14th World Federation of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Buddhist Women's Associations Convention

By Jeanette Arakawa, Janet Kameda, BCA FBWA Secretary General, and Mayumi Ogui, Honorary Advisor

The summary result of the WFBWA resolutions survey was introduced by Hayano-San, president of the WFBWA. It was also decided that Canada be permitted to determine the scale of the 15th World Buddhist Women’s Convention in 2015. On the morning of May 16, led by Jane Endo from the BCA presented gifts of California wine and Sake’s candies.

The convention opened on the afternoon of May 16 with presentations of workshops on Japanese cultural arts and crafts and entertainment. In the evening the attendees enjoyed hoto box dinner followed by an entertainment program. After Japanese classical dances by Gekikan Ryunosuke Theater Company, each Federation had prepared a special presentation. The BCA was represented by 16 BWA members from several districts (Bay, Coast, Eastern, and South- ern) performing a line dance. The 16 dancers reenacted together for the first time when they arrived in Kyoto. It was a dance of encouragement to victims of the earthquake/tsunami/nuclear plant disaster in six parts: normalcy, chaos, emergence from chaos, coming together, working together and finally, normalcy.

On the morning of May 17, at the opening ceremony Sumiko Tanabe, current FBWA president, and Hiroko Tuda, former FBWA president, representing the BCA, FBWA, participated in the offering of flowers and light ceremony.

Keynote speaker was Misuyo Ohira, lawyer and author. In a talk-show format, Ohiwa was interviewd by Kisumi Hidakke, commentator and reporter, member of the Shonin Temple in Shiga prefecture. Junior high school, Ohira was bullied, attempted suicide, dropped out of school, and became a juvenile delinquent. She overcame her past through the encourage- ment of a family friend. She then studied law and at age 29, passed the state bar exam. She specialized in helping juve- niles before they became delinquents. She attracted juvenile delinquency to the lack of spiritual education at home. Another highlight of the convention was a panel of speakers representing each of the five Federations. Keeping in mind the theme for the convention “May Peace and Tranquility Prevail throughout the World, and May the Buddha-Dharma Spread”, attendees were encouraged to contribute to the peace and tranquility of the world. BCA FBWA members perform a line dancing demonstration at the 14th World Buddhist Women’s Convention in Kyoto.

continued on page 6
The Power to Stand Up and Move Forward

By Rev. Marvin Harada, Orange County Buddhist Church

For our Ho-onko Service this year (Memorial service for Shinshu Buddhism), we were fortunate to have our guest speaker, Rev. Yukie Ashikaga, from the Buddhist Temple of Mission Viejo. I met Rev. Ashikaga over 30 years ago, when I went to Chicago to study under Rev. Gyosai Kubo. At that time, the Buddhist Temple of Chicago (BTC), which Rev. Kubo founded himself, had three outstanding ministers, Rev. Gyosai Kubo, Rev. Gyoko Saito, and Rev. Yukie Ashikaga. I spent nine months in Chicago studying under them. I got to know Revs. Saito and Ashikaga at that time, but of course spent most of my ministry in New York. I was so happy when Rev. Ashikaga accepted my invitation to speak at our Ho-onko service this year. I love having guest speakers, first of all because I don’t have to think about a sermon on Sunday. Secondly I love having guest speakers because I always find something meaningful in their Dharma talks. After you become a minister, you begin to appreciate the Dharma talks of other ministers. I listen for “good stories” and “examples” that I can use for my own talks in the future. I am not the lone ranger in the game. Most of the ministers that I know all do the same.

The weekend of our Ho-onko, Rev. Ashikaga gave a Japanese Buddhist Education Center lecture for us. It was a wonderful experience. I asked the lecture to have some words by a teacher in Japan that I found most meaningful and I would like to share it with all of you.

The teacher’s name is Rijin Yasuda, and he was a student of the great Jodo Shinshu teacher and minister of the Higashi Honganji tradition, Rev. Ryoin Soga. Rev. Ashikaga’s lecture is an excerpt from what he read in one of Yasuda Sensei’s books, I believe. It could have been something he heard in a lecture, but I believe that he took it from a book, but I cannot quote the page and

Newest Eagle Scout from San Mateo Buddhist Temple

On Saturday, April 16, An Eagle Court of Honor was held for Derek Kawahara at the San Mateo Buddhist Temple. In attendance was his family, friends, fellow Troop 780 scouts, scout parents, SMIBT members, and Rev. Seiun of America Pacific Style Council

The Master of Ceremonies was Mr. Victor Iwamura, SMIBT president. Reverend Rynne Furumoto graciously led the Shobukan No Gassho before dinner, and then the Gocho Sei Gassho during the ceremony. Derek received his Eagle Scout medal presented Eagle Sei pins to his parents, Jeff and Cindy Kawahara, and presented a special Eagle Scout pin to his grandfather, Mr. Fred Kawahara.

During the meeting, Mr. Stephen Yotter (regional manager for California Bank and Trust) presented a donation from the BCA to the Honolulu Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temple. Mr. Shibata also informed the audience that the Hongwanji had already received the donations to the BCA’s Japan Relief Fund. Mr. Shibata also informed the audience that the Hongwanji had already received the donations to the BCA’s Japan Relief Fund.

The BCA National Board Meeting California Bank and Trust Donate to BCA’s Japan Relief Fund

By Dr. Kent Matsuda, Enmanji Buddhist Temple

The members of the BCA National Board met at the Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC) in Berkeley on June 11. During the meeting, Mr. Stephen Yotter (regional manager for California Bank and Trust) presented a check for $46,594.20 to Socho Ogui for the BCA’s Japan Relief fundraising effort. Accompanying Mr. Yotter were Steven Borg (senior vice-president of marketing) and Susan Yang Leong (operations administrator) from the California Bank and Trust, and employees of California Bank and Trust collected almost $65,000 for Japan Relief. The Bank contributed $10,000. The BCA received the largest share of the money collected. Socho Ogui indicated that the money would be forwarded to the Social Welfare Department of the Hongwanji at the end of August. Any BCA member or temple who is continuing to receive donations for Japan Relief is encouraged to forward the donations to the BCA prior to the August deadline. Socho Ogui presented a check for $1,141,934.37 to Bishop Shoshin Tachibana, Governor General of the Hongwanji during the World Coordinating Council of Monks Meeting in May on 18yr. The Hongwanji forwarded this initial donation from the BCA to the Hongwanji Social Welfare Department. Socho Ogui learned that the Hongwanji had already preserved approximately $125,000 and 20 wheelchairs to the prefectural governments of Fukushima, Iwate, and Miyagi. Rev. Michael Endo informed the National Board that the Sacramento Betsuin sent two tons of relief items to the Sendai Betsuin. Socho Ogui also announced that Rev. Katsumi Kazuo Kusakabe of the Buddhist Church of Lodi was officially recognized as a BCA Kaikyoshi on March 22. Rev. Yoko Motoshiri of the Hawaii Betsuin was transferred to the BCA and would become the resident minister at the Buddhist Church of Stockton on July 1. Rev. Koho Katakai was also transferred from Hawaii and would become the resident minister at the Arizona Buddhist Temple on July 1. Rev. Shoryo Taniguchi of the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church indicated that they were able to do what he had planned to do for the Landmarks Preservation Fund. Mr. Shibata also shared that the Braggart’s Eagle Nagisa is the new interim BCA Bookstore manager. The Bookstore (located in the JSC) will be open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 AM to 5 PM. Contact Mr. Shibata about Books - more off-site sales. Thus far, $258,562 has been collected for Debt Relief from BCA members and friends. The BCA treasurer, reminded the Board that budget requests for 2012-2013 fiscal year would be submitted by August 15, 2011 to the BCA Budget and Finance Committee. Robert Tatum, chair of the BCA Bylaws/Legal Committee, informed the National Board that he was continuing to pursue trade...
Julay 2011 • News and Highlights

The Difficulty of Truly Seeing  Reverend Kodo Umezu, CBE Director

I hope you read “Acts of Kindness” in the June issue of Wheel of Dharma. So many people visit the Jodo Shinsu Center and are very happy to see such a nice building. Recently, when a group of young people came to visit, I gave a short welcome message. Since they were in the building for the first time, I asked them if they could see the building. I don’t think they understood what I was asking. I asked them again if they could see the building. They, of course, could see the building. Then I told them that they are not really seeing the building if they think that just seeing the walls, floors and spaces is seeing the building. To truly see the building is to understand the vision behind it. To see the building is to hear the voiceless voices of all the people who helped build the Jodo Shinsu Center. Just seeing the structure is not necessarily seeing the heart of the Jodo Shinsu Center.

To truly see things is not that easy. You may be with your friends, but you may not be truly seeing them. You may be with your parents, but you may not truly understand your parents’ love. Likewise, we may be saying the Nembutsu, but we may not be truly hearing the deep message encapsulated in it. We need to realize why we are urged to say the nembutsu. Our task is to discover where the calling voice is coming from, why the Vow was established, and for whom the Vow was made. It seems easy, yet it is really difficult to truly understand and accept the Vow as it is. Shinran Shonin said that to hear the reason the Vow was established and fulfilled is the key. He states in his Wasan as follows:

When we reflect on the establishment of the Vow, We find that the Tathagata, without abandoning sentient beings in pain and affliction, Has taken the directing of virtue to them as foremost, Thus fulfilling the mind of great compassion.

(CWS p. 408)

Just as it is hard to truly see the Jodo Shinsu Center, to see the true heart of the Vow is most difficult, for we have so much faith in ourselves. We take refuge in our human wisdom. We try to find ways to fulfill our lives. But true fulfillment comes from encountering the Universal Vow directed at all beings. Let us together hear the profound meaning of the Vow.

Nami amida-butsu.

Successful “Dharma Happy Hour”

Sharing our mission is the key to keeping us united and moving forward. With this in mind, CBE sponsored the first “Dharma Happy Hour” for BCA board members prior to the bi-annual National Board Meeting.

On the evening of June 20, about 20 board members gathered together in the relaxed atmosphere of the reception room and adjoining guest lounge at the Jodo Shinsu Center and shared their spiritual paths with each other.

The CBE will host another “Dharma Happy Hour” in December so that all the leaders and ministers can share their vision and mission. We hope that each temple and district can try something similar to this so that we can all be on the same page.

Jodo Shinsu Education

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Jodo Shinsu Education

Please look at the picture on the bottom of the Japanese section’s cover page. You will see four Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) students. They conducted the monthly memorial service honoring Shinran Shonin on June 16. As you may already know, many Jodo Shinsu temples around the world observe a service called Go-meinichi on the 16th day of each month to honor the founder of our school of Buddhism. We did the same thing today, shameless IBS ministerial students to take over organizing and conducting the monthly Go-meinichi service at the Jodo Shinsu Center.

This picture shows the steps to becoming a Jodo Shinsu Kaikyoshi minister. On the far left is Candido Shibata, who is a not-yet-IBCA certified minister’s assistant. Second from the left is Diana Thompson, a certified minister’s assistant with Tokudo ordination. Next is Rev. Ryoet Nangyo, who has Tokudo ordination and received Kyo- shiki certification but is not a Kaikyoshi minister. On the right is Rev. Shingo Furusawa. He has been certified as a Kaikyoshi minister by the Hongwajin and assigned to a temple in Hawaii. Rev. Furusawa is furthering his study at IBS and will soon return to Hawaii to continue his ministerial assignment.

www.BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org  E-mail: director@cbe-bca.org  Phone (510) 809-1460
First World Buddhist Women's Convention, 18-21 May, 2015, Toronto, Canada.

 среди женщин, активных в ряде институтов, а также в Центре Шинран Шонин. Вместе с тем, в 2015 году было проведено несколько мероприятий, направленных на поддержку жертв тайфуна "Терри", произошедшего в Японии в конце октября. Так, в память о жертвах тайфуна "Терри", в январе 2016 года в городе Иокогама был установлен памятник в виде белого крана, который символизирует надежду и восстановление. Этот кран стал символом мира и примирения, который был принят в качестве благодарности за поддержку жертв тайфуна.

Однако, несмотря на все эти усилия, жизнь на дорогах остается сложной и непредсказуемой. Многие жители страны продолжают бороться за свое выживание, держась за надежду на лучшее будущее.

Источник: Japan Times, 11.05.2015
Raising Money by Sharing Good Wishes

Immediately following the March earthquakes and tsunamis in Japan, Pacific Buddhist Academy students organized several fundraisers to benefit Japan’s relief efforts. In addition to a bake sale and car wash, the students, their families, and teachers took on the ambitious task of stringing several hundred nenju made of beautiful glass glow-in-the-dark beads, which we call “Amida Butsu” (the immeasurable light and life). This Supreme Wisdom calls to all people: regardless of gender, color, creed, belief, distribution is the gift of the Supreme Wisdom: It calls to everyone whether they are Christians, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists or atheists. Each of us, without exception, has been trapped in a small shell and transfiguring from darkness to darkness in the eyes of the Buddha. The truth is that we all need help, we all need support, and we all need help in our foolish actions that harm each other. Buddhism is a religion of wisdom. By encountering the Supreme Wisdom, each of us takes a step back in this time place so that all of us can live our lives to the fullest, and open our hands down this world to the future generations.

Thank you very much. 
Namaste Amida Butsu 
Namaste Amida Butsu

The Nembutsu Journey

By Rev. Carol Gansho O’Dowd, Longmont Buddhist Temple


W e arrived after delayed flights and long journey. We were greeted by Mark Unno, waiting patiently, to report the IRS deduction and long journey. We were greeted by Mark Unno, waiting patiently, to report the IRS deduction. We had come from throughout the Western US and Canada, we began to drop concerns about who, country, which state, or even which city. Instead we leaned into each other as our hearts touched. We connected in circles, through laughter and tears. Chanting with sincerity, we breathed in and breathed out the rain, the gray sky and the smell of the wonderful mixture. We were in the Presence of Supreme Wisdom, this Supreme Wisdom calls to everyone whether they are Christians, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists or atheists. Each of us, without exception, has been trapped in a small shell and transfiguring from darkness to darkness in the eyes of the Buddha. The truth is that we all need help, we all need support, and we all need help in our foolish actions that harm each other. Buddhism is a religion of wisdom. By encountering the Supreme Wisdom, each of us takes a step back in this time place so that all of us can live our lives to the fullest, and open our hands down this world to the future generations.

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May Peace and Tranquility Prevail Throughout the World

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President’s Message

Continued from Front Page

The BCA Campaign 21st Century, ear- making $10 million for the budget for the development of the JSC. (The $10 million was not paid for a long time until the Durant Street prop- erty was purchased. This figure was established for budgeting purposes when the Board of Directors thought $10 million to be necess- ary). In 2002, we, the original property on Durant Street, became available for sale, but at a higher cost than in 1999. This time, the BCA would not decide not lose this second chance.

The Durant Street property in- cluding all closing cost would be paid through $2.8 million in short-term stock and a loan of $4.5 million from the Cali- fornia Bank and Trust. In 2002, the former Institute of Buddhist Studies building on Addi- son Street was condemned by the city of Berkeley. Subsequently, the Institute moved to Durant Street which would be in search of alternative ac- cel erators. The Institute at that time would be the subject of a potential agreement with Mountain View Buddhist Temple as a temporary ac- celerator, join the Graduate Theological University (GTU) or BCA would need to renovate or purchase a new facility in the Berkeley area. The BSA would be anchor tenant of the JSC.

In 2003, plans for the JSC were detailed for the purpose of funding the BSA, a BCA bookstore and Center of Buddhist Education. The total budget cost would be $5.7 million; on a combined basis with the cost of the purchased property ($7.125 million) would already ex-ceed the initial outline of $11.875 million.

As such, financial adversity for the project would continue to be initially well managed, underestimated financial require- ments, and economic pressures. In 2005, the construction of the JSC was commenced, bringing reality to the project. The design and construction requirements were made to be better managed and to be more accurately determined.

1. Relocate the Kodo from the first to the second floor. To minimize potential disruptions to the Kodo, the decision would be to relocate the Kodo to the second floor. Structural

reconstructions, floor reinforce- ments and replacing the existing ele- vators were implemented after con- struction began. Furthermore, the existing steel roof trusses had to be removed and reconfigured to comply with Landmark Preservation require- ments.

2. Ryukoku University. Original plans called for Ryukoku University students to use the JSC, but not until after planning for the JSC was underway. New plans accommodating Ryukoku University students were implemented. Flats, apartments, offices spaces and a re- ception room. Consequently, further design changes will result in cost over- runs.

3. Underground parking facility. The original design provided space for the existing elevator floor plan. The decision to add underground parking came after the project had begun.


Despite the aforementioned ad- versities, the BCA remained unde- 

Board Report

Continued from Page 2

In his talk, Rev. Ashikaga shared the following: Yasuda Sensei once said, “Many people think that to be a Buddhist, Namuamidabutsu, means something like this — that you take a big load off of your shoulders, like a big backpack, and you sit down and you let out a big sigh of relief. That’s what people think

Nakajima Masaaki, chair of the Evaluation and Planning Committee, rec- ommended that the BCA Affiliated Organizations (except the Buddhist Churches of America, and the Wisconsin Buddhist Church) formed the Board that over $19 million in investments earned $556,999 in a cash flow shortfall. In order to

A Certificate of Occupancy would be issued in August 2006. 

Kashiwagi

Continued from Page 4

nation’s elders. And if you don’t mind, I would like to do something right now.”

That day, my dad made it to the Jodo Shinshu Memorial. And as we stood under the words of our forefathers, we gathered. The moment and looked out over the National Mall, I could not help but think of Dr. Thomas 1959. I was only six years old at the time. I can say with certainty that the Nembutsu itself gave him the strength to stand up and move forward even day of his life.

In gasha

Rev. Harada

Continued from Page 2

For those of you who are new to the organization, we need to discuss several important areas.

1. Perseverance

2. Ryukoku University

3. Undergr
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Reinforcement of Student Financial Assistance Program

The Board approved the updated document.

Nancy Okada from the BCA Outreach andPropaganda Committee was present to intro- duce “Women in Shin Buddhism” who would be held at the New York Bud- dhist Church on Saturday, October 22, 2011. Rev. Prof. Mark Unno, Rev. Dr. Shoyo Tani- guchi, and Sumi Tanabe with Dr. Linda Engstrom as moderator.

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聞くことの大切さ

米国仏教団開教使
多田覚英

今月の法話

聞かかるのは、米国仏教団名誉開教使多田覚英です。

最近よく耳にする言葉に「説く仏教から聞く仏教へ」があります。浄土真宗の長年の伝統として説教として特に仏法を聞くことが重んじられてきました。仏教会で行われる仏事には必ず読経の後に法話があります。法話を聞くことは、仏の教えに聞く大切な仏縁であります。浄土真宗の信者の方々は法話を聞いて理解するだけではなく、仏法を素直に聞く心構えが肝要であります。真心こめて念仏のみ教えを心がけて聞くことであります。各自おのおのがそれぞれの人生の道に生きていますが、仏法を心で聞くことによってこそ、まことに生きる人生の道が開きます。

親鸞聖人は、聞くことの大切さを説かれた尊いお言葉に、

「聞くというは、衆生、仏願の生起(しょうき)本末(ほんまつ)をききて、疑心あることなし。これを聞くというなり。」

このご文は、聞くことの大切さを説かれたお言葉であります。まず「仏願の生起」といいますのは、阿弥陀仏がなぜ私たちを導くために仏心を起こされたかという事柄であります。「仏願の本末」とは、阿弥陀仏が誓われた願は、大慈悲心が絶えず働き続けてくださる阿弥陀仏が呼び声をかけておられるということです。すなわち、「仏願の生起本末」とは、まず聞くことは、仏願の最も大切な阿弥陀仏の願いである、一切衆生すべて生きるものを覚りの世界に導くと願われた、尊い誓いのお心を聞くことであります。その誓いは、阿弥陀仏の大慈悲心の呼び声であり、そのお声を聞かせていただくところに、信心の人生が開いてきます。その声こそが南無阿弥陀仏の心を表された尊い信心の声であり、毎日の生活にその声を支えとして、お念仏を聞きながらの人生の道を歩ませていただくところに、信心の道が開けるのです。

我々が念仏称えるじゃない
念仏の方から
わしの心にあたる
なむあみだぶつ

同じく才市の信心を表した詩でありますが、ここでは素直に阿弥陀さまからの南無阿弥陀仏の声を聞かされて、仏心の限りない慈悲と智慧に覚えてから、念仏の道を歩まれた詩であります。

大谷光真門主さまのお言葉に、

「阿弥陀様からのはたらきかけが私のほうに一方的に来ている。南無阿弥陀仏というお念仏もそうです。だから、どこにいても阿弥陀に照らされ、よびかけられ支えられているというふうに他力に味わえば、少し元気が出るんじゃないか。」

わが身に呼びかけておられる阿弥陀さまの方からのはたらきのよび声である南無阿弥陀仏の声に生かされているわが心が進めていくところに、人生の尊さを感じながらお念仏を称えるところに、まことの人生の道が自然に開いていきます。

国際連合本部会議場でお念仏

国際連合では数年前から、上座部仏教国が主になって「仏陀の日」(ウェサク)を定め、祝賀行事をとり行っている。今年は特に成道2600年記念の年として、ニューヨークの国連本部のあるニューヨーク市で一週間の特別行事が開催された。その初日にあたる五月十六日(月)には、国連本部の本会議場で特別のセッションが行われた。午前中、会議場を埋め尽くした参加者を前に、バンギブン国連総長が、熱心な仏教徒であった母親に育てられたという特別のメッセージを披露し、それに引き続き、バングラディッシュ、カンボジア、インド、インドネシア、日本、ネパール、パキスタン、フィリピン、韓国、ラオス、タイ、それにベトナムの国連代表がそれぞれ祝賀のメッセージを読み上げ、釈尊の教えがいかに世界の平和に大切であるかを訴えた。

午後には「平和、調和、共生」というテーマのもとに各国の仏教各派の代表、キリスト教、それにユダヤ教の代表が一般の参加者を対象に記念講演をした。日本からは日蓮宗、立正佼成会、それに浄土真宗の代表が参加した。浄土真宗の代表は、北米開教区の小杭好臣開教総長が世界仏教婦人会大会に参加するため出席できないということで、バークレーの仏教教育センターの梅津広道センター長が代わりに参加し、仏教は智慧の宗教、一人ひとりが真実の光に照らされ、自己の虚妄性に気づかることなくして、平和を語ることはできない、と親鸞聖人の教えにもとづきその思いを熱く語った。

国連の本会議場の壇上から声高く念仏が称えられ、会場の参加者からも随喜の声があがっていった。(写真は午前の集まり提供-関法信氏)

また、おつとめは経文を声に出して読むことによって、如来さまのお声を聞かせていただき、み法にあることでもあります。
去る五月十六日と十七日の二日において、第十四回世界仏教婦人会大会が、親鸞聖人七百五十回大遠忌に合わせて京都で開催された。大会のテーマは「世の中安穏なれ」で約四千名が参加した。

大会の前日の十五日に本願寺で代表者会が開催された。この会合には北米から小杭総長、小杭真弓名誉顧問、幹事であるジャネット・カメダ、ジャネット・アラカワ両夫人、それに遠藤マイケル事務局長が出席した。

五月十六日の午前中、各国の代表者はそれぞれギフトを持って京都市長と府知事を表敬訪問した。北米よりタナベ会長と遠藤事務局長がカリフォルニアワインとシーズキャンディーを土産として贈呈した。大会は同日午後より開催され、日本文化の講習会などがあり、参加者に喜ばれた。

夕食は特別の弁当で、その後余興があり、日本舞踊のあと、各国の代表による特別の出し物があった。米国仏教団からは四教区十六名の夫人によるラインダンスが披露され喜ばれた。出発前に練習できずに、京都に着いた日に全員が一緒に練習し当日の発表となった。このダンスは六部からなり、東日本の被災者を勇気付ける内容となっていた。

五月十七日の朝、タナベ会長とツダ前会長が献花献灯してお参りが行われ、大谷範子総裁は、このような時代だからこそお念仏のみ教えを喜び、仏婦の活動をより一層活性化せねばならぬと参加者に語りかけられた。

大会の基調講演は、大平光代氏で、中学時代のいじめ、非行、そして二十九歳で司法試験に合格して弁護士になるまでの歩みがトークショーの形式で語られた。現在は非行に走ろうとする若者の手助けをしていて、家庭における精神的な教育の欠如が原因の一つでもあると語っている。

もう一つのハイライトは、ハワイ、カナダ、南米、北米の四教区からの代表者による体験発表であった。タイトルは「仏人に生かされて今私は何ができるか」であった。カナダの発表は北米で二〇一九年となることであった。

なお、この大会を記念して米国仏教団からは大谷名誉総裁にキャロル・タオ夫人の手作りによる紙の白蓮の立体作品が贈呈された。この蓮はトパス強制収用所で戦時中キャンプ内の石を使って作られた薄い灰板の上に飾られている。そしてそこには次の親鸞聖人の言葉が刻まれている。

「一切善悪の凡夫人、如来の弘誓願を聞信すれば、仏、広大勝解のひととたまへり。この人を分陀利華（ふんだりけ-白い蓮の華）と名づく。」

また、このプロジェクトのアドバイザーは小杭総長と真弓夫人、それに増田ウィリアム開教使夫妻であったことを申し添えておきたい。

浄土真宗進化論

浄土真宗センターでは毎年十六日には親鸞聖人のご命日のお勤めをしています。このお勤めは仏教学院で学んでいる開教使課程の学生を中心に行われ、センターで勤めている人と一緒にお参りをしている。彼らが開教使となった現在、手伝っていた仏教会での心の一つとして是非行ってもらいたい浄土真宗の根本の行事でもある。

さてこの記事のタイトルにある「進化論」であるが、この写真をつかって説明したい。左端はスタッフトン仏教会の会員で開教使アジスタンテのキャリッジ・バクターさん、右端はハワイ出身の得度をしていた開教使アジスタンテのダイアナ・トンプソンさん、その次が得度と教師を持っているが開教使ではないすけをせがさん、そして右端は得度、教師をもってハワイの開教使となってお念仏を手掛けるあきさん。開教使志望の人はなかなかと揺れ、最後には各仏教会の駐在教会としてアサインされるのである。アサインされた後も、勉強は続けられるのである。

海外からの参加も多かったが、地震と津波のため最終的に百八十四名が参加したことは残念なことであった。カナダの次回の開催地は北米での二〇一九年となることである。