

BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SAN DIEGO

BUSSEI SCRIPT

2929 Market Street, San Diego, California 92102 Web: www.btsd.net E-mail: info@btsd.net Phone: 619-239-0896

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JANUARY 2012

LET US KNOW AND APPRECIATE THE MIND OF GREAT COMPASSION

By Rev. Yushi Mukojima, Resident Minister

Happy New Year!

My family is really appreciative of all the great kindness, help and support you have given us in the past year. We humbly hope to avail ourselves to your warm friendship and continued support again in the coming year.

I have been invited to many Buddhist temples as a guest speaker for their major services. Upon arriving at each temple, I first always go to the Hondo (main hall) to pay my respects to Amida Buddha enshrined in the Naijin (main altar). Every temple I've visited differs in the size of its Sangha. However, whether serving a large or small number of members, each Hondo is the precious spiritual place established with the great wish of all of our predecessors who sincerely embraced the Nembutsu teaching. Each time, I place my hands together before Amida Buddha with my deepest feelings of joy and gratitude for the Dharma opportunity which allows me to participate in a major service as a guest speaker. I am so grateful for the sincere wish of our predecessors, "Listen to the true teaching!" which is directed at each one of us and I rejoice in their wish which touches the very core of my heart.

By the way, although we often say, "We go to the temple," this originally meant, "We learn the teaching of the Buddha." This means at the temple we ask how we should live through the teaching of the Buddha.

Speaking of learning, we understand school education but there is a quite difference between that which improves one's intelligence and ability to become an able person, and the learning of Buddhism. Rennyō Shonin says in his writing, *The Recorded on the Life of Master Rennyō*, "No matter how much we learn by the bulk of the scriptures, if we lack a settled, peaceful (entrusting) mind of the other power, this study is useless."

Encountering Amida Buddha's tremendous compassion of being embraced, never to be abandoned, we receive the wisdom of entrusting mind with the mind of joy and gratitude. That is, to learn and appreciate the mind of great compassion of Amida Buddha is to learn of Buddhism going to the temple.

As you know, our statue of Amida Buddha is depicted standing on a lotus throne. People visiting a Jodo Shinshu temple for the first time often ask, "Why is the Amida Buddha standing?" Certainly, nowadays we can find many statues of the Buddha in various stores even here in America, but it is rare to find a standing Buddha.

Most statues of the Buddha in the temples of other sects are seated. It is the posture of sitting in meditation as well as the posture of the attainment of enlightenment through this practice. It is also the posture which is calling to all sentient beings, "Try to practice asceticism in order to eliminate all blind passions, attain the ultimate enlightenment and come to the world of the Buddha."

Our *gohonzon* (principal object of reverence) is "Namo Amida Butsu." When depicted in a statue or picture, Amida Buddha is always

standing. That is why the statue of a standing Amida Buddha is enshrined beautifully in our main altar.

In Shin Buddhism, one of the most important principal sutras delivered by Shakyamuni Buddha, the historical Buddha, is called, "The Sutra of Contemplation on the Buddha of Immeasurable Life." And there is a famous saying in this sutra: "The Buddha of Immeasurable Life appeared, standing in the air."

Shan-tao, one of the seven Pure Land masters, interprets this posture in his writing, "Commentaries on the Contemplation Sutra":

The reason why Amida Buddha is standing midair is because it expresses his ability to make all sentient beings who have sincere faith and who aspire to be born there, be born immediately in the Pure Land. Amida Buddha is discreet because of his nobility and preciousness. But although Amida Buddha appeared after establishing the primal vow, why does Amida Buddha face all sentient beings while standing? Why not sitting?

Actually, Amida Buddha has this deep thought: This world is one full of suffering where many evil beings live together tormented by the Eight Sufferings. They are also given to betraying each other, behaving in a friendly way while hiding their real intentions with a smile. They cannot get rid of the Six Bandits (sight, hearing, smell, taste, touch, thought) that plunder the mind. They are on the verge of falling into the hole in the flames of the Three Evil Realms (hell, hungry spirits, beasts). If Amida Buddha were not standing, ready to reach all sentient beings quickly, how would they be able to escape from this delusional prison? Amida Buddha has a firm grasp on all sentient beings to be able to take them immediately to the Pure Land. Therefore he is always standing and never seated in meditation when facing all sentient beings.

Compared to the many statues of the seated Buddha, the reason Amida Buddha's statue in our sect is standing is deeply influenced by this interpretation of Shan-tao. There is a big difference between Amida Buddha depicted standing and Amida Buddha seen seated in meditation.

For example, suppose that a family with a small child goes on a picnic and are having lunch on the shore of a lake. When they are eating, the child begins toddling with unsteady steps towards the lake. The moment the parents turn their eyes to their baby, the baby slips into the water. At this moment, how will the parents take action?

Do they continue to enjoy their delicious lunch while gazing at their suffering baby? Or do they encourage their drowning baby, "Try to swim on your own over to where we are!" without moving a single step?

Of course, neither reaction is realistic.

The moment they see their child fall into the lake, the parents will immediately break into a run. They will desperately dive into the water without hesitation to save their child. Then they will grab the baby up frantically in their arms and carry the child safely to shore.

The instinct of the parent which cannot help but save its own child about to drown by leaping up instantly and diving into the lake is really expressed in the standing posture of Amida Buddha.

(Sensei's Message: Continued on Page 3)

JANUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10 a.m. – 修正会 NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE @Hondo	2 Temple Closed	3 1 p.m. – Shigin 詩吟 @Annex 1.2 6:30 p.m. – TAIKO @Annex Hall	4 12 p.m. – Minyo Group 民謡 @Sangha Hall	5 12 p.m. – IRC Mtg. 6:30 p.m. – Buddhist Study Class A with Rev. Mukojima @Conf. Rm.	6	7 10 a.m. – Koto Class 琴教室 @Annex 1.2
8 9 a.m. – Dharma School Staff Mtg. @Conf. Rm. 10 a.m. – DS/FAMILY SERVICE 日曜礼拝 January Shotsuki Memorial 1月祥月法要 11:30 a.m. – Hospitality @Kitchen 11:30 a.m. – Jr. YBA Meeting @Annex 1-2 11:30 a.m. – TAIKO Practice @Annex Hall	9 Temple Closed 7 p.m. – W & M Mtg. @Conf. Room	10 1 p.m. – Shigin 詩吟 @Annex 1.2 10:30 a.m. – SD Ministers Mtg. @LA Nishi Betsuin	11 12 p.m. – Minyo Group 民謡 @Sangha Hall	12 6:30 pm – Board of Directors Mtg. @Conf. Room	13	14 7 p.m. – BEC Lecture with Rev. La Verne Sasaki @Sangha Hall
15 9 a.m. – DS Chanting Class @Hondo 10 a.m. – HO-ONKO 御正忌報恩講 Guest Speaker: Rev. La Verne Sasaki BCA Minister Emeritus 12 p.m. – BTSD New Year Party @Annex Hall	16 Temple Closed 10 a.m. – 宗祖御命日 Goimeinichi @Conf. Rm.	17 1 p.m. – Shigin 詩吟 @Annex 1.2 6:30 p.m. – TAIKO @Annex Hall	18 12 p.m. – Minyo Group 民謡 @Sangha Hall 7 p.m. – Fundraising Mtg. @Conf. Room	19	20 10 a.m. – Buddhist Study Class B with Rev. Yanagihara @Conf. Room	21 10 a.m. – Koto Class 琴教室 @Annex 1.2
22 9 a.m. – INTRO. TO BUDDHISM @Sangha Hall 9 a.m. – Jr. YBA Chanting Class @Hondo 10 a.m. – DS/FAMILY SERVICE 日曜礼拝 11:30 a.m. – TAIKO Practice @Annex Hall	23 Temple Closed	24 1 p.m. – Shigin 詩吟 @Annex 1.2	25 12 p.m. – Minyo Group 民謡 @Sangha Hall	26	27	28 8:30 am-5 pm Winter Pacific Seminar – 21st Century "A life of Shinjin" @LA Nishi Betsuin 4:30-6 p.m. Benefit Dinner @Annex Hall 6-9 p.m. BTSD/VFW BINGO @Annex Hall
29 10 a.m. – DS/FAMILY SERVICE 日曜礼拝 11:30 a.m. – General Mtg. @Annex Hall Sangha Polluck Luncheon 11:30 a.m. – TAIKO Practice @Sangha Hall	30 Temple Closed	31 1 p.m. – Shigin 詩吟 @Annex 1.2 6:30 p.m. – TAIKO @Annex Hall				

(Sensei's Message: Continued from Page 1)

You will notice that the standing Amida Buddha leans slightly forward. This demonstrates the ultimate mind of the great compassion which has already run up to us and embraced us. Namely, it shows the working of Amida Buddha which stands up, approaches us swiftly, and assures all sentient beings' birth in the world of enlightenment, the Pure Land, in order to save us who, in our daily lives, are constantly confused by our blind passions and are suffering, drowning in the vast world of delusion.

Therefore, the precious standing posture is like a voice calling to each of us drowning in the blind passions, "As I will surely make you born in the Pure Land, be quite free from anxiety." A certain Japanese priest praised the Nembutsu, saying, "Namo Amida Butsu is the calling voice of Amida Buddha which says, 'Leave everything to me just as you are. I will surely save you because I am your mother and father.'"

We find additional meaning in Amida Buddha's posture. His right hand is raised with infinite wisdom in a gesture summoning all sentient beings to the Pure Land. His left hand is lowered in a gesture of acceptance that saves all suffering beings with his infinite compassion.

It is really important to learn the mind of "Namo Amida Butsu," the origin of the wisdom and compassion, while appreciating the ultimate mind of being embraced, never to be abandoned, through the posture of Amida Buddha.

Shinran Shonin says in the Shoshinge, "For evil sentient beings of wrong views and arrogance, the nembutsu that embodies Amida's primal vow is hard to accept in shinjin. This most difficult of difficulties, nothing surpasses." He encourages us that no matter how vast and deep Amida Buddha's compassion is, it is impossible for those with an arrogant mind to believe in the primal vow. Therefore we should discard both our faith and our doubts and entrust ourselves completely to the mind of Amida Buddha.

In the Hymns of the Pure Land Masters, Shinran Shonin praises the joy of encountering the primal vow, saying, "Of those who encounter the power of the primal vow, not one passes by in vain." He makes our way of living clear, saying, "The great path of unobstructed freedom opens up in the person of the nembutsu." He teaches us that we can receive a dignified way of living from Amida Buddha: we can live our lives fully and brightly without obstacles, without being afraid of superstition and divine punishment.

Those who not only shared this joy among themselves but also handed it down to their children, grandchildren and all those who come to the temple, were our predecessors. In Shin Buddhism, it is called "Nembutsu succession" and has been treasured.

Technology and medical technology make rapid progress and they know no bounds. Thanks to their advances, we enjoy a life full of conveniences which nobody could have imagined an age ago. However, while on the one hand seeking comfort and convenience, our minds have become like empty vessels. We have become less disciplined and continue to repeat conflicts, leaving ourselves at the mercy of our greed and anger. Though we were born in the world of Five Defilements, to live out our lives beautifully like a lotus flower unpolluted by a single speck of mud, it is most important to pour the teaching of the nembutsu into our deserted mind.

While hailing in the New Year, I sincerely hope that each of us will understand the great wish of our predecessors to know and appreciate the mind of the great compassion of Amida Buddha by coming to the temple. Let us make the New Year become a fruitful year. Namo Amida Butsu...*In Gassho,*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Michael Kinoshita, Board President

It has been one year since we received the generous donation from

the San Diego JACL. I had asked for suggestions at that time as to how the donation could be used and have forwarded the suggestions I have received to the Ways & Means Committee.

The analysis and review takes time to judge the pros and cons of each of the ideas to determine what is best for our Temple. The Board of Directors at the December meeting voted to allocate 1/3 of the donation to upgrading our Main Building kitchen and making it code and safety compliant. The remaining 2/3 will go into an endowment fund to help assure the perpetuity of the Temple.

There are details to work out and we intend to present specifics of how the donation will be used at our General Meeting at the end of January. I invite all members to attend to learn what is being planned and contribute to this important discussion.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your support to the Temple last year. With your efforts, last year was a successful year: we increased our membership, increased our fundraising income, increased our donations, and decreased our operating costs. More people are participating in our religious activities and enjoying our fundraisers, community events and partnerships. These are important achievements that keep our Temple solvent and moving in the right direction. Let's continue to work together to see more improvements 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

On December 8, 2011, the Board of Directors met and the following items were discussed or acted upon:

1. Rev. Mukojima thanked Michael Kinoshita for his second year of service as the President of the Board of Directors.
2. Treasurer Aki Tomiyama explained the Cash Flow Process for the temple's income and expenses and will do the same at the General Membership meeting in January 2012.
3. 90% of our 2010 members have renewed their membership for 2011. To date, there are 20 new members who joined this year.
4. Winner of the annual "50/50 Raffle" (opportunity drawing) will be selected on Hanamatsuri, April 8, 2012. \$20 donation per ticket.
5. The Board approved allocating 2/3 of the JACL/VFW donation to the Endowment Fund and 1/3 to seed a much-needed kitchen upgrade project. Improvements to the lower kitchen are required for City code compliance and safety issues. A committee to guide and raise funds for the project will be chaired by Michael Kinoshita and include a representative from each temple organization and others.
6. A plumbing leak in the wall of the Annex Hall kitchen caused damage to the walls, ceiling and floor. Repair, to be covered by our insurance, has been scheduled.
7. Former Board President Tom Yanagihara will be honored Jan. 26, 2012 with the Phillips Community Award at the Japan Society's 2012 Leadership gala. The Board approved the purchase of a table at the event. Sangha members who would like to attend should call Joyce Teague.
8. BTSD will host a Beef Skewer Benefit Dinner prior to the January 28 Bingo Night. Tickets are \$9. LuAnn Lee and Michael Kinoshita will co-chair.
9. The Board authorized funds to send Rev. Mukojima to the 2012 BCA Ministers Conference, and Sensei and two delegates to the BCA National Convention in February.
10. Avis Honda has formed a Sangha teen group (6th to 8th graders) and will be its advisor.
11. BTSD's and Vista Buddhist Temple's Jr. YBA will co-host a seminar March 3, 2012 at BTSD.

12. Zenbu will co-present a film being screened by SDAFF on Dec. 12 at the Hazard Center Ultrastar Cinemas.
13. Masa Ozaki, gardener for the minister's residence, is retiring.
14. The State of California is requiring additional elevator testing, increasing our yearly cost of operation.

ABA NEWS

December started out with most of us supporting the Jr. YBA's Chow Mein Luncheon, which was very good, successful, and sold out. It was in conjunction with the Bodhi Day Service.

On the 11th was the Temple's Mochitsuki. We thank all who were able to help out.

Our breakfast meeting at Mission Valley Cafe on Nov. 12 was enjoyed by 12 of us, and at a special rate. We thank ABA.

Our next ABA breakfast will be on Jan. 7 at 9:00 am at Jimmy's Restaurant by the park on Third Avenue in Chula Vista. Let Motoo know if you would like to attend.

ABA wishes all our friends a Happy and healthy New Year for 2012.

BWA NEWS

Our year-end Bonenkai was at Ichiro's on Dec. 17 at 11:30 a.m. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the gift exchange as well.

Omigaki (polishing the altar items) was on December 18 at noon in conjunction with the temple clean-up. We would like to thank those who came out to help us clean up the kitchen and storage area prior to the Omigaki.

A memorial service for deceased BWA members will be held in conjunction with the Nehan-E Service on Sunday, February 12. Rev. Aoyama will be the guest speaker. The BWA will host a luncheon after the service at the Fish Market. Kikue Graeber will chair the luncheon.

Thank you to Toban Group B2 for the refreshments. There is no January meeting.

The next meeting will be on February 5 at noon. Toban Group A2 will have toban.

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Bodhi Day, the day of prince Siddhartha's enlightenment into Buddhahood, was held on December 4 with the 6th-8th grade class chairing the service and leading the sutra chanting. Grades 3-5 performed a play about the life of the Buddha.

Avis Honda will be the advisor for the Sangha Teen group, which includes students from grades 6-8. Like the Jr. YBA, they will support the temple and other organizations. Their first activity was helping at Mochitsuki.

Dharma School students participated in the Mochitsuki on December 11 by helping grind, pound, roll, cool, and pack the mochi. Many of the students look forward to this annual temple event and enjoy helping out.

The 6th-8th graders led the sutra chanting at the December 18 service. During the service, the Dharma School students and Sangha also sang "Amida's Golden Chain," a song written by Leilani and Ivan Holmes for Rev. Mukojima. Ivan accompanied the song on the guitar. I think Rev. Mukojima was very touched by the song, which describes their gratitude to Sensei and how happy they are to belong to our temple. Teachers, parents, and students helped with the annual Temple Clean Up after the service.

Dharma School students were invited to participate in the Joya-E (year-end) service on December 31, the Joya no Kane (bell ringing) service on Shelter Island at 11:30 p.m., and Shusho-E (New Year's Day) service on January 1 at 10 a.m.

The next DS teachers and staff meeting will be on January 8, 2012 at 9 a.m., followed by the Family Service and classes. There will be DS

and Family Services on January 22 and 29.

Ho-onko Service will be on January 15 with guest speaker Rev. Laverne Sasaki, followed by the Temple New Year Party. There will be a special activity for Dharma School students grades 5 and below in the Sangha Hall.

Thank you to Grades 6-8 for presenting ideas for the Dharma School theme for next year. Starting in January 2012, the new theme will be **Metta**.

May all beings be happy.

May they be joyous and live in safety.

*All living beings, whether weak or strong,
in high or middle, or low realms of existence,
small or great, visible or invisible, near or far,
born or to be born.*

May all beings be happy.

Nancy Martinez has agreed to be the Scrip representative for Dharma School. She will help Ruth Voorhies gather scrip orders and turn them into Ruth. Ruth would like to make it as convenient as possible for Dharma School teachers and parents to purchase Scrip to benefit the temple. If you turn in your order by Sunday, you should receive the order by the following Sunday.

In Gassho,

Ann Ong, Assistant Superintendent

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: THANK YOU FOR 2011!

We are grateful to new and returning members who make up our 2011 membership enrollment. The names below are current as of the second week of December. If you mailed your 2011 renewal later, please accept our apologies; we will acknowledge you in a future newsletter.

Note: If we made a mistake – if you joined or renewed earlier for 2011 and your name does not appear below – please let us know so we can correct our records.

2011 MEMBERS OF RECORD: Valerie Abe; Mitsuru and Nobuko Amano; Takeko Amano; Masato (Bruce) Asakawa; Takeo and Shizuka Azuma; Carol and Michael Baker; Agnes Benson; Ricky Cheeks; Alycia and Ryan Clark; Roger and Gloria Coppock; Will Coppock; Lara Dean and Kelvin Tanaka; Donna D'Orsi; Ruby D'Orsi; Jeanette Dutton; Yuki Easter; Jaime Enochs; Nathaniel Faith and Lisa Yoneda; Stephen and Lynn Fuchigami; Mary Fujimoto; Kikue Graeber; Orlando and Cynthia Guiang; Leo and Yuruko Hagio; Quimico Hagio; Leora Hamada; Gerald and Linda Hanano; Gene and Arlene Hasegawa; Jeanette Haseyama; John and Tsuneko Hashiguchi; Miyoko Hashiguchi; Hiroko Hendrix; Aric and Laura Henschen; Ronald and Holly Hinder; Miyo Hill; Meggie Honda; Mikiye Honda; Ralph and Avis Honda; Yoshiko Honda; Tokuko Huffman; Margaret Ikeda; Jeanne M. Inouye; Mitsuo and Sally Ishihara; Bob Ito; Setsuo and (Jan) Jeanette Iwashita; Yukio and Gail Iwashita; Masami Iwataki; Ted Johnson; Jami Jones; Mikako Jones; Timothy and Junko Kajita; Doreen Kamada-Fujii; Gale Kaneshiro; Janine Kardokus; Jeanie Kashima; Naoye Kasubuchi; Jo Ann Akiko Katsuda; David H. Kawamoto; Umeko Kawamoto; Yukio and Mitsuko Kawamoto; Toshiko Kawasaki; Trace and Mildred Kawasaki; James and Katsumi Kida; Michael and Yasuko Kinoshita; Margie Kitano; Henry Masayuki and Kazue Kodama; Takeko Kodama; Robert Koga; Toshiko Koshigoe; Jeffrey Kruse and Kimberly Shintaku; Hiroshi Kubota; Sonoko Kuroiwa; Patricia Kusaka; Howard Kanji and Kaneko Kuwada; Harold and LuAnn Lee; Farid and Monica Malof; Nancy Martinez; Susan Marx; Peter and Amy Masuda; George and Chiyoko Masumoto; Akiko Matsumoto; Richard and Linda Matsumoto; Freda Mcgrath; Kiyoshi and Yoshiko Monji; Lee and Susan Moribe; Asako Morinaka; Chieko Moriyama; Ken and Sharyn Muraoka; Roy Muraoka; Tad Muraoka; Isamu and Pauline Nakamura; Jake and Patricia Nakamura; Tomio and Minako Nakano; Sumiye Nakashima;

Fred and Nancy Nakatani; Glenn and Keiko Negoro; Yukiko Negoro; Toyo Nishii; Sumihiro and Yuriko Nogata; Kay Ochi; Kayoko Ochi; Shirley Ochi-Watson; Arikazu Ogasawara; Toshiko Ogata; Ann Ohara; Fumiko Ohara; Kisae Ohara; Hiroko Sandra Ojiri; "Mo" and Trina Okita; Katherine Okita; Roy and Karen Okuhara; Yoshie Okuma; Kiyoko Omori; Mike and Ann Ong; Earl Osaki; Laurine Ota; Ayako Otsuji; Dennis and Elaine Otsuji; Rodney and Candace Oyama; Tsukiye Ozaki; Linda Ring; Jeffery and Kathleen Sakai; Tomomi Sakatani and Setsuko Lambert; Raymond and Toshiko Sakow; Brian and Lorin Sasaki; Ken and Janice Schell; Steve and Susan Schraeder; Ben Sekishiro; Sean and Leslie Seymour; Wilbur Shigehara; Gordon and Arlene Shimizu; Donald and Debbie Shimizu; Rev. Jeanette Shin; Maribeth "Smitty" Smith and Jackie Goor; Margo Spears; Hideo and Chiyeo Sugiyama; Yukiko Sugiyama; Floyd and Kaytee Sumida; Ann Sumida-Johnson; Mary Suyenaga; George and Miyako Tachiki; Yuriko Taira; Kikuko Takashima; Terry and Naomi Tanaka; Sallie Tanaka; Robert Taniguchi; Gary Tanizaki; Mariko Tanizaki; Bill and Joyce Teague; Yuriko Terusaki; Ron and Kristine Tokunaga; Steve and Akie Tomiyama; Sayoko Tomiyama; Betty Torio; George S. Tsubakihara; Frederick and Masako Tsuji; Shizuko Tsukamoto; Wayne Tsukamoto; Motoo and Angelina Tsuneyoshi; Tamio and Hiroko Tsurudome; Mitsuo and Tsuneko Tsurudome; Peggy Tsurudome; Chris and Tissa Uchiyama; Ruth Voorhies; Rose Watamura; Yoshiko Watanabe; George Yada; Jane Yagade; Chiyeko Yagi; Haruko Mary Yagura; Ronald and Sheila Yagura; George Yamada; Laura Yamaguchi; Mani Yamaguchi; George and Ann Yamamoto; Hisashi and Jane Yamamoto; June Yamamoto; Kengo and Mae Yamamoto; Robert Yamamoto and Sharon Sasaki; Sachio Yamamoto; Miyoko Yamanishi; Fumie Yamashita; Tom Masaru and Colleen Yanagihara; Tom and Sumiko Yanagihara; Curt Yasuhara; Paul and Mildred Yasuhara; Lisa Yoneda; and Roy and Susan Yonekura.

ARE YOU MISSING IN ACTION?

If the timing wasn't great for you to renew in 2011 yet, please contact the Temple. We can arrange payment plans as needed. If you would like, we can even make automatic debits using your credit or debit card (Mastercard and Visa) to make it easy. Please let us know, and please catch up your membership.

EARLY START FOR 2012

Some of you have already renewed your membership for 2012 – we really appreciate it. We will start acknowledging 2012 members in our next issue.

TIME TO JOIN or REJOIN?

We know some of you reading *The Bussei Script* are former members, or "almost" members. In fact, your Temple friends may just assume you are a member. We know you attend Temple events and support us through donations and our fundraisers. Won't you make the very small step from that level of activity to joining us in earnest? Please make 2012 the year when you make the very small step to become an active member. Membership makes our Temple strong at the core.

2012 MAJOR SERVICE GUEST SPEAKERS

Each year, BTSD invites ministers from other BCA temples to share the Buddha Dharma at our major services. We are grateful to Rev. Mukojima for extending these invitations on behalf of the Temple. Some of the visiting ministers will also present a special lecture during the weekend sponsored by the Buddhist Education Committee. The list of these BEC lectures will be published soon.

The following is the 2012 list of guest ministers:

- January 15: **Ho Onko** (Shinran Shonin Memorial) – Rev. LaVerne Sasaki, BCA Minister Emeritus.
- February 12: **Nirvana Day** (Sakyamuni Buddha's memorial) – Rev. Tesshi Aoyama, Placer Buddhist Temple.

- March 18: **Ohigan** (Spring Equinox) – Rev. William Masuda, Palo Alto Buddhist Temple.
- April 8: **Hanamatsuri** (Buddha Day) – Rev. Kanya Okamoto, BCA Minister Emeritus.
- May 20: **Gotan-E** (Shinran Shonin Day) – Rev. Carol Himaka, Southern Alameda County Buddhist Temple
- July 29: **Obon** (Buddhist Memorial Day) – Rev. Ken Fujimoto, San Jose Buddhist Temple.
- September 16: **Ohigan** (Autumnal Equinox) – Rev. Marvin Harada, Orange County Buddhist Church.
- November 18: **Eitaikyo** (Perpetual Memorial) – Rev. Koho Takata, Arizona Buddhist Church.

Please join us at each major service as well as the weekly Dharma School/Family Services. All services begin at 10:00 a.m.

BTSD WELCOMES REV. LAVERNE SASAKI FOR BEC LECTURE

At 7 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 14, BTSD welcomes Rev. LaVerne Sasaki for an informal discussion of "**The Nembutsu as Expressed in Daily Living.**" The Nembutsu is the primary teaching of Shinran Shonin, the founder of our tradition. The discussion will be held in the BTSD Sangha Hall.

The Buddhist Education Committee is sponsoring this event to make the most of Rev. Sasaki's visit as part of the Temple's observances of Ho-Onko. Ho-Onko commemorates the contributions of Shinran. Rev. Sasaki is our guest speaker for the Sunday Ho-Onko service on Jan. 15.

The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

President Michael Kinoshita, Rev. Mukojima and the BTSD Board of Directors invite the Sangha to its annual General Membership meeting on Sunday, January 29, following the Dharma School/Family Service.

This opportunity is for members to gather for the Temple's annual business meeting. Reports from 2011 will be summarized and a forecast for the upcoming year will be presented.

Financials, which is always a high-priority topic each year, will again, be the primary focus of the meeting. Board members will present creative opportunities to keep the temple financially sound in today's economy. The 2012 Board of Directors slate will be presented for approval by the general membership.

In accordance with the temple bylaws, notification of the meeting will be sent to all members in early January.

The meeting is a potluck luncheon. Everyone is encouraged to share their favorite dish. Main and side dishes, salads and desserts are welcome.

The Board of Directors and Rev. Mukojima look forward to your participation at this very important meeting. *In Gassho.*

TOM YANAGIHARA EARNS RECOGNITION

The Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana will honor four individuals at its 2012 Leadership Awards Gala to be held Thursday, January 26 at the San Diego Marriott in Del Mar. The gala honors those who have made outstanding efforts to promote goodwill and advance business, civic, educational, and cultural interchange and understanding between the people of Japan, San Diego, and Tijuana.

The Business Leadership Award will be presented to Carlos Bustamante, Mayor of the City of Tijuana. Author and illustrator Allen Say will receive the Reischauer International Education Award. The Phillips Community Award will honor Akiko Bourland, Ikebana Grand Master, and

Tom Yanagihara, Past President of the Japanese Friendship Garden Society.

Tom served several terms as BTSD President before retiring from the Board recently. He has been a long-time volunteer with several organizations both locally and on a national level including the Buddhist Churches of America.

The evening is the Japan Society's biggest annual fundraiser and features dinner and a silent auction. The Temple is sponsoring a table and invites Sangha members to join JSSDT in honoring Tom. Individual seats are \$125.

Deadline for reservations is January 16. If you'd like to join the BTSD table, please contact Joyce Teague at (619) 527-7855 or zenbu@cox.net.

REV. MUKOJIMA IS IBS/CBE SEMINAR PANELIST

The Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) and Center for Buddhist Education (CBE) present Winter Pacific Seminar 21st Century: "A Life of Shinjin" on Saturday, January 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple.

Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto will be the keynote speaker. Panelists will include Rev. Mukojima, Rev. Patricia Usuki (San Fernando), Rev. Henry Adams (Oxnard) and Rev. John Iwohara (Venice).

A registration donation of \$20 includes lunch. Student registration is \$10. Registration deadline is January 15. Please make checks payable to CBE and mail to: CBE, 2140 Durant, Ave., Berkeley, CA 94704.

For more information and to register online visit www.BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org.

An additional free Dharma session will be held on Friday, Jan. 27 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Gardena Buddhist Church. Moderators will be Rev. Matsumoto (English) and Rev. Kodo Umezu (Japanese).

The Southern District Ministers Association is hosting the seminar.

JANUARY BTSD BENEFIT DINNER AND BINGO

The temple will host the first of four benefit dinners on Saturday, January 28 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. On the menu are delicious beef skewers with salad, steamed vegetables, rice and dessert. The donation is \$9 per person. Tickets are available in advance with any remaining tickets sold at the door.

The dinner precedes the monthly BTSD/VFW Bingo that begins at 6 p.m.

Mark your calendars with all the 2012 Bingo Nights including those with BTSD Benefit Dinners preceding them: Feb. 25, Mar. 31, Apr. 28 (Benefit Dinner), May 26, June 30, July 28, Aug. 25, Sept. 29 (Benefit Dinner), Oct. 20 and Nov. 24 (Benefit Dinner).

Please support these quarterly dinners, along with the monthly Bingo sessions. Both events benefit the Temple.

KIKU GARDENS 2012 FRIDAY LUNCH SCHEDULE

If you haven't been regularly enjoying the Friday Senior Lunch Program at Kiku Gardens Senior Housing, you have been missing out on one of the great eating bargains in San Diego! For a mere \$3, you can enjoy a complete, nutritional meal planned alternately by eight local organizations and prepared by Kiku Gardens (KIKU) staff and volunteers for the Kiku Gardens seniors and guests. And know what? You don't even have to be a senior to enjoy them, too! Friday lunches are served at 12 noon.

Current participating organizations are Asian Pacific Post 4851 (VFW), Buddhist Temple of San Diego (BTSD), Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana (JSSDT), Japanese Friendship Garden (JFG), Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ (POV) and San Diego JACL (JACL).

The Temple has been participating in this program since its inception. Several Sangha members and friends have taken turns creating menus or working as kitchen help. If you would like to help prepare a Friday meal this year, please let us know which of BTSD's dates you can help out! Contact Mildred Kawasaki, Ruth Voorhies or call the office and leave your name, phone number and date you'd like to help with our secretary.

Please use the following schedule to plan your Kiku Gardens visits next year. If you send your address to kaiito3@hotmail.com, you'll receive each week's mouth-watering menu by e-mail.

1/6 POVUCC, 1/13 JSSDT, 1/20 JACL, 1/27 VFW, **2/3 BTSD**, 2/10 JAHSSD, 2/17 JFG, 2/24 KIKU, 3/2 POV, 3/9 JSSDT, 3/16 JACL, 3/23 VFW, **3/30 BTSD**, 4/6 JAHSSD, 4/13 JFG, 4/20 KIKU, 4/27 POVUCC, 5/4 JSSDT, 5/11 JACL, 5/18 VFW, **5/25 BTSD**, 6/1 JAHSSD, 6/8 JFG, 6/15 KIKU, 6/22 POVUCC, 6/29 JSSDT, 7/6 JACL, 7/13 VFW, **7/20 BTSD**, 7/27 JAHSSD, 8/3 JFG, 8/10 KIKU, 8/17 POVUCC, 8/24 JSSDT, 8/31 JACL, 9/7 VFW, **9/14 BTSD**, 9/21 JAHSSD, 9/28 JFG, 10/5 KIKU, 10/12 POVUCC, 10/19 JSSDT, 10/26 JACL, 11/2 VFW, **11/9 BTSD**, 11/16 JAHSSD, 11/23 (dark), 11/30 JFG, 12/7 POVUCC, 12/14 KIKU, 12/21 (dark), 12/28 (dark).

2012 JACL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The National Japanese American Citizens League offers more than 30 awards, with an annual total of over \$70,000 in scholarships. Awards are available in the following categories: Freshman, Undergraduate, Graduate, Law, Creative & Performing Arts, and Financial Aid. The 2012 National JACL Scholarship Program informational brochure and applications are posted on the JACL website (www.jacl.org). They can be accessed by clicking on "Youth" on the menu bar.

All Freshman applications should be submitted to the applicant's local JACL Chapter by March 1, 2012. The chapters will review the applications and forward the outstanding candidates to the National JACL Freshman Scholarship Committee.

All other National JACL Scholarship applications are to be sent directly by the applicants to: National JACL Scholarship Program, c/o Portland JACL, P.O. Box 86310, Portland, OR 97286. The deadline is April 1, 2012.

Last year, the San Diego JACL awarded several freshman scholarships of \$1,000 or greater. In addition, the SD JACL has one continuing education scholarship for a student enrolled in college. A separate general application should be sent directly to the SD JACL by the local deadline of March 1, 2012. The SD JACL mailing address is 1041 Market St., #103, San Diego, CA 92101.

Dozens of deserving BTSD students have been awarded JACL scholarships since the program's inception decades ago, and Sangha members have long served on the SD JACL Scholarship Committee as well. In fact, its award for graduating high school seniors is named after the late Tetsuyo Kashima, who served as the local Scholarship Chair for many years. Among the temple members who have served on the committee in recent years are David Kawamoto, Jeanie Kashima, Gale Kaneshiro and Patty Nakamura.

For more information regarding the SD JACL Scholarship Program, please contact San Diego Scholarship Chair Miyo Reff at (858) 450-6775 or merref@yahoo.com.

THE DRAGON YEAR'S 50/50 RAFFLE

Board members will begin selling tickets for the annual 50/50 Raffle fundraiser. The lucky winner will take home half of the total proceeds

(potentially a \$5,000 prize) from ticket sales. The other half will help the Temple fund its daily operations.

as last year, the donation for the drawing is just \$20 per ticket. Only 500 tickets have been printed, so depending on total sales, each purchase has at least a one-in-500 chance of being the winning ticket!

Raffle chair is Ken Muraoka. Sales will continue until Hanamatsuri in April. The winner will be announced at the Hanamatsuri potluck.

BCA CALENDAR AND BODHI SEALS

To help us save postage costs, members are encouraged to pick up their 2012 BCA calendar and Bodhi Seals on your next visit to the temple.

Of the 200 packets prepared, less than 60 remain. The temple appreciates your cooperation.

MOCHITSUKI THANK YOU

A tremendous thank you is extended to the Sangha and friends who volunteered their time to help at the annual Mochitsuki on Sunday, December 11.

There was definitely a lot of energy with the steamers cooking 1,000 pounds of mochigome (sweet rice), Dharma School kids grinding the cooked rice, and many others getting into the tradition of pounding the mochi, giving it a smooth texture.

Production continued in the Annex Hall where many ladies cut and shaped the mochi into small circular morsels. At the cooling station, volunteers cooled the mochi before it was packaged. Runners then took the packaged mochi to the distribution station where customers could pick up and enjoy their mochi.

The results of a day's hard work resulted in the last being batch taken off of the steamer before 12:30 p.m. (a record). There was applause by the workers when that last batch of mochi made its round at each station.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch, cleaned up and called it a day in what was described as the temple's most socially-fun fundraising event of the year. Mochitsuki is the time for the Sangha to catch up with one another, and at the same time, introduce a Japanese cultural tradition to newcomers. There were a lot of shutterbugs throughout the day.

In addition, thank you to the customers who made purchases at the Obon Again Shop, Yarn/White Elephant and Tupperware sales. All net proceeds from the day's event, including your mochi purchase, benefit the temple.

Mochi for Sale

If you missed out on the day-of sales or would like to purchase more ko-mochi, please call the temple and we will accommodate your order. The price is \$4.50 per bag. The temple is sold out of the two-piece kasan set.

The 2012 Mochitsuki is set for Sunday, December 16. Be sure to save the date.

Gassho,
Ralph Honda and Glenn Negoro, Co-chairs

BTSD SCRIP PROGRAM

Even though the holiday season is almost over, you can still order gift cards and gift certificates for any occasion 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.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

2012 is the memorial year of those who passed away in:

1 st Year Memorial	2011
3 rd Year Memorial	2010
7 th Year Memorial	2006
13 th Year Memorial	2000
17 th Year Memorial	1996
25 th Year Memorial	1988
27 th Year Memorial	1986
33 rd Year Memorial	1980
50 th Year Memorial	1963

MEMORIAL SERVICES:

In our Jodo Shinshu tradition, a family member holds a service at certain intervals following a relative's death to express gratitude for and acknowledge their continuing influence in our lives.

If you wish to schedule a memorial service for a loved one, please call the Temple during weekly office hours.

2012 TEMPLE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Buddhist Temple of San Diego and the Mukojima Family cordially invite our members and friends to attend the Temple's 2012 New Year Party following the Ho-Onko Service on Sunday, January 15, at 12 noon in the Annex Hall. Our theme will be THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON.

You may reserve a Bento lunch (regular or vegetarian, \$15) or a Child's Bento (\$6). Our program will include a taiko performance, a slide show of 2011 temple highlights, a fun raffle and a few surprises.

We would like to provide a complimentary Bento for our ministers; all temple members who have attained (or who will attain this year) the venerable age of 88; couples celebrating their 50th anniversary; and all new individual or family members who have joined the temple in the last year. We will have reserved seating for our honorees and their families at the center tables. Though your lunch is complimentary, we do ask that our honorees turn in a reservation if you plan to attend to assure we will a lunch waiting for you!

We sincerely hope you will be able to join us at the celebration. Please fill out and return the form below, or call the office at 619/239-0896 to RSVP by Monday, January 9.

Yours truly in gassho,
2012 NEW YEAR PARTY COMMITTEE

2012 "YEAR of the DRAGON" LUNCHEON RESERVATION

*Please fill out and mail this form with payment in the enclosed envelope **by Monday, January 9**.
All orders except those from our special guests must be paid for in advance.*

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Please reserve: ___ regular bento (\$15) ___ vegetarian bento (\$15) ___ child's bento (\$6)

Total bentos ordered: ___ Total enclosed: \$ _____

___ I am "88 & Great!" and will attend, so please reserve a complimentary bento for me.

___ I/we became new members in 2011 and will attend the party, so please reserve the complimentary bento(s) indicated above.

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			
Optional: Youth Reduced Cost (30 yrs and younger)	\$150			\$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>

Recommended Annual Donations (Optional):

FLORAL OFFERING FUND (Suggested annual donation of \$40) \$
 The fund helps defray cost of regular fresh flowers for the Onajin (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.
 *For New Members, proration is available

YOU DO THE MATH...

Buying Gift Cards is an Effortless Fundraiser!

We'll keep saying it till you get it: the Scrip Program is just about the simplest way to benefit the Temple! By making purchases you would anyway, BTSD automatically gets a percentage. Do you shop regularly at Vons or Albertsons? If you pay with a gift card (through the Scrip Program), 4% of your entire purchase comes back to the Temple. Just think...if every member used the Scrip Program, we could eliminate one major, labor-intensive fundraiser a year! Please support the Temple's Scrip Program.

The following list is a representative selection from the hundreds of merchants and brand name stores for every type of product and service imaginable. A complete list can be found in the temple's office. If you do not attend regularly, call the office and ask that one be mailed to you, OR go to www.glscrip.com and click on "Retailer List." You will be amazed by the choices! Once you've made your selection(s), just fill out the order form below, and mail it with your payment, ATTN: SCRIP ORDER, to the Temple. You can also phone-in OR e-mail your orders; just send in your payment (check or cash ONLY) as soon as possible. Orders are placed on MONDAY, and ARRIVE on WEDNESDAY or by the end of the week. Many thanks to Ruth Voorhies, our tireless Scrip Volunteer Coordinator. ****Indicates temporary percentage.**

<p>Ace Hardware \$100 (4%) \$25 (4%) Aeropostale \$25 (7%) Albertsons \$100 (4%) \$25 (4%) Amazon.com \$100 (4%) \$25 (4%) ** AMC Theatres \$25 (12%) American Airlines \$250 (8%) \$100 (8%) Applebee's \$25 (8%) Arby's \$10 (8%) Arco \$250 (2.5%) \$100 (1.5%) \$50 (1.5%) AT&T 125-Minute Prepaid Card \$9.50 (20%) Auto Zone \$25 (8%) Avis Car Rental \$50 (8%) B. Dalton Booksellers \$25 (9%) \$20 (9%) \$10 (9%) Babies-R-U's \$20 (1.5%) Baja Fresh \$25 (7%) Barnes & Noble Booksellers \$25 (9%) \$20 (9%) \$10 (9%) Baskin Robbins \$2 (9%) ** Bath & Body Works \$25 (18%) \$10 (18%) Bed Bath & Beyond \$25 (7%) Best Buy \$250 (3%) \$100 (3%) \$25 (3%) Best Western Intl \$100 (12%) \$25 (12%) Big 5 Sporting Goods \$25 (8%) Black Angus \$25 (12%) ** Boston Market \$10 (12%) Bruegger's Bagels \$10 (7%) ** Bucca Di Beppo \$25 (10%) Build-A-Bear Workshop \$25 (8%) Burger King \$10 (4%) ** California Pizza Kitchen \$10 (6%) Carl's Jr. \$10 (5%)</p>	<p>Carnival Cruises \$100 (8%) Celebrity Cruise Lines \$100 (9%) Cheesecake Factory \$25 (5%) Chevron \$250 (2.5%) \$100 (1.5%) \$50 (1.5%) Chili's Grill & Bar \$25 (11%) Chipotle \$10 (10%) Chuck E. Cheese \$10 (8%) Claire's \$10 (9%) Clarion Hotels \$100 (4%) \$50 (4%) Coco's Restaurant & Bakery \$10 (8%) Cold Stone Creamery \$10 (8%) Comfort Inn \$100 (4%) \$50 (4%) Comfort Suites \$100 (4%) \$50 (4%) Container Store \$100 (9%) \$25 (9%) Crate & Barrel \$100 (8%) \$25 (8%) ** CVS Pharmacy \$100 (7%) \$25 (7%) Dave & Buster's \$25 (13%) Del Taco \$10 (4%) Dell Computer \$100 (4%) Denny's \$10 (7%) Disney \$1,000 (2%) \$100 (2%) \$25 (2%) Domino's Pizza \$10 (8%) Edwards Theater \$25 (8%) El Pollo Loco \$10 (6%) Exxon \$250 (2.5%) \$50 (1.5%) Foot Locker \$25 (9%) Gap \$25 (14%) Hallmark \$25 (4%) Hard Rock Café \$25 (10%) Harry & David \$25 (10%) Home Depot \$100 (6%) \$25 (6%) Hometown Buffet \$25 (5%) Honey Baked Ham \$10 (12%) Hyatt Hotels \$100 (9%) \$50 (9%) Inn at the Ballpark \$100 (9%) \$25 (9%)</p>	<p>Islands Restaurant \$25 (8%) ** iTunes® \$25 (7%) \$15 (7%) J. Crew \$25 (13%) Jack in the Box \$10 (4%) Jamba Juice \$10 (7%) JCPenny \$100 (5%) \$25 (5%) KFC \$5 (8%) Kohl's Department Store \$100 (4%) \$25 (4%) ** Lands' End \$100 (18%) \$25 (18%) Limited \$25 (9%) Lowe's Home Improvement \$100 (4%) \$25 (4%) \$20 (4%) Macy's \$100 (10%) \$25 (10%) Macaroni Grill \$25 (11%) Marriott Hotels & Resorts \$100 (8%) \$50 (8%) Marshalls \$100 (7%) \$25 (7%) Men's Wearhouse \$25 (8%) Michaels \$25 (4%) Mimi's Café \$25 (8%) Mobil \$250 (2.5%) \$50 (1.5%) ** Motherhood Maternity \$24 (11%) Office Depot \$100 (4%) \$25 (4%) Old Navy \$25 (14%) Olive Garden \$25 (9%) On The Border \$25 (11%) ** Outback Steakhouse \$24 (10%) P.F. Chang's \$25 (8%) Papa John's \$10 (8%) Peoche's \$100 (9%) \$25 (9%) PetSmart \$25 (4%) Panera Bread \$25 (9%) \$10 (9%) Pier 1 Imports \$25 (9%) Pinkberry \$10 (5%) Pizza Hut \$10 (8%) Radlo Shack \$25 (4%) ** Red Robin \$25 (11%)</p>
		<p>Regal Entertainment \$25 (8%) REI Sporting Goods \$25 (8%) Red Lobster \$25 (9%) Residence Inn \$100 (8%) \$50 (8%) Restoration Hardware \$100 (12%) \$25 (12%) Ross Dress for Less \$25 (8%) Ruby Tuesday \$25 (8%) Ruth's Chris Steak House \$50 (10%) Safeway \$100 (4%) \$25 (4%) Sam's Club \$250 (2%) \$100 (2%) \$25 (2%) ** Sears \$250 (7%) \$100 (7%) \$25 (7%) See's Candies \$16.50 (20%) ** Shutterfly \$25 (14%) ** Smart & Final \$100 (5%) \$50 (5%) \$25 (5%) Souplantation \$25 (8%) Spaghetti Warehouse \$20 (18%) Sports Authority \$100 (8%) \$25 (8%) Sprouts Farmers Market \$50 (5%) \$25 (5%) Staples \$100 (5%) \$25 (5%) ** Starbucks \$25 (9%) \$10 (9%) Stater Bros. Markets \$100 (5%) \$25 (5%) Subway \$50 (3%) \$10 (3%) Supercuts \$25 (8%) Target \$100 (2%) \$25 (2%) Texaco \$250 (2.5%) \$100 (1.5%) \$50 (1.5%) TGI Friday's \$25 (9%) Toys-R-Us \$20 (1.5%) Vons \$100 (4%) \$25 (4%) Walmart \$100 (2%) \$25 (2%) Williams-Sonoma \$100 (8%) \$25 (8%) Walgreens \$100 (6%) \$25 (6%)</p>

Name _____ Phone/E-Mail: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Merchant Name: _____ # of cards: _____ Denomination: \$ _____ Total: \$ _____
 Merchant Name: _____ # of cards: _____ Denomination: \$ _____ Total: \$ _____
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 Merchant Name: _____ # of cards: _____ Denomination: \$ _____ Total: \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL: \$ _____

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

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

二〇一二年 一月 会報
サンデーエゴ仏教会

生起本末

だいひしん まな

大悲心を学ぼう

住職 向嶋 諒史

新年明けましておめでとございます。旧年中は「門徒の皆様には本当に温かい」厚情を寄せて頂き、支援助力を賜りました事、誠に有難く心から厚く御礼申し上げます。本年も家族共々何卒宜しくお願ひ申し上げます。

さて、私はこれまで「法要の講師として多くの仏教会からお招き頂いていますが、到着しますと、まずご本尊に挨拶させて頂いて頂いております。行かせて頂く仏教会によつて「門徒の数に違いはありますが、その多少にかかわらず、それぞれの「本堂は、その先人達のお念仏一筋の」懇念が結実した尊い道場なのです。この「法縁に遇わせて頂いた慶びをもつてご本尊に合掌させて頂く度」に「まごとのみ教えを聞いておくれよ」という先人の大いなる願ひが深く身に染みて何とも有難い気持ちでいっぱいになります。

ところで、私達はよく「み仏に参る」と口にしますが、本来の意味は「学び」という意味で、み仏の教えを通じ

て我が身の生き方を尋ねることを、「み仏に参る」といいます。

学ぶといえは、学校教育を思い起しますが、知能技能を磨いて、有為な人材に成ることと仏法の学びとは全く違います。蓮如上人は御一代「龍書」に、「お聖教をどれほどよく学び知ったとしても、我が身の他力の安心(信心)をしっかり定めなければ、無意味な事である」とお示し下さっています。

阿彌陀仏の撰取不捨の甚大な慈悲心に遇つて、慶びと感謝の心で信心の智慧を頂くつまり、阿彌陀仏の大悲心を学ぶ事が仏教の学びであり、仏に参るといふことなのです。

皆さんもご存知のように、阿彌陀仏の尊形は蓮台の上にお立ちになっています。初めて参拝に来られる方は、「浄土真宗のご本尊は何故立っておられるのですか」という質問をよくされます。確かに、この頃はアメリカでもいろいろなお店で多くの仏像を目にする事は出来ませんが、立っておられる仏さまを見てもごとはあまりありません。

諸宗派の仏教会でも、多くの仏さまは端座しておられるのがほとんどです。これは、座禅を組んでおられる姿であり、修行によつて悟りを開く姿です。また、自ら苦行を積んで、煩惱を断ち、究極の悟りを得て、仏の世界へ来なさいという衆生に呼びかけておられる姿でもあります。

浄土真宗のご本尊は「南無阿彌陀仏」であることは言うまでもありませんが、それをお木像やご絵像にすれば、阿彌陀仏は必ずお立ちになった姿になつておられます。ですから、私達の御宮殿には阿

彌陀仏の美しい立像が安置されているのです。浄土真宗で大切にされている「観無量寿経」という經典の中の「華座觀」に「無量寿仏、空中に住立したまふ」という有名なお言葉があります。

このお姿について、七高僧の一人である善導大師は「観經疏」の中で次のように解釈されています。「阿彌陀仏が空中でお立ちになられているのは、衆生が心を向けて信じ、浄土に生まれようと願うならば、すみやかに往生できることを表している。

阿彌陀仏は尊高で軽々しい振る舞いはなさらないはずなのに、その本願にたがわずに姿を現されたのであれば、立ったままではなく、どうしてお座りになつて衆生に向かわれないのか。

それは、如来には深い思召しがあるからです。娑婆は苦しい世界であつて、いろいろな悪人が同居し、八苦に苦しめられ、ともすれば互いに背き、心をいつわり親しんで笑みを浮かべている。いつも六つの賊(煩惱)を引き起こす六根(眼・耳・鼻・舌・身・意)がつき随つて、三悪(地獄・餓鬼・畜生)の火の坑にまさに陥ち入ろうとしている。もし阿彌陀仏が足を上げて、急いで衆生を救われなかつたら、衆生はどうしてこの迷いの牢獄から免れることができようか。こういふわけで、立ちながら衆生をつまみ撮つて行かれ、座つて衆生におもむくことをなさらないのである」と。

多くの仏像が座像であるのに対し、浄土真宗のご本尊阿彌陀仏が立像であるのは、この善導大師の解釈が深く影響されているからに他なりません。このお姿を、立攝即行といいますが、お立ちになった阿彌陀仏と端座したままの阿彌陀仏との間には大きな違い

があります。

例えば、子供連れの家族がビクニックへ出かけて池のほとりでお弁当を食入しているとしましょう。お弁当を頂いている最中に、幼い子供がヨチヨチ歩きの間隙に足取りで池の方に向かって歩きだします。両親が子供に目を向けた瞬間、子供は足を滑らせて池の中に転落してしまいます。その時、両親は一体どういう行動をとるでしょうか。

おいおいお弁当が古びながら子供が溺れ苦しんでいる姿をじつと眺めているだけでしょうか。それとも、一歩も動かさず座ったままで、「自力で泳いでお父さん、お母さんのいる岸に辿り着きなさい」と励ましの声をかけるだけでしょうか。いずれも否であることは言うまでもありません。

親というのは、池に落ちた我が子を見つけた途端、足は即座に動き出し出ているのです。無我夢中で駆け寄り、ためらうことなく池の中に飛び込んで子供を助けに行くに違いありません。そして、必死に抱き上げながら無事に岸へと渡すでしょう。ゆっくりと座ってなんかいられないのです。

この池の中へ沈みゆく我が子を助けずにはおれないと、即座に立ち上がって、無我夢中で池の中へ飛び込む親の姿が正に、阿彌陀仏がお立ちになられた尊い姿であるのです。

更には、阿彌陀仏のお木像は上体が少し前に傾いておられます。これは、もう既に私達のもとへ駆け寄り、抱きかかえて下さっている大悲心の究極の表れです。つまり、阿彌陀仏が日々煩悩に翻弄されて、底知れない迷いの世界で溺れ苦しんでいる私達をいち早く救おう

と立ち上がり、仏自身が飛んできて、必ず悟りの世界、浄土へ生まれさせようとはたらいて下さっている姿を表わしたもののなのです。

ですから、お立ちになられたその尊いお姿は、煩惱にまみれた(地獄は一定住みか)私達への「必ず浄土へと生まれさせるから安心しなさい」という尊い呼びかけなのです。ある和上は南無阿彌陀仏のお念仏を「そのまままかせよ、かならず救う。親だからね」と味わって下さっています。

更に、阿彌陀仏の右手は、限りない智慧と衆生を浄土に招いている相を表し、下に下げた左手は、限りない慈悲をもって苦悩する衆生を救う相を示しておられます。全ての衆生を擁抱取って捨てずという究極のお心を阿彌陀仏のお姿にいたたいて、智慧と慈悲の根源である南無阿彌陀仏の心を学ばせていただくのです。

宗祖・親鸞聖人は「正信偈」の中で「弥陀仏本願念仏・邪見驕慢惡業生・信樂受持甚以難・難中之難無過斯」と記されておられます。これは、どれほど阿彌陀仏の大悲が広大であるとも、うぬぼれや傲慢な心を持つている私達には、本願を信じることも不可能であるから、私達の信じる心も疑う心も全て打ち捨て、ただ阿彌陀仏のお心にお任せしなさいと促して下さっているのです。

更には、「本願力にあいぬれば、むなしくすぐるひとぞなき」と、本願に出遇った慶びを讃嘆し、「念仏者は、無碍の二道なり」と示され、迷信や崇りを恐れることなく、明るく強い障りのない人生を堂々と歩む力を、阿彌陀仏より賜るのでと教えて下さ

さっています。

この慶びを自分だけのものにするのではなく、子や孫、そして仏教会に集う全ての人達へと伝えて下さったのが私達の先人でした。浄土真宗では、これを念仏相続と呼んで、その精神を遠い昔から大事に受け継いでいます。

科学や医療技術の進歩はめざましく留まる事を知りません。その恩恵にあずかつて一昔前には想像できなかったほどの便利な暮らしを満喫させて頂いています。しかし、利便性や快適性を求める反面、私達の心は荒む一方で、怒りと欲に任せて争いを繰り返し続けています。この五濁の世に生まれながら、蓮の花のように泥に染まることなく美しく生き抜くには、私達の荒涼とした心象風景にお念仏のみ教えを注いでいくことが何よりも肝要なことなのです。

新年を迎えるにあたり、皆さまと共に、今一度、先人の大いなる願いに思いを致して、努めて仏に参らせて頂き、阿彌陀仏の大悲心を学ばせて頂く美りのある一年にしていきたいと切に願っております。南無阿彌陀仏…。

合掌

理事会レポート

十二月八日(木曜日)、仏教会に於いて理事会を議が開かれ、次のことが協議されました。

- 一、向嶋先生より理事長として二年間の任期を務めて下さった木下トマイケル氏に感謝の言葉が述べられ

Bussei Script

BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SAN DIEGO

2929 Market Street

San Diego, California 92102

619/239-0896 info@btsd.net www.btsd.net

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*"It's neither to the West nor to the East. Wow! Surprise!
Wow! Surprise! Namuamidabutsu!" ~Ichitaro Goroku*

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

HO-ONKO SERVICE, NEW YEAR PARTY

ARE JANUARY 15

Our Ho-Onko Service will be held on Sunday, Jan. 15, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. Ho-Onko, "a gathering to express our gratitude," is a special service in memory of the founder of Jodo Shinshu, Shinran Shonin, who died Jan. 16, 1262. As followers of Shinran's teachings, we gather each January to express our thanks that we are able to receive and share the Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha. The guest speaker for the service will be Rev. LaVerne Sasaki, BCA Minister Emeritus. Rev. Sasaki will also lead an informal discussion on "The Nembutsu as Expressed in Daily Living" on Saturday evening, Jan. 14, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sangha Hall.

This special Buddha Dharma opportunity by the Buddhist Education Committee is free and the public welcome.

(Please note that the January Shotsuki Hoyo (Memorial Service) will be held Sunday, January 8, in conjunction with the Family Service.)

Our annual New Year Party will be held immediately following the Ho-Onko Service. Let's all get together to usher in the New Year! A delicious bento lunch (regular or vegetarian) is available for \$15 per person. We also offer a child's chicken bento for \$6. Lunches must be reserved and paid for in advance. Please use the reservation form included with this issue. Deadline for reservations is Monday, January 9.

We hope you will be able to attend these January events. For your convenience, envelopes for a Ho-Onko offering and your New Year Party reservation are included with this mailing. If you are reading this issue online or as an e-mail attachment, we invite your Ho-Onko offering or New Year reservation, too.

We welcome and treasure your continued support of the Temple and its services, programs and activities. *Gassho.*