REPORT FROM THE 27TH WORLD JODO SHINSHU COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING

By Rev. Michael Endo and Dr. Billy Saeki

The 27th World Jodo Shinshu Coordinating Council Meeting was held in Kyoto, Japan on May 27-28, 2009 at the Hongwanji. This annual meeting brings together representatives of the four overseas districts with officials from the Hongwanji to review programs and exchange ideas for propagation.

This year’s meeting coincided with the Services to Commemorate the Completion of the Great Heisei Era Restoration of the Goeido Founder’s Hall. Following a 10 year restoration which began in 1999, the Goeido Foundation’s Hall, which enshrines the wooden image of Shinran Shonin, was re-opened to the public for the first time.

The meeting began with an opening service on May 27th in the Hongwanji Administration Building’s Main Conference room including reports from the Hongwanji International Department, Ministry of Culture, and Dr. Billy Saeki, Executive Assistant for the Buddhist Churches of America, BCA. The BCA was presented by Monshu Koshin Ohtani, BWA members, Bishops and kyodan (Japan, Hawaii, Canada, South America) representatives meeting.

The session began with a brief service at which the Lady Ohtani delivered a welcoming message. During the informal reception which followed, the Lady Ohtani casually circulated about the room and chatted with each of us. We then settled down to the business meeting.

The period of May 22-26, 2009, over 55,000 Jodo Shinshu followers made a pilgrimage to the Hongwanji Founder’s Hall, which enshrines the wooden image of Shinran Shonin which will begin in April 2011 and conclude in January 2012 at the Hongwanji. Rev. Kiribayashi announced that May 15, 2011 has been set aside as the official day for members of the Overseas Districts to attend the 750th Memorial Service for Shinran Shonin at the Hongwanji. He also reminded us that the World Buddhist Women’s Convention that will be held on May 16-17, 2011 at the Hongwanji and Pulse Plaza in Kyoto. Reserved seating and English translation for overseas delegates will be provided based upon prior registration.

Continued on Page 5
Onob, a time to rethink

By Rev. Kanya Okamoto, Tri-State Buddhist Temple

July and August is Obon Season. Obon and Obon Odori has its origin in the Ullambara Sutra. One of the disciples of Shakumon Buddha was a gifted monk named Mogallana. Mogallana had the ability to perceive other realms of existence. Mogallana saw his deceased mother in the realm of the Gaki (hungry demons). Mogallana became joyous and began to dance, and everyone who saw this joined Mogallan in joyful dance.

For me, Obon is a time to reflect, and to remember the life and the joy of my parents, relatives, and grandparents who have returned to the Pureland of Amida Buddha. I think of my parents every day. At our home, next to the Obutsu-dan are photos of my parents and Judy’s parents. So it is natural to think of them everyday.

In the Tri-State Buddhist Temple Obon services are held in July. Obon Okahamari (ceremony visited by the Pureland Buddha) is held in July in outlying areas. In Colorado, Obon Okahamari takes place in Greeley, Longmont, Brighton, Fort Lupton, Platteville, Lafayette. We cannot conduct Obon Okahamari to all the areas in July, so we have to conduct it in Cheyenne. In Denver, Longmont, Brighton, Fort Lupton, Platteville, Lafayette. We cannot conduct Obon Okahamari to all the areas in July, so we have to conduct it in Cheyenne.

Optional tours include: Gold Discovery Museum in Coloma, Okean Ceme- tery Museum for History, Women, and the arts, visit to the Hongwanji and the Buddhist Women’s Association of West Sacra- mento (a nunnery), and Thunder Valley Casino.

Transportation will be available to and from the Sacramento International Airport by transportation committee members. If you have any questions regarding the conference, please contact Akiko Yagi at (209) 477-8054 or peteraikyo@globalnet.co.jp, or Virginia Uchida at (916) 421-5582 or uchid@comcast.net.

By Dr. Kent Matsuda
Emmanji Buddhist Temple

The BCA National Board met on June 6 at the Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC) in Berkeley, California. The meeting process was conducted by Rev. Michael Endo and of- ficiated by Socho Ogui. BCA President, Billy Saeki, informed the National Board that the Overseas District Representatives’ Seminar at the Hongwanji would take place October 13-15, 2009. Up to two BCA Ministers and five BCA lay members can attend. The seminar lasts two and one-half days and there are two seminars for each lodging. In addition to the seminars, the air fare will be needed to be arranged by each participant. President Saeki wanted the names of po- tential participants forwarded to him by Wednesday, July 15. This seminar allows members of the overseas district to visit the Hongwanji and learn more about their role in understanding and propagating Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. The dates of this year’s seminar are earlier than usual so that participants can attend a special 750th Shonin Memorial Service at West Way, Sacramento. Room rates are $110 per night plus taxes. Use the hotel code BCA Feder- ation Buddhist Women’s As- sociation. Telephone (916) 955-855 or 822-8733 or sacramento-dou- bletter.com Hotel parking is free.


By Rev. Kanya Okamoto
Tri-State Buddhist Temple

41st BCA BFBA CONFERENCE UPDATE

The Northern California Buddhist Women’s Association (NCA) and the all interested BWA members and individuals to attend the 41st BCA Federation of Bud- dhist Women’s Association Conference from Oct. 9 to 11, at the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento. The conference theme is “Looking Back - Looking Ahead - Passing on the Leg- acy.” Kako to Mirai Wo Mitsumeru.

The keynote speakers include: Making Meetings Matter, Buddhist Influenc- es on Japanese Cultural Arts, Answering the Whys of Buddhist Practice Asso- ciated with Memorial Ser- vices, How to Spend With- out Going Broke, Monpop, Through a Writer’s Eyes, Feeling Good, and Let’s Dance.

Conference registration is $130 per person; $140 after July 31, 2009. Regis- tration information is avail- able from your BWA presi- dent or from your church office.

Information and forms are also available online at the BCA website www. bcahq.org.

BWA Report

Continued on Page 6

The Buddha’s Wish for the World

Monshu Koshin Ohtani

Has Dedicated His First English Translated Book

To Commemorate Shinran Shonin’s (1173–1263) 750th Memorial Service

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

NEW Jewelry, Past President Pins, and Modern Onenju now available.

NEW Gift Cards Available—Any Denomination

For all your church and personal Shin Buddhist needs.

(510) 809-1435 www.bcabookstore.com
Kariya Gift of $1M to Establish Endowment at IBS

The Azatani Foundation (Los Angeles, CA) pledged $1 million towards the Center for Buddhist Educational Endowment. This was largely due to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. George and Sakaryo Azazah and efforts of Socho Kosokin Oguni and Los Angeles Betsumi Board President Gary Kawa- guchi. Thank you for your continued support!

Thank you for all the gifts and pledge payments received from April 1-15 including:

- Buddhist Church of Stockton Sangha Club (7th-grade group) – proceeds from Bake Sale.
- Ogden Buddhist Church
- Annual Appreciation (Center for Buddhist Education Endowment)
- Mr. Hiroji Kariya (Institute of Buddhist Studies)

Thank you to these new donors - gifts received from April 1-15:

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So far in 2009, fundraising for the campaign is well behind what was raised a year ago, so I challenged the National Board to raise a goal of $300,000 by the end of the IBS Campaign Billy Sottek’s term (February 2010). This amount is divided among the eight BCA districts according to membership:

If we are successful in raising the $300,000, the campaign will have raised a total of over $18,000,000 in almost 7 years! This is an achievable goal and I truly believe we can do it! But, we need everyone to step up and participate. Many thanks to Joyce Iwasaki of San Jose Betsumi and Chiako Kakeishi of San Francisco for volunteering in the Campaign Office this month!

Le Gachot, Robert Noguchi BCA Fundraising Manager (510) 809-1453 ronghe@beaica.org Campaign Office Jodo Shinshu Center 2149 Durant Ave. Berkeley, CA 94704-1589

JULY 2009 WHEEL OF DHARMA PAGE 3

Commemorate 750th Memorial Observance with Poetry Calling for Haiku and Tanka

As part of the 750th Shinran Shonin Memorial Observance, the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) is encouraging a call for haiku and tanka for the BCA Shinra 750th Memorial Observance. Haiku and tanka are short poems that are traditionally written in celebration of a special event or occasion. These forms of Japanese poetry have been enjoyed and written by large numbers of people for over 300 years. They are based on the theme “Peace and Tranquility.”

AUGUST 8-9 (Sat-Sun): HONGWANJI JODO Dharma talks led by various Bay Area ministers. Before work/school; or during your Bay Area visit. Gather with friends and family to experience the JSC practices (chanting, meditation, vegetarian break — DHARMA: (E) Experience early morning Buddhist Obispo Buddhist Church. Visit www.bcayouth.org

JULY 24-26: COLLEGE YBA: (C) Annual retreat required. $50 Donation. Deadline: July 10th. Included. Limited spaces. Advance reservations required. (Deadline: July 10th)

JULY 009: WHEEL OF DHARMA
PAGE 3

My Gift to Campaign BCA—The 21st Century
c/o Campaign BCA-The 21st Century,
1-6 June 15:

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Donate by Credit Card (see website)

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Donate by Credit Card (see website)
The Berkeley Buddha Temple is pleased to present the winners of the Berkeley Buddha Temple Scholarships and the winner of the Masako Oishi Memorial Scholarship, awarded on behalf of the Temple’s Women’s Association. Jared K. Wong is a graduating senior from Campbell, California, and holds degrees in Anthropology and Business Administration. Jared is a California Scholarship Federation recipient, Commended National Merit Scholar and Campolindo High School Volunteer of the Year. Jared is also a California Scholarship Foundation Lifetime Recipient and Advanced Placement Scholar.

The Berkeley Temple is proud to award scholarships to both Jared and Lia. Lia has also been awarded the Masako Oishi Scholarship by the Berkeley Women’s Association.

"Please take it" Amida’s Dana mind

My daughter’s interpretation of Amida Buddha’s hand gesture reminded me of it last summer. A member of the temple gave me some very tasty peaches. First of all, I placed the peaches in front of the Obutsudan (Buddhist altar) at home, later my family ate them. My daughter, Matz, three years old at the time, really enjoyed the peaches. The peaches were small, so even after she ate a couple of peaches, she still wanted some more. My daughter asked, “Daddy, can I have more peaches?” But I told her that she would make herself sick, so I told her “No I can’t give you any more because if you ate all the peaches, Amida Buddha cannot taste them, so leave them for Amida Buddha.” She seemed to understand my reasoning, and gazed at a wooden statue of Amida Buddha for a while. I thought that this would be a valuable Buddhist lesson for my daughter to learn about the importance of sharing and to nurture a respectful mind to Amida Buddha. But soon, my daughter came to me and said, “The Buddha told me I can eat the peaches, so give me some more.” I challenged, “Don’t tell a lie. The Buddha wouldn’t say such a thing.” But she mimicking Amida Buddha’s hand gestures and said, “Look at the hands of the Buddha.” The Buddha says I don’t need the peaches. You can take them.” She waved her right hand and said, “I don’t need it.” She lowered her left hand and said, “Take the peaches.” I laughed at her gestures and interpreted her gesture as a reward. The heart of Amida’s hand gesture (Mudra) represents Dana (selfless giving and sharing). According to a traditional definition, Amida Buddha’s hand gesture conveys Amida Buddha’s compassionate wish for all beings to be born in the Pure Land of enlightenment.

Another interpretation suggests that the right hand of Amida expresses giving comfort and the left hand shows extending a most compassionate vow. Amida Buddha is always giving us as the great donor and we do not have to give anything to Amida Buddha in order to attain the birth in the Pure Land. Our misguided assumption is “I don’t need it” from Amida Buddha. Contrary, Amida Buddha is saying “Please receive my wish and be born in the Pure Land”

Those unenlightened beings who receive Amida’s compassion can become people who encourage others to receive. My daughter must have seen the temple members who said, “Please take it” to each other. When we are made aware of Amida Buddha’s Dana mind, it moves our hearts and hands to give and share. I hope Amida’s Dana mind will be transmitted from generation to generation, and from our sangha to the whole universe.

Please take it! Amida’s Dana mind
The Wisteria plaque, donated by Mr. & Mrs. Ralph and Amy Matsushita-Hughes, was dedicated on May 10, during the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church Fuji Matsura/Goton-E Service, officiated by Rev. Dr. Shoyo Taniguchi. From the outset, Ralph had a deep heart felt desire to create a Wisteria plaque. It was not an easy project for him, yet with Amy’s support and encouragement, Ralph handcrafted the beautiful Wisteria plaque which is to be mounted as a center piece in SACCBC’s Sangha Hall.

**WJSCC Report**

Continued from Front Page

Each of the overseas districts reported on their respective plans for 750th memorial observances. Hawaii will be conducting their 750th commemorative events in September 2009 in conjunction with the Kyodan’s 120th Anniversary. Canada announced that they will kick off their 750th commemorative events at their 2010 Annual General Meeting in April. The BCA has planned to observe 750th commemorative events in conjunction with the 2010 BCA Minister’s Association and National Council Meetings at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose, California. Events include a Symposium on Saturday, February 27th with speakers, Kenneth Tanaka, Rev. Harry Bridge, Professor James Dobkins, and Ms. Jacqueline Kramer. A banquet will also be held on Feb. 27th, with Mr. Peter Toyama, Head of School of the Pacific Buddhist Academy, as the keynote speaker. A 750th Memorial Service for Shinran Shinon will be conducted on Sunday, Feb. 28th. Rev. Kyonobu Kuwahara reported on the success of the International Ministers’ Orientation (IMOP) Program and English Correspondence Course. Both programs, administered at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, California, are currently headed into their second year. Of the four ministers who participated in the inaugural IMOP program at the Jodo Shinshu Center in the fall of 2008, one has been assigned to the Hawaii Kyodan, and two are currently in the process of being assigned to the BCA as ministers.

Socho Ogui emphasized the success of the BCA’s Minister’s Assistant Program (M.A.P.). The M.A.P. Program’s objective is to expand the Jodo Shinshu ministry. By actively engaging lay ministers in ministerial roles based upon their particular interests and skills, this program seeks to broaden the scope of the local temple’s ministry and enhance the religious worship and dharma education of the temple. Socho Ogui noted that the BCA’s M.A.P. program has nurtured 64 Minister’s Assistants since the inception of the program in 2006. Socho Ogui also reiterated to the Hongwanji officials his desire to see Tokudo (first ordination) training and ceremony conducted in America at the Jodo Shinshu Center. He explained that Tokudo preparatory courses have already begun at the Jodo Shinshu Center under the leadership of the Center for Buddhist Education (Rev. Kodo Umezu, Director). The Hongwanji continues to consider the feasibility of conducting the Tokudo ceremony in the U.S. according to Rev. Kirihayashi.

Rev. Kirihayashi announced that the Hongwanji has completed a new English translation of the Larger Sukhavativyuha Sutra. Copies of the book have been mailed to the overseas district headquarters for distribution to all ministers. The 2010 World Jodo Shinshu Coordinating Council Meeting will be hosted by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and will be held in Honolulu on May 12th-14th.

**Bon Odori Patch Program**

Summer is approaching and, with it, Bon Odori season. The BCA Scouting Committee is proud to again sponsor the Bon Odori patch program for all Scouts and Camp Fire youth who participate in Bon Odori.

The requirements for earning the patch are simple as in previous years. They include learning about the meaning of Obon, learning about the music and equipment used in the dances, attending practice and dancing in a Bon Odori. Dancers earn a large patch and “rocker” for the first year they participate in the program. Each year after that, they earn a “rocker” patch with the year of participation. Of course, continuing dancers can order large patches for their new uniforms as they move up in Scouting or Camp Fire level.

We hope you will encourage your youth to participate in the Bon Odori patch program. It is a fun way for youth to learn about Obon and the joy of participating in the Bon Odori.

For more information or an order form, contact Tara Mochizuki at taramochizuki.net or calling (415) 731-8873.

**Vesak**

Thar, Cambodian and Sri Lankan traditions. The celebration concluded with the offering of sweet tea to the baby Buddha statue standing under the flower-decorated altar.

The sponsors would like to thank everyone who took part and participated in this event. Special thanks to the monks, nuns, priests and followers of the following groups: to Venerable Heng Sure for hosting the event at his temple; and to Venerable Bhante Madawala Sleelawimala and Rev. Dr. David Manumoto for co-chairsting and working so hard on this event. We look forward to next year’s Vesak celebration.

**MAP-ing the Northwest**

**Pre-order deadline:** July 15, 2009

“Two weeks ago we had a joint Hanamatsuri Service with the Columbia Basin Sangha and members of the Yakima Buddhist Church. We met in a conference room at the Best Western Motel in Moses Lake, Washington. It was a wonderful service. We had thirty five people attending and best of all it was a sunny and warm day... A practical example of the Minister’s Assistant Program in action.” - Photo and note from Paul Viele, Minister’s Assistant at Spokane Buddhist Church.

Northwest Temple Circuit: Rev. Castro of the Seattle Betsuin, who serves as the supervising minister for Spokane, Yakima and Moses Lake, recently described how MAP candidates share the teachings in faraway places...
National Board Report
Continued from Front Page

numbers of Japanese of all ages and from all walks of life. And the same can be said for the "Gaman Spirit" of our Issei (for all the sacrifices of "hai-seki, denial of owning property, starving, etc." and the "inaka-born Jodo Shinshuist truly feels, growing up in the mid-eighties, he took on the minister's assistant, Masao Wada) he will be continuing on another 80 miles to Yakima. Starting in May, Paul is to do services; and Elle (Minister's Assistant) drives from Spokane to Moses Lake, about 100 miles to do services; and will now have the loss of Honorary Ministers As- sistant, Masao Wada) he will be continuing on another 80 miles to Yakima. Starting in May, Paul is to help to start a public lecture series to further strengthen the communities. Go, Paul!

Reverend Masao Wada, Honorary Minister's Assistant at Yakima Buddhist Temple (Wapato, WA) passed away this past March. In his mid-eighties, he took on the minister's assistant duties to "keep the Dharma lights on" at Yakima, which has not had its own minister for many years. He was a strong supporter of the MAP program and a living testament to how important it is, especially for outlying communities. Below is an excerpt of a letter Mr. Wada wrote to BCA CBE Director, Rev. Umezu, on January 6th, exemplifying his life of Nembutsu.

"Namu Amida Butsu
Dear Rev. Umezu,

I thought it may be of interest to you how an "outpost" church can still truly feel, growing up as a Nisei, to our Issei parents, and sharing all the sacrifices of "hai-seki, denial of owning property, starving, etc." and the "inaka-born Jodo Shinshuist truly feels, growing up in the mid-eighties, he took on the minister's assistant, Masao Wada) he will be continuing on another 80 miles to Yakima. Starting in May, Paul is to do services; and Elle (Minister's Assistant) drives from Spokane to Moses Lake, about 100 miles to do services; and will now have the loss of Honorary Ministers Assistant, Masao Wada) he will be continuing on another 80 miles to Yakima. Starting in May, Paul is to help to start a public lecture series to further strengthen the communities. Go, Paul!

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I thought it may be of interest to you how an "outpost" church can still truly feel, growing up as a Nisei, to our Issei parents, and sharing all the sacrifices of "hai-seki, denial of owning property, starving, etc." and the "inaka-born Jodo Shinshuist truly feels, growing up in the mid-eighties, he took on the minister's assistant, Masao Wada) he will be continuing on another 80 miles to Yakima. Starting in May, Paul is to do services; and Elle (Minister's Assistant) drives from Spokane to Moses Lake, about 100 miles to do services; and will now have the loss of Honorary Ministers Assistant, Masao Wada) he will be continuing on another 80 miles to Yakima. Starting in May, Paul is to help to start a public lecture series to further strengthen the communities. Go, Paul!
私と親鸞聖人
死の現場で光と出逢う
作家・詩人 青木新門

「亡くなった方の顔（模写）を、美（ちいさ）に」と
青木新門さまはいう。たれが通授し、やがて光（漫）に満ちているとは と。

三月（3月）に撮影した写真を、彼が南極（南極）に住み、親鸞（親鸞）の
経験談から生まれた。『新報日記』の企画がベストセラーになり、
今日もまた、映画（映画）『おくりびと』（主演・木村拓哉）がすすめている。
日本国内（日本国内）ではもちろんです、となり、南極から模写（模写）
たれが収まるボックスに入っているのです。青木新門さまの著書『新報日記』
も光（光）されていますね。

青木 そう、『おくりびと』効果が素晴らしい！（笑）講演（講演）で依頼（依頼）
も多かったが、忙しすぎて困っているところです。

十五年前（15年前）に『新報日記』が出版（出版）されてすぐ、俳優（俳優）
の木村拓哉さんから電話があり、これがきっかけです。彼（彼）の写真集（写真集）『令（令）に新（新）の文（文）を揮（挥）がいたとい
う。一人が（一人が）素晴らしい物語を語るきっかけに、ひとりが（ひとりが）
たれが模写された方々に、というくらいで。

そう言ったら、親鸞（親鸞）が光（光）を、などと我々も
言ってみません。それ（それ）に、映画化（映画化）して欲しいという意見（意見）
で、『おくりびと』を模写（模写）されたことが感動（感動）
です。生まれ一回（生まれ一回）の光（光）が見ことができたとい
うってことですね。

すると、仏教本（仏教本）が生まれていますね。まずは模写（模写）
してから時間厳守（時間厳守）で、正統（正統）を崩（崩）さないまま、映画は
すぐに仕上げ（仕上げ）にいけると思うが。も、いかが、という気持ちで
で、どうか体（体）を使って、なにかと。したなお、本（本）
のタイトルと私の名前（名前）は別にして、皆さん。

映画（映画）は多くの人が観（観）てももらうため大衆化（大衆化）と、宿（宿）
するのは仕事（仕事）に興味がないことに。『おくりびとは』は良い制作（制作）
だと思いますし、『親鸞新（親鸞新）の聖（聖）と浄土（浄土）のかなはりづくり』と
親鸞（親鸞）日記と『おくりびとは』に、大きな変（変）りが目（目）ложениеします。私の
にとっては愛（愛）にできない一線（一線）で、大切（大切）に

新聞（新聞）や雑誌（雑誌）のインタビューでできるだけ聞き
てきたのでも、一般的（一般的）の人（人）には、このあやめは理解（理解）
できないこれから、大衆（大衆）の読者たち（読者たち）で、わ
からえるもらえないと思（と思）てお口（口）をつきましたね。

一 もとと、浮士徳尊（1235年頃～1302年頃）の門徒（門徒）の家族（家族）のお
在り（在り）ですか。

青木 旧（旧）仏教部（仏教部）から引（引）き上げて、祖父（祖父）と祖
母（祖母）が住（住）っている畳間（畳間）で少年（少年）13歳（13歳）時代（時代）を過ごした。

 parental（paternal）similarity is high in this case. The conversion of the characters is as follows:

「亡くなった方（方）の顔（顔）を、美（美）にして」と
青木新門（新門）さまはいう。たれが通授し、やがて光（光）に満ちているとい
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仏教教育に役立ててください

この二月の間に、目的の三番目にあげられている仏教教育のために役立てて欲しいと、仏教教育センター（アラタニ・リーズとサカエ夫妻設立）からそれぞれ百万円ずつの寄付の申し出を受け取りました。本当にありがたいことにあります。マウテン・ビームが卒業の南仏教大院理事長（福林宮）の福报からの寄付は、昨年急逝したやす子先生の一力記念として大学院に新しく「仏教博物館・やす子学園」を設立するというものです。またアラタニ基金からの百萬円は仏教教育センターの基金（五百万円）への寄付であります。会員の皆様からはまだ寄付をされていない方、また、建築以外の目的に寄付をされたい方はどうぞ、仏教会またはキャンペーンオフィス（510-809-1453）までご連絡ください。

（上の写真は福林宮）

私たちも手伝いします

こんにちは - ブラザー仏教会の青山先生から、増矢らどう子夫人（仏教正法開教夫人）がサクラマル・近藤のエルグローブを引っ越させたことを聞き訪問され、『法輪』の読者へ夫人は元気に暮らしておられることを知らせてあえてくださいという便りをいただきました。