

BUSSEI SCRIPT

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JULY 2011

CELEBRATING SHINRAN'S 750th ANNIVERSARY

By Rev. Yushi Mukojima, Resident Minister

On May 15, I made a pilgrimage to the Hongwanji in Kyoto to participate in Shinran's 750th Memorial Observance. Eight members from San Diego and 284 other BCA members attended this anniversary held every 50 years in Japan. The service, which took place in the newly refurbished Goeido (Founder's Hall), was attended not only by the members of overseas districts such as BCA, Hawaii, Canada, and Brazil, but also by nearly 3,200 adoring followers of Shinran from throughout Japan who came to praise his virtues and lifetime efforts.

In front of the statue of Shinran Shonin which was gorgeously arranged, the head abbot Monshu-sama and Shinmon-sama conducted the service. The musical service proceeded under Shinmon-sama who led the chanting. After the chanting, we received a Dharma Talk from Monshu-sama. In it, he said, "I would like to share with the victims of the earthquake their sorrow and suffering and support them."

Although postponement of this service had been discussed following the occurrence of the Tohoku earthquake, I really felt from his message the strong determination of our whole denomination to live together with the suffering and pain of the victims. And also, it was a precious Dharma opportunity which allowed us to turn our eyes to all people suffering because of natural disasters, war and terrorism all over the world, and to think deeply about what each one of us can do for the world while reflecting upon the words of Shinran, "May peace and tranquility prevail throughout the world!" It was a really precious and impressive service. While listening to Monshu-sama's message, I couldn't help but wish for the teaching of the Nembutsu to be a light which leads us from this time of confusion.

There was also the happy news announced during the service that Shinmon-sama and Ruzumi-sama had a baby boy on May 12. I guess that because this is their first baby, their joy is all the more. Since the baby was born during this celebration held only once every 50 years, it is as if his birth symbolized the brilliant future of the Hongwanji. I would like to take this opportunity to wish that their son grows in good health, embraced by their love.

As I mentioned, this memorial service had the theme, "Annon," which means, "May peace and tranquility prevail throughout the world!" However, in the history of humanity in which not a day passes without war, I would like to share with you my feelings about what each one of us who is alive should think about seeking the realization of true peace.

In the long history of the world, people through the centuries have committed many faults, and countless conflicts have taken a heavy toll of human lives. Yet war has never died out. I guess that it is because individual understanding of the meaning of peace makes a great difference. For the country which wants to control the world, its definition of peace may be a world in which nobody disobeys them. Therefore, the notion that a country which disobeys must be destroyed occurs. It is a very terrible idea.

In the beginning of The True Teaching, Practice and Realization of the Pure Land Way, Shinran Shonin wrote about Devadatta. Devadatta was a

cousin of Shakyamuni Buddha and also his disciple. However, Devadatta also was an arrogant man and a trouble maker who always felt he was superior to the other disciples.

One day, in an attempt to take over the leadership of the Buddhist order, Devadatta incited Prince Ajatasatru to kill his own father, King Bimbisara, and usurp the king's throne. The reason Devadatta egged Ajatasatru on is that he felt by getting rid of King Bimbisara, Shakyamuni Buddha would also be destroyed. Since King Bimbisara believed devoutly in Shakyamuni Buddha and was a protector of Buddhism, his very existence was an obstacle for Devadatta. In order to kill King Bimbisara, he asked for Ajatasatru's help.

Although Ajatasatru imprisoned his father, the king never tried to fight back against his son. Why didn't the king fight back? It is because he embraced the Buddha's teachings so deeply that he discarded his arrogant mind and never wished to fight. Even faced with death, he would not fight because he had attained the level of an Arahant.

The True Teaching, Practice and Realization of the Pure Land Way explains that there were two grievous sins committed by Ajatasatru. The first was the sin of killing a king who was his father. The second was the sin of killing a king who was an Arhat, a person enlightened through the Hinayana Way.

Later, Ajatasatru seized power but was fearful and suffered the way of hell as retribution for his crimes. Devadatta, who was the most sinful, did not try to embrace the Nembutsu teaching and, in his arrogance, wished for conflict. For his grave offenses, he fell into the hell of interminable pain.

However, Devadatta is not the only one who is an ugly person. What this story teaches us is that we who are called foolish in Buddhism all have minds as ugly as Devadatta's. We should realize that we are terrible human beings who always have an arrogant mind. To justify our actions, if things are unlikely to turn out as we wish, we eliminate others, and take others' lives. There will always be war in the world because we cannot realize our foolishness.

I think that you have heard the phrase, "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth." These bloody words were those of a nomadic people in the deserts of Israel who had to struggle against nature just to live and survive war with another race. When the enemy gouged out an eye, they gouged out an eye in retaliation; and when they had a tooth knocked out, they responded by doing the same thing in return. Perhaps this kind of behavior was necessary in those days in order to survive. But sadly this kind of vengeful thinking remains today even when civilization has developed and the region has become rich economically.

It soon will be 10 years this September since terrorists attacked the Twin Towers in New York City. The shattered hearts of many who lost their loving family and friends because of this terrorism still cannot be healed and they live in deep grief. It was a world-shaking event which was a terrifying sight to witness. More than 3000 people were sacrificed and the twin towers, which symbolized American economy and prosperity, collapsed in front of our eyes. No matter whatever the reasoning, terrorism is unforgivable. I think that all of you felt unspeakable anger and sorrow at such a terrible tragedy.

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(Sensei's Message: Continued from Page 1)

However, right after this terrible act, the U.S. began retaliatory bombing in Afghanistan which also took many people's lives. It is said that there were more than 4,000 civilians killed who had nothing at all to do the terrorist attacks. This was "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth." As I looked at photos of the many people killed by the weapon called "retaliation," I realized clearly how deep man's ignorance and fear are.

Early last month in Pakistan, Americans killed an acknowledged mastermind of the September 11 attacks. He was the leader of a terrorist group which had long taken the lives of many people all over the world in terrorist acts. Therefore the mastermind who had committed these unforgivable actions should have been punished severely by a court of law in front of the whole world. Instead he was killed in military operations without a settlement in court. I really understand that there are many opinions about this matter, but my fear is that even though he is dead, the problem of terrorism might not come to an end and there might be some possibility of retaliation by his followers.

I know that some of you may think that there are too many people who lost their lives to this terrorist group and that nobody has the right to blame America for its act of retaliation. If these are your thoughts, I really understand your feelings. However, once again we should think deeply about what is the best way to achieve world peace while remembering the words of Shinran Shonin, "May peace and tranquility prevail throughout the world!"

Whenever I try to think deeply about it, I cannot help but remember the life of Honen Shonin. Honen was Shinran's teacher. He was born of samurai stock in Okayama Prefecture in 1133. Unfortunately, when Honen was only 9 years old, his father was attacked one night right before his eyes.

On his death bed, struggling for every breath, his father told Honen who was crying in his distress, "Don't have a grudge against the enemy. If you kill my enemy for revenge, his child will surely come to kill you. Revenge causes more revenge and will never come to the end. So I want you to give up such sorrowful acts and seek the way in which both enemy and friend will be saved." He left these thoughts for Honen and died.

The idea of "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth" and retaliation were absent from his father's last words. The Buddhist idea of equality—in which both the attacker and the one who is attacked experience the same suffering as a human being—lives in his message. Honen deeply understood his father's heartrending thought: "Simply killing each other doesn't solve anything and is only the repetition of tragedy." Because of this, he became a priest wishing for world peace.

I am sure that if one had a family member who was attacked, one would want to get even with the attacker to make him experience the same suffering. It is natural to think like this if you are grieving family member. But if we were attacked like Honen's father, we also might say to our child as he did, "Do not have a grudge against my enemy." If we realize that if our child killed our enemy for revenge, that enemy's child would surely come to kill our child. So we would never ask our child to retaliate. More than this, we might wish our child to get over the grudge in order to make the repetition of the tragedy come to the end and instead live peacefully and calmly. This sincere wish directed at the bereaved family and the sincere wish of parents for their children is the practice of compassion. Therefore, it is very important to understand the loving wish for each one of us from the deceased.

It is said that Honen's life of hardship was full of obstacles such as Nembutsu oppression and persecution by the powerful. But Honen simply said, "If you are forbidden to recite the Nembutsu, recite it in your mind. Nobody can control the Nembutsu of your mind." In this way, he walked the way of the Nembutsu devoutly and practiced the calm way of life until his last moment, without holding a grudge against anybody, as in the last words of his father.

Genza, who was known as a Myokonin or superior Nembutsu person, said, "I have caused others to endure." The spirit that says, "I always endure,"

shows an arrogant way of life that blames others and is quite capable of taking others' lives. However, the spirit that says, "I have caused others to endure, I am forgiven by others," shows the way of life without a reason to fight. I believe that this is the position of the Nembutsu person living for the true teaching. In this spirit, there is the true way of Nembutsu which doesn't justify one's misdeeds, nor does one blame others for them.

The first step towards the true way of peace is realizing the foolishness of always blaming others, and instead reflect upon ourselves through the light of Amida Buddha's wisdom.

There is a saying in the Dharma-phrase Sutra: "Grudges will never be suppressed by grudges. Only letting go of grudges will suppress grudges." I believe that there is a precious world filled with the mind of compassion in which all people can respect and love each other beyond grudges.

I am sure that the only way to true peace is to live a fruitful life as a Nembutsu follower with the Nembutsu of gratitude, always reflecting upon ourselves and wishing for the happiness of others through the words of Shinran: "May peace and tranquility prevail throughout the world!" *In Gassho...*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Michael Kinoshita

In May, Temple members received an appeal letter from the BCA making a special request to reduce the debt for the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley.

There has been much written and explained about how the BCA got to this current financial situation but I would like to look at it as I understand it today. The BCA owes California Bank & Trust approximately \$3,140,000. If every BCA member contributes \$199 this year, the BCA would be in position to retire the CB&T loan (+/-15,900 BCA members x \$199 = \$3,164,000). Paying off the loan to CB&T will allow the BCA to place more emphasis on the goals of the JSC in promoting Buddhism in the United States through additional programs by the Center for Buddhist Education and the Institute of Buddhist Studies versus worrying about making mortgage payments to a financial institution.

Even when the CB&T loan is retired, the JSC is not out of the financial repayment woods: the BCA also has borrowed approximately \$3,500,000 from the BCA Endowment Fund which it has to pay back at some time. I hope this brief explanation will be useful as you decide how to respond to the BCA letter.

I would like to thank all of you who helped to make our June Cultural Bazaar a success. This year, it seemed like we had a steady crowd throughout the entire day enjoying the variety of cultural demonstrations and displays. I thank LuAnn Lee, her co-chairs Mildred Kawasaki and Yasuko Kinoshita, and all of the support individuals who put in a lot of time to make sure our event ran smoothly.

I would like to congratulate Mai and Mark on the birth of their daughter. If you come by the office, there is a picture of Juniper Yuuki Wang displayed on the office computer monitor. Also, I would like to thank Jamie Shimizu for stepping in and filling in for Mai during her maternity leave.

Obon Service and Bon Odori will be coming up this month. I look forward to see you there and, as always, feel free to write or speak to me about any concerns or issues that affect the Temple. *Gassho.*

ABA NEWS

June started out with our Temple Bazaar on the 5th. Most of us kept pretty busy. We congratulate Motoo on winning the Grand Prize. Now he can go out and have more fun than ever.

Some of us went to the Temple Father's Day picnic at Rohr Park on June 19th and enjoyed the lunch and games. On July 2nd, instead of breakfast, we will be having a early dinner at 4:30 p.m. at Island Style Cafe in Tierrasanta. Let Motoo know if you would like to go.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

On June 9, 2011, the Board of Directors met and discussed the following items:

1. Rev. Mukojima gave a report on the Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Japan trip. Eight BTSD members joined 284 others from BCA. About 3,200 persons attended the service. Sensei thanked Rev. Jim Yanagihara and Rev. Akira Hata for their ministerial help during his absence.

2. On May 28, Sensei conducted the Imperial Valley Memorial Day Service. On May 30, BTSD hosted the Community Memorial Day Service at Mt. Hope Cemetery.

3. The Board approved co-sponsoring a screening of the film, "Tale of Mari and Three Puppies," as a community fundraiser for Japan disaster relief. Other co-sponsors to date are San Diego JAACL, JAHSSD, JSSDT, Kiku Gardens, POVUCC and SDJCC. The free screening will take place in the Annex Hall on Saturday, July 9 at 2:00 p.m.

4. The BOD would like to know if there is sufficient interest among the Sangha in Shorenji Kempo classes taught here by Kaz Kawamata.

5. The BOD authorized the Scholarship Committee to offer scholarships to up to five members who wish to attend the "Bring Your Own Buddhism" seminar at the Jodo Shinshu Center on September 24.

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

On June 19 at 10 a.m., we had the last Dharma School service of the school year at Rohr Park in Chula Vista. Fathers, high school graduates and attendance awardees were recognized. Thank you to Karen Okuhara and Nancy Martinez for arriving and setting up early, the Dads for grilling, and our Sangha members for bringing side dishes and desserts. Thank you to the Jr. YBA for providing games for the students.

On June 26, our Dharma School students and families visited Gardena Buddhist Church and Knott's Berry Farm.

There will be a 2011-2012 Dharma School planning meeting on Saturday, July 9, 2011, at 12:30 p.m. at the Temple. It will be a potluck lunch, and we invite everyone interested in helping out with Dharma School next year to attend.

Obon Service will be held on July 24, with guest speaker Rev. George Matsubayashi addressing the Dharma School. The craft during the adult sermon will be making colorful lanterns for the Bon Odori, which will be held on Saturday, July 30. In addition to the regular Obon dance practices beginning on Sunday, July 3, there will be three kids' practices on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. on July 12, 19, and 26.

Ten of our Dharma School students will be attending the LABCC camp at Camp Morningstar August 6-13. We will follow up with a report from the kids when they return. They should have some great stories!

Dharma School will have its annual camping trip September 2-4 at William Heise Park near Julian. Please sign up on the Dharma School bulletin board at the Temple or e-mail me at mikeannong@yahoo.com with the number of people that will attend. We have reserved six sites and did not reserve cabins this year. The cost will be \$40/family for the site and food.

Respectfully submitted in gassho,
Ann Ong

ZENBU

We thank Junko Kajita for coordinating the four Ballroom Dance classes which were held Sunday afternoons at the Temple during the month of May. Each class had an attendance of 14 to 22 people, so the activity was quite a success!

The classes were taught by professional dance instructor Laura Yamamoto with the assistance of Mani Yamaguchi. Cost was \$10 per person per lesson with 25% benefiting BTSD. Total donation to the Temple was \$270.

Each hour-long class focused on just one or two dances. Students had a lot of fun learning the Foxtrot, Tango, Waltz, Rumba, Cha Cha, Swing, and Salsa.

Junko says they are planning to continue the classes with Laura this October, so if you missed in May or need a refresher course, plan to sign up this Fall.

OBON DANCE PRACTICE DATES

This year's BON ODORI will be held Saturday, July 30, 5- to 9 p.m.

Here is BTSD's dance practice schedule. All practices are free and open to the public. Please mark your calendars, inform your family and friends, and plan to join:

GENERAL ODORI PRACTICE

Sundays (11 am-1 pm) - July 3, 10, 17

Wednesdays (7-9 pm) - July 6, 13, 20, 27

KIDS' ODORI PRACTICE

Mondays (6:30-8 pm) - July 11, 18, 25

TEMPLE CLEAN-UP DAY IS JULY 17

It's that time of the year to bring out your broom, bucket and cleaners for the annual Summer Temple cleaning set for Sunday, July 17, from 8:30 to 11 a.m. All members who are able to do so are asked to come out and help ready the facilities for Obon.

Duties include window washing, vacuuming, and cleaning the Hondo, tidying up the kitchens, Annex and Sangha Halls.

There is no service that morning. Dance practice begins at 11:00.

BTSD RUMMAGE SALE AUG. 13 & 14

The temple's annual Rummage Sale will be held August 13 and 14. The Rummage Sale is an important fundraiser made possible by your donations of reusable discards and the efforts of our hardworking volunteers. Clothing, books, furniture, household good, toys and most other items are welcome. Please keep in mind it costs the Temple to discard or recycle non-functioning equipment, so electronics, appliances and computer equipment must be in working order.

Although we are accepting donations at this time, it would be helpful if you can hold on to your items until after the Bon Odori, July 30. Please call the office to make sure someone is available to receive your items. If you have large pieces that you are unable to transport, please call or e-mail the office and request a pick-up from one of our volunteers. Receipts for your tax records are available.

Volunteers Needed!

The Rummage Sale requires a lot of effort but it can also be lots of fun! Volunteers are needed to assist with donation pick-ups but mostly needed for pre-sale sorting and pricing.

Sorting and pricing days:

Saturday-Aug. 6 and Sunday-Aug. 7 (9 a.m.-1 p.m.), lunch provided.

Thursday-Aug. 11 (4-9 p.m.), dinner provided.

Set-up day:

Friday-Aug. 12 (4-9 p.m.); pricing and sorting, dinner provided.

Sale hours:

Saturday-Aug. 13 (8 a.m. to 2 p.m.), potluck lunch.

Sunday-Aug. 14 (8 a.m. to 12 noon), potluck lunch.

A set-up crew is needed at 6:30 a.m. Saturday and 7:30 a.m. Sunday, and a break-down crew is needed 11:30 a.m. Sunday until completion.

Sign-up lists are posted at the Temple, or call the office if you can help. Thank you in advance for your support and hard work.

Gassho,

2011 Rummage Sale Committee

OUR 2011 MEMBERSHIP PROGRESS

Thanks to Our Most Recent Members for Their Membership Renewals

Mrs. Patricia Setsuko Kusaka, Mr. & Mrs. Ken Schell, Dr. & Mrs. Terry Tanaka, Mrs. Rose Watamura, Mr. George Yada, Mrs. Chiyeko Yagi, Ms. June Yamamoto, and Mr. & Mrs. Roy Yonekura. These records are current through June 11. If you sent us your renewal after this time, our apologies! We'll publish the renewing members next month.

Where We Are with Membership

The Temple asks members to pay early in the year as we need your pledge for working capital to pay our bills and keep the doors open. So far we have 163 individuals who are members, either by way of an individual or a family membership. However, that is only about 60% of our 2010 membership list. If you haven't sent in your pledge yet, we'd like to hear from you! If you're not sure of your membership status, please just call the Temple and we will check and get back to you.

Courtesy Reminders

We will send out courtesy reminders to those of you who have not yet sent us your 2011 pledge. Remember we can arrange for payment plans on a regular basis to make it easy for you to pay dues without taking a big chunk out of any one period. Just let us know!

BECOME A MEMBER in 2011

Open Invitation to Our "Almost" Members

Some of you reading the newsletter are dear Dharma friends who continue to actively support the Temple by your generous donations, your attendance at our services, and your participation in our events. We are so grateful for your ongoing support and friendly faces. Have you realized you are an "almost" member? That is, you are almost identical to those of us who are members. So it is a small step—a very small step—to actually become a member.

Please join us as a member this year. We make it easy. We will prorate your 2011 dues to cover just the remaining months in 2011. And we can arrange for easy monthly payments—using your credit card if convenient, for automatic payments. See the membership form in this issue.

Special Invitation to Former Members

We also ask those of you who were members in the past to please rejoin the rest of us. By renewing your membership, you make the Temple strong again at its core. We will list you as a renewing member in the *Bussei Script* and extend to you the same offer of proration of dues as we do with new members. And as above, we are happy to arrange for a payment schedule and automatic credit card deduction as convenient.

Gassho,
Membership Committee

BINGO – BINGO – BINGO

By Tsune Hashiguchi

The last Bingo was held May 28th, and two more temple members came out. So there were about eight of us, which is still a low turn out. Again, a reminder that BTSD gets 50% of all the proceeds, so please come out and enjoy a night of Bingo, and bring a friend or relative. The VFW does all the work, and we appreciate it, and we should show our support.

On June 25th, there will be hot dogs and chili dogs for \$1. Bingo starts at 6 p.m. and ends around 8:30 pm. The cost is \$10 for one package of cards, and includes a raffle ticket for door prizes. Also there are pull tabs available.

On July 23rd, the VFW will be preparing a delicious Prime Rib dinner for \$12, and tickets are now on sale.

TEMPLE OFFERS SEPT. SEMINAR GRANTS

At its May meeting, the Board of Directors authorized the Scholarship Committee to make up to five special grants of \$300 available to current temple members who would like to attend a one-day seminar this September at the Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC) in Berkeley, California.

Seminar. At the JSC, the Center for Buddhist Education will present the fifth annual Baby Boomers Seminar titled, "B.Y.O.B.—Bring Your Own Buddhism: Sharing Our Pathways," on Saturday, Sept. 24, from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Registration is \$75 (\$50 if payment is received by Aug. 15). The registration deadline is Sept. 3. Download the seminar registration at <http://www.bcasites.net/Greetings+from+CBE%21>.

Grant. The \$300 grant will not cover all expenses but will significantly offset the costs of registration, transportation and lodging. Up to five awards can be given. If there are more than five qualified applicants, the committee will consider the date the application was made.

Applications for Grant. Only current Temple members are eligible. To apply, please email a brief note stating your interest to info@btsd.net with "Seminar Grant" in the subject line, or address your letter to the temple, "Attn: Scholarship Committee (Seminar)." Applications must be received by the deadline of August 22. Recipients will be notified by Aug. 31.

Funding. Please note these grants do not come from the scholarship funds earmarked for high school and college student scholarships given annually at the Obon Service. Those scholarships continue thanks to your generous donations. In contrast, these seminar grants come from other funds dedicated for this purpose. Some years back, a donor provided the Temple with funds earmarked for the support members who wish to further their understanding of Jodo Shinshu through BCA programs.

Questions. Interested temple members can learn more about the September seminar at the BCA website or by e-mailing Rev. Kodo Umezu, admin@cbe-bca.org. Questions about the grant may be directed to Bill Teague, co-chair of the Scholarship Committee.

CBE POSTS MONTHLY NEWS ONLINE

The Center for Buddhist Education (CBE) in Berkeley, Calif. publishes a monthly newsletter which includes the programs and activities it schedules to enhance your understanding of Jodo Shinshu. Please use the following link to access the newsletter and take advantage of this fine resource: <http://www.bcasites.net/Greetings+from+CBE%21>

If you go to www.BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org and click on Center for Buddhist Education, you can find many educational resources listed there, including lesson plans for Dharma School teachers shared by grade level.

Questions about the CBE's current and ongoing programs can be addressed to Rev. Kodo Umezu, director@cbe-bca.org or (510) 809-1460.

NEW HEIGHTS PROJECT

By Ralph Honda, General Chairperson

Although active solicitation for the New Heights Elevator project ended last December, there is still much activity with the fundraising effort.

Members are completing their five-year pledge. Donors who have completed their pledge are continuing to donate. New pledges have begun. Donations from outside of our Sangha are being received.

In the 30-day period between mid-May and mid-June, the Temple received almost \$2,500 in new donations. Two very generous donations were received from anonymous donors. The Temple is very grateful to those who continue to support the New Heights campaign.

We would like to welcome members **Roger and Gloria Coppock** as the newest donors to pledge a gift. With deepest appreciation. In Gassho.

BTSD ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 16th Annual Buddhist Temple of San Diego Golf Tournament will be held on Sunday, August 28 at Eastlake Country Club in Chula Vista. Net proceeds from the event will benefit Temple daily operations.

The tournament format is a four-person scramble. Space is limited to 72 golfers, so enter early! Registration deadline is Sunday, August 14. Interested golfers should contact the temple for an entry form or download one from the BTSD website, www.btsd.net.

Entry fee is \$115 which includes green fees, golf cart, range balls, coffee, donuts, BBQ lunch, beverages and awards. Please make your check payable to the Buddhist Temple of San Diego.

There will also be a raffle drawing with many prizes to be given away. Drawing tickets will be sold for \$1 each.

Non-golfers can also be part of the event by becoming tournament sponsors or by donating a prize for the raffle drawing. In 2010, the success of the tournament was largely due to the many donations received from non-golfers. Complete information on how you can contribute is on the entry form.

This year's committee includes Ron Yagura, Ralph Honda, Dennis Otsubi and Mike Ong. If you have any questions about the tournament, please contact any one of the committee members, or call the temple.

2011 JCB THANKS, ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Japanese Cultural Bazaar co-chairs would like to thank all of the many volunteers, performers and raffle/silent auction donors. We heard so many nice comments about the Bazaar.

Preparation seemed to go so smoothly and like clockwork. We were ready to serve at 11 am! What a team of efficient, dedicated and hard-working friends. We appreciate all the time and effort you put in to making the event a success and lots of fun, too.

We thank our members, local friends, 5th to 8th grade class for sharing their tea displays and demonstrations. They provided everyone an insight into the history and meaning of our theme, TEA.

We welcome all comments or suggestions so that we can make it even better next year. The Bazaar Committee will be having their final meeting on Wednesday, June 29 at 7 pm. in the conference room at the temple.

Again, with heartfelt thanks to all who donated time or goods to the Bazaar. In Gassho, LuAnn, Mildred, Yasuko

THANK YOU TO OUR BAZAAR DONORS

The following companies and individuals were instrumental in helping us make our annual Japanese Cultural Bazaar a success. Most donors listed below supplied gifts and prizes for our Silent Auction, Special Raffle and Crafts & Treasures. **Business names are bold-faced—be sure to thank them for their support.**

Albertsons #6760 (Store Director: Daryl Foster), **Azuki Sushi**, Carol Baker, **Boomers**, **Coronado Island Valero**, **Cygnnet Theater**, Mary Ferguson, Doreen Fujii, Kikue Graeber, Orlando Guiang, **Hanaoka Restaurant**, John & Tsune Hashiguchi, Holly Hiding, **Hogetsu Bakery**, Breven Honda, **Hornblower Cruises**, **I Ward USA**, Haruko Ikami, **Infusions of Tea**, Mr. & Mrs. Sets Iwashita, **Kampai Restaurant**, Gale Kaneshiro, Yuki Kawamoto, **Kei Dan Floral Designs**, **Kitagawa Home & Office Supply**, Harold and LuAnn Lee, **Lotus Design**, Hannah Madison, **Maeda-en**, Chiyo & George Masumoto, Lisa McDunn, Fred Miyahara, Susan Moribe, Mika Mukojima, Patty Nakamura, **Napoleone Pizza House**, Kathy Olsen, Kelly Ozaki, **Peking Cafe**, **RTA International**, **San Diego Chargers**, **San Diego Coaster Company**, **San Diego Repertory Theatre**, **South Bay Window & Glass**, Kaytee and Floyd Sumida, **Sushi Deli, Inc.**, Joyce Teague, Aki Tomiyama, Akiko Tomiyama, Janet Torio, Helen Uyetanaka, **Viejas**, **Vons #2134** (Manager: Ken Davis), Corrina Wang, Neal Wasserman, Carol Yamada, and Sumiko Yanagihara.

Special thanks to the following for their contributions to the tea ceremony and displays: Florizel Yasuhara, Brian Yoshioka, Caitlin Baker, Donald Suyenaga (JFV International), Shingo Miyata (Maeda-En), Masaya Tanada (Yamamoto Yama), Harold Lee (DPI, Inc.), Emilie Yanagi (Infusions of Tea).

85TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND KIESHIKI PLANS

On Sunday, October 16, the Buddhist Temple of San Diego will observe its 85th Anniversary. Rev. Yushi Mukojima, President Michael Kinoshita and the Board of Directors invite the Sangha to celebrate this historic occasion.

The keynote address will be delivered by Socho Koshin Ogui of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA). A luncheon celebration will be held following the service.

Socho Ogui will also conduct a special Kieshiki or Affirmation Ceremony. The ceremony will be held in conjunction with Dharma School, Family Service and the Temple's 85th anniversary.

Kieshiki is a ceremony for Buddhist lay people of all ages to take refuge in and affirm the Three Treasures: the Buddha, the Dharma (Teaching) and the Sangha (Community). Socho Ogui will present a Buddhist name (Homyo) to each participant.

A special mailing will be sent to all temple members and recipients of the *Bussei Script* in early August about the 85th Anniversary and Kieshiki.

Please contact the temple or Rev. Mukojima for more information.

VISTA'S OBON FESTIVAL

Don't forget our good neighbor, Vista Buddhist Temple, is hosting its two-day Obon Festival on July 23 & 24. Activities begin at 12 noon each day. Schedule for their Bon Odori is 6:30-10 pm on Saturday and 6:30-9 pm on Sunday. Go to their website for more info, call (760) 941-8800 or visit <http://www.vbtemple.org>. VBT is located at 150 Cedar Road in Vista.

BTSD TO HOST COMMUNITY JAPAN RELIEF FUNDRAISER

The Temple is joining nine other community organizations in presenting a **Japan relief fundraiser on Saturday, July 9**, for victims of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

The event is the screening of a Japanese film, "Tale of Mari and Three Puppies," **at 2:00 p.m. in the BTSD Annex Hall**. This dramatic and heart-warming film (in Japanese with English subtitles) is based on actual events about a family and its beloved pets affected by the devastating 2004 earthquake in Kobe.

The film is free with donations gratefully accepted. A variety of tasty refreshments will be available for a donation. All proceeds will go to Japan aid.

The film, rated PG-13, was shown as a fundraiser by the San Diego Asian Film Foundation recently, but many were unable to support the event because of competing activities. Even if you've seen the film before, come out enjoy the snacks and support this great community fundraising effort. And if you're able to bring a plate of finger food, baked goods or tsukemono for the event, leave a message for Yasuko Kinoshita at 858/484-3613.

Other organizations co-sponsoring the fundraiser are Asian Pacific Post 4851, Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana, Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego, Japanese Coordinating Council, Japanese Friendship Garden, Kiku Gardens, Pioneer Ocean View UCC, San Diego Chapter of the JACL and the San Diego Japanese Christian Church.

Seating is limited and reservations are strongly suggested. Call or e-mail BTSD at (619) 239-0896 or info@btsd.net with your name, contact information, and the number in your party.

M E M O R I A L S E R V I C E S

MEMORIAL SERVICES allow us to pay homage to loved ones who have passed away. In our Jodo Shinshu tradition, family members hold 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 during weekly office hours.

2011 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

1st Year Memorial	2010	3rd Year Memorial	2009	7th Year Memorial	2005
13th Year Memorial	1999	17th Year Memorial	1995	25th Year Memorial	1987
27th Year Memorial	1985	33rd Year Memorial	1979	50th Year Memorial	19

思ひ通りにならなければ、他を排除して、生命をも奪つてしまふ恐ろしい人間なのです。その愚かさに気が付くことが出来なから、全世界から争いが絶えることがないのです。皆で「目には目を、齒には齒を」といふ言葉を聞いたことがあつて思ひます。これは、イスラエル地方の砂漠で遊牧生活を送っていた人々が自然と戦ひ、又、他民族との争ひに勝ち残る為、目をやりぬかれたら報復、目をくりぬき、齒を抜かれたら、齒を報復していった、何とも血なまぐさい復讐の言葉です。当時、この地方の人々は、そうしなければ、生きていけなかつたのだと思ひます。しかし、悲しい事だ、こうした報復主義といふのは、文明が發達し、経済的にも豊かになつた今日でも、確かに残つています。同時多発テロが発生して今年の九月で九十年を迎えますが、このテロ行為で愛する家族や友人を失つた方々の心の傷は今尚癒されることなく非難に暮れた日々を送つています。約三千人の犠牲者を出し、アメリカの経済と繁栄を象徴した世界貿易センタービルが崩れていく光景は全世界を震撼させる何とも恐ろしい大事件でした。たとへば、どのような理由があつても、テロリスト行為は決して許されるものではありません。誰もが言ひよつたない怒りと悲しみを感した事だと思ひます。

しかし、アメリカはこの事件が発生してすぐにはアフガニスタンへ報復攻撃を始め、更に多くの生命を奪いました。テロ事件に関係ない民間人だけでも四千人以上もの死者を出したと聞きます。まさに「目には目を、齒には齒を」そのものです。復讐といふ名の武器を渡された多くの人々をある雑誌で見た時、人間の持つ業の深さ、恐ろしさをまざまざと見せつけられました。

また、アメリカは、先月の初めに同時多発テロの首謀者をバキスタンで殺害しました。彼は、このテロ事件に関つたテロリストグループのリーダーであり、長い間、世界各国でテロ行為を企て多くの人々を殺害してききました。ですから、この許され難い行為を犯してきた首謀者を全世界の人々が見守る中、アメリカが法律の下で厳しく裁くことを望んだのですが、これらの罪を法廷で解決することなく、半ば強引ともいえる軍事作戦のもと殺害を実行しました。この問題に関して多くの意見があるのは十分承知していますが、私が最も懸念するところは、たとへば首謀者が死んだとしてもテロ行為が必ずしも終わるわけではなからうとあり、また、更なる報復を招くのではないかと懸念しています。

皆さんの中で、「同時多発テロで多くの人が亡くなつたのだから、アメリカの報復攻撃に対して誰一人として責めることはできない」と思つていらっしゃる方がおられると思ひます。そのお気持ちには十分に理解できます。しかし、今一度「世の中安んじなれ」といふ親鸞聖人の言葉を思い出して、真の世界平和について深く考へて頂きたいと思ひます。

私は、その事について考へる度に、親鸞聖人の師である法然上人の「生涯が思い出すにははなれませぬ。法然上人は、岡山県で武士の子として千九百二十三年にお生まれになりました。上人がわずか九歳の頃、上人の目の前で父親が夜討ちを受けて殺されてしまひました。父親は息を引き取る前に、泣き叫んで上人に対して苦しい息の下から「敵を恨むな、そなたが、この父の敵を打てば、その子は、そなたを仇とわらうであらう。仇討ちをすな、絶える事はあるまい。そなたはどうか、この悲しい人間の業を縁切つてくれ。そして、敵も味方も共に救われていく道を求めてくれ」と言ひ残して世を去られました。

法然上人の父親が残された言葉の中には「目には目を」といふ思想も、仇討ちといふ思想もありませぬ。討つ方も、討たれる方も、共に人間としての苦惱を背負つた者同士ではないかといふ、仏教の平等の思想が生きています。「殺し合う事だけでは何の解決にもならない。ただ悲しみを繰り返すだけだ」といふ父親の悲痛な想いを信じた法然上人は争ひのない平和な世界を願ひ信じたのでした。

もし、自分の家族に襲われた人がいれば、相手に復讐して同じような苦しみ味わわせてやりたいと思つて気持ちは誰にでもあつてはいます。その「目には目を」は、自然であり、残された家族の悲痛な想いだと思ひます。しかし、もし私達が法然上人のお父様の立場であつたならば、私達も同じように、我が子に対して「敵を恨むな」といふ言葉を残すのではないでしようか。もし、我が子が敵を打てば、今度は敵の子が、我が子の生命を狙ひに来ると知つていれば、我が子に仇討ちを頼む事など決してありませぬ。また、それ以上に、恨みを乗り越えることによつて、報復という悲劇の繰り返しに終止符を打ち、平等で豊かな生活を送つてもらいたいというのが残した家族も子供に対する切なる願ひではないでしようか。これが、我が子に対する真の親の願ひであり、慈悲の実践だと思ひます。ですから、私達一人ひとりに向けられていく「き人の願ひに気がつくことが何よりも大切なこと」なのです。

法然上人の生涯は、権力者からの命令弾圧や迫害などといった多くの障害を抱えた苦難の道であつたと言ひられています。しかし、法然上人は、口で念仏を称えることを禁じられれば、心で称えよ、心の念仏までとりしまるゝとは書きまひ「と言ひ残すほど、誰よりも深い信仰の生活を送られ、父親の遺言通り、恨みの念を抱くことなく最期まで穏やかな生き方を実践されました。

Bussei Script

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*“Do not seek to know Buddha by his form or attributes,
for neither the form nor attribute are the real Buddha.
The true Buddha is Enlightenment itself.”*

2011 OBON and HATSUBON SERVICES

OBON is a deeply meaningful observance for Shin Buddhists, giving us the opportunity to pay our respects to deceased family and friends, and to contemplate their continuing influence on us. At BTSD, we attend special services in memory of our loved ones. Then at the **Bon Odori** on the following weekend, we carry on the colorful Japanese tradition of lanterns, music, taiko, food, and joyful dancing in gratitude to those deceased who have contributed to our lives today.

Please note that both the **July and August Shotsuki Hoyo (Monthly Memorials)** will be held **Sunday, July 3** in conjunction with the Family Service.

Saturday, July 16, Rev. Yushi Mukojima will conduct Obon services at Imperial Valley cemeteries in **Calexico** (8:30 am), **El Centro** (9 am) and **Brawley** (10 am). Call the Temple if you are interested in carpooling there.

Sunday, July 24, at 10:00 a.m., the Temple invites the Sangha to the **combined Obon and Hatsubon Services** conducted by Mukojima Sensei. The Hatsubon is a special memorial for those relatives and friends who have died since last year's Obon.

Special guests for the Obon Service will be **Rev. George Matsubayashi**, BCA Minister Emeritus (English message), and **Rev. Hidehito Sakamoto**, Los Angeles Nishi Betsuin (Japanese message). The **2011 BTSD Scholarships** will be presented during the service. Those too young for the lectures will be making paper lanterns in memory of our Hatsubon honorees. Following the services, Rev. and Mrs. Mukojima will serve a snack of refreshing somen noodles in the Annex Hall as a token of their appreciation for the Sangha's support. Everyone is invited to enjoy both the cold somen and the Mukojimas' warm hospitality.

BON ODORI: GATHERING OF JOY

Our colorful outdoor **BON ODORI: Gathering of Joy** will take **Saturday, July 30**. Activities and food sales will be ongoing from **5 to 9 p.m.** Dancing begins at 6:30 p.m. and musical entertainment will precede the odori. The Obon Again Resale Shop will be set up in the Sangha Hall, and the **Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego** and other community organizations will offer displays or activities in the Annex Hall. As in previous years, you may create a memorial lantern to be hung outside during the dance. This year's dance will be dedicated to those who lost their lives in the Sendai earthquake and tsunami just four months ago.

Every year, Obon offers opportunities to remember friends and relatives whom we miss and to whom we owe much. The Bon Odori is also a chance for us to share our Jodo Shinshu beliefs with the community through music and dance. Invite your friends and neighbors, and ask them to attend dance practice with you this month (see schedule in this issue) to enhance their enjoyment and understanding of the Bon Odori. Please use the attached envelope if you wish to make a donation towards these occasions.