26th World Jodo Shinshu Coordinating Council Report

By Rev. Ronald Kengu Kobata

For the past twenty-six years, the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha has been convening an annual meeting of representatives from four overseas districts to review programs and exchange ideas for international propagation. The meetings alternate between the Hongwanji Administration Building in Kyoto and an overseas district. This year’s meeting was hosted by the Buddhist Churches of America, and held at the Jodo Shinshu Center and BCA Headquarters. Socho Koshin Ogui served as chairperson.

The agenda included reports from the Hongwanji International Department, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (formerly Buddhist Churches of Canada), Sul-Americana Da Seita (Brazil), and Buddhist Churches of America. The BCA was represented by Socho Koshin Ogui, President Billy Saeki, Executive Secretary, Rev. Ronald Kobata, Center for Buddhist Education Director, Rev. Kodo Umezu, and Office of the Bishop Secretary, Michael Endo.

A major topic for discussion was the preparations for the commemoration of Shinran Shonin’s 750th Memorial Anniversary.

Continued on Page 6

Pacific Seminar

The Institute of Buddhist Studies and the Center for Buddhist Education present “Pacific Seminar 21st Century Honen & Shinran Pureland Masters Within Our Contemporary World”

By Rev. Ronald Kengu Kobata

26th World Jodo Shinshu Coordinating Council Report

President’s Message

By Billy H. Saeki

The Preservation of BCA History – The BCA Archives

Recently I had the opportunity to attend a meeting of the BCA Archives-Historic Preservation Committee held at the Japanese American National Museum (JANM). The meeting was led by committee chair Dr. Ryo Munekata, a former BCA president. BCA members attending were Seiko Tashuma, Yasuko Shohara, Sni Shohara, Bruce Hatakeyama, Eiko Matsuyama, Rev. Bill Briones, Rev. Mas Kodani, and Rev. George Matsuyahushi. Cris Paschild, Director of the Collection Management and Access, represented JANM. The discussions revolving around the BCA Archives were both lively and interesting.

As expressed by Cris Paschild, the objective of the archives is to preserve the history of the Buddhist Churches of America, not only through our collection at JANM but also through records kept at BCA temples. Temples and individuals are encouraged to send archival materials to JANM. In addition, JANM can provide guidance to temples with their own efforts to preserve their history at their temples.

The idea of establishing a BCA Archives came from the BCA Centennial History Project and was approved by the National Council in 1994. In 1999 the BCA Archives were transferred to the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, California.

Points made at the meeting include:
1. Cris Paschild continues her role as archivist for the BCA Archives. Her efforts for reconciliation of prior inventories and development of aids to accurately reflect all completed work are ongoing.
2. Yoko Shimoojo and Marlon Romero, Project Archivist and Archives Assistant, respectively, are funded through September 2010 by a generous grant from the National Historic Publications and Records Committee. They will begin processing sections of the BCA Archives in the near future.
3. BCA members Eiko Matsuyama and Mitsuo Tanaka continue as volunteers at JANM. They do basic processing and individual materials to JANM but also through records kept at BCA temples. Temples and individuals are encouraged to send archival materials to JANM. In addition, JANM can provide guidance to temples with their own efforts to preserve their history at their temples.

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Chubutsu Report

Greetings from Kyoto! This is the first in a series of periodic reports from Alan Sakamoto and Henry Adams, two Buddhist Churches of America ministerial candidates who enrolled at the Hongwajin seminary Chuo Bukkyo Gakuen in April. Since its founding in 1920, Chuo Bukkyo Gakuen has continued to grow and evolve to meet the needs of the Buddhist community through the generous support of Jodo Shinshu followers.

At present there are a total of 198 students enrolled at Chuo Bukkyo Gakuen, with 41 in the general Honka course and 57 in the advanced Kenkyoukou course. Each of these courses takes one year to complete and many students pursue a second year of study in the Kenkyoukou course after completing the Honka course. Students in the Honka course generally receive Tokudo ordination in September and Gokyosha ordination in March.

The Berkeley Zen Center presented a report from the Buddhist Council of Northern California. He noted that this year’s Vesak celebration marked the end of a 15-year hiatus for the organization. The main organizer of this Vesak Celebration, Venerable Madawala Seelawimba of IMS thanked everyone for attending the event. Bhante expressed his wish that Buddhists throughout Northern California will be able to meet annually to celebrate Vesak together from now on.

The Vesak ceremony was then brought to a close with a blessing provided by Theravada Monks from Sri Lanka, Thailand & Cambodia. Finally, ministers from the BCA led the chanting of the Kanbutsuge. Everyone had the opportunity to offer sweet tea to the Buddha before enjoying a multi-cultural Vesak reception.

The sponsors of the 2008 Buddha Day/Vesak celebration would like to thank everyone who took part in and supported this wonderful event. Particular thanks are offered to all of the monks, nuns, priests and followers of the participating Buddhist groups, Venerable Heng Sure for his Dharma message, Socho Koshin Ogui of the BCA, the members of the Berkeley Buddhist Temple and the Buddhist Women’s Association, the staff of the Jodo Shinshu Center and Center for Buddhist Education, and the staff, teachers, and faculty of the Institute of Buddhist Studies.

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

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corrections

The WOD staff strives to be as accurate as possible with the information provided. If we make a mistake, we’d like to correct it here—like in the May issue.

YAC report by Bruce Fong should have been credited to Laurel Saito from Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple.
Temple Leadership Seminar Held at JSC

Front row, from left to right: Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto, Socho, Rev. Kodo Umezu. Second row: Kaths Heckert (Walnut Grove), Roy Mayhugh (Walnut Grove), Kent Yoshikawa (Alameda), John Kin (SACBC), Reed Kuroda-tomoto (Watsonville), Joanne Gozawa (Palolo Alto), Stig Pederson (WLA). Third row: Steve Terusaki (Oakland), Rick Stambuhl (WLA), Rich Wolford (Elk), Althea Watanabe (Omard), Larry Gisselle (SACBC), Dorothy Okamoto (Alameda), Joan Masuya (Oakland), Ayako Masada (Venice), Tomoko Fukuda (Venice), Kazuko Murai.

My Gift to Campaign BCA—The 21st Century

My Gift to Campaign BCA—The 21st Century

My Gift to Campaign BCA—The 21st Century

My Gift to Campaign BCA—The 21st Century

My Gift to Campaign BCA—The 21st Century

Campaign BCA - The 21st Century would like to thank Southern District Council for hosting a benefit Golf tournament on May 23 at the Skyglinks Golf Course in Long Beach. Results, scores and pictures will be featured in July’s Wheel of Dharma.

The Campaign has received 216 checks for a total of $95,658 for the Tax Rebate Challenge.

This letter was received in the Campaign Office along with $24 in cash. It’s very touching to know that there are young Dharma School students who want to give selflessly to the Campaign.

By Dorothy Okamoto

Buddhist Church of Oakland

The '*.pdf' file is not available.

The next morning, Rev. Kodo Umezu gave the Dharma talk and jump started our morning. We met in the classroom next to the peaceful garden for more lively discussions. Rev. Umezu reviewed the BCA organization. Again, it was amazing what we have yet to learn. We got a different perspective on the minister’s salary and benefits from Glenn Kameda. Ken Tanimoto’s presentation was “Working with your minister.” Sample documents and examples of structured meetings to better the understanding between the minister and the Sangha were shared. Robert Noguchi gave a presentation on the current stage of the Campaign for the 21st Century. We then had the opportunity to conclude the weekend by offering our feedback. Part of the weekend was an exercise in team building and cooperation. We all took part in the preparation of our Southern Saturday night meal. Our meal was delicious and amazingly easy to prepare thanks to Judy Kono, Brian Nagata and Ken Tanimoto. June Masuya brought yummy home made tofu pies and Dorothy Okamoto made a couple pictures will be featured in July’s Wheel of Dharma.

Grande Raffle

First Prize $12,000

Second Prize $4,000

Third Prize $1,500

Fourth Prize $500

Fifth Prize $500

Drawing Saturday, February 28, 2009 at the BCA National Council Meeting in Irvine, California

By Dorothy Okamoto

Buddhist Temple of Alameda

The Seminar for Temple Leaders was held at the Jodo Shinshu Center March 29 and 30 with a special Friday evening meeting with Socho Ogai on the 28th. An inspiring tone was set for the weekend. Friday evening’s discussion with Socho Ogai on his dream to make Jodo Shinshu Buddhism a major religious tradition in America. Socho’s schedule was packed and he was not scheduled for the next day and yet he reappeared for Saturday’s morning service to gather the newly arrived members. He reminded us not to be afraid to make mistakes and that change is necessary in life. We were honored by his presence and we were in fact for something BIG.

The setting at the JSC was perfect for creative and constructive dialogue. The relaxed and warm environment made communication surprisingly easy. We were interested in each other. Everyone had something to say and everyone was heard.

Saturday’s Dharma talk with Rev. Matsumoto, was a great primer on Buddhism in a nutshell. Let us, our discussion included superstitions, the obutsudan and the different forms it can take, etiquette and questions we may have had been too embarrassed to ask in the past. We learned much more to learn.

Our next assignment was to look at the Spokane Temple model. Listening to Christine Marr and Gerry Stambuhl we were honed to the next level. We took away many of their practices to make a newcomer feel welcomed and to grow the Sangha.

The next session was titled “Creating a Thriving Sangha Together.” Ray Mayhugh from Walnut Grove facilitated or rather challenged us to grow the Sangha. Mrs. Dena Tatsunori gave the Dharma talk and to grow the Sangha.

Continued on Page 6
Kokoro to Kenko:
Healthy Mind and Heart
Keynote Address of Rev. Patricia Usuki

By Robert Moyer
Placer Buddhist Church

R everend Usuki began her keynote Dharma Address for our Northern California District Buddhist Conference by speaking of our angry, stressed, selfish contemporary society. As a minister serving the San Fernando Valley (Hongwanji) and the Buddhist Temple, Rev. Usuki gave the example of commuting on any of the L.A. area freeways where occasional shootings occur to show just how angry, stressed, and selfish people can be. There is certainly plenty of frustration, unhappiness and suffering (Dukkha) here in the U.S.A., the world’s wealthiest and most powerful nation. Just since the 1960’s, deaths due to murder, burglaries, robberies, violence, crowded prisons, and health problems have doubled, tripled and even quadrupled in some cases. Yes, there is plenty of suffering or “Dukkha” in our society. In our unhappiness, we try to fool ourselves into thinking that overeating, drinking, and drugs may straighten everything out. This doesn’t work. Neither do the 101 ways to avoid what we’re supposed to be doing work. Avoidance of pain and suffering is the same as avoidance of reality. Dukkha, suffering, is inevitable. It is part of life. Dukkha is natural. It is the way things are. It is our ego that has an aversion to anything that may threaten us or make us uncomfortable.

As Rev. Usuki so clearly expressed in recalling the first and second Noble Truths: Life is suffering, and the cause of suffering is greed, aversion (hatred), and delusion (ignorance). We want to have at least as much, if not more, than everybody else. We want the right partner, job, house, car, and so on. We all suffer from aversion and try to create an illusory world for ourselves. Our collective stress results in a “feel-good” industry. Seventy-six-billion dollars a year are spent on anti-depression drugs.

We must go through the consequences of our own actions. Like the evil prince in the Contemplation Sutra: the prince, who usurps the throne, imprisons and starves his father to death, and plans to kill his mother, but does not follow his wise advisor. The prince eventually suffers horribly in mental and physical anguish until he realizes that his plight was self-created, and that everybody suffers.

Rev. Usuki reminded us that we are surrounded by ultimate compassion. We cannot let greed, anger, and ignorance control us—even though we may not be able to eliminate it. Liberation comes with losing ego. We are one with life, and no one enters Nirvana until everybody does. There is no “I.”

Rev. Usuki gave an excellent example by referring to Professor Randy Pausch. Told he had just six months to live, Randy Pausch, at forty-seven, gave his “Last Lecture” in which he told his own children (and all of us) to live life now, to the fullest, to show gratitude, and to tell the truth.

In her conclusion, Rev. Usuki discussed Shinjin, a Japanese word for a concept not easily translated into a single English equivalent. Shinjin means Deep Mind, True Mind, and Mind of Aspiration. Deep Mind means that the problem is inside. True Mind is Sincere Mind. A mind that seeks to benefit others with true openness. Mind of Aspiration means Mind Awakening from Delusion. All beings suffer. We must be compassionate for all. Nothing gives greater happiness than giving happiness to others.

STANFORD HOSPITAL SPIRITUAL CARE GRADUATION

O n April 21, seven Buddhist trainees graduated from the Stanford Hospital Spiritual Care Graduate Program. Those trainees in attendance at the graduation were: Janice Styles (Palo Alto Buddhist Temple) and Loan Nguyen. Other Buddhist graduates who were not able to attend the graduation are: Janice Styles (Palo Alto Buddhist Temple), Ha Truong and DiHuyen Ho. Three of the graduates are bilingual Vietnamese/English.

The graduates received certificates signifying that they have successfully completed the Spiritual Care Volunteer Training Program at Stanford Hospital. Rev. Dr. William Masuda gave a heartfelt message and thanked the Loving Kindness Meditation. Don Gee announced the graduates.

The Stanford Spiritual Care Program began with ten women in the Auxiliary office (pink ladies) who would make the rounds in the hospital by giving patients blue cards and asking what faith they belonged to. The first chaplain arrived in February of 1974, and in August of the same year, Father John Hester came to Stanford. Father Hester is the Associate Director of the Stanford Spiritual Care Service, and Rev. C. Okino, executive director of the Informational Meditation Center.

The first group of Buddhist volunteers was initiated by Rev. Dr. William Masuda six years ago. The first group were volunteers from the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple and the San Jose Buddhist Church Betson.

Today this group is diverse—speaking various languages and are from different Buddhist sects. Twenty years ago volunteers from the San Jose Buddhist Temple began participating in the program. The advisor is Rev. Dr. Masuda with Ann Okamura as coordinator of scheduling.

Don Gee is the representative and coordinator of the Buddhist volunteers. By devoting time, energy, talents, and skills to Stanford, these volunteers help contribute to the well being of patients. And at the same time the volunteers find supporting Buddhist patients and family members rewarding and meaningful. They are truly practicing compassion in action.

walking on the white path

This photo shows that the Dharma School Momo-class students visiting the onaijin. From the left, Rev. Shoko Mutsumi (first-time minister); Irene Yamashiki, Dharma School teacher; Melissa Koga and Kristine Okino, teacher’s assistants.

“Where is the Buddha?” I asked one of the Momo class students (pre-school) of our Dharma School said, pointing to his small chest, “Right here.” They know the Buddha is always with them. Children are so smart, wonderful, and amazing! I always learn a lot from four-year-old students whenever I talk with them. They have energy, curiosity and limitless possibilities for their future life.

While wearing the fuku and wagasa and speaking with those young students, I had a déjà vu experience. It was a time from my past. Over forty years ago, I was also one of those Dharma school students sitting with my friends and listening to the sensei’s dharma talks. Did I know at that time that I would pursue the ministerial path? Not at all. So how did I take this path? Looking back, it seems to me that the mosaic pieces of my life came together, and every piece fits into a picture. The picture shows me a white path that I have been walking all my life. I did not find the path, nor did I create the path. Through many karmic conditions, this path naturally came to me. The Buddha’s Name, Namo Amida Butsu, gratefuly came to me and opened the Dharma door of the profound Jodo Shinshu teaching for me. It is really kafukai – I cannot describe it.

I am grateful to be serving the Orange County Buddhist Church (OCBC), as a part-time minister, while receiving teaching from the resident ministers. Under the resident ministers’ guidance and supervision, I participate in the Sunday family service, monthly memorial service, and annual special services. I have the opportunity to conduct Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu classes in both English and Japanese. A Japanese class about the Shoshinge started this April that I teach every Saturday morning. Conducting meditation services, giving Dharma talks, and working with Dharma school teachers, BWA ladies, and Jr. YBA, are also interesting areas that I enjoy. We have been reaching out in our community to introduce Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu to college students and high school classes. We are happy to see more people becoming interested in Buddhism, and visiting our temple to attend various Buddhist Education Center (BEC) classes.

I was born in Kyoto and graduated from Kyoto Women’s University, one of the Jodo Shinshu schools which are part of Nishi Hongwanji, Japan. In 2005, I completed the three-year ministerial correspondence course of Cho Bukkyo Gakuen, and I received Toboku (the first ordination) in May 2006. In December 2006, receiving Onaijin (the second ordination) in Kyoto, Japan with other BCA ministerial students. I am currently taking the IBS Master of Buddhist Studies Program and attending the MAP Quest seminars.

What a great joy it is for me to pursue the ministerial path of Jodo Shinshu! I sincerely appreciate the BCA for allowing me to serve, and the OCB, sanghas and Resident Ministers for their continued support and guidance.

Namo Amida Butsu
Rev. Shoko Mutsumi
First-time minister of Orange County Buddhist Church (OCBC)
Building A Buddhist Military Sangha

By Chaplain Jeanette Shin

Buddhism offers many time-tested responses, to everything from domestic issues and needs of fellow Buddhists to Buddhist military chaplains about resources and military and defense-related industries. • To help Sanghas support Buddhist military members and veterans. • To provide outreach to Buddhist combat veterans, deployed military personnel, and their families back home. • To represent the importance of religious diversity in today’s military population and by extension in American society. • To provide a helping hand would be not only for Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, but for Buddhists of every tradition, because that is what we have always been. • To foster relationships and ask what you can do for them. • To contact local veterans groups or service organization and ask what you can do. This will let everyone know that there ARE Buddhists in the military and that they understand our support. We may not agree on all issues relating to national defense, but we should recognize the need to support Buddhists who serve our country. If you would like to support this idea of a Buddhist Military Sangha, here are a few things you can do:

- Ask Buddhist veterans and military members to participate, volunteer their time and services and invite them to talk about their experiences.
- Find out who in your Sangha has a family member who is deployed or serving, and what you can do for them.
- Invite local Buddhist clergy to volunteer their time for Buddhists stationed overseas.

Many of you are already doing this! I have also started a blog for this endeavor. The Web address is: www.home.hawaii.rr.com/bsc

REGISTRATION FEE: $40 DEADLINE: July 11, 2008

BSC Summer Session 2008 Coping with Life and Death Buddhist Style with Dr. Carl Becker Professor of Religion and Ethics, Kyoto University Graduate School July 28 to Aug. 8, 2008

Dimitri Bakrhoushin and his parents arrived in New York City as political refugees from the Bolshevik revolution of Bolshevik Russia. The family spoke almost no English when they arrived, and they moved into a slum tenement in the South Bronx. The family was connected to the Russian Orthodox Church as it continued as a church in exile in Europe and the United States. For a number of reasons, young Dimitri could not find a comfortable home within the Russian Orthodox Church, but he absorbed lessons of compassion and devotion that he learned from his parents, including an appreciation of Christian parables, the parable of the prodigal son in particular (Luke 15:11-32). Through parental encouragement and independent study, Dimitri read through the New Testament, in an English edition he could comprehend, beginning at age 13. His inquiring, rational mind led him to question Biblical accounts of the life of Jesus and the miracles he worked. It was essential for him to accept the Bible as a history of miracles although he remained skeptical of thesample content as the embodiment of compassion. A college course introduced Dimitri to Theravada Buddhism, opening his mind to a different form of religious encounter. This teaching appealed to him in many ways, yet he felt something was lacking there, what he called the “glare and salvation” he had once felt at the core of Christian teaching. With these discomforts in place, Dimitri was drafted and sent to Vietnam as a soldier in the ranks. In Vietnam, in the midst of chaos, he saw usefulness among some of the Vietnamese people, while his continued Bible readings and moral challenges as a fighting man eroded his Christian faith even further. Then, during an “R” and “R” leave in Japan, Dimitri returned to the New York Buddhist Church. That was more than 30 years ago. From that time forward Dimitri has been a faithful member of that church and a leader of lay Buddhist activities throughout the city, including service as the President of the Buddhist Council of New York. He concludes his memoir with this heartfelt statement: “Just be open to the possibility that there may be a Law of Compassion in the universe, that a genuine altruistic act is possible: through the power of the Original Vow of Amida Buddha that compassion will come to you!”

How wonderful that America is a nation of immigrants from all shores! Let us turn without exception toward everyone who would cross to yet another shore.

Buddhism offers many time-tested responses, to everything from domestic issues and needs of fellow Buddhists to Buddhist military chaplains about resources and military and defense-related industries. • To help Sanghas support Buddhist military members and veterans. • To provide outreach to Buddhist combat veterans, deployed military personnel, and their families back home. • To represent the importance of religious diversity in today’s military population and by extension in American society. • To provide a helping hand would be not only for Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, but for Buddhists of every tradition, because that is what we have always been. • To foster relationships and ask what you can do for them. • To contact local veterans groups or service organization and ask what you can do. This will let everyone know that there ARE Buddhists in the military and that they understand our support. We may not agree on all issues relating to national defense, but we should recognize the need to support Buddhists who serve our country. If you would like to support this idea of a Buddhist Military Sangha, here are a few things you can do:

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Continued on Page 6
These were the theme and sub-theme for the recent Cal YABA conference held May 17 at the Jodo Shinshu Center. Given our name tags were designed to look like Jodo Bridge license plates to match the theme.

Reverend Harry Bridge of the Lodi Buddhist Church served as our guest speaker. Rev. Bridge helped put things in perspective by explaining ideas and concepts pertaining to basic Buddhism versus those belonging to Jodo Shinshu.

I feel that everyone who attended this conference had an enjoyable and productive weekend. Special thanks to Mr. Glenn Kameda who helped to make our stay at the Jodo Shinshu Center flawless and to Rev. Bridge who dedicated time to putting together workshops so interesting.

Our conference next year will also be at the Jodo Shinshu Center on May 16, 2009. Hope to see you there!

Gasho

World Council Report

Continued from Front Page

niversary in 2011. The Rev. Sumi Kiribayashi, supervisor of the Hongwanji International Center, announced that the World Federation of Buddhist Women’s Association Convention will be held in Kyoto on May 17-18. A series of 750th special programs will be conducted at the Hongwanji from May 9-16. Delegations from overseas districts are invited to attend May 9-16. Delegations from overseas districts are invited to meet the overseas districts are invited to attend.

The first BCA Youth Advocacy Committee’s (YAC) Advisor’s Summit was held on March 23 at the Jodo Shinshu Center. The first part of the summit provided an opportunity for Jr. YBA advisors to engage in a group discussion with Youth Minister’s Assistants (YMAs), while the second part of the summit allowed the Jr. YBA advisors from different districts to discuss the challenges of their temple.

The YMAs are collegiate students who have a great desire to learn about Buddhism. The YAC provides many opportunities for the YMAs to learn about Buddhism as a group and become independent and responsible individuals by organizing their own activities. Most were Jr. YBA officers at their temple, and some were even officers in their district. As with most youth, the YMAs were very open and honest in discussing their thoughts and experiences which was refreshing for the advisors to hear. The YMAs said positive temple experiences were a major reason for them to want to regularly attend dharma services and be active in temple and Jr. YBA activities.

Parent support is very important to the students’ continued temple involvement, and Jr. YBA advisors and other adults need to be positive with the youth encouraging them to try new activities. The advisors should provide guidance to the Jr. YBA officers in organizing activities, but the Jr. YBA officers and students should be allowed to try new ideas and learn from their experiences. Then the students can develop up and improve their leadership skills.

Most Jr. YBA students look forward to their temple friendships and would not attend service just for the religious teaching on its own. However, the YMAs said they did learn many of the dharma teachings while in the Jr. YBA and now those teachings influence their everyday college life.

During the second half of the summit, Jr. YBA advisors discussed the difficulties and success at their temples to provide a cross feed of information. It was consoling to hear that many temples experience similar challenges with keeping the students involved in temple activities. High school is a difficult and busy time for Jr. YBA students both inside and outside the temple, and many students stop coming to the temple at this age. Jr. YBA student numbers also naturally cycle up and down, making it hard to maintain and grow a program.

It was encouraging to hear that Jr. YBA students at many temples have expressed an interest in meeting students outside of their own district. The Jr. YBA advisors were able to clarify the issue about having activities outside of district boundaries. A waiver to district by-laws would be required to sponsor any activity involving members outside of their own district.

Many thanks to YAC members Richard Odagawa, Susan Bottari, and Keith Sawada for organizing the summit and providing an opportunity to learn from and meet YMAs and Jr. YBA advisors.

The YAC guidance has resulted in a new BCA Youth Advocacy Program and responsible group of YMAs who will no doubt someday be leaders of their temples and influence the direction of the BCA.

Leadership Seminar

Continued from Page 3

mouth puckering lemon pies. Clean up was noisy and gregarious. We then retired to the reception room upstairs for informal after dinner discussions. The lucky ones who stayed just had to go a few steps to their rooms.

We then attended a special Kudo Umezoe, Judy Kono, Brian Nagata and Ken Tanimoto for making this weekend possible. We got to know Rev. Umezoe for not only being our constant resource for knowledge, he was also our source of energy and delight. The conversation continues and we hope to meet again, compare notes, and open the opportunity for others to develop and grow. We left knowing each other, not knowing what we would each do for a living, but we knew we were Dharma friends on the path to make Socho Ogus’s dream, our dream.

With much appreciation and gratitude,
John Arai, Tomoko Fuku-
ma, Dorothy Okamoto, Steve Tanaka, Renee Akiyama, Judy Kono, Brian "Dorothy" Masuda, John Arai, Tomoko Fuku-
ma, Dorothy Okamoto, Steve Tanaka, Renee Akiyama.
特別寄稿
職業生活と仏教精神

青山 徹之

仏教学者中村元氏の『職業生活と仏教精神』という書籍は、現代人の生活を深く考察し、仏教の教えを生活の場に適用するための指針を提供しています。特に、現代人の快適な生活を送るために、仏教の精神が応用されることが挙げられています。

本書は、仏教の教えを現代社会の生活に応用するための実践的なガイドラインを提供しています。現代社会の生活においても、仏教の教えが応用されることによって、心の平和と満足感を得られることが示されています。

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2008年度教化標語
世の中安穏なれ
2008年 6月号

開教使アシスタント

二期生、三期生集まる

教使センターは多くの役割を担っているが、人材育成、指導者養成ということがセンターの目的である。関係する多くの教化者やセンターや彼らがこれからもずっと活動を続けていかれるように、絶えず教育プログラムを続けている。四月二十七日から三十一日には、その二期生、三期生の教化者養成教育の講習会が開催されている。

イヨイヨ活動開始

英語通信教育 国際伝道講座

長年にわたり続けている英語通信教育と国際伝道講座がこの九月から始まる。米国仏教教会は本願寺と協力して、衆生真宗センターを拠点として、親鸞聖人七百五十回大暗号記念事業の一環として、上ののプログラムを始める。これをするのは、新しいセンターに派遣されてきた桜原信行開教使である。

通信教育は二年のプログラムで、一般仏教と衆生真宗をコンピュータを使って体系的に学習できるシステムで、誰でも受講できる。通年受講を可能にし、短時間でも学べるよう。

そして国際伝道講座は開教使養成目的の四ヶ月のプログラムで、日本からの希望者を対象として、アメリカでの実践活動や語学研修などが、その内容となっている。