At the beginning of the year, I would like to send you my greetings from Hon-gwanji, Kyoto. May we all live our lives cherishing everyday and reflect that all lives, including my own, are illuminated and embraced by the light and compassion of Amida Tathagata.

The restoration of the Hongwanji Founder’s Hall will soon be completed. In the midst of the cold in January 1999, following the completion of Rennyo Shonin’s 500th Memorial Services, the ground-breaking ceremony was conducted. In June of the same year, the image of Shinran Shonin was moved from the Founder’s Hall to the Hall of Amida Buddha. For the ten years since that time, the restoration work has been carried out without any serious problems thanks to your generous donations, public subsidy, and the efforts of many professionals.

Historians describe Shinran Shonin as having lived in temporary lodgings throughout his life because he had never built a temple. They may be correct. The Hongwanji’s Founder’s Hall was not built because of a request made by Shinran Shonin. Rather, the structure was erected by the many people who highly regard him. I have no doubt that they made great efforts to express their respect and adoration for him. Constructed in an era when there was no electricity, they used their ingenuity to make the best use of natural light and sound. The main entrance to the hall is on the east side because the Pure Land is believed to be in the west and it is a custom for members to hold Buddhist services facing west. However, it is really impressive to have the sunlight shining into the Hall during the morning service at Hongwanji. Moreover, a treasure of Hongwanji is seeing and hearing Jodo Shinshu Buddhists from throughout the country who have gathered in the Founder’s Hall, chanting Shoshinge with all their heart.

In the Founder’s Hall, I can feel the joy and sadness of those who have paid homage there for 370 years. You can visit the hall with your friends and family on an occasion of a Buddhist service, or you can visit alone and quietly engage in a dialogue with Master Shinran. Either way is appropriate when visiting Hongwanji.

It may not be easy for overseas district members to visit the Hon-gwanji in Kyoto, but I hope that you will be able to come to Honzan when you have a chance to visit Japan. Also, I sincerely hope that you would have Shinran Shonin and Hongwanji in your mind while you chant Shoshinge in front of the Buddhist altar at your home or in front of the image of Amida Buddha at your local temple.

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the many, many members and friends of the BCA who have supported and generously contributed to our fundraising campaign, Campaign BCA – The 21st Century. To our BCA President, Dr. Billy Saeki, to the members of the BCA National Board, and to the leaders of our districts and member temples and churches, I extend to you all my deepest gratitude for your work and dedication to the BCA. This past year was truly one in which I was able to see, firsthand, the ministers and lay leaders of the BCA working together to move our organization forward in a positive direction. Our small circle of the Dharma is definitely growing into a large circle.

As I reflect upon this past year, there are many things that I was led to think about. If I had to identify one of those most important things, I would have to say that it has to do with each one of our BCA members.

Continued on Page 5

This past year proved to be most meaningful and significant: Travelling throughout the BCA, from New York to San Diego to Seattle, I worked to address the concerns and demands of our 8 districts, our 60 churches and temples, and our 58 current and 27 retired BCA Kaikyoshi ministers.

Continued on Page 6
BCA National Board Meeting Report

By Dr. Kent Matsuda

E xcitement is building for the BCA-spon- 
sored Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Ob- 
serverance. BCA members and friends are 
encouraged to participate in the commemoration February 25 to March 1, 2009. The event will be held in conjunction with the BCA Min- 
isters and National Council meetings.

Keynote speaker will be "Ocean" book author Rev. Dr. Kenneth Tanaka of Musashino University in Tokyo. Rev. Tanaka, a product of the BCA, was a graduate of the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) in Irvine. He has been an active leader in the Buddhist academic and intellectual world. Tanaka is the featured speaker at the World FWBA Convention in Hawaii in 2008.

On Sunday, February 28, BCA members and their fam- 
ilies are invited to participate in a unique memorial service observance. The 750th committee, led by co-chairmen Judy Kono and Rev. Ron Kobata, are busy planning all aspects of the event which includes a keynote address, banquet speakers, and banquet speakers. The event is open to the public.

The Hongwanji in Kyoto has selected "Yononaka An-non nare" or "May Peace and Tranquility Prevail Throughout the World" as its theme. The theme for the BCA’s Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Observance is "Peace and Tranquility." The commemoration’s first activity will be a Silent Auction fundraiser that will be held next month at the Hyatt Regency in Irvine, Ca-
lif. The auction will be held on Saturday, February 28, in con-
junction with the BCA Na-
tional Council meeting.

Last month, all district and temple presidents re- 
ceived a flyer announcing the Silent Auction, and to order tickets. The committee en- 
courages temples to partici- 
pate by submitting a dona-
tion.

The proposed budget. After a lengthy discussion, the Na- 

tional Board approved the budget that will be present- 
ed to the National Council for ratification. The pro- 

The funeral service for Rev. Miura was probably a once-in-a-lifetime experiences for all of us. There were so many attendees, who drove, flew and some by chartered buses that we had to use our detached social hall to accommodate the overflow. There were about forty ministers in attendance for the BCA co-sponsored service. It is only fitting that I take this time to express our sincere appreciation to all the ministers and friends who gave the Miura family and our congregation the material and mor-
al support when it was most needed. Arigatou! Please except our humble and sincere appreciation.

A word of "Thanks" also to Rev. Charles Hasegawa for his very sincere and personal article in the October issue of the Wheel of Dharma. We appreciated his thoughtful message. Arigatou, Sen- sei.

Thank you again everyone, and please accept this belated expression of appreciation for your spiritual and physical support during the Miura family’s and our congregation’s great time of need. Yes, Rev. Miura’s position will be filled by another very capable reverend, but the Rev. Miura we know as a man and a genuine leader will never be truly re-
placed. Do have a happy and successful 2009.

With Gassho,

With Sadness

Rev. Hiroshi Abiko, 

Buddhist Churches of America

Tel.: (415) 776-5600
Fax: (415) 771-6293
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Associate Editor: Ingrid M. Ikeda

Print Production: Jeffrey Kimoto

Wheel of Dharma

Beginning Saturday, Feb. 1, auction items can be pre-
viewed on the BCA website www.buddhistchurches-
america.org. Click on the

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

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Continued on Page 6

Continued on Page 6
**Campaign BCA News**

Thank you for your wonderful response to the year-end brochure. At press time, the campaign office had received over 150 gifts and pledges totaling over $80,000!

Many thanks to all those who sent in gifts and pledges during the month of December, including Buddhist Church of San Francisco (In Honor of Rev. Giko Abiko’s 100th Birthday). At press time, we have exceeded $51,500 received this month.

Also, please continue to sell BCA Grante Raffle tickets to support the Jodo Shinshu Center. Tickets are $20 each, with a booklet of 10 for $200. Please respond. Tickets are $20 each, with a booklet of 10 for $200. Please respond. Year-End statements for calendar year 2008 will be mailed out prior to January 31, 2009.

Have a Happy New Year!

In Gassho,
Robert Nagouchi
BCA Campaign Manager
(510) 809-1453
robert@bcacampaign.org

Campaign Office
Jodo Shinshu Center
2140 Durant Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94704-1589

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**Buddhist Churches of America
JODO SHINSHU CENTER**

**The 21st Century GRAND RAFFLE**

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

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**Baby Boomer Gathering**

By Robert Nagouchi
Buddhist Church of Oakland

As an active BCA member over 25 years ago, I decided to join the 2nd Annual Baby Boomers’ Seminar – Wellness on Nov. 1, held at the Jodo Shinshu Center – sponsored by the BCA Center for Buddhist Education (CBE).

It was a cold and rainy day in Berkeley, but the JSC was bursting with warmth and enthusiasm as over 40 of us (from all over California) gathered in the Kodo for the opening session. We were also fortunate that Socho Ougi joined us and delivered a short message. The keynote speaker was Rev. Ken Yamada of Berkeley (Higashi), and Rev. Kodo Umezu, director of the CBE.

The afternoon session was focused on wellness, with workshops led by Rev. Dean Koyama (spiritual director), Dean Matsuda (Men’s Health), Dr. Junko Nakagawa (Women’s Health) and Allan Hikoyoda (Financial/Legal).

An open panel discussion with Ministers captured the day’s activities, with intriguing questions asked of Revs. Umezu, Himaka, Yamada and Koyama.

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**“Amazing Grace!”**

En-chanting Ojo Rai San at JSC

“Thanksgiving Service”

By Julie Yumi Hatta, CBE staff

In Nov., some of us who work in and around the Jodo Shinshu Center experienced the seemingly spontaneous evolution of a uniquely Buddhist expression of Thanksgiving that could only have occurred here at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley.

This observation was made by Glenn Kameda, the JSC facilities manager, and longtime BCA member and Jodo Shinshu Center mentor to me. It occurred to me that the thought of the pumpkins, carved for Halloween, were for Thanksgiving.

Amused but dismayed, Judy, a retired school teacher, energetically planned a traditional Thanksgiving potluck at the JSC, so the IMOP ministers could properly experience the flavors of this American holiday.

How this group of nine ministers and ministerial students came to practice and prepare for the performance of the Ojo Rai San was also fortuitous, as recounted by Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki, an IMOP participant. When Paul Vielle, a Minister’s Assistant for the Spokane Buddhist Temple, and part-time IRS student this fall, asked Rev. Kusunoki to teach him the Ojo Rai San.

Since Rev. Kusunoki has a Hon-gwanji certificate in Buddhist liturgy, he was particularly qualified to teach Ojo Rai San and all of its ceremonial complexities.

So, along with Paul Vielle, all the IMOP ministers and IRS ministerial students could properly learn and practicing Ojo Rai San on a weekly basis, as a unique learning opportunity at the JSC.

Paul Vielle had to return to Spokane in early November, not knowing what he had helped to set in motion, not participating in the actual public sharing of the chant. And yet, his curiosity and passion for learning about the less-travelled Jodo Shinshu traditions have contributed to a new level of awareness among those of us at the JSC community who were able to enjoy Ojo Rai San on Nov. 21.

Stepping back for even more perspective, this occasion allows us to more fully appreciate and enjoy the extensive foundation – the conditions which had to be in place for this event to have occurred: including Socho Ougi’s initiation of the Ministerial Assistant Program (MAP) that Paul Vielle is pursuing, the history of the Institute for Buddhist Studies and the Nishi Hon-wanji-minors training programs.

More recently, we can look to the landmark opening of the Jodo Shinshu Center in October 2006; and the launching of BCA Center for Buddhist Education programs which facilitates collaboration among all the above-mentioned projects including the inaugural IMOP program this year.

On Nov. 21, the 800-year-old Ojo Rai San sutra was shared as a Thanksgiving offering at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, USA. Quite simply, “Amazing!”

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**Donate by Credit Card**

[Please visit the website for more information.]

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**Campus Ministry**

For more information, please contact your temple’s Campus Ministry, your local minister, or BCA Campaign Manager Robert Nagouchi at the Jodo Shinshu Center (510) 809-1453, or e-mail info@bcacampaign.org.

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**Wheel of Dharma**

JANUARY 2009

PAGE 3
GOSHKI HOON-KO MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Venerable Master Shinran’s 747th Memorial Service

The Venerable Master Shinran passed on to the Pure Land during the year 1263 after a full life of 90 years. Accordingly, this will be the 746th year since his passing. Many things have happened during that long period – both people and places have changed almost beyond recognition – but the one thing that has remained constant is the love and affection for the Venerable Master and the teaching of the Nembutsu that he left behind.

The day of the Venerable Master’s passing – January 16, according to our Western calendar, and 28th of 11th lunat month, according to the traditional Japanese way of dating – is when followers of his teaching gather to recall our indebtedness to him. As you all know, this service is referred to as the Gosho Hoon-ko, and is one of the most important services in our Jodo-Shinshu tradition.

The day of the Venerable Master’s passing is remem- bered with a service on the 16th of every month, but the service on the day of the month during which he passed away is considered especially important, and is referred to as Shisshoku which means “month of passing.” This year is when the 746th Gosho Hoon-ko Service will be held. The day of passing is considered to be the first Memorial Day, so the memorial service after a year has passed is considered the second memorial service. Confused? Sorry.

An historic Gosho Hoon-ko Service commemorating the 750th year since the Venerable Master Shinran’s passing will be held during the years 2011-2012. This will be a months-long celebration starting during April of 2011 and culminating during January of 2012. “Followers follow the same Dharma path” (undo sho endojo) from all prefectures of Japan will participate, of course, but so will those from all over the world.

How vividly I recall the preparations for the 700th Gosho Hoon-ko ceremony held at the Honjyoun Ohtani Honhoji in Kyoto during the year 1959, exactly 50 years ago. I was then a senior at Ryoikou University and was blessed with an opportunity to participate in a “practice” ceremony as one of the Roko-dohei (six disci- ples of the Shukumuni Buddha). This term does not exactly coincide with the function that I performed, which was to carry in the implements that the Gosho Shinshu Spiritual Leader used as part of the ceremony. I per- formed this function for a week, which allowed me to observe the ceremony intimately from within the Onai- ji. As I indicated, it was an occasion that I will never forget.

The formal 700th Gosho Hoon-ko was held in Kyoto a year later with great success. My deepest desire then was to live long enough to attend the 796th Service com- memorating the Venerable Master’s passing, and this desire has not changed in the slightest. Half a century has passed since then, and now – two years from now – the 750th service will be held. How time flies! *********

I left Japan during July 1960 to become an overseas Jodo-Shinshu minister. I was first assigned to be a minister in the Honpa Hongkajun Mission of Hawaii, and then transferred to the Buddhist Churches of America during August of 1970. Accordingly, during Jan- uary of this year, I will have completed forty-eight years and seven months of being allowed to serve as an overseas minister.

I have now passed the age of kokai, 70 years of age filled with gratitude for the kindness and help you have given to me and my family. I am unable to express how grateful I am on concluding my services as a Jodo- Shinshu minister this coming January 31st.

My only thoughts now are about how fortunate my family and I have been to be allowed to live within the Nembutsu, guided by the spiritual leader of our Jodo-Shinshu Sangha, and by all of you devout “followers of the same Dharma path.” I can only place the hands of my own hands under the same Gosho Hoon-ko.

This year’s Gosho Hoon-ko Memorial Service at Los Angeles Betsuin Buddhist temple is the last in which I will participate as an active minister in the Buddhist Churches of America. This occasion only deepens my gratitude for having been lead along the way by all of you, and I can only reflect on the joy of always being in the warm embrace of Amida’s Primal Vow and gratitude to the Venerable Master Shinran for making me aware of it. I hope all of you “followers follow the same Dharma path” join me in celebrating this Gosho Hoon-ko.

The reason that the service held during the month of “passing” of the founder of our Jodo-Shinshu teaching.

Continued on Page 6

BCA Social Welfare Annual Report

By Calvin Doh, chairman, Palier Buddhism Church

The year 2008 marks the 27th year that the BCA Social Welfare Fund has been in operation. More than $1.45 million dollars have been disbursed to worthy recipients. Be- cause of your generous do- nations to the Annual Thanksgiving Offering, the BCA has been able to help people all around the World.

Dec. 1, 2007 - The BCA National Board approved a $15,000 grant for the Re-Building Lives project in Sri Lanka. An area devast- ated by the 2005 Southeast Asian Tsunami. The BCA has received a thank you, photos, and the required yearly report.

Dec. 1, 2007 - The BCA National Board approved a $10,000 grant to UNICEF to help the children in the country of Sudan, the Dar- fur area. The grant money was used for education. School to these children is the only thing that resem- bles normal life. The BCA has received a thank you, photos, and the required yearly report.

June 6, 2008 - The BCA National Board approved a grant of $7500 to pur- chase 4 electric beds and mattress for the Asian Community Nursing Home in Sacramento, Cali- fornia.

Dec. 6, 2008 - The BCA National Board approved a grant of $20,000 to the Poverello House. The Pover- ello House in Fresno, Calif. applied for $25,000 to help feed the poor and homeless. The House pre- pares nearly 450,000 meals in Fresno every year and also services (food, fruits, vegetables) for the physical and mental status of the recipients.

Any non-profit organi- zation whose chief aim is to reduce or eliminate the suf- fering of people who are deprived of basic human needs is qualified to receive contributions for a grant. Please take advantage of this service, contact the BCA for more information.

In times like this when the economic environment is extreme, the suffering of those in need is greatly magnified. Please donate what you feel is appro- priate. Thank you for your support.

In Gauho

BACA Bookstore

For all your church and personal Shin Buddhist needs.

Book Review

As we begin a new year, here are a couple of books to guide and inspire you in your daily life.

365 Buddha – daily meditations by Jeff Schmidt. A collection of brief quotations for every day of the year from Bud- dhist writings by Nagarjuna, Dogen, Sardriema, the Dhammapada, Thich Nhat Hanh, and many others that will bring a thought provoking focus to your daily life. “What people expect to happen is always different from what actu- ally happens. From this comes great disappointment; this is the way the world works.” Sutta Niputta

Daily Wisdom – 365 Buddha Inspirations by Josh Bar- tok. A valuable companion for your daily life, this book provides simple, yet powerful teachings for every day of the year. Words of wisdom from Tom Sawyer, The Scarlet Letter, The Da- mned, Aya Kharma, and others help you to encounter each day mindfully. “Just imagine if we all lived with no compassion, thinking only of our own comfort. Life would be a lot easier on us, but it would be worse for others, the happier you are.” His Holiness the Dalai Lama

May all beings be happy and well in 2009!

Bookstore hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays and Saturdays. Visit us online at www.bookstoresonline.com or call us at 550-890-1406.

Dec. 6, 2008 - The BCA National Board approved a grant of $5,000 for Project Dana. Project Dana is a national food program on wheels sponsored by the Fresno Betsuin Bud- dhist Temple.

Project Dana is not only meals, the delivery personnel check on the physical and mental status of the recipients.

Any non-profit organi- zation whose chief aim is to reduce or eliminate the suf- fering of people who are deprived of basic human needs is qualified to receive contributions for a grant. Please take advantage of this service, contact the BCA for more information.

In times like this when the economic environment is extreme, the suffering of those in need is greatly magnified. Please donate what you feel is appro- priate. Thank you for your support.

In Gauho
Beyond National Boundaries

By Elaine Donlin
Buddhist Church of San Francisco

I have to admit, that prior to my first visit to Japan, I knew very little about the Nishi Hongwanji, the head temple of our Jodo Shinshu tradition, was very weak. But I had an intellectual und- erstanding about the important role of the Hongwanji and the role of our Gomonzu. I really didn’t have a deep, emotional appreciation for it until I had the good fortune to attend the Hongwanji’s 3rd Overseas Representative Seminar (Nov. 15-23, 2008).

The seminar was a jam-packed three days of tours, services, lectures, and, of course, great food. The 15 of us (six Koyashi Ministers and nine lay participants) were amazed and delighted to tour a Hongmon Temple complex, which is famous not only for its important religious traditions, but also for its historical architectural and artistic national treasures. We also visited historic sites important to Jodo Shinshu including: the temple at Hino no Tanjoji (Shirin’s birthplace), Suminobu temple (former site of Zenko-in, where Shinran spent his last days teaching and death), Daini Hombutsu (mausoleum where Shinran’s remains are interred and where all Jodo Shinshu death certificates are stored—even BCA’s), and Choso Bukkyo Gakuen (a Hongwanji monks’ training seminary).

Three dynamic and insightful classroom lectures were given by Professors: Kenneth Tanaka (on Dharmaraksa’s Sacred Stories), Hosai Inagak (on Dharma in the Garden) and Dr. Yoshikazu Narita (on “Deep Prayer in Jodo Shinshu”).

What I really appreciated most, and which left a lasting impression on me, was attending daily 6:30 am morning services andd a short talk to protect us from the piercing winter chill, we sat on tatami mats in the Amidado and chanted together Shoshinge, Jodo Wasans, and Amida Kyo. I was moved at the way the BCA’s (especially Rev. Ron Kobata) for their guid- ance and assistance.

I wish everyone the opportunity to visit our mother temple at some point in his or her life. The Hongwanji is the keepers of our precious rituals and teachings, as well as, the purveyor of some institutionalized tradi- tions. Here in the USA, we have the unique opportuni- ty to present and promote Shinran’s teachings, minus the intentional removals, all the while preserving the meaningful rites and rituals of our rich tradition.

Nanadora Batsu

Echos of Impersonance

By Kimi Yonemura Hisatsune

Heke Monogatari, the 13th century historical novel that relate the fierce struggles for power and position, opens with the melancholy statement, “The temple bell [of Gion-cho] echoes the impersonance of all things. . . . The colors of the flow- ers testify to the truth that those who flourish must decay. Before long the mighty are cast down, and they are as dust for a moment.”

The temple, identified in the original but not in George Sansom’s well-known translation, is the Jatanava Mon-astery of Shrivastava, India, that was established at the time of Shakyamuni Buddha, and in the Impersonance Hall at the north- west corner of this compound, sick Buddhist monks had dwelt and contemplated the impersona- tion of life.

After a series of battles that lasted for nearly three decades, the powerful Heike, or the Taira clan, was defeated by the Minamotono clan, under Yorimoto in 1185. At Kamakura, Yorimoto established a new capital at the Shogun, that was to continue for almost seven centuries under various shoguns, ending with the Tokugawa in 1868, when Em-peror Meiji was restored to his hereditary position.

Jodo Shinshu began to flourish during the turbulent Kamakura period of 13th century Japan with the rise of the military class and the decline of the patrician society. The conflicts caused widespread disorder and distress throughout Japan. The old reli- gious institutions were more in- tently on acquiring wealth and power rather than spreading the Buddha’s teaching. The ordinary people could not receive any Buddhist spiritual guidance or comfort from the great established sects, such as the Tendai and Shingon. In these, monks and temples were busy training their priests and other members of their vast estates to fight the con- testing religious groups or the military forces of the Bakufu. Shintan Shonin (1173-1265) observed the miseries caused not only by the conflicts but by the natural disasters of earthquakes and storms, and by the famine and pestilence that followed. To alleviate the suffering in the midst of these various calamities, Shin- ran explained the concept of Amida Buddha. His teachings were not new, but the idea that all people, not just monks, could readily believe in the horrifying reality of Amida Buddha. In this way, the BCA (especially Rev. Ron Kobata) for their guid- ance and assistance.

I wish everyone the opportunity to visit our mother temple at some point in his or her life. The Hongwanji is the keepers of our precious rituals and teachings, minus the intentional removals, all the while preserving the meaningful rites and rituals of our rich tradition.

Nanadora Batsu
Understanding of Amida Buddha’s Primordial Vow and the Venerable Master’s teaching about it was eagerly absorbed by those within Japan, of course, but it has now reached the United States and spread throughout the world. It is now talked about in Buddhist circles and their activities that continue without interruption even now.

Amida Buddha’s Limitless Wisdom and Limitless Compassion called forth the Prajna (Wisdom) of Buddha (Agyo), and the Nembutsu of “Nama Amida Butsu.” Its “merit transference” is what gives us “immeasurable life” (myogyo) and also the “merit transference” of “miraculous birth” in the Pure Land (goun) to guide those who leave behind.

And it is this Nembutsu that allows us to positively abstract all right and duty from our lives. That’s because in the Nembutsu we live in “a limitless life” in which we commune with those in this world and also with those who have already left this world.

Furthermore, our individual Great Virtues is so great that we are absolutely unable to repay it, regardless of how much we express thankfulness. Or rather, the more we express it, the more we realize how deeply we are indebted to Amida Buddha. The same is true of our indebtedness to the Venerable Master and succeeding spiritual masters for teaching us that sacred activity.

As the Venerable Master Shinran wrote:

Our indebtedness to Amida’s Great Compassion Must be repaid through our bodies and ground to prayer.

We as members of the Buddhist Churches of America share in this vision; we can take bold steps in that direction. We will follow in the footsteps of Shinran Shonin to firmly establish the Nembutsu in America.

May we be guided by the light of Amida’s great wisdom and compassion.

Meeting Update

Continued from Page 2

of Dharma School Teachers’ Leagues.

Kazu Matuda, chair of the Campaign BCA, informed the National Board that over $1.3 million have been raised this year in unrestricted funds by the BCA. The JSC has been designated as the commemorative project for the BCA’s Shinshin 750th Memorial Observance. The Campaign Committee would like to see the entire debt on the JSC paid off by the end of 2011, when the Hongwanji in Japan observes Shinran Shonin’s 750th Memorial.

Mick Kubota and Harry Bergland of the ad hoc Committee of the JSC, JSC, informing the National Board that a new 25-year mortgage should be in place before the end of 2008 to handle the $4 million balloon payment that is due in March, 2009. The ad hoc committee would like to know if any temple transfers funds to California Bank and Trust so that we can demonstrate BCA’s willingness to reciprocate for the bank’s assistance with the loan payments.

Nancy Okada’s ad hoc committee looked into the Bay District Min- istry Foundation. She reported that the Ministry Foundation has a proposal for hiring a development director for the BCA. The ad hoc committee felt that hiring a development director would put an undue burden on the organization at this time. The original Bay District pro-

posal was taken off the table from the previous National Board meeting and was defeated.

Under the guidance of Sei Sho- han, chair of the BCA National Board Committee, the National Board discussed the Bay District’s proposal to increase the pool of eligible candidates for BCA Board of Director position. The BCA Evaluation Planning and Committee also presented their position on this issue. After an extended discussion, the proposal was defeated.

Ron Murakami of the Ministeri- al Affairs Committee informed the Board of his report that the supplemental health insurance premium subsidy for eligible retired BCA members and spouses will be reduced $30 per month for fiscal year 2009- 2010.

Calvin Doi, chair of the BCA Social Welfare Fund, announced that the Board had voted on a measure to transfer Community Food Bank in Fresno, and the Project Dana Program based at the Fresno Betsuin were selected as recipients of money from the fund. The National Board voted to ratify the committee’s decision to donate $50,000 total to these organizations.

Kent Matsuda, chair of the JSC’s Education and Planning Committee (EPC) informed the National Board that the committee was working on reducing the size of the annual EPC Report.

At the 2009 National Council meeting, the attendees will have two publications: one will contain the agenda with action items and the other will contain reports. Some doc- uments that were usually contained in the Annual Report will be trans- ferred to the BCA Guidebook. At the next BCA National Board meeting, the EPC’s new format for discussing action items was used.

Victor Iwamura of the BCA Com- mittee on Scouting reported to the National Board that the 2009 Nebutsu Camporee sponsored by the Southern District will be at Camp Morn- ingstar from July 31 to Aug. 2, 2009.

Judy Kono announced that there will be a silent auction at the 2009 National Council Meeting in Irvine to raise money for underwriting the BCA’s Shinshin Shonin 750th Memorial Observance.

At the Irvine meeting, the BBS will put on a symposium on “The Buddhist Understanding of Shim Shin Buddhist Music Throughout the Ages,” a dance and concert on Saturday evening, Feb. 28, 2009, at Irvine Valley College.

Glenn Umeda, the BCA attor- ney, advised the National Board that the BCA, its member organizations, and the temples should consider trademarking their name to protect their intellectual property and pre- vent other organizations from using the same name. Mr. Umeda presented that the first registered BCA-related trademark. Mr. Umeda stated that it would cost about $1,000 to register a name and logo, but the trademark would help ensure that the BCA name was not used by others.

The 750th Memorial Update

Continued from Front Page

and hope that enthusiasm will be widespread. Updates will be published regularly in the Wheel of Dharma.

For more information regarding the Silent Auction and next year’s commemoration, contact Judy Kono (510) 841-8119 or email judy.kono@jodo-shinshu.us.

Socho’s Message

Continued from Front Page

of our founder, Shinshin Shonin.

As we repay our debt of gratitude and express our feeling of appreciation to Shinshin Shonin for the many sacrifices he made, let us ask ourselves what it means to repay a debt for the better- ment of our organization and ourselves.

I wish you all the best of health.

Ginsho, Kenso Ogu, Socho Bishop Buddhist Churches of America

President’s Message

Continued from Front Page

Now entered the Twenty-First Century, and only a few Iosei remain. The younger generations are blessed with higher educa- tion and a comfortable economic status, are more aware of and actively in- volved in the complex socio- political and environmental state of America. A teaching that requires one simply to sit quietly and listen to Amida’s call no longer resonates. The young people want to exercise their rights and freedom as citizens in a democratic society to create a better world. The membership of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) is gradual- ly declining. The bell of Shinra-cho continues to echo the impermanence of all life, and the tradition of a pious teaching of Shinran Shonin that was suitable for the uneducated, superstitious people living under vi- olent, oppressive conditions of Kamakura Japan, or for the early immigrants from Japan, struggling to sur- vive under harsh condi- tions in a strange land.

In life, however, im- permanence signifies changes, not the end of things. The de- caying organism interacts with its environment and continues in a transformed state as new life. Thus, the Jodo Shinshu can adapt its traditional teachings to the changing conditions and challenges of the global community. The teachings and practices in the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) is gradual- ly declining. The bell of Gion-cho continues to echo the impermanence of all life, and the tradition of a pious teaching of Shinran Shonin that was suitable for the uneducated, superstitious people living under vi- olent, oppressive conditions of Kamakura Japan, or for the early immigrants from Japan, struggling to sur- vive under harsh condi- tions in a strange land.
何を教えてくれるのでしょうか

仏教は、私たちが世に付いた生き方をするように導いてくれます。そしてすべてのものの間が競い合う中で生きているということを教えてくれます。仏教の見方を受け入れることで、もっと楽に生きることができ、人間として人生を全うさせてくれます。言い換えれば、自分自身をそのまま受け取り、いつまでも変わる事のない自己を味わうことができます。このような生き方は方向転換、瞬時に起こることもありませんし、少しずつ起こるこれから。

もっと詳しく

どの宗教も仏教であるかぎり二つの教義を掲げています。一つは、すべてのものには常に変化するということを意味する「諸行無常」です。二つ目は、すべてのものには変化するものではないということを意味する「諸法非我」です。そして、二つ目は、真実に目覚めて覚えることが、本当に安らぎをもたらすであると説く「涅槃・仏法」です。

覚することは誰もできない。ほとんどの宗教が五千年間、すべての動物には仏性があると言っています。人、所、ものが、出来事がすべて変わるながらあります。ある宗ではこれを「相即即断」と言います。鈴木俊隆老師はこれを、「一つの中性のすべてが含まれて、離すことができないものとなっている」と言いました。

（今ある仏教の99パーセント以上）の各宗派はこういった心情を浸透させます。それは次のような願いであれます。

衆生無別誓願（限りない衆生を誓って涅槃に度したい）
頭陀無誓願願（数えきれない頭陀を誓って断いたい）
法門無誓願願（限りない仏教を誓って学びたい）
仏道無誓願願（ここにない仏道を誓って成し遂げたい）
新 年 の 挨 拶

総長の職について五回目の新年を迎えます。

米国仏教団八教区、六十ヶ寺の仏教会、五十地の仏教団、二十七人の引退本部の教職員が、百二十七人の引退本部の教職員により、二期目の年を迎えること願います。

B.C.A.教団 基金集事を行うぞとして
頭を重ね、ご寄付を頂いた皆さまには心から感謝いたします。

ご協力ありがとうございました

年 頭 の 辞

年頭の辞を頂戴しました

米国仏教団 総長 小 杭 好 信

ご協力ありがとうございました

2009年度教化標語

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