BCA Ministers’ Summer Retreat

By Rev. Harry Bridge, Chair, Bay District Ministers Association

The Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Ministers Association held its annual Summer Retreat at the Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC) from August 15-17, 2016, hosted by the Bay District Ministers Association. Two ministers from the Honpa Hombu Mission of Hawaii attended as guests. In addition, six ministers from the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada attended, participate in the presentations and holding their own meetings.

One of the activities was a trip to the Japanese Cemetery in Colma, the site of a memorial with the names of deceased BCA bishops and ministers. A service was held in front of the monument, it was very moving to hear the chanting of ministers from three Kyōdān (overseas districts) in praise of the Buddha and in memory of those ministers and bishops who did so much to share the Dharma on the mainland U.S.

This year’s event focused on ethics. The Bay District Ministers Association will lead several presentations on the role of ministers regarding social issues and community involvement by BCA ministers and sangha, and an overview of Shin Buddhist social ethics. There was also a session on “Cultural Transitions” by Sensei Shin Buddhist social ethics. There was also a session on “Cultural Transitions” by Sensei

The Federation of Buddhist Women’s Associations (FBWA) celebrated its 44th conference: “Linked in the Nembutsu: Tsunagatte,” from October 7-9 in Bellevue, Washington at the Westin Bellevue. Hosted by the Northwest District, over 300 gathered to enjoy inspiring dharma and creative sangha activities.

The get-acquainted activity encouraged each guest to meet five others, and write their names and description of how they were “connected,” or linked to each other and to the universal vow of compassion was emphasized throughout the weekend.

Multiple workshops reinforced the idea of connections whether through shared music, chanting, applying lessons from the past to the future, or Sangha members working together. The weekend concluded with many smiles and everyone looking forward to the 45th FBWA Conference to be hosted by the Central District in 2018.

Please join us on Facebook: http://buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/2016fbwaconference Read more about FBWA on Page 3 in President’s Message.

Celebrating 100 Years of Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple: Gratitude for the Past and Aspirations for the Future

On October 1-2, 2016, the Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple (TSDBT) celebrated its 100-year past while energizing members for the future. Photos by Glenn Asakawa. See Page 6 for story and photos.

At the closing service everyone circled the room, linked to each other by a paper chain made from the get-acquainted activity and sang “Golden Chain.” Left photo includes: Rev. Carol Kimaka, Rev. Sata Sawa, Rev. Koji Kashiwara, Rev. Mitsumi Wondra and minister’s assistants. Photo by Ann O’Shea. Top, right: The FBWA Cabinet for 2017-2018 was installed by Rev. Kodo Umemu, BCA Bishop. Left to right: Yoko Miyoshi and Irene Hara, co-chair/secretary; Julie Otx, corresponding secretary; Alice Fujikawa (standing in for Alix Kimino), Japanese recording and corresponding secretary; Janice Yeshimoto and Sharon Asakawa (standing in for Betty Miel and Janie Nittis). English recording secretary; Derene Kusumoto, vice-president; Nancy Kimura and Nanell Nakamura, co-presidents. Not present: Rinban Kakei Nakagawa, ministerial advisor. Photos by Tom Nishikawa except where noted.

Enjoy the Jodo Shinshu Center 10th Anniversary Commemoration Online at the BCA website: buddhistchurchesofamerica.org

Photo by Keoth Uyemura
Resilience

By Rev. Kodo Umezu, BCA Bishop

"Resilience" is the word that came to my mind when I learned about the histories of several BCA temples and churches and their affiliated organizations during recent anniversaries. In the past few months, I have been honored to officiate commemorative services at Viai Buddhist Temple (55th anniversary and kioshi service), Mountain View Buddhist Temple (55th anniversary and kioshi service) and its Buddhist Women's Association (50th anniversary), Buddhist Temple of Alamada and its Buddhist Women's Association (centenarians and kioshi service), Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple (centenary and kioshi service), and the Buddhist Temple of San Diego (90th anniversary and kioshi service) and its Junior Young Buddhist Association (Tri-JYBA 65th anniversary reunion). Each temple has its own unique history. Some published history books with members' stories, and some compiled video footage for future generations.

Our predecessors were constantly faced with difficulties and challenges including discrimination, the Great Depression, fire, forced relocation, and natural disasters, but they never gave up. Instead, they were rengthened and able to pull together. Amazing!

I remember the image I would like to share of many stories.

In 1938, Senshin Gakuin relocated to a new building dedicated for use as a dharma, dharma, and sangha as their legacy. Their smiles gave me so much joy. When you think about it, life is truly beautiful.

For me, over 32,766 people's choices transmitted this life to me. In addition to that, I am the fifteenth generation minister of my home temple because of my three sons and other direct ancestors, the Temple of San Diego. In the past, many people supporting us so that we were able to stand on the top. If we lack many people's support, we will be forced to give up. However, our lives are not that simple. If we lacked one person from our past, we would not be here today—just like the human pyramids. Don't you think that is amazing?

I hope the upcoming generation will have a better time to share these human pyramids. If we compete for heights and levels, then I feel our teachers need to emphasize the most important part of this activity, that is, teamwork. But there must be better way to teach this lesson.

In fact, I feel that this human pyramid is also an expression of our unique lives. If we see the top of the pyramid, there are many people supporting us so that we can stand on the top. If we lack one person in the pyramid, it will easily collapse. Our lives are made similar.

As my father's brother and the fifteenth generation minister of my home temple, I must say that I am very grateful for the Ninno's teaching and handed it down from generation to generation. Once again, I would like to share this lesson to everyone. Although there are a lot of temples that are going to observe the Toushi in November. Eitai-kyo is a Japanese Buddhist observance that allows us to remember those who have come before us who have shared the Nembutsu teachings. So please think about the legacy of your life on this occasion of Eitai-kyo.

Transmission of Life

By Rev. Yuko Sugahara, Buddhist Church of Florin

In Japan, there is a national holiday in October called Health and Sports Day. Around this time, many schools and local areas have their own Undoiki, or sports day. Recently, I noticed the Japanese pyramids and I want to share what I see often make news in Japan.

When I was a student, the pyramid was only about four levels at the most. But now, schools are competing against other schools' pyramid heights and levels. As you can imagine, there are ascetics such as people falling and breaking bones. I imagine the lesson is to be learned from these human pyramids is to realize that we do not live alone (interdependence), and it is a very important part of this activity, that is, teamwork. But there must be better way to teach this lesson.

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Senshin Buddhist Temple

Senshin Buddhist Temple is located in the Southeast area of Los Angeles, California. It is also referred to as SBS by those of Japanese ancestry.

The temple originated as a Japanese language school, Shosen Gakuen, founded in 1928 by Rev. and Mrs. Junin Ono of the Los Angeles Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. Dharma school classes were also started at that time.

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BCCA’s Newest Minister

My name is Yugo Fujita. I arrived in San Francisco on Sep- tember 27, 2016 as a new Kaishiyokai minister for the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA). I have always wanted a Buddhist temple as my orientation at the San Jose Buddhist Church Bentosui. I was assigned to the Buddhist Temple of Salinas on October 12, 2016.

I am from Kagawa Prefecture on the island of Shikoku, which is located in the southeast of Japan just across the Seto Inland Sea from Hiroshima. I am from a temple family. My family temple’s name is Chōen-ji. My father and uncle are ministers there.

I attended Ryukoku University in Kyoto, where I got a Bachelor’s Degree in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism and Social Welfare. After graduating and receiving my education at the Ryukoku Graduate School of Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Studies, Ryukoku University was established in Tokyo and Shinshu Hongwan-ji. During my final year, I left the graduate school of Buddhist Studies to become a min-ister in the Buddhist Churches of America. I was happy and fortunate to take part in the International Ministerial Orientation Program (IMOP) in 2015. It was my experi-ence in the IMOP program that has brought me here to the BCA as a Kuishôyokai. I would like to express my sincere and deep appreciation to Bishop Kosuke University and to the ministers and members of the BCA for welcoming me and allowing me to apply to continue my training within the BCA.

As a new minister, I realize that I have lots to learn about the BCA and the USA. I look forward to sharing, learning and enjoying the BCCAs activities with all of you and greatly appreciate your guidance and support, especially Rev. Zuikei Taniguchi, resident minister; Rev. Umezu; and Shigeki Sugiyama, minister’s assistant. Photo by Linda Babcock.

The Power of Faith

By Rev. Candice Shihata, Berkeley Buddhist Temple September 29, 2016 was not just an ordinary Thursday. It marked a day when leaders of various faith- based organizations from Alameda County came together for one reason; to celebrate the power of faith. This event, called “The Power of Faith,” was a vision of Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson. It was a vision that came to fruition after months of planning through Supervisor Carson’s guidance, his dedicated team, and through the voices of community faith-based leaders.

The afternoon event was filled with resource tables, panel discussions about finding opportunities for the faith-based community, and separate breakout sessions that focused on addressing the homelessness and housing crisis and how to engage the youth to sustain their involvement in faith-based organizations. Regardless of which religious organization we were affiliated with, it was agreed upon that many social issues, including the two that were focused on, affect each of us. In our current world where we are faced with numerous social issues, war and the aftermath of destruc- tion, natural disasters and diseases, the environment, and so many other concerns, one aspect bonded us all together that day; the power of faith.

I thought about this event and each of the religions that were represented. Instead of focusing on what made us different, I thought about what bonded us in a similar way. Although the Three Jewels—the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha—are specific to each of us as Buddhists, I like to think of each religion as having some component of the Three Jewels. In regards to the first jewel, we each have an insightful teacher who guides us. Persisting to the second jewel, we are fortunate to have the directors of this wonderful teacher. Lastly, each faith-based community has the third jewel, which is the community of believers, caregivers, church members. Together, each of these components of our religious communities guide and support us in our daily lives.

From a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist perspective, I would like to translate the event theme of the “Power of Faith” to “Other Power.” Other Power is the working of the Primal Vow, and as Dr. Taizetsu Unno explained on pages 36-37 in his book Fire of River, River of Wat- er, “as a bodhisattva, Dharmakara saw deeply into the immense sufferings of all beings, identified with them completely, discerned their causes, found a way to eliminate them, and prepared the practice for each being to attain liberation...Other Power then, is the working of great compassion that gives itself completely to each form of life.”

As members of the Jodo Shinshu community, we ac- knowledge that there is suffering in this life. However, as a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist, finding refuge in the Buddha’s Primal Vow, and as Dr. Taitetsu Unno explained on pages 36-37 in his book Fire of River, River of Water, “as a bodhisattva, Dharmakara saw deeply into the immense sufferings of all beings, identified with them completely, discerned their causes, found a way to eliminate them, and prepared the practice for each being to attain liberation...Other Power then, is the working of great compassion that gives itself completely to each form of life.”

By Shaku Zensho Nakano, Buddhist Temple of Alameda On Sunday, September 25, 2016, the Buddhist Temple of Alameda conducted the Buddhist Affirmation Ceremony as part of the Centennial Celebration. Rev. Kodo Umezu and all schools of Buddhist teaching, we can be liberated from this suffering due to the compas- sionate workings of Other Power. That indeed, is the power of faith.

The Affirmation Ceremony was conducted by BCA Bishop, Rev. Kodo Umezu. Seated second from right are Rev. Dr. Scy McCue and Shigeki Sugiyama, minister’s assistant. Photo by Linda Babcock.

The Power of Faith, at the Buddhist Temple of Alameda’s |Buddhist Affirmation Ceremony was conducted by BCA Bishop, Rev. Kodo Umezu. Seated second from right are Rev. Dr. Scy McCue and Shigeki Sugiyama, minister’s assistant. Photo by Linda Babcock.

As a new minister, I realize that I have lots to learn about the BCA and the USA. I look forward to sharing, learning and enjoying the BCA’s activities with all of you and greatly appreciate your guidance and support, especially Rev. Zuikei Taniguchi, resident minister; Rev. Umezu; and Shigeki Sugiyama, minister’s assistant. Photo by Linda Babcock.

By Shaku Zensho Nakano, Buddhist Temple of Alameda

At the beginning of a Jodo Shinshu funeral, the deceased is given a fitting ending to the Centennial celebrations for the Buddhist Temple of Alameda. The events of the day were a fitting ending to the Centennial celebrations for the Buddhist Temple of Alameda.
Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) youth leadership and Buddhist education activities.

2016 FBWA Youth Exchange
By Kelli Kato and Katelyn Morimoto

From July 17-28, Katelyn Morimoto of Gordonville Buddhist Church and Kelli Kato of Orange County Buddhist Women’s Association participated in the Buddhist Churches of America Buddhist Women’s Association Youth Exchange Program. Representing the Southern District BFWA, they visited the Nishi Honganji, Ohtani Maruyamah, and other temples in Japan. Katelyn and Kelli dazzled the highlights of their trip.

Katelyn Morimoto: After spending nearly two weeks in Japan, I found it difficult to explain exactly what I have learned through my experience with this program. There is no single path (or the trip that made an impression on me more than the people I had the pleasure of meeting. The hospitality and polite manner with which they treated me was not like anything I had ever experienced, and it was only a shock in comparison to America.

Both Kelli and I got to experience many parts of Kyoto, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Osaka, and Takako. In Kyoto, we got the opportunity to step into some beautiful temples, and even dress up in extravagant kimonos and wear sarutie (lace powder) like a mark of grace in training. Hiroshimo showed us just how devastating war can be, as we visited the museum and monument. Osaka and Takako showed us how kind people could be, as some stays welcomed us with open arms and more generously than one could imagine. When we returned to Kyoto, we were able to have an audience with Lady Otani, who was extremely kindhearted and down to earth.

After having the opportunity to be a part of such an amazing program, I feel extremely honored to have been chosen to experience Japan with Kelli. Every day I realized something new because with each day I spent away from Japan, I see differences in my life that have affected me more than I knew. It still amazes me how people who are so similar to me can be so different just because we grew up in different parts of the world. And truly, I could write forever about my experiences in Japan and it still wouldn’t do the trip justice.

Kelli Kato: No one could have prepared me for the wonders I would experience on this once-in-a-lifetime journey to Japan. I was excited, yet nervous to have been selected to represent the Southern District Federation of Buddhist Women’s Associations (FBWA). From my arrival at Kansai Airport, to crying as I left both home-stay families in Osaka and Takako, I wished my stay would have never come to an end. Both home-stay experiences were undoubtedly the highlights of the trip. Although we were able to see amazing sights, the unredeemable bonds formed with these families is worth far more to me.

In my first homestay with the Ishihara family, I was touched by the kindhearted, altruistic couple who welcomed us into their home with open arms. With my second homestay, I was hosted by the Dokis family from Sempakuji Temple in Takako. I cannot express how thankful I am to have felt so much affection from people I had just met. From taking me to experience my first Buddhist temple, to crying as I left both home-stay families, I knew that the pleasure of meeting. The hospitality and polite manner with which they treated me was not like anything I had ever experienced, and it was only a shock in comparison to America.

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Midwest Buddhist Temple Hosts Fall MAP Seminar

By Gail Wong, Twin Cities Buddhist Association and Jesse Zavala, Midwest Buddhist Temple

Twenty-six minister’s assistants attended the 2016 Fall Minister’s Assistant Program (MAP) Seminar in the Eastern District. Held at the Midwest Buddhist Temple in Chicago, the ministers in charge included (front row, left to right) Rev. Marvin Harada, Rev. Sala Sekiya, Rev. Henry Adams, Rev. Ron Miyamura, Rev. Naruhiko Hazuya, and Rev. Earl Ikeda.

On Sept 22-25 the 2016 Fall Minister’s Assistant Program (MAP) Seminar was hosted by Midwest Buddhist Temple in Chicago. The group of 26 attendees came predominantly from the Eastern District: Exoil, New York, Cleveland, Twin Cities, and Chicago, as well as three attendees from California and two from Canada. The group was varied in experience, including some who have received Tokado ordination. It was noted that the Eastern District has more MAP participants than any other district in the Buddhist Churches of America. Minister’s assistants (MAs) provide important support to their temples.

The focus of this MAP seminar was on laity. We were very fortunate to have guidance from many wonderful teachers. Rev. Sala Sekiya started us out with an ice breaker that required us to work as a team and listen to each other. That lesson hit home later as we tried to plan out a service with our Toban group. A certified special sensei’s support is important for their temples. Minister’s assistants (MAs) provide important support to their temples. The focus of this MAP seminar was on laity.

A field trip to the beautiful Baha’i Temple in Wilmette was a nice break on Saturday. All those who didn’t give a talk during a service participated in the two-day Dharmathon, each giving a seven-minute presentation. We heard very personal Dharma talk. All those who didn’t give a talk during a service participated in the two-day Dharmathon, each giving a seven-minute presentation. We heard very personal Dharma talk.

The Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course (JSCC) Office is accepting entries for original poster designs. Deadline: January 10, 2017. Winner to receive honorarium.

Enjoy CBE programs online at YouTube.com Go to YouTube and search for the “BCA Center for Buddhist Education” channel to view over 50 talks and lectures presented by CBE and its educational partners. Hear speakers from the 2016 National Council Meeting “Buddhism and Agriculture” Symposium, the 2016 Winter Pacific Seminar: “East Meets West” in Los Angeles, and many more. Contact CBE at cbe@bcahq.org or (510) 809-1460

Cultivating Dharma-Centered Leadership

Group A: JANUARY 20-22, 2017
Group B: JANUARY 19-21, 2018

What are your challenges, lessons, and resources to share in the areas of finance, fundraising, communications, outreach, diversity, ‘inreach,’ membership, and more? Join other temple leaders to learn in a supportive environment how to work with the BCA, to strengthen your Sangha, and to provide more opportunities to share the Dharma.

See box on page 4 for more information. Sponsored by the BCA Center for Buddhist Education
The Thanksgiving Offering for the Social Welfare Fund

By Gary Muki and Charlene Grinolds
Co-Chairs, Social Welfare Committee

In the coming weeks, BCA members and supporters will receive the annual Thanksgiving Offering fundraising letter for the BCA’s Social Welfare fund.

Since 1981, through the generous support of the BCA community, the Social Welfare fund has distributed over $2 million in grants for worthy projects throughout the world.

In April of this year, the Kumamoto area of Japan suffered a disastrous earthquake which caused extensive property damage and displaced many residents. The BCA’s Social Welfare Committee made an emergency grant of $25,000 to the Honkwan’s relief effort. Shortly after, the BCA’s Kamumato Disaster Relief fundraiser collected an additional $36,000 to aid those suffering. Also in 2016, the Social Welfare Committee made a grant of $25,000 to the Central California Nikkei Foundation (CCNF) in Fresno, when the walk-in refrigeration unit at their 78-unit assisted living facility began malfunctioning. This equipment was essential to the CCNF in order provide over 300 meals a day to its residents and adult day care participants.

Thank you for supporting the BCA’s Thanksgiving Offering for the Social Welfare fund year after year! Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of many. You can donate online to the Social Welfare fund now by visiting BudhistChurchesofAmerica.org/Social-WelfareFund, or wait for the mailing to arrive at the end of this month.

In Goshio.

Tri-State Denver/Buddhist Temple Centennial “Oneness in the Nembutsu”

By Michelle Asakawa, Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple

The Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple (TSDBT) celebrated its centennial with a well-attended weekend of activities on October 1-2, 2016. With the theme “Oneness in the Nembutsu,” the celebration paid respects to the temple’s 100-year past while energizing members for the future. The banquet was held on Saturday in the grand ballroom of the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities. Among the dignitaries present were Makoto Ito, Consul General for Japan in Denver, Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) President Ken Tanimoto, and BCA Bishop, Rev. Kodo Umezu. A recorded greeting by actor George Takei ended with the salutation, “May the Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple live long and prosper!”

In a fitting nod to the TSDBT’s beloved longtime minister Rev. Yoshitaka Tamai Professorial Chair at the Institute of Buddhist Studies—delivered the keynote address. In the taking of a group photo of the Temple’s 100th Anniversary Committee, members young and old, Master of Ceremonies and TSDBT member Chad Nitta concluded, “Getting to 100 years is an amazing achievement, but we also need to look at the future and know that this sangha will get us to the next 100 years.”

Copies of the temple’s commemorative history book, published earlier this year, were made available during the banquet. The book includes first-person accounts of many of the pioneering Japanese and Japanese American families who settled in the tri-state region (Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming) and who supported the establishment of Jodo Shinshu temples in Denver and the surrounding area.

Denver Taiko, an affiliate of the TSDBT, performed while attendees enjoyed their dessert. Dancing to a live swing band closed out the evening.

On Saturday and Sunday, a score of historical displays in the temple gym helped attendees relive the vital educational and social programs of the Denver and outlawing temples and kyudokai (Sangha gatherings) over the years.

Sunday’s anniversary service included the dedication of the temple’s new nokoeru (columbarium) and a memorial to past ministers. The temple’s Dharma School presented a painting of a cherry tree in bloom, with each blossom composed of students’ fingerprints. Members were treated to box lunches arranged by students’ fingerprints. Members were treated to box lunches arranged by the establishment of Jodo Shinshu and Wyoming) and who supported the temple’s Dharma School presented a painting of a cherry tree in bloom, with each blossom composed of students’ fingerprints. Members were treated to box lunches arranged by the establishment of Jodo Shinshu and Wyoming) and who supported the temple’s Dharma School presented a painting of a cherry tree in bloom, with each blossom composed of students’ fingerprints. Members were treated to box lunches arranged by

Above: Dr. Scott Mitchell, Yoshitaka Tamai Professorial Chair, IBS. Below: George Takei sent a special video greeting.

Ibs Program Update

Donors from the BCA community have made gifts of over $75,000 to the Dana Program since April of this year! Every annual gift helps support the BCA. Ask for a Dana Program brochure from your local temple or visit BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org/BCA-Dana-Program to find out how to donate.

BCA Dana Program Update

BY MICHELLE ASAKAWA, TRI-STATE DENVER BUDDHIST TEMPLE CENTENNIAL “ONENESS IN THE NEMBU”

A video presentation highlighting 100 years of historical displays in the temple gym helped attendees relive the vital educational and social programs of the Denver and outlawing temples and kyudokai (Sangha gatherings) over the years.

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Ibs Program Update

Donors from the BCA community have made gifts of over $75,000 to the Dana Program since April of this year! Every annual gift helps support the BCA. Ask for a Dana Program brochure from your local temple or visit BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org/BCA-Dana-Program to find out how to donate.
私がアメリカへやって来て半年が過ぎようとしています。日本から来た私にとっては、右車線走行やチェックでの支払いといったアメリカの日常ルールはすごく新鮮であり、新たな発見や学びが毎日を充実させてくれます。私は3月にアメリカに着き、一ヶ月の研修を経て、4月にEKOJI(恵光寺)に着任しました。EKOJIは、ここに生まれたアメリカ合衆国初代大統領となったジョージ・ワシントンの故郷でもあります。ワシントン一家が経営していたプランテーションや実際に住まれていた家屋などがヴァージニア州東部にあるマウントバーノンに残されており、当時の生活を肌で感じることができます。

州領域の65%を森林が覆っており、あちらこちらで自然の鹿やキツネなどの動物を見ることができます。EKOJIの周りにも美しい緑が生い茂り、非常に心落ち着く場所です。さて、EKOJIに来て約半年経ちますが、来た当初は、「あなたはまだ慣れてないからね」というメンバーからの甘く優しい眼差しでした。しかしそれが徐々に「もうさすがに慣れたでしょう」というある種の期待感を含んだ眼差しへと変わり、駐在開教使としてより一層の努力が求められます。こんな時だからこそ思う言葉があります。それは蓮如上人一語記にあります「ひとつことをいくたび聴聞すとも、めずらしくはじめたようにあるべきなり」と、仏法は何度聞いても、いつも初めて聞くような気持ちで聞くべきだと示されたものです。

豊かな自然環境を持つEKOJIと地域の文化に浸る中で、謙虚な心を育む機会が得られることを願っています。また、EKOJIの歴史や地域の風土に学び、教育者としての自己成長を遂げることも目指しています。今後とも、皆様のご理解とご支援を賜りますようお願い申し上げます。
第44回北米開教区仏教婦人会大会が10月7,8,9日に、ワシントン州ベルビュー市、ウエスティンホテルにて開催された。「つながって」のテーマのもと、全米各地から約300名の婦人仏教徒が参加した。初日の7日は代表者会議とシアトル観光ツアーが行われ、8日は、オープニングサービスと基調講演、ワークショップ、晩餐会と続いた。9日は総会ののち、クロージングサービスが営まれた。日本語基 ...)が、九条武子夫人、盆踊り、お勤めなどのクラスをリードし、ディスカッションやプレゼンテーションを行った。日本語プログラムの参加者は、「南無阿弥陀仏のお念仏がほとばしり、シトシトと降る雨のように、法雨となって心に染み入る良き仏縁となりました。」と喜びを語った。総会の様子を収めたビデオ、写真は、以下のフェイスブックで見ることができる。

https://www.facebook.com/BCABuddhistWomenConference/

10月8日(土)に浄土真宗センターで秋の聞法セミナーが行われ、センター近隣の日本語聞法者19名が集った。講師にはオックスナード仏教会の渡辺正憲開教使と、龍谷大学からIBSに留学中の柳田雅祥師が招かれ、それぞれ法話をした。渡辺師は「さるべき業縁のもよほさば」の講題で、歎異抄との出会いがいかに自分の人生を変えるかの感動を伝え、柳田師は「お慈悲の中で」の講題で自身が歩んできた人生は常に仏さまのお慈悲に包まれていたことに気づいた喜びを語った。参加者は「大きい声でお話される渡辺先生のお話はパワフルでした。柳田先生は初めてご法話されるということが緊張していたようでしたが、とても共感できるお話でした。日本語でのご法話をもっと聞きたいと思いました。」と、秋の聞法を味わい深くかみしめた。

浄土真宗センターが10周年
10月22日(土)に浄土真宗センター10周年記念法要ならびにイベントが行われ、約150名が集った。BCAの開教使や門信徒のほか、ハワイ、カナダ開教区の総長、龍谷大学の学長、ならびに職員など海外からの参列があった。また、梅津総長をはじめ、センター設立に関わった、山岡師、渡辺師、小杭師の歴代総長と理事役員らも招かれ、感謝の言葉がおくられた。また、法要などがyoutubeでライブストリーミングされたため、日本をはじめ各地で視聴された。法要は午前9時半から講堂で営まれ、IBSの松本デイビッド開教使、CBEの原田マービン開教使、桑原浄信開教使が法話をした。午後からはオープンハウスやツアー、ジャズのコンサートが行われた。夕刻よりバークレー仏教会でバーベキューディナーが行われ、開教使、門信徒ともに、相互の協力によりセンターが運営できたことを喜び、10年間の苦労をねぎらった。