し合われた。2日午後には、IBSとCBE共催で「仏教と仕事」を主題にしたシンポジウムが開催、「Being Buddha At Work」の著者による講義や仏教伝道協会の永田氏による故沼田恵範氏の業績の紹介など、来場者が耳をすませた。3日からの代表者会議では2017年度の予算の承認、B

CAの付属団体や各コミッティーから活動報告などがなされた。投票により、今年度のBCA会員一人当たりのBCAへの割り当て寄付金は、133ドル64セントとなった。3日午後、サンノゼ別院本堂においてダルマソンが行われ、林ラジヤン開教使(恵光寺)とスタンブル・リック氏(ウエストLA)が話した。引き続き、第二十四代即如上人から第二十五代即如上人



BCA National Meeting

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に法灯が継承されたことを記念して、伝灯奉告法要がお勤めされた。法要の参加者は「本山

での法要に行かれたので、サンノゼでお参りできて嬉し



伝灯奉告法要、Dento Hokoku Hoyo at San Jose Betsuin

いです。正信偈と念仏、和讃を皆でおつとめすることで、親鸞聖人のみ教えが代々受け継がれていかに実感できているかを感じたいです。」と感動。法悦の涙を流した。

翌4日の会議は、マリオットホテルで行われた、会議終了後、前日に引き続きダルマソンが行われ、僧侶と門徒が法話および感話をした。5日はサンノゼ別院で永代経法要が営まれ、昨年引退した大下ホブ名誉開教使が法話をした。2018年の会議は北カリフォルニア教区の主催でサクラメント市で行われる予定。

## CBE春の聞法セミナー

5月13日(土)に浄土真宗センターにおいて、恒例の春の日本語聞法セミナーが開催される。今回の講師は、ハワイ開教区名誉開教使の戸島良三師に加え、4月から開講されるMOP(国際伝道者養成講座)受講生の大内佑真師と山岸昌也師がとめる。詳細はCBEの桑原開教使まで。

## 総長メッセージ

米国仏教団総長 梅津廣道

三月の初め、サンノゼ別院での教団総会の場で、若い開教使たちが中心となって、本願寺の伝灯奉告法要と同じ様式での法要がお勤めされ、大きな感銘を受けました。この法要では、伝統的な作法にのっとり、十二礼の節で正信偈が唱和され、開教使だけではなく、大学で雅楽を教えておられる先生やメンバーによる越天楽も演奏されました。このような特別法要のご縁にあうことができ、本願寺にお参りできない人たちも、伝統の重みを感じておられたようです。

そこで特に感銘したのは、タコマ仏教会の柿原興乗開教使が堂々と導師をおつとめされる姿でした。先生は十年近く開教使として活躍されてきましたが、今年いっぱいで日本に帰られ、来年広島のお寺の第十六世住職となります。それで、今年の総会が先生にとって最後のものとなりました。ところで、この法要では本願寺で使われている法要冊子が全員に配布されました。その中には、皆で拝読するための親鸞聖人のお言葉が含まれていました。それをここに紹介させていただきます。

「今、すべての人を救おうという阿弥陀仏の本願のお心をお聞きし、愚かなる無明の酔いも次第にさめ、むさぼり・いかり・おろかさという三つの毒も少しずつ好まぬようになり、阿弥陀仏の薬をつねに好む身となっておられるのです。」

これは、親鸞聖人の門弟にあてたお手紙の中のお言葉です。真実の親が、三毒の煩惱によって迷い続けている私たちの姿を悲しみ、どうかしたいという願いをおこされ、その願いがただ願いにとどまらず、私たちの闇を破る光、すなわちお名号となって届いてくださるのです。そして今不思議な因縁により、私たちはそのおこころに出会うことができるのです。お釈迦さまによって明らかにされた大慈大悲心が時を超え、日本のみならず、アメリカまで届いてくださるのには、多くの人たちのお蔭でありましょう。

そういう意味でも、このたびの法灯継承はよろこばしいこととあります。二年前に第二十四世の即如上人(大谷光真(門主))から第二十五世の専如上人(大谷光淳(門主))に法灯が継承されました。それをお祝いする法要が昨年十月から今年の五月まで、合計八十日間本願寺でお勤めされているのです。

お釈迦さまがこの世におでましになり、法の灯で私たちの無明の闇を照らしてくださいました。それが今日まで綿々と継承され、私たちが本当の人生を歩むことができることにはありがたいことです。四月には各地でお釈迦さまのお誕生をお祝いする「花まつり」がお勤めされます。ぜひ、お参りし、喜びを分かち合いましょ。

最後になりましたが、煩惱を煩惱とせず争いの絶えない今の世の中だからこそ、私たちは今こそ謙虚に、仏法に出会った人たちの声に耳を傾ける必要があります。米国仏教団の歴史も、仏法僧を宝として今日までできました。これからも、そのことを忘れずに、法の灯を次の世代に手渡していきましょ。

## MAPセミナー

3月9日から11日の三日間、浄土真宗センターにおいて、春のMAPセミナーが開催され、15名の開教使アシスタントが参加した。セミナーでは、UCバークレー校のプラム・マーク教授とCBEの桑原開教使が歎異抄を講義したほか、イスラミックスサイエティ・ノースアメリカのジャンダリ・アミーナさんが米国におけるイスラム教徒について話した。参加者は「歎異抄における悪や罪といったことに関して理解を深めることができました。イスラム教徒に関しての講義はたいへん興味深く、もっと知りたい」と思いました。と研究を積んだ。



開教使アシスタントセミナー、MAP Seminar at JSC