Time passes quickly. It has been almost one year since I took the position of Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America. In this time frame, Ron thanked the FY2012-2013 records in the Annual Meeting Report. At the meeting, Ron also announced that BCA is still on track for a financial audit of the Endowment Foundation, the BCA Minister’s Association Resolutions, and the Institute of Buddhist Education for the entire BCA. I decided to accept the nomination, as I realized the Bishop’s Uncles: John was the second oldest of eleven. Karen’s uncle was predeceased by his wife while my uncle was survived by his wife. Each of our uncles had been active members of the BCA Buddhist Temples, helping with fundraisers, events, and temple maintenance, as well as participating in the temple board of the Bishop. Secured BCA Trademark Rights for the Sagarafuji crest.

I decided to accept the nomination. The first resolution requests that the BCA pay off the entire JSC construction bank loan and interest during the 2013 calendar year and the second encourages the Boy Scouts of America to remove all limitations of participation due to sexual orientation. The National Council voted in three new Directors-at-Large for three-year terms: Char Grinolds (San Francisco), and Richard Stamus (West Los Angeles). The budget included increased membership dues, funding the 2013 calendar year, and temple maintenance, as well as participating in the temple board of the Bishop. Secured BCA Trademark Rights for the Sagarafuji crest.

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For young thin Buddhists in Berkeley, California May 10, 1911 represented a watershed moment. For young Shin Buddhists in Berkeley, California May 10, 1911 represented a watershed moment. For young Shin Buddhists in Berkeley, California May 10, 1911 represented a watershed moment.
In Memory of Reverend Haruyoshi Kusada
by Rev. Marvin Harada, CBE Co-Director

I first met Reverend Kusada nearly forty years ago, when I was a college student and attended my first summer session at the Institute of Buddhist Studies. Through his life, Rev. Kusada showed me what it means to live the Nembutsu. He was the most humble person I have ever known.

Shin Buddhism is a life of humility, of humbleness. I don’t think I really knew the meaning of the word humility until I met Rev. Kusada. Over the years that I attended IBS, I was able to see how Rev. Kusada was able to connect with all the people that he met. The power of his humility was so strong that he became an unforgettable person for so many.

When Rev. Kusada retired we had a little party for him, and at the end of the party he gave the most eloquent thank you speech that I have ever heard in my life. Sensei said, “I want to thank all of you for making my work at IBS possible for all those years. You students made my work and life possible at IBS. Thank you. Thank you so very much.”

We were trying to honor Sensei, but instead, as always, he was the one who made each one of us feel special.

In Gascho

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Dr. Takamoro Shigaraki Speaks at Winter Pacific Seminar at LA Betsuin

Close to 200 people attended the Winter Pacific Seminar at the Los Angeles Hongwanji Buddhist Temple on Saturday, February 23. The keynote speaker, Dr. Takamoro Shigaraki, presented his interesting and thought-provoking views on The Path of the Nembutsu. Simultaneous translation was provided by Rev. Dr. David Manumoto, Institute of Buddhist Studies. The program also included English and Japanese lectures, and a panel of Rev. Patricia Usuki, Mr. Richard Stambul, and Sensei Kory Quon, who asked for Dr. Shigaraki’s opinions on issues related to Shin Buddhism in America.

When asked, what key ideas will you take home with you today?, one program attendee replied, “The idea that my saying the Nembutsu is the Buddha calling me. Today I got a much better understanding of what that means. And that it’s important to say the Nembutsu in all parts of our life so that eventually the ego melts away.”

Today I got a much better understanding of what that means. And that it’s important to say the Nembutsu in all parts of our life so that eventually the ego melts away.

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The LGBT Community and Shin Buddhism
Saturday, June 22, 2013 7:30 am - 9 pm
at the Jodo Shinshu Center

Featuring Guest Speakers, Panel Presentations, Small Group Discussions, Resources & More!

Over the Rainbow: Understanding the Human Condition
Pacific Seminar 21st Century
July 5-7, 2013
at the Jodo Shinshu Center

Keynote Speaker Dr. Mark Blum
East Asian Languages & Cultures, UC Berkeley

Guest Speaker Prof. Keiko Toro
Jin-ai University, Fukui, Japan

Registration: $135 due by June 1 ~ BCA Member Rate $120 until May 15
For more details and online registration, visit: www.BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org Click on CBE
T

he past summer, I attended a conference in Los Angeles during one of the heat spells with temperatures in the mid 90’s. That was one that I had stayed at many times before. I could see areas where the hotel and rooms were air conditioned and run down despite the repainting, re-carpeting and new furniture. But I was glad that fortunately the hotel had air conditioning.

The next morning, I woke up to take a shower. The morning was already hot. I turned the shower handle and waited for the water to warm up. It was taking a long time for the water to warm up. In fact, it didn’t warm up at all. However, because the weather had been so hot, the water wasn’t altogether cold either. So I got in, grimaced at first, and soon got used to the colder water.

The next morning, the same thing happened. The water never got hot enough. Again, it wasn’t too bad because the weather remained hot as well.

Later that evening, my wife and son met up with me at the hotel. The plan was to drive to Arizona to attend the conference the following day, so my son was in for school. LA was still in the 90’s, but Association weather in Arizona.

The next morning my wife got up first to take a shower. I told her, “Watch out. This hotel is so old that there might not be any hot water.”

After she got out of the shower, I asked, “Was there any hot water?”

“Yes, but did it get hot enough?”

“It was steamy,” was her reply. I was so happy; finally I could take a comfortable shower. I got in and turned on the water and...it was still cold.

I yelled to my wife, “You used all the hot water! I do not believe it. How could there be so much hot water for her and none for me!”

Then I looked at the faucet again. The faucet looked just like the one that we have in our house. I turned it the same way that I always do at home. Could it be? Can the handle go the other way? I tried it the other way and guests for waiting up at the same time and us

All these times, I had been turning the handle clockwise, the wrong way. All these times, I had been turning the way I am normally accustomed to at home but I only got cold water. I blamed the hotel because it was old, I blamed the other hotel guests for waiting up at the same time and us

“Visitation to the Hongwanjii”

Gomou Shokinen and Lady Noriko Ohtani with the Moribusha.

Thanks to Bishop Koto Umezu and Rev. Ron Kobata of Buddhist Church of San Francisco we were honored to be able to have an audience with the Gomou Shokinen and Lady Ohtani on Dec. 17 2012 during a short visit to Kyo. We had provided some background information about ourselves prior to the visit so they knew that Leroy was President of California State University, East Bay. We exchanged thoughts about higher education in the United States, including financial aid issues, and the experience of college students in Japan. We talked about how our lives have changed with Leroy’s new job and we very much enjoyed hearing about their trips to the United States. Leroy spoke of his experience as a Board member of the Institute of Buddhist Studies and his belief that the program is getting stronger each year. Our time with them was very special and we came away very grateful for this unique opportunity and experience.

In gratitude,
Dr. Leroy M. Moribusha and Barbara Hedani-Moribusha
Berkeley Buddhist Temple

SACRAMENTO

Metta/Padma Class

On Feb. 3, at the Scout Sunday service at the Sacramento Buddhist Church of San Francisco we were honored to be able to have an audience with the Gomou Shokinen and Lady Ohtani on Dec. 17 2012 during a short visit to Kyo. We had provided some background information about ourselves prior to the visit so they knew that Leroy was President of California State University, East Bay. We exchanged thoughts about higher education in the United States, including financial aid issues, and the experience of college students in Japan. We talked about how our lives have changed with Leroy’s new job and we very much enjoyed hearing about their trips to the United States. Leroy spoke of his experience as a Board member of the Institute of Buddhist Studies and his belief that the program is getting stronger each year. Our time with them was very special and we came away very grateful for this unique opportunity and experience.

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BCSF Scouts Receive Religious Awards

Fourteen Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts from the Buddhist Church of San Francisco received scouting religious awards at the annual Scout Sunday service on February 3, 2013.

The service was attended by scouts from San Jose, San Mateo and San Francisco.

Viscount Iwamura, Chair of the BCA National Scouting Committee and Rev. Ronald Kobata presented the awards. Sangha award recipients were: Riley Kobaoto, Martin Novitski, Brian Ngo, Brandon Ngo, Harry Lu, Kellen Uyeda, Riley Kobaoto, Camille Pating and Martin Novitsky.

The purpose of the scouting religious awards is to fulfill the Scout Law and Promise and means to me,” and attended classes in Buddhism for 18 months. The Senior level Padma scout requirements include, among other things, assisting the Minister, assisting in teaching, attending conferences and completing a minimum of 50 hours at the temple. The Junior level award explores the Buddhist aspirations of the Girl Scout Law and the Brownie level award explores Buddhist shrines, Sangha and Ways of a Buddhist. Buddhist scouting classes are offered at the levels of Metta for Cub Scouts, Sangha for Boy Scouts and Padma for Girl Scouts through the BCSF Dharma School. Classes are taught on Friday evenings before scout meetings.

For more information, contact Camille Pating or the temple office at (415) 776 3158.

MA Report
Continued from Front Page

explanation of the benefits for a group insurance plan, health and life, by Susan Bottari (chair of the BCA insurance committee) and Miyuki Inouye. We would like BCA to support the insurance committee’s efforts to implement a plan to be voted on by the 2014 National Council.

In consideration of the first resolution and the possibly reduction to the current Zaidan fund, after Richard Ends of Mt. View Buddhist temple issued a personal challenge to all members of organizations to donate $400.00 to the Zaidan Fund.

On average, the nearly 1400 school-age girls and boys are in attendance to receive their Metta and Padma awards.

This year, we had the following participants in the awards ceremony: Alyssa Shimizu, Ethan Firth, Taylor Mason, Daisuke Ishida, Elizabeth Lew, Alyssa Shimizu, Ethan Firth, Tyler Mason, Koyama, Ryan Lu, Andrew Matsuishi, Geoffrey Miyaw, Mason Oio, Kyle Syo, Ryan Syo, Marcus Yamamoto, and Ben Yeargain. Congratulations!
By Jennifer Adachi
Mountain View Buddhist Temple

YAC Reunion Report

A s I stepped off the plane at the Burbank Airport I felt an
amishan churn in nervous anticipation. I have many, many
questions filled my mind as I headed towards baggage
claim. What if no one remembers who I am? What if things are
awkward when I get off the plane?? What if no one remembers
that I stepped off the plane at the
airport. As we sat in his truck with the
Buddhist history. We continued on
with his cheerful smile and told us
erend Keishin Kako welcomed us in
nestled between two ordinary-looking
to him the Higashi Honganji Temple
where Reverend Nobuko Miyoshi
described Higashi traditions and
chis tory. We even chanted
parts of Shoshinge with us to demon-
strate! Our final destination of the
tour was the Koyasan Temple, a
temple where we learned about medita-
tion and even got to practice it our-
selves! We sat on cushions in the dark
for 10 minutes, not moving and “not
thinking about thinking”... Never be-
fore had 10 minutes seemed like such
a long time! By visiting the neighbor-
ning Buddhist Temples, we were all
able to grasp a deeper understanding
of the temples, their architectures
and values that distinguish each
set. On Sunday we found our tempo-
ry home filled with hundreds of guests
from all over Southern California for the annual Hoonke service.
To celebrate the upcoming service, there was a fancy service called
with Gangaku music, Rinbin Abiko’s
performance of the Torahan ritual, and the chanting of Shosha.
Although the Gangaku music caught me off guard at first, it became soothing
though the Gagaku music caught me
off guard at first, it became soothing
and beautiful as the service continued.
It’s not very often that we get the op-
portunity to attend a service with
and beautiful as the service continued.
It’s not very often that we get the op-
portunity to attend a service with
many other Buddhists. As we march,
our every action is assisted by forces beyond the
reach of ordinary beings. As we become aware of our interconnectedness, we gain
some perspective of our karmic limitations.
Accomplishments we seek to attain are not within our control.
We discover that someone else made the steps and the
route and nurtured us until we were ready to accept them.
This is not the same form of power as power-
over others; pulling our strengths
out to be due to the benefits re-
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By Jeff Wilson

For my research on North American Buddhism, I visit
a lot of different types of temples and groups, and it’s
pretty common for people to ask “so, what’s your practice?” It’s
a sort of icebreaker in the Buddhist world.
On a deeper level, our practice is to
continue in the next issue of the Wheel
of Gratitude. This sets us apart from
many other Buddhists. We don’t
believe this power that
supporting us. Because we are part
of a grateful life.

2013 BCA YAC SUMMER RETREAT
(Associated with the Youth Advocacy Committee)
July 8-14, 2013
Hosted by the Sacramento Betsun
Ages 15-18 Years

Questions?
Rev. Patti Oshita, poshi@comcast.net
Rev. Peter Inoue-Kim, inoue@comcast.net
Rev. Tim & Geri Wood, hongan/ecoen
tSensei Grace Hatone, bygato@sbcglobal.net
Sensei Koichi Mizushima, bilmizu@gmail.com
Sensei Kelvin Mark, z73mark@sbcglobal.net
Sensei Keith Kato, lnu6samkat@gmail.com

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Recoignizing Debt Relief Donors

Starting with the January 2013 edition, we will begin recognizing donors for their Debt Relief contributions to help pay off the bank mortgage for construction of the Jodo Shinshu Colony, as authorized by the National Council. The running balance on the loan bank was about $55,750. Even though the Debt Relief fundraising effort was designed for only a 12 month effort, the bank mortgage has been reduced by about $1,350,000 thanks largely to about $1 million total donated for the debt relief. The mortgage allowed us to avoid paying roughly $1,050,000 in potential interest on the loan and to permanently remove the mortgage from our $19,900,000 debt. This generous response came during financially difficult times for many. Thank you and congratulations to all those who have helped.

Millennium Hongwanji
Kathy Takahara

National Council Report

Continued from Front Page

of the report on the Ad Hoc Joint Development Committee. The committee was established in July 2012 to develop and document a joint strategic development/fund-raising plan for the JSC and the JBC, the BCA is the process of determining the vision for development.

Mick Kubota announced that the total monthly payments on the Jodo Shinshu Colony (JSC) loans have been reduced to about $77,345 in January 2007. An open discussion on financing options for the JSC was held and the loan was reduced to the off the loan including options for using portion of the paid fund. Rev. Umera advised that the meaning of “Zaidan” is “Endowment Fund” and the original charter of the Zaidan was to help the BCA create programs and nurture leaders. Since the $1,000,000 minimum level of the paid fund was set in 1964 by the National Council, any reducing of the

Rev. Umera

Continued from Front Page

Revisited as a National Council meeting, David Uyeda, NCN delegate and EF representation at the 9 (now) JBC members students and enrollment in the chaplaincy program has increased to 12 students. Dr. Payne expressed a commitment to providing on-line courses.

Hidaike Miruyo reported for the Endowment Foundation (EF) that as of May 17, 2012, the total number of Moiliili members increased to 145. The number of BCA members in the last half of 2012.

President’s Message

Continued from Front Page

Shinshu we learn the value of life and death and we also understand that no matter how much we may want our friends- ships to continue, life is natural and inevitable. However, our uncles are cer- tainly the ones who will make us become part of what we are today. I mention these two people because they are representative of ten sangha members who were recent college graduates who we had been aware of the BCA repre- sentatives to the Gokai. Thus we heart than a sense of re- sponsibility or obligation and it was their courage from their sin-

Earl Ikeda as he thoughtfully spoke on many topics, and lis- tened to our insights. In one message from Beya Higa, temple president, Director of Development, Pacific Buddhist Church (PBC) Relations for the Pacific Bud- dest of Nishimura, to the rear, and for training.

Dr. Richard Payne announced that IBS enrollment has increased signifi- cantly, and now there are 96 students. This year there are 25 (now) JBC students and enrollment in the chaplaincy program has increased to 12 students. Dr. Payne expressed a commitment to providing on-line courses.

Hidaike Miruyo reported for the Endowment Foundation (EF) that as of May 17, 2012, the total number of Moiliili members increased to 145. The number of BCA members in the last half of 2012.

President’s Message

Continued from Front Page

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今月の法話

春の聞法セミナー

YACサミット

今年の一枚

仏教コーナー

雑のコーナー

春の聞法セミナー

春の聞法セミナーは、毎年開催される佛教教義に関する講座です。今年も引き続き開催されます。参加者は、専門家から一般の聴衆まで、幅広い層の方々が参加されます。講義の内容は、仏教の教えや文化、歴史、現代社会との関連性など、多岐にわたります。

YACサミット

YAC（ユースアンドキャリア）サミットは、青年向けのキャリア開発イベントです。今年のテーマは「未来の社会に備える」と題し、将来性のあるキャリアについての講義やワークショップが行われます。参加者は、将来のキャリアプランを作成したり、新規のスキルを習得したりすることが可能です。

今年の一枚

今年の一枚は、'email'の写真公開が主な内容です。参加者が自らの写真を提供し、それに基づいてアートワークが作られることで、個々のスタイルやアイデンティティを反映することができるとされています。

仏教コーナー

仏教コーナーは、仏教に関する話題を扱っています。ここでは、仏教の教えや実践、仏教と現代社会の関係など、幅広い内容が取り上げられます。参加者が仏教の理解を深め、内省することを目的としています。

雑のコーナー

雑のコーナーは、ランダムな話題や情報を提供し、参加者の興味を刺激するものです。ここでは、お笑いやコメディ、流行の話題など、さまざまな内容が取り上げられます。参加者は、情報を得たり、情報を共有したりすることが可能です。
全米より代表者集まる

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全米より代表者集まる

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読者に向け話される信楽博士

総長メッセージ

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計報

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