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President's
Message



By Billy H. Saeki
BCA President

Looking Back - Looking Ahead Passing on the Legacy

These phases were the theme for the 41st BCA Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations Conference held in Sacramento, California on October 9 - 11, 2009. It is a very timely and appropriate theme as we observe Shinran Shonin's 750th memorial. Looking Back - Shinran Shonin lived in the Kamakura Era, a time of disunity and violence. Looking Ahead - today we are facing the crises of the global economy, terrorism, and environmental concerns. Passing on the Legacy - May peace and tranquility prevail throughout the world. The Nembutsu teachings are as relevant today as they were during Shinran Shonin's time.

In his message in the FBWA Conference booklet, His Eminence Shaku Sokunyo Monshu Ohtani Koshin

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41st BCA FBWA Conference

By Cathy Fujimori, President
Buddhist Church of Stockton BWA

Warm and sunny weather welcomed those who attended the 41st BCA FBWA Conference Oct. 9-11, at the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento. Four hundred and eighty-five BWA members, ministers, and guests attended the national conference. This year's event was hosted by the seven chapters of the Northern California District Buddhist Women's Association. The conference theme was, "Looking Back - Looking Ahead Passing on the Legacy" "*Kako to Mirai wo Mitsumeru.*"

On Friday afternoon, four buses took pre-registered members and guests on tours to the following venues: (1) The Gold Discovery Museum and the Okei Cemetery, (2) Dharma Realm Buddhist Association and the California Museum for History, Women and the Arts, and (3) Thunder Valley Casino. In the late afternoon, a parliamentary procedure workshop led by Karen Suyama, chairperson of the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee, provided information about "How to Conduct Meetings". In the evening, participants enjoyed Japanese folk dancing and the Exercise for Energy workshops.

Ninety-two delegates attended the official representatives meeting held on Friday evening. Two resolutions were introduced and discussed. The Bay District submit-



Top photo: Opening service at the FBWA Conference in Sacramento. Right photo: Mayumi Ogui, FBWA Honorary Advisor.

ted a resolution to petition the BCA National Board and the BCA National Council to provide the Center for Buddhist Education with a permanent funding stream. Following a vote, the resolution passed. The Eastern District submitted a resolution requesting financial support to the American Buddhist Studies Center for the publication and marketing of Monshu Koshin Ohtani's book, "The Buddha's Wish for the World." A motion to amend the resolution was made. After voting, both the amendment and the resolution were not accepted. The

President suggested that this does not preclude donations from chapters and individuals.

Saturday morning began with the opening service followed by a special service commemorating Shinran Shonin's 750th memorial anniversary with the participation of 34 ministers. An inspiring Dharma message in English and Japanese was given by Socho Koshin Ogui. After the service, the keynote addresses were given by Reverend Diane Johnson (English), formerly of Anchorage, Alaska, who now resides in Portland, Oregon, and Reverend Mariko



Nishiyama (Japanese) of Maui, Hawaii.

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Peace and Tranquility
安穩
SHINRAN SHONIN
750th MEMORIAL
A BCA OBSERVANCE
February 27 & 28, 2010
Fairmont Hotel, San Jose, CA
Keynote Speaker:
Rev. Dr. Kenneth Tanaka
of Musashino University, Tokyo
(Author of the acclaimed book "Ocean")
Banquet Speaker:
Mr. Pieper Toyama
Head of School
Pacific Buddhist Academy, Honolulu, HI
(First Jodo Shinshu Prep School in the United States)
For more information contact:
Rev. Ron Kobuta (815) 517-4905 email: kobuta@bcgglobal.net
Judy Kono (510) 541-8119 email: jkono@bcg.com
Website: www.bca.org (click on Shinran 750th)

BCA designates JSC as commemorative project for Shinran Shonin observance

By Ralph Honda
750th Planning Committee

His image stands humbly, greeting guests as they enter the building that embraces his teachings.

On the wall above his statue are the words "Jodo Shinshu Center Buddhist Churches of America."

One would wonder what Shinran Shonin would say today if he can see his legacy continue with the spreading of the Jodo Shinshu teaching in the United States.

"If Shinran Shonin was living in today's age and saw the legacy of his practice through the Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC), he would

be very happy with the direction of change," Bishop Koshin Ogui commented recently.

On February 27 and 28, 2010, the BCA will commemorate the life of the great master, Shinran Shonin, with the observance of his 750th memorial.

As a tribute to Shinran, the BCA has designated the JSC as the commemorative project for this historic occasion.

"This will be a once in a lifetime experience," Socho Ogui added. "I hope that BCA members make the effort to attend and participate in the activities."

The commemoration will take place at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose and

will be held in conjunction with the BCA National Council meeting.

A new era for the BCA occurred on August 3, 2006 when the JSC opened its doors to the world. The actual dedication was held October 21.

The JSC began operation as an educational institution and home for the Center for Buddhist Education (CBE), Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS), Hongwanji and Ryukoku University. It also houses the BCA Bookstore and 21st Century Campaign office.

"There are so many educational groups now (at the JSC)," Rev. Kodo Umezu, Director of the Center for

Buddhist Education said. "Combining with Socho's vision, CBE, IBS-GTU, Ryukoku, Hongwanji, BCA Bookstore and the correspondence course are under the JSC's umbrella."

Over its three years of operation, the JSC has hosted many meetings, seminars and Buddhist community events. Temples and organizations have made visits to the Berkeley facility.

"I would encourage BCA members to use the Jodo Shinshu Center and take advantage of its facilities and activities," Socho Ogui added.

Individuals who will not be able to attend the festivities in San Jose will have the

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BCA's newest Kyoshi minister, Rev. Peter Inokoji-Kim.

Rev. Inokoji-Kim Assigned to Sacramento Betsuin

his undergraduate degree from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY and served as a tactical Military Intelligence officer in the U.S. Army. After his military service, he worked for Pfizer, Inc., and for the last 16 years, he worked as a public high school teacher in Colorado where he taught Math, Chemistry and Pre-Engineering.

He is married to Aileen Okimoto who was born and raised in Denver, CO.

Rev. Inokoji-Kim volunteered as a Minister Assistant at the Denver Buddhist Temple under Rev. Kanya Okamoto, and received his tokudo ordi-

nation in October 2003.

With his vision of making Buddhism a major religion in America, Socho Ogui's created the minister's assistant training program. After four more years of study and training, in December of 2007, with Socho Ogui's encouragement, 11 Dharma students (including Rev. Peter) returned to Japan to receive Kyoshi certification.

For the last five years, he has been actively involved with the BCA Youth Advocacy Committee (YAC) summer retreats and reunion retreats by participating in the curriculum planning and teaching of the high school and college YAC students.

MY HOME = THE TEMPLE = MY HOME

By Joanne Kiyoko Tohei
Midwest Buddhist Temple

Over the weekend of Oct. 9 - 11, I had the pleasure of meeting some amazing women at the 41st BCA Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations Conference in Sacramento, California. These encounters opened my eyes to the enduring strength and commitment of women "behind the scenes" and their remarkable contribution to the life of our temples and churches.

On Sunday morning, Honorary Advisor Mrs. Mayumi Ogui hosted a special breakfast for invited temple representatives and ministers' wives. It was at this gathering that I came to understand the important role of the Kaikyoshi spouse. The above title of this article comes from my translation of the Japanese words used by Mrs. Kyoko

Matsubayashi to describe her environment during the 45 years since she became an Okusan. She felt that she lived in between two distinct eras -- the period when the Kaikyoshi spouse was expected to take charge as a temple leader and the present time when lay members have assumed leadership roles.

Mrs. Matsubayashi reminisced about Issei women often dropping by the minister's residence, which in olden days was often attached to the temple. They talked to her about the challenges of living in a strange land and their past hardships, including the difficulties they endured during World War II. Sometimes the conversations went on for so long that Okusan had to prepare lunch for her drop-in guests. Years later, whenever they met, the women would praise Okusan for her wonderful cooking.



Mrs. Matsubayashi realizes that it was not the cooking that was especially good, but the close relationship they enjoyed as they shared food and conversation. Temple members would bring over fruits and vegetables they had grown, fish they had caught, and even unused toys that their children had outgrown for the Matsubayashi family to use.

Doctors who took care

of the family's health needs would not charge for their services. Expenses for meetings and conferences Okusan had to attend were paid for by the members. Because of countless acts of kindness shown to her family, Mrs. Matsubayashi was determined to do whatever she could to help at the temple -- whether this was arranging the flowers, working in the kitchen, assisting

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Zen and the Art of Hosting the Socho



Socho Ogui with newlyweds Rev. Dennis Fujimoto and his wife Sharmou.

By Rev. Joshin Dennis Fujimoto
Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple

During our recent Fall Ohigan at Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple, our Sangha had the good fortune to host a visit from Socho Ogui. Ohigan is generally a time of very good weather and the freshness of the fall season.

We had already planned to combine our Fall Ohigan Service with our Spaghetti Luncheon Fundraiser where 100% of the proceeds go towards the IOBT Scholarship Fund. This fund allows our MAP and YBA to take part in the many sessions offered at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, the YAC programs, as well as district-level workshops.

The Spaghetti Luncheon would boost the attendance at the Ohigan Service, and the Ohigan Service would bring more people to the fundraiser. Everyone would benefit from this combination!

Nine months earlier, Socho Ogui expressed interest to visit IOBT this year. He tries to make it a point to visit all of our BCA temples despite his already busy schedule. It was decided that Ohigan would be the best time for Socho to visit. He would be an added attraction to an already appealing Sunday, with Ohigan Family Service, Spaghetti Luncheon, AND Socho Ogui in town! Everyone would benefit from this combination!

It would be good to

take advantage of the Socho's visit. He does not get to the Eastern Oregon area very often. This would be a great time to promote Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in our area. Maybe one of the local college or universities would like to co-host a public lecture by the Socho. Do you think this would be agreeable with Socho? Well, he did tell me that anything we could plan for his visit would be fine with him. We should look into this.

Maybe some of our members would like to receive their Buddhist name in a Kieshiki Affirmation Ceremony led by Socho. Can we add this to the weekend, too? We should look into this.

Idaho-Oregon will host the Northwest District Convention this coming February. Every year, the hosting temple of the convention also hosts the NW Dharma School Teacher's League Workshop. This workshop would take place the Saturday before our Ohigan Service. Since Socho would be in town, we could ask him to address the Dharma School Teachers during the Opening Service. The teachers from all over the district would be able to hear from Socho Ogui, and he would be able to take part in a Northwest District event beyond our IOBT Sangha. Do you think this would be agreeable with Socho? Well, he did tell me that anything we could plan for his visit would be fine with him.

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The Institute for Healthy Aging at Keiro
Caring for the Caregiver

10th Caregiver's Conference and Resource Fair

Presented by The Institute for Healthy Aging at Keiro and Los Angeles Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (L.A. Nishi Hongwanji) Adult Buddhist Association

* Space is limited and reservation is required. Register now - it's free!

Saturday, November 21, 2009
8:30 a.m. registration
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. program

Los Angeles Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
815 E. First St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

Topics include:

- Senior Moments or Alzheimer's? 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's Disease
- Who Pays for Long Term Care?
- Legal Issues of Caregiving - Bringing Families Together or Tearing Them Apart

For more information or to register, please contact Judy Shiroma at (323) 980-2352, jshiroma@keiro.org, or visit www.keiro.org/caregiverconference

Keiro

Shinran Shonin's 750th Memorial Service

Interfaith Panel Discussion

Saturday, Nov. 21, 2009
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Fresno Betsuin Buddhist Temple, Annex
(559) 442-4054
1340 Kern Street, Fresno, CA 93706
Theme: "Faith For Your Life"

Panelists:

- Rev. Keith Inouye - Wesley United Methodist Church
- Rev. Bryan Jessup - Lutheran Universalist Church of Fresno
- Dr. Sudarshan Kapoor - Hinduism, California State Univ. Fresno, Professor
- Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala - Theravadi Buddhism
- Bishop Seicho Asahi - Shingon Buddhism, Los Angeles Kyosun Betsuin Buddhist Temple
- Rev. Dr. Myoan Grace Shireson - Zen Buddhism, Empty Nest, Bailey Heartland and Fresno River Zen Groups
- Dr. Nobuo Haneda - Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, Mid-Center of Buddhism, Berkeley
- Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto - Institute of Buddhist Studies, BCA, moderator of the panel discussion

Q/A from the audience will be welcomed. Tea will be served
3:00pm - 5:00pm Multi-Cultural Music Event:
Japanese Dance, Koto music, etc.
Free Admission - Open to the public
A Light Supper will be available after 5:00pm at Annex for a minimal charge.

For more information call: Rev. Nobuo Miyaji (559)442-4054

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Submission Guidelines:
We recommend a length of approximately 800-1000 words, typed, single-spaced. Longer submissions will be accepted or, if accepted, split into multiple parts.
We prefer Microsoft Word documents in an 11-point Times New Roman font, as it translates best for our graphic design department. If you do not have Word, a simple text file will work, even pasted into the body of an e-mail message. In ALL cases, do not embed images in Word documents. Send as separate attachment. Please do not send text as PDF file.
Color prints or digital prints are acceptable. Color photocopies, inkjet, or third-party photo sharing websites are not recommended.
Photo attachments should be sent as 300 dpi JPEG, TIFF or PDF format for best resolution. Call phone images are not recommended. Web-based images (72 dpi) do not produce quality images for newspaper usage.
We reserve the right to crop photos and illustrations to conform with space and design requirements.
Submission deadline: 20th of each month.

English Editor: Rev. Ron Kobata
Japanese Editor: Rev. Kodo Umezue
Print Production: Jeffrey Kimoto



Campaign BCA News FBWA Chapters Recognized



From left to right: Dr. Billy Saeki, BCA President; Keiko Furusho, Bay; Rumiko Arakawa, Central; Jane Sakashita, Mtn States; Mary Shintani, Coast; Cathy Fujimori, Northern; Michelle Sadamori, Northwest; Ayako Masada, Southern; Dr. Linda Engstrom, Eastern; Hiroko Tsuda, FBWA; Socho Koshin Ogui.

Socho Koshin Ogui and BCA President Dr. Billy Saeki acknowledged and thanked the 46 BWA chapters and districts on Oct. 10, for supporting Campaign BCA – The 21st Century. This presentation took place at the Banquet during the 41st BCA Federation of Buddhist Women's Association Conference held in Sacramento.

Bay District BWL President Keiko Furusho accepted certificates for the following chapters: Alameda, Berkeley, San Francisco, Enmanji, Oakland, Palo Alto, Southern Alameda County, and Bay District Buddhist Women's

League.

Central California District President Rumiko Arakawa accepted for the following: Parlier, Fowler, Fresno Betsuin, Reedley, Visalia and Central California Buddhist Women's League.

Coast District President Mary Shintani accepted for: Mountain View, Salinas, San Jose Betsuin and Coast District Buddhist Women's Association.

Eastern District President Dr. Linda Engstrom accepted for the Midwest Buddhist Temple Women's Auxiliary.

Mountain States District

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IBS Renames Professorial Chair

BERKELEY—The Institute of Buddhist Studies Trustees, at its Aug. 7 meeting approved the changing of the Hongwanji Professorial Chair to the H.E. Kosho Ohtani Monshu Emeritus Professorial Chair for Shin Buddhist Studies.

The Hongwanji Chair was established in 1985 for the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) with a gift from the H.E. Kosho Ohtani, head of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, Kyoto, Japan.

The IBS, wishing to honor the Ohtani family for their support, petitioned the Hongwanji to change the generic name of the chair to the Kosho Ohtani Chair. This was granted on July 9, 2009.

The IBS wished to honor the late Kosho Ohtani for his support of the school. Two major reasons were given.

1. Though he was retired, the Monshu Emeritus, help the IBS to establish the GTU/IBS Foundation Japan Committee in 1986. This committee was established to meet with the regulations of the Japan Foundation. This committee was necessary to receive designated gifts from Japan. The committee members assembled for IBS

were: Masakazu Ito, Counselor for C. Itoh Trading Company; Honorable Zentarō Kosaka, member of the Diet and former Minister of Foreign Affairs; Dr. Yoshishige Ashihara, Honorary Chairman of the Board of Kansai Electric Power Company; Jusha Tsumura, Chairman of the Board of Tsumura Juntendo a pharmaceutical company; and Hajime Hayashi, Senior Managing Director of Matsushita Electric Trading Company. Mr. Echigo was named the chair of the committee. The committee was dissolved in 1990.

2. In 1981, the Monshu Emeritus conducted the Tokudo (first ordination ceremony) for five IBS students at the San Francisco Buddhist Temple. This was the first ordination ceremony conducted outside of Japan by a member of the Ohtani family.

"Because of the strong support received by the Monshu Emeritus, the IBS would like to perpetuate his generous support by establishing a professorial program which will enhance the IBS as an academic institution with a strong focus on Shin Buddhist Studies," said Dr. Richard Payne, IBS Dean.

"Reunited" Dance Benefits CBE

By Joanne Makishima
Mountain View Buddhist Temple

After more than a year of planning, the Mountain View Buddhist Temple ABA presented "Reunited" on Sept. 19, a fund-raising dance to benefit the BCA/Center for Buddhist Education.

Well over 300 people were in attendance, coming from throughout the Bay Area and beyond, from Southern Cal to Sacramento to Seattle, with ages spanning the decades.

For a few short hours, we were transported back to when the beat of live music emanated from church gymnasiums and other venues throughout Northern California, and people gathered to socialize and dance the night away to the music of those times. The décor



Above photo: "Reunited" dance committee.

created a "retro" atmosphere with updated touches that set the tone for the evening.

With the overwhelming turnout and support of generous donations from others, the Mountain View ABA was able to present a check for \$7,500 to the BCA's 21st Century Campaign, designating the funds as a gift to the Center for Buddhist Education.

Highlighting the evening was music by "Somethin' Else", one of the most popular bands that played at Asian functions throughout Northern California in the late 60's and early 70's. Three of the original members of the band performed at this event—Mike Ishii, Mike Sasaki, and Ted Canty—along with more recent members Jesse Nor-

man, Brian Yoshii, Matt Acabar, Chuck Wasekanes, Bob Jay, and John DeLoach.

What started out as just a good idea, became a much-anticipated event, thanks to the diligence and creativity of the committee members—Ken and Mieko Nakano, Russ and Judy Nakano, Ron and Carolyn Murata, Norm and Adele Sato, Dennis Tsukagawa, and Sterling, Joanne, and Aly Makishima. Numerous other sangha members of ABA donated their time and talent with set-up, food preparation, and clean-up, along with other friends and family members who volunteered their time as well. The committee and Mountain View ABA wish to thank all who partici-

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Edythe Vassall, CBE Administrative Assistant

Now available from CBE – ITADAKIMASU! aprons

Show your gratitude and help CBE raise funds at the same time with this fashionable and practical navy blue apron.

White hiragana characters appear above the phrase, "itadakimasu... gratefully, we receive..." Below that appears the double wisteria crest and "BCA Center for Buddhist Education."

The apron has two large pockets, an adjustable over-the-head strap and a waist tie. Get this popular item for a donation of just \$20.00 each. It makes a great gift!

To order, please contact CBE at (510) 809-1460 or email admin@cbe-bca.org

BCA Center for Buddhist Education Program & Events Calendar

Read more at our new web address: www.bcasites.net
Note: Older "wikispaces.net" web address will automatically redirect to this.

Ph: (510) 809-1460
Email: director@cbe-bca.org

Unless stated otherwise, programs listed below take place at the Jodo Shinshu Center – 2140 Durant Avenue, Berkeley

***November 1, 2009 - Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course –**
Registration opens for spring session. Limited to first 30 students. Deadline: February 15, 2010. Course starts March 1, 2010. For details, visit: www.jscc.cbe-bca.org Phone: (510) 809-1441 Fax: (510) 809-1459 Email: JSCC@cbe-bca.org

***November 5-8 (Thurs-Sun) –**
MAP Training Session - Ministers Assistant Program (MAP) continues

for MAP I group. Contact CBE for details on the program.

***November 14, 2009 (Saturday) -**
3RD ANNUAL BABY BOOMERS SEMINAR - Our Path to Wholeness Please call about availability. Don't miss this memorable gathering! Guest speakers: Prof. Nobuo Haneda and Rev. Marvin Harada. Details at www.bcasites.net

*** November 16, 2009, (Monday)**
12 noon – Inspired by Shinran Shinoin! Dharma-thon (Go meinichi) Join us for this monthly appreciation program of chanting, discussion and a light lunch. Details at www.bcasites.net

*** November 21, 2009 (Saturday)**
BUDDHIST SYMPOSIUM: Japanese Spirituality and the Demon of World War II – State Sponsored Shinto and Buddhism. Speakers: Rev. Kemmyo Sato, of Three Wheels Temple in London; and Rev. Kodo Umezū, Director, BCA CBE. Presented by the American Buddhist Studies Center based in New York and BCA Center for Buddhist Education. For details, visit: www.americanbuddhiststudiescenter.org Contact: admin@american-buddhiststudycenter.org or Ph: 212-

864-7424

***December 16, 2009, (Wednesday)** 12 noon – Inspired by Shinran Shinoin! See 11/16 info.

***January 15, 2010 (Friday)**
– Hoonko at the Jodo Shinshu Center – 7 pm Special Shinran Shinoin commemoration service followed by ozenzai (red bean soup) reception.

*** February 19-21, 2010 (Fri – Sun)**
– NEW DIRECTIONS IN BUDDHIST PSYCHOLOGY – First International Conference on Other Centered Approaches- Co-sponsored by Amida Trust, Todo Institute and Institute of Buddhist Studies. Hosted by BCA Center for Buddhist Education at the Jodo Shinshu Center. Visit: <http://www.amidatrust.com/iococa.html>

*** March 27, 2010 (Saturday) –**
A Buddhist Life Seminar: CAREGIVING, FUNERAL AND MEMORIAL RITUALS - Networking, resources & support for all generations- See ad and website for details on speakers and registration on this workshop presented by CBE and the Golden Year group.



How I spent my summer vacation: Visiting the JSC

By Breven Honda
Dharma School Student, Buddhist Temple of San Diego

This past summer I had a very interesting and rewarding experience.

No, it wasn't Disneyland. Been there, done that the last two years. No, it was not venturing to Las Vegas with my parents.

I visited the Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC).

In between my summer baseball camps, weeklong LABCC (Los Angeles Buddhist Coordinating Council) youth camp, swimming lessons and attending Padres baseball games, my parents and I, along with a couple of temple friends, visited the JSC July 9-12.

I must admit that the long drive from San Diego to Berkeley, California was not something I was looking forward to, but at least my dad (Ralph), said that we would see a couple of baseball games along the way, participate in a Bon Odori and check out San Francisco.

For, a young and active boy of 9, that sounded great! But, as long as I had my DS game cartridges to satisfy me during the road trip, I would be fine.

So, off we went.

Destination: the JSC

After watching a baseball game in Lake Elsinore, California, and spending a night in Carson (near Gardena), we loaded up the van and headed north on a sunny Thursday morning.

We met up with Roy and Karen Okuhara, both members of the Buddhist Temple of San Diego, who were joining us on the trip.

After a stop for gas and lunch, we finally arrived at the JSC at 3:45 in the afternoon. Boy was it a long drive. Seven hours and 45 minutes to be exact!

Mr. Glenn Kameda, the center's facilities director welcomed us. As did Mr. Robert Noguchi, 21st Century Campaign manager, and Mrs. Judy



Breven Honda presenting a check to Campaign Manager Robert Noguchi.

Kono, CBE Project Coordinator.

My dad had always told me about the JSC. He said that it has nice facilities and room accommodations. I had to see it to believe it.

"Wow! What a big place," was my reaction. So far, my dad was right.

When we took our luggage upstairs and opened the room, I said, "Wow, this is cool."

"I called out the bed next to the window. I told mom (Avis) that she had the bed next to the wall. Dad, uh, I guess he had to sleep on the floor."

My dad, who is very cool about things, said that it was fine for him to sleep on the floor. He wanted mom and I to enjoy all of the comforts of the JSC.

We stayed in the dormitory two-bed room. The room is part of a suite that includes sleeping rooms, a lounge area and three bathroom facilities.

Mr. Noguchi gave us a tour of the JSC. My dad has always talked about the JSC facilities, but I was about to see it with my own eyes. The tour was very interesting especially when I saw the Kodo and the kitchen.

After a brief service in the Kodo, led by Rev. Umezu, Mr. Kameda said that the Kodo has numerous func-

tions besides being a gathering place for religious and meeting activities. He said that when Dharma School and youth groups come to the center, the Kodo is used to show DVDs. He said that the sound system is awesome. It is like being in a movie theatre. Wow! I hope my friends and I can experience it on our next visit!

I also like the kitchen. It is big. There are two big refrigerators, a freezer, rice cookers and microwave oven. I thought it will be neat to cook some our meals in a really nice kitchen.

On Friday we cooked rice, spam and eggs for breakfast. It was delicious. After breakfast we attended the morning service led by Rev. Umezu and Rev. Kuwahara. After the service, the center was buzzing with activity. Classes were in session, the bookstore was open and visitors were coming and going.

For me, I was on vacation, so it was fun just hanging out in the lobby and checking out the bookstore.

One of the reasons for making the visit to the JSC was to present a gift from the San Diego Dharma School. I presented a check to Mr. Noguchi in

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FBWA Student Exchange Program Report



FBWA exchange students, from left, Keiko Fujioka and Tomoko Mitsumoto.

By Ruth Kawashima
Buddhist Church of Ogden

historic 25th Street in Ogden.

This summer, the Mountain States District BWA had the privilege of hosting two young women from Japan through the FBWA Student Exchange program. Tomoko Mitsumoto, 19, and Keiko Fujioka, 21, both from Hiroshima, arrived on Aug. 11. They were assisted to their connecting flight to Utah by Michael Endo, from BCA.

On their arrival in Salt Lake City, Tomoko and Keiko were welcomed met by their host family - Bruce and Christy Fong and their children and nephews along with members of the Ogden BWA. Their first meal was a local American buffet-type restaurant.

Wednesday they spent the day at Utah's local amusement park, Lagoon, with their host family. After being treated to an Asian buffet with a large number of extended host family members. They returned to Lagoon to close the park out.

Thursday, Tomoko and Keiko met with the Ogden BWA for lunch, later, they were taken to Snow Basin Ski Resort up beautiful Ogden Canyon, followed by some antique shopping on

Friday was spent touring campus of the University of Utah with college aged YBA members from the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple. They also taken shopping and given a tour of Salt Lake City. Later that night, there was a gathering of the students and their families for dinner at their host family's home. They also experienced "Game Night" learning to play games like Pictionary, which helped them practice their English.

Saturday was spent shopping for *Omiyage*, golfing and mini golfing with their host family. Later there was a joint Ogden/Salt Lake BWA barbecue hosted by the Ogden Buddhist Church. This allowed them time to spend with members from both temples. They were treated to a performance by the Ogden Buddhist Taiko and played volleyball with members of the Jr. YBA and YBA members from both temples.

Sunday, Tomoko and Keiko toured Park City and the Olympic Park. For dinner, they met with members of the Salt Lake BWA. They said their goodbyes to their first host family and went to stay at

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Gardena Presents Scholarships

Gardena Buddhist Church scholarship recipients. From left: Rev. Hoshio Shindo, Mrs. Shindo, Arleen Miya (Church VP), Cyndi Yasaki, Karissa Nishimura, Jenna Nakamura, Kirstin Kita, Steve Noguchi (Scholarship Chair.), Alan Kita (Church Board Chairman).



President's Message

Continued from Front Page

wrote:

"With this occasion of Shinran Shonin's memorial as a great opportunity, the Hongwanji is formulating various long-term plans which deal with widely transmitting the Jodo Shinshu teaching. By taking up and continuing the spirit of the *Monshin-tokai Undo* (Lay members' Movement), which was initiated on the occasion of the seven hundredth memorial, and the important *Dobo Undo* (Fellow Practicer Movement), we can build a religious institution that is capable of accommodating modern society. In order to accom-

plish this, we should cultivate a broadmind to understand and share the anxieties and feelings of others, create an organization in which we support each other, and transmit the Jodo Shinshu teaching. Likewise, we need to reorganize our institution's framework so that it meets the needs of the times."

The two keynote speakers at the FBWA conference were Reverend Shinri Mariko Nishiyama and Reverend Jishin Diane Johnson. Their circumstances and paths leading them to the Nembutsu were different, yet their common goal is to assist others find the Nembutsu teachings.

We continually reinvent ourselves as we walk the Nembutsu path. The

Buddhist Churches of America's goal to realize Jodo Shinshu Buddhism as a major religious tradition in the United States is consistent with and supports the Gomoshu's thoughts. As part of our legacy, we dedicated the BCA Jodo Shinshu Center in 2006 to be the center of our educational efforts. The Center reaches out to all, bringing the Nembutsu to life through Shinran and his teachings. Appropriately, the BCA Jodo Shinshu Center has been designated as our 750th Shinran Shonin Commemorative Project.

Reverently in Gassho and Appreciation,

Namu Amida Butsu

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The BCA CBE Vehicle Donation Program is administered by the Orange County Buddhist Church (OCBC)



An Oceanful of Water for a Cup: the 40th Reunion of the 1969 IBS Summer Session Gang

By Ken Tanaka,
Musashino University, Tokyo

The summer of 1969 was a turning point in our lives. It certainly was for me. That summer session at the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) confirmed my desire to want to pursue Buddhism as a career.

If it were not for the summer session, I probably would not have taken the path that I took. For this, I am grateful to the BCA, Bishop Kenryu Tsuji (President of IBS) and Rev. Haryuoshi Kusada (Executive Director) for taking the initiative to hold such an epochal event.

I am also grateful to the fellow students who endured together the one entire month of intensive session, sharing three meals a day, all the classes and workshops, and especially the after-session discussions late into the night. Six among this group held a reunion on August 12th of this year at the Spenger's Restaurant in Berkeley.

The six were Kanya Okamoto (Tri-State Temple), Ryo Imamura (Florin), Ron Miyamura (Cleveland), Ron Kobata (San Francisco), Gerry Sakamoto (San Jose) and myself, Ken Tanaka (IBS and Southern Alameda). Besides the six of us, there were June King and Ken O'Neill, who also later became ordained and served as BCA ministers for some period of time.

While some of us see each other quite often, there were others whom we had not seen each other for years. We were happy to get together and marveled at the fact that this was the 40th anniversary of the life-changing event. We were, of course, a little (?) grayer and thinner at the

top, and a little (?) heavier around the waist. (Please see the photos.)

After a little while, we forgot the fact that 40 years had zipped by and began reminiscing the numerous memorable events of the summer session. As the product of the "rebellious 60s," we had the gall to complain to Rev. Kusada about the rigors of the program, especially the difficult Buddhist teachings that the eminent scholars, Prof. Gibun Ueyda (Professor Emeritus, Nagoya Univ. on Mahayana Buddhism) and Venerable Piyananda (SriLankan scholar monk on early Buddhism) were teaching us. We complained to Rev. Kusada that we were being inundated by so much knowledge and that it was as if our small empty cups were being filled with an oceanful of water!

Where was our gratitude? Where was the humility in us? While we must have felt them internally, they sure didn't show in our words and deeds. We were too young, too American and too rebellious not to challenge the establishment! As we reminisced, we all agree that we had given Rev. Kusada an undue amount of headache; it must have been a challenge for him since he was relatively new to the job, having recently arrived from Japan to join the BCA.

However, despite our actions, Rev. Kusada, the teachers, Bishop Tsuji and others were extremely accommodating. For example, in response to our complaint that we could not get any good exercise without a basketball, Rev. Kusada went out to buy one for us. As we waited at a nearby outdoor basketball court, I vividly recall Sensei walking down Haste St. toward us

with the new basketball. I am sure he had never even touched a basketball in his life for he seemed awkward holding it, but he seemed pleased that he could be of help to us. And we had a thoroughly enjoyable game under the warm sun and a cool summer breeze; it was a memorable respite from the rigors of the session.

As we talked further over our reunion dinner, we generally agreed that while 40 years had gone by, our "basic" personalities had not changed. There was Rev. Okamoto cracking his jokes to making us laugh, Rev. Imamura recalling the arguments he had with so-and-so person, Rev. Miyamura talking fondly about his motorcycles and student demonstrations during his undergraduate days at UC Berkeley, Rev. Kobata questioning us whether if we "really" knew what each other's basic personalities were, Rev. Sakamoto nodding quietly with his broad Hawaiian smile, and I, thinking to myself that I needed to write about this memorable event for the "Wheel of Dharma"!

Further, we were in basic agreement that were it not for the 1969 summer session the chances were smaller that we would have pursued the path. As a result out of the ten or so participants, 8 of us became ministers and served at one time or another in the BCA, demonstrating once again the importance of the IBS for the future of the BCA and Jodo Shinshu in America and beyond.

On the other hand, we questioned (laughing, of course) whether if we really had made any contributions for the BCA and Jodo



Class of 1969, top row, left to right: Gary Miyamura (Penryn), Ron Kobata (S.F.), Gerry Sakamoto (HI), Ron Miyamura (Penryn), June King (S.F.), Ryo Imamura (HI), Rev. Haruo Yamaoka. Middle row: Kanya Okamoto (L.A.), Phillip Sakashita (Salt Lake City), Ken Tanaka (Mountain View). Front row: Rev. Kenryu Tsuji, Ven. Piyananda, Prof. Gibun Ueyda, Rev. Haryuoshi Kusada. Color photo, standing: Ryo Imamura, Ron Kobata, Ron Miyamura. Seated: Ken Tanaka, Kanya Okamoto, Gerry Sakamoto.

Shinshu. The fact that we were now "senior" ministers might really be a proof that we had truly entered Mappō, the Period of the Last Age of Dharma!

We understood in our hearts of heart that while we may have made some contributions to the sangha in the past 40 years, it was us who had really benefited so much more ... ten, hundred, a thousand times more! We were the real beneficiaries, socially and spiritually, for having pursued the Buddhist path. Words are inadequate to fully ex-

press our appreciation to the teachers, the administrators and all the BCA members who made the 1969 Summer Session possible. Our cups, indeed, have been filled a lot more than when we started out that summer!

As we hugged each other good bye, we vowed to gather for the 50th reunion in 2019. At that time, we will probably say to each other, "Boy, we sure looked young 10 years ago in Berkeley!"

Namu Amida Butsu ...

Breakfast

Continued from Page 2

the elderly, or just being a willing listener. She credits everything to the benevolence of Hotoke-sama. Okagesama de. Although Kaikyoshi wives' roles may have changed over the years, Mrs. Matsubayashi urges all Okusan to understand the hard work of ministers and to continue to support their husbands.

The English speaker was Mrs. Patti Oshita who became a Kaikyoshi

spouse in 1986. As a child, she saw Okusan as being an extension of the minister, and as a newlywed she worried about fitting into this lifestyle of being on call 24/7. Could she adapt to her role of having to work with temple members (in her own words, some of whom are tough), to hearing "monku" about her husband, and never becoming rich? The first few years were not easy, as she learned that the minister makes the temple his priority and that because home life takes a back-

seat, sometimes family plans have to be cancelled.

It surprised Mrs. Oshita that temple members would introduce her to friends or visitors from Japan and say that she is the one who could answer any questions such as: What is Buddhism? What is the "onajjin"? She wished she could find a way to provide adequate responses. Then in 1997, Mrs. Michiko Yukawa came to Sacramento and became a role model for her, changing her life. She asked Mrs. Yukawa if

there was something she wanted to do since her husband Rev. Yukawa was considering retirement. Mrs. Yukawa revealed that she wanted to become Tokudo just as her mother and mother-in-law had done. Mrs. Oshita joined her, and they studied together and went to Japan to receive their Tokudo. Subsequently, they were among several in the MAP program under Socho Ogui to go to Japan to become Kyoshi.

Now this Kaikyoshi wife found even more meaning in temple life, helping out families, reaching out to the youth, serving those in need. Mrs. Oshita has been able to stay true to the values and tradition she married into, whether one uses the terms Bomori or Urakata or Okusan, and yet she has found her own present-day path. And when ever she feels unsure of herself, she heeds the advice of Rev. Yukawa: Just be sincere and try your

hardest.

Seated next to me at the breakfast table was Mrs. Kiyoko Matsubayashi (yes, another Matsubayashi) from the Southern District. I was able to ask for her comments-in-a-nutshell about being a Kaikyoshi wife. She said simply that the temple was the village that raised her four children. She could not be Okusan or mother without the members' help. Once again, Okagesama de.

Beginning with Mrs. Mayumi Ogui, the Kaikyoshi wives truly embody the endearing qualities that support their husbands in serving the BCA. Gentle, yet strong. Gracious, yet strong. It is this strength that will help ensure the legacy handed down to us by the Issei pioneer women who built the foundation for today's Fujinkai -- an expression of their devotion to living the Nembutsu.

JSC Project

Continued from Front Page

opportunity to participate in the commemoration.

The BCA is accepting monetary donations towards Shinran's memorial observance.

"We will truly appreciate the Sangha's dedication for continuing the legacy of Shinran Shonin and the future direction of the JSC," Socho Ogui said. "I also hope that members will be able to attend the 750th observance in Kyoto in 2011."

"I hope that members will have the feeling of appreciation of using the JSC. It is for the use of the people," Socho Ogui added. "It is the education center for all members of the Jodo Shinshu teaching."

Donors are asked to make commemorative donations payable to the BCA Shinran 750th Memorial. Please address and mail your donation to the Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial c/o Judy Kono, 2140 Durant Ave. Berkeley, CA 94704.

For more information on the BCA's 750th commemoration, including registration and event schedule, please check with your local temple or the web site: www.ingassho.com

Deadline Date has been **Extended** to December 1, 2009
For the Art Contest and the Haiku Submissions

Shinran Shonin 750th
Dharma School Art Contest
THEME: Peace and Tranquility

For more information visit the Shinran Shonin website:
www.ingassho.com

Experience at JSC

Continued from Page 4

the amount of \$2,500 for the BCA Campaign.

Visit across the bay

After that, we were off to San Francisco.

We visited the San Francisco Buddhist Church where Rev. Kobata greeted us and explained a brief history of the temple and the onajin. Next we climbed a long stairway to the temple roof. On top of the roof is a stupa that houses the holy relics of Sakyamuni Buddha. We put our hands together in gasho and Rev. Kobata gave us an explanation about the stupa and its history.

After leaving SF Buddhist Church we visited BCA Headquarters, which is next door to the temple. There we met Socho Ogui and Rev. Michael Endo.

Since it was lunchtime, we all went to Japantown for lunch. Socho was concerned that I may not like some Japanese food. But, when I saw that they restaurant served Soba noodles with nori, I was happy.

After having a nice lunch and visit with Socho and Rev. Michael, we said goodbye and toured the San Francisco area. We ended up at AT&T Park where the San Francisco Giants were hosting my San Diego Padres. My dad kept his promise of seeing two baseball games.

That was cool. But, I did not expect to be part of history when the Giants pitcher threw a no-hitter!

BART and Bon Odori

Saturday was a leisure day. We met my mom's cousin in Berkeley for a Hawaiian breakfast. Afterwards, we took the BART to San Francisco. The BART was cool! It's like riding the San Diego trolley, but underground, especially under San Francisco Bay.

After spending a few hours around the SF waterfront, we headed back to the JSC to get ready for the Berkeley Bon Odori.

The odori was held at the Berkeley Higashi temple. I did not recognize any of the odori songs. We danced, anyway. But we really stood out because we were wearing our San Diego happi coats.

The odori was canceled at intermission due to a summer rain. It was raining really hard. But, in the end, a beautiful double rainbow covered the Berkeley skyline.

On Sunday morning, we ate breakfast, attended the Berkeley O Bon service, packed up and said sayonara to the JSC.

On our way home we visited the San Jose Buddhist Church and participated in their Bon Odori

Fast-forward to September

Now that school has started, I was not sure when the next opportunity

would be for me to visit the JSC.

During the second weekend in September, the NFL football season began. I noticed that the San Diego Chargers were going to play the Oakland Raiders.

"Hey dad," I asked with enthusiasm. "Where will the Chargers-Oakland game be played?"

"The game will be played in Oakland," my dad remarked.

"Well then, we ought to drive up to the Jodo Shinshu Center, spend the night, and go to the game," I responded with excitement.

"No. It will be a school night and you will have homework," my dad said. "And besides, we need to reserve a room before going there at a moments notice."

Oh, well, I gave it a good Buddhist effort.

But, I am sure I will be visiting the JSC in the near future. I want to take my Dharma School friends to the JSC so that they can experience it.

I really enjoyed my experience at the Jodo Shinshu Center. It is everything my dad had described before our visit.

I would encourage other kids my age to visit the JSC if they have not already done so.

It is truly a worthwhile experience.

Gassho

FBWA Conference Report

Continued from Front Page



Guest speaker Reverend Diane Johnson (English).

The luncheon was chaired by Haru Onishi. Reverend Ron Kobata was presented an orei and a plaque for his four years of devoted service as Executive Secretary to the FBWA from 2005-2009. Reverend Kodo Umezu was given a

check to the CBE and was recognized for his service. The FBWA chapters have thus far in two years donated \$155,000 of their unrestricted funds to the CBE.

After the luncheon, the afternoon workshops offered a variety of topics including Japanese Cultural Arts, Memorial Services, Finances, Monpo (English) and Monpo (Japanese), Through a Writer's Eyes, Dealing with Dementia, Japanese Greeting Cards, Looking Good - Feeling Good, Dressing for Obon, and Let's Dance (Ono)

The Welcome Banquet began with the opening address by MC Judy Waters, followed by a message from Honorary Advisor Mrs. Mayumi Ogui. President Hiroko Tsuda presented the Dana, Dharma School, and Zaidan Funds. Jennifer Fong, from the Mountain States District, presented an interesting summary of her trip to Japan through the 2008 FBWA Student Exchange Program. FBWA President-elect Sumi Tanabe and members of the Coast District BWL sang, "Do You Know the Way to San Jose?" and invited members to attend the 42nd BCA FBWA Conference in October 2012 in San Jose. Robert Noguchi, manager of the Campaign BCA - the 21st Century, with the help of Socho Ogui and Dr. Billy Saeki, presented Certificates of Appreciation to the FBWA President and the eight District BWL Presidents. The district presidents will distribute the certificates to their chapters. Forty-six chapters have made donations to the Campaign.

The banquet concluded with Virginia Uchida as the entertainment program MC, featuring performances by Francine Hutcheon and the Ladies of the Hui Lau Lima Hawaiian Dancers, harmonica music and songs by Reverend Tesshi Aoyama and Julie Iso of the Harmonicoots, and a hilarious monologue act by Sacramento Betsuin Ministerial Assistant Koichi Mizushima.

Sunday began with an early morning invitation only breakfast sponsored by Socho and Mrs. Ogui for the FBWA Cabinet, BWA Presidents, and Kaiyoshi spouses. The Closing Service included Dharma messages by Reverend Diane Johnson and Reverend Mariko Nishiyama. The 2011-2012 BCA FBWA Cabinet from the Coast District BWL was installed by Socho Koshin Ogui. Words of appreciation were given by conference co-chairs Virginia Uchida (English) and Alice Kataoka (Japanese). The conference concluded with the General Meeting and a slideshow presentation of photos taken during the conference by Alan Wada.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the World BWA Conference in May 2011 in Kyoto, Japan and at the 42nd BCA FBWA Conference in October 2012 in San Jose.

Zen, Wedding

Continued from Page 2

EVERYONE would benefit from this combination! We should look into this.

Every time we have a guest speaker come to Idaho-Oregon, we plan a welcome dinner. Certainly we should do this for Socho Ogui. Hospitality is our signature here and we would like to put our best foot forward to welcome the Bishop of BCA! Friday is already full with the evening Public Lecture at the College of Idaho, so lets schedule this for Saturday evening after the District Dharma School Teacher's Workshop.

Socho doesn't need to stay for the whole teacher's workshop, so why don't we plan a round of golf with some of the members. That way, Socho could relax, meet Sangha members, and enjoy the open skies of Eastern Oregon and the Ohigan weather! Sounds like a great idea ... we should look into this.

Let's see, so far we have Socho arriving at 1:00 Friday afternoon, lunch, and a 3:00 meeting with the Introduction to Buddhism class at the College of Idaho. Then a dinner break before the 7:00 Public Lecture. Hotel check-in about 10:00 PM. That should be easy enough.

Saturday, he can attend the Opening Service for the NWDSTL Workshop at 10:00, and leave for a round of golf at 11:00. The workshop will be over by 4:00, and the Welcome Dinner for Socho will start at 6:00. He will be back at the hotel by 9:00 PM. That should be easy enough.

Sunday, he will officiate the Kieshiki Affirmation Ceremony for 9 participants at 10:15. 11:00 will be the Ohigan Family Service with Socho as Guest Speaker. 12:00 will be our IOBT Scholarship Fund Benefit Spaghetti Luncheon. Socho will be done at 2:00. That should be

easy enough.

Ge, Socho is not scheduled to leave for San Francisco until Monday and there is nothing to do Sunday evening! Why don't we have a wedding!! We can have a wedding Sunday afternoon at 3:30, cake reception from 4:00 - 6:00, and then a dinner for the wedding party after that. Socho did say that anything we could plan would be fine with him. EVERYONE would benefit from the happy occasion, and it should all be easy enough! Sharmon, will you marry me?

Gassho

Exchange Report

Continued from Page 4

the home of Rev. Jerry Hirano and his wife Carmela.

Monday, they returned to Park City to experience the rides and do some last minute shopping.

Tuesday, Tomoko and Keiko flew back to San Francisco, where they were again met by Michael Endo. They were given a tour of the Jodo Shinshu Center before checking into their hotel.

Later they were given a tour of BCA Headquarters and they visited the Buddhist Church of San Francisco

where they did Oshoko. After a short tour of Union Square they met Socho and Mrs. Ogui for dinner. Tomoko and Keiko flew back to Japan the following day.

All BWA members who encountered the students received a key charm with the word "Megumi" which means "Blessing" as thank you gifts. Everyone involved with the exchange or had a chance to meet Tomoko and Keiko came away with a positive experience and hope the two students enjoyed their visit with our two Sanghas and to Utah.

ent of many honors for his work.

"We are deeply grateful for the generosity of Dr. Numata for his work for the sake of the Buddha -Dharma and BDK America for their support of the IBS as a Buddhist educational institution," said Dr. Richard Payne, IBS Dean.

IBS

Continued from Page 3

founded the Numata Center in Berkeley for Buddhist translation and research. His goal was to translate all of the Buddhist canons (Tripitakas).

In 1986, he founded BDK America for the promotion of Buddhism. He is the recipi-

FBWA Chapters

Continued from Page 3

President Jane Sakashita accepted for: Ogden, and Salt Lake chapters.

Northern California District President Cathy Fujimori accepted for: Florin, Lodi, Marysville, Placer, Sacramento Betsuin, Stockton, Walnut Grove and Northern California Buddhist Women's Association.

Northwest District President Michelle Sadamori accepted for: Idaho-Oregon, Oregon, Seattle Betsuin, Spokane, Tacoma, White River and Northwest Dis-

trict Buddhist Women's Association.

Southern District President Ayako Masada accepted for: Arizona, Gardena, Los Angeles Betsuin, Orange County, Oxnard, San Diego, San Fernando Valley, Santa Barbara and Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association.

FBWA President Hiroko Tsuda accepted for the BCA Federation of Buddhist Women's Association.

A total of 46 chapters and districts have given over \$152,000 towards the campaign. We thank you very much for your generous support!

"Reunited"

Continued from Page 3

and supported this event, which far-exceeded our expectations.

In an article in the *Wheel of Dharma*, Socho Koshin Ogui asked, "What can we do to make the teachings of

Jodo Shinshu Shin Buddhism and the Nembutsu resonate among the people of today's society?" Education, the CBE, is part of this answer. So with this show of dana to the CBE, we hope to keep Socho Ogui's vision alive and well.



Guest speaker Reverend Mariko Nishiyama (Japanese) of Maui, Hawaii.

今月の法話

禪と総長をお迎えする方法

アイダホ・オレゴン仏教会 藤本デニス顕信

今年の秋のお彼岸は小杭 総長をお迎えすることができ、アイダホ・オレゴン（愛央）仏教会にとっては本当に有り難い縁をいただいたことであります。お彼岸は、暑からず寒からず、さわやかな秋の訪れを感じさせる時でもあります。

この法要にあわせて、愛央仏教会の奨学基金援助のためのスパゲティランチも催されました。この基金は開教使アシスタントが浄土真宗センターで開催されるセミナーへの参加費用や、YBAの子どもたちが教団のプログラムに参加するときの費用、または、その人たちが教区での講習会などに出席するときに使われるものであります。

このランチがあるのでいつもより多くの人がお参りにこられるのですが、お彼岸と重なったこともあり、基金募集のランチにも思ったより多くの人が集まりました。この二つの行事が相乗 効果を生んだことは本当にいいことであります。

今から九ヶ月前、小杭 総長から、今年中に愛央仏教会を訪れたいという連絡がありました。総長は忙しいスケジュールにもかかわらず、アメリカ中のすべての仏教会を訪問したいとの意向でありましたので、秋のお彼岸においていただくようにいたしました。これは本当に素晴らしいことでした。もうすでに、お彼岸家族法要が予定されており、その上基金募集のランチもあり、そこに総長が訪問されるということは鬼に金棒であります。この三つが組み合わせたら損をするものは誰一人としていません。

総長のせつかくの訪問を活用しない手はありません。総長がオレゴン州 東部を訪れる機会がめったとありません。この地の人たちに浄土 真宗を知らしめる絶好のチャンスであります。「近くの大学で話をしてもらえたらいいな、でも総長がそれをOKとしてくれるかな？」という思いが起こってきました。「でも、総長はどんなことでもしてあげると言っていたなあ。ちょっと大学にあたってみるか。」

「そうだ、せつかく総長が見えるのだから、帰依式も予定にいれてみようか。法名が欲しい人もいるだろうから。」「毎年、教区の仏教会が持ち回りでダルマスクールの教師の研修会をしていて、今年はずが当番だから、総長にそれもしていただくかなあ。」

「でも、この研修会はお彼岸法要の前日だから、総長もおられることだし、開会式でお話をさせていただこう。そうすると教区内のほかの仏教会の先生方も総長のお話を聞くことができるし。」「さて、総長がいいと言ってくれるかな。でも、何でもしてくださるとおっしゃっていたし。」「皆が喜ぶことだし、これでやってみるか。」

「皆が喜ぶことだし、これでやってみるか。」仏教会にご講師をお迎えするときは必ず歓迎の夕食会を催します。総長がおいでになるのだから、これも予定にいれなければなりません。私たちの得意とするところは「ころからのおもてなし」であります。特に教団の総長をお迎えするのですから、おろそかにはできません。金曜日の夜はもうすでに大学で一般公開講座が予定が

つまっています。ということで、土曜日のダルマスクールの教師研修会が終わったあとにすることになりました。「総長は、研修会に最後までいる必要はないから、メンバーの有志と一緒にゴルフも予定にいれようかな。」「そうすれば、総長にはリラックスしてもらえ、メンバーと腹を割って話もでき、何よりも東部オレゴン州のぬけるような秋晴れを堪能してもらえ。」

「これはいいアイデアだ。早速手配しよう。」「さてよ。総長は金曜日の午後一時に空港に着き、それから昼食をとって、三時からアイダホ大学で仏教入門のクラスを受け持ち、夕食をうって、午後七時から大学で公開講座をしていただき、ホテルには夜十時に入ってください。これならまあ簡単だろう。」「土曜日は研修会の開会式が十時からあるので、それに出席して、その後ゴルフをしていただくと。研修会は四時に終わるので、歓迎夕食会に出でいただき、ホテルには九時頃に戻っていただくと。これもどうかこなせるだろう。」

「日曜日は、朝十時十五分から帰依式をしていただき、十一時からお彼岸の家族法要をはじめていただく。お昼には、基金募集のスパゲティランチに出でいただく。まあ、二時には全部終わるから、まあいいか。」「待てよ。総長がサンフランシスコへ帰られるのは月曜日だぞ。日曜の夜の予定が何も入っていないな。そうだ、結婚式だ！」「三時半に式をして四時から六時までケーキでのレセプション。その後、家族と親戚などで夕食をする。これはいい考えだ。総長は何でも計画してもいいとおっしゃっていたことだし。」「これは慶びごとだし、みんなにとっていいことづくめだし。これならできるだろう。」

「シャーモン、俺と結婚してくれるかい？」



右の詩は雪絵ちゃんという、多発性硬化症(MS)という、病気で熱が出る、目が見えなくなったり、手足が動きにくくなったりする病気を抱えている少女によって書かれたものです。これは、入江富美子という主婦(写真中央)が『1/4の奇跡』という題で出版し映画化したものの中に紹介されている詩です。入江さんはこの映画を出来るだけ多くの人に見て欲しいというので各地を回っています。センターでも一般公開して二度上映し、好評でした。希望する方はセンターまでご連絡ください。

ありがどう
雪絵
私決めて「お目」があるの。
この目が物をうつさなくなったら目「
そしてこの目が動かなくなったら、足に、
「ありがどう」って言おうって決めて「お目」。
今までみえなくなっていた目が一生懸命見よう、見ようとしてくれて、
私を喜ばせてくれたんだもん。
いっぱいいろんな物素敵な物見せてくれた。
夜の道も暗いのがんばってくれた。
足もそう。私のために信じられないほど歩いてくれた。
一緒にいっぱいいろんなところへ行った。
私を一回でも長く、喜ばせようとして、
目も足もがんばってくれた。
なのに、見えなくなったり、歩けなくなったり
「なんでよ！」なんて言っているあんまりだと思っ
今まで弱い弱目、足がどだけ私を強く強くしてくれただか。
だからちゃんと「ありがどう」って言うの。
大好きな目、足だからこんなに弱いけど大好きだから
「ありがどう。もういいよ。休もうね」って言ってあげるの。
多分誰よりもうんと疲れていると思うので・・・(略)

過去と未来をみつめて 連盟婦人会大会無事終了



(写真上右から三番目) 大会参加者と一緒
 「チーズ」する西山師(写真右) 開教使アシスタン
 トの研修会―総長を囲み山から下りた親鸞さまと一
 緒に記念撮影



今年で第四十一回目を迎える全米の婦人会連盟大会(津田博子会長)が去る十月九日から十一日まで州都のサクラメント市で開催された。この大会にはアメリカでも、まだ州になって日の浅い、アラスカとハワイの両州からそれぞれダイアン・ジョンソン師、西山真理子師の二人の女性講師が招聘され、「過去と未来をみつめて」というテーマで、全米より参集した五百名の会員が熱心に聴聞し、いろいろなプログラムを楽しんだ。

婦人会大会は隔年ということで、今年親鸞聖人の七百五十回忌法要を閉会式にあわせて勤修した。この時、総長は法話の中で、「我々は親鸞精神を学ば

なければならぬ。親鸞聖人は仏教を山から下ろして、一般の大衆と手をとりあつて歩まれた方である」と、アメリカの我々にも、その意義をもう一度考えなおさなければならぬと語りかけた。

なお、次の大会は、本来は二〇一一年であるべきであるが、世界大会がその年に京都で開催されるので、全米大会は二〇一二年にサンノゼで開催されるということが会場でアナウンスされた。

日曜日の閉会式のと、新しい幹部の就任式もとりおこなわれ、最後の総会も滞りなく終了した。そして、この大会を成功に導いた委員会の一人ひとりに感謝の意が表された。

米国仏教団主催 親鸞聖人750回忌法要と記念シンポジウム 会場 サンノゼ フェアモントホテル

2010年2月27日(土曜) 午後1時15分―9時30分

基調法話 ― 田中ケン博士 (武蔵野大学教授)
 ― 親鸞聖人の願い

シンポジウム

- 田中ケン博士
- ―アメリカ浄土真宗の歩みと展望とその意義
- ハリー・ブリッジ開教使
- ―浄土真宗の仏教音楽の可能性
- ジェームス・ドビン博士
- ―親鸞聖人と家族
- ジャックリー・クレーマー
- ―日常生活の中での仏教の行

浄土真宗の展示室
 記念晩餐会

2010年2月28日(日曜) 午前9時30分―正午

ファミリーサービス
 750回忌音楽法要 “清浄楽に帰命せよ”

土曜日のシンポジウムは登録費\$110必要です。
 締切: 12月1日(仏教会を通して申し込むこと)
 日曜日の法要は登録費は不要です。詳細はそれぞれの仏教会または510-809-1402のJudy Konoまでご連絡ください。



元仏青集合!

もう還暦近くなった元仏青に集合の命が下った。

団塊の世代といわれるベビーブーマーを対象としたプログラムが浄土真宗センターで二度ほど開催され、それに参加した人たちが発起人となつて、九月十九日にマウンテンビュー仏教会でダンスパーティーを催した。

当日は、三百名以上が集まり、久しぶりに昔にもどり、話に花を咲かせていた。なお、この収益金は仏教教育センターに寄付されるということ関係者一同大いに感謝している。

(上の写真は昔のファッションに扮して手伝っている元仏青の子供たち)