THE SIX BIRDS OF THE PURE LAND
By Rev. Yushi Mukojima, Resident Minister

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

When the peacock spreads its tail open like a fan, the beauty of it makes us agree that it is worthy of residing in the Pure Land. However, the wonderfulness of the peacock is not only its colorful tail. It is thought in India that peacocks eat poisonous snakes. If a person takes poison, he will die. But a peacock has the uncommon ability of detoxification which allows it to eat poisonous snakes and plants.

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

(Sensei’s Message: Continued on Page 3)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 12 p.m. – IRC Mtg.</td>
<td>2 12 p.m. – BSDKIKU GARDENS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:30 p.m. – Buddhist Study Class A with Rev. Mukojima @Conf. Rm.</td>
<td>12 p.m. – Senior Lunch Program @Kiku Garden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 10 a.m. – BODHI DAY SERVICE 成道会</td>
<td>5 Temple Closed</td>
<td>6 1 p.m. – Shigin 詩吟 @Annex 1.2</td>
<td>7 12 p.m. – Minyo Group 民謡 @Sangha Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 12 p.m. – VFW Year-End Part @Annex Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jr. YBA Chow Mein Prep.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 (No Family Service)</td>
<td>12 Temple Closed</td>
<td>13 1 p.m. – Shigin 詩吟 @Annex 1.2</td>
<td>14 12 p.m. – Minyo Group 民謡 @Sangha Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td>16 10 a.m. – 宗祇御命日 Gomoinichi @Hondo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOCHITSUKI 系つき大会</td>
<td></td>
<td>10:30 a.m. – SD Ministers Mtg. @LA Nishi Betsuin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10 a.m. – Buddhist Study Class B with Rev. Yanagihara @Conf. Rm.</td>
<td>17 10 a.m. – Koto Class 琴教室 @Annex 1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11:30 a.m. – BWA Bonenkai Year End Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>@Ichiro Restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 9 a.m. – Sutra Chanting Class @Hondo</td>
<td>19 Temple Closed</td>
<td>20 1 p.m. – Shigin 詩吟 @Annex 1.2</td>
<td>21 12 p.m. – Minyo Group 民謡 @Sangha Hall</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24 6-8 p.m. – BSDKIKU FW BINGO @Annex Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 a.m. – DS/FAMILY SERVICE 日曜礼拝</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 No 4th Sunday Class &amp; No Family Service</td>
<td>26 Temple Closed</td>
<td>27 1 p.m. – Shigin 詩吟 @Annex 1.2</td>
<td>28 12 p.m. – Minyo Group 民謡 @Sangha Hall</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31 5 p.m. – JOYA-E (YEAR END SERVICE) 除夜会 and JOYA NO KANE (Bell-ringing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>除夜の鐘 @Hondo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5:45 p.m. – TOSHOKOSHI SOBA (Traditional Noodle)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>平成30年7月18日 除夜の鐘 served by the Mukojimas @Kitchen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>All welcome to enjoy!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11:30 p.m. – JOYANO KANE CEREMONY 除夜の鐘</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>@Shelter Island Friendship Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It's well known that the parrot and myna can imitate human voices. Because of this uncommon ability, they grace the Pure Land, singing the Buddha Dharma. The parrot and myna often appear in the Sutras and they recite the Nembutsu and chant phrases from the Sutras. And also there are many Buddhist tales about the parrot which portray it as a noble bird embodying the Buddha's mind while doing good deeds.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Well, there are not many days left in this year, so before seeing the year out, please take the time to look carefully at our Onaijin. The six birds of the Pure Land will surely welcome you with their graceful forms. I’ll be really glad if you realize through my message that each ornament in the Onaijin with its beautiful brilliance and meaning is leading each one of us to the way of the truth. I sincerely hope that all of you will greet the New Year while listening to the precious teachings from the Onaijin which symbolizes the Pure Land of enlightenment.

Please look forward to welcoming a wonderful New Year.

In Gassho,

**President’s Message**

By Michael Kinoshita, Board President

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

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

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

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

**Board Highlights**

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

1. The Treasurer projects a deficit of $5-6,000 for fiscal year 2011. (Deficit was $11,814 for Fiscal Year 2010.) 2011 operating expenses have actually gone down while membership and fundraising increased, but monthly donations have decreased significantly.
2. Membership: 17 new members have pledged this year to date. 41 renewing members have yet to pay their 2011 dues. Ways & Means Committee recommended and the BOD approved a modest increase in dues of $25 for 2012 in the Sustaining Members category. No increase in Senior or Youth categories.
3. BOD approved payment for the New Heights Donor Plaque installed in the 2nd floor foyer to come out of the New Heights account. The Board thanked Ken Muraoka and Michael Kinoshita for designing and installing the beautiful plaque.
4. BOD approved the expenditure of $900 from the Building Improvement Fund to install a 3 way switch in the Main Building hallway for safety reasons.
5. Protective bollards were installed in the parking lot to prevent car damage to the columns supporting the elevated walkway. Thank you to Ken Muraoka for overseeing this work.
6. BOD approved the Dharma School’s request to install a third book holder in the back center of each pew. The installation is made possible by an anonymous donation to the Dharma School.
7. On Nov. 3, a leak in the Annex plumbing led to extensive damage to the downstairs rooms. Repairs will be made following mandatory testing for asbestos due to the building’s age/type of construction.
8. Oseibo letters will be mailed Nov 20. Deadline for Oseibo donations is Dec 19. Bodhi seals have arrived and will be distributed. Still awaiting the BCA calendars.

9. A draft of the BTSD 2012 calendar was distributed for comments or corrections. The final version should be ready in December.

10. BOD approved reimbursement of $20 fee to temple members who wish to attend a Food Handlers class at Kiku Gardens on Nov. 12.

ABA NEWS

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

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

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

BWA NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dharma School News

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In Gascho,
Ann Ong, Assistant Superintendent

Junior YBA

Yummy - yummy - yummy

Chow Mein Luncheon
(Dine in/Take out)

Sunday, Dec. 4

After the Bodhi Day Service.
Don’t miss out!

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

Bingo Update

By Tsune Hashiguchi

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

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

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

Happy Holidays!!

New Heights Update

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

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

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

Beginning in 2012, any donations to New Heights will be acknowledged on the Donations Page.
MOCHITSUKI IS DECEMBER 11

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

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

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

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

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

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

- **Friday, Dec. 9:** Mochigome rice washing, 11 a.m.
- **Saturday, Dec. 10:** Equipment and Annex Hall work area set-up, 11 a.m.
- **Sunday, Dec. 11:** Early morning set up and cooking begins, 4:30 a.m.; First batch ready for pounding, cutting, shaping, cooling, 6 a.m.; Clean up, 3 p.m.

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

We look forward to your participation in the annual Mochitsuki.

TEMPLE CLEAN-UP DAY

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

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

BTSD’S YEAR-END/NEW YEAR ACTIVITIES

Year-end Service at the Temple

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

Buddhist Bell Ringing Ceremony, Shelter Island

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

New Year’s Day Service

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

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

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

BCA CALENDARS, BODHI SEALS

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

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

AFFILIATED ORGS ASKED TO PREPARE 2011 REPORTS

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

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

Please call the office if you have any questions.

OSEIBO

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

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

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

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

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

ASIAN FOOD & CRAFT FAIR THANK YOU!

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

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

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

NEED GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

Looking for a special oseibo (year-end appreciation) to express your gratitude to family and friends? Consider a gift from the assortment of
items from the BEC Bookstore and organizational sales. Here is a partial list of items available:

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

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

---

**YOUR NEW YEAR GREETINGS FOR 2012!**

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

**NEW YEAR GREETINGS FOR 2012!**

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

Greeting from: ________________________________________________________________

Greeting addressed to: __________________________________________________________

Message (Up to 40 words): __________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

Suggested donation enclosed: $10_______ other ________ Check #__________

---

**YARN SALE!**

**SATURDAY, December 10: 11am – 2pm**

**SUNDAY, December 11: 10am – 3pm**

Buddhist Temple of San Diego (Annex Hall)
2929 Market St, San Diego 92102

Thanks to a generous donation of yarn and related items, we have more than we can store for the usual temple sales. Skeins, balls and cones of yarns will be available in many colors, textures, and weights—many of these are “designer yarns.” Most are first quality, unused, and within their original wrappers/labels.

**Pricing:**
Skeins/balls – $1.00
Coned yarns – $5.00

**Also for sale:**
-Magazines & books on knitting & other “yarn craft”
-Knitting needles
-Crochet hooks

---
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual/Senior/Youth (All Ages)</th>
<th>Sustaining Member</th>
<th>Dana Member</th>
<th>Wisteria Member</th>
<th>Bodhi Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$275</td>
<td>$375</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couple / Family</td>
<td>$450</td>
<td>$650</td>
<td>$1000</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Optional: Senior Reduced Cost (75 yrs and older) $125

Optional: Youth Reduced Cost (30 yrs and younger) $150

Recommended Annual Donations (Optional):

FLORAL OFFERING FUND (Suggested annual donation of $40) $40

The fund helps defray cost of regular fresh flowers for the Onaijin (Central Altar).

GENERAL MAINTENANCE FUND (Suggested annual donation of $40) $40

The fund helps provide upkeep of the Temple properties.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND (Suggested annual donation of $20) $20

The fund rewards members’ deserving high school graduates and college students.

DHARMA SCHOOL (Suggested annual donation of $20) $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 inquiries to the Membership Chair at info@btsd.net.

*For New Members, proration is available
Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course
2012 Spring Enrollment
Applications Now Accepted

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

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

For more information, please visit the course website at: www.JSCC.cbe-bca.org

Applications may be submitted online through the course website.

Questions may be directed to: Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course Office, 2140 Durant Ave., Berkeley, CA  Tel: 510-809-1441, email: jssc@cbe-bca.org
極楽の六鳥

称名報恩

住職 向嶋 謙史

月日の流れにより、ひとつの人生もまた転換の時期を迎えるものである。春の訪れに際し、物心と発展を支えながら進むことが必要である。

称名トレーニングを通して、心の成長がみられる。一日も一日と心が豊かになるように祈りましょう。


BODHI DAY SERVICE & DECEMBER MEMORIAL SERVICE

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

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

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

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

Gassho.