

# BUSSEI SCRIPT

2929 Market Street, San Diego, California 92102 Web: [www.btsd.net](http://www.btsd.net) E-mail: [info@btsd.net](mailto:info@btsd.net) Phone: 619-239-0896

VOLUME CXXI NO. 12

DECEMBER 2011

## THE SIX BIRDS OF THE PURE LAND

By Rev. Yushi Mukojima, Resident Minister

With just a few days left this year, I am once again surprised at how quickly time flies. When I look back at this year, there were many events which I will never be able to forget.

First, this past May, I made a pilgrimage with eight members of our temple to the Hongwanji in Kyoto to participate in Shinran's 750th Memorial Observance. The anniversary is only held every 50 years so we couldn't help but rejoice at how fortunate we were to be able to encounter Amida Buddha's primal vow while praising the virtues and lifetime efforts of our founder, Shinran Shonin.

In October, the Buddhist Temple of San Diego's 85th Anniversary commemorative service was conducted with due solemnity and splendor in the presence of Bishop and Mrs. Ogui, our former minister Miyaji Sensei and his wife, and many Sangha members. It was a fruitful opportunity for us to pledge to maintain and develop our treasured temple which holds the great wish of our predecessors to perpetuate the Nembutsu teaching.

That same day, 41 members took part in the Kieshiki Affirmation Ceremony, taking their first step as true disciples of the Buddha. I was so moved by their smiling faces as they received their Buddhist names because it was as their faces reflected a bright future for our temple.

The event which was the most difficult for me to bear was the huge earthquake that occurred on March 11 in the Tohoku region. In an instant, about 15,000 people living there were killed by the great tsunami caused by the terrible earthquake. Even now, nine months later, 4,000 people are still missing. And the unprecedented accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant has left the prospects for an eventual solution far from certain. There are many suffering people who have not been able to go back to their home towns which remain contaminated by high radioactivity.

A day after the earthquake, we hurriedly conducted a memorial service at the temple for those who had been killed by the disaster. Despite the short notice, the service drew not only temple members and Japanese living locally, but many concerned people from the greater community. We had a silent meditation to offer our deepest sympathy to all the victims and to wish for the rapid rehabilitation of Japan.

That evening and for weeks afterwards, many donated generously to the temple to offer victim relief and to support Japan in its dire situation caused by these phenomenal events. Various fundraising activities hosted or supported by the temple resulted in about \$40,000 sent to Japan. Even though I am here in the U.S., a long distance from Japan, the hope that these gestures expressed for the rehabilitation of Japan encouraged me greatly. I can never thank you enough.

Although the effects of this disaster cast a shadow on my mind, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the thoughtfulness of all the members who have continued to encourage and support me and shared both happiness and sadness with me. My family sincerely hopes all of you will continue to give us your support and guidance next year.

As I mentioned, we celebrated the 85th Anniversary of our temple in October. As I was preparing the Onaijin (altar area) and also calming myself down the day before the ceremony, I couldn't help but feel grateful for the beauty of our Buddhist altar. As you know, just five years ago, we had a major Onaijin restoration project to mark the 80th Anniversary of our temple. Because of your generous and precious donations, the many elements of the Onaijin were painstakingly repaired and restored. I am really proud that our temple has such a beautiful Onaijin.

The Onaijin is an important space which symbolizes the beauty of Amida Buddha's Pure Land. There are many delicate sculptures and gorgeous ornaments, each with a deep and wonderful meaning. When we look at the Onaijin, most of us first see the wooden statue of Amida Buddha enshrined in the central altar and then we notice the six colorful birds carved into the large table in front.

There is an important Sutra in Shin Buddhism called the Amida Sutra. In it, the founder of Buddhism, Sakyamuni Buddha, describes in great detail both the Pure Land and Amida Buddha's outstanding virtues to his disciple Sariputra.

There is an interesting passage in it, as follows: "Sariputra, in the Buddha Land there live a number of wonderful birds of different colors—crane, peacock, parrot, myna, Kalavinka, and Gumyo bird, or the bird of double lives. Six times each day and night, these birds sing melodious tunes."

According to Sakyamuni Buddha's words, there are six kinds of birds in the Pure Land. These are depicted as carvings in the large front table in our Onaijin.

Although the first four birds really exist, the Kalavinka and Gumyo bird are imaginary and exist only in Sutras and stories. It is said that these birds always sing elegantly and all those who listen to their song cannot help but have the mind of seeking the Buddha Dharma.

For these reasons, I would like to explain to you the symbolism of these birds living in the Pure Land.

First, the crane and peacock are birds which grace the Pure Land with their beautiful and graceful form. The crane has been valued as a mysterious bird as well as a bird of good omen because of its noble form. As the Japanese proverb says, "A crane lives one thousand years, a turtle lives ten thousand years," so the crane symbolizes longevity.

When the peacock spreads its tail open like a fan, the beauty of it makes us agree that it is worthy of residing in the Pure Land. However, the wonderfulness of the peacock is not only its colorful tail.

It is thought in India that peacocks eat poisonous snakes. If a person takes poison, he will die. But a peacock has the uncommon ability of detoxification which allows it to eat poisonous snakes and plants.

In Buddhism, this wonderful power of detoxification was deified and Mahamayuri, the Great Peacock Fierce Spirit, appeared in Buddhist literature. He is a Bodhisattva who can remove by his great virtues the three poisons—greed, anger and ignorance—which represent our blind passions. When the peacock eats poisonous things, it frees us from our delusional mind so that we are able to achieve enlightenment. For this reason the peacock is honored as a sacred bird.

*(Sensei's Message: Continued on Page 3)*

# DECEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 12 p.m. – IRC Mtg. 6:30 p.m. – Buddhist Study Class A with Rev. Mukojima @Conf. Rm.	<b>2</b> 12 p.m. – BTSD/KIKU GARDENS Senior Lunch Program @Kiku Garden	<b>3</b> 12 p.m. – VFW Year-End Part @Annex Hall  Jr. YBA Chow Mein Prep.
<b>4</b> 10 a.m. – BODHI DAY SERVICE 成道会 December Shotsuki Memorial 12月祥月法要 11:30 a.m. – Jr. YBA Chow Mein Luncheon @Annex Hall 12 p.m. – BWA Mtg. @Conf. Rm.	<b>5</b> Temple Closed 7 p.m. – W&M Committee Mtg. @Conf. Rm.	<b>6</b> 1 p.m. – Shigin 詩吟 @Annex 1.2	<b>7</b> 12 p.m. – Minyo Group 民謡 @Sangha Hall	<b>8</b> 6:30 pm – Board of Directors Mtg. @Conf. Rm.	<b>9</b> 11 a.m. – Mochigome Rice Washing  Obon Again Shop Setup @Sangha Hall	<b>10</b> 11 a.m. – Mochitsuki Prep. 11a.m.-2p.m. Yarn Sale @Annex Hall Obon Again Shop Setup @Sangha Hall
<b>11</b> (No Family Service) MOCHITSUKI 餅つき大会 6 a.m. – Work begins 11a.m.-4p.m. Mochi Pick-up BWA Almond Brittle Sale 10a.m.-2p.m. Yarn Sale @Annex Hall 10a.m.-3p.m. Obon Again Shop @Sangha Hall 3 p.m. – Clean Up	<b>12</b> Temple Closed	<b>13</b> 1 p.m. – Shigin 詩吟 @Annex 1.2 10:30 a.m. – SD Ministers Mtg. @LA Nishi Betsuin	<b>14</b> 12 p.m. – Minyo Group 民謡 @Sangha Hall	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10 a.m. – 宗祖御命日 Gomeinichi @Hondo 10 a.m. – Buddhist Study Class B with Rev. Yanagihara @Conf. Rm.	<b>17</b> 10 a.m. – Koto Class 琴教室 @Annex 1.2  11:30 a.m. – BWA Bonenkai Year End Party @Ichiro Restaurant
<b>18</b> 9 a.m. – Sutra Chanting Class @Hondo 10 a.m. – DS/FAMILY SERVICE 日曜礼拝 11:30 a.m. – TEMPLE CLEAN-UP 年末大掃除 12 p.m. – BWA Omigaki 仏具お膳き @Hondo Oseibo Deadline	<b>19</b> Temple Closed	<b>20</b> 1 p.m. – Shigin 詩吟 @Annex 1.2	<b>21</b> 12 p.m. – Minyo Group 民謡 @Sangha Hall	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6-9 p.m. – BTSD/VFW BINGO @Annex Hall
<b>25</b> No 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Class & No Family Service	<b>26</b> Temple Closed	<b>27</b> 1 p.m. – Shigin 詩吟 @Annex 1.2	<b>28</b> 12 p.m. – Minyo Group 民謡 @Sangha Hall	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 5 p.m. – JOYA-E (YEAR END SERVICE) 除夜会 and JOYA NO KANE (Bell-ringing) 除夜の鐘 @Hondo 5:45 p.m. – TOSHIKOSHI SOBA (Traditional Noodle) 年越し蕎麦 served by the Mukojimas @Kitchen All welcome to enjoy! 11:30 p.m. – JOYANO KANE CEREMONY 除夜の鐘 @Shelter Island Friendship Bell

*(Sensei's Message: Continued from Page 1)*

It's well known that the parrot and myna can imitate human voices. Because of this uncommon ability, they grace the Pure Land, singing the Buddha Dharma. The parrot and myna often appear in the Sutras and they recite the Nembutsu and chant phrases from the Sutras. And also there are many Buddhist tales about the parrot which portray it as a noble bird embodying the Buddha's mind while doing good deeds.

Like the parrot, the myna is also a wise bird which can preach the Dharma by using human words.

The four birds described above are real, of course, but the remaining two exist only in legend. The first is Kalavinka. In a Sutra, the clear and beautiful voice of the Buddha which brings our mind peace is compared to Kalavinka's singing. In the Great Wisdom Discourse Sutra, the saying goes, "With its beautiful voice, Kalavinka sang in the egg before it was born. Its voice is superior to that of all other birds." Like the Buddha's voice, Kalavinka graces the Pure Land, singing the Three Treasures in an elegant voice nobody ever tires of hearing.

The last one is the Gumyo bird. In a Sutra, it is depicted as a rare bird with two heads and minds sharing a common body. There is a Buddhist tale about the Gumyo bird which goes like this.

*A long time ago, there were many beautiful Gumyo birds. There was one in particular with a most beautiful shape and song. Its two heads boasted about themselves, asserting things like, "The feathers on my head are incomparably lovely and my voice is the most beautiful." Each head hated the other and there was no end to their quarreling. Then one day, one head happened to think, "If the other head were to die, I would truly be the best in the world!"*

*The next day, this head made the other head eat fruit which it had secretly poisoned. Of course, the head that ate the fruit died soon after so the head that survived finally became the most beautiful bird in the world. At that moment, the bird started flying while singing proudly. However, its joy was short-lived. The head that died gradually rotted and eventually even the body they had in common rotted as well. So this Gumyo bird lost its life.*

Two heads and a common body. If one head dies, the other must, too, before long. I think that there is much meaning in this tale.

Because we each have our own personality, values, culture, religion, and way of feeling, we are all different from one another. There is also gender, nationality, skin color and ability that make each of us unique. Thus we believe without any doubt that our minds and bodies are ours alone. Yet we cannot live by ourselves alone. We are able to live only because we depend upon the sacrifice of many others' lives. We cannot live without the loving support of our families, friends and many others. The body itself is just one entity, but it is intricately connected to others like a net made up of a series of knots. So we can truthfully say that we are living the same life together, influencing and supporting each other. Namely, we are just like the Gumyo bird.

However, if I deny the reality that our lives are linked with innumerable others' lives, and misunderstand that I alone am just and superior, and choose a way of living that denies and hurts others, then my life will surely be on a course of self-destruction like the Gumyo bird.

Despite a Gumyo bird's foolishness, these birds now grace the Pure Land to teach the dignity of life in their lovely voices: "The way we destroy others is the same way we destroy ourselves. The way to let others live is exactly the way that we should live."

With this story, Shakyamuni Buddha teaches us that the six birds living in the Pure Land are calling to us meaningfully so that we might realize the truth. There is a saying in the Amida Sutra: "All these birds were miraculously created by Amida Buddha with the desire to let them spread the voice of the Law." That is to say, Amida Buddha transforms himself into these beautiful birds in order to spread the Buddha Dharma.

Well, there are not many days left in this year, so before seeing the year out, please take the time to look carefully at our Onajin. The six

birds of the Pure Land will surely welcome you with their graceful forms. I'll be really glad if you realize through my message that each ornament in the Onajin with its beautiful brilliance and meaning is leading each one of us to the way of the truth. I sincerely hope that all of you will greet the New Year while listening to the precious teachings from the Onajin which symbolizes the Pure Land of enlightenment.

Please look forward to welcoming a wonderful New Year.

*In Gassho,*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Michael Kinoshita, Board President

I would like to thank everyone who volunteered and supported our Asian Food and Craft Fair in November. Despite the rain, I feel that we had a successful event. Being a first time event of this type, we learned many things on how to improve. At the last Fundraising Committee meeting, there were also many comments and suggestions on how to improve the event and I look forward to having even a larger and more successful event next year.

By now you have received a letter from me stating we reluctantly raised our membership dues effective in 2012. I felt it was important to our members that I notify each and every one of you and try to give an explanation of why we raised our dues and I hope you understand and support our reasoning. We will continue the education of our Sangha and Sangha friends regarding the practice of donating to our Temple.

This coming January, I will complete my term as President. Through the past two years, my goal was to lead our Temple on the road to a prosperous future. I have been humbled to find out this journey is a long hard path of discovery. But rest assured, I will continue working for the future of our Temple, supporting our next President in 2012.

I look forward to seeing you and as always, feel free to write or speak to me about any concerns or issues that affect the Temple. *Gassho.*

## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

*The Board of Directors met on November 10, 2011, and the following items were discussed or acted upon:*

1. The Treasurer projects a deficit of \$5-6,000 for fiscal year 2011. (Deficit was \$11,814 for Fiscal Year 2010.) 2011 operating expenses have actually gone down while membership and fundraising increased, but monthly donations have decreased significantly.
2. Membership: 17 new members have pledged this year to date. 41 renewing members have yet to pay their 2011 dues. Ways & Means Committee recommended and the BOD approved a modest increase in dues of \$25 for 2012 in the Sustaining Members category. No increase in Senior or Youth categories.
3. BOD approved payment for the New Heights Donor Plaque installed in the 2nd floor foyer to come out of the New Heights account. The Board thanked Ken Muraoka and Michael Kinoshita for designing and installing the beautiful plaque.
4. BOD approved the expenditure of \$900 from the Building Improvement Fund to install a 3 way switch in the Main Building hallway for safety reasons.
5. Protective bollards were installed in the parking lot to prevent car damage to the columns supporting the elevated walkway. Thank you to Ken Muraoka for overseeing this work.
6. BOD approved the Dharma School's request to install a third book holder in the back center of each pew. The installation is made possible by an anonymous donation to the Dharma School.
7. On Nov. 3, a leak in the Annex plumbing led to extensive damage to the downstairs rooms. Repairs will be made following mandatory testing for asbestos due to the building's age/type of construction.

8. Oseibo letters will be mailed Nov 20. Deadline for Oseibo donations is Dec 19. Bodhi seals have arrived and will be distributed. Still awaiting the BCA calendars.
9. A draft of the BTSD 2012 calendar was distributed for comments or corrections. The final version should be ready in December.
10. BOD approved reimbursement of \$20 fee to temple members who wish to attend a Food Handlers class at Kiku Gardens on Nov. 12.

## ABA NEWS

November started out with some of us helping with the Food & Craft Fair on the 5th & 6th. We thank those that helped.

On the 12th, we had a breakfast meeting at the Mission Valley Cafe. Those that went enjoyed the breakfast.

Our next meeting will be on Jan. 7th. Will let you know the time and place.

## BWA NEWS

Mrs. Ohara thanked all those who helped out at the hospitality room for the ministers at the 85th Anniversary. She thanked all those who turned out for the candy packaging. And a big thank you to all those who helped at the sushi preparation for the Asian Food and Craft Fair.

Mrs. Ohara thanked Susan Moribe and Aki Tomiyama for attending the October 8 BWL delegates meeting in San Jose. She also thanked Naomi Himaka for ordering and organizing the packaging of the almond brittle candy and popcorn.

Candy sale report: Next shipment for the brittle candy will be November 29-30. Dec 3, Saturday at 9:00 a.m. is set for packaging candy. Eitaikyo and Bodhi Day services and Mochitsuki will be sale dates for the candy.

BWA members' scheduled time to start the Mochitsuki on Sunday, December 11 is 6:00 a.m.

Our Bonenkai will be on Saturday, December 17 at 11:30 a.m. at Ichiro's Restaurant in Clairemont. Susan Moribe will chair the luncheon. We will have a \$10 gift exchange. Temple clean up will be at noon on Sunday, December 18.

Co-chairs of the 2012 Executive Council are: (1) Fumiko Ohara, (2) Miyoko Yamanishi, (3) Katsumi Kida, (4) Susan Moribe (contact person).

Officers are: Recording Secretary: Kikue Graeber; Corresp. Secretary: Kiyoko Omori; Co-Treasurers: Betty Torio, Akie Tomiyama; Religious Chairperson: Junko Kajita; Advisors: Rev. and Mrs. Yushi Mukojima, Kikuko Takashima, Mary Yagura, Leora Hamada and Mary Suyenaga.

The next meeting will be on December 4 at noon and Toban group B2 will have provide refreshments. Thank you to Toban group A1 for the delicious lunch for the November meeting.

## DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

The 6th-8th grade class ran the Snack Bar at the Asian Food & Craft Fair on November 6, and some students helped during the Saturday prep day as well.

Avis Honda, Sue Moribe and Rev. Mukojima attended the Southern District Dharma School Teachers Conference on November 12 at Gardena Buddhist Church and learned about storytelling. The Grateful Crane Ensemble performed three stories. Rev. Bob Oshita of the Sacramento Buddhist Church was the keynote speaker.

The annual All Life Forms Memorial Service was held in conjunction with the Eitaikyo Service on Nov. 20. Following the service, Dharma School hosted a lunch welcoming Rev. Dennis Fujimoto and Mrs. Fujimoto of the Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple. Families were asked to bring side dishes, salads and desserts. Dharma School provided hot dogs and fixings.

The 85th Anniversary Service Book Project is in the final stages of editing and will be printed soon. Book holders will also be added to the middle of the pews by early 2012. Dharma School is very grateful to the anonymous donors who have made these projects possible.

Rev. Mukojima continues to conduct chanting classes for the older students. The 9th-12th graders will practice on Nov. 13 and 20. The 6th-8th graders practiced on Nov. 27.

The annual Dharma School bowling activity scheduled for November 27th has been postponed. We are looking for a date to reschedule.

Dharma School invites everyone to attend the Bodhi Day Service on Dec. 4. In what has become a Bodhi Day tradition, the 3rd-5th grade class will chair the service and present a skit.

Students and their families will participate in the Mochitsuki on December 11.

There will be Dharma School and Family Service on December 18. The DS Teachers and Staff meeting precedes the service at 9 a.m.

In Gassho,  
Ann Ong, Assistant Superintendent

## JUNIOR YBA

*Yummy - yummy - yummy*

### CHOW MEIN LUNCHEON

(Dine in/Take out)

**SUNDAY, DEC. 4**

After the Bodhi Day Service.

Don't miss out!

Tickets are **\$6.50** from any Junior YBA member or advisor.

## BINGO UPDATE

By Tsune Hashiguchi

Bingo on Oct. 29th was pretty good. There were a few new faces and hope we will see them again.

The last session of the year was Nov. 26th. The BTSD Spaghetti benefit dinner originally announced for that date was postponed till next year.

We thank all the people who did support Bingo Night this year, as the Temple received 50% of all the proceeds. We hope more Temple members will come out next year. It's fun!

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!**

## NEW HEIGHTS UPDATE

The Temple wishes to acknowledge **Ms. Faye Yonekura** for her generous gift to the New Heights Project. Ms. Yonekura's gift is received with the deepest amount of appreciation and gratitude.

If you are looking for the opportunity to reduce your tax liability one last time in 2011, please consider donating to the New Heights program. All proceeds are tax deductible. You may wish to consult with your tax advisor before submitting your contribution.

Thank you to everyone who has given generously to the New Heights Project. *In Gassho.*

Beginning in 2012, any donations to New Heights will be acknowledged on the Donations Page.

## MOCHITSUKI IS DECEMBER 11

When the aroma of steamed sweet rice fills the air in the Temple parking lot, you know it's Mochitsuki day. The annual event which brings together the Sangha and Dharma friends of all ages for a day of making the special New Year treat. It's scheduled for Sunday, December 11 starting at 6 a.m.

Our Sangha will gather for a day of work and wonderful socializing. There will definitely be a job for everyone of any age who attends.

We plan to cook 1,000 pounds of mochigome (sweet rice). When steamed, it will produce approximately 1,500 pounds of mochi.

Mochi will be sold for \$4.50 per package (approx. one pound). The two-piece kasane mochi is being sold for \$7. Pre-orders are being accepted through Dec. 4. Please fill out the order form in this issue. Please make checks payable to the Buddhist Temple of San Diego.

On Mochitsuki day, orders can be picked up between the hours of 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. The day of the event, walk-up purchasers will not be able to buy mochi until all of the pre-orders are filled! Therefore, it would be best to order your mochi in advance.

Here is the work schedule for the weekend of December 9-11:

Friday, Dec. 9: Mochigome rice washing, 11 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 10: Equipment and Annex Hall work area set-up, 11 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 11: Early morning set up and cooking begins, 4:30 a.m.; First batch ready for pounding, cutting, shaping, cooling, 6 a.m.; Clean up, 3 p.m.

If you wish to volunteer your time, please call the temple and your name will be added to the list. A temple volunteer will also contact the Sangha asking for your help on Sunday.

We look forward to your participation in the annual Mochitsuki.

## TEMPLE CLEAN-UP DAY

Following the Dharma School/Family service on Sunday, December 18, the annual Year-end Temple Clean Up will take place from 11:30 until 2:30 p.m. Bring your buckets and brooms, rags and cleaners as we clean the our facilities in preparation for the New Year.

The BWA, under the direction of Mukojima Sensei, will be in charge of omigaki (polishing the religious ornaments) that are in the Onaijin. Other work will include cleaning and vacuuming the pews, cleaning the kitchen, conference room, office and Sangha Hall.

## BTSD'S YEAR-END/NEW YEAR ACTIVITIES

### Year-end Service at the Temple

Rev. Mukojima invites the Sangha to the final service of 2011, the Joya-E (year-end) gathering on Saturday, December 31 at 5 p.m. (note new service time). The service includes sutra chanting, meditation, a Dharma message from Sensei and the ringing of the kansho (bell). After the service, Rev. and Mrs. Mukojima invite everyone to enjoy traditional Toshikoshi or soba (buckwheat noodles) in the downstairs kitchen.

### Buddhist Bell Ringing Ceremony, Shelter Island

Later that evening, the Temple will sponsor the annual Joya No Kane or bell ringing ceremony at the San Diego-Yokohama Sister City Friendship Bell on Shelter Island. The event begins promptly at 11:30 p.m. with welcoming remarks followed by the ringing of the bonsho (giant bell) to mark the end of 2011. Everyone will be able to offer incense and ring the bell. This event will take place even if it rains. Dress warmly!

### New Year's Day Service

Welcoming the New Year at our first service is a great way to start the Year of the Dragon. Our short service will begin at 10 a.m. in the Hondo.

Rev. Mukojima looks forward to sharing his first Dharma message with you, followed by a toast to the New Year.

Sensei invites your participation in our Year-End and New Year activities.

## BCA CALENDARS, BODHI SEALS

The temple has received the 2011 Bodhi Seals and 2012 BCA complimentary calendars for its members. The suggest donation to the BCA for the Bodhi Seals is \$4 per sheet. BTSD retains a portion of your donation.

To help us save postage costs, please pick up your packet on your next visit to the Temple or during Mochitsuki. Those not picked up will be mailed out before the year end.

## AFFILIATED ORGS ASKED TO PREPARE 2011 REPORTS

The annual Buddhist Temple of San Diego General Membership meeting will be held in January 29, 2012, following the Family Service. Temple members will receive an official letter explaining the format of the meeting. All members are encouraged to attend this review of 2011 activities and finances and 2012 budget. The meeting will be preceded by a potluck luncheon so attendees are invited to share a favorite dish.

In the meantime, leaders of all affiliated organizations and standing committee chairs are instructed to submit their 2011 reports by January 8, 2012. Please e-mail your reports to Ralph Honda ([rkhayh@aol.com](mailto:rkhayh@aol.com)) or drop off your report at the temple office so that they can be duplicated and collated for the meeting.

Please call the office if you have any questions.

## OSEIBO

Last month, our Sangha was mailed a letter regarding the Oseibo offering BTSD is collecting through December 18, after which the collection will be distributed in gratitude to our staff.

In Japan, Oseibo is a customary year-end expression of deep appreciation and gratitude. We instituted this practice at the Temple three years ago in appreciation of our staff which includes our resident minister, retired ministers, office secretary and gardeners.

If you wish to participate in the Temple Oseibo, a contribution of any amount will be much appreciated. Please send your gift to the Temple or drop off your envelope at the office on your next visit. Please make your check payable to the Buddhist Temple of San Diego.

We know some individuals and families practice the Oseibo tradition and prefer to give a personal gift to our staff each year-end. We do not want to discourage such a nice personal practice and encourage families doing so to continue this fine tradition.

If you choose to participate in the Temple's Oseibo collection, we are deeply grateful. *Gassho.*

## ASIAN FOOD & CRAFT FAIR THANK YOU!

The Asian Food & Craft Fair Committee would like to thank you for your support and help on November 5th and 6th. Despite the rainy day it was a success. The food was delicious and the company even better.

We hope you enjoyed the crafters and their merchandise. We plan to repeat this fundraiser next year, hopefully with better weather.

Looking forward to seeing you again at Mochitsuki on December 11.

## NEED GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

Looking for a special *oseibo* (year-end appreciation) to express your gratitude to family and friends? Consider a gift from the assortment of

items from the BEC Bookstore and organizational sales. Here is a partial list of items available:

- **Scrip gift cards** for many great merchants and services, from groceries to gas to entertainment, home improvement, travel and more. A percentage of each sale benefits BTSD!
- **“Coming Full Circle” BTSD Cookbook** (with hundreds of favorite recipes from our members and friends). The cookbook now includes the **80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbook Addendum** which has even more delectable Sangha recipes that fit in the Temple Cookbook. Just \$25.
- **BEC Bookstore** offers new books on Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu and are on display in the glass case in our office. Also ojuzu, montoshikisho, altar items and a new edition of the \$2 home service guide are displayed upstairs in the Hondo quiet area.
- **Obon Again Shop** will be open during Mochitsuki on Dec. 11 in the Sangha Hall. The items for this sale will be suitable for holiday gift-giving and will benefit the Scholarship Fund.
- **Buddhist Womens Assn.** is selling their delicious Almond Brittle and more at Mochitsuki. Don't miss out on their tasty, giftable treats!
- Kaytee Sumida is coordinating a special **Yarn Sale** on both Dec. 10 and 11 in the Annex Hall. Some knitting supplies plus countless skeins of unused yarn (including angora and other expensive types) will be \$1 a skein.

Call (619) 239-0896 to order your gifts today!

## YARN SALE!

SATURDAY, December 10: 11am – 2pm

SUNDAY, December 11: 10am – 3pm

Buddhist Temple of San Diego (**Annex Hall**)

2929 Market St, San Diego 92102

Thanks to a generous donation of yarn and related items, we have more than we can store for the usual temple sales.

Skeins, balls and cones of yarns will be available in many colors, textures, and weights—many of these are “designer yarns.” Most are first quality, unused, and within their original wrappers/labels.

Pricing:

Skeins/balls -- \$1.00

Coned yarns -- \$5.00

Also for sale:

-Magazines & books on

knitting & other “yarn craft”

-Knitting needles

-Crochet hooks

## YOUR NEW YEAR GREETINGS FOR 2012!

Each year we invite Sangha members and organizations to place a New Year greeting in the January *Bussei Script*. 2012 will be the auspicious Year of the Dragon. A *Script* greeting is an easy way to wish your temple friends a Happy New Year and save postage, too! Mail the form below to BTSD or place in the *Bussei Script* mail slot in the office. A \$10 donation is suggested for this service. Deadline for submissions is December 18, 2011.

### NEW YEAR GREETINGS FOR 2012!

Mail to BTSD, Attn: Holiday Greetings, 2929 Market St., San Diego, CA 92102, or place in the *Bussei Script* mail slot in the office. Your greeting will appear in the January *Bussei Script*. Submission deadline is **December 18, 2011**.

Greeting from: \_\_\_\_\_

Greeting addressed to: \_\_\_\_\_

Message (Up to 40 words): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Suggested donation enclosed: \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

# BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SAN DIEGO Membership Pledge for 2012

Renewal       New Member\*       Change of Address  
 Mr.  Mrs.  Ms. NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr.  Mrs. SPOUSE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE : (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE : (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 WORK PHONE : (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Pledge:** The temple has an annual campaign to raise funds that go towards the Operating Budget. This budget pays for ministerial salary, part-time staff, programs, utilities, maintenance and the day-to-day expenses of running the temple. This tiered membership offers members the opportunity to choose their level of donation.

	Sustaining Member	Dana Member	Wisteria Member	Bodhi Member
Individual/Senior/Youth (All Ages)	\$275	\$375	\$500	\$
Couple / Family	\$450	\$650	\$1000	\$
Optional: Senior Reduced Cost (75 yrs and older)	\$125			
	\$150			
Optional: Youth Reduced Cost (30 yrs and younger)				\$

**Recommended Annual Donations (Optional):**

**FLORAL OFFERING FUND** (Suggested annual donation of \$40) \$  
 The fund helps defray cost of regular fresh flowers for the Onaijin (Central Altar).  
**GENERAL MAINTENANCE FUND** (Suggested annual donation of \$40) \$  
 The fund helps provide upkeep of the Temple properties.  
**SCHOLARSHIP FUND** (Suggested annual donation of \$20) \$  
 The fund rewards members' deserving high school graduates and college students.  
**DHARMA SCHOOL** (Suggested annual donation of \$20) \$  
 Dharma School does not conduct fundraisers. Your annual donation helps sustain its activities.  
**TOTAL AMOUNT** \$  
**AMOUNT ENCLOSED** \$

Please indicate payment schedule:  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Annually    \_\_\_\_\_ Semi annually    \_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly    \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly

To use credit card:  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard Acct # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires (MM/YY) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Authorized signature (if charging): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Billing address if different from above: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to the Buddhist Temple of San Diego. A percentage of your dues supports the Buddhist Churches of America and is remitted annually to the BCA via the Temple. Benefits include a year's subscription to the BCA publication Wheel of Dharma and our own monthly newsletter. **THANK YOU!**

Mailing Address to send your pledges: **Buddhist Temple of San Diego  
 2929 Market Street, San Diego, California 92102**

For any questions about membership, please call the Temple at 619-239-0896 or send inquires to the Membership Chair at [info@btsd.net](mailto:info@btsd.net).

\*For New Members, proration is available

---

# Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course 2012 Spring Enrollment Applications Now Accepted

The Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course Office is now accepting applications for their spring 2012 enrollment. The popular 2-year, computer-based program continues to offer online instruction in the origins and development of Buddhism, Shinran Shonin's life and teaching, sutras & masters of the Pure Land tradition and history of Jodo Shinshu.

An excellent opportunity for beginners or for those who have already studied Jodo Shinshu, the program reaches out to people all over the world. Students come from Brazil, Canada, Germany, Malaysia, U.K., Japan, Nepal as well as Hawaii and the BCA. With over 80 students enrolled, the course has much to offer those interested in deepening their understanding of Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu. The course instructors consist of 14 ministers and professors who specialize in the subjects taught. An optional August Workshop at the Jodo Shinshu Center is held every year.

For more information, please visit the course website at: [www.JSCC.cbe-bca.org](http://www.JSCC.cbe-bca.org)

Applications may be submitted online through the course website.  
Deadline: February 15. Course starts March 1.

Questions may be directed to: Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course Office, 2140 Durant Ave., Berkeley, CA Tel: 510-809-1441, email: [jssc@cbe-bca.org](mailto:jssc@cbe-bca.org)

二〇一一年十二月 会報  
サンディエゴ仏教会

# 称名報恩

ごらく ろくちよう

## 極楽の六鳥

住職 向嶋 諦史

月日の流れは早いもので今年も残すところ後わずかとなりました。今年一年を振り返って見ますと、私にとりて忘れることのできない出来事が数多くあつた年でありました。

まず、五月に開かれた親鸞聖人七五〇回大遠忌法要に当仏教会のご門徒さま共々、京都のご本山に参拝させて頂きました。五〇年に一度の有ること難い法要として、親鸞聖人のご善方を偲びつつ、阿弥陀仏のご本願に出遇わせて頂いた我が身の幸せを喜ばずにはおれなかつた尊いご縁でありました。

十月には、当仏教会創立八十五周年慶讃法要が小杭総長ご夫妻始め、前任副教長ご夫妻ご臨席の下、数多くのご門徒さまと共に盛大かつ華やかに厳修されました。先人の大いなる願いが込められた大切な仏教会をお念仏と共に更なる維持発展に努めていこうと誓ひ合えた大変実りのある式典でした。更に記念行事として執り行われた帰依式では、四十一名もの方々がお剃りを受けられ、真の仏弟子として新たな一歩を踏み出されました。法名を頂かれた皆さんの笑顔が仏教会の明るい未来

を映し出しているようで感激したことでした。

そして今年一年、何よりも辛かつたのが、三月十一日に起きた東日本大震災です。この巨大地震が引き起こした大津波によって東北地方に住む約一千万五千人の方々が一瞬にして生命を失い、九カ月経つた今でも、四千人もの人達が行方不明となっています。更には、地震と津波の影響で福島第一原子力発電所が未曾有の重大事故を起こし、今尚、終息の目処も立たず、高度の放射能に汚染された故郷の地に帰ることも出来ずに苦しむ多くの人達がいます。

震災から二日後、急遽、仏教会で追悼法要を行なつたのですが、ご門徒さまのみならず、当地に住む日本人を始め、多くの方々が仏教会に足を運んで下さり、皆で心を一つにして震災で亡くなられた全ての犠牲者を悼み、迅速な復興を願いました。

更には、危機的状況にある日本の為に、多くの方々から義援金が届けられ、また、当仏教会においても、ご門徒さまが義援金を募る活動を積極的に実施して下さつたお陰で、約四万ドルもの寄付金を日本へ送ることが出来ました。日本から遠く離れたこのアメリカの地にあって、日本の復興を願う皆様の思いがどれほど私を大いに勇気付けて下さつたことか、ただただ感謝の言葉しかありません。

この大震災の影響が私の心に大きな影を落とした一年ではありましたが、どんな時でも私を励まし支え続け、私と共に喜びと悲しみを共有して下さつたご門徒の皆様のお心遣いに改めて心より厚く御礼申し上げます。来年も変わらぬご支援を賜りますようお願い申し上げます。

さて、先ほども述べましたように、十月に八十五周年慶讃法要をお勤めしたのですが、法要前日

心を沈めながらお荘厳をしていますと、改めて当仏教会のお内陣の美しさに感謝せずにはおられません。皆さんもご存知のように、五年前の八〇周年を記念して内陣修復という大きなプロジェクトが掲げられ、ご門徒の皆様のご尊い懇念が結実してお内陣が美しく生まれ変わりました。これほど立派な内陣を持つことができた仏教会を大変誇りに思います。

お内陣は極楽浄土の美しさを表した大変重要な空間です。お内陣には繊細な彫刻や華麗な装飾が数多く施され、その一つひとつに深い意味があるので、御目録に安置されている阿弥陀仏の次に目を引くのが前卓に彫られた色鮮やかな六種類の鳥ではないでしょうか。

浄土真宗で大切な經典に「仏説阿彌陀經」というものがあります。お釈迦さまがお弟子さんの舍利弗に極楽の様子と阿彌陀仏の優れた徳を懇切に説いておられるのですが、その中で次のように話されています。

「舍利弗、かの国にはつねに種々奇妙なる雑色の鳥あり。白鶴・孔雀・鸚鵡・舍利・迦陵頻伽・共命の鳥なり。このもろもろの鳥、昼夜六時に和雅の声をたす」と。

このお釈迦さまのご説法によれば、極楽には六種類の鳥がいるそうですが、前卓に見える六種類の鳥こそが正に極楽浄土の六鳥なのです。

白鶴とは鶴のごことで、次に孔雀、鸚鵡、そして舍利は九官鳥を指します。続く残りの二つはこの世に存在しない伝説の鳥で、迦陵頻伽と頭を二つ持った共命の鳥です。これらの鳥は昼夜を問わず流麗な声でさえずり、その声を聞く者は皆仏法を求め心を起すにいられないといわれています。

そこで今月は、極楽浄土の六種の鳥が何を意味しているのか紹介したいと思います。

まずは、白鶴と孔雀ですが、これらは流麗かつ優雅な姿で極楽浄土を荘厳しています。白鶴と呼ばれる鶴は、その端正な姿から神秘的な鳥、吉祥な鳥として古来より尊ばれ、「鶴は千年、亀は万年」という諺があるように、長寿の象徴となつています。

また、孔雀は、皆さんもご存知のように、雄の孔雀が羽を扇状に振った時の美しさは圧巻です。しかし、孔雀の素晴らしいのは羽だけではなく、

インドでは古来より孔雀は毒蛇を食すると考えられてきました。人間は毒にあれば死にますが、孔雀は毒蛇でも毒草でも何でも食してしまっても強い解毒力を持っています。仏教では、その解毒力が神格化されて孔雀明王が現れました。孔雀明王の持つ強い解毒力が、三毒と呼ばれる人間の煩惱の象徴―貪欲、瞋恚、愚痴を喰らうて私達を仏道に成就せしめる功徳がある菩薩と解釈され、孔雀は神聖な鳥として崇められてきました。

次に鸚鵡と舍利ですが、これらは人間の言葉を真似る鳥として有名です。その並外れた能力で、仏法を奏でながら極楽浄土を荘厳します。鸚鵡と舍利は仏典に頻りに登場し、今仏を称えたり、お経の文句を暗誦したりします。仏教話でも鸚鵡が活躍するお話がたくさんありますが、鸚鵡は仏の心を体現して善い行いをする高貴な鳥として描かれています。

また、舍利の九官鳥も鸚鵡と同じように人間の言葉を理解し、仏法を人の言葉で伝える利口な鳥として崇められています。

以上の四種は実在する鳥として有名ですが、次の二つはこの世に存在しない伝説上の鳥です。

まずは迦陵頻伽です。仏典では、仏の澄みきつた声と人の心を和らげる美しい声で、この鳥の鳴き声に例えられています。『大智度論』というお経に「迦陵頻伽は生

まれる前の、まだ卵の中にいる時から、すでに美しい声を出し、その声は他のどの鳥よりも優れている」と説かれています。このように、迦陵頻伽は仏の声と同様に響いて飽きることのない端正な歌声で三宝を奏でて極楽浄土を荘厳しています。

最後に其命の鳥ですが、この鳥は仏典で、身体は一つでありながら頭と心をつつ珍鳥として描かれています。この鳥にまつわる仏教話を紹介したいと思います。

その昔、多くの其命の鳥の中でも、とりわけ美しい姿と声で鳴いている鳥がいました。しかし、二つある頭の何れもが、「私の羽毛は比類なく美しく、声も世界一美しい」と常に自慢し、主張していたので、互いに憎み合つて争いが絶えませんでした。そこで、ある日ふと一方の頭が考えました。「片方さえ無きものにすれば、この私が真正正銘の世界一になれる」と。

そして、次の日、密かに毒を混ぜておいた果物を片方の頭に食べさせました。すると、食べた方の頭はすぐに亡くなり、遂に残った一つの頭がこの世で最も美しい鳥となりました。その瞬間、生き残った頭は誇らしげに鳴きながら空を優雅に舞っていました。

しかし、喜んだのもつかの間、死んだ一方の頭が次第に腐敗していき、更には共有していた身体までもが腐っていききました。そして、その其命の鳥はどうとう自らの生命まで落としてしまったのです。二つの頭に共通の身体。一つの頭が死ねば、やがて両方が死んでしまう。この物語の意味するところは色々あると思います。

物事の受け取り方は一人ひとり違います。性別もあれば、国籍肌の色、能力も全てが異なります。ですから、私達は心や身体は自分の所有物であると信じて疑いませんが、一人で生きられるかどうかと、そういう訳にはいきません。多くの生命の犠牲の上に私達の生命は成り立っているのです。更には、家族を始め、友人や多くの方々の支えがあって、初めて生きていくことができるのです。私個人として身体は一つですが、実は私達の生命はまるで網の目のように多くの人と深く関係し、互いに影響し合い、支え合ひながら、共に一つの生命を生きているのです。つまり、私達が正に其命の鳥といえるでしょう。

私達一人ひとりの生命は、数え切れない多くの生命と繋がりをもちて生かされているという現実を忘れ、さも自分が正義で一番優れていると勘違いし、相手を否定し傷つけるような生き方を選ばないようにすれば、私達もこの其命の鳥と同じように自滅の一途を辿ってしまふのです。

この愚かな事件があつてから、極楽浄土の其命の鳥は、「他を滅ぼす道は口を滅ぼす道。他を生かす道こそ口を生かされる道」と生命の尊厳を説きながら極楽浄土を荘厳しているのです。

この様に、お釈迦さまは、極楽浄土に住む六種の鳥それぞれが、素晴らしい意味をもつて、私達一人ひとりに語りかけていると教えて下さっています。また、『阿彌陀經』には、これらの鳥は全て阿彌陀仏が仏法を説き広めるために仏自身が姿形を変えて現されたといわれています。

さて、今年も残すところあと数日です。年を越す前に、今一度、仏教会のお内陣を注意してご覧頂いてはいかがでしょうか。今まで以上に極楽の六鳥が優雅な姿



*Bussei Script*

BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SAN DIEGO

2929 Market Street

San Diego, California 92102

619/239-0896 [info@btsd.net](mailto:info@btsd.net) [www.btsd.net](http://www.btsd.net)

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

San Diego, California

PERMIT NO. 396

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

*Do not postpone what should be done now. ~Dhammapada*

## BODHI DAY SERVICE & DECEMBER MEMORIAL SERVICE

On **December 4 at 10 a.m.**, the Buddhist Temple of San Diego invites its membership and Dharma friends to the **BODHI DAY SERVICE**. Dharma School's 3rd-5th Grade students will present a special program to celebrate the day the Buddha experienced Enlightenment after many years of searching for the answer to life's profound questions: Why do we suffer and die? Is there a way to transcend suffering and death? If there is a way, what is it? We gather at the Temple as an expression of our deep gratitude to the Buddha's great awakening to the truth of existence and for sharing his realizations with us.

In conjunction with the Bodhi Day Service, we will also have the **December Memorial Service (Shotsuki Hoyo)**, to commemorate loved ones lost in past Decembers.

At noon the same day, the annual **JR. YBA CHOW MEIN LUNCHEON** will be held in the Annex Hall. Eat in or take home a delicious lunch of pork chow mein with pan-fried noodles, \$6.50 donation. Though available tickets will be sold at the door, it's best to get your tickets early from a Jr. YBA member because this fundraiser is always a sell-out!

As always, the Temple welcomes and appreciates your participation and support of these and our other year-end activities including **MOCHITSUKI**, **YEAR-END SERVICE** and **NEW YEAR'S EVE BELL-RINGING** at the Shelter Island Friendship Bell. These activities are described elsewhere in this issue.

*Gassho.*