Socho Koshin Ogui reelected as Bishop

G ood morning and welcome to all the delegates, ministers, and friends to the 2008 BCA National Council Meeting. I wish to extend a very special welcome to our Dharma friends from the Hawaii Kyodan, Mr. Alton Miyamoto and Mr. Richard Taira. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge, with deepest appreciation, all of your generous contributions towards the BCA 21st Century Campaign. Your support has and continues to help create the foundation for so many wonderful BCA projects. Thank you very much.

And may I express my deepest appreciation to Dr. Gordon Bermant for his dedication and devotion for the past two years as President of the BCA. Dr. Bermant, you have certainly made history as the first HAKUJIN President of the BCA. Thank you for your leadership.

Now, let me share a few of my thoughts.

It is very easy to go back to things as they were. It is safe to keep things as they are. It is a challenge to try and move forward to make something happen. It is indeed uneasy to try new things out. But, for me, there’s no question that without that step, I would have never been able to be elected as Bishop.

Last fall the (Bishop’s) Joint Selection Committee nominated Socho Koshin Ogui for election to a second term as Bishop. The nomination was endorsed by the National Board of Directors and unanimously ratified by the delegates at the recently concluded 2008 National Council meeting. The following welcome message was given prior to his reelection.

Continued on Page 5
The Institute of Buddhist Studies held a commencement ceremony on Jan. 29 for Rev. Kurt Rye at the Jodo Shinshu Center. It was attended by Bishop Koshin Ogui, IBS faculty, staff and students, and a number of Rev. Rye’s family and friends.

Rev. Rye enrolled in the IBS Masters of Buddhist Studies program in 2004 as a ministerial candidate. He studied under Rev. David Matsumoto and wrote a thesis entitled, “Personal Transformation as Viewed in the Works of Shinran and Jung.”

After completing the degree program at the IBS, Rev. Rye went on to receive his Kyushu certification at the Nishiyama Betsumain training center in Kyoto last December.

Kurt Rye Graduates from IBS

IBS graduation, back row: Rev. Dr. Seigen Yamakoa, Dr. Richard Payne, Dr. Eisato Nasu, Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto, front row: Dr. Lisa Osawa, Dr. Matthew Nemoto, Yuki Mori, Terry Matsumura, Yakima, WA............................. $50
SACBC BWA .......................................................................... $100
Parlier BWA............................................................................  $100
Gardena BWA........................................................................  $100
Berkeley BWA ...................................................................... $00

*U.S. mainland deliveries only. Minimum $10 order. Some items not applicable.

Ask about the New Dharma Wheel Ring for Men/Women—18K & 14K Gold

Wheel of Dharma

A Strange Thing Happened at the 2008 BCA National Council Meeting

I came home from the BCA National Council Meeting at Portland with a strange feeling. I didn’t feel depressed weighed down by the dark weight of the BCA debt issue. Instead, I felt uplifted because the majority of the discussion was on the dynamic movement of the BCA / IBS programs. The weight of the JSC building was lessened as we spent time on discussions and reflection on the AABC / JSC campus.

By Seigen Yamakoa

Buddhist Church of Oakland

It was also reported the BCA Endowment Foundation is doing its utmost the help raise funds to support the various programs now functioning at the JSC. It was reported that the BCA EF has provided some $9 million dollars for programs while maintaining the principal through sound balances.

We were introduced to the ministerial assistants who received their “KyuShi” Certification. Yes, the building debt is still there, however. The feeling of the delegates seemed to be the moving toward taking responsibility for the ownership of the JSC, which is becoming known as the 21st Century Buddhism in America. A gentleman stood up and offered a challenge to the delegates. He gave his $600 Economic Stimulus Package dollars to the JSC and asked every member to join him. If we all did as he asked the building debt would be cleared.

There will be a lot of hard work ahead, but within the darkness that all of us imagine, I saw flicker of light at the end of the tunnel. It was a good feeling. We are on our way.
Another Buddhist Church:

Mr. and Mrs. Kazuo Michihara
Ms. Louise Mayemura
Gordon and Laurette Misaki
Takashi Inouye and Tokiye Inouye
Fresno Betsuin Buddhist Church
Dr. Daryl Doi

Fresno Betsuin

My Gift to Campaign BCA—The 21st Century

YES! I would like to pledge a total of:

$ ( ) $1,500, ( ) $3,000, ( ) $5,000*, ( ) $10,000,
□ $ ( ) $25,000, ( ) $50,000, ( ) $100,000,
□ $ ( ) $500,000, ( ) $1,000,000

□ $ ( ) other amount over a period of _ years to Campaign BCA—The 21st Century.

Check enclosed, made payable to Campaign BCA—The 21st Century.

City

Phone

Email

Address

State

Zip

Name

My Gift to Campaign BCA—The 21st Century...
I t has been about four months since I came back to live here in the United States. At the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, my work has been developing the International Ministerial Orientation Program and the Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course, both of which will start this September. It has been my pleasure to work on these projects, and, as Coordinator, I hope that as many people as possible will hear about them, take interest and join our programs. I would like to take this opportunity now to briefly describe them to you.

The International Ministerial Orientation Program is a training program held at the Jodo Shinshu Center for those who want to become Kaikyoshi ministers. The program consists of two courses: one is for Japanese candidates and the other is for English-speaking candidates. Our plan is to start with the Japanese candidates first, and then create another curriculum for English-speaking candidates in the future. The course for Japanese candidates places more emphasis on the development of language ability. Participation includes attending classes, observing from ministers' various duties, learning

"May the Buddha Dharma Spread"

Rev. Zuikei Taniguchi, Buddhist Temple of Alameda

Crossing Over

Continued from Page 3

My own feeling that the BCA possesses courage and character. This was an expression of gratitude that I think resonated with all of us there.

I can't close this report without recognizing the excellent job done by Rev. Umezu in acting as the general facilitator of this seminar and contributing much in the way of information about what has been going on in the BCA in the last few years, as well as the dynamic but always gracious work of Judy Kono, volunteer staff with the Center for Buddhist Education.

Please call Reverend Kodo Umezu at 510.809.1460 BY APRIL 30

WHEEL OF DHARMA  MARCH 2008

PAGE 4
President's Message

Continued from Front Page

questions come to mind: ‘Do you people know what we are doing? Do you know what I'm doing? I hope so!’

Now, a little more than five years later, the fact of events begun with that election has come to its natural conclusion. BCA has had its first President who is not from the traditional ethnic community. I am deeply happy that that person was me. Thank you very much.

The truth is, however, that this is just one and not the most important one, of the significant changes that BCA has experienced during the past four years. Let us review two of these major changes:

Beyond doubt the most important is the opening of the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley. It was not unexpected, really, to exaggerate the significance of the JSC for the propagation of the Shin Buddhism in America. When doors opened officially in October, 2006, it marked the first time ever that BCA has had under the JSC umbrella: our seminary, the Institute of Buddhist Studies, re- tension and the Center for Buddhist Education, could begin the work that is so profoundly important if we are to realize our dream of making Jodo Shinshu available to all speakers of English; Nembutsu is my religion and I truly feel, "Ah, yes! The dream of making Buddhist Studies, re-solution can be long or short. If you wonder how much we have done in the past. What we must present the Nembutsu propriety of the Ministers Assembly is the result of way of life, and listening to the con- mind to serving without pay, learning the ropes of ritual and other functions from their resident ministers. They also like to have a chance to get connected by sitting in the EMAP. How excellent this is! Please support the Ministers Assistant Program in every way that you can. The results of this program are a key to our successful future.

These momentous changes were only coinci-
dential related to me. In that he initiated our first President, I take no credit for either of them. But I have supported them strongly and will con- tinue to support them. Please join me in this great task. I look forward to working with you in different capacities as we aspire, "in our own humble way," to hear and speak the dharmic message to our friends and others to do the same. If we’re not doing that, what are we doing!

With best wishes to you all, in gasho,

Gordon Berman

Socho's Message

Continued from Front Page

now we have a chance to bring out the karaoke and Guitar Hero. We bonded and had fun, until exhausted, we finally fell asleep. To finish our weekend at the Summit off, we attended the Palo Alto BCA family service the next morning.

The fact that there was a "sum- mit" at all also awakened me to realize that without effort and awareness on the part of my genera-
dion of JYBAs, our organization runs the risk of losing momentum and growth. The YAC Summit was truly a great event. It got our minds thinking about ways to improve our respective JYBAs, as well as meet new people. Although I only spent a couple of days with the people I met at the Summit, I’ve already connect-
ed with them on a level unlike that of others who I have known for a long time. Before, I never would have imagined that religion could be a good way to meet new people. Through the Summit, in addition to being able to make new friends, I was able to learn more about Jr. YBA and my commitment to the organization.

Thank you very much.

FDSTL Conference
May 2, 3 and 4, 2008

Hosted by
Bay District Dharma School Teacher’s League

The Heart of Jodo Shinshu: Living the Triple “A” Life

Awareness

Authenticity

Appreciation

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. David Rye Matsumoto, Director, Institute for Buddhist Studies, President of Institute of Buddhist Studies

San Mateo Marriott Hotel, San Mateo, California

Bay Area, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda, Berkeley, Emeryville, Moraga, Oakland, Palo Alto, San Francisco, San Mateos, and the Alameda County
donate from tens to ten percent of their
unprotected funds to the BCA Center for
Buddhist Education located at the Jodo Shinshu Center. As of the end of January 2008, almost $54,000 had been donated.
Suzan Bottrari (San Mateo), Tom
Nishikawa (San Jose), and Seiko Tamura
(Oxnard) were elected as incoming BCA
Directors-at-Large for 2008-2010.

Glenn Kameda from the Ministerial
Affairs Committee presented a proposal
for a new benefit for retired ministers.
In adopting the proposal the National
Council agreed to provide a $25 monthly
supplemental medical insurance premium
subsidy for all retired ministers.

Ryo Munekata from the BCA Ar-
chives-Historic Preservation Committee
told the delegates that the five year
contract between the BCA and the
Japanese American National Museum
would expire in August 2009. The
Council voted to approve extending the
contract for another five year period with
a yearly payment of $25,000.

Judy Kono from the Ad Hoc Special Functions and Events Committee re-
ported BCA’s commemoration of Shinnran Shinonin 750th Memorial Anniversary, which began with temple observances, will continue with district observances in
2009-2010. BCA’s commemoration will
be held in conjunction with the 2010 National Council meeting which will be
hosted by the Coast District at the end of
February.

Rev. Kenshin Masuda from the BCA
Minister’s Assistant Committee reported
that fifty minister’s assistants from
approximately twenty temples have been
certified. The committee is also working
with the Youth Advocacy Committee in
developing a Youth Minister’s Assistant
program.

At the end of the first day of the
National Council Meeting, a special
“Socho’s Hour” took place where ten of
the eleven newly Kyoshin-certified min-
esters were introduced. Rev. Bomma Oshita informed the gathering
that most of the members of this group
have been involved in the program for
about seven years in qualifying to receive
their certification.

The second day of the National
Council Meeting began with a report from
the Institute of Buddhist Studies.
(IBS) by its Dean Dr. Richard Payne. The
IBS currently has eighteen students.
There are also 32 Graduate Theological
Union students enrolled. This fall, there
should be 60 on campus and 10 classes will
be offered. In August, “A Women in
American Buddhism” conference will be
sponsored by the IBS and the Tri-State/
Denver Buddhist Temple.

Rev. Kodo Umezu and Sumi Tanabe
outlined the numerous programs that are
planned by the Center for Buddhist
Education (CBE) for 2008. Mr. Kennon
Nakamura will be the new chair of the
governing board for the CBE.

Jodo Shinshu Center facility manager,
Glenn Kameda gave an inspiring presen-
tation about the JSC construction project
opening just a year and a half ago. He
recounted how impressed all the visitors
that have passed through have not only
with the facility, but about the programs
that have been developed at the JSC.

Charles Otsuki gave the Endowment
Foundation (EF) report. The funds held by
the EF made 3.90% over the past year.
Mr. Otsuki explained that many of the
funds held by the EF are restricted in use
or are endowments and cannot be applied
to the JSC debt.

Kent Matsuda, chair of the BCA
Campaign, reported that $2.3 million was
raised during 2007 for the Campaign. A
balloon payment of $4 million will come
due in March 2009. A Campaign work-
shop had been held the previous evening,
where temples with successful fund
raising discussed their efforts. At the end of
the Campaign report, Erick Ishii (Ekkoji)
challenged all Council attendees to
give the Campaign a check for $500.
This amount represents what some people
will save in a surprising way; that is, if
people can put aside $500 per month due to
the unfunded liability of about $500,000.

Rev. Marvin Harada from the Re-
search and Propagation Committee reported that the Committee is com-
pleting a book of sermons and essays by BCA
liability of about $500,000.

Reverend Tesshi Aoyama (Japanese), Placer
Buddhist Church, informed the gathering
about the JSC operations since its
opening last year. He outlined the numerous programs that are
planned for the JSC’s 2008-2009 fiscal
year. Rev. Harada reported that

Watsonville BWA Celebrates Centennial

May Peace and Tranquility Prevail Throughout the World

Center for Buddhist Education presents
NETWORKING & RECONNECTING
Generation Y Seminar for 21 – 35 year olds
Saturday, April 5, 2008
Jodo Shinshu Center

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: REVEREND KEN YAMADA
Berkeley Higashi Honganji Temple

FINANCIAL WORKSHOP: Koichi Mizushima

Much overlooked in our BCA system, once young adults graduate from
college they often go into temple life. If they do not become temple
ministers in the BCA, they are most likely the backbone of the temple,
working behind the scenes in whatever capacity they can. Often, the
most important periods of their lives. The CBE would like to provide
this seminar for Generation Y members throughout the BCA to gather
together in Berkeley for an opportunity to “network and reconnect” with
Buddhism.
The CBE has opened registration. For more information, please contact Rev. Kodo Umezu at (510) 689-1460 or by email at director@cbe-bca.org.
月の「法話」

母の涙

フーラ仏教会 ベーリ仏教会 井上直毅

「月の法話」

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「月の法話」

月の法話
楽しく学んでます

２００８年度教化標語
世の中安穏なれ
２００８年３月号

教育センターに役立てて下さい！

二月十五日から三月間サンファニオ宗教伝播センター
仏教会の宇都波里関関連教育と会員三十名（
写真左）が徳島県松山市訪問をし、その時
東田夫人が婦人会からの特別ギフトのチェックを
教育センターに寄付をされた。（写真上）

婦人会パワーワー

昨年の全米仏教婦人会大会で決議されたことの一つが、米国仏教団の教育センターを援助
しようということで決まった。それは、各チャプターが一般横額から毎年5〜10パーセン
トを三年間という期間付きで教育センターの運営のために寄付をするというものである。

この決議にもとづき、多くのチャプターがそれに賛同し協力をして今年の分として三十五万
ドルが集められセンターに寄贈された。なお、センターのサンテラスなど数チャプターはこ
れ以前にも特別に寄付を行ったところもあり、センターは、これらの寄付を使い、いろいろな
プログラムを行うことができる、婦人会パワーワーに感謝している。