Nearly one and one half year after its long-awaited groundbreaking ceremony, the new Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley was dedicated on the weekend of Oct. 21-22. Honored guests included the Monshu-designate Shinmon Kojun Ohtani and his wife, Ruzumi-sama who traveled from Kyoto to be in attendance at the opening.

Friday’s activities commenced with an all-day seminar sponsored by the Institute of Buddhist Studies entitled “Varieties of Nembutsu Practice.”

Saturday morning’s dedication ceremony began with a procession from the Berkeley Buddhist Temple, the site of the original Buddhist Study Center, predecessor to the current Institute of Buddhist Studies, around the block to the new Jodo Shinshu Center.

The procession was led by the Kinnara Gagaku Group and by Buddhist Boy and Girl Scouts accompanying the American, Buddhist and Hongwanji flags. They were followed by 16 "ochigo" children, one girl and one boy representing each of the BCA’s eight districts, dressed in classical centuries-old outfits traditionally worn by Japanese children who participated in temple processions and celebrations.

They were followed by Shinmon Kojun Ohtani, the current Monshu’s oldest son and heir apparent, and his wife, Ruzumi-sama; then Socho Koshin Ogui and the bishops from the South American, Hawaii and Canadian Hongwanji districts. Others participating in the procession to the Jodo Shinshu Center included Dr. Manshi Ohyanagi representing Ryukoku University, Rev. Ryosho Naito representing the Hon-
President's Message on the JSC Opening
By Dr. Gordon Bernard
BCA President

The stories and photographs in this issue of the Wheel document the wonderful weekend of the dedication and celebration of the opening of the Jodo Shinshu Center. Also published here is a list of the many people who volunteered to ensure the success of this event. I would like to add my personal thanks to every one on this list, as well as to all who contributed to the success of our collective joy and satisfaction of a job well done.

From my personal point of view, the IBS symposium on Friday and the events on Saturday occupied most of my attention before my wife Geri and I arrived in Berkeley on Thursday evening. Although I knew I was to make brief presentations at the three family services on Sunday, it was as if I could not see through all the events on Friday and Saturday to appreciate in advance the significance of Sunday’s services.

But now that the weekend is behind us, I understand that Sunday was in some ways the most important day of all. This was the day that people arrived by bus and car from near and far to visit the location of the new heart of Jodo Shinshu education, training, and outreach for the 21st century. The kodo was filled three times with members and friends who were able to see and feel what they had only been able to hear and read about before. In total, more than 400 visitors experienced the elegance of the naijin, the excellent acoustics of the kodo as we chant-ed Gasho with Amida, the enthusiastic greetings provided by Ken Tanimoto and Glenn Kameda, Reverend Kobata’s service leadership that put everything completely at ease, and the presence of distinguished guests including Shimmon Kojun, Ru-zumi Ohtani, and Reverend Matsumoto’s masterful dharma talk on the meaning of Living Buddhism in terms of the interdependence of our three treasures of Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha.

I had the privilege of offering greetings to the visitors at each of the three services. This was perhaps the easiest and most gratifying task I have yet performed as your president. I based my greeting on the significance we are giving a motto Shi-kiho when we attend services. This simple act reflects respect and devotion to our practice; it also shows that we are willing to identify ourselves as members of a group for whom such practice is important. When we wear an okesa, we show that we are willing to “stand up and be counted” as a member of a tradition that is almost 750 years old. Beneath my okesa, pinned to my lapel, was a big button that read I AM BCA! in bright red letters. I pulled my okesa aside to show the button. I explained that the button represents our collective effort to achieve our national goals. Symbolically, then, the organization, BCA, “is behind” the individual; it supports each of us. And each individual “is in front of” the organization, leading and representing it. The individual and the organization are together.

Continued on Page 3

My Gift to Campaign BCA—The 21st Century

PLEASCE CUT OUT AND RETURN TO BCA HEADQUARTERS:

c/o Campaign BCA-The 21st Century, 1710 Octavia Street, San Francisco, CA 94109

Date: ____________________________

Socho Ogui:

☐ Enclosed is my special gift of $________ to Campaign BCA—The 21st Century.

☐ I would like to pledge a total of $________ over (1 to 5 years) to Campaign BCA—The 21st Century.

$________ Am’t. to be paid

☐ $________ Date(s) payment(s) will be made to BCA

☐ $________

Thank you.

We gratefully acknowledge contribution to the Wheel of Dharma by the following donors:

Northwest BWA $100
Placer BWA $100

Live A Life of Awakening 2006 BCA Theme

Official Publication of the Buddhist Churches of America
1710 Octavia Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
Tel.: (415) 776-5800
Fax: (415) 771-6293
www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org
Email: bcahq@pacbell.net

A monthly periodical with additional issues: postage paid at San Francisco, CA and at additional mailing offices. Subscription free to BCA members; $12.00 annual subscription for nonmembers. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to “Wheel of Dharma,” Buddhist Churches of America, 1710 Octavia Street, San Francisco CA 94109.

English Editor: Rev. Ron Kobata
Japanese Editor: Rev. Kodo Umemura
Proof Production: Jeffrey Kimoto
Hyobyakumon Aspiration  
Jodo Shinshu Center  
Dedication

Today, on this occasion of the Dedication of the new Jodo Shinshu Center here in Berkeley, California, the ministers, leaders, members, and guests of the BCA, have gathered amidst the great wisdom and compassion that is Amida. With deepest reverence and adoration for Amida, we endeavor to follow his teachings, and faithfully, we put our hands in gassho and recite the Nembutsu.

We are truly grateful for the many causes and conditions that have allowed us to celebrate this historic event. May the fragrance of the incense teach us of the purity of our intentions. May the beauty of the flowers offered remind us of the glory of the Dharma. And may Amida’s Eternal Light of Wisdom continue to shine upon our path towards sharing the teachings of the Buddha-Dharma with all peoples.

I, Shaku Koshin, a disciple of Shakyamuni Buddha, humbly express our deep feeling of gratitude and appreciation.

-Namo Amida Butsu

President’s Message  
Continued from Page 2

the BCA are separate yet touch each other at all times, like my okesa on top of the button. I wish every BCA member could have this same button. I will distribute them when I travel to temples until I run out. Then I will get some more. I think it would be wonderful for all of us to wear one occasionally or perhaps to keep it in the drawer next to their mon-to shikisho, as a reminder. As Buddhists, we certainly can appreciate the interdependence of individual and group efforts in all aspects of our lives. And specifically as Shin Buddhists, we can reflect deeply on how the efforts of others are always supporting us as individuals.

May Peace and Tranquility Prevail Throughout the World

Opening Dedication Comments

Tony Lewis, 9, Berkeley
“It’s really big and I like the indoors garden.”

Drina Fujishige, 15, Stockton
“I think it’s really nice and updated. It’ll come to good use. It would be nice to stay here a day to experience it.”

Myrtle Furukawa, Sacramento
“I think it’s wonderful…for our future generation.”

May and Teddy Saito, Stockton
“Very impressive building, really well-planned. I’m glad I came.”

Lon Tsukamoto, Elk Grove
“This is a real nice, state of the art center. It’s going to attract new ministers.”

Ruby Kato, Stockton
“I was very impressed…I can see a lot of work and effort went into this operation. I think it’ll be good for future generation to come. We’re just amazed and in awe.”

Aiko Kajiyama, San Francisco
“This is such a beautiful place…spacious, very impressive. So many cubicles for everybody’s studying. Everything is so computerized.”

Leslie Green, Spokane, Wash.
“A most impressive building. The work they’ve put into this is just beautiful…you get a feeling of warmth.”

May 21, 2006

Buddhist Churches of America  
JODO SHINSHU CENTER  
The 21st Century  
GRAND RAFFLE

First Prize  
$12,000

Second Prize  
$4,000

Third Prize  
$1,500

Fourth Prize  
$1,000

Fifth Prize  
$500

Drawing Saturday, March 10, 2007  
at the BCA National Council Meeting  
in Oakland, CA

A limited number of raffle tickets are now available for the BIG!

Your raffle ticket donation will support the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) in its continuing and refined efforts to bring the message of the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha, as well as to propagate the Jodo Shinshu faith. BCA serves the needs of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhists of America to stand united as a major religious tradition in the United States—will the opening of the new Jodo Shinshu Center

HURRY:
A limited number of raffle tickets are now available for the BIG!

BCA Need not be present to win —
A donation of $20.00 per ticket is requested.

(All raffle tickets must be purchased within the state of California.)
Hey, TAXI!!!!

Make the light of Truth be the lamp unto yourself.

By Rev. Dean Koyama
Mountain View Buddhist Temple

This past Labor Day weekend, through the generous donation of the Mountain View Buddhist Temple’s BWA, I was able to accompany 8 women to the 13th World Buddhist Women’s Federation Conference held in Honolulu, Hawaii. Now, don’t get excited. It was for a conference. We left on Friday morning and I returned with three other ladies on Monday morning, which left little time for fun and leisure.

In fact, the schedule was very tight. In order to accommodate the 4,000 conference delegates at the spacious Hawaii Convention Center, we had to eat breakfast at 6 AM, leave the hotel by 7:10 AM, arriving at the conference hall around 7:30. The conference didn’t start until 9 but the extra time was necessary to make sure all 4,000 people could get into the room. The conference hall was huge. I think at least three or four football fields could have fitted easily inside the one hall that we were using. So we had the conference on Saturday, all day and almost all night because we didn’t get back to the hotel until after 10:30 PM which was really 1:30 our time.

I enjoyed going to these conferences and seminars so that I can hear the Dharma. As a minister we are often asked to speak but rarely do we have the opportunity to listen to another speaker and hear the Dharma perhaps presented in another way or perspective. For this World BWA conference the keynote speaker was Dr. Rev. Ken Tanaka, who was a Dharma School and YBA product of the Mountain View Buddhist Temple.

Also, I enjoy going to these conferences and seminars to learn how others are living, understanding and appreciating the teachings of the Buddha and the Nembutsu. So, here at a conference of 4,000 people coming from Japan, South America, Canada, Hawaii, and the United States, you would think that my chance of getting energized by seeing and hearing how others appreciate the Dharma would be astronomical.

By no means am I criticizing the work and effort of the hosting Hawaii delegation. As a colleague of mine often says, “A conference that we are not hosting is a wonderful conference.” The altar set up for this world conference was spectacular with the transparent scroll of the o-myogu (Nama Amida Butsu in calligraphy) above the Wheel of Dharma chartographed to the changing background colors of green, purple, blue and red. We had a panel discussion of women from each of the five overseas districts to talk about what inspired them to become Buddhist practitioners.

Rev. Don Castro
Marries Shuri Saigusa

Rev. Don and SenSensei (Saigusa) Castro were married on Aug. 17 in an outdoor ceremony in Seattle, officiated by Socho Koshin Ogui.

Rev. Shin Receives Kalyiyosho Certification

Rev. Jeannette Yuenin Shin received her Kalyiyosho certificate and wagasa from Ogui Socho on Sept. 19 at the Bishop’s office.

JSC Dedication

Continued from Page 1

The Jodo Shinshu Center completed its new building on Saturday, Aug. 17. The open house event was opened with a short dedication, which honored the contributions of many people and organizations.

The dedication began with a short prayer, led by Rev. Shin, followed by a speech from the Bishop, Rev. Kodo Ohtani. The Bishop emphasized the importance of the new building and its role in the center’s mission.

After the dedication, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held, with the Bishop and other dignitaries cutting the ribbon. The newly named building was then officially opened to the public.

The building itself is designed to be a place of serenity and peace, with spacious rooms and ample natural light. It includes a new meeting hall, a library, and a meditation room.

In conclusion, the dedication ceremony marked a significant milestone for the Jodo Shinshu Center, and we look forward to seeing it continue to grow and thrive in the years to come.
Grace V. McLeod
Remembered

Grace was born to a pioneer family that settled on Fidalgo Island, Washington. She graduated in 1925 from St. Ann’s Academy. After attending Northeastern University, Seattle University, and the University of Washington, she then became a primary school teacher. In 1950, she was asked to establish a nursery in Sikkim, India, which was consecrated in 1985 and is still active today.

Grace was active in many groups and organizations including the Buddhist Churches of America, Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Church, Daughters of the Pioneers. She began writing articles and books in 1950, when Rev. Shokou Masunaga asked her to write an article for children. After several more stories, Grace was made editor and chair of the newly formed Research Committee at the Seattle Betsuin. For almost 40 years, she continued writing the Temple and her material was distributed worldwide to Buddhist Temples of various sects.

Grace taught the different levels of Dharma School and teachers-in-training. She taught and developed the course of study for the early Sangha Award classes developed for Buddhist Boy Scouts. She also developed the course of study for the Karuna Award that became a national award sanctioned by both the Buddhist Churches of America and the Campfire Girls Incorporated.

On May 11, 2002, the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple (sic) hosted the first annual Family Dharma Day and dedicated it to Grace V. McLeod.

Jodo Shinshu Center Family Day Report

By Ken Tanimoto

On Sunday, Oct. 22, the new Jodo Shinshu Center was bustling with over 550 Sangha members of all ages coming from all BCA Districts. The Family Day Service, sponsored by the Bay and Coast District Dharma School Teachers League, was in conjunction with the Jodo Shinshu Center Dedication weekend. This day charged with excitement and anticipation, started with service in the Kodo with Rev. Ron Kohata, executive assistant to the Bishop, Tad Shibata, Federation of Dharma School Teacher’s League president, and Gordon Bermant, BCA president, each giving a warm welcome to all participants. Service ended with an entertaining and insightful Dharma talk by Rev. David Matsumoto, resident minister at Berkeley Temple.

Accompanied by Dharma School guides, everyone then toured the three different levels of the Jodo Shinshu Center. After the tour, participants went to the Berkeley Temple for all age activities. There were Dharma School sing-a-longs with Dii Lewis, a book titled Buddhist Animal Wisdom Stories read by Mrs. Sadako Kashiwagi, an assembly of commemorative JSC memorabilia headed by Joline Furuya, making commemorative book markers designed by Maya Lawrence, and a slide show presentation produced by Karen Suyama.

Susan Bortari organized the roster as well as arranged bento lunches for a satisfying ending to a memorable day.

For those who attended, this fun filled Family Day Service will hold fond memories of an historical moment in BCA history.

WHERE WE ARE AND WHERE WE NEED TO BE:

THE STATUS OF THE CAMPAIGN AFTER THE OPENING OF THE JODO SHINSHU CENTER

Opening the Jodo Shinshu Center is a wonderful achievement for BCA. Everyone who visits the Center immediately senses that this is indeed a special place. Let us use the opening of the center as an occasion to re-dedicate ourselves to completing the challenge that we set when we began the Campaign.

THE REALITY IS NOW WE MUST COMPLETE THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE BCA IN THE 21ST CENTURY.

We must also meet the other Campaign goals:

• To support our ministers benefits
• Strengthen the ministerial training program and enhance outreach to our lay members and newcomers who seek the Dharma.
• To become more fiscally self-reliant.
• And through all of these, to allow Jodo Shinshu Buddhism to take its proper place as a major contributor to religious life in the United States

WE CAN ACCOMPLISH THESE GOALS!

To all who have done so much already, thank you. To all who will take us forward, thank you in advance. We are all in this together and through our combined efforts we can do it!

Campaign Chairpersons: Joyce Iwasaki and Steve Yamami

JSC Dedication and Celebration Planning Committee and the Family Day Service and Activities Planning Committee members:

Reverend Kodo Umezu
Ken Tanimoto
Michael Endo
Henry Shibata
Maya Lawrence
Joline Furuya

Reverend Ron Kobata
Lucy Hamai
Mimi Kagehiro
Victor Iwamura
Chizuko Kakuchi
Tom Nishikawa

Judy Kono
JoAnn Shibata
Lena Yir
Susan Bottari
Brian Nagata
Kent Matsuda
Roy Yamashita

(On Mrs. Grace McLeod)

By Masako Shimada Shibuya

What began as a project to benefit our Sunday School children, became a huge project for the Research Group. Grace, with Rev. Masunaga’s help and guidance, began writing stories for the Sunday School children. The publication was called “The Buddhist Reader.”

Before long the Buddhist Reader was recognized by the BCA. Churches not only on the West Coast but all throughout the United States, thirsting for materials in English for their Sunday School children, became subscribers to the Buddhist Reader. It started out as a monthly publication but eventually Grace was burdened with writing three different stories for three age groups.

It was a time of stress and pressure for Grace but she always came through. The deadlines were met each month and the Readers were mailed on time. It was a time of hard work but we all enjoyed it very much.

Note: Whenever any of us we went to Sacramento, we visited Rev. and Mrs. Masunaga.

They were always so happy to see us and they always talked about the wonderful memories they have working with the Research Group. In fact, being able to serve in Seattle is their most favorite and memorable experience.

WHERE WE ARE AND WHERE WE NEED TO BE:
The Jodo Shinshu Center Dedication and Celebration events held on Oct. 20-22 were a huge undertaking hosting nearly 1,000 people over the three-day celebration. The Buddhist Churches of America gratefully acknowledges the contributions and support of the following organizations and many, many BCA members.

If any names have been accidentally omitted at this time, we apologize in advance and will recognize them in the next issue.

The Jodo Shinshu Center Dedication and Celebration was held on October 20-22, 2006. The event was a joint effort of the Buddhist Churches of America, with support from various organizations and individuals. The event was a huge undertaking, with over 1,000 people attending over the three-day celebration.

The event was a celebration of the dedication and opening of the Jodo Shinshu Center, a new facility for the Buddhist Churches of America. The center is located in the San Francisco Bay Area and includes a temple, education center, and community space.

The event was attended by a diverse group of people, including Buddhist clergy, lay leaders, and community members. The program included a dedication ceremony, a temple opening ceremony, and a variety of cultural and educational activities.

The event was a significant milestone for the Buddhist Churches of America, as it marked the opening of a new facility and the expansion of their mission to serve the Buddhist community in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond.

The event was a success, with a large turnout of attendees, and it was widely covered in the media. The event was also a significant moment for the Buddhist Churches of America as they continued to grow and expand their influence in the Bay Area and beyond.
われも光の内にあり

サルニス仏教法会

開会の儀式 真言密教教法

信濃法光

摂取の心 常識 小町 碧崎賢明

月日

心悦天

摂取のひとき あきらけ 無明の月 曙えるるも まだりの月は

消えゆらって つぶに心動の 天舞

サルニス仏教法会

横断の仏教別解説

信濃法光

摂取の心 常識 小町 碧崎賢明

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