Shinran Shonin
750th Memorial Observation planning update

By Ralph Honda
750th Publicity Committee

It is being considered an event of a lifetime.
Generations of Jodo Shinshu Buddhists from the youngest toddler to the young at heart are encouraged to participate in a most memorable occasion.

In less than 11 months the Buddhist Churches of America will commemorate the 750th memorial of the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, Shinran Shonin. Anniversaries of such importance are observed by the Hongwanji in Kyoto once every 50 years. The BCA looks forward to all of its temples and many Jodo Shinshu Buddhists to embrace the commemoration.

“This will probably be the last significant anniversary for our generation,” Rev. Ron Kobata, resident minister of the San Francisco Buddhist Church said.

Peace and Tranquility is the theme for the remembrance that will be held Feb. 27 and 28, at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose, Calif. The event will be held in conjunction with the BCA National Council meeting being hosted by the Coast District Council.

“BCA’s commemoration is being observed to acknowledge and reaffirm Shinran’s presentation of the Dharma, who developed our particular school of Buddhism,” Rev. Kobata added.

In addition, the Jodo Shinshu Center, located in Berkeley, will take center stage as the BCA commemorative project for the observance.

The observance will take place 14 months ahead of the Hongwanji’s commemoration which will run from April 2011 through January 2012.

Mr. Pieper Toyama, Head of School of the Buddhist Churches of America gather to address business issues at the Ministers’ Association and National Council meetings.

As related by Dr. Kent Masuda’s article in last month’s issue of the Wheel of Dharma, this year’s meetings took place in Irvine, California from February 25 to March 1. The BCA Southern District hosted the week’s events; and the members of the Orange County Buddhist Church led the detail planning and execution under the leadership of past OCBC president Mr. Steve Ishii. I extend my heartfelt appreciation for their hard work; their efforts allowed BCA to have efficient meetings in pleasant surroundings. The meetings were attended by approximately 200 ministers, lay delegates and boosters. Nearly 300 attended the Saturday night banquet and the Benefit Dance & Concert.

The BCA Bylaws delineate the powers, composition and duties/responsibilities of the National Council. The temporal activities, business, and affairs of the Buddhist Churches of America are managed by or are under the direction of the National Council. Major changes in policy and operating procedures are the responsibility of the National Council. The voting delegates to the National Council are two (2) lay delegates from each BCA temple/church, BCA resident Kaikyoshi ministers, and one lay representative from the Federation of Buddhist Women’s Associations, Federation of Dharma School Teachers’ League, National Young Buddhist Association (Western Young Buddhist League), Western Adult Buddhist League, and the California Young Adult Buddhist Association.

The BCA president presides over the meeting and the vice chair is the president-elect. Voting procedures are outlined in the bylaws. Majority vote is binding except that the bylaws may be changed only by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. The meeting is conducted in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order. And voting by proxy is permitted.

At the beginning of the year, proposed amendments to the BCA bylaws were mailed to the temples for distribution and review, well in advance of the 40-day requirement. This mailing was followed by the distribution of the BCA Annual Report to the delegates to the National Council for their review prior to arriving in Irvine for the meetings. The BCA Annual Report includes reports from Socho Koshin Ogui, BCA President Billy Sasaki, Executive Assistant to the Bishop Rev.

In the morning study session Dr. Eisho Nasu of the IBS led the BCA ministers in the study of Shantao’s Hymns of Birth in the Pure Land (Oda Raiser). An important figure in Chinese Buddhism, Shantao was named one of the seven Pure Land Masters by Shisan Shonin. The chanting of his Hymn at six times of the day represented the main Pure Land Bud- dhist liturgical practice in Japan for many years. The Hymn highlighted important Pure Land doctrine and practices, such as praise, repentance, merit transference and aspiration for birth in the Pure Land. In many ways, Shantao’s Hymn formed the doctrinal and practical foundation for Shin Buddhist liturgy and rituals, as well as its musical expressions.

Rev. Masao Kodani of the Senshin Buddhist Temple spoke on “Horaku: the history and development of Bud- dhist music.” Meaning “Dharma joy, music or entertainment,” Horaku was traditionally performed after religious rituals. Gagaku is the oldest documented music in the world, performed perhaps as early as the 4th Century BCE. Still played today, gagaku represents the perfect Buddhist music in that each instrument is heard in its own way and in its own time, thereby forming a harmonious whole.

Dr. Scott Mitchell of the IBS described the “Historical development of American Shinshu gathas.” From the Hongwanji’s Western-style music in the late 19th Century, through the Buddhist hymns of Paul Carus and Rev. and Mrs. Hunt of the Hawaii Mission, to later BCA gatha projects that sought to develop new Buddhist gathas, this was a rich and colorful history. And, it involved not only a complex interplay of influence between America and Japan, but also highlighted the important role that women have played in American Shin Buddhism.

Rev. Harry Bridge of the Buddhist Church of Oakland began his discussion of “Nonrepresentational Buddhist music” by asking, “What would make an instrumental piece of music Buddhist music?” Is it because the composer or the title of the piece is Buddhist? Must the music express some Buddhist concept, such as emptiness or interdependence? Must traditional Buddhist instruments be used or even mimicked? Rev. Bridge then introduced some of his own composi- tions.

The IBS hopes that this sympo- sium will help to bring about a great- er understanding of and appreciation for Shin Buddhist music. The four af- ternoon presentations will soon be available for viewing on the IBS web- site: www.shin-ibs.edu.

Try this for a day

Rev. Masao Kodani
Senshin Buddhist Temple

From the time you get up in the morning until you go to bed at night, avoid any kind of exposure to music of any kind. If you listen to the radio while driving, do not listen to any music. Do not watch any tv, do not look at anything other than the written word on your computer or e-mail. Do not sing, do not hum, do not even if you have beaten our rhythms with your fingers, do not pause to lis- ten to birds singing, do not sit near fountains, water- falls, or wind chimes. Do not dwell on flowers, deco- rative plants, clothing display- ads, or even music featuring nontraditional sounds and genres.

Mr. Peter Hata of California State University, Los Angeles spoke on the impact that “Buddhist Youths Bands” can have upon the appreciation of the Dharma. The history, music and in- fluence of the Loto Band and the Bo- dhi Tree Band of the West Covina Buddhist Temple were introduced in order to show the way in which music can bring about self-examination and learning within the Dharma. The Lo- tus Band, under Mr. Hata’s direction, would perform two pieces at the closing, musical Eiitsuko service on Sunday, March 1.

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2009 Spring Students

The Institute of Buddhist Studies’ 2009 spring se- mester has started with an enrollment of 48 students. Of the total 25 are IBS students. In the fall semester there were a total of 60 students taking courses.

Dr. Richard Payne, IBS Dean, stated that in the past few years the enrollment has steadily increased due to the new IBS location within the Jodo Shinshu Center. The campus atmosphere has greatly enhanced the visi- bility of the IBS to the academic and religious commu- nities.

Of the 25 IBS students 13 are ministerial students in the MA track, three are auditing with record, three in the Chaplaincy program, three are general students, two are from other traditions, and three are exchange stu- dents from Ryukoku University.

Graduate Theological Union students come from the following schools. Six from the GTU Doctoral track, one from the American Baptist Seminary of the West, one from the Center for Buddhist Studies of the Pacific, three from the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, one from the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, six from the Pacific School of Religion, and live from the Startt Kind School for the Ministry. These are all graduate students who are studying to be minis- ters, teachers, or church supporters of their traditions.

Dr. Payne, IBS Dean and GTU Core Doctoral Facul- ty, teaches all PhD students.

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

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gold in the sun light. They are lined with trews, jew- elike, of seven colors. There are broad lakes with birds singing and lotus flowers of many colors, each one mag- nificent to behold in their own color. A soft breeze blows, causing silver bells hanging from golden nets to ring. It is a land of dif- ferences but no conflict. It is beautiful in its simplicity. It is not for anything, it sim- ply is.

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Try this for a day

Rev. Masao Kodani
Senshin Buddhist Temple

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Assistant Sought

Thank you for your support of the Campaign. As of 2/28/2009, we’ve raised over $15.7 million – over half-way to our goal of $30 million!

For more information, please contact your local representative, your temple minister, or the Campaign Office at 510-809-1453.

Employment Announcement: Campaign Office Job Description

Description: Responsible for administratively supporting the activities of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA). Campaign. This is a part-time job (20 hours/week) and a non-exempt position. Office location is in the Jodo Shinshu Center, 2140 Durant Avenue in Berkeley.

Duties and Responsibilities: Arranges Campaign-related programs, meetings, events or visits by arranging facilities, issuing information or invitations and coordinating speakers. Assists in day-to-day writing, editing and Campaign literature and correspondence. Processes donations and maintains donor records as well as other targeted databases. Answers incoming calls to the Campaign Office. Maintains adequate levels of office supplies and office equipment, and office technology. Participates in an agency-wide effort to discover, engage and retain volunteer participants in the interpretation of Campaign materials. Arranges Campaign-related programs and events. Office location is in the Jodo Shinshu Center, 2140 Durant Ave. Berkeley, CA 94704-1589

Of the $578 gifts received in the month of December 2008, 444 were repeat donors. That means almost 77% of the gifts were from people who had already given to the Campaign, and decided to give again! We thank you so much for your continued support!

By Georzha, Robert Noguchi BCA Fundraising Manager

BCA Center for Buddhist Education 2009 Program & Events Calendar

(April 23, 2009 – Please note changes.)

Visit www.bca-bce.org, call (510) 809-1460 or email: director@bca-bce.org for more information.

Continued on Page 6

MAY 12-14: MINISTER’S CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINAR (MICE) (A) Continuing education sessions for BCA ministers.

MAY 16: INSPIRED BY SHINRAN SHONIN! Monthly Appreciation Gathering (Go Meinichi) (E) Note new date. See 4/16.

MAY 16-18: CENTER FOR BUDHIST EDUCATION GATHERING (Go Meinichi) (E) Note new date. See 4/16.

MAY 16: INSPIRED BY SHINRAN SHONIN! Monthly Appreciation Gathering (Go Meinichi) (E) Note new date. See 4/16.

MAY 12-14: MINISTER’S CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINAR (MICE) (A) Continuing education sessions for BCA ministers.

MAY 21: GOTO – LADIES BAKED GOODS (E) Membership appreciation event.

MAY 21-24: BCA CENTER FOR BUDHIST EDUCATION MA FORUM: CROSSING OVER TO BUDDHISM (D) (Author, Grasped By the Buddha’s Vow) Presented by the Institute of Buddhist Studies and BCA CBE. Explore the significance of the “Larger Sutra of the Buddha of Immeasurable Life,” as well as the teachings and their relevance today, in 21st century America. The monthly “Inspired by Shinran Shonin!” Dharma-thon (Go Meinichi) will take place on the 1st of each month, from 12-12:45 pm at the JSC. Dharma talks, chanting, films and cultural presentations. Discussion until 1:30 pm. Donation: $10.

MAY 21-24: MAP PROGRAM “WAVE” PROGRAMS (E) Note new date. See 4/16.


MAY 22: 6TH ANNUAL BCA CENTER FOR BUDHIST EDUCATION MA FORUM: CROSSING OVER TO BUDDHISM (D) (Author, Grasped By the Buddha’s Vow) Presented by the Institute of Buddhist Studies and BCA CBE. Explore the significance of the “Larger Sutra of the Buddha of Immeasurable Life,” as well as the teachings and their relevance today, in 21st century America. The monthly “Inspired by Shinran Shonin!” Dharma-thon (Go Meinichi) will take place on the 1st of each month, from 12-12:45 pm at the JSC. Dharma talks, chanting, films and cultural presentations. Discussion until 1:30 pm. Donation: $10.

MAY 23: 6TH ANNUAL FEDERATION OF DHARMA EDUCATION PROGRAMS (FED) (D) Registration: $175 General, $125 BCA Members. Deadline May 1.

MAY 24: 6TH ANNUAL FEDERATION OF DHARMA EDUCATION PROGRAMS (FED) (D) Registration: $175 General, $125 BCA Members. Deadline May 1.

MAY 24-25: TOKUDOU PREPARATION SESSION (A) April 24: BOOK RELEASE & READING: NEW! Author Clark Strand talks about his book, How to Believe in God (Whitaker As You Believe in God or Not (Doubladay, March 50)) 1200 B Street. Free admission. Registration $30. BCA Members. $40. Non Members. $100

MAY 25: 9TH ANNUAL FEDERATION OF DHARMA EDUCATION PROGRAMS (FED) (D) Registration: $175 General, $125 BCA Members. Deadline May 1.

MAY 25-26: 28TH PASCAL SEMINAR 21ST CENTURY! “Shinran and His Teachings” (E) (Author, Grasped By the Buddha’s Vow) Presented by the Insti- tute of Buddhist Studies and BCA CBE. Explore the significance of the “Larger Sutra of the Buddha of Immeasurable Life,” as well as the teachings and their relevance today, in 21st century America. The monthly “Inspired by Shinran Shonin!” Dharma-thon (Go Meinichi) will take place on the 1st of each month, from 12-12:45 pm at the JSC. Dharma talks, chanting, films and cultural presentations. Discussion until 1:30 pm. Donation: $10.

MAY 30: BUDDHIST CONVOCATION (E) (Author, Grasped By the Buddha’s Vow) Presented by the Institute of Buddhist Studies and BCA CBE. Explore the significance of the “Larger Sutra of the Buddha of Immeasurable Life,” as well as the teachings and their relevance today, in 21st century America. The monthly “Inspired by Shinran Shonin!” Dharma-thon (Go Meinichi) will take place on the 1st of each month, from 12-12:45 pm at the JSC. Dharma talks, chanting, films and cultural presentations. Discussion until 1:30 pm. Donation: $10.

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“Kindness to All Living Things”

Remember the Golden Chain Kindness to all living things I will follow this teaching I gatho to Amida

(Rev. Kenryo Tsuchiya)

“Gatho to Amida”

By Rev. Jeanette Shin

O ne of my favorite readings during the American Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Association’s interfaith roundtable facilitated the discussion of the “Golden Chain.” It was perhaps primarily written for the Dharma School kids to learn and recite, but everyone, including the adults, participated in reading it aloud during the Sunday service. In part the “Golden Chain” states: “I will be kind and gentle to all living things and protect all those weaker than myself.”

The “Golden Chain” isn’t a direct quotation from any of the Pure Land sutras, or even from any of Shinran Shonin’s writings, but the idea of “kindness” is a renowned Buddhist virtue; the Dalai Lama addresses this theme when he says, “My religion is kindness.” Of course, kindness isn’t limited to Buddhists. We should all try to demonstrate kindness, whether we are little children or adults, or active Buddhist temple members or not.

Realistically, we cannot do this in actuality. Maybe the “Golden Chain” even sounds a little simplistic and childish to others. However, as Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, we are incapable of practicing the ideal kindness — for example, Span musubi is surely nasty although high in sodium. Therefore, we can only aim for an approximation of what genuine-all-the-time kindness is, and that makes the “Golden Chain” suitable for reading in Shinshu temples.

Currently, I have two lay partners in Jodo Shinshu ministry to help me in understanding this teaching of “Kindness to all living things,” their names are Critter and Riceball. They are “fuzzies,” more scientifically known as manul furo, or more commonly as the domesticated ferret. Some of you reading this also may have them in person, or have met Abu, Critter’s predecessor, before.

By Ernie Kyed

Photos taken by Mark Minaga

The Temples in Salt Lake City and Ogden Utah were well represented by the combined children of their Dharma Schools in an Interfaith Concert held on Feb. 8, in the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, Utah. The concert led by the Salt Lake Minister’s Assistant Carmella Hirano, sang “Artigo” and recited The Golden Chain in front of approximately 3,000 people from all faiths. The concert, themed “Many Faiths, One Family,” celebrated the commonality between all schools and understanding of other faiths. Among many of the highlights of the event was a song performed by Jewish and Muslim children together on one stage in perfect harmony and perfect peace. It was a poignant moment for the audience when reflecting on world events, yet in Salt Lake City, a small moment of hope was shared by all.

The concert was hosted by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, better known as the Mormons. Many of the Dharma School children have Mormon friends who have never had the chance to sing in the Tabernacle, so it was a great honor to have the chance to perform in this building. The Tabernacle was constructed by Mormon pioneers between 1864 and 1887 and was considered a masterpiece at the time it was constructed.

The concert featured performers from many faiths in Utah, including Catholics, Mormons, Episcopalian, Greek Orthodox, Hindu, Native Americans and many others. The Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable organized the concert. Salt Lake Temple Minister Reverend Jerry Hirano is a member of the roundtable which was organized for and because of the 2002 Winter Olympics.

EcoSangha at San Jose Betsuin

EcoSangha, a newly formed group at San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, is sponsoring an Earth Day event on Sunday, May 3. Rev. Don Castro, minister of the Seattle Betsuin and founder of EcoSangha, will be the guest speaker at the Sunday service, which will begin at 10 a.m.

The sermon will be followed by activities and displays in the temple annex from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. that will include resources, information and displays on eco-friendly products, composting and recycling.

EcoSangha was created to bring awareness to the responsibility of caring for the environment based on the Buddhist principle of our interdependence with all life.

The group has created guidelines for the use of the temple facilities using ecologically friendly products and practices. They are sponsoring this event as a part of their educational and outreach program.

For further information, contact Karen Akahoshi at kna1023@ sbcglobal.net.
Ringing the ringing call of Buddhism being Buddhist Temple was our August 2008 at Tri-State Denver international award along with the primary organizer of the compassion. traditions so as to share wisdom-from across multiple Buddhist throughout the United States, as a calling of Buddhists from co-sponsors of the conference Institute of Buddhist Studies, as to open our minds and hearts to bell, at our Temples beckons us Buddhisms’ conference, Rev. O’Dowd spent more than a year planning the ‘Women in American Buddhism’ conference working with numerous potential speakers for the conference from a variety of Buddhist traditions and recruit- ing participation from a variety of Temples across tradi- tions. For BCA, the net result is that participants at the confer- ence from BCA sanghad through- out the United States, with even a few from India. In addition to coordinating the ‘Women in American Buddhism’ conference, Rev. O’Dowd has contributed to the continuing growth of the Longmont (Colorado) Buddhist Temple. She also offers medita- tion instruction and spiritual counseling at Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temples. As well, Rev. O’Dowd shares her Shin Buddhism with others in the greater community through her activities as a board member of several non-profit organizations active in the metro Denver community.

Therefore, I am pleased to share with you that Rev. O’Dowd as a Shin Buddhist has brought positive recognition of Buddhism to the BCA at the Outstanding Women in Buddhism ceremony and awards. Now in its eighth year, the award presentations were held in Bangkok, Thailand. Tours and seminars were conducted between March 5 and March 9, 2009, with the awards being presented on March 6, 2009 in front of Buddhists, press and parliament of Thailand government officials.

The Outstanding Women in Buddhism awards, presented annually, began in 2002, and are part of The United Nations’ International Women’s Day celebrations. Nominations are accepted, commencing in June of each year, by a committee (the Outstanding Women in Buddhism Awards Committee) comprised of Buddhist clergy, scholars and lay persons. Criteria for selection of award recipients include meditative practice, social work and community development, dharma propag- ation and peace activism. Accord- ing to the committee’s Secretary General Dr. Tavivat Puntarigvi, the awards are given to present outstanding women in Buddhism who are scholars and grassroots leaders as well as to encourage ideological progress. Awards are also given to support the Buddhist women’s movement in Thailand. The hosting organization for the awards ceremony events is the Association for the Promotion for the Status of Women in Buddhism. Rev. Dr. Mary David for being a speaker at the August ‘Women in American Buddhism’ confer- ence. Gratitude goes to members of BCA from New York and California as well as Colorado for attending the conference. Special thanks go to Reverend David Matsumoto, Dr. Lisa Grumbach and the staff at the Institute of Buddhist Studies for co-sponsoring the conference as well as handling the registrations and providing a speaker. Also, we are grateful for the significant contributions of the numerous volunteers donating their time, many of whom were sangha members from the Longmont, Denver and Ft. Lupton Temples, as well as those from the Denver Buddhist Women’s Association; without these gracious volunteers, the conference would not have received the overwhelmingly ‘Excellent’ rating participants indicated on conference evaluation forms.

So when we again ring the calling bell, the kendo of American Buddhism in 2010, with the second ‘Women In American Buddhism’ conference, you are invited to be involved.

Thank you to all for your generous dona- tions to the Shinrin Shonin 750th Memo- rial Silent Auction! Every BCA District participated.

For more information contact: Leslie Ohashi, (550) 434-4923, laoshi@fraxia.312.ca.us
Daryl Dye, (550) 271-1657, ddyedye@yahoo.com
Brian Oyama, 619-292-7777
Jeffrey Matsuoka, (415) 837-2281, jeff@bca.org

International Award Follows From A Jodo Shinshu ‘Ringing In’ of American Buddhism

2009 Call YABA Conference

“Jodo Shinshu:Made in the U.S.A.”

May 16, 2009
8:00 am – 3:15 pm
Jodo Shinshu Center
2140 Durant St.
Berkeley, CA 94704

$50 registration includes continental breakfast and lunch Registration deadline by May 1, 2009

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Thank you to all for your generous dona- tions to the Shinrin Shonin 750th Memo- rial Silent Auction! Every BCA District participated.

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President’s Message
Continued from Front Page

Rhoda Kobra, Chairperson of the Chief Ministry Association Rev. Jokai Abiko, and BCA Executive Director Henry Kobata. The BCA Annual Report also includes reports from the standing and ad hoc committees and the state large organizations, BCA districts and much more. But of primary importance, the BCA Annual Report includes the resolutions submitted for National Council consideration and approval.

During the two days of this year’s business meeting, the following resolutions were discussed and approved:
• Bylaws Amendment
• BCA Budget for FY 2009/2010
• Employment of a Campaign Manager
• Clerical Assistant
• Automobile Insurable Endorsement
• BCA Financial Audit

These resolutions impact every BCA member. For example, the BCA operating budget for FY 2009/2010 is $2,218,886 (after the
Scouting/Campfire Committee adjustment); this budget requires a corresponding dues assessment of $35 per BCA member. This budget and dues assessment was approved for the second day of the National Council Meeting after lengthy discussions. For details about the budget or any of the resolutions that were approved, please contact your temple’s lay leader or minister.

In addition to addressing the resolutions, the various reports from the BCA Annual Report were reviewed during the two days of the National Council Meeting. Various resolutions were made by the BCA Endowment Fund and the Institute of Buddhist Studies. Our guests from the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii attended the presentation of their Pacific Buddhist Academy, the only Buddhist college in the United States.

But the week’s activities included more than the business meetings. The week started with a round of golf for the ministers on Tuesday.

And the week ended with an inspirational Eitaikyo Service on Sunday morning featuring the considerable devotion of the Buddhist music. For our ministers that were seeking learning opportunities, there was a symposium on Thursday afternoon, The Great Sutra of Jodo Shinshu (Shin Buddhist Music Throughout the Ages) sponsored by the Institute of Buddhist Studies. And on Friday afternoon, the BCA Archives and Museums Committee and the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) hosted an inspirational Eitaikyo Service which featured a special presentation by JANM CEO Ms. Akemi Kimukura as she and her members reflected about preserving our history through proper and meaningful manner. The institute’s important role of the BCA Archives collection at the Japanese American National Museum.

Saturday night festivities included a Buddhist music presentation by ministers and their spouses that retired during the past year, two BCA Lifetime Service Award recipients, Nohoru Hanyu and Hiroji Kariya, and Mr. George Aratani with a special award for his generous support of the Institute of Buddhist Studies and the Buddhist Churches of America. The evening concluded with a Benefit Dance & Concert (Odorimasho) that brought back memories of my college years.

Other activities during the week included golf tours to the Orange County Buddhist Church and to the Japanese American National Museum. The planning committee for the BCA observance for Shinnshon’s 750th memorial observances, make it a successful silent auction and the BCA Committee held the Grand Raffle with $12,000 as the first prize. The BCA Board and Southern District’s Hongwanji Place were on hand during the week selling books, jewelry and other merchandise.

All in all, it was a very busy and productive week.

Social Issues
Continued from Page 3

all of her work “as part of being a Buddhist: active in society, responding to human needs and inequity.”

Glenn Kameda is a long-time member of the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple (PABT) and has served in leadership positions on the local, national and international BCA levels, including its Social Welfare Committee and its Social Issues Committee. He shared his passion and excitement about a renewed process within BCA to address the area of social issues, which he believes is “what being Buddhist is all about.”

Andy Noguchi - Motivated by his Japanese American family and community – is an active parental role model for his children.

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今月の法話
仏の施し

サマンテオ仏教執行会在住 古本 龍賢

大乗法を浄化に。
『わが無量劫において、大乗主となれて、あまねくもろもの貧苦をしのぎ
は、正覚を成じた』（『重顕教』）

とおっしゃっておられます。「大乗主」とは、仏さまが私たちにお施しを
してくださっているということです。仏さまのほどをとりまして、私たちお
浄土で仏さまにしていたのです。「貧苦」とは、自己中心性から抜け出す
ことのできない、智慧を失いがちの老者で、『丸』とも言います。

阿弥陀仏さまはその「丸」のためにこそ、お浄土に生まれさせ、自己中心性
のある我を奪い出す。仏さまの広大な世界を知らせて欲む、あの願
いを遂げてくださいました。

私たちが仏さまに委託され、共に浄土に生まれることが決まる
のですではありません。「仏さまはいかだと思まり、仏さまを愛するばかり」と、
よく聞かせていただいておりますが、私はあくまでも「仏さまの施し」と
いうことを、娘から教えてごっとうりました。

昨年の夏、あるご円金さんからとても美しい桜をいただきました。その桜を
まず我が家のお庭壢に植えさせて、それから家族でいただきました。当時の
私の娘は三十歳で、娘は桜が好きなので大喜びで桜を食べました。

小ぶりの桜でしたので、二三つほど食べたぐらい、まだ懸念してお
りました。娘は、「お父さん、もう桜はよしな」と言いますが、私は娘がお
腹をかすめていないかと思い、「仏さまのごかげになれば、だめかな」と答えま
した。すると、娘はお腹がすいておるようでお仏壇の前に行き、不思議のような顔
をしておったのです。

その後、娘は晩に帰ってきて、桜の小花を何本かつかんださって
飲んでくれたのです。さすがに私の方も桜を食べたのです。

春の到来が近づいてくると、桜の花が咲きます。咲き誇る桜は、大いな
如来の実現を告げる花であり、その美しさは、仏の教えを象徴するものです。

願いを叶え、心を浄化する桜は、私たちを導く正しい道を示す花である
と信じて、毎年桜を楽しみにしています。

春の桜は、仏の教えを象徴する花であり、私たちに希望と光をもたらす
ものです。仏の教えを信じて、心を浄化し、締めくくりの求めを果たす
ことが大切であると感じています。今後の桜の花の季節を、皆さんと
一緒に楽しみたいと思います。

春の桜

西北部仏教徒大会

教団の総会成功に終わる

2月28日から2月28日までの3日間にわたって、米国仏教総会（仏教徒）が、カリフォルニア州アーレントン市のホテルにて開催（かんよう）されて閉幕（きんやく）されました。総会期間中（そうかい
期間中）には、全国からの仏教徒が集まり、仏教の教えに親しむことができました。

総会は3月29日、大変に期待が高かったが、中止（ちゅうしつ）になったと仏教徒関係者（ぶっしょう）の皆様により、伝説（でんせつ）に含まれ
ない現代の作法（げんだいのてきだいきょうほう）を取（とり）入れた伝統的（でんとうてき）な活動が行われました。

教団の総会成功に終わる（こうかん）なりました。
花祭りで雅楽を

日本の伝統的な楽器や音楽を披露する雅楽祭りが開催されます。

雅楽は、日本文化の象徴で、古事記や今昔物語を基にしたもので、

高音域の楽器を用い、独自の音楽性をもって表現します。

毎年、この祭りでは、伝統的な雅楽演奏が行われ、観客に

日本文化の美しさを体験してもらう機会を提供しています。

2009年度教化講話
世の中安穏され

2009年 4月号