

BUSSEI SCRIPT

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VOLUME CXXI NO. 9

SEPTEMBER 2011

THE FIRST STEP TO THE TRUTH (Part 1)

By Rev. Yushi Mukojima, Resident Minister

As our temple celebrates the 85th anniversary of its founding this year, we have invited Socho Koshin Ogui, Bishop of the BCA, to conduct both the commemorative service and the Kieshiki affirmation ceremony on October 16. Nowadays, it is not rare for a temple to celebrate its 85th anniversary, but in its history, our temple has come a long way.

Last month, we had the Obon festival which was livelier than usual. As I watched the smiling faces of those who encircled the *yagura* scaffolding and danced with practiced hands, I couldn't help but express my gratitude to all the predecessors who had protected our temple to this day. I felt as though their serious efforts and the oftentimes harsh lives they led were reflected in the smiles on our faces.

Temple History Leading to This Celebration

When I look back over the history of our temple, there was no such thing as "smooth sailing." The temple was created by our Issei pioneers who came together after a flood tragically claimed many lives. It was forced to shut down and suffered burglary, arson, and other indignities during World War II. During that period, our minister and other Sangha members were arrested and detained for the duration of the war. Our families, among 2,000 local residents of Japanese ancestry, were forced from San Diego on a few days' notice, most ending up in remote relocation camps like Poston, Arizona. Victims of discrimination and prejudice, they were isolated from the outside world.

After the war, with characteristic sincerity, diligence, uncommon effort and spiritual strength, those who returned to San Diego gradually earned the trust of their neighbors. They overcame the difficulties of re-establishing the San Diego Sangha and rebuilt our temple, embracing the Nembutsu teaching as their spiritual support.

Our temple is built on the sincere wish of all our predecessors that courage and hope can meet all difficulties if we embrace the Nembutsu teaching as our spiritual support. This wish is for all generations that gather at this temple regardless of the adverse circumstances in their lives.

Our temple, a precious gift of the blood, sweat, and tears of our predecessors, is passed down to us with their deepest wish that we each live with strength through the Nembutsu teaching.

As we celebrate the 85th anniversary of our temple, I sincerely hope that each of us will hand down our treasured temple to the next generation with one mind, expressing our deepest feelings of gratitude to those whose great wish which is directed at each one of us.

Kieshiki Affirmation

As we mark this special anniversary, an important event will be the Kieshiki affirmation ceremony. Generally, that ceremony is conducted by the Gomonsu, head abbot of Hongwanji, or a select representative who conducts the Kikyoshiki, or confirmation ceremony. In the BCA, that ceremony is conducted by the Bishop and is called the Kieshiki affirmation ceremony.

Kieshiki affirms and takes refuge in the Three Treasures: the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha. Before Amida Buddha and Shinran Shonin, we receive our Buddhist name as the Buddha's disciple in order to live with the self-knowledge, responsibility, and pride of a Nembutsu follower. It is an important expression of our determination as Shin Buddhists to accept the Nembutsu path offered to all sentient beings as our life's spiritual guide.

Unfortunately, there are some members who think that a Buddhist name is only given to the deceased. When I urge them to participate in the Kieshiki ceremony, I hear the words, "Sensei, I'm not dead yet!" Or, "I don't want a Buddhist name because if I receive one, I feel that I'll die soon," and so on.

Certainly, I usually present a Buddhist name to a deceased person at the funeral service instead of the Gomonsu. But it is only for those who didn't have the opportunity to participate in the Kieshiki to receive his or her Buddhist name while they were alive. So it is certainly not that I give a Buddhist name only because one has passed away. Since taking the Buddhist name signifies we are Buddha's disciple, accepting a way of life in the true teaching, it is very important to receive it while we are alive.

The Kikyoshiki ceremony is also called *Okamisori* or "rite of the razor." The Gomonsu taps a razor lightly on the head of the follower three times, a ritual confirming the Three Treasures. This ritual is based in historical fact: when Shakyamuni Buddha renounced the world and became a monk, he declared, "Now I take the tonsure [shave my head]. May I with all sentient beings get rid of the blind passions and hindrances!" This ritual is always performed at the Tokudo ordination or Kikyoshiki ceremony.

Therefore, in Buddhism, to take the tonsure symbolizes living with the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha as spiritual support while ridding oneself of the mind of self power and ostentation.

Of course, although there is no actual need to get one's head shaved at the Kikyoshiki ceremony, those who participate in the Tokudo ordination to become a priest must be tonsured. Ladies are exempt, but men have their heads shaved before receiving the rite of the razor from the Gomonsu.

My Tokudo Experience

In August of my 4th year at the university, I received the Tokudo ordination with over 100 participants after 10 days of training. Those of us who dreamed of becoming priests tried to do our best to train in the rites and chanting and to study the doctrine and sutras while helping and supporting each other under the strict guidance of the Nishiyama Betsuin. When all of us passed the exams which allowed us to become priests, we were finally able to participate in the Tokudo ordination ceremony on the tenth day.

The Tokudo ordination was held at the Hongwanji, mother temple of our sect. As I mentioned, all male participant had to have a cleanly shaven head before the actual rite from Gomonsu so we were to have our heads shorn a day before the ceremony. Three middle-aged ladies from the barbershop came to the Betsuin and began shaving the heads of the men who formed a line before each barber. As the barbers' skill was excellent, we all had our eyes glued to their expert technique as they quickly finished one after another. However, because there were more trainees that summer than usual, these ladies became exhausted as the time passed, and they seemed to gradually lose strength in their arms. We at the back of the line began to witness the sight of the barbers nicking heads with the razor. I began to feel an extraordinary unease watching the faces of my friends whose heads were red with blood. Sure enough, my head was also cut in two places. I put Band-Aids on my cuts with great regret, thinking, "If only I had gotten in the front of the line..." But I still remember when I stroked my head shaped like a potato, clean shaven for the very first time, I knew that my Tokudo ordination was real. The pain from my nicks changed into a great joy.

(Sensei's Message: Continued on Page 3)

SEPTEMBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>4 Southern District Jr. YBA Conference @Beverly Garland Hotel, San Fernando. Oxnard co-hosts 南部教区仏教青少年大会</p> <p>Dharma School Campout @Julian</p>	<p>5 Temple Closed 7 p.m. - W&M Committee Mtg. @Conf. Rm.</p>	<p>6 1 p.m. - Shigin 詩吟 @Annex 1.2</p>	<p>7 12 Noon - Minyo Group 民謡 @Annex 1.2 5 p.m. - Kempo Class @Sangha Hall</p>	<p>1 12 p.m. - IRC Mtg.</p>	<p>2 5 p.m. - Kempo Class @Sangha Hall DS Campout @Julian</p>	<p>3 Southern District Jr. YBA Conference @Beverly Garland Hotel, San Fernando. Oxnard co-hosts DS Campout @Julian</p>
<p>11 9 a.m. - Dharma School Staff Mtg. @Conf. Rm. 9:15 a.m. - DS Sutra Chanting Class @Hondo 10 a.m. - DS/FAMILY SERVICE 日曜礼拝 September Shotsuki Memorial 9月祥月法要 11:30 a.m. - Jr. YBA Mtg. @Annex 1-2 11:30 a.m. - TAIKO @Annex Hall 12 p.m. - BWA Mtg. @Conference Room</p>	<p>12 Temple Closed</p>	<p>13 1 p.m. - Shigin 詩吟 @Annex 1.2 10:30 a.m. - SD Minister's Mtg. @LA Nishi Betsuin</p>	<p>14 12 Noon - Minyo Group 民謡 @Annex 1.2 5 p.m. - Kempo Class @Sangha Hall</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 10 a.m. - 宗祖御命日 Gomeitcthi @Hondo 10 a.m. - Buddhist Study Class B with Rev. Yanagihara @Conf. Rm. 5 p.m. - Kempo Class @Sangha Hall</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 9 a.m. - Sutra Chanting Class @Hondo 10 a.m. - FALL OHIGAN 秋季彼岸会 Guest Speaker: Rev. Alan Sakamoto from Orange County Buddhist Church 11:30 a.m. - Keiro-kai and Polluck Luncheon @Annex Hall 敬老昼食会</p>	<p>19 Temple Closed</p>	<p>20 1 p.m. - Shigin 詩吟 @Annex 1.2</p>	<p>21 12 Noon - Minyo Group 民謡 @Annex 1.2 5 p.m. - Kempo Class @Sangha Hall</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 12 p.m. - BTSD/KIKUGARDENS Senior Lunch Program @Kiku Gardens 5 p.m. - Kempo Class @Sangha Hall</p>	<p>24 10 a.m. - Koto Class 琴教室 @Sangha Hall 6-9 p.m. - BTSD/VFW BINGO @Annex Hall</p>
<p>25 9 a.m. - INTRO. TO BUDDHISM @Sangha Hall 10 a.m. - DS/FAMILY SERVICE 日曜礼拝 11:30 a.m. - TAIKO @Annex Hall</p>	<p>26 Temple Closed</p>	<p>27 1 p.m. - Shigin 詩吟 @Annex 1.2</p>	<p>28 12 Noon - Minyo Group 民謡 @Annex 1.2 5 p.m. - Kempo Class @Sangha Hall 6:30 p.m. - Fundraising Mtg @Conf. Room</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	

(Sensei's Message: Continued from Page 1)

And the next day, when I received the rite of the razor from Gomonshu at the Tokudo ordination ceremony held in a solemn atmosphere, I rejoiced in the fact that I have lived in the Buddhist tradition with a history of more than 2500 years since Shakyamuni Buddha. I couldn't help but express my deep gratitude for the loving guidance of my parents, teachers, and many people who led me to the way of the Buddha. And I will never forget the pure emotion when I received the Buddhist name, "Shaku Tai-Shi" from Gomonshu, with the sincere mind of the fresh priest who wished to live embracing the primal vow without the mind of self power.

May It Be Your First Step

Therefore, whether you are a minister or a lay member, to participate in the Kieshiki ceremony and receive the Buddhist name is the beginning of a new life as a Shin Buddhist with a promise to always reflect upon the way of living which is filled with selfishness and to follow instead the way of living centered with Amida Buddha, embracing the Nembutsu teaching as spiritual support.

This simple ceremony marking the start of your life as a Shin Buddhist is the Kieshiki affirmation. At the event which marks our 85th anniversary, I sincerely hope that many of you will decide to participate in this meaningful ceremony and take that first step as a true disciple of the Buddha. *In gassho.*

(To be continued next month...)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Michael Kinoshita, Board President

Even though this past month we have had no scheduled services at the Temple, there has been a flurry of activities here.

On Saturday, July 30, we had our annual Obon celebration, the Bon Odori. It was great to see many of you enjoying the event. Many also worked hard to make it a great success and I thank you all. I especially thank Chairperson Ken Muraoka for his insights and guidance in making this event a joyous time for reflection and celebration for our Temple members and for the community.

In mid-August, we had our annual Rummage Sale. All of the Sangha volunteers and Dharma friends who spent hours preparing for and running the event are greatly appreciated. Nancy Martinez, Sue Moribe and Glenn Torio devote many hours in preparation to make this two-day event run as smoothly as possible. I thank them for their efforts to not only provide the Temple the all important revenue, but also create a much-appreciated event for the surrounding community.

In most of my messages, I thank a lot of different individuals and organizations for their contributions to the Temple. This shows how many dedicated members we have doing the many tasks that are required to maintain the Temple and its programs as a place that meets our many needs. I apologize if I miss any individual or organization but your efforts certainly get noticed if not acknowledged.

The Japanese Friendship Garden had its annual August Moon Gala and Niwa Awards on August 18. This year, JFG recognized 11 individuals for their lifetime service to the community. We were honored to have three of our long-time Temple members selected: Mrs. Umeko Kawamoto, Mr. Kazuo Kiyono and Mrs. Ruth Voorhies. Our congratulations go to them and their families for allowing them to serve the community.

September brings the start of our Dharma School year after the summer break. It will be great to see everyone back at Temple. A couple of noteworthy events are the Fall Higan Service on September 18 and our 85th Anniversary and Keishiki ceremony on October 16.

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 August 11, 2011, the Board of Directors met and the following items were discussed:

1. The Board authorized Rev. Mukojima's attendance at the Ministers Continuing Education Seminar at the Jodo Shinshu Center, October 25-27.

2. The menu for the September 24 BTSD Benefit Bingo dinner will be Mom's Meatloaf.

3. The Obon Committee will determine the beneficiary of the successful Japan Relief Bon Odori T-shirt sale. The Board would like to thank Roy Muraoka, who graciously donated the purchase and printing the benefit T-shirts so that 100% of the proceeds would go to Japan relief.

4. Mai Kawaguchi Wang has decided not to return as office secretary when her maternity leave expires. Jamie Shimizu has agreed to serve as secretary until the year's end. The Board thanks Mai for her years of service and would like to wish her and Mark the best as they focus on family life.

5. Norman Kiyono will be the temple's guest at the Japanese Friendship Garden's August Moon dinner honoring his father, former temple president Kazuo Kiyono for their life-long service to the community. Other temple members among those being honored are Ruth Voorhies and Umeko Kawamoto.

6. The temple will change phone/internet service providers from AT&T to Cox Communications.

7. Kaz Kawamata's Kempo class will begin Aug. 17 and 19 on a trial basis. Students of all ages are invited to attend.

8. The temple's Sept. 18 Keiro Kai luncheon will honor temple members 80 years young. The potluck luncheon will follow the Fall Ohigan Service.

9. The Board approved \$250 to support the Southern District Golf Tournament whose proceeds will go to the BCA 21st Century Campaign.

10. The Board approved follow-up Ballroom Dance classes in October led by instructor Laura Yamamoto.

11. The temple will participate in the 10th Anniversary Memorial of 9/11 co-sponsored by the Interreligious Council (IRC). Rev. Mukojima, Kaytee Sumida, BTSD Taiko and a Dharma School representative will participate.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

BTSD sincerely thanks **Ken Muraoka** for designing the 2011 Bon Odori T-shirts and **Roy Muraoka** for donating the shirts, allowing 100% of the proceeds to go to Japan Victim Relief.

Thank you to those who contributed to the care package for the deployed soldier who requested it and to **Maribeth Smith** for augmenting, packing and mailing the books and supplies for the temple.

THANK YOU TO FORMER SECRETARY

The Temple wishes to thank **Mai Kawaguchi Wang** for her seven years of service as office secretary. As many of you know, Mai and her husband Mark became proud parents of a baby girl, Juniper, this summer. She has decided to devote her time to her family.

Mai began working for the temple in May 2004. She has overseen the daily temple operations and worked with our ministers. Some of her office routines included greeting the public, translations, preparing the *Bussei Script* and building friendships with many of the Sangha members.

Mai has said she would like to keep in touch with the temple and its members. We all wish her the very best in her new role as mommy.

ABA NEWS

August started out fairly quiet. Some of us helped at the Rummage Sale on the 13th & 14th. We thank those that did help with the sorting. For us, it's too much work! Some of us tried to dance at Obon. It was so crowded, it didn't matter what we did, but it was fun, and it was so nice to have such a wonderful turnout. Hope it's like that every year.

Our next breakfast meeting will be Sept. 3 at 9:00 a.m. at Jimmy's Restaurant in Chula Vista. Let Motoo know if you will be coming.

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Dharma School students were busy during the Obon celebration. Many danced during the Odori on July 30. Some helped in the food booths, as well as helping set up the night before.

Juliana Henschen, Evan Ong, Chad, Jenna, and Hailey Sasaki, and Zoe Yamamoto joined our four veteran campers, Breven Honda, Trevor Muraoka, Davis Ong, and Sean Tokunaga, at the LABCC Summer Camp at Camp

Morningstar August 6-13. They enjoyed archery, canoeing, crafts, swimming and sleeping under the stars. Being away from home for the first time may have been challenging for the first-timers, but all of the campers had fun and made new friends. We'll have more to report in next month's *Bussei Script!*

Although the LABCC camp drop off and pick up days conflicted with the Rummage Sale, some Dharma School parents and students helped during the week with sorting and pricing, and on the weekend during the sale and putting everything away.

Thank you to Lorin Sasaki for reserving cabins and campsites at William Heise County Park near Julian for our Labor Day camping trip, September 2-4. So far, there are 6 families with a total of 22 people confirmed.

Dharma School classes will begin on September 11. After service, students will be dismissed by classes and escorted to the classrooms by their teachers. On the same day, Rev. Mukojima will have a sutra chanting practice at 9:00 a.m. for students from the 6th grade through high school. Dharma School plans to host a welcome back hospitality following the service.

On September 18, we will observe our Fall Ohigan Service with a special activity for the Dharma School students. There will be some new gathas in the Service Books that are being produced for the temple's 85th Anniversary. Dharma School teachers will begin teaching the songs to the students.

There will be regular Dharma School on September 25.

Gassho, Ann Ong, Assistant Superintendent

ZENBU

Zenbu, BTSD's social adjunct, is happy to present the second series of Ballroom Dancing lessons through the month of October into November. This series called, "Learn Ballroom Dancing to Better Your Mind, Body and Spirit!" will be taught by Laura Yamamoto of Arthur Murray Dance Studios.

The lessons will be presented Sunday afternoons, Oct. 2, 9, 23 and Nov. 13 in the Annex Hall. You don't need a partner to join the classes. Coordinator of this fun activity is Junko Kajita with the assistance of Mani Yamaguchi. Please see the article elsewhere in this issue for all the details.

Mark your calendars for the annual San Diego Asian Film Festival coming to Ultrastar Hazard Center Theatres October 20-28. Zenbu will be offering discounted group tickets for this popular festival.

Zenbu welcomes your ideas for other activities you think Sangha members would like to participate in. Call Joyce at (619) 527-7855 or e-mail her zenbu@cox.net.

KEIRO KAI RECOGNITION ON SEPT. 18

On Sunday, September 18, following the Fall Ohigan Service, the temple will recognize its long-time members, 80-years-young and up, at the annual Keiro Kai (pioneer group) appreciation luncheon in the Annex Hall.

The Keiro Kai is the temple's expression of appreciation to long-time members who have devoted countless hours of time and energy to support the temple. Letters will be sent to all eligible members inviting them to the luncheon.

The luncheon will be a traditional temple potluck with the entire Sangha sharing their favorite, delicious dishes. (See Potluck assignments on the Address Label Page.). We invite everyone's participation in the Ohigan luncheon and Keiro Kai appreciation.

"MOM'S MEATLOAF" DINNER SEPT. 24

On September 24, the Temple will be preparing the very popular Mom's Meatloaf with smashed potatoes, gravy, fresh steamed veggies, dinner roll and dessert. Cost is \$9. Dinner will be served 4:30-6 p.m. Buy your ticket in advance to avoid missing out! Only 100 dinners will be prepared. We look forward to more members coming to eat and stay for Bingo.

The cost is \$10 for buy-in which includes a set of cards and a fun raffle. There are also pull tabs for cash prizes. The Temple and Asian Post 4851 split the proceeds from all Bingo sessions.

The VFW's Prime Rib dinner on Bingo night, July 23, was a huge success and was a sell out. It was a very delicious dinner.

Remaining Bingo Nights for 2011 are Sept. 24, Oct. 29 and Nov. 26. \$1 Hot dogs and Chili Dogs will be sold on the nights there is no benefit dinner. Hope to see you there!

BUDDHIST EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

By Bill Teague, Buddhist Education Committee

BUDDHIST STUDY CLASSES (free)

Study classes are ongoing and you may join at any time. They are open to members and interested Dharma friends.

Buddhist Study Class A (*Shoshinge*, with Rev. Yushi Mukojima) is postponed in September and will resume on Thursday, Oct. 6, 6:30 p.m.

Buddhist Study Class B (*The Buddha's Wish for the World*, with Rev. Jim Yanagihara) will continue in September with the next session occurring on Friday, Sept. 16, at 10:00 a.m.

Study classes take place in the conference room (office level) of our main temple building (the largest of the three). Please park in the lot and use the elevator or stairs to come up one level; turn right at the office. The conference room is all the way down the hallway on the right-hand side.

FOURTH SUNDAY INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM (free)

On Sunday, Sept. 25, at 9 a.m., Kaytee Sumida will present an informal single-class, one-hour introduction, talking about the basic teachings across all schools, more specifics about our Pure Land tradition, a brief history of our temple, and more. The introduction is informal with plenty of time for questions and answers. The class takes place in the Sangha Hall.

Attendees are invited to remain for the Family Service that follows in the Hondo. Please park in the parking lot and join the class in the one-story building. We offer Introduction to Buddhism to interested parties on the Fourth Sunday of most months except May and December.

CENTER for BUDDHIST EDUCATION, JODO SHINSHU CENTER

Throughout the year, educational events are hosted at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, California, by the Center for Buddhist Education.

On Saturday, September 24 is a full-day seminar called "B.Y.O.B.: Bring Your Own Buddhism." Created to meet the needs of the Baby Boomer generation, this annual event is open to all, including people who grew up in BCA temples and those new to the tradition. The registration fee is \$75 and the deadline for registration is September 3. Lodging at the Jodo Shinshu Center is available at a reasonable rate.

More info: <http://www.bcsites.net/Baby+Boomers+-+BYOB+2011>

THANK YOU, RUMMAGE SALE VOLUNTEERS!

The August 13 & 14 Rummage Sale was a great success, thanks to the many generous donations of our Sangha members and friends and the incredible work of our volunteers. Throughout the year and especially within the past two weeks, volunteers pick up donations, sort/clean/test/price/prepare for sale hundreds of reusable items.

We are especially grateful to the team that handles the pick-up of furniture and large items from donors, including Nancy Martinez, Ken Muraoka and Glenn Torio.

We also thank the crew that kept all of us fed and happy and those who prepared or purchased the delicious food and snacks.

The Rummage Sale is a lot of hard labor, and the time and effort of everyone who comes out to help is truly appreciated. We thank the many friends who thought of the temple before discarding recyclable items, and we thank those who supported the event by coming by and making purchases, too.

Gassho, Rummage Sale Committee

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

BTSD Appreciates Recent Renewing Members: Thanks to the following members who recently renewed their membership this year: **Jeanne Inouye, Hiroko Sandra Ojiri, Raymond & Toshiko Sakow, Rev. Jeanette Shin**

and **Mitsuo & Tsuneko Tsurudome**. This list is current as of Friday, Aug. 19. If you believe we missed a renewal or new membership, please let us know! Call or e-mail the Temple.

BTSD Membership: Strength at Our Core: A strong and vibrant membership keeps our Temple strong at its core. That's why we really appreciate all of our members, with especially thanks to those of you who have joined or renewed in 2011.

Please Join or Renew Today! If you have yet to renew your membership or have thought about joining the Temple but always put it off, please renew or join today. Call the Temple for more information. We have several ways to make joining or renewing painless, including automatic monthly or quarterly credit card deductions so that a single payment of dues doesn't throw your monthly budget out of whack. Just call or e-mail the Temple, and person from the Membership Committee will be in touch.

Questions or Corrections? The names above reflect records we were able to process through August 19, 2011, and since the last report in our August newsletter. If additions or corrections are needed, please let us know!

85th ANNIV. AND KIESHIKI CEREMONY

By Ralph Honda, Chairman

We are a little over one month away from observing another milestone for the Buddhist Temple of San Diego! On Sunday, October 16, the Temple will mark its 85th Anniversary. In conjunction with the celebration, we will present a Kieshiki (Buddhist name) affirmation ceremony.

All temple members and readers of the *Bussei Script* should have received a packet with details about the celebration. The day's activities include the Kieshiki affirmation service, a Chigo procession with young Dharma School children, 85th Anniversary Service and luncheon.

Socho Koshin Ogui, Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America, will officiate the Kieshiki ceremony and will deliver the keynote Dharma message during the anniversary service. On the preceding Saturday, October 15, BEC will host a Dharma session with Socho Ogui.

As part of our Jodo Shinshu tradition, receiving a Buddhist name is a personal experience that will stay with an individual for a lifetime. Temple members of all ages, including families with Dharma School-age children, are encouraged to consider receiving their Buddhist name. In 2007, 44 temple members participated in this meaningful ceremony. For more information about the ceremony, please contact Rev. Mukojima.

Here is a brief schedule leading up to the 85th activities (times may be subject to change):

Sunday, Sept. 11: Deadline to register for Kieshiki Affirmation ceremony.

Sunday, Oct. 9: Deadline to order luncheon bento.

Saturday, Oct. 15: BEC-sponsored Dharma session with Socho Ogui, 2-4 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 16: 85th Anniversary Kieshiki Affirmation ceremony, 9 a.m.
Chigo procession, 11 a.m.
85th Anniversary Service, 11:15 a.m.
Commemoration luncheon, 1 p.m.

For any questions regarding the event, please contact the Temple. Rev. Mukojima and the Board look forward to your participation. *Gassho*.

BTSD GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 16th annual Temple golf tournament was held on Sunday, August 28 at Eastlake Country Club in Chula Vista. A complete report will be shared in the October *Bussei Script*.

LEARN BALLROOM DANCING, BETTER YOUR MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT!

Who: ZENBU invites singles and couples of all ages, middle schoolers to seniors.

Why: To learn valuable and fun social skills with the added benefit of getting low-impact exercise for your body and mind. You'll leave feeling energized and happy!

When: Sundays, Oct. 2, 9, 23, and Nov. 13

Where: BTSD Annex Hall

Time:

Session 1 only: 1:15-2:15 pm. The slow dances: fox trot, waltz, and tango.

Session 2 only: 2:15 - 3:15 pm. The rhythm dances: cha cha, rumba, swing, and salsa.

Both sessions: 1:15 - 3:15 pm. Learn to be cool with all the dances.

Cost:

Session 1 only: \$10 per person per lesson (\$2.50 is a donation to BTSD).

Session 2 only: \$10 per person per lesson (\$2.50 is a donation to BTSD).

Both sessions: \$15 per person both lessons (\$2.50 is a donation to BTSD).

Professional Instructor: Laura Yamamoto is a charming and very energetic dance instructor at the Arthur Murray Dance Studio who makes learning to dance fun and well paced for young and old.

Assistant Dance Instructor: Mani Yamaguchi volunteers her many years of experience by offering helpful tips to men and women during the instruction and often stays afterward to give extra help and answer questions to those of us with "CRS."

Questions: Contact Junko Kajita: jkajita@yahoo.com or (858) 538-5738.

9/11 TENTH ANNIV. MEMORIAL AND CONCERT AT ORGAN PAVILION

As a member of the San Diego Interreligious Council (IRC), BTSD will be participating in a community memorial and concert on Sunday, Sept 11, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park. The event will mark the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy. The theme is "Responding from the Heart," and young people of each faith group in the IRC will lead the interfaith memorial.

BTSD Taiko is scheduled to perform in the concert. Admission and parking are free. For more information, e-mail sdinterfaith911@ymail.com.

THANK YOU, OBON AGAIN FRIENDS!

A hearty THANK YOU from the Obon Again Shop "proprietor" to the generous and good-hearted individuals for their help in sorting, setting up, pricing, running and packing up the Obon Again Shop that very busy week of the Bon Odori. Thanks to those who brought food, drinks and snacks to share as we worked.

This year's helpers included Alice Matsumoto, Amy Okamura, Bill Teague, Carol Estes, Gale Kaneshiro, Harriet & John Taylor, Isaac Martinez, Jeanie Kashima, Jeanne Inouye, Junko & Tim Kajita, Karen & Roy Okuhara, Kathy Sakai, Kiku Graeber, Mani Yamaguchi, Ruby D'Orsi, Susan Moribe (and her sisters Bobbie and Jo visiting from Hawaii), Valerie Abe, Wendy Nakamura and Yuri Taira.

Hope I didn't miss anyone! Also much gratitude to those who donated all the wonderful reusable items for our sale. We raised close to \$3,000 for the BTSD Scholarship Fund! Many, many thanks in gassho...

SO. DISTRICT-BCA GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Southern District Council of the BCA held a golf tournament on August 22 at the Tustin Ranch Country Club. Net proceeds from the event benefited the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley.

BTSD participated in the tournament as a hole sponsor. A few BTSD members played in the tournament.

BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SAN DIEGO

Membership Pledge for 2011

Renewal New Member Change of Address
 Mr. Mrs. NAME: _____ BIRTH DATE _____
 Mr. Mrs. SPOUSE NAME: _____ BIRTH DATE _____
 ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATES: _____ ZIP: _____
 PHONE :(____) _____ - _____ CELL 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, 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)	\$250.00	\$350.00	\$500.00	\$
Couple / Family	\$400.00	\$600.00	\$1000.00	\$
Optional: Senior Reduced Cost (75 yrs and older)	\$125.00			
Optional: Youth Reduced Cost (30 yrs and older)	\$125.00			\$

Recommended Annual Donations (Optional):

FLORAL OFFERING FUND (Suggested annual donation of \$30) \$ _____
 The fund helps defray cost of regular fresh flowers for the Onajin (alter).
GENERAL MAINTENANCE FUND (Suggested annual donation of \$30) \$ _____
 The fund helps provide upkeep of the Temple properties.
SCHOLARSHIP FUND (Suggested annual donation of \$20) \$ _____
 The fund rewards member's deserving high school graduates and college students.
DHARMA SCHOOL (Suggested annual donation of \$20) \$ _____
 This fund helps the Dharma School, which does not conduct fundraisers, to sustain its activities.
TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____
AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please indicate payment schedule:
 _____ Annually _____ Semi annually _____ Quarterly _____ Monthly

To use credit card:
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 Billing address if different from above: _____ Zip _____

Please make sure 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.

二〇一一年 九月 会報
サンディエゴ仏教会

称名報恩

眞実への一歩

住職 向嶋 諒史

今年で当仏教会が建立八十五周年を迎えるに当たり、来る十月十六日(日)、当教団の小柄修長をお招きして記念法要並びに剃髪式を執り行う予定です。一口に八十五年と言いますが、その歴史は大変長い道のりです。

先月、無事に盆踊り大会を終えたのですが、例年以上に盛り上がりを見せる中、櫓を囲んで慣れた手付きで踊っておられる皆さんの笑顔を見ずにはおられません。歩んで来られた先人達の存在に感謝せずにはおられません。なせなら、私達の笑顔の裏には先人達の大変な努力と過剰な犠牲があったからです。

今改めて、当仏教会が歩んできた道のりを振り返ってみますと、決して順風満帆なものではなく、第二次世界大戦時の仏教会強固閉鎖を始め、次第に放水等といった悲しい過去が存在し、更には当時の開教使先生や門徒様は日系人というだけで理不尽にも収容所に強制移住を強いられ、社会的にも孤立し、常に偏見や差別の目にさらされてきました。

しかし、戦後、先人達は常にお念仏を握り所とし、支えとしながら、持ち前の誠実さと勤勉、そして人並ならぬ努

力と精神力でアメリカ社会に於ける信用と信頼を勝ち取り、様々な困難の末、見事に仏教会を建て直されました。

ですから、仏教会には、将来そこに集う全員の者がたとえ失意のどん底に陥ることがあっても、お念仏と共に、あらゆる苦勞に立ち向かって生きる勇氣と希望を後の世代に伝えていきたいという先人の並々ならぬ願いが込められているのです。

正に仏教会は、先人の血と汗と涙の賜物であり、お念仏と共に力強い人生を歩んでいくという大きな願いが込められた私達一人ひとりの仏教会なのです。今、建立八十五周年を迎えるにあたり、先人達の大きな願いに改めて感謝申し上げ、私達の大切な仏教会を、門徒の皆様と共に心を一つにして次の世代へと受け継いでいきたらと切に願っております。

さて、先ほども述べましたように、八十五周年を迎えるにあたり、もう一つ大切な行事として剃髪式があります。一般に、門主もしくはお手代わりが行うお剃りを剃髪式と呼びますが、当教団では開教総長が行うお剃りを剃髪式と呼んでいます。

剃髪式とは、阿彌陀仏と親鸞聖人の御前で「仏・法・僧」の三寶に皈依することを誓い、念仏者としての自覚と誇りを持って生きる為の仏弟子の証である「法名」を授かる大変重要な儀式です。それは、私達の生きる拠り所が明らかになった喜びを通して、全ての生命と共に念仏の道を歩もうという真摯な門徒としての尊い決意表明であります。

しかし、残念ながら、門徒さんの中には、法名は亡くなった人に与えられるものと考え、おられる方が結構おられます。ある門徒さんに剃髪式の参加を勧めたりしますと「先生、私はまだ死んでませんよ」

とか「法名を頂くと早死してしまうので」等という言葉を聞きます。

確かに、葬儀の際に門主に代わって法名を授与することが度々ありますが、それは亡くなった方が生前剃髪式に縁がなく、法名を授けられなかったからであり、何も亡くなったから法名を授けていたわけではありません。法名というのは、私達の生き方を眞実のめ教えに問い尋ねてゆく仏弟子としての名目であり、ですから、生きていくうちに授かることがとても大切な事なのです。

また、剃髪式は「お剃り」とも呼ばれ、門主から三寶に皈依する儀式として一人ひとりの頭に三度剃刀をあてられます。これは、お釈迦さまが出家された時、自ら髪を剃られて「いま髪を落すとす、ねがわくは一切とも、煩惱もよび習障を断絶せん」と発願されたという故事から、得度式や剃髪式には、必ず髪をおろすことをかたがた剃刀の儀が行われます。

ですから、仏教で髪をおろす事は、自力の心をはなれ、虚飾を捨て、ひたすら阿彌陀仏の本願を依り所として生きるという証なのです。

さて、一般の剃髪式では、頭を丸める必要はないと思いますが、僧侶になる為の得度式を受ける者は髪を剃らなくてはなりません。女性に例外ですが、男性は門主からお剃りを受ける前に剃髪器を借りておこなうてはなりません。

私は大学四回生の八月に、十日間の得度習礼を経て百名以上の習礼生と共に得度式を受けました。多くの習礼生が朝から晩まで僧侶になる事を夢見、西山別院での厳しい指導の下、互に支え合いながら勤式作法も教義、經典の勉強に励んで、皆で苦業を共にしました。そして、晴れて全員が試験に合格し、十日目の得度

Bussei Script

BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SAN DIEGO

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*Like a beautiful flower, full of color but without scent, are
the fine but fruitless words of him who does not act accordingly.*

~The Dhammapada

FALL OHIGAN and SEPTEMBER BTSD EVENTS

The Buddhist Temple of San Diego will conduct the **September Shotsuki Hoyo** (monthly memorial) on **Sunday, September 11** during the 10 a.m. Family Service. Dharma School classes will resume on this day, too.

Fall Ohigan will take place on **Sunday, September 18** at 10 a.m. with our special guest speaker, **Rev. Alan Sakamoto** of Orange County Buddhist Church. We affirm and celebrate the teachings of the Buddha with the observance that coincides with the seasonal change from extreme heat to moderate temperatures, Ohigan. This change symbolizes the spiritual crossing from the shore of illusion (extreme beliefs held in ignorance) to the other shore of enlightenment (the middle path of recognizing and continuously overcoming one's ignorance).

Everyone is invited to a potluck luncheon in the Annex Hall following the service. We will honor our senior members at the annual **Keiro Kai** appreciation. The luncheon will be coordinated by the Board of Directors and YABA which are responsible for set-up and clean-up. **Ohigan Potluck** assignments are as follows:

Main dish: Board of Directors, YABA, Sangha friends; Side dish or salad: ABA, BWA

Desserts: Dharma School; Drinks: Jr. and Sr. YBA

On **Saturday, Sept. 24**, 4:30-6 p.m., BTSD will present its third **Bingo Benefit Dinner** of the year prior to BTSD/VFW Bingo Night. We'll serve the ever-popular Mom's Meatloaf with gravy, homemade smashed potatoes, steamed veggies, dinner roll and dessert. The complete dinner is \$9. Dine in or take home (sorry, dessert not available with take-out). Please buy your tickets in advance because only a limited number of dinners will be prepared. Any remaining tickets will be sold that evening on a first come, first served basis.

We invite your participation in our September events. Please check the Calendar on Page 2 for more activities. An envelope is included with this mailing if you wish to make a Ohigan donation. Thank you very much for your support of the Temple. *Gassho*.