The Berkeley Buddhist Temple. To-
Anitya is what it’s all about

By Rev. Masao Kodani
Senshin Buddhist Temple

Anitya or “impermanence” is the core experience of Buddhist awareness, and a temple is an organization dedicated to the awakening to this fact. The irony is that attachment to permanence is an unconscious urge in our lives and in the life of a temple sangha. Going with the flow is never an easy path, no matter how much we protest that it is. In temple life, going to the flow of things is the highest teaching of Koans that we are free to indulge our own ego-self with the help of others. The sangha, in particular, is the most democratic of religious institutions, rising out of and produced by our collective practice background in Hawaii and on the mainland. A single leader, like a single expert, was not so highly prized as a group of persons of consensus and an expert who shared rather than protected his expertise. The sangha was one of a tōban system, where members took turns leading different groups to maintain a temple and then passed that knowledge and experience on to others. What our sangha ancestors did, we did at the temple. Leadership was only temporary, and by example and not by force or coercion. Those who tried to exert their power as leaders were no masters, but a family nevertheless – never an extended family; full of cooperators, committees, etc., etc. – only people trying their best and passing it on. Like an extended family, expert in one’s job does not help in temple life. Why, because temple life is mutually teaching, supporting, cooperating, and ordering, leading, and self-perfecting. Circumstances and good luck have brought us to a major turning point in our life here at Senshin. I both want to retire and yet am afraid of retiring, exciting and anxious provoking at the same time. But that is how it is in Bud- dhism, challenging and awakening at the same time – except that “challenging” very often means “with fear and trembling.” In Jōdo-shinshū, awakening means to encounter the truth about one’s own self, and at the same time, seeing the Buddha-like reality of one’s own self and at the same time, seeing the Buddha-like reality of one’s own self, and at the same time, seeing the Buddha-like reality of one’s own self. In Anitya, awakening means to encounter the truth about one’s own self, and at the same time, seeing the Buddha-like reality of one’s own self. In Anitya, awakening means to encounter the truth about one’s own self, and at the same time, seeing the Buddha-like reality of one’s own self. Anitya is what it’s all about. Continued on Page 6

Bishop’s IchiJikui Luncheon

By Rev. LaVerne Sasaki, San Bruno and Rev. Ryuda Furumoto, Senshin Buddhist Temple

Northern California

The annual Bishop’s IchiJikui (retired BCA ministers and sponsors association), Northern California gathering was held at the Jodo Shinshu Center on Oct. 18.

The program began with a memorial service chaired by IchiJikui president Rev. Sensho Inokuma.

This year’s service was in remembrance of Reverend Junjo Tsunuma, Haruyoshi Kusada, Mrs. Kato, Mrs. Kato, and Mrs. Kaoru Sugiyama. Bish-

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May Peace and Tranquility Prevail Throughout the World

Shinran Shonin’s 75th Death Anniversary

By Rev. Masao Kodani
Senshin Buddhist Temple

To be in control of the temple’s services was an un-

Gardena Buddhist Church

The city of Gardena used to be very unique because Japanese-Americans made 20% of the city’s population. Many of them wanted to have a Buddhist church in this area. In 1925, leaders decided to go forward and construct a church building and the fol-

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH

Note: This series introducing BCA temples correlates to the 2013 BCA Calendar.

Garden Buddhist Church
3157 W. 168th St. Gardena, CA 90247 (310) 207-9400

www.gardenabuddhistchurch.org

Garden Buddhist Church had become the center of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in the area as well as in community activities. In 1931 it became an independent church from the Los Angeles Betsuin. In 1979 we celebrated the 50th Anniversary and in 2001, the 70th Anniversary. Looking towards our 100th anniversary, we continue to spread the teaching of Nenbutsu and create the ideal community in this Gardena area.

By Rev. Masao Kodani
Senshin Buddhist Temple

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In Memory of Sensei Tom Okamoto
by Rev. Marvin Harada, CBE Co-Director

One of the best parts of my work at the CBE is being able to listen to the wonderful Dharma messages of the minister’s assistants at our Minister’s Assistant Program seminars. At our last MAP seminar, we heard a beautiful and unforgettable Dharma message by Tom Okamoto from the Buddhist Church of Lodi. None of us imagined that it would be the last message we would be able to hear from Tom, who died in a tragic swimming accident in October. I would like to share Tom’s message, related in my own words, that I heard at that seminar. We had just visited the Colma cemetery, where there is a beautiful monument with the names of our Buddhist Churches of America ministers who have passed on before us. We were having a service at the Buddhist Church of San Francisco, where Tom gave the following message:

I would like to share with all of you an experience from my first visit to Colma a few years ago, when I attended my very first MAP seminar. At that seminar, I saw on the schedule that we were going to have to go to Colma. I thought to myself, “Are there more important things we should be doing than going to a cemetery? We should be listening to lectures on Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu. We should be studying the sutras. Wouldn’t that be better than spending time at a cemetery?” At that first MAP seminar, I even expressed this to Rev. Umezu, our CBE director. He didn’t say much in response, and we still went to the cemetery.

When we arrived at the Colma cemetery, I looked at the huge monument that had engraved on it the names of past BCA ministers who had passed on. I started to read the names of the many ministers. I read names of some of the wonderful Senseis we had at San Jose when I was young and growing up: Hijo Senso, Tanokami Sensei, and many others. My eyes welled with tears. So many wonderful memories of those Senseis came to my mind and heart. How many years had I listened to their sermons? I had learned so much from them over the years. And suddenly I realized why we were made to come to Colma as part of this MAP seminar. How stupid of me to think that this would be a waste of time! I even had the gall to say something to Rev. Umezu about it. Seeing the monument made me realize the great tradition of Buddhism that I am a part of. So many wonderful teachers, from my past ministers and on back to Shinran Shinonin himself, and so many wonderful ministers have brought the Dharma to me. I feel both deep gratitude for my past teachers and deep shame about my having been made to listen to lectures on Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu.

It was one of the most memorable and moving Dharma messages I have ever heard, by a minister, minister’s assistant, or otherwise. Ginsho.

COMING NEXT YEAR!

MARCH 14, 15, 16, 2014 | JODO SHINSHU CENTER | ICHIGO ICHIE “ALWAYS CHANGING, ALWAYS FLOWING”

Thank you CBE 500 Club Members!

The BCA Center for Buddhist Education would like to extend our deep appreciation to everyone! Over 300 individuals and organizations have generously donated to the CBE 500 Club since it began in 2009. Your generosity has helped to support CBE’s annual operational costs. We would like to thank all of you for helping us to realize our mission.

Inspired by Shinran Shinonin’s legacy, we strive to provide diverse learning opportunities to deepen the understanding and appreciation of Buddha’s wisdom and compassion among Sangha leaders and the broader community.

Thank you for your continued support!

CBE 500 Club: Join our educational mission!

The Center for Buddhist Education needs your help to keep our programs going! Be one of 500 members donating $120 a year to help assure the annual operation of BCA’s Center for Buddhist Education! Donations of any amount are appreciated. You may donate by check payable to Buddhist Churches of America (please write “CBE 500 Club” in check memo), or with your check card or credit card. Mail to: BCA Headquarters, 1710 Octavia Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. Please visit www.BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org to donate online. Choose the “DONATION” tab at the top right and click “CBE 500 Club.” Thank you for your continued support!

CBE 2013 Tentative Calendar of Events
(at the Jodo Shinshu Center unless noted otherwise, Programs subject to change.)

November 2: Baby Boomers’ Seminar: “Wake Up & Be Alive!” with Rev. Masao Kodani
November 5-8: International Hongwanji Overseas Propagation Exchange (IHOPEN) Seminar “Opening Wide Our Own Gate to a Generous Heart”
November 6: IHOPEN live online broadcast from USTREAM Channel (7:30-9:00 pm PST)
December 12-14: Minister’s Assistant Program (MAP) seminar for beginners and advanced

2014

January 16: Hoonko Service (5 pm) Open to the Public
March 22: Spring Pacific Seminar with Prof. Nobuhiko Sencho Fukagawa @ Gardena Buddhist Church
March 27-29: Spring Minister’s Assistant Program (MAP) Seminar

IMOP Ministers Speak at Japanese Seminar

The ministers in the International Ministerial Orientation Program (IMOP) gave presentations in Japanese last October. Their talks ranged from personal experiences of happiness in the Dharma, to more technical aspects of Jodo Shinshu doctrine. The reverends will continue their studies in the U.S. until the middle of November.

ANNOUNCEMENT: As of November 1, 2013 the CBE email address will be changed to cbe@bcahq.org

Emails will be forwarded for a limited time. Please update your records.
ANAHEIM — On May 24, Boy Scout Troop 578, sponsored by the Orange County Buddhist Church (OCBC) in Anaheim, recognized seven scouts who recently attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

Special guests in attendance were Rev. Marvin Harada, OCBC President; Rev. Dr. Christian Sikder, and Laura Yamamoto, representing OCBC Buddhist Women’s Association. The ceremony included an inspirational speech by Craig OCBC Buddhist Women’s Association. The ceremony included an inspirational speech by Craig OCBC Buddhist Women’s Association. The ceremony included an inspirational speech by Craig OCBC Buddhist Women’s Association. The ceremony included an inspirational speech by Craig OCBC Buddhist Women’s Association. The ceremony included an inspirational speech by Craig OCBC Buddhist Women’s Association. The ceremony included an inspirational speech by Craig OCBC Buddhist Women’s Association. The ceremony included an inspirational speech by Craig OCBC Buddhist Women’s Association. The ceremony included an inspirational speech by Craig OCBC Buddhist Women’s Association. The ceremony included an inspirational speech by Craig OCBC Buddhist Women’s Association. 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Edythe recently took on the responsibility of updating the Dharma cutting, and evaluating programs. Readers of the tasks include answering emails and phone calls, writing letters, grams and answers questions about the programs. Her daily consists people contacting CBE either by telephone, mail, email, came the CBE Co-Directors in April 2012. Reverends Marvin Harada and Kiyonobu Kuwahara who be - was completing his second year as Director. She now assists vice with the CBE on June 1, 2008, when Rev. Kodo Umezu was the CBA National level for many years.

In an email, Judy remarked, “I think one of the benefits of working for CBE is being able to get to know and interact with all the people that come to our events. It really warms my heart to see so many members and non-members come to learn more about the Dharma.”

Judy is a member of the Berkeley Buddhist Temple and a temple board member. She has been a major contributor at the temple for many years.

On March 22, 2009, Edythe became a certified minister’s assistant. She helped her sister begin her work with CBE just after the JSC Grand Opening in 2006 as a volunteer, helping Rev. Kodo Umezu put on the first CBE events in his new role of CBE Director. In 2008, Judy retired from teaching and began working for CBE part-time as the Project Coordinator. Current - ally she assists with program development and handles most of the logistics, and also handles banking deposits, scheduling, imputing registration information and coordinating all of the kitchen volunteers.

Standing in the mud help - ing revivior lists reminded us to be thankful that each of us with all our respective faults can bless others especially when times are difficult. We give each other the freedom to be who we are, to accept and love, and to forgive.

Thanksfulness arises in any situation that is opened. We can watch thankfulness arise in the midst of loss and situations and were especiallyвалuable. What an inspiration to be told to look for goodness in the midst of experiencing difficul - t times. The flooding be - came a reminder to not be swept by rushing negativism or flow - ing fears. Instead allow the overwhelming emotions and frustrations to flow like the water. So many found grati - tude due to the open and caring efforts of friends as well as

Other times help involved lots of muddled trash bags and trips to dumpsters. It was a moving experience to see such care instantly shared in these times. As I watched The Truck of the Possessions, I had a bit of a cry loss and damage, I was re - minded of how wonderful the world is. We were impacted by the pain and suf -fering around us. We shared in the loss and felt the confusion. Our routines had been dis - rupted. What we thought was solid, was not. We began to cringe when rain clouds formed and hoped for the sun. During the sunny days af - ter the flood, many of us spent time standing in mud to help others clean out basements, homes and businesses. Sometimes it was to take covering muddy al - bums and belongings and cre - ating spaces for such to dry.
Rev. Umezue Continued from Front Page

market share for microsensors. Its profits go to the BDK to help distribute The Teaching of Buddhas book, which was written and translated into English by the BDK in 1971. The book has been translated into 33 languages and sold in over 100 countries. The BDK also supports the Nichiren Daishonin Buddhism Foundation, which is dedicated to spreading the teachings of Master Nichiren. The foundation is based in New York City and has chapters around the world. The foundation provides educational programs, publications, and other resources to help people understand and practice Nichiren Buddhism.

Rev. Umezue, a native of Japan, is a prominent figure in the Buddhist community in the United States. He serves as the President of the Japanese Buddhist Church of America and is known for his contributions to the study and practice of Nichiren Buddhism. He is also a respected scholar and author, having written many books on the subject.

On Sept 14t, the Golden Gate District of the San Francisco Bay Area Betsuin held a Sanjou Sainin (Three Kings) event to celebrate the golden anniversary of the Nichiren Daishonin Buddhism Foundation. The event was attended by over 200 people and featured a panel discussion on the history and significance of the foundation. The event was also a time for reflection and gratitude for the foundation’s years of service.

Buda, a great mystic, and a man of great suffering, is the Buddha of Samsara, the realm of sufferings. He is the one who teaches the path of enlightenment. He is the one who shows us the way out of the cycle of sufferings. He is the one who shows us the way to freedom. He is the one who shows us the way to peace.

Rev. Umezue Continued from Front Page

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Rev. Umezue Continued from Front Page

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今月の法話

おっかけきまででした

10月に津山青年センターで行われた大学生の
仏教年会に来て

10月に津山青年センターで行われた大学生の
仏教年会に来て
秋の運動会

秋の運動会

引退教士夫妻の集い

家族で念仏！

総長メッセージ

秋の運動会

第2回フリーダム教士運動会

樹会2013年度開催報告

引退教士夫妻の集い

総長メッセージ