



**Buddhist Churches of America Music Committee
Federation of Dharma School Teachers' League
Gatha lyric-writing Contest**



The FDSTL is co-sponsoring the BCA Music Committee Gatha lyric-writing Contest and would like all students (up to and including high school seniors) to participate. The students do not have to be registered with Dharma School. All lyrics submitted by **Jan. 31, 2026** will be displayed at the BCA National Council Meeting/Northwest District Buddhist Convention on February 13 and 14, 2026 for popular voting. Contest deadline is **May 1, 2026**.

The contest winning lyrics will be set to music by composers to be commissioned to produce a gatha that will be shared throughout the BCA.

The following guidelines will apply:

- Lyrics will contain at least two and not more than four stanzas and may have a repeating section suitable for a chorus or refrain in between.
- The theme of the lyrics may focus on the BCA National Council Meeting 2026 theme “Renewal: Jodo Shinshu for Today”, the current BCA “Life of Gratitude” theme or on an aspect of Jodo Shinshu teachings.

The Dharma School entry may be by an individual student or a collaborative group or class effort. Cash prize will be awarded to the lyric winner. Any or all entries may become copyright property of the Buddhist Churches of America.

Please use the form provided and include the lyric submission. The forms will be emailed to BCA temples and Dharma Schools.

Please send entries to:

- Email: Darlene Bagshaw at lyrics4bca@gmail.com
- Or mail to:

Darlene Bagshaw
1083 Eleanor Lane
Manteca, CA 95337

For questions, please contact Darlene Bagshaw, lyrics4bca@gmail.com