Throng of Shin Buddhists converge in San Jose for 750th memorial

By Ralph Honda

575th Committee Correspondent

C ommemorating the life of Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism could be described as the event of a lifetime.

From the youngest Dharma School student to the young at heart, Shin Buddhist and friends gathered for the Buddhist Churches of America’s (BCA) Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial, Feb. 27 and 28 at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose, California.

Participants traveled from throughout California, the continental United States and Canada, and from Hawaii. One participant traveled from as far away as Kathmandu, Nepal, the birthplace of Buddhism, of which was then part of India.

A congratulatory letter from President Barrack Obama was sent to the BCA on its milestone celebration.

The BCA designated the Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC) in Berkeley, California as its commemorative project for the event.

"With so much anticipation and excitement, I could not sleep much before the big event," Judy Kono, 750th co-chairperson explained to her committee in an email the night before the festivities would begin.

Approximately 70 active and retired Kaikyoshi ministers participated. Recognized Ministers' Assistants (MAP) and youth ministers also attended.

Over 800 registered guests, and estimat ed 600 more participants listened to the Dharma, sang beautiful gathas, chanted sutras, and commemorated the life of Shinran.

"This was an amazing weekend," Socho Koshin Ogui, Bishop of the BCA said "I believe that this event has opened our minds to what Shinran has taught through the essence of Namu Amida Butsu.

Peace and Tranquility was the theme for the two-day event that was held in conjunction with the BCA National Council Meeting. The theme was taken from the words that the Hongwanji in Kyoto will use for its Shinran commemoration in 2011: "Yonomaka Annor Nare" May Peace and Tranquility Prevail Throughout the World/ Opening Ceremonies

The resonating sound of the kansho signaled the beginning of the commemoration.

Kaikyoshi ministers entered the Imperial Ballroom with a processional. Each minister wore their Shiki-E or special event robes. Socho Ogui was accompanied by Bishop Ohrai Fujikawa of Canada and Bishop Thomas Okano of Hawaii.

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2010 BCA National Council Meeting

By Dr. Kent Matsuda, Enmanji Buddhist Temple

T he 2010 BCA Ministers’ Association and National Council Meeting took place on Feb. 25-27 at the San Jose Fairmont Hotel. Coast District hosted the meeting.

Prior to the National Council Meeting, BCA President Billy Saeki and incoming president Everett Watada held a presidents’ break fast. At this breakfast, the two presidents discussed the BCA debt, declining BCA membership, and using the Internet to inform the general public about Jodo Shinshu Buddhism and what is happening at our BCA temples.

After the meeting was convened, President Billy Saeki informed the attendees that Lois Yasui, one of the official Hawaii Kyodan representatives, passed away in her hotel room the previous evening. A moment of silence was observed in her honor.

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After the meeting was convened, President Billy Saeki informed the attendees that Lois Yasui, one of the official Hawaii Kyodan representatives, passed away in her hotel room the previous evening. A moment of silence was observed in her memory. Mr. Fred Nomaka, the past president of the Hawaii Kyodan, took Ms. Yasui’s place at the BCA National Council Meeting along with Mr. Alton Ball, the current president of the Hawaii Kyodan and the other official Hawaii representative.

Socho Ogui announced that Rev. Katsuyu Kusunoki was assigned to the Buddhist Church of Los Angeles. Rev. Shushin Hidetoshi Sakamoto was assigned to the Los Angeles Buddhist Church. Rev. Henry Adams completed his studies at the Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin in Kyoto.

He will be returning to the BCA in March, and be assigned to the Ono Buddhist Temple. Rev. Shoju Nakatani was assigned to the Buddhist Temple of Berkeley, California. Rev. Michael Endo, Executive Assistant to the Bishop, reported that about 780 BCA members have registered to attend the Hongwanji’s Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Service in May, 2011. The Overseas District Representatives’ Seminar at the Hongwanji and the Hongwanji Young Buddhist International Cultural Study Exchange programs will be suspended during 2010-2011 due to the focus on the Shonin Memorial Observances.

By Everett Watada

BCA President

Challenges and Opportunities

The BCA Administration is a bridge between practitioners activities; religious, cultural and social; and those of logistics; financial, operations and administration. The BCA administration recognizes the importance of finding the right balance between these two groups of activities. Pertinent to this balance are some near-term opportunities and challenges that, in many ways, will define several important aspects of Jodo Shinshu in the United States in the future.

The future of Jodo Shinshu in the United States is bright for the following reasons:

• We have strong ministry leadership. The ministers of the BCA are headed by Bishop Ko shin Ogui in San Francisco. Bishop Ogui has presented a persuasive vision for the practice of Jodo Shinshu throughout the United States. We are inspired by his vision, touched by his compassion, and compelled by his teachings and strong leadership.

• Under Bishop Ogui’s guidance, the BCA’s ministers throughout the United States have been well received in the communities where they serve. Each minister actively participates in...
“Shinrin Shonin’s Wish for Us and the World: From Inner Peace to Outer Peace”

By Kenneth Kenshin Tanaka
Pulpo
Musashino University, Tokyo

Greetings to Ms. Ogui, Mrs. Ogui, ministers, ministers’ spouses, officers and members of the Buddhist temples and friends, it is truly a great privilege and an honor to serve as your keynote speaker today at the BCA’s 75th Memorial Celebration of our founder, Shinrin Shonin. I have entitled my talk, “Shinrin Shonin’s Wish for Us and the World: From Inner Peace to Outer Peace.”

As I begin, I would like to dedicate this talk to the countless people who helped to found and maintain the BCA. They include those whose names have faded into the annals of BCA history but continue to impact us today. For example, the pioneers of the San Jose temples have left the following words:

Having received Buddhist upbringing in Japan, we were not familiar with the sacred religion, just because we came to a Christian country. We, therefore, have come together to light the torch of Buddhism by completing this sacred temple on this day, August 20th, 1902.

Such dream helped to establish the San Jose temple and other BCA temples in the early years of the 20th century to benefit countless people in the ensuing 108 years, including all of us here today.

For instance, we former Mt. View YBA members have benefited immensely from the San Jose Betsuin gymnasium, which was the site of our dances and basketball games. We recall with much pride in how in that gym we tromped the Watsonville YBA team, our basketball games. We recall that gym we trounced the Watsonville YBA team, our basketball games. We recall the gymnasium, which was the Mt. View YBA members benefited immensely from the 20th century to benefit countless temples in the early years of the Shonin’s wish for us and the world. I, Shinrin, have never recited the Nembutsu for the memorial service of my departed father and mother, for all beings have been our parents and brothers and sisters in the course of countless lives in many states of existence (A Record in Lament of Diversions or Tannisho).

When he says that he had never recited the Nembutsu for the memorial service of his parents, it does not mean, of course, that Shinrin did not honor his parents but means that he transcended the narrow boundaries of family, clan, ethnicity, race, nation and even human. He was truly universal. In these two passages, Shinrin Shonin reveals to us that inner peace and outer peace are related. When inner peace is realized, that person would automatically strive for outer peace. For instance, like the riddle in a pond that emanates outward from the center. Now, the two — inner and outer peace — we Buddhists have a tendency to emphasize inner peace over outer peace. Our

Gomonzu, His Eminence Koshin Otani, is well aware of this shortcoming as he has stated.

“Today, as the destruction of the global environment continues and the nature of our family life comes under critical review, we realize that a religion that stops at only solving one’s own pain and anxiety can no longer be called authentic.”

I strongly feel this interconnectedness of inner and outer peace when I had the privilege of attending the “Day of Prayer” convened in Rome by the late Pope John Paul II in the aftermath of 9/11. Hundreds of international religious leaders attended, and when I was given a chance to exchange a few words, we shook hands and told him, “Having come to Rome, I want to work harder for peace.”

The Pope suffering from Parkinson’s disease could barely talk, so he responded by raising our clasped hands high into the air as if to say, “Go for it.” I felt his genuine sincerity and determination.

Prior to meeting him, however, I had been critical of the Pope for his 1994 negative remarks about Buddhism, but his later attempts to open dialogue with Buddhists and most of all his determination to work for peace was impressive and I decided that religions needed to work together. Dr. Hans Kung, well-known for his work in inter-religious relations, stated, “There will be no peace among the nations (of the world) without peace among religions.”

NC Report

Continued from Front Page

The council delegates that the Ministers’ Association be endorsed in principle the procedure that ministerial candidates will go through from Minister’s Assistant to Kaikyoshi Minister proposed by the Ministerial Training and Development Committee under the chairmanship of Rev. Dr. William Morishita.

Henry Shibata, BCA Executive Director, reported that the BCA calendars will be sent out to the temples earlier this year. Temple representatives and BCA committee chairs were reminded to send in their BCA directory information to Janet Kameda. Only $197,000 has been raised as of the BCA’s gift to the Honwunjii to commemorate Shinrin Shonin’s 750th Memorial Observance.

Aileen Uyemoto, Assistant to the Executive Director at BCA Headquarters, has submitted her resignation effective February 28, 2010. Interviews are currently being held for her replacement.

Dean Dr. Richard Payne, Dean of the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS), told the delegates that Dr. Leroy Morishita will become the new chair of the board of trustees. A Master of Divinity Degree will be offered at the BCA. This involves three years of graduate level minsterial training. Enrollment at the BCA is currently at 25 to 34 students with 13 students indicating an interest in becoming a minister. Dean Payne told the delegates that the BCA adds $16 million in fiscal year 2010-2011.

Robert Noguchi, Campaigns BCA Manager, reported that six of the eight BCA districts met their goals for the $300,000 Challenge that was initiated after the June BCA National Board Meeting. Due to the generosity of BCA members, over $100,000 was raised for the Campaign.

Jefrey Matsusaka from the California Young Adult Buddhists Association told the delegates that the next retreat for the group will be in June, 2010 at the San Francisco Zen Center.

Ron Murakami, Chair of the BCA Ministerial Affairs Committee announced that his committee is continuing to work on clarifying the employment tax status and housing allowance reporting for BCA Ministers. The Supplemental Health Insurance Premium Subsidy for retired ministers and their spouses will be increased to $30/ month from $25/month in fiscal year 2010-2011.

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Take Refuge in the Pure Music!

The delicate, wondrous sounds of jewel-trees in the jewel-jewels
Are a naturally pure and harmonious music,
Unexcelled in subtlety and elegance,
So take refuge in Amida, the pure music!

By Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto,
Berkley Buddhist Temple

T
oday we have gathered together to observe a most important event—the 750th Memorial Commemoration of Shinran Shōnin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. For many of us, this is the first and last time that we will be able to take part in such an event. Indeed, the scale of today’s service and music program and the deep sense of reverence that fills this room speak eloquently of how important and rare we find this opportunity to express our gratitude to Shinran Shōnin.

Shinran’s Emancipation

In his lifetime, Shinran Kōshin Ohtani has written a wonderful collection of essays, entitled, The Buddha’s Wish for the World, in honor of this event. Among its insightful and inspirational lessons is an essay entitled, “Are you listening carefully to the voice of the Buddha?”, which he says,

When we are filled with our own worries, the voices of others can barely enter into our ears. This is because we are too preoccupied to listen… The voice of the Buddha is the same as this… In order to hear the voice of the Buddha calling you, it is important you strain the ears of the heart to catch the sounds that you usually do not hear. By doing so, you are showing the wish that the Buddha places on you, and the world opens up.

Often we are so busy talking that we are unable to listen to anyone or anything. We become so enamored by the sound of our own voices, or by the brilliancy of our words, that we fail to hear the voices of others or the voice of the Buddha. In other words, our ears and hearts are not attuned to hear the voice of the Buddha. This is why we call for peace in our hearts and in the world. Hence, the Gomonzusho explains, it is important for us to listen with the ears of the heart.

Indeed, this is also true about the world in which we live. Nowadays, there are so many voices in demand to be heard. We hear them everywhere—all those talking heads who are happy to tell us what is best for us and everyone else. We hear them in the halls of Congress, in state assemblies, in churches and temples, and in our own homes. Yet, our insistence that our own voices be heard above all others prevents us from hearing what others have to say. This ends up causing more misunderstandings, more hard feelings, and more and greater conflict between people. In contrast, when we allow the voices of others to enter our ears we can begin to understand them as fellow human beings. When we listen to the voices of others, we may find ourselves able to respect them, and find common ground with them.

Today’s service and music program have been preceded by yesterday’s commemorative symposium, which took up the theme, “Peace and Unanimity”. That theme was drawn from the words of Shinran Shōnin, whose heartfelt wish was that peace and tranquility may prevail throughout the world. It is good to note that we are aware that the weekend events were also preceded by the annual meetings of the BCA National Council and the BCA National Council. I have attended twenty-one such meetings of both organizations and I must say that these meetings proceeded without the hard feelings and rancor that we have come to expect. Many of my ministerial colleagues have shared my feelings of surprise. People were actually listening to each other! Even arguments were carried on in a way and a sense of respectful disagreement! What was going on? Why the harmony? Why the change?

What is all this talk that you have heard about the four emperors— sample representatives—must have been filled with some sense that we were getting a vision of the real and important. The purpose of our gathering in San Jose went beyond hearing reports, amending bylaws or passing budgets (as important as they are). Rather, I think that everyone sensed that we were here to remember Shinran Shōnin and to hear his plea, "Hey you guys! How about a little peace and tranquility for a change this year." We all heard his voice, and harmony was the result, at least for this year. (We’ll see what happens next year.)

I believe that both Gomonzusho Ohtani and Shinran Shōnin are...
The DharmaRealm Live Recording

Jean Rev. Harry Bridge and Scott Mitchell at the Jodo Shinshu Center on Saturday, April 10 for a live recording of the DharmaRealm podcast. Doors open at 1 p.m.

Following a short musical performance, we’ll be discussing among other things, Buddhist cosmology and imagined worlds. How are Buddhist ideas of retribution, pure lands, and immeasurable worlds relevant to our everyday practice? And how can other imagined worlds in pop culture help us understand Buddhism?

You can get a sneak-peek of this topic in our March 15th episode on Buddhism and science fiction. The show starts at noon and is free and open to the public. Our recording should include plenty of time for discussion, so come with your questions and we’ll do our best to address them.

The DharmaRealm is a bi-monthly podcast by Rev. Harry Bridge of the Buddhist Church of Oklahoma and Scott Mitchell of the Institute of Buddhist Studies.

Listen on the web at www.dharamereal.com or download in your favorite app.

For more information on the podcast or our live event, visit our website, follow us on Twitter, or become a fan on Facebook.

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NC Report

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Susan Bottari, Chair of the BCA Insurance Committee reported that the committee was looking into having the BCA provide health insurance for ministers that would follow them to every temple assignment. In order for this to work, there would need to be a single payroll source to every temple.

Rev. Patrick Usuki, Chair of the Ministers’ Research and Propagation Committee told the delegates that the committee was dissolving and that the book of dharma messages that was being produced was near completion.

Dr. Ryo Munekata, Chair of the BCA Archives and Historic Preservation Committee announced that the Japanese National Museum was once again accepting materials for the BCA Archives and Historic materials should go through the BCA Archives and Historic Preservation Committee and National Council session due to the death of his father. Mr. Tom Tetsuo Saki. Mr. Saki passed away on Friday, February 26, 2010. A moment of silence was observed in his memory. President-elect Everett Watarase served as chair of the meeting in Dr. Saki’s place and was installed as BCA President after the close of the National Council Meeting.

The National Council meeting continued with installation of the Ministers Association, and Executive Committee of the National Board.

May Peace and Tranquility Prevail Throughout the World

Music

Continued from Page 3

using us to strain the ears of our hearts to catch the sounds that we usually do not hear, so that we may be able to hear the Buddha’s wish of peace for all beings in the world.

In this sense, we can appreciate the form of a verse, a song, or a hymn. That, I believe, is what Shiron Shinshin’s Gatha of True Shinjin and the Nembutsu and singing his hymns of praise. For years, BCA members have expressed their faith through the gathas of Kumi Hisasune, Yumiko Hojo, Jane Imamura, and Chizuko Iwanaga. Today, carrying on their tradition are Kent Matsuda, Russell Daisey, and Dhi Lewis who have given us music that allows us to sing of our gratitude for the life and teachings of our founder. We may also be moved by the music of Rev. Harry Bridge, of Copeland or Coltrane. Young people may be inspired by the singing of Beyonce, Taylor Swift, Lady Gaga, or Lil Wayne. Music touches us; it changes us; and music itself can become the condition that enables us to encounter the timeless wish of life and realize the infinite potential of our own lives.

In this sense, we can appreciate Shiron Shinshin’s declaration that music echoes from the Pure Land. The wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha is at play within our lives. It takes the form of light and sound. We hear the nembutsu as music, and as we live, we become part of the nembutsu in our lives.
Religious Community Center as a Shin Buddhism. LA Betsuin quickly responded to them.


The History, Outlook, and Significance of American Shin Buddhism (Lectured in Japanese)

By Rev. Kazuaki Nakata, Ekoji Buddhist Temple 1. History

In the early 1900s, there was a Chinese Buddhist organization here in the United States. It disappeared around the 1920-30s. Only Otago Buddhism (Honen Buddhism) has the longest history as a Buddhist organization. As you know, BCA has been maintained as a Japanese American Buddhist Organization. I would like to share two reasons for that:

• Example of Guadalupe Buddhist Church (Honen Buddhism) among Japanese immigrants around Guadalupe in the early 19th Century. They were planning to estab-lish a “Religious Community Center for Jap-aneese” that did not know what kind of reli- gion they wanted to have as their religious body. They wrote two letters, one to LA Betsu-in and the other directly to Shinran. A letter from Betsuin quickly responded to them. The Guadalupe people decided to use their Religious Community Center as a Shin Buddhist place of worship.
• Racial Segregation

Japanese and other Asian immigrants encountered racial segregation (you may want to study the “California Alien Land Law of 1919” and “Ex-ecutive Order 9066”). Under these circum-stances, Japanese immigrants and their chil-dren often spent their time at their temple and not at their school. So our Shin Buddhist Temples have been maintained as Japanese American cultural community cen-ter for a long time. However, personally I think it is difficult to sustain our temples for a long time. However, personally I think it is difficult to sustain our temples for a long time. However, personally I think it is difficult to sustain our temples for a long time. However, personally I think it is difficult to sustain our temples for a long time.

Tanaka-sensei’s message gave us something to think about. “What would BCA be like, 50 years from now, when it ob-serves Shinran Shinsho’s 800-year anniversary? I hope it becomes a strong organization — spiritually and outwardly,” Dr. Munekata said.

Symposium Speakers

A very dynamic lineup of speak-ers participated in the afternoon symposium.

Dr. Tom Tanaka led the Japa-nese-language session on the topic: “Amerika Jodo Shinsho no Aiyumi: Tenbo to Sono Togi – Amerika Bikkuni Zentsu no Hakei ni.” Rev. Tanaka’s presentation included his upcoming publication in Japanese about Buddhism in America.

Dr. James Dobbins, the James F. Faichild professor of religious studies at Oberlin College in Ohio, spoke on Shinran and Eshinni. He had them autographed.

Surta chanting was offered by Jodo Shinsho’s expression of medi-tation. “Shoya Raiso-Gi,” a sutra written by Shantao, one of the sev-enteen Pure Land Masters, was chant-ed. Chanting was led by Revs. Ryu-su Furumoto (San Mateo), Kojo Kakihara (L.A. Betsuin), Kiyonobu Kuwahara (Jodo Shinsho Center), Katsuyuri Kusunoki (Lodi), Yoshitaka Nakamur (San Diego) and Shushi Sakamoto (L.A. Betsuin). The significance for chanting this sutra was because it was chant-ed constantly by Shinran and Hon-en,” Rev. Mukojima said. “It is a very popular sutra chanted by min-isters in Japan.”

Four original Life of Shin- ran oil painting panels were on display as part of the event. The paint-ings were created by the Oakland Buddhist Church of San Francisco by Mr. Koshiro Kameyami of Osaka, Japan. Winning selections from the Dharma Art Poster contest were displayed. The artwork will be included in the 2011 BCA calendar. Over 300 entries were submit-ted.

A DVD, along with photo-graphs explaining the Hokwanzai Geido Founder’s Hall restoration was presented.

The Seattle, San Jose and Fres-no Betsuins, along with the Berke-ley and New York temples displayed their respective activities, each active with in their respective communities.

BCA shared its website and how it outreachs worldwide.

The BCA 21st Century Cam-paign promoted its fundraising ef-forts and explained programs that have and are taking place at the JSC.

The BCA Booknote and South-ern District’s Hongwanji Place has brick sales.

Kintetsu and JTB travel agen-cies were on hand to promote travel to Japan for the Hongwanji’s Shinran commemoration in 2011. All registered participants re-ceived blue folders with the Wisteria crest (Sagata Fuji) and the words Buddhist Churches of America Shinran Shinsho 750th Memorial imprinted. Also included was the book The Buddha’s Wish for the World by his emi-grant, Muneshu Koshin Ohtani.

Saturday Banquet

Over 760 patrons filled in the Imperial Ballroom for the banquet dinner.

The thunderous performance of San Jose Taiko opened the fest-ival.

2010 Spring Enrollment

The Institute of Buddhist Studies, a graduate degree program with seminary for Bud-dhist and Ministerial Studies in Berkeley, began its 17th year with a fall semester with a total enrollment of 69 stu-dents. Of the total, 21 students are enrolled in IBS, of which 13 are students on the minis-terial track.

Dr. Richard Payne, IBS Dean, stated that the school’s enrollment had steadily increased due to the new IBS location with the Jodo Shinsho Center. Also, the courses offered have created a greater in-terest in the study of Buddhism.

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A gift of appreciation was presented to Dr. Billy SaeKi, past BCA president, for his two years of dedicated service to the organization. The Koromo Award, presented to new ministers, was awarded by the Federation Buddhist Buddhists of America and the World Adult Buddhists League were given. Recipients included Rev. Peter Inokoji (Sacramento), Rev. Koki Okano (Honolulu), and the banquet speaker. PBA is the only Jodo Shinshu preparatory high school in the United States.

Mrs. Kimi Hisatsune, Mrs. Yu-miko Hojo, Mrs. Jane Imamura, and Mrs. Chizuko Iwanaga (posthumously) were honored for their contributions. Each of the four ladies have dedicated their lives to the organization.

Mrs. Kimi Hisatsune, Mrs. Yu-miko Hojo, Mrs. Jane Imamura and Mrs. Chizuko Iwanaga (posthumously) were honored for their efforts in compiling hymns for the BCA. After finding its new home in Mountain View, the BCA Buddhist Center is a testament to the ingenuity and creativity of our BCA Sangha. In appreciation, the BCA Sangha chose to dedicate their efforts to the maintenance of the BCA Buddhist Center in Berkeley.

Socho Oguji introduced Rev. Sozo Wamang Bhutia, a new kai-zeno who performed in Miami. Rev. Bhutia was born in India and raised as a Tibetan Buddhist monk. Rev. Bhutia converted to Jodo Shinshu and has established his temple in Kathmandu.

Sunday Closing Service

Buddhism of all ages filled the Imperial Ballroom for Sunday’s Closing and Music Services.

Chairperson, Mrs. Carol Har- brecht, introduced the remaining service, the final event of the day. The service began with a presentation by the chorale, accompanied by music from the San Jose BCA Dharma School students, representing the Coast District temples, presented serene offerings to the Onaijin. Onaijin were provided by all of the participating BCA districts.

After a brief message by Socho Oguji, the Sangha chanted Shingon Namu Myoho Renge Kyo. Reverberating through the walls, it was followed by the chanting of the Wakan, and the scattering of petals. The remainder of the service was made by Dharma School students. The sangha then praised Shinran with the singing of Onohokan.

A congratulatory English message from the Monshu Koshin Ohtani was shown on the large video boards. The Monshu discussed the future of Jodo Shinshu and his plans to focus on the youth and tomorrow’s vision into the future. The regessional of ministers sealed the close of the Shinran service.

I really enjoyed the closing service, especially chanting the Shingon Namu Myoho Renge Kyo. Chanting a seams throughout the San Fernando Valley Honolulu Buddhist Temple said. I was impressed with the choir and look forward to the Music program.

Take Refuge in the Pure Music

The school’s mission is to teach the students the importance of meditation and its role in their daily lives. The school offers a variety of classes and courses, including meditation, yoga, and English classes. The school also has a strong emphasis on community service, and students are required to complete a certain number of hours of service in the community.

President’s Message

I am excited to see the opportunities for Jodo Shinshu coming to the forefront at the Jodo Shinshu Center. The Jodo Shinshu Center is comprised of many prominent religious and educational institutions, including the Institute of Buddhist Studies and the Jodo Shinshu Center. These wonderful institutions are helping to guide Buddhist traditions into the future. We should look forward to future student bodies and the many new programs and opportunities offered through the Jodo Shinshu Center.

With gratitude and appreciation, the Jodo Shinshu Center is dedicated to its mission of providing a supportive and nurturing environment for Buddhist education. The Jodo Shinshu Center is dedicated to providing a supportive and nurturing environment for Buddhist education. The Jodo Shinshu Center is dedicated to providing a supportive and nurturing environment for Buddhist education. The Jodo Shinshu Center is dedicated to providing a supportive and nurturing environment for Buddhist education. The Jodo Shinshu Center is dedicated to providing a supportive and nurturing environment for Buddhist education. The Jodo Shinshu Center is dedicated to providing a supportive and nurturing environment for Buddhist education. The Jodo Shinshu Center is dedicated to providing a supportive and nurturing environment for Buddhist education. The Jodo Shinshu Center is dedicated to providing a supportive and nurturing environment for Buddhist education. The Jodo Shinshu Center is dedicated to providing a supportive and nurturing environment for Buddhist education. The Jodo Shinshu Center is dedicated to providing a supportive and nurturing environment for Buddhist education. The Jodo Shinshu Center is dedicated to providing a supportive and nurturing environment for Buddhist education. The Jodo Shinshu Center is dedicated to providing a supportive and nurturing environment for Buddhist education. The Jodo Shinshu Center is dedicated to providing a supportive and nurturing environment for Buddhist education.
「知恵と智慧」

既に3月がやってきました。今住んでいるリゾートは広く、日常事象には様々な種類の団体があり、桜を花びらの時節も春の最高の拝礼をするようですね。南加には夏冬の違いないと聞くのですが、やはり「彼岸会」のお参りを勧めますと必ず春一番と思います。皆様は御健在中、お念仏申し上げます。

で、この春を迎えられてるでしょうか？
最近の色々な調査や、お寺で実に受けている相談などを総合してみると、今後の社会を主に考え、生活、犯罪、それに家族分裂の問題が二つにあげられます。これらの問題は、それぞれのケースによって違いますので、その原因をきってみますと、一つの大規模な問題であります。その原因をより深く考察し、根本的な解決を求めなければなりません。お寺は、様々な悩みと始終懸命にいます。

例えば第一の生活苦の問題ですが、これは冷静に前後を考え、いわゆる「人間を防ぐ」と言うのが目かげて起こる可能性が少なくなるのです。今日は、いくら不景気だからすると、いつの日か生活を大切なだけなはずですでしょう。

まず、家族の一部として、家を売ったり、貯金を必要でないでしょう。それなのに、なぜ生活をしないのですか？
サプライズして、「食事」、「睡眠」を心にわくわくさせます。「うん」とは、満足することを知らず、「もっと欲しい」、「ああも欲しい」という食欲の心です。「うん」は前後の考えをせずに本能的に行おうかです。

あの食欲が起こりませんを後悔も立ち上らず、収入額のあんしんしないか金額を、仏教で教える「三毒の煩悩」の一つ、「食」「睡眠」の選択、あきらかに考えを配慮し、忍耐して自己の尊厳を抑える自制心、つまり、人間の理性、忍耐、知恵で防ぐことができます。三つの毒は「煩悩」として身に透かさないものを忘れない、憎しみこむことで、人間の罪悪は人の毒の原因です。

現在の生活はあまりにも楽になり過ぎて、世の人が非常に甘くなると同時に、その反面、苦しみも深くなっています。

特にリスを筆頭にする大都市の家主、非行、男女・老人を問わず、家内でも起こっています。この問題は真実や生活の知恵のみで解決できません。特に家庭内での問題は複雑で、原因があがかかばかりです。

人間関係は、それが観念ですので、かえって心理を残しまやし、どこを生じやすいかです。たとえば、仕事の上役がいろいろさせしても、大声で怒鳴ったり、一切口をきかないことはできません。そこで忍耐という方針をたどるからです。

そこでして、夫婦や親子の関係は、血との繋がり、物質的関係、その上、日常生活で家族に多くしていますので、うまくいきますと、これほど親愛でハッピーな関係はありませんが、逆に何故かのくいがいが生じますと、俗にいう「可哀想に、憎しみが百倍」ということにもなりかねません。

そういうことにならない為には、人間の知恵のみを願らず、仏の智慧が必要になってくるのです。どんなものかといいますと、それは当然に見える現実の世界はもとより、目に見えない世界まで見通す心はさらります。冬の時季には春が来て、春の時季には夏が来る。景気の良い時には不景気が来るという変化があることを見通し、それに備え忍耐をして行く、当たり前と言わざるをえないが、当分の前を云うとすれば、普通の住まずに前進と思えるのが凡夫にはなかかかできません。

生命力の強かったが、最後に「よく読んでいくよ」とつぶやいて住んで、と、兄が出してくれました。御本願を愛いで生活に執り続ける父が「すごいな」と思いました。

誰かの言葉に、「目に見えずお慈悲が、言葉を現れて なあみだつつ 声で示され」とあります。この言葉は仏様の智慧が照らされた念仏の生活態度であり、毎日のような生活の中で、仏法に関し、学び、それを実践して行くのが第一の道だと確信します。

森繁久弥さんの葬儀で法話

本願寺の新聞が報道

1974年にサンフランシスタードで行われた国殤75周年の記念行事に特別
参加された森繁久弥さんの葬儀が11月20日、
東京都港区の青山葬儀所で行われました。このセレモニーのまで、
平松出守之助に依頼を受けた馬場昭明住職が務めました（写真）。

8月に亡くなった映画監督・松本明恵さんの葬儀が森となり、
越後の森繁・小倉から依頼を受けた馬場住職は「善導 忙しく行われ
ている芸能家や政治家の会葬者に、法話を使ってほしい」と
前に行うことを提案。建案、建案を承ました。

同日は芸能関係者や政治家など会葬者は1000人を超えた。馬場
住職は名「戒護院 浄海」の由来や戒護院の建誌など
教行や枢機聖人としてお世話になった法話を行っています。

後は「賢林監督とは同日東京主演で、甥を演習していた間に
馬場住職は「ご家族と会いに来ていただき、うかがいました
松本監督からいただいた不可思議な仏縁を深めていただきたい」と
話している。 （『本願寺新聞』より記事と写真引用）
親鸞聖人750回記念法要と行事

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Buddhist Churches of America
1710 Octavia Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
電話 (415) 776-5600 FAX (415) 771-6293
Eメール住所 bcahg@pacbell.net