BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SAN DIEGO

BUSSEI SCRIPT

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A LIFE WITHOUT LIGHT

By Rev. Yushi Mukojima, Resident Minister

Last month, in the brilliant rays of the autumn sun, 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 minster and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. Miyaji, and many Sangha members.

At the Kieshiki affirmation ceremony preceding the service, the Okamisori rite, 41 Sangha members received their Buddhist names from Bishop Ogui taking their first step as true disciples of the Buddha. Their smiling faces truly reflected a bright future for our temple.

I would like to thank everyone for their generous donations, the warm congratulatory messages we received and to thank everyone who worked so hard to make the celebration a huge success.

Using this opportunity, I would like to pledge anew to everyone a fresh determination on my part to further develop and carry on the wishes of our treasured temple pioneers to spread the word of the Nembutsu.

As most of you are aware, there was a huge power failure throughout San Diego County two months ago. According to SDG&E, a human error in Arizona took down a line that provides power to the San Diego area. About six million who live in Southern California, western Arizona and northern Mexico were affected by the resultant blackouts.

In Chula Vista where I live, the outage lasted until about 2 a.m. of next day. We were supposed to have the monthly board meeting that evening, but cancelled it because the power wasn't expected to be restored right away. We had no choice but to stay at home.

As most facilities except hospitals couldn't function without electricity, traffic was heavily congested with those trying to go home. There were many flight cancelations at the airport as well. There were even rumors that the blackouts were caused by terrorists.

At night, all around us, the neighborhood was veiled in an unearthly dark and silence, so Mika and I were seized with anxiety. Without a flashlight or radio, we were especially worried about burglars taking advantage of this opportunity to break into the house or the temple because the alarm systems weren't functioning.

In such an anxious situation, we could only sit close together, singing happy songs loudly, trying to wipe out a sense of insecurity.

Although we passed an uneasy night which felt unusually long, we were wakened by sunlight the next morning. Seeing the peaceful sleeping face of our daughter next to us, we shared the joy of being freed from the world of the darkness. We also felt a great relief on making sure that the Sangha members and the Temple were all safe.

With the blackout, of course Internet and cell phones could not be used. Without artificial light, we were forced to spend a very inconvenient time. But it gave me the opportunity to realize how much we depend daily on the benefits of science, and to reflect upon our daily lives.

Because we were not able to do anything that evening, we went to bed earlier than usual. While in the pitch darkness, lost deep in thought, it came to me that our life is also in the dark. That night, unable to see a thing without a flashlight, it was really hard for me to even get to the bathroom. I made my way there, running into the table or chair. Each time I bumped into something, I hurt myself and didn't know how to vent my anger and discontent. Similarly, in everyday life, we live stressfully, bumping into obstacles because we live in darkness.

It is an emotional clash, like a marital dispute or a quarrel between parent and child. We live bumping into or facing the difficulty of human relations, as when we don't get along with our friends. The reason why we bump into such things is because we can't see ahead of us. If we could see clearly what is in our path, we would never run into anything. That we can't see anything indicates that we are in darkness; namely we live in the world of delusion. There are those who believe without any doubt that they alone can see everything. But actually such people can't see even themselves.

In Buddhism, if I cannot see myself, it is because my mind is full of self-centeredness.

Selfishness can be divided into the three minds. First, the mind of believing is certain that I alone am always right. Second, there is the mind that wants to do only what I want. And third is the mind that loves only oneself.

We are completely confused by our selfish mind. Even if we are wrong, we cannot apologize. We take for granted other's kindness so we cannot show our thanks. And as we cannot forgive another's fault, we always complain about it. It is our sad nature that when we accuse others, we brush aside our own problems and unconsciously put ourselves up as a standard of justice, and this makes us angry.

When those who have such an ugly mind live together, it is natural that the conflict will never come to the end. We will always get angry about something. We will always complain about something. That is how selfishness works.

When I was a university student in Japan, there was a professor who told us repeatedly in his class, "Always be obedient." He told us many stories about the Myokonin Genza, one of the famous superior Nembutsu followers. I would like to share one of his stories with you.

One morning, Genza was on the point of going out to do farm work. He had a hand towel around his neck. His grandson, seeing him to the door, saw the towel and said, "Grandpa, it is dirty!" Genza turned around and started to remove it from his neck saying, "Is that right?" His grandson said, "Wait a minute, Grandpa," and ran back inside the house. After a while, he brought a clean hand towel and handed it to Genza, saying, "Here you are!" When Genza received it, he stroked his grandson's head gently, saying, "Thank you for your kindness," and then went out joyfully to work in the fields.

I was only 20 then and can still remember our professor telling this story. But when he finished it, I recall feeling deflated, thinking, "What? That's it?"

However, now that over ten years have passed since I first heard this simple story, I cannot help but respect how clearly Genza was a noble Nembutsu follower who transcended the mind of selfishness.

(Sensei's Message: Continued on Page 3)

NOVEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 1 p.m. – Shigin 詩吟 @Annex 1.2	**2** 12 p.m. – Minyo Group 民謡 @Annex 1.2 5 p.m. – Kempo Class @Sangha Hall	**3** 12 p.m. – IRC Mtg. @ 6:30 p.m. – Buddhist Study Class A with Rev. Mukojima @Conf. Rm.	**4** 5 p.m. – Kempo Class @Sangha Hall	**5** 10 a.m. – Koto Class 琴教室 @Sangha Hall All Day Asian Food & Craft Fair Prep.
6 **ASIAN FOOD & CRAFT FAIR** **11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**	**7** Temple Closed 7 p.m. – W&M Committee Mtg. @Conf. Rm.	**8** 1 p.m. – Shigin 詩吟 @Annex 1.2 10:30 a.m. – SD Ministers Mtg. @LA Nishi Betsuin	**9** 12 p.m. – Minyo Group 民謡 @Annex 1.2 5 p.m. – Kempo Class @Sangha Hall	**10** 6:30 pm – Board of Directors Mtg. @Conf. Rm.	**11** 5 p.m. – Kempo Class @Sangha Hall 7:30 p.m. – S.D. Council Mtg. @Gardena BT	**12** 9 a.m. – ABA Mtg. @Mission Valley Cafe
13 9 a.m. – Dharma School Staff Mtg. @Conf. Rm. 9 a.m. – DS Mini Chanting Class @Hondo **10 a.m. – DS/FAMILY SERVICE 日曜礼拝** **November Shotsuki Memorial 11月祥月法要** 11:30 a.m. – Jr. YBA Mtg. @Annex 1-2 11:30 a.m. – TAIKO @Annex Hall 12 p.m. – BWA Mtg. @Conference Room 1:15 p.m. – Ballroom Dancing @Annex Hall	**14** Temple Closed	**15** 1 p.m. – Shigin 詩吟 @Annex 1.2	**16** **10 a.m. – Gomeinichi 宗祖御命日 @Hondo** 12 p.m. – Minyo Group 民謡 @Annex 1.2 5 p.m. – Kempo Class @Sangha Hall	**17**	**18** 10 a.m. – Buddhist Study Class B with Rev. Yanagihara @Conf. Rm.	**19** 10 a.m. – Koto Class 琴教室 @Sangha Hall 10 a.m. – BEC Lecture with Rev. Dennis Fujimoto @Hondo
20 **10 a.m. – EITAIKYO PERPETUAL SERVICE/ ESHINNI-KO & ALL LIFE FORMS MEMORIAL** **永代経法要・恵信尼公並びに** **生きとし生けるもの追悼法要** **Guest Speaker: Rev. Dennis Fujimoto from Idaho Oregon Buddhist Temple**	**21** Temple Closed	**22** 1 p.m. – Shigin 詩吟 @Annex 1.2	**23** 12 p.m. – Minyo Group 民謡 @Annex 1.2 5 p.m. – Kempo Class @Sangha Hall	**24** Happy Thanksgiving Temple Closed	**25** 5 p.m. – Kempo Class @Sangha Hall	**26** 10 a.m. – Koto Class 琴教室 @Annex 1.2 6-9 p.m. – BTSD/VFW BINGO @Annex Hall
27 **9 a.m. – INTRO. TO BUDDHISM @Sangha Hall** **10 a.m. – DS/FAMILY SERVICE 日曜礼拝** 12 p.m. Minyo Group @Annex Hall 1 p.m. – Dharma School Bowling Activity @Kearny Mesa Bowl	**28** Temple Closed	**29** 1 p.m. – Shigin 詩吟 @Annex 1.2	**30** 12 p.m. – Minyo Group 民謡 @Annex 1.2 5 p.m. – Kempo Class @Sangha Hall 7 p.m. – Fundraising Mtg. @Conf. Room			

(Sensei's Message: Continued from Page 1)

As the Temple office opens at 9 a.m., I always leave home around 8:30 a.m. Before I leave, my wife makes sure I have everything for the office by saying, "Do you have Ke-Sa-Ki.?"

"Ke-Sa-Ki." means "point of hair" in Japanese. But as Mika and I use it, it is just a code between us. It combines the first sounds of three words: "Ke" is *keitai denwa* which means cell phone; "Sa" is *saifu* which means wallet; and "Ki' means keys. Each one is very important and if I leave one behind, it may cause me trouble. So since our marriage, unless she is sick in bed, my wife makes sure I have them before leaving the house. After several years, "Ko" was added to "Ke-Sa-Ki," giving it a less pleasant sound: "Ke-Sa-Ki-Ko." "Ko" means coffee. These days I can't make much progress at work without a thermos of the delicious coffee which she makes.

Anyway, because my wife makes sure almost every day that I have these things, I haven't left them behind very often. I do feel grateful that she married me and is such a wonderful wife. But after I have been asked by her repeatedly, "Do you have Ke-Sa-Ki-Ko?" I cannot say, "Yes, thank you," obediently like Genza. Sometimes when I hear, "Is "Ke-Sa-Ki-Ko" all right?" I say, "Don't remind me about same thing!"

Even worse, I sometimes say, "If you are so worried, you should put them on the shoe rack for me!" I get angry and force my selfish thoughts back on my wife. Especially when in a hurry to go out the door, I react this way. Such selfishness is really terrible because it's expressed after she has done me a favor.

Since I always take for granted my wife's kindness, instead of saying "Thank you," I complain: "I already have it. You don't have to tell me every morning." If I speak like that to my wife, she will feel bad and I also can't feel good about it. Even though I sometimes feel ashamed and think, "How stupid of me! Why didn't I just say, Thank you?" it is really hard for me to apologize to her as soon as I get home. The mind which cannot be obedient—it is my ugly self-centeredness.

The reason why we suffer bumping into the parents, child, husband, wife, brother, sister, friends, and the many people in our daily lives is because we are always restricted by the mind of believing that I alone am always right, the mind that wants to do as I want to, and the mind that loves only me. That is to say, our minds are always shadowed by the darkness of delusion created by the deep-rooted blind passions of greed, anger and ignorance. Therefore, we will never realize why we are suffering, nor even that we are in the world of darkness, unless we encounter Amida Buddha's light of wisdom.

The light of wisdom manifests our true selves bound by the selfish mind which is the cause of the suffering. Just as candlelight pierces the darkness, so the light of wisdom emitting from Amida Buddha shines into every nook of our delusional mind in order to lead us to the way of the truth.

Even if we encounter ourselves every day, we cannot see our true selves because we are in the dark. We will not be able to meet our true selves without the light of wisdom which is the Nembutsu teaching. When I am embraced by Amida Buddha's light, only then can I live as a true human being, realizing I am living in this moment due to innumerable causes and conditions. It is not that I rid myself of selfishness. It is that I am able to see the precious path in front of me, allowing me to reflect on my foolish way of living that is ruled by selfishness. With the darkness lifted, I am able to see and cultivate the obedient mind and the mind that respects others.

Because of the blackout, I truly realized that, just as we need light in our everyday life to be able to see, the mind darkened by selfishness needs the light of wisdom to allow us to truly live. It was really a rich experience to feel the gentle sunlight coming in through the window the next morning, just as Amida Buddha's benevolence illuminates my sleeping face, awakening and leading me to the way of the truth. *In Gassho,*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Michael Kinoshita, Board President

We reflected this past October on our 85th Anniversary celebration and the theme overwhelmingly came back to the dedication, sacrifices and perseverance of our Issei and Nisei pioneers in making our Temple a place to gather in times of joy and sorrow.

As Sangha members, we should keep in mind that it is the responsibility of each and every one of us to honor these traditions of dedication, sacrifice and perseverance as practiced by our predecessors. Most of you already contribute by volunteering time, making donations, donating your expertise, participating in Buddhist education, etc. We all have the common goal to maintain and grow our Temple as a place to gather and to enjoy our precious traditions.

I ask all of you to think of an idea or suggestion that you have felt or experienced during the past couple of years that in your mind would make our Temple an even better place. Spiritual programs, service format, membership and fundraising ideas and functions are just some of the areas we are always looking to improve. There are probably other areas you can think of. Perhaps from this, we can add new ways of doing things to those we already value to keep our Temple growing.

Please write me a note and put it in my mailbox at the Temple or email me at michaelk@mkainc.net.

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

On Thursday, October 13, 2011, the Board of Directors met and the following items were discussed or acted upon:

1. The September BOD meeting was cancelled due to the power outage, leaving some pressing actions to the Temple Affairs Committee and Executive Board. Accordingly, the BOD ratified the following:
   - Approved expense associated with repair of mochi grinders.
   - Approved expense associated with repair of a taiko drum.
   - Approved the co-presentation of five films at the 2011 San Diego Asian Film Festival, Oct. 20-28.
2. The Board approved a recommendation by the Ways and Means Committee for an increase in the interim secretary's salary.
3. The Board voted (with one abstention) to reimburse BTSD participants in the Japan 750th Memorial trip a charge by the travel agency for some of Rev. Mukojima's travel expenses.
4. The Treasurer projects a $6000 deficit for fiscal year 2011.

ABA NEWS

October started out fairly quiet for us. On Oct. 16, most of us participated in all of the celebrations for our Temple's 85th Anniversary. We thank those that helped.

On Nov. 12, we will have a breakfast meeting at the Mission Valley Café on Camino Del Rio South at 9:00 a.m. Please let Motoo know if you are planning to attend.

BWA NEWS

Temple President Michael Kinoshita thanked the BWA for their help with the Bon Odori bento. He appreciated both the guidance and the BWA members who made the mock up bento. He thanked the members for all their time and effort in making the bento sale a success.

Fundraising event: Naomi reported that she will place our order for the almond brittle candy on Tuesday, November 1. The committee will gather on Thursday, November 3 to package the candy for sale at the Asian Food and Craft Fair. The BWA will also order some popcorn with almonds to sell.

The BWA has been asked by Rev. Mukojima to handle hospitality duties for the 85th Anniversary. Naomi Himaka, Betty Torio, Fumi Ohara and Kikue Graeber will set up the conference room at 8:00 a.m. on October 16.

For the Temple's Asian Food and Craft Fair, Mrs. Yamanishi will chair the sushi making committee. The requested number of mixed sushi boxes is 300. Here's the schedule for the sushi preparation:

Nov. 5, Saturday:
- 9 a.m. for core committee members
- 12 noon for all members

Nov. 6, Sunday:
- 5 a.m. for rice cookers
- 6 a.m. for all members

All BWA members are encouraged to come out to help with this event.

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

By Ann Ong, Assistant Superintendant

During this Dharma School term, Rev. Mukojima has been conducting sutra chanting classes for the upper grades, 6th through high school. On October 9, the 6th–8th grade class led the chanting of the Ju Sei Ge. This month the high school class is scheduled to lead chanting at a service.

Campers and their families attended the LABCC Camp Reunion on October 15 at the Orange County Buddhist Church. Everyone had a great dinner of chili, rice, hot dogs, and Frito salad, with a special treat of Hawaiian shave ice hosted by one of the camper's parents. From the moment we entered the gym, the kids were off with their friends catching up!

85th Anniversary Activities

On October 16, 2011 Dharma School students were among 41 Sangha members who participated in the Kieshiki Affirmation Service to receive their Buddhist name. They enjoyed the refreshments following the service and I overheard many of them discussing their cool new Buddhist names. It was a moving ceremony officiated by Socho Ogui, Bishop of the BCA.

Twenty Dharma School students participated in the Chigo parade. They included: Alanna Faith, Darrion Faith, Oona Flood, Julianna Henschen, Claire Matsumoto, Emma Matsumoto, Bryson Moribe, Riley Moribe, Kurumi Mukojima, Cassidy Muraoka, Trina Muraoka, Abigail Okita, Nicholas Okita, Hailey Sasaki, Jenna Sasaki, Sage Seymour, Ava Yamamoto, Zoe Yamamoto, Elie Yanagihara and Emma Yanagihara. They were led by a scout color guard escort that included Trevor Muraoka, Chad Sasaki, and Sean Tokunaga. It was a very festive and joyful sight to see the children parade through the parking lot and into the Hondo. Thank you to all of the parents and grandparents who helped to dress the children, and to Lorin Sasaki and Tad Muraoka for helping me steam and prepare the Chigo costumes for the event.

Hailey Sasaki led the Sangha in the reading of the Golden Chain while Lauren Uchiyama read the Three Treasures. Greeters who passed out the programs were Breven Honda, Tyler Masuda, David Ong and Evan Ong.

Thank you to Laura Henschen for providing the movie "Rio" for the kids to watch after their busy morning activities. Also, thank you to Junko Kajita, Karen Okuhara, and the BWA members for providing water and snacks for the children to enjoy during the movie. They all looked so content snacking and relaxing. Morning snacks were provided by the Jr. YBA.

During the luncheon, the preschool and kindergarten class performed with Rev. and Mrs. Mukojima as the San Diego Wiggles. They did a great job, and even Socho Ogui, Mrs. Ogui, and chairperson Ralph Honda happily joined in!

It was a busy, but a very reflective and happy day for our Temple.

Other Activities

The Dharma School Halloween Party and Family Service was held on October 22 at 5 p.m. There were a lot of kids who dressed in their Halloween costumes. After the service kids and adults had a great time during the party in the Annex Hall. There was a lot of food prepared by the parents and games provided by Jr. YBA. Thank you!

The 6th–8th grade class will run the snack bar at the Asian Food and Craft Fair on November 6.

The All Life Forms Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, November 20 in conjunction with the temple's Eitaikyo Service. Teachers will be sending home "All Life Forms" sheets for the students to fill out and turn in before the service. These forms can be used to express appreciation for pets, plants that supply us with oxygen or food, family members that have passed away, and even people we don't know who affect our lives, like farmers, janitors, and people in the military.

The next DS Teachers and Staff meeting will be on November 13 at 9 a.m. followed by Family Service and Dharma School. The annual DS bowling activity is set for Nov. 27 following the Dharma School/Family Service.

JUNIOR YBA REPORT

On Oct. 22, the Junior YBA hosted its annual Halloween party. We wrapped mummies, tossed Frankensteins, and had an overall great time.

It's that time again for the annual Thanksgiving Basket drive. We will be collecting non-perishable goods, and accepting monetary donations during the months of October and November. The deadline is November 20. Please bring your donation to the temple and drop it off in boxes near the office or contact any Junior YBA member or advisor.

Coming up on November 5, the Junior YBA will be sending three members to the Southern District Leadership Conference.

Our temple's annual Asian Food and Craft Fair will be on November 6. The Juniors will be making their delicious wontons. We are in need of help to prep and wrap all of the wontons and invite anyone to give us a hand! The prep time is Sunday morning (November 6) starting at approximately 9 a.m.

The Junior YBA will host a Chow Mein Luncheon on December 4 following the Bodhi Day Service. Tickets will be available soon at $6.50ch.

We invite students between the ages of 14 and 19 to join our Junior YBA. Please see any of the officers or advisors for more details.

ZENBU

Much appreciation to coordinator Junko Kajita for making all the arrangement for the second set of Ballroom Dance classes being held through Nov. 13 and to Mani Yamaguchi for ably pinch-hitting for our ailing dance instructor. We hope the participants had fun learning and practicing their new social skills.

Zenbu coordinated discounted voucher and tickets sales for the 2011 San Diego Asian Film Festival, selling 130 vouchers and tickets. This is the sixth year BTSD has been a community presenter of several films. This is one of many "cost-free" community partnerships we have formed which allows us to promote BTSD and our upcoming events far beyond our Market Street location.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Bill Teague, Membership Committee

BTSD Membership: Strength at Our Core. A strong and vibrant membership keeps our Temple strong at its core. That's why we really

appreciate all of our members, and especially all of you who have joined or renewed in 2011.

BTSD Appreciates Our Most Recent New Members. Please join us in welcoming **Ryan & Alicia (Miyaji) Clark** and **Laurine R. M. Ota**. Ms. Ota also participated in the recent Kieshiki. (If you're not a member yet, why not join now?)

BTSD Appreciates Most Recent Renewing Members. Thanks to the following members who generously renewed their membership over the last month or so: Ruby D'Orsi, Yuki Easter, Gerald & Linda Hanano, Gene & Arlene Hasegawa, Miyoko Hashiguchi, Jami Jones, Mikako Jones, Doreen Kamada-Fujii, Jeanie Kashima, Michael & Yasuko Kinoshita, Sonoko Kuroiwa, Freda McGrath, Kiyoshi & Yoshiko Monji, Sumihiro & Yoshiko Nogata, Yukiko Negoro, Shirley Ochi-Watson, Tsukiye Ozaki, Linda Ring, Brian & Lorin Sasaki , Ben Sekishiro, George & Miyako Tachiki, Steve & Aki Tomiyama, Chris & Tissa Uchiyama, Ruth Voorhies, Mary Haruko Yagura, Ron & Sheila Yagura, Hisashi & Jane Yamamoto, and Paul & Mildred Yasuhara.

Correction and Apologies. We very much apologize for a glitch that kept us from properly acknowledging the membership renewals from Aric & Laura Henschen (neither were acknowledged back they when renewed in Spring) and Kengo & Mae Yamamoto (only Mr. Yamamoto's renewal was acknowledged in Spring).

2011 Dues Cover 2011 Expenses - Please Renew Today! For all our 2010 members, please understand that we count on your dues for paying our expenses from the start of 2011. As these are expenses we can't delay, we really appreciate your dues toward the beginning of each year if at all possible. If this lump sum approach is difficult for you, consider converting to paying on an installment basis. We can make periodic and automatic charges to your credit or debit card to make it simple. Just call or email the Temple, and a Temple member on the Membership Committee will be in touch.

"Almost" Members - Please Join for 2011. Are you "almost" a member of the Temple already? For instance, do you have children enrolled in Dharma School who have been enjoying the program? If you have thought about joining the Temple but always put it off, we make it especially easy to join now. Installment payments make it easy to budget for this minor expense. See also our youth and seniors discounts. Just call or email the Temple, and a Temple member on the Membership Committee will be in touch.

GET THE WORD OUT! ASIAN FOOD & CRAFT FAIR IS NOV. 6

The new Asian Food & Craft Fair will be held at the Temple on Sunday, November 6, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be no Family Service on that day. The November Shotsuki (monthly memorial service) will be the following Sunday, Nov. 13.

This Fall fundraiser will feature Asian style arts and crafts and, of course, our highly popular Chow Mein, BBQ half-chicken plate, Sushi, Curry, Wontons, and more! Pre-orders for the Chow Mein, BBQ half-chicken plate and Sushi were due October 16 but there will be some extras prepared for walk-ins first-come-first-served. All other lunch items like Chashu Bao and so on will be available till sold out.

Come out and see all the wonderful items our vendors will have on display: unique jewelry, handbags, clothing, artwork, and so much more! Get your holiday shopping taken care of early. Please let your family and all your friends know about this great new event!

The Obon Again Shop and Crafts 'n' Treasures will also have booths with 100% of their proceeds benefiting the temple.

If you received a packet of AFC Fair opportunity drawing tickets in the mail, please do your best to sell or purchase them to benefit the temple. Please turn in all unsold tickets, ticket stubs and sales proceeds before the drawing that day. Winners need not be present.

There will be ample parking from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the ARC parking lot across from the temple on Market Street, just east of the gas station. The temple used this lot successfully for the July Bon Odori.

Please address questions about the AFC Fair to chairperson Carol Baker at (619) 276-2651, or visit the Temple website for details.

NOV. 19 BEC LECTURE BY REV. DENNIS FUJIMOTO

The Buddhist Temple of San Diego presents a special lecture by Rev. Dennis Fujimoto of the Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple on Saturday morning, November 19, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Rev. Fujimoto will be speaking on "The Experience of Nembutsu in Our Shin Tradition." He will also discuss walking Nembutsu meditation and other applications of the Nembutsu.

The event will take place in the Temple's Hondo, the main worship hall on the top floor of the Temple. Wheelchair access is available by elevator from the parking lot level.

Light refreshments will be served following the lecture in the downstairs kitchen.

OSEIBO CONTRIBUTIONS REQUESTED

During November, the Sangha will receive letters asking for Oseibo donations.

Oseibo, or year-end offering, will be presented to the temple staff for their heartfelt efforts enabling the temple's daily operations to function smoothly throughout the year. It is a way we, as Sangha, can say Thank You.

The temple began its solicitation for Oseibo donations three years ago and each year, the response from our members and friends has been generous and sincere.

Your Oseibo letter will ask that you send in your donation in any amount in the envelope provided. Oseibo offerings will be accepted through December 19, after which they will be distributed with gratitude to our staff. *Gassho.*

BTSD COMMEMORATES 85th ANNIVERSARY

By Ralph Honda, 85th Anniv. Committee Chairman

The weekend of October 15 and 16, 2011, has become another milestone to be documented in the storied history of the Buddhist Temple of San Diego.

Celebrating the temple's 85th Anniversary was considered a "low key" event, but in many ways was "BIG" for the Sangha.

Visitors came from as far away as Central California to be a part of the temple's celebration. For Midori Koga (formerly Koba) and her family, it was important for them to be in her hometown for this occasion.

"This was a very wonderful event. I'm glad that I was able to attend," Midori said.

Activities began on Saturday, Oct. 15, when Socho Koshin Ogui addressed about 40 attendees with his lecture, "Shin Buddhism as a Major Religious Tradition in America." The presentation was sponsored by the BEC.

Participants for the Kieshiki ceremony came out for a Saturday afternoon rehearsal led by Mukojima Sensei. Following that, a dinner welcoming Socho and Mrs. Ogui to San Diego was held at the Spaghetti Factory in the Gaslamp Quarter. It was attended by 17 Sangha members and friends.

On Sunday, October 16, the morning started with the Kieshiki Affirmation Ceremony. The very special and meaningful event was officiated by Socho Ogui, who presented Buddhist names to 41 recipients. The youngest recipient was 2-year-old Abigail Okita and the eldest, 90-year-old (soon to be 91), Umeko Kawamoto.

The anniversary service began with an Ochigo procession led by Socho Ogui and assisted by Rev. Mukojima, Rev. Akio Miyaji, Rev. Hata and BTSD President Michael Kinoshita, followed by 20 Dharma School students dressed in colorful costumes. The procession was preceded by a scout color guard as they entered the Hondo.

The service included Jodo Shinshu rituals that are conducted only at special religious events. Rev. Mukojima gave a congratulatory message to the Sangha. Socho Ogui addressed the Dharma School and adults. At the end of the service, Rev. Mukojima and Socho personally thanked each individual in the Sangha for their attendance.

Following the service, around 210 people crowded the Annex Hall for the luncheon. The program included performances from the taiko group and the Dharma School Pre-School and Kindergarten classes led by Rev. and Mrs. Mukojima.

There are so many people to thank for the celebration. Most are acknowledged in the Dharma School article and in my 85th Anniversary Appreciation. A special thank you is extended to Ichiban Hillcrest for preparing the delicious bento lunches, Kei Dan Floral Design (Naomi Himaka) for the boutonnieres, corsages and floral decorations, and LuAnn Lee for baking the delicious cakes.

As described in the Anniversary Appreciation, the commemorative gift will be a DVD depicting the weekend's activities. The temple hopes to have it available soon.

Finally, thank you to the Sangha for your participation, generous donation offerings and for making it possible for the temple to have a meaningful and enjoyable celebration. *Gassho.*

85th ANNIVERSARY APPRECIATION

By Ralph Honda, 85th Anniv. Committee Chairman

The following words of appreciation were read by the committee's chairman during the commemoration on Sunday, October 16.

San Diego Bukkyo Kai Hachi Ju Go Shu Nen Omedeto Gozaimashita. Buddhist Temple of San Diego, congratulations on the celebration of its 85th anniversary.

Appreciation: When it comes to celebrations, I believe that everyone in attendance will remember today's special occasion. Just remember, this is another chapter to add to your BTSD resume.

For many of us who have grown up in the temple, or have been associated with this organization for a number of years, or are brand new to the Sangha, each of us, in our own way has a special appreciation for our spiritual home.

Spanning 85 years, this temple is rich in history. With appreciation, let me briefly take you back down memory lane remembering some of its celebrations.

We all have vivid memories of five years ago, when we observed the 80th celebration in 2006. Right? Looking back 10 years ago in 2001, the temple commemorated its 75th anniversary. Has it been that long since that wonderful event? To coin a word Socho Ogui used yesterday (Saturday) during his Dharma talk–Wow! (You would have had to been there to know what he was talking about). My, how time flies. I'm sure many of us remember the 60th anniversary in 1986. I still have my commemorative pen from that event. Thirty five years ago, in 1976, we celebrated 50 years. I remember that one. I was Jr. YBA president at the time. I can even remember the celebration when the Annex Hall was dedicated in 1964 because I was, like many of you Dharma School children, trying to balance the decorative hat on my head, making sure it did not fall off during the Ochigo parade. I'm sure that many of you can vividly recall much earlier celebrations and more recent dedications throughout our history.

And when the Buddhist Church was established in 1926, opening its doors for the first time, two young Dharma School girls, Umeko Mamiya, age 5, and 3-year-old Ruth Takahashi, can remember what it was like when the church was located on Sixth and Market streets. Today, the two ladies are better known to all of us as Umeko Kawamoto and Ruth Voorhies, both I might add, still very active with the Sangha. I'm sure they have vivid memories of the celebration when the original church moved to this current location in 1930. I specifically mention them because Umeko and Ruth, along with Chiyeko Yagi, another Sangha member with a long history with the temple, are the eldest of the 41 participants to receive their Buddhist names this morning. With appreciation, congratulations. Talk to these temple pioneers, or many others here today, for that matter. They have some fascinating stories to tell what life was like growing up with the temple. Thank you, with appreciation.

On this occasion of the temple's 85th Anniversary, it is with deep appreciation and gratitude that I thank the committee and the many volunteers who helped with the organization and planning of this commemoration. There are so many individuals to acknowledge, from the youngest Ochigo participant to the eldest Sangha member, thank you for all of your efforts to help make this event memorable.

A heartfelt thank you is extended to Socho Koshin Ogui, Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America for allowing time in his busy schedule to conduct the Kieshiki Affirmation ceremony and to be part of our festivities. Also, thank you to Mrs. Ogui for accompanying Socho to San Diego.

Thank you to Mukojima Sensei for allowing the temple the opportunity to have the Kieshiki ceremony–a cherished moment for each Sangha member who received their Buddhist name. Thank you, Sensei, for your dedication with keeping the Dharma alive. Thank you to Rev. Akio Miyaji, Rev. Akira Hata and Rev. Jim Yanagihara for your participation and dedication. And thank you to Mrs. Mukojima and Mrs. Miyaji for your support.

Appreciation is extended to Nancy Martinez and the Dharma School staff for putting in long hours to establish the temple's new and "exclusive" service book that will be introduced to the Sangha in anticipation by next month's Eitaikyo Service.

Appreciation to Michael Kinoshita and Ken Muraoka for their work with the production of the New Heights donor wall. If you have not seen the board, it recognizes all of the contributors who made a gift to our most recent major fundraising endeavor, the New Heights Project. The donor board is beautiful. It is located on the Main Building's top level next to the elevator as you enter the hondo. Please check it out.

You have noticed some shutterbugs running around taking many pictures and video of the weekend activities. Under the direction of Richard Matsumoto, Tim Kajita, and their production team, the plan is to produce a DVD that everyone will receive as a commemorative gift of this celebration. Barring any technical obstacles, it is hoped to present the DVD to each Sangha member by the Eitaikyo Service. Thank you for capturing the memories. If any of you took digital photos today and would like to share them as part of the DVD, please contact one of the photographers before leaving today.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with today's luncheon. Under the guidance of Junko Kajita, today's lunch bunch crew did a great job; and to the Jr. YBA and Dharma School for the morning refreshments.

Thank you to the entertainers, BTSD Taiko and the Dharma School children for sharing your diverse talents. To Mr. Kouryu Morikawa for sharing traditional Shigin and Tom Yanagihara for leading us in the toast, thank you. If I left out anyone special, I apologize, you can yell at me afterwards.

Last but not least, a heartfelt thank you to each of you in attendance and to our entire Sangha for being a part of another milestone in the temple's storied history. All of you are the reason why the Buddhist Temple of San Diego is so fortunate to have such a rich and dynamic Sangha.

Eighty-five wonderful years, let's do this again five years from now. With deepest appreciation and in Gassho. *Arigato gozaimasu.* Thank you.

BINGO UPDATE

By Tsune Hashiguchi

On Sept. 24, the Bingo turnout was pretty good. Mom's Meatloaf dinner which preceded Bingo was a huge success and was enjoyed by all. 100 dinners were prepared and sold.

There are only two more Bingo Nights in 2011: Oct. 29 and Nov. 26. (Please note: the BTSD Benefit Spaghetti Dinner originally announced for Nov. 26 has been moved to early 2012, date TBA.)

The Temple shares 50% of the proceeds with Asian Pacific Post 4851, so the more people that come out, the larger the benefit. The $10 buy-in includes a raffle. Pull tabs are also available for $.25 and $.50 each.

Come out and enjoy a relaxing night of fun with your friends.

MOCHITSUKI SET FOR DEC. 11

On Sunday, December 11, the temple will stage its annual Mochitsuki.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in this annual Japanese tradition of making mochi, the sweet rice cakes that are offered and enjoyed during New Year's. The activity runs from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For many years, our parking lot and Annex have been the scene of mass mochi production with many volunteers both working hard and having a great time. Tasks include steaming and pounding the rice, cutting and shaping the glutinous morsels into small discs; then cooling and packaging the mochi for pick up and sale.

Mochitsuki is a day full of friendly and fun productivity.

The temple expects to cook 1,000 pounds of mochigome, producing approximately 1,500 pounds of mochi.

The Sangha is encouraged to bring family and friends to help in a number of areas including steaming the rice, pounding (young, strong arms needed!) and grinding the mochi, shaping, cooling and packaging.

Here is the schedule of the weekend of Dec. 9, 10 and 11:

Friday, Dec. 9 – Mochigome washing, 11 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 10 – Equipment set-up, 11 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 11 – Mochitsuki Day, 6 a.m. until the last batch is pounded.

Orders for Ko mochi and Kasane will be accepted from now until Sunday, Dec. 4. The donation for Ko mochi is $4.50 per bag (approximately one pound). Two-piece Kasane Mochi is $7.00. Please fill out the enclosed order form and send it to the temple with your payment.

A suggested donation of $75 will be gratefully accepted from both individuals and organizations to purchase mochigome (sweet rice) and other supplies. Please make your check payable to the Buddhist Temple of San Diego.

Updates and reminders will be made during upcoming services and via e-mail.

For more information please call the office or co-chairs Ralph Honda and Glenn Negoro.

NEW HEIGHTS DONOR WALL IS DEDICATED

By Joyce Teague and Ralph Honda

The Buddhist Temple of San Diego extends a heartfelt thank you to the **Yamada Family** for their recent generous gift to the New Heights Project in memory of the late So Yamada.

On October 16, among the Temple's many 85th Anniversary activities, the New Heights Project Donor Wall was dedicated.

The beautiful glass display, designed and installed by Michael Kinoshita and Ken Muraoka, acknowledges everyone who contributed to New Heights over the past five years. Many of these individuals and families generously pledged $1,000 a year for five years as suggested by the New Heights Campaign. Some donors gave multiple gifts.

The Donor Wall also lists each loved one who had gifts made in their memory. The background of the display is a beautiful gold Sagara-Fujii (Wisteria Crest), symbol of our sect.

The unique glass display is mounted on the north wall of the Main Building's top floor. It is located in the elevator and stairway landing just before you enter the Hondo.

The next time you are at the Temple, please take the time to look closely at this beautiful addition. It gratefully acknowledges the forward-looking individuals and organizations who made the Onaijin restoration, the elevator, elevated walkway, and many other wonderful improvements possible for the lasting benefit of our Sangha and our community. *Gassho.*

GIFT CARDS MAKE GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS

Now is the time to order your holiday gift cards and gift certificates through BTSD's easy Scrip Program. You can find hundreds of merchants and brand name stores for every type of product and service imaginable!

There is a complete list at the temple so if you don't attend regularly, call the office and ask that one be mailed to you. You'll be amazed at the choices! Then just fill out one of our order forms and mail it with your payment, ATTN: SCRIP ORDER, to the Temple. You can phone or e-mail your order, too. *Orders made Monday arrive by the end of the week.*

We'll keep saying it till you get it: the Scrip Program is just about the simplest way to benefit the Temple. Just by making purchases you would anyway, BTSD automatically gets a percentage—sometimes as much as 10%! Buy gift cards from BTSD to give as gifts or use them yourself.

SUPPORT BTSD ON FACEBOOK

Last year, we launched a home page for the Temple on Facebook. We now have "likes" from all over the country, but we encourage temple members and Dharma friends who use Facebook to add BTSD to your "likes." You'll get announcements of temple-related news and updates and can post comments, too.

We also welcome our members to check the page regularly for errors or omissions or suggestions for improvement so we can maintain an appropriate presence in this popular media.

You don't even have to be a Facebook member to benefit from the information on our Facebook page! Use the link below to visit the page and click "like" to stay connected with the page. Visit often to find new information posted, make comments, ask questions, and so on.

Here's the link: www.facebook.com/buddhisttempleofsandiego.

FRIDAY LUNCHES AT KIKU GARDENS

BTSD is among several community organizations helping Kiku Gardens Senior Housing provide delicious and nutritious meals for their Friday Senior Lunch program. So mark your calendars for…

DECEMBER 2, 2011 at 12 noon

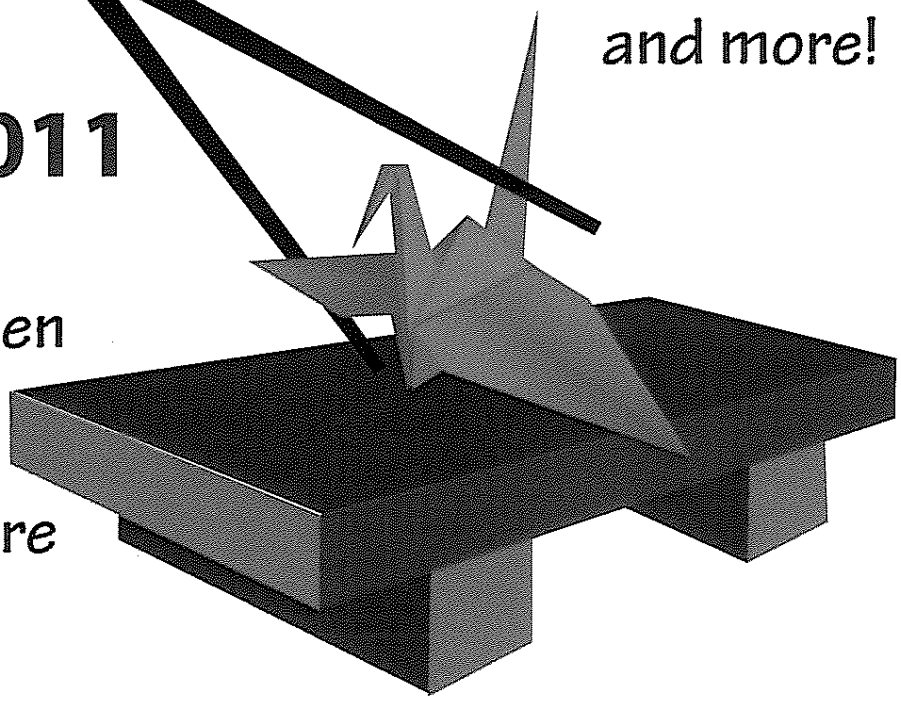
Kiku Gardens also invites the Sangha to enjoy the Friday meals.

Asian Food & Craft Fair

Public Welcome

Handmade Asian Themed items:
t-shirts jewelry aprons
art
clothing accessories
decorations postcards
notecards
and more!

Sunday
Nov. 6, 2011



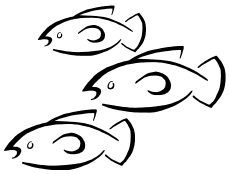
Sushi
Teriyaki Chicken
Won Tons
Chow Mein
and more

Some vendors are donating 100% to Japan Relief

Free admission 11 a.m.-3p.m.

Buddhist Temple of San Diego
2929 Market Street San Diego CA
619.239.0896 info@btsd.net www.btsd.net
One mile west of I-15 Market St exit

ALL LIFE FORMS MEMORIAL SERVICE



Have you lost a pet or someone you love in the last calendar year?
Would you simply like to express your gratitude to the living things
that have enriched your daily life? Please write down
your appreciation or remembrance and place this form in the special box
at the back of the Hondo before 10:00 a.m. on Nov. 20, 2011.

In memory of _____

I would like to say _____

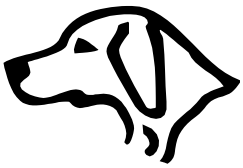
_____

_____

_____

In gassho, _____

Namo Amida Butsu
Namo Amida Butsu
Namo Amida Butsu



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MOCHITSUKI ORDER FORM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2011

NAME _____ **PHONE** _____

KO-MOCHI PACKAGE: _____ X $4.50 = COST$ _____
(Ko-Mochi is sold by the package, not by weight. Each package is approximately 1 pound.)

KASANEMOCHI PACKAGE: _____ X $7.00 = COST$ _____

TOTAL COST $ _____

Send order with check to: **Buddhist Temple of San Diego, Attn: Mochi,**
2929 Market St., San Diego, CA 92102. OR **send an e-mail to info@btsd.net**

Deadline to order is Sunday, December 4, 2011. Orders received after the deadline will be placed on stand-by. All orders must be picked up at the Temple on Sunday, December 11, between 11 a.m. and 4p.m. Orders not picked up by 4 p.m. will be subject to resale.
Questions? Please call the temple (619)239-0896 or send e-mail to: info@btsd.net

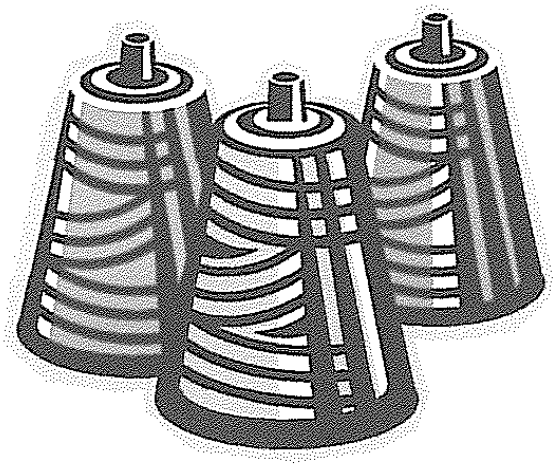
Yarn Sale!

Sat Dec 10 from 11AM to 2PM
Sun Dec 11 from 10 AM to 3PM
Buddhist Temple of San Diego (in Annex)
2929 Market St, San Diego 92102

Thanks to a generous donation of a ton (at least!) 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 still with their original wrappers/labels.

Skeins/balls will be priced at $1, coned yarns at $5 for this sale. Some bagged remnant or partial skeins/cones will also be available, priced as marked. Also knitting and other "yarn craft" magazines and books, knitting needles and crochet hooks.



二〇一一年 十一月 会報
サンディエゴ仏教会

称名報恩

― 無明の人生 ―

住職 向嶋 諦史

先月、秋の日差しが燦燦と降り注ぐ中、小杭総長ご夫妻始め、前任開教使の宮地先生ご夫妻、そして多くのご門徒さま出席の下、サンディエゴ仏教会創立八十五周年慶讃法要が厳粛かつ盛大に行われました。

また、法要前に執り行われた帰依式では、四十一名もの方々が総長よりお剃刀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。仏弟子の証である法名を受け取られたご門徒さまの輝かしい笑顔がまるで当仏教会の明るい未来を映し出しているようでした。

この場をお借りして、八十五周年のお祝いに駆けつけて下さった方々を始め、ご祝儀並びに温かいお祝いのお手紙を送って下さった方々、そして、記念式典の成功に多大なご尽力を下さった皆様に厚く感謝申し上げます。

今後も先人の大いなる願いがつまった大切な仏教会をお念仏の声を広げながら皆さんと共に護持、発展に努めてまいりたいと心を新たにしています。

さて、話は変わりますが、二ケ月前、サンディエゴ全域で大規模な停電がありました。電力会社の発表によりますと、アリゾナ州西部にある変電所の作業員の人為的ミスが原因だったそうですが、今回の停電によって、カリフォルニア州南部からアリゾナ州西部、そしてメキシコの北部に住む六百万人以上の方々が多大な影響を受けました。

私の住むチュラビスタでは午後二時頃に停電が始まって、電力が復旧したのが翌日の午前二時頃でした。その日の晩は理事会会議が予定されていたのですが、早期復旧が見込めないということから急遽中止となり、自宅待機を余儀なくされました。

電力を失った病院以外の施設はほとんど機能しなくなった為、帰宅する人が集中して広範囲にわたって交通渋滞が起こったほか、空港では欠航が相次ぎ、一時はテロではないかという噂も流れたほどです。

夜には町中が異様な暗闇と静寂に包まれ、不気味な不安が襲ってきたのですが、特に心配したのは停電によって警報装置が作動しなくなる為、それに便乗した犯罪が横行して自宅や仏教会が被害に合うのではないかということでした。

そんな中、不安感を払拭する為、家族二人互いに肩を寄せ合いながら明るい歌をひたすら大きな声で唄うことしかできませんでした。

いつもよりも長く感じられた不安な一夜ではありましたが、翌朝、太陽の光で目を覚ました私達は隣で幸せそうに眠る娘の顔を見ながら無明の闇から解放された喜びを分かち合うと同時に、ご門徒さまと仏教会の無事を確認してようやく安堵感に胸を撫で下ろすことができました。

今回の停電では、インターネットは勿論のこと、携帯電話も使えず、更には懐中電灯やラジオを用意していなかったことから、大変不自由な時間を強いられたのですが、如何に私達の日常が科学の恩恵にすがって生きていたかを改めて反省させられた一日となりました。

その日の晩は何もできないことから早めに床に就いたのですが、暗闇の中を物思いに耽っていますと、私達の人生も正に暗闇の中にあるのだという現実に気づかされました。懐中電灯がないとトイレに行くにも一苦労で、テーブルや椅子の角などに足をぶつけては、その都度極度の痛みにやり場のない怒りと不満を募らせていたのですが、人生に於いても同じことで、暗闇であるが故にいろんな物にぶつかってストレスを抱えながら生活しています。

それは、夫婦喧嘩や親子喧嘩のようなぶつかりであったり、友人とうまくいかなくなるなどの人間関係でぶつかって生活しているということです。何故ぶつかるのかというと、周りが全く見えていないからです。前方や足元がしっかりと見えていれば決してぶつかることなどありません。見えていないということは、私達が暗闇の中、つまり、明かりのない迷いの世界にいるということなのです。自分だけは何もかも見えていると信じて疑わない人がいますが、実はそういう人に限って自分の姿さえ全く見えていないのです。

仏教で、自分の姿が見えていないということは、我執に満ちた己の心が全く見えていないということなのです。

「我執」を三つの心に分けますと、一つ目に、自分が常に正しいという心。二つ目には、自分の思い通りにしたいという心。三つ目には、自分がかわいいという心となります。

この我執の心に振り回されて生活しているのが私達ですから、自分が悪くても謝る事が出来ない、相手

の好意を当たり前のように受け止めて感謝することも出来ない、そして、他人の欠点だけは許すことが出来ずにいつも愚痴をこぼします。私達の悲しい性は、他人の非を責める時、自分の事は棚に上げて、常に正義の立場に立って腹を立てているのです。

このような 醜い 心を持ったもの同士が共に生活をしているわけですから、争いが絶えるはずがありません。いつも腹を立てて、愚痴を言っている、これぞ我執のなせる業なのです。

大学在学中、講義の中でいつも私達に「常に素直でありなさい」と口癖のようにおっしゃっておられた先生がいました。その先生から妙好人で有名な源左さんの逸話をたくさん教えて頂いたのですが、その中の一つにこんなお話があります。

ある朝、源左さんが首に手拭いを巻いて野良仕事に出かけようとすると、玄関まで見送りに来ていたお孫さんが手拭いを見て、「おじいちゃん、それ汚れているよ」と言いました。「そうかのお？」と振り返って手拭を外そうとする源左さんに、お孫さんが「おじいちゃん、ちょっと待ってて」と言って家の奥へ大急ぎで走っていきました。そして、しばらくすると「ハイ、おじいちゃん」と 新しい手拭いを持ってきたそうです。綺麗な手拭いを受け取った源左さんは「すまんなぁ、ありがとう」とお孫さんの 頭をやさしく撫でて気持ちよく仕事に出かけた、というお 話です。

当時、二十歳だった 私が初めてこの 話を聞かされた時、「えっ？それがどうしたの？」と何の変哲もない源左さんのエピソードに拍子抜けしたのを覚えています。

しかし、あれから十数年の歳月を経た今となっては、このエピソードを通して源左さんが如何に我執の 心を離れた 尊い妙好人であったかということに 敬 わずにはいられません。

サンディエゴ仏教会では毎朝九時に事務所が開きますので、私は毎朝八時半過ぎに自宅を出ることにしているのですが、家を出る前に 必ず妻が 私に 忘れ物がないように「ケサキ持った？」と確認してくれます。

「ケサキ」とは毛先のことではなく、言葉の頭文字をとって組み合わせた言葉で、「ケ」は携帯電話、「サ」は財布、「キ」は英語の「キー」、つまり、鍵をいいます。どれも忘れたら大変困るものですから、妻は結婚以来、体調を崩して寝込んでいる時以外は 必ず一言かけてくれます。また、数年前からは「コ」が追加されて「ケサキコ」というふうに語呂が悪くなっているのですが、「コ」とはコーヒーのことで、今では妻が入れてくれるおいしいコーヒーを持参しないと仕事がはかどらなくなっています。

とにかく、妻が毎朝のように確認してくれるお陰で忘れ物をすることがなくなりました。何とも有難い妻を 頂いたなあと今更ながら感謝しているのですが、こんなに素晴らしい妻を持ったにもかかわらず、「ケサキコ持った？」と毎日のように聞かれると、源左さんのように「ハイ、有難う」とは素直に言えません。「ケサキコ大丈夫？」と尋ねられると、「出がけになってうるさいな、もう持ってるよ」というような言葉が出てきてしまうのです。

更には「ケサキコ大丈夫？、と心配してくれるなら、前もって靴箱の上に全部用意しといてくれよ」と、私のわがままな気持ちを押し付けて腹を立てるのです。特に急いでいる時はそうなってしまいます。自己中心的な 考 え方は相手の好意すら怒りに感じてしまう恐ろしいものなのです。

妻からの好意をいつも当たり前のようにとらえて、「有難う」と言うどころか、「もう持ってるよ、いちいち言わなくてもいい」と言うふうに文句を言っている自分がいます。そんな事を言えば妻も嫌な思いをしますし、私も決していい気持ちにはなりません。「しまった！何であの時、有難うと言わなかったのだろう」と、自分自身、情けなくなることがありますが、家に帰るなり、素直に「ごめん、僕が悪かった」と謝ることがなかなか出来ません。素直になれない心、これこそ、私の醜い我執なのです。

日常生活に於いて、親、子、夫、妻、兄弟、友人―いろんな人と衝突して苦しんでいるのは、常に自分が正しい、自分の思い通りにしたい、自分が可愛いという心に束縛されているからです。つまり、私達の心が常に 貪り、怒り、そして愚痴などの根深い煩悩によって迷いの闇に覆われているのです。ですから、阿弥陀仏の智慧の光りに出遇わない限り、何故自分が苦しんでいるのか分からないどころか、無明の世界にいることさえ気づくことはありません。

智慧の光明は苦悩の原因である我執の 心に囚われた私達の本当の 姿を明らかにして下さいます。阿弥陀仏から発せられる智慧の光明が闇を 貫く蝋燭の光のように、心の闇を隅々まで照らして、私達を真実の道へと導いて下さいます。

私達は毎日自分に遇っていながら、暗闇の中では本当の自分が見えていません。阿弥陀仏の 光であるお念仏の教えに遇わない限り、本当の自分には遇うことはできません。智慧の光明に照らされて、初めて本当の人間として生きることが出来るのであって、多くのお陰さまの中で生かされている我が身に気づかせて頂くのです。それは、我執がなくなるのではなく、自

己中心的な愚かな生き方を反省し、素直な心と相手を敬う心を育みながら生きていく尊い道であります。

この度の停電で、日常生活に於いて光が不可欠であるように、我執に満ちた心の闇に智慧の光明が如何に重要なものであったか改めて気づかせて頂きました。

翌朝、私の寝顔を照らす窓から差し込む太陽の日差しが、私の心を正し、真の道へと導いて下さっている阿弥陀仏の智慧の光と重なって見えた大変貴重な経験でありました。

合掌

理事会レポート

十月十三日(木曜日)、仏教会に於いて理事会会議が開かれ、次のことが協議されました。

一、九月の会議は停電のため中止となりました。その為、法務委員会と理事会役員は三つの議案を緊急決定事項として可決し、理事会で正式に以下の議案が承認されました。餅つき機の修理に掛かる費用。太鼓の修理に掛かる費用。十月二十日(木)から二十八日(金)まで開催されるサンディエゴのアジア映画祭で仏教会が五作品を共同で上映する。

二、W&M委員会の提案に従い見習い秘書の給与増額を承認致しました。

三、五月に行われた親鸞聖人七五〇回大遠忌に参拝する為の日本旅行に参加された会員の方に、向嶋先生の京都での宿泊費を負担した一部の払い戻しを承認致しました。

四、二〇一一年の会計年度は六千ドルの赤字が予想されています。

婦人会レポート

十月二日(日)正午より、カンファレンス・ルームに於いて婦人会会議が開かれました。

木下マイケル理事長が婦人会会議に出席し、盆踊り大会で弁当作りのお手伝いに尽力した婦人会会員に感謝の意を述べられました。お弁当は即完売し、大会は大成功に終えたとのことです。

日間賀直美夫人が十一月一日(火)にフードフェスティバルで販売するアーモンドブリトルキャンディーを注文して下さいます。委員会は三日(木)に仏教会へ集合しキャンディーの袋詰めをします。また、アーモンド入りのポップコーンも注文致します。

向嶋先生より八十五周年記念式典に出席される総長ご夫妻と前任開教使ご夫妻のホスピタリティを担当するよう依頼がありました。大原文子会長を始め、日間賀直美夫人、島尾ベティ夫人、そしてクレバー喜久夫人が十月十六日(日)午前八時に会議室でホスピタリティの準備を致します。

フードバザーで婦人会は三百人分のお寿司を担当しています。山西美世子夫人が寿司作りの委員長を務めて下さいます。寿司作りの予定は次の通りです。

十一月五日(土)　午前九時　組長・調理部
　　午後十二時　全会員

十一月六日(日)　午前九時　ご飯炊き　調理部・組長
　　午前八時　全会員

会員皆様のご協力を賜りますよう宜しくお願い致します。

軽食を用意して下さったグループBの皆様、有難うございました。

次回の会議は、十一月十三日(日)、正午よりカンファレンスルームにて行われます。軽食の当番はグループAとなっています。

ニューハイツプロジェクト・ドナーウォール

十月十六日(日)、仏教会創立八十五周年を記念して、ニューハイツプロジェクト・ドナーウォールが献納されました。

木下マイケル理事長と村岡健氏が設計した美しい硝子板には、過去五年間に渡ってプロジェクトに多額の寄付をして下さった寄贈者の名前が刻み込まれています。また、硝子板の下の方には寄贈者の故人の名前が連なり、硝子板の後ろには浄土真宗の寺紋である下がり藤が飾られてあります。

ドナーウォールは、本館最上階(本堂)の北壁、エレベーター前に設置されています。

これは、内陣修復を始め、エレベーターや高架歩道の設置といった将来の仏教会にとって大変重要なプロジェクトを可能にして下さった皆様の多大なる貢献に感謝の意を込めたドナーウォールです。

以上

＊仏教会へのご意見、ご質問等がございましたら、仏教会事務職員・清水ジェイミー(619)239-0896迄ご連絡下さい。

＊仏教会のメールアドレス－info@btsd.net

＊向嶋裕中先生のメールアドレス－yushi_mukojima@btsd.net

南無阿弥陀仏

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Do not postpone what should be done now. ~Dhammapada

EITAIKYO, LADY ESHINNI MEMORIAL AND ALL LIFE FORMS MEMORIAL SERVICES

The Buddhist Temple of San Diego and Rev. Yushi Mukojima cordially invite you to the **2011 Eitaikyo (Perpetual Memorial) Service** to be held **Sunday, November 20 at 10:00 a.m.** The Eitaikyo observance honors all dedicated members and Dharma friends, whether known or unknown, who have devoted themselves to the spiritual welfare of the Temple, so that we may continue to practice, as Jodo Shinshu followers, the Buddha's teachings. We will also observe the **All Life Forms Memorial Service**, during which we remember not only pets lost during the past year, but all living things which have contributed to our lives since the last service. Each year, the Buddhist Womens Assn. also sponsors the **Lady Eshinni Memorial**, commemorating the wife of our founder, Shinran Shonin, to praise her virtue and contributions.

Guest speaker **Rev. Dennis Fujimoto** of the Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple will present the Dharma message for these services. A craft will be provided for young children during his adult lecture.

As part of our **Buddhist Education Committee lecture series**, Rev. Fujimoto will speak on "The Experience of Nembutsu in Our Shin Tradition" on **Saturday morning, Nov. 19, at 10:00 a.m. in the Sangha Hall**. The lecture is free and all are welcome.

A reminder that the **November Memorial Service (Shotsuki Hoyo)** to commemorate family members and friends whom we have lost during the month of November will be held **Sunday, November 13 at 10:00 a.m.** in conjunction with the Family Service.

Any time of the year, but particularly in November, the Temple welcomes your contributions to the **Eitaikyo Fund**, established to honor in perpetuity those who have passed away and to insure the survival of the temple. As always, we thank you for your support of the Temple and its programs.