 LOS ANGELES—The Centennial Celebration Service was held Aug. 28, following the dedication of the Moruo Kojun and Wintera Chapels, attended by over 600 people, including Hongwanji Governor-General Kosho Fujikawa, BCA Bishop Koshin Ogi, over 40 BCA, Los Angeles Buddhist Federation, and former Betsuin ministers, BCA President Douglas Iwamoto, and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

The service began with the procession of ministers, Chigo participants, and temple leaders entering the Hondo through the new addition, accompanied by the Kinara Gagaku from Senshin Buddhist Temple. With all the ministers seated in the onaijin, the service began with the opening address by the service chairman, Yoshinori Akutagawa, then the chanting of Sambujo with the scattering of Kehas. Bishop Ogi officiated the service and Rimban Matsubayashi served as the assistant officiant.

During the service, our newly formed Betsuin Choir, under the direction of Kiyo-yasui, the ministerial staff and the Centennial Committee members for working so hard to make this successful celebration possible. He introduced Hongwanji Governor-General Bishop Kosho Fujikawa, who began by reading a congratulatory message from Gomonshu Kosho Fujikawa, who began by reading a congratulatory message from Gomonshu Kosho Fujikawa, announcing this historical occasion. His Eminence Shaku Sokunyo Monshu Ohtani announcing the occasion of the “75th Memorial Service in 2011, for the Venerable Master Shihan Shonin, at the Nishi Hongwanji Temple in Kyoto. He presented the scroll containing this special message to Bishop Koshin Ogi. This was the very first presentation in the BCA, of this special message from the Gomonshu, announcing this historical occasion.

The service closed with the singing of the gatha, “Ondokusan,” and a closing address by the service chairman.
Our Jr. Choir’s Visit to Maui 2005
By Elaine Jones – San Jose Betsuin Jr. Choir

The San Jose Betsuin Junior Choir was fortunate to have visited Maui, Aug. 5 through 14, and to include four temples in our itinerary. The group was 73 strong, which included 26 choir members and their families (including Mutusko Kejima, Emily Muki’s grand- mother from Japan, and Mary Sugimoto, Lizzie and Eric Jones’ grandmother). Seventeen choir members brought their ukuleles to help accompany many of the choir’s songs. A few members also were able to acquire new instruments at the local music stores during our stay!

Our first trip was to the Kahului Hongwanji Mission, which the choir last visited in 1998. We were fortunate to be included in their Hatsubon Service by singing two gathas. Afterward, the temple celebrated Obon with a lively Ondori dancing and we were treated to beautiful tengu- gui as part of the dancing crowd. A delicious meal was also provided for us, with fresh mango and pineapple as part of the feast. This trip to Rev. Soga and his family along with the Sangha of the Kahului Hongwanji Mis- sion for their warm reception. Rev. Soga and family also joined us on our Beach Day, which gave us time to have some more fun together!

The very next morning was our visit to the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission, where we last participated in their Obon Festival in 1998. There, Rev. Vagi provided a meaningful sermon using his panda and frog pup- pets. We were also entertained by his young daughter, who is filled with youthful spirit! There, the choir performed their full program. Thanks to the members of the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission who attended the service and our performance, and also who provided another delicious meal (the chef was so “ono!”) for us to enjoy.

The following Friday was our visit to the Kahului Jodo Mission Obon Festival. Thanks to Bobbie Arita of Mountain View for helping coordinate our visit. The choir performed after the completion of their Hatsu- bon service, with the dancing to follow. By this time, everyone was enjoying the festiveness of “Fukushima Ondo”, which had a slightly different choreography from San Jose’s, but nonetheless, still a lot of fun! The Sangha provided us with teruhi, drinks, a lavish meal after the dancing, and also Maui potato chips and kruppie snacks for everyone to enjoy. We were treated well, indeed, and everyone made us feel so comfort- able and at home. Thanks to Alan Shishido, Jocelyn Tengan, Mr. Hirano, and members of the Kahului Jodo Mission for their kind hospitality.

Our final performance was on the last day of our trip. We ventured over to Waikului Sunday morning, and performed after the morning service. We were then treated to beautiful yarn leis, another delicious meal (including homemade “guri-guri”), and a nice social time together. What a wonderful “cap” to the performance tour! Our gratitude to Rev. Shin’kai Murakami and George Okamoto for their help in coor- dinating our visit.

The people of Maui made this trip so enjoyable. And, this past trip to Maui would not be complete with- out the mention of a very special couple who made sure that we felt at home throughout our stay. I’m speaking of Mr. and Mrs. Masami Hironaka of Kahului (soon to be Wiihalei), who we first met on our 1998 trip when we held our Farewell Dinner at the Maui Beach Hotel. It was that contact made seven years ago that enabled this summer’s trip to be so special.

At our visit to the Kahului Hongwanji Obon during their mealtime, Mr. Hironaka noticed that many of our choir group were enjoying the fresh mango immensely. He had wanted to share more of his home-grown fruit for our group, so he arranged to meet us at our Beach Day in Kihele the following Monday. Little did we know, Mr. Hironaka had beaten us to the park, trying to save for us the best spot for picnicking. Also, he loaded his van and brought single-handedly with him many sup- plies for us to use during our stay, including a large tarp, chairs, tatami mats, games, and boogie boards. Then later returned with several ice chests filled with ice, bottled water, serving tables, fresh bananas and mangos from his yard, and several bowls of fresh, and mangos served up by Mr. Hironaka. We were overwhelmed with the kindness of this couple, who made us feel like family.

Knowing that the choir was to perform that Friday at the Jodo Mission, he offered, brought, and setup his own personal keyboard for us to use at that performance. Their aloha did not stop there, however. On our final day, they met us at the Maui Beach Hotel and pro- vided our group with “Elaine’s Maui Cookies,” enough for each family to take home three packs each. Also, at our farewell dinner, they treated our group generously.

We felt honored that they took the time to come and partake in our closing dinner.

At the conclusion of the evening, we thanked Mr. and Mrs. Hironaka for all they had done for us. Their humble reply was, “We’re sorry we couldn’t have done more.”

There are times when we’re asked to help out, be it at church, at school or a community event. Lots of times we help out because we’re asked to, probably many times out of a sort of obligation (“...if everyone can sign up for a shift...”). What we observed in Maui, through was a true giving of oneself, a giving of joy and sincerity, with nothing in return expected. I feel that we were all honored to see true elanu first-hand.

Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Masami Hironaka. You have given us a life-long lesson that we’ll always remember.

Gassho,
Elaine Jones and the Jr. Choir Families

Hanford Celebrates Centennial

HANFORD, Calif.—Bud- dhist themes, minister, family, friends, and guests gathered on Nov. 5 in Han- ford, California, to joyfully celebrate the 100th year anni- versary of the founding of the Hanford Buddhist Church.

With the ringing of the Kansho, approximately 200 people gathered to pay respect and tribute to the memory of the founding Issei pioneers and to honor thirteen current mem- bers for their years of dedica- tion to the Nembutsu.

The day of celebration included a commemorative service and concluded with a luncheon banquet with evening entertainment. Official guest of honor for the service was Socho Koshin Ogui, Bishop of the BCA, assisted by Co-Officant, Rev. Nobuo Miyuki, and Intendant, Rev. Jo-Ren MacDonald of the Fresno Betsuin. Also in attend- ance was the executive committee of the Hanford Buddhist Church. In addition, Rev. Taishi Mukojima, San Diego; Rev. Katsumi Ueda, Oxnard; and Rev. George Miura, Gardena; Rev. Sensho Inouye, Fowler; and retired Rev. Hiro- shi Futaba, Sacramento.

Other honored guests were Mrs. Koshin Ogui, Doug Iwa- moto, Rev. Shuichi Arimoto, and representatives from the Central Valley temples. Mayor David Ayers represented the City of Hanford and Alene Taylor represented the Kings County Board of Supervisors.

Following the memorial ser- vice and group photo, a banquet luncheon was held at the Han- ford Fraternal Hall. Decorated with tides of flowers, candles, and white kasa, the hall was filled with reunion and fellow- ship. During the entertainment portion of the evening, Mayor Ayers of Hanford and County Board of Supervisor Taylor both presented the Hanford Buddhist Temple with official resolutions of congratulation. The thirteen church member honorees were introduced and thanked for their decades of dedi- cated service. A gift of appreci- ation was presented to Mrs. Ayers for her years of dedi- cation and service. Mrs. Mieko Suzuki of Visalia provided vocal entertainment.

The history of the Han- ford Buddhist Church has its beginnings in the late 1800s and early 1900s when Japa- nese immigrants arrived in the Armona and Hanford area. This community of Jodo Shin- Shu Buddhists developed a temple was constructed and dedicated in 1963.

The 100th year anniversary honors those Issei families who founded the original Kings Country Buddhist Church. We also honor the Issei families, who through the years sparked the growth of Buddhism in our community. We honor the Issei and Nisei families who returned after World War II to carry on our reactivation of the Hanford Buddhist Church. Our Issei mothers and fathers are gone, but some of their children are here today, and fourth generation members are here to serve the church and its community.

The Hanford Buddhist Church has received guid- ance, teaching, and friendship from many Buddhist CA ministers. This sangha has formally celebrated its 50th, 75th, and now its 100th year anniversary. We are in the early years of the 21st Century with the eternal Nembutsu to guide and give us strength and instill compassion. Memorial offers of the church and community’s return. In 1946, with the arrival of the first resident minister, property with a home was purchased. The first perma- nent temple as constructed and dedicated in 1916 and named the Kings Country Buddhist Church. In 1929, the name was changed to the Hanford Bud- dhist Church. Groups were formed amongst the member- ship to provide service to the church and community.

World War II brought a pause in the temple’s history. The church had been closed and awaited the com- munity’s return. In 1946, with the arrival of the first resident minister, services were again conducted and service groups were reestablished. A new

Rev. Kobara Receives ‘Order of the Rising Sun’

Former BCA minister Rev. Seiji Kobara received the Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Ray (“Kyokujitsu Tanko Shou”) from the Japa- nese Government on Nov. 17, at the consul general’s residence.

Rev. Kobara was recognized for his dedica- tion to sharing Japanese cultural arts through calligraphy and tea ceremonies.

Seiji Kobara is the sister of minister emeritus Rev. Ginmyo Takemura.

Pictured is Rev. Seiji Kobara with S.F. Consul General and Mrs. Makoto Yamanaka.; Mike Iwasaki is standing to the left.

PAGE 2 WHEEL OF DHARMA DECEMBER 2005
A Changed Haiku

By Rev. Don Castro
Seattle Betsuin

I recently discovered a haiku poem I had written in the late 1970’s. Generally, I don’t think English is an appropriate language for haiku and I probably haven’t written over a handful in my life but I remember well the inspiration for my 70’s haiku. I was sitting in zazen meditation at the Zen Center on a foggy day in San Francisco. The traffic was noiseily racing by, as were my thoughts, when a foghorn sounded like a distant temple bell. This was the resulting haiku:

Amidst mind chatter
And the din of street clatter
The sound of foghorns.

A quarter century later as I revisited this haiku in my journal, I was suddenly inclined to change the word “sound” in the last line to “call.” I think this word change reflects my present Jodo Shinshu orientation. “Sound” is an unemotional word; “call” is more compelling. The foghorn is calling to the ships at sea, “This is where the danger lies. You are fine just as you are. Don’t do anything stupid!” In like manner, Amida Buddha comes to us through his calling, “You are fine just as you are. Don’t do anything stupid like trying to come to me!” This injunction puts me in mind of Rev. Giben Kimura’s out-of-print book “Why Pursue the Buddha?” which supplies you with the answer to the title, “…because he’s pursuing you.” Just open up to the boundless wisdom and compassion that is already there and we will be guided through our foggy blindness.

Perceiving a sound as a call makes it dynamic and compelling. Rev. Chijun Yakumo used to refer to Amida Buddha as “dynamic Dharma.” Zendo, one of the Yakumo used to refer to Amida Buddha as “alternative path to Tokudo Ordination and Kyoshicho.”

The first workshop was instructed by Rev. Zuiske Taniguchi on how to chant Jusan and Gusan (which are usually chanted during Hoonko). Sensei Michael Endo worked with another group on the chanting of Shoshinge. After lunch, we had a stimulating presentation and discussion with Iko Miyazaki, a marriage & family counselor from Sacramento. She provided guidance in how to work with difficult people and gave us insights into the skills required to resolve conflict between groups and individuals.

The afternoon was spent with Rev. Oshita from the Sacramento Betsuin. Rev. Umezuru and Rev. Kobata introducing us to the significant rituals of Makuragyo services, memorial services and funerals. We ended the day talking about the role of a Minister Assistant and reviewed our knowledge of Oinajin etiquette.

The following day, Socho Ogui gave another seminar on how to chant Umezu and Kyoshi Certification.

IBS Accepting Nominations for New Trustees

The Board of Trustees of the Institute of Buddhist Studies is now accepting nominations for two Trustee positions, one lay and one ministerial. One nomination for an open lay position may be made by each IBS District Council; the BCA Ministers Association will nominate a minister for the open ministerial position. Nominations must be made in writing and include the following information:

1. Name, signature, and temple affiliation of nominee.
2. Name and signature of District President submitting nomination.
3. List of temple, district and IBS-related positions held including years of service.
4. Qualifications to serve as a member of the IBS Board of Trustees.
5. Personal statement from nominee regarding why he/she desires to serve.
6. Personal statement from nominee regarding his/her vision for the IBS.

Nomination forms are available from the IBS Business Office. Forms may be downloaded from the IBS website www.shin-ibs.org.

Completed forms must be filed with the Business Office by February 26, 2006. Term of office will begin with the second meeting of the fiscal year, usually in August.
On Nov. 8, the Southern District Buddhist Education Council sponsored a public lecture held at the Los Angeles Betsuin, by Craig Horton, lay leader from the Cleveland Buddhist Temple. Craig has been an active member and leader in Cleveland for many years, and just recently received certification as a BCA Minister’s Assistant by Socho Koshin Ogui. This past summer, Craig served as a special speaker at the BCA Ministers Summer Seminar (Fuken), held in Los Angeles.

Ogui Socho played a major role in how Craig first encountered Buddhism. Upon the invitation of a friend, Craig attended one of the Zen Shin Sangha gatherings at the Cleveland Buddhist Temple when Rev. Ogui was serving as a minister there. At that gathering, Craig recalls sitting stiffly in meditation, with his knees up in the air, and steam sweating down his face with nervous tension. He was a hyper sort of guy and to sit in meditation for ten minutes was excruciatingly difficult for him in the beginning. Still, he wondered how others were able to sit so calmly and peacefully, and this intrigued him.

He was also intrigued by the Dharma messages by such a Bonbu mind, it is totally impossible to be reborn into Buddhahood.”

Now Kakushin-ni became really serious and asked another question, “Then, how can I, a Bonbu, become such a determined follower of faith?” Shonin Shonin said to her, “Don’t think how.” Kakushin-ni was perplexed and started throwing more questions, “But then, a determined follower of Shinsu must…” Shonin Shonin interrupted her words and said, “When Amida Buddha’s Wisdom pours in and fulfills you, all the doubt automatically clear away.”

We can interpret Shonin Shonin’s words, “When Amida Buddha’s Wisdom pours in and fulfills you: as follows: at the very moment that one accepts the all-compassionate awakening-heart of the Buddha, without any hesitation or self-attachment, one can become a determined follower of Shinsu.

Most of the time, we human beings end up thinking of so many irrelevant matters, such as “How do I become such a person in Shinshu?” or “We must be nurtured in listening to the Dharma for a long period of time.” And we tend to handle Shinjin matters with our own minds. But Shinsu never stands on a base to create faith by Bonbu power, because any impurity from Bonbu mind is of no use at all for becoming enlightened.

Therefore, Shonin Shonin pointed out that Shinjin in Shinshu is nothing but to accept Amida Tathagata’s Universal Truth without any reservation of self-centered ego.

We abandon all our small ego attachments and live in the ocean-like Tathagata’s or non-retrogressive state of mind.

We abandon all our small ego attachments and live in the ocean-like Tathagata’s all-compassionate awakening-heart. We abandon all our small ego attachments and become a Bonbu, a determined follower of Shinshu. We mustn’t I?” The Shonin’s answer was, “Yes, that is right.”

Kakushin-ni asked another question, “In order to become such a determined follower of the faith, do I naturally, have to be nurtured with the teaching for a long period of time?” Now the Shonin’s answer was clear.

He said, “You can never be reborn and become a Buddha with the faith of a Bonbu (a being with blind passions), such as a faith that intends to strengthen and nurture only the rationale through listening to the teaching, no matter how long one tries to clear his doubts, is the mind of Bonbu. With

Craig Horton Lectures at LA Betsuin

On Nov. 8, the Southern District Buddhist Education Council sponsored a public lecture held at the Los Angeles Betsuin, by Craig Horton, lay leader from the Cleveland Buddhist Temple. Craig has been an active member and leader in Cleveland for many years, and just recently received certification as a BCA Minister’s Assistant by Socho Koshin Ogui. This past summer, Craig served as a special speaker at the BCA Ministers Summer Seminar (Fuken), held in Los Angeles.

Ogui Socho played a major role in how Craig first encountered Buddhism. Upon the invitation of a friend, Craig attended one of the Zen Shin Sangha gatherings at the Cleveland Buddhist Temple when Rev. Ogui was serving as a minister there. At that gathering, Craig recalls sitting stiffly in meditation, with his knees up in the air, and steam sweating down his face with nervous tension. He was a hyper sort of guy and to sit in meditation for ten minutes was excruciatingly difficult for him in the beginning. Still, he wondered how others were able to sit so calmly and peacefully, and this intrigued him.

He was also intrigued by the Dharma messages by Rev. Koshin Ogui, Socho Koshin Ogui, Craig Horton (Cleveland), Rev. Marvin Harada.

Minister’s Assistants Certification Ceremony on Nov. 6 at Orange County Buddhist Church. From left: Rev. K. Miura, Matsutomo Wondra (OCBC), Socho Koshin Ogui, Craig Horton (Cleveland), Rev. Marvin Harada.

Craig Horton Lectures at LA Betsuin

On Nov. 8, the Southern District Buddhist Education Council sponsored a public lecture held at the Los Angeles Betsuin, by Craig Horton, lay leader from the Cleveland Buddhist Temple. Craig has been an active member and leader in Cleveland for many years, and just recently received certification as a BCA Minister’s Assistant by Socho Koshin Ogui. This past summer, Craig served as a special speaker at the BCA Ministers Summer Seminar (Fuken), held in Los Angeles.

Ogui Socho played a major role in how Craig first encountered Buddhism. Upon the invitation of a friend, Craig attended one of the Zen Shin Sangha gatherings at the Cleveland Buddhist Temple when Rev. Ogui was serving as a minister there. At that gathering, Craig recalls sitting stiffly in meditation, with his knees up in the air, and steam sweating down his face with nervous tension. He was a hyper sort of guy and to sit in meditation for ten minutes was excruciatingly difficult for him in the beginning. Still, he wondered how others were able to sit so calmly and peacefully, and this intrigued him.

He was also intrigued by the Dharma messages by Rev. Koshin Ogui, Socho Koshin Ogui, Craig Horton (Cleveland), Rev. Marvin Harada.

Minister’s Assistants Certification Ceremony on Nov. 6 at Orange County Buddhist Church. From left: Rev. K. Miura, Matsutomo Wondra (OCBC), Socho Koshin Ogui, Craig Horton (Cleveland), Rev. Marvin Harada.

Craig Horton Lectures at LA Betsuin

On Nov. 8, the Southern District Buddhist Education Council sponsored a public lecture held at the Los Angeles Betsuin, by Craig Horton, lay leader from the Cleveland Buddhist Temple. Craig has been an active member and leader in Cleveland for many years, and just recently received certification as a BCA Minister’s Assistant by Socho Koshin Ogui. This past summer, Craig served as a special speaker at the BCA Ministers Summer Seminar (Fuken), held in Los Angeles.

Ogui Socho played a major role in how Craig first encountered Buddhism. Upon the invitation of a friend, Craig attended one of the Zen Shin Sangha gatherings at the Cleveland Buddhist Temple when Rev. Ogui was serving as a minister there. At that gathering, Craig recalls sitting stiffly in meditation, with his knees up in the air, and steam sweating down his face with nervous tension. He was a hyper sort of guy and to sit in meditation for ten minutes was excruciatingly difficult for him in the beginning. Still, he wondered how others were able to sit so calmly and peacefully, and this intrigued him.

He was also intrigued by the Dharma messages by Rev. Koshin Ogui, Socho Koshin Ogui, Craig Horton (Cleveland), Rev. Marvin Harada.

Minister’s Assistants Certification Ceremony on Nov. 6 at Orange County Buddhist Church. From left: Rev. K. Miura, Matsutomo Wondra (OCBC), Socho Koshin Ogui, Craig Horton (Cleveland), Rev. Marvin Harada.

Craig Horton Lectures at LA Betsuin

On Nov. 8, the Southern District Buddhist Education Council sponsored a public lecture held at the Los Angeles Betsuin, by Craig Horton, lay leader from the Cleveland Buddhist Temple. Craig has been an active member and leader in Cleveland for many years, and just recently received certification as a BCA Minister’s Assistant by Socho Koshin Ogui. This past summer, Craig served as a special speaker at the BCA Ministers Summer Seminar (Fuken), held in Los Angeles.

Ogui Socho played a major role in how Craig first encountered Buddhism. Upon the invitation of a friend, Craig attended one of the Zen Shin Sangha gatherings at the Cleveland Buddhist Temple when Rev. Ogui was serving as a minister there. At that gathering, Craig recalls sitting stiffly in meditation, with his knees up in the air, and steam sweating down his face with nervous tension. He was a hyper sort of guy and to sit in meditation for ten minutes was excruciatingly difficult for him in the beginning. Still, he wondered how others were able to sit so calmly and peacefully, and this intrigued him.

He was also intrigued by the Dharma messages by Rev. Koshin Ogui, Socho Koshin Ogui, Craig Horton (Cleveland), Rev. Marvin Harada.

Minister’s Assistants Certification Ceremony on Nov. 6 at Orange County Buddhist Church. From left: Rev. K. Miura, Matsutomo Wondra (OCBC), Socho Koshin Ogui, Craig Horton (Cleveland), Rev. Marvin Harada.

Craig Horton Lectures at LA Betsuin

On Nov. 8, the Southern District Buddhist Education Council sponsored a public lecture held at the Los Angeles Betsuin, by Craig Horton, lay leader from the Cleveland Buddhist Temple. Craig has been an active member and leader in Cleveland for many years, and just recently received certification as a BCA Minister’s Assistant by Socho Koshin Ogui. This past summer, Craig served as a special speaker at the BCA Ministers Summer Seminar (Fuken), held in Los Angeles.

Ogui Socho played a major role in how Craig first encountered Buddhism. Upon the invitation of a friend, Craig attended one of the Zen Shin Sangha gatherings at the Cleveland Buddhist Temple when Rev. Ogui was serving as a minister there. At that gathering, Craig recalls sitting stiffly in meditation, with his knees up in the air, and steam sweating down his face with nervous tension. He was a hyper sort of guy and to sit in meditation for ten minutes was excruciatingly difficult for him in the beginning. Still, he wondered how others were able to sit so calmly and peacefully, and this intrigued him.

He was also intrigued by the Dharma messages by Rev. Koshin Ogui, Socho Koshin Ogui, Craig Horton (Cleveland), Rev. Marvin Harada.

Minister’s Assistants Certification Ceremony on Nov. 6 at Orange County Buddhist Church. From left: Rev. K. Miura, Matsutomo Wondra (OCBC), Socho Koshin Ogui, Craig Horton (Cleveland), Rev. Marvin Harada.
The Summit of North American Religious Youth Leaders: Religious Youth for Peace

By Ayako Sairenji
New York Buddhist Church

On Nov. 1, a memorable page was added to the history of the interfaith movement. The Summit of North American Religious Youth Leaders: Religious Youth for Peace, hosted by the World Conference of Religion for Peace, took place in New York City from Oct. 30 to Nov. 2. The purpose was to bring together representatives of major non-sectarian international organizations promoting inter-religious dialogue, and was held at the United Nations Plaza in the New World Trade Center. More than sixty people participated in the conference, including representatives of over 200 organisations and 150 communities engaged in a variety of inter-religious activities.

In our working sessions, we discussed such topics as violence related to religion and building new inter-religious connection among religious young people in the North America. In our discussions, we emphasized the importance of education as an important factor, especially ignorance is a cause of violence, and practical actions, for example, interfaith visit and communication on the Internet, were raised. It was felt that there was a need for more education through active inter-religious dialogue.

Continued from Front Page

Bay District Conf.

Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in America.

In the workshops, participants learnt how to make montoku shikisai (a layperson’s version of the okesa) that ministers wear with their robes, “Special Place” cushions, and fire drills.

There were also workshops on chanting and new gathas.

In the YBA members had special programs and throughout the weekend photographers were available to take family portraits free of charge.

After the closing service, conference attendees were treated to a special slide show of pictures taken throughout the conference. De La Salle, in his opening to the conference, challenged Buddhists to lead the new gatha titled “I Know We Can Be.” This was written in “call and response” style. This was one of two new gathas that Mr. Lewis introduced at the conference.

The conference concluded with all of the attendees linking arms in a double stranded circle surrounding the hall to recite the “Golden Chain.”

This tradition, which pervaded the event, inspirational messages of the guest ministers, and well organized workshops and activities effectively fulfilled the conference theme: Amida’s Family Gathering, Being an American Buddhist Family.

The conference two years in preparation was ably chaired by Chizuko Kakiuchi from the Buddhist Church of San Francisco and Jim Murai of the San Mateo Buddhist Temple.

The next Bay District Family Conference is tentatively planned for 2008.

Lecture

Rev. Ogii, who would often challenge the group with questions like, “Who brought you here?” or, “Does the dog have Buddha Nature?”

In the first he came to the temple, Craig lived a life in which he often drank wine with the boys on the corner, and did a lot of street “hustling.” Slowly his life began to change. He met the boys on the corner, and did a lot of street “hustling.” Slowly his life began to change. He met the boys on the corner, and the stories heard about how some people who had so little to begin with were left with even less affected us deeply. We asked ourselves and our Temple members to contribute books, supplies or toiletries during the month of October.

Through direct requests and our fund raising efforts, a net total of more than $1,700 was raised and will be allocated both to the Red Cross and directly to benefit the children of Hancock Central Elementary School. In addition, through the generosity of our temple membership, we were able to collect over 300 new and gently used children’s books and over 125 pounds of school supplies and toiletries. We shipped containers weighing a total of over 225 pounds to Kiln, Mississippi for the needy children.

Wrapping up our project in November, we hope that our efforts will spark hope in the hearts of those children who have found themselves victim to this disaster. We are trying to reach out to those affected by this disaster and now do every month simple pleasures and privileges that many of us take for granted. We want to show them that the power of selfless giving from child to child, reaches across religious, cultural and geographical boundaries.

We are sincerely grateful for all of the support we have received from our own Sangha for our project. Without the generous spirit of Dana from within our Temple, we could not have been so successful in our efforts to help those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

In Gasho, Nikki Ryu
Mountain View Buddhist Temple
Young Buddhists Association

Buddhism, and through his life experiences, he entered deeper and deeper into the Dharma. In time he was trained as a senior Dharma Leader at the temple by Rev. Ogii, and began to assist in the Zen Shin Sangha gatherings.

Presently he resides at the temple and speaks to visitors, school groups, and conducts the Zen Shin Sangha gatherings along with other lay leaders. All who attended the public lecture were amazed by the Dharma. 

Rev. Marvin Harada

Young Buddhists Association

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, many families have lost their loved ones, personal property and even the feeling of safety and security. Many are trying to find a way to resume their lives that were permanently changed after these natural disasters.

The Mountain View YBA decided to launch a Dana Project in an effort to reach out from our group of high school students to children affected by Hurricane Katrina. While monetary donations are not insignificant in the effort towards Hurricane relief, the group also determined that it was important for each of us to expend some personal effort towards these relief activities. We sought to make this Dana Project personally meaningful to both the participants and recipients.

A variety of activities were embarked upon. Initially, we asked our Sangha to join us in contributing to funds that would be provided to the Red Cross for Hurricane Katrina Relief. At our annual Sangha Day Picnic we sold 50/50 tickets with half of the proceeds to be designated towards the school supplies and toiletries. We sold 50/50 tickets with half of the proceeds to be designated towards funds that would be provided to the Red Cross for Hurricane Katrina Relief. At our annual Sangha Day Picnic we sold 50/50 tickets with half of the proceeds to be designated towards the school supplies and toiletries. We sold 50/50 tickets with half of the proceeds to be designated towards funds that would be provided to the Red Cross for Hurricane Katrina Relief. At our annual Sangha Day Picnic we sold 50/50 tickets with half of the proceeds to be designated towards the school supplies and toiletries. We sold 50/50 tickets with half of the proceeds to be designated towards funds that would be provided to the Red Cross for Hurricane Katrina Relief. At our annual Sangha Day Picnic we sold 50/50 tickets with half of the proceeds to be designated towards funds that would be provided to the Red Cross for Hurricane Katrina Relief. At our annual Sangha Day Picnic we sold 50/50 tickets with half of the proceeds to be designated towards funds that would be provided to the Red Cross for Hurricane Katrina Relief. At our annual Sangha Day Picnic we sold 50/50 tickets with half of the proceeds to be designated towards funds that would be provided to the Red Cross for Hurricane Katrina Relief.

In addition to the fund raising activities, we found we were most interested in finding a way to directly assist some of these affected people, in particular school age students. The US Department of Education created a website (www.hurricanehelpforschools.gov) that listed schools directly impacted by the hurricane and how people can help. Through this website we identified a school, the Hancock Central Elementary School located in Kiln, Mississippi.

This school serves over 700 students who needed books, school supplies and even toiletries. This is a school where almost 70% of the students qualify for a hot lunch. The roof on the school library was destroyed during the hurricane, ruining the books and computer resources. When contacting the school representative, the stories heard about how some people who had so little to begin with were left with even less affected us deeply. We asked ourselves and our Temple members to contribute books, supplies or toiletries during the month of October.

Through direct requests and our fund raising efforts, a net total of more than $1,700 was raised and will be allocated both to the Red Cross and directly to benefit the children of Hancock Central Elementary School. In addition, through the generosity of our temple membership, we were able to collect over 300 new and gently used children’s books and over 125 pounds of school supplies and toiletries. We shipped containers weighing a total of over 225 pounds to Kiln, Mississippi for the needy children.

Wrapping up our project in November, we hope that our efforts will spark hope in the hearts of those children who have found themselves victim to this disaster. We are trying to reach out to those affected by this disaster and now do every month simple pleasures and privileges that many of us take for granted. We want to show them that the power of selfless giving from child to child, reaches across religious, cultural and geographical boundaries.

We are sincerely grateful for all of the support we have received from our own Sangha for our project. Without the generous spirit of Dana from within our Temple, we could not have been so successful in our efforts to help those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

In Gasho, Nikki Ryu
Mountain View Buddhist Temple
Young Buddhists Association

Mountain View Buddhist Temple
YBA Katrina Relief Dana Project

Continued from Front Page

Save the Earth

Sawgrass and Camp Fire Participants

BCCA Nambutsu Camporee August 3–5, 2007
San Francisco State University

Hosted by the Bay District
Sectoring Committee

Seek the Teaching
and Share it with Others

2005 BCA Theme

Mountain View YBA’s Spam Musubi sale, from left, Robbie Imai, Kyle Arakaki, Nikki Ryu, Danni Ryu, and Reid Sakino.