



WHEEL OF DHARMA

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Announcement by Governor General Shoshin Tachibana on the Tohoku-Pacific Ocean Earthquake and 750th Memorial for Shinran Shonin

I send my deepest sympathies to the victims of the Tohoku-Pacific Ocean Earthquake that struck on March 11. I would like to extend my sincerest condolences to those who have lost their life and to the families who have lost loved ones in this tragic disaster.

Words cannot express the great deal of anxiety and sadness that the many evacuees and friends and families of those who are missing must feel. It is my hope that as many people as possible will be found.

To stay informed of the current situation in areas directly affected by the disaster and to provide the people with mental and physical support, we immediately opened up Disaster Relief Center Headquarters in Kyoto (Hongwanji), Tohoku district (Sendai Betsuin), and Tokyo (Tsukiji Hongwanji) after the earthquake hit. Not only affected by the

aftermath of the earthquake, but also by the devastating tsunami that followed, and the radiation-emitting nuclear power plant, I cannot imagine how much the victims must be filled with uncertainty. As a Buddhist organization, we will support the victims to the best of our ability.

In regards to the 750th Memorial for Shinran Shonin, it has been decided that the observance will begin as scheduled on April 9. The slogan of this observance is the aspiration of Shinran Shonin, "May peace and tranquility prevail throughout the world." In accordance with his wishes, let us observe the Memorial as we keep in mind the pain and sadness of all the victims.

March 17, 2011
Bishop Shoshin Tachibana
Governor General
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

Socho's Message

The devastating earthquake and ensuing tsunami which struck Japan on March 11, 2011 (local time) has left, in its wake, a tragedy beyond our comprehension. The enormous loss of life, the damage to the infrastructure, and the affects on the livelihoods of so many people is tremendous. Our hearts and thoughts go out to those who are suffering as a result of this natural disaster.

On behalf of the Buddhist Churches of America, I express my deepest concern and sin-

cerest condolences to those who are suffering and who have suffered such great loss. May the strength and support of your community, together with the support and wishes from our sangha members, as well as the people from throughout the world, offer you strength during this difficult time.

Gassho,
Socho Koshin Ogui
Bishop, Buddhist Churches of America



Vehicles and rubble cover a road in Kesennuma Japan March 12 after being washed away by an earthquake-triggered tsunami. Webpressphoto.

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE & TSUNAMI RELIEF FUND

On March 11, 2011 (local time), Japan was struck by a 9.0 magnitude earthquake followed by a catastrophic tsunami. On behalf of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA), we extend our deepest concerns and sincere condolences to those whose lives have been affected by this tragedy.

The Buddhist Churches of America is currently collecting donations in the name of the Japan Earthquake/Tsunami Relief for this disaster. The funds collected by the BCA for this relief effort will be forwarded to the Hongwanji's Social Welfare Department via the Hongwanji International Department. Donations for the Earthquake/Tsunami Relief Fund may be made in the following manner:

1. Donations may be made to your local BCA temple or church (checks should be made payable to the local temple or church). Donations made to the local temples and churches will be forwarded to the

BCA Headquarters.
1710 OCTAVIA STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109
Please note JAPAN EARTHQUAKE/Tsunami RELIEF in the memo section of your check.

2. Donations may also be made using Paypal. Please visit the BCA website at www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org

Please send your donations to the BCA Headquarters by April 20, 2011.

We thank you in advance for your support and dana.

Gassho,
Socho Koshin Ogui,
Bishop, Buddhist Churches of America
Everett Watada,
President, Buddhist Churches of America



Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California
1433 Madison Street, Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 832-7600, Fax: (510) 419-0879
www.iccnc.org

Buddhist Church of San Francisco
1881 Pine Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

March 12, 2011

Dear Rev. Ronald Kobata,

The recent tragedy in Japan has shocked all of us. Your congregation, Buddhist Church of San Francisco, has a special link to Japan. The recent news must be especially hard on your community.

We are a religious cultural organization, we wish to express our condolences and support. Our prayers and thoughts are with you.

At this time of year, Persians traditionally celebrate their New Year starting on the Spring equinox. Most of our community is Persian. We had already planned to have our observance of this day on Saturday, March 12. Of course, we had no idea this tragedy would happen. We have to go forward with our arrangements. We wish, however, to honor and recognize what has happened.

We will begin our New Year observance with a moment of silence for the recent victims. We will also donate a portion of the proceeds to relief for Japan. If you could recommend any relief agencies, we would be most grateful.

Again, we offer our condolences.

Sincerely,
Riza Rohani
Riza Rohani
Managing Director

Executive Committee Message

By Glenn Kameda,
Palo Alto Buddhist Temple,
JSC Facility Manager,
Ministerial Affairs Committee Chair

I have observed and participated with and within the BCA organization for the past 40 plus years and have always been concerned with not only the issues but how we tried valiantly to resolve, reform, and

move forward with pertinent and not so pertinent businesses on hand.

On the one hand the organization's responsibility and effort is to "communicate", keep the membership informed and involved – the other hand was to ask a member to lead a committee to resolve issues and communicate the resolution and/or alternatives to the issue. It seems that creating layers of

bureaucracy to address issues complicated the communication process, and sometimes the response to improve the communication process was to ask an individual and/or committee to improve the communication process.

The BCA governing process is arduous to say the least. We spend an extraordinary amount of time and effort to govern; we ask

individuals to assume extraordinary responsibilities; a few are asked to take on too much.

Communication today is a matter of click/send to one or a thousand individuals in seconds, and yes, we can reply with our "monku" (dissatisfaction) in seconds as well. During the past 40 plus years we have not changed our organization and how we do

business at hand. We have not seriously and sincerely evaluated, reassessed, and asked ourselves WHY. We have not been able to carry out a Vision-Mission-Strategic Plan-Critical Goals. Yes, from time to time we spent a lot of time and effort coming up with important Vision and Mission statements but did not set into motion action plans

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Streamlining BCA's Process and Organization



I'm so proud of Buddhists as a minority

By Rev. Shousei K. Hanayama
Watsonville Buddhist Temple,
Resident Minister and
Supervising Minister of Salinas

Consider this, if the world is a village of one hundred people and thirty-three people are Christian, nineteen people are Hindu, thirteen are Islam, and only six are Buddhists, out of the remaining twenty-nine people, five believe in the spirits of nature and last twenty-four believe in more than one religion or none at all.

According to some professors, American Buddhism is growing every year. However, the membership of BCA is less and less. When my grandfather, Dr. Shinsho Hanayama was Socho of BCA, the membership of BCA was more than now. When he arrived at San Francisco airport, over 700 members came to welcome him!

As you may know, the Japanese prime minister during World War II was Hideki

Tojo. He named my grandfather in his will. One of his wishes was for my grandfather to "Please go to the USA to spread the Teachings of Buddha!" After my grandfather retired from Tokyo University, he decided to come to the United States as BCA Socho. One of the reasons he did this was to repay Honpa Hongwanji for the kindness he received when he was young.

My grandfather was born in 1898, as the first son of The Hanayama temple, Sorin-Ji, a small temple of Honpa Hongwanji. It didn't have any membership because it used to belong to Otani (Higashi) Hongwanji as an assistant temple. My grandfather had several siblings, but they all passed away when they were young. He also lost his parents when he was young. He couldn't have survived without help.

The ex-Monshu, His Emeritus Kozui Otani, opened a charitable school for young people at this same time. My

grandfather graduated in the top of his class and went on to Tokyo University. He said, "The idea of being hungry gave the energy to study hard!" He received a doctorate degree and became a professor at Tokyo University.

After World War II, Dr. Shinsho Hanayama became a chaplain for war prisoners because he knew all of the Japanese Buddhism sects and he could speak English.

Thanks to Hongwanji, my grandfather went to Great Britain to study English. He translated a lot of the Japanese tradition to GHQ (General Headquarter) and interpreted for war prisoners and American guards.

At that time the BCA was only for Japanese and Japanese Americans. Buddhist Temples could be established in America because of the Japanese immigrants. Many Buddhist temple members wanted to enjoy activities and tradition in the Japanese language as well as make and



have Japanese foods.

My grandfather used to say, "It was difficult to assign a new minister to a temple!" Most of the ministers had family and friends in the temple where he or she had been in for long time. He received a lot of complaints from ministers and members after he made new assignments. At that time, a lot of ministers couldn't get an assignment because there were too many ministers in BCA. Now we don't have enough

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Campaign Report

Free Financial Planning Seminars in SF Bay Area

Would you like to leave a gift for your temple and/or the BCA, after your passing?

Would you like to sell your appreciated house or rental property?

Are you concerned about Estate Taxes?

Would you like to avoid Capital Gains Tax?

If you answered 'yes' to these questions, then please make a point of attending a free seminar on the following days and locations (San Francisco Bay Area):

Los Gatos

Tuesday, April 26, 2011 – 1pm-3:45pm
Los Gatos Lodge, 50 Los Gatos-Saratoga Rd., Los Gatos

Palo Alto

Thursday, April 28, 2011 – 10am-12:45pm
Dinah's Garden Hotel, 4261 El Camino Real, Palo Alto

Menlo Park (AM)

Tuesday, May 3, 2011 – 10am-12:45pm
Stanford Park Hotel, 100 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

Menlo Park (PM)

Tuesday, May 3, 2011 – 6pm-8:45pm
Stanford Park Hotel, 100 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

Sunnyvale/Mountain View

Wednesday, May 4, 2011 – 10am-12:45pm
The Grand Hotel, 865 W. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale

These seminars will feature Sandeep Varma of Advanced Trustee Strategies (ATS) – website: www.atsfinancial.com. Sandeep has over twenty years experience as a Financial Advisor, and will explain how Charitable Remainder Trusts (CRT's) benefit you, the donor, by allowing you to convert highly appreciated assets into a lifetime income stream, while avoiding Estate and Capital Gains Taxes, as well as help charities and non-profits increase revenue for their causes.

Learn how through the creation of a CRT, you can dispose of rental property or stocks, while avoiding Capital Gains Tax. It could also pay you an income stream significantly higher than generated from the rental. And, by combining the CRT strategy with the Children's Trust, you can provide for your heirs with a lump sum, tax-free inheritance.

There will also be a Capital Gains Tax Seminar held in the Menlo Park and Sunnyvale/Mountain View, CA areas. For more information and schedule, please call the ATS office at 650-243-2224, and ask for Ellyson.

These seminars are being held in the immediate San Francisco Bay Area, at no cost or obligation, on an experimental basis. If the response from BCA members is favorable, we will expand the coverage and schedule seminars in other areas.

I would like to thank Tom Nishikawa of San Jose Betsuin, who put me in contact with Sandeep, as a satisfied client of ATS.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 510-809-1453 or e-mail: robert@bccampaign.org.

In Gassho,

Robert S. Noguchi
BCA Fundraising Manager
510-809-1453
robert@bccampaign.org

Berkeley Buddhist Temple to Celebrate Centennial



Early undated photo of the Berkeley Buddhist Temple.

The Berkeley Buddhist Temple, with the theme of "A Century of Gratitude and Joy," will hold its centennial celebration on Saturday, Oct. 22.

The day will begin with a service at the temple, located at 2121 Channing Way in Berkeley, followed by a luncheon at the Oakland Marriott City Center, 1001 Broadway in Oakland.

"We are looking forward to a meaningful celebration to express our profound gratitude to all those who have made significant contributions these past 100 years. We also hope old and new friends can reunite to share fond memories about the time they spent at our temple," said Emiko Katsumoto, Centennial Committee co-chair.

To mark the temple's centennial, several projects have been undertaken, including improvements for the onaijin, thanks to the generosity of Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (Numata); the purchase of

a new uchishiki, mizuhiki, and implements for the onaijin table; commissioning of a new Shinran Shonin statue, and addition of glass doors between the lobby and hondo. The temple kitchen and restrooms have also been upgraded.

In addition, several prominent ministers and lay people will talk about their time at Berkeley, as part of the Yehan Numata-Berkeley Buddhist Temple Centennial

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BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA Pre-War / WWII Buddhist artifacts:

photos, service books, programs, bulletins, diaries, letters, memories, scrapbooks, speeches, sermons, lectures, business records, legal documents, minutes and reports, brochures and flyers, film, constitution and revisions, directories, handbooks, membership lists, publications etc.....

WANTED

FOR THE BCA ARCHIVES COLLECTION AT THE JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

Make a list of items with a short description and e-mail to eiko or send to eiko c/o Nishi (see below)

For Questions please contact Eiko Masuyama
c/o Nishi Betsuin 213 680 9130 or archives@nishihongwanji-la.org

We gratefully acknowledge contributions to the Wheel of Dharma by the following donors:

San Jose BWA	\$200
Tacoma BWA	\$100
Reedley BWA	\$50

GET CONNECTED AT THE FDSTL TEACHER'S CONFERENCE Keynote Speaker - Rev. Harry Bridge from the Buddhist Church of Oakland

April 29, 30, May 1st, 2011
Holiday Inn Fresno Airport
Fresno, CA

- Do you know how kids communicate today?
- Can we tap into today's communication network to teach Buddhism?
- Do you feel that your lesson plans are outdated?

If you answer yes to any one of these questions, then this conference is for you!!!



Tentative Schedule:
Friday, April 29th
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Registration
8:00 pm - Fireside chat with Rev. Kurt Rye
8:00 pm - FDSTL Board meeting
Saturday, April 30
7:00 am - Registration
Service & Keynote Address
Workshop 1
Lunch
Workshop 2 & 3
General Meeting
Banquet, Awards, Activities
Sunday, May 1st
Conference Wrap-up
Closing Service

Also: BCA and Southern District Bookstores

Register now by contacting your Dharma School Superintendent or download the registration forms at: <http://fdstlconference2011.web.officelive.com>

Sponsored by CCDSTL

corrections

The WOD staff strives to be as accurate as possible with the information provided. If we make a mistake, we'd like to correct it here—like in the March issue.

On the front page, the photo credit was omitted and should have been credited to Tom Nishikawa.

Wheel of Dharma

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Submission Guidelines:
We recommend a length of approximately 800-1,000 words, typed, single-spaced. Longer submissions will be rejected 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 files. Color prints or digital prints are acceptable. Color photocopies, inkjets, or third-party photo sharing websites are not recommended.
Photo attachments should be sent at 300 dpi JPEG, TIFF or PDF format for best resolution. Cell phone images are not recommended. Web-based images (72 dpi) do not produce quality images for newsprint usage.
We reserve the right to crop photos and illustrations to conform with space and design requirements.
Submission deadline: 20th of each month.

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



BCA Center for Buddhist Education

April 2011 • News and Highlights



There were so many people, the picture can't fit on the page! :) The first row includes Socho Koshin Ogui (center), Rev. Jerry Hirano (right), Chairman of the Ministers' Association, who came to observe the session, and Bhante Seelawimala (left), IBS Adjunct Faculty, who challenged MAP II participants with Theravada Buddhism.

Largest Minister's Assistant Program Training Yet

By Bill Teague, Buddhist Temple of San Diego

The Tokudo group and MAP II shared services, meals, some classes, and a glee-like sing-off March 10-13 during a Minister's Assistant Program (MAP) seminar at the Jodo Shinshu Center. It was the largest training session yet, with over 25 participants.

The ten students in the Tokudo group were part of the historic team receiving basic ordination late last year in Japan. Many of the 15 or so MAP II participants said they were inspired by the quality of the more refined chanting and ritual of the Tokudo recipients and vowed to improve their own level of comportment and demeanor.

During the sessions, both groups studied the writings of Shinran, examined bridges from Theravada to Shin Buddhism, discussed affirmative methods for building a Sangha, and identified further ways the students can support their ministers. Sometimes the Tokudo group had separate classes; other times they shared sessions with MAP II.

"Please remember," CBE director Rev. Umezu said, "you are ministers' assistants. Please make sure your Sangha understands that you are there to assist the ministers, not to be assistant ministers."

Participants agreed that the proceedings were further enlivened by the participants from New York, New Jersey and Canada. Most participants enthusiastically vowed to return – in part for a promised rematch in the sing-off contest between Tokudo group and MAP II.

PACIFIC SEMINAR - 21ST CENTURY

The Path to the Pure Land

Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Practice & Personal Development

The 2011 Pacific Seminar speakers include **Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara (CBE/Hongwanji)**, with **Rev. Gregory Gibbs (Portland)**, **Rev. John Iwihara (Venice)**, and **Rev. Harry Bridge (Oakland)**. The Pacific Seminar will provide a great opportunity to spend some time together with ministers to visit Shin Buddhist practice and realization. Join us in small, interactive group sessions, take time to reflect on our daily lives, and meet new dharma friends.

June 24-26, 2011

Friday, 7 pm to Sunday, 11 am

Jodo Shinshu Center, 2140 Durant Avenue - Berkeley, CA 94704

Registration Fee: **\$125** Deadline: **May 31, 2011**

Early Registration Discount: **\$25 off** if received by **April 30th**

Sponsored by Institute of Buddhist Studies and Center for Buddhist Education

CBE 2011 Calendar of Events (April - June)

April 5-20: CBE 2011 Japan Tour - **POSTPONED**

April 21-24: Minister's Assistant Program (MAP I)

May 13-15: Crossing Over to Jodo Shinshu Seminar: "Who is Amida?"

May 21: Japanese Seminar

May 31-June 2: Ministers' Continuing Education, Eugene, Oregon, with Drs. Mark and Taitetsu Unno. A joint BCA Northwestern Ministers' Assoc. and Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada Ministers' Assoc. program.

June 24-26: Pacific Seminar 21st Century: Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Practice

Programming subject to change: check the CBE website for more details

www.BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org

E-mail: director@cbe-bca.org

Phone (510) 809-1460

CBE wishes to send our thoughts and best wishes to the people of Japan in the wake of the disastrous earthquake and tsunami on March 11, 2011 and the continuing nuclear threat. Due to these events, the **CBE Japan Tour** is being rescheduled to a date later this year. The Buddhist Churches of America is currently collecting donations in the name of the **Japan Earthquake & Tsunami Relief**, using CBE's Paypal system to facilitate immediate online donations. We are happy that we could assist in this manner.

Jodo Shinshu Thriving in the World

Throughout the year 2011 and the beginning of 2012, the 750th memorial services for Shinran Shonin will be observed in Kyoto, Japan. Many Shin Buddhists from the United States are planning to attend these services.

To commemorate this special event, the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha decided to launch many programs and projects to ensure the future of the Nembutsu movement. One of them is the English-language **Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course (JSCC)** for non-Japanese speaking people residing outside of Japan. The JSCC office was established in Berkeley two and a half years ago under the Center for Buddhist Education. The JSCC is a two-year program. About 50 people have already completed the course and received their certificates. (See the excerpt below from an essay by Raymond Itaya.)

Because this is a cyber education program, we offer a face-to-face weekend seminar each August so that students can meet with other students and instructors. Last year we were privileged to have a special guest speaker from Kathmandu, Nepal. **Reverend Sonam Bhutia** is the first Jodo Shinshu minister actively sharing the dharma there as head of the Hongwanji Buddhist Society, Nepal. His temple has a membership of over 400 and had its official grand opening last March. Rev. Sonam was one of the highest level monks of the Tibetan tradition. Due to a wondrous karmic introduction to Jodo Shinshu, he became one of us and is now sharing his joy with people from many walks of life in Nepal, the birthplace of Shakyamuni Buddha.

Rev. Sonam gave a very inspirational message to those who attended the JSCC Workshop. He also spoke in Fresno and San Mateo. In future issues of the *Wheel of Dharma*, we plan to share excerpts from a talk he gave to ministers at the Jodo Shinshu Center in February 2010. Many thanks to Helen and Alex Tagawa for transcribing Rev. Sonam's talk.

In Gassho,

Kodo Umezu

It is important for the future of our world to keep the teaching of the Buddha in mind. We are able to overcome our fears when we truly come to the understanding that we are one with all life. We are like one cell in our body. If we become a cancer cell and destroy another cell in the body the whole body soon dies. The teaching of Amida's wisdom is that we should be mindful of the tendency of our ego mind to get our way and not recognize the opinions of others.

Our world's capability for killing has become so sophisticated that we can destroy all human life on this planet. We need leaders who will provide for the general welfare of its citizens and not those that protect us by killing others. We need leaders who will follow the Buddha's "Ten Duties of a King." We need leaders that can follow the example of King Asoka. When we can all step on the bodhisattva path and strive for the benefit of others rather than ourselves, peace can come to this world.

— Raymond Itaya, Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course alumnus

Crossing Over to Jodo Shinshu

May 13-15, 2011

Friday, 7 pm to Sunday, 11 am

A seminar for people from a non-Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Background
"Who is Amida?" Panel discussions and interactive workshops will provide participants with a stronger foundation in Jodo Shinshu approaches to life.

Our guest speaker, **Rev. Patricia Usuki**, is the resident minister of the San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple.

Registration: \$75 **Deadline: April 10, 2011**

Download registration form from our website



Reflections on My First Year in the BCA Ministry

By Rev. Henry Toryo Adams
Oxnard Buddhist Temple

At this time last year, I had just arrived in Southern California and was beginning to learn my way around the freeways between Santa Barbara, Oxnard, and Orange County, where I was undergoing my ministerial orientation under the mentorship of Rev. Marvin Harada.

Within hours of my arrival in Southern California from Japan, one of the Oxnard Buddhist Temple members gave me the precious gift of a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver. GPS receivers use signals from satellites that orbit the earth to determine one's location, in some cases accurate within a matter of feet. A GPS receiver can provide driving directions from place to place, even recalculating the route to avoid heavy traffic or to compensate for operator errors when I miss my turn.

I had been living in Japan for nearly six years prior to returning to the United States to begin my ministry in the BCA. During those years in

Japan, almost all of my transportation needs were met by public transportation, bicycle, and my own two feet. Since I rarely drove during those six years, I was a little nervous about having to re-familiarize myself with automobile operation on the famously busy and complex Southern California freeway system. However, thanks to GPS technology, I can leave the navigation to the computers and just focus on safely piloting the car down the road.

When I think back on it now, the generous gift of the GPS receiver is just one of many ways in which I have received support and guidance from our BCA Sangha over the past year. Reflecting on the valuable advice and instruction that I have received from so many people, I realize that it is thanks to their kindness that I have been able to navigate my way through my first year of service as a BCA minister.

I am deeply grateful to the members of the Oxnard Buddhist Temple, the Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara, the Guadalupe Buddhist Church, and the San Luis Obispo Buddhist Church for

welcoming my wife Shoko and me into their Sanghas. As I have endeavored to find my way as a new minister over the past twelve months, many temple members have shared valuable suggestions to help me understand the needs of our Sangha.

As patient mentors during my ministerial orientation period, Rev. Marvin Harada and Rev. Fumiaki Usuki have provided practical advice on the day-to-day responsibilities of a minister and wise counsel on matters of spiritual leadership. I am grateful to all the ministers of the Southern District and the BCA for their friendship and support. I am honored to be included in such a caring and dedicated community of colleagues.

As part of my ministerial orientation activities, I have had several opportunities to travel to the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley to take part in Minister's Assistant Program Seminars and Minister's Continuing Education. As a new minister, it is wonderful to have a place where I can go to learn through conversations with experienced ministers,



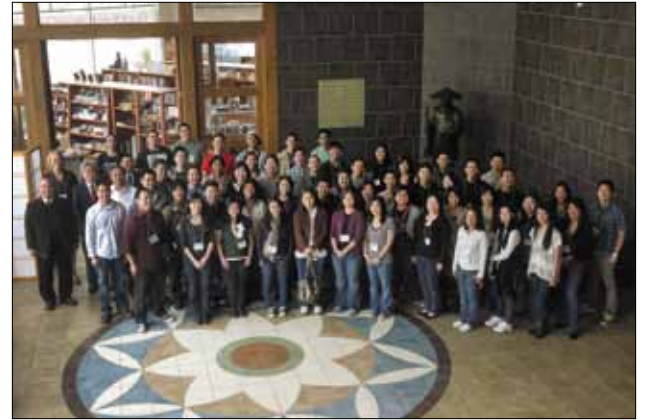
minister's assistants, and expert speakers in a variety of fields. I am deeply grateful to Rev. Kodo Umezu, Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara, and all the staff and volunteers at the Center for Buddhist Education for their hard work organizing meaningful programs.

BCA Headquarters and the Office of the Bishop have provided ongoing support and guidance that has done much to help me have a smooth start in the ministry. I am deeply grateful to Socho Koshin Ogui for all he has done to ensure that I have a supportive environment in which begin my ministerial service. Rev. Michael Endo has also provided vital assistance throughout my first year in the BCA ministry.

Looking back on my first year serving as a minister in the BCA, I can clearly see the working of Amida Buddha's immeasurable wisdom and compassion supporting and guiding me on my path. Shinran, the venerable

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TechnoBuddha Conference 2011: The Journey



By Joanne Yuasa
Vancouver Buddhist Temple, B.C., Canada

"Wow! I can't believe you came all the way from Vancouver!"

Flying 800 miles for a weekend conference may seem extreme for some, but once you experience the TechnoBuddha Conference, you'll keep going back for more.

I first learned about the TechnoBuddha Conference in the summer of 2009, when I visited the Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC) for the August Workshop of the Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course. Rev. Kodo Umezu (CBE), and Brian Nagata (BDK) told me about a conference which is designed for and by young Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, 21-39 years old. I fit the criteria, and when I heard that the keynote speaker for the conference would be Rev. David Matsumoto (Berkeley Buddhist Temple), it sealed the deal for me. My first TechnoBuddha weekend in April 2010 was amazing; meeting like-minded and like-aged Jodo Shinshu Buddhists was so impressive that by the end of that conference weekend, I knew I'd be back for the next one.

Eleven months later, March 4, 2011, I boarded a plane and made my way back to the JSC. This was my third visit there in as many years, and every time, I felt welcomed and cared

for by Rev. Umezu, Judy Kono and the other staff members. I have come to call the JSC my "temple away from temple," and on that day, the welcomes were as warm as ever. Ironically, I was the first of the TechnoBuddhists to arrive that day, though I travelled the farthest. This year, temples from every district in California were represented, with close to 60 TechnoBuddhists in attendance. We filled the JSC, sharing in the Jodo Shinshu tradition in light of this year's theme: The Journey.

Our very dynamic and engaging Keynote speaker, Rinban Bob Oshita of the Sacramento Betsuin, grabbed our attention immediately by quoting a passage from the movie, "Napoleon Dynamite." As we put our hands together in Gassho, we heard him start: "Yes, I love technology/ But not as much as you, you see/ But I still love technology/ Always and forever..." For the next hour or so, he shared his experiences with modern technology. He also spoke about following one's curiosities, choosing one thing to do well, and the benefits of giving one's life partner low expectations of yourself (it all makes so much sense...). It was a truly memorable and fun talk, leaving me with much to think about, and a feeling of gratitude that I was able to receive his message.

Continued on Page 6

2011 IBS Spring Semester

The Institute of Buddhist Studies, a graduate Buddhist Seminary for Buddhist and Ministerial studies located in the Jodo Shinshu Center, began the 2011 spring semester with a total enrollment of 78 students. Of the total 35 students are enrolled with the IBS, of which 16 are on the ministerial track in various categories, seven are on the Buddhist Chaplaincy track, and 11 students taking a general studies track.

Of the total, 43 students from the various Graduate Theological Schools are taking various courses being provided. In spring 2010, the total student population was 69.

"With the increase in the student interest in Shin Buddhist Ministry, Buddhist Chaplaincy, and Buddhist Studies, the IBS is becoming one of the vital educational program centers for the BCA. Support for the IBS by the BCA membership has brought IBS to this point in its history. We are grateful for the support of the BCA members for their continued support in the years to come," said Dr. Richard Payne, IBS Dean.

The IBS, in conjunction with the GTU's Cultural and Historical Studies of Religion component, is now the center for the doctoral studies in Buddhism for the Ph.D. program at the GTU.

San Jose Buddhist Church EcoSangha Earth Day

The San Jose Buddhist Church EcoSangha will sponsor on Sunday, April 24, an Earth Day Celebration at 640 North Fifth Street in San Jose.

The program includes guest lecturer Reverend Doctor Mark Unno, a professor at University of Oregon well-known for informative talks relating Buddhism to ecology, who will speak at 9:30 a.m. for the Youth Service and 10:10 a.m. for the Adult Service.

After services, Earth Day informational activities will be held in the Annex, including demonstrations such as worm composting, eco-friendly gardening tips, eco-friendly cleaning demonstrations, crafting



with recyclables, etc.

The highlights of the event include a running video "Our Synthetic Sea" and a display of the winning entries of the ecology art contest. Light snacks will be on sale and a fund-raising drawing will be held.

Any questions, contact Karen by email at kna1023@sbcglobal.net.

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Ryūkoku Lectures at IBS

By Rev. Dr. David
Matsumoto IBS faculty,
Berkeley Buddhist Temple

The 2011 Ryūkoku Lectures sponsored by the Institute of Buddhist Studies took place on March 2 - 16 at the Jodo Shinshu Center. Professor Atsushi Hirata, an renowned religious historian from Ryūkoku University, gave three lectures on the topic of "Organizational trends and doctrinal developments of the Hongwanji during the modern era (Edo period)."

Lecture One considered perspectives on worldly law in the Hongwanji during the early Edo period. The Monshu Ryōnyo (1612-1662) was a dynamic leader who sought to establish the Hongwanji's place in the newly forming Tokugawa shogunate system. The gakuryō academy, which he founded

in 1639, played an important role in his efforts. The academy's head scholar (Nōke) was Saigin (1602-1663), who took the view that Jōdo Shinshū followers should make the king's law primary and comply with the accepted customs of the world.

Prof. Hirata then described the Jōō gekishō incident, in which a doctrinal conflict between Saigin and another scholar-priest, Gekkan, melded with a conflict between Ryōnyo and Junshū of the Kōshōji temple, which sought independence from the Hongwanji. The dispute led to the dismantling of the gakuryō and the temporary closure of Kōshōji.

Lecture Two looked at the Hongwanji position regarding worldly laws in the mid-Edo period. A new gakurin academy was headed by the brilliant scholar-priest Nikkei Hōrin (1693-1741). He offered

the theory of the inseparability of religious truth and worldly truth, based on a deep examination of Buddhist, Taoist and Confucian thought. Hōrin was a forerunner of many contemporary approaches to the study and instruction of religion.

Prof. Hirata then introduced the life and thought of Jōmyō (1690-1756), another person at the forefront of Shinshū education. As a temple priest, he sought to develop more of a person-centered approach to Shinshū studies, which could respond to the needs of the common person. We were then introduced Kōzon (1720-1796), the sixth Nōke of the gakurin. A person of great energy and charisma, Kōzon advocated the idea that, when one takes refuge in Amida Buddha, one will necessarily express it through mental, verbal and physical actions

(sangō kimyō).

In Lecture Three, Prof. Hirata focused on the historical, doctrinal and institutional consequences of Kōzon's ideas in the late Edo period. Specifically, he looked at the Sangō wakuran incident, or, the turmoil over three kinds of religious acts, which pitted the gakurin's new-teaching school faction (shingiha) against the old-teaching school faction (kogiha). In particular, Prof. Hirata revealed the important role played by uprisings fomented by the old school faction in Mino province. The shogunate government ultimately had to intervene in this doctrinal turmoil, and virtually everyone involved was punished. The Hongwanji's Monshu ruled that the new school's ideas were incorrect. As a result, the old school's views were accepted as orthodox. Prof. Hirata also introduced new histori-



Professor Atsushi Hirata

cal studies of Sangō wakuran, which reveal that a nuanced view of the incident is required.

Finally, Prof. Hirata gave a general overview of the Edo period debate over "meat eating and clerical marriage," and its relationship to the Hongwanji's resurrection of the theory of the two truths: religious and worldly.

Prof. Hirata's lectures, which were given in Japanese with English translation, will soon be viewable on the IBS website: www.shin-ibs.edu.

College Youth Retreat



By Harry Lee
George Mason University

Our Mason Buddhist Association was founded in October of 2009 by Chloe Briede and myself. Soon after we welcomed our George Mason Campus Chaplain Rev. Kaz Nakata of Ekoji to our association. During our school semester, Rev. Kaz leads our weekly Buddhist Meditation and Discussion at our Fairfax campus. Most of us did not grow up with Buddhism and its culture, but we could learn various Buddhist philosophies and teachings through the discussion and the book reading session with him. Actually we did not know who Shinran was until we used the book "Buddha's Wish for the World" at our weekly session.

Last year we held two College Youth Retreat. One was at Ekoji Temple and the other was at our campus. When we did the retreat at Ekoji, Rev. Kaz invited Prof. B.N. Hebbar of George Washington University for our guest speaker and he spent over four hours to share his wisdom with us. We were so fortunate to have such a wonderful and energetic scholar in our Washington,

Continued on Page 6



Sharing The Dharma: An Overview of Shin Propagation in the West

By Rev. Dr. Alfred Bloom, Kailua, HI

In America, issues of separation of church and state in its many dimensions, abortion, capital punishment, environmental issues, views on war and conscientious objection, gender issues, racial issues, all involve spiritual perspectives and call for religious people to understand their faith and participate in resolving conflicts. Consequently, Shin Buddhism must address these issues as a world faith. It must show that it is more than just another view of salvation and the otherworld. Shinran requested his followers to throw his body into the Kamo river as food for the fish.¹⁴

In modern times Abbot Myōnyo 明如 (1850-1903) of the Nishi Hongwanji attempted to reform the Sangha and bring it more in tune with the changing times of Meiji Japan. His daughter Kujō Takeko 九条武子 (1887-1928) is noted for her social and educational work and her selfless activities in the

aftermath of the large earthquake that struck the Kantō region in 1923.

We need to highlight such people who brought the compassion and wisdom of Amida Buddha into society for the welfare of the ordinary person in order to illustrate how Shin Buddhism can contribute to society, as well as saving people for the next life.

As a method of propagation, it is important to use history to illustrate and amplify the teachings of Shinran. Above all, by using history and viewing texts in the light of modern thought, we can bring to Western society the principles of Shinran's teaching in a way that can reveal to them the depth of the Buddhist teachings and their meaning for the culture.

A key point in propagation will be to deal with the issue of God in Western tradition. Shin Buddhist teachers must understand the various perspectives on

the nature of God among Western theologians, the limits and problems of theism.

We must stress that the basis of Shinran's principles is his awareness of the eternal, cosmic Amida Buddha, Infinite reality itself as Light and Life, which embraces us all with compassion and wisdom. We are ourselves a manifestation of that reality as the Vow works through us to open the spiritual eyes of the people we encounter with the truth for their lives. Shinran's vision of the interdependence and oneness of all beings is a challenge for us, in whatever situation we are, to become channels for that compassion to reach others even in a small way. This is the true practice of propagation.

¹⁴ Gaijashō, chapter 16 (Shinshū Seiten Hensan Iinkai 1988, pp. 936-37).

This article will be serialized and continued in the next few issues of the Wheel of Dharma.

2011 BCA YAC SUMMER RETREAT

(Sponsored by the Youth Advocacy Committee)

July 4-10, 2011

Hosted by the Sacramento Betsuin
Ages 15-18 Years



Questions?

Rev. Patti Oshita, poshita@comcast.net
Rev. Peter Inokoji-Kim, inokoji@hotmail.com
Revs. Tim & Carol Castle, teamcastle@comcast.net
Sensei Grace Hatano, bghat1@sbcglobal.net
Sensei Koichi Mizushima, bkmizu@gmail.com

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Jodo Shinshu Center Atrium Garden Restoration Project

By Glenn Kameda
Facility manager,
Jodo Shinshu Center



garden, and before he left the facility he made a generous offer to return and restore the garden. Ken owns and operates an indoor landscaping business - UNIQUE Plant Rentals Inc. in Gardena.

On Feb. 18-19, twelve adults and 11 Jr. YBA youths arrived

from Los Angeles area who are members of Los Angeles Betsuin and San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple to expressly donate their time and effort to clean and restore the atrium garden.

Dozens of new plants donat-

ed by Ken Kawasaki arrived for the restoration project. The group worked tirelessly all day Saturday and as shown in the pictures the restored garden gives the Jodo Shinshu Center a fresh and lively appearance which visitors enjoy very much.

Thank you to Ken Kawasaki for the plant donation and for his professional landscaping, thank you to all the parents and Jr. YBA members for their dana. Thank you to Tomoe Kawasaki and Junnei Kawasaki for the conversation. In behalf of the Buddhist Churches of America and the Jodo Shinshu Center staff

Arigatou,
Namu Amida Butsu

Streamlining

Continued from Front Page

nor commit to critical goals towards the Vision/Mission.

Yes, we are a non-profit organization yes, we are heavily dependent on volunteers yes, we know that most volunteers have many priorities in their personal lives yes, many volunteers are wearing many hats, local-district-national and yes, we know all of the above, and still we are members and have assumed responsibility for the national organization, the districts, and to our individual temples, and to our membership.

There is an organizational saying to which I firmly adhere to; "If you fail to plan - you're planning to fail." I like to illustrate the BCA organization operation as a 1940's model car, with a fair amount of effort/time/money and a lot of support (committee/s) the 1940's car will get you from here to there. It will consume a lot of your time, and reaching your destination may or may not be accomplished. You will have many gas station stops (meetings), and communication will be a crawl. I am sure that you will have heard and seen or perhaps own a Prius. That is the BCA organization/operation I envision. Cost-effective, streamlined, less effort to operate, less maintenance cost --- we need to trade in our 40's car.

So, we have created yet another committee, an Ad Hoc Strategic Planning group. We are reviewing and reassessing the Organization, asking Why, and How, and saying Why Not? We brought up the Vision/Mission statements from the past which is very relevant today, and we are going to focus on a limited number of missions, set critical action plans with timelines, challenge obstacles, and ask ourselves what are the consequences if we are unable to surmount the obstacles.

We are going to ask you to partner with us (BCA National Board), to commit to a 5-10-15-20 year Strategic plan. The Plan is for all levels of BCA - national, district, local, and individuals. The Strategic Plan is the Vision Statement, "To Promote the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha as Well as to Propagate The Jodo Shinshu Teachings". And---do it on the Prius.

With the vision statement, "To Promote the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha as Well as to Propagate The Jodo Shinshu Teachings" in the forefront of our planning, the strategic plan will address 1) Educational Critical goals, 2) Financial Critical goals, 3) Organizational Critical goals, 4) Ministry Critical goals, and 5) Facility Critical goals.

We are looking at a 5 - 10 - 15 and 20 year plan. We will try our best to reach all members of the BCA and ask each one of you to "partner" with one another in this long-term streamlining of the BCA's process and organization.

The Strategic Plan Ad Hoc group invites your assistance in developing our road map for the Prius. Your comments may be sent to, mgr@jsc-bca.org

Ekaji

Continued from Page 5

D.C., area. After his special lecture, Rev. Kaz's wife, Michi cooked Japanese Sukiyaki for us and it was so delicious. We stayed overnight at Ekaji and the retreat was so memorable.

The College Youth Retreat at our campus was held with our special guest speaker, Prof. Ryo Imamura of Evergreen State College of Washington. He is known as a notable Buddhist Psychology Doctor. His lecture was very understandable and he cleared all of our questions. We were so fascinated to have him. We had 43 students for this retreat and we enjoyed a lot. It was so successful.

We always appreciate Rev. Kaz and Ekaji's tremendous help and support to our association. We are so lucky to have Ekaji near our university. Palm together.

Hanayama

Continued from Page 2

ministers in BCA.

The BCA Socho should be our spiritual leader and he shouldn't be hated or envied by ministers and members. Socho makes the assignments in our present system. But, this could be the cause of future problems.

If my grandfather hadn't become Socho of BCA, my father, Dr. Shoyu Hanayama, wouldn't have come to America as a professor in Wisconsin. It means I

wouldn't have been born here, because my grandfather asked my father to go to New Jersey as a resident minister. No minister wanted to go to such a small temple.

My father had to fly to colleges or universities to teach during the week and then back to his temple to have Sunday services. My mother and family members had to rely on temple members because my mother couldn't speak English.

We stayed in members' houses and enjoyed the activities in temple. My father promised the members, "I will

be back someday!" However, he passed away before he was able to come back to the USA.

My life as a BCA minister is the result of the past and the actions of my grandfather and my father. I think even the will of Hideki Tojo is alive in my life. "Do not repeat the mistakes of the past! Please spread Buddha Dharma worldwide!"

On this occasion of Shinran Shonin's 750th Year Commemorate Observance, we should remember, "May Peace and Tranquility prevail throughout the World!" We

should restructure the system of BCA. Although I am so proud of Buddhists as a minority, the minority should innovate the world.

We should know our attachments on our tradition. Our temples came from Japan, but our temples are not only for Japanese or Japanese Americans.

We had better open our minds to everyone. Many people will gather around our precious temples to seek "Peace and Tranquility!"

It has been my dream since my birth!

Techno

Continued from Page 4

For the rest of Saturday afternoon, each participant chose three of five available workshops on a variety of topics. People who signed up for Jonathan Hironaga's (a Techno-Buddhist participant himself) workshop "Journey Across the Dance Floor" on dancing thought it was a great one!

Also included were Derek Seo's workshop on "Introduction to Buying a House", and Diana Thompson's (Minister's Assistant at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple) workshop on "Jodo Shinshu Etiquette" which were very informative and helpful.

Piquing the interest of many was Kirk Akahoshi's workshop: "Sex, Relationships and Buddhism." Finally, for those who wanted to delve into something very deep, Rev. David Matsu-

moto's workshop on "Dealing with Death" was one that held a lot of meaning. All workshops would provide participants with insight into their own journeys.

And what's a meeting of Jodo Shinshu Buddhists without good eats? There was plenty to be had, from Rev. Umezū's famous curry, to the Korean style "cook at your table" B-B-Q.

These delicious meals would have been difficult to put together without the help of our core group volunteers who seemed to have spent the entire day in the JSC kitchen prepping our food so that we could enjoy it. We are all very grateful to them.

A highlight of the annual TechnoBuddha Conference happens after dinner, where we (as mindfully as possible) let loose to enjoy Berkeley's nightlife. We connected with each other over drinks, dancing,

jokes, and the (now traditional) walk up the hill to Top Dog for a late night hot dog snack. The "festivities" continue well into the next morning and there are always worries and laments that we won't be able to wake up for the Sunday service at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple; but I have yet to notice these people miss it the next day!

After service, and the wrap-up of the conference, we all hesitantly scatter back to our various hometowns, full of great memories and gratitude of the shared weekend. We also leave re-energized and inspired to want to do more, not only with our own connections to Jodo Shinshu, but for our temples and our place in them.

Our temples seem to lack attendance from this group of 20- and 30-somethings, who do not yet have families (spouse and children) of their own. For many of us, we are sadly often

the only, or one of the few people in our 20s or 30s who regularly attend temple. It is so exciting and heartening to be at this conference with so many others, who want to be engaged in the Teachings, and want to be active at temple. We may talk-up all the partying we do on Saturday night, but in fact, we are not merely partying. We are celebrating our connection to Jodo Shinshu and to each other.

If you're reading this and will be eligible next spring, please join us! Please encourage and help the young people in your families and temples to join us! There are new friends to meet, and connections to be made. We want to keep building and strengthening these connections to make the Jodo Shinshu network strong for the future. It IS worth travelling 800 miles for.

Humbly submitted with
Gassho

BBT

Continued from Page 2

Speaker Series. They include:

Mrs. Taye Oda, BBT member, spoke on her recollections of life at BBT during the post-war years in April, 2010.

Rev. LaVerne Sasaki, whose grandfather served as a BBT minister, spoke at the temple's Dana Day service on March 6.

Rev. Dr. Seigen Yamaoka, former BCA Bishop, spoke at the Ohigan service on March 20 about the pivotal role BBT played in his ministry and the development of IBS.

Rev. Brian Nagata, Director of Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai,

America, will talk about Rev. Dr. Yehan Numata on May 29.

Rev. Tetsuo Unno, son of a former BBT minister, is scheduled to speak at the Obon service on July 10.

Hiroshi Kashiwagi, San Francisco poet and writer, will talk September 18 about his years with the BBT YBA and choir under Rev. and Mrs. Imamura.

Everyone is invited to take part in all centennial events. For more information, please contact Centennial Committee co-chairs Emiko Katsumoto at iekatsumoto@sbcglobal.net or Judy Kono at Jakono@aol.com and/or check the temple website at www.berkeleysangha.org

First Year

Continued from Page 4

12th century Japanese Buddhist teacher we look to as the founder of our tradition, describes the compassionate working of the Buddha in the following passage from his *Notes on 'Essentials of Faith Alone'*: "It is evident that Amida, distinguishing every sentient being in the ten quarters, guides each to salvation; thus the Buddha's compassionate concern for us is unsurpassed." (Collected Works of Shinran, p. 452)

Through the generous support and patient instruction that I have received from many people in our Sangha over the past year, I feel the Buddha's compassionate concern working to guide me to a life of awakening. In the kindness and patience of our Sangha, I feel the warm light of the Buddha's wisdom illuminating my path at each turn. I am deeply grateful for all that I received in the past year.

In gassho



今月の法話

「うちは浄土真宗」

サンマテオ仏教会 古本竜太



私(わたし)は今年(ことし)おかげさまで米(まい)国(こく)仏(ぶつ)教(きょう)団(だん)の開(かい)教(きょう)使(し)として十(じゅう)年(ねん)目を迎(むか)えること(こと)がで(こ)きました。暖(あたた)かく支(し)援(えん)してくださ(こ)る方(かた)、またそ(そ)うで(こ)ない方(かた)など多(おほ)くの方(かた)とあ(あ)りがた(い)いご縁(えん)をい(ま)だだ(い)てな(な)んとか今(いま)日(にち)まで十(じゅう)年(ねん)続(つづ)けること(こと)がで(こ)きました。

のですが、大学を受験する時に、「日本の美術や文化を学ぶには、そのもととなつてゐる、仏教を学ぶのが一番よいだろう」というように思ひまして、龍谷大学の仏教学科を受験することにしました。

龍谷大学は京都の本願寺の隣にあります。江戸時代に浄土真宗本願寺派の僧侶を養成するために始まつた学校ですが、現在では浄土真宗や仏教の教えだけでなく、経済や法律、理工、文学などを学ぶことのできる総合大学として多くの学生が学んでいます。

龍谷大学の他にも仏教を学べる大学が何校かあつて、東京の大学へ進学しようかなとも思ひましたが、ある「ご縁」で龍谷大学に行くことにしたのです。それは祖母の「うちは浄土真宗じゃ」という言葉でした。

私はお恥ずかしながら、大学生になるまでお寺にお説教を聞きにいったという経験はなく、平気で「私は無宗教です」と答えられるくらい宗教のことを知らなかつたの(の)か(か)も(も)知(し)り(り)ま(ま)せ(せ)ん(ん)で(で)し(し)た(た)。それ(それ)で(で)、大(だ)学(がく)を(を)受(じゆ)けん(けん)す(す)る(る)の(の)に(に)、東(とう)京(きやう)の(の)大(だ)学(がく)か(か)龍(りゆう)谷(こく)大(だ)学(がく)か(か)で(で)迷(まよ)つ(つ)て(て)い(い)た(た)折(おり)に(に)、お(お)仏(ぶつ)壇(だん)を(を)朝(あ)夕(じゆう)拝(が)んで(んで)い(い)た(た)祖(そ)母(ぼ)の(の)こ(こ)と(と)を(を)思(おも)ひ(ひ)出(だ)し(し)、仏(ぶつ)教(きょう)の(の)こ(こ)は(は)祖(そ)母(ぼ)に(に)聞(き)い(い)て(て)み(み)よ(よ)う(う)と(と)思(おも)つ(つ)た(た)の(の)で(で)、私(わたし)の(の)祖(そ)母(ぼ)に(に)相(さう)談(だん)し(し)た(た)こ(こ)ろ(ろ)、

「うちは浄土真宗じゃ」と言つたので、「じゃ、龍谷大学にしよう」ということで受験し、合格することができ、春から京都の龍谷大学に行くことになりました。

そのことが「ご縁」となつて、開教使の道を歩むことになつたのですが、もし、私の家が浄土真宗でなかつたら、今は全く違つた人生になつていたでしようし、浄土真宗の教えを聞かせていただくことはなかつたかもしれませ

ん。そのことを考えると、自分の先祖が浄土真宗の教えに帰依し、そのまま何百年か代々、門徒としてお寺で育てにあつたこと、は、とてもありがたいことだと思ひます。

私の祖母の「うちは浄土真宗じゃ」という言葉は簡単な一言でしたが、私にとってはかなり意義深い言葉となりました。約八百年前に親鸞聖人は、「ご自分が学び、聞き開いた「浄土の教え」は、仏さまがこの世の人々に最も伝えたかつた教えであり、「真実の教え」だということを表して、「浄土真宗」と言われました。

と、親鸞聖人は主著である「教行信証」の目次にあたるところにお書きになつておられます。親鸞聖人が京都弁で「うちは浄土真宗じゃ」とおつしやつたかどうかかわかりませんが、親鸞聖人のお言葉が、何百年の時を経て、私の祖母を通じて、広島弁で「うちは浄土真宗じゃ」と私に届いて下さつたのだと、今は味わつております。

皆様もお子様やお孫さんや友人に「うちは浄土真宗だ」と伝えてみてください。また、皆様がお仏壇に手を合わす姿が子や孫に、仏教は何かすこすくだなという印象を与えます。そういうちよつとしたことが、教えが弘まつていく「ご縁」になることもありま

す。



龍谷大学 大宮学舎

杉山雲龍師ご逝去

岐阜県出身の杉山雲龍 名誉開教使が去る一月二十七日、八十五歳を一期として往生の素懐を遂げられた。師は一九二五年生まれで、龍谷大学を卒業し、一九五三年に開教使として渡米され、アリゾナ仏教会に駐在。一九六二年に藤井かおるさんと結婚され、アリゾナを辞任し、クレアモント大学院に入学。五年後には宗教学 修士号を取得され、南アラメダ郡仏教会 駐在となった。一九七十年にコロラドの山東三州仏教会に赴任、一九八四年には現役の最後の勤め先となるアリゾナ仏教会へ転勤され、一九九一年に引退されるまで七年間法田を耕された。引退された後も、アリゾナ仏教会のお手伝いをされ、会員に大変喜ばれていた。葬儀は米国仏教団とアリゾナ仏教会の合同葬として二月五日(土)に仏教会で小杭 総長 導師の下 勤修された。先生のご遺徳に感謝するとともに、後に残されたかおる夫人やご遺族の皆様にご心よりお悔やみ申しあげます。



人生の問い

問い 神と仏とは、どちらがうのでしょうか。 答え 「神」といわれているものには、① 天候や土地、農耕をつかさどる神、すなわち支配神、② 山や水、岩や木など自然を人格的に考えた神、すなわち自然神、③ この世をつくり、すべての生きものをつくつた神、すなわち創造神、④ 英雄、戦争など功労のあつた者をまつた神、すなわち功労神、⑤ 先祖をまつた神、すなわち祖先神、⑥ 正体はわからないが、たたりの神、すなわち怪鬼神などさまざまの神があります。 これらに共通して「神」とは、人間を超えた力を持ち、人間に威力をもって影響をあたえると考えられている権威的存在です。神の意志にそわないものは罰せられ、したがって人々は神へのまつりを行い、祈りを捧げて利益や恩寵を期待するということになります。 それにたいして「仏」とは「覚者」(めざめたるもの)というこ

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2011年度教化標語

世の中安穩なれ

2011年 4月号

小杭総長のメッセージ

日本時間の三月十一日に日本を襲った大地震とそれに続く大津波は、想像を絶する被害をもたらしました。失われた多くの尊い人命、破壊された生活基盤、それと多くの人々の生活への計り知れない影響など、筆舌に尽くしがたいものです。

ここに、被害にあわれた方々、今立ち上がろうとしている方々のご心痛に心を寄せ、米国仏教団を代表して、心よりお見舞い申し上げます。

仏教団の会員や世界中の人々からおくられる励ましの言葉や援助、それに地域社会の復興支援を通じて、この未曾有の困難から立ち上がる力を受け取っていただきたいと願っております。

がっしょう
合掌

米国仏教団よりのお願い

この度の東北関東大震災の義援金を募集を行っています。

チェックの宛先は皆様の所属の仏教会とさせていただきます。チェックの左下のメモのところには **Japan Earthquake/Tsunami Relief** と記入して下さい。

そして、仏教会からまとめて一つのチェックにして四月二十日まで本部に送っていただくことになっています。各仏教会にはそれに間に合うように送っていただきたいと思っております。

また、仏教会に所属していない方やクレジットカードで送りたい方は、仏教団のホームページ (www.BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org) を通じて直接支払うこともできます。是非ご活用ください。

「東北地方太平洋沖地震」並びに「親鸞聖人750回大遠忌法要」に関する

浄土真宗本願寺派総長談話

去る3月11日に発生した東北地方太平洋沖地震の災害によって被災された皆様に心よりお見舞い申し上げます。

また、この未曾有の災害によっていのちを失われた皆様、さらにはご遺族の皆様に対し、重ねて心から哀悼の意を表します。被災され避難生活を余儀なくされる方々、ご縁の方の安否を気遣い不安の中におられる方々の心情お察し申し上げるとともに、いまだ安否が定かでない方々が一人でも多く救出されますことを願っております。

宗門では、地震発生直後に「緊急災害対策本部」を設置するとともに、東北教区教務所（本願寺仙台別院内）と東京教区教務所（本願寺築地別院内）に「現地緊急災害対策本部」を設置し、状況の

把握に努め、物心両面にわたる支援をさせていただいております。地震災害ばかりでなく、津波を伴う未曾有の災害であり、さらには原子力発電所の危険な状況など、先行きの見えない不安を抱えながらの生活は、想像をこえたつらく厳しいものでありましょう。宗門として被災者の方々を全力で支援してまいりたいと思っております。

さらに4月9日からの「親鸞聖人750回大遠忌法要」につきまして、予定通り厳修させていただきます。大遠忌法要のスローガンは、「世のなか安穩なれ」との親鸞聖人のお示しを掲げております。この宗祖のお心を体し、被災されたすべての方々の悲しみに寄り添い、その思いをわかちあって大遠忌法要をお勤めさせていただきたいと願っております。

2011(平成23)年3月17日

浄土真宗本願寺派 総長 橋 正信

米国仏教団総会報告

全員で頑張ろう

『一人あたり二百ドル、月に換算すると七十七ドルづつを一年間（十二回）お手伝いしていただくことで、来年の今頃は銀行への借金がなくなり、という訴えに、二月の最後の週末に全国から中部カリフォルニアのバイセ

い終えようという案が議決がなされたのである。ただし、今までのいろいろな誤解を招いたこともあり、教団より頭を下げて説明をしなければならぬということも、付け加えられていた。

詳しいことは追って教団の理事会より、各仏教会を通じて全員に知らされることになっている。ただし、教団内の財団からの借金はまだ残っている、できる人達には、二百ドル以上のお手伝いをしていただき、そちらの方も減らしていきたいというのが教団の願いである。

その他の議決事項は、教団の規則の変更や、予算の審議と承認であった。来年度の予算は、一人当たり換算すると去年に比べて七ドル程上乗せされた額となっている。

二月二十六日（土）今年の総会を開催した中加教区の各仏教会の会員や開教使に感謝決議が行われ、翌日曜日にはホテルで教団の総永代経法要が勤修され、今年の総会が無事終了した。なお、来年の総会はスクラメントで二月の最後の週末に開催される予定である。



リアに集まった各仏教会の代表者たちが異口同音に『そうだ、そうだ』と応えたのが、今度の教団の総会のハイライトであった。現在、浄土真宗センター（教団の教育総合施設）建築のため銀行からの借入金は三十年の支払いとなっており、支払いの大半が利子へと消えていく仕組みとなっている。そのことに憂慮したリーダー達が、会員全員に頭を下げてお願いし、これを一年で支払

